



Publisher's Perspective

Big Money. Big Lies.

When Irvine's big developers go low, they go *really* low! Eager to pack the Council with pro-developer puppets like Donald Wagner and Christina Shea, FivePoint Communities and its CEO, Emile Haddad, wanted to elect "the best Council that money can buy." And, on November 8th, that's what they got — with one important exception.

Our ICNV front-page article describes the disgusting \$1.5 million campaign of lies and smears conducted by Haddad and other Irvine big developers — a campaign of character assassination directed mainly at growth-control candidate Mary Ann Gaido, running for Mayor, and Melissa Fox, running for City Council.

Fox survived the vicious assault, but Gaido did not. Now, with the election over, the question is whether Irvine's damaged local democracy and reputation for good planning can survive. Please read our Page 1 story and my personal perspective on Page 3.

The Brighter Side

On the brighter side, congratulations to Melissa Fox on winning the open City Council seat vacated by the retiring Beth Krom. For 16 years as a Councilmember (including 4 years as Mayor, from 2004-2008), Krom was a class act — always moving forward with a positive vision for Irvine's future. Beth Krom leaves a rich progressive legacy for Fox to embrace as she shows us her own leadership qualities in the months and years ahead.

As 2016 comes to an end, we here at ICNV wish our readers and the entire Irvine community happy holidays.

Franklin J. Lunding



Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor

Developer Takeover?

Big Developers Spend \$1.5 Million to Elect Wagner and Shea.

Donald Wagner is elected Mayor. Christina Shea is re-elected to Council. Melissa Fox wins open Council seat, despite vicious developer-funded attack ads.



Melissa Fox

Beginning last spring, Irvine mega-developer FivePoint Communities made clear its determination to elect its own pro-developer candidates to control the Irvine City Council.

FivePoint assembled its "team" of candidates that included termed-out State Assemblyman Donald Wagner, running for Mayor, and longtime Councilmember Christina Shea and Planning Commissioner Anthony Kuo, both running for Council. According to sources close to the FivePoint organization, Wagner, Shea and Kuo were regarded as "reliable YES votes and cheerleaders for FivePoint's fast-growth agenda."

No Limits on Spending

For FivePoint, there were apparently *no limits* on what they were prepared to spend to elect the "right" candidates, who would advance their growth-and-development interests, and dramatically boost their profits. With a new, pro-developer majority, FivePoint

could expect City Council approval of land-use and zone changes to build yet thousands more houses and apartments in Irvine.

By Election Day, FivePoint and other developers spent a record-breaking \$1.5 million — most of it in hard-to-trace "dark money" and "gray money" — flowing through layers of out-of-town political committees. These committees, in turn, spent more than \$100,000 per week in Irvine — most of it on vicious smears and lies aired on TV, radio, and in online and direct-mail attack ads. These ads targeted grassroots, growth-control candidates Mary Ann Gaido, running for Mayor, and Melissa Fox, who was running for City Council.

→ continued on page 2 →

See Page 3 — "ElectionWatch" — for more analysis of the FivePoint developer-funded Irvine campaign.

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Close Election Result

When the Nov. 8th Irvine election votes were finally counted, Wagner edged out Gaido for Mayor by less than 5 percent. Shea won re-election to her Council seat. But FivePoint's developer-funded campaign spending orgy wasn't enough to elect Council candidate Anthony Kuo. Despite hundreds of thousands of dollars spent attacking her honesty and integrity, attorney and City Commissioner Melissa Fox finished ahead of Kuo by nearly 3,000 votes, winning the Council seat left open by retiring Councilmember Beth Krom.

been eroding Irvine's quality of life, hurting property values, and damaging the City's reputation for good planning.

According to Council watchers, another test of the new City Council's resolve on growth-and-development issues will likely come in early 2017. Will the new Council yet again reaffirm the City's 2014 and 2016 dedication of 125 acres of land in the Great Park for a Southern California Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery? Or will Shea, joined by Wagner, once again lead a fight to derail the Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park in favor of FivePoint's "land-swap" proposal?

This land-swap, which has been derided



"Damn! With another million dollars in vicious attack ads against Melissa Fox, we could have elected Anthony Kuo. I do my best work with at least three puppets on the Irvine City Council."

"I am grateful to the voters for selecting me to serve the residents of Irvine for the next four years. But, I was appalled at how ugly and personal the election campaign became. The lies and smears used by FivePoint and other developers against me and other Council candidates, and especially against Mayoral candidate Mary Ann Gaido, were disgraceful. Irvine deserves better."

