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Serving the Villages and Neighborhoods of Irvine

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Publisher's Perspective

A New Year —
Another Milestone

The New Year — 2019 — brings with it yet another milestone for *Irvine Community News & Views*: *ICNV* now has 20,000 Facebook followers!

In many ways, I'm an old-fashioned community newspaper publisher. I still prefer to read *ICNV* in its traditional format — as a hold-it-in-your-hands printed paper — best enjoyed during some quiet time, usually with a cup of coffee.

But this is 2019. Most of us have adapted to the digital age, and most folks in Irvine seem to prefer to get the “news and views” we offer on a screen of some kind. And the truth is that in its electronic format, *ICNV* subscribers and followers receive our occasional Irvine news updates, including popular weekend postings about “What’s Happening In Irvine.”

Even if you're like me — a hold-it-in-your-hands newspaper man — try us out online. You'll be glad you did.

Franklin J. Lunding



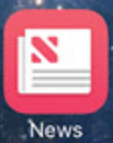
Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor

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Nov. 6th Election:

Blue Wave, New Faces in Irvine Politics



Katie Porter
US Representative 45th CD



Cottie Petrie-Norris
State Assembly 74th AD



Farrah Khan
Irvine City Councilmember

Irvine's new national, state and local leaders. Irvine voters replaced Republican office holders with three Democrats in the Nov. 6, 2018 “wave.”

With a record turnout of 89,000 voters for a national mid-term election, Irvine proved to be a major part of the Democratic “blue wave” that rolled across America on November 6th, sweeping previously “safe” Orange County Republicans out of office — including here in Irvine.

There were four high-profile Congressional races in Orange County — in what, for decades, have been reliably Republican districts. One of those seats — the 45th Congressional District, which includes Irvine and several smaller, nearby Orange County cities — was held by conservative Republican Mimi Walters. Walters had easily won her last two races.

In 2016, when Irvine voters chose Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump for President by a large margin, they also re-elected Walters with a 17.2% margin over her Democratic rival.

This time, however, in the November 2018 election, the Congressional landscape dramatically changed, and Irvine was at the center of that change. Democratic challenger, UCI law professor **Katie Porter**, beat Walters 52.1% to 47.9% — 159,000 votes to 146,000 votes. Porter's margin of victory, and more, was supplied by Irvine voters, who comprise about 40 percent of all the voters in the 45th Congressional District.

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Down-Ticket Effect

One of the two State Assembly seats representing Irvine — the 74th Assembly District, which includes most of south and central Irvine — changed from “red” to “blue.” Democratic challenger **Cottie Petrie-Norris** defeated two-term Republican incumbent Matthew Harper, 52.7% to 47.3% — 106,000 votes to 95,000 votes.

Irvine, like the rest of Orange County, appears to have joined the suburban revolt against President Trump.

But Democratic challengers in Congressional and State races also pummeled Republican incumbents for their unpopular positions and votes on priority issues, such as healthcare and the environment. Their campaigns proved to be attractive not just to Democrats but to independents and many moderate Republican cross-over voters, as well.

Even Republican **Steven Choi**, running for re-election in Irvine’s other Assembly District (68th AD), seriously underperformed — winning with just 53% of the vote in an overwhelmingly Republican district that includes the northern part of Irvine. Democratic Party strategists are already analyzing whether to target Choi’s seat in 2020.

City Council Races

The California Constitution requires local offices like Mayor and City Council to be “non-partisan.” This means that candidates for these offices run without a party label on the ballot. Nevertheless, partisan affiliations have long played a role in Irvine politics, and appear to have done so in 2018.

Conservative Republican **Don Wagner** was re-elected as Mayor of Irvine, but with a plurality of just 45% in a field that included three challengers. Wagner had massive campaign finance backing from developer FivePoint. Final campaign finance reports in February are expected to reveal that FivePoint organized and spent more than \$1 million to re-elect Wagner and elect his Republican running-mate **Anthony Kuo** to an open Council seat.

With the retirement of Councilmembers Jeff Lalloway and Lynn Schott, both Republicans, there were two open Irvine City Council seats. Locally, the real surprise was that Democrat **Farrah Khan**, a long-time interfaith leader and former Community Services Commissioner, finished first in a crowded field of 12 Council candidates. Khan ran a traditional grassroots, door-to-door campaign, relying on volunteers

and small donors who stayed within the City’s campaign contribution limits (\$490 per donor).

But, even with limited funds, Khan apparently benefitted from her endorsement by the Orange County Democratic Party, where she serves as an officer on the Party’s Central Committee. The blue wave that helped partisan Democratic candidates in Irvine evidently helped boost Khan to the top spot in her race for a Council seat.

New Faces, Old Problems

Khan and Kuo now are part of a 5-member City Council that, according to a highly placed City official, “will likely keep causing and exacerbating more problems than they solve.”

When asked specifically what he meant, the official replied, “The continuing Council majority — Wagner, and [Councilwomen] Shea and Fox — are clueless about what to do to fix the City’s traffic mess. They keep approving new houses and apartments by the hundreds, refusing to put any controls at all on growth and development. And, obviously, they have completely misplayed and screwed up the Veterans Cemetery issue.”

