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Serving the Villages and Neighborhoods of Irvine

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## Publisher's Perspective

### Growing

Welcome, readers, to our November issue of *Irvine Community News & Views*. I'm pleased to report you are part of our growing base of support. *ICNV's* distribution in Irvine — 19,500 print copies and more than 13,000 online followers — represents a near-doubling of our circulation in just one year!

This issue of *ICNV* offers the kind of quality reporting and commentary you've come to expect on matters of local interest and concern. Our Page 1 story — not covered by other newspapers — reveals a developer-backed early-October poll that was taken to test public reaction to the possibility of FivePoint Communities gaining City Council approval to build yet another 5,000 houses at the Great Park. This is above and beyond the 10,000 already approved by the Choi-Lalloway-Shea City Council and now under construction.

At the end of the article, on Page 2, you're invited to take our poll — called the **Irvine Community Poll** — on this important issue. This is your chance to be heard by going to:

<http://IrvineCommunityNews.org/Poll>

Check out our Page 3 coverage of the progress of the Irvine Living Wage Initiative — a continuing story of grassroots democracy to secure local economic justice. And Page 4 offers a remarkable interview with Larry Agran, former City Councilmember and Mayor. The Q & A with Larry Agran concerns the continuing crisis of toxic contamination at the Portola High School site, where the new high school is under construction.

Happier things are taking place in Irvine, too. Just take a look at our wonderful family-friendly calendar on Pages 8 – 9.

As *ICNV* grows, the number of writers and new features we offer is growing too. Read them. Enjoy them. Pass them on to others.

*Franklin J. Lunding*

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor

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

# Phone Survey Fuels Fears of Massive New Development



**More Growth and Traffic?** *The City Council has already approved 10,000 housing units at the Great Park. A recent telephone poll indicates FivePoint Communities may soon apply to build an additional 5,000 units.*

Telephone polls and surveys are pretty common in Irvine, but typically they come in election years, and their political purpose is clear. Not this time. The telephone survey that was conducted at the end of September and beginning of October was different.

Apparently funded by developers, the lengthy survey — some said it was a full 30 minutes — included a few questions about Irvine politics. But many questions were about massive residential and commercial development plans that the public hasn't heard about. Until now.

According to a number of individuals who took the poll and spoke to *ICNV* reporters, the lengthy survey centered on a major development proposal (presumably coming from developer FivePoint Communities). The survey indicated that FivePoint may plan to build yet another 5,000 homes at the Great Park — this time apparently near the Irvine train station. If granted by Irvine's

pro-development City Council, this would take FivePoint's total housing entitlement up to 15,000 units, more than three times the number originally approved at the Great Park in 2005.

Several poll respondents reported that the development proposal — as described in the poll — also included 8 million square feet of office and commercial space — the equivalent of about 80 big-box stores.

Marilyn Vassos, an Irvine resident for nearly 50 years, was called and took the poll. Vassos reported that the questions "were very specific and, for me, very disturbing." She noted that when she was asked whether she favored or opposed the development proposal, she told the pollster she "very strongly opposed it." When the pollster asked why, she said, "Overdevelopment is ruining Irvine. Just look at the traffic now. Imagine another 5,000 homes and 10,000 or 20,000 more cars on our roads every day. It's way too much, period."

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**Pro-Development Polling**

Another Irvine resident who took the poll spoke with ICNV on condition of anonymity. He said there were a number of pro-development questions, asking if he would be more inclined to favor the development project if he knew that it would bring thousands of more jobs to Irvine, more shopping opportunities, and \$200 million to accelerate construction of the Great Park.

Asked if these factors were persuasive — or if they changed his view — the anonymous respondent said, “No. Are you kidding? How many times are Mayor Choi and his pro-development Council buddies going to get suckered by the developers? FivePoint Communities promised to build the Great Park, but I’ve been out there and they haven’t built anything new in three years.”

City Hall sources say they haven’t yet received an official development application from FivePoint Communities. “They’re probably testing the waters before filing,” said Irvine Planning Commissioner Mary Ann Gaido, who ran for Mayor in 2014, and nearly won, on a platform to control growth and development.

**Other Poll Questions**

Several respondents to the telephone survey recalled that it touched on two other major issues. A question was posed regarding a school bond issue — costing a typical homeowner between \$100 and \$200 per year. As presented in the poll, the school bond would be used primarily for technology upgrades and modernization,



**FLOORED!** Citizens found the recent telephone survey to be both exhausting and alarming.

especially in Irvine’s older schools. Marilyn Vassos, a retired teacher, said she told the poll-taker that she was in favor of a school bond issue.

Vassos said another poll question dealt with the Irvine Living Wage Initiative, now in circulation. The Initiative seeks to restore Irvine’s Living Wage to \$11 per hour. In June, the City Council, led by Councilmember Christina Shea, repealed the Irvine Living Wage, effectively cutting the minimum wage paid to the City’s contract service workers to just \$9 per hour. Asked her opinion on the matter, Vassos said she told the poll-taker that she strongly favored the Initiative. In fact, she was volunteering to help gather

signatures to qualify the Initiative for the 2016 ballot.

