



## Publisher's Perspective

### 2017

Welcome to 2017! The new year brings a new City Council with two new faces. The November 8th election produced a big turnover in Irvine's 5-member City Council. Term-out State Assemblyman **Donald Wagner** was elected Mayor, and **Melissa Fox** became the newest City Councilmember, succeeding retired Councilmember Beth Krom. Also elected to Council was long-time incumbent **Christina Shea**. Wagner and Shea are both pro-growth, pro-developer Republicans. They owe their election to a \$1.5 million campaign bankrolled by FivePoint Communities and other Irvine developers. Fox, a Democrat, withstood weeks of malicious, developer-funded attack ads to earn her Council seat. Read our *Irvine Community News & Views (ICNV)* front-page story to learn more.

Then read our *ICNV* CityWatch feature (Page 3) that focuses on the one overriding issue that confronts the City Council and the entire Irvine community: overdevelopment and the choking, crushing traffic it produces. Our "1-2-3-4" analysis explains why traffic in Irvine is truly getting worse by the day. It's not your imagination!

Also new in 2017 is our *ICNV* website — [www.IrvineCommunityNews.org](http://www.IrvineCommunityNews.org). We've remodeled the website to bring you the same great content — and even more — but in a more user-friendly format. Tell us if you like it!

*Franklin J. Lundberg*

Franklin J. Lundberg, Publisher and Editor



## New Mayor and New City Council, But Same Old Problem: Traffic!



*Swearing-in. At a December 13th ceremonial City Council meeting, the oath of office was administered separately to Councilmember Melissa Fox (left), Mayor Donald Wagner (center), and Councilmember Christina Shea (right).*

### Newly installed Mayor Donald Wagner pledges Council will go to work in January. By all accounts, traffic appears to be the continuing No. 1 concern and complaint of Irvine residents.

At a December 13th swearing-in ceremony marked by smiles and gracious words, several Councilmembers took the opportunity to weigh-in with pledges to address the lack of City leadership on growth-related issues, most notably traffic. In recent years, Irvine's vaunted ranking as one of America's "best planned" and "most livable" cities has given way to a growing reputation for overdevelopment, monstrous traffic jams, and a deteriorating quality of life. These issues were central voter concerns in the recent City election.

#### New Mayor and Councilmember

The November 8th election produced a 40 percent turnover in Irvine's 5-member

City Council. Former State Assemblyman **Donald Wagner** was elected Mayor, and **Melissa Fox** became the newest City Councilmember, taking the seat of retiring Councilmember Beth Krom. Also elected to Council — but hardly a new face — was long-time incumbent **Christina Shea**. Wagner and Shea, both pro-developer, conservative Republicans, were backed by a mammoth \$1.5 million campaign spearheaded by developer FivePoint Communities and other Irvine developers.

Fox, a former Irvine Community Services Commissioner, is the lone Democrat on the new Council. She managed to withstand a barrage of vicious developer-funded attack ads to win her Council seat. → continued on page 2 →

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**Traffic, Traffic, Traffic**

After the swearing-in ceremonies, Councilmembers were invited to offer brief comments. Councilmember Melissa Fox included in her list of priorities a pledge to pursue “active transportation” solutions to the traffic mess that has now reached into every corner of the City. Presumably, Fox intends to pursue policies to encourage walking and bicycle riding — useful suggestions but hardly enough to make a dent in Irvine’s rush-hour traffic that has doubled and even tripled commute times for many Irvine residents.

Councilmember Lynn Schott, who endorsed Fox, lauded her door-to-door grassroots campaign and seemed to acknowledge

issues are now under the jurisdiction of the Planning Commission.) Wagner has also suggested appointing a professional “Traffic Czar” to sort out the City’s traffic mess and spend millions of dollars in roadway improvements.

But, as one City transportation expert, speaking on condition of anonymity, put it: “There is no way you are going to build your way out of this mess. Or magically synchronize all the lights to make them green, green, green. And no Traffic Czar or citizens’ Transportation Commission is going to make a whit of difference. Traffic, traffic, traffic comes from growth, growth, growth. And to control traffic, you have to first control growth.”

No one at the Council dais spoke about the

**“There is no way you are going to build your way out of this mess. Or magically synchronize all the lights to make them green, green, green. And no Traffic Czar or citizens’ Transportation Commission is going to make a whit of difference. Traffic, traffic, traffic comes from growth, growth, growth. And to control traffic, you have to first control growth.”**

— ANONYMOUS  
(Traffic expert, fearing retaliation)



The newly seated City Council includes (left to right) — Councilmembers Melissa Fox and Jeff Lalloway, Mayor Donald Wagner (center), and Councilmembers Christina Shea and Lynn Schott.

the widespread voter disgust with Irvine traffic.

Although he didn’t discuss any matters of substance at his swearing-in, during the mayoral campaign Wagner had pushed the idea of re-establishing a separate City Transportation Commission. (Transportation

elephant in the Council Chamber — the need to control traffic by controlling growth, and the need to muster the courage to stand up to powerful developers. Mayor Wagner said the City Council will go to work in January. An anxious public is waiting...probably stuck in traffic. [ICNV](#))



Emile Haddad (left), President and CEO of developer FivePoint Communities, watched the swearing-in of the Mayor and Councilmembers with his business associates. Haddad and FivePoint — along with other developers — organized and bankrolled the \$1.5 million campaign that elected Donald Wagner and Christina Shea.

