



May 2015

Serving the Villages and Neighborhoods of Irvine

Volume 2, No. 5

The Great Park "Fraudit"

CHOI, SHEA, LALLOWAY SPENT \$1.5 MILLION IN PUBLIC FUNDS TO DECEIVE IRVINE TAXPAYERS AND WIN AN ELECTION

In January of 2013, the Irvine City Council voted to conduct a comprehensive forensic audit of the Orange County Great Park, covering the period 2005-2012. The Council majority appointed a Subcommittee consisting of Councilmembers Christina Shea and Jeffrey Lalloway to "oversee the audit."

Two years later — after spending \$1.5 million dollars in public funds — the lawyers and accountants

hired by the Shea-Lalloway Subcommittee could not even agree on what to call their final report. CPA firm HSNO calls it an "Orange County Great Park Performance Review." The Subcommittee's hired law firm, Aleshire & Wynder, calls it "The Great Park Audit." In fact, it is neither.

It is simply the latest chapter in a decade-long political feud between two partisan factions on the Irvine City Council.

Unlike previous *independent* Great Park audits, which were controlled by City staff free from interference by Councilmembers, the Shea-Lalloway Audit Subcommittee selected and retained the accountants and attorneys *without approval by the City*



The Shea-Lalloway "Audit Subcommittee," which met in secret for two years, is now itself under attack for abuse of power and misuse of public funds.

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Publisher's Perspective

Take a good look at ICNV's three front-page stories. They present a troubling picture of special interests and political interests overriding the public interest. Specifically, we now learn that the long-awaited Great Park Audit wasn't an audit at all. Don't take my word for it — that's what the auditors and lawyers say! So what was it? It was a publicly-funded political "audit" — really a political witch hunt masquerading as an audit — that has so far cost Irvine taxpayers about \$1.5 million (and still counting).

The real purpose of the so-called Great Park Audit was to defeat Councilmember Larry Agran and re-elect Mayor Steven Choi and Councilmember Jeff Lalloway. This was accomplished with public funds in 2014 and nearly \$1 million in developer "dark money" and "gray money" dating back to 2012. Read about it in our front-page story: "Developers Bankroll Choi-Lalloway Campaigns."

Finally, Part Three of Dr. Harvey Liss' special investigative report on the alarming discovery of toxic contamination at the site of the future Portola High School is "must" reading. It tells a story of concealment and cover-up that, if allowed to continue, will risk the health and welfare of thousands of future students, teachers and staff at Irvine's newest high school. Whose interests are being served here? Certainly not the public interest!



Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding • Publisher and Editor
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DEVELOPERS BANKROLL CHOI-LALLOWAY 2014 CAMPAIGN

MILLION-DOLLAR "DARK MONEY" AND "GRAY MONEY" CAMPAIGNS GIVE PRO-DEVELOPER MAJORITY CONTROL OF IRVINE CITY COUNCIL

The developer takeover of the Irvine City Council began in 2012 with the election of Mayor Steven Choi and Councilmember Christian Shea. They joined Councilmember Jeff Lalloway to form a three-member pro-developer voting bloc on the City Council.

A two-year investigation by the Fair Political Practices Commission, California's campaign finance watchdog agency, revealed that a New York developer named Howard Rich was behind an illegal \$200,000 "dark money" campaign to elect Choi and Shea.

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Part Three - Special Investigative Report CALLS FOR TOXICS TESTING AT SCHOOL SITE IGNORED, COVER-UP CONTINUES

by Harvey H. Liss

Part 3 WHEN THE REPORTER BECOMES PART OF THE STORY

When I began the investigation of the toxic contamination found *adjacent to and on* the site of Portola High School (now under construction), my intention was merely to report my findings. It turned out that my mere inquiries altered the course of the story — I became part of the story. In fact, I'm mentioned several times in internal emails. Hence, Part 3 of this special investigation is written in the first person, since I'm reporting my experience as a participant.

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→ continued from page 1 → **GREAT PARK “FRAUDIT”**

The Audit Subcommittee conducted its proceedings almost entirely in secret, circumventing the Open Meeting requirements of the Brown Act and overriding the control and oversight of the City Manager and City staff.

According to a deposition statement by attorney Anthony Taylor, co-author of what he terms the “Final Audit Report,” *the Subcommittee managed “day-to-day aspects of the audit” and “controlled the direction” of the audit.*

Despite the fact that this “audit” took longer and cost more than any legitimate city audit in the entire history of Orange County, *it did not uncover one penny of public funds that were missing or misappropriated. There is not one example of any erroneous billings, improper billings, double billings, over-billing or any unauthorized billing by any Great Park contractor.*

The “audit” specifically targeted political opponents of the Subcommittee members. Nearly all of the efforts by the auditors have been directed at discrediting former Councilmember and Great Park Chair, Larry Agran, a long-time political foe of Councilmembers Shea and Lalloway. Also targeted for attack by the Shea-Lalloway

Subcommittee were Gafcon and Forde & Mollich, two companies described by the auditors as having “strong connections” to Councilmember Agran.

Councilmember and Audit Subcommittee member Jeff Lalloway placed himself in a position to control and direct an investigation against Councilmember Larry Agran, his opponent in the November 2014 City Council election — using public funds and resources to attack Agran.