— MELISSA FOX

"I am grateful to the voters for selecting me to serve the residents of Irvine for the next four years. But, I was appalled at how ugly and personal the election campaign became. The lies and smears used by FivePoint and other developers against me and other Council candidates, and especially against Mayoral candidate Mary Ann Gaido, were disgraceful. Irvine deserves better."

by former Irvine Mayor and Councilmember Larry Agran as a "land swindle at the expense of Orange County veterans," was promoted by Shea, Wagner, and Kuo last spring at the



behest of FivePoint's President and CEO, Emile Haddad. The proposal calls upon the City Council to move the planned 125-acre Veterans Cemetery out of the Great Park and re-zone the 125 acres and other nearby land so FivePoint can build as many as 10,000

additional houses, condominiums and apartments at the Great Park. According to experts, this kind of entitlement giveaway would likely result in an added \$1 billion in windfall profits for Haddad and FivePoint's investors.

Councilmembers Jeff Lalloway and Lynn Schott have previously held firm in their support for a Veterans Cemetery on the 125-acre parcel of land within the Great Park. In the past, Melissa Fox has been strong in her support as well. If the three —

Councilmembers Lalloway, Schott, and Fox — demonstrate solidarity on the Veterans Cemetery, it could signal the emergence of a Council working majority on this and other important land-use and development issues. [ICNV](#)

Irvine Election Watch

by Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher

\$100,000 Per Week in Attack Ads

They spent lavishly — typically more than \$100,000 per week — on polling, messaging, on many hundreds of TV and radio attack ads, on perhaps thousands of internet attack ads, and on dozens of direct mail "hit pieces" in a calculated campaign of lies and smears against Mary Ann Gaido and other Irvine Council candidates.

Campaign finance records show that Wagner and Shea together raised and spent about \$50,000 — just 3 percent of what the big developers and special interests spent

Wagner was the only candidate for Mayor who refused to sign the Pledge. Now, we can see why. He no doubt knew that FivePoint and other developers were going to run a "scurrilous" campaign on his behalf. Shea and Kuo signed the Pledge, but clearly never intended to honor the promises they made.

Hall of Fame...Hall of Shame

To her everlasting credit, former two-term Councilmember and longtime Planning Commissioner Mary Ann Gaido, ran a true grassroots campaign on a principled growth-control platform. Her campaign was her own

— meeting her campaign budget goal of \$100,000 with hundreds of small donations from residents who respected the City's campaign contribution limit of \$470 per donor. A measure of Mary Ann Gaido's grassroots strength was that she lost to Wagner by just 4.7 percent (38.2% to 33.5%) despite being outspent at least 15 to 1.

An avid reader of *Irvine Community News & Views* recently suggested to me that ICNV should establish an Irvine "Hall of Fame," and publish the names of citizens whose exemplary service to the community warrants special recognition. While we're giving this suggestion serious consideration, let me

just say now that if we do establish a Hall of Fame, my first nominee will be Mary Ann Gaido, whose 40 years of service and devotion to good planning and growth-control has enriched the quality of life in Irvine.

I'm suggesting we establish a companion "Hall of Shame," to note the bad actors in our community who have engaged in especially harmful and even shameful conduct. After observing their harmful and, yes, shameful conduct in Irvine's recent election, I nominate corporate "citizen" FivePoint Communities and its President and CEO, Emile Haddad, for the No. 1 spot in the Irvine Hall of Shame. And, of course, Haddad's obedient beneficiaries and puppets — Donald Wagner and Christina Shea — have earned a place in the 2016 Hall of Shame, as well.

My post-election view, which is probably shared by a majority of Irvine residents, is that we have just witnessed a remarkable, historic, and downright awful 2016 campaign — both nationally in the race for President and in the Irvine races for Mayor and City Council.

Full disclosure: I'm a lawyer, businessman, and civic activist who formerly served on the Irvine Planning Commission and, before that, as Chair of the Irvine Transportation Commission. I am a lifelong centrist Republican. Locally, as Publisher of *Irvine Community News & Views*, I am proud that this community newspaper endorsed Mary Ann Gaido for Mayor and Melissa Fox for City Council.

Developer-Funded

"Outsourced" Campaigns

Normally, regardless of the outcome in a local election, I would be congratulating each of the winners in Irvine on running a successful campaign. So, hearty congratulations to Melissa Fox on her brave and successful run for City Council. But as for the other "winners" — Donald Wagner, who beat Gaido by less than 5 percent; and Christina Shea, who finished on top in a field of 11 candidates for City Council — I will not congratulate them on running a winning campaign.

Why? Because, the plain truth is that they didn't run their own campaigns at all!

Campaign records already on hand reveal that last spring and summer, apparently with a wink-and-a-nod, Wagner and Shea (and also Council candidate Anthony Kuo) "outsourced" their campaigns to Irvine mega-developer FivePoint Communities and other big developer interests. Led by FivePoint and its CEO, Emile Haddad, these pro-development interests then raised and laundered hundreds of thousands of dollars through an array of out-of-town "independent expenditure" committees. These so-called "I.E." committees, run by very expensive professional political operatives — often called "hit men" or "hired liars" — then spent \$1.5 million (maybe more) in Irvine.



