



February / March 2019
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Serving the Villages and Neighborhoods of Irvine

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Publisher's Perspective

*Attention,
Irvine Voters*

>> Last November's election brought out a record turnout of Irvine voters (70%), which proved to be a big part of the Orange County "Blue Wave" that literally changed the face of our elected representatives at every level of government — Congress, the State Assembly, and locally. Was it just a short-lived, temporary repudiation of President Donald Trump and the Republican Congress? Or was it the beginning of a sustained partisan trend that signals more victories ahead for Democratic candidates, including those running in previously "non-partisan" local races.

We'll know more after the March 12th special election to fill the vacant Orange County 3rd District Supervisor seat, representing most of Irvine. Our lead story covers this race, where the lone Democrat — former Congresswoman **Loretta Sanchez** — is taking on a number of Republicans, including Irvine Mayor **Donald Wagner**.

>> In an Op-Ed opinion piece on page 11, former Irvine Mayor Beth Krom offers her unique perspective on the Supervisor's race — telling us why she's voting for Sanchez. It's a good read!

>> Finally, I strongly suggest a read of the CityWatch piece on page 3. The history of the Veterans Cemetery is very telling.

In any event, Vote on March 12th!

Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor

For updates on the race, subscribe to:

IrvineCommunityNews.org

March 12th Special Election:

Irvine is key to electing new Supervisor



Loretta Sanchez (D)



Donald Wagner (R)



Kris Murray (R)

One of these three leading candidates will be elected to the Orange County Board of Supervisors in a special March 12th election. The race for the vacated 3rd District Supervisor seat — which includes most of Irvine — is expected to be unusually partisan. Former Member of Congress **Loretta Sanchez**, a Democrat, is running against two Republicans: Irvine Mayor **Donald Wagner** and Anaheim City Councilmember **Kris Murray**.

Attention, Irvine Voters! Mark your calendars. There is yet another important election on the horizon — and Irvine voters may again make the decisive difference in who actually wins. The Orange County Board of Supervisors set a **March 12th special election date** to fill the vacancy left on the five-member Board when 3rd District Supervisor Todd Spitzer won last November's election to become Orange County District Attorney.

Irvine, with nearly 300,000 people, is by far the largest city in the sprawling 3rd Supervisorial District, which

stretches inland from Irvine to include Tustin, Orange, Villa Park, and Yorba Linda in north County. While nearly a dozen potential candidates initially expressed interest in the race to fill the vacant seat, most backed out, leaving just three leading contenders — all experienced politicians — in what is shaping up to be a highly partisan special election. Former U.S. Representative **Loretta Sanchez**, a Democrat, will be taking on Irvine Mayor **Don Wagner** and Anaheim City Councilmember **Kris Murray**. Both Wagner and Murray are Republicans.

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Although the five County Supervisor seats are supposed to be non-partisan, political party affiliation appears to be a growing factor in “non-partisan,” local elections. **Sanchez is expected to have strong support from the Orange County Democratic Party.**

It is unclear what role the Orange County Republican Party will play in helping Wagner or Murray. Both are conservative Republicans, supported by business interests and, in Wagner’s case, heavily supported by land developers.

Since nearly half of all the voters in the 3rd Supervisorial District live in Irvine, the special election winner will have to do well from one end of the City to the other. **As the Mayor of Irvine, Wagner should have “home turf” advantage. But if the race becomes highly partisan, Loretta Sanchez — whose old Congressional District used to include a small part of Irvine — could do surprisingly well.** Registered Democrats in Irvine now outnumber Republicans, 45,000 to 32,000. Anti-Trump sentiment in Irvine is very strong, and still growing. As one political consultant familiar with the race put it, “Wagner and Murray, both Republicans, are pretty much stuck with Trump, whose immigrant-bashing policies are especially unpopular in Irvine.”

Under State law, the County Board of Supervisors is responsible for certain law enforcement functions, including the Sheriff’s Department and local jails. The Board is also responsible for the administration of a vast array of State-mandated health, welfare and social service programs.

Recently, the issue of homelessness in Orange County — and the County Supervisors’ failure to effectively deal with the problem — has been a matter of major public interest and controversy. To the frustration of many, including Federal District Court Judge David Carter, who is overseeing a major lawsuit against the County on behalf of the homeless, the current Board has shown little in the way of problem-solving leadership or even competence. **ICNV**



