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Serving the Villages and Neighborhoods of Irvine

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## 15,000 voter signatures needed

# Irvine citizens launch Initiative to build Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery



The planned Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery at the 125-acre Great Park ARDA site — including key features described in the 333-page Concept Plan — was approved 3 years ago by the State of California (CalVet) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



### Publisher's Perspective

#### Veterans Cemetery Initiative, YES!

*Irvine Community News & Views (ICNV)* strongly endorses the “Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery” Initiative — now being circulated by volunteers throughout the City. **We urge all Irvine voters to sign the Initiative Petition and help get it on the ballot!**

Mayor Christina Shea and developer FivePoint continue to push their schemes to replace the planned Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park with massive FivePoint development projects. Voters, instead, want a beautiful State built and operated Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery. Period! Just say “YES!” when asked to sign the Initiative.

*Franklin J. Lunding*

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor

For updates on the Veterans Cemetery and other breaking Irvine news, subscribe for free to:

[IrvineCommunityNews.org](http://IrvineCommunityNews.org)



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**E**d Pope, founding Chair of the **Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery** citizens’ committee, did a lot of thinking this summer while recovering at home from a stroke he suffered in May. Pope — a U.S. Army veteran, an Irvine resident since 1972, and a retired award-winning High School Teacher of the Year — says that while regaining his strength, he thought a lot about what he called his “civic mission” to finally get the Veterans Cemetery built and operational at the Great Park, as originally planned and approved by the City, State, and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Ed Pope

Mid-summer, Pope turned to his friend, former Irvine Mayor Larry Agran, with what he called “a major request.” He asked Agran, a skilled public interest attorney and former Legal Counsel with the State Legislature, to take on the task of drawing

up a citizens’ initiative to “once and for all implement the will of the people to get the Veterans Cemetery built.” Agran agreed to do it.

As official proponent of the **Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery Initiative** — now being circulated to gather Irvine voter signatures — Agran explained its key provisions: “Specifically, the Initiative provides that the 125-acre, City-owned ARDA site at the Great Park will be zoned exclusively



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for only one land-use purpose — for a beautiful Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery.”

Agran pointed out that initiative makes clear that in addition to the planned Veterans Cemetery itself, the site will also include complementary Memorial Gardens, a two-mile Memorial Trail with thousands of trees, and a small-scale air museum that includes restoration of the iconic

control tower and airplane hangars dating back to World War II, when the site was part of what was the Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro.

Agran, has drafted numerous laws and initiatives for Irvine, noted that “under the provisions of key State laws enacted this summer, if Irvine voters say ‘YES’ to the Initiative, the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery will be built and operated on the Great Park ARDA site *at no cost to the City of Irvine.*”

Both Agran and Pope stress that the Initiative is “urgently needed” because, in Pope’s words, “Mayor Christina Shea, long an opponent of the Veterans Cemetery, continues to work with developer FivePoint on a



Initiative volunteer Michelle Johnson gathering Petition signatures at University Park Library.

scheme that will replace our long-planned Veterans Cemetery on the City-owned ARDA site with FivePoint development — office, commercial, industrial, and even apartment development...and traffic, traffic, traffic.”

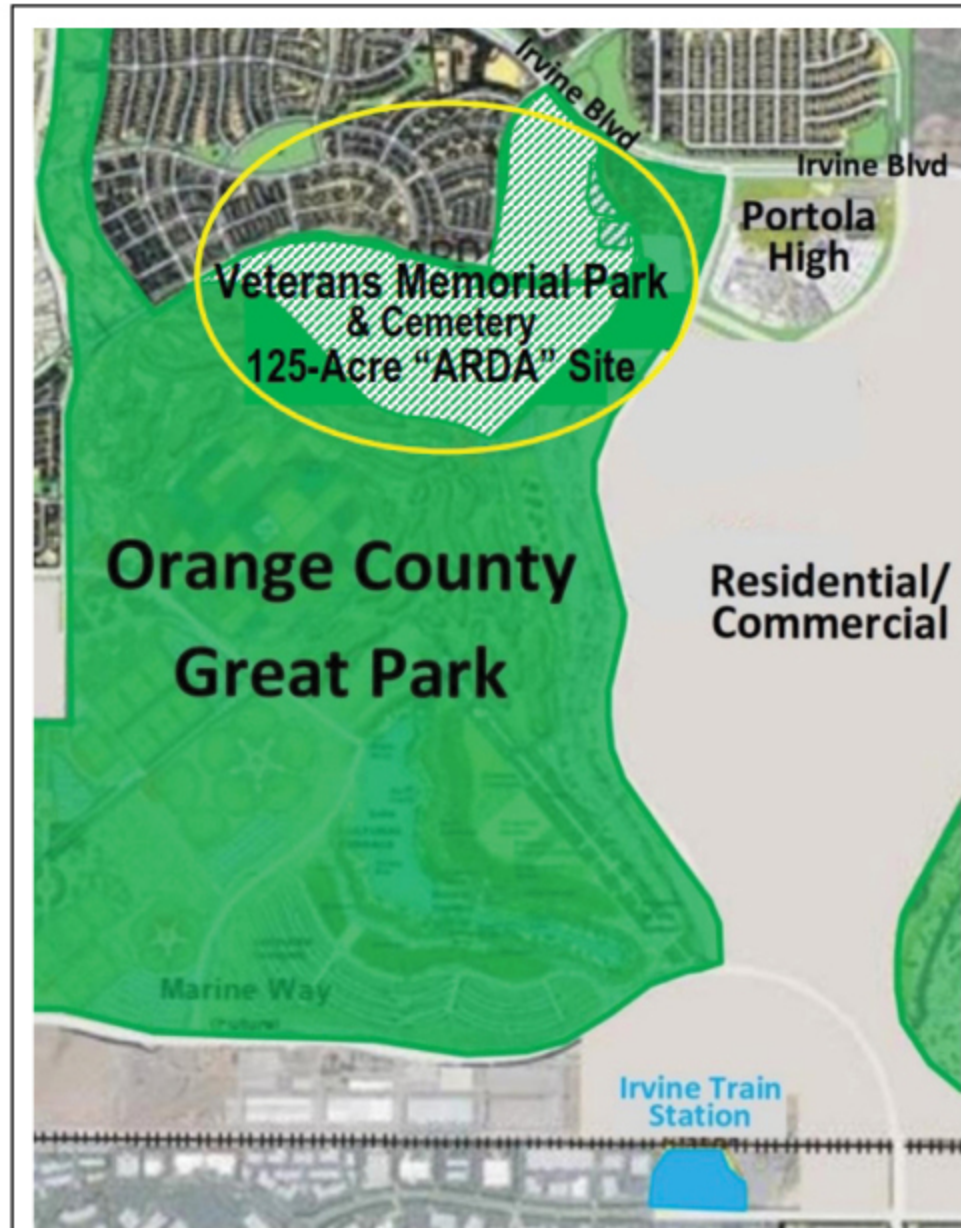
Pope added, “We can’t let that happen. That’s why we’re asking folks to support our Initiative.”

