



August 2016 - Volume 3, No. 8

Serving the Villages and Neighborhoods of Irvine

Distribution in Irvine:
Print-31,000 • Online-15,500



Publisher's Perspective

Election Season

>> Well, it's that time again... election season. And our top story once again is the Mayor's race. As things stand now, the two emerging leaders in the campaign for Mayor of Irvine are former City Councilwoman and long-time Planning Commissioner **Mary Ann Galdo** and State Assemblyman **Don Wagner**. These are two very different candidates with very different campaigns. Our story asks: Can Planning Commissioner **Mary Ann Galdo's** grassroots, growth-control message overcome State Assemblyman **Donald Wagner's** developer-funded, pro-development campaign? The Mayor's race is key to Irvine's future as a planned City. Read about it.

>> The same developer supporting Don Wagner — **FivePoint Communities**, the huge residential developer at the Great Park — has been secretly at work in Sacramento, trying to derail the State-supported 125-acre Veterans Cemetery within the Great Park. It seems to me that **FivePoint** (along with City Council ally **Christina Shea**) is more interested in building and selling houses than creating a permanent "home" — a beautiful, permanent resting place in the Great Park — for American veterans. Read about it on Page 3.

>> Check out our Open Forum & Community Voices, Pages 14-15. Weeks ago, in our Irvine Community Poll, we asked: *Do you approve or disapprove of the job that the Mayor and City Council are doing to manage and control traffic in Irvine?* Wow...did we get an earful! Read for yourself what your friends and neighbors have to say about the worsening traffic in Irvine — and the current City Council's "growth-at-any-cost" policies that have produced Irvine's traffic mess.

As always, thank you, dear readers, for supporting *Irvine Community News & Views*, your community newspaper.

Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor



Gaido vs. Wagner in Irvine Mayor's Race

 <p>Mary Ann Galdo Irvine Planning Commissioner</p>	<p>Election Day</p> <p>N O V E M B E R</p> <p>8TH</p>	 <p>Donald Wagner State Assemblyman</p>
	<p>There are two very different candidates and campaigns for Mayor. Can Planning Commissioner Mary Ann Galdo's grassroots, pro-resident, growth-control message overcome State Assemblyman Donald Wagner's developer-funded, pro-development campaign?</p>	

When she launched her 2014 campaign for Mayor — to unseat incumbent Mayor Steven Choi — two-time former Councilwoman **Mary Ann Galdo** (pronounced Guy-doe) minced no words in her official candidate statement. She declared, "This election will decide who controls the future of our City — profit-driven developers or Irvine residents."

Taking her growth-control, "slow growth" campaign to every corner of the

City, **Galdo's** 2014 underdog campaign came within 954 votes of defeating incumbent Mayor Steven Choi — Choi's narrow victory came only after Irvine mega-developer **FivePoint Communities** came to his rescue in the closing days of the campaign with hundreds of thousands of dollars in anti-Galdo mailers — "hit pieces" — that were part of a so-called "independent expenditure" campaign.

→ continued on page 2 →



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Published Monthly
Vol. 3, No. 8 • August 2016
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www.IrvineCommunityNews.org

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→ continued from page 1 → **Gaido vs. Wagner in Irvine Mayor's Race**

Now, Mary Ann Gaido is running for Mayor again. She is promising, if elected, to "put the people back in control" by instituting strong growth control and traffic control measures. But this time she faces a different opponent. With Choi apparently headed to the State Assembly, the Mayor's seat is open. Officials and

overdevelopment by strictly limiting the number of residential building permits issued by the City, and by requiring a vote of the people before any major new residential project with traffic-inducing effects can move forward."

Gaido, an expert in land-use and planning matters, added: "Under State law, we have ample

Wagner-Shea Veterans Cemetery "land-swap," the City's commitment to actually build the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in the Great Park — a commitment Gaido calls "sacred" — is likely to be another major issue in the Mayoral contest.

Campaign Finance

Don Wagner comes to the Irvine Mayor's race with financial advantages. In his various State legislative races, beginning in 2010, he has taken in \$1.6 million in campaign contributions. His contributions — largely from developers, lobbyists, and special interests — have averaged about \$1,000 each. Meanwhile, developer FivePoint Communities is expected to bankroll Wagner's run for Mayor with hundreds of thousands of dollars in unlimited SuperPAC contributions and so-called "independent expenditures," just as they did to keep Choi in the Mayor's chair in the 2014 election.

Gaido, in contrast, says she has no interest in developer money, and will rely instead on a broad base of small donors — with donations averaging about \$50. Gaido's "grassroots" campaign expects to raise about \$100,000. She says she has raised \$52,000 so far. "We can't match Wagner and FivePoint dollar-for-dollar. We can't even come close. But, if we can meet our \$100,000 goal, and continue to energize scores of neighborhood volunteers, I'm confident we can win." **ICNV**

"We have ample legal authority to put these growth control and traffic control policies in place. What's needed is a Mayor with the political will — the backbone — to stand up to big developers and do what's right for the residents of Irvine."

— MARY ANN GAIDO

political operatives at FivePoint Communities, fearful of Gaido's tough stand against overdevelopment, is involved once again in the Irvine Mayor's race. This time, FivePoint has recruited termed-out Assemblyman Don Wagner to run for Mayor. In effect, Choi and Wagner, both conservative Republicans, want to switch seats — with Choi going to Sacramento and Wagner seeking the Mayor's chair in the November 8th election.

Growth, Traffic, and the Veterans Cemetery

In announcing his candidacy early this summer, Wagner said he wanted to be Mayor to "guide the future growth of Irvine in a reasonable and balanced way." Wagner's vague reference to "guiding" future growth is in sharp contrast to Gaido's specific commitment to "control" growth — and the citywide traffic congestion it generates.