State law provides that “a public agency may not spend public funds to promote a partisan position in an election campaign without clear and explicit statutory authority to do so.” The penalties for officials who violate these laws are severe, including fines, imprisonment, and personal liability to reimburse the public agency for any misspent funds.

Complaints against the City of Irvine and its audit team have been filed with the State Board of Accountancy, the Legislature’s Joint Legislative Audit Committee, and the State Attorney General.

Irvine Community News & Views will keep readers informed about the status of the complaints regarding what one Irvine management official called the Great Park “Fraudit.” **ICNV**



→ continued from page 1 → **DEVELOPERS BANKROLL CHOI - LALLOWAY CAMPAIGNS**

Local Republican political consultant Jon Fleischman was also implicated in the money-laundering scheme and remains under investigation by the FPPC.

The election of Choi and Shea paid off for developers in a big way.

In a series of 3-2 votes, with City Councilmembers Larry Agran and Beth Krom voting NO, the Choi-Shea-Lalloway majority voted to give developer FivePoint Communities the right to build 10,000 homes and control the future development of the Orange County Great Park.

Developers doubled down on their hand-picked Council majority in 2014, spending more than \$500,000 in campaigns to re-elect Mayor Choi and Councilmember Lalloway and elect a fourth pro-developer Councilmember, Lynn Schott.

This time the developers used “gray money” — hundreds of thousands of dollars given to front groups with friendly-sounding names like the California Homeowners Association, Friends of the Great Park and the Greater Irvine Education Guide.

These groups in turn sent out dozens of glossy and mostly negative mailers attacking candidates who supported slower growth and supporting Choi, Lalloway and Schott.

Irvine Community News & Views investigative journalists have reviewed State and local campaign

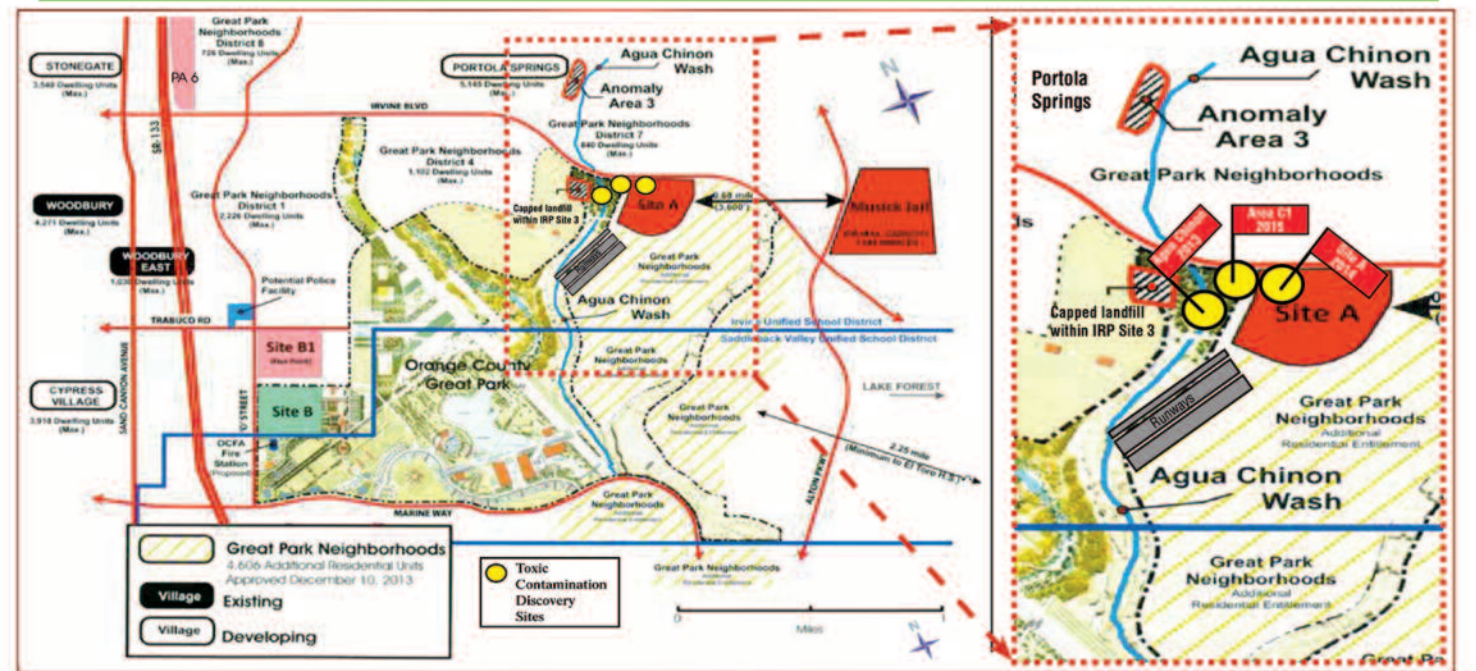
reports and have determined that nearly all of this “gray money” is directly or indirectly linked to developer FivePoint Communities.

- Heritage Fields El Toro, FivePoint’s parent company, donated at least \$150,000 to the Friends of the Great Park Education Committee PAC and the Friends of the Great Park PAC

- Part of that \$150,000, plus other money also went to the following: Irvine Neighbors for Great Park Reform – Yes on V; Irvine Neighbors for Term Limits, Yes on W; the California Homeowners Association, and Greater Irvine Education Guide PACs. And those PACs have received money from other pro-developer PACs, like Orange County Jobs Coalition, the Lincoln Club of Orange County and the Orange County Republican Party PACs.

