

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / February 2008
Volume 2008 Number 02

SPRING RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP

FREE!

Friday, March 28, 2008
6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at
IRWD Headquarters
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92618

The Spring 2008 workshop will feature plant displays and fact-filled talks by local irrigation, gardening and landscape specialists. Attendees will be entered in a raffle to win a FREE drip system-in-a-box kit. (Must be present to win.)

Workshop topics may include:

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

Limited seating. Reserve your seats online at

www.irwd.com

If you do not have online access, please call

949-453-5327

to make your reservation.

Second Annual California Friendly Garden Contest Launches

Do you have native plants in your garden that use very little water? Is your garden beautiful and colorful?

Then chances are your garden could be a candidate for the Roger's Garden California Friendly Garden Contest, co-sponsored for the second year by the Irvine Ranch Water District.

The contest launches this month and the deadline to enter is April 3. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on May 16.

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Santiago Fire



IRWD received an award from the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) for our successful efforts in the October/November Santiago Fire to maintain water service in the affected areas. From left is Bruce Newell, a Santiago Canyon volunteer firefighter, IRWD General Manager Paul Jones, and OCFA Fire Chief Chip Prather.

Free Water Awareness Tours

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) offers free Water Awareness Tours to all its customers. The Spring tours will be held on **Saturday, May 3 and Saturday, May 31.**

These tours, open to those who live or work within 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 up 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.

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Second Annual California Friendly Garden Contest Launches

The grand prize winner will receive \$2,500, a certificate and a garden plaque. A new category has been added this year – Best Native Plant Garden.

The contest categories are:

- **Best Aesthetics** - includes curb appeal, color, form, texture and plant health.
- **Best Use of Plants** - includes plants appropriate for Orange County's Mediterranean climate, appropriate plant combinations, innovative plants and creative use of plants.
- **Best Water Efficiency** - includes well-designed irrigation systems, minimum water runoff and water conservation.
- **Best Native Plant Garden** - emphasizes California's native plants.
- **Do-it-Yourself** - includes gardens designed, installed and maintained primarily by the homeowner with less than 20 percent professional assistance.

Winners in each of the categories will receive \$500 and a certificate. Criteria for each entry is:

- Residential properties only.
- Must be located within the boundaries of Orange County.
- The garden must be at least one month old.
- No employees or family members of Roger's Gardens or the sponsors.
- Front yard landscape only.

All entries must demonstrate a beautiful garden, California friendly plants, irrigation efficiency, zero runoff, good maintenance, reduction of green waste and organic principles.

Smart and sustainable landscaping is the most visible feature of the California Friendly home, with outdoor spaces designed in harmony with the surrounding environment using beautiful and less-than-thirsty plants, state-of-the-art irrigation controllers and precision sprinkler heads.

If you think your garden fits this criteria and you would like to enter the contest, log on to www.rogersgardens.com/gardencontest for information and an application.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for
SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

FEBRUARY

Turf grass:

1-2 days, 1-2 cycles* of 2 minutes each

Trees, shrubs, groundcover:

1 day, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes

Percent option: 30%**

Turn water off when it rains and let soil dry before turning water on again.

*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.

Pay your IRWD bills online anytime...24/7

Anywhere...at work, home, or on the road
Schedule your payment in advance

Irvine Ranch Water District's e-Bill service offers the convenience of receiving and paying your water bill online, free of charge.

You can sign up through IRWD's web site (www.irwd.com) or you may choose to sign up with an authorized e-Bill payment provider. Payment providers are typically a bank, credit union, brokerage or other portal that offers you the added benefit of being able to pay your bills online.

For more information please visit IRWD's web site (www.irwd.com) or call IRWD Customer Service at (949) 453-5300.



Did you know that 50-60% of all the water used in urban areas is used outdoors? Much of this is wasted as it sprays onto sidewalks and driveways and runs down our streets into storm drains which lead to the ocean. To help you save water while keeping your landscape attractive, Irvine Ranch Water District is offering the following rebates for upgrading to the latest water-efficient technologies. Links to this information and rebate applications are available at www.irwd.com or by calling (949) 453-5581.

Three ways to save money on water-efficient improvements:



Replace wasteful spray heads with rotating nozzles and save up to 20% in water usage

Update your sprinklers with the latest water-saving nozzles that keep your landscape healthy and reduce runoff by applying water droplets more evenly and slowly than conventional spray heads. Rebates for these rotating nozzles for pop-up spray heads are **\$4 per nozzle**. To qualify for this rebate, all spray heads on each selected valve/station/zone must be replaced with rotating nozzles and the irrigation clock must be adjusted. Only rotating nozzles purchased on or after July 10, 2007 will be considered for a rebate.



Install a smart irrigation controller and save up to 40 gallons per day

Replace your existing irrigation controller with a “smart” state-of-the-art irrigation system controller and you’ll conserve water, save money and reduce runoff by automating landscape watering based on the weather and water needs of your plants. Smart Irrigation Controller rebates for single family residential customer are currently **\$60 per activated** valve (hooked-up irrigation station). For example, if you have six valves, the rebate amount would be $6 \times \$60 = \360 . Owners of multi-family dwellings with common landscape areas can receive a Smart Irrigation Controller rebate of **\$750 per irrigated acre**.



Install synthetic turf

Many environmental benefits result from replacing turf grass with synthetic turf, including water savings estimated at 45 gallons per square foot per year. Synthetic turf requires no fertilizer, no pesticides, no mowing and reduces runoff caused by irrigation. It also cuts down on the amount of green waste, like lawn clippings, going into landfills. Receive a **\$.30 per square foot** rebate toward the purchase and installation of synthetic turf. Only turf purchased and installed on or after July 10, 2007 will qualify for rebate.

Irvine Ranch Water District will be closed for the following holidays:

- Monday, February 18 (President's Day) and Friday, March 21, 2008 (Good Friday)

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. **Online registration available!**

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS

- **Become a member** of the National Audubon Society and the Sea and Sage Audubon Chapter. For more information visit their Web site at www.seaandsageaudubon.org or call the Audubon House at (949) 261-7963.

CERAMICS 2008 & DREAMVESSELS BY JEFFREY FRISCH

- The Irvine Fine Arts Center (IFAC) presents Ceramics 2008, a group exhibition by current and past ceramic studio participants now through February 23. In conjunction with Ceramics 2008, the Fine Arts Center is also pleased to feature dreamVessels, an imaginative installation featuring the artistry of Jeffrey Frisch. Gallery admission is free to the public. The IFAC is located at 14321 Yale Avenue, Irvine. For more information, call (949) 724-6880 or visit www.cityofirvine.org/depts/cs/finearts/.

FAMILIES FORWARD

- Families Forward exists to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services. Community members can support these programs and services with the donation of gift cards from local businesses to provide groceries, clothing and gasoline for families. Donations may be sent or dropped off at Families Forward, 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92618, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers are also needed to help work in the food warehouse and office. Bilingual individuals speaking Spanish or Farsi are needed. Call (949) 552-2727 for further information or visit www.families-forward.org.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

- **Assistance League of Irvine Thrift and Gift Shop** - 17801 Main Street, Suite H (Sky Park South), Irvine, (949) 955-3437. 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.
- **To learn more about Assistance League** and membership call (949) 725-9188 or visit their Web site at www.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.

FREE TAX PREPARATION

- Irvine residents and workers with a maximum annual income of \$50,000 can visit the Orange County One Stop Center located at 125 Technology Drive West, Suite 200, Irvine to have their tax return prepared for free. Offered through April 15, 2008, the site will offer free tax preparation Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday tax day events are planned for April 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call (888) 4EITC-4U to schedule an appointment and learn about eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Tax returns will be prepared by volunteers from the IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and by Legal Aid Society of Orange County's self-help Internet program, I CAN!™ E File. The focus of this outreach is to create awareness about the EITC as 15 to 25 percent of eligible taxpayers fail to claim it each year, leaving millions of dollars unclaimed in Orange County. The EITC can return up to \$4,716 to eligible taxpayers for the 2007 tax year. For more information on preparing your taxes free of charge go to www.icanefile.org.

CASA Volunteers Needed

- Court Appointed Special Advocates is seeking volunteers to serve as advocates and mentors for abused children. An information session will be held on Saturday, February 23 at the Irvine Heritage Park Library, 14361 Yale Avenue from 10 a.m. to noon. R.S.V.P. by calling (714) 619-5155. Visit their Web site at www.casaoc.org.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF ORANGE COUNTY

- The new facility at the former El Toro Marine Base is now open. The facility is located at 8014 Marine Way, Irvine, CA 92618. You can help by donating money or stock, sponsoring a special event, hosting a food drive or volunteering. For more information, please call Second Harvest at (949) 653-2900 or visit www.feedoc.org.

MASTER GARDENERS OF ORANGE COUNTY

- The University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Orange County, are a dedicated group of trained volunteers that provide assistance and share information about gardening in and around the Orange County area. For more information call their hotline at (714) 708-1646, visit their Web site at www.uccemg.com or send an e-mail to ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com.

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

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Pipelines

Published by the
Public Affairs Dept.
IRWD
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Irvine, CA 92619-7000

**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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Saturday, April 19
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
One Day One Campus Many Options
For more information:
(949) 824-5182
www.uci.edu/celebrate