Since the recent telephone survey is proprietary, it is unlikely the results will be released to the public. **ICNV**

**Here is YOUR chance to take the poll!**

Simply go to:  
<http://IrvineCommunityNews.org/Poll>

The Irvine Community Poll is owned by Irvine Community News & Views. Unlike other proprietary polls, we publish our survey results. This is a way that your voice can be heard — and we can help serve the Irvine community.

YOU can participate in the online Irvine Community Poll right now. What’s YOUR opinion about: the latest 5,000 Housing Units development proposal? The School Bond Issue? And the Irvine Living Wage Initiative?

**TO CONTACT CITY HALL...**

Irvine City Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Regular session meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.  
Irvine City Hall • 1 Civic Center Plaza • Irvine, CA 92606 • Phone: 949-724-6233  
City Manager: Sean Joyce • 949-724-6246 • [cm@cityofirvine.org](mailto:cm@cityofirvine.org)



**COUNCILMEMBER** Lynn Schott **COUNCILMEMBER** Jeff Lalloway **MAYOR** Steven Choi **COUNCILMEMBER** Christina Shea **COUNCILMEMBER** Beth Krom

**Living Wage Initiative Campaign Gains Momentum**



Scores of Irvine residents — of all ages and backgrounds — are volunteers in the Irvine Living Wage Initiative effort, gathering thousands of signatures on initiative petitions.

This past summer, despite strong citizen opposition, the current City Council majority — Mayor Steven Choi and Councilmembers Christina Shea, Jeff Lalloway, and Lynn Schott — voted to **cut** Irvine’s own minimum wage, called a Living Wage, from \$11 per hour to just \$9 per hour. This will hurt hundreds of Irvine City workers and their families — including janitors, maintenance workers, and landscape workers who keep Irvine clean, safe and beautiful.

In response to this cruel, mean-spirited action by the City Council majority, scores of grassroots volunteers launched the Irvine Living Wage Restoration Initiative — to have more than 10,000 Irvine registered voters sign a petition to place the initiative on the 2016 City ballot, giving Irvine voters the opportunity to reinstate the City’s Living Wage law, word-for-word and dollar-for-dollar.

For weeks now, scores of volunteers have been fanning out across the City — to shopping centers, at UCI and throughout Irvine neighborhoods — petitioning thousands of Irvine voters for their support. Together, they are making history. **ICNV**



Starbucks stores in Irvine are favorite places to gather signatures for the Living Wage Restoration Initiative. Initiative Chair Luis Alemán, a UCI student, says, “Starbucks is just a friendly place with friendly people going in and out every day. Also, as a matter of national corporate policy, Starbucks supports policies to lift wages and help shrink the income inequality gap. That’s exactly what we’re trying to do here in Irvine.”

**QA WITH LUIS ALEMÁN**  
**CHAIR OF THE IRVINE LIVING WAGE INITIATIVE CAMPAIGN**



Luis Alemán

**Q. How is the Living Wage Initiative doing?**

**A.** We’re in the early signature-gathering phase now. I think it’s going well. We’re making steady progress in reaching our milestones. We crossed the 2,000-signature milestone some time ago.

**Q. How many signatures do you need? And how many do you have?**

**A.** We need to gather 10,445 valid signatures — signatures of registered Irvine voters — to qualify the measure for the 2016 ballot. We hope to reach that goal by mid-December. But first we have to get to 5,000 and then 6,000 signatures, which I think we can do by the end of November. It’s slow but steady work. It’s old-fashioned direct democracy — talking to one voter at a time and gathering one signature at a time, in person...not online.

**Q. Are most Irvine voters supportive?**

**A.** Yes. I’d say about 8 of 10 we talk to agree it’s very important to restore Irvine’s \$11 per hour Living Wage.

**Q. What questions do you most often hear from voters?**

**A.** Most often I hear a statement, followed by a question. Voters are angry that Mayor Choi and his City Council majority voted to repeal Irvine’s Living Wage — and actually **cut** workers’ pay from \$11 per hour to just \$9 per hour (the State minimum wage). Then they follow up by asking me why the Council would do such a thing. I can’t answer that other than to state the obvious: The Council’s action is just plain cruel and mean-spirited. That’s when they usually ask me another question: “How can I help?” And I tell them, here’s how: **Sign the initiative and circulate it. Get other registered voters in your household and neighborhood to sign.** In fact, I’ve reduced my activist message to three words: **Sign! Circulate! Donate!**

**Citizen Activists who wish to help with the Irvine Living Wage Initiative can volunteer and/or make a donation at: [www.IrvineLivingWage.org](http://www.IrvineLivingWage.org)**









**Sign up free!** [www.IrvineCommunityNews.org](http://www.IrvineCommunityNews.org)

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**CULVER PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER /  
CULVER & IRVINE CENTER DRIVE**

All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ  
Postal Annex  
The Car Spa

**CYPRESS VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER  
JEFFREY & TRABUCO**

Albertsons  
Al Amir  
Da Luau Hawaiian Grill  
Honey Pig

**DIAMOND JAMBOREE / ALTON & JAMBOREE**

Lower Level - Food Court Seating

**HARVARD & MICHELSON**

Irvine Lanes

**HARVARD PLACE / HARVARD & MAIN**

Einstein Brothers Bagels  
Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D.  
Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition

**Poquet Donuts**

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**HERITAGE PARK / WALNUT & YALE**

Heritage Park Regional Library

**HERITAGE PLAZA / CULVER & WALNUT**

Caspian Restaurant  
Pet Supply  
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**IRVINE BUSINESS COMPLEX**

