



## Publisher's Perspective

### Two Issues Now at a Critical Stage

When we first began publishing *Irvine Community News & Views* in 2014, we focused our attention on two important issues — advocacy for a beautiful Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park; and advocacy for strong City growth-control policies to curb developer-driven runaway growth. **Both issues are now at a critical stage.**

**>> Veterans Cemetery.** Since 2014, the City has made great progress in realizing a shared dream — the establishment of a 125-acre Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in Irvine's 1300-acre Great Park. With City support, followed by State and Federal approval, the project is now on the Federal "Priority List." **The Veterans Cemetery could be built and operational by Veterans Day, 2019.** However, Mayor Donald Wagner and Councilmember Christina Shea are leading a cynical effort — promoting a "land-swap" scheme to move the Veterans Cemetery **out of the Great Park** and turn over the land to developer FivePoint Communities for private development and private profit. We cover the story from a number of angles on pages 1-3, including an **Irvine Community Poll** question, asking what **YOU** think.

**Take our Poll at:**  
[IrvineCommunityNews.org/vetcemetery](http://IrvineCommunityNews.org/vetcemetery)

**>> Runaway Growth.** The second critical issue — threatening our entire community — is Council-approved runaway growth and development that is wrecking the City's General Plan, and choking the City with traffic congestion. In our April **Irvine Community Poll**, we asked residents what they thought. Take a look at the near-unanimous public opinion reported on pages 10 and 11, and the comments that reflect an anger and intensity never before seen.

*Franklin J. Lunding*



Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor

## Progress Toward Veterans Cemetery

# Partial Victory in Key Battle to Fund Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park



*With new State funding, the Southern California Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery at the Great Park could soon be built and operational.*

**Initially approved by the Irvine City Council and State Legislature in 2014, the planned Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park is now on the federally-approved "Priority List" for funding and construction. With State and local funding, the officially designated Southern California Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery — on a 125-acre site within the Great Park — could be built and operational by Veterans Day, 2019.**

**M**ost Irvine City Council meetings are routine. Some involve important City business. And, every once in a while a Council meeting marks an historic turning point. The April 4th City Council meeting — and its aftermath — may have been just such a history-making event.

In a bold move to quickly gain the final State and Federal go-ahead for construction of the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery on 125 acres within the Great Park, **Councilmember Jeff Lalloway** put on the agenda a proposal that the City Council authorize the expenditure of up to \$40 million in available Great Park development funds — enough to fund half of the estimated costs to construct Phase One of the project. **Lalloway's motion set a goal of having the Veterans Cemetery operational by Veterans Day, 2019, just 30 months from now.**

Under the Lalloway plan, the other half of the funding — up to \$40 million — would be

expected to come from the State of California. In a letter to the Irvine City Council, Orange County Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, who gained initial State approval of the project in 2014, has pledged to work with her colleagues in the Legislature and with Governor Jerry Brown to secure the necessary State funds.

The April 4th Council meeting took place in a crowded City Council Chamber. After more than two hours of public testimony and nearly an hour of City Council discussion, the Council voted 3-to-2 for Councilman Lalloway's motion. Lalloway and Councilmembers Lynn Schott and Melissa Fox voted YES, while Councilmember Christina Shea and Mayor Donald Wagner voted NO.

**Then, in a bizarre twist, moments after the historic motion was approved, Councilmember Melissa Fox, who had spoken in favor of Lalloway's**

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motion and had just voted YES, asked for “reconsideration” of the vote.

Whether it was spontaneous — or the result of pressure from Mayor Wagner, or from Councilmember Christina Shea and lobbyists for developer FivePoint Communities — Fox said out loud that she was “confused,” and then asked for help in cobbling together her own motion, which was pretty much a restatement of Lalloway’s motion. **However, Fox added a provision directing City staff to explore a “second track” for the Veterans Cemetery.** Specifically, she asked that City staff be directed to meet with representatives from development company FivePoint Communities to discuss their controversial “land-swap” proposal, which Councilmember Shea has been pushing for more than a year.

The “land-swap,” which some have derided as a “land swindle,” involves moving the Veterans Cemetery to an entirely different and smaller site near the Irvine Train Station, while giving the 125-acre site in the Great Park to FivePoint for future private development and private profit.

**Councilmember Lalloway repeatedly attacked the “land-swap” proposal as a thinly veiled entitlement scheme, which would result in FivePoint getting development rights to build 1,500 or even 2,000 new residential units on the 125-acre property, effectively reducing the size of the 1,300-acre Great Park by about 10 percent. And, of course, the Great Park would be without the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery, the Great Park’s “most important feature,” according to Lalloway.**

Experts have estimated the “land-swap” entitlement, and subsequent land sales to residential builders, could be worth many hundreds of millions of dollars to developer FivePoint Communities.

Lalloway referred to Fox’s inclusion of the alternative “land-swap” provision in her motion as a “poison pill” that would send a mixed-message to the Legislature and Governor, and could jeopardize Irvine’s chances of getting State funds for the City’s originally designated 125-acre Great Park site.

Finally, Fox’s motion passed, 3-to-2, with Councilmembers Lalloway and Schott voting NO.

In the days after the meeting, Lalloway conferred with Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, who expressed confidence she could still win State funding approval for the Veterans Cemetery site in the Great Park. Another good sign was Governor Jerry Brown’s announcement that he wanted to visit the City’s designated Great Park site for the Veterans Cemetery, soon.

Meanwhile, in a further effort to derail the Veterans Cemetery, Councilmember Christina Shea sent a letter to the Governor, attacking the 125-acre Great Park Veterans Cemetery site, and pressing Brown to consider the “land-swap” deal being pushed by developer FivePoint Communities.

