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Renewed Push for Veterans Cemetery to Be Built at the Original Great Park Site



Black outline is border of Veterans Cemetery location on original Great Park "ARDA" site



Depiction of State-approved (CalVet) Veterans Cemetery on original "ARDA" site



Depiction of Veterans Cemetery, including trees, trails and Memorial Gardens



Publisher's Perspective

"Fraudit" Accountability

The State of California is seeking to revoke accountants' licenses at HSNO, the firm handpicked by Councilwoman (now Mayor) Christina Shea to "audit" Irvine's Great Park project. According to the 44-page accusation filed by the State Attorney General, the "audit," directed by Shea and costing Irvine taxpayers \$1.7 million (plus City staff time), failed to follow professional accounting standards and contains major misrepresentations and lies.

The Shea-HSNO "audit" reflected an abuse of power and a misuse of public funds by Shea, in a political smear of former Mayor and Councilman Larry Agran before the 2014 City election.

ICNV first exposed this "Fraudit" years ago. Now, the City should appoint independent legal counsel to recover Irvine taxpayers' funds from HSNO and Shea, too.

Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor



At the State Capitol in Sacramento, Orange County lawmakers have introduced a bill — Assembly Bill 368 — in a renewed effort to begin construction of the 125-acre State Veterans Cemetery at the original Great Park site, approved in 2014.

On a recent afternoon visit to the Great Park in north Irvine, **Ed Pope**, co-chair of the citizens' committee to **Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery**, pointed toward the site of the long-planned — but not yet built — State Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park. With an edge to his voice, Pope said, "Look at this — our 125-acre site was set aside five years ago and *still* nothing has been built on it."

Pope continued, "If the City Council hadn't reversed course two years ago, right now we would be nearing completion of the 30-month construction project, and the beautiful Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in our Great Park would be open and operational by Veterans Day this year, on November 11th."

Lamentable History

Ed Pope, 81, is a U.S. Army veteran,

an award-winning retired high school teacher, and a 47-year resident of Irvine. As he reviewed the history of the Veterans Cemetery project, Pope referred back to 2017, lamenting that "instead of beginning construction in the summer of 2017, on schedule, three members of the City Council actually *rejected* a \$30 million construction grant from the State."

Apparently, at the behest of developer FivePoint Communities, Mayor (now Supervisor) **Don Wagner**, and Councilmembers **Christina Shea** and **Melissa Fox** abruptly voted for a complicated land-swap scheme to replace the planned Veterans Cemetery with massive office, industrial and apartment development.

The Council's unpopular decision, in turn, eventually triggered an historic Irvine ballot referendum and voter revolt.

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Join your Irvine neighbors who subscribe to ICNV online at: IrvineCommunityNews.org

→ continued from page 1 → **A Renewed Push for Veterans Cemetery at Original Great Park Site**

In the face of developer FivePoint's \$1 million campaign, Irvine voters overwhelmingly rejected the developer's "Measure B," 63% to 37%, in a special June 5, 2018 election.

Pope, who chaired the successful "NO on B" referendum campaign, observed, "Last year, the voters made plain that they wanted the City Council to stick with the original Great Park Veterans Cemetery site, and start building the Veterans Cemetery right away."

But, so far, the City Council has refused to implement the will of the people, choosing instead to talk about "alternatives" to the original Great Park Veterans Cemetery plan. Meanwhile, the original Great Park Veterans Cemetery project has languished. *Until now.*

Renewed leadership, renewed opportunity

Now, in a dramatic show of State legislative leadership, Assemblywoman **Sharon Quirk-Silva** (D-Fullerton), joined by others in the Orange County State legislative delegation, sent a mid-March letter to the Irvine City Council urging support for her bill, AB 368. The bill, upon passage, would once again designate the original Great Park Veterans Cemetery site — approved by the City, State (CalVet) and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in 2014-16 — as the chosen location for the State Veterans Cemetery, *which would then be built with State funds.* AB 368 also provides that the State would equip, operate and maintain the Veterans Cemetery in perpetuity, at *no* cost to the City of Irvine.

According to State officials, following legislative approval in Sacramento — and City approval to move forward — actual construction of the Veterans Cemetery could begin right away, with a 30-month timeline to complete the project.

Will City officials say YES this time?

The City Council is expected to consider the Veterans Cemetery matter this Spring. But, according to highly placed City Hall officials, it's an open question as to what a majority of City Councilmembers will do. **Will they say YES to this new opportunity to finally get the Great Park Veterans Cemetery built and operational? Or will they continue to search for "alternatives" to the original Great Park Veterans Cemetery site? None of**

those alternatives have the historic significance of the original site, which includes aircraft hangars and the iconic control tower.

