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## Publisher's Perspective

### Empowerment

This issue of *Irvine Community News & Views* is packed with news — and tools for empowerment — for our ICNV readers.

Well, it's official: The State Auditor is now investigating the City of Irvine and the roles played by Councilmembers Christina Shea and Jeff Lalloway as members of the Council's so-called "Audit Subcommittee." Did the Shea-Lalloway Subcommittee oversee a true "audit" of the Great Park, or did it instead engage in a political witch hunt disguised as an audit — abusing its power and misusing over \$1.5 million in City funds for partisan political purposes? We're covering the story on pages 1 and 2.

Page 3 is another important story — tracking the progress of the Living Wage Initiative campaign and, on pages 4 through 6, empowering our readers to actually sign the initiative and become part of the Living Wage Initiative campaign.

**You can sign and circulate the actual Irvine Living Wage Initiative Petition. See instructions on page 4.**

The article on page 13 — which I wrote — asks the provocative question: Does Irvine Have a Censorship Problem? Sad to say, it does. Again, Councilmember Christina Shea seems to be at the center of things, disrespecting freedom of speech, freedom of the press, Irvine businesses, and the people of Irvine. This is a very troubling development for our entire Irvine community.

**Please read my column on Censorship & the First Amendment on page 12.**

Finally, pages 14-15 — ICNV's Open Forum/Community Voices section — will help bring you up to date on the Portola High School toxics scandal... and what you can do about it.

*Franklin J. Lunding*

Franklin J. Lunding • Publisher and Editor  
[www.IrvineCommunityNews.org](http://www.IrvineCommunityNews.org)

# Turnabout: State Auditor To Investigate Great Park "Audit"

State Investigation to Focus on Shea-Lalloway "Audit Subcommittee"

The Irvine City Council's "Audit Subcommittee," which was established nearly three years ago to oversee a "forensic audit" of the Great Park, is now itself under investigation by the California State Auditor, Elaine M. Howle. The State Auditor's investigation is focused on allegations that the Subcommittee abused its power and misused public funds.

In February of 2013, a newly-elected Irvine City Council majority created a two-member "Audit Subcommittee" — consisting of City Councilmembers Christina Shea and Jeff Lalloway — to oversee a "comprehensive audit" of the Great Park's design contracts, construction, and day-to-day operations during the period 2005 to 2012.

## Shea-Lalloway Subcommittee Operates in Secret

The Audit Subcommittee was given \$250,000 — an amount more than three times the cost of any previous City audit — with the promise that its "comprehensive forensic audit" of the Great Park would be completed in six months.

That never happened. Instead, the Subcommittee spent more than two years



Councilmembers Christina Shea and Jeff Lalloway. The State Auditor is investigating abuse of power and misuse of public funds by the Audit Subcommittee.

hiring and firing lawyers and accountants, issuing subpoenas, demanding thousands of documents from businesses and individuals, and instructing its legal counsel to selectively conduct and release depositions to the press. At one point, Councilmember

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→ continued from page 1 → **Turnabout: State Auditor To Investigate Great Park "Audit"**

Shea likened the Subcommittee's work to that of a "grand jury," which is empowered to operate secretly rather than under the normal City rules of transparency.

After spending all of its budgeted \$250,000, the Shea-Lalloway Subcommittee returned to the Council time and again for more funds. With the enthusiastic support of Mayor Steven Choi, the Subcommittee's spending ballooned to \$1.5 million, 6 times its original budget.

**A Publicly Funded Political Witch Hunt**

While the City spending continues — relentlessly climbing toward \$2 million — not a single instance of unaccounted for funds or unauthorized expenditures has been found in the Great Park design, construction and operations from 2005 - 2012.



**A CAN OF WORMS.** For months, Irvine's two-member Great Park Audit Subcommittee, composed of Councilmembers Christina Shea and Jeff Lalloway, worked to block the Legislature's Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) and the State Auditor from investigating how they managed to spend more than \$1.5 million in State and local funds on an audit of the Great Park. Only Councilmember Beth Krom has welcomed the State Auditor's review of the Shea-Lalloway Audit Subcommittee. In Krom's words, "If Councilmembers Shea and Lalloway are proud of their work, they should welcome the opportunity to have it reviewed objectively by the State Auditor."

This has led a number of observers to assert that, from the beginning, the Shea-Lalloway Audit Subcommittee wasn't overseeing an audit at all, but was instead conducting a publicly-funded political witch hunt masquerading as an audit.

The Subcommittee effectively admitted as much when Hagen, Streiff, Newton & Oshiro (HSNO), the Newport Beach accounting firm hired by Shea and Lalloway on a no-bid, sole-source contract, withdrew its earlier reports and stated that its work for the Subcommittee was never intended to be an actual audit conducted in accordance with professional auditing standards.

For more than a year now, HSNO has been under investigation by the California State Board of Accountancy for violations of professional accounting standards that are in place to ensure that audits are not driven by politics and politicians, but instead are independent, accurate and objective.

**Investigation Work Plan**

Meanwhile, acting on detailed written complaints by State Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez of San Diego and others, on August 25th the State Legislature's Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) voted 8 to 1 to approve State Auditor Elaine Howle's recommendation to conduct a thorough review of the Irvine City Council's

Audit Subcommittee. The State Auditor's approved work plan includes reviewing the Shea-Lalloway Audit Subcommittee's work in order to:

- Determine whether the process for selecting accountants and attorneys involved with the Great Park audit complied with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.
- Determine whether the City Council and the Shea-Lalloway Audit Subcommittee properly used government subpoena power and conducted its work in a transparent and open manner, and in compliance with State open-meeting laws.
- Determine whether the Shea-Lalloway Audit Subcommittee timed public release of their reports and depositions for political purposes — to influence the outcome of upcoming City elections.
- Determine whether the Shea-Lalloway Audit Subcommittee wielded its power to retaliate against political opponents and Great Park contractors who complained about the Subcommittee.
- Determine whether State and City funds were improperly used by the Audit Subcommittee.

The State Auditor's work plan for the expected six-month investigation includes 2,284 hours of work at a budgeted cost of \$251,240. It is expected that personnel from the Attorney General's office will be assisting in the investigation. **ICNV**

**Irvine**  
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**LIVING WAGE INITIATIVE GETS OFF TO FAST START**

**Labor Day, September 7th.** Speaking to a crowded room of 70 volunteers, Luis Alemán, Chair of the Irvine Living Wage Coalition initiative campaign, exulted in the turnout. "What a great crowd — more than twice the number we expected. And what better day than Labor Day to kick-off Irvine's Living Wage initiative campaign!"

"Together, we're about to make history," Alemán said. He was referring to the initiative petition, now in circulation, that would empower Irvine citizens to vote in 2016 to restore Irvine's Living Wage Ordinance.

For eight years, since its enactment by a progressive City Council in 2007, Irvine's Living Wage law guaranteed that hundreds of the City's contract service workers — landscape workers, maintenance workers, child care workers and janitors — would be paid a Living Wage that this year stood at \$11 per hour.

