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Serving the Villages and Neighborhoods of Irvine

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Publisher's Perspective

CONTENT Counts!

How do you explain *ICNV's* rapidly growing readership — now tens of thousands of “hold-it-in-your-hands” *ICNV* readers and more than 15,000 online followers? Here is my one-word answer: **CONTENT!** Our staff writers and columnists are providing quality journalism that has been missing from our Irvine community for too long. Just look at the offerings in this issue of *Irvine Community News and Views*.

- >> Our page 1 story — Irvine’s “Traffic (Mis)Management Study” — delves into the City’s traffic mess...and the Mayor and Council’s “growth-at-any-cost” policies that have created the choking traffic now threatening Irvine’s quality of life. Our Irvine Community Poll asks: *Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Mayor and City Council are doing to manage Irvine’s traffic?*
- >> Page 3, “CityWatch,” is a collection of “must-read” news briefs to keep you updated on the big stories in Irvine that we’re following: the Portola High School toxics scandal; the continuing State investigations of Councilmember Christina Shea for corruption; and, the developing election campaign for Mayor.
- >> Pages 11 and 12 feature *ICNV's* regular columnists, with a new addition — “iPhone Tips” by our very own smartphone expert and instructor, Jake Jacobs.
- >> Pages 14 and 15 include our popular Open Forum and Community Voices pages — this time with a representative sample of the scores of letters and comments that have come to us in recent days. Resident participation is what makes *Irvine Community News & Views* the popular community newspaper that it is.

Yes, indeed, **CONTENT COUNTS!**

Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, *Publisher and Editor*



Traffic (Mis)Management Study



Traffic Mismanagement. Excessive growth and development is overwhelming Irvine’s infrastructure, as seen along University Drive/Jeffrey Road (left) and from the driver’s seat on Jeffrey at the I-5 Freeway overpass (right).

15 months ago, the City Council initiated a Traffic Management Study to “analyze current traffic congestion” and identify strategies to “improve traffic flow in the City.” The completed study includes a number of unsurprising findings and relatively minor recommendations. But the study does *not* address the elephant in the room — the wildly excessive residential growth and development that has created a true traffic congestion crisis in Irvine.

In matters of government, what do you do when you’ve created a huge problem, but you don’t want to admit it, and you certainly don’t want to do what it takes to fix it? Why, of course, you commission a “study” — the bigger, the better. And you

tell the authors of the study not to come back for a long time.

That’s precisely what has happened in Irvine. In March of 2015, amid a rising tide of anger over growth-induced traffic congestion — which is the result

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Update on the Toxics Risks
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→ continued from page 1 → **Traffic (Mis)Management Study**



Most residents say Irvine's traffic mess is caused by Council-led development policies — too much development, too fast. The Council's Traffic Management Study downplays the connection, saying the problem is more "perceived" than real.

of pro-developer, fast-growth policies — the Mayor and City Council outsourced the preparation of a "Citywide Traffic Management Study."

The study, prepared by Albert Grover & Associates, was delivered to the Irvine Planning Commission for review in April of 2016, and to the City Council in late June.

While the study generally applauds the City's investments in infrastructure and traffic management, it tiptoes around the question of why traffic in Irvine has gotten so bad.

Former City Councilmember and current Planning Commissioner Mary Ann Gaido spoke

directly to what she called "the central issue." "Look," said Gaido, who is a candidate for Mayor, "it's obvious that the current Mayor and City Council majority are rubber-stamping new residential development at the fastest rate in Irvine's history. Thousands more houses and apartments mean thousands more cars and car trips — and much more traffic congestion." Gaido added, "There is such a thing as too much development, too fast. It's called overdevelopment, and it threatens to unravel 45 years of careful planning in Irvine."

Speaking to the question of remedies, Gaido said we need a "Comprehensive Growth and

Traffic Control Ordinance." She added, "But most of all we need a Mayor and City Councilmembers who have the courage to say NO to FivePoint Communities and other fast-growth developers who have little regard for our City's General Plan and long-range planning principles."

The Traffic Study included recommendations — embraced by Gaido and others — to expand the popular iShuttle system, invest further in synchronized traffic light systems, and improve school bus transportation to deal with the "A.M. crush" at schools.

In the course of conducting the Traffic Study, the consultants surveyed hundreds of Irvine residents. By far the largest percentage — 53% — said the top congestion factor was "residential traffic from increasing population." **ICNV**

What Do YOU Think?

Do you approve or disapprove of the job that the Mayor and City Council are doing to manage and control traffic in Irvine?

Take the Irvine Community Poll!

Simply go to:
IrvineCommunityNews.org/Poll

The Irvine Community Poll is owned by Irvine Community News & Views. Unlike other proprietary polls, we publish our survey results. This is a way that your voice can be heard — and we can help serve the Irvine community.

CITYWATCH

Double-Trouble for Shea?



Christina Shea

The superstitious adage that "Trouble comes in twos" may hold special meaning for Councilmember Christina Shea. Just as she is launching yet another re-election campaign, Shea finds herself under investigation by two State agencies for misconduct in public office.

FPPC Probe

Earlier this year, it was reported that the State Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) had initiated an investigation to determine if Shea had violated the State's conflict of interest laws. The FPPC probe was triggered by revelations that Shea had pressured City staff for special hurry-up approval of renovation plans and construction permits for Irvine-based KIA Motors, while at the same time she was being paid as much as \$100,000 per year as a KIA Motors consultant.

In recent weeks, Shea claimed that the Irvine City attorney had written an opinion exonerating her. Councilmember Jeff Lalloway challenged Shea's assertion, and successfully pushed for Council release of the City Attorney's opinion. As it turns out, the City Attorney did *not* exonerate Shea; he did not even address the question of whether Shea's conduct was in violation of State law; his memorandum only spoke to issues of Irvine City law, which of course are not the basis for the FPPC probe.