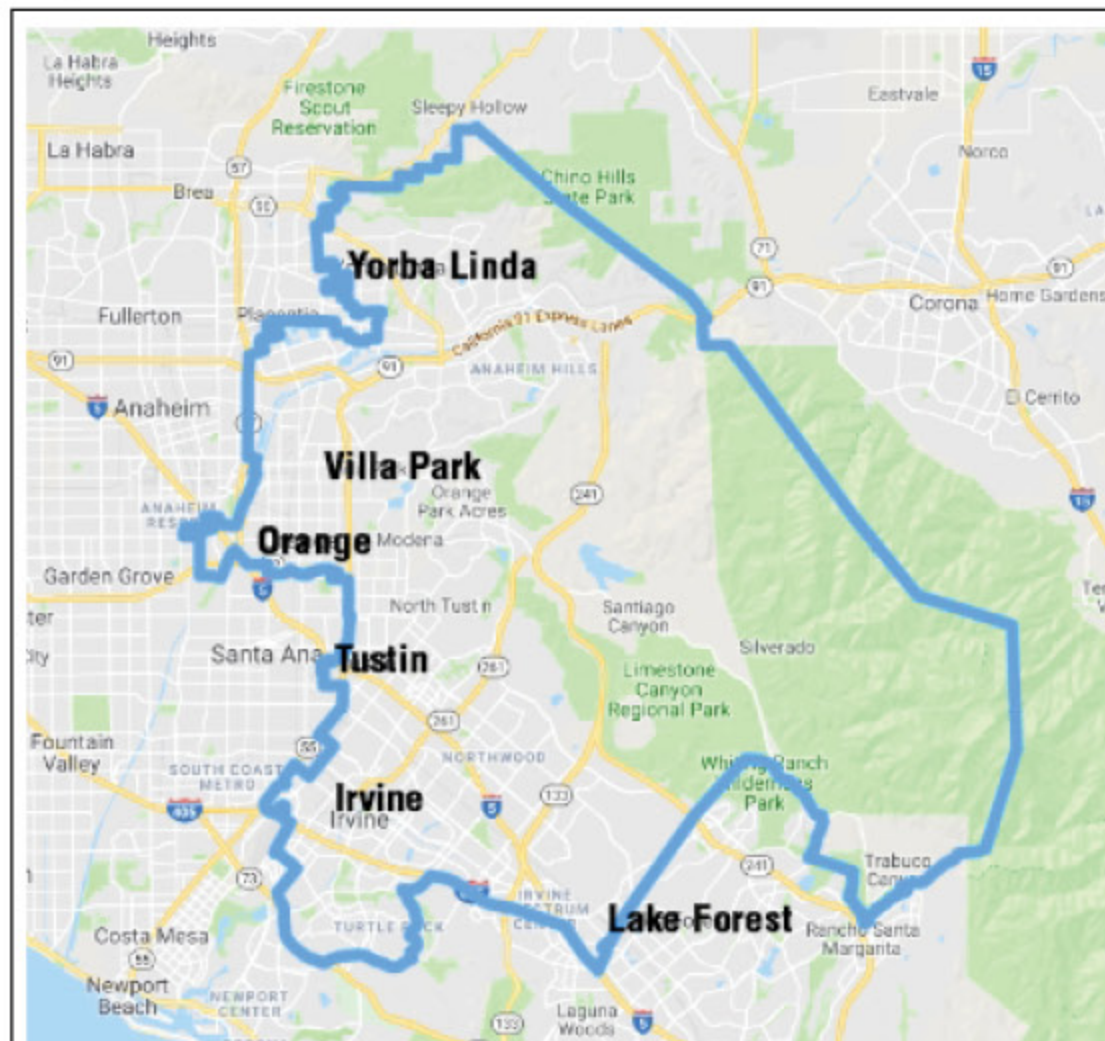
Larry Bales (R)

Two more candidates

Two more Republican entries into the race for Supervisor are: **Larry Bales**, a Republican maverick, Vietnam veteran and anti-corruption activist; and **Deborah Pauly**, a former City Councilmember and long-time conservative activist in the Orange County Republican Party.



Deborah Pauly (R)



Orange County 3rd Supervisorial District. Irvine is the largest city in the District, even though there are several Irvine communities south of the I-405 — Shady Canyon and a portion of Turtle Rock, Quail Hill and Laguna Altura — that are in the 5th Supervisorial District, that will *not* be voting in the special election.

VOTE FOR ORANGE COUNTY SUPERVISOR ON TUESDAY, MARCH 12th

Last day to register is: Monday, February 25, 2019

Ballots will be sent to voters beginning in mid-February.

Don't forget to mail your ballot! Remember to mail in your vote-by-mail ballot by March 12th!

For more info, go to: OCVOTE.com or call 714-567-7600



CityWatch by Larry Agran

Here they go again! The Latest Shea-Fox Scheme To Delay and Defeat the Veterans Cemetery

In June of 2017, three Irvine City Councilmembers — Mayor **Donald Wagner** and Councilmembers **Christina Shea** and **Melissa Fox** — banded together to actually *reject* \$30 million in State funding and block construction of one of the most popular public projects in the City’s history: the construction-ready State Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park that was planned, designed and approved (2014-2016) by the City, State (CalVet), and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

If Wagner, Shea and Fox hadn’t blocked initial construction at the last minute, the first phase of the beautiful, 125-acre Great Park Veterans Cemetery would now be nearing completion as planned, ready to be operational by the original target date: Veterans Day, November 11, 2019.

But, of course, the sad reality is that the timely construction of the **Veterans Cemetery** has *not* come to pass. Instead, at the behest of mega-developer FivePoint Communities, the Wagner-Shea-Fox City Council trio adopted a “delay-and-defeat” strategy. They continue to cynically promote one scheme after another in an apparent attempt to kill the originally approved Great Park Veterans Cemetery [see “C” on map] and eventually transfer the 125-acre site to FivePoint with entitlement for massive development.

Ignoring the Voters

Last year, on June 5th, Irvine voters defeated Measure B. This was the Wagner-Shea-Fox “landswap-and-development” scheme to *replace* the already-approved 125-acre Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park with 812,000 square feet of office, industrial and apartment development, while relocating the planned Veterans Cemetery miles away to a noisy, undesirable site alongside the I-5 and I-405 freeway interchange, known as the “El Toro Y”. Despite a \$1 million FivePoint campaign, an overwhelming majority of Irvine voters, 63% to 37%, rejected the scheme and told the City Council they wanted the Veterans Cemetery built at the original 125-acre Great Park site. But the Wagner-Shea-Fox Council majority refused to listen. Instead of starting construction of the Veterans Cemetery at the original location, they said they’d search for yet other locations.

So, now, Shea and Fox are pushing a cynical plan (they call it their “golf course” plan) to replace the Great Park Canyon and Lake that were, by far, the most popular features in the award-winning Great Park Master Plan adopted in 2010. Under the Shea-Fox scheme, an unneeded and unwanted, down-sized “golf course” would be built on a remaining 63 acres. At FivePoint’s urging, this temporary “golf course” would no doubt later be re-zoned for more massive, traffic-inducing development.