When the Council's current majority — Mayor Steven Choi and Councilmembers Shea, Lalloway and Schott — voted in June to repeal the law, they effectively cut the City's minimum wage for contract service workers



Living Wage Initiative volunteers gathered on Labor Day. Initiative proponents Beth Krom (top photo), Mary Ann Gaido (lower left) and Luis Alemán (center) explained the initiative process. Rev. Paul Tellström (lower right) spoke about the participation and support of the faith-based community.

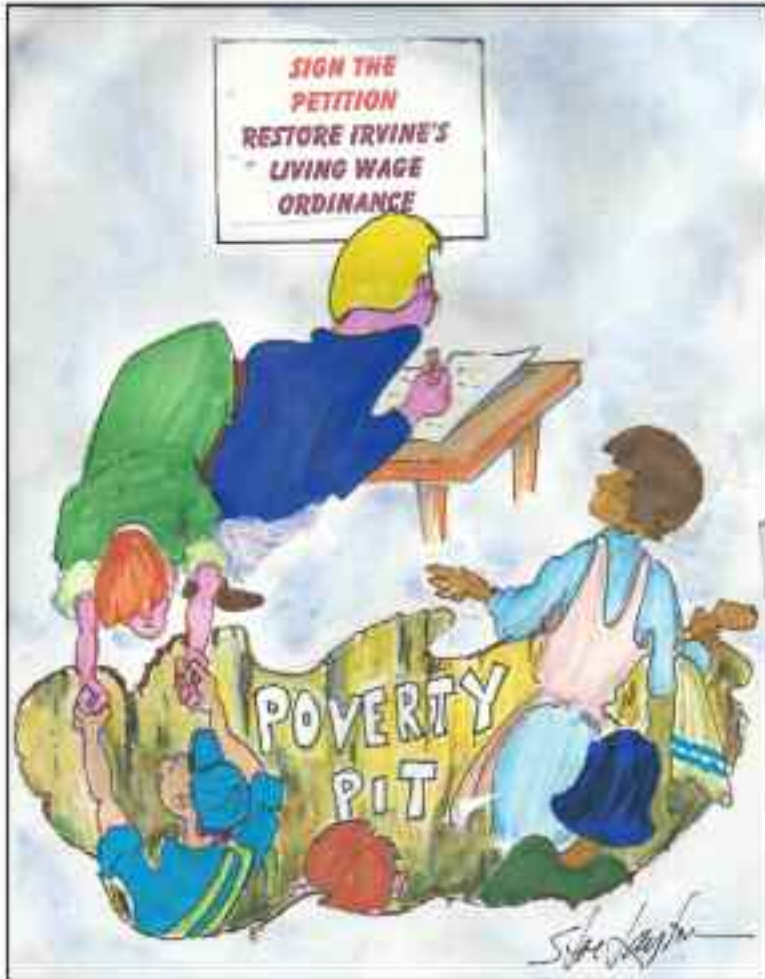
from \$11 per hour to \$9 per hour (the State minimum wage).

After weeks of preparation by Alemán and his campaign Co-Chairs — Councilmember Beth Krom and former Councilmember and current Planning Commissioner Mary Ann Gaido — scores of petitioners are "on the streets" with their petitions. They're seeking the signatures of more than 10,000 registered Irvine voters to qualify the Living Wage restoration initiative for the November, 2016 City election ballot.

While the Labor Day launch of the initiative included uplifting messages, the campaign is now in the nuts-and-bolts tactical phase,

organizing people to circulate petitions among friends, in their neighborhoods, at parks and recreation facilities and wherever Irvine citizens gather. This must be done the old-fashioned way, one signature at a time and in-person, not online.

An important new element in this grassroots effort is the participation of the faith-based community. As reported by Rev. Paul Tellström of Irvine United Congregational Church and Rabbi Jonathan Klein, Executive Director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), dozens of religious leaders are committed to activating their congregations to live out the commanding words of Scripture — uplifting the poor by participating in the Living Wage restoration campaign. **ICNV**



Restoring Irvine's Living Wage Ordinance will lift the families of hundreds of Irvine's contract service workers out of poverty.



Volunteers Becky and Riley Newman wear the campaign message: Restore The Irvine Living Wage.

**WANT TO GET INVOLVED?**  
**Go to: [www.IrvineLivingWage.org](http://www.IrvineLivingWage.org)**

# IRVINE LIVING WAGE INITIATIVE...CALL TO ACTION!

On June 9, 2015, despite strong citizen opposition, the City Council voted to cut Irvine's own minimum wage — known as the Irvine Living Wage — from nearly \$11 per hour to just \$9 per hour (which is the State minimum wage). This will hurt hundreds of City workers and their families — mostly janitors and housekeepers, maintenance workers, and landscape workers. These are the City contract service workers who keep our City clean and beautiful.

The Council majority's mean-spirited action has diminished Irvine's reputation as an innovative City that values forward-thinking policies and respects the workers who serve our citizens. While other cities across the country are raising their minimum hourly wage, Irvine is America's only major city to *repeal* its Living Wage. The Mayor and City Council are taking Irvine in the wrong direction.

When the City Council is out of step with the community, the initiative process allows the residents to speak for themselves and take constructive, corrective action. Irvine is a nice community with nice people who understand that those who work for us are entitled to a decent day's pay for a decent day's work.

This initiative, if placed on the 2016 ballot with the signatures of more than 10,000 Irvine voters, will enable Irvine voters to restore the Irvine Living Wage Ordinance, word-for-word. By using the initiative process, we can once again show the true spirit of Irvine. Please join us in this important Living Wage campaign.

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP... GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO VOLUNTEER OR MAKE A DONATION TO SUPPORT THIS HISTORIC EFFORT.

### www.IrvineLivingWage.org

Irvine Living Wage Coalition • 17614 Rosa Drew Lane, #7A, Irvine, CA 92612

# Empower Yourself!

Printed on the next page is an actual Irvine Living Wage Initiative petition for your use — to sign and to circulate and to mail in, so we can qualify the initiative for the 2016 City ballot. ▶

The petition includes spaces for the signatures of up to 4 Irvine registered voters. ▶

• If you haven't already signed the Irvine Living Wage petition, you can sign now in the first signature block. (Use a black or blue pen.) You must be registered to vote in Irvine. ▶

• Get two or three other Irvine registered voters to sign, using signature blocks 2, 3, and 4. ▶

• Since you are the official Circulator, you must fill out the Declaration of Circulator at the bottom of the petition. Be sure to fill in all blank spaces, printing and signing your name, address, etc., legibly. ▶

• Cut or tear off the entire petition (making sure not to tear the petition) and mail it to:

Luis Aleman, Chair  
Irvine Living Wage Coalition  
17614 Rosa Drew Lane, #7A  
Irvine, CA 92612

Please put your return address on the envelope when you mail in your petition. ▶

Thank you for helping us restore Irvine's Living Wage!

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS  
The City Attorney has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

### AN INITIATIVE MEASURE ESTABLISHING AN EMPLOYEE WAGE AND BENEFITS REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN CITY OF IRVINE CONTRACTORS.

