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Serving the Villages and Neighborhoods of Irvine

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Publisher's Perspective

Irvine's Population Bomb

Dear Readers:

Years ago, I served as Chairman of the Irvine Transportation Commission, and then as a City Planning Commissioner. In those days, we took transportation and land-use planning very seriously. We planned for a City that would grow to about 250,000 people, with the infrastructure — especially roads — to support a “built-out” City. Here’s the problem: For the past 5 or 6 years, we’ve seen pro-developer Mayors and City Councilmembers rubber-stamping poorly planned development that’s pushing Irvine’s population to 300,000, and beyond.

Our infrastructure just can’t handle it. Too many people. Too many cars. Overcrowded schools. Take a look at our front-page article, “Coming Soon: 60,000 - 100,000 More Residents!” Then, take our online poll and let the Mayor and Council know that you expect them to exercise their legal authority to slow the rate of residential development and take the time to restore good planning and fix the mess they’ve created.

Take our Poll at:
IrvineCommunityNews.org/Take-Our-Poll

About half of *ICNV*'s readers are like me — they prefer to read *Irvine Community News & Views* as a “hold-it-in-your-hands” community newspaper. Others, of course, read *ICNV* online. But why not do both? One of the nice things about reading *ICNV* online is that we can send you updates, special features, and late-breaking Irvine news — straight to your INBOX.

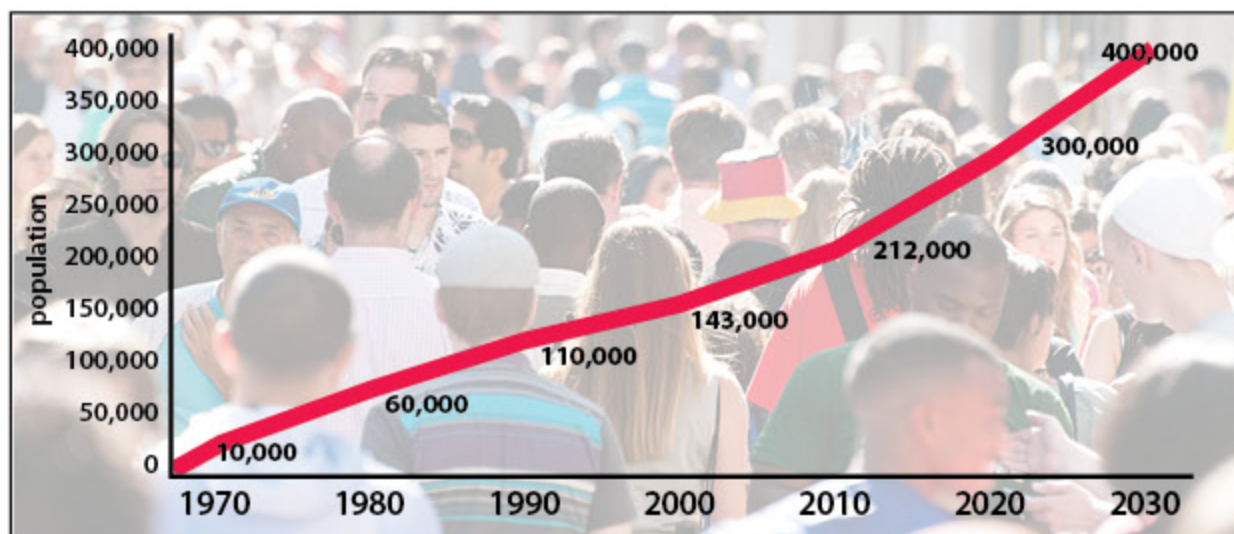
Whether online or in its traditional format, we hope you'll continue to enjoy *Irvine Community News & Views*. Thanks to all for your continuing support and readership!

Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor



Coming Soon: 60,000 - 100,000 More Residents!



The City of Irvine, originally planned for 250,000 residents at “build-out,” will be home to nearly 350,000 people in just eight years — and possibly 400,000 people soon after that. What happened to Irvine’s commitment to careful master-planning and growth-control?

When Irvine residents voted to become a city in 1971, the new City’s population was just 10,000. From the start, there was a lively debate about what the “right size” of this new, master-planned community should be at “build-out” — in 50 or 60 years. Would Irvine be planned to grow into a medium-sized Southern California city of 165,000, mostly organized around UCI? Or would it be planned to become a densely populated, far-flung city? Would it become Orange County’s biggest city with a population of 400,000 or more, about the size of Oakland or Long Beach?

By the mid-1970s the Mayor and City Council settled on a consensus plan — a “Goldilocks” plan to build a City that would be “not too big, not too small, but just right,” topping out at about 250,000 people. The plan projected build-out by the

year 2030, with adequate roads, bridges, and transportation systems to support the population with a high level of service.

The City Council generally stuck to the plan year after year, maintaining a controlled population trajectory. The City’s population was about 143,000 in the year 2000, growing to 212,000 in the year 2010 — with the expectation of growing at a modest pace in the final build-out years.