According to reports emanating from Sacramento, FivePoint president and CEO Emile Haddad, as well as other FivePoint officials and their team of lobbyists, have been walking the halls of the State Capitol, meeting with officials in the Governor’s office and key leaders in the Legislature — all in an effort to kill the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park by killing State funding for the project. [ICNV](#)



Mayor Wagner and Councilmember Shea teamed-up to push the FivePoint “land-swap.”

**Are Irvine’s City Council Meetings Rigged?** by Angelo Vassos

As the principal staff photographer for *Irvine Community News & Views (ICNV)*, I was assigned to get some good photographs of the April 4th City Council meeting at City Hall. The big issue on the meeting agenda was Councilman Jeff Lalloway’s proposal to commit up to \$40 million from the \$300 million Great Park development fund in order to expedite construction of the 125-acre Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in the Great Park.

As a veteran myself, I had planned to attend the meeting anyway to testify in favor of the State and Federally-approved Veterans Cemetery, which I did.

**As the hearing on the Veterans Cemetery wore on, I noticed something peculiar about the behavior of the Mayor and other Councilmembers at the dais — they seemed to be more interested in receiving and sending text messages than in paying attention to the many citizens who came to the meeting and testified.**

Here is something else I noticed: Mayor Donald Wagner and two Councilmembers — Christina Shea and Melissa Fox — seemed to be furiously text-messaging with certain people in the audience,

including Patrick Strader, who is the chief political operative and lobbyist for FivePoint Communities, the development company that has been trying to derail the Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park. (This is the same company, under the leadership of its president and CEO, Emile Haddad, that organized and bankrolled a \$1.5 million campaign in 2016 to smear other candidates and elect Don Wagner mayor and re-elect Councilwoman Christina Shea.)

As for Councilmember Melissa Fox, at a critical point in the meeting, she was obviously so mixed up and distracted by all the texting that she first voted for the Lalloway \$40 million Great Park Veterans Cemetery proposal, which passed 3-to-2 (Wagner and Shea voted NO) but then, moments later, she asked to “reconsider” her vote. Apparently, she was receiving text messages with instructions to present a new motion that included direction to City staff to also explore a “second track” for the Veterans Cemetery — a complicated “land-swap” scheme with developer FivePoint Communities. The “land-swap” scheme, pushed by Councilmember Christina Shea and Mayor Donald Wagner, would move the Veterans



Texting, not listening.

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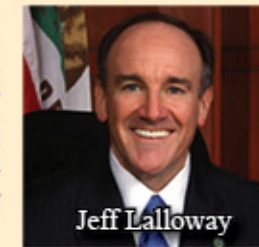
**CityWatch** by Larry Agran\*



Well, it looks like 2017 is going to be a “make-or-break” year for the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in the Great Park. Just three years ago, in 2014 when I was in my last year as an Irvine City Councilmember, I was proud to offer the Council resolution — unanimously supported — to have the City designate 125 acres within the Great Park (about 10 percent of the entire Great Park) for a Veterans Cemetery.

This generous City action, in turn, enabled Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva — then Chair of the State Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee — to win legislative approval that officially provided State support for the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park. The combined City and State action led to a plan and design for the Veterans Cemetery; followed by an on-time application for approval by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and now a position on the “Priority List” for Federal funding.

But how could we accelerate the actual funding and construction of the Veterans Cemetery? Here’s where leadership matters. Councilmember Jeff Lalloway began working with Assemblywoman



Jeff Lalloway



Lynn Schott

Sharon Quirk-Silva to develop a funding plan: The City would pledge to put up half of the funds to build the \$77 million Veterans Cemetery — roughly \$40 million from the more than \$250 million Great Park development fund; and Silva pledged she would work to have the State match the City’s effort.

**Lalloway’s proposal made it through the Council on April 4th, but not before Councilmember Christina Shea and Mayor Donald Wagner did everything in their power to derail it — and Councilmember Melissa Fox added language that inexplicably kept a “land-swap” proposal alive as a possible “second track” alternative site for the Veterans Cemetery.**

Lalloway repeatedly noted that the “land-swap” was simply a land-and-entitlement grab worth hundreds of millions of dollars — it would enable developer FivePoint Communities to build 1,500 or even 2,000 more homes on the hallowed 125 acres that, in 2014, had been designated for the Veterans Cemetery.

Councilmember Lynn Schott, soft-spoken yet articulate and logical, noted that it was important to remain on course and build the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, as planned.

As I watched Shea and Wagner doing everything they could to promote the interests of developer FivePoint Communities and their allies, I actually found the spectacle sickening. These are the same developers that spent well over \$1 million to elect Wagner and re-elect Shea just last November.

\*Larry Agran is a former Irvine City Councilmember and a public interest attorney. He served as Mayor of Irvine for six years in the 1980s and, again, from 2000-2004.

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Patrick Strader (upper left) and associates

Cemetery out of the Great Park and give FivePoint new entitlement for development. This could include as many as 2,000 additional houses on what is now the City-owned 125 acres of land in the Great Park, designated in 2014 for a Veterans Cemetery.

The new Fox motion appeared to be offered at the behest of FivePoint Communities. Fox’s “second track” motion was labeled a “poison pill” by Councilmember Jeff Lalloway, who said that it could jeopardize State and Federal funding for the Veterans Cemetery. Fox’s motion passed, 3-to-2; Councilmembers Jeff Lalloway and Lynn Schott voted NO.

