



December 2015 - Volume 2, No. 12

Serving the Villages and Neighborhoods of Irvine

Distribution in Irvine:
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Publisher's Perspective

20,000! + 13,500!

I'm an old-fashioned newspaper man, with a special appreciation for a real *hold-it-in-your-hands* community newspaper. Apparently, I'm not alone.

I'm pleased to report that we at *Irvine Community News & Views* have reached a new 2015 circulation milestone: 20,000 printed copies of our latest issue of *ICNV* are now being distributed throughout Irvine!

More than 100 stores — with more each month — carry *Irvine Community News & Views*, making our popular publication easily available to thousands of Irvine residents.

A full listing of shopping centers and stores where *Irvine Community News & Views* is available can be found on page 6.

As thousands of added Irvine residents know, *ICNV* is also delivered at residential doorsteps and on driveways in a growing number of Irvine neighborhoods.

And, of course, *Irvine Community News & Views* is available online — delivered free, straight to your inbox. We have 13,500 online followers now. I hope you'll share *ICNV* with friends and neighbors and help us continue to grow in 2016.

www.IrvineCommunityNews.org

As *ICNV's* founding Publisher, I take this opportunity to thank our growing number of loyal readers for making 2015 — *ICNV's* inaugural year — the success it has been.

Best wishes to you, your family, and our entire Irvine community for a peaceful and prosperous 2016.

Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, *Publisher and Editor*

Franklin J. Lunding (FJL) is a businessman and lawyer. He has served on the Irvine Planning Commission and, prior to that, as Chairman of the Irvine Transportation Commission.

Breaking News>>>

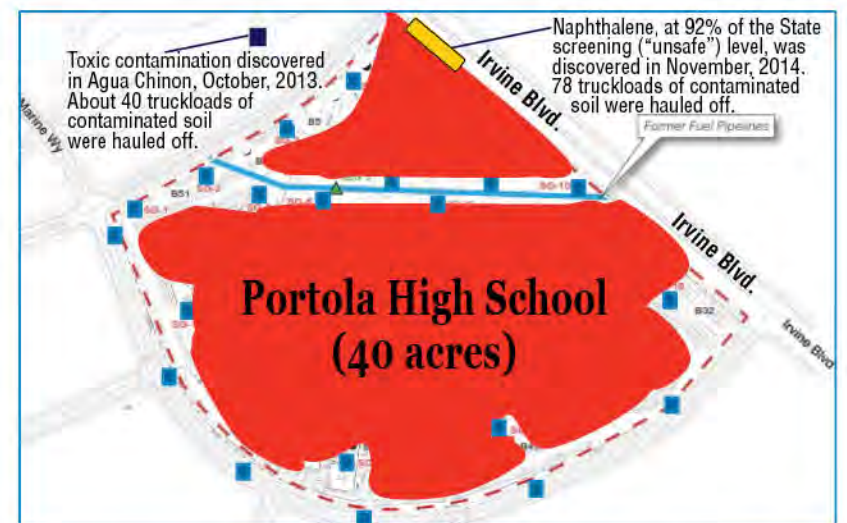
State Agency Reviewing Need to Test for Toxics at High School Site

Letter to Gov. Brown prompts new review of toxic contamination at high school site.

Responding to an August 31st letter sent to Governor Jerry Brown by former Irvine Mayor and Councilmember Larry Agran, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) now appears to be actively reviewing the toxic contamination controversy at the Portola High School site.

In his letter to the Governor, first published in the September issue of *Irvine Community News & Views*, Agran described and documented the lack of proper testing for dangerous toxic contaminants — presumably hazardous waste left from long-ago military operations at what is now the site of the \$300 million Portola High School, slated to open in September, 2016.

In his letter to Gov. Brown, Agran decried “the failure of...the DTSC to safeguard the public against exposure to dangerous toxic contamination,” including



RED AREAS were *not* tested for Volatile and Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) — the toxic petrochemicals that were accidentally discovered on-site (■), and that were also detected in the soil-gas test wells (■) drilled at the perimeter of the site.

jet fuel derivatives and a number of cancer-causing petrochemicals recently discovered along the entire perimeter of the Portola High School site.

Agran, who said he had “just about given up hope” of any response after almost two months had passed, reported that he was both surprised and pleased when he received a letter, dated October 26, 2015, from DTSC Division Chief Dot Lofstrom, writing on behalf of the office of State DTSC Director Barbara Lee.

Re-enter Dr. Liss

Agran quickly passed the DTSC reply letter on to Dr. Harvey Liss, an Irvine resident and former Planning Commissioner, who has been researching the toxics issue for almost two years. It was Dr. Liss who wrote a 5-part investigative series, published in *Irvine Community News & Views*. According to Agran, “I wanted Dr. Liss, a distinguished civil engineer and no doubt the foremost expert regarding the Portola High School site, to review the

→ continued on page 2 →

What's Inside...

Irvine Living Wage Initiative Reaches 5,000-Signature Milestone! See page 3.

