

# Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / October 2006  
Volume 2006 Number 10



*Approximately 80 students from Northwood High School's science classes and environmental club cleaned their fair share of junk out of the creek. And it wouldn't be clean up day if a shopping cart or two weren't pulled out of the muck.*



## San Diego Creek Cleaned Out One More Time

Some of the 126 volunteers cleaning out the San Diego Creek for Inner-Coastal Clean-Up Day stumbled upon skeletal remains - of old shopping carts, that is. That was just a small sample of what the intrepid volunteers found.

Mud-covered highway signs. Faded soda cans. Bits of foam cups, plastic drinking straws, auto bumpers, plastic shopping bags, fast food wrappers, water bottles, blown out tires - it has all at one time been plucked out of San Diego Creek in Irvine.

For the seventh consecutive year, IRWD hosted a cleanup site at the gates of the Operations  
*continued on page three...*

## Way\$ to Pay

When it comes to paying your water bill, there is certainly more than one way to accomplish the task. IRWD strives to make bill payment as convenient as possible for customers. Here are your options:

### eBill Payments

IRWD, in partnership with CheckFree, offers the convenience of receiving your bill electronically and paying online, free of charge, from your checking or money market account. To sign up, visit IRWD's web site at [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) and click on e-Bill in the Special Features box.

### Credit Card Payments

Customers may process water bill payments over the phone or by computer any time day or night with a credit card. EDS, a third party service provider, charges a \$4.95 convenience fee to pay by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover). To make a payment by phone, call (866) 500-5256. To make a payment by computer, visit [www.paybill.com/irwd](http://www.paybill.com/irwd).

### Automatic Payment

Customers may sign up with IRWD to automatically have their water bills paid by direct debit from their checking account each month. There is no charge from IRWD for this service. Call Customer Service at (949) 453-5300 to request an enrollment form, or print one from the IRWD web site at [www.irwd.com/IRWDServices/DDDebit.pdf](http://www.irwd.com/IRWDServices/DDDebit.pdf)

### Other electronic payment options

If your financial institution offers either pay-by-phone or computer-based home banking, you have the option of paying your IRWD bill through most of these electronic services. Check with your bank for further information.

### By Mail

Mail your water bill payment stub along with your check in the courtesy reply envelope provided with your bill.  
*continued on page three...*

### SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- **Saturday, October 28 from 8:30 to 11 a.m.** - Pre-Halloween Nursery Event at the Shadetree Partnership Nursery. Groups welcome. RSVP by Monday, Oct. 23 with the number of volunteers. 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](http://www.shadetreepartnership.org).

### SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON - Pancake Breakfast and Book Sale, Saturday, October 28 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Sea and Sage will host its 14th Annual Pancake Breakfast at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. Spotting scopes will be set up at in the marsh for your convenience. Cost: \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 10 and under and children under three are free. For reservation and directions, call Audubon House at (949) 261-7963.

### SILVERADO MODJESKA RECREATION & PARKS DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The Fall brochure is now available. Numerous programs, classes and events are scheduled for October through December. A few of the activities include:

- **Saturday, October 28** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Silverado Children's Center Harvest Festival. \$15 for adults, \$7 for children 2-12 and \$40 for a family of four. For tickets call (949) 649-2214
- **Saturday Canyon Hikes** scheduled for **November 4** to Harding Canyon and **December 2** to Holy Jim Falls.
- **November 20 and December 18** from 7 to 9:15 p.m. - Canyon Book Club at Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary. To enroll contact Andrew Tonkovich at [atankovi@uci.edu](mailto:atankovi@uci.edu).
- **November 4** from noon to 2 p.m. - Canyon Family Circus Arts. Fee: \$10. For more information call (949) 649-3110.
- Yoga in the Canyons, Extreme Mountain Biking Thursday Nights, Fire Explorer Program, Before and After School-Age Program, Saturday Morning Mountain Bike Rides and much more. Call (949) 649-0132 or visit their Web site at [www.smrpd.org](http://www.smrpd.org).