But in this decade, a succession of new, pro-developer Mayors, City Councilmembers and Planning Commissioners jettisoned the City’s historic commitment to good planning and a controlled pace of growth. As a result, since 2010, the City’s population has already zoomed to nearly 270,000 residents — well beyond the original General Plan target of 250,000 residents at build-out.

According to Mary Ann Gaido,

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former City Councilmember and former, longtime Irvine Planning Commissioner, “We’re now on a developer-driven trajectory of explosive growth that is overwhelming our infrastructure. We planned and built our infrastructure to accommodate 250,000 residents, not 300,000 or 350,000, and certainly not 400,000. Just look at the traffic mess — this is the opposite of good planning.”

“Worse yet,” notes Gaido, “While I was voting NO, the Planning Commission and City Council were jamming more than 20,000 additional housing units in the development pipeline. That means an added 60,000 people (and 40,000 more cars on Irvine streets) in just 7 or 8 years.”

That will take Irvine’s population to nearly 330,000 people. Moreover, FivePoint Communities and other developers are pushing for yet more residential entitlement — at the Great Park and in the Irvine Business Complex — that could cause the City’s population to soar to 400,000 by 2030.

Irvine realtors, speaking on condition of anonymity, have said that the City’s once-vaunted record of master-planning used to make it a lot easier to sell houses. Now, they say, Irvine is more like other

cities. In fact, Irvine is seen as a City beset with real problems — overdevelopment, overpopulation, and overcrowding. One realtor said: “Things have changed a lot in the last few years. I’m getting listings from more and more folks who say they want to move out of Irvine — they’re sick and tired of the traffic, the crowded shopping centers, and the overcrowded schools.”

Mary Ann Gaido says she hears the same thing from one end of Irvine to the other. “The shame of it is that the City Council has the legal tools to control the rate of growth and development — even at this late stage. But, it’s plain to see that this Mayor and City Council won’t do it. They clearly lack the courage to say NO to the big developers.”

Gaido ran for Mayor last November on a growth-control platform. She finished a close second to Donald Wagner who was bankrolled by \$1.5 million in campaign expenditures on his behalf, most of it coming from FivePoint Communities and other Irvine and Orange County developers. Gaido’s grassroots campaign was outspent 15 to 1. [ICNV](#)

“We’re now on a developer-driven trajectory of explosive growth that is overwhelming our infrastructure. We planned and built our infrastructure to accommodate 250,000 residents, not 300,000 or 350,000, and certainly not 400,000. Just look at the traffic mess — this is the opposite of good planning.”
—Mary Ann Gaido

GrowthWatch & TrafficWatch

It’s as simple as **1-2-3-4**.

When Irvine residents say that they feel that traffic in Irvine is getting worse every day, they are right — it is! It’s as simple — and as scary — as **1-2-3-4**.

On average, with every **1** housing unit that is built and occupied in Irvine, there are **2** cars, **3** people, and **4** daily rush-hour automobile trips.



The “pipeline” for Irvine residential development currently includes more than 20,000 additional housing units. As these units are built and occupied over the next 4 to 5 years, they will generate the following impacts:



Take the Irvine Community Poll!

What Do YOU Think?
Under state and local law, California cities have the legal authority to slow the rate of residential growth and development in order to uphold their General Plans and promote public health and safety.

Should Irvine’s Mayor and City Council exercise that power and authority right now?

Take the Irvine Community Poll at: IrvineCommunityNews.org/Take-Our-Poll



CityWatch by Larry Agran*

As a number of CityWatch readers already know, one of my top priorities for 2017 is to keep a “watch” — and shine a spotlight — on the continuing scandal of toxic contamination at Portola High School. Another priority is to keep an eye on what President Trump and Congress are doing that directly impacts Irvine.

Portola High School Toxics

Here are the facts about toxic contamination at Portola High School: For years, many of us have warned Irvine School Board members that the site they chose for Portola High School was risky, even dangerous. Why? Because the high school site that the School Board selected is located at the end of major runways at the former El Toro Airbase where — for many decades dating back to the 1940s — tons of fuels and solvents used in military aircraft operations were dumped into the soil.

Last year, belated soil-gas testing ordered by the State confirmed that the 40-acre Portola High School site suffers from site-wide toxic contamination. Of the 17 test wells that were drilled last year, *all 17 tested positive for petrochemical contamination — benzene, toluene, and other neurotoxic and cancer-causing chemicals.*

Instead of taking immediate next steps to protect future teachers, staff and students, the State and IUSD downplayed the results as “low-level” contamination. They allowed Portola High School to open for the 2016 - 2017 school year with 400 ninth-grade students.

They did this despite the fact that a “clean” school site should have NO detectable petrochemical contamination before occupancy — NONE. As far as we know, every other Irvine school meets this zero-tolerance standard.

