



Publisher's Perspective

Irvine Immigrants

Dear Readers:

America is a nation of immigrants. And Irvine is a 45-year-old City of mostly first, second, and third-generation immigrants. So it should come as no surprise that President Trump's controversial executive orders — imposing a travel ban on certain Muslim countries and authorizing federal immigration enforcement officials to step-up deportations — have sent shockwaves through Irvine's business, education and religious communities.

Our front-page story reports on the turmoil of recent weeks, and how it has put the entire Irvine community on edge.

In his CityWatch feature on Page 3, former Mayor Larry Agran recounts other episodes when immigrants in Irvine — workers and residents — have come under attack.

And our Open Forum and Community Voices pages — Pages 14-15 — report on the response to our recent Irvine Community Poll.

Finally, why not take a moment to become a digital subscriber to *ICNV* right now?

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Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor



Muslim Travel Ban and Deportations Stoke Fears among Irvine Immigrants



President Trump's executive orders have prompted nationwide and local protests.



President Trump's sweeping executive orders — imposing a travel ban on certain Muslim countries and authorizing federal immigration officials to step-up deportations — have sent shockwaves through Irvine's business, education and religious communities.

For nearly two decades, Irvine's mayors have promoted and celebrated the City's reputation as one of America's most diverse and integrated cities — a place where immigrants from throughout the world have been welcomed to live and work and raise their families.

Former Irvine Mayor Larry Agran (2000-2004) frequently referred to Irvine as an American "international crossroads city." Agran's successor, Mayor Beth Krom (2004-2008), famously boasted that "children in Irvine can experience the world without ever having to travel beyond the City's borders."

Now, thousands of Irvine immigrant families are wondering whether they are still welcome in Irvine, or anywhere in the U.S.

When President Trump issued his initial executive order — imposing a travel ban

targeting a number of Middle Eastern, Muslim nations — it caused enormous turmoil locally, especially among Irvine's Syrian, Iranian and Iraqi families. For these residents, the entire system of legal immigration was put in doubt. Business and personal travel was disrupted. Relatives and refugees on their way to Irvine and other U.S. cities were being turned away, some mid-journey.

While the federal courts have, for now, halted implementation and enforcement of the President's initial executive orders, Irvine's various immigrant communities remain on edge, unsure about what may happen next.

Irvine Is Ground-Zero

Because of the thousands of foreign nationals who work in Irvine's high-tech businesses or are students at UCI,

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Irvine has become Orange County's ground-zero in the struggle surrounding the President's controversial executive orders on immigration.

According to one Irvine business leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, "Our business is global. It's high-tech, and it's dependent on highly-skilled foreign nationals. We employ many with family ties to Muslim countries in the Mideast. They now fear for themselves and their families."

He then added, "Humanitarianism aside, I can tell you as a businessman that this travel ban is stupid, chaotic and disruptive. It will hurt businesses, large and small, throughout Irvine."

Higher Education and "Dreamers"

UC Irvine, now with more than 31,000 students, has become both the workplace and home for thousands of foreign nationals — undergraduate and graduate students, as well as visiting scholars, professors, and physicians. Some are here in Irvine with their families. Many others are here alone, while their families are in Syria, Iraq, or other Muslim countries. According to one UCI official, "The President's travel ban — targeting Syria, Iraq, and Iran — has created tremendous anxiety and genuine hardship for hundreds of students and their families."

Yet hundreds more students at UCI, Irvine Valley College and other colleges and universities in Irvine are at risk from the President's executive orders. These are the so-called "Dreamers" — students who were brought to the U.S. as young children, undocumented, typically from Mexico and Central America. These children grew up as Californians, and as Americans, even though they are technically illegal aliens.



Rabbi Arnold Rachlis

Under the terms of State legislation known as the California Dream Act, these students qualify for full in-state tuition and receive financial aid at California colleges and universities. Now, however, with President Trump's executive orders giving much broader enforcement authority to immigration officials, the fate of the Dreamers — and their parents and families — is in doubt. The fear is that the President's executive orders and implementing plans published by the Department of Homeland Security may, in fact, trigger mass deportations, sweeping away the limited federal protection that had been provided by the Obama Administration's DACA program (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). DACA suspended enforcement and deportation of hundreds of thousands of Dreamers and their families.

In a recent prepared statement, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) sounded an ominous warning: "No matter how much they deny it, it is clear that the White House is setting in motion their mass deportation plan, directing immigration agents to round up and quickly deport anyone who is undocumented."

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Moral Issues

In Irvine, whether the concerns expressed are about Dreamers or desperate refugees, the confusion and fear among the City's immigrant communities are palpable. For them — and for the larger Irvine



community — the President's executive orders raise profound legal and moral issues. A number of religious leaders are asking whether there are ways, symbolically and practically, that their houses of worship might become "houses of refuge."

In a public letter to his congregation and others, Rabbi Arnold Rachlis of University Synagogue, in Irvine, delineated the moral issues by invoking the memory of a shameful episode in American history. "Remember the *St. Louis*," he wrote, "the ship that sailed from Nazi shores to our country in 1939, but was turned away, forcing hundreds of its passengers to return to Europe and face certain death."

