



Publisher's Perspective

More than
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Like many thousands of our loyal readers, I still prefer *Irvine Community News & Views (ICNV)* in its traditional print format. You know what I mean — ink on paper, and page-after-page of what I call an “old-fashioned, hold-it-in-your-hands” community newspaper.

But, we at *ICNV* understand realities. The plain fact is that most people now get most of their news electronically, off a screen. And that’s true of local community news, too. We proudly take note of the fact that our *ICNV* Facebook following has crossed another remarkable milestone: 22,000 people! This is three times what it was just a few years ago.

Our growing *ICNV* online readership has important advantages. We provide our online readers with more news, frequent updates, and an occasional “Call to Action” for civic activists who care about important community issues, like the long-promised Veterans Cemetery.

So, if you’re not already an online subscriber to *Irvine Community News & Views*, why not become one today?

Franklin J. Lunding



Franklin J. Lunding, *Publisher and Editor*

For updates on the Veterans Cemetery

and other breaking Irvine news, subscribe for free to:

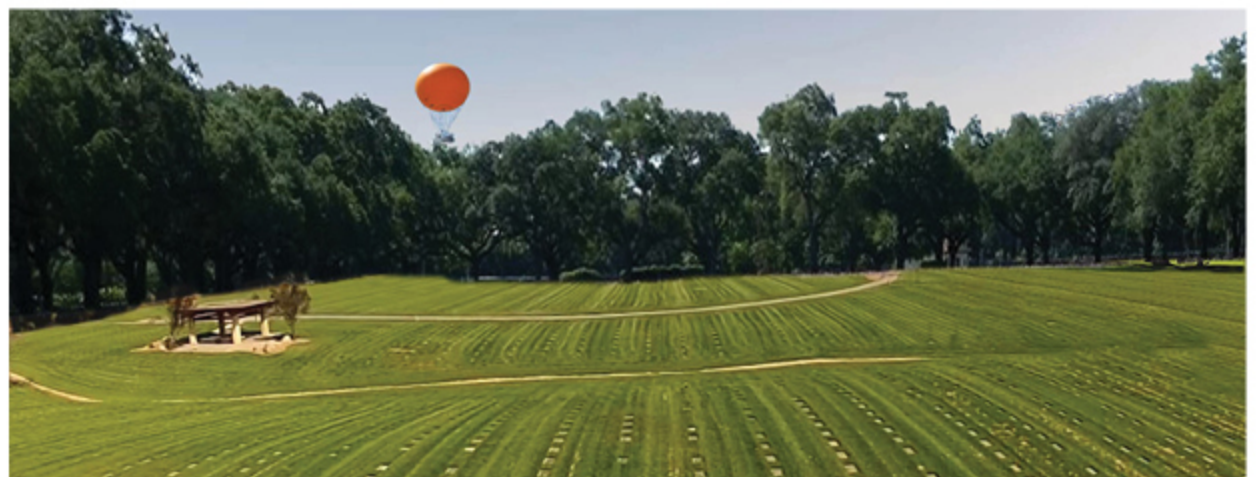
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Veterans Cemetery: Now the City Council must...

“Just Say YES!”



Will the City Council finally take action to approve transfer of the 125-acre “ARDA” site (at the Great Park) to the State, so construction of the Veterans Cemetery can begin this fall?

In a series of stunning victories in May and June, State lawmakers — led by Orange County Assemblywoman **Sharon Quirk-Silva** and Senator **Tom Umberg** — are winning approval of legislation, including more than \$20 million in first-year funding, to begin building the Southern California Veterans Cemetery at its originally designated location on the 125-acre “ARDA” site at the Great Park.

The question now becomes whether or not Irvine Mayor **Christina Shea** and mega-developer **FivePoint Communities** will continue their efforts to derail the project and deny a final resting place for veterans.

Five years ago, then-Councilmember Christina Shea began a relentless effort to defeat a proposed State-built and State-operated Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park in northeast Irvine. Shea’s crusade to defeat the Veterans Cemetery continues to this day — even as the recently-appointed

Mayor finds herself increasingly isolated in her opposition to the popular project.

Shea’s 5-year Crusade

On March 11, 2014, former Irvine Mayor and City Councilmember **Larry Agran** won adoption of his Council resolution, which stated: “The City of Irvine expresses its strong interest in providing at least 100 acres of land at the Orange County Great Park, formerly the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, for purposes of creating a Southern California Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery.”

Agran’s resolution was adopted by the City Council on a 4-to-1 vote. **Only one City Councilmember voted NO: Christina Shea.**

With legislative support and initial State funding earmarked for the project, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) moved ahead (2014-2016),

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preparing and approving a 333-page *Concept Plan*, including an analysis and design for the specific site designated by the City: the **125-acre "ARDA" site in the Great Park**. The *Concept Plan* included a 30-month construction timeline, which was also approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Despite these approvals, Shea continued her opposition. In fact, in early 2016, Shea teamed up with billion-dollar developer FivePoint and began promoting a so-called "land-swap" that would give away the 125-acre ARDA site to developer FivePoint and replace the planned Veterans Cemetery with more than 800,000 square feet of office, industrial and apartment development.