Astoria at Central Park West  
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Toscana Luxury Apartments

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IHOP

**NORTH PARK PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER**

Champagne French Bakery Cafe

**OAK CREEK SHOPPING CENTER**

Baja Fresh Mexican Grill  
Daphne's Greek Cafe  
Gelson's  
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Upper Crust Pizza

**OLD MYFORD ROAD & IRVINE BLVD.**

Katie Wheeler Library

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Dr. Ghantnekar, DDS

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**Social Dry Lounge**  
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**PARKVIEW CENTER /  
UNIVERSITY & MICHELSON**

AIM Mail Centers - Postal Annex  
Dr. Sarlitt, Dr. Vo - Optometry  
IHOP  
Maxwell's Salon of London  
Pho-Tasia

**QUAIL HILL SHOPPING CENTER /  
SAND CANYON**

Johnny's Real N.Y. Pizza  
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**UNIVERSITY PARK CENTER  
CULVER & MICHELSON**

Ameci Pizza & Pasta  
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**UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTER /  
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Center for Living Peace  
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**THE VILLAGE AT IRVINE SPECTRUM CENTER  
/ PRISM & QUASAR DRIVE**

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**WALNUT VILLAGE CENTER /  
CULVER & WALNUT**

**Burntzilla**  
Curves/Jenny Craig  
French's Bakery  
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Subway  
Yes Cleaners

**WESTPARK PLAZA / ALTON & CULVER**

Albertsons  
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**SmashBurger**  
Sprouts Farmers Market  
Starbucks Coffee

**WOODBRIIDGE MEDICAL CENTER /  
BARRANCA & WOODBRIDGE SQUARE**

Woodbridge Walk-In Urgent Care

**WOODBRIIDGE VILLAGE CENTER**

Champagne French Bakery Cafe  
Irvine Car Wash  
Treuhaff's Fine Jewelry

**WOODBURY TOWN CENTER**

GNC  
NIKO NIKO Sushi  
Ralphs  
Rock n' Road Cyclery

**THE COUPON CONNECTION**

*by Cheryl Honig*



Hi, I'm Cheryl Honig, Advertising Coordinator for the *Irvine Community News & Views*. I enjoy getting to know business owners and managers in Irvine, and helping them create compelling ads that increase awareness for their products and services. Thank you to all the businesses **highlighted in red** on page 6 - it is a pleasure to work with you! I invite business owners to call me to discuss how we can work together to spread the word about your business throughout Irvine!

I look forward to hearing from you!

Cheryl Honig • 949-284-6079

cheryl@irvinecommunitynews.org

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Contact Cheryl  
cheryl@  
irvinecommunitynews.org



# Community Calendar

# November/December 2015

## HOLIDAY FAIRE AT THE IRVINE FINE ARTS CENTER

Friday, November 6, 2015 from 5-9 pm  
Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 9 am-4 pm

Each November, the Irvine Fine Arts Center hosts the annual Holiday Faire in Heritage Park. The juried Faire showcases Southern California artists and their unique handmade items for purchase, including holiday decorations, hand-blown glass, ceramics, jewelry, folk crafts, clothing, and more. 14321 Yale Avenue, Irvine (in Heritage Park).

**Admission:**  
\$2 per person. Children ages 12 and under are free.  
Info: 949-724-6880



## 34TH ANNUAL IRVINE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING PRAYER BREAKFAST

Thursday, November 19th, 2015  
The 34th Annual Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, hosted by the Exchange Club of Irvine, City of Irvine, and Irvine Chamber of Commerce, is 7:30-9 a.m. November 19 at the Irvine Marriott. This year's speaker, certified life coach and author Tanya Brown, will talk about "Finding Peace Amid Holiday Chaos." Join the non-denominational gathering. For more information and to sign up, visit [irvinechamber.com](http://irvinechamber.com).  
**Irvine Marriott Hotel**  
18000 Von Karman Avenue  
Irvine Chamber of Commerce  
Phone: 949-660-9112