Safe Schools Petition
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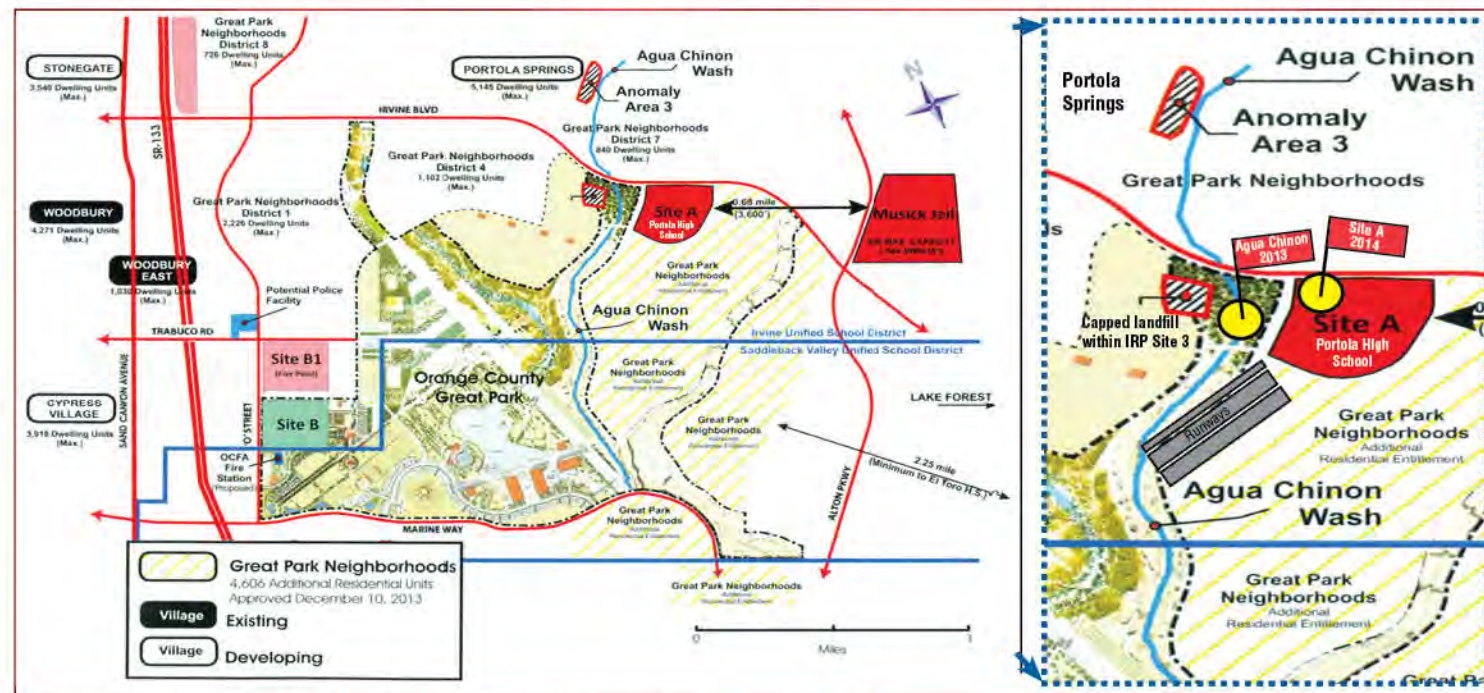
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This map (above) of the northeast area of Irvine includes residential villages surrounding the Great Park. Also shown are three previously considered High School sites — PA 6, Site B1, and Site B. All three were rejected by the School Board, and developers FivePoint Communities and The Irvine Company, in favor of Site A. The enlarged inset area (right) includes Portola High School (Site A) and the nearby, capped toxic waste dump.

● Locations where large quantities of toxic contamination were accidentally discovered during construction.

DTSC response to my August 31st letter, and prepare a detailed analysis for me...and for the public."

Interviewed for this article, Dr. Liss said that while Chief Lofstrom's letter included some of the same erroneous information previously disseminated by the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD), nevertheless the DTSC response to Agran's August 31st letter provided an opening. Liss noted, "It presented an opportunity to engage high-level DTSC officials in Sacramento who were finally becoming familiar with the growing Portola High School toxics controversy here in Irvine."

Demand to "Test for Toxics"

The Portola High School toxic contamination issue has given rise to widespread public anxiety throughout the Irvine community. More than 2,000 residents have petitioned the IUSD and City officials to suspend construction of the \$300 million high school and commence comprehensive testing

for petrochemical toxic contamination at the school site.

Growing numbers of Irvine citizens have expressed their frustration at the unresponsiveness of local officials, who have been unwilling to "test for toxics" at the Portola High School site. Angry at this, they have established a new website — aptly named www.TestForToxics.org — which now serves as a repository for key information and documentation, making it easily accessible online.

Reply to DTSC

On November 6th, Dr. Liss — writing on behalf of Larry Agran and himself — responded in detail to DTSC Division Chief Dot Lofstrom's letter, point-by-point correcting its inaccuracies by referencing publicly available documents. Liss's letter and all referenced documentation is now on the TestForToxics website.

In addition, Dr. Liss emailed letters with background information to California DTSC Director Barbara Lee and

California EPA Secretary Matthew Rodriquez, in Sacramento. **The central point that Liss made was that the Irvine Unified School District, the City of Irvine, and**



Dr. Harvey H. Liss

DTSC officials mischaracterized the high school site as having been solely used for "agricultural" purposes. In fact, located at the end of massive runways, the site had been used for military purposes, including the likely disposal of fuels, solvents, hydraulic fluids and other toxic wastes during World War II, the Korean War, and into the Vietnam War era.

See Toxics Testing petition on page 4.

→ continued from page 2 → **Need to Test for Toxics**

Agran has said local officials' mischaracterization of the site's history is "a possibly catastrophic error" — given the fact that both adjacent to the school site and *on* the site, extensive soil contamination by military fuels and solvents was found that would *not* be compatible with agricultural use. Further, as Agran and Liss repeatedly pointed out, because of its classification as *agricultural* land, **virtually the entire interior of the school site was tested only for agricultural chemicals such as pesticides, and *not* for extraordinarily dangerous and cancer-causing petrochemicals (benzene, naphthalene, toluene and other "VOCs" — Volatile Organic Compounds).**

In his interview, Liss said that "within ten minutes" of emailing his letter to DTSC Chief Lofstrom, he received an acknowledgement indicating that she would be reviewing all the information he had sent. In a later email exchange, Chief Lofstrom indicated that sometime in December she and her technical team would meet with DTSC Director Barbara Lee.

Next Steps

Next steps are unclear. DTSC has the authority — some say the legal and moral obligation — to simply order new, comprehensive testing of the entire Portola High School site. Alternatively, DTSC could order public hearings or meet with representatives of citizens whose single-minded demand to "test for toxics" seems to grow louder with each passing day.

Asked to comment on the toxics issue, *Irvine Community News & Views* publisher Franklin Lunding said, "Having enlisted Dr. Harvey Liss to research and write his breakthrough series on toxic contamination at the Portola High School site, we intend to stay on top of this story to ensure full transparency. Most importantly, we want to do our part to ensure the health and safety of thousands of future teachers, staff and students at Portola High. The only way to do that is through comprehensive testing for toxics that, regrettably, should have been done years ago." Lunding paused, then said, "Testing...the sooner it's done, the better." **ICNV**

For references and documentary materials, go to:
www.TestForToxics.org



After discovery of toxic contamination while constructing this storm drain at the Portola High School site in November of 2014, the City's environmental consultant reported that he expected DTSC to immediately order new testing for toxic petrochemicals. The expected testing never happened.