Later, after the 2016 election, it was revealed that FivePoint and other developers spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to elect Shea and Mayoral candidate Don Wagner through their "outsourced" 2016 election campaigns.

In early 2017, as part of a 3-to-2 Council majority, Shea pushed through the FivePoint-backed zoning ordinance to replace the proposed Veterans Cemetery at the ARDA site. But as Irvine residents began to understand what was happening, they organized themselves and gathered more than 19,000 signatures to force a ballot referendum (Measure B) — an historic citywide vote on the "replace-and-develop" scheme being pushed by Shea and FivePoint.

Despite FivePoint pouring more than \$1 million into their campaign, on June 5, 2018, Irvine voters overwhelmingly rejected Measure B, 63% to 37%. **The voters made it clear that they wanted the Veterans Cemetery — not more FivePoint development — at the ARDA site in the Great Park.**

What Now? What's Next?

Since then, in a backroom deal, Shea has become Irvine's first *unelected* Mayor in more than three decades. In April of this year, she automatically filled the vacancy in the Mayor's seat when Mayor Don Wagner was elected to the Orange County Board of Supervisors. As Mayor, Shea has continued to ignore the will of the people, promoting an "alternative" site for the Veterans Cemetery — the so-called "Golf Course" site at the Great Park. In fact, the site is not a golf course at all; it is an oddly-shaped and problematic parcel that was part of the former airbase; the site is unstudied, unapproved, and has no visible support among Irvine residents and voters.

Meanwhile, at the State Capitol in Sacramento, legislation and tens of millions of dollars in State Budget funding have been voted to commence construction of the Veterans Cemetery at the original ARDA site. Final passage and the Governor's signature on the legislation are expected as early as August. All this is happening despite Shea's use of her new-found prominence as Mayor to oppose the Veterans Cemetery — in videos, newspaper articles, and also in letters to Sacramento legislators that were co-signed on City letterhead by **Emile Haddad**, Chairman and CEO of developer FivePoint. Assemblywoman **Sharon Quirk-Silva** said at a recent State Senate hearing she was "outraged" by the letters "driven by developers."

Former Mayor Larry Agran, at the forefront of the Veterans Cemetery fight for more than five years, expressed his impatience, even anger toward Shea: "What's wrong with our Mayor and City Council? At this point, all that's needed is for the City Council to adopt a resolution. The Council simply needs to **Just Say YES!** to a resolution expressing its willingness to transfer the ARDA site to the State for CalVet to build, operate and maintain — at no cost to the City of Irvine — the long-promised Southern California Veterans Cemetery." Agran added, "Where I come from, that's known as a no-brainer."

Irvine City Councilmember **Melissa Fox** has indicated she will soon be introducing a Council resolution directing the City to enter into an agreement with CalVet officials to transfer the ARDA property to the State so actual construction of the Veterans Cemetery can begin this year. [ICNV](#)



What do YOU think?
Take our online IRVINE COMMUNITY POLL
 Do you approve or disapprove of Mayor Christina Shea's handling of the Veterans Cemetery issue?
 Go to: IrvineCommunityNews.org/Shea-Poll

YOUR OPINION MATTERS TAKE OUR POLL

Help us take the pulse of the Irvine community!



CityWatch by Larry Agran

Three big land-use decisions...Three Legacy Projects

In Irvine's 48 years as a planned City, some land-use decisions and projects have been so profoundly beneficial that they've earned the title "legacy projects." As

a former Mayor and Councilmember, I've been fortunate to play a role in advancing three of these citizen-driven projects.

Legacy Project No. 1 – Open Space. In the 1980s, facing rapid development and vanishing open space, Irvine citizens demanded that the City and The Irvine Company enter into an open space agreement. After years of negotiations, in 1988 Irvine voters ratified an historic Open Space Preservation Initiative that set aside more than 10,000 acres of natural open space and vast wilderness areas that will be forever protected, free of development.

Legacy Project No. 2 – The Great Park. In the 1990s, when President Clinton ordered the decommissioning of the Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro, the County Supervisors immediately pushed for conversion of the airbase into a giant international airport, triple the size of John Wayne Airport. Our idea — a better one — was to create a large metropolitan park. After four countywide ballot measures, we finally prevailed in 2002, and now our 1,300-acre Great Park is being built over a 40-year period.

Legacy Project No. 3 – The Southern California Veterans Cemetery. Beginning in 2013, City, State and Federal officials have advocated and approved a State Veterans Cemetery on 125 acres — known as the "ARDA" site — in our Great Park. Since 2017, now-Mayor Christina Shea and developer FivePoint have worked to defeat the Veterans Cemetery on the ARDA site, wanting to replace it with massive FivePoint development. A new State bill, AB 368 (Sharon Quirk-Silva), coupled with \$20 million in first-year State construction

money, has put us within months of beginning construction on the Veterans Cemetery. Will this legacy project finally be approved by the Irvine City Council? Or, like previous legacy projects, will it require yet more citizen activism and ballot initiatives? We'll soon know.