- Starpointe Ventures, a lobbyist for developer FivePoint, donated tens of thousands of dollars to the Orange County Republican Party’s PAC, which in turn donated to the other PACs and spent thousands of dollars promoting the pro-developer slate.

Former Councilmember Larry Agran said, “We now have a clear picture of the methods used by developers to corrupt Irvine elections by both illegal and barely legal means. It is now up to our residents to decide if they want to re-establish resident control of City planning and the pace of growth — or leave those decisions to a Council majority that is in the pocket of the developers.” **ICNV**



This map (left) of the northeast area of Irvine includes residential villages surrounding the Great Park. Also shown are three previously considered High School sites — PA 6, Site B1, and Site B. All three were rejected by the School Board and developers FivePoint Communities and the Irvine Company in favor of Site A. The enlarged inset area (right) includes Portola High School Site A and the nearby, capped toxic waste dump within IRP Site 3. Also denoted ● are the locations where significant toxic contamination was found.

→ continued from page 1 → **CALLS FOR TOXICS TESTING**

At long last, the most recent episode of serious toxic contamination is getting some recognition from the Irvine City Council — more than five months after contamination was discovered Nov. 13, 2014 on the Portola High School site, where Irvine’s new High School is now under construction. The toxic contamination was discovered during a storm-drain trenching operation and was simply and benignly described as “stained soil.”

As reported in the April issue of the ICNV, I obtained thousands of pages of emails in response to my Public Records Act request to the City of Irvine, the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) and the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). After thoroughly reviewing all the emails and related documents, I discovered the alarming nature of the contamination from a report made last November 18th by the City’s own consultant, David Richter, Principal Environmental Scientist for Ninyo & Moore.

Astonishingly, I also discovered upon further analysis that this report apparently was never transmitted to the Director of Public Works, the City Manager, or the City Council. Therefore, I felt obliged to take action and email a letter to the Council on April 17th attaching Mr. Richter’s complete report. I underscored the importance of these words from Mr. Richter: “Based on our experience it is our expectation that the DTSC will reconsider its prior approval of the PEA [Preliminary

Environmental Assessment] and will request additional information ... and will only recertify the site for school construction after it is satisfied that there is no significant risk to students or school workers.” [emphasis added]

The same day, I received an emailed reply from Councilmember Christina Shea in which she wrote: “This is troubling information, and I am copying Sean [Sean Joyce, City Manager] to request a response from staff.” The next day I received an email from Councilmember Lynn Schott in which she wrote: “Thank you for your communication about this important matter. I will be following up.” On April 21st, Councilmember Beth Krom, in a memo to the City Manager, requested that the matter be placed on the City Council agenda for April 28th, “to allow us an opportunity to learn more about the status of the site, the City’s role in ensuring that the site is properly managed with respect to toxic contamination, and to provide direction if necessary to the City Manager regarding this project and associated public health issues.”

What remains as the only evidence I have that the DTSC was informed of the exact nature of the contamination is from my Public Records Act request to the IUSD that revealed an email sent on Jan 8th by Denise Clendening, environmental consultant to the IUSD, to Rana Georges, Project Manager for the DTSC. **That email, sent to the DTSC more than seven weeks after the lab report was available — but just one day after**

I had requested it — included the original lab report that Clendening received seven weeks earlier, on Nov 18th, from Jim Werkmeister of FivePoint Communities. I received it only after the excavation had been covered up. I thought to myself that this smells like a cover up, figuratively and literally.

Now, we are left only with many questions:

- Why wasn’t Mr. David Richter’s emailed memo, with his recommendations, forwarded to the City Manager and City Council?

- If the City had no intention of getting involved with the contamination on the high school site (despite huge potential legal liability), and had no intention of following the urgent recommendations of their expensive environmental scientist, why was he hired in the first place?

- And most importantly, why wasn’t the DTSC, the State agency created to protect the public from toxic exposure, more curious and more involved in finding out the nature of the contamination and then **decertifying** the site, as Richter expected?

Meanwhile, as of this writing, construction of the \$300 million Portola High School continues unabated at a cost of more than \$1 million per week.

Dr. Harvey H. Liss, a former Irvine Planning Commissioner, holds a Ph.D. in Applied Mechanics and is a California Licensed Civil Engineer. Dr. Liss is a longtime resident of Woodbridge, the iconic Irvine village he helped design in the 1970s.

Irvine
COMMUNITY NEWS & VIEWS

Published Monthly
Vol. 2, No. 5 • May 2015
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We call upon the Irvine School Board and the Irvine City Council to suspend construction of Portola High School (at Site A, along Irvine Boulevard) until independent, comprehensive testing for toxic contamination can be conducted at Site A, followed by remedial action to ensure that Site A is — and will always be — a safe site for Irvine’s next High School.

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DON'T JUST GET ANGRY... TAKE ACTION!
ADD YOUR NAME TO THE ONLINE SAFE SCHOOLS PETITION

GO TO:
www.IrvineCommunityNewsandViews.org/safe-schools/

CITYWATCH



Carolyn Inmon

SCHOOL WATCH by Carolyn Inmon*

WILL IUSD BE ON THE WRONG LIST?