Rachlis noted that many of today's refugees, particularly those from war-torn Syria and Iraq, are fleeing for their lives. "This travel ban is the beginning of a Muslim Ban," he wrote. "This is the first step in dooming innocent men, women and children. We do not want such Executive Orders issued in our name." [ICNV](#)

Should Irvine's Mayor and City Councilmembers speak out on federal immigration and deportation policies that threaten harm to Irvine community? See the results of the Irvine Community Poll, pages 14-15.

CityWatch by Larry Agran*



Last time, I used this space — this CityWatch page — to lay out the priority issues that bear "watching" in 2017. I listed my No. 1 priority as keeping an eye on Growth, Development, and Traffic. Sure enough, just days after my article first appeared, the Irvine Planning Commission was giving rubber-stamp approval to developers to build hundreds of new houses and condominiums — actually, about 1,100 units were approved in February for Irvine's northern-most villages of Orchard Hills and Portola Springs.

That means a lot more houses and condominiums, with especially serious traffic consequences in the northern parts of Irvine, where overdevelopment is already eroding the quality of life for many residents. Sadly, the Planning Commissioners (and the City Council) seem so intent on giving the developers everything they want, that they don't even suggest stronger mitigation measures,

such as imposing a slower rate of growth with phased implementation, and the initiation of citywide transit requirements.

Take a look at the GrowthWatch and TrafficWatch feature on this page. It's as easy as 1-2-3-4 to understand what is happening to us in terms of growth, development, traffic and our quality of life. Now the question is this: Are Irvine residents prepared to actually DO something about it — like demand more accountability from the Planning Commission, Mayor and City Council?

Another priority for CityWatch 2017 is what I call TrumpWatch. And, sure enough, President Trump's first weeks in office produced a whirlwind of activity, including a number of immigration and deportation orders, most notably a Muslim travel Ban. These orders have created tremendous fear and disruption for many hundreds of Irvine businesses and families. So far, the Mayor and City Council have remained silent.

Actually, I agree with the 2-to-1 majority of Irvine residents who took the February Irvine Community Poll and said "YES," Irvine's local elected officials should say something and do something when federal policies — in this case, Presidential executive orders — violate the rights of Irvine residents or workers, or otherwise harm our

community. (See Pages 14-15 to read about the community's reaction.)

The truth is, individual citizens and local elected officials can make a difference. In the 1980s, when I was Mayor, federal immigration enforcement officers began chasing after Irvine farmworkers, determined to round-up, arrest and deport as many as possible, even though most of the workers were U.S. citizens or documented, legal residents. As Mayor, I wrote a very public letter to William French Smith, then the Attorney General for President Reagan, objecting to the "field sweeps" and the unconstitutional, warrantless search and seizure of Irvine farmworkers. Soon after, the practice stopped. I like to think my letter helped.

In another instance, I was Mayor when the 9/11 terrorist attacks took place. Not long after, immigration officials began rounding-up and detaining many hundreds of immigrants in Southern California, dozens of them in Irvine. Almost all of these people were from Iran, Iraq, or other Mideast countries. And, of course, most or all of them had done nothing wrong. While I wrote letters to then-Attorney General John Ashcroft, I got no response. But I think my letters, and some phone calls, may have helped get a number of lawful immigrants released sooner rather than later, so they could return to their families.

Growth, Development and Traffic

Uncontrolled growth and development is making Irvine's traffic emergency worse each and every day. And things will be getting a lot worse because of what the Irvine Planning Commission did in February. Planning Commissioners gave rubber-stamp approval to 1100 new houses and condominiums that will soon be built in the City's northern and eastern villages, Orchard Hills and Portola Springs. Sadly, the Planning Commission failed to require or even recommend new growth-control measures to slow the developments and reduce their traffic-inducing impacts.

Just look at our GrowthWatch and TrafficWatch chart, which monitors the surge in traffic congestion, according to a 1-2-3-4 formula.

This 1-2-3-4 formula means that as they are built and occupied over the next few years, the 1100 single-family and condominium units approved for Orchard Hills and Portola Springs will bring 2200 additional cars, 3300 additional people, and 4400 additional daily rush-hour automobile trips in Irvine.

- LA

GrowthWatch & TrafficWatch

It's as simple as 1-2-3-4.

When Irvine residents say that they feel that traffic in Irvine is getting worse every day, they are right — it is! It's as simple — and as scary — as 1-2-3-4. On average, with every 1 housing unit that is built and occupied in Irvine, there are 2 cars, 3 people, and 4 daily rush-hour automobile trips.



Over the next several years, as residents begin to occupy the 1100 newly built houses and condominiums approved for Orchard Hills and Portola Springs, they will generate the following impacts:



*Larry Agran is a former Irvine City Councilmember. He served as Mayor of Irvine for six years in the 1980s and again, from 2000-2004.



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Irvine Living

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Photos by: Angelo Vassos. Irvine's southern open space preserve includes Quail Hill, and the hillsides and canyons surrounding Turtle Rock village.