**It's not your imagination.  
Irvine traffic is getting worse... by the day!  
See Page 3 — Irvine's Out-of-Control Growth.**

# Traffic Control Begins with Growth Control

by Larry Agran, Former Irvine Mayor and City Councilmember

No, it's not your imagination. Traffic in Irvine is, in fact, getting worse by the day — and, of course, it's worse still with each month that passes. *You can see it. You can feel it. Because it's real.*

The cause is obvious: Irvine is experiencing a rate of residential development that is wildly out of control, and the City continues to be governed by a Mayor and City Councilmembers who refuse to exercise any control at all in matters of growth and development. With the City Council's approval, each month about 300 to 400 new houses and apartment units are being built and occupied. So, with every month that passes, that amounts to 300 additional housing units, 600 additional cars, 900 additional people, and at least 1,200 additional daily rush-hour trips.

### Approving Development, Ignoring Traffic

Our infrastructure — our roads and traffic control systems — are simply breaking down. What's happening is exactly what City Environmental Impact Reports described 5 years ago: Dozens of Irvine's roads and intersections were going to become increasingly dysfunctional and, in time, gridlocked. And, yet, from 2012 to 2016, the Mayor and City Council kept saying YES to all the big developers, most notably FivePoint Communities, whenever they asked for more entitlement for yet thousands more housing units.

Then, sure enough, led by Irvine mega-developer FivePoint Communities, an astounding \$1.5 million was raised and spent to elect Don Wagner as Mayor and re-elect Christina Shea to City Council in the recent 2016 election. Wagner and Shea now will almost certainly be enthusiastic cheerleaders for FivePoint and other big developers.

### Growth-Control Proposals

The shame of it all is that 2016 mayoral candidate Mary Ann Gaido, a former two-term Irvine City Councilmember and longtime Planning Commissioner, had it right all along. Her mantra, dating back years, was this: *Traffic Control Begins with Growth Control.*

Gaido called for a “time-out” from overdevelopment — a moratorium. Unless approved by the voters, she was opposed to any more General Plan Amendments authorizing thousands of houses and apartments at a time. She also wanted to put the brakes on the

issuance of residential building permits.

The voters wanted these things, too — that is, until they fell victim to hundreds of thousands of dollars in TV and direct-mail attack ads against Gaido. The developer-funded campaign of lies, smears, and character assassination worked. Gaido lost by a few percentage points.

Lost, too, was the chance to cap Irvine's population below 300,000 people. As Gaido pointed out in the campaign, for decades the Irvine General Plan called for a maximum City population of about 250,000. As we began to approach the cap five or six years ago, Gaido sounded the alarm. But the Mayor and City Council just kept going, granting more and more residential entitlement. Today, Irvine's population stands at nearly 275,000. And, with the pro-developer “come-and-get-it” policies promoted by Wagner and Shea, Irvine's

population is likely to zoom to 300,000 by 2020, and reach 330,000 just a few years after that. That's *overdevelopment*, pure and simple.





### Tepid Measures

In an attempt to pacify voters regarding Irvine's worsening traffic nightmare, Wagner and Shea say they want to re-create the City Transportation Commission and appoint some kind of “Traffic Czar” to figure things out. No one with an ounce of sense believes these tepid measures will do much of anything to improve the situation.

What's needed, instead, is a restored commitment to good planning. And that requires a Mayor and City Councilmembers with the wisdom and courage to say NO to developers and YES to the kinds of strong growth-control policies that served our City so well for 40 years, only to be ignored for the last 5 years.

**Keep An Eye on the Building Permits!**  
It's as simple as **1-2-3-4.**

In recent years, the pro-developer Irvine City Council has **doubled** the issuance of residential building permits to **more than 4,000** new houses and apartment units per year. This record-breaking pace of development — it's really *overdevelopment* — has everyday consequences that we can see and we can feel. Here's why:

<b>1</b>  House	<b>2</b>  Cars
<b>3</b>  People	<b>4</b>  Daily Rush-Hour Trips

So, it's as simple — and as scary — as **1-2-3-4**. For every **10** new apartments or houses coming on line **every day** in Irvine, this means **20** added automobiles, **30** more people, and at least **40** more rush-hour auto trips ... **every single day!** **And in a year? About 4,000 added houses and apartment units are built in Irvine each year, bringing 8,000 added automobiles; 12,000 more people; and 16,000 added daily rush-hour automobile trips in our City.**

So, when Irvine residents say that Irvine traffic and school overcrowding are getting **worse by the day**, they're right. And the numbers prove it.



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# Impressive in Irvine

As our ICNV writers and contributors work their way around Irvine, they have the pleasure of meeting a remarkable array of people. Many are amazingly dedicated to their business, craft or special talent ... and willing to generously share their stories with others. We find these individuals — all of them neighbors, many of them our friends — to be "Impressive in Irvine."

## Jaci Woods – A Servant’s Heart



Jaci Woods

with what she is quick to spot in others — “a servant’s heart.”

Born into a military family, Jaci benefitted from an unusual “global” education that tracked the geography of her father’s military service — in Norway, Germany, the Far East, and Washington, DC, where her father was on staff with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A graduate of Taipei American School in Taiwan, Jaci went on to pursue a liberal arts education, graduating from Marion College in Marion, Virginia.