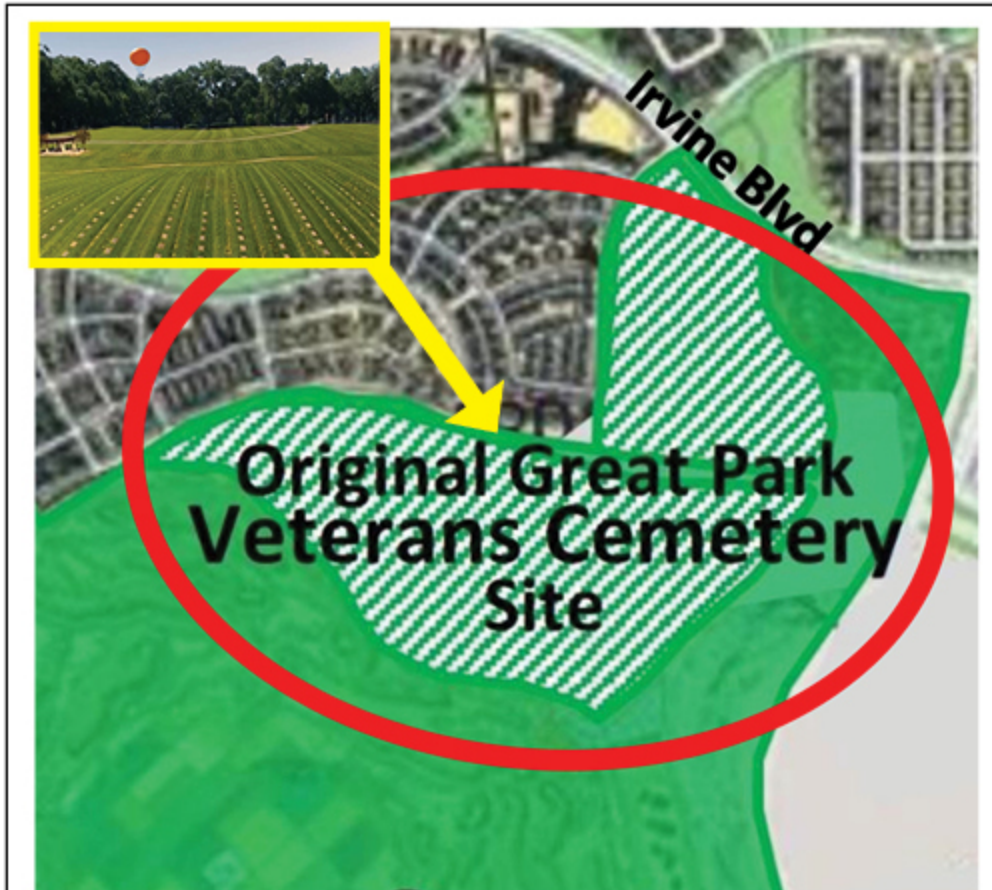
In an interview, Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, the lead author of AB 368, said she wouldn't ask the State and state taxpayers to fund the study of yet another site. "As far as I am concerned, if we are going to build the

Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park, we will do so at the original Great Park site."

Quirk-Silva added, "Since 2014, the original Great Park site has been thoroughly studied and approved — by CalVet and by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It is clearly the best site for the Veterans Cemetery. I'm not interested in funding any other sites."

Ed Pope, noting that he speaks on behalf of thousands of veterans in Irvine alone, said he applauds Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva and other legislative leaders. "The fact of the matter is that this project enjoys overwhelming public approval. It is construction-ready," he said.

"What are we waiting for? Irvine and Orange County veterans are dying, on average, at a rate of two or three per day. They deserve to be laid to rest and honored right here at the original Great Park Veterans Cemetery site, close to home and family. We can't — and shouldn't — wait any more!" **ICNV**



With City Council approval, the Great Park Veterans Cemetery (Inset photo) can be quickly built on the original Great Park Veterans Cemetery site.

For updated reporting on the renewed efforts to begin construction of the Veterans Cemetery at the original Great Park site, be sure to subscribe to Irvine Community News & Views.

www.IrvineCommunityNews.org

For information on how YOU can help make the Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park a reality, go to:

BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org



CityWatch by Larry Agran

The Choice: Veterans Cemetery or Massive Development?

Even as Assembly Bill 368 — to again designate and fund construction of a Veterans Cemetery at the original 125-acre "ARDA" site in the Great Park — is moving through the State Legislature, Councilmembers **Melissa Fox** and **Christina Shea** (now Mayor) are trying to steer the Council toward yet another unplanned, unstudied, and unapproved "alternative" site for a Veterans Cemetery.

Really? Yet another site? Why? What is going on here? The truth of the matter is that this isn't really about finding a "better" location for the long-promised Veterans Cemetery. *There isn't a better site!* This is really about a land-use choice between putting a beautiful Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery on the ARDA site at the Great Park, or letting developers get their hands on that property to make some big money...fast.

It is well known that developer FivePoint Communities has long coveted the 125-acre, City-owned ARDA site — hoping to get hold of the parkland property for little or no money, and then rezone and sell it to other developers for as much as **\$3 million to \$7 million per acre**. What does FivePoint get out of it? A windfall profit of at least \$500 million. What does the public get out of it? More unneeded and unwanted office, industrial and apartment development — along with the added *10,000 auto and truck trips every day* that this kind of development brings.

That's what FivePoint's landswap-and-development scheme — known as Measure B on last June's ballot — was all about. Thankfully, voters saw through it, rejecting the brazen land-grab, 63% to 37%. **Irvine voters made it clear that they want the Veterans Cemetery, and they want it built on the original ARDA site.** They don't want that "hallowed ground" to be turned into yet another developer scheme, championed by Councilmembers who, so far, are apparently more interested in pleasing developer FivePoint than in giving Irvine residents what they were promised.

What do YOU think? Take the Irvine Community Poll!

The 125-acre Great Park "ARDA" site, owned by the City, was originally designated in 2014 for a Veterans Cemetery.

• Should the ARDA site be transferred to the State of California to build, operate and maintain a Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery — at State expense and at *no* cost to the City?