This year, following drought-ending rains, Irvine's Open Space Preserve has taken on a vivid green hue not seen for a long time. "Spectacular!" That's how one Irvine resident, out hiking with her family, described the hills, canyons and vistas that are part of Irvine's 10,000-acre natural open space and wilderness preserve.

People often ask, "With all the growth and development in Irvine, how is it possible that Irvine has managed to retain so many acres of natural open space and wilderness areas free of development?"

Well, it didn't happen by accident! During the 1970s and 1980s, there was a 10-year struggle waged by Irvine citizens to "Save Open Space in Irvine," a movement known as "SOS-Irvine." Led by then-Mayor Larry Agran, along with Councilmembers Ray Catalano, Ed Dornan, Cameron Cosgrove, Paula Werner and Mary Ann Gaido, an Open Space Preservation Agreement was negotiated with The Irvine Company to save Irvine's most valuable open space and wilderness areas. To ensure that the Open Space Plan would remain forever intact, Agran insisted that the Plan, including maps, be put on the ballot in 1988 for approval by the people of Irvine. More than 80 percent of Irvine voters said YES, effectively rendering the Open Space Preservation Agreement and Plan "tamper-proof" by future City Councils.



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Community Calendar

March/April 2017



OPEN STUDIO

Sessions at the Irvine Fine Arts Center

Open Studio Sessions are an opportunity for individuals with previous experience to independently pursue their art projects using Irvine Fine Arts Center facilities and equipment.

The Irvine Fine Arts Center currently has a fully equipped Ceramics Studio and a Jewelry Studio, along with a Photography Lab with dark rooms, black and white tray set-ups, and processing finishing room.

Previous studio experience and closed toe shoes are required. Participants must be 18 years or older. Please note: the Open Studio Sessions are operated by volunteers. For more information and to ensure the studio is open, please call the Irvine Fine Arts Center front desk: 949-724-6880.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Irvine Museum  Alexander Harmer (1856-1925) "Chinatown, Los Angeles," 1886	"Along El Camino Real"  William Wendt (1865-1946) "A Clear Day"	 William Wendt (1865-1946) "An Echo of the Past"	1 BUNCO Bunco at the Rancho Senior Center. First Wednesdays. 12:30-3pm. \$5. Info: 949-724-6800	2 Planning Commission Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5:30pm. Info: 949-724-6233	3 Lego Block Party. University Park Library. Free. 3:30-4:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001	4 Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! University Park Library. 2pm. Info: 949-786-4001
5 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829	6 Open Dance Studio. Trabuco Senior Center. Couples and Singles Welcome. Registration Required. 3-5 pm. Info: 949-724-7300	7 Bingo at the Lakeview Senior Center. Tuesdays. \$8. Buy-in 12:30pm. 1-3pm. Info: 949-724-6900	8 Dig In! Native Seed Farm. Free. Registration Required. 9-12:30 pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	9 Wee Wonder Walks. Bommer Canyon. Perfect for kids ages 2-6, this 1/2 mile hike includes a fun craft at the end. 10-11am. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	10 Senior Striders. Walk three miles along the Jeffrey Open Space Trail. Meet at Trabuco Senior Center. Registration required. Tuesdays and Fridays. 8:30-9:30am. Info: 949-724-7300	11 Seasoned Chefs Culinary Workshop. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. Free. 10-11am. Info: 866-829-3829
12 Daylight Saving Time.  Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829	13 Tai Chi in the Canyon. Black Star Canyon. Free. Registration Required. 9-11am. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	14 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. Cox Cable Channel 30. 4pm. Info: 949-742-6205	15 Pajama Storytime. Pajama Storytime. University Park Library. Stories, songs and activities for the whole family! 6:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001	16 Homework Help. Kettle Wheeler Library. 3:30pm. Info: 714-669-8753	17 St. Patrick's Day Luncheon. Lakeview Senior Center. 11:30-12:30pm. Info: 949-724-7300	18 AU for the Separation of Church and State. Film screening of Hate.com. IRWD Community Room. 1:45pm. Info: AU-OC.org Wilderness Access Day. Bommer Canyon. Free. Registration Required. 8am-2pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org
19 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829	20 Homework Help. University Park Library. 4-5:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001	21 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	22 Storytime In The Garden. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 9-9:45am. Info: 866-829-3829	23 Chess Club. University Park Library. 4-5pm. Info: 949-786-4001	24 Flow Yoga. Orchard Hills. Free. Registration Required. 12:30-1:30pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	25 Read to a Dog. University Park Library. Children 12 and under are invited to read to licensed therapy dogs! 11am-12pm. Info: 714-669-8753
26 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829	27 Homework Help. Heritage Park Library. 4:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040	28 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. Cox Cable Channel 30. 4pm. Info: 949-742-6205	29 Meditative Yoga and Meadow Walk. Bommer Canyon. Free. Registration Required. 9:30-11 am. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	30 Live Music at Eureka! 4143 Campus Drive. Each Thursday night, Eureka! features Live Music at their University Town Center location! 8pm. Info: 949-596-8881	31 Movie Matinee. Lakeview Senior Center. Fridays at 12:15pm. Info: 949-724-6900	1 APRIL April Fools' Day.

