



## Publisher's Perspective

### Referendum 2018

>> What happens when elected officials go astray? When they fail to lead? When they adopt laws that actually hurt our community? Or when they put special interests ahead of the public interest?

Fortunately, here in California — and, yes, in Irvine — we have recourse to “direct democracy” through a process called “Referendum.” We can gather enough signatures (more than 12,000 in Irvine) and actually put a bad law or bad City policy on the local ballot, so that Irvine voters can decide whether they want to vote NO and stop the law before it goes into effect.

That’s exactly what’s happening here in Irvine. During this year — 2018 — Irvine voters will have the chance to *say NO* by *voting NO* on an unpopular Council decision to give away 125 acres of our Great Park to developer FivePoint Communities, along with zoning that would permit FivePoint to use the Veterans Cemetery site in the Great Park to build *more than 800,000* square feet of intense office and commercial development, bringing a flood of new traffic to north Irvine neighborhoods.

>> Meanwhile, here at *Irvine Community News & Views*, we want to start a community conversation. One way we do that is by inviting Irvine residents to participate in our online **Irvine Community Poll**, asking residents what they think about the upcoming ballot referendum, and also asking for comments that we’d like to share with the rest of the Irvine community.

**Take our Irvine Community Poll at: [IrvineCommunityNews.org/Referendum](http://IrvineCommunityNews.org/Referendum)**

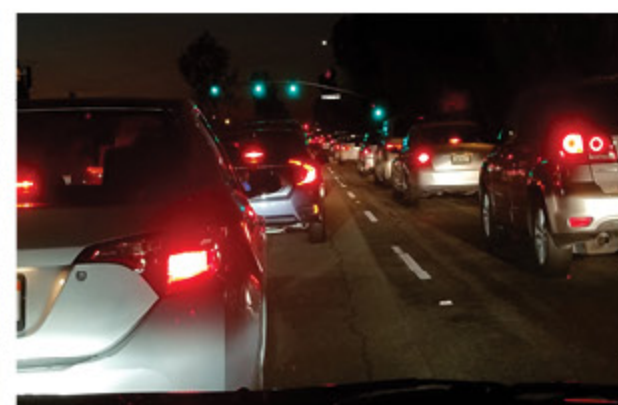
*Franklin J. Lunding*

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor



## Council Votes to Replace Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, but...

# Will Irvine Voters “Just Say NO!” To More Development & Traffic?



Irvine Blvd. now, without the additional FivePoint development approved by the City Council

### Great Park Veterans Cemetery or office/commercial development, instead?

The City Council voted (3-to-2) last fall to replace the planned 125-acre Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park with developer FivePoint’s plan for 812,000 square feet of office and commercial development. The unpopular Council decision — now challenged by a 2018 ballot referendum — would bring nearly 10,000 more auto and truck trips every day to neighborhoods along Irvine Blvd. (above), Sand Canyon, Jeffrey and throughout Irvine.

On October 13th, the day he launched his Irvine citizens’ referendum to **Save the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park**, longtime Irvine resident Ed Pope, a U.S. Army veteran and retired high-school teacher, said he was confident voters would sign the Petition to show their support for veterans and their families. “Sure enough, they did,” he said. “In fact, hundreds were signing the Petition every day in solidarity with veterans.”

But Pope and his dozens of volunteers quickly learned that Irvine residents were signing the Referendum Petition for other reasons as well: “Residents told us they were simply fed up with developer greed and City Council complicity in

overdevelopment.” According to Pope, “They were telling us that they were disgusted that three City Councilmembers — Mayor Donald Wagner and Councilmembers Christina Shea and Melissa Fox — were essentially giving away the Veterans Cemetery site in the Great

*“Hundreds were signing the Petition every day in solidarity with veterans. Residents also told us they were simply fed up with developer greed and City Council complicity in overdevelopment.”*

— Edward S. Pope, Chair Save the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park

Park to multi-billion-dollar developer FivePoint, along with zoning for office, retail, and commercial development that would generate hundreds of millions of dollars in quick profits for FivePoint, and nothing but traffic, traffic, and more traffic for the rest of us.”

How much added traffic? According to a former City of Irvine traffic expert, “125 acres of office and commercial development in the

→ continued from page 1 → Will Irvine Voters “Just Say NO!” To More Development & Traffic?

Great Park will generate about 10,000 average daily auto and truck trips — mostly along Irvine Boulevard, Sand Canyon, and Jeffrey. The expert, now in the private sector, added: “Compare that with the low-intensity, low-impact of a Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery, which is mostly beautiful open space that attracts just a few hundred automobiles each day for memorial services and visitations — and rarely during rush hours.”

Record-Breaking Signature Count

Pope noted that by the time the historic 28-day Referendum Petition drive ended on November 9th, a record-breaking 19,125 Irvine resident signatures had been gathered, apparently far more than the 12,000 verified Irvine registered voter signatures needed to qualify the Referendum for the 2018 ballot.

According to Pope, many thousands of signatures came from residents in north Irvine villages and neighborhoods along roads that are already traffic-clogged, like Irvine Boulevard, Sand Canyon, and Jeffrey. “Residents from Portola Springs, Stonegate, Woodbury, Cypress Village, and Northwood were lining-up to sign-up. They were joined by residents from FivePoint’s Great Park Neighborhoods — Beacon Park, Pavilion Park, and Parasol Park,” he said. Then, Pope added, “These are folks, many from veterans’ families, who reported they were enthusiastic and eager to see the promised and planned Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park built as soon as possible. Now, FivePoint wants to snatch it away from them, and replace it with huge development and a never-ending traffic nightmare. Irvine residents are angry at FivePoint, and perhaps even more angry at the City Council.”

Focus on Fox

Much of the Council-directed anger is focused on City Councilmember Melissa Fox, who was elected in November of 2016. In her Council campaign, Fox had repeatedly pledged to be a worthy successor to retiring Councilmember Beth Krom, who had been a stalwart supporter of the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, along with remaining Councilmembers Lynn Schott and Jeff Lalloway.