Gaido recently declared, "If I am elected Mayor, I pledge that at the first City Council meeting, I will introduce a *Comprehensive Growth and Traffic Control Ordinance*."

Gaido explained, "We need to take a 'time-out' from

legal authority to put strong growth control and traffic control policies in place. What's needed is a Mayor with the political will — the backbone — to stand up to big developers and do what's right for the residents of Irvine."

While Wagner has offered no specifics on dealing with residential growth, development — and the traffic it brings — last spring he stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Emile Haddad, President and CEO of FivePoint Communities, in proposing that the City "swap" 125 acres of land already approved and set aside for a Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park. The proposed "swap" of City-owned land — which was put forward by Councilmember Christina Shea and FivePoint — would apparently be the first step in allowing the developer to then have the Council re-zone the 125-acre parcel for thousands of additional houses and apartments at the Great Park.

The Council has already approved 10,000 housing units at the Great Park, despite Gaido's opposition on the Planning Commission.

While the City Council, in April, rejected the FivePoint-

In addition to Gaido and Wagner, two other individuals — Gang Chen and Katherine Daigle — have officially declared their candidacies for Mayor of Irvine. Irvine Community News & Views will be covering their candidacies in September and October, as the Mayoral race further develops.

CITYWATCH

Developer FivePoint Communities Works to Defeat Veterans Cemetery

According to sources in the State Capitol, before the Legislature's Fourth of July recess, Irvine residential developer FivePoint Communities was heavily lobbying the California Veterans Affairs Department — known as CalVet — against establishing a 125-acre Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery on City-owned land in the Great Park.



Assemblyman Don Wagner (left) and FivePoint Communities CEO Emile Haddad team-up against the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park.

Moreover, FivePoint Communities was reported to be frantically trying to enlist a State legislator — said to be Irvine Assemblyman Don Wagner, recently announced candidate for Irvine Mayor — to push through last-minute legislation requiring CalVet to review a complicated FivePoint Communities "land-swap" scheme that would take the Veterans Cemetery out of the Great Park and put it elsewhere. This, in turn, would give FivePoint the opportunity to build thousands of

additional homes and apartments on the 125 acres of land that is now within the Great Park.

FivePoint's secretive efforts in Sacramento have so far failed. In fact, the CalVet design and plans for the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery within the Great Park were completed by July 1st, on schedule, and sent to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for review and Federal approval. The State's estimated cost to prepare the entire 125-acre site and then to actually construct Phase I of the Cemetery is reported to be \$77 million, half of which would be paid for out of the U.S. Veterans Affairs budget.

Councilmember Christina Shea, in her own continuing effort to defeat the Veterans Cemetery, immediately branded the cost as "exorbitant." Former Councilmember Larry Agran, himself a U.S. Army veteran and, in 2014, the Council's leading proponent of the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery, shot back: "Shea should be ashamed of herself. She says she supports veterans, but apparently not if it costs any money." Agran added, "The estimated cost for the Veterans Cemetery is actually very reasonable. And it will be paid for — as it should be — mainly by the Federal and State governments."

As for the continuing efforts of FivePoint Communities to defeat the Veterans Cemetery project, Agran said, "This was a brazen attempt by FivePoint Communities to undermine the City's 2014 plan — approved by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor — to locate the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery on a specific 125-acre parcel of City-owned land in our 1,300-acre Great Park."

Agran added, angrily, "Instead of helping us win final Federal approval, FivePoint Communities is apparently still pushing a so-called land-swap scheme in order to gain control of 125 acres of Great Park land, then get Council approval for thousands of additional housing units at the Great Park, and walk off with hundreds of millions of dollars in windfall profits." After pausing for a moment, Agran said, "This is what corporate greed looks like. It's disgusting." **ICNV**

Is Political Sign-Pollution the "New Normal" in Irvine?

Call it what you will — "sign-pollution," "sign-blight," "roadside spam" — the old saying is familiar to us all: "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." But when it comes to the thousands of topsy-turvy political signs that line Irvine's streets and parkways for months at a time, just about everyone agrees: It's ugly, ugly, ugly out there. And dangerous too.

Even some individual political candidates, who each spend thousands of dollars putting up many hundreds of signs, acknowledge that their own political signs are a dreadful blight on the Irvine environment. But they put up their signs anyway. Why? Because they feel they have no choice. In recent years, Irvine's lax laws have come to reflect the "anything goes" attitude of the City Council majority. In the name of "free speech," they and other politicians exploit the use of Irvine public property to display thousands of signs in their campaigns for Council, for Mayor, and for other offices as well. The result: Citywide sign-blight.

At the July 12th City Council meeting, the City Attorney made it clear that the Mayor and City Council have the necessary legal authority to strictly regulate — and even banish — both commercial signs and political signs along streets and on other public property. Yet the Council, despite extended debate and discussion, took no action to address the problem in the run-up to this year's elections.

Former Mayor and City Councilmember Larry Agran, a lawyer and graduate from Harvard Law School, put it this way: "The Council has all the legal authority it needs to clean up this mess along our streets, and protect the public from the unsafe and seemingly endless distractions of sign blight. Unfortunately, for reasons of vanity or perceived political advantage, the Council refused to take any meaningful action." **ICNV**



Irvine's streetscapes — with beautiful trees, sidewalks, and manicured bushes and turf — have become political war zones for many months at a time, bringing visual blight, public safety hazards, and major costs to the City.

The June 2016 primary was the worst yet in citywide sign-pollution. But there is likely much worse sign-blight still to come in advance of the Nov. 8th election, as candidates and ballot measures compete for motorists' attention.