Irvine Living Wage Initiative Reaches Halfway Mark

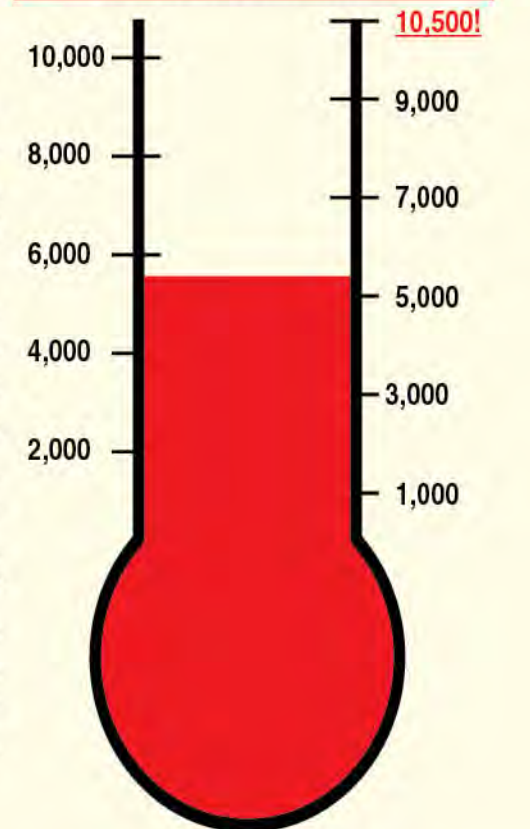
This past summer, despite strong citizen opposition, the current City Council majority — Mayor Steven Choi and Councilmembers Christina Shea, Jeff Lalloway, and Lynn Schott — voted to *cut* Irvine's own minimum wage, called a Living Wage, from \$11 per hour to just \$9 per hour. This will hurt hundreds of Irvine City workers and their families — including janitors, maintenance workers, and landscape workers who keep Irvine clean, safe and beautiful.

In response to this mean-spirited action by the City Council majority, scores of grassroots volunteers launched the Irvine Living Wage Restoration Initiative — to have more than 10,000 Irvine registered voters sign a petition to place the initiative on the 2016 City ballot, giving Irvine voters the opportunity to reinstate the City's Living Wage law, word-for-word and dollar-for-dollar.

For weeks now, scores of volunteers have been fanning out across the City — to shopping centers, at UCI and throughout Irvine neighborhoods — asking thousands of Irvine voters to sign the Living Wage Initiative Petition. Together, they are making history.

ICNV

10,500 signatures of registered Irvine voters are required to qualify the Initiative!



Citizens who wish to help with the Irvine Living Wage Initiative can volunteer and/or make a donation at:
www.IrvineLivingWage.org

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All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ
Postal Annex
The Car Spa</p> <p>CYPRESS VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER JEFFREY & TRABUCO
Albertsons
Al Amir
Da Luau Hawaiian Grill
Honey Pig</p> <p>DIAMOND JAMBOREE / ALTON & JAMBOREE
Lower Level - Food Court Seating</p> <p>HARVARD & MICHELSON
Irvine Lanes</p> <p>HARVARD PLACE / HARVARD & MAIN
Einstein Brothers Bagels
Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D.
Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition
Poquet Donuts
Ralphs
Rubio's
Togo's, Great Sandwiches
Z - Pizza</p> <p>HERITAGE PARK / WALNUT & YALE
Heritage Park Regional Library</p> <p>HERITAGE PLAZA / CULVER & WALNUT
Caffé Bene
Caspian Restaurant
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Astoria at Central Park West
El Torito
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FastFrame - Irvine
Gymboree - Irvine
Toscana Luxury Apartments</p> | <p>IRVINE MARKET PLACE / IRVINE BLVD & JAMBOREE IHOP</p> <p>NORTHPARK PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER / CULVER & IRVINE BLVD.
Champagne French Bakery Cafe</p> <p>OAK CREEK SHOPPING CENTER / JEFFREY & ALTON
Baja Fresh Mexican Grill
Daphne's Greek Cafe
Gelson's
Jack's Surfboards
Maizuru Sushi Bar - Japanese Restaurant
Mustard Cafe
Orange Theory Fitness
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AIM Mail Centers - Postal Annex
Dr. Sarlitt, Dr. Vo - Optometry
IHOP
Maxwell's Salon of London
Pho - Tasia</p> | <p>QUAIL HILL SHOPPING CENTER / SAND CANYON
Johnny's Real N.Y. Pizza
Natraj's Tandoori - Indian Food
Starbucks</p> <p>UNIVERSITY PARK CENTER / CULVER & MICHELSON
Amezi Pizza & Pasta
Barber Shop
Java Bakery Café
Mag's Donuts & Bakery
Tacos & Co.</p> <p>UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTER / CAMPUS DRIVE
California Gogi - Korean Grill
Eureka!
Kochee Kabob House
Peet's Coffee & Tea
Ray's Pizza - New York Style
Yushoken - Izakaya & Ramen</p> <p>THE VILLAGE AT IRVINE SPECTRUM CENTER / PRISM & SPECTRUM
Starbucks
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Starbucks Coffee
Subway
Yes Cleaners</p> <p>WESTPARK PLAZA / ALTON & CULVER
Albertsons
Eighteen Eight, Fine Men's Salons
SmashBurger
Sprouts Farmers Market
Starbucks Coffee</p> <p>WOODBRIIDGE MEDICAL CENTER / BARRANCA & WOODBRIDGE SQUARE
Woodbridge Walk-In Urgent Care</p> <p>WOODBRIIDGE VILLAGE CENTER / BARRANCA & CREEK
Champagne French Bakery Café
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Treuhaft's Fine Jewelry</p> <p>WOODBURY TOWN CENTER / SAND CANYON & IRVINE BLVD.
GNC
NIKO NIKO Sushi
Ralphs
Rock n' Road Cyclery</p> |
|---|--|--|



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THE COUPON CONNECTION *by Cheryl Honig*

Hi, I'm Cheryl Honig, Advertising Coordinator for the *Irvine Community News & Views*. I enjoy getting to know business owners and managers in Irvine, and helping them create compelling ads that increase awareness for their products and services. Thank you to all the businesses **highlighted in red** on page 6 – it is a pleasure to work with you! I invite business owners to call me to discuss how we can work together to spread the word about your business throughout Irvine!