Just a few months after being sworn in, Fox shocked her supporters when she “flipped” her vote, and sided with Mayor Donald Wagner and Councilmember Christina Shea. The two have been reliable votes — some call them “bought-and-paid-for” cheerleaders — for developer FivePoint on all major issues, including the zone-change ordinance to replace the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park with FivePoint office

and commercial development. Wagner and Shea were the beneficiaries of record-breaking campaign expenditures on their behalf in 2016 — reportedly, organized and spent in the amount of \$1.5 million — by FivePoint political operatives.

Last Chance

Fox and other Councilmembers have yet another chance to weigh-in on the Veterans Cemetery issue. Upon formal certification by the Orange County Registrar of Voters that the Referendum Petition has qualified for the ballot, the certification is forwarded to the City Clerk and City Council for consideration at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting — January 9th. There, the Council has three options: First, the Council can reconsider and repeal its previous, unpopular action in support of the FivePoint zone-change and development scheme; or, second, the Council can honor the Referendum Petition and put its plan to replace and rezone the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park on the City’s November 2018 election ballot, giving Irvine voters the opportunity to vote NO on the replace-and-rezone plan. Or, third, the Council can call an earlier special election, perhaps in April or June, for the voters to decide — although this would entail City costs of up to \$300,000, and would likely have only half the turnout of the regularly scheduled City election in November.

Says Pope, “A lot of people would be saved a lot of time, money and trouble if the Mayor and City Council just recognized how unpopular

the FivePoint replace-and-rezone development scheme really is. If Wagner, Shea and Fox recognized their mistake, they could simply join with Councilmembers Lalloway and Schott in a motion to repeal the replace-and-rezone plan. Then, we could get on with the business of immediately building the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, as promised and planned.”

For ICNV updates on the Referendum and other Irvine news ...

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A Veterans Cemetery OR Commercial Development?



The original Veterans Cemetery site, which has been approved by the City, State, and Federal governments, is pictured here in diagonally-hatched, light-green, as part of the Great Park, adjacent to Irvine Boulevard. The FivePoint plan, approved on a 3-to-2 City Council vote, is to replace the Veterans Cemetery with 812,000 square feet of office and commercial development, bringing 10,000 more cars and trucks to Irvine Blvd. and other streets every day.



CityWatch by Larry Agran

2018: The Power to “Just Say NO!”

Most Irvine voters — Republicans, Democrats and Independents — agree on one thing: Big money plays too big a role in our local politics. This is especially true when it comes to multi-million-dollar land-use and development issues. The sad fact is that too many local elected officials in Orange County — and here in Irvine — are beholden to special interests. Unfortunately, these politicians are less interested in serving the public than in serving big developers, who then fund their political campaigns.

It’s no wonder people everywhere are cynical about politics and the corrosive influence of big money in our civic affairs. But, as I remind myself and others, it’s important to recall that big money doesn’t always win. From time to time, we’ve

proven that in Irvine, with our victories on open space preservation and defeating the County’s plans to put an international airport in Irvine. If enough people pay attention and really care about an issue, we can win. We can, for example, control growth and development and make decisions for our community that reflect the will of the people and not what multi-billion-dollar developers and their servants on the City Council want.

This proposition is about to be tested again here in Irvine. Thanks to the commitment and hard work of hundreds of civic-minded Irvine citizens, and thanks to the nearly 20,000 Irvine residents who signed the recent Referendum Petition, the people of Irvine will have a critically important opportunity in this election year. Irvine voters can say NO to the very unpopular City Council

decision to replace the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park and rezone the site for massive office and commercial development that will further enrich developer FivePoint Communities with hundreds of millions of dollars in windfall profits.

With as much as \$500 million or more at stake for FivePoint, you can be sure they will spend millions on a torrent of campaign materials to mislead and confuse voters in order to get their way. I’ll write more about all that later. But, for now, just remember this: At the moment that you and your neighbors cast your ballots — you are more powerful than any big developer because, in our local democracy, you still have the power to say NO by voting NO. And when that happens, the people win. Irvine wins.

The Referendum, on the ballot in 2018, will give Irvine residents the chance to Vote NO on FivePoint’s massive office and retail development in the Great Park.

Beginning in 2014, the City won State and Federal approval for the planned 125-acre Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in the Great Park.

Here is What You Need to Know

In a momentous land-use decision, on Tuesday evening, October 10th, three Irvine City Councilmembers — Mayor Donald Wagner and Councilmembers Christina Shea and Melissa Fox — voted to replace the long-planned, pre-funded, and construction-ready Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park (left). They voted to transfer the City-owned land to developer FivePoint Communities, along with zoning for FivePoint to build 812,000 square feet of office and commercial development (right) that would bring nearly 10,000 added daily auto and truck trips to north Irvine, especially afflicting neighborhoods along Irvine Boulevard, Sand Canyon, and Jeffrey.

Now, because of the remarkable efforts of hundreds of volunteers — and the 19,125 Irvine residents who signed the Referendum Petition — Irvine voters will have the chance in 2018 to Vote NO and Say NO to developer FivePoint and their latest development scheme, thereby restoring the Veterans Cemetery to the Great Park, where it belongs... as promised and as planned.

— LA

In 2017, the Irvine City Council voted (3-to-2) to replace the planned Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park with FivePoint office and commercial development.



Larry Agran is a former Irvine City Councilmember and a public interest attorney. He served as Mayor of Irvine from 2000-2004.