Most of us in Irvine know that the Irvine Unified School District has an outstanding record of accomplishments. As a former IUSD teacher who is married to a former Irvine school principal, John Inmon, I can tell you that we proudly join with others

in celebrating the award-winning achievements of our teachers, staff and students.

The list of awards for IUSD and its students and teachers is long and impressive: large numbers of National Merit Scholars, Teacher of the Year honors, remarkably high graduation and college admission rates, and many schools listed as California Distinguished Schools. These are the right lists to be on!

But there are wrong lists to be on, too. Among these are lists of schools that are known or suspected to be environmentally unsafe. With the recent discovery of significant toxic contamination on the site where Portola High School is being built, it looks like Irvine may be on its way to getting on the wrong list!

Across the country, an estimated 14 million children attend public schools that are environmentally unsafe. Here in California, some educators are starting to ask some tough questions. The April issue of California Educator, the magazine of the California Teachers Association, includes an article entitled, "Is Your School Making You Sick?" The article lists a number of very troubling cases.

- In Redding, accumulated mold caused teachers to be hospitalized.
- In Salinas, teachers are worried that pesticides that cause lower birth rates are also causing students to suffer from developmental delays and lower IQs.
- In Lake Elsinore, one school has a "cancer cluster" and many other illnesses.
- Malibu High School made national news when a cancer cluster and other diseases among faculty and staff were linked to on-site PCB contamination.
- Right here in Orange County, three schools in Huntington Beach were closed because of contamination with asbestos, a known carcinogen (cancer-causing agent).

Is Irvine going to soon be on this list? Let's hope not. Hundreds of Irvine parents, grandparents and other concerned citizens have signed the online petition (see page 4) calling for a halt to construction of Portola High School until comprehensive soil and air tests are conducted at the site and the safety of the school site can be absolutely guaranteed.

So far, IUSD administrators and our elected School Board members continue to ignore the sensible concerns of the citizens and taxpayers they are pledged to serve. Perhaps our school officials believe that if they simply ignore the problem, it will somehow go away. Well, it won't!

DON'T JUST GET ANGRY ... GO TO:
www.IrvineCommunityNewsandViews.org/safe-schools/
SIGN THE IRVINE SAFE SCHOOLS PETITION!

*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 your comments and ideas at: Carolyn@IrvineCommunityNews.org

SPORTS WATCH by Joel Smith*



Joel Smith

IRVINE SOCCER TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Strikers Irvine Boys Under 10 Club Soccer Team won the 2015 Cal South State Cup Championship. The Irvine-based club soccer team defeated FC Golden State from Los Angeles in the finals 2-1 after beating Albion FC from San Diego in the semi-finals 3-1. The final, just like the semi-final, was a come-from-behind victory. After going down 1-0, Strikers scored two goals late in the second half to regain the lead and hold on for the win. Strikers coach Roy Chingarian, who has been heavily involved in the growing soccer community in Irvine, said "I'm proud of what our boys did this season. They worked hard all year and proved in the end that we're the best soccer team in Southern California at this age."

For those who may be unfamiliar, the soccer community in Irvine has been growing at a rapid pace over the past few years. The Strikers Irvine club soccer organization (formerly known as Irvine Strikers) has been developing youth soccer players in Irvine for more than 20 years, and continues to send dozens of kids off to college on athletic scholarships year after year. Those who are interested in taking part in the Strikers FC Junior Development Academy for kids aged 4-9, visit www.IrvineStrikers.com.



Strikers Irvine Boys Under 10 State Cup Champions — with Assistant Coach Gustav Gratzler (on left) and Head Coach Roy Chingarian (on right)

*Joel Smith is a hometown Irvine athlete and Concordia graduate who excelled in soccer and now coaches. He writes occasional articles for ICNV.


Community Calendar

May 2015

Coming Soon: Studio Arts Festival

The Irvine Fine Arts Center will host the 21st annual Studio Arts Festival on Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The juried Festival will showcase more than 100 Southern California artists and their original works of art in ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, painting, photography, fiber and glass. Admission and parking are free.

The Fine Arts Center is located at 14321 Yale Avenue, Irvine (in Heritage Park).
Info: 949-724-6880



The Irvine Fine Arts Center presents the 21st annual

STUDIO ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 6, 2015 • 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Irvine Fine Arts Center

More than 100 Artisans
Painting, sculpture, photography, jewelry, fiber art and more!