Will the 125-acre "ARDA" site in the Great Park, owned by the City, become Irvine's next Legacy Project — a beautiful Southern California Veterans Cemetery approved by the City Council? Or, will the project require a citizen-initiative to become a reality?

Legacy Project No. 1 - Open Space	Legacy Project No. 2 - The Great Park	Legacy Project No. 3 - Veterans Cemetery



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1 League #63190
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Phone: 949-345-1106
Email: Info@IrvineCommunityNews.org

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For Advertising Inquiries:
Kerrie Mahan 949-345-1106
Kerrie@IrvineCommunityNews.org

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Franklin J. Lunding
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Kerrie Mahan
Chief Operations Officer & Calendar Editor

LOGISTICS & DISTRIBUTION

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Mary Edmonds
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CULVER PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER Culver & Irvine Center Drive • All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ • Coffee Tomo • The Car Spa • iSnō Cafe • Postal Annex • Tea Station	NORTH PARK PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER Culver & Irvine Blvd. • Champagne French Bakery Cafe	THE VILLAGE AT IRVINE SPECTRUM CENTER Prism & Spectrum • Starbucks • Village Market
CYPRESS VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER Jeffrey & Trabuco • Albertsons • Honey Pig • Olive Oil Mediterranean Grill • Da Luau Hawaiian Grill	OAK CREEK SHOPPING CENTER Jeffrey & Alton • Gelson's • Upper Crust Pizza • Maizuru Sushi Bar - Japanese Restaurant • Mustard Cafe • Orange Theory Fitness	WALNUT VILLAGE CENTER Culver & Walnut • Chronic Tacos • Jamba Juice • Starbucks
DIAMOND JAMBOREE Alton & Jamboree • Konaloo Coffee • Tokyo Table • Lower Level - Food Court Seating	OLD MYFORD ROAD & IRVINE BLVD. • Katie Wheeler Library	WESTPARK PLAZA Alton & Culver • Albertsons • Dickey's Barbecue Pit • Starbucks Coffee • Sprouts Farmers Market
HARVARD & MICHELSON • Irvine Lanes	ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE CENTER Culver & Portola • Green Cleaners • Pavilions	WOODBURY TOWN CENTER Sand Canyon & Irvine Blvd. • Ralphs
HARVARD PLAZA Harvard & Main • Jamba Juice • Poquet Donuts • Ralphs • Rubio's • Honeybee Ice Cream • Paradise Cleaners • Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D. • Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition	PARK PLACE Michelson & Jamboree • Social Dry Lounge • Starbucks	



Adopt a Pet

In each issue of ICNV we feature one adoptable pet from the Irvine Animal Care Center. "Cleo" is a spayed female, tan and black shepherd mix. She is about 5 years old.

The Irvine Animal Care Center (IACC) is a progressive and innovative municipal animal shelter that continually strives to strengthen the human-animal bond and improve the welfare of animals by promoting their humane care and treatment. The Center's 3.73 acre, park-like facility cares for thousands of homeless, neglected, abused animals every year. All animals in their care receive veterinary care, high-quality food, soft bedding and daily socialization.

Increasingly, we have found that our choice for Pet of the Month is adopted shortly after press-time. For the most current list of adoptable pets at the IACC, visit their website at www.cityofirvine.org/irvine-animal-care-center/adopt-pet or visit the Shelter in person. The Irvine Animal Care Center is located at 6443 Oak Canyon, in Irvine.

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

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Senior Life — Youthful Lifestyle

An ICNV Feature Series On
Healthful Living As We Age

My Unusual Cataract Surgery

by Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D.

I was driving home very late one night, north on the I-5, and moved over to the right lane where the ramp to the I-405 splits off with a sweeping curve that goes high in the air. Suddenly, there were no lane markers. I couldn't see the edge of the road; there were no taillights in front of me; everything seemed to disappear. And, I was traveling about 70mph. It was PANIC! I stepped on the brakes, managing somehow to get off the unlit ramp, and back to lit roadway.

to perform the incision and to break up my cloudy, natural lens. I was amazed that immediately after the surgery I could see super-bright and colorful images I probably hadn't seen in years. The degradation of my vision had been so gradual that I hadn't noticed that what I thought was white had become yellow. Colors that were previously drab had become rich and vivid.

Amazing success!

Although my left eye was still highly myopic and clouded by the cataract, and my right eye was only corrected for intermediate distances (from 18" to about 39"), I put on a 30-year old pair of eyeglasses I found in my personal eyeglass museum, and they worked almost perfectly for driving. What I discovered during this experimentation phase is that when I closed my right eye while driving, everything was blurry through my left eye.