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.



"Sasha" is a spayed female, black Labrador Retriever. She is about 5 years old.

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

Quail Hill Community Center Open House and Dedication

The Quail Hill Community Center will officially open to the public during a dedication ceremony March 4th. Take a self-guided tour or check out the exhibit of the City of Irvine 45th Anniversary Photo Contest entries. The community center is located at Quail Hill Community Park, and features spaces for art, dance, fitness and educational programs.



March 4th, 4-6pm. • Info: 949-724-6814



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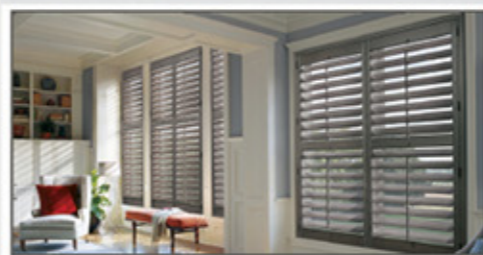
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Part 2 of a 2-Part Series

Taking Steps To Meet The Teacher Shortage



SCHOOLWATCH
by Carolyn Inmon*

Last month, we took a close look at the teacher shortage that threatens our public schools here in Irvine and throughout California. This time, let's look at solutions to the teacher shortage — or at least the first steps we should be taking.

Obviously, we have to make a serious commitment to the recruitment — and retention — of a new generation of teachers. Recruiting is one thing; keeping new teachers from quitting and fleeing the profession is something very different. How do we do that?

When I started my teaching career in a parochial school, I was told, "You'll be overworked and underpaid, and you'll love every minute of it." Alas, that was true — for a while. Then, I decided: "I love this, but if I'm going to work this hard, somebody is going to have to pay me to do it." Today, financial burdens on young teachers have increased tremendously. They need salaries and benefits commensurate with their advanced education.

Improved compensation for new teachers is part of the solution to the teacher shortage. But, perhaps even more important is overcoming the disillusionment that drives away some of our most promising young teachers.

So, how do we keep new teachers in the profession? Respect will go a long way. It's time to replace partisan political teacher-bashing with a healthy dose of respect for our teachers...and trust in what they do. This means allowing teachers to be creative again. It means replacing top-down decision making with increased teacher involvement in decisions, and allocating ample time for planning. It also means replacing high-stakes, standardized testing with teacher-based evaluation of student progress. And it means allocating resources for staff development, and for mentors and instructional assistants to provide classroom support for new teachers.

In California and across the country, billions of dollars are spent every year to replace promising career educators who leave the profession. Let's find the ways to re-direct those billions of dollars to teacher support so that our newly trained, enthusiastic teachers want to stay in their profession of first choice.

**Carolyn Inmon is a retired Irvine teacher. She has taught at virtually every grade level, from K - 12, as well as community college. Carolyn welcomes comments and ideas at: Carolyn@IrvineCommunityNews.org*



WORDSWATCH
by Harris E. Kershner*

Immigrants

**"A people that values its privileges
above its principles soon loses both."**

— DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

The United States of America is a nation of immigrants. There are vast numbers of refugees in this world desperately seeking a safe haven. We should be mindful that, for so many of us, the rights and privileges we enjoy are largely due to the fact that this great nation permitted our forebears to enter this country. We should not be pulling up the ladder simply because we have already found our safe haven.

**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.*

Super Bowl Afterglow

Last month, I was one of the 113 million Americans tuned in to watch what may have been the greatest Super Bowl ever. Tom Brady led the New England Patriots back from a 25-point deficit to defeat the Atlanta Falcons in overtime, 34-28, winning the 51st Super Bowl. Wow! What a thrill for football fans!

In a previous SportsWatch article, I wrote about the new NFL team in Southern California — the Los Angeles Rams — and their 2016 training camp at UCI. In recent weeks, we learned that another NFL team — the San Diego Chargers — is relocating to the Los Angeles area for the start of the 2017 season. This is going to be a feast for Southern California pro-football fans.

Here in Irvine, for aspiring young football players, there is growing interest in flag football. In fact, there are a couple of youth flag-football leagues. I'd recommend the Matt Leinart Flag Football Irvine League, organized by NFL quarterback and former USC star, Matt Leinart. For more information, go to: www.mflagirvine.com.

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



SPORTSWATCH
by Joel Smith*



CULTURECORNER
by Marilyn Vassos*

A Book Group for You

Have you ever wanted to be part of a book group... but you weren't sure if you wanted to make the commitment? If so, this might be the answer for you.

The beautiful Newport Beach Public Library hosts a monthly book group meeting — and you are welcome to attend, even if you haven't read the book! The Library is located just a few miles away.