While earning a living as a REALTOR,® she became certificated and credentialed in numerous advanced specialties, gaining the knowledge and experience that has enabled her to survive and succeed — for herself and for her clients — regardless of whether the real estate market is “hot,” or not.

Jaci is dedicated to the highest standards of professionalism. Over the years, she has served on numerous professional boards and committees, taking on the unpleasant but necessary task of adjudicating complaints against those real estate agents who may have failed their clients by failing to meet high professional standards. Michael Hickman, who for 40 years has been the President of Seven Gables Real Estate where Jaci is a broker, puts it this way: “Jaci is one of those rare professionals whose work ethic reflects the depth of her character.”

Possessed of a “servant’s heart,” Jaci is one of many volunteers who quietly serves us all by organizing and preparing our Irvine community to



Jaci, at work in the Irvine Police Department Command Van, monitoring the 2015 Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation half-marathon with the Operations Chief for the day, Ryan Carter.

deal with the unwanted but inevitable crises that we must face from time to time. For years, she has worked with the Irvine Police Department — organizing Preparedness Expositions, preparing for “the big one,” whether it’s an earthquake or other catastrophic event. Jaci is a Ham radio technician and a member of IDEC — the Irvine Disaster Emergency Communications team. She is also an original member of CERT — Irvine’s Community Emergency Response Team.

Like mother, like son: Jaci’s grown son lives in Irvine and was raised to honor and respect public service. He is now a Sergeant and a 23-year veteran with the Los Angeles Police Department.

A remarkably articulate and engaged citizen, Jaci does not hesitate to “get involved” and tell public officials what they need to hear. For example, she recently drew on her own experience in real estate and related issues of public health and safety. She has testified before the Irvine School Board, firmly expressing her concern that IUSD needed to exercise greater diligence in the face of mounting evidence of dangerous toxic contamination at Portola High School.

One thing is certain: Whether she is negotiating a critical real estate transaction, or helping to protect our Irvine community, Jaci Woods epitomizes the highest standards of professionalism and volunteerism. ICNV



Jaci is a long-serving Irvine Police Department volunteer. She is pictured here (left) with former Chief of Police Dave Maggard, and (right) with Irvine’s current Deputy Chief Julia Engen.



Jaci Woods welcomes community contact. She can be reached at: [Jaci@JaciWoods.com](mailto:Jaci@JaciWoods.com) or at (714) 833-4746.

# Irvine Living

INDOORS • OUTDOORS FINDING AN EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE

## LetsGoOutside.org

The Irvine Ranch Conservancy (IRC) offers a wide range of fun and interactive activities — yoga, hiking, mountain biking, equestrian programs, habitat restoration projects and much more!

You can explore Irvine wilderness and open space areas throughout the year!

Most of the activities are free and led by IRC-Certified volunteers, *but you must register prior to each event.* For more information on events, or to register, go to: [LetsGoOutside.org](http://LetsGoOutside.org)



Support habitat restoration projects throughout the Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks from the easily accessible and convenient Quail Hill Native Plant Nursery, located at the City of Irvine’s Quail Hill Staging Area. You can plant seeds and care for native seedlings, which will be transplanted out at habitat restoration sites in the Irvine Open Space Preserve. Learn more and register for an upcoming program at [LetsGoOutside.org/activities](http://LetsGoOutside.org/activities).



# Community Calendar

## Masterpieces of California Art

The Irvine Museum presents *Masterpieces of California Art* now through January 19, 2017. The exhibition is a remarkable display of some of the most celebrated works painted in California between 1890 and 1940. This noteworthy exhibition combines works from the collection of The Irvine Museum as well as magnificent paintings from several important private lenders. Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 5pm. Museum closed Sundays and Mondays. **Info: IrvineMuseum.org**



One Rose (1867-1925)  
The Green Forest

## BALANCE

### Balance Exhibition. Great Park Gallery.

*Balance* studies the evolving relationship between nature and humanity through installation art and sculptural work. With a sense of wonder, this group exhibition negotiates with environments while investigating their intricate details and exploring their nostalgic landscapes. The exhibition features artists from all over the United States who examine time and patience, including Vaughn Bell, Marissa Gawel, Isabelle Hayeur, Esther Traugot, Jedediah Corwyn Voltz and Andre Woodward, with highlights from Storm King Art Center in New Windsor, New York.