This initiative, if adopted by a majority of the Irvine electorate voting on the matter, would establish an employee wage and benefits requirement for certain City of Irvine contractors. The requirement would apply to: 1) all contractors who enter into new, amended, renewed or extended service contracts with the City of Irvine to provide services to the City with an estimated value of \$100,000.00 or more for any consecutive 12 month period; and 2) all subcontractors retained by a contractor to perform any or all of the functions covered by the contract. All contractors subject to the requirements of the initiative would be required to pay their "covered employees" an hourly rate, comparable health benefits, and paid time off (such as vacation, sick, holiday, and jury duty) as set by the most current City Council Resolution establishing compensation policy for City employees. The hourly rate shall be the minimum hourly rate of all salary classifications. "Covered employees" include: 1) any employee whose services fulfill the contractor's contractual obligations for contracts with the City that are subject to the initiative; and 2) any other employee of the contractor who performs a majority of his or her services within Orange County. An additional rate, entitled the "benefit factor rate", is added to the hourly rate if comparable health benefits are not offered by the contractor to the covered employee. "Benefit factor rate" means the rate established by the City as the estimated cost of health benefits paid to a covered employee. If the contractor does not provide comparable benefits equal to or exceeding this rate to the covered employee, the benefit factor rate is added to the wage rate to arrive at the total hourly rate that must be paid to the covered employee. The City will provide notice of current wage and benefit factor rates. Contractors are responsible for monitoring and updating payroll records to accommodate rate changes where applicable. The City Council may grant whole or partial exceptions to these requirements. The City Council may grant an exception with a majority vote if it determines that imposition of the requirement violates state or federal law. The City Council may grant an exception with a four-fifths vote if it determines that an emergency or other extraordinary circumstances justify an exception. Contractors are responsible for notifying and requiring compliance from subcontractors and are prohibited from retaliating or discriminating against any employee who makes a complaint to the City asserting rights under these requirements. The City's Director of Administrative Services is responsible for the review, investigation, and enforcement of these requirements and will oversee the complaint process for alleged violations. This Initiative would take effect ten days after the Irvine City Council certifies the results of the election.

#### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CIRCULATE PETITION

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within the City of Irvine for the purpose of qualifying for the ballot an initiative entitled, "Restore the City of Irvine Living Wage Initiative". A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated in the petition as follows: On June 9, 2015, despite strong citizen opposition, the City Council voted to cut Irvine's own minimum wage — known as the Irvine Living Wage — from nearly \$11 per hour (\$10.87) to just \$9 per hour (which is the State minimum wage). This will hurt hundreds of City workers and their families — mostly janitors and housekeepers, maintenance workers, and landscape workers. These are the City contract service workers who keep our City clean and beautiful. (Mayor Steven Choi and Councilmembers Jeff Lalloway, Christina Shea and Lynn Schott voted to repeal Irvine's Living Wage, Councilmember Beth Krom voted against repeal.) By repealing the Irvine Living Wage Ordinance, which operated successfully for 8 years, the Mayor and City Council effectively cut as much as \$4,000 per year from the annual earnings of our City's lowest paid contract employees, causing many to fall below the poverty line. The Council action to repeal Irvine's Living Wage Ordinance is contrary to the values of our community, including the values of our business community. Not one business leader testified in support of the Council vote. The Council majority's mean-spirited action has diminished Irvine's reputation as an innovative City that values forward-thinking policies and respects the workers who serve our citizens. While other cities across the country are raising their minimum hourly wage, Irvine is America's only major city to repeal its Living Wage. The Mayor and City Council are taking Irvine in the wrong direction. This initiative, placed on the 2016 ballot with the signatures of more than 10,000 Irvine voters, will enable Irvine voters to reinstate our City's Living Wage by restoring the Irvine Living Wage Ordinance, word-for-word. When the City Council is out of step with the community, the initiative process allows the residents to speak for themselves and take constructive, corrective action. Irvine is a nice community with nice people who understand that those who work for us are entitled to a decent day's pay for a decent day's work. By using the initiative process, as citizens we can reinstate the Living Wage Ordinance and once again show the true spirit of Irvine.

S/ Mary Ann Guido, 5971 Berwin Ln, Irvine, CA 92661 S/ Beth Krom, 7 Banyan Tree Lane, Irvine, CA 92612 S/ Luis Aleman, 17614 Rosa Drew Ln, #7A, Irvine, CA 92612

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.

ALL SIGNERS OF THIS PETITION MUST BE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF IRVINE.  
USE PEN ONLY — PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION EXCEPT SIGNATURE

Official Use Only

REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY	1.	Print Your Name _____	Residence Address ONLY _____	REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY
		Signature as Registered To Vote _____	City _____ Zip _____	
	2.	Print Your Name _____	Residence Address ONLY _____	
		Signature as Registered To Vote _____	City _____ Zip _____	
	3.	Print Your Name _____	Residence Address ONLY _____	
		Signature as Registered To Vote _____	City _____ Zip _____	
	4.	Print Your Name _____	Residence Address ONLY _____	
		Signature as Registered To Vote _____	City _____ Zip _____	

#### DECLARATION OF CIRCULATOR

To be completed in circulator's own hand after above signatures have been obtained. Use blue or black ink pen.  
A circulator may sign this petition if registered as an Irvine voter. Volunteer circulators return petitions, even with one signature, to:  
Luis Aleman, 17614 Rosa Drew Ln, #7A, Irvine, CA 92612

I am 18 years of age or older, I circulated this petition section and witnessed each of the appended signatures on this petition section being written. Each signature on this petition section is, to the best of my information and belief, the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. All signatures on this petition section were obtained between \_\_\_\_\_ Month, Day, Year \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Month, Day, Year \_\_\_\_\_

I declare (certify) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in this Declaration is true and correct.

Executed at \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ CA on \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sign Full Name, including Middle Name or Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Print Full Name, including Middle Name or Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Current Residence Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS
The City Attorney has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

AN INITIATIVE MEASURE ESTABLISHING AN EMPLOYEE WAGE AND BENEFITS REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN CITY OF IRVINE CONTRACTORS.

This initiative, if adopted by a majority of the Irvine electorate voting on the matter, would establish an employee wage and benefits requirement for certain City of Irvine contractors. The requirement would apply to: 1) all contractors who enter into new, amended, renewed or extended service contracts with the City of Irvine to provide services to the City with an estimated value of \$100,000.00 or more for any consecutive 12 month period; and 2) all subcontractors retained by a contractor to perform any or all of the functions covered by the contract.

To the Honorable City Council of the City of Irvine: We, the signers of this petition, registered and qualified voters and residents of the City of Irvine, comprising not less than 10 per cent of the registered voters of the city, hereby propose a measure as set forth herein and request that the proposed measure be submitted to a vote of the people at the earliest regular or special election for which this petition qualifies pursuant to the California Elections Code. The text of the proposed measure is set forth below.