**Grassroots Campaign**

With just a few months to gather nearly 15,000 Irvine voter signatures to qualify the Initiative for the 2020 ballot, Pope says “This is the time for citizen action. This is the time to activate direct democracy. That’s what the Initiative process is all about!”

While he now finds it physically difficult to gather many Initiative petition signatures on his own, through phone calls and emails Pope is recruiting scores of volunteers to get the job done.

“Irvine residents and voters should expect to see signature-gatherers at the public libraries and City parks and shopping centers,” says Pope. “We also hope to enlist 100 neighborhood leaders...folks who will agree to put up a lawn sign and gather 50 or 100 signatures from their Irvine friends and neighbors who share our determination to, at long last, make our Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery a reality!” [ICNV](#)



Irvine voters will decide the kind of land-use development permitted on the City-owned ARDA site at the Great Park: Will the 125-acre ARDA site be developed as a State-built and operated Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery, as provided in the Irvine citizens’ initiative now being circulated? Or, will it be developed with office, commercial, industrial and apartment projects under a 99-year lease to developer FivePoint, as promoted by Mayor Christina Shea?

**For updated reporting on the progress of the Veterans Cemetery Initiative Petition, be sure to subscribe to: [IrvineCommunityNews.org](http://IrvineCommunityNews.org)**

**To volunteer or donate to help make the Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park a reality, go to: [BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org](http://BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org)**

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**CityWatch** by Larry Agran

**Q & A with Ed Pope, Chair of the committee to “Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery”**

The entire Irvine community owes a huge debt of gratitude to Ed Pope, founding Chair of the “Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery” committee. For the past five years, Ed has been urging the City Council to follow through on its pledge, first made in 2014, to transfer the City-owned 125-acre “ARDA” site at the Great Park to the State — so the State (CalVet) can quickly build and begin operating a beautiful Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery, at no cost to the City of Irvine.

Ed Pope is a U.S. Army veteran and a retired, award-winning “High School Teacher of the Year.” He has lived in Irvine since 1972 and has always been a civic activist, championing good planning that includes the establishment of the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery — at the Great Park.

Since May, Ed has been recovering from a stroke. Nevertheless, he and his committee volunteers have been on the move — launching an initiative to once-and-for-all get the Veterans Cemetery built and operational. Ed recently explained the go-forward strategy to me when I sat down with him for an interview. LA

**Q. First, how are you doing, Ed?**

A. Well, as you know, I had a stroke a few months ago. I’ve been making a good recovery, helped by many friends and well-wishers. I’m not at full strength yet, but I’m gaining ground every day. And, I’m more determined than ever to complete our mission: to implement the will of the people and finally get the 125-acre ARDA site at the Great Park transferred to CalVet to build and operate our Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery.

**Q. So, here’s the question: Just how do you propose to do that when the Mayor and developer FivePoint are so determined to delay and defeat the Veterans Cemetery project?**

A. The political reality is this: With its big campaign donations and other favors, billion-dollar-developer FivePoint now controls Mayor Christina Shea, Councilman Anthony Kuo, and newly appointed Councilman Mike Carroll. These three do whatever FivePoint wants. And FivePoint clearly wants to block the planned Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park ARDA site and get control of the property for its own massive development and profit. Do you remember their “Measure B” land-grab scheme to replace our planned Veterans Cemetery at the ARDA site with 812,000 square feet of development? Well, we used one of the tools of direct democracy — the right of referendum — to gather enough signatures to force the City Council to put their corrupt deal on the ballot last year, where it was soundly rejected, 63 percent to 37 percent! As Irvine voters, we actually stopped their corrupt scheme. But then, led by Shea, certain Councilmembers arrogantly ignored the will of the people and came up with still more schemes to replace the planned Veterans Cemetery at the ARDA site with FivePoint development. And, so, we are now resorting to a second tool of direct democracy — the right of initiative. We are

exercising our right, under the State Constitution, to draft our own law which, once adopted by Irvine voters, effectively commands the City Council to transfer the ARDA site to the State to build the Veterans Cemetery. Of course, we have to gather more than 15,000 signatures to get our “Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery” initiative on the ballot. That’s a big task!