Music • Food • Free Admission

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 25 Memorial Day						
3 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. Rain or Shine. Story Time in the Garden. Great Park Farm + Food Lab 10-11am. Info: OCGP.org	4 School Age Book Club University Park Library. A book club just for kids! If you are 8-12 and love reading, come and share your thoughts about each month's selection. It's just for fun and there will be food! 6:30-7pm. Info: 949-786-4001	5 Homework Help. Katie Wheeler Library. 13109 Old Myford Rd. 3:30pm. Info: 714-669-8753	6 After Work Fitness Hike. Paved Hicks Haul Road. 6-7:30pm. Info and registration: LetsGoOutside.org	7 Planning Commission Meeting. 5:30pm Irvine City Hall.	8 IUSD Teachers of the Year Banquet. Honoring the outstanding teachers who make IUSD one of the finest school districts. Irvine Marriot Hotel. 18000 Von Karman Ave. 5:30pm. Presented by the Exchange Club of Irvine. Info: Vicki Harris 949-457-6363	2 Spring Garden Workshop: Colorful Garden. 10:00 - 11:00am. (OCGP Farm + Food Lab). Learn everything you need to know about sustainable home gardening practices. Info: OCGP.org
10 Mother's Day. Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. Rain or Shine. (No Clinic in the Park) Info: OCGP.org	11 Teen Advisory Group. Katie Wheeler Library. 5-6pm. TAG meets the 2nd Monday of the month to discuss teen library concerns, munch out, and plan future fun TAG events. Ages 13-18 yrs. Get an application for TAG! Drop-ins welcome.	12 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5pm.	13 Sunset Yoga in Bommer Canyon. Participants hike 1-mile loop. Return to yoga mats where we will be led in 45 to 60 minutes of guided yoga. 6-7:30pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	14 Social Security Benefits and Medicare Explained. Katie Wheeler Library. 13109 Old Myford Rd. Meets in the basement Community Room. 11am. Info: 714-669-8753	15 Great Glow & Flow Yoga. OC Great Park Back 40 Lawn. Yoga in a party atmosphere. Wear your whitest and brightest and bring your yoga mat! All levels welcome. Sign up for one day at regular price or all three sessions for a discount. Price for one class is \$25. 8:45-10pm. Info: OCGP.org	9 Read To A Dog. University Park Library. Children 12 and under are invited to read to licensed therapy dogs! All participating dogs are part of B.A.R.K. Free! No registration required. 11am-12pm. Info: 949-786-4001
17 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. Rain or Shine. Democrats of Greater Irvine Monthly Meeting. Irvine Ranch Water District, Duck Club. Doors open at 2pm. Email: DemsofIrvine@gmail.com	18 Republican Central Committee Meeting. The Central Committee meets at the OC GOP Headquarters, 1422 Edinger Ave. Suite 110, Tustin. 7pm. Info: OCGP.org	19 Homework Help. Katie Wheeler Library. 13109 Old Myford Rd. 3:30pm. Info: 714-669-8753	20 Harvest Wildflower Seed Native Seed Farm. Sign up to help behind the scenes at the Irvine Ranch Conservancy's one-of-a-kind Native Seed Farm in Irvine! 9am-12 noon. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	21 Third Thursday Philosophy Group. University Park Library 10:30am. Join us for a major philosopher's life and ideas. Bring your thoughts and opinions! Every thinking person is a philosopher; discover the philosopher in you. Info: 949-786-4001	22 Flamenco Dance En El Parque. An introduction to the basics of flamenco dancing including terminology, technique and choreography. Pre-registration required. 3:30-6:30pm. Info: OCGP.org	23 Seasoned Chefs Culinary Workshop. OCGP Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. The Seasoned Chef Series presents local seasonal gourmet dishes, techniques and preservation methods. Eating seasonal and local foods is nutritionally rich and environmentally friendly. Ages 16+. Free.
24 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. Rain or Shine. Northwood Memorial Candle Lighting. Northwood Community Park 4531 Bryan Ave. Info: 949-724-6606	25 Memorial Day.	26 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5pm.	27 Mid-Week Hike - Quail Hill. Take a break and get some fresh air! This mid-week hike through scenic Quail Hill is for those who just want to get out and hike away the stresses of the week. 8am-1pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	28 Chess Club. University Park Library. 4512 Sandburg Way. 4pm. Info: 949-786-4001	29 High School Art Exhibit. Irvine Fine Arts Center. The High School Art Exhibition is a multimedia show featuring art produced by students from Irvine high schools, including drawing, painting, photography and ceramics. Exhibit runs May 1-30. Info: 949-724-6880	30 Writer's Ink. Katie Wheeler Library. This reading and writing workshop is for 1st - 3rd grades only. It is taught by Writer's Ink, a High School group of volunteers. No pre-registration needed. 3:30pm. Info: 714-669-8753
31 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. Rain or Shine. Info: OCGP.org	May 13 - Sunset Yoga/Bommer Canyon		May 2 - Spring Garden Workshop		May 8 - IUSD Teachers of the Year Banquet	
 <p>Paula Venable Elementary School Susana Sarmiento Middle School Christine Haley High School</p> <p>MEET THE 2014-2015 IUSD TEACHERS OF THE YEAR</p>						

Adoptable Pet of the Month

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



"Lucy" is a female, spayed, brown tabby domestic shorthair, weighing 11 pounds. She is 6 years old.

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

California: This Golden Land of Promise Exhibition

Now through May 21st Tuesdays - Saturdays
11:00am - 5:00pm
(The Irvine Museum, 18881 Von Karman Avenue)



This exhibition displays paintings dealing with our State's remarkable history. Many of the paintings feature our historic Spanish Missions as well as our beautiful landscape. The earliest views of the California Missions in the exhibition are selections from a set of etchings by Henry Chapman Ford (1828-1894), published in 1883. The oldest painting on display is the courtyard of the Mission San Juan Capistrano, painted by Alexander Harmer (1856-1925) in 1886. At the time, what is now one of the most beautiful gardens in California is shown as a dry, dusty yard, with just a few geraniums growing against the pillars of the arcade. Admission is complimentary for all visitors. Donations are gratefully accepted.
Info: IrvineMuseum.org

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SPOTLIGHT ON SMALL BUSINESS

By Mary Edmonds

Forty years ago, Irvine had just one restaurant — Bob's Big Boy, located across from UCI. Bob's faded from the Irvine scene long ago, but today there are hundreds of other eateries in Irvine, offering everything from delicious reinventions of the American hamburger to an amazing array of wonderful international cuisines. Our May **Spotlight on Small Business** shines on two different kinds of eateries — MOOYAH burger-fries-shakes in Woodbridge and Cumin in Cypress Village.