**Many who favored the 125-acre Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in the Great Park left the City Council meeting angry and disgusted. Public hearings are for the benefit of the public in our local democracy. The idea is that we all listen to one another at the same time, in full public view, and then there is a public vote. But, instead, what is going on now is incessant text-messaging between Councilmembers.**

**This may be a violation of California’s Brown Act, the State “open meetings” law that bars Councilmembers from secretly orchestrating or rigging the outcome of a public vote on a City Council agenda.**

**Also, it appears that the Mayor and Councilmembers — during a City Council hearing — are getting secret, texted instructions from lobbyists and others telling them what to do. To me and to many Irvine citizens, Wagner, Shea and Fox appeared to be shills for developer FivePoint Communities and their chief political operative at the meeting, Patrick Strader.**

I hope we’re going to get the full story of what really happened at the April 4th City Council meeting. I was happy to learn some days after the meeting that Dr. Harvey Liss, an Irvine citizen-activist and ICNV investigative journalist who was also present at the meeting, has submitted an official, written Public Records Act request — requesting a printed record of all the text messages sent and received by Mayor Wagner and City Councilmembers Christina Shea and Melissa Fox during the 4-hour City Council hearing on the Veterans Cemetery issue.

Let’s see what Dr. Liss learns in the weeks ahead — I hope and trust that whatever it is, he will share it with the public.

For once, wouldn’t it be wonderful if Shea and Wagner stood up for Irvine residents and American veterans, and put our interests ahead of yet another land-entitlement giveaway to FivePoint Communities, further enriching their big-bucks campaign donors.

That’s something to think about as the most solemn of American holidays approaches, Memorial Day, when we honor all who served but especially those who, in President Lincoln’s words, “gave the last full measure of devotion” to our country.

Here in Irvine, let’s devote ourselves to rejecting developer-driven “land-swaps” and other get-rich-quick entitlement schemes. Instead, let’s push forward to put the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery where it belongs — *in the Great Park...and as soon as possible!*

**What Do YOU Think?**

**Do you favor keeping the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery on the 125-acre site in the Great Park, as planned?**

**Take the Irvine Community Poll at: [IrvineCommunityNews.org/vetcemetery](http://IrvineCommunityNews.org/vetcemetery)**



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<p><b>AMTRAK TRAIN STATION</b> Barranca Pkwy &amp; Ada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amtrak Train Station/Entrance</li> </ul>	<p><b>IRVINE AUTO CENTER</b> Norm Reeves Honda</p>	<p><b>SAND CANYON PLAZA</b> Sand Canyon &amp; Irvine Center Dr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irvine Bicycles • Starbucks</li> <li>Oak Creek Pet Hospital</li> <li>Sand Canyon Barber</li> </ul>
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<p><b>CAMPUS PLAZA</b> Campus &amp; California</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albertsons • Gina's Pizza</li> <li>Hen House Grill • Vitality Bowls</li> </ul>	<p><b>IRVINE VILLAGE CENTER</b> Jeffrey &amp; Irvine Center Dr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Nail Bar • Heaven Spa &amp; Salon</li> <li>Irvine Valley Animal Hospital</li> <li>Thai Spice</li> </ul>	<p><b>UNIVERSITY PARK CENTER</b> Culver &amp; Michelson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ameci Pizza &amp; Pasta</li> <li>Mag's Donuts &amp; Bakery</li> <li>Tacos &amp; Co. • The Shoe Clinic</li> </ul>
<p><b>CROSSROADS</b> Culver &amp; Barranca</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paradise Bowls • Floyd's Barbershop</li> <li>The Joint Chiropractic</li> </ul>	<p><b>NORTHPARK PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER</b> Culver &amp; Irvine Blvd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Champagne French Bakery Cafe</li> </ul>	<p><b>UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTER</b> Campus Dr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>California Gogi - Korean Grill • Eureka!</li> <li>Ray's Pizza - New York Style</li> <li>Yushoken - Izakaya &amp; Ramen</li> </ul>
<p><b>CULVER PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER</b> Culver &amp; Irvine Center Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ</li> <li>Postal Annex • The Car Spa</li> </ul>	<p><b>OAK CREEK SHOPPING CENTER</b> Jeffrey &amp; Alton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daphne's Greek Cafe</li> <li>Gelson's • Jack's Surfboards</li> <li>Upper Crust Pizza</li> <li>Maizuru Sushi Bar - Japanese Restaurant</li> <li>Mustard Cafe</li> <li>Orange Theory Fitness</li> </ul>	<p><b>THE VILLAGE AT IRVINE SPECTRUM CENTER</b> Prism &amp; Spectrum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starbucks • Village Market</li> </ul>
<p><b>CYPRESS VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER</b> Jeffrey &amp; Trabuco</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albertsons • Olive Oil Mediterranean Grill • Honey Pig</li> <li>Da Luau Hawaiian Grill</li> </ul>	<p><b>OLD MYFORD ROAD &amp; IRVINE BLVD.</b> Katie Wheeler Library</p>	<p><b>WALNUT VILLAGE CENTER</b> Culver &amp; Walnut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curves/Jenny Craig</li> <li>Starbucks Coffee</li> <li>Yes Cleaners</li> </ul>
<p><b>DIAMOND JAMBOREE</b> Alton &amp; Jamboree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower Level - Food Court Seating</li> <li>Square Room Escape • Tokyo Table</li> </ul>	<p><b>OLD TOWN IRVINE</b> Sand Canyon &amp; 5 Fwy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowlwood • Denny's</li> </ul>	<p><b>WESTPARK PLAZA</b> Alton &amp; Culver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albertsons • Dickey's Barbeque Pit</li> <li>Starbucks Coffee</li> <li>Sprouts Farmers Market</li> </ul>
<p><b>HARVARD &amp; MICHELSON</b> Irvine Lanes</p>	<p><b>ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE CENTER</b> Culver &amp; Portola</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Cleaners</li> <li>Peet's Coffee &amp; Tea</li> </ul>	<p><b>WOODBURGE MEDICAL CENTER</b> Barranca &amp; Woodbridge Square</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woodbridge Walk-In Urgent Care</li> </ul>
<p><b>HARVARD PLACE</b> Harvard &amp; Main</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Einstein Brothers Bagels • Fresh Brothers</li> <li>Jamba Juice • Poqet Donuts</li> <li>Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D.</li> <li>Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition</li> <li>Honeymee Ice Cream Ralphs</li> <li>Rubio's • Togo's Great Sandwiches</li> </ul>	<p><b>2 OSBORN ST.</b> East Yale Loop &amp; Barranca</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. John Pasko, DDS</li> <li>Dr. Ghatnekar, DDS</li> </ul>	<p><b>WOODBURGE VILLAGE CENTER</b> Barranca &amp; Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Champagne French Bakery Cafe</li> <li>Irvine Car Wash</li> </ul>
<p><b>HERITAGE PARK</b> Walnut &amp; Yale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heritage Park Regional Library</li> </ul>	<p><b>PARK PLACE</b> Michelson &amp; Jamboree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Dry Lounge • Starbucks</li> <li>Xpress Mailboxes</li> </ul>	<p><b>WOODBURY TOWN CENTER</b> Sand Canyon &amp; Irvine Blvd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GNC • NIKO NIKO Sushi</li> <li>Ralphs • Rock n' Road Cyclery</li> </ul>
<p><b>HERITAGE PLAZA</b> Culver &amp; Walnut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caffe Bene • Caspian Restaurant</li> <li>Super Irvine International Market</li> <li>Ralphs</li> </ul>	<p><b>PARKVIEW CENTER</b> University &amp; Michelson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AIM Mail Centers - Postal Annex</li> <li>Dr. Sarlitt, Dr. Vo - Optometry</li> <li>Maxwell's Salon of London</li> <li>Pho-Tasia</li> </ul>	