In the course of what was a weeks-long dispute, Shea repeatedly attacked Lalloway during City Council meetings and through social media. Lalloway, in turn, began referring to Shea as "corrupt Christina." There is no indication as to when the FPPC will conclude its investigation of Shea.

State Auditor's Investigation

The second investigation of Shea involves the State Auditor, who has been directed by the State's Joint Legislative Audit Committee to look into allegations of abuse of power and misuse of public funds in connection with the Shea-led "forensic audit" of the Great Park.

In what critics called a "two-year, \$1.5 million political witch hunt masquerading as an audit," Shea failed to find even \$1 in unauthorized spending or \$1 in unaccounted for funds at the Great Park. Instead, taxpayer dollars were used to issue subpoenas, take endless depositions, and target political opponents — most notably, then-Councilmember Larry Agran — in advance of the 2014 election.

Misuse of public funds for political purposes is a serious offense under State law, potentially punishable as a felony. The State Auditor's report is expected later this summer.

Mayoral Campaign Takes Shape

The contours of the campaign ahead for Mayor of Irvine became a lot clearer following the June 7th statewide primary election, and the announcement by termed-out State Assemblyman Don Wagner that he was entering the Mayor's race. Wagner becomes the third to declare his candidacy. Long-time Planning Commissioner and former City Councilmember Mary Ann Gaido announced her candidacy in May, and architect Gang Chen has been planting hundreds of Chen-for-Mayor signs along Irvine streets since March.

Wagner's entry into the Mayor's race followed the June 7th primary, in which current Irvine Mayor Steven Choi finished in the "top two" in his bid for Wagner's open Assembly seat. This means Choi will not seek re-election for Mayor, but will instead be on the ballot for State Assembly this November.

Although they are both Republicans, Wagner and Choi are at odds with each other. Wagner backed one of Choi's opponents in the June primary. And Choi wasted no time in posting a Facebook message, saying "NO" — no endorsement and no support to Wagner for his announced Mayoral bid.

Wagner's bid is apparently backed by Irvine mega-developer FivePoint Communities. FivePoint, which put more than \$500,000 into the 2014 Irvine races to elect a pro-development Council majority, is organizing a slate of candidates. In addition to Wagner for Mayor, FivePoint is expected to be backing Councilmember Christina Shea in her bid for re-election and Planning Commissioner Anthony Kuo. Shea and Kuo have been cheerleaders for FivePoint communities, rubber-stamping approval of thousands of new housing units, wrecking the Irvine General Plan and decades of careful planning, despite warnings that traffic and overcrowding would result.

Even as Wagner was entering the race, the two other active mayoral candidates continued their campaigning. Long-time Irvine Planning Commissioner and former Councilmember Mary Ann Gaido has been in the race since May, saying, "I am running for Mayor to make sure that the people of Irvine, not the big developers, are in charge of our City; and that we recommit ourselves to the highest planning principles." Gaido has been calling for City ordinances placing strong controls on growth and traffic. This is similar to the program she offered in her 2014 run for Mayor, when she came within 954 votes of defeating then-incumbent Mayor Steven Choi.

Gang Chen has continued to stake his campaign on his opposition to locating a State-approved Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery within the Great Park. Gaido, in contrast, strongly supports putting the Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park, saying, "It's the perfect place, and the perfect way, for our City and our citizens to honor veterans and their families in perpetuity."



Planning Commissioner Mary Ann Gaido (left) and Veterans Cemetery opponent Gang Chen (right) are now joined in Irvine's Mayoral campaign by termed-out State Assemblyman Don Wagner.

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 Red highlighted businesses have an ad in this issue. Check it out!

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- CAMPUS PLAZA / CAMPUS & CALIFORNIA**
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- CYPRESS VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER JEFFREY & TRABUCO**
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- DIAMOND JAMBOREE / ALTON & JAMBOREE**
Lower Level - Food Court Seating **Square Room Escape**
- EL TORO AUTO CENTER / JERONIMO & ORANGE AVE.**
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- HARVARD & MICHELSON**
Irvine Lanes
- HARVARD PLACE / HARVARD & MAIN**
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- IRVINE AUTO CENTER**
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- IRVINE BUSINESS COMPLEX**
Astoria at Central Park West • El Torito EvoFitnessUSA • FastFrame - Irvine Gymboree - Irvine • Toscana Luxury Apartments
- IRVINE MARKET PLACE / IRVINE BLVD. & JAMBOREE IHOP**
- IRVINE VILLAGE CENTER / JEFFREY & IRVINE CENTER DR.**
The Nail Bar • Heaven Spa & Salon Irvine Valley Animal Hospital
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- PARKVIEW CENTER / UNIVERSITY & MICHELSON**
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Woodbridge Walk-In Urgent Care
- WOODBIDGE VILLAGE CENTER / BARRANCA & CREEK**
Champagne French Bakery Café Irvine Car Wash
- WOODBURY TOWN CENTER / SAND CANYON & IRVINE BLVD.**
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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 the businesses **highlighted in red** on page 4 – 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!
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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.**

The iPhone Doctor!



If you have an iPhone, you need to keep Jason Tu's number with you at all times! Why? He will come to your home or office, or meet you at a local coffee shop, and fix your iPhone right there on the spot. He is the 911 for iPhone repair! "If you need urgent repair service, I am on call 24/7," says Jason, enthusiastically.

Jason Tu
(949) 347-5086
jason.tu@itechs.com

Jason Tu currently works at a technology company based in Irvine as the Technical Sales Manager, where he has 5 years experience actually repairing his company's products. One day he saw an ad for a Repair Technician for iCracked – a national iPhone mobile repair company – and thought, "I can do that!" So Jason completed the training courses and in July, 2015 became a Certified iTech, an iCracked certified technician.

Since then, he has been traveling around Orange County, (evenings and weekends), making his customers happy by bringing their iPhones back to life.