What to Do?

The Shea-Fox scheme is bad planning intended as a thinly-veiled giveaway to developer FivePoint. Worse yet, according to City staff, it would take nearly seven years — until mid-2025! — to study, plan, obtain the necessary State and Federal approvals, and then actually build the Veterans Cemetery at the displaced Canyon-and-Lake site in the Great Park.

In promoting their latest scheme, Shea and Fox — who, together, have taken tens of thousands of dollars from FivePoint in campaign



The 2010 award-winning Great Park Master Plan, pictured here, included a 200-acre Great Park Canyon [A] and stream emptying into a Lake [B]. Also pictured here is the *original* 125-acre Great Park Veterans Cemetery site [C] that, from 2014-2016, was planned, designed and approved by the City, State (CalVet) and the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

The latest City Council “delay-and-defeat” scheme — put forward by Councilmembers Christina Shea and Melissa Fox — would relocate the Veterans Cemetery [D] to replace the planned Great Park Canyon and eliminate the Lake. The Shea-Fox scheme would take more than six years to win State and Federal approval, and then actually complete construction.

funds and political favors — apparently think Irvine voters can be ignored time and again. The plain truth is that Irvine residents want the **Veterans Cemetery** at its originally approved Great Park location — and they want construction to begin NOW. The 30-month construction project should have started nearly two years ago, beginning with demolition of old buildings and runways, the preservation of historic features such as the old air traffic control tower, and implementation of a perimeter system of trees and trails — all of this contemplated and set forth in the State’s remarkably detailed 333-page *Concept Plan* and design for the approved Veterans Cemetery at the original Great Park site.

In pursuing their delay-and-defeat strategy, including their latest scheme, Shea and Fox are testing voters’ patience yet again. It will be interesting to see how many more Shea-Fox shenanigans Irvine voters will tolerate before insisting that, once and for all, the will of the people must not only be heard...but implemented.

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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CULVER PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER	NORTH PARK PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER	THE VILLAGE AT IRVINE SPECTRUM CENTER
Culver & Irvine Center Drive • All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ • Coffee Togo • The Car Spa • iSnø Cafe • Postal Annex • Tea Station	Culver & Irvine Blvd. • Champagne French Bakery Cafe	Prism & Spectrum • Starbucks • Village Market
CYPRESS VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER	OAK CREEK SHOPPING CENTER	WALNUT VILLAGE CENTER
Jeffrey & Trabuco • Albertsons • Honey Pig • Olive Oil Mediterranean Grill • Da Luau Hawaiian Grill	Jeffrey & Alton • Gelson's • Upper Crust Pizza • Maizuru Sushi Bar - Japanese Restaurant • Mustard Cafe • Orange Theory Fitness	Culver & Walnut • Chronic Tacos • Jamba Juice • Starbucks
DIAMOND JAMBOREE	OLD MYFORD ROAD & IRVINE BLVD.	WESTPARK PLAZA
Alton & Jamboree • Konaloe Coffee • Tokyo Table • Lower Level - Food Court Seating	Katie Wheeler Library	Alton & Culver • Albertsons • Dickey's Barbeque Pit • Starbucks Coffee • Sprouts Farmers Market
HARVARD & MICHELSON	ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE CENTER	WOODBURGE VILLAGE CENTER
Irvine Lanes	Culver & Portola • Green Cleaners • Pavilions	Barranca & Creek • Champagne French Bakery Cafe • Grocery Outlet Bargain Market
HARVARD PLACE	PARK PLACE	WOODBURY TOWN CENTER
Harvard & Main • Jamba Juice • Poget Donuts • Ralphs • Rubio's • Honeybee Ice Cream • Paradise Cleaners • Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D. • Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition	Michelson & Jamboree • Social Dry Lounge • Starbucks	Sand Canyon & Irvine Blvd. • Ralphs



Adopt a Pet

Each issue we feature one adoptable pet from the Irvine Animal Care Center. "Jake" is a neutered male, brown Tabby and white Domestic Shorthair. He is about 7 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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Healthful Living As We Age

Disabled and can't drive? Irvine has TRIPS

by Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D.

Since the 1980s, the City of Irvine, alone among Orange County cities, has provided a remarkable door-to-door transportation service. The original intention of TRIPS was to focus on frail and isolated seniors so they could participate in the many senior activities Irvine offers, as well as go shopping and get to their medical appointments. TRIPS is now available to all Irvine residents 18 years or older who are unable to drive due to a physical or cognitive disability.

The application for TRIPS membership requires a report by a physician attesting to the disability. Registration and first year membership costs \$25; annual renewal costs \$20.



All TRIPS buses have wheelchair lifts and well-trained, helpful drivers.

bus waits a bit. If the person is truly a no-show, a subsequent call will be made to check on the person's well-being.

Who uses TRIPS and who funds it?

Over 350 Irvine residents are active participants who use TRIPS on the 10 wheelchair-accessible buses and one mini-van that is not wheelchair accessible. The City's general fund pays for 81% of the program's costs, with 3% coming from user fees, 3% by contract with the Irvine Adult Care program, and 12% from the County's Senior Mobility Program.

Where, how, how much?

TRIPS transportation is available door to door, within Irvine and to adjacent cities, and also to St Joseph's and UCI Medical Centers. Grocery shopping trips to various Irvine markets are also organized. Cost per trip is \$1.90 one-way from and to any location in Irvine, and outside Irvine for a cost of either \$3.80 or \$5.70 per one-way trip, depending on location and distance. A punch-card with 16 rides, for \$30, must be purchased in advance and is not available on the buses. There are several places to purchase tickets and they can also be mailed.