**Q. What, specifically, does the initiative provide?**

A. The initiative provides that the original 125-acre ARDA site will be the *exclusive* location for the State-built and State-operated Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery. And the City Council must transfer the property to the State for this purpose.

**Q. Aren’t you worried that Shea, Carroll and others will continue to look for ways to thwart your citywide initiative effort and defy the will of the people?**

A. At some point, in a representative democracy, it’s about honoring and respecting the will of the people. Christina Shea clearly doesn’t. Neither do Councilmembers Mike Carroll and Anthony Kuo. When things get that bad, the **third tool of direct democracy — recall** — comes into play. The power of recall gives Irvine voters the right to gather enough signatures to force a special election to remove these individuals from office and replace them with new elected officials. It looks like that’s where things are headed in Irvine, especially regarding Shea and Carroll, who not only disregard and disrespect the will of the people; they weren’t even elected to the positions they hold in the first place. They got their positions through a series of secret, backroom deals that were orchestrated by developer FivePoint and that have undermined our local Irvine democracy.



**If you want to volunteer or donate to help Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery, go to: [BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org](http://BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org)**

Larry Agran served on the Irvine City Council for almost three decades — including ten years as Mayor. He led the fight to preserve Irvine Open Space, and defeat an international airport at the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, creating the opportunity to build the Orange County Great Park and the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery at the Great Park.



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<b>HARVARD &amp; MICHELSON</b> • Irvine Lanes	<b>ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE CENTER</b> Culver & Portola • Green Cleaners • Pavilions	<b>WOODBURGE VILLAGE CENTER</b> Barranca & Creek • Grocery Outlet Bargain Market
<b>HARVARD PLACE</b> Harvard & Main • Jamba Juice • Poquet Donuts • Ralphs • Rubio's • Honeybee Ice Cream • Paradise Cleaners • Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D. • Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition	<b>PARK PLACE</b> Michelson & Jamboree • Social Dry Lounge • Starbucks	<b>WOODBURY TOWN CENTER</b> Sand Canyon & Irvine Blvd. • Ralphs



Adopt a Pet

In each issue of ICNV we feature one adoptable pet from the Irvine Animal Care Center. "Hibiscus" is a neutered male, buff and white Domestic Shorthair. He is about 2 months old.

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, abused animals every year. All animals in their care receive veterinary care, high-quality food, soft bedding and daily socialization.

Increasingly, we have found that our choice for Pet of the Month is adopted shortly after press-time. For the most current list of adoptable pets at the IACC, visit their website at: [cityofirvine.org/irvine-animal-care-center/adopt-pet](http://cityofirvine.org/irvine-animal-care-center/adopt-pet) or visit the Shelter in person.

The Irvine Animal Care Center is located at 6443 Oak Canyon, in Irvine.

For more information about the IACC, call 949-345-1106

Senior Life — Youthful Lifestyle

An ICNV Feature Series On  
Healthful Living As We Age

Walking Briskly for a Healthy Life

by Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D.

It has been proven in many studies that exercise is far more than just a "good thing." Significant exercise almost every day is **essential** for mental and physical health and to maintain the ability to be happy and productive into your 80s, 90s, and beyond. Without significant exercise every day, frailty and chronic diseases (like diabetes, stroke, cardiovascular disease and even cancer), as well as lack of energy and mental impairment are virtually inevitable.

So, what if you can't walk as fast as you'd like, or maybe you need a walker or a cane? **The answer is to do what you can, as long as you keep pushing yourself. Slowing down just leads to more slowing down.** Pushing ahead leads to more ability to push ahead.

Exercise is for more than to achieve strength

Exercise has two main functions: **First**, exercise maintains fitness, so you don't lose your balance and fall over, or trip over something (a toy or a sidewalk crack) and are unable to recover. Notice that recovery from a trip (before falling) is no problem for a young person, and it needn't be a problem for an older person if significant exercise has been part of your life since the days when falling was not a problem. My own experience tells me that. I've tripped many times while running and walking fast, and yet I can recover my footing without falling.

**Second**, an extremely important effect of exercise is that muscle metabolism generates all sorts of proteins and other metabolic products that are required by the other organs in the body for proper functioning. And any muscular activity will have that effect. If you can't walk, then lift weights with your arms. Instead of pushing the cart with your groceries to your car, carry the bags to your car and leave the cart at the store. By the way, don't look for the parking spot closest to the store. If you park in the sparser part of the lot, you'll save time and frustration of searching for a parking spot, while providing an opportunity to walk as briskly as you can to the store.