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>8 NOVEMBER</b> <b>Certified Farmers Market.</b> OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org <b>Clinic in the Park.</b> OC Great Park Farmers Market. November Theme: Flu and Immunizations. 10am-2pm. Info: <a href="http://ClinicInThePark.org">ClinicInThePark.org</a>	<b>9</b> <b>TAG (Teen Advisory Group) Meeting.</b> Katie Wheeler Library. Ages 13-18. TAG meets on the second Monday of each month to discuss and plan library activities and to help the library keep up with teen trends. 5-6pm. Info: 714-669-8753	<b>10</b> <b>City Council Meeting.</b> Irvine City Hall. 5pm. 	<b>11</b> <b>VETERANS DAY.</b> 	<b>12</b> <b>Live Music at Eureka!</b> 4143 Campus Dr. Each Thursday night Eureka! features Live Music at their University Town Center location! 8pm. Info: 949-596-8881 	<b>13</b> <b>Be a Steward to Santiago Canyon!</b> Join Irvine Ranch Conservancy Land Stewards in hunting down and removing invasive woody plants like tree tobacco, tamarisk, castor bean and Spanish broom from Santiago Creek by Hangman's Gate. 9am-12pm. Info: <a href="http://LetsGoOutside.org">LetsGoOutside.org</a>	<b>14</b> <b>40th Staser Fall Scholastic Chess Tournament.</b> Scholastic chess players grades K-12 are invited to challenge their minds. This tournament features a free, non-rated section and a USCF-rated section for an entry fee of \$25. 10am-4:30pm. Info: OCGP.org
<b>15</b> <b>Certified Farmers Market.</b> OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org 	<b>16</b> <b>Preschool Storytime.</b> Katie Wheeler Library. 10:30am. Info: 714-669-8753 	<b>17</b> <b>Tuesday Morning Fitness Hike.</b> Paved Hicks Haul Road. 9-11:30am. Info: <a href="http://LetsGoOutside.org">LetsGoOutside.org</a>	<b>18</b> <b>Reading to Rover.</b> Heritage Park Library. Children improve their skill by reading to certified READ dogs. 3-4pm. Info: 949-936-4040 <b>Shambhala Meditation.</b> Center for Living Peace. 4139 Campus Drive. Ages 16 & over. 7:00pm - 10:00pm. Info: <a href="http://GoodHappens.org">GoodHappens.org</a>	<b>19</b> <b>34th Annual Irvine Community Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast.</b> Keynote Speaker Tanya Brown, Certified Life Coach & Author Irvine Marriott Hotel. 7-9am. Info & Tickets: <a href="http://www.irvinechamber.com">www.irvinechamber.com</a> or 949-660-9112	<b>20</b> <b>Canyon Explorers: Nighttime Flyers.</b> A nighttime hike in Bommer Canyon. Keep an ear out for our nighttime fliers' calls and watch for their silent flight across the canyon. 7-8:30pm. Info: <a href="http://LetsGoOutside.org">LetsGoOutside.org</a> 	<b>21</b> <b>Seasoned Chefs Culinary Workshop.</b> OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. Make fresh and easy Thanksgiving dishes right from the garden. 10-11am. Info: OCGP.org 
<b>22</b> <b>Certified Farmers Market.</b> OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org 	<b>23</b> <b>After Work Fitness Hike.</b> Paved Hicks Haul Road. 6-7:30pm. Info & Registration: <a href="http://LetsGoOutside.org">LetsGoOutside.org</a> 	<b>24</b> <b>City Council Meeting.</b> Irvine City Hall. 5pm. 	<b>25</b> <b>Full Moon Hike.</b> Orchard Hills. 6-8:30pm. Info: <a href="http://LetsGoOutside.org">LetsGoOutside.org</a> 	<b>26</b> <b>THANKSGIVING</b> 	<b>27</b> <b>Thanksgiving Wobble Walk.</b> Walk off your Thanksgiving dinner on this slow-paced, 2-mile hike (400-ft. elevation gain) over steep and uneven terrain with OC Parks Resource Specialist Laura Cohen and Laguna Canyon Foundation volunteers. Ages 12 and up. 9:30-11:30am. Info & Registration: <a href="http://LetsGoOutside.org">LetsGoOutside.org</a>	<b>28</b> <b>Engineering &amp; Invention for Teens.</b> Explore design and engineering concepts by engaging in "reverse-engineering"—taking apart equipment to learn how it works, then building it back up into something new! Great Park Artists Studios. 10am-12pm. Info & Registration: OCGP.org
<b>29</b> <b>Certified Farmers Market.</b> OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org 	<b>30</b> <b>Homework Help.</b> Heritage Park Library For children in 2nd - 8th grade. Teen volunteers help them with their homework. Parents must attend with their children. 4:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040	<b>1 DECEMBER</b> <b>Short Story Book Club.</b> Led by Doug Brown. Heritage Park Library. 2:30-4:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	<b>2</b> <b>Morning Yoga.</b> Bommer Canyon. A relaxing combination of hiking and yoga in Bommer Canyon. 9:30-11am. Info: <a href="http://LetsGoOutside.org">LetsGoOutside.org</a> 	<b>3</b> <b>Planning Commission Meeting.</b> Irvine City Hall. 5:30-8pm. 	<b>4</b> <b>OC Writers: Read &amp; Critique.</b> Dedicated to providing writers with space and time to write, learn and network. Writers bring their own manuscripts-in-progress to work on in this welcoming and supportive environment, which includes electrical outlets and wifi for laptop and tablet users. Great Park Gallery. 11am-1pm. Info: OCGP.org	<b>5</b> <b>Creative Ventures Family Fun Holiday Crafting.</b> Looking for something fun and creative to do with the family on a weekend? Drop in to make a unique "take home" treasure. Parent participation required. Registration and fee is per child/craft. OC Great Park. 10-11am. Info & Registration: OCGP.org
<b>6</b> <b>Home for the Holidays.</b> Pet Adoption Fair. Irvine Animal Care Center 6443 Oak Canyon. 10am-3pm. Info: 949-724-7740 	<b>7</b> <b>Kids Book Club.</b> University Park Library A book club just for kids! If you are 8-12 and love reading, come and share your thoughts about each month's selection. 6:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001					

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



"Trey" is a male, neutered, domestic medium-hair mix. Trey weighs 11 pounds. He is 2 years old.