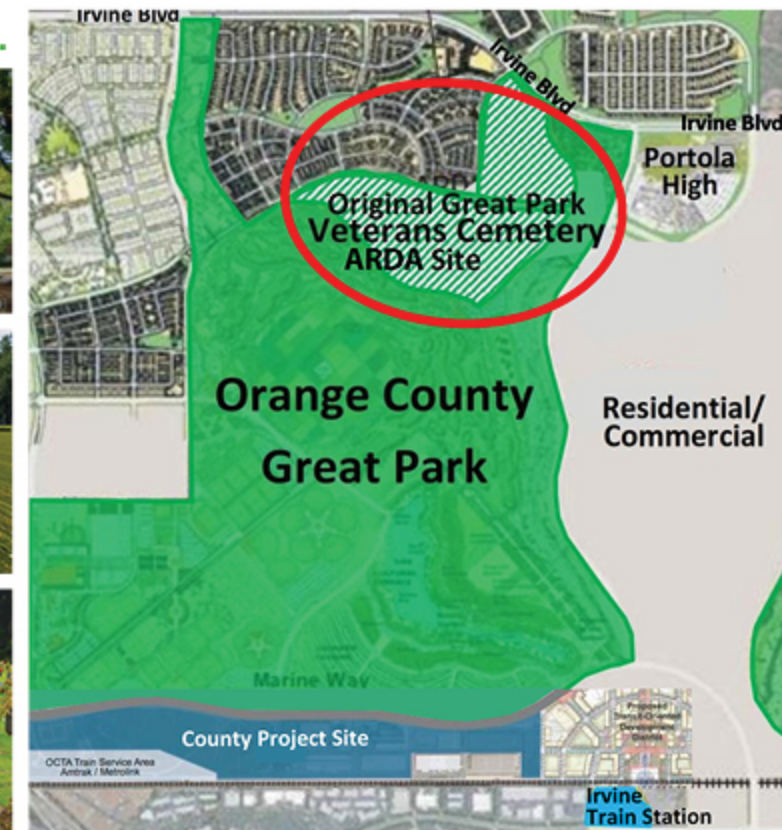
OR

• Should the ARDA site be transferred to land developers, along with zoning for nearly 1 million square feet of office, commercial, industrial and residential development?

Go to: IrvineCommunityNews.org/poll. Take the online Irvine Community Poll...and, if you wish, add your comments.

Will the City's Great Park "ARDA" site become a Veterans Cemetery...or more FivePoint development?

The people said YES to this...



The people said NO to this...



Will the Great Park "ARDA" site (diagonally-hatched green), owned by the City of Irvine, become the 125-acre State Veterans Cemetery — as already approved and planned by the City, State (CalVet) and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (2014-2016)? Or, will the land be transferred to mega-developer FivePoint for massive development and profit — as the City Council tried to do in 2017-18...and is trying to do again?

Larry Agran served on the Irvine City Council for almost three decades — including ten years as Mayor. He led the fight to preserve Irvine Open Space, and defeat an international airport at the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, creating the opportunity to build the Orange County Great Park and the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery within the Great Park.



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For Advertising Inquiries:
Kerrie Mahan 949-725-2950
kerrie@irvinecommunitynews.org

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<p>AMTRAK TRAIN STATION Barranca Pkwy & Ada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amtrak Train Station/Entrance 	<p>HERITAGE PLAZA Culver & Walnut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caspian Restaurant • Cafe' Mochi Paris Baguette • Ralphs L & L Hawaiian Barbeque Super Irvine International Market Spicy City-Gourmet Chinese Food 	<p>SAND CANYON PLAZA Sand Canyon & Irvine Center Dr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irvine Bicycles • Juice it Up • Tacos & Co. Oak Creek Pet Hospital • FlameBroiler Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches
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<p>CULVER PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER Culver & Irvine Center Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ Coffee Tomo • The Car Spa • iSnō Cafe Postal Annex • Tea Station 	<p>NORTH PARK PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER Culver & Irvine Blvd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champagne French Bakery Cafe 	<p>THE VILLAGE AT IRVINE SPECTRUM CENTER Prism & Spectrum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starbucks • Village Market
<p>CYPRESS VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER Jeffrey & Trabuco</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albertsons • Honey Pig Olive Oil Mediterranean Grill Da Luau Hawaiian Grill 	<p>OAK CREEK SHOPPING CENTER Jeffrey & Alton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gelson's Upper Crust Pizza Maizuru Sushi Bar - Japanese Restaurant Mustard Cafe • Orange Theory Fitness 	<p>WALNUT VILLAGE CENTER Culver & Walnut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronic Tacos • Jamba Juice • Starbucks
<p>DIAMOND JAMBOREE Alton & Jamboree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Konaloa Coffee • Tokyo Table Lower Level - Food Court Seating 	<p>OLD MYFORD ROAD & IRVINE BLVD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katie Wheeler Library 	<p>WESTPARK PLAZA Alton & Culver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albertsons • Dickey's Barbeque Pit Starbucks Coffee • Sprouts Farmers Market
<p>HARVARD & MICHELSON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irvine Lanes 	<p>ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE CENTER Culver & Portola</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Cleaners • Pavilions 	<p>WOODBURGE VILLAGE CENTER Barranca & Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champagne French Bakery Cafe Grocery Outlet Bargain Market
<p>HARVARD PLACE Harvard & Main</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jamba Juice • Poqet Donuts • Ralphs Rubio's • Honeybee Ice Cream Paradise Cleaners Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D. Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition 	<p>PARK PLACE Michelson & Jamboree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Dry Lounge Starbucks 	<p>WOODBURY TOWN CENTER Sand Canyon & Irvine Blvd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ralphs



Adopt a Pet

Each issue we feature one adoptable pet from the Irvine Animal Care Center. "Sprout" is a neutered male, brown tabby Domestic Medium Hair cat. He is about 2 years old.

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

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

For more information about the IACC, call 949-724-7740.

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Senior Life — Youthful Lifestyle

An ICNV Feature Series On
Healthful Living As We Age

Congress Must Say "NO!" to Trump Medicare Cuts

by Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D.

For more than 50 years, Medicare has been America's remarkable, government-run "single payer" public health insurance program for tens of millions of Americans age 65 and over.

