

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / April 2005
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April is Earthquake Preparedness Month

Even though it's been a while since an earthquake of major proportions has struck Southern California, experts warn the public not to become complacent. We live in earthquake country and a major earthquake could strike at any time. April has been designated Earthquake Preparedness Month in memory of the 1906 earthquake that devastated San Francisco and to heighten the importance of being prepared.

The first 72 hours following an earthquake are critical, so you should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least that long. **A supply of stored water may be your most important survival item. Several gallons of stored water per person can last two weeks.** Water should be stored in carefully cleaned, non-corrosive, tightly covered containers. Commercially bottled water is one option. Containers of heavy, opaque plastic with screw-on caps are best if you bottle your own water. All stored water should be clearly labeled and the water replenished every three to six months.

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IRWD Hits Milestone with 15th Building to use Recycled Water

A 10-story building in the Lakeshore Towers office complex located at 18111 Von Karman Avenue in Irvine became the fifteenth building within the Irvine Ranch Water District's (IRWD) service area converted to recycled water for toilet flushing.

The building was constructed in 2000 with dual plumbing – separate pipes for potable and recycled water. State and county health agencies approved the conversion to recycled water for toilet flushing following a successful 48-hour cross-connection test recently. The conversion is the second conversion at the Lakeshore Towers complex, the first being its five-story building last October. One other building in the Lakeshore

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Scott Beltran of IRWD with surplus computers ready for delivery to local schools.

Irvine Ranch Water District Donates Computers to School

Tewinkle Middle School in Costa Mesa was recently the recipient of 11 surplus computers donated by the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD).

This is the seventh donation of computers made to the Newport-Mesa Unified (NMUSD) School District since IRWD merged with the former Santa Ana Heights Water Company in 1997. The donation included complete systems of computer towers, monitors and keyboards. Many of these computers will replace outdated ones used by teachers in their classrooms and two of them will be used in the library, enabling students to access the book cataloging system, according to Terry Stephan, information technology technician for NMUSD.

The IRWD computer donation program began in 1998 with other donations made to the Irvine Unified School District over the years. Since then, more than 200 computers have been donated to local schools. IRWD upgrades its computers systems as they become outdated for business, but are still useful for schools.

"It's better to put the computers into the hands of students, who can get value from them," said IRWD Director of Administrative Services Tony Mossbarger.



Fight the Bite! Help Prevent West Nile virus

West Nile virus is commonly found in Africa, West Asia and the Middle East. Although primarily a virus found in birds and other mammals, it can be transmitted to humans via a bite from an infected mosquito. West Nile virus had not been found in the U.S. prior to 1999 but has steadily made its way across the U.S. since that time.

Irvine Ranch Water District takes many steps to prevent mosquitoes at its San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. These steps include maintaining a constant flow of water to prevent stagnation, using mosquito fish in the ponds and maintaining good access for Orange County Vector Control crews to do their work.

The Vector Control Districts of Southern California has launched a campaign called "Fight the Bite" to remind all local residents that simple steps can be taken to help prevent West Nile virus in Southern California:

- Eliminate standing water in your yard. Empty water from cans, buckets, flowerpots, pet bowls, old tires and gutters.
- Guard against mosquito bites by minimizing time spent outdoors at dawn and dusk when insects are most active. When outdoors, wear long pants and long sleeves and apply mosquito repellent containing DEET.
- To report a dead bird, call (877) WNV-BIRD (968-2473) or visit www.westnile.ca.gov for more information.

Sea and Sage Audubon Events:

Sea and Sage Audubon presents adult and youth education events at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

- **BAT WALKS** - Friday evenings (starting time varies due to time of sunset). Dates: May 27, June 3, June 10, July 8 and August 19. Fee: \$12 for adults; \$6 for children ages 7-12.
- **WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY** - Wednesday through Friday, July 6-8 from 3 to 7 p.m. for ages 12 and older. Fee: \$100 per student.
- **BUTTERFLY WALK** - Sunday, August 21 from 10 a.m. to noon. Fee: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 8-12.
- **FLEDGLING CAMP** - Monday through Friday, July 18-22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for children 7-8. Fee: \$150 per camper.
- **MARSH BIRD CAMP** - Session 1: June 27 - July 1. Session 2: July 11-15 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for children 9-12. Fee: \$180 per camper.
- **ADVANCED BIRD CAMP** - Week I: July 25-29. Week II: August 1-6 (with sleepover). Camp hours are from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for students 11 years and older. Fee: \$180 per camper for week I. Fee: \$200 per camper for Week II.
- All events must be prepaid. All events qualify for the Orange County WILD passport. For more information visit their Web site at www.seaandsageaudubon.org or call the Audubon House at (949) 261-7963.