Before opening Portola High School last August, the School Board should have done two things immediately: 1) They

should have ordered additional soil-gas testing, *including under all buildings*, to determine the full extent of on-site toxic contamination; and, 2) they should have ordered the installation of air monitoring systems to continuously check air quality in all classrooms and administrative offices to detect any toxic vapor intrusion into the school buildings.

The cost of this air monitoring system? Perhaps \$100,000 — a pittance compared to the \$300 million cost of Portola High School, and the open-ended legal and moral cost of needlessly exposing thousands of students, teachers and staff to toxic chemicals.

If continuous air monitoring reveals there are serious health and safety problems at Portola High School, we can face those problems head-on. If there are no problems regarding indoor air quality, that will be reassuring for all of us. Let’s get on top of this before this August, when Portola High School will have nearly 1,000 Irvine students enrolled — both ninth-grade and tenth-grade students.

On a personal note, I’ve taken some heat for being so outspoken on the Portola High School toxics matter. People have said to me, “Larry, you always seem to be looking for problems.” Well, I admit it. I do “look for problems” — and many others in Irvine do, too, especially when it comes to the health and safety of our community. The way I figure it, it’s better to look for problems than have problems come looking for you.

Sad to say, Irvine School Board members have yet to learn that lesson.

Please read the TestForToxics.org article by Dr. Harvey Liss (Page 9), and add your name

to the Irvine Safe Schools petition at: IrvineCommunityNews.org/safe-schools-2.

TrumpWatch

Friday, March 24th was an historic day in Washington, DC, and it turned out to be a very good day in Irvine. That was the day that the Trump-Ryan bill to “repeal and replace” Obamacare went down to defeat in the Congress.

If the Trump-Ryan legislation had passed in the House of Representatives and gone on to become law, more than 10,000 people in Irvine — mostly children — would have almost immediately lost health insurance coverage they gained under President Obama’s Affordable Care Act.

That would have been a terrible tragedy. The truth is, Obamacare is working in California. In fact, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 97 percent of all kids in California now have health insurance coverage — and, because of a strong local effort, that number is probably closer to 100 percent in Irvine.

With the immediate threat of Trumpcare now gone, let’s remember there is still a lot of work to do to continue to improve health care everywhere in America, including here in Irvine.

A final note: Irvine residents need to know that Congresswoman Mimi Walters, our elected representative, was a declared YES vote for Trumpcare — the Trump-Ryan bill — despite being contacted by thousands of her constituents who pleaded with her to vote NO. You may wish to call Mimi Walters’ Irvine office to let her know what you think. Her phone number is: 949-263-8703.

*Larry Agran is a former Irvine City Councilmember and a public interest attorney. He served as Mayor of Irvine for six years in the 1980s and again, from 2000-2004.



peanuts. . .



coconuts. . .



just plain nuts



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Irvine Community News & Views provides a forum for Irvine residents and others to post events and voice their opinions. Irvine Community News & Views does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed in this publication.

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<p>AMTRAK TRAIN STATION Barranca Pkwy & Ada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amtrak Train Station/Entrance 	<p>IRVINE AUTO CENTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norm Reeves Honda 	<p>SAND CANYON PLAZA Sand Canyon & Irvine Center Dr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irvine Bicycles • Starbucks Oak Creek Pet Hospital Sand Canyon Barber
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<p>CROSSROADS Culver & Barranca</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paradise Bowls • Floyd's Barbershop The Joint Chiropractic 	<p>NORTHPARK PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER Culver & Irvine Blvd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champagne French Bakery Cafe 	<p>UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTER Campus Dr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Gogi - Korean Grill • Eureka! Ray's Pizza - New York Style Yushoken - Izakaya & Ramen
<p>CULVER PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER Culver & Irvine Center Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ Postal Annex • The Car Spa 	<p>OAK CREEK SHOPPING CENTER Jeffrey & Alton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daphne's Greek Cafe Gelson's • Jack's Surfboards Upper Crust Pizza Maizuru Sushi Bar - Japanese Restaurant Mustard Cafe Orange Theory Fitness 	<p>THE VILLAGE AT IRVINE SPECTRUM CENTER Prism & Spectrum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starbucks • Village Market
<p>CYPRESS VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER Jeffrey & Trabuco</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albertsons • Al Amir • Honey Pig Da Luau Hawaiian Grill 	<p>OLD MYFORD ROAD & IRVINE BLVD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katie Wheeler Library 	<p>WALNUT VILLAGE CENTER Culver & Walnut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curves/Jenny Craig Starbucks Coffee Yes Cleaners
<p>DIAMOND JAMBOREE Alton & Jamboree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Level - Food Court Seating Square Room Escape • Tokyo Table 	<p>OLD TOWN IRVINE Sand Canyon & 5 Fwy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowlwood • Denny's 	<p>WESTPARK PLAZA Alton & Culver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albertsons • Dickey's Barbeque Pit Starbucks Coffee Sprouts Farmers Market
<p>HARVARD & MICHELSON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irvine Lanes 	<p>ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE CENTER Culver & Portola</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Cleaners Peet's Coffee & Tea 	<p>WOODBURGE MEDICAL CENTER Barranca & Woodbridge Square</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodbridge Walk-In Urgent Care
<p>HARVARD PLACE Harvard & Main</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Einstein Brothers Bagels • Fresh Brothers Jamba Juice • Poqet Donuts Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D. Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition Honeymee Ice Cream Ralphs Rubio's • Togo's, Great Sandwiches 	<p>2 OSBORN ST. East Yale Loop & Barranca</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. John Pasko, DDS Dr. Ghatnekar, DDS 	<p>WOODBURGE VILLAGE CENTER Barranca & Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champagne French Bakery Café Irvine Car Wash
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Community Calendar