Among other things, Jason repairs broken screens, blackout screens, frame damage, and replaces batteries on iPhones and some iPads. Repairs can take about 30-45 minutes, according to the extent of the damage. Replacement screens

and batteries come with a lifetime warranty.

iCracked isn't only for the individual. "iCracked for Business" offers enterprise level repair service capable of handling hundreds of iPhone and iPad repairs quickly.

A graduate of UCI in Computer Science, Jason lives in Westpark with his wife (they met while renting rooms in the same house when they attended UCI). They have an 8-month-old pug named "Cookie."

I asked Jason what he likes most about being an iCracked Certified Technician, "I love meeting new people, networking, and learning the back roads of Irvine." He added, "I talk with my customers about new businesses and restaurants in Irvine, and help them find the services they need. I've become an unofficial ambassador of Irvine! My long-range goal is to open an iPhone repair shop in Irvine. I am here to stay!"

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Irvine Living
COMMUNITY NEWS & VIEWS

INDOORS • OUTDOORS FINDING AN EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE

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

Even as summer heats up, you can still hit the trails if you get an early start. One early activity is the Tuesday Morning Fitness Hike on Paved Hicks Haul Road. This hike begins in Irvine and takes you into the Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. For this and other activities, please visit: www.LetsGoOutside.org/activities.

Let'sGoOutside.org

Community Calendar

July 2016

Concert on the Green & Fireworks Festival
 Irvine High School Stadium.
 July 4th. 3pm gates open.
 9pm fireworks begin.
 Info: 949-724-0488

Sizzlin' Summer Concerts

July 10:
 Gold Rush Country (country)

July 17:
 Identity Theft ('80s variety)

July 24:
 Blue Breeze
 (Motown, R&B, soul & funk)

Aug. 7:
 LAvation (U2 tribute)

Aug. 14:
 Dog N' Butterfly (Heart tribute)

Info: 949-724-6606

Come and enjoy free concerts on the lawn at Mike Ward Community Park in Woodbridge. Sundays 5:30-7:30pm in July and August! Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic baskets! Gourmet Food trucks will also be onsite!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 714-733-3167 	4 Independence Day. Concert on the Green & Fireworks Festival. Come out and enjoy the evening on the Orchard Hills Loop Trail. 6:30-8:30pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	5 READ FOR THE WIN! Read for the Win Family Storytime. Heritage Park Library. 10am. Info: 949-936-4040	6 Bunco at the Rancho Senior Center. First Wednesdays. 12:30-3pm. \$5. Info: 949-724-6800 BUNCO 	7 Seasoned Chefs Culinary Workshop. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 9-9:45am. Info: 866-829-3829 	8 Flow Yoga in the Hills. Orchard Hills. 6-7:30pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	9 Open Microphone Review at Knowlwood's in Old Town Irvine. Hosted by Ray Starsiak. 6:30pm. Info: RStarsiak@live.com.
10 Sizzlin' Summer Concert See Sidebar for Info. Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 714-733-3167	11 Teen Advisory Group (TAG). Katie Wheeler Library. 5pm. Info: 714-669-8753 TAG 	12 IUSD Board Meeting. 5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine. 7pm. Info: 949-936-5000 City Council Meeting. Irvine Civic Center. 5pm.	13 Critter Scene Investigation. Irvine Open Space Preserve. Joy for Nature program geared toward youths ages 9-12, led by IRC volunteers. 6:30-8:30pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org 	14 Silly Science Show. Heritage Park Library. Shows at 4pm and 7pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	15 Movie Matinee. Lakeview Senior Center. Fridays at 12:15pm. Info: 949-724-6900 Lakeview Senior Center 	16 New Swan Shakespeare Hamlet. New Swan Shakespeare Theatre at UCI. 8pm. Info & Tickets: NewSwanShakespeare.com HAMLET 
17 Sizzlin' Summer Concert See Sidebar for Info. Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 714-733-3167	18 Tai Chi in the Hills. Orchard Hills. 8:30-10:30 am. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	19 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	20 After Work Fitness Hike. Paved Hicks Haul Road. 6-7:30pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org 	21 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 	22 Friday Night Lawn Games. OC Great Park Balloon Lawn. 6-8pm. Free. All ages. Info: 866-829-3829 	23 New Swan Shakespeare As You Like It. New Swan Shakespeare Theatre at UCI. 8pm. Info & Tickets: NewSwanShakespeare.com AS YOU LIKE IT 
24 Sizzlin' Summer Concert See Sidebar for Info. Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 714-733-3167	25 READ FOR THE WIN! Read for the Win Family Storytime. Heritage Park Library. 7pm. Info: 949-936-4040	26 City Council Meeting. Irvine Civic Center 5pm. 	27 Women For: Orange County Film Screening. Michael Moore's "Where To Invade Next." IRWD Duck Club. 11am. Info: WomenForOrangeCounty.org	28 Read for the Win Craft Day. Katie Wheeler Library. Part of the Summer Library Challenge. Kids 6 and older welcome. Materials are provided and event is FREE. Info: 714-669-8753	29 University Park 50th Celebration. Info: Irvine50.com/home.html 	30 University Park 50th Celebration. Info: Irvine50.com/home.html 
31 University Park 50th Celebration. Info: Irvine50.com/home.html Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 714-733-3167	1 AUGUST Meditative Yoga and Meadow Walk. Bommer Canyon. 6-7:30pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org 	2 Bingo at the Lakeview Senior Center. Tuesdays. \$8. Buy-in 12:30pm. 1-3pm. Info: 949-724-6900 BINGO 	The New Swan Shakespeare Festival Photo: Paul Kennedy, UCI photography 		University Park 1966 	


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.

"Ali" is a male, neutered, German Shepherd mix. He is about six years old.

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



Summer Library Challenge 2016
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Summer Library Challenge

Readers of all ages are invited to participate in OC Public Libraries' free Summer Library Challenge now through August 1.

Check out your library this summer for fun events, cool performers, creative projects and, as always, great books! Studies show that kids who don't read over the summer can lose up to two months of learning.

Prevent the "Summer Slide" with OC Public Libraries.