Big Developers, Big Money, Big Lies, FivePoint Communities and other Irvine developers spent over \$1 million on vicious TV and online ads, and dozens of direct-mail "hit pieces" (above) attacking Council candidates Melissa Fox and Farrah Kahn, and mayoral candidate Mary Ann Gaido. For the record: Gaido's 40-year meeting attendance record (96%) is the best, and she has the City's strongest record of voting against overdevelopment. A UCI professor described what took place in Irvine as an unprecedented developer-funded campaign of "lies, smears and character assassination."

on their behalf, mostly attacking other candidates.

What we witnessed was the most disgusting, dishonest campaign ever run in Irvine. FivePoint's "dark money" and "gray money" campaign was intended to say anything and do everything to elect a trio of obedient pro-developer candidates: Wagner, Shea and Council candidate Anthony Kuo. Thankfully, Kuo was defeated by Melissa Fox. Fox finished second and won the seat being vacated by Councilmember Beth Krom.

The State Code of Campaign Conduct, signed by most Irvine candidates, is a voluntary Pledge by candidates for local office to not engage in "scurrilous" attacks, including character assassination, and to not permit others to do so "on your behalf."



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Sarita Sidhu

Impressive in Irvine by Sarita Sidhu

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."

**Sarita Sidhu was born in India. She grew up in England, and has lived in Irvine for 14 years. She is an English as a Second Language teacher (www.englantion.com), and an advocate for Fair Trade. Please send comments and suggestions for people we might feature on this page to: sarita@irvinecommunitynews.org.*

Marc Johnson is a smart, passionate, home-grown Irvine entrepreneur. At the threshold of his 30th birthday, he is the owner of rEcycles, a nearby start-up electric bike company.

Marc Johnson – rEcycles



Marc Johnson on an e-Lux Tahoe fat e-bike.

A graduate of Woodbridge High School, Marc's fondest memories of growing up in Irvine are all about the outdoors on his bike...exploring trail systems...racing... building BMX dirt jumps with his friends, usually on empty lots in Irvine.

Marc's love of bikes included the mechanical side too. So, while working at various bike shops as a young man, he developed great expertise in their construction. At the same time, as he gained knowledge about computers and coding, he began to develop a keen appreciation of the complexity and sophistication of a new kind of bicycle — electric bikes.



The rEcycles workshop and showroom.

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The Great Equalizer

Marc was born with a congenital heart defect, which required open-heart surgery when he was just 18 months old. The successful surgery allowed him to grow up leading an active life. Then, at 19 years of age, Marc was diagnosed with a mitral valve prolapse. After successful heart surgery, his symptoms of fatigue and weakness faded, but the kind of intense and extended bike riding he had previously enjoyed now left him utterly exhausted.

This was when Marc came to fully embrace electric bikes, professionally and personally. He now calls electric bikes "the great equalizer." An electric bike allows you — even if you have health or fitness issues — to keep up the pace and go long distances, relying on the assistance that electric power provides.

Catching the Second Wave

As a follower of industry news, Marc knew that the second wave of electric bikes, with their lithium-ion batteries, would revolutionize electric biking. The first generation of high-weight and low-power bikes would be replaced with low-weight and high-power alternatives.

Jumping on the opportunity, Marc opened up his rEcycles workshop and business in October of 2015. Initially, he focused his business on converting Electra Townies — a popular, high-quality "beach cruiser" that is known for its patented technology, and enhanced comfort and stability — into an electric bike. Marc knew that many people in Orange County already had Electra Townies in their garages, so spending around \$1,500 to convert the bike into a top-quality electric bike should be an easy sell. He proved to be right. According to Marc, the finished product is of a higher quality

than the equivalent, more expensive Pedego bike.

Although he continues to offer an array of custom bike conversions (he has converted five tricycles so far, for clients with disabilities), Marc has transitioned to offering pre-assembled, purpose-built electric bikes. His main supplier is Easy Motion, the leader in the technology wave. Marc says, "Easy Motion bikes offer the finest biomechanical integration, which allows, for example, the maintenance of a specific heart rate throughout a ride."

Whether alone, or with friends and family, drop by Marc Johnson's rEcycles workshop, 16722 Hale Avenue #102 in the Irvine Business Complex, near Barranca and Jamboree. Marc will show you around and patiently match you to the e-bike that fits you best. He offers free test rides throughout the year, and a mobile rental program in the summertime.



Left: fold-up e-bike.



Two black bicycles — the traditional bicycle (rear) is modified to be an e-bike (front).

INDOORS • OUTDOORS FINDING AN EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE

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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 Irvine Open Space Preserve is ideal for exploring the outdoors from the back of your mountain bike. If you're new to mountain biking, check out a variety of skills clinics hosted by the City of Irvine in partnership with Irvine Ranch Conservancy, where you will learn and practice riding techniques and trail etiquette. If you're already an experienced rider, join docent-led rides through the City of Irvine's Bommer Canyon, where visitors can climb over 2,700 feet in elevation on ranch roads and single-track trails. All guided programs are free and open to the public with required pre-registration. Learn more at LetsGoOutside.org/activities.