Rides are granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations for a pickup may be made between 8am and 6pm, Monday thru Friday, at 949-724-7433. Available times for transportation are between 7am and 5:30pm, Monday thru Friday, with limited availability on the weekends, contingent on demand. Requests can be made as far as 14 days in advance for medical appointments, and as far as 7 days in advance for non-medical travel.

A popular time to schedule TRIPS transportation is for Monday morning at 9am, to get to Senior Center activities. In fact, there's a shuttle service that's a group ride to the Lakeview Senior Center. It's available every day at set times. So, last minute requests may not be available for that time.

Although no advance reminder calls are made, if a resident is not at the pickup location, a phone call will be made while the

For TRIPS information and to apply, call:
949-724-7433 8am to 6pm, M-F.

Registration processing may take up to 3 business days
after the completed application is received.

The County's ACCESS service

Another transportation service, ACCESS, is a shared-ride service offered by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) for Orange County residents who are unable to use the regular, fixed-route bus service because of functional limitations caused by a disability. ACCESS serves all of Orange County and has a base fare of \$3.60 per one-way trip. It has a more complicated application and approval process requiring a 1-hour, in-person functional assessment that, including the commute, may take 3-4 hours. ACCESS service is provided within ¾ mile of, and during similar hours as OCTA's regular, fixed-route bus service.

ACCESS service is available 7am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, and from 8am to 5pm on weekends and holidays.

For information, call 714-560-5956 ext 3; or visit:
octa.net and search for ACCESS.



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.

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Community Calendar

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

FEBRUARY

Attention, readers! For more information on these events and additional weekend events, visit us online at: irvinecommunitynewsandviews.org/events-grid

And be sure to sign up for our weekly updates at: irvinecommunitynewsandviews.org/subscribe



3 Storytime in the Garden. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: 949-724-6599 	4 Preschool Storytime. Katie Wheeler Library. 10:30-11am. Info: 714-669-8753	5 Toastmasters International Youth Leadership Program. Katie Wheeler Library. 5:30-6:30pm. Info: 714-669-8753 	6 Walk-In Tutoring. Heritage Park Library. 2-4pm. Info: 714-566-3070	7 Chess Club. University Park Library. 4pm. Info: 949-786-4001 	8 Harmonica Level I. Lakeview Senior Center. 10:30-11:45am. Info: 949-724-6900	9 Art Exhibition Opening Reception. Gary Brewer: <i>The Shape of Time - A Ten-Year Survey</i> Irvine Fine Arts Center. 4-6pm. Info: 949-824-5112
10 Family Game Day. OC Great Park. 11am-3pm. Info: 949-724-6599	11 Fremont to Weir Canyon Hike. Fremont Canyon Nature Preserve. 7-11:30am. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	12 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6205	13 Plant & Protect. Native Seed Farm. 8:30am-12pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	14 Ballet at the Lakeview Senior Center. 10:30-11:15am. Info: 949-724-6900	15 Kei Akagi & Friends: Modern Jazz. Winifred Smith Hall, UCI. 8pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-824-2787	16 Americans United for the Separation of Church and State Meeting. IRWD Community Room. 1:45pm. Info: 714-299-4551
17 Farmers Market. OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. Info: 714-733-3167 	18 Slow-Paced Mountain Bike Ride. Fremont Canyon Nature Preserve. 7am-12:30pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	19 Adult Book Club. Heritage Park Library. 6:30-7:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	20 Duplicate Bridge. Rancho Senior Center. 11am-3:30pm. Info: 949-724-6800	21 Live Music. Eureka Restaurant. 8-10pm. Info: 949-596-8881 	22 Happy Hour. EATS at Hotel Irvine. 5-7pm. Info: 949-225-6780 	23 Dance Visions. Irvine Barclay Theatre. 8pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-854-4646
24 Hair of the Dog. BRING YOUR PUP AND ENJOY FOOD, BOOZE, & DOG-FRIENDLY FUN FOR EVERYONE EVERYWHERE! Bring your pup and enjoy food and dog-friendly fun! Trade Food Hall in Irvine. 11am-2pm. Info: 949-449-1288	25 American Mah Jongg. Rancho Senior Center. 9:30am-12pm. Info: 949-724-6800	26 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6205	27 Martha Graham Dance Company. Irvine Barclay Theatre. 8pm. Info: 949-854-4646	28 NTL Screening: <i>Antony & Cleopatra</i> . Irvine Barclay Theatre. 6:30pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-854-4646		



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Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