The City official, himself a veteran, then added, “These are problems of their own making because they keep listening to their chief campaign benefactors — the big developers, especially FivePoint and FivePoint’s lobbyist, Patrick Strader.” [ICNV](#)

New City Council, Same Old Problems



Uncontrolled growth, development and traffic has become the “new normal” in Irvine.

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.**



On average, 10 to 12 brand new housing units are occupied every day in Irvine! This means that without City Council adoption of strict growth-control measures, Irvine residents can expect these additional impacts over the next two years:



CityWatch by Larry Agran

Start Building the Veterans Cemetery, NOW!

2019. This is the year when construction of Phase 1 of the planned-and-approved Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park was supposed to be *completed* and become operational by Veterans Day, November 11, 2019. Construction of the 125-acre Veterans Cemetery — beginning with demolition of old buildings, site cleanup, and preliminary site preparation — was “good to go” in the spring of 2017. A remarkably detailed 333-page *Concept Plan* and design plan had been prepared and approved by the State (CalVet) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in 2016. In May of 2017, the Governor and State legislators announced that a special \$30 million appropriation was going to be included in the 2017-2018 State Budget so that construction of the Great Park Veterans Cemetery could begin right away.

Betrayal

So why, today, isn’t the Great Park Veterans Cemetery under construction? Betrayal. In June of 2017, a new majority of the Irvine City Council that had taken very large campaign contributions from developer FivePoint Communities actually *rejected* the promised State funds and deliberately derailed the Great Park Veterans Cemetery project. Instead, the newly elected Council majority — Mayor Don Wagner and Councilmembers Christina Shea and Melissa Fox — became cheerleaders for a land-swap-and-development scheme concocted by developer FivePoint.

Their scheme was to *kill* the Veterans Cemetery at the 125-acre Great Park site and *replace* it with zoning for massive development, worth hundreds of millions of dollars to FivePoint. Then, the Veterans Cemetery project would be entirely re-planned and relocated to a noisy, undesirable freeway site alongside the I-5/I-405 interchange at the El Toro “Y.” Outraged Irvine voters forced this scheme onto the Irvine ballot, where — as the notorious Measure B — it was rejected in June 2018 by an overwhelming vote of 63% to 37%, despite the fact that FivePoint spent over \$1 million to try to gain voter approval for their unpopular scheme.

Plainly, Irvine voters wanted no part of the FivePoint replace-and-develop scheme. They wanted then — and they want *now* — construction of the Veterans Cemetery at the original Great Park site. And they want construction to begin immediately.

Recalcitrant City Council

But, for the balance of 2018, Irvine residents watched in dismay as the City Council — led by the duo of Councilmembers Shea and Fox — pushed for what they called the golf course site for the Veterans Cemetery. The so-called “golf course” site would be in the middle of the Great Park where, according to the original, award-winning Great Park Master Design, there is supposed to be a magnificent 200-acre canyon. The so-called golf course site has never before been considered for a Veterans Cemetery. There are no plans, no designs, no State approvals and, of course, no funding. So, when could we expect to see the Veterans Cemetery at the “golf course” site built and operational under this latest Shea-Fox scheme? According to City staff, sometime in mid-2025! Nearly 7 years from now!

This is beyond crazy. It’s cruel. Think of the aging Orange County veterans — the thousands still with us from World War II, the Korean



Great Park Veterans Cemetery. The color-coded layout and phasing plan for the Veterans Cemetery is shown here. Construction of Phase 1 (depicted in white) and commencement of operations is expected to take 30 months.

Source: *Concept Plan* and design for the Great Park Veterans Cemetery, 85th page of the 333-page “Owen Group Report,” adopted and approved by CalVet and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2016.

War, Vietnam War, and more recent wars — who will be buried at veterans cemeteries in Riverside or San Diego, instead of close to home and family, here in Orange County.

Making matters even more confusing

To further confuse the issue, in a year-end political maneuver engineered by Orange County Supervisor Todd Spitzer — now the new District Attorney — the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to put the Veterans Cemetery on County land in Anaheim Hills, alongside the 91 Freeway.

Why are all these alternatives to the original Great Park Veterans Cemetery site coming forward at this time? Because developer FivePoint desperately covets the original, City-owned 125-acre Great Park site that will produce hundreds of millions of dollars in windfall profits for FivePoint investors — if only they can get hold of that land for their own development purposes.

It’s long past time for the Irvine City Council and politicians across Orange County to stop this nonsense and do the right thing: Grow a backbone! **Stand up to developer FivePoint and start building the Veterans Cemetery where it belongs — at the original, planned-and-approved Great Park site.** Failing that, veterans, their families, and residents in Irvine and all across Orange County may again have no choice but to take things into their own hands, just as they did with last year’s referendum on Measure B.

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 within the Great Park.