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Togo's, Great Sandwiches • Z-Pizza

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Heritage Park Regional Library

HERITAGE PLAZA / CULVER & WALNUT
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Norm Reeves Honda

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Gymboree - Irvine
Toscana Luxury Apartments

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CULVER & WALNUT**
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SmashBurger • Starbucks Coffee
Sprouts Farmers Market

**WOODBIDGE MEDICAL CENTER /
BARRANCA & WOODBRIDGE SQUARE**
Woodbridge Walk-In Urgent Care

**WOODBIDGE VILLAGE CENTER /
BARRANCA & CREEK**
Champagne French Bakery Cafe
Irvine Car Wash

**WOODBURY TOWN CENTER /
SAND CANYON & IRVINE BLVD.**
GNC • NIKO NIKO Sushi

Ralphs • Rock n' Road Cyclery

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Here at *Irvine Community News & Views*, we 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 the businesses on page 4 – it is a pleasure to work with you! We invite business owners to call or email Kerrie Mahan, Advertising Coordinator and Calendar Editor, to discuss how we can work together to spread the word about your business throughout Irvine!

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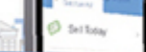
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Impressive in Irvine

by Marilyn Vassos

As our ICNV writers and contributors work their way around Irvine, they have the pleasure of meeting a remarkable array of people. Many are amazingly dedicated to their business, craft or special talent ... and willing to generously share their stories with others. We find these individuals — all of them neighbors, many of them our friends — to be Impressive in Irvine.

Irvine Seniors Make A Difference In Guatemala

Richard Martin and Sandi Escall fell in love with Guatemala and its people many years ago. They liked everything about the country and decided that they wanted to share their Guatemalan experiences with their friends back in the USA.

The long-time Irvine couple also decided they wanted to give back to the people of Guatemala who had been so kind to them. But how to do all this? After considerable research, Richard and Sandi developed a relationship with a daycare program and a girls' school, which they have continued to support for many years. To help fund these projects, they began leading tours to Guatemala, sharing the beauty of the country and its people with others.

Sandi's fundraising efforts include importing handmade beaded jewelry. She has built a cottage industry combining wholesale and retail sales with a schedule of 20 shows annually. This has become the primary funding source for the Guatemalan Charities Fund Raisers (GCFR).

GCFR has the support of many people from Irvine and surrounding areas. This support, in turn, has made it possible to underwrite dozens of annual educational sponsorships for needy young women, and to also provide monthly nutritional support for

20 jewelry artisans. There is even a young man, Luis, in Guatemala who administers all of the GCFR projects in exchange for tuition for a college education to become a teacher in his country.

Sandi and Richard are planning two more tours to Guatemala. The first is this November 3-11, and the second is March 14-22 of 2017. My husband, Angelo, and I have had the pleasure of traveling to Guatemala four times with Richard and Sandi, and we are looking forward to Trip No. 5 this fall. You might want to join us!

For more information, go to: www.sellin.com/GCFR.



A weaver at Santo Domingo in Antigua



View from room overlooking Lake Atitlan



Richard Martin & Sandi Escall



Photos by Angelo Vassos

Arch of Santa Caterina in Antigua



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Irvine Living

COMMUNITY NEWS & VIEWS

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The Irvine Ranch Conservancy (IRC) offers a wide range of fun and interactive activities — yoga, hiking, mountain biking, equestrian programs, habitat restoration projects and much more!

You can explore Irvine wilderness and open space areas throughout the year!

Most of the activities are free and led by IRC-Certified volunteers, *but you must register prior to each event.* For more information on events, or to register, go to: LetsGoOutside.org



The City of Irvine's Orchard Hills offers a little bit of something for anyone looking to explore local wilderness. From Tai Chi to sunset yoga to evening hikes, the open space is an ideal spot for outdoor exercise and fantastic ridge-top views of Irvine and the Pacific coastline. Learn more and register for activities in Orchard Hills here: LetsGoOutside.org/orchardhillsaugust



Let'sGoOutside.org

Community Calendar

August 2016

Coming Soon...

GLOBAL VILLAGE 2016 Festival
Saturday, Sept. 24
Free Admission 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Bill Barber Park, Irvine