April/May 2017



SURFING with Tom Carey

The Orange County Great Park announces the opening of "Surfing with Tom Carey," a photography exhibit running now through April 23, featuring imagery of some of the world's finest surfers at the most iconic beaches. The public is invited to a free exhibit reception from 1-3 p.m.

Groundbreaking surf photographer, Tom Carey, uses classic and experimental techniques, and his travels have taken him to more than twelve different countries including Fiji, Peru, Ecuador, South Africa, Morocco, Canada, France, Portugal and Ireland. Carey has photographed for prominent brands such as Etnies, O'Neill, Quiksilver and Vans, and has been featured on the cover of more than forty magazines worldwide. He currently works at Surfer Magazine as a senior photographer and is a staff photographer for Volcom.

Location: Great Park Gallery
 Price: Free. All ages.
 Info: 866-829-3829

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Clinic In The Park. OC Great Park Farmers Market. 10am-2pm. Weather Permitting. Info: ClinicInThePark.org 	3 Toddler Storytime. Irvine University Park. 11am. Free. For ages 3 & under. Info: 949-786-4001 	4 Short Story Book Group. Horned Men by Karl Taro Greenfeld Irvine Heritage Park. 2:30-4:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	5 Origami Club. Irvine Heritage Park. 4-6pm. All ages. Info: 949-936-4040 	6 Slow-Paced Fitness Hike. Hicks Haul Road. 6-8pm. Registration Required Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	7 Surfing with Tom Carey Exhibition. Great Park Gallery. 12-4pm. Free. All Ages. Info: 949-724-6247 	8 Collect Wildflower Seeds. Native Seed Farm. 8:30-12pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 
9 The Assembly Dance Company: Lecture and Demonstration. Great Park Gallery. 1pm-3pm. Free. All ages. Info: 949-724-6247 	10 Homework Help. Irvine Heritage Park. 4:30-5:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	11 Native Plant Nursery.  Quail Hill. 10am-11:30am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	12 Japanese Storytime. Irvine University Park. 11-12pm. Free. Ages 5 and under. Info: 949-786-4001 	13 Chess Club. Irvine University Park. 4-5pm. Free. Info: 949-786-4001 	14 Easter Eggstravaganza.  Irvine Park Railroad. 10-6pm. Free Admission. Info: 714-997-3968	15 Americans United Meeting. James Allen speaks on "In God We Trust" and the National Anthem. 1:45pm. IRWD Community Room. Info: www.au-oc.org or 714-299-4551 
16 Mountain Bike Ride.  Fremont Canyon Nature Preserve. 8-11am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	17 Beginning Social Bridge. Rancho Senior Center. 2-4:30pm. Info: 949-724-6800 	18 Bingo.  Lakeview Senior Center. 12:15-3:15pm. \$8 for ten games. Info: 949-724-6900	19 Reading to Rover. Heritage Park Library. 3-4pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	20 Planning Commission Meeting.  Irvine City Hall. 5:30pm. Info: 949-724-6233	21 Great Glow & Flow Yoga: Earth Day. Great Park Artist Studios. 8-9:15pm. \$25. Ages 16 and over. Info: 866-829-3829 	22 Creative Writing Workshop.  Irvine Katie Wheeler. 3pm-4pm. Info: 714-669-8753
23 Farmers Market. OC Great Park. 10-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829 	24 Sing-A-Long. Lakeview Senior Center. 10:30-11:30am. Free. Info: 949-724-6900 	25 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Cox Cable Channel 30. Info: 949-742-6205 	26 Teen Advisory Board. Teen Advisory Board. Irvine Heritage Park Community Room. 4-6pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	27 Birds of Fremont Canyon. Fremont Canyon Nature Preserve. 8-11am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	28 Lego Block Party. Irvine University Park. 3:30-4:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001 	29 Celebrate Cultures in Nature. Feng Shui in Nature. Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. 9-12pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 
30 Creation Studios. Great Park Artist Studios. Free. All ages. Info: 866-829-3829 	1 MAY Homework Help. Irvine Heritage Park. 4:30-5:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	2 Improv Comedy Club. Irvine Spectrum Center. 8pm. Tickets \$10. Info: 949-854-5455 	3 Bunco. Rancho Senior Center. 12-3pm. \$5. Info: 949-724-6800 	Popcorn Film Club  Popcorn is a film club that explores a broad survey of cinematic classics from the 1950s and 60s. Enjoy these films the way they were meant to be enjoyed: in a hip setting, with a group of likeminded individuals, and free from distraction in the Great Park Gallery. Popcorn will be provided. Great Park Gallery. Every Thursday at 6:30-8:30pm. Free. All Ages. Info: 949-724-6247		

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

"Bunyonce" is a spayed female, white Shorthaired Rabbit. She is about 1 year old.