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# Community Calendar

# May/June 2017



The annual High School Art Exhibition is May 5-26 at the Irvine Fine Arts Center, with an opening reception from 4 to 6 p.m. and a poetry "slam" from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 5.

The multimedia show features original artwork – including drawings, paintings, photography, printmaking, digital media, sculpture, and ceramics – produced by students from Irvine high schools. Faculty from local high schools submitted students' artwork to Irvine Fine Arts Center staff, who selected the final pieces to display. The show is juried by Rachelle W. Chuang, who chose the top three works of art to receive prizes, as well as up to five honorable mentions. Rachelle is an artist, designer, educator, curator, and tutor who has taught the arts at various institutions – including the Irvine Fine Arts Center – for more than nine years.

Admission and parking are free. The Irvine Fine Arts Center is located inside Heritage Community Park at 14321 Yale Ave.

For more information, call: 949-724-6880.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																				
<p><b>1</b> Celebrate Cultures in Nature. Walpurgis Night. Black Star Canyon Wilderness Park. 6:30-8:30pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p><b>2</b> Sew with International Crafters. Lakeview Senior Center. 1-4pm. Free. Info: 949-724-6900</p>	<p><b>3</b> Bunco at the Rancho Senior Center. First Wednesdays. 12:30-3pm. \$5. Info: 949-724-6800</p>	<p><b>4</b> Evening Hike. Orchard Hills. 6:30-8:30pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p><b>5</b> High School Art Exhibition. Irvine Fine Arts Center. 4-8pm. Info: 949-724-6880</p>	<p><b>6</b> Artisanal Crafters Workshop: Bath Soaps. Great Park Artist Studios. 9:30-11:30pm. \$62/Ages 16+ Info: events@ocgp.org</p>	<p><b>7</b> Irvine Junior Games. Irvine Stadium. 9am-6pm. Info: IrvineJuniorGames.org</p>	<p><b>8</b> Longevity Stick. Rancho Senior Center. 10-11am. Free. Info: 949-724-6800</p>	<p><b>9</b> City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6233</p>	<p><b>10</b> Mid-Week Hike. Agua Chion and The Sinks. Irvine Open Space Preserve. 8-1pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p><b>11</b> Abbit the Average. Comedy-Magic Juggling Show. Heritage Park Library. 6:30-7:30pm. Free. Info: 949-936-4040</p>	<p><b>12</b> Senior Striders. Trabuco Senior Center. 8:30-9:30am. Free. Info: 949-724-7300</p>	<p><b>13</b> STEAMPORT. Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math for Kids. University Park Library. 3:30pm. For 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders. Info: 949-786-4001</p>	<p><b>14</b> Mother's Day Dessert and Paint Night. Great Park Artist Studios. 3-5pm. Registration Required. Info: events@ocgp.org</p>	<p><b>15</b> Mad Lib Club. Katie Wheeler Library. 4-5pm. For 4th and 5th graders. Info: 714-669-8753</p>	<p><b>16</b> International Discussion Group. Rancho Senior Center. 9:30-11:20am. Free. Info: 949-724-6800</p>	<p><b>17</b> Community Services Commission. City Council Chamber. 5:30pm. Info: 949-724-6682</p>	<p><b>18</b> Philosophy Group. University Park Library. 10:30am-12pm. Info: 949-786-4001</p>	<p><b>19</b> Better Birding Basics: Migrating Birds. Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. 8-11am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p><b>20</b> Garden Workshops. The Power of Perennials. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Free/Ages 12+ Info: urbanagriculture@ocgp.org</p>	<p><b>21</b> Farmers Market + Yoga. OC Great Park Palm Court. 9:30-10:30am. \$9/Ages 13+ Info: 866-829-3829</p>	<p><b>22</b> Homework Help. Heritage Park Library. 4:30-5:30pm. For 2nd to 8th graders. Info: 949-936-4040</p>	<p><b>23</b> City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6233</p>	<p><b>24</b> Earthquake Resilience of California's Water Distribution System &amp; Extreme Event. Beckman Center, Irvine. 4:30-9pm. Free. Registration Required. Info: 949-721-2200</p>	<p><b>25</b> Thursday Morning Trek. Quail Hill. 8-11:30am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p>	<p><b>26</b> Friday Movie Matinee. Trabuco Senior Center. 2pm. Free. Info: 949-724-7300</p>	<p><b>27</b> Imagination Celebration. Drawing Cartoons with Thomas N. Perkins IV. Great Park Artist Studios. 1-3pm. Free. Info: 866-829-3829</p>
<p><b>28</b> Creation Station. Great Park Artist Studios. 10am-4pm. Free/All Ages. Info: cityofirvine.org</p>	<p><b>29</b> Memorial Day Ceremony. Bill Barber Memorial Park. 10am. Info: 949-724-6715</p>	<p><b>30</b> Comedy Juice. Improv Irvine Spectrum. 8pm. Tickets \$10/Ages 18+ Info:</p>	<p><b>31</b> IECSA Tai Chi. Lakeview Senior Center. 3-5pm. \$20/4-month session. Info: 949-724-6900</p>	<p><b>1</b> Live Music at Eureka! Campus Drive, Irvine. 11am-Midnight. Info: 949-596-8881</p>	<p><b>2</b> Social Tap Dance. Rancho Senior Center. 3-5pm. Free. Info: 949-724-6800</p>	<p><b>3</b> Artisanal Crafters Workshop: Macrame. Great Park Artist Studio. 9:30-11:30am. \$62/Ages 16+ Info: 866-829-3829</p>																				