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

ALTON SQUARE Alton & Jeffrey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronic Tacos Donut Star Ralphs Olive's Branch Express Togo's Great Sandwiches Roosters - Men's Grooming Center 	HERITAGE PARK Walnut & Yale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage Park Regional Library 	PARK PLACE Michelson & Jamboree <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Dry Lounge Starbucks
AMTRAK TRAIN STATION Barranca Pkwy & Ada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amtrak Train Station/Entrance 	HERITAGE P LAZA Culver & Walnut <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caspian Restaurant L & L Hawaiian Barbeque Super Irvine International Market Cafe Mochi Ralphs Paris Baguette Spicy City-Gourmet Chinese Food 	QUAIL HILL SHOPPING CENTER Sand Canyon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albertsons Johnny's Real N.Y. Pizza Natraj's Tandoori - Indian Food Chill Pistachios Frozen Treats Sharky's Woodfired Mexican Grill Starbucks The Shoe Clinic
CAMPUS PLAZA Campus & California <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albertsons • Gina's Pizza Hen House Grill Vitality Bowls 	IRVINE AUTO CENTER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Auto Shop Norm Reeves Honda 	SAND CANYON PLAZA Sand Canyon & Irvine Center Dr. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irvine Bicycles • Juice it Up Oak Creek Pet Hospital Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches Tacos & Co. • FlameBroiler • Sushi Boy
CROSSROADS Culver & Barranca <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paradise Bowls Floyd's Barbershop The Joint Chiropractic 	IRVINE VILLAGE CENTER Jeffrey & Irvine Center Dr. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nail Bar Irvine Valley Animal Hospital Shervin-Williams Paints Thai Spice 	STONECREEK PLAZA Barranca in Woodbridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Las Fajitas Grill • Stonecreek Barbers Happy Dining • Layer Cake Bakery Philly's Best Thai Kitchen Tony's Custom Tailoring & Cleaner
CULVER PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER Culver & Irvine Center Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ Coffee Tomo The Car Spa iSnō Cafe Postal Annex Tea Station 	IRVINE OAKS EXECUTIVE PARK/ LAGUNA CANYON & ALTON <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Whale of a Tale Bookstore s'wich Bistro Yasai Japanese Grill 	UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTER Campus Dr. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Gogi - Korean Grill Luna Grill Ray's Pizza - New York Style Yushoken - Izakaya & Ramen
CYPRESS VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER Jeffrey & Trabuco <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albertsons Honey Pig Olive Oil Mediterranean Grill Da Luan Hawaiian Grill 	NORTH PARK PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER Culver & Irvine Blvd. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champagne French Bakery Cafe 	THE VILLAGE AT IRVINE SPECTRUM CENTER Prism & Spectrum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starbucks • Village Market
DIAMOND JAMBOREE Alton & Jamboree <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Konaloa Coffee Tokyo Table Lower Level - Food Court Seating 	OAK CREEK SHOPPING CENTER Jeffrey & Alton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gelson's Upper Crust Pizza Maizuru Sushi Bar - Japanese Restaurant Mustard Cafe Orange Theory Fitness 	WALNUT VILLAGE CENTER Culver & Walnut <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronic Tacos • Jamba Juice Starbucks • Yes Cleaners
HARVARD & MICHELSON <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irvine Lanes 	OLD MYFORD ROAD & IRVINE BLVD. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katie Wheeler Library 	WESTPARK PLAZA Alton & Culver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albertsons • Dickey's Barbeque Pit Starbucks Coffee • Sprouts Farmers Market
HARVARD PLACE Harvard & Main <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rubio's Jamba Juice Poquet Donuts Honeybee Ice Cream Paradise Cleaners Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D. Ralphs Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition 	OLD TOWN IRVINE Sand Canyon & 5 Fwy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowlwood • Denny's 	WOODBURY TOWN CENTER Sand Canyon & Irvine Blvd. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ralphs
	ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE CENTER Culver & Portola <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Cleaners Pavilions 	
	2 OSBORN ST. East Yale Loop & Barranca <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. John Pasko, DDS Dr. Ghatnekar, DDS 	

Senior Life — Youthful Lifestyle

An ICNV Feature Series On
Healthful Living As We Age

New Year's Resolutions — You can do it! by Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D.

New Year's Resolutions are usually difficult to implement. Why? Because if they were easy, you probably would have already done so. Therefore, I'd like to summarize some of the motivating, health-enhancing tips I've given over the past year.

Tip #1: Healthful Lifestyle Avoids Disease
The first tip is to understand and accept that a healthful lifestyle will also lead to a higher quality of life that avoids chronic diseases. Moreover, the healthful lifestyle will also lead to a higher quality of life that avoids chronic diseases.

Tip #2: Healthful Food Tastes Better!
It's a misconception to think: "I can't ever give up eating unhealthy fast food, high-fat chips and dips, soda pop (sugar-free or not), juice drinks (that have only five-percent juice) or any other junk food because it tastes so good." Trust me: A healthful diet will taste way better, and you'll feel way better, once you get used to it. Even better, you will crave the healthful food items and look forward to eating those food items, just as I look forward to eating my steamed frozen vegetables every lunchtime, with either some ground pepper or a dollop of organic sour cream to remind me of my childhood cravings. I just pour into a small glass bowl a variety of veggies I keep in my freezer, pop the bowl into the microwave and push the frozen vegetables button. It's automatic, and in just a few minutes, it's yum! And that's a serious and healthful yum to which I really look forward.

