

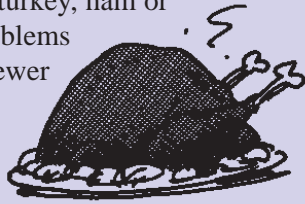
Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / November 2006
Volume 2006 Number 11

Don't Let Your Holiday Meal Create a Spill!

Grease poured down drains is the leading cause of sewage spills.

Grease needs to be handled carefully all year round, but especially at this time of year. With the holidays upon us, many families are cooking special meals to share with friends and relatives. But the larger quantity of grease created by cooking a turkey, ham or roast can result in problems within your home's sewer pipes or within your neighborhood if not disposed of properly.



Never pour grease down your sink drain, toilet or garbage disposal! Instead, pour grease into a can and refrigerate or freeze until solid and then dispose of the can on trash day. An empty soup can works well for everyday cooking; however for larger holiday meals you may want to save a coffee can to hold the grease. Wipe excess grease from pots, pans and utensils with paper towels before washing. These simple steps will help IRWD protect the environment by preventing sewer spills.

Receive and Pay Irvine Ranch Water District Bills Online

Anytime...24/7

Anywhere...at work, home, or on the road!

Schedule your payment in advance!

Irvine Ranch Water District, in partnership with CheckFree, offers the convenience of receiving and paying your water bill online, free of charge, from your checking or money market account.

When you sign up for eBill you will no longer receive a paper bill. Instead, you'll be able to go online and view your most recent bill.

continued on page three...



IRWD's Purchasing Department has received the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement for the sixth consecutive year. Holding the award is Purchasing Manager Alex Aguilar. Also shown are Director of Administrative Services Tony Mossbarger and General Manager Paul Jones. (see story on page three)



Participants in the Audubon Society's Advanced Bird Camp draw birds or other animals on the seats of their "medicine benches." (see story on page three...)

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.

SILVERADO MODJESKA RECREATION & PARKS DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The Fall brochure is now available. Numerous programs, classes and events are scheduled through December. Call (949) 649-0132 or visit their Web site at www.smrpd.org.

CITY OF IRVINE EVENTS

• **Bringing Nations Together Through Art - Multi-media presentation unites photographers from California and Taiwan**

Bringing nations together through art, the Irvine Sister Cities Foundation, in conjunction with the Sun-Ten Museum, is hosting a special multi-media exhibit featuring photographs from renowned California and Taiwanese artists. Presented in two segments, the exhibition opens to the public with a special reception at the Sun-Ten Museum (9200 Jeranimo Road, Irvine) on **December 9 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.** On **December 10 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.**, the Irvine Sister Cities Foundation will host a multi-media gala performance at the Irvine Civic Center (1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine) featuring an interactive slide show of photographs accompanied by live music and dancing. Both events are free and open to the public; however seating is limited for the gala performance and reservations are requested. The complete photographic exhibit will be on display at the Sun-Ten Museum from **December 11-31**. For more information or reservations, call Nancy Romero at (949) 724-6254.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE® of Irvine Masters Golf Fundraiser**WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO THE 2007 MASTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT**

For \$100 you can buy a chance to win a package for two people for the two final days of the 2007 Masters Golf Tournament. The package is worth over \$7500 and includes the following: two passes to the Masters Golf Tournament Finals April 7-8, 2007 in Augusta, Georgia; three nights hotel accommodations for two; three days car rental and clubhouse parking; hospitality privileges including breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages; and \$250 toward travel expenses. Only 400 chances will be sold. The drawing will be held Wednesday, February 14, 2007 at 7 p.m. at South Lake Middle School, Irvine as part of the monthly meeting for Assistance League of Irvine. Winners do not need to be present to win. For ticket information, contact Assistance League of Irvine by leaving your name and telephone number at (949) 798-5020. For more information about the package visit <http://irvine.assistanceleague.org>.

Assistance League of Irvine is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to providing programs and services that will enrich and improve the quality of life in Irvine.

FAMILIES FORWARD

Every holiday season, Families Forward not only distributes the food needed to fix Thanksgiving dinners for more than 400 families each year, but they also provide holiday gifts for homeless and low income families through their Adopt-A-Family program. People interested in being a donor to one of these "adopted" families is encouraged to call the Families Forward office for information. Donors are matched to a family and given a "wish list" from their adopted family. Gifts are received from the donors beginning December 6 through December 8 at the Families Forward office and then are distributed to the adoptive families. Each year the number of families has grown with over 425 families receiving holiday gifts last December 2005. Volunteers are also needed to help organize the holiday gift bags for pick up by the families. Persons interested in being a "Holiday Angel" or becoming an Adopt-A-Family donor, are asked to call the office at (949) 552-2727. Families Forward will also continue to provide needed food to 40-60 families each week in the month of December along with the holiday program. Food donations are always welcome and can be delivered to the office at 9221 Irvine Blvd, Irvine 92618.