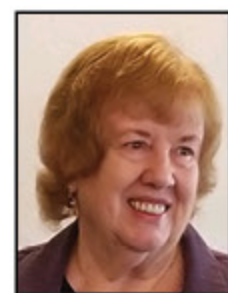
MARCH

						<div><div>1</div><div><p><i>Diego el Cigala.</i> Irvine Barclay Theatre. 8pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-854-4646</p></div></div>	<div><div>2</div><div><p>Mu Phi Epsilon Concert. University Park Library. 2pm. Info: 949-786-4001</p></div></div>
<div><div>3</div><div><p>Storytime in the Garden. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: 949-724-6599</p></div></div>	<div><div>4</div><div><p>Evening Hike.  Orchard Hills. 6:30-8:30pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p></div></div>	<div><div>5</div><div><p>Trivia Tuesday. Trade Food Hall. 7-9pm. Info: 949-449-1288</p></div></div>	<div><div>6</div><div><p>Bunco.  Rancho Senior Center. 12-3pm. Info: 949-724-6800</p></div></div>	<div><div>7</div><div><p>Homework Help. Heritage Park Library. 4:30-6pm. Info: 949-936-4040</p></div></div>	<div><div>8</div><div><p>Equestrian Ride.  Black Star Canyon. 10am-1pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p></div></div>	<div><div>9</div><div><p>Art Exhibition: Artist Talk and Book Signing. Joseph Paul Gerges: <i>QUIETUS</i> Irvine Fine Arts Center. 3-5pm. Info: 949-724-6880</p><p><small>(Image credit: Joseph Paul Gerges, Ripose, nine colorograph with gold on semiblack paper, 25" x 35", edition of 100, 2018)</small></p></div></div>	
<div><div>10</div><div><p>Family Craft.  Heritage Park Library. 3-4pm. Info: 949-936-4040</p></div></div>	<div><div>11</div><div><p>Pajama Storytime.  Heritage Park Library. 7-7:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040</p></div></div>	<div><div>12</div><div><p>City Council Meeting.  Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6205</p></div></div>	<div><div>13</div><div><p>Math Club. University Park Library. 4-4:45pm. Info: 949-786-4001</p></div></div>	<div><div>14</div><div><p>Dee Dee Bridgewater.  Irvine Barclay Theatre. 8pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-854-4646</p></div></div>	<div><div>15</div><div><p>Lego Block Party.  University Park Library. 3:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001</p></div></div>	<div><div>16</div><div><p>STEAMport.  Heritage Park Library. 2-3pm. Info: 949-936-4040</p></div></div>	
<div><div>17</div><div><p>Children's Garden Workshop. University Park Library. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6599</p></div></div>	<div><div>18</div><div><p>Homework Help. University Park Library. 4pm. Info: 949-786-4001</p></div></div>	<div><div>19</div><div><p>Crocheteers. Trabuco Senior Center. 10am-12pm. Info: 949-724-7300</p></div></div>	<div><div>20</div><div><p>Full Moon Hike.  Orchard Hills. 6:30-9pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p></div></div>	<div><div>21</div><div><p>Storytime and Craft. Heritage Park Library. 3-4pm. Info: 949-936-4040</p></div></div>	<div><div>22</div><div><p>Chess. Rancho Senior Center. 11am-1pm. Info: 949-724-6800</p></div></div>	<div><div>23</div><div><p>Photo Tour. Fremont Canyon Nature Preserve. 8am-12pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p></div></div>	
<div><div>24</div><div><p>Mountain Bike Clinic. Irvine Open Space Preserve. 8am-12pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p></div></div>	<div><div>25</div><div><p>Open Dance Studio. Trabuco Center. 3-5pm. Info: 949-724-7300</p></div></div>	<div><div>26</div><div><p>City Council Meeting.  Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6205</p></div></div>	<div><div>27</div><div><p>Family Movie Night.  Heritage Park Library. 5:45-7:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040</p></div></div>	<div><div>28</div><div><p>Mohsen Namjoo.  Irvine Barclay Theatre. 8pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-854-4646</p></div></div>	<div><div>29</div><div><p>Salute to Sinatra & Jobim. Irvine Barclay Theatre. 8pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-854-4646</p></div></div>	<div><div>30</div><div><p>An Evening with Kathy Mattea. Irvine Barclay Theatre. 8pm. Tickets on Sale. Info: 949-854-4646</p></div></div>	

SchoolWatch

by Carolyn Inmon

A Proposed Solution for Irvine's School Traffic Problem



The November 2018 elections are behind us now. The five-member City Council, including two new members — **Farrah Khan** and **Anthony Kuo** — is now seated. So, too, is the Irvine School Board, with longtime incumbents **Sharon Wallen** and **Ira Glasky** each re-elected to a four-year term. Before the 2018 elections completely faded from the rear-view mirror, let's not forget the important

issues that were raised last fall — and that need to be addressed.

As I wrote last time, Irvine voters made it clear that they were troubled by two serious matters facing our community and our schools: **first, the threat of gun violence in our schools; and, second, the worsening traffic conditions at neighborhood school sites.**

In my last column, I focused on the need for improved school security in the face of horrific gun violence on public school campuses across the country. I urged our elected officials — both at City Hall and on the Irvine School Board — to do much more ... and to move quickly.

This time, I want to exhort these same elected officials to address the school transportation issue and the need to improve traffic safety at school sites.

Since 2015, I have been writing articles calling attention to the frustrating and even dangerous traffic conditions at neighborhood school sites across the City. Each weekday morning, Monday through Friday, there is a crush of traffic: teachers and staff driving to school; teenage high school drivers; and parents driving to school to drop off their own kids, while dodging young pedestrians and bicyclists. Now, add to this the everyday commuters trying to get to work, but having to contend with an unavoidable traffic jam at the school site. In addition to the frustration and stress of it all, it's downright dangerous.

Most of us are familiar with the problem because we've experienced it. Here is the good news: **There is a solution familiar to us all — big yellow school buses.** If Irvine planned and developed a comprehensive, citywide school bus system, the morning "crush" at most schools would be significantly reduced, and the nearby streets and neighborhoods would be safer too.

So, what will it take to make it happen? I recently put this question to Larry Agran, the former Mayor of Irvine. Agran responded simply: "It will take leadership and money."

