

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / August 2006
Volume 2006 Number 08

2006 Photo Contest Winners



Sofya Derkach
First Place
Category: 17 & under



Sara Clausen
Second Place
Category: 17 & under



Julian Francisco Lehr-Bryant
Third Place
Category: 17 & under

Free Water Awareness Tours

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) offers free Water Awareness Tours to all its customers.

The Fall tours will be held on Saturday, October 14 and Saturday, October 21.

These tours, open to those who live or work with IRWD boundaries, are an excellent opportunity to gain valuable information about the water system, wastewater treatment, and recycled water use.

The free tours start promptly at 8 a.m. and conclude at approximately 2 p.m. Lunch is provided. The tours fill very quickly and are first-come first-served based on the date we receive your reservation. You will receive a call if your selection is not available. We are unable to accommodate children under 16 years of age.

Customers may register on the IRWD Web site at www.irwd.com or call (949) 453-5500.

FREE Fall Residential Landscape Workshop

WHEN:
Friday, September 29
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

WHERE:
IRWD Headquarters
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine CA, 92618

Fall 2006's workshop features both fact-filled talks and plant displays by local irrigation, gardening and landscape specialists.

Workshop topics may include:

- How to water for plant health and low water bills
- Irrigation system basics
- Landscape design basics

Limited seating. Reserve your seat(s) online at <http://www.irwd.com/FreePrograms/workshops.php>

If you do not have internet access, please call 949-453-5327 to make your reservation.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 - IRWD Holiday (offices closed)**SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS**

- **Saturday, August 26 from 8:30 to 11 a.m.** - Shadetree Partnership Fifth Annual "Hot August" Nursery Event and Barbecue

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.

CITY OF IRVINE EVENTS

- **Sizzlin' Summer Sundays Concert**

- **Sunday, August, 27** – Spreading the "good word of Neil," Super Diamond rounds out the series with a grand finale performance celebrating Irvine's 35th anniversary. Performing since 1993, Super Diamond's classic music combined with fun, energy, and passion, pays tribute to over 30 years of solid gold hits from an American icon - Neil Diamond.

Performance begins at 5:30 p.m. at Woodbridge Community Park, 20 Lake Road, Irvine. Admission is free. The community is invited to bring low back chairs, blankets and picnic dinners. For more information, visit www.cityofirvine.org/35th.

- **Saturday, September 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** - **Fifth Annual Irvine Global Village Festival**

Celebrating Irvine's cultural heritage at the Bill Barber Park in Irvine (located adjacent to the Irvine Civic Center on Harvard between Barranca and Alton). Now in its fifth year, this multifaceted festival features international cuisine, live entertainment, children's activities, cultural exhibits, a community partners' pavilion, and world marketplace. One of the City's most popular events, the festival is a wonderful opportunity for people to learn, experience, and share the cultural traditions of their friends and neighbors. Festival admission is free. Food court tasting tickets are available for purchase at the event for \$1 each. For more information, call (949) 724-6606 or visit www.irvinefestival.org.

- **Monday, October 9 starting at 12:30 p.m.** - **Seventh Annual Jack Williams Memorial Golf Tournament**

"Breaking Barriers, Changing Perceptions," is the theme for the seventh annual Jack Williams Memorial Golf Tournament taking place at the Oak Creek Golf Course in Irvine. Sponsored by the City of Irvine Disability Services section, the event focuses on raising awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities by promoting inclusion within the community. Tournament fees are \$120 per person and include 18-holes of golf, tee gift, warm-up bucket, golf cart, lunch, dinner reception, and awards ceremony immediately following the event. A variety of contribution opportunities are also available, including sponsorship packages, team entries, and raffle and silent auction donations. Event proceeds benefit Disability Services Programs and its home-delivered meals program for persons with disabilities. For more information or to request a registration packet, contact Tournament Chairperson Susie Blanco at (949) 724-6633.

FAMILIES FORWARD NEWS

The summer supply of donated food continues to remain low, so food items are in great demand. Families Forward is a work that is based on community support and involvement. It appreciates the continued support of community members to its various programs. Please send or deliver donations to Families Forward, 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92618. For more information call (949) 552-2727.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE THRIFT AND GIFT SHOP

17801 Main Street, Suite H (Sky Park South), Irvine • (949) 955-3437

Irvine's best kept secret for fabulous finds at great values. They are a non-profit volunteer organization, benefiting the Irvine community. They feature gently used clothing, household items, toys, books, shoes and much more.

Donations welcome during normal business hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As a service to residents we feature a calendar of community events in "Pipelines." Events or activities of community-wide interest can be included in the calendar on a space available basis. We reserve the right to print those items of most interest to the public. If your group has an event you would like to include, please submit written information at least two months prior to your event. Please include date, time, place, contact person's name and telephone number. Mail your request to: Public Affairs Department, IRWD, P.O. Box 57000, Irvine, CA 92619-7000, fax your request to (949) 453-1327, or e-mail your request to velazque@irwd.com.