Restore the City of Irvine Living Wage Initiative

The People of the City of Irvine do ordain as follows: Sec. 2-6-101. - Title and purpose. A. The division shall be known and may be cited as the "Restore the City of Irvine Living Wage Initiative." B. The purpose of this division is to improve the quality of services to beneficiaries of City-contracted services and to ensure that employees of City service contractors earn an hourly wage that is sufficient to live with dignity and to achieve economic self-sufficiency. The City contracts with many businesses and organizations to provide services to the public. Such public expenditures should be made in accordance with a community economic standard that permits workers to live above the poverty level. C. This division is intended to protect the public health, safety and welfare. It advances this intent by requiring that public funds be expended in such a manner as to facilitate individual self-reliance by employees of City contractors. A. As a charter city, the City has the power to set compensation and terms of employment for its employees as an exercise of its municipal powers. B. The City awards contracts to private firms and other businesses to provide services to the public and to City government. C. The use of City funds to create living wage jobs will decrease poverty, increase consumer income, invigorate community businesses and reduce the need for taxpayer-funded social service programs. D. When City funds are used to contract for services, such contracts should demonstrate an effort to promote an employment environment that enhances the general quality of life within the community and maximizes the productive effect of the City's limited resources. E. The City's use of contractors that do not provide health insurance to their employees can result in imposing the cost of their medical care on the county, state and federal governments. F. Employees are more likely to be healthy if their employers provide reasonable health insurance to them and their dependents. G. The payment of a living wage as required by this division benefits the above-stated interests. For the purposes of this division, the following definition shall be applicable: (a) Benefit factor rate means the rate established by the City to be the estimated cost of health benefits paid to a covered employee. If the Contractor does not provide comparable benefits equal to or exceeding this rate to the covered employee, the benefit factor rate must be added to the living wage rate to arrive at the total hourly rate that must be paid to the covered employee. (b) City means the City of Irvine and all City agencies, department and offices, including but not limited to the Irvine Redevelopment Agency and the Orange County Great Park Corporation. (c) Contractor means any person or business that enters into a new service contract or any service contract with the City that is amended, renewed or extended after the effective date of this division except for those bids, RFP's and contracts that were in the process at the time this division becomes effective. For the purposes of this division, the term "Contractor" shall include all subcontractors retained by a Contractor to perform any or all of the functions covered by the contract. (d) Covered employee means: (1) Any employee whose services fulfill the Contractor's contractual obligations for contracts with the City that are subject to this division, and (2) Any other employee of the Contractor who performs a majority of his or her services within Orange County. Additionally, bona fide volunteers shall not be considered "covered employees." (e) Health benefits means medical and dental benefits offered by the Contractor to its employees in which the employer pays at least the current benefit factor rate on behalf of its covered employees. Sec. 2-6-104. - Application of this Division Every contractor that enters into a contract with the City to provide services with an estimated value of \$ 100,000.00 or more for any consecutive 12-month period shall comply with the requirements of this division. As a condition of the contract, the Contractor shall notify the City in writing if the aggregate value multiple contracts with the City is \$ 100,000.00 or more. Sec. 2-6-105. - Duties of Purchasing Agent. The Purchasing Agent shall be responsible for ensuring that the requirements of this division are incorporated in all contracts, bid documents, request for proposals (RFP's) and requests for qualification (RFQ's) that may be subject to this division to ensure proper implementation of all requirements. In addition, the Purchasing Agent shall be responsible for developing and implementing rules and regulations for the effective administration of all requirements set forth in this division. Sec. 2-6-106. - Compensation required to be paid to contractor's employees. A. All contractors subject to the requirements of this division shall pay its covered employees an hourly rate comparable health benefits and paid time off (such as vacation, sick, holiday, and jury duty) as set by the most current City Council Resolution establishing compensation policy for employees. The hourly rate shall be the minimum hourly rate of all salary classifications. An additional rate, defined as the benefit factor rate, shall be added to the hourly rate if comparable health benefits are not offered by the contractor to the covered employee. B. Beginning July 1, 2007, the City shall provide notice to all covered Contractors by posting current living wage and benefit factor rates on the City's web site in the bids and RFP's purchasing section. In general, rates are subject to change each July; however, Contractors are responsible for monitoring and updating payroll records to accommodate rate changes where applicable. In addition, Contractors are responsible for notifying and ensuring compliance with these requirements by subcontractors retained by Contractor to perform any or all of the functions covered by the contract. C. A Declaration of Compliance must be signed by an authorized agent of the Contractor and will serve as part of the terms of the contract and/or amendments. D. In the event that collective bargaining agreements and/or prevailing wage requirements are higher than the current living wage rates as set forth in this division, collective bargaining and/or prevailing wage rates must be paid to covered employees. Sec. 2-6-107. - Exceptions. A. The City Council, by majority vote, may grant a whole or partial exception to the requirements of this division to a contractor at the time of award of the contract if the City Council determines that imposition of the requirements of this division would violate state or federal laws. A contractor that desires such a determination by the City Council shall, at the time it submits its proposal to the City, provide the City with a written request that it desires exemption from the requirements of this division, and a reference to the specific state or federal laws, if applicable, that would be violated if the City imposed the requirements of this division on the contractor. B. The City Council, by a four-fifths vote, may grant a whole or partial exception to the requirements of this division to a contractor at the time of award of the contract if the City Council determines that the existence of an emergency or other extraordinary circumstances (such as the creation of training positions that will enable employees to advance into permanent living wage jobs or better) justifies an exemption from the requirements of this division. Exemptions pursuant to this subsection are disfavored and shall be granted only when a balancing of competing interests weighs clearly in favor of granting an exemption, in the sole and absolute discretion of the City Council. If an exemption is to be granted, a partial exemption is favored over a whole exemption, and limits on the duration of the exemption are favored as well. Sec. 2-6-108. - Duties of director of administrative services. A. The Director of Administrative Services, or his or her designee, shall have the authority to perform the following acts for purposes of accomplishing the intent of this division and as deemed necessary or appropriate in the Director's judgment: (1) Review, investigate and/or maintain records of complaints alleging that the Contractor has violated the requirements of this division. (2) Perform random audits of the Contractor's and/or the Contractor's subcontractor's records to verify compliance with this division. B. Upon determining that a Contractor is operating in accordance with the requirements of this division, the Director of Administrative Services shall furnish the Contractor with a written recognition and acknowledgment of such compliance. Sec. 2-6-109. - Contractor posting requirements. A. A contractor subject to the requirements of this division, a sample of which is provided as part of the contract documents. The contractor is responsible for notifying and requiring compliance from any subcontractors retained by Contractor, to perform any or all functions covered by the contract. B. A contractor subject to the requirements of this division shall post in a conspicuous place, as required by state and federal laws for other notices to employees, a notice of potential Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) eligibility for covered employees. Sec. 2-6-110. - Retaliation and discrimination prohibited. No contractor shall discharge, reduce the compensation of or otherwise discriminate or retaliate against any of its employees for making a complaint to the City, asserting the employee's rights or assisting another employee in making a complaint or asserting his or her rights under this division. Sec. 2-6-111. - Complaint process for violations. A. Any covered employee may lodge a written complaint with the Director of Administrative Services or his/her designee that a contractor or subcontractor has violated the requirements of this division. B. Upon receipt of such a complaint, the Director of Administrative Services, or his/her designee, shall review and investigate at his/her discretion, the complaint and determine if the contractor should be issued a preliminary notice of violation, which shall also contain the corrective measures the contractor is required to undertake, and/or the remedies that are being imposed. If the contractor does not file a timely and sufficient appeal to the preliminary notice of violation, it shall become final and conclusive. C. If a contractor receives a notice of violation, the contractor may request in writing an appeal hearing before the Director of Administrative Services, or his/her designee, to dispute the violation and/or corrective measures and/or remedies required. The request for an appeal hearing before the Director of Administrative Services, or his/her designee, to dispute the violation and/or corrective measures and/or remedies required. The request for an appeal hearing shall be filed with the City Clerk within 15 days of the date the Director of Administrative Services issued the preliminary notice of violation, and shall contain the reasons why the contractor believes that a violation does not exist and/or that the corrective measures are not appropriate. The Director of Administrative Services or his/her designee shall conduct the appeal hearing within 45 days of receipt of the appeal request. Within 15 days of the conclusion of the appeal hearing, the Director of Administrative Services shall issue his/her findings and final decision with respect to the appeals hearing. D. A contractor may appeal the final decision of the Director of Administrative Services to the City Council by filing a written notice of appeal within 15 days of the date the Director's final written decision. The City Council shall conduct a hearing on the appeal within 45 days of its receipt of the appeal request and either uphold, overturn or modify the Director's final decision. Sec. 2-6-112. - Remedies of City for violations. A. The City may impose any or all of the following corrective measures and/or remedies against a contractor for violations of this division: (1) Order the contractor to comply with all regulations of this section within 60 days. (2) Order payment to covered employees to compensate the employees up to the compensation level required by this division. (3) Suspend payments for and/or suspend or cancel contracts between the City and the contractor. (4) Render the contractor ineligible to enter into contracts with the City for a period of three years or until all restitution to covered employees has been paid, whichever is longer. B. In addition to the above corrective measures and/or remedies, the City shall be entitled to seek any and all other equitable and legal rights it may have under federal, state and local laws, including without limitation injunctive relief, for purposes of enforcing the remedies set forth above. Sec. 2-6-113. - Remedies of covered employees for violations. A. A covered employee shall have the right to seek the following remedies against a contractor violating the provisions of this division in a court of competent jurisdiction: (1) Restitution to compensate the employee for all amounts that should have been paid to the employee pursuant to this division. (2) Reasonable attorney's fees and costs. (3) Any and all other legal and equitable remedies available under Federal, State, and local laws.

