



Your source for all things water

Getting everyone on board with watering rules

Proactive planning has helped our community weather many serious droughts, and the current one is no exception. Thanks to diverse water supplies, long-term conservation and reasonable landscape watering rules, San Antonio has not needed more severe drought restrictions. But to be effective, all SAWS customers need to follow the rules.

Under Stage 2, landscape watering with a sprinkler, irrigation system or soaker hose is allowed only from 7-11 a.m. and 7-11 p.m., one day a week, based on the last number of your street address. You can still hand-water with a hose-end nozzle any time.

More than 6,000 water waste citations have been issued to home and business owners so far in 2023, and patrols are ongoing, including inside gated communities and outside city limits.

While 9 out of 10 customers do follow the rules, the ones who don't are driving up water demand. This has prompted SAWS leaders to consider updating the rules and the way they are enforced.

"We want the watering rules to be more fair, effective and efficient," said SAWS Conservation Vice President Karen Guz. "We think it's important to shift away from a criminal process to one that can apply to all SAWS customers equally, regardless of where they live."

Currently, homes and businesses in separately incorporated cities cannot get a water waste citation.

"It's also important that enforcement consequences are meaningful, even for large commercial properties," Guz said, noting that high volume users and repeat offenders could see higher fees.

WRANGLE YOUR WATER USE GARDEN LIKE A TEXAN

STAGE 2 WATER WISELY

SAWS staff has begun meeting with city leaders and will gather public input over the next several months. The SAWS Board would ultimately need to vote on any proposed changes, followed by City Council consideration.

For now, "wrangle your water use" by following once-a-week Stage 2 watering rules. Details at saws.org/wrangle.

From water to energy to mental health, SAWS Chairwoman Jamison leads with passion

by Jeanie Tavitas

Even at only 6 years old, Jelynne LeBlanc Jamison knew she wanted to do something meaningful with her life. But she couldn't have imagined her wide-eyed optimism would propel her to vital leadership roles in a city 500 miles away, including guiding San Antonio's water future as chairwoman of the SAWS Board of Trustees.

A fourth generation Southern University graduate, Jamison says she had a great childhood growing up in Baton Rouge. Though she admits she lived "in a protected, sheltered community."

"(Mom) was a professor, administrator, chair



of management and marketing, and ultimately associate chancellor for the SU School of Law, so I spent most of my time on campus," she says.

As the first licensed female civil rights attorney in East Baton Rouge Parish and one of the first in Louisiana, her mom was the inspiration behind Jamison's childhood desire to become lawyer. And though she never became an attorney herself, Jamison says she gets to "play a lawyer" as chairwoman of the SAWS Board.

"It's what we do: ensure (SAWS) policies are clear and inclusive," says Jamison, noting that she is a product of affirmative action.

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Shrieking bats, croaking frogs and piercing plants — explore the sights and sounds of nocturnal nightlife during the **Seasonal Night Hike** at San Antonio Botanical Garden, Friday, Oct. 13. Tickets at sabot.org/events.

Event Calendar

Guided Bird Tour

Oct. 8

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Pruning with a Purpose

Oct. 11

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Annular Solar Eclipse Day

Oct. 14

Mission San Jose
6701 San Jose Drive
nps.gov/saan

Moon at Noon

Oct. 14

The DoSeum
2800 Broadway
thedoseum.org/events

Luminaria Contemporary Arts Festival

Oct. 21

Civic Park at Hemisfair
434 S. Alamo St.
luminarias.org

Muertos Fest

Oct. 28-29

Hemisfair
630 E. Nueva St.
muertosfest.com

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

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"I came to San Antonio more than 40 years ago to attend grad school at Trinity University. And I feel very blessed that the community embraced me."

Jamison also credits her grandmother for shaping who she's become.

"Life lessons, character and sense of service — I got it all from my mom *and* grandma," she says proudly.

Indeed. Both women were single moms, raising their children to value learning and a strong work ethic.

Referring to her as the "most intelligent uneducated woman," Jamison says her grandmother worked for Gulf States Utilities (now Entergy), preparing food for representatives who sold household appliances. She also worked at the family-owned laundromat.

Jamison remembers helping count coins from the washing machines and marveling at how her grandma was doing all the math in her head.

"I had to use a calculator," laughed Jamison. "She was one smart lady."

A smart and successful woman herself, Jamison is the president/CEO of The Center for Health Care Services, and she's held leadership positions with the City of San Antonio and CPS Energy. But the accomplishment she says she's most proud

of is parenting her two now-grown daughters.

"It was a challenge to raise two independent, compassionate, civic-minded adults while working full time," says Jamison, adding that her daughters spent a lot of time at work with her because there's no such thing as work-life balance.

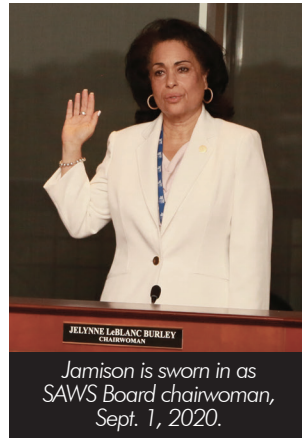
"It's more prioritization than balance," explains Jamison. "I have to *make* and *take* the time to care for myself mentally and physically."

It's exactly how she's able to run the mental health authority for Bexar County *and* lead the Board of a world-renowned utility. The two organizations are more alike than people think, she says.

"They both operate 24/7, rely on data to provide daily services, ensure a safe working environment for their staff and, most importantly, they're both customer-centric," notes Jamison.

As for her goals as SAWS chairwoman, revitalizing the utility's district cooling system, which air conditions Port San Antonio, the Convention Center and many other downtown buildings, is just one of them. The other: to better manage the water-energy nexus — the complex relationship between water use and power generation.

"We're working with (SAWS President/CEO Robert) Puente and CPS Energy to figure out exactly what that is," says Jamison. "We need to think regionally so we can continue to better serve our customers."



Jamison is sworn in as SAWS Board chairwoman, Sept. 1, 2020.

SAWS is always planning for your water future

Did you know SAWS manages 14 different water supply projects from eight different sources? While the Edwards Aquifer remains a cornerstone supply, SAWS' diversified water portfolio assures a secure water future for our growing community.

SAWS began diversifying its supplies back in 1999 with the introduction of the largest direct recycled water system in the country. Today more than 130 miles of purple pipe delivers highly treated recycled water for irrigation, cooling and manufacturing, which helps reduce demand on the potable water supply.

In 2020, the Vista Ridge project came on line as San Antonio's largest-ever non-Edwards Aquifer water source.

Our diverse water supply also helps protect threatened and endangered species and, most importantly, reduces the impact of drought on San Antonio and our region.

Our area's population is constantly growing, and the demand for water is growing with it. Rest assured, SAWS is always working to ensure the community has plentiful water for generations to come. Learn more at saws.org/supply.