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April is Earthquake Preparedness Month

After a quake, tap water could be polluted. Water that is boiled for five minutes will usually be safe from contamination. If boiling is not an option, strain the water through paper towels, paper coffee filters, or several layers of clean cloth to remove any sediment. Treat the water with household **liquid** chlorine bleach. Add eight drops of bleach per one gallon of clear water and 16 drops if the water is cloudy. Be sure to include an eyedropper in your emergency kit. **Do not use granular forms of household bleach; they are poisonous.** Mix water and bleach thoroughly and let stand for 30 minutes. Purify only enough water at a time to last a maximum of 48 hours.

You should also learn how to shut off gas, water and electricity. To shut off the water, look for the main valve where water enters the property, usually in a concrete box near the street. Lift the cover and then use a crescent wrench to turn off the water. Some valves have a circular grip that can be turned clockwise to shut the water off and no special tools are needed. Mark the shut-off valve with fluorescent paint or tape so you can find it in the dark.

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15th Building to use Recycled Water

Towers complex is slated for future conversion to recycled water for toilet flushing.

“IRWD has been a leader in promoting recycled water use for more than 30 years,” said General Manager Paul Jones. “Using recycled water saves potable water for drinking and other domestic uses. Recycled water keeps rates low for all IRWD customers because it reduces the need to import water from the Colorado River and Northern California.”

Wastewater is collected and treated, producing high quality recycled water that in 1991 earned the District the first unrestricted use permit in the state. This permit allows the recycled water to be used for everything but drinking. Recycled water is delivered through a completely separate pipeline system throughout the community. Other uses of recycled water are for landscape irrigation, agriculture, cooling towers and industrial uses.

IRWD has rules and regulations requiring any new commercial construction project 80,000-square-feet or greater in its service area to be dual-plumbed. Recycled water now makes up approximately 20 percent of IRWD’s total water supply. Both IRWD’s headquarters and operations buildings are dual-plumbed for toilet flushing.



- This is the growing season for most plants, making it the optimal time to fertilize. For this growth stage, look for a balanced, organic fertilizer.
- Water deeply to encourage deep root growth. Aerating your lawn can also improve root growth. Orange County has predominantly heavy clay soils, which absorbs water at a slower rate. To get the deep water penetration, try watering for short periods twice or even three times in one day at least an hour apart. This watering pattern produces better root growth than watering a little every day. Aerating your lawn can also improve root growth.
- Water your lawn when it needs it. Check by stepping on the grass. If it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, use the sprinkler. See suggested watering schedule below. Trees and shrubs generally require about half (some shrubs, even less) of what the lawn needs. If you're watering every day, you're providing more than most plants need. Check the moisture of the soil 3-6" below the surface. With our heavy clay soils, the surface may look dry, but the clay remains moist beneath the surface.
- Prevent runoff: Landscapers may turn sprinkler controllers up too high. Watch for runoff and check for broken sprinkler heads. Runoff will carry fertilizers into the storm drain and contribute to pollution in our waterways.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the Months of April and May

WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE FOR SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS			
	Turf grass	Trees, shrubs, groundcover	Percent Option**
April	2-3 days, 1-3 cycles* of 2-4 minutes	2 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	70%**
May	2-4 days, 2-3 cycles* of 3-4 minutes	2 days, 3 cycles* of 3 minutes	80%**

**By "cycling" your irrigation timer to turn on for the suggested number of minutes an hour apart, you reduce runoff and gain deeper watering and healthier root growth. Start with this weekly schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the time.*

***Some irrigation controllers have a feature by which the watering time can be set by changing the percentage instead of specifically entering the days, cycles and minutes. If you don't have the instructions for your controller, check the manufacturer's website. Many controller manufacturers provide online access to the owner's manual.*

IRWD OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAY:

- Monday, May 30

SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

Community service hours are available for all volunteer tree planting activities. For more information call (949) 453-5670 or visit their Web site at www.shadetreepartnership.org.