LET'S GO OUTSIDE - NORTH & SOUTH



Hikes to "The Sinks" in OC Parks' Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve (top photo) are regularly scheduled from the Portola Staging Area in the northern part of Irvine. Irvine's southern open space offers wonderful hiking opportunities in Bommer Canyon (lower photo). Visit www.LetsGoOutside.org/activities for a list of upcoming programs.

Photo credit: Irvine Ranch Conservancy

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SOLAR DECATHLON 2015



The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2015 is returning to the Orange County Great Park. Riding the success of the eight-day event with 64,000 attendees in October 2013, the Department of Energy will produce an 18-team event — with college students competing to build energy-efficient, attractive homes. The Solar Decathlon is hosted by the City of Irvine and the U.S. Dept. of Energy at the Great Park, Oct. 8-11 and Oct. 15-18, 2015. This free event will be held 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Great Park. Parking is \$10; Metrolink shuttles are available from the Irvine Station.

Info: SolarDecathlon.gov



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# Community Calendar

# October/November 2015

## HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS...

**Johnson Brothers Pumpkin Patch**  
The main attraction has been Fun! Free Admission! Thousands and Thousands of Pumpkins to choose from. Pony Rides, Petting Zoo, Bounce Houses, Face Painting, and much more! Located in Irvine at 15500 Jeffrey Rd. Open 9am-9pm daily beginning Oct. 1st. Info: (949) 733-0650



**Tanaka Farms Pumpkin Patch**  
The Pumpkin Patch provides an exciting environment for adults and children of all ages! Enjoy wagon rides, corn maze, petting zoo, and Tanaka's Pile of Pumpkins! Also check out the harvest festival on the weekends, which includes a pumpkin cannon, food, games, ATV rides and much more! (Priced per activity) Now through Oct. 31st. 5380 University Dr. Info: (949) 653-2100