## 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 abused animals every year. All animals in their care receive veterinary care, high-quality food, soft bedding and daily socialization.



"August" is a spayed female, brown tabby and white Domestic Longhair cat. She is about 14 years old.

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



## Strawberry Tours at Tanaka Farms

This is a one-hour long, wagon ride around the farm. Our tour guides will talk to you about our farming methods and history and you will see how fruits & vegetables grow. Throughout the tour, you will sample many fruits and vegetables that are in season. The last stop on this tour is in the strawberry patch where you can pick and eat strawberries! Each paying person will take home a one pound basket of strawberries!

Saturday-Sunday – Walk-on Tours available every half hour from 9:30-2:30. No reservation is needed (unless booking a group rate).

Monday-Friday – reservations are required. To make reservations call (949) 653-2100 ext. 204 or email reservations@tanakafarms.com



# Child Health & Safety by Phyllis Agran, M.D. A School Nurse for Every School!

As a practicing pediatrician, I long ago learned about the wonderful work that school nurses do every day to improve the lives of children and families. For example:

- > A school nurse quickly intervened after discovering that a child with diabetes could not afford her medication, so she was using another family member's medicine, until there was no more and the girl was in a diabetic crisis.
- > Another child had an allergic reaction to peanuts that required immediate attention by a school nurse.
- > A school nurse, who just happened to be at one of her three schools that day, saved the life of a child whose heart stopped, by performing immediate CPR.

There is no doubt that a full-time, professionally trained school nurse benefits students, parents, teachers and the entire community by not only providing immediate interventions to address medical crises, but also by getting to know students and their families — helping to provide health education and ensure optimum healthcare.

I'm a member of Irvine Unified School District's (IUSD) Medical Advisory Committee. At a recent meeting, IUSD school nurse Maria Otramba commented on what a difference it has made to families, children and staff now that she is a full-time nurse assigned to just one school, Meadow Park Elementary School in Irvine. According to Otramba, "If we're assigned to cover three schools, we move on

to a new school each day, with new fires to put out." Clearly, the one-nurse, one-school formula provides for optimum outcomes.

Just consider the enormous responsibilities of a school nurse. She/He is responsible for acute interventions, health surveillance, chronic disease management, emergency preparedness, behavioral health, health education, extensive case management, and doing what is needed to promote daily school attendance.

In her first year, school nurse Maria Otramba was astonished by the magnitude of severe food allergies among the students, many requiring emergency epinephrine injections. The second year she focused on the full extent of mental health issues in our schools and the work that's needed to be done to connect the school, community pediatricians, and mental health professionals to secure timely mental health services for individual students. Now in her third year, Otramba is determined to make the entire Irvine community aware of the complexity of medical issues and needs facing so many Irvine children and families.

As the number of children with special medical and educational needs increases, it becomes critical that we support our school nurses. Teachers can focus on teaching, while school nurses focus on health issues that impair learning.

The American Academy of Pediatrics advocates for school staffing that provides for one full-time professional school nurse in every school. This is a remarkably effective way to promote and ensure good academic outcomes, as well as good health. (You can read the AAP policy at: <https://shar.es/1FfFXc>).

Measure BB, a local initiative authored by my husband, former Irvine Mayor Larry Agran; signed by 18,000 Irvine voters to qualify for the ballot; and approved by 70 percent of Irvine voters in 2012, provided City funds to significantly increase the number of school nurses in Irvine. While the City Council continues to support the provisions of Measure BB, local pediatricians stand ready to advocate that Irvine move toward an important goal that can be summed up quite simply: **One-Nurse, One-School — A School Nurse for Every School!**



## What Do YOU Think?

Would you favor increasing the number of full-time school nurses in Irvine to meet the national goal of: "One-Nurse, One-School — A School Nurse for Every School!"

Take The School Nurses Poll:  
[IrvineCommunityNews.org/SchoolNurses](http://IrvineCommunityNews.org/SchoolNurses)

*\*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.*



Turtle Rock open space (corner of Turtle Rock Dr. & Sycamore Creek), Spring 2017.

Photos by: Jake Jacobs — taken with an iPhone



CULTURECORNER by Marilyn Vassos\*

# CultureCorner: A Whale of a Tale

You may have asked yourself what happened to A Whale of a Tale Children's Bookshoppe that, for many years,

was located at the UCI Town Center, across from UCI. Did it swim away? Was it captured by Moby Dick? Or, was its new home Sea World in San Diego?