Exhibition runs now through Feb. 19. The Great Park Gallery is located in the Palm Court Arts Complex and is open Thursdays-Fridays: 12-4pm and Saturdays-Sundays: 10am-4pm. **Info: 866-829-3829**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> New Year's Day. Happy New Year! 	<b>2</b> After Work Fitness Hike. Paved Hicks Haul Road. 6-7:30pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	<b>3</b> Short Story Book Group. Heritage Park Library. 2:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	<b>4</b> Bunco at the Rancho Senior Center. Heritage Park Center. First Wednesdays. 12:30-3pm. \$5. Info: 949-724-6800 	<b>5</b> Planning Commission Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5:30pm. Info: 949-724-6233 	<b>6</b> Senior Striders. Walk three miles along the Jeffrey Open Space Trail. Meet at Trabuco Senior Center. Registration required. Tuesdays and Fridays. 8:30-9:30am. Info: 949-724-7300 	<b>7</b> Wildlife Walk. San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Led by the Sea and Sage Audubon. 9-10:30am. Free. Info: 949-261-7963 
<b>8</b> Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829 	<b>9</b> Brainy Bookworms. Book group for 2nd and 3rd graders. Katie Wheeler Library. 4pm. Info: 714-669-8753 	<b>10</b> City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. Cox Cable Channel 30. 5pm. Info: 949-742-6205 	<b>11</b> Storytime In The Garden. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 9-9:45am. Info: 866-829-3829 	<b>12</b> Family Night Program at Heritage Park Library. Come to the library for a special live program. 7-7:50pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	<b>13</b> Movie Matinee. Trabuco Senior Center. Fridays at 2pm. Info: 949-724-7300 	<b>14</b> Read to a Dog. Katie Wheeler Library. 2-3pm. Info: 714-669-8753 
<b>15</b> Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829 	<b>16</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. 	<b>17</b> International Discussion Group. Rancho Senior Center. Participate in thought-provoking conversations about current national and international topics. 9:30am. Third Tuesdays. Info: Bob Meyers, 949-786-2097 	<b>18</b> Meditative Yoga and Meadow Walk. Bommer Canyon. 9:30-11am. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	<b>19</b> 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 	<b>20</b> New Dimension Exhibition. Irvine Fine Arts Center. <i>New Dimension</i> focuses on art practices that bridge the disciplines of painting and sculpture. 4-6pm. Exhibit runs from November 19, 2016 to January 21, 2017. Info: 949-724-6880 	<b>21</b> Americans United for Separation of Church & State Meeting. Susan Johnston on The End of Life Option Act. IRWD Community Room. 1:45pm. Info: www.au-oc.org 
<b>22</b> Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829 	<b>23</b> Page Turners Book Club. Katie Wheeler Library. Book club for 4th and 5th graders. 4-5pm. Info: 714-669-8753 	<b>24</b> City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. Cox Cable Channel 30. 5pm. Info: 949-742-6205 	<b>25</b> Mid-Week Hike. Orchard Hills. 8am-1pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	<b>26</b> Slow-Paced Fitness Hike. Irvine Open Space Preserve. 6-8pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	<b>27</b> Movie Matinee. Lakeview Senior Center. Fridays at 12:15pm. Info: 949-724-6900 	<b>28</b> Balance Exhibition. OC Great Park Gallery. 10am-4pm. Info: 866-829-3829 
<b>29</b> Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829 	<b>30</b> American Mah Jongg. Rancho Senior Center. 9:30am-12pm. Info: 949-724-6800 	<b>31</b> Mindfulness for Kids. Katie Wheeler Library. For 2nd through 4th graders. 6-7pm. Info: 714-669-8753 	<b>1 FEBRUARY</b> Mid-Week Hike. Bommer Canyon. 8am-1pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	<b>Irvine Museum   Masterpieces of California Art</b>  Grassville Redwood Flowers Under the Oaks  Colin Campbell Cooper (1867-1937) Balboa Park  Guy Rose (1867-1925) The Blue House		

# January/February 2017

## 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.

"Astru" is a female, spayed, pit bull terrier.

She is about 2 years old.

For more information about Astru and other adoptable pets, or the IACC call 949-724-7740 or email [info@irvineshelter.org](mailto:info@irvineshelter.org)



## Adult Sports Leagues in Irvine

The City of Irvine is proud to offer organized adult sport leagues in the areas of basketball, soccer and softball. Participating in a team sport is fun and great way to stay in shape and connect with friends on a regular basis.

To join a league, a team manager acts on behalf of the team and handles the registration and fees. Individuals seeking to join a team may be included on a Free Agent list. Placement on a team is not guaranteed.

Info: [mmiles@cityofirvine.org](mailto:mmiles@cityofirvine.org)

# LIFESTYLE IS WHERE IT BEGINS



CORONA DEL MAR | 2 BD | 2 BA | 2,520 SQFT  
OFFERED AT \$5,900,000 | Photos by Jeri Koegel



ANAHEIM HILLS | 6 BD | 6.5 BA | 7,100 SQFT APPX. ON 23,345 SQFT LOT  
OFFERED AT \$1,999,000



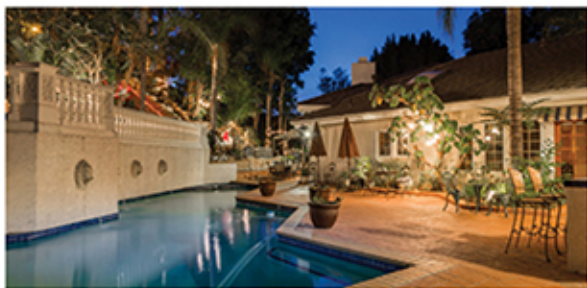
IRVINE | 4 BD | 3.5 BA | 2,402 SQFT ON 3,983 SQFT LOT  
OFFERED AT \$929,900 | COURTESY OF A2Z HOMES



LAGUNA BEACH | 5 BD | 5.5 BA | 4,503 SQFT ON 8,536 SQFT LOT  
OFFERED AT \$8,700,000



CORONA DEL MAR | 2 BD | 2 BA | 1,232 SQFT  
OFFERED AT \$2,099,000



ANAHEIM HILLS | 6 BD | 4.5 BA | 5,174 SQFT | ON 1 ACRE  
OFFERED AT \$1,999,800



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## A Troubling Choice

President-elect Donald Trump's selection of **Betty DeVos** to be our next U.S. Secretary of Education is very troubling. Ms. DeVos never attended a public school, and never sent her children to public schools. She is not an educator and doesn't really know much about education. Despite her lack of knowledge or experience, she has been a wealthy and influential force in the Michigan "school choice" movement, pushing to establish publicly-funded alternative "charter schools," and even "school vouchers" for children to attend private, for-profit schools.