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<b>AUTO CARE CENTER</b> Irvine Center Dr. & Hubble • Auto Craft • The Auto Shop • Big O Tires • The Swedish Mechanic • Car Tech • Irvine Auto Repair • Jiffy Lube	<b>IRVINE VILLAGE CENTER</b> Jeffrey & Irvine Center Dr. • The Nail Bar • Irvine Valley Animal Hospital • Sherwin-Williams Paints • Thai Spice	<b>TUSTIN — EL CAMINO REAL</b> • Toyota Dealership in Tustin Auto Center • Ansar International Market
<b>CAMPUS PLAZA</b> Campus & California • Albertsons • Gina's Pizza • Hen House Grill • Vitality Bowls	<b>IRVINE OAKS EXECUTIVE PARK/LAGUNA CANYON &amp; ALTON</b> • A Whale of a Tale Bookstore • S'wich Bistro • Yasi Japanese Grill	<b>UNIVERSITY PARK CENTER</b> Culver & Michelson • Ameci Pizza & Pasta • Mag's Donuts & Bakery • Poke Me • Tacos & Co. • The Shoe Clinic
<b>CROSSROADS</b> Culver & Barranca • Paradise Bows • Floyd's Barbershop • The Joint Chiropractic	<b>NORTHPARK PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER</b> Culver & Irvine Blvd. • Champagne French Bakery Cafe	<b>UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTER</b> Campus Dr. • California Gogi - Korean Grill • Luna Grill • Eureka! • Ray's Pizza - New York Style • Yushoken - Izakaya & Ramen
<b>CULVER PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER</b> Culver & Irvine Center Drive • All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ • The Car Spa • Postal Annex • Armstrong Garden Center	<b>OAK CREEK SHOPPING CENTER</b> Jeffrey & Alton • Gelson's • Jack's Surfboards • Upper Crust Pizza • Maizuru Sushi Bar • Japanese Restaurant • Mustard Cafe • Orange Theory Fitness	<b>THE VILLAGE AT IRVINE SPECTRUM CENTER</b> Prism & Spectrum • Starbucks • Village Market
<b>CYPRESS VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER</b> Jeffrey & Trabuco • Albertsons • Olive Oil Mediterranean Grill • Honey Pig • Da Luau Hawaiian Grill	<b>OLD MYFORD ROAD &amp; IRVINE BLVD.</b> • Katie Wheeler Library	<b>WALNUT VILLAGE CENTER</b> Culver & Walnut • Chronic Tacos • Curves/Jenny Craig • Jamba Juice • Starbucks Coffee • Yes Cleaners
<b>DIAMOND JAMBOREE</b> Alton & Jamboree • KonaLoa Coffee • Lower Level - Food Court Seating • Tokyo Table	<b>OLD TOWN IRVINE</b> Sand Canyon & 5 Fwy • Knowlwood • Denny's	<b>WESTPARK PLAZA</b> Alton & Culver • Albertsons • Dickey's Barbeque Pit • Starbucks Coffee • Sprouts Farmers Market
<b>HARVARD &amp; MICHELSON</b> • Irvine Lanes	<b>ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE CENTER</b> Culver & Portola • Green Cleaners • Peet's Coffee & Tea • Pavilions	<b>WOODBIDGE MEDICAL CENTER</b> Barranca & Woodbridge Square • Woodbridge Walk-In Urgent Care
<b>HARVARD PLACE</b> Harvard & Main • Rubio's • Jamba Juice • Poget Donuts • Honeybee Ice Cream • Paradise Cleaners • Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D. • Ralphs • Einstein Brothers Bagels • Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition	<b>2 OSBORN ST.</b> East Yale Loop & Barranca • Dr. John Pasko, DDS • Dr. Ghatnekar, DDS	<b>WOODBURY TOWN CENTER</b> Sand Canyon & Irvine Blvd. • GNC • NIKO NIKO Sushi • Ralphs • Rock n' Road Cyclery
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<b>HOAG MEDICAL GROUP</b> 4570 Barranca Parkway • Physical Therapy, Suite 340	<b>QUAIL HILL SHOPPING CENTER</b> Sand Canyon • Albertsons • Starbucks • Johnny's Real N.Y. Pizza • Natraj's Tandoori - Indian Food • Chill Pistachios Frozen Treats • Sharky's Woodfired Mexican Grill	

Senior Life — Youthful Lifestyle

An ICNV Feature Series On  
Healthful Living As We Age

Lunch, ping pong and dancing by Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D.

On Thursday, November 30th at 11:30am, I visited for the first time the Lakeview Senior Center's (LSC) Rose Garden Café to have lunch, which is served Monday-to-Friday, from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

Upon first entering the café, a little sign asks for a \$4 donation for those 60 and older, and \$5 for those 59 and younger. I couldn't imagine a more discreet "ask" — the donation box is hidden from the view of others.



Since I didn't see the friends I was supposed to meet there, I spotted a table with one fellow seated, and asked if I could join him. My preference is to sit with people I don't know and make new friends. He enthusiastically invited me to have a seat. A few minutes later, when my friends arrived and spotted me, I excused myself and joined them at a nearby table where six other people were already seated.

My Table Mates

First came introductions: Robert, 91, is East Indian with a Scottish background. Tommy, 70, is a Mohawk Indian who was born on the reservation in upper New York State. Alan and Mary, who invited me to join them at lunch, are Jewish with Russian and Lithuanian heritage. Zafar, 71, is from Pakistan, and has been in Irvine about 3 years. Finally, Augustine, 61, an African-American, who was born in Louisiana but has lived for many years in Northern and now Southern California had an interesting perspective on being black in Irvine.

One of several topics of conversation was offered by Zafar, who suggested that meeting new people at lunch is a wonderful way to create a better understanding of Irvine's diverse residents and increase harmony in our community. Ironically, Zafar had been sitting at the same table with mostly the same people for many months, as he sadly acknowledged.

Upon entry to the misnamed café — since its service is that of a restaurant — I was given a card to indicate whether I wanted a vegetarian or featured meal. On this day, the featured lunch was wild cod with vegetables that couldn't be beat — it was plentiful and wholesome, served in a real restaurant environment with great waitperson service (all volunteers). Cubed pineapple was the dessert.

International Ping Pong

After lunch, I left the table with Zafar, and he pointed outside to a ping pong table on the patio. Since I always found ping pong an engaging form of exercise, I asked Zafar if he would play with me. I hadn't played in years.

So, I went to the front desk to find out how it works. I signed a book reserving a time for immediate play and was invited to take a couple of paddles and a ball from a drawer at the front desk.

We started playing, when two Iranian women came by to watch. Soon after, we invited them to challenge us. I played with one of the women and was amazed at how good she was. Ping pong must be an international sport.



I worked up a good sweat with my aggressive style that's more strenuous than accurate.

After several rounds of informal games, Zafar wanted to go to the "Little Big Band Dance" session that began at 2pm. Remarkably, the dance hall had a professional caliber dance band, the so-called "Senior Band." Being of limited inhibition, I danced solo to some great tunes, and worked up another sweat.

You must be getting the idea: Irvine's Lakeview Senior Center offers a great restaurant, live music, dancing and other recreational opportunities in an environment of remarkable cultural diversity.