**Spooktacular Fun Days at the Great Park**  
October 24th and 25th  
Time(s): 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Location: Balloon Park Admission is Free, Pre-Registration Required Scare away hunger by bringing non-perishable food items to support local food banks. Enjoy traditional family-friendly fall activities such as a pumpkin patch, treats, games, crafts, gourmet food trucks and much more. Come in costume! Registration required for each child ages 1 month to 12 years; space is limited. Free admission and parking. Ticket Registration Required Info: OCGP.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>4 OCTOBER</b> Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org</p> 	<p><b>5</b> School Age Book Club. University Park Library. 6:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001</p> 	<p><b>6</b> Irvine Residents with Disabilities Advisory Board Meeting. Irvine Civic Center. 6pm. Info: 949-724-6633</p>	<p><b>7</b> After Work Fitness Hike. Hicks Haul Road. 6-7:30pm. Info &amp; Registration: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p><b>8</b> The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon returns to the Orange County Great Park for its 2015 competition. to be held October 8-11 and October 15-18. \$10 parking fee. OC Great Park. 11am-7pm. Info: SolarDecathlon.gov</p>	<p><b>9</b> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SOLAR DECATHLON</p> 	<p><b>10</b> Ray's Review. Knowlwood Restaurant in Old Town Irvine. An evening of live music at Knowlwood's Irvine location! 7-9:30pm. Info: rstarslak@live.com</p>
<p><b>11</b> SOLAR DECATHLON Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org</p> 	<p><b>12</b> Teen Advisory Group Meeting. Katie Wheeler Library. TAG meets on the second Monday of each month. Snacks provided. Drop-ins always welcome! Meets in the downstairs Community Room. 5-6pm. Info: 714-669-8753</p>	<p><b>13</b> City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5pm. </p>	<p><b>14</b> Morning Yoga. Bommer Canyon. Participants will hike around a 1-mile loop, strolling through the local meadow and finding unity within nature. Then we will return to our yoga mats where we will be led in 45 to 60 minutes of guided yoga, as the canyon slowly warms up for the day. 9:30-11am. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p><b>15</b> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SOLAR DECATHLON</p> 	<p><b>16</b> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SOLAR DECATHLON</p> 	<p><b>17</b> Free Travel Seminar. Rooten's Luggage Center. Get travel tips from the experts at Rooten's Luggage Center! 17775 Main St. 10am. Info: 949-250-0774</p>
<p><b>18</b> SOLAR DECATHLON Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org</p> 	<p><b>19</b> Homework Help. Heritage Park Library. 4:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040</p> 	<p><b>20</b> Morning Fitness Hike. Hicks Haul Road. 9-11:30am. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p> 	<p><b>21</b> Book Club for Adults. Katie Wheeler Library. 7pm. Info: 714-669-8753</p> 	<p><b>22</b> Live Music at Eureka! 4143 Campus Drive. Each Thursday night Eureka! features Live Music at their University Town Center location! 8pm. Info: 949-596-8881</p> 	<p><b>23</b> Bouncing Bats. Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. Come hear fascinating tales of our flying mammal, the bat. 5:30-7:30pm. Info &amp; Registration: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p><b>24</b> Spooktacular Fun Day. OC Great Park. 9am-3pm. Info &amp; Registration: OCGP.org</p> 
<p><b>25</b> Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org</p>	<p><b>26</b> Orchard Hills Evening Hike. Come out and enjoy the evening on the Orchard Hills loop trail. 6:30-8:30pm. Info &amp; Registration: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p><b>27</b> City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5pm. </p>	<p><b>28</b> Independent Visions: Women Artists of California 1880-1940. Irvine Museum Exhibit Runs from October 3-January 21, 2016. Info: IrvineMuseum.org</p> 	<p><b>29</b> Pumpkins &amp; Spice Party. Gymboree of Irvine. 18003 Sky Park Circle. Bld 53. Stes JKLM Bring children (6 mos - under 5 years) dressed in costume to our unique "pumpkin patch" for a costume parade, themed activities, craft project, music, and treat bags. 3:30-5p. Tickets must be purchased IN ADVANCE. Info &amp; Registration: 949-852-8855</p>	<p><b>30</b> Toddler Storytime. Heritage Park Library 11am. Info: 949-936-4040</p> <p><b>Great Glow &amp; Flow Yoga.</b> OC Great Park. Yoga in a party atmosphere \$25 admission for Irvine Residents. Ages 16+. Registration required. 8:45-10pm. Info: OCGP.org</p>	<p><b>31</b> Happy Halloween!</p> 
<p><b>1 NOVEMBER</b> Daylight Savings Time. Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org</p> 	<p><b>2</b> After Work Fitness Hike. Hicks Haul Road. 6-7:30pm. Info &amp; Registration: LetsGoOutside.org</p> 	<p><b>3</b> Short Story Book Club. Led by Doug Brown, Heritage Park Library. 2:30-4:30pm Info: 949-936-4040</p>	<p><b>4</b> Holiday Toy Drive. Make the season brighter for Irvine's adopted Marine Battalion families by donating a new, unwrapped gift suitable for infants or children through age 12. Donations accepted at the Irvine Civic Center, Irvine Police Dept. and the OC Great Park Visitors Center. Info: 949-724-6000</p>	<p><b>5</b> Planning Commission Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5:30-8pm. Info: 949-724-6000</p>	<p><b>6</b> OC Writers: Read &amp; Critique. The OC Writers: Read and Critique gathering. Great Park Gallery. 11am-1pm. Info: OCGP.org</p> <p><b>Holiday Faire At the Irvine Fine Arts Center.</b> 14321 Yale Ave., (in Heritage Park) \$2 per person. Ages 12 and under are free. Info: 949-724-6880</p>	<p><b>7</b> Holiday Faire At the Irvine Fine Arts Center. 14321 Yale Avenue, Irvine (in Heritage Park). Admission: \$2 per person. Children ages 12 and under are free. Info: 949-724-6880</p>

## Adoptable Pet of the Month

Each issue we feature one "adoptable" pet from the Irvine Animal Care Center.

The Irvine Animal Care Center (IACC) is a progressive and innovative municipal animal shelter that continually strives to strengthen the human-animal bond and improve the welfare of animals by promoting their humane care and treatment. The Center's 3.73 acre, park-like facility cares for thousands of homeless, neglected and abused animals every year. All animals in their care receive veterinary care, high-quality food, soft bedding and daily socialization.



"Dolly" is a female, spayed, Spaniel mix, weighing 12 pounds. She is 3 years old.

For more information about Dolly and other adoptable pets, or the IACC call 949-724-7740 or email info@irvineshelter.org

## Fall Food Drive

Now Through November 20th.

Help support hunger relief efforts by donating canned goods or non-perishable food items to benefit local food banks.

**Time:** Donations accepted Thursday & Friday 10 a.m.-10 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

**Location:** OC Great Park Visitors Center



## COMING SOON... Holiday Faire At the Irvine Fine Arts Center

Friday, Nov. 6, 2015 from 5-9 pm  
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015 from 9 am-4 pm

Each November, the Irvine Fine Arts Center hosts the annual Holiday Faire in Heritage Park. The juried Faire showcases Southern California artists and their unique handmade items for purchase, including holiday decorations, hand-blown glass, ceramics, jewelry, folk crafts, clothing, and more. 14321 Yale Avenue, Irvine (in Heritage Park). Admission: \$2 per person. Children ages 12 and under are free.  
Info: 949-724-6880



# HOLIDAY FAIRE

# THANK YOU TO THESE OUTSTANDING IRVINE BUSINESSES... WHERE YOU CAN PICK UP IRVINE COMMUNITY NEWS & VIEWS

Red highlighted businesses have an ad in this issue. Check it out!

**Alton Square/Alton & Jeffrey**  
Chronic Tacos  
Donut Star  
Kriser's for Your Pets-All Natural Life  
MOOYAH burgers-fries-shakes  
Ralphs

**Campus Plaza/Campus & California**  
Guten Sushi  
**Gim's Pizza**  
Hen House Grill  
Starbucks  
Vitality Bowls

**Crossroads/Culver & Barranca**  
**Barfoot Bowls**  
Floyd's Barbershop

**Culver Plaza Shopping Center / Culver & Irvine Center Drive**  
All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ  
Postal Annex  
The Car Spa

**Cypress Village Shopping Center**  
**Jeffrey & Trabuco**  
Albertsons  
Cumin  
Da Loua Hawaiian Grill  
Honey Pig

**Farm Stands**  
Manassero Farms  
on Jeffrey between Irvine Valley College & Barranca Parkway  
Manassero Farms  
at the corner of Jeffrey & Walnut

**Harvard & Michelson**  
Irvine Lanes

**Harvard Place / Harvard & Main**  
Einstein Brothers Bagels  
Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D.  
**Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition**  
Ralphs  
Rubio's  
Togo's, Great Sandwiches  
Z-Pizza

**Heritage Park / Walnut & Yale**  
Heritage Park Regional Library

**Heritage Plaza / Culver & Walnut**  
Caffe Bene  
Caspian Restaurant  
**Pet Supply**  
Ralphs

**Irvine Business Complex**  
**Astoria at Central Park West**  
**FastFrame - Irvine**  
**Irvine Market Place**  
**Irvine Blvd & Jamboree**  
IHOP

**Northpark Plaza Shopping Center**  
Albertsons  
Champagne French Bakery Cafe

**Oak Creek Shopping Center**  
Baja Fresh Mexican Grill  
Daphne's Greek Cafe  
Gelson's  
**Jack's Surfboards**  
Maizuru Sushi Bar - Japanese Restaurant  
Mustard Cafe  
Orange Theory Fitness  
Upper Crust Pizza