Here are the upcoming books — and the dates of the group meetings:

- **March 8** — *The Portable Veblen* by Elizabeth McKenzie. This is a book about love and family, war and nature, new money and old money. It will give you insight into the way we live now.
- **April 12** — *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis. The adventure begins in 1923 when 15-year-old Hattie flees Georgia and settles in Philadelphia hoping for a better chance at life. Follow her as she proceeds on that search.
- **May 10** — *Shelter* by Jung Yun. Kyung Cho is a young father burdened by a house and lifestyle he cannot afford. Follow Cho and his family as they live through trying times, and see how the Cho family discovers hope.
- **June 14** — *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* by Sara Baume. The story takes place over four seasons as a misfit of a man adopts a misfit dog! This novel takes us to places we would never experience, yet helps us with our understanding of the world and ourselves.



Newport Beach Public Library
1000 Avocado St. in Newport Beach

All of these books are available at the Newport Beach Library, and other public libraries. They are also on the bookshelves of your favorite local bookstores. Let's remember to support our local book merchants!

For more information about the Newport Beach Public Library, go to: www.nbpflfoundation.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 ninth in a series of articles on how to get the most out of your iPhone. I have been using iPhones for more than six years and have discovered hundreds of useful features within this marvelous device. These articles will help you discover the hidden power of your iPhone.



Jake Jacobs

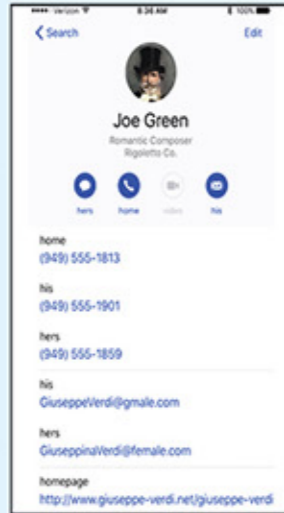
TODAY'S TWO TIPS

No. 1: Warp Speed Access to Top of List.

There is an easy way to scroll up to the top of a long list: tap the time display at the top of the screen. It will scroll to the beginning at Warp speed. This trick works for Music, Contacts, Mail, Notes, Safari, and many other built-in and third party apps that have lists.

No. 2: Picture a Contact.

Attach a photo to any entry in Contacts. Then, any time a call is received from that person, their picture will show up on the screen while the iPhone is ringing.



Here's how to attach a picture to a contact:

- Select the contact and tap *Edit* at the upper right corner.
- Tap the *add* photo circle at the upper left.
- Select *Take Photo* or *Choose Photo*.
- Pinch and move to size and center the photo.
- Tap *Done* in the upper right corner.

Take their picture. Or use a picture already in the Photos app, possibly from an email, text message, Webpage, or Facebook page.

If you have 3D Touch, press firmly on any contact picture to open options to phone, message, or Facetime that person.

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 Spring schedule. Email Jake at JakeAir@cox.net

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM JAKE

I am pleased to announce my Spring workshop — **Most Useful iPhone Secrets: Hidden Features Every User Should Know** — that I'll be presenting at the new Quail Hill Community Center: Thursdays, 7 - 9 pm on April 13, 20, 27 and May 4. Price: \$40 for Irvine residents for all 4 sessions, plus \$15 for the handout (or print it yourself and save \$15). www.cityofirvine.org/community-services-department/classes-activities or call 949-724-6610. Quail Hill Community Park, 35 Shady Canyon Drive, Irvine 92603.



Health & Safety, Schools & Kids by Phyllis Agran, M.D., M.P.H.* Unintended Consequences of Marijuana Laws

In my last column, entitled "Now That Marijuana Use Is Legal In California" I focused on the importance of monitoring the effects of this major social experiment, especially with kids in mind. The article included a photograph of a teenager smoking a marijuana cigarette. www.irvinecommunitynewsandviews.org/health-safety-schools-kids/

Many who use marijuana want to avoid the socially unacceptable aspects of smoking, so they choose edibles — Gummies, chocolate chip cookies, granola, and many other "look-alike" products are available.

Last year, Colorado gave edibles a "new look to avoid confusion." While this may have an effect on those who can read, do you think toddlers will be able to tell the difference

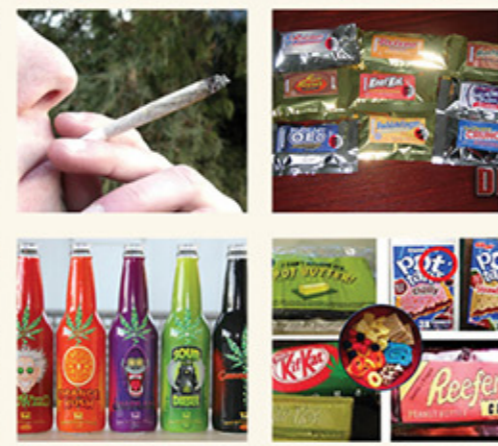
between chocolates with marijuana and those without? View this CBS video. www.cbsnews.com/news/colorado-gives-marijuana-edibles-new-look-to-avoid-confusion/

Like our colleagues in Colorado, pediatricians here in California are beginning to alert parents to the many ways that their children may be ingesting marijuana. Marijuana use has skyrocketed in Colorado. Dr. Christian Thurstone, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, is the director of one of Colorado's largest youth substance-abuse treatment clinics. There is a surge of accidental ingestion by toddlers. www.drthurstone.com/category/marijuana/

Dr. Thurstone notes that any marijuana use by adolescents is harmful and can increase the risk of psychosis as young adults. That risk is dose-dependent. Changes in

cognitive function have also been documented. Fifty-eight percent of new users are under 18.