For more information about Trey and other adoptable pets, or the IACC call 949-724-7740 or email [info@irvineshelter.org](mailto:info@irvineshelter.org)

## Clinic in the Park

**Free • No Appointment Needed • Family Fun**  
**When: Sunday, November 8, 10am - 2pm**  
**Where: Great Park Farmers Market**  
*Exit Sand Canyon (Irvine), Right on Marine Way*

- Free Books
- Booster Seats, Bike Helmets
- Connections to Services
- Adventure Farm Tour: Learn about the Great Park Farm!
- Basic First Aid Skills
- Obstacle Course for Prizes

Visit: [www.ClinicInThePark.org](http://www.ClinicInThePark.org)  
Email: [clinicinthepark@gmail.com](mailto:clinicinthepark@gmail.com)  
Call: (949) 385-3067  
[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/clinicinthepark) [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/clinicinthepark) [tumblr](https://www.tumblr.com/clinicinthepark)

## Home for the Holidays Pet Adoption Fair

Sunday, December 6 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

More than 50 pet-rescue groups and animal shelters will bring more than 500 homeless dogs, cats, rabbits and small animals for adoption. The event will also feature vendors, refreshments, free veterinarian and trainer advice, low-cost microchips and a silent auction of more than 40 items. Suggested donation is \$2 and parking is free. Leashed and vaccinated dogs are welcome. Click here to download the flyer. For more information, call 949-724-7740 or email [info@irvineshelter.org](mailto:info@irvineshelter.org) (link sends e-mail).



# WORKING by Mary Dolphin

Too much of the work that gets done all around us goes unnoticed and under-appreciated. It's the people high up in the corner office who get our attention, photos on the cover of magazines touting the good life, awards and recognition.

So, good enough! But the corner office and the big desk wouldn't be there if it weren't for the people who hammer and saw and drive and deliver and pick up and take down and clean and maintain and serve.

Here, in this new feature of *Irvine Community News & Views*, we are going to express our appreciation to these people and share their stories with you. These are the stories of people getting the work done in Irvine, making it a City that works in so many ways for the benefit of so many different people.



We love our strawberries!  
Year round, no less!  
Plant, feed, grow, work  
For children, for hope and a delicious harvest  
To bring a basketful to a holiday party, for a friend.  
We stop and smile, grateful to be so fortunate.  
But I wonder. Is this a labor of love?

It was over 90 degrees in this Irvine field  
At Jeffrey and Barranca on October 10<sup>th</sup>.  
The woman carried an empty basket to hold strawberry plantings.  
She stopped and smiled at me in my air-conditioned car  
As I asked her permission to snap a photo, then hurried on,  
Like everyone, always awaiting some harvest.  
Will it be a shared blessing, for one and for all?  
The way it was always meant to be?



# Let's Go Outside



The Canyon Explorers program is one of many kid-friendly programs geared toward getting children in touch with nature. Programs include an education component as well as a naturalist-led hike. There are regularly-scheduled, free activities led by Irvine Ranch Conservancy guides. Register at [www.LetsGoOutside.org](http://www.LetsGoOutside.org)

Photo credit: Irvine Ranch Conservancy



## Fall Food Drive

Now Through November 20th.  
Help support hunger-relief efforts by donating canned goods or non-perishable food items to benefit local food banks.

**Time:** Donations accepted Thursday & Friday 10 a.m.-10 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

**Location:**  
**Orange County Great Park Visitors Center**



## Kudos to School Resource Officers... It's about Safety and Relationships



**SCHOOLWATCH**  
*by Carolyn Inmon\**

Recently, I had an interesting conversation about School Resource Officers (SROs) with Lt. John Condon of the Irvine Police Department. Lt. Condon began by saying that the main contribution of SROs to the schools is to assist the teachers, administration and students in maintaining a safe learning environment.

These SROs are full-fledged Irvine police officers. In addition to traditional ways of keeping the schools safe, they build relationships with individual students, help meet their needs, and often prevent serious problems. In fact, Lt. Condon stated, "Nurturing relationships is the majority of the work that School Resource Officers do."

Our elementary schools do not have School Resource Officers, but the award-winning DARE program is an important part of what Irvine Police officers bring to these schools. Middle school is a tough age for our children, and the SRO program is helpful to them, too.

My conversation with Lt. Condon ended with a mini-reunion between him and my husband, John Inmon, who was a founding IUSD principal who opened College Park Elementary. "We opened College Park Elementary together and I was in the first grade," Condon said.

We are so fortunate in Irvine to have such outstanding residents who grew up in Irvine and are still here contributing to our City. Thank you, Lt. John Condon, and thank you School Resource Officers.

*\*Carolyn Inmon is a retired Irvine teacher. She has taught at virtually every grade level, from K - 12, as well as community college. She served as President of the Community College Association from 2005-2007. Carolyn always welcomes your comments and ideas at: [Carolyn@IrvineCommunityNews.org](mailto:Carolyn@IrvineCommunityNews.org)*

## When is the Right Age to Start Organized Sports?



**SPORTSWATCH**  
*by Joel Smith\**

Youth sports in this country have become so competitive that kids are starting competitive sports at a much younger age than they used to. Cities have become flush with club, all-star, and travel-level teams for kids to play in. Irvine is a prime example of a sports hotspot that offers very competitive sports teams for adolescent kids.

Before you look into signing your kids up for their first sports experience, you have to ask this question: When is the right age for my son or daughter to start organized sports?