Readers, please drop me a line with your own experiences in eliminating junk food, and I'll report the results.

Tip #3: No Pain, No Gain
Because people don't like to suffer pain or self-denial, breaking the habit of an unhealthy diet and lack of exercise is the difficulty that *must* be overcome. How long will it take? Personally, I know what it took for me to break my addiction to prime beef, every night. And that was about 6 months of abstinence until all sensations of craving for it vanished. The fact that it was unavailable in the university restaurant in a foreign land, where I ate my meals — and I wasn't ever confronted by it — sure helped a lot.

There was another benefit to giving up beef. I no longer had the intense hunger I had while addicted to it. When mealtime came, I still got

hungry, but it was not the intense, gnawing kind I previously experienced. The hunger would subside, and I could finish whatever I needed to do. Food no longer "owned" me.

Tip #4: Irvine Senior Centers

Irvine is fortunate to have had elected officials who set up programs to help ensure Irvine's residents have resources that enable them to pursue a healthful lifestyle.

Of Irvine's three Senior Centers, two of them (Trabuco in the north and Rancho in the south) provide fully outfitted Fitness Centers (total cost is \$55/year). The centrally located Lakeview Senior Center, in Woodbridge, provides high-quality lunches, daily, for either \$4 or \$5.25 depending on whether you're 60 and older, or younger.

Try one of the 10 different dance classes offered for all levels of dancers at all three Senior Centers. Go, anytime, and observe, before surely getting caught up and signing up. Or, playing ping pong at the Lakeview Senior Center and have fun while getting your necessary workout.

Irvine Senior CONNECTION
An Activity and Resource Guide
irvineseniors.org

Spreading Holiday Cheer

FEATURE ARTICLE: Learn how Irvine Senior Services is sharing holiday spirit. See Page 3.

EVENTS: Don't miss the Holiday Cheer Social on Dec. 14. See Page 15.

ACTIVITIES: Enjoy an after-noon of dancing at the Lakeview Senior Center. See Page 6.

Pick up a copy of the *Irvine Senior Connection*, listing all activities, at the front desk of any Senior Center. It's free! It's also on CityOfIrvine.org on the Senior Services webpage.

In my next article I will write about Irvine's remarkable TRIPS program that transports seniors and the disabled around town so they can regain their independent lives.

IRVINE SENIOR RESOURCES Directory of Essentials

- For full information: about any senior activity or resource: Call or visit any Irvine Senior Center, open M-F, 8am to 6pm
- Website: IrvineSeniors.org
- Activity & Resource Guide: *Irvine Senior Connection* (bi-monthly) Pick up copy and/or subscribe at any Irvine Senior Center (below)
- Irvine Senior Centers:
 - Trabuco Center (TC), (has Fitness Center with Wed evening hours) 5701 Trabuco Road 92620 949-724-7300
 - Lakeview Senior Center (LSC). 20 Lake Road 92604 949-724-6900 Daily lunch served 11:45am -12:30pm, \$4 suggested donation for those 60 years old and above. \$5 for seniors younger.
 - Rancho Senior Center (RSC), (has Fitness Center) 3 Ethel Coplen Way 92612 949-724-6800
- Fitness Centers: Must first schedule an orientation by calling RSC or TC. Ask about one-time and annual fees.
- Irvine Adult Day Health Services: 949-262-1123
- Keen Center for Senior Resources: 949-724-6926
- Irvine Meals on Wheels, Cheryl Hanna: 949-724-6910
- Computer Lab: At LSC. Open M-F 8am-6pm. Membership fee is \$17/yr for Irvine residents. Only very few of Irvine's Senior Services are listed above. This list is only intended to get you started!

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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.

Community Calendar

December 2018 / January 2019

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to introduce the *Irvine Community News & Views* new and expanded Events Calendar, featuring two months of great events in Irvine! Each month you'll find many enjoyable, informative, and low-cost or free events that appeal to people of all ages. Enjoy!

Sincerely,
 Kerrie Mahan, Calendar Editor (Kerrie@IrvineCommunityNews.org)
 Evelyn Caicedo, Ass't Calendar Editor (Evelyn@IrvineCommunityNews.org)

For up-to-the minute event listings, check out our online Events Calendar at:
irvinecommunitynewsandviews.org/events-grid
And to keep up on the latest Irvine news and Weekend Events subscribe to our Emails at:
irvinecommunitynewsandviews.org/subscribe