Please submit any comments or suggestions for future articles to me at: phyllis@irvinecommunitynews.org.



*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. She is also a member of the Irvine Unified School District's Medical Advisory Committee.

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

NEEDED: SOME COMMON SENSE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD! The Portola High School Saga and a New Petition

Suppose you're intent on buying a brand new house in a new development. A few weeks before your escrow closes, you learn that your soon-to-be next door neighbor, after reading a story about contaminated property causing untold tragedy years later, becomes suspicious of her own property.

So, she decides to have the soil in her backyard tested, and discovers low concentrations of all sorts of carcinogenic and neurotoxic contaminants. You then do some research and learn that the tract was formerly the site of an oil refinery that closed down some 50 years earlier.

Would you, as a matter of common sense, then require that the soil on your own prospective lot be similarly tested before escrow closes, or not? Would you just believe government authorities who absurdly claim that since the contamination was not found on your own lot (obviously, because it was never tested) — and the levels found on your neighbor's lot were "low" anyway, you're "safe?"

To those who have followed the story of the contaminated Portola High School site over the past several years — hard to believe as it is — it followed a similar scenario. The IUSD Board *refused* to have the

35-acre interior of the school site tested for the same carcinogenic and neurotoxic petrochemicals discovered along virtually its entire perimeter. Remember, the Portola High School site is located on a former military airbase.

So, contrary to all common sense, and with absolutely no urgency to do so, in 2014, the School Board voted to close escrow on the site without having performed any further testing.

Finally, under public pressure,

in 2016, the State reluctantly agreed to require some testing of the school site interior, to placate the public. Although that testing was limited to 17 soil-gas test wells, it revealed that all 17 wells showed more of the same sort of contamination.

Amazingly, those results did not provoke further testing! Testing was stopped. The Portola High School opened in August, 2016. Without any supporting evidence, it was declared "safe."

If you haven't already done so, please sign the Safe Schools Petition at: irvinecommunitynews.org/safe-schools-2

Safe-Schools-2 Petition

We, the undersigned, call upon the Irvine School Board and the Irvine City Council to conduct comprehensive, independent and conscientious testing of the Portola High School site — both site-wide soil-gas testing and continuous air monitoring inside the buildings — for toxic Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs, such as benzene, benzene derivatives, and toluene) that have already been found in previous, limited tests on the 40-acre site.

This renewed and expanded testing, along with aggressive remediation efforts, can help ensure that the Portola High School site is — and always will be — a safe site for teachers, staff, students, and the entire Irvine community.

[PARTIAL LIST OF SIGNATORIES] A Lee • Aadra Lee • Ahmed Zahran • Albert Lee • Alex Wang • Alfred Newman • Alfredo Perez • Alice • Alisa Kim • Alysha Gosse • An Tran • Ana M • Ana Tran • Andy Ho • Angie Chang • Ann Chen • Annette Bork • Annette Bork • Annette Buckel • Annie Liu • Aris Papayaoanou • Arthur Strauss, MD • Ashtad Engineer • Avram Grossman • Barbara Siersma • Beatrice Lieberman • Bernadette Florencio • Bindu Variam • Bo Zhang • Bo Zhao • Brian Toorani • C Lin • Camille Dexter • Charles Kang • Chen He • Chris Campbell • Christina Johnston • Cindy Davis • Cynthia Bankston • D Evans • Danny Scruggs • Darren Ito • Debbie • Debbie Herring • Debra Richardson • Delia G. Terry • Diana Casillas • Donna Zazueta • Ed Lamphier • Edith Castaneda Pelletan • Eli Weinkle • Enrique Vilorio • Erika Yoshizawa • Ernestina Benson • Fairy Jolini • Farzan • Fay Zheng • Fred • Fritzee Labrador • Gail Lewis • Galina Bukh • Galina Bukh • Gaurang Yodh • Gerald Lee • Glenda Menges • Grace Lee • Griffin Tamura • Hadeel Ragab • Harvey Liss • Heather Hilario • Henry Chiang • Ina Tzvetanova • Ira Lewis • Isaias Lopez • Jack Tatham • Jacques Garnier • Jacquie Madenburg • James Lin • Jamie Wilkinson • Jane An • Jason Liu • Jean Anne Turner • Jean Miller • Jeffrey Ho • Jennifer Assouad • Jennifer Ho • Jessica Sanchez • Jessica Un • Jill Berger • Jing Chen • Joe Sambito • John C • Jon Brownell • Jonathan Li • Jonny T. • Jorge Meza • Julia Chan • Julie Hosokawa • Jun • Karen • Karen Zfaty • Karrie Scruggs • Kathy Chang • Kelly Harrigan • Kelvin Xu • Ken McEwan • Kenny Geh • Kevin Lien • Kirsti • Klotilda • Kozue Larson • Krista Barajas • Kyung Park • Larry Agran • Laura Smith-Black • Laura Thieme • Laurie Crowe • Lawrence O Seidman • Linda Rife • Liza Tilson • Lorne Cheeseman • Luana Foucart • Lydia Liu • Lynn Boutin • Manal Galal • Marcia Spater • Marjorie McIntyre • Mark McIntyre • Martha C Clay • Melissa Roeder • Mertis Sheary • Michele Garcia-Jurado • Michelle • Michelle Ng • Minhchau Pham • Miriam Khurgel • Mojgan Moghadam • Monica Lee • Monica Trivedi • P. Pawley • Paige Wiseman • Pat Kennedy • Payam Larjani • Phyllis Gilmore • Prathima Venkatesan • Rakesh Bhatia • Reza • Richard Ramirez • Robin Greenberg • Robin Weirich • Rosemary St. John • Russell Corrie • Ruth Kim • Sally • Sam Pawley • Samantha Meza • Sandhya Nair • Sasha Wu • Scarlett Teats • Shanene Vaca • Shelley Harriger • Sherry Mao • Sophia • Steven Harlow • Steven Newman • Sudha Ati • Sumera Iqbal • Susan Bernatowicz • Susan Morrissey • Susan Sayre • Susie Rausavljevich • T. K. McCranie • Thao Pham • Tom L Casey • Tracie Jimenez • Veronica Tamura • Waki Taki • Yoon Kim • Yun-I Liu