To register or to learn more, visit: ocpl.readingbydesign.org or your local branch of OC Public Libraries.



Two Villages ... Two Anniversaries

This summer marks special anniversaries for two iconic Irvine villages — Woodbridge and University Park. On June, the Village of Woodbridge celebrated its 40th year as Irvine's largest residential community, with nearly 30,000 residents. Organized around the beautiful Woodbridge Lake, most agree that Woodbridge stands as a testament to the benefits of good planning.

From July 29 – 31, the Village of University Park and the University Community Association will be celebrating a 50th year anniversary — as Irvine's first residential village, built five years before Irvine became an incorporated city. Many of University Park's original "urban pioneers," as well as current residents, will be taking part in three days of activities — all part of a celebratory "Homecoming." For more information, visit: www.Irvine50.com/home.html



Woodbridge Village — from a 1976 photo (left) of Irvine Company planners with then-Councilmembers Mary Ann Gaido and Bill Vardoulis to (right) the 40th Year Anniversary celebration. University Park (below) — from the 1960s aerial photo to today's Michelson Drive, with its beautiful "traffic-calming" landscaped medians.



Jessica Stephens
Master Travel Consultant

Are you longing to experience a new type of vacation — something unique, exotic and rich in culture and history? Experience Vietnam and Cambodia by taking a cruise along the longest river in Southeast Asia, the Mekong River.

The Mekong is vast, flowing a distance of nearly 3,000 miles. Its rich biodiversity is second only to that of the Amazon. Gain a unique perspective as you meander through the dense jungles of Cambodia and Vietnam, while enjoying the comforts of a luxury river cruise.

The Mekong flows through areas of great spiritual history and areas of a war-torn past. You will see temples being refurbished, businesses being launched, and everywhere you'll see smiles gleaming on the faces of people who are making the most of what they have.

Experience the sincere friendliness of the locals and the vividness of their cultures. Observe everyday life along the Mekong River, from serene

monasteries to towering skyscrapers. You'll dock in remote ports and experience untold adventures while still being swathed in supreme comfort. Unpack only once and journey along Southeast Asia's most scenic river!

The best time of the year to visit this region is between November and April, when the temperature and humidity are lower and the rainy season is over. TravelStore has availability during this popular time: 7-night cruises start at just \$1,810 per person for a Riverview Stateroom with two balconies! This price includes a savings of \$1,500 per couple off brochure rates, and an on-board credit of \$300 per couple! Space is still available for the 2016/17 season but is extremely limited. Please contact us for more information, or to confirm your room today: 949-930-9260.

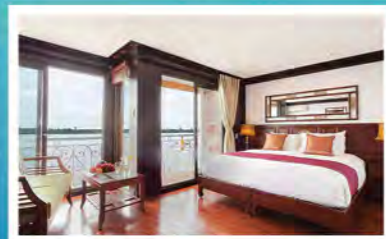
Travel

JESSICA STEPHENS

Travel Store
949-930-9260



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Your Riverview Stateroom



Cambodia



Vietnam

Guns and Schools... Revisited

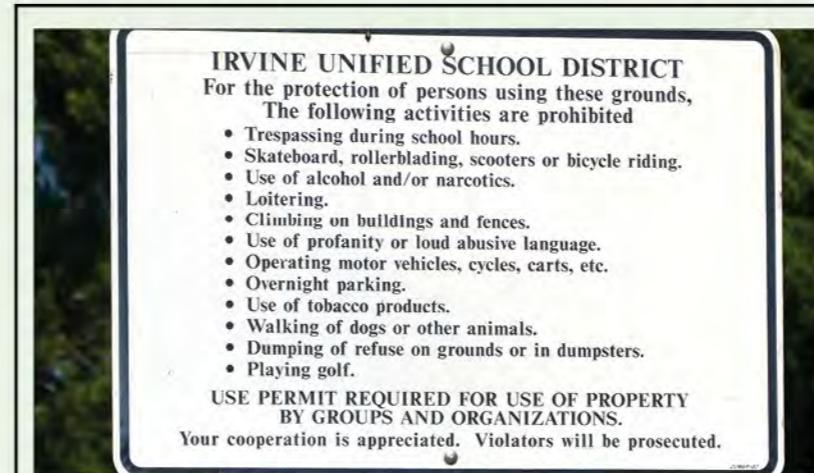
Last December — the third anniversary of the horrific Sandy Hook school shootings — I devoted my School Watch column to report on an important gun control measure that was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor. The law took effect statewide on January 1, 2016. Specifically, the measure strengthened the California Gun-Free School Zone Act by closing a loophole that permitted anyone with a concealed weapons permit — and there are many thousands in Orange County and hundreds here in Irvine — to bring firearms onto school grounds.

As I wrote last December, effective January 1, 2016, "Individuals with concealed weapons permits — just like the rest of us — are no longer permitted to bring firearms onto school grounds. Period."

So, I ask: Why hasn't the Irvine Unified School District changed its signs — posted outside every school — to reflect this important change in State law? Warning people about prohibitions against tobacco products, skateboarding and use of profanity on school grounds is good. But where is the prohibition against guns?



SCHOOLWATCH
by Carolyn Innon*



This sign — posted in front of every IUSD school — should have been changed long ago, reflecting the State law banning all firearms at public and private schools, (except if carried by authorized police personnel).

I know it's summer. But, for heaven's sake, shouldn't IUSD officials complete this long-overdue homework assignment — and correct the signage — before schools open again this fall?!

*Carolyn Innon is a retired Irvine teacher. She has taught at virtually every grade level from K - 12, and at the community college level.



WORDSWATCH
by Harris E. Kershner*

Rest In Peace, Champ

"Hating people because of their color is wrong. And it doesn't matter which color does the hating. It's just plain wrong."

— MUHAMMAD ALI

The same is true regarding discrimination based upon religion, national origin, ethnicity and all other forms of invidious discrimination. We share a common humanity and our behavior should reflect that.