I look forward to hearing from you!
Cheryl Honig • 949-284-6079 • cheryl@irvinecommunitynews.org

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Community Calendar

December 2015/January 2016

IRVINE MUSEUM



Euphemia Charlton Fortune (1885-1969)
Study of Monterey Bay, circa 1918

Independent Visions: Women Artists of California 1880-1940.
 The Irvine Museum celebrates the work of California's historic women artists in the new exhibition, *Independent Visions: Women Artists of California 1880-1940*, now on display through January 21, 2016. The exhibition highlights a wide variety of artistic styles, including the Tonalist style of the late 1800s, the Impressionist period of the early 1900s, and the Regionalist style of the 1930s and 1940s. The works vary from classically-inspired portraits and still-lives, to bold Modernist paintings that document the progressive trends of women painters.

IRVINE FINE ARTS CENTER



Sarah Dougherty, *Home Is Medicine*, watercolor and oil on paper

Near: An Exhibition
 The exhibition runs now through January 23rd. *Near* is a contemporary exhibition featuring Southern California artists Sophia Allison, Sarah Dougherty and Brittany Mojo. The exhibition offers a look at art practices driven by artists' physical and emotional interactions with their immediate surroundings, from common everyday objects to landscapes and domestic spaces. The exhibition showcases ceramics, drawing, painting, mixed media and installation.

GREAT PARK GALLERY

Bold and Independent: UC Irvine's 50th Anniversary Exhibition
 Now through January 17th. Beginning with architect William Pereira's visionary master plan to transform a ranch into a world-renowned university, the story of UC Irvine is rooted in a vision of possibilities. Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, UCI is a leading research institution preparing for the next half-century. The City joins the celebration through an exhibition that highlights UCI's development and significance.
Exhibition Times: Thursday and Friday, 12-4pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10am-4pm.
Info: OCGP.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 DECEMBER Hanukkah Begins at Sundown. Home for the Holidays. Pet Adoption Fair. Irvine Animal Care Center 6443 Oak Canyon. 10am-3pm. Info: 949-724-7740	7 Kids Book Club. University Park Library. A book club just for kids! If you are 8-12 and love reading, come and share your thoughts about each month's selection. 6:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001	8 IUSD Board Meeting. District Administration Center at 5050 Barranca Parkway. 6:30pm. Info: IUSD.org City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5pm.	9 Mid-Week Hike: Agua Chino and The Sinks 8am-1pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org	10 Live Music at Eureka! 4143 Campus Dr. Each Thursday night Eureka! features Live Music at their University Town Center location! 8pm. Info: 949-596-8881	11 Senior Center Holiday Luncheon. Lakeview and Rancho Senior Centers 11:30am-1pm. \$20. Registration: starts 12/7 at either Center.	12 Ray's Review at Knowlwood's in Irvine. An evening of live music at Knowlwood's Irvine Location! 7-9:30pm. Info: RStarsiak@live.com Seasoned Chefs Culinary Workshop. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: OCGP.org
13 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org Clinic in the Park. OC Great Park Farmers Market. 10am-2pm. Info: ClinicInThePark.org	14 Evening Hike. Orchard Hills. 6:30-8:30pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org	15 Homework Help. Katie Wheeler Library 3:30pm. Info: 714-669-8753	16 Shambhala Meditation. Center for Living Peace. 4139 Campus Drive. Ages 16 & over. 7pm-10pm. Info: GoodHappens.org	17 Agriculture, Wellness + Environment (AWE) Lecture Slow Money Great Park Art Gallery 7-8:30pm. Info: OCGP.org	18 Live Music Fridays. Ugly Pie Co. 3939 Portola Pkwy. 6pm. Info: UglyPieCo@gmail.com	19 Technology Tutors. University Park Library. One-on-one hands-on help with tech questions for patrons of all ages. Free! No appointment necessary. 2-5pm. Info: 949-786-4001
20 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org	21 After Work Fitness Hike. Paved Hicks Haul Road. 6-7:30pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org	22 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5pm.	23 Full Moon Hike. Orchard Hills. 6-8:30pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	24 Bold and Independent: UC Irvine's 50th Anniversary Exhibition OC Great Park Gallery. Free Admission. 12-4pm. Info: OCGP.org	25 Christmas.	26 Kwanzaa Begins.
27 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org	28 After Work Fitness Hike. Paved Hicks Haul Road. 6-7:30pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org	29 Adult Author & Book Discussion. Katie Wheeler Library. 10:30am-12pm. Info: 714-669-8753	30 Mid-Week Hike. Quail Hill. 8am-1pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org	31 New Year's Eve.	1 JANUARY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016 The OC Writers: Read and Critique. Great Park Gallery 11am-1pm. Info: OCGP.org	2 The Art Lab: Creation Stations. Play, create and explore at our self-directed creation stations. These hands-on activities emphasize divergent thinking, problem-solving skills and innovation. Families with children of all ages are welcome. Great Park Artists Studios. 10am-4pm. Info: OCGP.org
3 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org	4 Near: An Exhibition. Irvine Fine Arts Center 10am-9pm. Info: 949-724-6880	Jessie Botke. Mural from the Oaks Hotel (Mural B), circa 1953 The Irvine Museum, Gift of The Oaks at Ojai		LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS 6:00PM If you would like to perform in store please email us sample at uglypieco@gmail.com 3939 Portola Pkwy Irvine, CA 92603 714.596.1110 UGLY PIE CO. BEAUTIFULLY CRAFTED PIZZA	Ninth Annual Home for the Holidays Pet Adoption Fair Sunday, December 6, 2015 0 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Suggested Donation \$2 • Free Parking	

Adoptable Pet of the Month

Each issue we feature one "adoptable" pet from the Irvine Animal Care Center.

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

"Platinum" is a female, spayed, domestic medium-hair mix. She is roughly 2 years old.