### CITY OF IRVINE EVENTS

- **Tuesday, October 24 from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Irvine Civic Center - Free Course on Alarm Systems**

Used properly, home and business alarm systems are one of the most effective ways to deter burglaries and break-ins. To enhance proper usage, the City of Irvine Police Department, in partnership with Alarm Industry, will present this free one-hour Alarm User Awareness Class. The class will provide residents and business owners with information on how alarm systems work, services provided by alarm companies, fees and penalties associated with false alarms and additional benefits and resources available to alarm users. Class participants will also receive a \$50 to \$100 credit toward false alarm fees. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Kim Mahon at (949) 724-6467 or email [kmahon@ci.irvine.ca.us](mailto:kmahon@ci.irvine.ca.us).

- **Discover Irvine's Inner Beauty**

Discover the beauty of Irvine's open space preserve, its unique indigenous plant species and the diversity of its wildlife with a new series of classes offered by the City of Irvine's Open Space Preserve Nature Center. Classes are open to all ages. Topics include Winsome Wildlife, Friday, October 27; Plants Plus: Create a Wildlife Sanctuary in Your Backyard, Friday, November 17; and Open Space Ecology, Friday, December 8. Classes are held at the Nature Center from 7 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$5 per family. Irvine's Open Space Preserve Nature Center is located at the base of the San Joaquin Hills and serves as a community resource for environmental interest and concern. The five acre preserve is both home for wildlife and an outdoor classroom where visitors and program participants learn to protect our natural resources. To register, visit [www.IrvineQuickReg.org](http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org) or for more information, call (949) 724-6738.

- **Irvine Holiday Faire • Friday, Nov. 3 from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Handmade and one-of-a-kind items are the hallmark of the Irvine Fine Arts Center's annual Holiday Faire located at 14321 Yale Avenue, Irvine. More than 150 talented artisans will be in attendance selling a variety of unique holiday arts and decorations including hand-blown glass, ceramics, jewelry, folk crafts, porcelain dolls, clothing and more. The Faire also features a selection of delicious foods and desserts available for purchase, as well as piping hot chili served in handmade ceramic collector bowls and baked potatoes with all the fixings. Recognized for its quality, handcrafted merchandise, the Faire attracts more than 2,000 visitors each year. Food and admission proceeds benefit Irvine community art programs. Admission is \$2; children 12 and under are free. The Irvine Fine Arts Center is located at 14321 Yale Avenue, Irvine. For more information, call (949) 724-6880 or visit [www.irvinefinearts.org](http://www.irvinefinearts.org).

### 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.

### WIPE OUT WEST NILE VIRUS

Local Vector Control Districts remind the public that mosquitoes can continue to be a problem in the fall even though temperatures are getting cooler. West Nile Virus is transmitted by mosquitoes, which breed in standing water. Protect yourself from this disease by repairing leaky faucets, limiting outdoor irrigation to prevent standing water, changing water in bird baths weekly, clearing out rain gutters, properly maintaining swimming pools and spas, and repairing window screens. For more information call 877-WNV BIRD (968-2473) or visit [www.wipeoutwestnile.com](http://www.wipeoutwestnile.com)

*continued from page one...*

## **Creek Cleaned One More Time**

Center Saturday, Sept. 16. Volunteers arrived to sign in and after they received plastic gloves and bags, they fanned out into the creek and along the banks to tackle the trash.

It's truly amazing what winds up in the creek. The shopping carts probably come from any one of several shopping centers that abut the creek. The other trash, however, such as soda cans and fast food wrappers, could have been dropped on a street anywhere in our watershed, ended up in a storm drain, which eventually led to San Diego Creek. And what ends up in the San Diego Creek will eventually make its way to the Newport Back Bay. One group even found a bag of medical waste.

Inner-Coastal Cleanup Day is in its 10th year and is held in conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day. While the Coastal Cleanup volunteers concentrate on cleaning up the beaches, Inner-Coastal Cleanup Day focuses on getting the trash out of the tributaries before it hits the beach. IRWD's site was one of many throughout the county.

## **A Word About Chloramines**

Dialysis patients, fish owners and businesses whose production processes involve water need to be aware of the routine disinfection used by Irvine Ranch Water District and how that disinfection may change from time to time.

IRWD normally uses chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, to make the water safe to drink. Chloramines are preferable because they are a more stable and long-lasting disinfectant, produce fewer byproducts and they don't cause taste and odor problems like chlorine alone. From time to time, however, water districts must temporarily switch to chlorine alone for system maintenance. IRWD maintains a database of customers with special needs and notifies them when a change in water disinfection is planned.