Make plans to travel the world at the City of Irvine's annual Global Village Festival on Saturday, September 24, 2016, 10am-6pm at Bill Barber Park. This multicultural event features international cuisine, live entertainment, a kids village with crafts and activities, cultural and religious exhibits and an international marketplace. This is the City of Irvine's signature event. Don't miss it! Festival admission and parking are free.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>7 Sizzlin' Summer Concert. See Sidebar for Info.</p> <p>Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 714-733-3167</p>	<p>1 Meditative Yoga and Meadow Walk. Bommer Canyon. 6-7:30pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p>2 Twilight Hike. Orchard Hills. 6:15-8:15pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p>3 Bunco at the Rancho Senior Center. First Wednesdays. 12:30-3pm. \$5. Info: 949-724-6800</p> <p>BUNCO</p>	<p>4 Planning Commission Meeting. Irvine City Hall. Meets the first and third Thursday of each month. 5:30pm. Info: 949-724-6465</p>	<p>5 Friday Night Lawn Games. OC Great Park Balloon Lawn. Games include croquet, bocce ball, ladder ball, cornhole and kubb. 6-8pm. Free. Info: 866-829-3829</p>	<p>6 Irvine Swim League Championships. Woollett Aquatics Center. 8am-6pm. Info: IrvineSwimLeague.org</p>	
<p>14 Sizzlin' Summer Concert. See Sidebar for Info.</p> <p>Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 714-733-3167</p>	<p>8 Teen Advisory Group (TAG). Katie Wheeler Library. 5pm. Info: 714-669-8753</p> <p>TAG</p>	<p>9 City Council Meeting. Irvine Civic Center. 5pm.</p>	<p>10 Volunteer at the IRC Native Seed Farm. Sign up to help behind the scenes at the Irvine Ranch Conservancy's one-of-a-kind Native Seed Farm in Irvine. 8-11am. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p>11 Seasoned Chefs Culinary Workshop. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 6:30-7:30pm. Info: 866-829-3829</p>	<p>12 New Swan Shakespeare <i>Hamlet</i>. New Swan Shakespeare Theatre at UCI. 8pm. Info & Tickets: NewSwanShakespeare.com</p> <p>HAMLET</p>	<p>13 Read to a Dog. Second Saturday of Every Month. This event is for beginning readers and dog lovers of all ages. Call and Maggie are certified therapy dogs and great listeners. Held upstairs in the children's area. Katie Wheeler Library. 2-3pm. Info: 714-669-8753</p>	
<p>21 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 714-733-3167</p>	<p>15 Found Exhibition - Debbie Carlson. Irvine Fine Arts Center. Exhibition runs now through August 20th. 10am-9pm. Info: 949-724-6880</p>	<p>16 International Discussion Group. Rancho Senior Center. Participate in thought-provoking conversations about current national and international topics. 9:30am. Third Tuesdays. Info: Bob Meyers 949-786-2097</p>	<p>17 Full Moon Hike. Bommer Canyon. 7-9:30pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p>18 Live Music at Eureka! 4143 Campus Dr. Each Thursday night Eureka! features Live Music at their University Town Center location! 8pm. Info: 949-596-8881</p>	<p>19 Movie Matinee. Lakeview Senior Center. Fridays at 12:15pm. Info: 949-724-6900</p> <p>Lakeview Senior Center</p>	<p>20 Splash-In Movie and Recreation Swim. Woollett Aquatics Center. Float in the pool while <i>Lilo & Stitch</i> plays on the big screen. Pool Opens at 6:30pm, movie starts at dusk. Info: 949-724-6900</p>	
<p>28 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 714-733-3167</p> <p>Women for Orange County Celebrate Suffrage Day at Hacienda Restaurant in Santa Ana. Info: WomenForOrangeCounty.org</p>	<p>22 Tai Chi in the Hills. Orchard Hills. 8:30-10:30 am. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p>23 IUSD Board Meeting. 5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine. 7pm. Info: 949-936-5000</p> <p>City Council Meeting. Irvine Civic Center. 5pm.</p>	<p>24 Storytime in The Garden. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-10:45am. Info: 866-829-3829</p>	<p>25 Slow-Paced Fitness Hike. Paved Hicks Haul Road. 6-8pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p>26 A Summer Idyll: Picturesque Views of California. Irvine Museum. Runs now through October 6th. 11am-5pm. Info: 949-476-2565</p>	<p>27 New Swan Shakespeare <i>As You Like It</i>. New Swan Shakespeare Theatre at UCI. 8pm. Info & Tickets: NewSwanShakespeare.com</p> <p>AS YOU LIKE IT</p>	
<p>31 Volunteer at the IRC Native Seed Farm. Sign up to help behind the scenes at the Irvine Ranch Conservancy's one-of-a-kind Native Seed Farm in Irvine. 8-11am. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p>29 Heartfulness Meditation Workshop. Katie Wheeler Library. Heartfulness is a simple and effective way to integrate meditation into our daily life. 6-7pm. Info: 714-669-8753</p>	<p>30 Bingo at the Lakeview Senior Center. Tuesdays. \$8. Buy-in 12:30pm. 1-3pm. Info: 949-724-6900</p> <p>BINGO</p>	<p>31 Volunteer at the IRC Native Seed Farm. Sign up to help behind the scenes at the Irvine Ranch Conservancy's one-of-a-kind Native Seed Farm in Irvine. 8-11am. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p>IRVINE MUSEUM Joseph Kleitsch (1882-1931) <i>Red and Green</i></p>			<p>Coming Soon...</p>

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.



"Jimmy Choo" is a male, neutered, blue domestic shorthair. He is about 10 years old.

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

Sizzlin' Summer Concerts

Aug. 7:

LAvation (U2 tribute)

Aug. 14:

Dog N' Butterfly (Heart tribute)

Info: 949-724-6606

Come and enjoy free concerts on the lawn at Mike Ward Community Park in Woodbridge. Sundays from 5:30pm-7:30pm in July and August! Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic baskets! Gourmet food trucks will also be onsite!



Mary Ann

Gaido

for

MAYOR of IRVINE

A Lifetime of Service to IRVINE

- Former two-term Irvine City Councilwoman
Former and current Irvine Planning Commissioner
Former Irvine Transportation Commissioner
President of the Irvine Community Land Trust
Charter member of the Irvine Barclay Theatre Operating Company
Led efforts to create the Irvine Open Space Plan and preserve Bommer Canyon

Put the People Back in Control!

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Mary Ann Gaido for Mayor 2016 - ID#1383418 - 14252 Culver Dr., Suite A-448, Irvine, CA 92604

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Irvine's "Other" School District

It's well known that for many people, the top reason for moving to Irvine is the excellent Irvine schools. But not all "Irvine schools" are in the Irvine Unified School District.

In fact, about 5,000 students who live in certain northern areas of Irvine — mostly in Northpark, Northpark Square, and West Irvine — attend schools that are located in Irvine but are actually part of the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD).

This confusing situation is attributable to school district boundaries that were established many years ago. For years, parents expressed surprise and even anger when they learned that their children weren't in IUSD schools, but were in TUSD schools located in Irvine. But that's not the case anymore. In fact, the TUSD schools located in Irvine are among the highest-ranking schools in California, in many cases outperforming comparable IUSD schools. On a State scale of 10, all four TUSD schools in Irvine boast a "10." They have all received State achievement awards. And all have very high scores on the Academic Performance Index (API), where it's unusual to score in the 800s and 900s (out of 1,000).