IN MEMORIAM

"Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." — MUHAMMAD ALI

Rest In Peace, Champ. We shall not see your like again.

*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.

Irvine Summer Sports Camps

I grew up attending schools in the Northwood area (Northwood Elementary, Sierra Vista Middle School, and Northwood High School). Every summer I attended a sports camp in Irvine. Today, there are lots of options. If you want a sports-specific camp, you can check out one of the local club teams — whether it's swimming, baseball, soccer, basketball, or any other sport.

When I was younger, I enrolled in one of the City day camps that included various sports and activities throughout the week — like kickball, capture the flag, soccer, basketball, and many more. To check out what's available, visit: <http://www.cityofirvine.org/community-services-department/camps>.

As I got a little older, I started to gravitate toward soccer camps, focusing on my favorite sport — I did a couple of camps with the local club soccer team, Irvine Strikers. Occasionally, I even did the UCI soccer camp, which I highly recommend. UCI also offers other sports-specific summer camps. You can check them out at <http://www.ucirvinesports.com/camps/index>.

Have fun this summer, and stay cool and well hydrated!

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



SPORTSWATCH
by Joel Smith*

Culture Under the Stars ... Just Down the Road

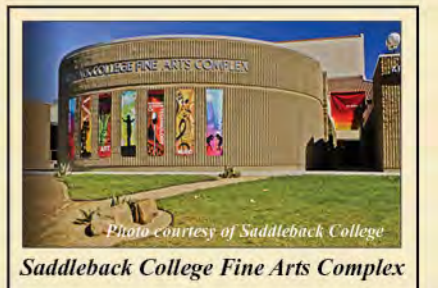


CULTURECORNER
by Marilyn Vassos*

You don't have to fight the traffic and travel all the way to the Hollywood Bowl to enjoy an evening of entertainment under the stars. A good bet is to just head the other way on the freeway... a much shorter drive down to Saddleback Community College, where you will find some wonderful free theatrical and musical productions that will delight you. Bring your blanket, some beach chairs, a picnic dinner — and sit on the lawn as you watch the outstanding student performers from Saddleback show you what they can do!

The summer offerings begin with Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* on Friday, July 8th and Saturday, July 9th. Be sure to bring the kids along for this outstanding event.

Next on the agenda for a great evening, on Friday, July 15th, is the *Saddleback Big Band*. Sit back and enjoy an evening of music with Joey Sellars and the Saddleback Big Band — performing at this CD-release party featuring 99-year-old Shep Shepherd!



Saddleback College Fine Arts Complex

For you outdoor theatre fans, the City of Mission Viejo presents, also at Saddleback, Shakespeare's *Othello* on Saturday, July 16th, and *Cymbeline* on Sunday, July 17th.

Concluding this outstanding series is *Little Shop of Horrors* on Friday, July 22nd and Saturday, July 23rd.

All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Parking is free and located on the Upper Campus Quad. Saddleback College is located at 28000 Marguerite Parkway in Mission Viejo. Festival seating is available beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, visit: www.saddleback.edu/arts/summer-theatre. Phone: 949-582-4696.

*Marilyn Vassos is filling in at CultureCorner this summer, while Steve Layton is taking a break. Happily, Steve is still drawing his terrific cartoons for Irvine Community News & Views. Marilyn Vassos is a staff writer for ICNV. A retired Irvine teacher and long-time resident and supporter of Irvine's cultural arts, Marilyn is especially interested in free and low-cost cultural experiences — so everyone can enjoy the visual and performing arts.

Consumer Beware

by Peter Dills*

Check the Bill. Perhaps you're like me. You've picked up the restaurant tab and just plopped down your credit card without really checking the bill. I did this recently, and it wasn't until it was time to actually sign the credit card slip for our lunch that I thought the bill seemed a bit high. I asked the waiter for a copy of the specific charges, and it included a pork cutlet for \$17. Wrong. We had pasta. The waiter quickly acknowledged the error and had the manager correct the charges. I'm not accusing anyone of padding the bill, but where on earth did the pork cutlet come from?

Hey, lesson learned. So, I decided that I had better keep my eyes open and pay closer attention. Sure enough, the next night I ordered two beers and was charged for three. I brought this to the attention of the bartender. Again, without hesitation I was re-billed for the correct amount.

Check the Gratuity. Did you know that most restaurants automatically add the gratuity



Peter Dills*

to your bill when the party has more than six people? Yes, 18 percent is typically added to your bill with large parties. My sources and informal surveys suggest that servers often don't volunteer that they have already added the tip. Let me be clear: I agree with the policy of including the tip with large parties, but the server should mention to you that the tip is already included. Or, it should be clearly printed on the menu.

Reservations? Sure, restaurants have plenty of rules about reservations. Some restaurants

won't accept reservations for small parties. One common restaurant approach is to take half reservations and half walk-ins; if it's a popular restaurant, they are saving tables for the walk-in crowd. I like that. Even with a reservation, I strongly recommend that before you get into your car, call the restaurant to confirm and let them know you are on the way. Have special needs? Birthdays, food allergies, kids, or elderly folks? Let the restaurant know in advance. Always keep on time! Let's say you made reservations for 6pm and have 16 guests. Be aware that the restaurant might require that all guests be present before seating you. I know this one is hard to swallow — but often they will only allow 20 minutes to hold your table before giving it away.

I hope all of this helps! If you have any of your own "tips" or gripes, please let me know.

* Peter Dills is the proud son of noted restaurant critic Elmer Dills. You can email Peter at thechefknows@yahoo.com and follow him on Twitter at [@kingofcuisine](https://twitter.com/kingofcuisine). And check out Peter's radio show, *Dining With Dills*, Sundays at 5pm on radio station KLA, 830 AM.

Jake's iPhone Tips: Hidden Features Revealed

by Jake Jacobs

This is the first of 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.