And when I closed my left eye, everything was sharp and colorful through my right eye, although two-dimensional. When I then opened my left eye, the only thing that changed was that I could see three-dimensionally. Remarkably, my left eye did not add blurriness to my vision, only three-dimensionality.

What I learned is that my brain automatically took what it needed from each eye to produce the best, most useful image, without my awareness!

So, with renewed confidence, three weeks later I had the cataract surgery on my left eye, this time so it could see close-up. And, as it turned out, I can now see sharply with my left eye from about 12" to about 18" and with my right eye from 17" to about



An intraocular lens (IOL), pictured here on a fingertip, replaces the eye's natural lens.

Why I put off cataract surgery

When driving at night, I had close calls before — being blinded by oncoming headlights or not being able to distinguish faded white lane markers. Although my ophthalmologist had been telling me for years that I needed to have cataract surgery, I kept putting it off. It was not from fear of the surgery, because cataract surgery is as common as the cold. But, my engineering brain needed to figure out the power of the lens implants (known as intraocular lens or IOL) that I would get. It would be a lifelong decision I didn't take lightly.

I learned that with the typical cataract surgery, the power of the IOLs are chosen so that when combined with the lens power of your corneas, your vision is corrected to see sharply at far distances.

You should also note that the eye you're born with has the power to adjust your vision by pulling on the natural lens with muscles that change its shape. The cataract stiffens the lens and makes that ability to adjust gradually disappear.

Monovision

"Monovision" means each eye is corrected to see sharply at different distances, rather than the same distance. Since the IOL has no ability to adjust, the IOL replacements for the natural lenses cannot enable someone to see clearly both close up and far away, as young people can do. So, a decision has to be made as to what distance each eye should be corrected to see. With monovision it is most common to have the IOLs selected so that one eye can see intermediate distances sharply and the other eye see far distances. For close-up viewing, eyeglasses would be required.

Since I spend ninety-five percent of my time at my desk, in my office or in my kitchen, I didn't want to wear glasses for ninety-five percent of my waking time. I only want to wear glasses when driving, which is what I've done my whole adult life. So, with the enthusiastic cooperation of my ophthalmologist, Dr. Daniel Kline, of Irvine, he worked out two different resultant viewing distances for my two eyes, so I could see close-up with my left eye, and at intermediate distances with my right eye.

On December 19, 2018, a day I will never forget, I had surgery only on my right eye, the one with far worse vision. It would get an IOL with power to enable intermediate distance vision. Dr. Kline used laser equipment

39." With both eyes open (my typical viewing style) I can see very sharply from 12" to about 39". Beyond that, to about 5 feet, things appear sharp enough for the items on my desk or my kitchen counter. I feel as if my pre-cataract vision has been fully restored!

As I go about my activities, I'm unaware of which eye is doing what. I did not have to get used to anything, or train myself to do eyeball or brain gymnastics. A few weeks after my second cataract surgery, I got a new pair of eyeglasses for driving.

However, I must report an anomaly that I experience in both eyes when driving at night. Oncoming headlights have bright halos. They're not enough to blind me, but it is disturbing, although I had much worse halos with my cataracts. I'm working with my ophthalmologist as well as Alcon, the manufacturer of my IOLs, to see if we can figure out the cause. And if not, my vision is so remarkably improved now, I can live happily with that dysphotopsia (halos).

So, why doesn't everyone have their cataract IOLs selected to see at near and intermediate distances, rather than at intermediate and far distances? I don't know. But, if you're about to have cataract surgery, share this column with your ophthalmologist.



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

Community Calendar

July highlights

SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERTS



Sunday, July 7: Pop Gun Rerun ('80s Tribute)
 Sunday, July 14: The Suffragettes (Pop Variety)
 Sunday, July 21: The Trip (Rocking the Decades)
 Sunday, July 28: The Country Club (Country Hits)

Mike Ward Community Park
 5:30pm. Info: 949-724-6606

MOVIES ON THE LAWN AT THE OC GREAT PARK



July 12: *Little Giants*
 July 13: *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World*
 July 19: *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*
 Bring low-back chairs, blankets, and a picnic, or purchase items from gourmet food trucks. Movies begin after sunset around 8:15 p.m.
 Admission is free. Info: 949-724-6247

NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

JULY Tickets: 949-824-2787



The Merchant of Venice
 Show Dates:
 July 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18, 19, 24, 27, 28



The Two Gentlemen of Verona
 Show Dates:
 July 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 17, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 31

August highlights

SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERTS




Sunday, August 4: Pacific Symphony in the Cities
 Mike Ward Community Park
 5:30pm. Info: 949-724-6606

Sunday, August 11: Tijuana Dogs (Dance Party Rock)
 Mike Ward Community Park
 5:30pm. Info: 949-724-6606

PALM COURT HAPPENINGS: AMANDA CASTRO BAND



OC Great Park
 Thursday, August 15th
 7-9pm. Info: 949-724-6247

Splash-In Movie & Recreation Swim 2019



Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center
 Saturday, August 24th.
 6:30pm. Info: 949-724-6717