Here are the important particulars: Hicks Canyon Elementary (K-5), a California Distinguished School in 2008 and 20012, with an API of 945; Myford Elementary (K-5), a California Distinguished School in 2006, 2010 and 2014, with an API of 931; Orchard Hills Middle School (grades 5-8), a California Distinguished School in 2013 and a Gold Medal School in 2015, with an API of 942; and Beckman High School, a California Distinguished School in 2007 and 2011, a California Gold Medal School in 2015, with an API of 886.

One reason for excellent schools in TUSD is its Superintendent, Dr. Gregory Franklin. He is one of the top superintendents in the country. In fact, he was named the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Superintendent of the Year in 2015. And, of course, the outstanding TUSD Board that hired Dr. Franklin deserves credit as well.

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



SCHOOLWATCH by Carolyn Inmon*



WORDSWATCH by Harris E. Kershner*

Voting

"The right to vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democracy. I risked my life defending that right."

— U.S. REP. JOHN LEWIS

On numerous occasions, in many countries, concerned citizens have risked life and limb in order to be allowed to vote. How sad it is that so many voters in the United States do not vote in our elections. In addition to the Presidential Election (and numerous other matters on the November ballot), there are important local races in Irvine. There is an election to select a new Mayor, and two seats on the City Council will also be on the ballot. If you are not already registered to vote, do so today! If you are already registered, make sure to cast your vote in November!

*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.

Bicycle Club of Irvine

Driving around town, I often see groups of people riding their bicycles, dressed from head to toe in what looks to me like top-class biking gear. It has made me curious to find out how someone might join a biking group. Well, I was pleased to find out that there is a bicycle club right here in Irvine. They don't race competitively; they simply have scheduled riding times for getting together to bike around on some of the great trails Irvine has to offer.

This group is called the Bicycle Club of Irvine. Their online address is: www.bikeirvine.org



The Bicycle Club of Irvine (BCI) describes itself as "a recreational and social cycling club for men and women of all ages and skill levels." The group has been in Irvine for more than 30 years. Although most of their rides meet up at various parks in Irvine, BCI has members from all over Southern California. Unlike competitive biking teams, their main goal is simply to enjoy biking and socializing with friends, neighbors, and other biking enthusiasts.

They often meet at two community parks — Deerfield Community Park and University Community Park — to begin their rides. If you like biking — and the company of others who enjoy biking as well — I encourage you to check out the BCI website and find a ride that works for your schedule!

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



SPORTSWATCH by Joel Smith*



CULTURECORNER by Marilyn Vassos*

Irvine Barclay Theater

The roots of this marvelous institution reach back to the 1970s — shortly after the City's incorporation in 1971. Believing that "the arts are the soul of a City," a group of Irvine citizens led the way in formation of a partnership between the City and UCI for the purpose of garnering broad public support, and financial commitments, to build a major performing arts theater in the City of Irvine.

Located on land donated by UCI, the theater itself would be owned by the City of Irvine, and it would be operated by a non-profit board of directors that — even before the theater was built — included a diverse array of supporters and stakeholders.

Led by early Irvine residents — Sharon Sircello Toji, Shirley Palley, and Hal O'Neal — theater advocates determined that they wanted a "right-sized" theater. It should be small enough for more intimate performances, such as smaller dance companies, chamber music, soloists, and plays. Yet, it had to be large enough for major productions, and include a balcony to fully appreciate the patterns and choreography of dance performances. The right size? 756 seats.

By the time the Irvine Barclay Theater got built, more than \$15 million had been gathered, the majority of those funds from voter-approved bond issues and other City resources, but nearly \$5 million from private donations. The San Francisco firm selected to design the Irvine Barclay Theater — Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons — called its elegant yet functional design "Bay Area Modernism."

The Irvine Barclay Theater is celebrating 25 years of exciting and innovative theater — nearly all of those years under the brilliant leadership of Doug Rankin, the Irvine Barclay Theater's founding president. More than two million theater-goers have attended 3,600 events since 1990.

Next Time: A Preview of the Irvine Barclay Theater's 2016-2017 Season. For more information go to: www.thebarclay.org

*Marilyn Vassos is a retired Irvine teacher and long-time resident and supporter of Irvine's cultural arts.



Pinot Noir

by Peter Dills*

As a lover of wines, I have a special appreciation for pinot noir — maybe because it's one of the most difficult grapes to grow. An ideal climate and soil are necessary for this grape to thrive. While California has become a haven for chardonnay and cabernets, I urge you, don't give up on pinots just yet.

I recently had lunch with winemaker Andy Niner. And while I knew that many great pinots come to us from Paso Robles via the Fog Catcher Winery of Paso Robles, I learned that the grapes in the Niner Pinot Noir 2012 actually come to us from Edna Valley. Andy wanted to try a cooler climate for better results — and it worked!

Although it is at the higher end of the price range for pinots, the Niner delivers in both taste and food companionship. I must admit that I opened the bottle with high expectations because of my fondness for Fog Catcher. My meal was pasta tossed with buttered prawns. It



Peter Dills*

was a perfect combination — my compliments to both the chef and the winemaker!

My first sip reminded me of ripe cherries, the tannins were soft, and the color was dark like a cabernet. The finish was mild to earthy, fruity with a last scent of graham crackers. While the wine is ready to drink upon opening, if you can wait twenty minutes, I suggest letting this pinot breathe for a bit. This wine will be a prize in your cellar.

