



General Manager Paul Jones, left with Senior Buyer Mary Holliday, Purchasing Manager Pat Broadway and Director of Administrative Services Tony Mossbarger.

IRWD Purchasing Dept. Recognized for 4th Year

Irvine Ranch Water District's 10-member Purchasing Department has received the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Purchasing Institute (NPI) for the fourth 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 NPI established the program in 1995 and the award is jointly sponsored by the NPI, the California Association of Public Purchasing Officers and the National Association of Purchasing Management.

FREE Spring

Residential Landscape Workshop



WHEN:
Friday, March 18
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

WHERE:
IRWD Headquarters
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine CA, 92618

Spring 2005 brings a new, fun workshop format which features both fact-filled talks and hands-on demonstrations by local gardening and landscape experts.

Workshop topics include:

- How to design or upgrade your home's landscape
- What to plant and where
- How to prepare soil for greater plant success
- How to water for plant health and low water bills

Limited seating. Reserve seat(s) by emailing your name(s), home address and daytime phone number to: bendzick@irwd.com. If you do not have internet access, please call 949-453-5327 to make your reservation.

IRWD Employees Raise Record Funds in 2005 United Way Drive

Irvine Ranch Water District employees dug deep and contributed a record \$37,674 to the 2005 United Way campaign.

This amount was \$3,674 over the target goal of \$34,000 set by the Human Resources Department.

United Way Orange County is the leader in identifying and responding to the wide array of critical issues affecting the quality of life for those in need in the county. Currently, United Way is partnered with 125 organizations that receive funding.

Free Water Awareness Tours

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) offers free Water Awareness Tours to all its customers. Spring tours are scheduled for Saturday, April 30, Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14. 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 reclaimed water use.

Tours include a discussion of water supply issues, rates, water conservation, water quality, the distribution system and other issues. Also featured are tours of the Water Quality Laboratory, the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant, and other District facilities. A special attraction is a guided tour of a portion of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.

The free tours start promptly at 8 a.m. and conclude at approximately 2 p.m. Lunch is provided.

To sign up, customers may send in the form (below), register on the IRWD Web site at www.irwd.com, or call (949) 453-5500. The tours fill very quickly and are first-come first-served based on the date we receive your reservation. You will receive a call if your selection is not available and you can choose another date or be placed on a waiting list. Tours are limited to those 16 years of age or older. For more information, call (949) 453-5500.

RESIDENT TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, I am interested in learning more about IRWD. Please make reservations for the following tour:

Saturday, April 30 Friday, May 13
 Saturday, May 14

Number of adults in party: _____

Names of each person attending: _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

e-mail: _____

Please return this form to: IRWD Community Relations Department, P.O. Box 57000, Irvine, CA 92619-7000. For further information, call (949) 453-5500 or visit our Web site at www.irwd.com.

1/05

Board Selects New President

The Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) Board of Directors at its annual organizational meeting December 13 selected Darryl Miller to serve as President and Mary Aileen Matheis to serve as Vice President.

Miller has served on the board since 1984. He held the office of President from 1995-2000 and his current term runs through 2008.

Matheis has served on the board since 1988. She held the office of President in 2001. Her current term runs through 2008.

The IRWD Board meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the district headquarters, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

Check out these Web sites:

- www.irwd.com - information about Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD). Visit IRWD's Web site to access your IRWD account or get other information about your water district 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- www.shadetreepartnership.org - tree planting events. Community service hours available.
- www.h2ouse.org - this site features current information and resources to help you be water efficient

Water Conservation Tips



- **Too much water can stress plants and leave them susceptible to disease.** According to the California Association of Nurserymen, more plants are lost due to over-watering than to any other cause. If you think you need to water, check the moisture of the soil 3-6" below the surface. With our heavy clay soils, the surface may look dry, but the clay remains moist beneath the surface.
- **Avoid fertilizing your lawn this month.** Fertilizers applied during this time of year are more likely to get washed away by rain, contributing to pollution in the waterways. Cool season lawns can be fertilized in the spring and fall; warm season lawns can be fertilized in late spring and summer.
- **Cut back roses.**
- **Bare root season for fruit trees and roses.** Water to keep the plants moist, but not wet. Water deeply, not frequently. Build a mound 3-4" high around the planting hole and hand water the new plants directly in the early morning.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the Months of January and February

WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE FOR SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS			
	Turf grass	Trees, shrubs, groundcover	Percent Option
January &			
February	1-2 days, 1-2 cycles* of 2 minutes	1 day, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes	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. If it rains, keep the system off.*

***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.*

Services Offered by IRWD

- **Automatic Payment.** Automatic payment allows customers to authorize IRWD to withdraw the amount of their water and sewer bill from their checking account automatically each month. Automatic payment requires no further action from the customer once enrollment is completed and automatic payment is activated on their account. If you'd like to take advantage of this program, call (949) 453-5300.
- **Conservation videos.** IRWD has water-efficient gardening videos from Sunset Magazine available for free check-out for a two-week period. Call (949) 453-5500.
- **Water Conservation Devices.** Pick up free low-flow showerheads, sink aerators and other devices at IRWD, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine. For more information call (949) 453-5500.

Irvine Ranch Water District offices will be closed on the following holiday:

- Monday, February 21, 2005 - President's Day holiday

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.

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

- For more information visit their Web site at www.seaandsageaudubon.org or call the Audubon House at (949) 261-7963.

CITY OF IRVINE - Free Informational Tax Credit Seminar

Up to \$4,300 could be yours if you are eligible to receive the Earned Income Credit, a program designed to provide tax relief to low-income and part-time workers. You may be eligible to get back some or all of the Federal Income tax you paid during 2004. Eligibility is tied to household income; the maximum income for a family of four is \$34,458. The City of Irvine, in partnership with the Irvine Chamber of Commerce and Affiliated Computer Services, will host a free tax preparation day on **Saturday, February 5 from 9 a.m. to noon** at the Irvine Civic Center. Contact Lisa Henson, City of Irvine, at (949) 724-6650 for more information.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ART & POETRY CONTEST

The California Coastal Commission invites California students in kindergarten through 12th grade to submit artwork or poetry with a coastal or marine theme to the annual Coastal Art and Poetry Contest. Up to eight winners will be selected to win \$100 gift certificates to an art supply or book store, and each winner's sponsoring teacher will receive a \$40 gift certificate for educational supplies. Winners may have their work featured on Commission webpages and materials. Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2005 to be eligible. For contest rules and entry forms, visit www.coastforyou.org, e-mail coast4u@coastal.ca.gov, or call (800) Coast-4U.

IRVINE GARDEN CLUB • Monday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Laura Lyons, UCI Arboretum nursery manager, will give a presentation on bulbs from South Africa. The meeting will be held at the Irvine Ranch Water District offices, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine. The group meets the first Monday of each month. The goal of the garden club is to learn from one another and share gardening tips. For information call Carol Green (949) 551-3962.

FAMILIES FORWARD

If your New Year's resolution includes giving to your community, please consider giving of your time and talents to Families Forward. Opportunities for office receptionists, pantry workers, food pick-up workers, event planners/workers, furniture pick-up workers and special project workers are available. A three month commitment of two to four hours per week is requested for officer receptionists and pantry workers. Other positions require less time commitment. For more information call Sally Snyder at (949) 552-2727, Ext. 226.

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

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

General Manager

Paul D. Jones II

Pipelines

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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

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