Senior Fitness Expo 2019

Rancho Senior Center
 Friday, August 30th
 9am-12pm. Info: 949-724-6800

NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

AUGUST Tickets: 949-824-2787



The Merchant of Venice
 Show Dates:
 August 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 15, 18, 21, 23, 24, 29, 31



The Two Gentlemen of Verona
 Show Dates:
 August 3, 4, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 22, 25, 28, 30

September Events 2019

Hello SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Tween and Teen Craft. Heritage Park Library. 2-4pm. Info: 949-936-4040	2 Labor Day.	3 Crochet-teers. Trabuco Senior Center. 10am-12pm. Info: 949-724-7300	4 Mantra Meditation. Rancho Senior Center. 11:30am-12:30pm. Registration Required. Info: 949-724-6800	5 Morning Book Club. University Park Library. 10:30am-12pm. Info: 949-786-4001	6 Fast Paced Hike. Fremont Canyon Preserve. 7-11:30am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	7 OC MTB Limestone XC Race. Limestone Canyon. 8am-1pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org
8 Teen Advisory Board. Heritage Park Library. 2-3pm. Info: 949-936-4040	9 September Baby Steps. Baby Steps Pretend City Children's Museum. 2-3:30pm. Info: 949-428-3900	10 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6205	11 Adult Book Club. Heritage Park Library. 3-4pm. Info: 949-936-4040	12 Laughter Yoga. Trabuco Senior Center. 12-1pm. Registration Required. Info: 949-724-7300	13 Celebrate Cultures in Nature: Mid-Autumn Festival. Limestone Canyon. 6-9pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	14 Garden Workshop: Backyard Composting. Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: 949-724-7528
15 Children's Garden Workshop: The Amazing Gourd. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: 949-724-7528	16 Mojito Monday. Red Bar & Lounge. 3pm-12am. Info: 949-225-6757	17 Play & Learn. Heritage Park Library. 10:30-10:50am. Info: 949-936-4040	18 Bouncing Babies. Heritage Park Library. 10-10:15am. Info: 949-936-4040	19 Live Music. Eureka Restaurant. 8-10pm. Info: 949-596-8881	20 Reprogrammed. Trabuco Senior Center. 12:30-1:30pm. Registration Required. Info: 949-724-7300	21 Family Hike. Limestone Canyon. 5-7pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org
22 Sunday Brunch. Trade Food Hall. 10am-1pm. Info: 949-333-2111	23 Billiards. Lakeview Senior Center. 8am-6pm. Info: 949-724-6900	24 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6205	25 Family Movie Night. Heritage Park Library. 5:45-7:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040	26 Self-Paced Fitness Hike. Irvine Open Space Preserve. 6-7:30pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	27 DJ Nights. Red Bar Lounge. 9-11:55pm. Info: 877-614-2137	28 Senior Tennis. Woodbridge High School. 8-11am. Info: 714-307-8072
29 Assistees Craft. University Park Library. 11:30am-2:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001	30 Tito's Monday. EATS Kitchen & Bar. 5pm. Info: 949-225-6780	Coming Soon!		Irvine Global Village Festival		Irvine Global Village Festival Make plans to attend the City of Irvine's signature festival on Saturday and Sunday, October 12 and 13, 2019, from 10am to 5pm at the Orange County Great Park in Irvine.



SchoolWatch: Why Aren't We Doing Better Here In Irvine?

by Carolyn Inmon

When teachers and the community stand shoulder-to-shoulder, marching in support of school kids, good things usually happen.

On a small-scale, we learned that lesson here in our own community just a few months ago. Remember? Irvine parents and teachers joined together to protest the proposed \$2 million cut in the City's annual budget support for school nurses, counselors and school resource officers. Mayor Christina Shea and City Manager John Russo had to quickly withdraw their proposed cuts in the face of growing citizen opposition.

Look at what Los Angeles did

Putting a stop to foolish cutbacks is one thing. But, on a much larger scale, last January we learned what teachers and citizens, working together, can accomplish affirmatively. On TV and through the internet, we witnessed the remarkable — and remarkably successful — Los Angeles teachers' strike. After months of fruitless bargaining with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) officials, thousands of members of United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) took a vote and went out on strike. Joined in the streets by tens of thousands of parents and grandparents and residents from throughout L.A., the strike was not about higher wages. It was really much more about teachers'

demands for improved classroom working conditions and critically needed support services.

Specifically, UTLA was engaged in what has been dubbed "Bargaining for the Common Good." This meant laying out popular community-supported demands which — after a week of striking and picketing and marching — were ultimately granted by the LAUSD School Board and administrators. Here is what LAUSD agreed to do:

- ✔ Guarantee that every school will have a full-time school nurse every day. (LAUSD agreed to hire 150 school nurses.)
- ✔ Guarantee that there will be a teacher-librarian in every middle school and high school. (LAUSD agreed to hire 41 full-time teacher-librarians.)
- ✔ Guarantee a new, lower, student-to-counselor ratio of 500-to-1. (LAUSD agreed to hire at least 17 additional counselors.)
- ✔ LAUSD agreed to reduce average class sizes by 4 students over the next 3 years.
- ✔ LAUSD agreed to join with teachers to work to reduce student testing by as much as 50 percent.