PERSONAL KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Entering and editing text is the most useful—and often most frustrating—iPhone feature. My favorite method is dictation, but it is not always convenient to talk aloud. So I have to type on the keyboard. I will explore in the next few articles how to ease the burden of typing on the tiny iPhone keyboard — and make it fun. These methods will work in any app where the keyboard appears, such as Mail, Notes, Messages, Contacts, Calendar, Safari, and others.

Here is how to **use and create** your own customized text replacement shortcuts for words or phrases you often use: Notice that there are three predictive boxes just above the keyboard that suggest words or phrases when you begin

typing a new word. This tip shows you how to customize what suggestion appears in the middle predictive box.

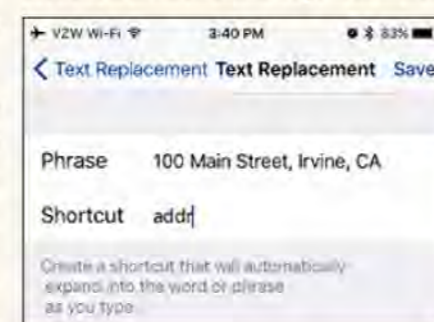


For example when I type *jj*, the middle box displays *Jake Jacobs*. When I tap the space bar, Jake Jacobs is inserted into my text.

If I want to insert *thank you very much*, I type: *tyv*. Or for my email address I merely type: *eml*. Or my mailing address: *addr*. Or my home phone number: *hp*. Create shortcuts for any words,

names, numbers or phrases you use regularly. It's a great time-saver!

Create Your Own Custom Keyboard Shortcuts: Tap the Settings icon on your home screen, then tap *General*, and so on through each screen. Here is the shortcut notation I will be using for this: *Settings* → *General* → *Keyboard* → *Text Replacement*. Tap the + button in the upper right corner, then add a new phrase and assign a shortcut to it. Tap Save in the upper right corner. Tap the + to create each text replacement shortcut. Give it a try. Have fun!



Jake Jacobs

Jake Jacobs is a retired electrical engineer. He 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 for the Fall schedule. Email Jake at JakeAir@cox.net.

TestForToxics.org

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

What's a Parent to Do?

In just a few short weeks, 9th grade students will be arriving at Irvine's new, \$300 million, Portola High School. This high-tech school located on the former El Toro Marine Corps airbase has been built on a 40-acre site now known to be contaminated with neurotoxins and carcinogenic petrochemicals such as toluene, benzene and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are especially damaging to the health of young people and pregnant women.

Identifying Toxics Source(s)

Although deemed by Irvine Unified School District's (IUSD's) environmental consultant and officials at the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to be at "low" concentrations — and thus "not hazardous" to the health of the school's occupants — testing has been performed in only a relatively few locations, with *no* testing at all under the school buildings. DTSC officials have acknowledged that, over time, concentrations of VOCs underneath buildings can be expected to penetrate through cracks, fissures and utility connections in the school foundation, with vapors intruding into buildings occupied by teachers, staff and students.

Even though large quantities of contaminated soil — over 100 truckloads — were accidentally discovered and removed during several trenching operations, areas on the school site with possibly higher concentrations of toxic contamination have not been identified. Instead, the DTSC went along with the School District's ludicrous explanation that the contamination was caused by Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) recycled water used during agricultural operations. That claim was refuted within 24 hours by IRWD's Water Quality Manager.

Photographic and testimonial evidence indicates that the most likely sources of the site-wide toxic contamination at Portola High School are the operation and maintenance of military aircraft from 1943 well into

the 1960s — and the direct dumping of fuels and solvents onto the ground.

Foolish Errors, Dangerous Risks

How did we get to this dangerous and risky point? In 2011, the School District foolishly signed a conditional school-site purchase agreement without undertaking adequate testing for toxics. Remarkably, the purchase agreement included a hold-harmless clause fully protecting the developer who sold them the property from any claims resulting from soil contamination problems. In 2014, the DTSC approved an IUSD soil-testing program for the site, intended to detect contaminants *only* from agricultural operations, *not* the toxic petrochemicals used in military operations.

public participation, prepared a completely inadequate soil-testing work plan (just 10 test locations). The work plan was presented as a *fait accompli* by IUSD and DTSC officials at a March 22nd IUSD Board meeting. After a public uproar from angry residents, a week later a work plan was presented with 17 sampling locations for sub-surface soil-gas testing of the 40-acre site. Testing began almost immediately afterwards, again without public monitors or any public participants.

Test Results

The results of the testing, which I obtained by means of a California Public Records Act request, showed that every one of the widely separated 17 soil-gas test

not to conduct additional testing, the sources of the site-wide toxic contamination — including areas of higher concentrations of toxics on the school site — remain unknown.

In a further attempt to gain traction with the DTSC Director, Agran sent another letter on June 9th, this time to CalEPA Secretary Matthew Rodriguez, explaining that the orders sent to the IUSD by DTSC Director Lee on his behalf have not been fully implemented. Agran requested the State's urgent intervention — with no response to date.

It is astonishing that the Irvine Unified School District, backed by the State, is taking this monumental health risk when it could have been so easily avoided by the timely and proper testing of the property years ago. It now remains up to the residents of Irvine, especially parents whose children are assigned to attend Portola High School, to decide whether they are willing to subject their children to this kind of risk. It also remains up to them to persuade the IUSD Board to do the right thing. IUSD should begin more extensive testing on the site, including under the buildings, and should also install continuous air-monitoring systems in the school buildings.

For latest updates, references and documentary materials:
www.TestForToxics.org
and *subscribe!*

After false and misleading claims by both IUSD and DTSC that the Portola High School site had been thoroughly tested, I obtained and compiled lab reports for all soil testing performed on the site. **These reports revealed that the 35-acre interior of the site had never been tested for toxic VOCs used in military operations!**

It was a letter written by former Mayor and Councilmember Larry Agran to Governor Jerry Brown in August, 2015, that began a lengthy process ending with a remarkable March 2, 2016 letter from DTSC Director Barbara Lee on behalf of CalEPA Secretary Matthew Rodriguez to the IUSD. This letter actually *overturned* the previously DTSC-approved assessment of the site as having been used only for agricultural purposes. The letter and specific orders required preparation of a work plan — with public and stakeholder participation — for testing the interior of the school site.