With a half-century of proven success and popularity, there is now a growing movement — including among Democratic candidates for President — to expand the Medicare health insurance program to those under 65. How? By letting younger Americans purchase Medicare coverage through a "public option" or to even become part of a more comprehensive, national "Medicare for All" single-payer program that displaces private health insurance companies.

With Medicare as popular as it is, it is shocking that the Trump administration sent a budget to Congress proposing a cut of roughly \$60 billion per year in Medicare funding — that's a funding cut, on average, of \$1,000 per year for America's 60 million Medicare beneficiaries! This is all the more shocking since President Trump campaigned in 2016 on a promise to never cut Medicare.

Medicare Fraud?

Trump's budget proposal claims that elimination of Medicare fraud will cover a substantial portion of the proposed funding cuts. I say, nonsense! No doubt there are fraudulent payments being made by Medicare, exposed from time to time in big news articles. However, if it is known that massive fraud is taking place, why hasn't it been addressed already? Clearly, finding tens of billions of dollars of fraud to cover the proposed enormous cuts is just plain absurd.

In addition to cutting actual services, the Trump budget proposes cutting extensive research programs that are intended to reduce costs while improving patient outcomes. Those programs provide financial incentives and alternative payment plans such as Accountable Care Organizations and payments for successful treatment outcomes rather than for individual procedures. These incentives reduce re-hospitalizations, reduce unnecessary procedures such as excessive imaging studies, and optimize physician time.

The proposed Trump cuts would surely "throw out the baby with the bath water!" In any case, services — especially preventive care — should be expanded rather than cut. Keeping people healthy saves money!

Medicare Success

While Medicare can certainly be improved, it is already very efficient compared to private health insurance, and is very successful. My own experience is that I have had far fewer problems and far greater flexibility with Medicare than with the private healthcare insurance I had during an earlier part of my life.

How to pay for Medicare for All

A major misunderstanding about expanded Medicare is where the funds will come from to pay for it. Right now, individuals and companies are typically paying large monthly healthcare insurance premiums and co-pays. These costs to businesses and individuals would be *eliminated*, and *replaced* by taxes. Those taxes would just be the premiums paid, but under a different name, since money paid to a government is typically called a "tax." When paid to an insurance company it's called a "premium."

The arithmetic to pay for Medicare for All has already been worked out. One proposal from an extensive University of Massachusetts-Amherst study (discussed in my July, 2018 article: "The Healthy California Act"), worked out the details to replace premiums and co-pays with progressive taxes that cost less for the individual or the employer, while also covering the currently uninsured — all from the savings generated by largely eliminating private, for-profit insurance companies!

To those who complain about expanding "socialism," I must point out another misconception: Medicare provides only healthcare insurance, not healthcare services. Private sector medical services providers (physicians, hospitals, etc.) won't change with an expansion of Medicare coverage. Ironically, it is the government-run Veterans Administration that provides both insurance *and* medical services, which is the socialist model.

In the end, the arguments against an expanded Medicare program are supportable neither by arithmetic nor other evidence. Thankfully, now that the Democrats are in the majority in the House of Representatives, it is unlikely that Trump's proposed cuts will be enacted by Congress. But, let's be vigilant!



"If Medicare is socialism, then I guess I'm a socialist. I love my Medicare!"
—Anonymous



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

Community Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
HELLO April							
	1 Page Turner Book Group. Katie Wheeler Library. 4-5pm. Info: 714-669-8753	2 Naturalist Notebook Series. Irvine Ranch Conservancy. 6-8pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	3 Math Club. University Park Library. 4-4:45pm. Info: 949-786-4001	4 Pin Flag Removal & Hike. Limestone Canyon. 10am-1pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	5 MenAlive: <i>MOVE</i> . Irvine Barclay Theatre. 8pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-854-4646	6 Family Game Day. OC Great Park. 11am-3pm. Info: 949-724-6599	
7 Storytime in the Garden. Farm + Food Lab. 9-10am. Info: 949-724-7528	8 April Baby Steps. Baby Steps. Pretend City. 2-3:30pm. Info: 949-428-3900	9 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-428-3900	10 Kidstock Music & Arts Festival. Pretend City. 10am-5pm. Info: 949-428-3900	11 Wine Down Thursdays. Red Bar & Lounge. 3-12am. Info: 949-225-6757	12 High School Art Exhibit. Fine Arts Center. 4-6pm. Info: 949-724-6880	13 Edible Gardening Workshop. Farm + Food Lab. 10am-11am. Info: 949-724-7528	
14 Imagination Celebration. OC Great Park. 11am-3pm. Info: 949-724-6599	15 Open Dance Studio. Trabuco Center. 3-5pm. Info: 949-724-6800	16 Trivia Tuesday. Trade Food Hall. 6-8pm. Info: TradeFoodHall.com	17 Creating an Edible Garden. Irvine Ranch Water District. 6-8:30pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	18 Family Craft Hour. Heritage Park Library. 3-4pm. Info: 949-936-4040	19 Let's Celebrate Passover. Pretend City. 11am-3pm. Info: 949-428-3900	20 Flicks for Thoughts. IRWD Community Room. 1:45pm. Info: mail@au-oc.org	
21 Easter Children's Garden Workshop. OC Great Park. 10-11am. Info: 949-724-7528	22 Celebrate Earth Day. Pretend City. 10am-5pm. Info: 949-428-3900	23 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-428-3900	24 Tai Chi. Lakeview Senior Center. 3-5pm. Info: 949-724-6900	25 Astronomy Club. Katie Wheeler Library. 5:30-6:30pm. Info: 714-669-8753	26 Senior Striders. Trabuco Center. 8:30-9:30am. Info: 949-724-7300	27 Garden Workshop: Veggie Gardens. Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: 949-724-7528	
28 Mozart Classical Orch. Irvine-Barclay Theatre 3pm. Tks: 949-854-4646 Info: MozartOrchestra.org	29 Toddler Storytime. University Park Library. 11am. Info: 949-786-4001	30 Taco Twos Day. Red Bar & Lounge. 5-8pm. Info: 949-225-6757	<p>Attention, readers! For more information on these events and additional weekend events, visit us online at: irvinecommunitynewsandviews.org/events-grid</p> <p>And be sure to sign up for our weekly updates at: irvinecommunitynewsandviews.org/subscribe</p>				