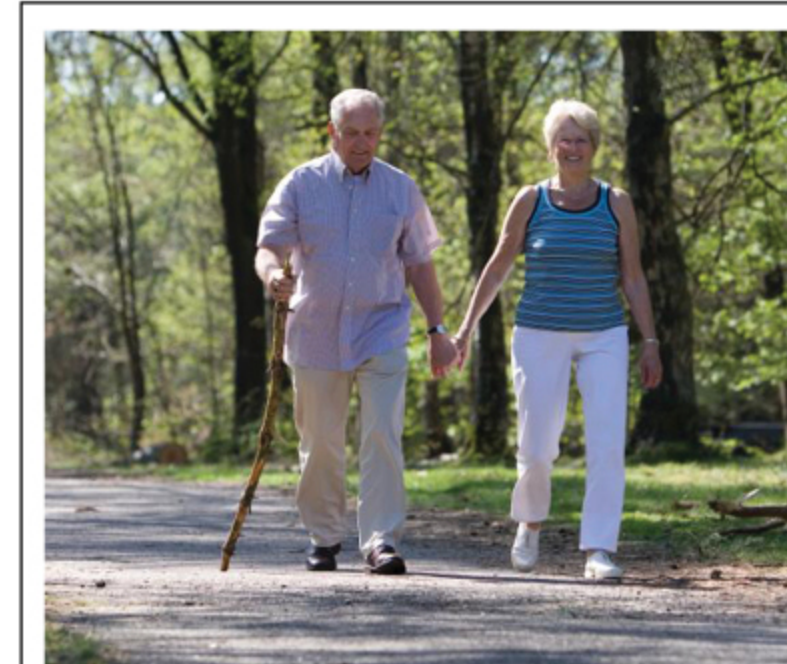
How much is enough exercise?

So, how much exercise is enough to have a positive impact on your health? According to studies, you don't have to be a "gym bunny."

However, walking must be more than a casual stroll. These same studies suggest that walking briskly at least 30 minutes each day provides profound health benefits.

**Briskly** is the key word. All of the hundreds of studies conducted used walking 3-4 mph as the minimum standard to obtain a significant health benefit. Counting steps is relatively useless unless they are **brisk** steps. Walking back and forth in your kitchen from the sink to the refrigerator to the kitchen table will increase your step count and is better than lying in bed; but it does not have a significant health benefit.

However, if you can't walk 3-4 mph, walk as fast as you can. Push yourself, even if you're using a walker. That's the key. Pushing yourself becomes a virtuous cycle. Going ever slower becomes a vicious cycle.



Irvine's neighborhoods and open spaces provide wonderful opportunities for walking — both on the plentiful paved walkways and on the many trails throughout the City.

Exercise opportunities

Exercise isn't something that only happens in a gym. It can happen throughout the day: Consider walking up the stairs rather than using the elevator. Go up two steps at a time, or work at it until you can.

Remember, being sedentary is the biggest troublemaker and killer.

Avoiding muscular activity, especially brisk walking, is a toxic cultural phenomenon that we must overcome.

Some people prefer to walk alone. Others like to walk in a group for the motivation and friendly social interaction. Irvine provides many opportunities to do things in groups — walking, hiking, running — all fabulous exercises that people find endlessly enjoyable. To learn more about hiking in Irvine's vast open space areas, either alone or with a group outing, go to: [LetsGoOutside.org](http://LetsGoOutside.org).

RESOURCES

The studies referred to in this article are described in the following *Journal of Applied Physiology* review article published in 2002. It extracts the findings of over 250 studies — all relating exercise to disease prevention and disease remission. The article is entitled *Waging War on Physical Inactivity* by Frank Booth, et al. You can find it free by searching online or searching on [IrvineCommunityNews.org](http://IrvineCommunityNews.org) and scrolling down to get to Senior Life Resources.



Harvey H. Liss, 77, is a 43-year resident of Woodbridge. He was a Project Engineer for that iconic Irvine village during the late 1970s. A licensed Professional Civil Engineer in California, Dr. Liss received his B.C.E. from The Cooper Union, in New York City, and his Ph.D. in Applied Mechanics from NYU. Dr. Liss has had a lifelong interest in maintaining the most healthful lifestyle possible.

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# Community Calendar

**OCTOBER highlights**

**The 18th Annual Irvine Global Village Festival**

Orange County Great Park.  
October 12 and 13. 10am-5pm.  
Tickets and Info: 949-724-6600

**ART EXHIBITION: Having Been There**

Irvine City Hall Lobby.  
Exhibit runs now through October 11.  
8am-5pm Monday through Friday.  
Info: 949-724-6880

**MOZART CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA EVENT**

Irvine Barclay Theatre  
Mozart Classical Orchestra  
Sunday, October 20. 3pm (10% off/first-timers)  
Haydn-Trumpet Concerto & Symphony No.60  
Info: mozartorchestra.org Tickets: 949-854-4646

**TANAKA FARMS PUMPKIN PATCH**

9am-6pm Daily.  
Parking passes are required on the weekends.  
Runs now through October 31.  
Info: 949-653-2100  
tanakafarms.com

**TRICK-OR-TREAT THROUGH THE CITY**

Pretend City Children's Museum.  
28 Hubble, Irvine.  
Thursday, October 31. 10am-3pm.  
Info: 949-428-3900

**November highlights**

**VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON**

Lakeview Senior Center.  
Friday, November 8. 11:15am-1:30pm.  
Info: 949-724-6900

**Holiday Faire**

Irvine Fine Arts Center.  
Saturday, November 9. 9am-4pm.  
Info: 949-724-6880

**HEALTH & WEALTH LECTURE**

Gross Hall, at UCI, 845 Health Sciences Road.  
Tuesday, November 19. 7-8pm.  
Free. Registration is required.  
Info: 949-824-2163