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Community Calendar

December 2016/January 2017

Masterpieces of California Art

The Irvine Museum presents *Masterpieces of California Art* now through January 19, 2017. The exhibition is a remarkable display of some of the most celebrated works painted in California between 1890 and 1940. This noteworthy exhibition combines works from the collection of The Irvine Museum as well as magnificent paintings from several important private lenders.

Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 5pm. Museum closed Sundays and Mondays.

Info: IrvineMuseum.org



Gay Rose (1867-1925)
The Green Parson



Holiday Toy Drive

Help make the season brighter for Irvine's adopted Marine Battalion families by donating a new, unwrapped gift suitable for infants or children through age 12. Donations will be accepted at the Irvine City Hall, Irvine Police Department and the Orange County Great Park Visitors Center.

Donations accepted Monday-Friday. Now through December 11th. 7:30am-5:30pm
Info: CityofIrvine.org

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 Home for the Holidays Pet Adoption. Irvine Animal Care Center. 10am-3pm. Info: 949-724-7740 | 5 Brainy Bookworms. Book group for 2nd and 3rd graders. Katie Wheeler Library. 4pm. Info: 714-669-8753 | 6 Twilight Hike. Orchard Hills. 3:15-5:15pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org | 7 Bunco at the Rancho Senior Center. First Wednesdays. 12:30-3pm. \$5. Info: 949-724-6800 | 8 Family Night Program at Heritage Park Library. Wonderful World of Reading with Ventriloquist Jim Adams. 7pm. Info: 949-936-4040 | 9 Rita's Stuffed Animal Sleepover. Heritage Park Library. Bring one of your favorite stuffed animals to the library for an overnight adventure with Rita! Drop-off 3-4:45pm. Pick-up 12/10 at 11am. Info: 949-936-4040 | 10 Seasoned Chefs Culinary Workshop. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: 866-829-3829 |
| 11 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829 | 12 Teen Advisory Group (TAG). Katie Wheeler Library. 5pm. Info: 714-669-8753 | 13 IUSD Board Meeting. 5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine. 6:30pm. Info: 949-936-5000 City Council Meeting. Irvine Civic Center. 5pm. | 14 Storytime in The Garden. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 9-9:45am. Info: 866-829-3829 | 15 Planning Commission Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5:30pm. Info: 949-724-6465 | 16 Flow Yoga in the Hills. Orchard Hills. 12:30-1:30pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org | 17 Mountain Bike Ride. Bommer Canyon. 8-11am. Info: LetsGoOutside.org |
| 18 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829 | 19 After Work Fitness Hike. Paved Hicks Haul Road. 6-7:30pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org | 20 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 | 21 Mid-Week Hike. Agua Chino and the Sinks. 8am-1pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org | 22 New Dimension Exhibition. Irvine Fine Arts Center. 4-6pm. Info: 949-724-6880 | 23 Movie Mallinee. Lakeview Senior Center. Fridays at 12:15pm. Info: 949-724-6900 | 24 Chanukah begins at sundown. |
| 25 Christmas. | 26 Kwanzaa begins. | 27 Short Story Book Club. Heritage Park Library. 2:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040 | 28 Masterpieces of California Art. Irvine Museum Exhibition. 11am-5pm. Info: IrvineMuseum.org | 29 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 | 30 New Dimension Exhibition. Irvine Fine Arts Center. <i>New Dimension</i> focuses on art practices that bridge the disciplines of painting and sculpture. 4-6pm. Exhibit runs from November 19, 2016 to January 21, 2017. Info: 949-724-6880 | 31 New Year's Eve. |
| 1 JANUARY New Year's Day. Happy New Year! | New Dimension exhibition at Irvine Fine Arts Center Image credit: Lexae Lee, Wall I (detail). | | | | | |
| | | | Irvine Museum Masterpieces of California Art | | | |
| | | Granville Redmond <i>Flowers Under the Oaks</i> | | Colin Campbell Cooper (1856-1937) <i>Balboa Park</i> | | Gay Rose (1867-1925) <i>The Blue House</i> |

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.



"Grady" is a male, neutered, blue domestic shorthair mix. He is almost 4 years old.

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

10th Annual Home for the Holidays Pet Adoption Fair

SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 2016
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Why not enjoy Irvine art exhibits over the holidays?



New Dimension exhibition at Irvine Fine Arts Center Image credit: Leanne Lee, Wall I (detail).