EARTH DAY 2005 - LEARNING FROM NATURE • Sunday, April 24 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center, 2301 University Drive, Newport Beach, at the corner of University and Irvine Avenue

Come join the 15th annual Earth Day celebration to be held at the OC Harbors, Beaches and Parks (HBP) Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center. Earth Day is a time to think about how to protect our planet. There are many ways to do so - recycling, reusing, conserving resources, preventing pollution. Take part in a scavenger hunt (for ages eight and under, nine to 13 and 14 to adult) to learn how plants and animals recycle, reuse and conserve. Festivities include: interpretive programs; activities for all ages; tanks with sharks, rays and other marine life; science discovery and craft booths; environmental exhibits; face painting; live music and much more. Free parking, admission and activities. Refreshments available. For more information, please call (949) 923-2269.

ORANGE COUNTY UNITED WAY'S REAL ESTATE LUNCHEON • Wednesday, May 4 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Irvine Hyatt Regency. This year's 6th annual luncheon, benefiting Orange County United Way's Keeping Kids On Track educational initiative, will feature keynote speaker Marcus Allen. For event information, contact Rose Ratcliff at (949) 263-6176.

2005 YOUNG MASTERS ART SHOW • Saturday, May 7 from 1 to 4 p.m.

This year "Young Masters Imagination Takes Flight" will be at the Irvine City Hall. View the works of almost 500 creative artists from the Irvine Unified School District K-6 grades. The opening day festivities will include entertainment, hands-on crafts and refreshments. Free admission. The artwork will remain on display for two weeks. For more information please call (949) 798-5020.

2005 HOT RODZ OF IRVINE at Park Place (corner of Jamboree and Michelson) • Saturday, May 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Irvine Chamber of Commerce will hold the second-annual Hot Rodz of Irvine Show featuring pre-1972 hot rods, hot rod trucks, muscle cars and customs. Car owners will compete for more than 30 awards handed out to the top cars in several categories. Attendees will be able to view custom cars, get information from exhibitors and enjoy great food from local restaurants. Elm Street Band will provide live "surf" music during the event. Parking is \$5 per car and gate admission is free. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the children and families of the Assessment and Treatment Services Center. For more information please call Rachel Larson at (949) 660-9112, Ext. 128.

FAMILIES FORWARD

The high price of gasoline is creating a hardship on many families. One way to help families in need is with gasoline gift cards. A \$25 to \$50 gift card is a big help to many families. Gift cards may be sent or delivered to Families Forward, 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92618. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday. Contributions are greatly appreciated.

CITY OF IRVINE EVENTS

Senior Council Candidates Nominations Due May 5 - The City of Irvine is hosting an election for the Irvine Senior Citizen's Council on August 2. The role of the Senior Citizens' Council is to act in an advisory capacity to the City Council in establishing policy on all matters, concerns, and participate in the planning of facilities, transportation, activities, services and programs for the senior citizens community. Anyone interested in running or applying for a candidate position may request a candidate's packet during the nomination period, April 11 to May 5 from the City Clerk's Department located at One Civic Center Plaza, or from a designee at the Rancho San Joaquin and Lakeview Senior Centers during this time. The candidate's packet must be returned no later than 5 p.m. on May 5. Voting will take place at Rancho San Joaquin and Lakeview Senior Centers on Tuesday, August 2, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information please call the City Clerk's Department at (949) 724-6205.

LEADERSHIP TOMORROW BOOK DRIVE

Do you remember the first book you picked up? How about the first time a teacher read to you? Pre-school helps form a foundation for learning about the importance of books and reading. Leadership Tomorrow is a non-profit organization that expands knowledge, empowers citizens and promotes community involvement. Their latest community project is to outfit a library for Harper Preschool in the Santa Ana Heights area of Costa Mesa. The school serves both special education and low-income preschool students free of charge.

Items needed include new or "gently used" children's books (ages 3-5), puppets and subscriptions to children's magazines. Donation of book store gift cards or monetary donations are also welcome. Books and puppets may be dropped off in a donation box in the lobby of Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine. Other donation locations are Harper Preschool, 425 E. 18th St., Costa Mesa or Save Our Youth, 661 Hamilton Street, Costa Mesa. To donate gift cards or checks, please contact Marilyn Smith at (949) 453-5321 for information. All donations are tax deductible through Leadership Tomorrow, Tax ID # 33-0262785.

The mission of Irvine Ranch Water District, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer service in an efficient, cost effective manner and environmentally sensitive way that provides a high level of customer satisfaction.

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Pipelines

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For comments, suggestions or questions, call (949) 453-5500.

**24 Hour Service
(949) 453-5300**

Should you discover a disruption in your water service or other problems call the IRWD 24-hour emergency line and a representative will assist you.

Visit the IRWD Web site:

www.irwd.com

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