OPEN FORUM *FREE SPEECH FOREVER!*



Franklin J. Lunding
Publisher

Irvine Voices and Civic Action

Last month's front-page story — "Trump Agenda Threatens to Hurt Thousands In Irvine" — focused on the specific effects that President Trump's proposed federal policies would have on Irvine residents. The article itself and the accompanying Irvine Community Poll elicited a strong response among our readers.

Here (below) is the Irvine Community Poll question we posed; the results of the poll; and a representative sampling of the letters and comments we've received. - FJL

What Do YOU Think?

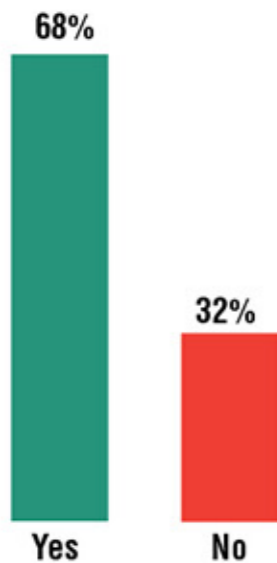
In the past, the Mayor and City Councilmembers in Irvine have spoken out when federal policies threaten harm to Irvine residents and workers. Should the Mayor and City Council speak out on issues of health care, women's health, and federal immigration and deportation policies that threaten rights or benefits of Irvine citizens?

You can still take our Poll at:

IrvineCommunityNews.org/Take-Our-Poll

IRVINE COMMUNITY POLL (Feb.) Taking the Pulse of the Irvine Community

Should the Mayor and City Council speak out on issues of health care, women's health, and federal immigration and deportation policies that threaten rights or benefits of Irvine citizens?



Comments, Notes and Letters

■ The Mayor and City Council should weigh-in when the Trump agenda adversely affects our community.

—Ammar Pasha

■ The Irvine City Council should invite the members of Congress whose districts include Irvine to appear at certain Council meetings to explain how federal policies will affect the cities in their constituencies.

—Michael Olds

■ I just read that Obamacare includes a rule requiring chain restaurants, movie theaters, etc. to list calories on menus. I have changed my eating habits when I eat out because of this rule. If Obamacare is repealed like Trump and the Republicans want, it will be a step backward. We need to know what is in the food we are eating so we can make informed decisions affecting our health.

—Gail Lewis

■ One responsibility of elected community officials is to provide leadership. It is their responsibility to speak out in the interest of their constituents. I depend on their representation and advocacy.

—Carolyn Monfore

■ I am an independent without political affiliation, and do not understand why so many "experts" are racing out ahead of the new Trump administration, speculating on what is going to happen. Why can't we give the new team a chance before we comment or judge.

—Norman Stout

■ Sad, very sad: the inhumanity of this President; un-American in the most fundamental way.

—Phyllis J. Lutjeans

■ Whenever a significant number of residents here in Irvine have their rights threatened, our elected officials should speak up on their behalf. I certainly think that our Mayor and City Council should keep an open dialogue with their constituents to find out what they think and feel, and to respond in ways that will have positive effects for all the citizens of Irvine.

—Kathy Calkins

■ Yes, speak up for our community.

—Lynn Boutin

■ Get over it. Hillary would have been just as bad, but she wouldn't have been as open as Trump about it. Local officials should keep the focus at home, and instead figure out how to halt over-development and overcrowding in Irvine.

—Michelle Nagy

■ Stand up and defend American values. Stand up and defend equality, civil rights, and all the rights given by the Constitution. This is the land of the free and the home of the brave. This is the land of the American Dream and pursuit of happiness.

—Ramy Shalaby

■ Our Mayor and Council should hold a meeting, and then speak up for the people, as they are supposed to do.

