



## Burley Tapped as First Woman To Lead SAWS Board

The recent appointment of a new chairperson to San Antonio Water System’s Board of Trustees marked a historic first for the city-owned utility.

On Sept. 1, Jelynn LeBlanc Burley took the helm as the first woman to lead the SAWS Board. She replaces Berto Guerra Jr., who led the utility’s governing body for the past nine years.

“I strongly and firmly believe that Jelynn Burley is the best prepared person — man or woman — to ever hold this gavel,” Guerra said, before handing his ceremonial mallet to the new chairwoman. “She knows how to lead. She knows utilities. And she intimately knows our great city.”

Burley is the president and chief executive officer of The Center for Health Care Services, the mental health authority for Bexar County. She previously served as executive vice president and chief delivery officer for CPS Energy. Burley also worked for the City of San Antonio for 24 years, including a stint as

deputy city manager.

“I came here 38 years ago as a grad student with some very wise words from my mother: Service is the price you pay for the space you occupy,” Burley said. “And it is with those words and my heart that San Antonio has embraced me and I have been able to contribute for the past 38 years. And I look forward to continuing to do so.”

Burley will serve a four-year term representing the North Side on the seven-member, City Council-appointed panel.

“Although we will miss the steady guidance of Chairman Berto Guerra, I look forward to working with Ms. Burley as SAWS enters this exciting new chapter,” said SAWS president/CEO Robert R. Puente.

Joining Burley on the SAWS Board is former San Antonio City Councilwoman Leticia Ozuna, who will represent the Southeast quadrant, and former City and CPS Energy official Edward Belmares to represent the South Side.



### Be Part of the Process: Join SAWS Board Meetings Online

In the current COVID-19 climate, in-person events are few and far between. But that doesn’t mean you can’t be a part of the important decisions being made for you and your community.

San Antonio Water System’s monthly Board meetings are streamed live so you can watch them as they happen in real time — and take part in managing your water and wastewater utility.

From updates on current water projects to budget discussions to proposals on future ventures, you can stay up-to-date on the SAWS Board’s decision-making process from start to finish.

The SAWS Board of Trustees usually meet the first Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. Watch live at [saws.org/live](https://saws.org/live) or catch a replay at your convenience at [saws.org/archive](https://saws.org/archive).

**Protect yourself and others — wear a face mask in public.**

For the latest coronavirus guidance for San Antonio and Bexar County, visit [sanantonio.gov/covid19](http://sanantonio.gov/covid19). You can also text "COSAGOV" to 55000 or call 311.

## Online Learning Opportunity: Seize the Rain!

Rainwater harvesting can help you lower your water bill and keep your garden green all year long. Eco Centro will teach you how during a free online workshop.

There are two opportunities in November:

**Thursday, Nov. 5**

5:30-8 p.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 7**

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Learn about medium-to-large-scale rainwater harvesting and basics of water catchment, tanks, filtration, pumps and much more.

For more details and to sign up, visit [ecocentro.eventbrite.com](http://ecocentro.eventbrite.com).



**Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency**  
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[saws.org/waternews](http://saws.org/waternews)

## Watering Restrictions Kicked to Curb by Recent Rains

After a hot, dry summer, the San Antonio city manager announced the end to water restrictions effective Monday, Sept. 28.

Recent rainfall has raised the level of the Edwards Aquifer, the cornerstone of San Antonio's diverse water supplies. Since the aquifer had remained above the Stage 1 trigger level for several weeks, the decision was made to end lawn watering restrictions that have

been in place since July.

While we are returning to year-round watering guidelines, the arrival of fall typically means cooler, wetter weather so your landscape doesn't have the unquenchable thirst for water that it did during the summer.



That makes this the perfect time to turn off your irrigation system and just run it manually. Even better, hand water only when your plants really need it.

## Water Less To Avoid Lawn Disease

Crisp autumn air is a welcome relief after a long, hot summer — unless you've been overwatering your lawn. Cooler temperatures and increased moisture make your grass susceptible to fungal disease.

Bermuda, zoysia and St. Augustine grasses are all vulnerable to these common turf diseases.

**Take-all root rot or take-all patch:** characterized by yellow dead patches, black spots on stems; found most often in spring.

**Brown patch fungus:** appears as circular or irregular patches of light brown,

thinned grass and prevalent in fall and winter. There are many products available that will cure this fungus when applied properly.

Compost, either alone or mixed with a small amount of sand to make top dressing, helps acidify the soil and minimize lawn diseases. Reducing the amount of water and nitrogen applied to the lawn is also helpful.



The simple rule to remember: Keep moisture and fertilizer to a minimum.

Visit [GardenStyleSA.com](http://GardenStyleSA.com) for weekly watering amounts and landscaping tips to keep your yard looking great using less water.

## Switch Off Your Sprinklers and Save Money in 2021

Save water now, save money throughout 2021. It's as simple as turning off your irrigation system for the season.

SAWS sewer charges are based on your average winter water use, as measured across three complete billing cycles from mid-November to mid-March. So

watering your landscape less now can add up to big savings all year long.

Plus, at this time of year your plants and lawns are preparing for dormancy so they don't absorb as much water. And any water you do apply evaporates much more slowly.

So do your landscape and your wallet a favor: turn off your irrigation system.