If you fit into one of the categories above and would like to be added to the notification list, please contact IRWD at (949) 453-5321 or [smithm@irwd](mailto:smithm@irwd). Provide your name, service address, phone number and e-mail address.

*continued from page one...*

## **Way\$ to Pay**

### **In Person**

Payments may be made at the Customer Service Department in the IRWD offices at 15600 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Fridays. For payments during non-business hours, a drop box is conveniently located in the parking lot. A drop box is also located at the former Santiago County Water District Office, 7431 Silverado Canyon Rd., for the convenience of customers in the Silverado area. Payments received in the drop boxes will be processed on the next business day.

## **IRWD's Seasonal Change in Water Sources**

Unlike many areas of Orange County, Irvine Ranch Water District is not dependent upon only one source of water. Approximately 65 percent of our drinking water is local groundwater pumped from 21 wells within the Orange County Groundwater Basin. The remaining 35 percent of our water supply is imported water which must be purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).

Imported water comes from the Colorado River Aqueduct and Northern California via the State Water Project. IRWD generally uses well water between April and October. However, a few areas, such as Foothill Ranch, Portola Hills, Lake Forest and Newport Coast, will receive imported water year-round. A portion of water received by Silverado Canyon residents comes from the Harding Canyon Dam watershed in the Cleveland National Forest.

From October through April, the entire District generally receives mostly MWD water. Because Southern California receives most of its rainfall in the winter, IRWD shuts off most of its groundwater wells during that time to allow the groundwater aquifer to recharge naturally.

Because your water source may vary or be made up of a blending of these various sources of water, you may notice a difference in the taste or hardness (mineral content) of the water at different times of the year. None of these factors affect the safety of your water.



- Start cutting back on your watering. By the beginning of October, plants will need as much as one-third LESS water than they did in August, even though the days are still warm. Why? Because the days are shorter. Also, plants are slowing their rate of growth-the opposite of the spring growth phase. Watch for signs of stress. Lawns show stress when grass blades turn wiry and don't pop back up when stepped on. Plants and bushes show stress when leaves droop or start to turn color. Domestic plants will easily recover from minor stress. If runoff occurs, reduce the watering time, but water twice in the same day at least an hour apart. Shrubs and trees will need about half of what turf requires.
- Brown grass. Warm season grasses go into dormancy and turn brown this time of year. No amount of water will change that! Some landscapers will "overseed" with an annual rye grass to keep a lawn looking green. You will need to water more frequently to get the seeds to germinate, but only a few BRIEF minutes each day for a couple weeks-just enough to get the seeds wet.
- Lower the mower blade. If you increased the height during the warm months, return to the recommended height for your type of turf. Hybrid Bermuda: 1/2 to 3/8 inch; Tall Fescue: 2-2½ inches.
- PLANT! Fall is the best time of year for planting in Southern California. The soil is still warm, but the days and nights are cool. Winter rains are just around the corner to encourage good, deep root systems so plants will be ready for a surge of growth in the spring.
- Change the battery. If your sprinkler timer has a backup battery, now is a good time to install a fresh one.

## Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

*Weekly Watering Schedule for SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS*

### OCTOBER

Turf grass: 2-3 days, 1-3 cycles\* of 2-4 minutes  
 Trees, shrubs, groundcover: 2 days, 2 cycles\* of 3 minutes  
 Percent option: 50%\*\*

### NOVEMBER

Turf grass: 1-2 days, 1-2 cycles\* of 2-3 minutes  
 Trees, shrubs, groundcover: 1 day, 2 cycles\* of 4 minutes  
 Percent option: 40%\*\*

*\*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.*

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.

#### IRWD Board of Directors

Peer A. Swan, President  
 Douglas J. Reinhart, V.P.  
 Mary Aileen Matheis  
 Darryl G. Miller  
 John B. Withers

#### General Manager

Paul D. Jones II

#### Pipelines

Published by the  
 Public Affairs Dept.  
 IRWD  
 P.O. Box 57000  
 Irvine, CA 92619-7000

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](http://www.irwd.com)

Printed on recycled paper.  
 Recyclable  
 October 2006 • 93K