**Old Myford Road & Irvine Blvd.**  
Katie Wheeler Library

**Old Town Irvine / Sand Canyon & 5 Fwy**  
Denny's Restaurant  
Knowlwood

**Orchard Hills Village Center / Culver and Portola**  
Haggen

**2 Osborn St. / East Yale Loop & Barranca**  
Dr. John Pasko, DDS  
Dr. Ghantekar, DDS

**Parkview Center / University & Michelson**  
AIM Mail Centers-Postal Annex  
Dr. Sarlitt, Dr. Vo - Optometry  
Farm Direct Market  
IHOP  
Maxwell's Salon of London  
Pho-Tasia

**Quail Hill Shopping Center / Sand Canyon**  
Johnny's Real N.Y. Pizza  
Natraj's Tandoori - Indian Food  
Starbucks

**University Park Center**  
**Culver & Michelson**  
Amezi Pizza & Pasta  
Barber Shop  
Java Bakery Cafe  
Mag's Donuts & Bakery  
Tacos & Co.

**University Town Center / Campus Drive**  
California Gogi - Korean Grill  
Center for Living Peace  
Eureka!  
Kochee Kabob House  
Peet's Coffee & Tea  
Ray's Pizza - New York Style  
Yimboken - Izakaya & Ramen

**Walnut Village Center / Culver & Walnut**  
Burntilla  
Curves/Jenny Craig  
French's Bakery  
Starbucks Coffee  
Subway  
**Yes Cleaners**

**Westpark Plaza / Alton & Culver**  
Albertsons  
**Eighteen Eight, Fine Men's Salons**  
SmashBurger  
Sprouts Farmers Market  
Starbucks Coffee

**Woodbridge Medical Center/ Barranca & Woodbridge Square**  
**Woodbridge Walk-In Urgent Care**

**Woodbridge Village Center**  
Champagne French Bakery Cafe  
Irvine Car Wash  
Podego Electric Bikes  
Trenhaft's Fine Jewelry

**Woodbury Town Center**  
GNC  
NIKO NIKO Sushi  
Ralphs  
Rock n' Road Cyclery

If you'd like to see your business listed here, contact Mary Edmonds at: [mary@irvinecommunitynews.org](mailto:mary@irvinecommunitynews.org)

# THE COUPON CONNECTION

by Cheryl Honig



Hi, I'm Cheryl Honig, Advertising Coordinator for the *Irvine Community News & Views*. I enjoy getting to know business owners and managers in Irvine, and helping them create compelling ads that increase awareness for their products and services. Thank you to all the businesses **highlighted in red** on page 10 - it is a pleasure to work with you! I invite business owners to call me to discuss how we can work together to spread the word about your business throughout Irvine!

I look forward to hearing from you!  
Cheryl Honig • 949-284-6079  
[cheryl@irvinecommunitynews.org](mailto:cheryl@irvinecommunitynews.org)

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Contact Cheryl  
[cheryl@irvinecommunitynews.org](mailto:cheryl@irvinecommunitynews.org)

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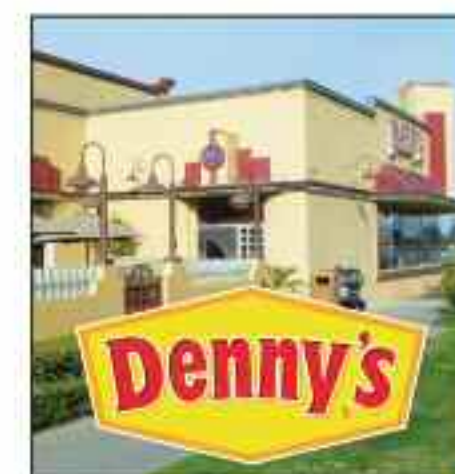
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**A Special Report  
to the Irvine  
Community**

# DOES IRVINE HAVE A CENSORSHIP PROBLEM? by Franklin J. Lunding\*

Irvine is a City with a proud history of protecting — and extending — freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

Irvine's founders, and successive generations of Irvine leaders, have understood that freedom of speech and freedom of the press are not just slogans, but are cherished American values essential to the strength and character of our City.

That's why, in addition to the free speech and free press protections afforded under our Federal and State Constitutions, the Irvine City Council was in the forefront of cities in enacting a municipal Free Speech Rights Ordinance in 1990. The ordinance protects free speech rights and political activity in parks and other public places, as well as in Irvine's many shopping centers. To their credit, the Irvine Company and business owners across the City have respected and even facilitated free speech and freedom of the press.

For more than a quarter century, Irvine's shopping centers and public spaces have been the modern equivalent of traditional town squares, where free speech is exercised, respected, and valued.

## IRVINE, WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

Now comes Councilmember Christina Shea. Although she's been on the City Council dating back to 1992, Shea has apparently forgotten this history, preferring to set herself up as Irvine's Censor-in-Chief, telling people what they should and shouldn't read, and interfering with store owners and business advertisers.

Here's what's happening. As *Irvine Community News and Views* continues to grow, more and more businesses — now over 100 — carry our free community newspaper, making it available to customers who seem to be happy to pick up ICNV and read about what's going on in the City. Well, Christina Shea doesn't like that. She doesn't like our newspaper. So she has enlisted a few vigilantes — putting herself at the forefront — to try to intimidate business owners and advertisers. In fact, Shea bragged on her blog and Facebook that she complained to a store manager and got him to remove *Irvine Community News and Views* from his store.

Shea isn't alone. She apparently has enlisted her chief minion, a fellow named Steve Greenberg, to come to City Council meetings and tell the world that he's going to visit every business that carries our paper...and tell

them not to. I'm pleased to report that Shea and Greenberg are failing — more and more business owners are asking for ICNV, and more of their customers are too. These proud business owners and managers tell us that Shea or anyone else who tries to intimidate them should knock it off right now.

## ADVERTISERS HARASSED

But there is more. It appears that Shea has gone even further. In an anonymous phone call received by one of our advertisers, the caller left a voice-mail message telling lies about our publication while urging our advertiser to stop doing business with *Irvine Community News & Views*. The caller sure sounded like Christina Shea to me. If it is, we need to ask ourselves: Is this the way a public official should behave?

We're a community newspaper, plain and simple. We're working hard to serve the Irvine community. If you like ICNV, great. If you don't, that's OK too. But interfering with our business relationships is wrong, and it may be illegal as well.

## THE CENSORSHIP CONTAGION HITS CITY HALL

The Shea censorship contagion seems to be present at City Hall as well. For years, many free publications have been available to



**Councilmember  
Christina Shea**

the public in the lobby at City Hall. Included among these have been the Register's *Irvine World News*, a rival publication, and even *OC Weekly*, an apparent favorite of Shea and Mayor Steven Choi, even though it's recognized to be one of Orange County's leading purveyors of pornography.