Rest assured, A Whale of a Tale can be found at Irvine Oak Plaza, right here in Irvine — at the corner of Alton and Laguna Canyon.

Yes, Alexandra Uhl is still the owner, and she is as excited as ever about children reading books. I visited Alex at the bookstore, and I just didn't want to leave — I wanted to read each and every book that was there. I'm not alone. Alex tells me that many adults also buy (for themselves) the books that are written for a range of readers

— from preschoolers to teenagers and young adults. Just looking at the art on the book jackets is enough to make you want to sit, open the books, and enjoy all the adventures that await you.

Alex continues to host a variety of children's books authors. In the past she has hosted former First Lady Laura Bush, J.K. Rowling of Harry Potter fame, Oscar-winning actresses Julie Andrews and Julianne Moore, as well as Jamie Lee Curtis. Although Alex likes her location (she has been there since 2013), she told me that some of her most joyful years were when the store was at UCI Town Center.

When I asked how she chooses the books that fill the shelves, Alex said that she receives study lists from the publishers and pores through advance copies of many books. She even has a book, *I Dissent — Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*, by Debbie Levy. Although

the books she selects are for the younger set to read, I know that Irvine grownups are sure to find many of the books interesting, too.

When I asked Alex about the future for A Whale of a Tale at this the new Irvine Oak Plaza location, she responded, "I'm not ready to retire. I love being here, and will be here as long as I'm standing. I would like to continue to serve the community, providing our public schools, libraries and families with

wonderful reading opportunities."

Stop by A Whale of a Tale, located at 16277 Laguna Canyon, Suite G, in the Irvine Oak Plaza (Alton at Laguna Canyon). Phone: 949-854-8288. Bring your kids and grandkids. Although there is nothing that matches the actual in-store browsing experience, you can also "visit" this wonderful, independent Irvine bookstore online at: [www.awhaleofatale.com](http://www.awhaleofatale.com).



Alexandra Uhl, owner of A Whale of a Tale Bookshoppe

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

Attention Irvine Residents! If you haven't already done so, please sign the Irvine 2017 Safe Schools Petition — to ensure that all Irvine schools are safe from toxic contamination, beginning with Portola High School. Your signature can help make the difference!

Sign NOW at: [irvinecommunitynews.org/safe-schools-2](http://irvinecommunitynews.org/safe-schools-2)

We, the undersigned, call upon the Irvine School Board and the Irvine City Council to conduct comprehensive, independent and conscientious testing of the Portola High School site — both site-wide soil-gas testing and continuous air monitoring inside the buildings — for toxic Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs, such as benzene, benzene derivatives, and toluene) that have already been found in previous, limited tests on the 40-acre site.

This renewed and expanded testing, along with aggressive remediation efforts, can help ensure that the Portola High School site is — and always will be — a safe site for teachers, staff, students, and the entire Irvine community.

- A Lee • Aadra Lee • Aaron M. DeGroot • Ahmed Zahran • Albert Lee • Alex Wang • Alfred Newman • Alfredo Perez • Alisa Kim • Alysha Gosse • An Tran • Andy Ho • Angel Lee • Angie Chang • Anh Tran • Ann Chen • Annette Bork • Annette Buckel • Annie Liu • Aris Papayouanou • Arthur Strauss, MD • Avram Grossman • Barbara Siersma • Beatrice Lieberman • Bernadette Florencio • Bindu Variam • Bo Zhang • Bo Zhao • Brian Toorani • C Lin • Camille Dexter • Carol Lechich-LeMar • Casey Rodriguez • Catherine Hwang • Charles Kang • Chen He • Chris Campbell • Christina Johnston • Cindy Davis • Cindy Zwarka • Cynthia Bankston • D Evans • Danny Scruggs • Darren Ito • David Eich • Debbie Herring • Debra Richardson • Delia G. Terry • Diana Casillas • Donald Schrader • Donna Zazueta • Ed Lamphier • Edith Castaneda Pelletan • Eli Weinkle • Elizabeth Tilford • Enrique Vilorio • Erik Apinyan • Erika Yoshizawa • Ernestina Benson • Fairy Jolini • Faiza Zia • Fay Zheng • Fritzee Labrador • Gail Lewis • Galina Bukh • Gaurang Yodh • Gerald Lee • Glenda Menges • Grace Lee • Griffin Tamura • Hadeel Ragab • Hani Baker • Harvey Liss • Heather Hilario • Helena Blum • Henry Chiang • Henry Kass • Ina Tzvetanova • Ingrid Farrington • Ira Lewis • Isaias Lopez • Jack Tatham • Jacques Garnier • Jacquie Madenburg • James Lin • Jamie Wilkinson • Jane An • Janice Burstin • Janice Camilo • Jason Liu • Jean Anne Turner • Jean Miller • Jeff Garrick • Jeffrey Ho • Jennifer Assouad • Jennifer Ho • Jessica Sanchez • Jessica Un • Jill Berger • Jing Chen • Joanna Villanueva • Joe Sambito • Jon Brownell • Jonathan Li • Jorge Meza • Julia Chan • Julie Hosokawa • Karen Zfaty • Kari Black • Karrie Scruggs • Kathy Chang • Katya Chan • Kelli Hsu • Kelly Harrigan • Kelly Venezia • Kelvin Xu • Ken McEwan • Kenny Geh • Kevin Lien • Kozue Larson • Krista Barajas • Kristine Su • Kyung Park • Larry Agran • Laura Smith-Black • Laura Thieme • Laurie Crowe • Lawrence O Seidman • Linda Rife • Liqiong Song • Liza Tilson • Lori Johnson • Lori Werstein • Lorne Cheeseman • Luana Foucart • Lydia Liu • Lynn Boutin • Manal Galal • Marcia Spater • Marjorie McIntyre • Mark McIntyre • Martha C. Clay • Martha Monteleone • Marvin Castro • Melissa Roeder • Mertis Shearry • Michele Garcia-Jurado • Michele Muico • Michelle Bice • Michelle Ng • Minhchau Pham • Miriam Khurgel • Mojgan Moghadam • Monica Lee • Monica Trivedi • Naomi Iseri • Nasir Khoso • P. Pawley • Paige Wiseman • Pat Kennedy • Patrick Miko • Payam Larjani • Peggy Heitzenrader • Phyllis Gilmore • Prathima Venkatesan • Rachel Max • Rakesh Bhatia • Richard Ramirez • Robin Greenberg • Robin Weirich • Rosemary St. John • Ross Rosenberg • Russell Corrie • Ruth Kim • Sam Chung • Sam Pawley • Samantha Meza • Sandhya Nair • Sandy Miller • Sasha Wu • Scarlett Teats • Selene Huang • Shadi Kia • Shanene Vaca • Shelley Harriger • Sherry Mao • Sophia Niu • Steven Harlow • Steven Newman • Sudha Ati • Sumera Iqbal • Susan Bernatowicz • Susan Finn • Susan Morrissey • Susan O'Brien • Susan Sayre • Susie Rausavljevich • T. K. McCranie • Thank Nguyen • Thao Pham • Thom Colby • Tiffany Nguyen • Tom L Casey • Toni Dwyer • Tracie Jimenez • Veronica Tamura • Waki Taki • Wendy Wifler • Yali Li • Yoon Kim • Yun-I Liu [This is a partial listing.]