**FAVORITE CHARACTERS SCAVENGER HUNT**

Heritage Park Library.  
Monday, November 25. 3:30-4:30pm.  
Info: 949-936-4040

**Turkey Trot**

Irvine Valley College.  
Thursday, November 28. 8am.  
Info: RunSignUp.com

# December Events 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>December</i>						
<b>1</b> NFL Sunday Football. Red Bar and Lounge. 10am-12pm. Info: 877-614-2137	<b>2</b> OC Chill Ice Rink. Irvine Spectrum Center. 3-11pm. Info: 949-748-8280	<b>3</b> Giving Tuesday. Pretend City Children's Museum. 7:30-11:30am. Info: 949-428-3900	<b>4</b> Mantra Meditation. Rancho Senior Center. 11:30am-12:30pm. Info: 949-724-6800	<b>5</b> Toddler Storytime. Katie Wheeler Library. 10:30-11am. Info: 714-669-8753	<b>6</b> DJ Nights. Hive and Honey Rooftop Bar. 9pm-12am. Info: 949-759-0200	<b>7</b> Around the World with Crafts. University Park Library. 11am. Info: 949-786-4001
<b>8</b> Home for the Holidays. Irvine Animal Care Center Pet Adoption Event. 10am-2pm. Info: 949-724-7740	<b>9</b> Twilight Yoga Hike. Bommer Canyon. 2-5pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org	<b>10</b> City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6205	<b>11</b> Afternoon Social. Lakeview Senior Center. 2-3:30pm. Info: 949-724-6900	<b>12</b> Twilight Holiday Social. Trabuco Center. 2:30-4:30pm. Info: 949-724-7300	<b>13</b> Social Knitting. Rancho Senior Center. 1-4pm. Info: 949-724-6800	<b>14</b> Fight Nights. Red Bar and Lounge. 3pm-12am. Info: 877-614-2137
<b>15</b> Habitat Restoration Event. Peters Canyon Regional Park. 7:30-10:30am. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	<b>16</b> After Work Fitness Hike. Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. 6-7:30pm. Registration is required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	<b>17</b> Learn to Knit & Crochet. Lakeview Senior Center. 9am-12pm. Info: 949-724-6900	<b>18</b> Pajama Storytime. University Park Library. 6-8pm. Info: 949-786-4001	<b>19</b> Ice Rink: Star Wars Night. Irvine Spectrum Center. 3-11pm. Info: 949-790-4871	<b>20</b> 5K Distance. Irvine Open Space Preserve. 6-8pm. Registration is required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	<b>21</b> Fall Harvest Tours. Tanaka Farms. 9:30am-2pm. Info: 949-653-2100
<b>22</b> Horror for Hanukkah. Pretend City Children's Museum. 10am-4pm. Info: 949-428-3900	<b>23</b> After Work Fitness Hike. Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. 6-7:30pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	<b>24</b> Taco Tuesday. Puesto at Los Olivos. 3-9pm. Info: 949-608-9990	<b>25</b> Christmas Day.	<b>26</b> Ice Rink: Ugly Holiday Sweater. Irvine Spectrum Center. 6-8:30pm. Info: 949-790-4871	<b>27</b> Happy Hour. Two Left Forks. 4-5:30pm. Info: 949-387-6700	<b>28</b> Farmers Market. Mariner's Church. 8am-12pm. Info: 714-573-0374
<b>29</b> Baby Steps. Pretend City Children's Museum. 8-9:30am. Info: 949-428-3900	<b>30</b> Holiday Tour. Tanaka Farms. 10:30am-2pm. Info: 949-653-2100	<b>31</b> New Years Eve.				

**Want to get up-to-the-minute updates and information on special events in Irvine?**

Sign up for our "Things to do this Weekend" email alerts at: [irvinecommunitynewsandviews.org/subscribe](http://irvinecommunitynewsandviews.org/subscribe)

# Special Commentary: A time for bold ACTION!

Summer 2019 in America drew to an ugly, horrific end. Mass shootings in August generated scores of new gun-violence casualties and a growing list of newly terrorized communities: Gilroy, California; Dayton, Ohio; and the El Paso, Odessa and Midland communities in Texas.

With millions of semi-automatic military assault rifles in private hands, no city in America is safe from homegrown mass violence.

The specter of mass-casualty gun violence now looms over every venue where the public gathers — shopping malls, movie theaters,



photo credit: Mint Press News  
Connecticut has a successful ban and buyback program.

outdoor concerts, sports

stadiums, and in every church, synagogue, and mosque. As the new school year got under way here in Irvine — “America’s Safest City” — parents and grandparents wondered aloud about the threat of gun violence in Irvine schools...and what to do about it.

We asked three *Irvine Community News & Views* columnists — Dr. Phyllis Agran, Carolyn Inmon, and Larry Agran — to once again weigh-in on the gun violence issue. While their professional perspectives vary, they agree on the single most effective step that can be taken to reduce and even eliminate mass casualty gun violence in America’s schools: **Ban the sale and possession of military-style assault weapons in civil society. Period.** ICNV



Phyllis Agran, M.D.

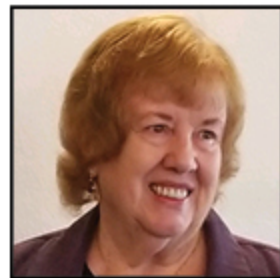
America’s leading physicians and public health professionals — and the national organizations that speak for them — have all made similar declarations: **We are faced with an epidemic of gun violence in America, which now includes mass shootings in schools and other public places on a scale never before seen.**

We are confronted by a public health emergency requiring immediate, effective action. Ending

this particular epidemic includes getting rid of the estimated 10 million AK-47s, AR-15s and other military assault weapons that have no legitimate role in civil society.