MOOYAH — Jim Melby, Owner-Operator & Ron Camera, Gen. Manager • 5365 Alton, Suite 2A, Irvine • (949) 333-3758 • www.mooyahatogo.com

MOOYAH is Irvine's newest "build your own burger" restaurant. We've been waiting for this wonderful wonderland of beef, turkey and veggie burgers served on a choice of buns — Artisan white, multi-grain wheat — or enjoyed as an iceburger, wrapped in lettuce. Extras include free veggies and sauces, house salads loaded with your choice of dressing, and kids meals. Beverages include Coca Cola products, lemonade and fresh brewed tea. Or how about a creamy shake — Mint Chocolate Chip, Strawberry-Banana, or Reese's Peanut Butter Cup?

By the way, MOOYAH does it all — they make their own bread (no fillers, no preservatives) and their own fries (yes, hand-cut fries and sweet potato fries, too).

MOOYAH is a community-oriented, family-oriented company (no

alcohol) that reaches out to churches, elementary schools, and athletic teams. They welcome special events.

Destined to be one of your favorite food hang-outs, MOOYAH is a place to gather with your family and friends in a trendy atmosphere where everything is beyond fresh and fabulous for everyone.

MOOYAH is open Sunday through Thursday, 11am to 9pm; Fridays and Saturdays until 10pm.



People love MOOYAH'S fresh potatoes.

CUMIN — Farrah Khan & Imran Qureshi, Owners • 14141 Jeffrey Rd., Irvine • (949) 988-7554 • www.CuminRestaurants.com.

Now let your palate travel half way around the world to experience **Cumin**, an Irvine eatery offering an extraordinary international "fusion" cuisine.

In 2005, Imran Qureshi and his lovely wife Farrah Khan decided that healthful, delicious meals should be a priority and certainly available for "people on the go." This insight soon blossomed into **Cumin**, a food catering business that began with two rottiesserie trucks (with commercial kitchen capabilities) and a passion for Middle Eastern cuisine.

Imran quickly attracted a following in a demanding market — L.A.'s movie industry with its Hollywood show producers, directors, and actors who quickly became hooked on Imran's chicken dishes. On occasion, mega-stars could be seen chasing after his departing truck, shouting, "Wait, wait, I need one more chicken to take home!"

Fast forward to 2011. The movie shoots and catering business continued to grow. And so did Imran's and Farrah's family. With their two young sons in primary school, Farrah, a community activist, opened **Cumin** — their Irvine restaurant located in the beautiful and very comfortable Cypress Village Shopping Center.

Farrah's favorite dishes include South Asian and Middle Eastern variations,

using dry herbs, spices and "dry grill" techniques. The result: absolutely delicious — and healthful — dishes. House specialties include wraps, rice plates, salads, falafel, shawarmas, a special yogurt mint and spicy sauce, chicken tikka masala rice bowl, tofu, and lamb, ground beef, and chicken kabobs.

Think about stopping by on Fridays for a truly amazing delight — Chicken Biryani — rice with chicken, caramelized onions, spices and herbs. This dish is lovingly made in a two-and-a-half hour process for your eating pleasure.

Cumin partners with non-profits, "Community with a Cause," and hosts "Dine-Out" fundraisers with 10% to 15% of sales going back to the participating schools.



Chicken Shawarma, a popular Cumin wrap.

THANK YOU TO THESE IRVINE BUSINESSES...WHERE YOU CAN PICK UP IRVINE COMMUNITY NEWS & VIEWS

Alton Square/Alton & Jeffrey Donut Star Kriser's for Your Pets-All Natural Life MOOYAH burgers-fries-shakes Ralphs	Harvard Place / Harvard & Main Einstein Brothers Bagels Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D. Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition Ralphs Rubio's SeaFit - Pilates+TRX Z-Pizza	Old Myford Road & Irvine Blvd. Katie Wheeler Library	University Town Center / Campus Drive Center for Living Peace Kochee Kabob House Stax Cookie Bar Eureka California Gogi - Korean Grill Peet's Coffee & Tea Ray's Pizza - New York Style Yushoken - Izakaya & Ramen
Culver Plaza Shopping Center / Culver & Irvine Center Drive All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ The Car Spa	Heritage Plaza / Culver & Walnut Caspian Restaurant Ralphs	Old Town Irvine / Sand Canyon & 5 Fwy Denny's Restaurant Knowlwood	Walnut Village Center / Culver & Walnut French's Bakery Starbucks Coffee Subway
Cypress Village Shopping Center Jeffrey & Trabuco Albertsons Cumin Da Luau Hawaiian Grill	Irvine Market Place Irvine Blvd. & Jamboree IHOP	Osborn St. / East Yale Loop & Barranca Dr. John Pasko, DDS Dr. Ghantekar, DDS	Westpark Plaza / Alton & Culver Albertsons Sprouts Farmers Market Starbucks Coffee
Farm Stands Manassero Farms on Jeffrey between Irvine Valley College & Barranca Parkway Manassero Farms at the corner of Jeffrey & Walnut	Northpark Plaza Shopping Center Albertsons Champagne French Bakery Cafe	Parkview Center / University & Michelson AIM Mail Centers-Postal Annex Farm Direct Market IHOP Maxwell's Salon of London	Woodbridge Village Center Champagne French Bakery Cafe Irvine Car Wash Pedego Electric Bikes Ruby's Diner Treuhaft's Fine Jewelry
Harvard & Michelson Irvine Lanes	Oak Creek Shopping Center Baja Fresh Mexican Grill Daphne's Greek Cafe Gelson's Jack's Surfboards Mustard Cafe Orange Theory Fitness Upper Crust Pizza	Quail Hill Shopping Center / Sand Canyon Natraj's Tandoori - Indian Food Johnny's Real N.Y. Pizza Albertson's	
		University Park Center Culver & Michelson Barber Shop Hen House Grill Java Bakery Cafe Mag's Donuts & Bakery Tacos & Co.	