THE DILLS SCORE

With each review, I give you my Dills Score. Starting with a base of 50 points, I have added 8 points for color, 9 points for aroma or “nose,” 8 points for taste, 8 points for finish, and 9 points for my overall impression, which includes my value rating. The maximum possible score is 100.

Total Score for the Niner Pinot Noir 2012 is 92!

*Peter Dills is the proud son of noted restaurant critic Elmer Dills. You can email Peter at thechefknows@yahoo.com and follow him on Twitter @kingofcuisine. Check out Peter's radio show, Dining with Dills, Sundays at 5pm on radio station KLA, 830 AM, and watch the TV version Thursday night at 7:30 on PBS, KLCS TV.

Jake's iPhone Tips

by Jake Jacobs

This is the second of a series of articles on how to get the most out of your iPhone. I have been using iPhones for more than five years and have discovered hundreds of useful features within this marvelous device. These articles will help you discover the hidden power of your iPhone.

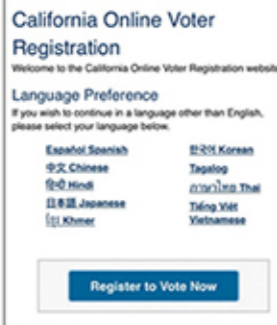
REGISTER TO VOTE ON YOUR IPHONE

I tell my workshop attendees, “Most of the things I used to do on my PC, I now do on my iPhone.” There is nothing I can do on my PC that I can't do on my iPhone. I write these articles on my iPhone, I read my newspapers and books on my iPhone. Check the weather. Check local movie listings. Surf the Web. Order from Starbucks. Listen to music.

And now we can even register to vote on our iPhones or iPads. Simply open the Safari web browser and type RegisterToVote.ca.gov or you can open Spotlight Search by swiping down or left-to-right on the home screen and type register to vote ca and you're a few steps away from completing your registration.

The opening screen lets you

select a non-English language. Tap the Register to Vote Now button at the bottom.



You will be guided through 5 simple screens to enter your demographics and complete your registration. The entire process takes about 2 minutes — simple!

You can also help a friend or relative to register on your iPhone. Now you have no excuse not to register to vote.



Jake Jacobs

Jake Jacobs is a retired electrical engineer. He has worked many years in the high-tech arenas of Silicon Valley, MIT, and Orange County, where he co-founded a medical device company. He has taught introductory computer science at Stanford University. He has created and taught iPhone workshops locally for three years. If you would like more information on Jake's workshops, check out his website at JakeAir.weebly.com for the Fall schedule. Email Jake at JakeAir@cox.net.

(Advertisement)

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TestForToxics.org

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

Someone Has To Stand Up For These Kids!

The Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) has completed all the testing that they are willing to do to find toxic Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) on the Portola High School site. As reported last month, all 17 soil-gas test wells showed various combinations of “low levels” of carcinogenic petrochemical VOCs, such as benzene and its derivatives.

One would think that these disturbing results would automatically lead to more testing, to find the source or sources of the toxic contamination. Instead, there is no further testing!

In order to explain the source of the contamination, IUSD's environmental consultant, Dr. Denise Clendening, of Place-Works, concluded that the apparent site-wide toxic contamination was caused by years of recycled water used for irrigation when the site was

farmland. This absurd explanation was rejected by the Irvine Ranch Water District the very next day in an email communication from their Manager of Quality Control.

The most logical explanation of the site-wide contamination is that various toxic solvents, fuels and other chemicals used for aircraft maintenance were dumped all over what is now the Portola High School site beginning in 1943, when the El Toro Marine Corps airbase became operational. In fact, that was the explanation posited by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, itself, when it conducted an independent analysis of the contamination, and on March 2nd, sent a letter ordering IUSD to test the interior of the site and find the source or sources of contamination.

Regrettably, IUSD failed to faithfully execute those orders. So, where does that leave us?

I believe that any responsible parent would want two things to happen: First, further testing of the site, especially under the buildings, should begin immediately. Second, a system of continuous air monitoring for VOCs within the buildings should be installed to detect any intrusion of toxic contaminants. As I've previously stated, if IUSD does not

commit to these steps, I believe it would be prudent for a parent to ask for a child's transfer from Portola High School to another high school in Irvine.

Someone has to stand up for these kids! Make your feelings known to the officials who have the responsibility for the health and safety of your child.

	IUSD	State
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS	paulbokota@iusd.org	SectyRodriguez@calepa.ca.gov (CalEPA Secretary Matthew Rodriguez)
	laurenbrooks@iusd.org	barbara.lee@dtsc.ca.gov (DTSC Director Barbara A. Lee)
	iraglasky@iusd.org	Superintendent@cde.ca.gov (Supt. of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson)
	michaelparham@iusd.org	
	sharonwallin@iusd.org	
	terrywalker@iusd.org (Superintendent Terry Walker)	

For latest updates, references and documentary materials:
www.TestForToxics.org
 and subscribe for FREE!



Back-To-School Safety

by Phyllis Agran, M.D., M.P.H.*



3-point lap/shoulder belts prevent serious injuries.

As families prepare for their children to return to school at the end of summer, it's worth thinking about the risks and benefits of various modes of transportation to and from school: walking, bicycling, driving, and school bus. Of all of these, the school bus is the safest ... provided it's a truly safe bus.

The problem is that many older school buses still in service don't have safety belts, and in the event of a collision or even

a quick stop or swerve, children can be thrown from seats and injured. Remarkably, about 17,000 children across the country are treated in emergency rooms annually, having been injured in school bus mishaps. Often, even “minor” injuries are not so minor. A patient of mine lost her front teeth in a bus crash and, as a young girl, had to be fitted for false teeth.

Almost all of these school bus injuries — minor and major — can be prevented by wearing lap/shoulder seat belts.