In an epidemic, it’s important to be clear-eyed about causation and remediation. Following the El Paso and Dayton shootings, President Trump said, “Mental illness and hatred pull the trigger, not the gun.” *Wrong!* In her final TV appearance, celebrated journalist Cokie Roberts responded to the President with a reference to the Dayton shooting: “It’s not mental illness that causes 9 people to die in 30 seconds. It’s a high-gauge [assault] weapon.”

*Phyllis Agran is a practicing Orange County pediatrician, a Professor at the UCI School of Medicine and Past President of the Orange County Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Agran is a recognized national expert in pediatric injury control and prevention.*



Carolyn Inmon

Columbine (CO). Sandy Hook (CT). Parkland (FL). Santa Fe (TX). These names and locations remind us of just a few of the horrific school shootings in America. All involved military-style assault weapons that produced mass casualties in minutes.

Yes, of course these weapons should be banished from American society. Would such a ban eliminate all gun violence in schools? No. But it would definitely reduce the incidence of mass shootings and mass

casualties. It would make our schools and other public places safer.

Today, making schools safer seems to focus on lockdown drills which occur in at least 96% of American schools. While there is little evidence showing they are effective, there is growing concern about drills traumatizing children.

Recently, I read a poignant Facebook post by Teri Sorey, a longtime Irvine teacher and president of the Irvine Teachers Association. Teri wrote: “A live-shooter training for teachers [at University High School] gave some of us nightmares for days. I grieve for the little children who are traumatized by the lockdown shooter drills we impose on them.”

*Carolyn Inmon is a retired Irvine teacher. She taught at virtually every grade level, from K-12, as well as at the community college level.*



Larry Agran

Americans watch in disgust as President Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell bend to the will of the National Rifle Association and do everything they can to avoid doing anything to reduce gun violence — even something as simple and obvious as requiring universal background checks for gun purchasers.

So, what can we do? It’s time for a voter revolt in the form of “single-issue voting.” As 2020 approaches, get ready to vote *for* those candidates who support gun violence prevention measures and *against* those who don’t. Specifically, for Irvine voters this means voting to re-elect Congresswoman Katie

Porter and State Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, who have good records on gun safety legislation. And it means voting against Assemblyman Steven Choi and State Senator John Moorlach, who both have terrible records on gun safety. They consistently oppose even the most modest measures.

But, beyond voting, we all need to do more. We must demand that our elected officials, including City Council and School Board members, support a national ban on all military-style assault weapons. We must demand not just a ban on the sale, purchase, and possession of new assault weapons, but a buyback program of existing weapons — at first voluntary, but then mandatory. Such a program may ultimately cost \$5 billion. In my opinion, that’s a bargain to reduce mass gun violence in America.

*Larry Agran, a public interest attorney, served on the Irvine City Council for almost three decades — including ten years as Mayor.*

# Bold Climate Action Plan for Irvine: Net-Negative in 10 Years!

by Dr. Kev Abazajian, Gianna Lum & Ben Leffel

Underlined blue texts are links that appear on the online version of this article: [IrvineCommunityNews.org/ABoldCAPforIrvine](http://IrvineCommunityNews.org/ABoldCAPforIrvine)

Irvine has been a leading City in environmental action since its founding. On December 30, 1971, at the second meeting of the Irvine City Council, the City Council adopted an Urgency Ordinance placing immediate restrictions on cutting down mature trees on private property. In the 1980s, UC Irvine and the City of Irvine led the way in safeguarding life on the planet by eliminating the use of CFCs and other ozone-depleting compounds that were destroying the Earth’s protective stratospheric ozone layer.

Now, in the 21st Century, we face a new existential threat. Global warming and the worsening climate crisis threaten one million species with extinction — estimated to be about 10 percent of the planet’s animal and plant species. Here in the U.S., property on the East Coast, West Coast, and Gulf Coast worth trillions of dollars will be inundated due to sea level rise.

## Action Taken, But Much More Is Needed

In some ways, the Irvine community has already begun to take action in the face of climate change. For 10 years, UC Irvine has been among *Sierra Magazine’s Top 10 “Cool Schools.”* UCI is #1 again this year, in recognition of its impressive environmental protection and climate-protection programs. Meanwhile, the Irvine Unified School District has installed solar panels on its various campus rooftops and parking lots to green its energy source, as well as save money.

These are important programs to combat climate change, but much more needs to be done, especially by the Irvine City Council and our entire municipal government. The plain fact is that we face a climate crisis that is a global emergency. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states we have until 2030 to reduce our global carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 45 percent in order to avoid catastrophic global climate change. We will see worsened droughts, diminished air quality, disease epidemics, and

skyrocketing food prices if we do not hit this 45 percent CO2 reduction.

This seems an insurmountably difficult challenge, but it does not have to be. **The good news is that the science and technology of**



Tesla solar panels are attractive roof tiles made of glass. The non-solar roof tiles are made to look identical.