Families Forward exists to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services. It has been serving the needs of families in the area for 22 years.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, is seeking volunteers to serve as advocates and mentors for abused children. An information session will be held on January 25, 2007 and February 22, 2007 at the Irvine Heritage Park Library, 14361 Yale Avenue from 6 to 8 p.m. R.S.V.P. (714) 619-5155.

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.

Students Come from All Over to Attend Bird Camp

Youngsters from Anaheim to Irvine have been enjoying the Sea and Sage Audubon Society's summer Bird Camps for many years at Irvine Ranch Water District's San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Take 10-year-old Hunter Craft of Irvine for instance. Hunter began attending camp three years ago. He was the youngest member of the Advanced Bird Camp this past summer, in which participants are 11 and up.

"Hunter was promoted to Advanced Bird Camp because of his interest and strong birding skills," said teacher Constance Cassady of Irvine. She has taught at the Bird Camps for nine years and said she marvels at how talented the participants are.

Kaitlin Fitzgerald, 13, of Irvine has been attending the camps for four years.

"It's one of my favorite things to do during the summer," she said.

Thirteen-year-old Olivia Simon agreed. She has attended the camps for six years.

"I enjoy the birding and all of the wonderful friends I have made here," she said.

During the last week of Advanced Bird Camp, the campers were making "medicine benches."

"Adolescent Native Americans would pick their totems, which were symbols of themselves," Cassady explained. "They would choose birds or animals that represented their individual medicine, or personal spirit."

The campers painted pictures of the birds or animals they chose onto the tops of their benches. When the paint dried, the benches were lacquered, giving the campers a lasting memory of their Bird Camp experience.

Camps offered are the Fledgling Bird Camp for students seven and eight years old; Marsh Bird Camp for nine-12 year olds and Advanced Bird Camp for 11 year olds and up.

Dates for 2007 will be announced soon with signups beginning in the spring. More information is available at www.seaandsageaudubon.org, or by calling (949) 261-7963.

See photo on page one.



(l-r) John Hills, IRWD's Director of Water Quality, Joshi Raghavender of engineering and Chemist Jim Hyde answered student's question about science fair projects at the Irvine Unified School District's annual Ask-a-Scientist Night.

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Receive and Pay Irvine Ranch Water District Bills Online

Here's how it works: once enrolled, every month we'll send you an e-mail to let you know that your IRWD bill is available for viewing and payment. No more stamps to buy, checks to write, or envelopes to mail.

- Save time by paying your bill on-line.
 - Save money by eliminating postage stamps.
 - Pay your IRWD bill with this free service.
 - If you are new to online bill paying, this is the best way to try it!
 - Greater control over bill management.
 - Automatically tracks your payment history.
- To sign up visit www.irwd.com.

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IRWD Excels in Procurement

IRWD's nine-member Purchasing Department has received the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Purchasing Institute (NPI) for the sixth consecutive year.

The award is achieved by those organizations that demonstrate excellence in procurement by obtaining a high score on a rating of standardized criteria set by the NPI.

The program measures innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity and leadership attributes of the procurement function.

The award program was established in 1995. *See photo on page one.*



- Continue to cut back on your watering. By the end of November, plants will need up to half of what they needed in August. Why? Because the days are shorter. As you continue cutting back on the amount of water you're providing your landscape, 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.
- 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.

Avoid "topping" trees.

- Topping can severely damage a tree. It removes the canopy of the tree, which normally cools the area up to 15 degrees during the summer and insulates the area during the winter. Removing this protection can cause an increase in energy consumption to cool the home and an increase in water consumption on exposed landscape.
- Topped trees must be maintained, thinned or repaired on a much more frequent basis than if the tree was originally pruned to conform to its natural character.
- Topping trees indiscriminately removes the tree's major branches and stimulates the growth of numerous upright branches, which are not as strongly attached to the tree as natural growth. They grow rapidly and more densely, quickly reaching the height of the tree prior to topping. As these new shoots grow and increase in weight, the resulting limbs are more susceptible to wind damage.
- Topping cuts off a major portion of the tree's food manufacturing ability and eliminates a large percentage of the tree's food reserves. This can kill older trees.
- Topping opens the potential for disease and insect intrusion. Once decay has established itself at the branch stub, it often spreads to the main trunk, which can ultimately kill the tree.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

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%**

DECEMBER

Turf grass: 1-2 days, 1-2 cycles* of 1-2 minutes
 Trees, shrubs, groundcover: 1 day, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes
 Percent option: 30%**

**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.

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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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