So, imagine my surprise when a simple request to put our community newspaper alongside the *Irvine World News* in the City Hall lobby was met with an idiotic response from City Manager Sean Joyce and City Attorney Todd Lufin. They said *Irvine Community News & Views* was banned from City Hall because of its "political nature." Huh? Anybody who has read the Register's *Irvine World News* or *OC Weekly* knows that these publications — like all newspapers — have some political content. Are the City Manager and City Attorney that ignorant about free speech, free press and the City's very own Free Speech Rights Ordinance? Or are they just taking orders from Shea and other bullies on the Council?

Violators of Irvine's Free Speech Rights Ordinance may be cited by the police for their interference with freedom of speech and freedom of the press — paying a fine of up to \$500. Am I going to have to call Irvine's police to enforce the law against the City, City Council and City Attorney?

\*Franklin J. Lunding is the founding Publisher and Editor of *Irvine Community News & Views*. A lawyer and businessman, Mr. Lunding has served on the Irvine Planning Commission and, prior to that, as Chair of the Irvine Transportation Commission.



**"YOU CAN'T READ THIS NEWSPAPER!  
YOU MUST READ THESE!"**



**Carolyn Inmon**

## SCHOOLWATCH by Carolyn Inmon\*

### Bring Back the Buses!

Last month, SchoolWatch focused on the hazardous traffic conditions at our schools — and the extraordinary efforts of Irvine Crossing Guards to keep kids safe amid the morning and afternoon chaos of cars, pedestrians and bicyclists converging on school sites.

I recently visited the IUSD website to check out the School District's messaging on transportation. Imagine my surprise when the first image that popped up was a photo of a large yellow school bus with exiting children. So why was I surprised? Because IUSD does not provide school bus service to the general population.

Like many school districts, IUSD long ago discontinued school bus transportation for most students — shifting the cost and responsibility for transporting children back onto parents. At the same time, the School District changed its policy of building small neighborhood schools — which are easy to walk to — and instead began building mega-schools such as Stonegate Elementary with more than 1,100 students and Woodbury Elementary with more than 1,000 students. Mega-schools mean more students, more cars, more danger — all of this concentrated in a 20-minute crush each morning that adds to the snarled traffic throughout the City.

The City of Irvine is in the midst of a "traffic management" study — trying to figure out how to deal with the traffic mess that overdevelopment has created. Part of the study includes the solicitation of opinions and ideas offered by Irvine residents.

Well, here's an idea: **Bring back the school buses!** School buses are safe — a lot safer than cars. They are also reliable and efficient. In fact, just one school bus can displace dozens of cars at a school site and eliminate home-to-school trips, especially in the midst of the morning rush.

Now that school finances are healthy once again (thanks, in part, to millions of dollars in City support for Irvine's public schools), this seems like the perfect time for City and School District officials to get together and recreate a school-bus transportation system that is worthy of our master-planned City.

\*Carolyn Inmon is a retired Irvine teacher. She has taught at virtually every grade level, from K - 12, as well as community college. She served as President of the Community College Association from 2005-2007. Carolyn has recently co-authored a book with Tanya Brown, now available on Amazon. It is entitled "The Seven Characters of Abuse: Domestic Violence — Where It Starts and Where It Can End." Carolyn always welcomes your comments and ideas at: [Carolyn@IrvineCommunityNews.org](mailto:Carolyn@IrvineCommunityNews.org)



## WORDSWATCH by Harris E. Kershner\*

"Each time a [person] stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, [that person] sends forth a tiny ripple of hope ... and those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

- Robert F. Kennedy

Right now, you can transform those uplifting words into tangible deeds "to improve the lot of others" by helping to Restore Irvine's Living Wage! [www.IrvineLivingWage.org](http://www.IrvineLivingWage.org)

\*Harris E. Kershner is a local attorney, specializing in Employment Law. He has lived in Irvine for over 30 years, and currently resides in Woodbridge.

## SPORTSWATCH by Joel Smith\*

### GREAT PARK SPORTS FIELDS... WHO IS TO BENEFIT?



**Joel Smith**

The Orange County Great Park has the opportunity to become a venue for one of the truly outstanding sports complexes in Southern California. If you haven't been out to the Great Park recently, do yourself a favor and check out the four state-of-the-art soccer fields (two are artificial turf, two are natural grass). I guarantee you won't be disappointed.

The City designed and built these fields a few years ago. And now we hear that much more is to come with the design and construction of the long-awaited Great Park Sports Park, built by FivePoint Communities. It's supposed to have 20 soccer fields and facilities for tennis, baseball, and more.

While we continue to wait for the sports facilities to materialize, it's worth asking this question: **Who, exactly, will be using these sports fields and other facilities?** The current plan seems to be for fields and other sports facilities to be used largely for big tournaments that draw lots of out-of-town people to the area, presumably bringing money to the local economy.

I have a problem with this. Irvine is a community that has had tremendous success with sports, especially youth athletics. Yes, it's great that the City is finally building long-overdue fields and facilities. But why aren't we focusing on using these fields for our very own Irvine sports teams?

After all, the Great Park is *in* Irvine. Irvine residents and Irvine teams should have first claim to the fields. And this should include our high school teams. Let's start talking about all this before tournament madness and commercialism sets in...and Irvine kids get squeezed out.

\*Joel Smith is a homegrown Irvine athlete and Concordia University graduate who excelled in soccer, and now coaches in Irvine.



**Steve Layton**

## CULTURE CORNER by Steve Layton

### Irvine's Cultural Riches

I'm pleased to be introducing CultureCorner, yet another feature in *Irvine Community News & Views* designed to highlight remarkable aspects of life in Irvine. Our City is blessed with an amazing array of cultural opportunities — theaters, museums, live performances, fairs and exhibits — that enrich our lives. The challenge is to let folks know just how much is available to enjoy.

For now, I want to focus some attention on the outstanding offerings of the UCI Drama Department, beginning with mid-November's performances at the Irvine Barclay Theater of the popular, Tony Award-Winning classic musical, *Man of La Mancha*. This musical, a comic tragedy, follows the story of *The Adventures of Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes y Saavedra. Of course, theater-goers will recognize its most famous song, *The Impossible Dream*, sung by Don Quixote.

Tickets are just \$22 for adults — a real bargain. To order tickets and select seats now, visit: [www.arts.uci.edu/tickets](http://www.arts.uci.edu/tickets)

Over the past 50 years, the UCIDrama Department has steadily expanded and matured, earning both domestic and international ratings for excellence. Graduates of the UCI Drama program are appearing on Broadway, in movies, and on television. Here in Irvine, we have the opportunity to see and enjoy some wonderful actors *before* they become famous.

Let's do it!

Next time: **More about this Winter and Spring UCI Drama offerings.**

\*Steve Layton and his wife, Alexandra, are 35-year residents of Irvine, having raised their three sons here. Steve is a semi-retired businessman, remaining very active in the Irvine community. He is a supporter of the UCI Drama Department, and currently serves on the Leadership Committee of the New Swan Shakespeare Festival. He is also an outstanding editorial cartoonist, as loyal readers of *Irvine Community News & Views* have come to appreciate.







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