IUSD consultants and DTSC subordinate officials ignored the orders and, without the required

wells contained measureable levels of various combinations of toxic VOCs. It's important to note that on a clean school site, there would normally be no detectable VOCs in the soil.

Unfortunately, none of the 17 soil-gas test wells was located under a school building. And since IUSD and DTSC have decided

It is essential that residents, especially families whose children are assigned to PHS, write to the DTSC Director, with copies to the CalEPA and California Department of Education about their concerns. Also, ask IUSD Superintendent Terry Walker how you can transfer your children to another high school until continuous VOC monitoring systems are installed in the school buildings, or until more complete, independent testing is performed, including under the buildings.

To contact IUSD and State officials:

IUSD paulbokota@iusd.org
laurenbrooks@iusd.org
iraglasky@iusd.org
michaelparham@iusd.org
sharonwallin@iusd.org
terrywalker@iusd.org
(Superintendent Terry Walker)

State SectyRodriguez@calepa.ca.gov
(CalEPA Secretary Matthew Rodriguez)
barbara.lee@dtsc.ca.gov
(DTSC Director Barbara A. Lee)
Superintendent@cde.ca.gov
(Supt. of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson)

OPEN FORUM

FREE SPEECH FOREVER!



What Do YOU Think?

Dear Readers:

What Do YOU Think? That, basically, is the question we ask with each and every issue of *Irvine Community News & Views* that we publish. We are, after all, a *community* newspaper. We report the news *and* we welcome the views of our readers. That's *YOU!* And that's the purpose of these Open Forum/Community Voices pages — pages 14 and 15.

Last month, we reported on the State's belated testing of the Portola High School site to determine the extent of on-site toxic contamination. The findings were very disturbing. Of the 17 test wells dug, *all 17* revealed combinations of toxic petrochemicals (among them, cancer-causing benzene and benzene derivatives). This limited testing confirmed that the toxic contamination was, in fact, *site-wide* — probably from decades of military aircraft maintenance and operations at the former El Toro Marine Corps airbase, involving the dumping of vast quantities of fuels and solvents into the ground at what is now the Portola High School site. Unfortunately, the testing was too limited to locate the specific sources of highest concentrations of toxics. They may be under the school buildings which, unfortunately, weren't tested. This, of course, poses the possibility of a clear and present danger of toxic intrusion into the new buildings, where teachers, staff and students would be put at risk.

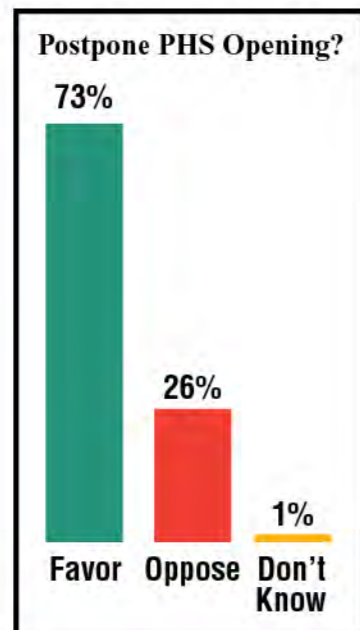
We know of no other school in California that was built and opened under such problematic circumstances, with so many questions about health and safety unanswered.

So, last month we activated our Irvine Community Poll, asking our readers: *What Do You Think? Do you favor or oppose postponing the August opening of Portola High School until the source(s) of site-wide toxic contamination can be determined and we can be certain that the High School is safe?* Hundreds responded, and here are the results and a representative sample of written comments we've received. - FJL

Irvine Community Poll Results – June, 2016

What Do YOU Think?

Do you favor or oppose postponing the August opening of Portola High School until the source(s) of site-wide toxic contamination can be determined and we can be certain that the High School is safe?



Comments and Letters

■ This is truly a shame that IUSD is willing to put hundreds of kids this year and thousands of kids to come in danger's way. I have two little ones who are years away from high school. That said, we live in Woodbury and our kids will likely be assigned to go to Portola High School. For this reason, my husband and I have been seriously thinking about moving to Tustin. This makes me sad. I grew up in Irvine and went to middle school and high school in Irvine. But as much as I love this City, nothing is more important than my kids' health. We simply will not risk the safety of our kids.

—Michelle Chen

■ The [petro]chemicals still present on this piece of property are not safe for human beings. How the School Board ever got this far with this project is beyond me. It is not like they didn't know that jet fuel and other contaminants were not present. I am not a chemist, but I lived here long before they closed El Toro Marine Base, and I knew there were carcinogens left from the cleaning of jets and the dumping of fuels. Don't we care about our children in this City?

—Ellen Jones

■ IUSD's claim that recycled water supplied by the Irvine Ranch Water District is responsible for the site-wide petrochemical contaminants at the Portola High School site is preposterous and insulting to Irvine residents. Have these people no shame?

—Edward S. Pope

■ I will be the first to contact my lawyer if my child has to go to a high school where testing shows contamination. My child's safety and the safety of all people should be the number one priority. The School Board will have a much bigger money issue if they decide to willingly risk the safety of our children. We did not spend over a million dollars for a house to have our children poisoned.

—Laila Mousavi

■ My daughter is too important to risk for the City and IUSD to save face. She would be going to Portola High School in its second year. I plan to move before I allow her health to be put at risk. My daughter will not attend that school, and I encourage others to do the same for their children.

—Angeline Schroeder

■ The Portola High School site should have been scientifically and thoroughly tested by an independent environmental testing consultant before this high school was ever built.

—Maria Baur

■ The opening of this school could directly affect the health of our community, putting young developing children at risk of long-term medical issues. I fully believe that the opening of the school should be postponed until we are 100% positive that there are no risks. I would not send my child to this school, or work at this site, until its safety is assured by an independent third party.