These are the kinds of dramatic school improvements desperately needed here in Irvine — more school nurses, counselors, librarians and, of course, more teachers to reduce class sizes. I think we have to ask ourselves: Why isn't Irvine doing better?

Let's do better

Full disclosure: My husband John Inmon and I are lifelong educators. Retired now, John was a beloved principal here in Irvine schools, and I was a teacher in the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) for many years before moving on to teach in community college. There, I became a leader in our teachers' union — pushing for better pay and working conditions for teachers.

John and I have spent years singing the praises of IUSD and its teachers and staff. But, in truth, in recent years I think we see a School Board and administration that has grown complacent — too self-satisfied and self-congratulatory. Similarly, the No. 1 priority of the Irvine Teachers Association appears to be to "get along by going along" with IUSD's top administrators, rather than pressing for big, bold steps to improve our schools. Can anyone doubt that Irvine needs more school nurses and mental health services and school security officers and more classroom teachers?

I hope many of us will think about these things this summer and start the new school year determined to do better.

Irvine teachers need to show some grit by "bargaining for the common good," just as teachers did in Los Angeles with the backing of the entire community.

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.



Rx Child Health & Safety: Prevent Child Drownings!

by Phyllis Agran, M.D.

Swimming is a great family activity — great fun and great exercise. It's a skill that children should master, especially here in Southern California

where backyard pools, lakes and the ocean are such a prevalent part of our living environment. **old lower their drowning risk.** Infants this age may show reflex "swimming" movements, but they can't yet raise their heads out of the water well enough to breathe.

Recent studies suggest that training in water survival skills and swim lessons can help reduce drowning risk for children between ages 1-4. Classes that include both parents and their children also provide a good way to introduce good water safety habits and start building swim readiness skills. If your child seems ready, it's a good idea to start lessons now.

There is currently no evidence that infant swim programs for babies under 1 year



The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises "layers" of common sense child safety measures parents should think about when it comes to pools and water safety. Remember, the most important measure of all is constant adult supervision!

For more information about swimming and water safety, go to:

AAP.org and search on "swim".

Enjoy the rest of the summer. And be safe!

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.

The Kids are the Grownups in the Room (when it comes to climate crisis)

by Sarah "Steve" Mosko

Underlined blue texts are links that appear on the online version of this article: IrvineCommunityNews.org/KidsAreGrownups

The next U.S. presidential election is being transformed because children everywhere, watching in disbelief as grownups fail to address the climate crisis, are launching their own climate movements.

In contrast to the 2016 election — where exactly zero questions about global warming were posed during the general election debates — the lineup of presidential candidates is already being pressured to do something about the climate threat, and it's our kids who are doing the pressuring.

Sunrise Movement

The [Sunrise Movement](#) is a student-led political organization which sprang up prior to the mid-term elections to advocate for transitioning to renewable energy. Half of the 20 candidates Sunrise supported for refusing to accept fossil fuel money won election.

Now, Sunrise is aggressively promoting the [Green New Deal](#), a congressional resolution outlining an ambitious economic stimulus package to drive down greenhouse gas emissions while creating green jobs and addressing income inequality. It's nothing short of an economic and social revolution.

Fridays for Future

Another student-led movement was ignited last August when [Greta Thunberg](#), a Swedish teenager, walked out of school on a Friday to stand outside the Swedish parliament building in protest of her government's inaction on climate change. Her personal activism has sparked a world-wide protest known as Fridays for Future (FFF) where students in over 2,200 cities across 128 countries join Greta in staging walkouts every Friday with the same message: The threat to their future posed by climate change is exponentially more important than whatever they're missing in class.

FFF strikers are asking questions like "Why study for a future, which may not be there?"

Greta is a climate hero to the younger generation, and many in the older generations are listening too. She's recently given a TED

talk, addressed, the recent United Nations climate talks in Poland, and delivered a speech to the World Economic Forum where her six-minute [statement](#) to the grownups in power went viral. Listen to this teenager's voice: "The main solution is so simple even a small child can understand it. We have to stop the emissions of greenhouse gases...I don't want you to be hopeful, I want you to panic...I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is."

FFF mobilized a worldwide [Strike For Climate](#) on Friday, March 15 in which hundreds of thousands of young people in nearly 2,000 cities in over 100 nations participated. Youths gathered at several locations here in San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles Counties.

In a poignant [letter](#) addressed to global leaders, FFF activists stated their commitment to continue striking until those in power take responsibility for fixing the climate crisis.

On the day before the March 15 strike, Greta was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her climate activism. Her determination is inspiring other children to express their outrage in creative ways. For example, nine-year-old [Zayne Cowie](#) wrote a children's book for grownups titled "[Goodbye Earth](#)" in which she chastises adults for dumping on younger generations a crisis they did nothing to create.