California law requires all school buses built in 2006 and after to be equipped with lap/shoulder belts. It is well documented that lap/shoulder belts work — they dramatically improve child passenger

safety. The American Academy of Pediatrics has a long-standing policy advocating for seat belts on school buses. The problem is that there are many old school buses — without seat belts — still on the road.

Responsible parents should insist that their school district

— whether it's Irvine Unified School District or Tustin Unified School District — require that any contract buses used to transport kids to and from school, or a school-related event, be equipped with three-point lap/shoulder belts. And be sure to instruct your children to always use them!



*Phyllis Agran is a practicing Orange County pediatrician, a Professor at the UC Irvine 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.

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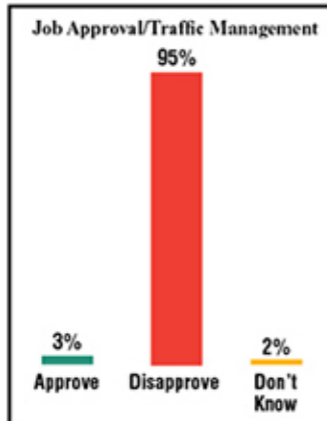
The Irvine Community Poll is an online survey organization that is owned and operated by *Irvine Community News & Views (ICNV)*. For nearly two years now, we have offered our Irvine Community Poll as an important way that your voice can be heard — and that, together, we can all help inform, serve and improve the Irvine community.

Unlike other proprietary polls, we proudly publish our survey results. Last month, our front-page *ICNV* story — entitled "Traffic (Mis) Management Study" — was accompanied by an Irvine Community Poll question about Irvine traffic management. Published here are the results of the Poll — from the hundreds of respondents who participated. Also published is a representative sample of the accompanying letters and comments we've received. I think you'll agree they reflect remarkable insight, as well as anger and disappointment at our City's growth-driven traffic mess. - FJL

Irvine Community Poll Results – July, 2016

What Do YOU Think?

Do you approve or disapprove of the job that the Mayor and City Council are doing to manage and control traffic in Irvine?



Comments, Notes and Letters

■ I still believe that Irvine's traffic is fine. Our streets were built nice and large thanks to prior City Councilmembers, and now they are just the right size. It is unreasonable to say that anywhere in the L.A. area is going to have good traffic flow.

—Anthony Fitzgerald

■ What happened to our planned community? Driving in Irvine is a nightmare. Congestion, long traffic lights, too many cars, and too many houses and apartments, and yet more building. It is all out of control. I blame the Mayor and Council for letting this happen to our once beautiful, quiet and welcoming Irvine.

—Gary Parker

Comments, Notes and Letters

■ We are growing too fast and have too many apartments being built, putting too many cars on our streets.

—Michael LaRocco

■ Traffic on Culver is shocking! Just too many cars!

—Bev Menkin

■ Traffic is awful. Massive construction of multi-family housing projects will make traffic even worse. No one will want to live or work here.

—Linda Lewis

■ As a resident of Irvine for over 20 years, I have seen the City change from a small town with traffic jams that were an infrequent annoyance to a City of untamed growth with frequent traffic jams as a way of life. Timing traffic lights might give some minor relief, but the real issue is unbridled growth in areas that were open spaces just a few short years ago. The City needs to create traffic plans before entire areas are awash with new housing developments, not after. The control of traffic should be a large part of the plan. Based on my observations, there is little or no thought given to traffic control in the City of Irvine...and that has to change.

—Darrell Wilson

■ We've lived in the Woodbury area since 2008. It was so wonderful to live in a quiet neighborhood with minimum traffic. But now we constantly hear cars racing past our house. We need to constantly watch for drivers who are going through red lights. Though we approved of some growth in our neighborhood, it's just become way too populated.

—Maria Williams

■ Stop using every available piece of land for high-density housing. I'd like to support the businesses in Irvine, but it's getting more and more frustrating to shop here due to the difficulty of finding parking in many of the centers.

—Monica Bono

■ I love Irvine, but greed has destroyed the vision. For example, the Great Park...We don't need that many homes! We voted on a Great Park with great community spaces. Then, greed kicked in and way too many homes are being built, with thousands to go, and Irvine is ruined.

—Rudy Rodriguez

■ A more irresponsible gang running a city is hard to find.

—Richard McDonough

■ We're witnessing a complete sell-out to developers — thousands more apartments and an office building in the next year on Jamboree near the airport. Get ready for L.A.-style gridlock!

—Rob Rowan

■ So many apartment homes are springing up everywhere I turn lately. I'm for growth, but in moderation. The Irvine Company charges plenty for rent and there has to be an abundance of money for them. I think it's about time to slow down the growth, before we become like our neighbor, Los Angeles.

—Ray Lopez

■ Try driving down Culver, Jamboree, Alton, Barranca, or Harvard during the morning or evening rush hour commute, and watch 100 cars get stopped for one lonely pedestrian happily crossing the street — one push of the button throws all sense of synchronization out the window. Isn't anyone paying attention? Don't be surprised to see people banging their heads on the steering wheel...and a staggering growth in road rage.

—Jeff Cohen

■ The traffic in Irvine is horrendous. More building = more people = more traffic. The traffic congestion will get worse. The building MUST stop in all areas. The City of Irvine in our dreams is lost forever.

—Caesar Coleman

■ Too many overpriced Irvine Co. apartments are being built and are causing all the traffic.

—Reggy Singh

■ The continued housing growth has added thousands of cars to the Irvine streets, making commute times 2 to 3 times longer than they used to be. It is pretty clear that, as usual, our City leaders acted before seeing the big picture. How will thousands of new residents and their cars impact the infrastructure of our City and the peace and harmony that so many of us enjoyed for so many years?