—Samantha Christian

■ Are you kidding? What part of putting our kids in a site-wide toxic contamination area, daily, can be a safe thing?

—Annie Gronau

■ I grew up on what was El Toro MCAS from 1974-1989. I've buried most (80%) of my friends I grew up with there. We've all suffered from major health issues our whole lives. Most died from cancer, while the few of us who somehow remain suffer from severe neurological issues, such as multiple sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease, fibromyalgia, seizures, skin cancer, rectal cancer, etc. All this before any of us reached the age of 30.

—Lisa Keener

■ To open Portola High School with children exposed to known toxins is pure evil at its worst.

—Jane An

■ If there are toxic chemicals on the school site, why would the question of postponement even be an issue? How can you occupy a toxic site with children? Come to your senses, IUSD!!

—Michele Garcia

■ I think it's difficult to assess this situation because "some level" of chemical contamination is apparently normal or safe in ground soil. That is what one toxicologist/scientist friend of mine has told me. Is one side over-reacting or is the other in denial and defending a really poor decision? I honestly don't know, and accept that I don't know how to know. But surely it's not THAT DIFFICULT to determine if the levels found are truly dangerous or not....Let's get on with this.

—Marilyn Smith

■ Better safe than sorry. The City of Irvine should have never allowed things to come to this point. The Mayor and his supporters will not be here when children start to get sick many years later.

—Shaikh Hussain

■ It is pretty obvious that the contamination on the Portola High School site came from the El Toro Marine Corps airbase that was there for years. This has been a known problem from back when they wanted to build an International Airport in this area. When will common sense prevail??

—Ken McEwan

■ I would NEVER send my kids to Portola High School. I have a friend that previously worked on the site when it was part of the military base and he personally dumped chemicals at the end of the runway. There is no way this site is ever going to be safe enough for our children.

—Bryn Mathison

■ We ought to be certain before having our kids step into that school. Who are we joking here?! Come on people, put politics aside and let's focus on our kids' health as our top priority.

—Lei Jiang

■ I originally thought the IUSD Board was wrong in their decision but not because of deliberate disregard for the Portola High School population. But, now that they are blaming IRWD as the cause, I'm forced to believe that they have become dangerous in their commitment to covering their a**es. We are flirting with a tragedy.

—Janis Morris

■ Irvine Community News & Views was at least partially responsible for the additional testing mandated this Spring by the State of California, after DTSC had previously concluded that the Portola site was safe. I believe in fair play, and may I remind you that you shouldn't insist on additional scientific testing, and then decide you don't accept the results.

—Jim Druding

■ If the agencies say it's safe, it's safe. Stop scaring residents.

—Henry Cahill

■ The concerns are overblown, emotional, ignorant and so exaggerated that they lose credibility when viewed critically and objectively. Some people just live scared. Our air is a far greater threat than the soil at Portola, unless the kids are going to eat that soil.

—Mike Anderson

You can now register online in a matter of minutes!

registertovote.ca.gov

Register to Vote Today!

One Breath = 12 Trillion Molecules

The recent soil-gas test wells at Portola High School revealed that most of the 40-acre school site is apparently contaminated with benzene and benzene derivatives. This is very bad news. But the IUSD consultant and the DTSC claim that the exposure is at "low" levels, so don't worry. They've got to be kidding. Here are the facts: Benzene is a Volatile Organic Compound or VOC. This means it can (and does) vaporize — and we breathe it. Even in minute airborne quantities, exposure to benzene is dangerous. The World Health Organization says in a paper entitled *Exposure To Benzene: A Major Public Health Concern (2010)*, "No specific guideline value has been developed for air. Benzene is carcinogenic to humans, and no safe level of exposure can be recommended." Benzene causes leukemia and all kinds of serious blood and bone marrow disorders.

Consider this: If you take a normal breath of approximately 0.5 liter of air, even if the benzene level is just 1 part per *billion*, you still are inhaling **12 trillion benzene molecules**. Any first semester high school chemistry student can do the math and verify my calculation. And any biochemistry student can tell you that exposure day after day to even "low" levels of benzene will damage thousands of students, teachers, and staff at Portola High School for decades to come.

For the record, here are my calculations: 0.5 liter = 1.2 x 10²² molecules of air at 25°C. (77°F.) At 1 part per billion, that calculates to 1.2 x 10²² molecules divided by 1,000,000,000 = 1.2 x 10¹³ or 12 *trillion molecules* of benzene with each breath of air.

—Harvey Liss

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.

(Advertisement)

AN OPEN LETTER FROM MARY ANN GAIDO

MARY ANN
GAIDO



Why I Am Running for Mayor of Irvine

For the past four years in Irvine, the Mayor and City Council have rubber-stamped every proposal from developers for thousands of new houses and apartments, while at the same time they've ignored the damaging effects on our existing villages and neighborhoods. If you have any doubt about this, just consider the traffic mess they've created throughout Irvine.

I believe now is the time for new leadership and a new direction. We must not lose track of the local issues that matter most. **We must restore meaning, purpose and value to our mature City as we enter a new stage of planning.** To lose track of such important issues because of developer pressure is to lose track of who we really are and where we are really going. We must elect a Mayor with the strength to stand up to developers and other special interests.

I am intimately familiar with Irvine's history. **I have lived, learned, worked and played here since the idea of a new Master-designed City was just a visionary dream, a big idea for something better than what had come before.** It's been my honor to serve the people of Irvine as a City Councilmember and as a long-time Planning Commissioner. I've led our City in the careful planning of each and every village and park in Irvine, and in the preservation of our beautiful open space and wilderness areas.

Now, I'm ready to continue my public service...guiding the City's future planning...this time as your Mayor. I would be honored to have your support and your vote.

Mary Ann Gaido

P.S. If you believe the people of Irvine should be in control, please visit my website — www.MaryAnnGaido.com