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December						
16 Children's Garden Workshop: Wind Spinners for Garden. OC Great Park. Info: 949-724-6599	17 Live Entertainment: Daniel Newheiser Trio. Irvine Spectrum Myrtle's Court. 7-10pm. Free. Info: 949-790-4871	18 Comedy Show. Irvine Improv. 8pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-854-5455	19 Full Moon Hike. Orchard Hills. 6:30-9pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	20 Skating Under the Stars. Irvine Spectrum Giant Wheel Court. 6pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-790-4871	21 Live Entertainment: Brooke Rameil. Irvine Spectrum Myrtle's Court. 7-10pm. Free. Info: 949-790-4871	22 Family Game Day. OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. Info: 949-724-6599
23 Festival Ballet Theatre: The Nutcracker. Irvine Barclay Theatre. 6pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-854-4646	24 Live Entertainment: The Goode Time Carolers. Irvine Spectrum Myrtle's Court. 7-10pm. Free. Info: 949-790-4871	25 Christmas Day.	26 Farmers Market. Kaiser Permanente Parking Lot. 9am-2pm. Info: : 949-932-5000	27 Morning Trek. Limestone Canyon. 8-11:30am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	28 Equestrian Ride. Black Star Canyon. 9am-12pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	29 Bird Watching Hike. Little Sycamore Canyon. 8-11am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org
30 Mountain Bike Clinic: Terrain Skills. Irvine Open Space Preserve. 8am-12pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE					

Adoptable Pet of the Month



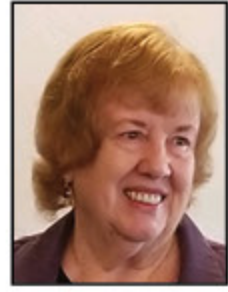
Each issue we feature one "adoptable" pet from the Irvine Animal Care Center. The Irvine Animal Care Center (IACC) is a progressive and innovative municipal animal shelter that continually strives to strengthen the human-animal bond and improve the welfare of animals by promoting their humane care and 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.

"Joy" is a spayed female, black Rex rabbit mix. She is about 2 years old.
 For more information about Joy and other adoptable pets, or the IACC, call 949-724-7740 or email info@irvineshelter.org www.cityofirvine.org/irvine-animal-care-center

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January						
On your Apple News app, select ICNV		1 New Year's Day.	2 OC Chill Ice Rink. Irvine Spectrum Giant Wheel Court. 3pm-11pm. Info: 949-748-8280	3 Festival of Sleep. Pretend City Children's Museum. 11am-4pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-428-3900	4 Great Park Balloon. OC Great Park. 7pm-10pm. Info: 949-724-6247	5 Farmers Market. Bonita Canyon Drive. 8am-12pm. Info: 323-682-8089
6 Farmers Market. OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829	7 Free Language Demo Class. LangoKids Irvine. 3-3pm. Free. Info: 714-864-4680	8 Naturalist Notebook Series. Irvine Ranch Conservancy. 6-8pm. Registration Required. Info: 323-682-8089	9 Bunco. Rancho Senior Center. 12-3pm. Info: 949-724-6800	10 Poetry of Healing and Hope. UCI Humanities Gateway. 5:30-8pm. Free. Info: 949-824-5112	11 Kuana Torrees Kahele Band. Irvine Barclay Theatre. 8pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-854-4646	12 Jerry Herman Legacy Concert. Irvine Barclay Theatre. 8pm. Tickets On Sale. Info: 949-824-5112
13 Family Game Day. OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. Info: 949-724-6599	14 American Mah Jongg. Rancho Senior Center. 9:30am-12pm. Info: 949-724-6800	15 Bingo. Lakeview Senior Center. 12:15-3:15pm. Info: 949-724-6900	16 Chinese Storytime. University Park Library. 10:45am. Info: 949-786-4001	17 Fred Hersch Trio. Irvine Barclay Theatre. 8pm. Tickets On Sale. Info: 949-854-4646	18 Winnie the Pooh Day. Pretend City Children's Museum. 11am-4pm. Info: 949-428-3900	19 STEAMPORT. University Park Library. 3:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001
20 Mozart Classical Orch. Irvine-Barclay Theatre. 3pm. Tks: 949-854-4646 Info: MozartOrchestra.org	21 Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Pretend City Children's Museum. 11am-5pm. Info: 949-428-3900	22 Pre-School Storytime. University Park Library. 11am. Info: 949-786-4001	23 Walk-In Tutoring. Heritage Park Library. 2-4pm. Info: 949-936-4040	24 Live Music. Eureka. 8pm. Info: 949-596-8881	25 Chess. Rancho Senior Center. 11am-1pm. Info: 949-724-6800	26 Writer's Ink Creative Writing Workshop. University Park Library. 3pm. Info: 949-786-4001
27 Farmers Market. OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829	28 Toddler Storytime. University Park Library. 11am. Info: 949-786-4001	29 National Puzzle Day. Pretend City Children's Museum. 11am-3:30pm. Info: 949-428-3900	30 Walk-In Tutoring. Heritage Park Library. 2-4pm. Info: 949-936-4040	31 Pinochle. Lakeview Senior Center. 12:30-3:30pm. Info: 949-724-6900	Save a tree and become a digital subscriber, at: IrvineCommunityNews.org	

SchoolWatch by Carolyn Inmon

Gun Violence and the Urgent Task of Improving School Security



Congratulations to School Board member Sharon Wallin, who was re-elected to her fifth four-year term — this time as Trustee for Area 2 of the Irvine Unified School District.

Congratulations, also, to Jean Anne Turner and Ilya Tseglin who finished behind Wallin but ran positive, thought-provoking campaigns.