Then, he added, "It will also take some political skill and the strong determination to actually get something done. So far, I haven't seen any real leadership on the School Board or on the City Council. Maybe one of the newly elected Councilmembers, Farrah Khan or Anthony Kuo, will step forward. Or, the new City Manager, John Russo, could take the lead, perhaps proposing that the City and School District fund and conduct a joint study. We should undertake a feasibility analysis to determine

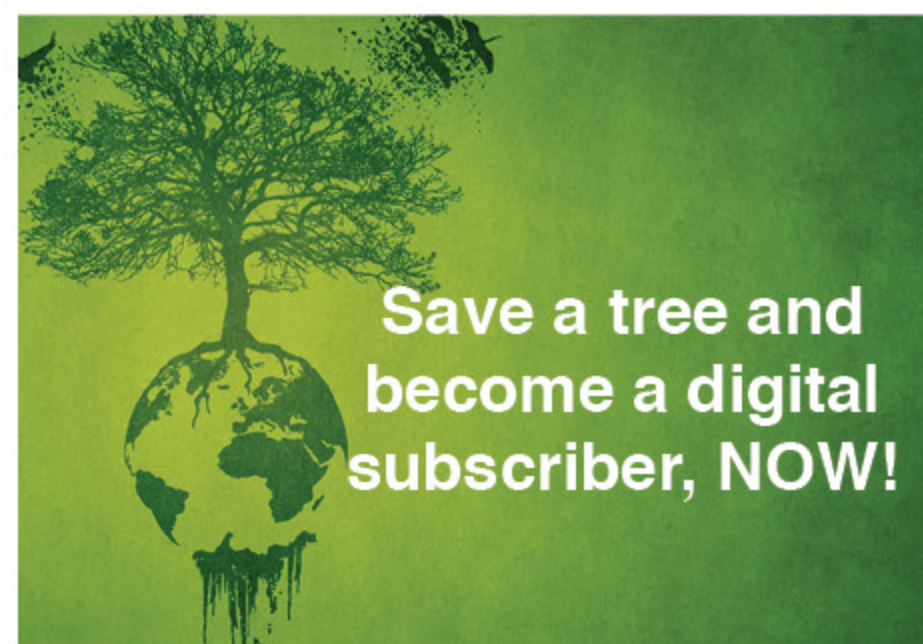
what it would take to create a comprehensive Irvine school bus system — and what it would cost to maintain the system in the years ahead."

Agran, who has always championed millions of dollars in City support for Irvine public schools, offered his own idea for funding a citywide school bus system as it became operational. "Perhaps the City could pay one-third of the cost, the School District one-third, and then the last third could come from a user fee paid by those families whose kids ride the bus."

It sounds like a good idea, worth exploring. Let's get started!



Reinstituting a comprehensive school bus system will go a long way towards alleviating morning traffic jams and safety hazards around Irvine schools.



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

Great Midterms! What Now?

by Roger Gloss and Sarah "Steve" Mosko

For most Orange County residents who want their elected representatives to address the global climate crisis with urgency, the outcome of the 2018 midterm elections gives cause for hope.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, four long time Orange County Members of Congress who doggedly ignored their constituents' concerns about global warming have been replaced by four fresh faces, all Democrats: **Katie Porter** (CD-45), which includes Irvine; **Gil Cisneros** (CD-39); **Harley Rouda** (CD-48); and **Mike Levin** (CD-49).

With these victories, Orange County's representation in the House is now all "blue" for the first time since the 1930s. But with the administration in Washington intent on rolling back environmental regulations and still denying the very existence of human-caused climate change, this is no time for a victory lap. **It took fierce political engagement to achieve these midterm results. That kind of engagement — by all of us, regardless of political party — must continue, especially given the global emergency that the climate crisis poses.**

The latest report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that if we are to stave off the worst effects of the climate crisis — horrific storms, droughts, floods, wildfires, infectious diseases, respiratory illnesses, and population displacement — **we must drastically reduce carbon emissions globally within the next twelve years.**

The Fourth National Climate Assessment, recently released by thirteen agencies of the U.S. government (and promptly dismissed by Trump), warns of imminent damage to communities, infrastructure, oceans, coastlines, agriculture, water supply, human health, and the entire U.S. economy.

Our own representatives

Here in Irvine, newly elected U.S. Rep. **Katie Porter** can truly represent us only if we pointedly tell her what our interests are. **We must insist that she make the climate crisis a top priority and demonstrate this through her voting record and the legislation she supports.** The same is true, at the state level,

for **Cottie Petrie-Norris**, the Democrat who now represents Irvine and neighboring communities in the 74th State Assembly District. **We can expect Porter and Petrie-Norris to become leaders in meeting the climate crisis only if we, in turn, show them that there is strong grassroots support within their districts for their actions.**

Climate bill in Congress

It's very encouraging that a climate bill was recently introduced in the 2018 lame duck session of Congress, with both Republican and Democratic sponsorship. **The Energy Innovation and Carbon Fee Dividend Act** proposes to wean our economy off fossil fuels through a gradually escalating fee on carbon emissions, with all revenues returned to the people in the form of "dividends" — *regular checks* from the federal government.

By including a border tariff on imports from other countries that fail to establish their own price on carbon emissions, the legislation boldly aims to rein in carbon emissions globally.

A similar bill has since been introduced in the Senate. The Senate version did *not* contain specific controversial items that were included in the House bill to gain Republican support, for example: a moratorium on CO2 regulations and an exemption for carbon emissions from agriculture. The language in bills can often make them challenging to decipher. This is why it's imperative that the public pay close attention to the details when updated versions of legislation are making their way through the new Congress.

Green New Deal

Another exciting development is the proposal by incoming House freshman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D – NY) to create a Select Committee for a Green New Deal. This committee's intent would be to provide an urgent and comprehensive policy framework for federal action addressing climate change that goes beyond a single piece of legislation. Though the fate of a Green New Deal remains uncertain, what's important is that it's another sign that our representatives in Congress are starting to take seriously the public's demand for real-world solutions to the climate crisis.

The lessons of past elections show us that nothing changes unless we, the people, make the effort to continually engage with our elected officials. If we want government action commensurate with the urgency of the climate crisis, we must demand it of all our representatives.

This means taking the time to contact our representatives at town hall meetings, and through personal phone calls and visits to their offices.

MAKE PERSONAL CONTACT!

Contact your Congressional and State representatives by email (not very effective); by phone (effective); or make a personal visit (most effective).

Contact by USPS mail is also very effective; however, because of security concerns, it takes a while for USPS mail to pass security clearance.