New Dimension Exhibition. Irvine Fine Arts Center. *New Dimension* focuses on art practices that bridge the disciplines of painting and sculpture. Exhibition runs to January 21, 2017. Info: 949-724-6880

Irvine Museum | *Masterpieces of California Art*

Masterpieces of California Art. Irvine Museum Exhibition. 11am-5pm. Info: IrvineMuseum.org



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Flowers Under the Oaks



Colin Campbell Cooper (1856-1937)
Balboa Park



Guy Rose (1867-1925)
The Blue House

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Developers Put Profits Ahead of Pre-schools



SCHOOLWATCH
by Carolyn Inmon*

After nearly 8 years of service, I'll be leaving the Irvine Child Care Committee (ICCC) at the end of the year. I step down with a sense of pride in our accomplishments, but with a serious concern about the future.

Families move to Irvine because of the City's reputation for excellent planning and schools, including pre-schools. Here's the problem: There simply are not enough pre-schools and enough "slots" for Irvine's thousands of pre-school children.

Forty years ago, when Irvine was a new City and land prices were relatively low, it was possible for private pre-school operators and religious institutions to build pre-schools. Carefully planned residential growth kept supply and demand in balance.

Today, land prices are sky-high (nearly \$4 million per acre in new residential areas), making the purchase of land for pre-school purposes extremely difficult. At the same time, developers have put their own bottom-line profits ahead of the community's needs — they've backed away from their traditional responsibility to set aside parcels of land for pre-schools.

Meanwhile, the explosive development of houses and apartments authorized by the Irvine City Council — some of us call it overdevelopment — has led to a surge in demand for pre-school

slots for children 0-5 years old.

Several years ago, the ICCC met with developers to discuss our concerns. The lack of respect for our Committee and its work was evident throughout the process. Even before the meeting, one developer's representative was seen rolling his eyes and actually complaining, "Now we have to talk to the housewives."

In the course of our meeting, one ICCC member chided developers for "misleading marketing" in claiming that Irvine is family-friendly when, in fact, for pre-schoolers and their parents, that's no longer true. The inability to find a decent, affordable pre-school is anything but "family-friendly."

Our Irvine Child Care Committee advocacy led to the City's commissioning of a professional study that bore out our claims of a serious shortage of hundreds of pre-school slots. Unable to deny the problem any longer, one of the developer representatives said, "Well, we agree there aren't enough slots, but whose responsibility is it to take care of that?" Well, developers and the Irvine City Council used to think that provision of quality, affordable pre-schooling opportunities was a responsibility we all shared in Irvine.

He went on to say, "Women choose to work... Their childcare is not our problem, and besides, if there is a shortage of child care in one part of town, a parent can just drive the kids to another part of town." But, there are waiting lists for pre-schools all over town, and good planning dictates that each of our villages and neighborhoods should have a nearby pre-school.

I'm going to miss being on the Irvine Child Care Committee and doing my part to urge Irvine's big developers — mainly FivePoint Communities and The Irvine Company — to stop putting profits ahead of pre-school kids and their parents.

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



WORDSWATCH
by Harris E. Kershner*

Exercising Your Rights

"No person shall interfere with individuals exercising their free speech rights within areas open to the general public in shopping centers, apartment complexes, and other private or public property open to the general public." — IRVINE'S FREEDOM OF SPEECH ORDINANCE

This month's quote is excerpted from the *Irvine Freedom of Speech Ordinance* (which has been in existence for well over a decade). As is the case with all laws safeguarding freedom of speech, the rubber meets the road when someone exercises the rights that the law protects.

On Election Day 2016, I chose to exercise those rights on a public pathway in the "Middle Earth" section of the UCI campus. I was offering a political flyer (in support of a candidate for Mayor of Irvine) to individuals who indicated that they intended to vote that day. Two campus employees approached and stated that what I was doing was forbidden by a campus policy because "Middle Earth" was a residential portion of the campus and my activity, allegedly, was akin to trespassing or invasion of privacy.

Rather than provoking an incident, I sought out a campus official with sufficient authority to rectify this situation. I met with Mr. Daniel "Dan" Dooros, Associate Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs. After examining my flyer and confirming that I was handing out flyers a sufficient distance from the polling station located in Middle Earth, Mr. Dooros readily acknowledged that my activity was lawful and I was free to resume distributing flyers.

It is wonderful to have rights on paper; the ability to actually exercise those rights is even more important.

*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.



CULTURECORNER
by Marilyn Vassos*

STOP HUNGER NOW

My column this time is about an organization that promotes a different kind of "culture" — what I call a "Culture of Volunteerism and Generosity."

Imagine this: 50 people packaging 10,000 meals in just two hours. STOP HUNGER NOW is an organization that coordinates volunteers who are ready to work for a couple of hours packaging healthful meals for people in need around the world. On Veterans Day, Nov. 11th, Women For: Orange County provided the volunteers to participate in just such an event at IRWD's "Duck Club" in Irvine.

There were, 50 of us who donated \$25 each so we could package 10,000 meals. The Duck Club was alive with our activity. Each package we put together consists of a plastic bag with rice, soy protein, dried vegetables and 21 essential vitamins and minerals.