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



Clinic in the Park • Sunday, December 13
Tips for Holiday Safety
 Free • No Appointment Needed • Family Fun

When: Sunday, December 13; 10AM - 2PM
 Where: Great Park Farmers' Market
 Exit Sand Canyon (Irvine), Right on Marine Way

- Connections to Medical Services
- Free Books
- Alcohol Awareness and Teen Driving
- Emotional Health
- Adventure Farm Tour: Learn about the Great Park Farm!
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Visit: www.ClinicInThePark.org
 Email: clinicinthepark@gmail.com
 Call: (949) 385-3067
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Home for the Holidays Pet Adoption Fair
Sunday, December 6th (10am - 3pm)
Irvine Animal Care Center
6443 Oak Canyon, (off Sand Canyon)

More than 50 pet-rescue groups and animal shelters will bring more than 500 homeless dogs, cats, rabbits and small animals for adoption. The event will also feature vendors, refreshments, free veterinarian and trainer advice, low-cost microchips and a silent auction of more than 40 items. Suggested donation is \$2 and parking is free. Leashed and vaccinated dogs are welcome.

For more information, call 949-724-7740 or email info@irvineshelter.org.

WORKING *by Angelo Vassos*

Every day, Monday through Friday, more than 200,000 people go to work in Irvine. Some are working in fancy corner offices — they usually get our attention in newspapers and magazines. That's fine, but how about the rest of us who work at all kinds of jobs? Building. Cleaning. Maintaining and Serving.

Here, in this continuing feature of *Irvine Community News & Views*, we express our appreciation to these people and share their stories with you. These are the stories of people getting the work done in Irvine, making it a City that works in so many ways for the benefit of so many different people.



Jim Anderson's University Park Barber Shop

Same Place, Same Business, Same Service

Since 1968, when Jim Anderson opened his Barber Shop at the fledgling University Park shopping center (corner of Culver and Michelson), he has been cutting hair — at work doing *his best* to make sure that young and old alike look *their best* for their work.

With 47 years of barbering, Jim Anderson holds the record for Irvine's longest-tenured retail business at its original location. As he recalls, when he opened his shop in 1968, standard haircuts were \$2.50. Today, haircuts are \$18, with \$1 off for seniors over 95. "Yes," jokes Jim, "more than 5 years ago someone turned over the 6 on our price list." He chuckled, "We just left it that way. The gag still gets a laugh." He added that one 85-year-old gentleman, a newcomer, actually lamented that he still had another 10 years to go to qualify for the senior discount!

So, 47 years adds up to how many haircuts? About 250,000...by Jim. And for the shop as a whole? It's probably closing in on 1,000,000!



Longtime Irvine resident and customer, Bob Ihrke, getting a trim.

Let's Go Outside



Hicks Haul Road in Irvine is a popular fitness spot, with a wide, paved trail that slopes steadily up into Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. The trail wanders through native habitat, and offers hikers a spectacular view of Irvine. Register at www.LetsGoOutside.org Photo credit: Irvine Ranch Conservancy

Guns and Schools

All Irvine schools display signs to remind us that skateboarding, rollerblading, and bicycling on school grounds are prohibited. Also prohibited are golfing, the use of profanity and tobacco products.

What's remarkable is what's NOT on these signs. There is no signage that prohibits bringing a concealed weapon onto school property! That's because, until now, it has been legal for those who have concealed weapons permits — hundreds in Irvine and thousands in Orange County — to carry their firearms just about anywhere.



New signage will be required January 1, when the State law banning all firearms at schools, including concealed weapons, takes effect.

Fortunately, a recent change in State law is going to force a long overdue change in school signage. Effective January 1, 2016, all concealed weapons (with the exception of firearms carried by law enforcement or other authorized security officials) will be banished from schools.

The California Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995 already prohibited a person from having a firearm on campus or within a school zone (generally understood to be within 1,000 feet of all public and private K-12 grade schools). Separate provisions prohibited a person from carrying a firearm onto the campus of a public or private college or university. Unfortunately, until very recently, that law failed to prohibit a person with a concealed weapons permit from bringing a firearm onto school grounds.

Senate Bill 707, passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 15, 2015, amended the Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995, closing the concealed weapons loophole. **Individuals with concealed weapons permits — just like the rest of us — are no longer permitted to bring firearms onto school grounds. Period.**



WORDS WATCH by Harris E. Kershner*

Kindness

"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

—Mark Twain

Hopefully, wherever you celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday, you took the time to reflect upon how fortunate we are in so many ways. As we move into the Holiday Season, it is our responsibility to remember those who are less fortunate and to do what we can to show kindness to those in need.

*Harris E. Kershner is a local attorney, specializing in Employment Law. He has lived in Irvine for over 30 years, and currently resides in Woodbridge.



SCHOOL WATCH by Carolyn Inmon*

Put Player Safety First!

The sports world is constantly changing — sometimes for the better, sometimes not.

Athletes are getting stronger, faster, more competitive and more intense. Individual athletes and teams are playing at a much higher level, making games more exciting for people to watch, and creating huge profits for colleges and professional sports franchises.

But this increase in player performance and intensity comes with a major downside: Modern sports competition now poses extraordinary risks of injury.

Consider football and soccer. There has been an undeniable increase in leg and knee injuries, exacerbated by team play on artificial turf. And, head, neck and brain injuries have been on the rise — becoming the subject of great controversy.

I, myself, have had two major and two minor concussions, all from soccer. I never played football in school, but I know many kids who have had head injuries, one who even had to stop playing football at age 16 because he had incurred multiple head injuries and was at risk for serious brain damage.

Professional football has finally conceded the obvious: Playing football involves head trauma, often producing debilitating injuries and even permanent brain damage. There have been some rules changed in an attempt to avoid major hits to the head, such as changing the kickoff rules and invoking penalties for certain hard hits.

But what is the longer-term solution? That is yet to be determined. One thing is for sure: The conversation about player safety — especially in youth sports — needs to begin in every community right now, including here in Irvine. **We need to put the safety of athletes first — and we can't make that happen unless we start talking about it...from pee-wee sports all the way to the pros.**

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



SPORTS WATCH by Joel Smith*

Tradition

The Culture of Tradition comes to Irvine in December. It may mean counting down the days of Advent leading to Christmas, lighting the Hanukkah candles, or harking back to African traditions for Kwanzaa, or just enjoying the warmth of friendships and family.