April - May - June 2019

MAY highlights

EVENTS AT THE GREAT PARK
Edible Gardening Workshop at the Farm + Food Lab
Saturday, May 4th : 10-11am.
Info: 949-724-7528

Storytime in the Garden at the Farm + Food Lab
Sunday, May 5th: 9-10am.
Info: 949-724-7528

The Art of Competition
Exhibit at the Palm Court Arts Complex now through May 12th.
Check for specific days/times.
Info: 866-829-3829

Mother's Day Events
Mother's Day, Sunday May 12th.

Memorial Day Luncheon at the Lakeview Senior Center
Friday, May 10th: 11am-1:30pm.
Info: 949-724-6900

Mother's Day Dessert & Paint Night at the OC Great Park
Saturday, May 11th: 3-4:30pm.
Info: 949-724-6599

In Observance of Memorial Day (May 27th)
Memorial Day Luncheon at the Lakeview Senior Center
Friday May 24th: 11am-1:30pm.
Info: 949-724-6900

Memorial Candle Lighting Ceremony
Sunday, May 26th: 4pm. Northwood Community Park.
Info: 949-724-6606

Irvine Memorial Day Ceremony
Bill Barber Memorial Park.
Monday, May 27th: 10am.
Info: 949-724-6606

JUNE highlights

STUDIO ARTS FESTIVAL
Irvine Fine Arts Center at Heritage Park, 9am-5pm
The 25th annual Studio Arts Festival is on Saturday, **June 1st** from 9am-5pm in Heritage Community Park. The juried festival showcases Southern California artists and their original works of art for purchase in ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, painting, photography, printmaking, fiber and glass. The festival also features live music, art demonstrations, and food, including ice cream sundaes served in handmade collectible ceramic bowls.
Info: 949-724-6880

Super Pet Adoption
The City of Irvine Animal Care Center will host its 13th Annual Super Pet Adoption 10am-3pm, **Sunday, June 2**. More than 40 pet rescue groups and animal shelters will bring about 500 homeless dogs, cats, rabbits, and small animals for adoption. Each animal available for adoption is spayed or neutered, microchipped, and evaluated by a veterinarian. Cats and dogs are vaccinated appropriate to age. The annual event features dozens of pet-related vendors, gourmet food trucks, a silent auction, low-cost microchipping, and an opportunity drawing.
Suggested donation for the event is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. Parking is free.
Info: 949-724-7740

Student Exhibition at UCI
Undergraduate Honors Thesis Exhibition at the UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts.
Opening Reception: **June 6, 6-8pm**. Exhibit runs from **June 6th to June 14th**. All exhibits are free and open to the public.
Info: 949-824-4339

Father's Day Events
Father's Day, Sunday, June 16th.
Father's Day Luncheon at the Lakeview Senior Center Friday, June 14th
11:15am-1:30pm. Info: 949-724-6900

Father's Day Celebration at Pretend City
Saturday, June 15th. • 10am-5pm.
Info: 949-428-3900

Irvine Farmers Markets
Saturdays, 8am-12pm
Mariners Church (Corner of Bonita Cyn and Turtle Ridge Rd)
Info: 949-301-9180

Sundays, 10am-2pm
Great Park
Info: 714-733-3167



SchoolWatch: Citizen Activism Works!

by Carolyn Inmon

This story is worth re-telling, because it is a powerful lesson all of us should remember: **Citizen activism works!**

Here's the story. In March, I learned that the City had proposed a 20 percent cut in City support for our schools, teachers, and students. To be clear, this was a proposed \$2 million cut — cutting the current \$10 million per year down to \$8 million per year — that the City provides annually to augment the hundreds of millions of dollars in annual school district budgets. This cut would have been damaging to all of our Irvine schools.

Let me explain some important history. In 2012, I was proud to join with two City leaders — former Mayor and then-Councilmember **Larry Agran**, and then-City Finance Commissioner **P.K. Wong** — to co-chair a grassroots campaign to win voter approval of our **SOS ("Support Our Schools")** initiative to double City funding for Irvine schools to nearly \$10 million per year. The initiative, which received 70 percent voter approval, enabled us to improve Irvine schools by hiring more classroom instructional

assistants, more school nurses, and additional School Resource Officers to police our schools and counsel students. Our SOS initiative was successfully implemented through 2016. Then its provisions were extended by the City Council in 2017 and 2018.

When, out of the blue, City officials put forward a proposal to cut City support for our schools by \$2 million for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year, I used this **SchoolWatch** platform — first, online — to sound the alarm. I asked: **"Do our schools really need fewer teaching assistants, fewer school nurses, and fewer police officers providing security and counseling services? In what world do these kinds of cuts make any sense at all?"**



City-funded School Resource Officers make Irvine schools safer.

I'm pleased to report that the Irvine community responded — hundreds of citizens sharing information via social media, going to budget meetings, and contacting City leaders. As a result of that citizen engagement, the City posted a notice online that the proposed 20 percent cut in City support for Irvine schools was withdrawn and no longer under consideration.