Katie Porter

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45th Congressional District
1117 Longworth HOB, Wash., DC 20515
202-225-5611
To email, go to: porter.house.gov/contact
No local office, yet.



Cottie Petrie-Norris

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Roger Gloss earned a B.S. in Physics from UCLA and is now retired from a career in information technology. He is a citizen-activist against climate change, animal agriculture, and systemic environmental destruction. He has lived in Orange County since 1970. His 2014 novel, *Third Wind*, is a pre-apocalyptic story of runaway climate change and failed government.



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.

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Franklin J. Lunding
Publisher

Implacable Council?

Irvine residents and voters have said over and over that they want the State Veterans Cemetery built, without delay, at the original 125-acre Great Park site that was designated, planned and approved by the City, State (CalVet) and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, from 2014 to 2016. But, three members of the Irvine City Council — Mayor **Donald Wagner** and Councilmembers **Christina Shea** and **Melissa Fox** — have systematically thwarted the will of the people...for more than two years.

Now, Councilmembers Shea and Fox, backed by developer FivePoint Communities, are working to extend this deplorable injustice. They are pushing yet another half-baked scheme to avoid building the Veterans Cemetery at its original, planned-and-approved Great Park site. They want it relocated elsewhere, to an unstudied and unapproved site.

The last time they did this, with the help of Mayor Wagner, it led to an Irvine voter revolt and the NO on B referendum campaign that repudiated the Wagner-Shea-Fox “landswap-and-development” scheme.

As a cautionary reminder to Shea and Fox — and Mayor Don Wagner, too — we have decided to re-publish just a small sampling of the many hundreds of letters and comments we received in 2017 and 2018 on the Veterans Cemetery issue. **They reflect the kind of widespread community anger that comes from blatantly disrespecting the will of the people.**

So, here is the question: Are we going to have to go through this all over again in 2019?
—FJL

Franklin J. Lunding is publisher of ICNV. In the 1980s, he was Chair of the Irvine Transportation Commission, and also served as an Irvine Planning Commissioner.

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The Veterans Cemetery: Letters & Comments 2017-18

2017

■ I have recently purchased a home in the Great Park Neighborhoods and will be honored to share this space with those who died fighting for this great country. Those Councilmembers who voted for the “land-swap” are despicable.
— **William C. Hyser**

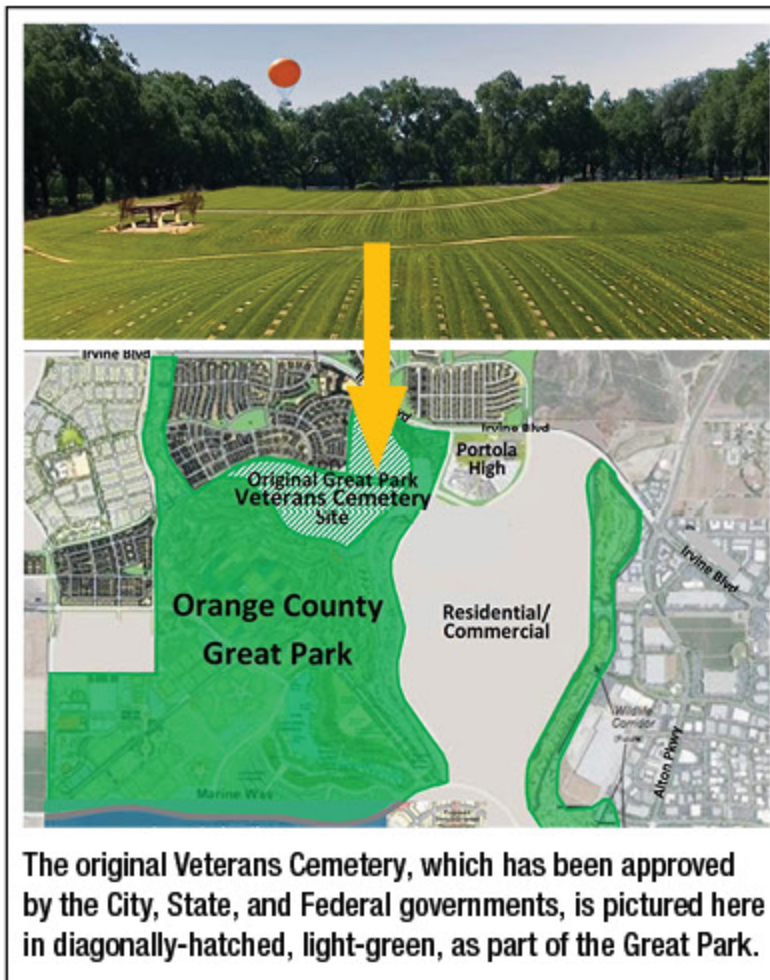
■ What an abomination for the City of Irvine to have a Mayor and two Councilwomen who are obviously in collusion with land developer FivePoint — voting to replace the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park.
— **Ana Gutierrez**

■ I am a veteran with 20 years of service with the U.S. Marine Corps. I have lived in this community, off and on, since 1960 and retired from active service in 1980. I hope all the residents of Irvine will unite to keep our Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery at its originally planned location.
— **Robert Torres**

■ I think it’s disgusting that the City Council is so blatantly going against what the Irvine community wants. They are giving away our precious land to FivePoint.
— **Jeff Woo**

■ I have lived in Irvine since 2006, and I served in Iraq in 2007-2008, in close ground combat. I want a Veterans Cemetery that honors those we lost over there. I am not happy about my fellow brothers and sisters in arms being pushed aside by corporate interests. The actions of the City Council reek of corruption.
— **Captain Mike Anderson**

■ I’m extremely disappointed in Melissa Fox for her support of this sellout to FivePoint — as is my 94-year-old father who is a World War II veteran who was stationed at the El Toro Marine Corps airbase (and who Melissa has known over the years). Shame on you, Melissa.
— **Patricia Santry**



The original Veterans Cemetery, which has been approved by the City, State, and Federal governments, is pictured here in diagonally-hatched, light-green, as part of the Great Park.