Artistic creativity bursts forth as families trim, decorate and light Christmas trees (whether artificial or the real thing) string colored lights, hang wreathes, and decorate front lawns. Traditional holiday music dominates the



CULTURE CORNER by Steve Layton*

senses: Handel, Telemann, Franz Gruber; and memorable carols are sung or hummed by just about everybody.

This year, Clara's dreams come alive in music and dance as Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* is presented by the Festival Ballet Theatre at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, Dec. 12 – Dec. 24. For times, tickets and more information, contact: www.thebarclay.org/events

And don't forget the Concordia Christmas Concerts, right here at Concordia University. Presentations of "Love Came Down at Christmas," including choir, hand bells, and orchestra celebrating the Love of Christmas: Sat. Dec. 5, 7:30 pm; Sun. Dec. 6, 3:00 pm; Fri. Dec. 11, 7:30 pm; Sat. Dec. 12, 3:00 pm and 7:30 pm. For tickets: www.cui.edu/thearts or phone: 949-854-8002, ext.1526.

And then, finally, New Year's...a tradition you can enjoy just about anywhere. (As for me, I'll probably be asleep when the ball drops at Times Square.)

*Steve Layton is a semi-retired businessman. He remains very active in the Irvine community as a supporter of the UCI Drama Department, and currently serves on the Leadership Committee of the New Swan Shakespeare Festival.



Impressive in Irvine

by Cheryl Honig

As I work my way around Irvine, I have the pleasure of discovering unique and innovative businesses, and meeting the most generous, dedicated, and hard-working people. I am excited to understand what makes businesses successful, and thrilled to learn what motivates people to excel at their chosen craft. As I listen intently, I am drawn into their world — emerging at the end of our visit as one of their biggest fans. These businesses and people are... **Impressive in Irvine.**

UGLY PIE CO.



First of all, let's get something cleared up... there's **nothing ugly about these pies!** These are beautifully crafted pizzas, created by you – the eater! The innovative dining experience at Ugly Pie Co. begins with your choice of dough (regular or gluten free), then your choice of sauce (too many to mention here), then your choice of cheese (mozzarella, parmesan, ricotta, gorgonzola, or cheddar), then your choice of toppings (32 to be exact), then your choice of an after-sauce (BBQ, hot buffalo, or ranch). Is your mouth watering yet? For those of you who have difficulty making decisions – don't worry – the Ugly Pie Co. menu includes combinations that have already been put together for you! I had the Pear Gorgonzola with a drizzle of honey! It was scrumptious! If in addition to pizza you also love pasta, then you're in luck. Ugly Pie Co. serves penne pasta with three sauces: marinara, basil pesto, and Alfredo. Want to add a salad to your order? Choose from Caesar, Walnut Gorgonzola, or Caprese. I always leave room for dessert, and on the occasion that I ate at Ugly Pie Co. with my daughter Celine and my sister Sandy, we shared macaroons, made fresh on the premises! White Chocolate Ganache, Sea Salt Caramel Brulée, and Red Velvet were gone in seconds. The macaroons themselves are a great reason to come to Ugly Pie Co!

After playing 'Rembrandt' and creating your own masterpiece, you get to sit down, relax and enjoy the comfortable and casual environment. Exposed bulb lighting wraps lazily around a bar suspended from the ceiling. Rustic brick décor complements the black metal chairs that frame family-style wooden tables. Outside seating allows you to savor your pie in the terrific SoCal weather. The Ugly Pie Co. has a hip and cool vibe with tones of "warm and familiar."

Many smiling faces and sounds of approval are a big indicator that the staff at Ugly Pie Co. strives to anticipate their customers' needs, and make everyone feel special. **If you visit on a Friday night you'll be treated to something more than just great food: Live Music Fridays.** Live local bands play for a couple of hours and entertain you as you savor your handcrafted culinary creation. If you or someone you know is in a local band and wants to play for a live audience, send an email to uglypieco@gmail.com to find out more about participating in Live Music Fridays!

Visit Ugly Pie Co. at 3939 Portola Parkway, located in the Orchard Hills Village Center, for beautifully crafted pizza that you design yourself. Take my hint: Make sure you wear clothes that give a little!



No mistaking what they serve here.



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Macaroons made at Ugly Pie Co.

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THE IRVINE LIVING WAGE INITIATIVE: OFFICIAL PROponents' STATEMENT

On June 9, 2015, despite strong citizen opposition, the City Council voted to cut Irvine's own minimum wage — known as the Irvine Living Wage — from nearly \$11 per hour (\$10.82) to just \$9 per hour (which is the State minimum wage). This will hurt hundreds of City workers and their families — mostly janitors and housekeepers, maintenance workers, and landscape workers. These are the City contract service workers who keep our City clean and beautiful. (Mayor Steven Choi and Councilmembers Jeff Lalloway, Christina Shea and Lynn Schott voted to repeal Irvine's Living Wage; Councilmember Beth Krom voted against repeal.)

By repealing the Irvine Living Wage Ordinance, which operated successfully for 8 years, the Mayor and City Council effectively cut as much as \$4,000 per year from the annual earnings of our City's lowest-paid contract employees, causing many to fall below the poverty line.

The Council action to repeal Irvine's Living Wage Ordinance is contrary to the values of our community, including the values of our business community. Not one business leader testified in support of the City Council vote.

The Council majority's mean-spirited action has diminished Irvine's reputation as an innovative City that values forward-thinking policies and respects the workers who serve our citizens. While other cities across the country are raising their minimum hourly wage, Irvine is America's only major city to repeal its Living Wage. The Mayor and City Council are taking Irvine in the wrong direction.

This initiative — which we can qualify for the 2016 ballot by gathering signatures of more than 10,000 registered Irvine voters — will enable Irvine voters to reinstate our City's Living Wage by restoring the Irvine Living Wage Ordinance, word-for-word.

When the City Council is out of step with the community, the initiative process allows the residents to speak for themselves and take constructive, corrective action. Irvine is a nice community with nice people who understand that those who work for us are entitled to a decent day's pay for a decent day's work.

By using the initiative process, as citizens we can reinstate the Living Wage Ordinance and once again show the true spirit of Irvine. Please sign our Initiative.