So, what is the lesson learned from the last few months? The big lesson, is this: **When we become citizen activists — when we get involved and speak up — we can actually make things better for ourselves, our families, and our entire Irvine community.**

In my next article, I will look at what parents and teachers are doing to dramatically improve schools...in Los Angeles and elsewhere across the country. Their stories should inspire us to do better here in Irvine.

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



Rx Child Health & Safety Prevent Childhood Drowning!

by Phyllis Agran, M.D.

It's that time of year again. Drowning can happen to any family. It's the No. 1 cause of death among children 1-4 years and the second leading cause of death among teens. Nationally, drowning claimed the lives of nearly 1,000 children in 2017. Both fatal and non-fatal drowning caused an estimated 8,700 emergency room visits. In Orange County, 10 children lost their lives from drowning in 2017.

As pediatricians, we know that we can prevent these tragedies if we work together — with families, parents, and elected officials and other policy makers — to implement the solutions that work.

At the recent Annual Leadership Forum of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) held in Chicago, 500 pediatricians sat in total silence, listening to courageous parents speak about the most painful experience of all — the death of a child. **Emiline**, daughter of Bode Miller; **Levi**, son of Nicole Hughes; and **Charlie**, son of Sam Hanke, MD, lost their lives from *preventable* causes of death.

These parents never met before. Now, however, alongside 60,000 AAP pediatricians, they are advocating that policy makers, communities and families join together to increase awareness of both drowning and infant sleep death.

Emiline and Levi drowned in unfenced residential swimming pools — the leading cause of toddler death. Emiline lived with her family right here in

Orange County. Another Orange County child was far more fortunate, because local pediatrician **Eric Ball**, assisted by two CPR-trained friends, **Steve Averill** and **Nathan Evans**, saved the life of that toddler at Woodbridge Lake, in Irvine.

So, what steps should **you** take to prevent both fatal and non-fatal drowning? The AAP recommends adopting a "layered" prevention strategy. **First**, begin

with **pool fencing**. Backyard pools should be fenced on all four sides with a self-closing latch that meets the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Standards. **Second**, constant **supervision** is critical when a child is near any body of water. Avoid all distractions such as cell phones, chatting with friends, and drinking alcohol. Designate a "water-watcher"...someone who watches the water (and the kids in the water!) at all times. **Third**, small children and non-swimmers should wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved **life jacket** when they are in or near the water. "Floaties" are not reliable. **Fourth**, learn **CPR**.

Remember, water and water hazards are just about everywhere in our environment. Know the signs of a distressed child in water. **The more you know, the safer our kids are.** You can find terrific information on our AAP website: www.aap.org and search on "drowning." Let's have a good... and SAFE... summer!

Assign a **water watcher** — an adult who will pay constant attention to children in the water.

If you are the water watcher, be sure to:

- Put down your cell phone
- Avoid other activities
- Supervise even if there are lifeguards
- Switch off with another adult for breaks

Sources: healthychildren.org & aap.org



Next time: What About Swimming Lessons?

Phyllis Agran is a practicing Orange County pediatrician, a Professor at the UCI School of Medicine and Past President of the Orange County Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Agran is a recognized national expert in pediatric injury control and prevention.

Finally, a Bill in Congress to Address Climate Crisis

by Sarah "Steve" Mosko

It's hope-inspiring that a bipartisan bill was introduced in the House of Representatives in January that could save our children and grandchildren from what scientists tell us is an ongoing and growing climate disaster.

The evidence is incontrovertible that the climate is in crisis and that burning fossil fuels is the primary cause. Recognized global authorities on climate change warn that there is precious little time left — just 12 years — to drastically reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions enough to avert the worst effects of climate change. By putting a price on carbon emissions, the **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (H.R.763)** shines a spotlight directly on the hidden costs of burning fossil fuels, and very swiftly reins in GHG emissions.

How would H.R.763 work?

Here's how the bill would work and be a win-win both for the public and for industry. A steadily rising fee is placed on the carbon content of fossil fuels — coal, oil and natural gas — when they enter the economy. It starts low (\$15/ton of CO2-equivalent emissions) and increases yearly by \$10/ton until GHG emissions are reduced by 90 percent. The predictable increases in fossil energy prices stimulate the market-driven innovation needed to transition to renewable energy sources, all without government intervention: no subsidies and no new rules and regulations.

Consumers are protected from the expected rise in the cost of fossil fuel-based energy by requiring the return to U.S. residents (adults and children) of all the money collected — in monthly carbon dividend checks. Because rich and poor receive the same dividends, the majority of low and middle-income families will actually break even or come out ahead, and everyone is free to spend the dividends as they please. What's more, because carbon pricing isn't a tax, politicians on both sides of the aisle can support it.

H.R.763 is an American-led global response to climate change. The bill imposes a carbon

border fee on imported goods from nations which fail to impose some form of a price on GHG emissions. In addition to nudging other nations to follow suit, the border tariff enhances the competitiveness of American firms that are more energy-efficient than their global competitors. It also discourages American business from relocating to places where they can pollute more.

Predicted results of H.R.763

H.R.763 promises to reduce 2016 carbon dioxide emissions by 40 percent in 2030 and by 90 percent in 2050, according to a widely respected economic modeling firm. In 20 years, national employment should grow by close to three million jobs and over 200,000 American lives would be saved by the reduction in air pollution. The cost of health care would fall as we move away from highly polluting fossil fuels, which sicken many, especially the very young and old.

Support for H.R.763

There is widespread agreement among economists, Democratic and Republican, that pricing carbon and returning the money to consumers is the most cost-effective solution to the climate crisis. H.R.763 has already earned the backing of major organizations, including the Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund and Evangelical Environmental Network.

What YOU can do!