Finally, for homebound seniors ages 60 and older who cannot prepare or shop for meals themselves, the Lakeview Senior Center prepares and delivers scores of "Meals on Wheels" every day. [See Directory for phone number.] Although the suggested donation is \$5 per day, no qualifying adult will be turned away.

Write to me at: [harvey@IrvineCommunityNews.org](mailto:harvey@IrvineCommunityNews.org)

**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](http://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-\$5 donation No pre-registration required.
  - 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.
- Adult Day Health Care Services at 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!

Colors by JD Holley  
30x30 Acrylic on Textured Canvas  
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Harvey H. Liss, 75, is a 41-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

# January / February 2018



## DRAWN FROM A SCORE

Now – February 3, 2018  
Beall Center for Art + Technology  
712 Arts Plaza, UCI

*Drawn from a Score* features artists who produce art from a score, ranging from “event scores” —developed by John Cage and others in the late 1950s— to the contemporary uses of code as a score for computational works. In addition to traditional written scores, it will include drawings, sculptures, performances, video projections and computer-generated forms of art.

Some of the more contemporary works in this exhibition also use computer-generated or real-time animation in projections. Los Angeles-based Casey Reas expands on Sol Lewitt’s instructions by writing computational scores to make infinitely mutable projected images. Israeli artist Shirley Shor’s *Landslide* consists of a sandbox and a real-time animation. The ‘virtual map’ is generated in real-time by software code and merges with the physical sculpted surface, creating a possible changeable topography.

*Drawn from a Score* will be accompanied by a series of public events and/or performances. A publication with writing from guest essayists will examine the use of scores in the works in the exhibition from the historical and the analog form, to contemporary forms of digital production.

Info: 949-824-6206

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day.</b> 	<b>2</b> <b>Great Book Reading Group.</b> University Park Library. 6-8pm. Info: 949-786-4001 	<b>3</b> <b>Pajama Party: Festival of Sleep.</b> Pretend City Children's Museum. 11am-4pm. Info: 949-428-3900 	<b>4</b> <b>Thursday Morning Trek.</b> Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. 8-11:30am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	<b>5</b> <b>Evening Hike.</b> Orchard Hills. 6:30-8:30pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	<b>6</b> <b>Senior Tennis.</b> Woodbridge High School. 8-11am. Free. Info: 714-307-8072 
<b>7</b> <b>Storytime in the Garden.</b> OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: 949-724-6599 	<b>8</b> <b>Floral Design Workshop.</b> Rancho Senior Center. 4-6pm. Registration Required. Info: 949-724-6800 	<b>9</b> <b>Kids Book Club.</b> University Park Library. 3-4:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001 	<b>10</b> <b>Tea Time Book Club.</b> Heritage Park Library. 3-4:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	<b>11</b> <b>Teen Movie Event.</b> Heritage Park Library. 4:30-6:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	<b>12</b> <b>Film Club.</b>  Rancho Senior Center. 10:30-11:30am. Info: 949-724-6800	<b>13</b> <b>Preserving the Season Workshop: Herb Wreaths.</b> OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: 949-724-6599 
<b>14</b> <b>Winter Wonderland Craft Day.</b>  Katie Wheeler Library. 2-4pm. Info: 714-669-8753	<b>15</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.</b> Pretend City Children's Museum. 11am-4pm. Info: 949-428-3900 	<b>16</b> <b>Homework Help.</b> Katie Wheeler Library. 3:30-5pm. Info: 714-669-8753 	<b>17</b> <b>Reading to Rover.</b> Heritage Park Library. 3-4pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	<b>18</b> <b>Teen Choose Your Own Book Club.</b>  Heritage Park Library. 4:30-5:30pm. For 6-12th graders. Info: 949-936-4040	<b>19</b> <b>National Popcorn Day.</b> Pretend City Children's Museum. 10am-5pm. Info: 949-428-3900 	<b>20</b> <b>Garden Workshop: Pruning Fruit Trees.</b>  OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: 949-724-6599
<b>21</b> <b>Children's Garden Workshop.</b> OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: 949-724-6599 	<b>22</b> <b>Page Turner Book Group.</b> Katie Wheeler Library. 4-5pm. For 4th & 5th Grade. Info: 714-669-8753 	<b>23</b> <b>Homework Help.</b> Katie Wheeler Library. 3:30-5pm. Info: 714-669-8753 	<b>24</b> <b>Individual Technology Tutoring.</b>  Trabuco Senior Center. 3:30-5pm. Free. Info: 949-724-7300	<b>25</b> <b>Homework Help.</b>  Katie Wheeler Library. 3:30-5pm. Info: 714-669-8753	<b>26</b> <b>Open Dance Studio.</b> Rancho Senior Center. 3-5pm. Info: 949-724-6800 	<b>27</b> <b>Family Game Day.</b> OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. Info: 949-724-6599 
<b>28</b> <b>Educational Forum on Homelessness.</b> Orange County Alliance for Just Change. OC Plaza. 7-10pm. Info: admin@ocajc.org 	<b>29</b> <b>National Puzzle Day.</b> Pretend City Children's Museum. 11am-1pm. Info: 714-669-8753 	<b>30</b> <b>Homework Help.</b>  Katie Wheeler Library. 3:30-5pm. Info: 714-669-8753	<b>31</b> <b>Backwards Day.</b> Pretend City Children's Museum. 11am-4pm. Info: 949-428-3900 	<b>1</b> <b>SHIFTCON Social Media Conference.</b> Hotel Irvine. 3-8pm. Registration Required. Info: www.shiftconmedia.com 	<b>2</b> <b>Groundhog Day.</b> Pretend City Children's Museum. 11am-4pm. Info: 949-428-3900 	<b>3</b> <b>Park Explorations.</b> OC Great Park. 11am-3pm. Info: 949-724-6599 

## 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.

“Doris” is a spayed female, orange and white Domestic Shorthair. She is about 4 years old.