Climatepedia

Climatepedia is still another student organization created by UCLA students. This non-profit organization is run by students and alumni from universities across the country. Those students, though coming from diverse backgrounds, believe that climate change is one of the most important issues of our generation. Their mission statement is: "To elevate voices on the risks and solutions of Earth's changing climate."



Greta Thunberg, 16, is shown here delivering a speech to the European Union (EU) Parliament in Strasbourg, France, April 2019.

[Gianna Lum](#), the UCI chapter's Operations Director, is heading to Columbia University, in New York City, for her master's degree. There, she will grow Climatepedia's online climate education program and launch the Columbia chapter. The UCI chapter's founder is [Kimberly Duong](#), a current Ph.D. candidate in civil engineering.

What grownups should do

Whether we grownups will move beyond the shame we should feel for making such a mess of things to take on the task at hand remains to be seen. A good start entails acknowledging that the party is over when it comes to the wanton burning of fossil fuels. It's akin to the sober day after a frat-house party where there's no getting around cleaning up the beer bottles, puke and crushed Cheetos if you want a decent place to live.

The enthusiasm for the Green New Deal among more progressive members of Congress, including several new young firebrands like [Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez](#) (D-NY), offers hope that those in power might find the will to act before it's too late.

Two recently introduced House bills also take direct aim at the climate. The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act ([H.R.763](#)) drives down greenhouse gas emissions by putting a rising price on carbon emissions. [The Climate Solutions Act](#) requires all electricity in the nation to come from renewable sources by 2035.

Despite these hopeful signs, the intransigence in Congress still looms large. To overcome it will require non-stop pressure from people of all ages.

We adults who've awakened to the climate crisis should feel humble before the youth activists who really have become the grownups in the room when it comes to taking responsible action. I'm reminded of the Biblical passage... "out of the mouth of babes."



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

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Yet another Bad Idea from Mayor Christina Shea

Franklin J. Lunding

Shea plans to ground the beloved Great Park Balloon

Under the guise of “adjusting” park and recreational fees charged to Irvine residents, Mayor **Christina Shea** included a provision in the City’s \$200 million budget threatening to ground the popular, iconic Great Park Balloon — unless someone comes up with “private dollars” to pay for its operation and maintenance.

Since it became operational in 2007 as the first major feature of the Great Park, the giant orange balloon — a cable-tethered, helium-filled



The 100-foot high Great Park Balloon, 2007

balloon — has carried more than a half million passengers 400 feet aloft to enjoy a breathtaking 360-degree view of the Great Park property, the surrounding Irvine community, and most of Orange County.



With its opening day launch — July 14, 2007 — the Great Park Balloon became not just the first major feature of the Great Park, but a beloved feature as well. The Balloon was designed and installed at a relatively modest cost — just \$2 million of the initial \$88 million, Phase I Great Park construction budget. The annual expenditure to operate and maintain the Balloon — less than \$1 million per year — comes from a special Great Park development fund, initially seeded with \$200 million levied upon

developer FivePoint, and later augmented by nearly \$300 million in Great Park redevelopment funds owed to the City by the State.

From the start, the Balloon was intended to be a highly visible landmark and, as one planner put it, a declaration that “Here is the Great Park



— a long-term project to create a 1,300-acre great metropolitan park that will eventually rival in size and grandeur San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park and San Diego’s Balboa Park.” The Balloon was to be a landmark beckoning people to see for themselves how the City of Irvine, in partnership with the entire community, was transforming the former Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro into a remarkable public asset not just for Irvine residents, but for all of Orange County and Southern California.

The Balloon project was an instant success. Ridership on the big orange Balloon quickly grew to nearly 80,000 per year, which at the time made it the most popular tethered balloon in the United States. A couple of years later, a nearby Carousel was installed, which itself quickly became one of the most popular carousels in the U.S., attracting nearly 300,000 riders per year — mostly delighted children. The small complex of newly installed features — the Balloon, the

Carousel, the Kids Rock recreation area and the Visitor Center — helped boost Great Park annual attendance to nearly 1 million visitors in 2012.

From the beginning in 2007, iconic images of the Great Park Balloon were appearing everywhere: on television, in countless newspapers and other publications — including the *Orange County Register*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Money Magazine* and *Sunset Magazine*, and of course on the internet and in social media. The City proudly featured the Balloon in its



online and print publications, and the Irvine Chamber of Commerce branded its City-funded “Destination Irvine” program with images of the Great Park Balloon.

In 2012, as the result of an election, things began to change. Former Irvine City Councilmember **Christina Shea** rejoined the Council, elected to a four-year term. Shea immediately set out to implement an entirely different vision for the Great Park. She wanted the internationally acclaimed and award-winning Great Park Master Plan and Design — a remarkable \$30 million set of plans for the entire park, prepared by a top team of landscape architects and civil engineers — trash-canned in favor of more “developer-friendly” projects. Shea’s plans included the introduction of commercial features, most notably her pet project — a 188-acre Great Park commercial golf course that would replace the planned and designed Great Park Canyon and Lake.