It is widely believed that a carbon-pricing bill will eventually pass — the only question is when. It's up to the public to let Congress know we want action to combat the climate crisis right now. **Please contact your Member of Congress (and others) and ask them to sponsor H.R.763.** And start talking to your family, friends and neighbors about the climate crisis and the importance of getting Congress to act now.

Do your part to combat the Climate Crisis by supporting H.R. 763. MAKE PERSONAL CONTACT with your new Congresswoman.



Katie Porter
45th Congressional District

Contact Rep. Katie Porter (and other Orange County Members of Congress):
By email (somewhat effective)
By phone (more effective)
By personal visit (most effective)
By USPS mail (also very effective; however, because of security concerns, it takes a long time for USPS mail to pass security clearance)

Katie Porter
U.S. House of Representatives
 1117 Longworth HOB, Wash., DC 20515
 202-225-5611 • M-F 9am - 6pm ET
 To email, go to: porter.house.gov/contact

Irvine Office
 2151 Michelson Drive, Suite 195
 Irvine CA 92612
 949-668-6600 • M-F 8:30am - 5:30pm PT

Other Members of Congress who represent parts of Orange County may be contacted by phone in Wash. D.C., at:
(202) 224-3121

Rep. Linda Sanchez (CD-38)
 Rep. Gil Cisneros (CD-39)
 Rep. Lou Correa (CD-46)
 Rep. Alan Lowenthal (CD-47)
 Rep. Harley Rouda (CD-48)
 Rep. Mike Levin (CD-49)



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

OPEN FORUM *FREE SPEECH FOREVER!*

Legalized Bribery



Franklin J. Lunding
Publisher

On March 12th, Irvine Mayor **Donald Wagner** (who had just been re-elected to a second term as Mayor last November), narrowly defeated **Loretta Sanchez** in a special election to fill a vacancy on the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Wagner's March 12th election as Supervisor, in turn, created a vacancy in the office of Mayor... and a bit of a mess on the Irvine City Council.

Under the City's Charter, Councilmember **Christina Shea**, who also held the title Mayor Pro Tem (that's basically a fancy Latin term for "vice mayor"), automatically became Irvine's unelected Mayor, succeeding Wagner. That meant Shea's seat on the five-member Council became vacant. So, under the Irvine City Charter, that vacancy will be filled by another special election or by appointment, if three Councilmembers can agree on someone.

If the Council vacancy is filled by appointment, two of five City Councilmembers will hold their positions *unelected* by Irvine voters. That's very bad, especially since three members of the current City Council — Shea (now Mayor), and Councilmembers **Melissa Fox** and **Anthony Kuo** — are already beholden to developer FivePoint Communities. And if these three get together to appoint a fourth Councilmember who is pro-developer and beholden to FivePoint, that will be a further departure from how our representative local democracy should work.

According to campaign finance records, mega-developer FivePoint and their business allies have, since 2016, spent millions of dollars — *yes, millions!* — to elect and otherwise support Wagner, Shea, Fox and Kuo. FivePoint funnels their money to Irvine campaigns through layers of shadowy, dark-money committees — so-called Political Action Committees (PACs) and Independent Expenditure (I.E.) committees. These PACs and I.E. committees pay for vicious attack mailers and expensive TV advertising — operating outside of the City's campaign contribution laws which limit individual donations to just \$490 per donor per candidate.

So, after FivePoint pours in hundreds of thousands of dollars per campaign to elect developer-friendly candidates in Irvine, those elected officials return the favor by rubber-stamping FivePoint projects time and time again without any critical review.

I won't mince words here: This is legalized bribery, pure and simple. It is corruption of our local elections and our local democracy. And, yes, it has consequences. Just read the adjacent article and see what's happening with growth and overdevelopment and traffic in Irvine. And take a look at page 11 to learn more about the Veterans Cemetery and the FivePoint-inspired, continuing Shea-Fox hunt for an "alternative" Veterans Cemetery site.

Yes, folks, elections have real consequences — often to the detriment of our community — especially when BIG MONEY donors are buying the results they want.

- FJL

Franklin J. Lunding is publisher of ICNV. He was Chair of the Irvine Transportation Commission and served as an Irvine Planning Commissioner in the 1980s. As an experienced elections attorney, in the 1970s and 1980s, Lunding served as a member and Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Elections, charged with administering and enforcing campaign finance and election laws.

A Failure of City Leadership

Most residents — and business leaders too — will tell you that overdevelopment and traffic are Irvine's biggest problems, causing a diminished quality of life from one end of the City to the other.

So, you'd think that when a developer shows up with plans to build an extra 1,000 housing units — on top of the 9,500 units previously permitted by the City — the City staff, the Planning Commission, and the City Council would be skeptical and ask some hard questions. Instead, throughout the month of March, the staff, Planning Commissioners and City Councilmembers showed themselves to be meek, weak, and totally ineffective in even voicing the public interest, let alone defending it.

Here is the story. In 2013, developer FivePoint won Council approval (3-2) to expand its entitlement to build a total of 9,500 residential units in their Great Park Neighborhoods. With about a third of those units built and sold, FivePoint lobbyists claimed that under State and local law they had the "right" to build another 1,056 residential units, fully 10 percent more than their initial entitlement.

Instead of pushback from Council-appointed Planning Commissioners, and the City Council itself, these City officials — with the power to say NO — showed they apparently fear developer FivePoint more than they care about existing Irvine residents. Here are the names of the officials who gave the go-ahead to FivePoint:

- City Council:** Donald Wagner, Melissa Fox, Anthony Kuo, Farrah Khan
- Planning Commission:** Stephen Huang, Dustin Nirschl, Michael Carroll, Greg Smith, Jeff Pierson

It's pretty clear what developer FivePoint gets out of this — more entitlement that they didn't have to pay for, which will translate into hundreds of millions of dollars in windfall profits. And what do existing Irvine residents get? More overdevelopment, more overcrowding, and much more traffic from more than 4,000 added daily rush-hour auto trips. Take a look at the 1-2-3-4 chart below, and think about it the next time you're struggling to get across town (probably tomorrow!), stuck in traffic that simply exceeds the capacity of our infrastructure.