I grew up playing sports in Irvine. I started playing AYSO and T-ball around ages 5-6 and joined club soccer at age 10. Nowadays, if you wait until your child is 10 to join club sports, you're already way behind. The sports dynamic has changed, and in order to keep your children in the upper tier of their sport, you need to sign them up for competitive club teams at ages 7, 8, and 9. *But is that what's best for kids?*

There are many competing views on whether starting them this young is a good thing or a bad thing. On the one hand, you're starting the kids at a younger age with better coaching, a more organized environment, and competitive games. But on the other hand, you risk pushing the kids too hard, making the game less fun and burning them out. I go back and forth on this issue but I know one thing for sure: *My children will definitely START in recreational sports and only make the move into more organized club sports when they tell me they want to.* As a parent, I will absolutely not push my kids into something they might not be ready to do. As an avid sports lover, I want my children to love sports, too...for the fun of it.

*\*Joel Smith is a hometown Irvine athlete and Concordia University graduate who excelled in soccer, and now coaches in Irvine.*

## More on Irvine's Cultural Riches



**CULTURECORNER**  
*by Steve Layton\**

Last month, we featured UCI Drama Department's presentation of *Man of La Mancha* (Nov. 14 - Nov. 22) at the Barclay. Now add this to your calendar: *These Shining Lives* (Nov. 21 - Dec. 6) will be performed on campus at the Humanities Hall Little Theatre. This play artfully dramatizes the plight of 1920s female factory workers charged with applying radium powder to clock faces, which ultimately and tragically results in radium poisoning. For tickets, performance times and directions to the theater, contact: [www.arts.uci.edu/tickets](http://www.arts.uci.edu/tickets). The Humanities Hall Little Theatre is an intimate, on-campus venue, seating

165. For directions to the theatre, parking, and a seating diagram, go to: [www.arts.uci.edu/directions-little-theatre](http://www.arts.uci.edu/directions-little-theatre).

Moving now from drama to art, our City is blessed with a gem of an art museum. **The Irvine Museum**, free and open to the public, features historic California landscapes and *plein air* paintings selected from the Museum's extensive collection, supporting contributors, and art from the Museum's founder, Joan Irvine Smith's in-depth collection. Don't look for folding Dali watches, Pollack, or Nudes Ascending Stair Cases. The subjects are brilliantly executed, recognizable scenes, some of a nostalgic California that no longer exists. The Museum also features specific themes and artist groupings. *Independent Visions* is the museum's theme through January 21, and features women artists of California from 1880 through 1940. The Museum — with convenient parking — is located in the heart of Irvine's Business Complex at 18881 Von Karman, Suite 100, and is open 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays. Go to [www.irvinemuseum.org](http://www.irvinemuseum.org) for details. Go, be stimulated.

*\*Steve is a semi-retired businessman, remaining very active in the Irvine community. He is a supporter of the UCI Drama Department, and currently serves on the Leadership Committee of the New Swan Shakespeare Festival.*

## Suppression of Free Speech is Wrong



**WORDSWATCH**  
*by Harris E. Kershner\**

Irvine City Council Ordinance No. 90-03 includes the following words: "[F]ree speech rights and the exercise of those rights are among the most cherished of our constitutional rights, particularly insofar as political activities are concerned..." "No person shall interfere with the exercise of Free Speech Rights by persons within areas open to the general public." Also, the U.S. Constitution and the California Constitution protect freedom of speech.

Curiously, the Irvine City Attorney has asserted that this newspaper (*ICNV*) is forbidden from placing free copies of the paper in Irvine City Hall where other free papers such as the *Irvine World News* and *OC Weekly* are allowed to place copies of their publications. Even more curious, the Irvine City Attorney has asserted that "the City does not allow political related publications to be distributed inside City Hall and/or other City facilities."

As noted in Irvine's very own Free Speech Ordinance, the exercise of free speech rights insofar as political activities are concerned, is among the most cherished of our constitutional rights. The courts of this country have ruled on numerous occasions that if you disagree with protected speech, your remedy is to offer your own views and to compete in the marketplace of ideas. Suppression of free speech is wrong, plain and simple.

*\*Harris E. Kershner is a local attorney, specializing in Employment Law. He has lived in Irvine for over 30 years, and currently resides in Woodbridge.*



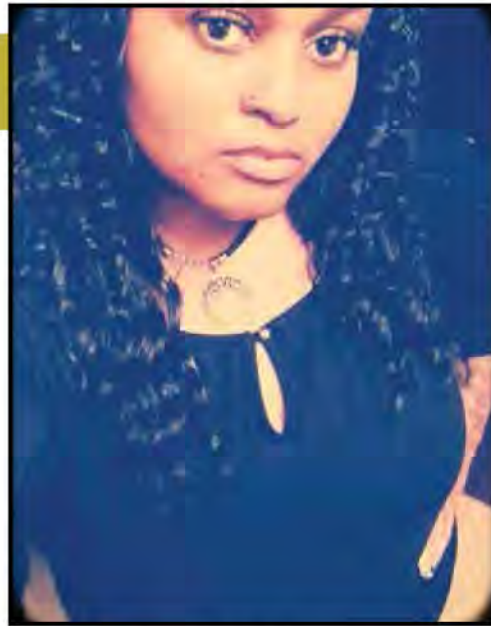


# Impressive in Irvine

by Cheryl Honig

As I work my way around Irvine, I have the pleasure of meeting some of the most generous, dedicated, and hard-working people. I am thrilled to hear their stories, and learn what motivates them to start their business or excel at their chosen craft. As I listen intently, I am drawn into their world. I emerge at the end of our talk, as one of their biggest fans. These people are... **Impressive in Irvine.**

## Shan' Ta Monroe



Shan' Ta Monroe

It is so easy to talk with Shan' Ta Monroe. She is warm and welcoming, and wears a big smile as an accessory to her big personality. I learned so much about Shan' Ta during our initial conversation — mother of three girls (two with sickle-cell anemia), accomplished painter, General Service Employee at Smashburger at the corner of Alton & Culver, and of course, Irvine resident — that I wanted to learn more and share it with you!