# OPEN FORUM *FREE SPEECH FOREVER!*



## Irvine Residents Want Council Action NOW to Control Growth and Traffic

April's front-page *Irvine Community News & Views* story was about Irvine's explosive, uncontrolled growth — adding at least **60,000 more people, and 40,000 more cars** in Irvine in just the next 6 to 8 years. This would push Irvine's population to nearly 350,000, far beyond the 250,000 residents originally planned — and in utter disregard of the limits laid out in the City's General Plan.

Accompanying last month's story, we posed another **Irvine Community Poll** question on growth and development. **The Irvine Community Poll (ICP) is owned by Irvine Community News & Views.** We are dedicated to "taking the pulse of the Irvine community," and publishing the results for all to see.

Well, the results of this particular poll are truly amazing. With hundreds of respondents, Irvine public opinion is nearly **unanimous: The Mayor and City Council should act NOW to Slow Residential Growth!** Take a look at the Poll question ... then the results ... and then read the remarkable notes and comments from your Irvine neighbors. To me, they reflect an anger, urgency, and even sadness directed at Irvine's elected officials who, residents believe, don't seem to care about what is happening to our community.

**What Do YOU Think?**  
Under State and local law, California cities have the legal authority to slow the rate of residential growth and development in order to uphold their General Plans and promote public health and safety.

### IRVINE COMMUNITY POLL (April)

#### Taking the Pulse of the Irvine Community

**Should Irvine's Mayor and City Council exercise their power to slow growth right now?**

Yes	97%
No	3% (12 votes)

*(This poll, now closed, had more than 400 respondents.)*

## Comments, Notes and Letters

■ To deal with Irvine's overpopulation problem, and all the ensuing problems, I would suggest Irvine place a moratorium on all new residential construction, including houses, apartments and condominiums.

—Paul Ricci

■ Traffic is awful in Irvine. Such a beautiful city with scenic parks, and all this traffic is making it miserable to live here. Please stop ruining it.

—Barbara Behrens

■ Keep Irvine from getting even more crowded. We didn't have this traffic a while back, when it was so special to be living here for families and everyone else. Please stop building these housing communities that are overpopulating our City.

—Azin Meshkin

■ Sometimes, I wonder if the Mayor and City Councilmembers even live in Irvine. They are in denial about traffic, over-building, and population density. What world do they live in? I want to move there!

—Wendy Wifler

■ The developers do not care. Greed makes them blind to the harm they are causing the residents of Irvine. The accelerated rate of growth is more than we can bear. Developers should be put on a three-year freeze, and then allowed to continue building after three years, to see if the population could sustain limited growth at a very slow rate. During the three-year hiatus, developers should do work in improving the Great Park, and find work in other cities and counties.

—David and Rose Golden

■ Please stop the out-of-control building of more apartments and houses. The traffic is unbearable and the air quality is getting worse.

—Dot Walsh

■ Both my husband and I support slow growth. It is shocking to see the changes in Irvine. High-density developments, apartments, congestion! Where can one get relief from the developers? The greed continues.

—Susan Levine

■ How can Irvine keep on taxing the infrastructure, as though there is no limit. The apartment developments and residential approvals are out of control. Stop already!

—Norman Stout

■ Anyone who voted for the current pro-growth Councilmembers has no right to complain about overbuilding and traffic problems. I'd like to know how we, the citizens of Irvine, can remove elected officials. They obviously are tone deaf on these issues.

—Joe Mistretta

■ Traffic is horrible in Irvine. It's time to stop building or come up with a solution. In addition, there is a shortage of elementary schools.

—Sheila Alimadadian

■ It's time to return to the plan. Reasonable, planned growth, green spaces with facilities, ample schools, emergency services, and shopping areas near clusters of houses; planned streets with landscaping; and considerations of traffic and maintenance costs.

—T.K. McCranie

■ Irvine is a City known far and wide for its planned residential communities. The Mayor and the City Council must exercise their authority to uphold the General Plan. I don't think the City's political leaders would want to be known in the City's history as those who sold out to developers and vested interests for political convenience.

—Rogelio Camero

■ The over-development in Irvine has resulted in a gridlock mess! Irvine isn't looking at all like the Master Planned Community it was intentionally designed to be. That concept has been trampled with all the over-development. No longer is Irvine the Gold Standard and leader.