Luis Aleman



Luis Alemán
Initiative Proponent

Mary Ann Gaido



Mary Ann Gaido
Initiative Proponent

Beth Krom



Beth Krom
Initiative Proponent

PLEASE SIGN THE INITIATIVE WHEN ASKED. AND JOIN THE LIVING WAGE INITIATIVE EFFORT BY MAKING A DONATION OR VOLUNTEERING.

www.IrvineLivingWage.org

Irvine Living Wage Coalition • 17614 Rosa Drew Lane, #7A, Irvine, CA 92612

OPEN FORUM

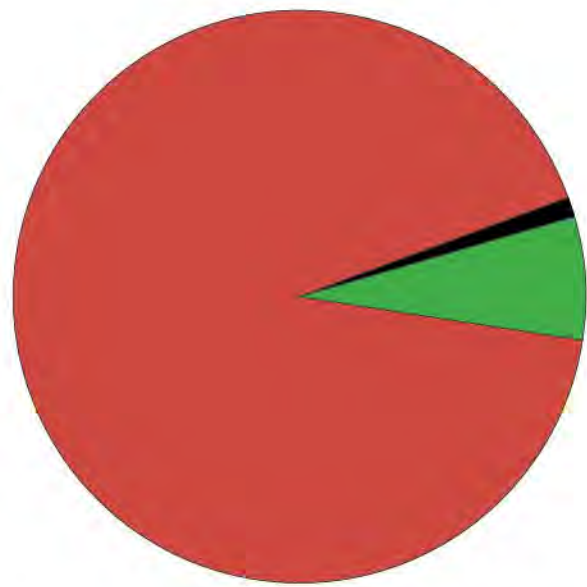
FREE SPEECH FOREVER!



In this issue of *Irvine Community News & Views*, we have reserved our Open Forum and Community Voices pages to hear from our readers on a range of major issues we have been covering. These include our own Irvine Community Poll on growth and development; a possible School Bond in 2016; and the Living Wage Initiative. Of course, we're also continuing to track the Portola High School toxic contamination issue. Take a look at what your Irvine neighbors are thinking and saying about these issues. —FJL

Irvine Community News & Views owns the Irvine Community Poll — it's our online vehicle for taking the pulse of the Irvine community. In our most recent online poll, taken in November, we asked Irvine residents the same three questions that were asked in a lengthy telephone survey funded by developers. Hundreds responded. Here are the results ... along with a representative sample of the comments we received.

1 Do you favor or oppose the developer proposal to gain approval to build an additional 5,000 dwelling units at the Great Park?



■ Favor – 7%
■ Oppose – 92%
■ Don't Know – 1%

■ I moved to Irvine for the quality of life. I don't want to live on Wilshire Boulevard (Los Angeles) in bumper-to-bumper traffic. This is now a reality in Irvine during rush hour. It never was this bad! I am all for growth, however, controlled growth with resources to support this growth. I feel like developers have the current Irvine City Council in their back pocket, and money talks! They can build, build, build, make money, and then leave the crime, traffic, and congestion for us to figure out!
—Payam Larijani

■ Overcrowding is already a problem. Traffic is currently bad enough as it is. No more housing units, please!
—Joanna Villanueva

■ Are they insane? This community will become super-crowded and a traffic nightmare. As it is, traffic is horrible. Irvine is turning into a congested city. Adding more unaffordable housing will not benefit the residents. The win is for the developers. Stop the building!
—Leti Stiles

■ We need more trees to let people breathe fresh air, not more obligations to fund more schools, more road expansions, and more police.
—Huei-Lin Chao

■ This is growth on steroids. Irvine does not have the roads and traffic infrastructure for all this. In addition, our Great Park land is an irreplaceable treasure and should be utilized wisely with great thought given to its long-term, generational legacy.
—Marleen Gillespie

■ I would like to see a firm decision for a Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park before supporting more housing.
—Lyle Brakob

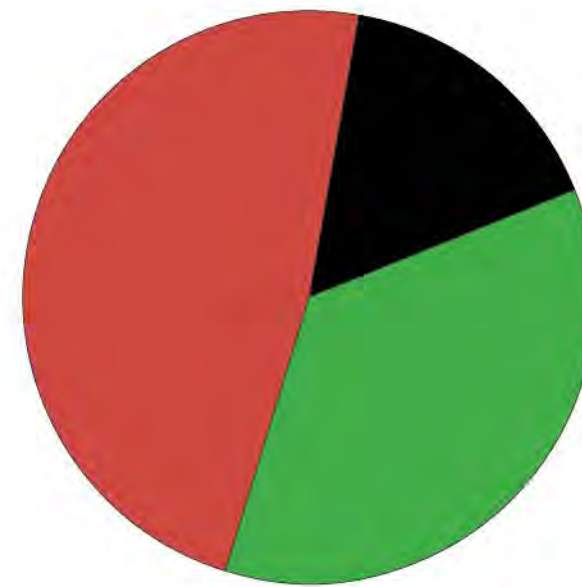
■ The present City Council is turning over development of this community to FivePoint Communities, which has no interest other than making a buck and moving on.
—Barry Jeshurin

■ This was supposed to be a Park, not a series of what will undoubtedly be high-priced homes close to the Great Park!
—Ernestina Benson



FLOORED! Developers want yet another 5,000 houses! The online Irvine Community Poll was a lot less exhausting than the developer-funded telephone survey, which some respondents reported lasted an entire half-hour.

2 Would you favor or oppose a local School Bond on the 2016 ballot?



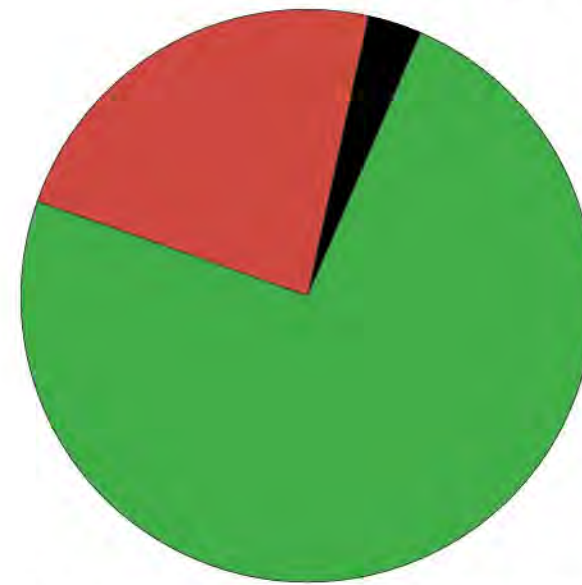
■ Favor – 36%
■ Oppose – 48%
■ Don't Know – 16%