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.



Adding 1,056 housing units will have the following impacts:



Myths and Facts about Building the Veterans Cemetery



For years now, *Irvine Community News & Views* has proudly advocated construction of the planned-and-approved (2014-2016) Veterans Cemetery at the "ARDA" site in the Great Park. *ICNV* recently assembled a panel of experienced planners, architects and civil engineers familiar with the original Veterans Cemetery project and the various "alternatives" to the ARDA site that have more recently been put forward. This article summarizes the findings and conclusions of these professionals in an effort to focus on facts and dispel misinformation about building the Veterans Cemetery. [ICNV](#)

This spring the Irvine City Council will apparently "decide" between two Great Park sites for the Veterans Cemetery. One site is the original 125-acre ARDA site (Amended and Restated Development Agreement). [*C on map*] The ARDA site was planned and approved (2014-2016) by the City, State (CalVet), and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The second site, the so-called "Golf Course" site, is now being promoted by Councilmembers Christina Shea (now Mayor) and Melissa Fox, as yet another alternative Veterans Cemetery site. [*D on map*]

Shea, Fox and others are apparently relying on three fallacious arguments to again jettison the ARDA site, this time in favor of the Golf Course site. Their three arguments are: Timeliness, Cost and Contamination.

TIMELINESS

It's important to remember that if the originally planned and approved (and funded) project to begin building the Veterans Cemetery on the ARDA site had not been derailed by Mayor Wagner and Councilmembers Shea and Fox in early 2017, the first phase of the beautiful 125-acre Great Park Veterans Cemetery would now be nearing completion, ready to be operational by the original target date — Veterans Day, November 11, 2019. **This would have been in accordance with the 30-month construction Timeline set forth in the 333-page CalVet-approved Concept Plan.**

The planning staff for the City of Irvine recently prepared a Timeline comparing construction of the Veterans Cemetery at the ARDA site with the Golf Course site. **The City staff report claims that it would take nearly seven years (77 months) for the Veterans Cemetery to be constructed and become operational at the ARDA site. This is almost three times the construction timeline for the ARDA site in the CalVet Concept Plan.**

COST

Shea and Fox have repeatedly asserted, without any evidence whatsoever, that it's too costly to build the Veterans Cemetery at the

ARDA site, and that it would be cheaper to build it elsewhere. After thorough study, CalVet's *Concept Plan* estimated (in 2016) that it would cost \$77.4 million to prepare the entire 125-acre ARDA site and complete Phase 1, which would accommodate the first ten years of burials. Moreover, the *Concept Plan* for the ARDA site can accommodate the

preservation and repurposing of historic structures, such as the iconic aircraft control tower and airplane hangars. This presents a remarkable opportunity that does not exist elsewhere.

According to experienced civil engineers, the CalVet cost estimate for the ARDA site seems reasonable. **However, the Shea-Fox Golf Course site necessitates removal of about 700,000 square feet of the massive airbase runway that is as much as 40" thick. The runway removal would surely cost tens of millions of dollars.**

In addition, the Golf Course site lacks essential infrastructure leading to the site, something the ARDA site already has on three sides. **Since the Golf Course site has not been investigated for a Veterans Cemetery, there will surely be additional, as yet unknown costs.**

TOXIC CONTAMINATION

Unfortunately, discussions of toxic contamination of the ARDA site have been tainted by ignorance and misrepresentations to make it seem as if the entire site is beset with toxic contamination. The fact of the matter is that there are only two known sources of contamination: 1) About one-third of the original 1-acre MCAS El Toro landfill lies within the boundary of the 125-acre ARDA site. This landfill lies within the final 10-year phase of

Cemetery development — not to be built for 90 years. 2) Some of the buildings that are slated for demolition on the ARDA site are contaminated by asbestos, and by lead in the immediately surrounding soil. The costs to remove the asbestos and lead-contaminated soil are listed in the *Concept Plan*: \$3.4 million.

The chance of finding additional, as yet unknown, soil contamination is no greater on the ARDA site than in the soil under the nearby Great Park Neighborhood homes or anywhere else on the former airbase.



This map shows the original planned-and-approved Veterans Cemetery ARDA site [C] in the Great Park, bordered in green. It also shows the Shea-Fox proposed alternative site [D], bordered in red, that displaces most of the originally designed Great Park Canyon [A] with its stream that flows into the Great Park Lake [B]. The planned, 200-acre Great Park Canyon and Lake were, by far, the most popular features in the original, award-winning Great Park Master Plan, adopted nearly 10 years ago.

For updates on the Veterans Cemetery

and other breaking Irvine news,
subscribe for free to:



IrvineCommunityNews.org



Get the latest Irvine news on
our Facebook page, at:

[Facebook.com/IrvineCommunityNews](https://www.facebook.com/IrvineCommunityNews)

What do YOU think? Take the Irvine Community Poll!

The 125-acre Great Park “ARDA” site, owned by the City, was originally designated in 2014 for a Veterans Cemetery.

- Should the Great Park ARDA site be transferred to the State of California to build, operate and maintain a Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery — at State expense and at *no* cost to the City?

OR

- Should the Great Park ARDA site be transferred to land developers, along with zoning to build nearly 1 million square feet of office, commercial, industrial and residential development?

Go to: [IrvineCommunityNews.org/poll](https://www.IrvineCommunityNews.org/poll). Take the online Irvine Community Poll...and, if you wish, add your comments.