As many readers of this column already know, I helped Jean Anne Turner with her content-filled, positive campaign that was, in large part, an Irvine “listening tour.” We listened to Irvine citizens, who spoke to us in voices big and small. What did they say? They recognize and appreciate what is good about Irvine schools, but they certainly don’t think the Irvine Unified School District is perfect. Far from it. IUSD, they say, has some serious problems that require immediate attention. Topmost among these is school safety. And they identify two specific issues that are especially troubling: the threat of gun violence in our schools, and the traffic mess at so many school sites.

Gun violence

For now, let’s talk about gun violence and the need for better school security. Seared into our memories are the horrific scenes of mass shootings in American schools — school shootings that have become so frequent that only the most recent incidents or those with the highest body counts make the list of shootings that we remember by name ... Columbine, Sandy Hook, Parkland.

Some months ago, I watched a televised IUSD briefing on school security, describing available security measures that include installation of reinforced doors and lockdown hardware, video surveillance, and other protective measures. As I’ve thought about the presentation, it has become pretty clear to me that our School District and our City are not doing enough, and they certainly aren’t moving quickly enough.

The need for an action plan

My own concerns were confirmed when I interviewed former Irvine Mayor Larry Agran, who was responsible for dramatically boosting City funding for all Irvine schools, especially to improve school health and school safety. When I asked Larry Agran what he thought was needed to protect students and teachers, the former Mayor said, “It’s going to require extensive physical improvements at our schools ... various kinds of barriers and checkpoints, remodeling and

reconstructing older schools with high-security doors and lockdown systems, comprehensive video surveillance systems, and more specially trained police officers — School Resource Officers — assigned to Irvine schools.”

Agran acknowledged that “this will cost millions of dollars, probably \$10 million for starters.” Then, he added, “It’s sad to say, but this is the price we must pay locally when our national political leaders put gun rights above the rights of teachers and students to work and study and learn in schools that are safe — protected from the threat of gun violence.”

Resources needed

The former Mayor agreed with my concern that the School Board and the City don’t seem to be moving ahead with a sense of real urgency. Maybe it’s a case of thinking “it won’t happen here.” Or maybe it’s the daunting price tag that comes with school security. Agran said: “If money is the issue, then the City Council and the School Board members need to say so — and then have the political courage to call for a \$50 or \$100 per year voter-approved tax to ensure that essential school security improvements are put in place in the next two or three years.”

Agran noted that school safety is a joint responsibility of the City and the School District, adding, “The issue of school security needs to be given greater visibility and greater attention right away. I suggest the City Council and School Board convene a series of well-publicized joint meetings, then adopt a joint plan of action plan that includes keeping the public advised and involved every step of the way.”



These images from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, Florida, remind us of the urgent need to improve school security in Irvine.

NEXT TIME: Improving school safety and traffic at Irvine school sites.

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

No More Kicking the Climate Crisis Down the Road by Sarah “Steve” Mosko

Humankind has 12 years left to make unprecedented cuts in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions if we want to stave off unimaginably catastrophic effects of runaway climate change.

This is the hair-raising warning in last October’s report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global climate authority. In this updated analysis, the worst effects of climate change will emerge with an average global temperature rise of just 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). Previously, a 2.0 degree Celsius rise was the IPCC’s best estimate of this tipping point.

Climate crisis in U.S. and California

Adding to the angst, stark predictions of the impact of unchecked climate change on the economy, health and environment of the United States were released on November 23 in a major climate assessment prepared by 13 federal agencies.

Preventing the 1.5 degree rise necessitates, by 2030, a 45 percent reduction in GHG emissions compared to 2010 levels; and by 2050 all new emissions need to be balanced by removal of an equivalent amount of GHGs from the air.

At the current rate of GHG emissions, the 1.5 degree mark will be reached in 2040, producing a future defined by poverty, food shortages, coastal flooding, mass migrations, ferocious storms, intense wildfires, plus unrelenting heat making parts of the world unlivable.

Californians should need no convincing that climate change is already having dire consequences. The latest example: Between California’s “worst ever” Camp Fire in the north and the simultaneous Woolsey Fire in the south, the death toll stands at nearly 100 with more than 20,000 structures destroyed. There’s consensus that the warming climate’s exacerbation of drought, Santa Ana winds, and forest drying worsened the fires’ devastation.

If you still doubt that California is getting hotter, you need to know this: Studies prepared by California State agencies show, from 1900 to

the present, undeniable rises in air temperature, sea level, and acreage burned by wildfires, as well as shrinking of glaciers in the Sierras.

What is our government’s plan to address climate change’s existential threat to our own and our children’s future?



Wildfire in Sacramento area, October, 2017.

There are no signs that President Trump intends to do anything. He’s pledged to increase the burning of coal and withdraw the United States from the 2015 Paris Climate Accord. He has issued executive orders to roll back Obama-era climate measures, including those that reduce GHG emissions from power plants and limit drilling for oil and gas off America’s coastlines. In response to the alarming predictions of his own administration’s climate assessment, Trump said, “I don’t believe it.”

The power to confront the crisis

Though it’s maddening to think that Trump might undo more climate regulations, it’s critical to understand that only Congress has the power to trigger the sweeping transformation of the world energy economy needed to meet IPCC’s 12-year deadline.