The plain fact is that in study after study, the students in charter schools have been found to do no better — and in many cases worse — than their counterparts who remained in the traditional public schools.

Nevertheless, attracted by DeVos's strong advocacy for vouchers and charter schools, **Trump said DeVos would help him provide "school choice to all families."**

My opinion? This is a very bad idea. While it's safe to say that, nationally, the number of charter schools will probably grow under the Trump-DeVos team, Irvine should not be a part of this.

The rationale for charter schools is that, as alternative schools, they can provide: *choice, competition, increased parental involvement and autonomy.*

But, charter schools are only attractive when the existing public schools cannot meet the needs of its students.

Clearly, Irvine schools are success stories — that's why people from all over the world move to Irvine. And that's why it would be unwise for us in Irvine to embrace charter schools or the even more radical concept of school vouchers — using our local tax dollars to help entrepreneurs and others hoping to operate schools that "turn a profit" or blur the lines between Church and State.

Historically, our School Board has been against charter schools in Irvine — a stance that I applaud.

*\*Carolyn Innon is a retired Irvine teacher. She has taught at virtually every grade level, from K - 12, as well as community college. She served as President of the Community College Association from 2005-2007. Carolyn welcomes comments and ideas at: Carolyn@IrvineCommunityNews.org*



SCHOOLWATCH  
by Carolyn Innon\*



WORDSWATCH  
by Harris E. Kershner\*

## Petrol Pump Wisdom

I recently received an email about a gas station in Johannesburg, South Africa, where a saying is posted on a chalkboard each day. One such post is set forth in this photo. The two final words, "BE KIND," convey a world of meaning. If we each strive to act in accordance with those two simple words, the world — or at least our corner of it — will reap the benefit of our actions.



*\*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.*

## 2016 - 2017 Irvine Sports Highlights

In 2017, Irvine has a lot to look forward to in local sports. The long-promised new sports fields at the Great Park are expected to finally be ready this year. This summer, we should see a lot more field availability for Irvine athletes. **That's why next month I'll be taking a closer look at issues surrounding the allocation of Great Park sports fields.**

But for now, I want to look back at my favorite sports highlight of 2016. In August, the new Los Angeles Rams professional football team held their training camp at UC Irvine. Every year, NFL teams choose different cities



for their pre-season training camps. Luckily for us, the Rams chose Irvine.

Like a lot of other local sports fans, I was able to swing by UCI and watch the athletes go through their preparations. For weeks, UCI was in a frenzy, accommodating the pros with newly built facilities. While the Rams had a rough season, the franchise is in Southern California to stay, awaiting the opening of their new stadium in Inglewood in 2019. Meanwhile, I know I speak for Irvine and Orange County football fans when I say it's great to have the Rams nearby. Go, Rams! Let's get behind this history-rich NFL team for the 2017-2018 season.

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



SPORTSWATCH  
by Joel Smith\*

## Step Back in Time

Take a enjoyable step back in time...with a visit to the Irvine Historical Museum, located next to the Rancho San Joaquin Golf Course.



CULTURE CORNER  
by Marilyn Vassos\*

From the moment you enter the Historical Museum, you'll find yourself surrounded by photos and mementoes from the early days of the Irvine Ranch. A docent will be there to guide you on your trip back into the history of Irvine.

The Irvine Historical Museum, originally built as a house in 1869, is the oldest structure on the Irvine Ranch. Although James Irvine lived in San Francisco, he needed a place to stay when he visited his real estate holdings in Southern California. At that time, the Irvine Ranch consisted of 110,000 acres, and its principal inhabitants were 40,000 Merino sheep! From 1876 to 1878, the house was the headquarters of a sheep ranch, as well as a guest house. Flash forward another 100 years to 1980 — that's when the house became headquarters for the Irvine Historical Society Museum.

The Museum includes exhibits of agriculture and farm equipment, wonderful photos of orchards and row crops, displays of Native American artifacts, and Ranch memorabilia, including many home kitchen items from the early Ranch days.

Trust me: A trip to the Irvine Historical Museum makes for a great family outing! To learn more about the Irvine Historical Society, go to: [www.irvineranchhistory.com](http://www.irvineranchhistory.com).



*The Irvine Historical Museum is open 1pm to 4pm on Tuesdays and Sundays. But call — (949) 786-4112 to reserve time with a volunteer docent.*

*\*Marilyn Vassos is a retired Irvine teacher and long-time resident and supporter of Irvine's cultural arts.*

# Jake's iPhone Tips: Hidden Features Revealed

by Jake Jacobs

This is the seventh in a series of articles on how to get the most out of your iPhone. I have been using iPhones for more than five years and have discovered hundreds of useful features within this marvelous device. These articles will help you discover the hidden power of your iPhone.

### WHAT CAN YOU ASK SIRI?

To ask Siri anything, hold your finger on the home button until you get the Siri prompt, and continue to hold your finger on the home button until you have completely asked your question, then release the button to hear the response. Continuing to hold the home button while you talk prevents Siri from trying to answer before you have completed your question.