The STOP HUNGER NOW organizers assigned us to various stations. After filling the plastic bags, their contents are carefully weighed, and each bag is machine-sealed; the sealed bags are put in boxes. "Runners" make sure these operations are coordinated, keeping an accurate count of our progress. Each time we packaged 1,000 bags, a gong was sounded, eliciting cheers that kept us motivated.



There was great satisfaction knowing that these Guatemala-bound meals are going to be distributed through various developmental programs, skills training programs, and orphanages that provide holistic support to break the cycle of poverty. For more information about STOP HUNGER NOW, go to: www.stop hunger.org. And for information about Women For: Orange County, go to: www.womenfororangecounty.org.

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

Jake's iPhone Tips: Hidden Features Revealed

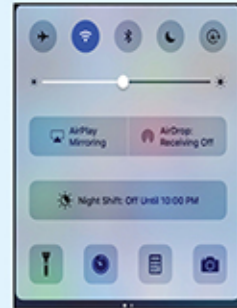
by Jake Jacobs

This is the sixth in 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.

CONTROL CENTER

Control Center puts the most useful settings in one place. And it has been improved in iOS 10. Swipe up from below the bottom of the screen in most apps and access all of the following settings.

Top row: *Airplane*



Mode, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Do Not Disturb, Rotation Lock.

Center cluster: Brightness slider, AirDrop, Airplay, and Night Shift.

Bottom row: *Flashlight, Timer* (and access to other *Clock* functions), *Calculator*, and *Camera*.

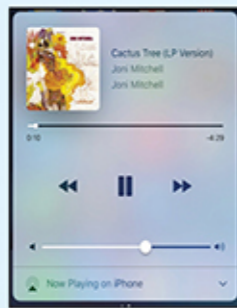
If you have an iPhone 6s or iPhone 7, you can press your finger down harder on the icons to produce shortcut menus:

- The *Flashlight* now lets you choose from three different brightness levels.
- The *Timer* button offers presets for 1 minute, 5

minutes, 20 minutes, and 1 hour.

- The *Calculator* displays the last calculation result and copies it into the clipboard.
- The *Camera* button offers *Take Photo*, *Record Slo-mo*, *Record Video*, and *Take Selfie*.

Although you can access the Control Center from the lock screen, it is more secure to turn this access off by going to Settings → Control Center → Access on Lock Screen → Off. If thieves can access your Control Center in the lock screen, they can turn on Airplane Mode and disable Find iPhone which will prevent you from locating and recovering your iPhone.



Swipe right-to-left for the media controls (position scrubber, play/pause, volume).

If you have HomeKit devices installed, swipe right-to-left for the Home app, (not shown here).

Jake Jacobs, a retired electrical engineer, 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



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TestForToxics.org

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

2016 Ends with No Further Action in Sight on Toxics at Portola High

The November 8th City election resulted in little change in the City Council's political composition. Melissa Fox, a small-business attorney and a solid progressive, replaces Councilmember Beth Krom, who has retired after 16 years on the Council, including four years as Mayor. Termed-out State Assemblyman Donald Wagner was elected to succeed Mayor Steven Choi, and Christina Shea was re-elected. Any sudden majority Council interest in ensuring that the Portola High School (PHS) site is properly tested for toxics seems unlikely.

The IUSD Board has a new member, Betty Carroll, an Irvine Public Schools Foundation board trustee. Since she had the backing of the IUSD establishment and

developer FivePoint Communities, it's unlikely she will insist on altering the District's stubborn and irresponsible refusal to adequately test for toxics at Portola High School (PHS).

In October, 2016, a lengthy letter from State officials (posted on TestForToxics.org), did not seriously address any objections to their previous determinations.

However, for the first time, the State claimed *without evidence*: "the school is considered safe for use." Previously, they were only willing to write that the school site "requires no further action," which means only that all legally required protocols have been followed.

The reality is this: After having accidentally discovered massive quantities of petrochemical con-

tamination in on-site excavations in 2014, and after 16 of 17 soil-gas test wells on the site revealed "low" concentrations of cancer-causing and neurotoxic volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in 2016, it appears that the \$300 million PHS — now open to 400 ninth-grade students — suffers from site-wide petrochemical contamination. In response, the State reaffirmed their "guess" that the contamination was caused by IRWD recycled irrigation water.

Moreover, the State's claim of safety implies a belief that the "low" levels of contamination found are safe, when even in 1948, the American Petroleum Institute (API) produced a remarkable paper: *API Toxicological Review*. It states: "it is generally consid-

ered that the only absolutely safe concentration for benzene is zero." The US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), as well as the State of California, classify benzene as a human carcinogen.

No one knows if there are not higher concentrations of those carcinogenic and neurotoxic VOCs on the school site. Only site-wide testing and remediation performed by an independent firm, or continuous air monitoring equipment installed inside the buildings, can ensure the safety of their occupants. Otherwise, no one can predict when VOCs will be accumulating and entering the school buildings and how they will be affecting the health of teachers, students and staff.