For more information about Doris and other adoptable pets, or the IACC, call 949-724-7740 or email [info@irvineshelter.org](mailto:info@irvineshelter.org) [www.cityofirvine.org/irvine-animal-care-center](http://www.cityofirvine.org/irvine-animal-care-center)



## LAND EXHIBITION

**Exhibition Dates:** Jan. 20–March 10, 2018  
**Opening Reception:** Saturday, Jan. 20, 4–6pm

The exhibition focuses on works that seek to understand, highlight and critique our connection to land – from environmental issues to cultivation, development and mapping – and traces the change in that relationship from the past to the present and into the future. Exhibiting artists include Jennifer Celio, Kiyomi Fukui, Virginia Katz, Michael Nannery, Chris Natrop, Christine Nguyen and Christine Weir.

Info: 949-724-6880

Image: Christine Weir, *Thus To Ruminare*, graphite on clay panel, 24"x36", 2016.



# Child Health & Safety by Phyllis Agran, M.D. Too Much Sugar – A Major Health Hazard

Recently, I attended a weekend meeting of our American Academy of Pediatrics 25th annual conference on "Current Advances in Pediatrics." The conference provides an opportunity for more than 200 community pediatricians from throughout California to get together and share the latest science and "best-practices" for improving the health and lives of our patients.

For me, the biggest take-away lesson from the conference was a reminder of what my mother, Lena Friedman, a microbiologist, often told my brother and me when we were just kids, 60 years ago: "You are what you eat," she used to say. She was way ahead of her time.

### Too Much Sugar

Today's message: Our kids eat way too much sugar — and it's not making them "sweet." It's making them sick, and even shortening their lives. As pediatricians, we are seeing more and more young children afflicted with serious diseases that were once thought to be pretty much confined to adults and seniors — obesity, type 2 diabetes, the metabolic syndrome of insulin resistance, and fatty liver. According to Robert Lustig, M.D., a professor specializing in pediatric endocrinology at UC San Francisco, the cause of this epidemic of "adult" diseases in children is clear — lots and lots of sugar loaded into sugary cereals, juices, sports drinks, and soft drinks.

"Sugar is sugar," Dr. Lustig noted, even though it might appear on a label hidden under a different name: cane sugar, organic agave, maple syrup, honey, high fructose corn syrup solids. There are more than 50 different names for what is, in fact, sugar. They all cause our pancreas, no matter what our age, to secrete insulin. When there is too much sugar and not enough insulin, sugar turns to fat and is stored in the liver. This is why we see children with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, which looks the same as fatty liver disease that afflicts alcoholics and can lead to scarring and fibrosis of the liver, with impaired liver function and even early death.

Of course, Dr. Lustig's message is scorned by the multi-billion-dollar food and beverage industry, although it is supported by an abundance of scientific evidence published in peer review medical journals that all reach the same conclusion: Sugar is toxic, addictive, and very bad for your health and the health of your children.

### Making Some Changes

So, let's make some changes, beginning with beverages that are such a huge part of the



Popular cereals, juices and even supposedly "healthful" drinks are loaded with sugar and are making our kids sick.

problem. We don't need sodas, sugared sports drinks and juices in our kids' lives — whether at home, in school, or in school lunch packs. When you bring snacks for your child's sports team, water is just fine. In fact, it's the best beverage of all. Why not make a New Year's resolution — to rediscover the calorie-free, weight-controlling, healthful benefits of water as the everyday beverage of choice? This might be the single most important step you can take to improve your children's health, and your own health, in 2018 and beyond.

For related books and materials, go to the online version of this article, at: [IrvineCommunityNews.org/too-much-sugar-a-major-health-hazard](http://IrvineCommunityNews.org/too-much-sugar-a-major-health-hazard)

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.

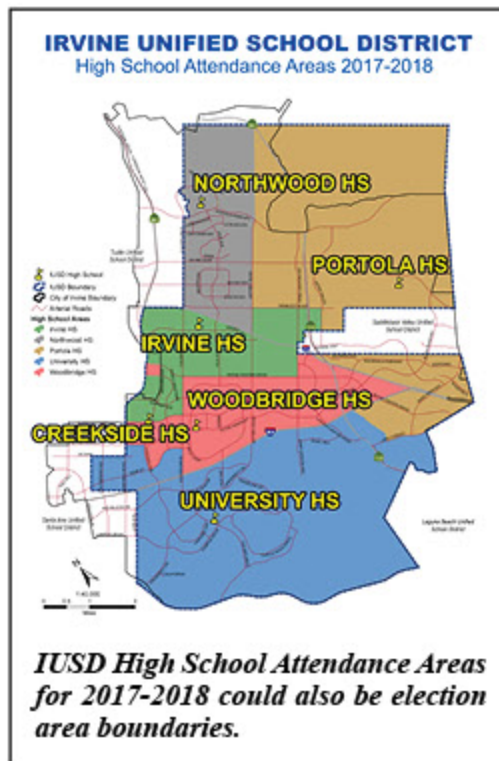


# SchoolWatch: Time for a Change by Carolyn Inmon

Here's an idea: What if the Irvine Unified School District — beginning with its five-member School Board — actually took the lead in 2018 and put the issue of IUSD election reform on its agenda?

It's time. One after another, school districts (and cities too) in Orange County are moving from "at-large" elections to elections by smaller, geographic areas. The nearby Tustin Unified School District (which includes part of Irvine) and the City of Lake Forest are the two latest examples of local governments adopting this long-overdue reform.

Why is it time for IUSD to make this change? IUSD is a geographically sprawling district, with nearly 200,000 people and 100,000 voters. Yet, three of its five Board members live close to one another in the northern-most part of the City. This leaves most of the residents of Irvine — those below the



I-5 who generally live in older neighborhoods with older schools — seriously under-represented on the IUSD Board.

This isn't a partisan or ideological issue. It's a "good government" local democracy issue. Generally speaking, our local governments — whether city councils or school boards — function better when our elected officials are geographically diverse, and therefore closer to the people they represent.

IUSD should consider undertaking this election reform right away. It should be relatively simple to actually implement the "election by area" reform. IUSD is already divided into five high school attendance areas. If these attendance areas became the new election areas, each of Irvine's high schools (and their "feeder" elementary and middle schools) would have its own Board member.

Voila! Fairer representation that is likely to be better representation, too. Isn't it worth talking about, starting right now?

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.