Ask Siri, "What can I ask you?" Siri will list all the apps and subjects for which she can help you. Here is the partial list; scroll up and down to see it all.

Tap on an app or subject icon to see a list of sample queries. Here is the result of my tapping the Calendar icon:

Here are just a few random examples of queries Siri can answer, beginning with my favorite:

- "What song is playing?" Siri will listen to any commercially recorded music she hears and will name that tune.
- "What's an 18% tip on \$56?"
- "Read me this email."
- "Call Emily's mobile."
- "How late is Trader Joe's open?"

- "When is the next game at Angel's Stadium?"
  - "Send a Message to Susan Smith saying I'll be late."
  - "Find my photos from Hawaii."
  - "What movies are playing nearby?"
  - "Play the Beatles."
  - "Set an alarm for 6:30 a.m."
  - "Set the timer for 8 minutes."
  - "What is Emily's address?"
  - "Turn on airplane mode."
  - "Search the Web for pink elephants."
  - "What is 23 times 56?"
  - "How many liters in a gallon?"
  - "Find The Hobbit books in iBooks."
- And on...and on...and on...



Jake Jacobs

Jake Jacobs, a retired electrical engineer, has worked many years in the high tech arenas of Silicon Valley, MIT, and Orange County, where he co-founded a medical device company. He has taught introductory computer science at Stanford University. He has created and taught iPhone workshops locally for three years. If you would like more information on Jake's workshops, check out his website at [JakeAir.weebly.com](http://JakeAir.weebly.com) for the Fall schedule. Email Jake at [JakeAir@cox.net](mailto:JakeAir@cox.net)

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# TestForToxics.org

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

## Portola High School — Community Action Required Once Again!

Irvine's newest high school, the \$300 million Portola High School (PHS), is now open with 400 9th-grade students in a remote area of Irvine, along Irvine Boulevard, on the former Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS, El Toro).

The approved PHS site is located off the end of a pair of runways, a notorious location for the dumping of all sorts of toxic fluids by military personnel during the war years of the 1940s and 1950s.

After huge quantities of soil contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were discovered and removed in 2013 and 2014, no one questioned the possibility that the entire site might have been contaminated by the military.

In 2015, a letter to Governor

Brown included a petition with 1,400 signatures that JCNV had collected up to that time asking for "independent, comprehensive testing for toxic contamination [to] be conducted."

After months of back-and-forth communication, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Director issued a set of orders to IUSD in March, 2016, overturning the prior approval by the DTSC. Ultimately, bending to the demands of Irvine residents, DTSC officials were compelled to order the sinking of 17 soil-gas test wells, 16 of which turned up a wide range of "low" levels of toxic and carcinogenic (cancer-causing) VOCs! However, rather than provoking further testing to find higher concentrations

on the site, they ended the testing with the unfounded theory that the contamination was caused by recycled irrigation water.

This process is disturbingly similar to the Flint, MI, disaster, where the public agencies continued to deny there was a problem, even after finding what they deemed to be "low" levels of lead in the water of the selected homes they tested. Rather than test further, they stopped. Only when the public stepped in was the catastrophic problem finally recognized for what it was.

It is now up to the residents of Irvine, once again, to come to the rescue. Mindful of the success of our previous Safe-Schools Petition, *Irvine Community News & Views* is launching a new petition. Please

sign it and enlist your Irvine friends and neighbors to sign as well.

### PETITION

We call upon the Irvine School Board and the Irvine City Council to perform comprehensive, independent testing — both soil-gas testing and air testing — for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) on the Portola High School site, to ensure the site is, and will always be, a safe site.

[IrvineCommunityNews.com/safe-schools-2](http://IrvineCommunityNews.com/safe-schools-2)

**IUSD**

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

- paulbokota@iUSD.org
- laurenbrooks@iUSD.org
- bettycarroll@iUSD.org
- iraglasky@iUSD.org
- sharonwallin@iUSD.org
- terrywalker@iUSD.org (Superintendent Terry Walker)



## Health & Safety, Schools & Kids by Phyllis Agran, M.D., M.P.H.\*

It's a new year, a customary time for resolutions. So, how about a few resolutions — let's call them a wish list — for our entire Irvine community,

especially the kids?

- >> First, let's resolve to bring back the school buses. Getting kids to and from Irvine schools safely is getting harder and harder. The morning "crush hour" chaos in front of our schools is dangerous for kids, frustrating for drivers, and a colossal waste of time. It contributes to the City's morning traffic congestion. The City should work together with our School Districts (IUSD and Tustin Unified) to restore school bus service, making sure that all school buses are modern and equipped with three-point lap/shoulder belts.
- >> Second, let's resolve to fully fund our school nurse programs. School nurses improve school health; they improve public health; they save lives, and they save money. Let's be the first large city in America to fund school nurses in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics standard: one school

nurse at every school. The citywide payoff in improved health and safety would be far beyond the public costs of expanding Irvine's school nurse coverage.

>> Third, let's resolve to assign additional Irvine police officers to serve as School Resource Officers. These specially trained police officers provide a full-time, on-site police presence in Irvine's high schools and most middle schools. It's clear that these officers help us combat drug use, smoking, and underage drinking, while also providing a presence and a "rapid response" in the event of security breaches on our campuses.