2018

■ It is absolutely shameful that the interests of FivePoint Communities should trump the desires of the veterans and spouses and children of veterans who served during World War II, the Korean War (like my husband), the Vietnam War, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our veterans served to secure our freedom, not to enable FivePoint to profit from the land in the Great Park meant for the burial of our veterans.
— **Ernestina Benson**

■ Without question, we need a Veterans Cemetery — as originally planned, in the Great Park.
— **Roger Bowman, U.S. Navy, Vietnam Veteran**

■ My husband would like to be buried in the Veterans Cemetery, as originally planned, where he was stationed at El Toro in 1943. When he returned from overseas, we married and later bought our home in Turtle Rock in 1972, and still reside here. It is sinful what is happening. It is all political and disgraceful to our vets.
— **Aggie Piampiano**

Former Mayor Beth Krom speaks out on the Supervisor race



When Irvine Mayor Don Wagner was running for re-election, he failed to mention something that would have mattered to Irvine voters. He didn’t really want the job. In fact, rumors were circulating that he planned to run for County Supervisor if Todd Spitzer’s seat opened up and just wanted the title “Mayor” to help his prospects. Rumor

became fact when he launched his campaign for Supervisor on December 21st — just 10 days after being sworn in for his second term.

To be clear, voters were sold a bill of goods. The same man who used deception to win re-election last November with just 45% of the vote (the lowest percentage by any Irvine Mayor in a re-election bid) now wants Irvine voters to give him a promotion.

And consider this: Should Don Wagner win in the March 12th special election to fill the seat Todd Spitzer vacated when he was elected Orange County District Attorney, he will once again deprive Irvine voters of their power when his hand-picked Mayor Pro Tem, Christina Shea, becomes Mayor. That’s how it works. If the Mayor leaves before the end of his term, the Mayor Pro Tem becomes our Mayor. Shea would have almost a full term without ever having to run. That’s just wrong.

It’s hard to imagine that Christina Shea and Don Wagner did not plot this out before the election, hoodwinking voters to serve their own interests. There were other choices for Mayor — people who actually wanted the job. And unlike Mayor Wagner and his allies, they weren’t in the pocket of developers.

Let’s demand that Mayor Wagner do the job he was just elected to do — so we can hold him accountable for the promises he made to “We, the People.” If he wants to run for Supervisor, he will have another chance in 2020.

The good news is that there are other choices in the special election for 3rd District Supervisor. I encourage you to do your homework and make sure you vote on March 12th.

I will be voting for former Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez. I had the opportunity to work with Congresswoman Sanchez when I was Mayor of Irvine. I know she cares about Irvine and is prepared to do the hard work necessary to move Orange County forward. Don Wagner, on the other hand, just wants to pump up his political resumé and serve special interests. Irvine voters and voters throughout the 3rd District deserve better.

Beth Krom is a former Irvine Mayor and City Councilmember. She won six local elections and served on the City Council from 2000-2016, including two terms as Mayor (2004-2008).

■ My brother, who is a Vietnam veteran, passed away in November of 2016, and we are waiting to bury his ashes. I think it is absolutely ridiculous that we were approved for State funding of the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, only to have Mayor Wagner and Councilmembers Fox and Shea now favor a land-swap. Shame on all three of you! Follow through on the original plan and represent the people of the City instead of the land developers.
— **Sheila Nyberg**

■ I served in the Army Medical Corps for over 20 years, caring for soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. These brave patriots deserve to be laid to rest on the hallowed land within the Great Park. What a disgraceful and cowardly stance by Mayor Wagner and Councilmembers Christina Shea and Melissa Fox!
— **Col. Peter Fredericks, M.D.**

■ My husband and I have been for this Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park since the idea was first generated. My husband was a Naval officer and we’ve lived our nearly 56 years of marriage here in Orange County. This is where we want to be buried. For us, time is running out. It is important that the Veterans Cemetery be where it was originally planned, on the former military base, in the Great Park.
— **Susan Selman**

■ I am fiercely against the decision made by the City Council to sell out Irvine’s citizens and scrap the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park. The Cemetery would be a perfect way to show patriotism and preserve a lasting legacy. A message must be sent to our elected officials that it is their duty to listen to the people and not be influenced by major corporations. We need to set things right by voting against replacing the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park with development.
— **Daryl Brandino**

■ The City Council’s willingness to side with big developers rather than respecting our veterans is disgusting. The Mayor and specific members of the Council have voted for their funding base rather than their voting base. I, for one, am absolutely disgusted.
— **Molly Peukert**

■ Shame on Wagner and Shea, and now Fox. It is obvious that POLITICS got in the way of support for veterans and their families.
— **Robert Radus, USAF (1967-1971)**

■ I believe that the current Council as constituted cannot and will not deliver a Veterans Cemetery no matter what the voters decide. For whatever reason, Mayor Wagner and Councilmembers Fox and Shea have decided to side with FivePoint and deny the citizens of Irvine what they actually voted on.

As someone who has been a registered Republican for most of my life, I was truly ashamed to be part of a party that included Mayor Wagner and Councilmember Shea. They do not represent me or my family. They have betrayed the voters for their own self-interests.

I have talked to my husband and my brother who are the last surviving veterans of my family. We are all in agreement. We feel very strongly that any official that flouted the will of the voters, particularly on the issue of the Veterans Cemetery, should not continue to hold office.
— **Michelle Johnson**

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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