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SENIORS AND FAMILIES WITH SENIORS

Making real estate decisions when you are a Senior is *different!*

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- What are the tax-related implications of the sale?
- Do you need a variety of services:
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Elder law Attorney for wills/trusts? The counsel of a lender? Home health care?
Estate sale specialists? Access to community resources? AND MUCH MORE!



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Our **Open Forum** and **Community Voices** pages continue to be the most popular interactive features of *Irvine Community News & Views*. Recently, ICNV and Planning 2020, a California non-profit corporation dedicated to environmental excellence in Irvine, began circulating an online Irvine Safe Schools Petition — www.IrvineCommunityNewsandViews.org/safe-schools/. The petition — already signed by nearly

500 residents — calls upon the Irvine School Board and the Irvine City Council to “suspend construction of Portola High School until *independent*, comprehensive testing for toxic contamination can be conducted, followed by remedial action to ensure that the Portola High School site is — and will *always* be — a safe school site.” More than 500 residents have already signed the petition — with many of them offering powerful reasons for signing. Here is a sampling of the comments we’ve received. - **FJL**

Comments : High School Toxic Testing

How can I not be opposed to exposing kids to toxic waste?! What’s the harm in delaying construction in order to determine that the area is safe or unsafe? It’s a no-brainer.

Prit Sinchai

My son is going to attend this school. I would like to make sure it is safe.

Pavel Hudyak

I want my kid to attend a safe school.

Galina Bukh

I would never put my child there if it were built. Cancer is not a joke and the kinds of toxins that are underground should be removed before anything else happens. Mayor Larry Agran warned of this problem years and years ago. Obviously, nobody listened. It’s on the record — check it out.

Mary Warner

I’m a mother of a middle school student in IUSD. The health of students matters the most.

Maria Moe

Let’s be safe...not sorry.

Michael Lewis

I’ve always known there would be toxic waste in the ground and groundwater at the El Toro Marine Corps Base. Need I say more?

Steven Newman

Let’s avoid illnesses caused by toxics, including cancer. Let’s not risk the health of students and families. Life is precious.

Melanie Loo

Nobody, child or teacher, should be exposed to toxic chemicals. Is the City of Irvine so stupid that they didn’t do a geological study way back before any construction began? You can’t fix stupid, you just need to get rid of the dumb decision makers.

Judith Shuemaker

I want to protect the health of students, teachers and all who work at the new high school. Also, I want to avert lawsuits for damages caused by the site’s toxicity.

Annette Bork

Irvine families deserve a safe and convenient location for their next high school. The current location is neither!

Cheryl Honig

This site has not made sense from the moment it was proposed, or rather, designated by the developer. It should never have been accepted in the first place as it is inconveniently located, near a jail and most important, near a toxic waste dump and susceptible to an increased influx of toxins over time.

Jean Anne Turner

Irvine Teacher of the Year, 1988 & 2000



“Toxics? What toxics?”

I’m a homeowner in Portola Springs and I’m vehemently against exposing my children, and other children in my neighborhood, to toxic chemical dangers.

Fred Liu

Are they NUTS? Building a high school on top of a contaminated site?

Pam Smith

No child, no adult, no teacher or other school employee should suffer exposure to harmful toxic waste! Thorough, complete testing for toxic contamination must be undertaken and competent, comprehensive and permanent remediation needs to be completed before continuing with school construction!

Susan Sayre

Have these people learned nothing from the recent news stories about other Southern California area schools with toxic contamination problems that were overlooked when they were built?!

Beverly Holmes

Other schools have been built on or near toxic waste sites in the recent past, leading to VERY costly health problems in teachers and students, not to mention having to close down these schools. Let’s NOT make the same mistake.

Avram Grossman

Comprehensive testing is needed before this school is built.

Peggy Evans

I grew up in Niagara Falls, New York during the Love Canal crisis. Need I say more?

Donna Krebs

A high school next to a toxic waste dump? Whose bright idea was this in the first place? Find a new site.

Mel Andrews

It is our future generations that we’re harming if this moves forward. Isn’t it our job to keep them safe?

Ashley Nguyen

No school or any building holding people should be near a toxic waste site!

Stephanie Zaugg

I will be a voice to save the children and their teachers.

Bea Lieberman

I care for my environment, my country, and my family!