—Wendy Lisko

■ It's no surprise that some of our Irvine elected officials have not responded to Donald Trump's atrocities. I participated in the Women's March; and I support Planned Parenthood, immigration rights, and LGBT rights. Our elected officials in Irvine should contact Donald Trump to tell him how his policies, actions and Cabinet appointees are making America poor, divisive, and sick.

—Martha Clay

■ Stop scaring the people. Trump is great. He is doing what should have been done years ago. He is not a ditz. He is a man who speaks his mind — that is why he is so successful.

—Sharon [no last name]

■ The Governor is doing much more to harm this State than President Trump by NOT putting the needs of California citizens ahead of immigrants (legal and illegal). This is our true problem — we need new leadership in Sacramento.

—Char Smith

■ I find it hypocritical that the same people who are rabidly anti-growth are at the same time against cutting down on illegal immigration, cutting H1B visas that favor foreigners over U.S. citizens, and limiting immigration from cultures and countries that don't share our values. It is because of unchecked immigration that we must build, build and build even more.

—Mitch Belair

■ Federal policies should reflect the views of local governments and local representatives. The current President should remember that it is his privilege to represent all citizens of the United States regardless of race, religion or creed. Not just his rich friends.

—James Way

■ Yes, the Mayor and City Council should speak out on issues that threaten the rights of Irvine citizens.

—Wai Chiu

■ How can our local elected officials NOT speak out on issues and policies that affect the health and welfare of all our citizens?

—Pat Kennedy

■ Since the policies and agenda being put forth by our nation's current administration single out and threaten groups of Irvine residents, we must speak out against such bigotry and potential social and economic harm.

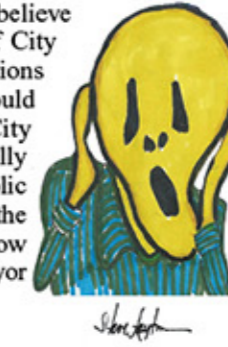
—Marleen Gillespie

■ Not only will Irvine be impacted by the President's executive orders, but almost all cities in California. Our Mayor and Councilmembers have a duty to stand up for their citizenry.

—Suzanne Seidel

■ I think the City Council of Irvine should write letters to President Trump and to Congresswoman Mimi Walters, and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, stating opposition to repealing the Affordable Care Act; opposition to de-funding Planned Parenthood and women's health programs; and opposition to the President's immigration and deportation policies. I further believe that this entire issue of City Council communications and advocacy should be placed on the City Council agenda and fully discussed in the public forum. This way the public can get to know the positions of the Mayor and Councilmembers.

—Susan Sayre



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

—Al Nault

■ EVERY governmental agency in California, regardless of how small, should REJECT the Trump agenda. We are better citizens than those who coronated the completely unqualified developer as celebrity-in-chief. One would hope that our City Council would rise above their petty personal political views and act in the best interests of Irvine citizens. All politics is local.

—T.R. Black

■ Yes, the Mayor and City Council should speak out on policies that threaten the rights and benefits of Irvine citizens. Everyone should be speaking out. We all need to protect our Democracy and our citizens.

—Lucinda Wright

■ Your front-page article [Trump Agenda Threatens to Hurt Thousands in Irvine] is very misleading. Articles like this are why people are getting so worried and fearful.

—Ken McEwan

■ Free speech is a right of every American! It is not only our right but our responsibility to speak out against policies that are discriminatory or can forever damage our values as Americans and our rights as citizens. Our representatives must speak for us!

—Sheila Rafat

■ Stop getting involved in Trump-bashing.

—Julie Vollmer

■ It's so sad to see you are on the Trump-bashing train. Stop harboring illegals!! Irvine used to be the safest city in the U.S., but no more.

—Jane Donovan

■ It's way too early say whether or not President Trump will be successful in representing the people of the United States of America. Giving him a chance would be wiser than protesting. Protesting is NOT an answer. Patience is golden. Let's wait and see what Trump does.

—R.F. Lee

Note: Irvine resident Tessa Kershner wrote to Irvine's U.S. Rep. Mimi Walters as follows:

Dear Congresswoman Walters:

I've had 37 safe years in this wonderful country. America hated South Africa when my family came here. Initially visitors, we later converted to Green Card status and finally we became American citizens. We have contributed intellectually, socially, and perhaps in this dark time, morally to American society.

I was so shaken by President Trump's immigration order, that my husband and I went with flowers to the local Mosque on Saturday night to voice our solidarity and outrage at what is happening. We attended a synagogue meeting about the hatred that is flooding social media, aimed at the Muslim and Jewish communities.

President Trump has given permission for the "dark side" of America to speak out. Anyone who is "different" can be cast in the role of "enemy." That "playbook" is historically familiar and horrifying.

This amazing country is a Democracy. This IS the wonder of America — we can speak out against hate crimes, laws we disagree with, and discrimination. We have Freedom of Speech. We must exercise that freedom. As my Representative in Congress, I expect you to be my voice for a humane and just America.

With hope,

Tessa Kershner MFT

Tessa Kershner

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.



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