Let's remember that in 2012, Irvine voters adopted Irvine initiative Measure BB with a 70 percent majority. Measure BB, which my husband — former Mayor and Councilmember Larry Agran — and I wrote, required the City to help support Irvine schools by allocating surplus funds to improve school health and school safety. The concept has worked well for four years; but, now it's time to expand the program and optimize results that benefit not just school children, but our entire Irvine community.

In our local democracy, each of us has a voice. Now, let's use our voices to promote the optimal health and safety of our children.



School Buses, School Nurses, School Resource Officers. Let's resolve to see more of all three in Irvine in 2017!

### Suggested Action Items

- Email or write a letter to your School Board members. (See IUSD email addresses, above, in red box.)
- Attend an IUSD (or TUSD) School Board meeting and express your views under the "Public Comments" or "Oral Communications" portion of the agenda.
- Encourage others to participate as well.

I would be pleased to provide more information on these issues. You can email me at: [pagran@aap.net](mailto:pagran@aap.net)

\*Phyllis Agran is a practicing Orange County pediatrician, a Professor at the UC Irvine School of Medicine, and Past President of the Orange County Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Agran is a recognized national expert in pediatric injury control and prevention. She is also a member of the Irvine Unified School District's Medical Advisory Committee.

# OPEN FORUM *FREE SPEECH FOREVER!*



## Open Forum & Community Voices 2017

Dear Readers:

As the founding publisher and editor of *Irvine Community News & Views (ICNV)*, I have had the opportunity to read each and every email, letter, and written comment we receive — and there are hundreds of them! I also have the privilege to then share some of the comments and insights with the rest of our readers in these Open Forum/Community Voices pages.

For weeks now, most of our reader interest and comments has focused on the growth-control question posed in our December *ICNV* Irvine Community Poll. Beginning on this page — and continuing on the next page — we print the specific poll question we asked, the results of the poll, and a representative sample of the hundreds of responses we received. In this way, your voice can be heard, and you can listen to what your Irvine neighbors and friends are saying. Take a look. —FJL

### What Do YOU Think?

Do you favor or oppose adoption of a City growth-control ordinance that places a strict annual limit on the issuance of new residential building permits, and requires voter approval to exceed that limit?

Irvine Community  
— POLL —  
Measuring Public  
Opinion on  
Growth Control



### Comments, Notes and Letters

■ Irvine needs to control growth and to take action to reduce and manage traffic congestion.

—T.K. McCranie

■ The construction of too many high-density residential buildings has put a huge burden on traffic and parking at local shopping centers. It is almost impossible to find a parking place at the local grocery store between the hours of 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. because there are so many eateries that are clogged with the lunch-time rush. The quality of life has been severely affected, negatively.

—Yuko Dunham

■ Overcrowding and increasing automobile traffic are deleterious to our City and our life experiences.

—Aris Papayouanou

■ We need a parallel plan on how we are going to implement an infrastructure growth improvement plan.

—Richard Martel

■ It would be wonderful if the City Council took our opinions to heart and stopped trying to make Irvine another big impersonal city. Let the developers find another place to ruin by putting housing on every available piece of land. Our schools are overcrowded as it is. The last thing we need is more houses.

—Diane Deighton

■ Not only is traffic congestion painful and annoying to me personally, my business has suffered because clients (new and old) no longer wish to travel a short distance that takes three times as long as it did just two years ago. If this keeps up, I'll lose my business and I'll be moving out of the area. Overdevelopment has ruined a community that I used to love.

—WM Froshay

■ Traffic has become a nightmare. Uncontrolled growth is affecting the quality of life of current Irvine residents. Additionally, there are not enough parking spaces in existing shopping areas to accommodate an increase in patrons.

—Tina Benson

■ Our elected officials do not seem to be interested in representing their constituents regarding the over-building and subsequent traffic mess in our City. What's happening to our City is shameful.

—Joe Mistretta

■ The ability to provide water is my major concern, not to mention the utter traffic congestion.

—Annette Bork

■ We need to stop all those horrible multi-story apartments from going up, adding massive traffic. I moved to Irvine because of its Master Plan. Growth was always controlled and the Plan allowed for beautiful parks and open space. Former Mayor Steven Choi and Councilmember

Christina Shea and Co. have allowed growth to skyrocket because they are in bed with developers. Now, our City is ruined. There appears to be no stopping them. They spend millions to get re-elected. Our infrastructure simply cannot handle the number of people added to our City with those ridiculous apartment buildings. Irvine is no longer a great City. It is like every other miserable traffic-ridden place. We need to go back to the Master Plan originally put in place.

—Debbie Greco

■ I have only lived in Irvine for 10 years, but even for me the increase in traffic and disappearing open fields are very worrisome.

—Matthias Jezek

■ The Irvine I loved is gone. It's like a mini New York...traffic horrible, parking horrible, every inch covered with buildings. How the hell did this happen?!

—Lana Scott

■ There has been too much growth. Gridlock is everywhere in the City. Enough!

—Linda Gannon

■ Too many new residents have degraded Irvine's environment. Building all the new homes near and around the Great Park must be immediately stopped.

—Wai Chiu

■ Nearby communities like Newport Beach and Costa Mesa share our concerns about excessive growth.

—Margaret Brakob

■ I am opposed to any more houses and apartments being built in Irvine. Our City is changing for the worse. Traffic is so bad, and the City is overcrowded. Restrictions should be placed on growth, and residents should have a voice.