School Bus Safety Revisited by Phyllis Agran, M.D., M.P.H.*

On November 21st, six children died and five sustained critical injuries in a terrible Chattanooga, Tennessee school bus crash. Once again, grown-ups failed to protect children.

high seat backs — is inadequate. Children literally fly out of the "compartment" and are at high risk for ejection in the event of sudden stops, turns, swerves or side-impact crashes.

As parents, grandparents, health professionals and conscientious citizens, what can we do to better protect our school children?

- Contact School District officials at Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) and Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) to make sure your School District's contract with a school bus provider includes a requirement — fully enforced — that all vehicles deployed to our schools are newer buses manufactured after 2005, and equipped with lap/shoulder belts.
- Make sure your children — and all children riding in school buses — are instructed to "buckle-up."
- If a young child uses a booster seat or car seat in your own car, that seat can be used in buses with lap/shoulder belts.
- Insist in all contracts with school bus providers that these firms use the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines: *School Transportation Safety, 2007*.



Six died in the Chattanooga school bus crash.

While investigation of this tragedy continues, it is already clear that fatalities and injuries could have been avoided if the school bus provider, Durham School Services, had used newer school buses with lap/shoulder belts. And, the crash itself could have been avoided had Durham School Services and the school district itself done a better job of vetting their school bus driver.

Let me remind our Irvine, Tustin and other Orange County readers that California is the only State in the nation that requires all school buses manufactured after 2005 to be equipped with lap/shoulder belts — no exceptions. As pediatricians, we have known for years that the prevailing occupant protection method called "compartmentalization" — closely-spaced padded seats with

The contract school bus provider for TUSD (which includes four schools in Irvine) is First Student. In IUSD, the provider is the same national firm, Durham School Services, involved in the Tennessee school bus tragedy.

A final fact to think about: School bus safety — including the use of lap/shoulder restraint systems — is not only essential to save lives; it will dramatically reduce the number of children injured in school buses. Remarkably, each year a reported 17,000 children across the country are treated in emergency rooms for injuries sustained in school bus mishaps.

*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.

OPEN FORUM *FREE SPEECH FOREVER!*



What Do YOU Think?

Dear Readers:

With the November 8th presidential election and the Irvine local election now behind us — and with 2016 drawing to a close — it's fair to ask what we've learned this year about ourselves as a community.

For this issue of *Irvine Community News & Views*, we devote this page of our Open Forum/Community Voices section to the most important issue that came out of our local Irvine election — the recognition that we are in the midst of a traffic crisis that just about everyone agrees is overwhelming our community and degrading our quality of life.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Mayoral candidate Mary Ann Galdo who, for years, has been pointing out that the Irvine traffic crisis is developer-driven. According to Galdo, who has been the City's leading growth-control advocate, the mathematics of the traffic crisis are quite simple: Every new house or apartment unit that is built brings with it, on average, 2 cars and 3 people, who then make at least 4 Irvine automobile trips daily. The result is evident on our streets every day. The traffic is exceeding the capacity of our roads and intersections.

Over the years, the average number of new residential building permits approved by the City Council and issued annually has been about 2,000. But under the developer-driven and Council-approved fast-growth policies of recent years, that number has more than doubled — to nearly 5,000.

Galdo's proposal is to place strict limits on the annual number of building permits that can be issued, while the City takes other urgent steps to improve traffic flow — such as dramatically expanding our iShuttle transit system.

Galdo has summed up the appeal of her proposition with a simple truism: *Traffic control begins with growth control.*

Does Mary Ann Galdo's proposal appeal to YOU? Do you favor it? Or oppose it? Take our online Irvine Community Poll. Let us know what you think.

- FJL



Most residents understand Irvine's traffic mess is caused by Council-led residential development policies — too much development, too fast.

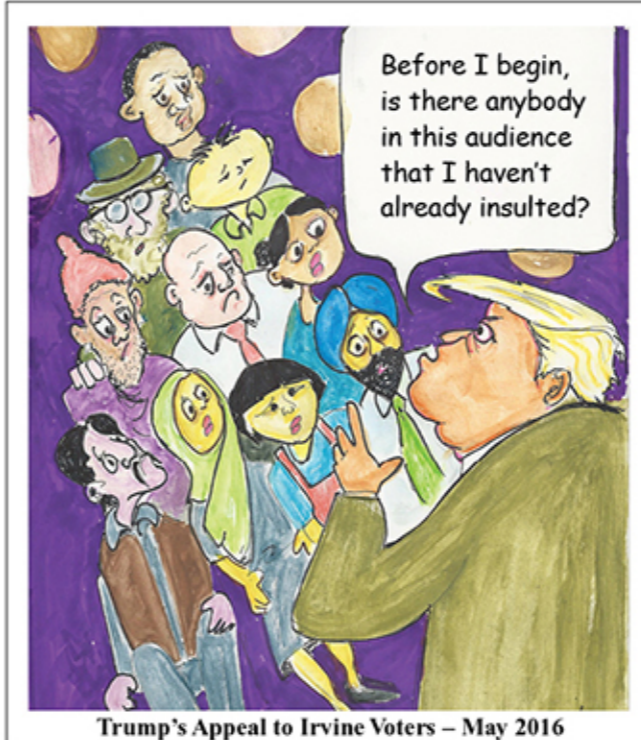
What Do YOU Think?