—Stephanie Proffitt

■ I am VERY tired of the growth, and upset that the Veterans Cemetery is yet to be built.

—Bobi Rush

■ Since developer FivePoint essentially bought our City government, they call the shots. So, I don't see anything changing until the voters return the Democrats to power.

—Aris Papayoanou

■ Stop building more homes. They are built so close together — who would want to live in one of these homes? Not me. The streets are so congested. I moved to Irvine before it officially became a City, in 1971. Today, I would not move to Irvine, but would move elsewhere. Greed has destroyed the City of Irvine.

—Gary Nguyen

■ Irvine's City Council should adhere to our well-designed General Plan instead of yielding to developers' desires.

—Annette Bork

■ I am appalled at what has become of the quality of life in Irvine. Traffic is a nightmare every single day of the week. Our roads are clogged, our shopping centers are so full you cannot park to do your shopping, and yet the Mayor and City Council continue to reward developer FivePoint Communities with more and more land entitlement to make a profit by trading away the health and well-being of Irvine citizens. Enough! The citizens of Irvine didn't agree to providing continual, never-ending profits for developers, nor did they agree to having their General Plan so accelerated as to have Irvine fully built out well ahead of what the General Plan provided. Stop ruining Irvine and start resolving the existing problems.

—Suzanne Seidel

■ Stop the over-development! Resolve the traffic problems! Irvine has become like "every other" city — development for profit.

—Susan Finnt

■ When we moved here about 27 years ago, we liked the idea of Irvine as a planned community. They have not kept that promise!

—Rosemary Torralba

■ The present City government is in the bag labeled "developers." Wagner is so pro-developer, as is Shea. We should not have to pay their salaries; FivePoint Communities should.

—Richard McDonough

■ Do we now have a Fox in sheep's clothing?

—Patricia Kennedy



■ We have too much growth and not enough infrastructure to support it. Please stop bringing so many new residents to our City!

—Lynne Judson

■ We know the Mayor and Shea are bought and paid for by the developers. I hope they will come around to doing what is best for the citizens.

—Michael LaRocco

■ Please HELP. We all moved here to get away from crowded cities, and many of us sacrificed our jobs to move here for a better life. However the beautiful Irvine that once was a golden City is turning into a zoo. To our elected officials and developers: Think about the people who live here and not about yourself.

—Julie Lee

■ Enough already! The continual development of our City is a travesty! The ONLY one benefitting is the developer, FivePoint Communities. While they get rich off our backs, we get to sit in our cars in traffic, polluting the air, wasting gas, and wasting time while our way

of life erodes with every new building permit issued. When they've completely ruined our way of life, they'll move on — and here we'll sit for decades, reaping what THEY have sown for us. We HAVE TO STOP the overbuilding of our town.

—Jaci Woods

## Letters and Comments on the Veterans Cemetery

■ People generally enter into politics trying to improve their community. Unfortunately, nowadays some people enter into politics to make money. The general welfare and improvement of the community they serve be damned. No, no, no, no to the Veterans Cemetery "land-swap" and more land development. They are choking the City to death.

—Daniel Yau

## Edward S. Pope Irvine, California

To the Editor:

At the April 4th City Council meeting, Councilmember Christina Shea offered her cynical support for developer FivePoint Communities' proposed "land-swap" to change the State and Federally-approved Great Park Veterans Cemetery site.

More accurately described as a corrupt "land swindle," Shea's motion served neither the vets nor the City. The vets would get significantly fewer acres for the Veterans Cemetery, and the City would inherit very pricey maintenance costs.

Once again, Shea demonstrated her faithful allegiance to FivePoint president and CEO Emile Haddad's sleazy scams. This is no surprise given the \$1.5 million that developers like Haddad provided to finance the smear campaign that helped re-elect her last November. Haddad knows that Shea is a very reliable ally: Once bought, she stays bought!

I hope and expect the Council will continue to thwart the Shea-Haddad-FivePoint ambition to turn Irvine into a developer's dream — a "company town."

*Edward S. Pope*  
U.S. Army Veteran

Letters to the editor are welcome. Please include your name and ZIP code. Letters for publication must be addressed to Editor, 4199 Campus Drive, Suite 550, Irvine, CA 92612 or email Editor@IrvineCommunityNews.org. Letters may be edited for publication. Unpublished letters will not be acknowledged or returned.

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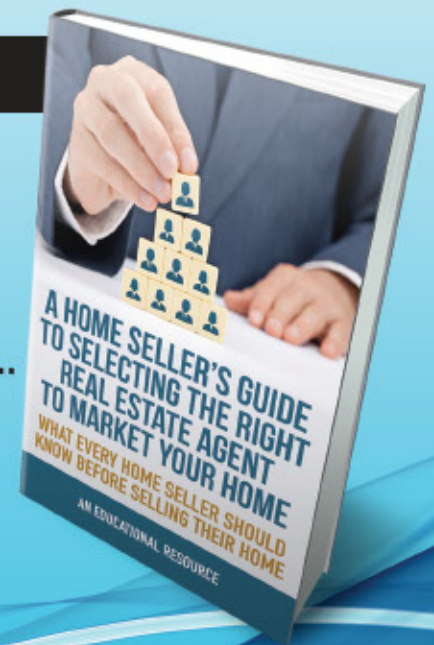
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### 2017 WEEKLY THEMES

- |                   |                        |                         |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| "Deep Sea Divers" | "Sports Medicine"      | "Space Explorers"       |
| "Mythbusters"     | "Designing Your World" | "Coding and Makerspace" |

8:30am-5:30pm 5 days per week (sibling discounts available)

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or contact Alyssa at 704-313-9118, [info@projectscientist.org](mailto:info@projectscientist.org).

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