■ We absolutely must modernize our schools! If older schools aren't modernized, it will create a huge disparity between the old and the new schools and decreasing home values in some neighborhoods. Schools that are 40 years old without more modern wiring and architectural designs will no longer attract families looking for that "Irvine education."
—Anne Trefz

■ I've supported every issue to promote Irvine schools for 43 years. But the IUSD has shown disregard for Irvine's kids by choosing a potentially dangerous placement for the new high school. So, no more support from me for this School Board. Sorry, I don't trust them anymore.
—Janis Morris

■ We are taxed too much now. Adding more taxes would be a burden to most citizens.
—Joy Roderick

3 Do you favor or oppose the Irvine Living Wage Restoration Initiative, which would give Irvine residents the chance to vote in 2016 to reinstate Irvine's \$11 per hour "Living Wage," which was cut by the City Council to \$9 per hour?



■ Favor – 74%
■ Oppose – 23%
■ Don't Know – 3%

■ Let's reinstate Irvine's \$11 per hour Living Wage Ordinance. Low-income workers living in Irvine have a tough enough time making a decent living in this beautiful City of ours.
—Johanna Olafson

■ Why wouldn't we be able to vote on this? Is the Irvine City Council afraid of what the results might be?
—Ken McEwan

■ While many cities are aiming toward a \$15 per hour minimum wage, why is Irvine going the other way? It is insensitive and unrealistic.
—Teresita Vanderdyk

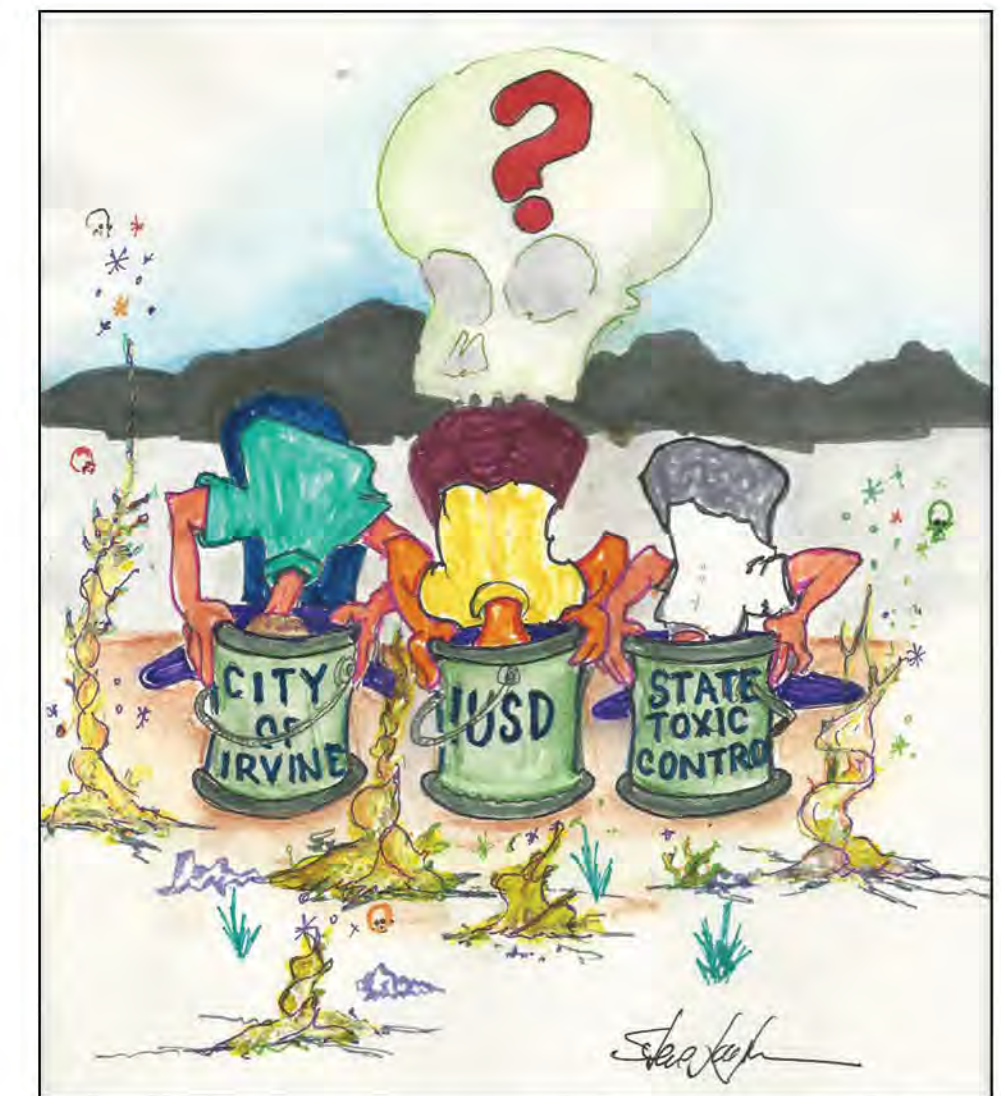
■ The City of Irvine should just follow State minimum wage law (now \$9 per hour).
—Matthias Jeseke

■ We went backwards. As a supposedly progressive City, we need to pay people a living wage. \$11 per hour isn't a living wage, but it's better than \$9.
—Merrilee Gardner

■ What wage do Irvine's Councilmembers live on? I bet they couldn't live on the wage they voted on. They should be voted off the Council and made to live on \$9 an hour for at least two years. Shame on Lalloway, Shea and Schott. I am embarrassed that they are representing me in Irvine.
—Diane Deighton

■ And who do you suppose pays for this "Living Wage?"
—Linda Cauble

The Portola High School toxic contamination issue — and the Irvine Unified School District's refusal to conduct comprehensive testing for cancer-causing toxic petrochemicals — continues to alarm and anger thousands of Irvine households.



Which will be the first agency to get its head out of the sand and order tests for toxics at Portola High School ... before it's too late?

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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Holiday Favorites



Ad effective: 8am Wednesday, December 2 thru Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

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