Importantly, there’s strong agreement among economists (conservatives and liberals) that there is a realistic answer to climate change: The centerpiece is a market-based solution that puts a gradually rising fee on carbon emissions to implement the transition from a fossil fuel-based global economy to one reliant instead on renewable energy sources. Congress needs only to pass a revenue-neutral price on carbon as it enters the economy (at the oil/gas

well, at mines or at ports) along with a border tariff on imports imposed on countries that fail to follow suit.

Revenue-neutrality means that the money collected is passed back to American households — for example, as a monthly cash dividend.

A carbon fee does not prevent governments from also implementing other strategies to accelerate the shift to green energy, like building infrastructure for public transportation, offering subsidies for electric vehicles and clean energy, and setting limits on GHG emissions from vehicles and stationary sources.

Strong public support needed

It’s the size of the U.S. economy that empowers us to lead the world to a green energy future. **As citizens of a planet in crisis, now is not the time to stay silent and assume**

Congress will be intransigent. In fact, there is reason to believe that, *with strong public support*, climate change could become a top priority in January’s newly seated Congress. In the outgoing Congress, the bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus grew to 90 members (half Republicans), and a bipartisan House **carbon fee and dividend bill** was recently introduced.

In the new Congress, all seven Orange County House districts are represented by Democrats, who will be the majority party in the House. If they frame climate change as a bridge issue facing all Americans, instead of a wedge between parties, a real conversation in Congress about tackling climate change is possible.

As frightening as the predictions of the IPCC are, we are not yet cooked. We can direct our House members representing Orange County to fulfill this most fundamental obligation to the public — to protect us from the clear and present danger of climate change while there’s still time.

Nothing short of the planet’s livability is at stake.

NEXT TIME: action items that we can and should undertake locally to do our part in overcoming the climate crisis.



Sarah Mosko is a licensed psychologist and sleep disorders specialist, with a background in neurobiology and basic science research that enables her to explain the science behind current environmental problems and solutions. She received her Ph.D. at Princeton University, and held an NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship at UC San Diego.

OPEN FORUM *FREE SPEECH FOREVER!*

Big Money Undermining Our Local Irvine Democracy



Franklin J. Lunding
Publisher

Legalized Corruption

Now that the November 6, 2018 City Council election results are final — and officially certified — it's a good time to reflect on what the results portend for Irvine.

Developer-backed Donald Wagner held onto his seat as Mayor, winning a second two-year term with just 45% of the vote in a field of four candidates. In the 12-candidate race for two open Council seats, Wagner's running mate,

Anthony Kuo, won one of the seats.

But special congratulations are in order for civic activist Farrah Khan, who was the top vote-getter for Council. Khan managed to finish first with a grassroots, low-budget "clean money" campaign that adhered to the City's prescribed campaign contribution limits — limiting individual donations to \$490.

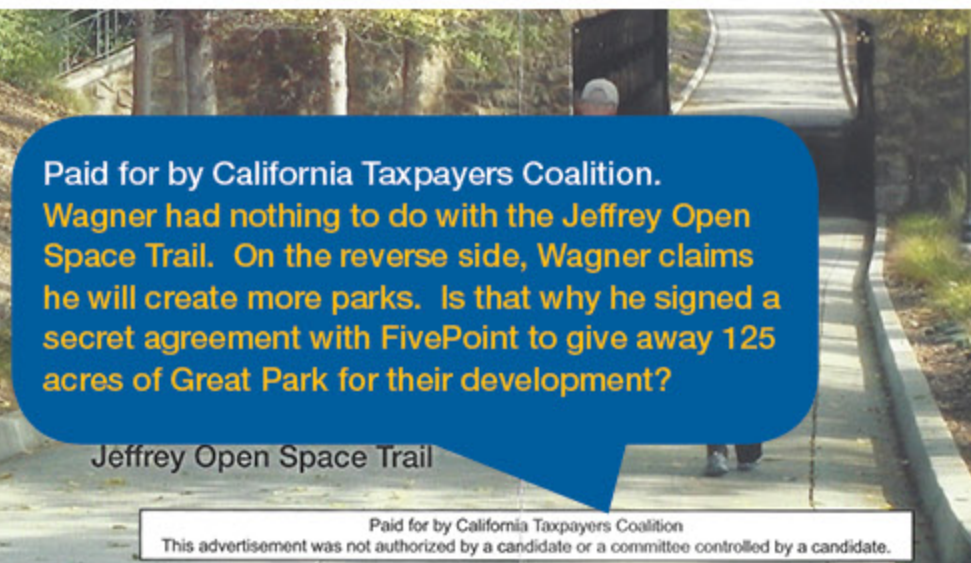
This is in sharp contrast to Wagner and Kuo, who didn't really wage their own campaigns at all. Instead, with a wink-and-a-nod, they outsourced their campaigns to developer FivePoint — the billion-dollar corporation that organized and funneled nearly \$1 million in "dark money" to layers of so-called "independent expenditure" committees. These out-of-town committees then spent hundreds of thousands of dollars boosting Wagner and Kuo, and flooding Irvine with TV ads and vicious mailings, full of lies and scurrilous attacks on other Council candidates, including Khan.