Shan' Ta grew up in Maryland, but most recently lived in Washington, D.C., where she experienced intense challenges. "Losing a sibling to senseless violence and having two children born with chronic illness helped me to discover the gifts within," says Shan' Ta with a positive attitude. In May, 2012, Shan' Ta decided to move to Irvine for the milder climate — which is healthier for her daughters.

Shan' Ta is part of the 10% chosen by jury selection out of 4,000 applicants to join the Laguna Beach ART Group. Her works are displayed the first Thursday of every month during the Laguna Art Walk. At her first showing, Shan' Ta sold two paintings! Shan' Ta describes her paintings as "an intensely personal experience," and explains that "each piece speaks to the non-verbal parts of our existence."

"I am now reinventing my art for a new market, and while challenging, it has proven exciting and rewarding," Shan' Ta explains. You can view Shan' Ta's paintings on Instagram at @\_artographywurks or reach her via email at artographywurks@gmail.com or by phone at 304-685-7736.



Two untitled paintings by Shan' Ta Monroe

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# THE IRVINE LIVING WAGE INITIATIVE: OFFICIAL PROponents' STATEMENT

On June 9, 2015, despite strong citizen opposition, the City Council voted to cut Irvine's own minimum wage — known as the Irvine Living Wage — from nearly \$11 per hour (\$10.82) to just \$9 per hour (which is the State minimum wage). This will hurt hundreds of City workers and their families — mostly janitors and housekeepers, maintenance workers, and landscape workers. These are the City contract service workers who keep our City clean and beautiful. (Mayor Steven Choi and Councilmembers Jeff Lalloway, Christina Shea and Lynn Schott voted to repeal Irvine's Living Wage; Councilmember Beth Krom voted against repeal.)

By repealing the Irvine Living Wage Ordinance, which operated successfully for 8 years, the Mayor and City Council effectively cut as much as \$4,000 per year from the annual earnings of our City's lowest-paid contract employees, causing many to fall below the poverty line.

The Council action to repeal Irvine's Living Wage Ordinance is contrary to the values of our community, including the values of our business community. Not one business leader testified in support of the Council vote.

The Council majority's mean-spirited action has diminished Irvine's reputation as an innovative City that values forward-thinking policies and respects the workers who serve our citizens. While other cities across the country are raising their minimum hourly wage, Irvine is America's only major city to repeal its Living Wage. The Mayor and City Council are taking Irvine in the wrong direction.

**This initiative, which we can place on the 2016 ballot with signatures of more than 10,000 registered Irvine voters, will enable Irvine voters to reinstate our City's Living Wage by restoring the Irvine Living Wage Ordinance, word-for-word.**

When the City Council is out of step with the community, the initiative process allows the residents to speak for themselves and take constructive, corrective action. Irvine is a nice community with nice people who understand that those who work for us are entitled to a decent day's pay for a decent day's work.

**By using the initiative process, as citizens we can reinstate the Living Wage Ordinance and once again show the true spirit of Irvine.**

*Luis Aleman*



Luis Alemán  
Initiative Proponent

*Mary Ann Gaido*



Mary Ann Gaido  
Initiative Proponent

*Beth Krom*



Beth Krom  
Initiative Proponent

**PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO JOIN THIS HISTORIC INITIATIVE EFFORT**

**[www.IrvineLivingWage.org](http://www.IrvineLivingWage.org)**

Irvine Living Wage Coalition • 17614 Rosa Drew Lane, #7A, Irvine, CA 92612



*ICNV's* coverage of Councilmember Christina Shea's attempts to interfere with the distribution of our newspaper, and the City Manager's continuing banishment of our publication from City Hall, has incensed readers across the City. Here, we republish the censorship cartoon we first ran last month, along with two of the more interesting letters we received on the topic.



**"YOU CAN'T READ THIS NEWSPAPER!  
YOU MUST READ THESE!"**

■ To keep *Irvine Community News & Views* out of City Hall, while other free publications are allowed in, is pathetic. What are City Hall and the City Council afraid of? Their actions are childish, foolish, and obviously unconstitutional — interfering with *my* right to enjoy the blessings of *my* First Amendment freedoms.

—*Anonymous (a City of Irvine employee)*

■ Recently, I was at City Hall and I noticed a rack of various free publications. I thought I'd pick up a copy of *Irvine Community News & Views*. But no such luck. Imagine my dismay when I learned there were copies of the *Irvine World News* and *OC Weekly*, but not a single copy of *ICNV* was available. If it's OK for City Hall to carry *OC Weekly* — which is simply a delivery system for pornography and marijuana ads — then the more family-friendly publications like the *Irvine World News* and *Irvine Community News & Views* should be available at City Hall as well.