—Tuyet Tran

■ When will cities, including Irvine, stop issuing so many residential building permits? The more of these permits that are issued, the worse our traffic will be. Of course, I favor adopting a City growth-control ordinance, including requirements for voter approval.

—Maria Baur

■ Irvine has grown too big too fast! We do not need more houses and more cars. We have lost that small town feel.

—Kathie Standart

■ The staggering number of high-density apartments is ruining Irvine and creating traffic congestion whenever and wherever you go. The beautiful City my family and I moved to

22 years ago is long gone — things are getting worse every month. The greed of a few has destroyed the reasons we moved to Irvine.

—John Howard

■ I have been living in Irvine for five years, and I saw a huge change in this City in the past two years, especially the traffic situation and crowded residential development in every possible area. My husband and I are so surprised that they built so many apartments in nearby Spectrum in such a short time. The cars of the apartment residents are going to jam Alton Parkway in the near future. Even now, the traffic around Spectrum is terrible. Yes, we need growth control.

—Tiffany Liu



Sheila Rafat

■ Enough is enough. I have lived in Irvine since 1972, and I have seen it overdeveloped. Too much traffic...too many apartments and houses...we are choking! Irvine is no longer the beautiful planned City it was.

—Aggie Piampiano

■ We have lived in Irvine for 33 years. Irvine does not have the infrastructure to support the overpopulation we currently have, and traffic has never been worse. Why on earth do we allow more units to be built for more people to live in Irvine? What about schools? You cannot go to a shopping center at noontime and find a place to park. The quality of life is at an all-time low for Irvine.

—Bobby Dunham

■ Just look back at our history. For 40 years, the City of Irvine grew in a controlled manner — until recently — and everyone benefited.

—Frank Hsu

■ We are already busting at the seams. Bring back our small, quaint city.

—Sandi Graves

■ I have lived in Irvine for 40 years, and I have seen many changes. It is time we get back to careful planning.

—John Batty

■ I favor this proposal. I'm very concerned about the number of high-rises along Jamboree, and the amount of housing around the Great Park.

—Sherri Nussbaum

■ We have seen a plethora of new apartment complexes, hotels, and corporate high-rise buildings in Irvine in the last 3 to 5 years. It certainly seems logical that a growth-control ordinance would be wise. Let's take a breather from building!

—Leah Jordan

■ Too many buildings. Too much traffic.

—Daniel Yau

■ We must stop the overdevelopment of our City! It is affecting traffic and the quality of life. We need to send a message to City leaders that the citizens of Irvine come before FivePoint and other builders.

—Sheila Rafat

■ I oppose adoption of a City growth-control ordinance. I am not qualified to make that assessment, nor do I have all the data to make the decision as to how much growth is good or bad for the City of Irvine.

—Desi Chandler

■ It is contemptibly selfish of NIMBYs to complain about "traffic" and blame everything on developers. If you think Irvine is too crowded, move!

—John Jaeger

### A Trump Fan Writes *ICNV*

I usually toss the *Irvine Community News & Views* when it shows up, but I happened to notice the cartoon about Donald Trump in the current issue and the comment that Irvine voters didn't support him since the (unofficial) vote count had come out as 52,000 for Clinton and only 27,000 for Trump. But so what? That just tells me there are 52,000 more seriously uninformed voters residing in Irvine than I would have otherwise thought. You would have to be incredibly ignorant to have cast your vote for Hillary. I find your publication's liberal format most uninspiring and out of touch.

—Frank Hopper

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](mailto:Editor@IrvineCommunityNews.org). Letters may be edited for publication. Unpublished letters will not be acknowledged or returned.





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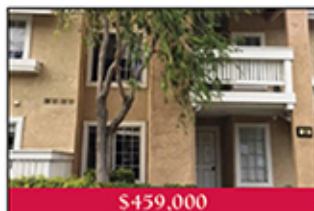
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Most affordable 3 bedroom home in Irvine!  
End unit townhouse, light and bright  
Walk 2 blocks to Heritage Park



\$775,000

Share no walls in this  
Rancho Santa Margarita home!  
Beautifully upgraded 4 bed/2.5 bath  
Downstairs bedroom



\$459,000

Enjoy Woodbridge Village amenities!  
2 bed/2 bath home in the Alders.  
Travertine flooring.



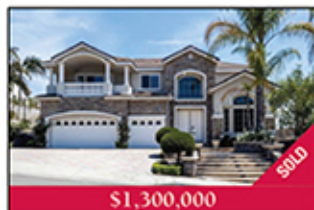
\$688,000

Single level home in Placential  
Beautifully remodeled 3 bed/2 bath  
Huge 12,000 sq ft lot with Koi Pond



\$2,223,888

Fabulous Laguna Beach home  
with Panoramic Ocean Views  
Fully remodeled 3 beds/ 2 bath



\$1,300,000

Spacious Yorba Linda home  
with Master bedroom on first level.  
4 bed/3.5 bath with 3 car garage



\$558,000

Single Level Home in Garden Grove  
Laminate and Italian tile flooring  
Huge backyard with fruit trees  
5 bed, 2.5 bath



\$585,000

Open floor plan home in Buena Park  
Fully remodeled.  
No HOA, convenient Fwy access.

**KW IRVINE**  
KELLERWILLIAMS, REALTY



Free list of homes available with 3.5% down, under \$3000 monthly.

800-504-4237 ID#1001



\*Some conditions apply. Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale. CaBRE#01990259