# Science, Technology and Environment Calling for an Irvine Climate Action Plan — Now!

by Carl Mariz & Ed Sharman

The letter (below) dated December 18, 2017, was sent to Irvine's City Manager, Sean Joyce, by ICNV's contributing science writers, Carl Mariz and Ed Sharman. They are calling for Irvine to adopt a Climate Action Plan. The Mariz-Sharman letter reflects the strong sentiments of many of ICNV's readers who have written to us in recent months. We'll report on the City's response when we receive it.

■ We have solar panels on our house, and have two hybrid electric cars. There is no question that there is climate change. Irvine should be on the forefront of doing whatever possible to protect our planet.

— Mary Lou Sortais

■ It would be fantastic if Irvine led on the issue of renewable energy. There are organizations that will stand behind you and help you on this issue. I lived in Irvine for 19 years and it was a leader in making the living spaces (air and water) better for its residents.

— Debbie Salahi

■ The Mayor and City Council of Irvine should be supporting solar panels on all new construction and existing residential homes as an alternative to electric or gas.

— David M. Day

■ The City of Irvine should lead, not flounder, under corporate manipulation.

— Marleen Gillespie

■ So many reasons to develop a Climate Action Plan and not a single reason not to. If we are not part of the solution, then WE are the problem!

— Patricia Ewers

■ Our roof-top panels have generated more electricity than we ourselves used for years. We're currently adding as many more panels as the roof will bear to allow for expanded future use of electricity for appliances (dryer currently uses gas) and possibly auto.

— Annette Bork

■ "Renewable Energy" is a farce foisted upon the public. Did you not read the LA Times article stating that California is forced to pay other states to absorb the excess power from our grid during solar and wind surge periods? Nuclear power is \$0.02/KWh

and constant, 24/7/365. Solar is \$0.05/KWh and has only 22% availability. Wind 43%. Nuclear 100%. Solar (Furnace) and wind kill birds and bats.

— Philippe Tusler

■ Cities and states are supporting the Paris Accord even though the United States has pulled out of it. I hope Irvine can be a climate change leader like San Diego and many other cities.

— Philip Westin

■ Irvine Apartment Communities (IAC) has no renewable energy programs. IAC residents pay on average \$80+ per month for electricity on a 600 square foot apartment.

— Tim Brett

■ Climate change is not a Democrat or Republican issue. It's a life threatening issue that concerns all humans. We only have one home, Earth, and we need to take care of our home now!! In the past Irvine has always been a leader, first in recycling, first in banning CFCs. Where is the leadership now? Our planet is begging for help. Where are you Mayor and Councilmembers?

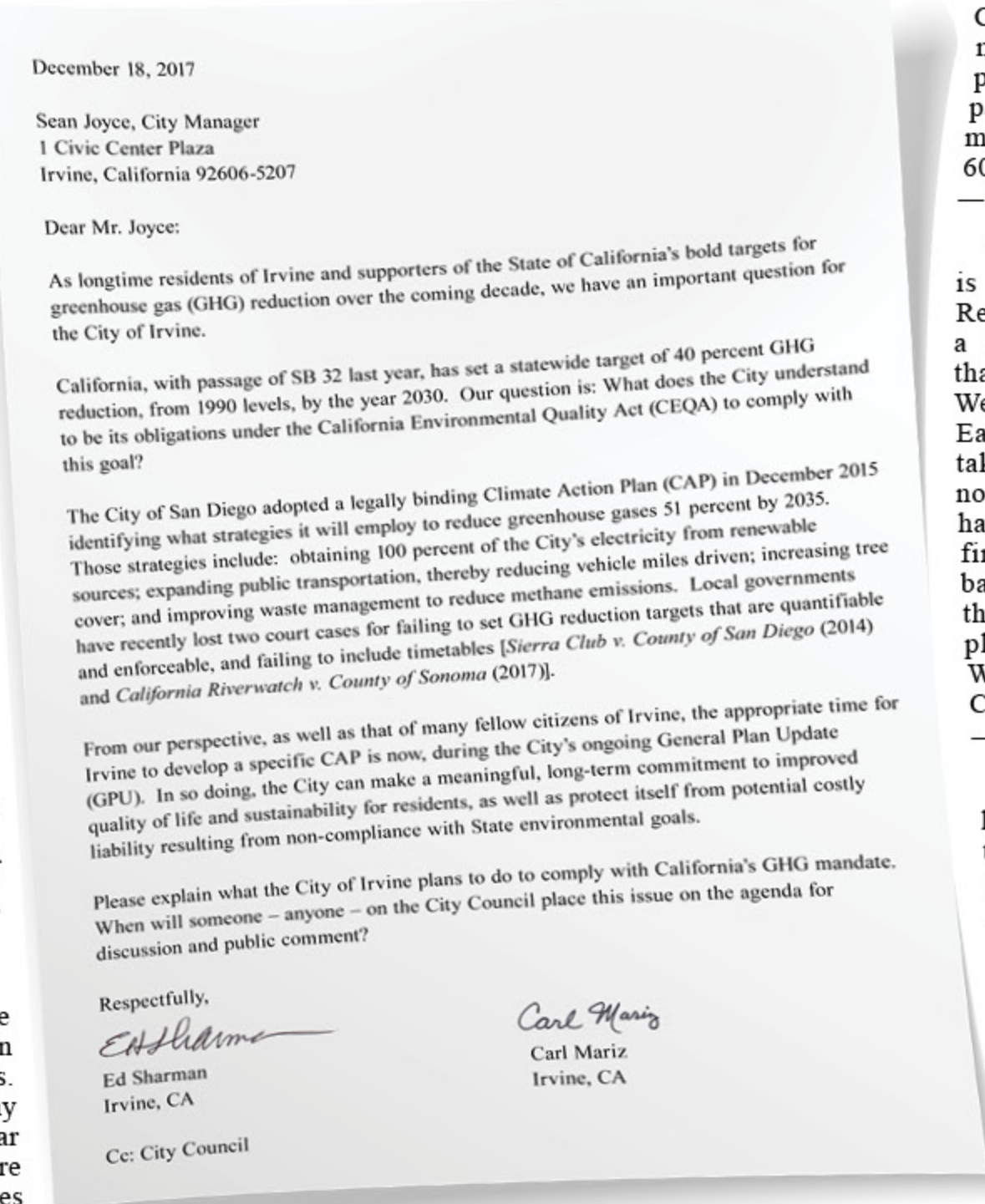
— Gail Lewis

■ Being a forward looking City and the tech center of Orange County, Irvine should be the shining star in committing to renewable energy to reduce pollution and fossil fuel dependency. With the size and impact of Irvine, what it does will make a difference and an example for other major cities in the U.S.

— Ken Hung

■ Before this current right-wing City Council took over, the City of Irvine had always been on the cutting edge of technology and planning. We should definitely follow the lead of San Diego's Climate Action Plan.

— Payam Larjani



■ Irvine is an affluent and well educated community. We should recognize and support a Climate Action Plan supporting 100% renewable energy, as it's the right thing to do for the future of a livable planet.

— Keith Linker

# OPEN FORUM *FREE SPEECH FOREVER!*



Franklin J. Lunding  
Publisher

## Letters and Comments from 2017

In 2014, as the founding publisher of this community newspaper, I deliberately chose the name *Irvine Community News & Views (ICNV)*. The "Views" part of our name is important. From the beginning, we have intended *ICNV* to be not only a solid source of Irvine local news, but also a real forum for citizens who want to express their views on issues of importance affecting our community.

For years now, we have dedicated our "Open Forum and Community Voices" pages to our Irvine readers, letting them be heard in the grand tradition of American community newspapers — through letters,

notes, and comments printed in a traditional hold-it-in-your-hands newspaper format; or online, using our website ([Editor@IrvineCommunityNews.org](mailto:Editor@IrvineCommunityNews.org)).

In 2017, we were able to publish more letters and comments than ever before. Hundreds of people had important things to say on topics of community concern, for example: Overdevelopment and Traffic; Toxic Contamination at Portola High School; the Veterans Cemetery controversy; even President Trump and his policies.

We at *ICNV* think many of the "views" expressed during this past year have been of such quality and interest to warrant re-publication for your reading pleasure. So, here they are.

—FJL

### Growth, Traffic & Overdevelopment

I am appalled at what has become of the quality of life in Irvine. Traffic is a nightmare every single day of the week. Our roads are clogged, our shopping centers are so full you cannot park to do your shopping, and yet the Mayor and Irvine City Council continue to reward developer FivePoint with more and more land entitlement to make a profit by trading away the health and well-being of Irvine citizens. Enough! The citizens of Irvine didn't agree to providing continual, never-ending profits for developers, nor did they agree to having Irvine fully built out well ahead of what the General Plan provided. Stop ruining Irvine and start resolving the existing problems.

—Suzanne Seidel



Enough already! The continual overdevelopment of our City is a travesty! The ONLY one benefitting is the developer, FivePoint Communities. While they get rich off our backs, we get to sit in our cars in traffic, polluting the air, wasting gas, and wasting time while our way of life erodes with every new building permit issued. When they've completely ruined our way of life, they'll move on — and here we'll sit for decades, reaping what THEY have sown for us. We have to stop the overbuilding of our town.

—Jaci Woods

I am opposed to any more houses and

apartments being built in Irvine. Our City is changing for the worse. Traffic is so bad, and the City is overcrowded. Restrictions should be placed on growth, and residents should have a voice.

—Tuyet Tran

Overdevelopment — bringing too many new residents — has degraded Irvine's environment. Building all the new homes near and around the Great Park must be immediately stopped.

—Wai Chiu

When will cities, including Irvine, stop issuing so many residential building permits? The more of these permits that are issued, the worse our traffic will be. I favor adopting a City growth-control ordinance, including requirements for voter approval.

—Patricia Ewers

It's contemptibly selfish of NIMBY's to complain about "traffic" and blame everything on developers. If you think Irvine is too crowded, move!

—John Jaeger

We must stop the overdevelopment of our City! It is affecting traffic and the quality of life. We need to send a message to City leaders that the citizens of Irvine come before FivePoint and other builders.

—Sheila Rafat

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

### Portola High School Toxic Contamination

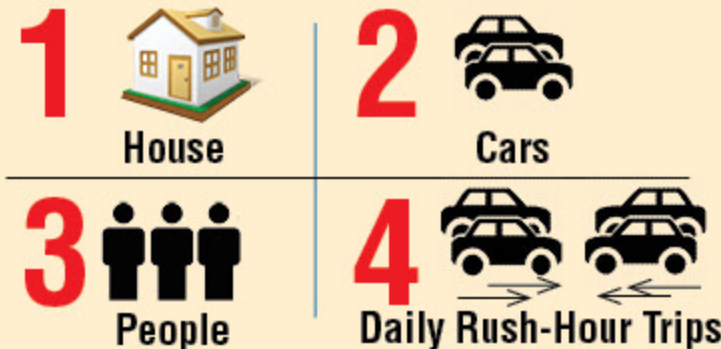
The school was built on top of a U.S. Marine Corps Airbase toxic waste dumping site. The City of Irvine has the absolute responsibility for ensuring the safety and well-being of the students, faculty, and staff of Portola High School, as well as the nearby Irvine residential communities. I don't understand 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

Is the School Board waiting for reports of student or faculty illness to test the Portola

### Keep An Eye on the Building Permits! It's as simple as 1-2-3-4.

In recent years, the pro-developer Irvine City Council has doubled the issuance of residential building permits to more than 4,000 new houses and apartment units per year. This record-breaking pace of development — it's really overdevelopment — has everyday consequences that we can see and we can feel. Here's why:



So, it's as simple — and as scary — as 1-2-3-4. For every 10 new apartments or houses coming on line every day in Irvine, this means 20 added automobiles, 30 more people, and at least 40 more rush-hour auto trips ... every single day! And in a year? About 4,000 added houses and apartment units are built in Irvine each year, bringing 8,000 added automobiles; 12,000 more people; and 16,000 added daily rush-hour automobile trips in our City.

So, when Irvine residents say that Irvine traffic and school overcrowding are getting worse by the day, they're right. And the numbers prove it.

High School site? It is unconscionable to allow Irvine residents to be exposed to possible contamination. I say this to the School Board: ACT to protect and safeguard the health of our residents! It is your duty and a moral obligation.