Part of Shea’s “vision” and “plan” was to charge hefty fees for the use and enjoyment of existing Great Park features. She especially targeted the Great Park Balloon and Carousel —



urging the kind of “market-pricing” experienced in a for-profit amusement park, even though the Great Park is, of course, a non-profit public park that is supposed to be run for the public’s benefit and enjoyment.

Whether intended or not, Shea’s “strategy” to impose large fees — up to \$10 per Balloon ride and \$3 for a brief Carousel ride — caused ridership on the Balloon and Carousel to



Putting on the Balloon’s holiday attire

plummet by more than 50 percent. Overall attendance at the Great Park plummeted too. And now — since becoming Mayor in April to fill the vacancy created when Mayor Don Wagner was elected to the Orange County Board of Supervisors — Shea uses lowered Balloon ridership (and revenue) as justification to threaten a permanent shutdown of the



The Balloon lights up Great Park nights

Balloon unless some private-sector “angel” shows up with money to cover the costs of operating the Balloon.

This is just plain mean-spirited, wrong-headed, and totally unnecessary. The fact of the matter is that the City of Irvine is blessed with over \$100 million in reserves, and the separate



The Great Park Balloon has inspired hundreds of thousands of playful photos. But, under Mayor Christina Shea’s budget for the City and the Great Park, the Balloon may soon be just a memory.

multi-million-dollar Great Park fund balance, burgeoning with tens of millions of dollars, includes projected revenues of more than \$200 million in



Great Park redevelopment funding owed to Irvine by the State of California, and payable in annual installments over the next few years.

In writing this piece, it occurred to me that Mayor Christina Shea — Irvine’s first unelected Mayor in more than 30 years — has strange priorities, indeed. Instead of taking pride in building, operating and maintaining all of the Great Park’s features, including the Great Park Balloon, Shea portrays Irvine as a pitiful and impoverished community that can’t even keep our beloved Big Orange Balloon aloft without jacking up fees, threatening shutdowns, and supinely begging big corporations for money.

Shea’s attitude has reminded me of what Oscar Wilde, the celebrated 19th century British playwright, once wrote: “The definition of a cynic is someone who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.”

Franklin J. Lunding
Publisher & Editor

What do YOU think?

Take our online IRVINE COMMUNITY POLL

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

Go to: IrvineCommunityNews.org/Balloon

YOUR
OPINION
MATTERS

TAKE OUR
POLL

Help us take the pulse of the Irvine community!

Letter from Ed Pope, Founding Chair of the committee to Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery

Ed Pope
Irvine, CA

Dear Irvine Friends and Neighbors,

Let me start with some good news about the Veterans Cemetery. We are winning important legislative victories at the State Capitol in Sacramento. Assembly Bill 368 provides that the State (CalVet) will build, operate and maintain — at no cost to City of Irvine — a beautiful Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery on the original 125-acre “ARDA” Site in our Great Park. AB 368 was passed unanimously by the State Assembly in May. It’s now moving forward in the State Senate and could be signed into law by the Governor before the end of summer. With more than \$20 million already earmarked in the State budget for our Veterans Cemetery, actual first-year construction could begin this fall.

But a big hurdle remains right here in Irvine. For the State (CalVet) to start building the Veterans Cemetery this year, the Mayor and City Council must agree to transfer ownership of the ARDA site to the State. This *should* be an easy thing for our City Council to do.

But let’s face it, developer FivePoint seems to have an iron grip on Mayor Christina Shea and one or two Councilmembers. We know that FivePoint wants to block the Veterans Cemetery on the ARDA site and get control of the property for its own massive development and profit. Do you remember their “Measure B” land-grab and development scheme that we defeated last year? Well, I’m guessing we’ll need that kind of “people power” again to get the City Council to finally transfer the ARDA site to the State. I hope we can count on you.

Let me close on a personal note. A few weeks ago I had a stroke. I’m making a good recovery, encouraged by scores of friends and well-wishers. I’m not at full strength yet, but I’m gaining ground every day. **I want you to know that I’m more determined than ever to complete our mission: to implement the will of the people; to finally get the Irvine City Council to transfer the ARDA site to the State; and to get the Veterans Cemetery built and operational.** No more delays. No more backroom deals with developers. No more political games.

Will you help? Will you donate — \$25, \$50, \$100 — to our all-volunteer **Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery** committee? Please go to our Webpage: BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org.

Every dollar donated enables us to continue to enlist more supporters and move forward with the Veterans Cemetery project — in Sacramento and right here in Irvine. Finally, I want you to know this: If we are again blocked at City Hall, we want to be ready to launch an initiative campaign this summer. But we’ll need at least \$50,000 to do that. Thanks for whatever help you can provide.

Ed Pope

Ed Pope • Veteran, U.S. Army
Founding Chair
Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery