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



Easter

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

MARCH 25 - APRIL 15, 2017

Hop on over with family and friends to enjoy this fun and exciting Springtime event. Children can meet and have their photo taken with the Easter Bunny as well as participate in several activities that are located throughout the area.

Irvine Park Railroad
 Info: IrvineParkRailroad.com

Open 7 days a week (weather permitting)
 Weekdays 10am - 4pm
 Weekends 10am - 6pm

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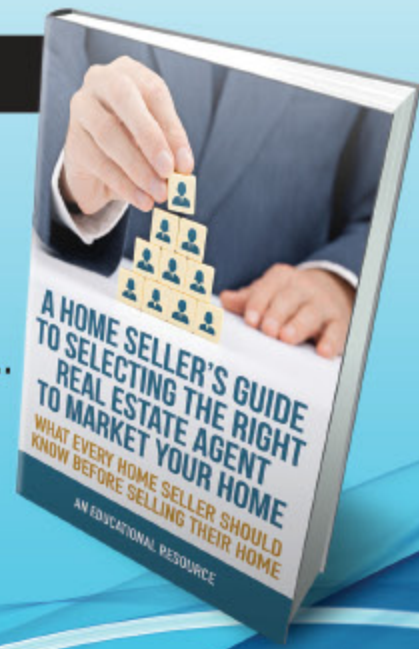
- The 12 most important questions to ask when selecting an agent...
- The secret as to *WHY* homes sell (NOTE: Most agents don't want you to know this.)
- When is the right time to downsize...
- Staging strategies that attract buyers, sell homes quicker and generate top dollar for the owners...
- 4 steps to getting your home sold...

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TestForToxics.org

by Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D., P.E., Executive Director

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY!

Please sign the new Safe Schools Petition, now!
irvinecommunitynews.org/safe-schools-2

For those who haven't been paying attention: Irvine's Portola High School (PHS) — that opened in August, 2016 for its first class of 400 9th graders — is on a 40-acre site located on the former Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, that suffers from toxic contamination.

The Irvine School Board, most likely under pressure from FivePoint Communities (the developer that acquired the airbase property), has, for years, furiously resisted testing the entire interior of the school site for toxic petrochemicals (including volatile organic compounds [VOCs] such as benzene and toluene). This unfathomable resistance has persisted in spite of accidentally finding these cancer-causing and

neurotoxic compounds in massive caches near and also *on* the school site during construction excavations.

Finally, the State mandated soil-gas testing of the interior of the Portola High School site. Tests, completed in April, 2016, turned up these toxic VOCs at so-called "low levels" in all 17 of 17 sampling locations. The State approved these levels as "safe" even though it is unknown if there are higher levels on the site. **Regardless of State approval, it is widely accepted that there are no safe levels for these compounds.** Especially on a school site, where children (and pregnant women) are most susceptible to their life-altering effects, there should be zero

tolerance for these VOCs.

The State of California requires carbon monoxide detectors to be installed in every dwelling unit to protect the occupants. Similarly, the only 100 percent sure way to protect the students, teachers and staff inside the school buildings against a dangerous condition that can develop at any time is to install continuous air monitoring equipment.

All of the testing for these VOCs conducted in the interior of the Portola High School site has resulted from public pressure.

Consequently, we have initiated a new Petition Drive, called Safe Schools 2, to ask both the Irvine City Council and the Irvine School Board to conduct comprehensive, independent testing of the school site, and more importantly, to install continuous air monitoring equipment *inside* the school buildings. There is no rational reason to not install this equipment that would protect the occupants. The costs are miniscule compared to what has already been spent building the school.

If you haven't already done so, please sign the Safe Schools Petition at: irvinecommunitynews.org/safe-schools-2

Safe-Schools-2 Petition

We, the undersigned, call upon the Irvine School Board and the Irvine City Council to conduct comprehensive, independent and conscientious testing of the Portola High School site — both site-wide soil-gas testing and continuous air monitoring inside the buildings — for toxic Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs, such as benzene, benzene derivatives, and toluene) that have already been found in previous, limited tests on the 40-acre site.

This renewed and expanded testing, along with aggressive remediation efforts, can help ensure that the Portola High School site is — and always will be — a safe site for teachers, staff, students, and the entire Irvine community.

[PARTIAL LIST OF SIGNATORIES] A Lee • Aadra Lee • Ahmed Zahran • Albert Lee • Alex Wang • Alfred Newman • Alfredo Perez • Alisa Kim • Alysha Gosse • An Tran • Andy Ho • Angel Lee • Angie Chang • Anh Tran • Ann Chen • Annette Bork • Annette Buckel • Annie Liu • Aris Papayouan • Arthur Strauss, MD • Avram Grossman • Barbara Siersma • Beatrice Lieberman • Bernadette Florencio • Bindu Variam • Bo Zhang • Bo Zhao • Brian Toorani • C Lin • Camille Dexter • Carol Lechich-LeMar • Catherine Hwang • Charles Kang • Chen He • Chris Campbell • Christina Johnston • Cindy Davis • Cindy Zwarka • Cynthia Bankston • D Evans • Danny Scruggs • Darren Ito • David Eich • Debbie Herring • Debra Richardson • Delia G. Terry • Diana Casillas • Donald Schrader • Donna Zazueta • Ed Lamphier • Edith Castaneda Pelletan • Eli Weinkle • Enrique Vilorio • Erik Apinyan • Erika Yoshizawa • Ernestina Benson • Fairy Jolini • Fay Zheng • Fritzee Labrador • Gail Lewis • Galina Bukh • Gaurang Yodh • Gerald Lee • Glenda Menges • Grace Lee • Griffin Tamura • Hadeel Ragab • Harvey Liss • Heather Hilario • Helena Blum • Henry Chiang • Henry Kass • Ina Tzvetanova • Ingrid Farrington • Ira Lewis • Isaias Lopez • Jack Tatham • Jacques Garnier • Jacquie Madenburg • James Lin • Jamie Wilkinson • Jane An • Janice Camilo • Jason Liu • Jean Anne Turner • Jean Miller • Jeffrey Ho • Jennifer Assouad • Jennifer Ho • Jessica Sanchez • Jessica Un • Jill Berger • Jing Chen • Joe Sambito • Jon Brownell • Jonathan Li • Jorge Meza • Julia Chan • Julie Hosokawa • Karen Zfaty • Kari Black • Karrie Scruggs • Kathy Chang • Katya Chan • Kelli Hsu • Kelly Harrigan • Kelvin Xu • Ken McEwan • Kenny Geh • Kevin Lien • Kozue Larson • Krista Barajas • Kristine Su • Kyung Park • Larry Agran • Laura Smith-Black • Laura Thieme • Laurie Crowe • Lawrence O Seidman • Linda Rife • Liqiong Song • Liza Tilson • Lori Johnson • Lori Werstein • Lorne Cheeseman • Luana Foucart • Lydia Liu • Lynn Boutin • Manal Galal • Marcia Spater • Marjorie McIntyre • Mark McIntyre • Martha C. Clay • Martha Monteleone • Melissa Roeder • Mertis Shearry • Michele Garcia-Jurado • Michelle Bice • Michelle Ng • Minhchau Pham • Miriam Khurgel • Mojgan Moghadam • Monica Lee • Monica Trivedi • Naomi Iseri • Nasir Khoso • P. Pawley • Paige Wiseman • Pat Kennedy • Patrick Miko • Payam Larjani • Phyllis Gilmore • Prathima Venkatesan • Rakesh Bhatia • Richard Ramirez • Robin Greenberg • Robin Weirich • Rosemary St. John • Ross Rosenberg • Russell Corrie • Ruth Kim • Sam Chung • Sam Pawley • Samantha Meza • Sandhya Nair • Sasha Wu • Scarlett Teats • Selene Huang • Shadi Kia • Shanene Vaca • Shelley Harriger • Sherry Mao • Sophia Niu • Steven Harlow • Steven Newman • Sudha Ati • Sumera Iqbal • Susan Bernatowicz • Susan Morrissey • Susan O'Brien • Susan Sayre • Susie Rausavljevich • T. K. McCranie • Thank Nguyen • Thao Pham • Tiffany Nguyen • Tom L. Casey • Toni Dwyer • Tracie Jimenez • Veronica Tamura • Waki Taki • Yali Li • Yoon Kim • Yun-I Liu



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Franklin J. Lunding
Publisher

More Irvine Voices and Citywide Activism

While our Mayor and City Council are pretty much snoozing through this season of political activism, the rest of Irvine seems to be abuzz with opinions and activity — largely directed at President Trump and his proposed policies, but also directed at our congressional representative,

U.S. Congresswoman Mimi Walters (R-Irvine), who has an office right here in Irvine that, unfortunately, she closes whenever a big group of unhappy constituents show up to talk to her.

These pages — our Open Forum & Community Voices section — reflect the commitment of this community newspaper to provide a real opportunity for Irvine citizens to be heard. We kept our February **Irvine Community Poll** open through the end of March. Printed below are the February/March results of the Poll. Of the more than 300 respondents to the Poll, many offered comments and opinions — we're pleased to publish a representative sample of what your neighbors have to say.

We are also publishing more comments and notes we've received about other matters — including our hard-to-reach Congresswoman Mimi Walters, and the ongoing scandal of toxic contamination at Portola High School.

So, let's get started! Here is the **Irvine Community Poll** question we posed, and the results of the Poll. — FJL

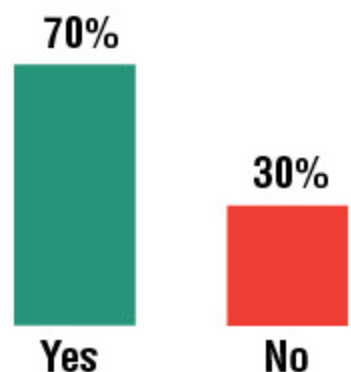
What Do YOU Think?

In the past, the Mayor and City Councilmembers in Irvine have spoken out when federal policies threaten harm to Irvine residents and workers. Should the Mayor and City Council speak out on issues of health care, women's health, and federal immigration and deportation policies that threaten rights or benefits of Irvine citizens?

IRVINE COMMUNITY POLL (Feb./Mar.)

Taking the Pulse of the Irvine Community

Should the Mayor and City Council speak out on issues of health care, women's health, and federal immigration and deportation policies that threaten rights or benefits of Irvine citizens?



Comments, Notes and Letters

■ We love our diverse community. Our Mayor and Council must speak for those in our community who are being hatefully targeted by the new President. People of color, people of diverse faith, people of diverse sexual identity, etc. are being targeted by the bullies in Washington. We must stand together to protect our neighbors.

—Joe Rookard

■ Our City leaders should speak out against the new Affordable Care Act replacement bill, and the new education bill that's out, and the EPA's diminished capacity, and against Trump policies that will ruin our country, state, and city.

—Martha C. Clay

■ No!! Our Irvine City Council just voted to put in more housing, which means more traffic. Why would we trust them with issues as important as women's health care, and immigration and deportation. No, no, no!! They clearly do not care about the people who already live here and have to deal with the crap they so carelessly vote on.

—Kelli P

■ Trump is a corrupt, crooked, incompetent moron who cheated his employees, and now he's cheating all Americans with his lies and propaganda. America's freedom and liberties, and our institutions known for their transparency are being eroded to the core. Trump is making America into a Third World dictatorship. Trump is a fraud. His presidency is not legitimate, since the 2016 election was hacked, controlled and manipulated by the Russians. Trump is Putin's little pet dog. America is now in danger — more so than ever before.

—Gary Nguyen

■ As an immigrant myself, I agree that America is a great country of immigrants. However, uncontrolled immigration is unsustainable. We need borders, laws and quotas; otherwise we end up like a "salad bowl" and not a melting pot. We can't be the world's babysitter.

—Pepper Jackson

■ Irvine residents want to preserve the creative and peaceful diversity that is a hallmark of our community. Yes, the Mayor, City Council, State and Federal representatives, and everyone else, should speak out.

—Phyllis Gilmore

■ The problem is that our Mayor and City Council (with few exceptions) don't know what is a threat to the rights of Irvine citizens. Bought by developers and big business concerns, they only seem to care what is in their own best interest, not ours.

—Avram Grossman

■ Yes, by all means please speak out — on behalf of the City of Irvine and the United States.

—Catherine Smith

■ It is the responsibility of every elected official to speak out on behalf of the community without prejudice and without letting personal political views interfere with the general good. They represent all of us, not just the privileged. They are the voices of the people.

—Kanch Doré

■ The Mayor and Councilmembers should consider local residents' concerns rather than developers' bottom lines.

—Annette Bork

More Comments on the Need To Test for Toxics at Portola High School

■ The School Board should do the right thing.

—Joe Sambito

■ I think the School Board should do more than meet minimum guidelines to ensure the school is safe for students. Irvine is known for schools that exceed State standards. A planned City should go the extra mile for its residents and students.

—Katya Chan

■ The safety of our kids, teachers and staff should be our Number One priority!

—Erik Apinyan

■ The Governor is doing much more to harm this State than President Trump by NOT putting the needs of California citizens ahead of immigrants (legal and illegal). This is our true problem — we need new leadership in Sacramento.

—Char Smith

■ For the life of me, I simply cannot understand why the City Council and the School Board do not demand extensive independent testing of the Portola High School site, as well as continuous air monitoring inside the buildings. The school was built on top of a U.S. Marine Corps Airbase toxic waste dumping site. The City of Irvine has the absolute responsibility for ensuring the safety and well-being of the students, faculty, and staff of Portola High School, as well as the nearby Irvine residential communities. I don't understand the irresponsible attitude of our Irvine elected officials. I guess that as soon as we get the chance, we will simply have to vote out of office the School Board members and City Councilmembers who oppose testing.

—Susan Sayre

■ This will be an expensive lawsuit if any kids get sick in the near future. I don't understand why the testing wasn't done correctly the first time.

—Thank Nguyen

■ Comprehensive testing must be done as soon as possible. I am a former authorized instructor with OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration).

—Henry Kass

■ I support the efforts to achieve a safe environment for our Portola High School students, teachers and staff.