—Cheryl Higley

■ Traffic in the City is terrible. We need better public transportation — buses should run during the week and weekends. Also, we need more bike lanes and bus lanes.

—Cooper Quillan

■ Irvine is the only city that I know of where traffic does NOT flow. The lights are regulated so that you sit, sit, and sit some more. It takes forever to go just a couple of miles — it's ridiculous. Why do surrounding cities manage to keep their traffic flowing but Irvine cannot?

—Jane Donovan

■ Irvine is so far gone. There is no surprise here — the vibe, the atmosphere, the energy is all bad, everyone is uptight, in a hurry and stuck in traffic. It's overbuilt — that's the bottom line. It's so sad. Irvine used to be the coolest City around, plus the safest. Irvine is ruined and there is no way to come back from the damage. It is a constant topic in our group. Most of us have lived here our whole lives, and we are just waiting for the day our kids graduate from high school to move. It's a shame, but the direction Irvine is going is not the direction we were led to believe it was going.

—Kelli Peters

■ Our City should be embarrassed! Some "planned community!"

—Victoria Rossiter

■ Traffic is our biggest problem in the IBC, and that is not considering all the new construction in the area! From 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. there is gridlock on Jamboree, Von Karmen, Michelson and Campus. Lights need to be better synchronized — we need new solutions!

—Jim Phelps

■ The current majority on the City Council is destroying our City. They are doing it by overbuilding and approving high-density apartments that are five to six stories tall and blocks long. All this high-density building creates traffic. In the 1970s, when Woodbridge and Deerfield were developed, they built apartments that were only two stories tall. I guess they were smarter then.

—John Battey



Most Irvine residents understand that Irvine's out-of-control traffic mess is linked to the Mayor's and City Council's failure to control residential growth and development.

■ We do not need more homes which, in turn, increase the traffic in our City. If I am not mistaken, the City Council proposed to take out the green-belt on Jeffrey Road (along Woodbridge) to add lanes. I am totally against that. We need to stop adding so many more homes. It needs to be strictly limited. Our City needs new leadership.

—Tom Lillig

■ We're selling our home and moving to Mission Viejo. This excessive traffic is not what we signed up for when choosing Irvine as our home.

—Jessica Lopez

■ The current Mayor and City Council are selling out this once great City to big Business. Pay attention, Irvinians!

—Ron Sali

■ Poor oversight of residential development has resulted in increased traffic and decreased quality of life in Irvine. There is an unbelievable lack of leadership resulting in overdevelopment by real estate companies and a green light to just build out every piece of open green area.

—Richard Sarlitt

■ Too much residential construction has ruined Irvine's brand as the best city to live in. The quiet Irvine is gone. The City's politicians did nothing to keep Irvine planned properly.

—Gary Jian

■ As long as the City of Irvine continues to approve more housing, our City will continue to suffer with traffic. I don't understand how they think you can add more housing, and expect our current streets to handle the increase. My daughter's high school is two blocks away. With only three lights from our home to school, it takes 10 minutes by car. Walking would take twice as long because she has to wait for those same lights in order to cross. The Mayor and City Council seriously need to re-evaluate their decisions and the consequences the community of Irvine is having to endure.

—Elsie Gomez

■ I have lived here for over 40 years. The traffic over the past five years has doubled. It takes 15 minutes to get out of Westpark Village One, and onto Culver Drive and then the I-405.

—Ellen Jones

■ Traffic in Irvine is out of control! What kind of planning is this to continue to give building permits to the big developers, then wonder why the traffic is out of control. We don't have enough water either, so why all the construction of traffic creating monstrosities? The greed continues to ruin a once incredible City!

—Susan Penske

■ The Mayor and his colleagues on the City Council, through their aggressive growth policies, have contributed to congestion, pollution, and increased crime in our area.

—Ben Sampson

■ Irvine not only needs to improve its traffic situation; we need a transportation system — with buses that run all the time and go everywhere.

—Susan Krubi

■ I neither approve or disapprove of the job that the Mayor and City Council are doing to control traffic in Irvine. Considering the glut of new residents, the traffic situation could have been worse. But, it could also have been better.

—Gary Nguyen

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

(Advertisement)



Mary Ann Gaido

for
MAYOR of IRVINE

I'm running for Mayor to put the people back in control of planning. These past four years, I've watched the Mayor and City Council quickly approve every proposal from developers for thousands of new houses and apartments. Meanwhile, they've ignored the damaging effects on our existing villages and neighborhoods — including the traffic mess they've created throughout Irvine.

I believe our City desperately needs new leadership and a new direction.

Let me be specific: If I am elected Mayor, I pledge that at the first City Council meeting, **I will introduce a Comprehensive Growth and Traffic Control Ordinance** — an ordinance to take a "time-out" from overdevelopment by strictly limiting the number of residential building permits issued by the City, and by requiring a vote of the people before any major new residential project can move forward.

As a current Irvine Planning Commissioner and former two-term Irvine City Councilwoman, I know that under State law we have ample legal authority to put these growth and traffic control policies in place. **What's needed is a Mayor with the political will to stand up to big developers and do what's right for the residents of Irvine. I promise to be that kind of Mayor.**

It has been my honor to serve the people of Irvine and take the lead in the careful planning of nearly every village and neighborhood and park in Irvine. I also helped lead the fight to preserve our beautiful open space and wilderness areas, and defeat the proposed Airport.

Now, I'm ready to continue my public service...planning for our City's future...this time as your Mayor. I would be honored to have your support and your vote.

Thank you!

Mary Ann Gaido

P.S. If you believe as I do — that the people should be back in control — please visit my website and join our campaign: **www.MaryAnnGaido.com**