Winston Loo

Please make sure this site is clean as my daughter and her friends are designated to attend Portola High School.

Alex Pa

I have grandchildren and I want them to attend school in a safe environment.

Carolyn Owuor

Great Park “Audit”... A Travesty

After two years and the expenditure of an astonishing \$1.5 million (and still counting!), the long-awaited Great Park Audit was made public on March 24th. Bottom line: no wrongdoing at the Great Park; no unauthorized spending at the Great Park; no unaccounted for funds. So what was the Great Park Audit all about? Politics. That’s the view of Councilmember Beth Krom, who chaired the Great Park Corporation from 2011 to 2012, and who wrote this commentary that first appeared in the Orange County Register on April 19th. Now retitled and reprinted in excerpted form, here for ICNV readers is Councilmember Krom’s commentary on the Great Park Audit. – FJL

If It Wasn’t An “Audit”... What Was It?

Even Christopher Money (yes, Mr. Money), who was hired to produce the Great Park Audit, acknowledged publicly that he did *not* provide an “audit or other examination services as defined by the American Institute of Public Accountants.”

The question must therefore be asked: If the Great Park Audit was not really about what was spent and what was built, what was it about?

Launched nearly two years ago, this so-called “audit,” seems to have been a calculated effort to assail the reputations of the political leaders, designers and contractors who dared to embrace a public vision for the Great Park. Those who applaud the “transparency” of this “audit” are clearly not aware that the two-member City Council sub-committee of Christina Shea and Jeff Lalloway unilaterally directed the expenditure of nearly \$1.5 million in taxpayer dollars with no staff oversight and the unchecked authority to hire their hand-picked team of lawyers and consultants. No oversight. No accountability. No transparency.

I know the history of the Great Park project better than most. I was there in 2002 when the El Toro Airport plan was finally defeated and the opportunity to create a great metropolitan park for the people of Orange County was secured. How ironic that Larry Agran, a civic leader who consistently fought for public interests, should ultimately be defeated by a campaign of smears funded by the same development interests who now stand to make billions building on land secured through his efforts.

Adding insult to injury, consultants and even Councilmembers have had the audacity to compare the City of Irvine — recognized as one of the “Best Run Cities in America” — to the City of Bell, national poster child for municipal fraud and abuse. **The truth is, every penny spent on the Great Park from 2005-2012 was authorized through a public process, is fully accounted for and was invested in the planning, design, construction and activation of dozens of Park features enjoyed to this day.**

The so-called “audit” has been nothing more than a clever smoke-screen created to distract the public from an unprecedented transfer of development rights from the City to private developers. Mayor Choi and Councilmembers Shea and Lalloway gave FivePoint Communities another 4,600 houses and control over 688 acres of public land. By focusing depositions on personalities, opinions and power plays rather than facts and finance, headlines based largely on false or misleading conclusions were generated to fuel the aggressive campaign of lies and smears in Irvine’s election last November. Larry Agran lost. Developers won. It all worked out as planned.

I’m proud of what was accomplished during the years when vision, innovation and balanced planning defined our City. What we’ve seen these past three years is how quickly things can change. Did we dream big? Yes we did. The award-winning Ken Smith Master Plan inspired the imaginations of thousands of Orange County residents through an unparalleled public process. We built the Great Park planning process around public engagement, cultural and recreational experiences and celebrating Orange County’s agricultural and military heritage. Now private developers are in charge and instead of a Great Park Canyon we’re getting a golf course. It’s now about profits not people. Hardly an inspired vision.

The final reports presented by auditor HSNO and the law firm of Aleshire & Wynder revealed that the lawyers and accountants couldn’t find even one dollar of unaccounted for funds or unauthorized expenditures. When will that headline appear in local papers?



*Beth Krom
Irvine City Councilmember*

The land at Site A [the site chosen for Portola High School] is worth a lot less money than the land at Site B [at the Western edge of the Great Park]. Developers want to build homes on Site B because they know no one will buy homes on toxic land [Site A]. Oh, but let’s put a school there! Shame on Irvine politics!!

Cheryl Duzman

I think everyone should be protected from toxins in our environment. This area should be cleaned up before it is even considered for use. People’s lives are more important.

Shari Horne

I am a resident at Portola Springs with two children and am outraged that the City of Irvine would allow construction of a school near or on a site that has not been tested for harmful waste.

Ben Chang

My grandsons will be attending that school and I don’t want them in danger.

Amy Dunfee

I do not want my child to go to school on contaminated grounds and near toxic waste that can contaminate the water children drink and the air they breathe.

Julie Yonemitsu

The safety of our children should be priority No. 1. Comprehensive testing of the site is the least they could do. I would support consideration of Site B once again.

Michelle Magpile

I’m so sick of the profits-over-people mentality.

Sean Cagle

We need a new City Council and Mayor who will look out for the well-being of the citizens and the City instead of making back door deals with land developers and pushing through hazardous plans that endanger lives.

Travis Prouty

I would not want my son near any toxic waste dump.

Hailey Barragan

Children and adults are at a greater risk of cancer and other health issues when interacting on a regular basis around toxic waste dumps. The area proposed was supposed to be slated for a Great Park. Why are houses and schools getting built so fast but the Great Park is not?

Penny Pawley

I am an Irvine resident and am just outraged to read that ground has been broken to start building this school!

Jennifer Korb

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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