It's a tribute to Councilmember Farrah Khan that she survived these developer-funded attacks. But now she'll be tested again. Khan sits on a City Council where the Mayor and the other Councilmembers — Christina Shea, Melissa Fox and now Anthony Kuo — all take big campaign money from developer FivePoint and then vote for FivePoint development schemes that are harming our City.

If this sounds corrupt, that's because it is. Most sensible people recognize what's going on here. At the hands of big developers and their big-money campaign spending, our local democracy is being systematically corrupted. It may be technically permissible under the law, but it's corruption nonetheless.

-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.



Paid for by California Taxpayers Coalition. Wagner had nothing to do with the Jeffrey Open Space Trail. On the reverse side, Wagner claims he will create more parks. Is that why he signed a secret agreement with FivePoint to give away 125 acres of Great Park for their development?

Jeffrey Open Space Trail

Paid for by California Taxpayers Coalition. This advertisement was not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.

Big-Money Election Campaign Strategy

To win elections, big-money special interests—such as developer FivePoint Communities—support their candidates by funding known organizations that pay for positive political ads filled with false and misleading, but flattering information. They also use dark-money organizations set up as "independent expenditure committees" or PACs (Political Action Committees) with appealing names that actually promote the *opposite* of what their name implies. They can sponsor either positive or negative ads with misleading information or just plain lies. **FivePoint has funded the Wagner and Kuo campaigns with over \$1 million.**



Screen shot of Pro-Kuo TV ad

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Paid for by Political Action Committee of the Irvine Police Assn.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MAYOR, COUNCIL & IRVINE RESIDENTS

Artist depiction of the Great Park Veterans Cemetery



Ed Pope Jaci Woods Frank McGill
December 13, 2018

TO THE IRVINE COMMUNITY:

With the November 6, 2018 City Council election behind us, we take this opportunity to thank participating Irvine voters and to now urge the Mayor and City Council to do what is right...to do what the people of Irvine want...to immediately begin construction of the long-planned Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery at its approved, original 125-acre site at the Great Park.

Although our team did not win seats on the new City Council, the three of us together garnered nearly 50,000 votes. We believe this reflects just a fraction of the intense citywide resolve to begin building the Great Park Veterans Cemetery, as originally laid out in the 333-page *Concept Plan* approved by CalVet and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in 2016.

We note that the comprehensive *Concept Plan* includes a final design and construction timeline of just 30 months. In fact, had this previously approved project not been derailed at the behest of developer FivePoint for their own business purposes in spring of 2017, Phase 1 of the long-awaited Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery would have been more than halfway built by now; it would have been on schedule to become operational in a matter of months...by Veterans Day 2019.

It is heartbreaking to think that further delays and detours — more backroom politics in search of yet another unwanted, unstudied, and unapproved site — will mean that thousands more Orange County veterans will be laid to rest in veterans cemeteries in Riverside or San Diego, far away from home and family.

Let's not waste another day. Let's join together to start building the Veterans Cemetery at its originally designated and approved site. The three of us, along with many thousands of our Irvine neighbors, stand ready to help in whatever ways we can.

Ed Pope Jaci Woods Frank McGill

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.

Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery, Now!

Study this map and Veterans Cemetery Plan. The map on the left shows the location of the Great Park Veterans Cemetery site, approved in 2014. The 333-page *Concept Plan* developed by the Owen Group includes site layout, architectural design, control tower preservation, phasing, cost estimate, soil and environmental investigation and construction planning for the Great Park Veterans Cemetery.

It was approved by CalVet and the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs in 2016. The 2016 *Concept Plan* includes a 30-month timeline for construction. Online at: BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org, Documents tab.

So, what are the Mayor and City Council waiting for? Let's start building the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, right NOW!

To Our Irvine Neighbors:

Approved by the City of Irvine, the State (CalVet) and the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs in 2014-2016, construction of the Great Park Veterans Cemetery should have begun in 2017, in accordance with a 30-month timeline. Phase I of the Veterans Cemetery was scheduled to be completed and operational by Veterans Day, November 11, 2019.

Instead, Irvine Mayor Don Wagner and the City Council have been wasting time on foolish developer schemes to relocate the planned Veterans Cemetery — first, to the El Toro “Y” freeway site (rejected by Irvine voters); then, to the Anaheim Hills-91 Freeway sand-and-gravel pit; and now to the so-called “golf course” site at the Great Park that, according to City staff, couldn’t be studied, approved, built and actually become operational until the year 2025!

2025? This nonsense has to stop! Let’s tell the Mayor and City Council once and for all: No more delays. No more detours. No more foolish scheming. No more excuses. Start building the Great Park Veterans Cemetery at its original, approved location...and start building it right now!



Ed Pope

Ed Pope, Co-chair
U.S. Army Veteran

Sam Castelo

Sam Castelo, Co-chair
U.S. Navy Veteran

To learn more, join our citizens’ committee. Visit our website:

www.BuildTheGreatParkVeteransCemetery.org