—Michele Garcia-Jurado

At one time it would have been unimaginable that the reputation of our fine City could be sullied as it has been by such deliberate, prideful resistance to doing what is prudent. Whether motivated politically or financially, the refusal of the IUSD Board, the Irvine Teachers Association, and the City Council to demand that every safeguard is taken to ensure the health and safety of students and staff through avoidance of exposure to known toxic chemicals is nothing short of reprehensible. In addition to incalculable personal suffering, this willful neglect could result in ongoing financial burdens to Irvine taxpayers should illnesses arise and lawsuits be filed.

—Jean Anne Turner

(Editor: Ms. Turner is a retired, two-time award-winning OC Teacher of the Year)

Since the Portola High School site was not thoroughly tested prior to construction, it must be tested now to insure the safety of all who attend Portola High, whether students, faculty or other staff members.

—Ira Lewis

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

### Trump, Trump, Trump

Trump is a vulgar bully; a petulant child, and an embarrassment to this country. Our Irvine Councilmembers should go on record as opposing his hateful policies. Irvine has a reputation as a welcoming, family-oriented community. That reputation will be destroyed if Irvine is governed by people who believe and act as Trump does.

—Al Nault

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



I usually toss the *Irvine Community News & Views* when it shows up, but I happened to notice the cartoon about Donald Trump in the current issue and the comment that Irvine voters didn't support him since the (unofficial) Irvine vote count had come out as 52,000 for Clinton and only 27,000 for Trump. But so what? That just tells me that there are 52,000 more seriously uninformed voters residing in Irvine than I would have otherwise thought. You would have to be incredibly ignorant to have cast your vote for Hillary. I find your publication's liberal format most uninspiring and out of touch.

—Frank Hopper

### The Veterans Cemetery and Fivepoint "Land-Swap"

It is absolutely shameful that the interests of FivePoint Communities should trump the desires of the veterans and spouses and children of veterans who served during World War II, the Korean War (like my husband), the Vietnam War, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our veterans served to secure our freedom, not to enable FivePoint Communities to profit from the land in the Great Park meant for the burial of our veterans.

—Ernestina Benson

My brother, who is a Vietnam veteran, passed away November, 2016, and we are waiting to bury his ashes. I think it is absolutely ridiculous that we were approved for State funding of the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, only to have Mayor Wagner and Councilmembers Fox and Shea now favor a land-swap. Shame on all three of you! Follow through on the original plan and represent the people of the City instead of the land developers.

—Sheila Nyberg

I am a veteran of the Vietnam era and am extremely disappointed that the land-swap was approved and the Veterans Cemetery is significantly delayed. I have lived in Irvine for more than a decade and, until now, would not have imagined it was corrupt. Unfortunately, that is no longer true.

—Dave Carlson

I am a Vietnam veteran. Not only have the veterans lost their Cemetery, the citizens of Irvine have lost their representation.

FivePoint now controls the City of Irvine.

—Larry Bales, US Navy (1967-1968)

Shame on Wagner and Shea, and now Fox. It is obvious that POLITICS got in the way of support for veterans and their families.

—Robert Radus, USAF (1967-1971)

I served in the Army Medical Corps for over 20 years, caring for soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. These brave patriots deserve to be laid to rest on the hallowed land within the Great Park and not somewhere between two noisy freeways! Anyone who thinks otherwise should seriously feel some shame. What a disgraceful and cowardly stance by Mayor Wagner and Councilmembers Christina Shea and Melissa Fox!

—Col. Peter Fredericks, M.D.

As a veteran, I want the Veterans Cemetery to be built on the already-approved 125 acres in the Great Park and not next to the I-5/I-405 El Toro Y interchange.

—Ralph W. Farrington

The land-swap is a land giveaway to FivePoint. Our veterans and military families deserve the Veterans Cemetery to be built as planned, within the Great Park, and with the generous funding by the State.

—Josh Byer

FivePoint and the City Councilmembers supporting the land-swap [Wagner, Shea and Fox] should be ashamed of themselves. The Veterans Cemetery already has City, State, and Federal approval and should remain at the Great Park site.

—Mary Jo Donofrio

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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](mailto:Editor@IrvineCommunityNews.org). Letters may be edited for publication. Unpublished letters will not be acknowledged or returned.

**ATTENTION IRVINE VOTERS:**

# Save the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park! Say NO to the FivePoint Development Scheme!

Just three months ago, on October 10th, the Irvine City Council voted (3-to-2) to kill the promised, planned and previously-approved Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park.

Three Councilmembers shocked our Irvine community by voting to give away the approved Veterans Cemetery site to developer FivePoint Communities, along with zoning changes to permit FivePoint to replace the planned, 125-acre Veterans Cemetery with massive office and commercial development that would bring nearly 10,000 added cars and trucks to Irvine's neighborhoods every day.

In response to this travesty, we formed a citizens' committee to **Save the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park**. We launched an historic Referendum Petition. In just 28 days, hundreds of volunteers worked day and night to help gather a record-breaking 19,125 signatures from Irvine residents — far beyond the 12,000 Irvine voter signatures required to stop the development giveaway to FivePoint and put this issue on the ballot in 2018 for Irvine voters to decide.

As an Irvine veteran and Chair of our committee, I am proud that we are giving Irvine voters the opportunity to **STOP the giveaway to FivePoint and say NO** to FivePoint's deeply unpopular scheme to replace our Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park with 812,000 square feet of traffic-inducing office and commercial development.

We know that FivePoint will spend millions of dollars in a campaign that will try to convince Irvine voters to approve their huge office and commercial development. Of course, we can't match their money. **But I believe we can win this fight**

**with developer FivePoint. Because of our Referendum, we can now say NO by voting NO!**

But to reach Irvine voters with our message, we need to enlist many more volunteers in our campaign. And, yes, we need hundreds of small donations too. I hope we can count on your help!

To learn more about the next steps in this critically important campaign — and how **YOU** can help us win this fight — please visit our website: [SaveTheVeteransCemetery.org](http://SaveTheVeteransCemetery.org).

*Edward S. Pope*

**Edward S. Pope**

US Army (1961-1963), Chair,  
*Save the Veterans Cemetery*,  
and a 45-year Irvine resident