**solar panels and batteries has — this year, for the first time — cut the cost of generating and storing solar power to the point that it is actually cheaper than power derived from fossil fuels.**

## An Irvine Climate Action Plan

The Irvine City Council voted in July to create a **Climate Action Plan**. City staff reported that a scope of work is currently being defined and a request for professional environmental proposals will be issued in November. Let’s be clear: **To be of real value, Irvine’s Climate Action Plan must be bold!**

Right here in Irvine, we have the resources and the motivation to get to net-zero carbon emissions and even possibly to net-negative within 10 years. The City of Irvine has led with this kind of boldness before. In 1989, then-Mayor **Larry Agran** and the Irvine City Council led the way to combat another existential threat — the destruction of the Earth’s stratospheric ozone layer by chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Our very own City Council adopted a comprehensive municipal ordinance to eliminate CFCs and other ozone-depleting compounds. A year later, cooperation between the City and UCI’s

Nobel Laureate **Sherwood Rowland** led to the creation of ICLEI, an international organization of cities now known as Local Governments for Sustainability. This organization has become the largest force for bottom-up environmental protection emanating from the world’s cities. **Irvine must again become the City to lead the world — this time to dramatically reduce, or even eliminate, our carbon dioxide emissions.**

## Irvine Energy Independence

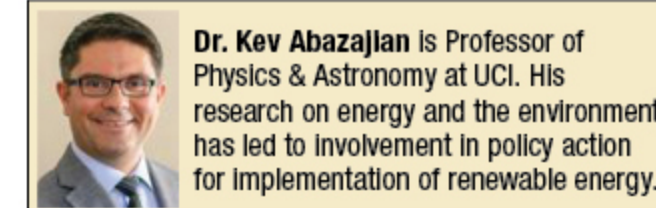
How is this possible? There are three big blocks of energy usage by residents in our City: electricity, natural gas for heating and cooking, and automobile transportation. Fortunately, we have — right within sunny Irvine itself —

enough solar energy to power all of our energy usage by residents. Plainly stated, the solarizing of Irvine residential rooftops will provide all of the solar energy needed to power all of our household electrical, heating, cooking and transportation needs.

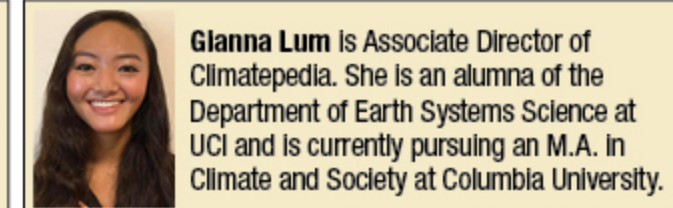
A truly bold initiative as part of Irvine’s Climate Action Plan must include a major municipal program to install rooftop solar panels on new housing, as State law now requires; and it must also include **retrofitting older housing with solar panels.**

Also, Irvine’s Climate Action Plan should include incentives for the adoption of electric automobiles. With appropriate municipal incentives, such as rebates from solar savings, this is doable. We can replace gasoline-powered vehicles with electrified automobiles purchased right here in Irvine — at Irvine Auto Center dealerships!

With the timely adoption of a truly bold Climate Action Plan, along with strong implementing policies, Irvine can quickly achieve energy independence and — once again working with UCI and other leading public and private institutions — become a world leader as a sustainable City. **We can make this happen!**



**Dr. Kev Abazajian** is Professor of Physics & Astronomy at UCI. His research on energy and the environment has led to involvement in policy action for implementation of renewable energy.



**Gianna Lum** is Associate Director of Climatepedia. She is an alumna of the Department of Earth Systems Science at UCI and is currently pursuing an M.A. in Climate and Society at Columbia University.



**Ben Leffel** is a Sociology Ph.D. candidate and a Kugelman Citizen Peacebuilding Research Fellow. He is also co-creator of the Center for Innovative Diplomacy at UCI.

# OPEN FORUM *FREE SPEECH FOREVER!*



Franklin J. Lunding  
Publisher

## ICNV Readers Condemn Mayor Shea!

For the past three years, we've reported extensively on the backroom deals between Mayor Christina Shea and billion-dollar developer FivePoint to cancel the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery on the 125-acre ARDA site at the Great Park.

After Shea's latest scheme with FivePoint was caught on video — with the Mayor telling a group of homeowners about her plans to put forward a completely different site as a "diversion tactic" and offer an unprecedented "99-year lease" of the City-owned ARDA site to a commercial developer — we asked our readers this question: "Do you approve or disapprove of Mayor Shea's handling of the Veterans Cemetery issue?"

The response has been stunning! Of the nearly 1,500 responses we've received, 88% say they disapprove! Even more stunning has been the number of comments received from readers voicing their strong disapproval of Shea's actions. Read just a small sampling of the hundreds of comments we've received, published here in our Open Forum section.

-FJL

Franklin J. Lunding is publisher of ICNV. In the 1980s, he was Chair of the Irvine Transportation Commission, and also served as an Irvine Planning Commissioner.

**For updates on the Veterans Cemetery and other breaking Irvine news, subscribe for free to:**

[IrvineCommunityNews.org](http://IrvineCommunityNews.org)

Get the latest Irvine news on our Facebook page, at:

[Facebook.com/IrvineCommunityNews](https://www.facebook.com/IrvineCommunityNews)



## Online Irvine Community Poll

**Question #1:**  
Do you approve or disapprove of Mayor Christina Shea's handling of the Veterans Cemetery issue?



### Reader comments from Mayor Shea Poll

■ What's happened to the democratic process? An unelected Mayor is actively working against the will of the constituents she supposedly serves!

— *Janice Plahy*

■ Unelected Mayor Christina Shea is an embarrassment to the Mayor's office and the City of Irvine. She should be recalled.

— *Shawn Mela, Proud Marine*

■ Shea's ignoring the will of the people is so egregious it might be time for a RECALL.