—Donald Schrader

■ We must put safeguards in place in order to protect the health of students and faculty.

—Shadi Kia

■ I pass this information and advice on to IUSD: Do a proper air quality study of sealed classrooms to protect our teachers and, most important, our students! Monitor the methods and accuracy of the studies, which must be conducted by an independent, licensed air quality company.

—Martha Monteleone

Where's Mimi?

In recent weeks, Irvine's U.S. Representative Mimi Walters has been unavailable to constituents who gather at her office, only to find the office closed to group visitors.

I am so disappointed that Mimi Walters will not see her constituents. I really expected better from her. If the crowds are disruptive to her business day, she needs to hold a meeting and post notices so her constituents can be heard. She is our voice. She cannot carry our word to Washington without hearing it! Get on the ball, Mimi!

—Janice McIntyre



Letters to the editor are welcome. Please include your name and ZIP code. Letters for publication must be addressed to Editor, 4199 Campus Drive, Suite 550, Irvine, CA 92612 or email Editor@IrvineCommunityNews.org. Letters may be edited for publication. Unpublished letters will not be acknowledged or returned.



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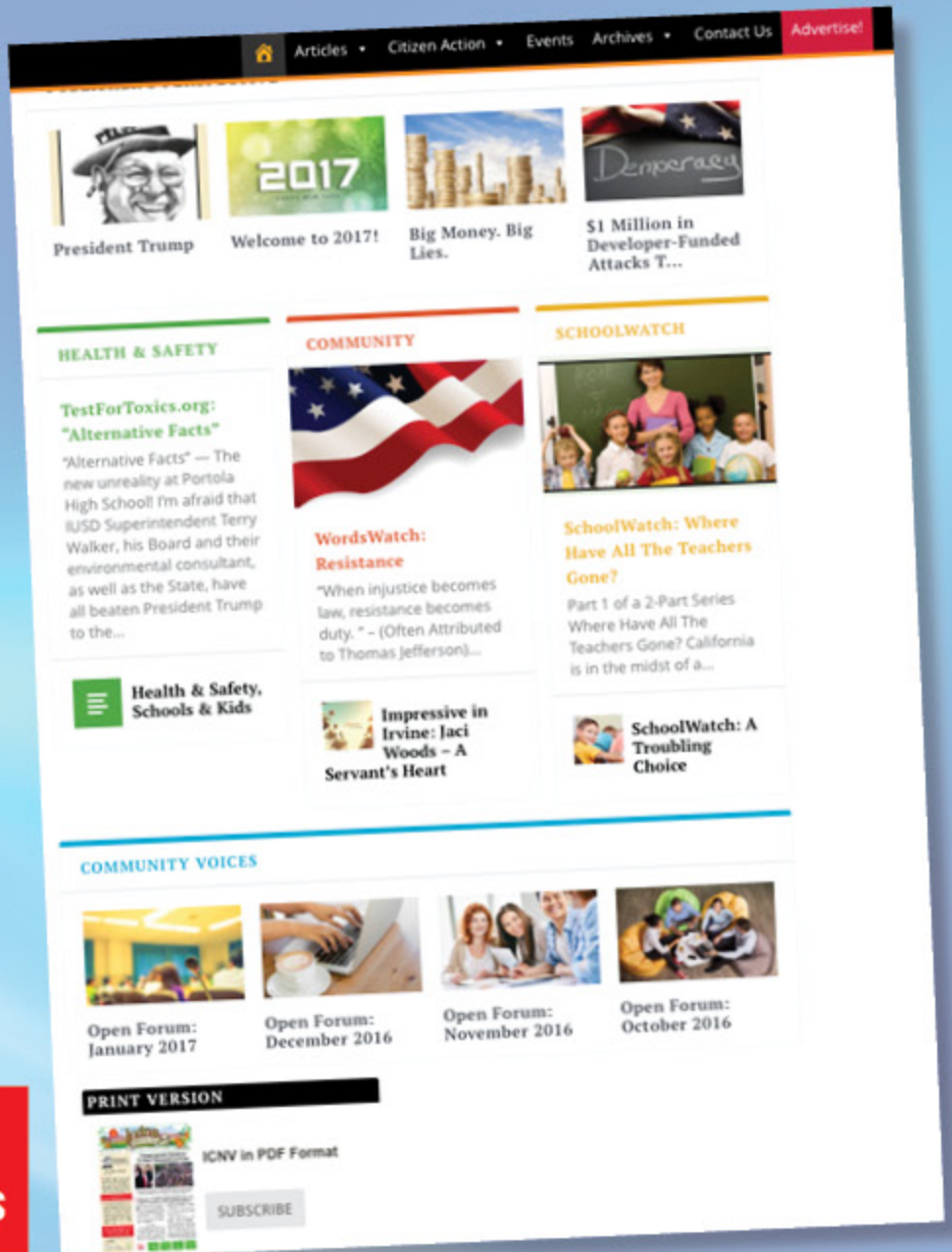
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