

## The Water Meter: Your Best Tool for Cutting Water Use

While we all know higher water use equals a higher bill, customers may not realize just how much the new SAWS rate structure tiers will reflect higher levels of use, typically from outdoor watering.

The good news is by using your water meter to monitor water use throughout the month, you can quickly move back into a lower tier. Here are a few tips to help you understand what your water meter is trying to tell you.

Water meters are located underground, typically near the edge of your property beneath a round or oval lid.

### Check Outdoor Water Use

Think you know how much you're using to water your lawn? Try this: Check your meter and write down the numbers on the face from left to right. (Ignore the numbers with a black background.) Now run your

sprinkler for the normal setting or time. Once completed check your meter and write down the new numbers.

### Helpful Tools for Customers



Use our rate calculator to see how adjusting water use can lower your bill: [saws.org/calculator](http://saws.org/calculator).



See how to read your meter at [saws.org/meter](http://saws.org/meter).



Request a FREE irrigation consultation via email at [consult@saws.org](mailto:consult@saws.org) or call 704-SAVE.



Visit [GardenStyleSA.com](http://GardenStyleSA.com) for coupons & rebates to help you save water.

### Do the Math

Subtract the first amount from the second amount, then multiply that number by 748. The result is the total number of gallons used. Now multiply that by the number of times you use

your sprinklers during the month. That's the total volume of water your landscape uses. Most people don't realize that the bulk of their water bill during the summer is mostly due to outdoor watering.

### Look for Leaks

Turn off all the fixtures in your home (faucets, showers, outdoor sprinklers, etc.) and check the fine flow indicator (the little red triangle on the meter face). If it is turning and all your fixtures are off, you have a leak. Common places for leaks include: toilet, water softener, water heater, faucets, ice maker, valves, underground leaks and broken pipes that are out of sight. If you aren't handy at fixing them, it might be time to call a plumber.

Questions? Visit [saws.org/meter](http://saws.org/meter) for more information.

## Hole-in-One



Sinking a shot with a single stroke is usually cause for celebration. However, this hole-in-one missed the pin entirely, but not the 30-inch water main beneath Olmos Basin Golf Course, Aug. 8. A geyser caused by the ill-fated ace rapidly soaked the area, pitching the golf course contractor's drilling truck into the bunker. Repairs were wrapped up by SAWS crews by the next day.

Join the **MySAWS** conversation:





► Pumpkin decorating, live owls and kid crafts are just a few of the activities you'll find at the annual Hoot & Harvest Festival at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, 10750 Pleasanton Road, Oct. 29, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Wear your costume!

# Local Calendar

## Fall Coupons: Shrubs, Trees and Patios, Oh My!

Whether you want to cut back on the amount of grass in your landscape or just spruce it up, our WaterSaver coupons can help you make beautiful, affordable water-saving changes to your landscape.

The fall editions of the WaterSaver Landscape and Patioscape coupons are available now through Oct. 31. All you need to do is remove 200 square feet of grass and decide if you want to replace it with drought-tolerant plants, a patioscape, or both!

The Landscape Coupon allows you to create the backbone of your landscape or add to it. There are 15 trees and 10 shrubs for you to choose from.

If you've been putting off creating an outdoor living space, the Patioscape Coupon may just be the incentive you need to finally build it. The coupon is limited to the purchase of the feature item: your choice of flagstone, pavers or stepping stones. Customers must purchase enough of the feature item to cover at least 80 percent of a contiguous 200 square feet.

Customers with an irrigation system must call 704-SAVE (704-7283) to schedule a free irrigation checkup upon applying for the coupon.

The SAWS WaterSaver coupons are a great way to help reduce the cost of making changes to your landscape — and fall is the perfect time to get back outside after a hot Texas summer! Apply online at [GardenStyleSA.com/coupon](http://GardenStyleSA.com/coupon).

## Transportation & Capital Improvements Storm Water Utility Fee

Consistent with the five-year rate increase approved by City Council in 2015, the proposed City of San Antonio budget recommends a Storm Water Utility Fee adjustment.

SAWS collects the Storm Water Utility Fee on behalf of the City of San Antonio-TCI. It is not a SAWS rate or service. Revenues generated from the fee will be used to provide service enhancements to storm drain and tunnel maintenance and new capital projects. The Fiscal Year 2017 monthly fees are shown in the tables.

To lessen the rate impact on small multi-family customers, triplex and quadplex properties are proposed to be reclassified as Residential Properties for the purpose of the Storm Water Utility Fee.

For more information, visit the TCI website: [sanantonio.gov/TCI/Projects/StormWaterFee.aspx](http://sanantonio.gov/TCI/Projects/StormWaterFee.aspx).

Residential Rate Category	Impervious Area in Square Feet	Monthly Fee	
		FY 2016	FY 2017
Tier 1	≤ 2,750	\$3.22	\$3.45
Tier 2	> 2,750 – 4,220	\$4.25	\$4.55
Tier 3	> 4,220	\$8.98	\$9.61

Non-Residential Base Monthly Fee		FY 2016	FY 2017
		\$55.77	\$61.92
Non-Residential Rate Category	Percent Impervious Area	Monthly Fee per 1,000 Square Feet	
		FY 2016	FY 2017
Tier 1	≤ 20%	\$0.25	\$0.28
Tier 2	> 20% – 40%	\$0.37	\$0.41
Tier 3	> 40% – 65%	\$0.50	\$0.54
Tier 4	> 65%	\$0.62	\$0.68

## South Side Customer Center Closing

The SAWS South Side Customer Center will shut its doors permanently in early November. This move will allow SAWS to be more efficient with its existing staff.

Customers who typically use the Southcross Boulevard location are encouraged to visit the West Side Customer Center, just 4 miles away at Las

Palmas Shopping Center, 803 Castroville Road. In addition, six third-party pay agencies are located just a short distance from the Southcross center.

Payments can also be made online at [saws.org](http://saws.org), by phone at 210-704-7297 or by mail.

For a full listing of pay agencies throughout the city, visit [saws.org/service](http://saws.org/service).

### Yanaguana Indian Arts Market

Oct. 1, 2  
Briscoe Western Art Museum  
210 W. Market St.  
[briscoemuseum.org/programs-events](http://briscoemuseum.org/programs-events)

### Oktoberfest

Oct. 7-15  
Beethoven Maennerchor  
422 Pereida St.  
[beethovenmaennerchor.com](http://beethovenmaennerchor.com)

### Greek FUNstival

Oct. 14-16  
St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church  
2504 N. St. Mary's St.  
[stsophiagoc.org/funstival](http://stsophiagoc.org/funstival)

### Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival

Oct. 22  
The Historic Pearl Brewery  
303 Pearl Pkwy.  
[texasbutterflyranch.com/events](http://texasbutterflyranch.com/events)

### Día de los Muertos

Oct. 29, 30  
Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center  
723 S. Brazos St.  
[guadalupeculturalarts.org](http://guadalupeculturalarts.org)