Don't Flush Unused, Unwanted, and Expired Medications

Once it was common practice to flush expired medications (also known as pharmaceuticals) down the toilet. Your doctor or pharmacist may have directed you to do this. We now know that flushing these substances can have adverse effects on the environment. Flushing is no longer the recommended disposal method.



dispose of it as described in section #2, taking care that all of the recommended steps are followed.

2. Put in a sturdy and securely sealed container and then in a trash can where children and pets can't reach them.

To avoid accidental and intentional ingestion follow these steps:

What's the problem?

Studies indicate that the hormones found in pharmaceuticals may cause abnormalities in the reproductive cycles of fish. In addition, this contact can lead to the development of drug-resistant germs, which are linked to antibiotic resistant bacteria. Scientists continue to study the long-term health effects on marine life and humans. Although their findings are inconclusive, it is clear that proactive measures need to be taken to keep pharmaceuticals out of the water.

So, what should you do?

1. Take to a household hazardous waste collection center or event.

Waste medications can be taken to the following household hazardous waste collection centers in Orange County:

- Irvine - 6411 Oak Canyon
- Anaheim - 1071 N. Blue Gum Street
- Huntington Beach - 17121 Nichols Street
- San Juan Capistrano - 32250 La Pata Avenue

First check to determine whether the household hazardous waste collections accept medications. It is illegal for household hazardous waste centers to accept certain prescription medications known as "controlled substances." These are drugs that have a potential for addiction and/or abuse such as narcotics and tranquilizers. Common controlled substances include codeine, phenobarbital, and anabolic steroids. If you don't know if your prescription is a controlled substance, check with your doctor or pharmacist. If they tell you that it is a controlled substance,

Safety

When possible, all medications put in the trash should be "treated" in some way to prevent people and animals from eating them. You can do this by simply adding water and then salt, ashes from the fireplace or barbeque pit, or dirt from the yard to pills or capsules in a bottle or by adding salt, ashes, or dirt to liquid medications. Wrap several layers of masking tape or duct tape to cover and hide blister packs (pills in a card).

Learn more at

<http://www.moea.state.mn.us/hhw/pharmaceuticals.cfm>. It is also wise to place the medications in the trash as close to the pick-up time as possible so there is less chance that the medicine can fall into the wrong hands.

Container

Use the original prescription container with safety caps, if available, and tape the lid to the container with duct tape or another type of sturdy tape. It is a good idea to use a plastic container when disposing of liquid in a glass bottle to contain the spill if the bottle breaks. Hide all medications in an outer container such as a paper bag, box, or plastic tub and wrap in several layers of newspaper to prevent discovery and removal from the trash.

Privacy

If desired, remove patient's name, drug name, prescription number, and other personal information from the container before disposal.



Water Conservation Tips

Efficient irrigation saves money.

- 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, it's time to water. Trees and shrubs generally require about half (some shrubs even less) of what the lawn needs. Check the moisture of the soil 3-6" below the surface. With our heavy clay soils, the surface will dry out in hours, but the clay remains moist beneath the surface.
- Brown "hot spots" require extra care. Don't turn up the water if you see a small patch of brown turf. It will mean over-watering other plants and higher water bills. Instead, look for blocked sprinkler heads or an uneven coverage. Adjust the irrigation system or water that spot by hand.
- Water during the cool parts of the day. Night and early morning is the best time to water. Also, avoid watering on windy days.
- Don't water the gutter! Position your sprinklers so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas. Watch for runoff-that is your sign that your lawn can no longer take in water at the rate your sprinkler is dishing it out. Try watering for a shorter period with repeat cycles.
- Cycle your lawn clippings. Mow frequently (every five to seven days) and leave the clippings on the lawn. Build up should not occur if you have cut back on the fertilizer. The clippings will restore nutrients to the soil and slow water loss due to evaporation during the high temperature months. Consider raising the height of your mower blade, but make sure your lawn does not grow to block the sprinkler heads.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth, too. Keep mulch a couple of inches away from trunks and stems.
- Yellow leaves on shrubs may be a sign of over-watering. More plants suffer from over-watering than from becoming too dry!
- Check for broken sprinkler heads and for leaks in hoses and couplings. Leaks outside the house can go unnoticed for a long time, especially when sprinklers are timed to go on when no one is watching.
- Feed roses and annual flowers regularly for the best blooms.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

AUGUST

Turf grass: 4-5 days, 3-5 cycles* of 3 minutes
 Trees, shrubs, groundcover: 2 days, 3 cycles* of 4 minutes
 Percent option: 100%**

SEPTEMBER

Turf grass: 3-4 days, 2-3 cycles* of 2-4 minutes
 Trees, shrubs, groundcover: 2 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes
 Percent option: 70%**

**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.*

In September, plant water needs drop by as much as 30 percent even if the temperature is hotter, for two reasons. First, the days are shorter. Second, plants begin to grow more slowly because there is less sunlight. This drop in water needs will continue in October and November.

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

Published by the
 Public Affairs Dept.
 IRWD
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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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 August 2006 • 93K