—*Marilyn Vassos*

Our story on the State audit/investigation of the so-called Great Park "audit" elicited this letter to the editor from Mr. Jake Jacobs, and caused us to reprint an earlier cartoon on the subject.



**"DON'T YOU JUST LOVE THIS GAME?"**

■ So, having spent an incredible \$1.5 million in Irvine taxpayer funds on the so-called Great Park "forensic audit," what did the Shea-Lalloway "Audit Subcommittee" find? *Nothing*. No wrongdoing. No unauthorized expenditures. No unaccounted for funds. I say, bring in the State Auditors! Assuming the State Auditors are competent, they will see right away that this wasn't an audit at all. Let's be honest: Shea and Lalloway blew \$1.5 million on a "Get Agran" political witch hunt and smear campaign. This is a scandalous misuse of public funds, if ever there was one.

—*Jake Jacobs*

***ICNV* readers continue to express incredulity, frustration and even anger at the Irvine Unified School District's refusal to conduct comprehensive testing for toxic petrochemicals at the site of the under-construction Portola High School before students and teachers occupy the \$300 million school in September, 2016.**

■ The health and safety of all who will occupy Portola High School concerns me. The cost of testing is insignificant compared to the cost of potential health issues, potential legal actions, and loss of use of the high school.

—*Deborah Dutra*

■ I support common sense measures to ensure students are afforded a safe non-toxic environment to learn, play, live.

—*Robert Bertucci*

■ I was contemplating having my son attend this new school, however this is no longer a consideration.

—*Nancy Manion*

■ I want a safe future for my future children, and we can't take chances on safety.

—*Maulik Dholaria*

■ There is no reason to build a school where there is any suspicion of toxic waste. Are we trying to poison our kids?

—*Bronwen Evans*

■ I have children in Irvine public schools, one of which could go to the new High School. Given the large investment to build the school and potential liability issues, it makes sense to me to do the testing.

—*James Troup*

■ Safety and transparency are not negotiable in a true democracy.

—*Janet Schermer*

■ As a nurse with public health in mind, I am concerned about the health risks of all residents who could come into contact with contamination at the school site.

—*Nancy Ramon*

■ I don't want to put my kids in a dangerous environment, especially if it's a school. I really don't get what IUSD is thinking!

—*Kathy Chang*

■ The Love Canal, New York tragedy need not be repeated in Irvine.

—*K. Cal Hibrawi*

■ The Irvine School Board needs to do the testing to protect the students and teaching staff, and also to protect the taxpayers of Irvine from future lawsuits.

—*Francois Primeau*



**Head in the sand ... still.**

■ Let's not learn the hard way.

—*Jimmy Nguyen*

■ Toxins should not be anywhere near our children's schools or our living spaces!!

—*Lenean Sachdeva*

■ Our community deserves more scientific evidence that it is safe to build on this site!

—*Julie Hirota*

■ As a past vice-chairman of the Orange County Great Park board of directors, I know the importance of cleaning up the site and making sure it is safe for the children of Irvine.

—*Michael Pinto*

■ How in good conscience could we not do this testing. It's sad that a petition even has to happen.

—*Roberta Muhleman*

My husband and I have lived in Irvine since 1976. We raised our children here during a time when the City believed schools, neighborhood parks, and shopping should be within walking distance of every home/village. Our General Plan was strictly adhered to, but now it appears we have Councilmembers who have turned their backs on the people and the General Plan that made Irvine such a great and desirable City to live in. Issues of overcrowding, lack of local schools, horrific and dangerous traffic issues abound. All things change with time, but "progress" should not have so many negative effects.

We believed in and fought for The Great Park and are dismayed at the change to extreme high density which is costing us to lose park land to the builders of 10,000 homes. We moved into the first Great Park development before we were made aware of the changes made by the recently elected Councilmembers.

We have felt out of the loop regarding what has been happening in our City for several years. The one local newspaper we received stopped being delivered to our last home long ago. Thank you for picking up the task. We all need to be more involved and better informed.

Sincerely,  
Pat Kennedy

■ I have three friends who are new, young high school teachers in Irvine. I told them to never transfer to Portola High School because there will be many cases of cancer among the teachers in about 20 to 30 years. I can't believe the City Council and the School Board want to build on this site. Shame on them!

—*Andrea Swanson*

■ I am not comfortable with the level of testing and reporting at the site of the new high school.

—*Judith Via*

■ All of our school and public sites should be healthy for their users.

—*Patricia Calkins*

■ Does no one remember the Los Angeles Unified School District's Belmont Learning Center? Millions had to be spent for site cleanup, and the school finally opened years late. Two buildings had to be demolished, never having been occupied. It became the most expensive school in the nation. Let's do better for our students and our wallets.

—*Carol Lamphier*

**And, finally, we publish this very nice note from a new Irvine resident...**

■ My family moved to Irvine in June last year after I accepted a job in Orange. We live in the Ranch neighborhood. Our two sons are 19 months and almost five years. I have been reading the *Irvine Community News and Views* since not long after we moved here.

You have repeatedly demonstrated the best of intention for this city and the people who live here. Thank you for the work you and your staff are doing. The newspaper deserves high praise. Please keep up the good work.

—*Greg Sinclair*

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.



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