— *Robert Stein*

■ Mayor Shea: The citizens have spoken through our vote. Stop subverting the will of the Irvine voters. You are the Mayor, not the Queen.

— *James Stewart*

■ I am appalled that Mayor Shea appears to be in partnership with developer FivePoint rather than being a public servant of Irvine.

— *Stephanie Proffitt*

■ Shea needs to be recalled immediately! She was not elected to the office of Mayor and is currently running roughshod over the will of the people. This is not how democracy works.

— *Patrick Rowley*

■ It is highly irregular and inappropriate for the Mayor of Irvine to go against the wishes of the people of Irvine. It is even more disappointing to see her align herself with a developer whose greed is obviously

more important than what is best for the citizens of Irvine.

— *Richard Sarlitt*

■ Mayor Shea: When last I checked, this was still a democratic nation (and City). The citizens of Irvine have voted on this issue and rejected your proposed measure. Stop trying to block construction of the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery at the Great Park ARDA site!

— *David Nunciato*

■ Through her actions, Shea has given up her right to represent Irvine. All that remains is her recall.

— *Dennis Lowry*

■ I agree with the majority of Irvine residents who voted to keep the Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park as originally planned. Isn't a Mayor supposed to represent the community she serves?

— *Trish Whiston*

■ For a City official to deliberately thwart the will of the people is an unadulterated abuse of power. In addition to an initiative, the people should mount a recall campaign.

— *Jean Anne Turner*

■ In a popular vote, the Irvine community overwhelmingly voted in favor of building the Veterans Cemetery on the ARDA site at the Great Park. Mayor Shea is disgracefully out of step with her constituency. Time for a recall!

— *David M Proctor III*



## Another Online Irvine Community Poll

**Question #2:**  
Do you approve or disapprove of Mayor Shea's threat to ground the Great Park Balloon?



### Balloon Poll: Reader comments about Mayor Shea

■ The Great Park balloon belongs to the people of the City of Irvine, and we don't want to privatize it to suit Mayor Shea and the large corporations that want to advertise on it. Threatening to ground the balloon if we don't allow private corporations to advertise on it is a drastic step. A more moderate approach would be to raise business license fees on the largest businesses in Irvine, like we used to do. I am not surprised these kinds of draconian budget cuts are taking place. That's what happens when you don't have sufficient revenue from the largest corporations that are taking advantage of the people in Irvine.

— *Laurel Davila*

■ Christina Shea is like the Grinch trying to ground the balloon ride. In a City with a \$200 million budget, this is a minor expenditure that the residents want. Once again, Shea shows she lacks basic problem-solving and leadership skills required for the job.

— *Michelle Johnson*



■ The Mayor keeps making unfavorable decisions that affect our great Irvine community. First, the Veterans Cemetery... now the Balloon. What's next?

— *Marshall Goldman*

■ We love the Balloon! We look forward to seeing it turned into a jack-o'-lantern every Halloween time.

— *Jennifer*

■ Shea knew that when she imposed the Balloon rider fees that it would cause ridership to decline. And she knew that once that happened she could leverage it into calling for its end. There is ALWAYS an agenda with people like this, and it never includes the best interests of the people.

— *Dan*

■ When someone has an agenda, especially one that goes against the will of the majority, they will do anything to accomplish it — anything — never minding if it's wrong. Christina Shea is that someone.

— *Judy Rodriguez*

■ The Balloon is a waste of money. I don't even support finding a sponsor. If that happens, it loses any charm that it does have. Ground the Balloon.

— *Judith Gass*

■ It is unfathomable that our elected officials would go against what clearly the majority of Irvine residents want — the Veteran's Cemetery built at the site we voted on more than once. City officials are ethically bound to serve the interests of their constituents, not developers or other corporations. Mayor Shea's handling of this issue is deplorable.

— *Robert Woods*

■ Last year, the people voted in favor of keeping the Veterans Cemetery project at the Great Park, property that originally belonged to the military. Why is it so difficult for the Mayor to respect the people's will which was clearly expressed in a democratic and legal manner?

— *Adriana de la Cruz Molina*

■ Ms. Shea's tactics are unbelievable! We have lived in Irvine for 33 years and the Great Park Veterans Cemetery has been in the planning for many of those years and, yes, at the original site before all the development was even imagined. Last year, Irvine voters rejected Measure B. Voters wanted to ensure that the original site would be kept. Now, after the fact, it looks like she's being paid off by the developers.

— *Paul and Patricia Downie*

■ The ARDA plan for the Vets' Cemetery is respectful, patriotic and will make a beautiful addition to the Great Park. The area should NOT be used for commercial development.

— *Vivien Atlas*

## What do YOU think?

Our online IRVINE COMMUNITY POLLS are still open.

1. Do you approve or disapprove of Mayor Christina Shea's handling of the Veterans Cemetery issue?

Go to: [IrvineCommunityNews.org/Shea-Poll](http://IrvineCommunityNews.org/Shea-Poll)

2. Do you approve or disapprove of Mayor Shea's threat to ground the Great Park Balloon?

Go to: [IrvineCommunityNews.org/Balloon](http://IrvineCommunityNews.org/Balloon)



Help us take the pulse of the Irvine community!

**ATTENTION IRVINE VOTERS:  
TAKE ACTION NOW!**

**Sign the  
Initiative Petition  
Veterans Memorial  
Park & Cemetery  
On the Great Park  
"ARDA" Site**

**BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org**



**If you want to help us win the fight to  
Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery, go to:**

**BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org**