Do you favor or oppose adoption of a City growth-control ordinance that places a strict annual limit on the issuance of new residential building permits, and requires voter approval to exceed that limit?

Take the Irvine Community Poll!

Simply go to: IrvineCommunityNews.org/Poll

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



Trump's Appeal to Irvine Voters — May 2016



Trump's Supporters in Irvine — October 2016



OMG, he won!

Beginning last spring, Irvine Community News & Views cartoonist, Steve Layton, tracked the strange and scary Donald Trump presidential campaign — from a worried Irvine perspective. Now, of course, Trump is the President-elect. But Irvine voters didn't provide much support for him. Unofficial voting results in the City of Irvine: Hillary Clinton received 52,000 votes to Donald Trump's 27,000.

A Letter of Congratulations and Gratitude

Congratulations to Melissa Fox on her election to the Irvine City Council! Elected to a four-year Council term on Nov. 8th, Melissa is sure to make her own affirmative mark on our City as a progressive civic-minded attorney and leader.

Of course, she takes a seat on the City Council that has been held by Beth Krom, who is retiring after 16 years of stellar public service. Beth Krom was first elected to the City Council in 2000, going on to win six more elections, including two successive 2-year terms as Mayor (2004-2008).

It was my privilege to serve on the Council with Beth for all but the past two years, so I had an up-close opportunity to work with this remarkable friend and partner, who has done so much to shape our planned community in ways that deserve our continuing gratitude.

Beth Krom was among the foremost leaders in defeating the County's proposed airport plan and replacing it, instead, with a vision for a great metropolitan park — the Great Park — at the former Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro.

Despite a devastating recession and the loss of State funding, under Beth Krom's leadership both as a City Councilmember and Chair of the Great Park Corporation, we managed to design and build major features that now define the first 300 acres (about 25%) of the Great Park.

Beth Krom was among the original founders and continuing leaders of the Irvine Community Land Trust — a non-profit entity created by the City to acquire land and ensure the affordability of housing for many thousands of deserving seniors and Irvine families.

Like others, I've marveled at how often Beth Krom manages to capture in words and phrases our shared commitment to build a vibrant, caring community. Beth is right when she says, "Buildings don't make communities; people make communities." And, speaking of our diverse and fully integrated, multi-cultural community that she has done so much to create, Beth Krom says with pride, "Here in Irvine, our children can grow up and experience the world without ever having to travel beyond the borders of our City."

There is a gritty strength to Beth Krom as well. Since 2012, as our City Council has come under the sway of developers, she has never hesitated to remind us that a Councilmember's job is not to dutifully serve rich and powerful developers, but to serve the people of our City, especially the least among us.

Thank you, Beth, for a job well done!



Former Mayor Beth Krom received a sustained standing ovation at her final Council meeting.

— Larry Agran



A Letter to Irvine Residents from Mary Ann Gaido

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the thousands of Irvine residents who supported my campaign for Mayor — as volunteers, as donors, and as voters. While our close, second-place finish in the November 8th election for Mayor was not what we wanted — of course, we hoped to win this election and change the direction of our City — I want you to know that I remain so very proud of our grassroots campaign and all who joined together to “put Irvine residents back in control of our City.”

For nearly eight months, scores of people poured heart-and-soul into our grassroots, team effort — walking door-to-door, talking with thousands of Irvine residents, writing letters and “spreading the word” about our campaign to restore Irvine’s high planning principles and institute desperately needed growth-control policies.

We gave it our all, and for that I will always be grateful.

In the midst of our disappointment, I know one thing for sure: We have awakened a sleeping giant! It became clear during the course of our campaign that tens of thousands of Irvine residents agreed with our message: *It is imperative that we take a “time-out” from overdevelopment of our master-planned City.*

While our message resonated with the voters, FivePoint Communities and other big developers pushing growth at any cost funneled over \$1 million into the Mayor’s race — attacking me personally with a campaign of lies, smears, and character assassination.

So, where do we go from here? Together, we must push back against yet more General Plan changes that will result in even more overdevelopment — more traffic congestion, more air pollution, more overcrowding in our schools, and the continuing degradation of our quality of life.

Please join me in staying engaged in Irvine civic affairs. Together, we *can* and we *will* shape a better future for our community.

Thanks again!

Mary Ann Gaido