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Serving the Villages and Neighborhoods of Irvine

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Publisher's Perspective

ICNV

Joins the fight! Save the Veterans Cemetery!

As the founding publisher of *Irvine Community News & Views*, let me be clear about this: We at *ICNV* wholeheartedly support the Irvine Referendum Petition effort now under way to **SAVE** the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park and **STOP** the giveaway of our Great Park to developer FivePoint Communities.

Not only do we support the Referendum and encourage Irvine voters to sign it, *ICNV* is proud to be an official sponsor of the Referendum.

On October 10th, three members of the Irvine City Council (Mayor Don Wagner and Councilmembers Christina Shea and Melissa Fox) reaffirmed their very *unpopular* decision to *replace* the previously-approved Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park with massive office and commercial development that would bring more than 10,000 cars and trucks every day to our Irvine neighborhoods.

Irvine citizens, fed up with the giveaway to FivePoint, are now fanning out over the entire City, collecting more than 12,000 Irvine voter signatures by November 8th to overturn the City Council decision by putting the issue on the ballot for Irvine voters to decide. So, if you're a registered Irvine voter, when you see folks gathering signatures at shopping centers, sign the Referendum Petition.

Meanwhile, go to the website for the Referendum campaign to see how you can help: www.SaveTheVeteransCemetery.org

Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor



Citizens Launch Ballot Referendum Campaign "Save the Great Park Veterans Cemetery!"



Volunteer Petition circulators Harvey Liss (left) and Michael Lopez (right) are among dozens of volunteers who are gathering the required 12,000 Irvine voter signatures by Nov. 8th to empower Irvine citizens to decide the Veterans Cemetery issue at the next City election.

On Friday, October 13th, a newly-formed, citizen-led committee to "Save the Veterans Cemetery" launched an audacious campaign to collect 12,000 Irvine voter signatures on a Referendum Petition. The purpose of the Referendum Petition campaign is to overturn an Irvine City Council ordinance that rezoned the site of the Great Park Veterans Cemetery, replacing the Veterans Cemetery with huge office and commercial development. The launch of the campaign is apparently a broad-based citizen reaction to the very unpopular City Council land-use decision.

A Shocking Vote

At a hastily called June 6th City Council meeting, and again at an October 10th Council meeting, Irvine City Councilwoman Melissa Fox shocked her former supporters by voting to abandon the City's 4-year-old project to build a State-approved, 125-acre Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park. Fox joined Mayor Donald Wagner and Councilwoman Christina Shea to, instead, vote for a complicated

"land-swap" and zone change that will enable developer FivePoint Communities to take ownership of what has been the Great Park Veterans Cemetery site and build massive office complexes and commercial projects on the property.

The City Council votes on the FivePoint deal have been 3-to-2, with Councilmembers Jeff Lalloway and Lynn Schott voting NO. Schott has described the transfer of ownership and accompanying zone change ordinance as a "giveaway of our Great Park" to FivePoint. In fact, the loss of the 125-acre Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park would shrink the Park's size by 10 percent.

Councilman Lalloway decried the Council action as a thinly veiled land-grab by FivePoint to secure valuable "entitlement" to intensively develop the 125-acre site, producing a windfall profit of \$500 million or more for the developer. Lalloway noted the windfall profit was going to be at the expense of the entire Irvine community. The FivePoint plans call for 812,000 square feet of office and

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→ continued from page 1 → **Referendum Launched to Save the Great Park Veterans Cemetery!**

commercial development, generating nearly 10,000 cars and trucks on Irvine streets every day, producing yet worse traffic jams and air pollution throughout the City.

Patty Bartlett, Chair of the Irvine Planning Commission, recently called the FivePoint entitlement and development plans as “incompatible” with the Great Park Master Plan and the surrounding residential neighborhoods.

A Lawsuit and a Referendum

Testifying against the zone change ordinance that would authorize the FivePoint office and commercial development of what has been the Great Park Veterans Cemetery site, former Mayor Larry Agran, a public interest environmental defense lawyer, has said: “The development on the scale contemplated by FivePoint Communities requires an entirely new, comprehensive Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that includes not only a thorough analysis of traffic, but also an examination of local air pollution and toxic contamination from long-ago military operations.” Agran warned that the Council’s disregard of proper procedures and the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) were sure to invite a lawsuit against the City.



Patrick Strader (left), lobbyist and chief political operative for developer FivePoint, is seen here at a recent City Council meeting. Strader is widely credited with lobbying newly-elected Councilwoman Melissa Fox and “flipping” her vote. Fox, for years a supporter of the Veterans Cemetery, switched her vote this past spring — abandoning the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park and her Irvine supporters, to embrace instead the FivePoint “land-swap” development scheme.

A lawsuit is still expected. What came as an unexpected surprise, however, was the Referendum Petition begun by longtime Irvine resident and retired high school teacher, Ed Pope. Chair of the recently organized Save the Veterans Cemetery committee, Pope is engaging hundreds of volunteers and donors to join the grassroots campaign and help gather signatures at shopping centers and in neighborhoods across the City.

In an official announcement of the Referendum campaign, Pope said, “This past June 6th — just 10 days before the State of California was scheduled to send \$30 million to our City to start construction of the 125-acre Veterans Cemetery in the tranquil and beautiful Great Park — the Irvine City Council suddenly voted to abandon the project.” He added, “This dishonors our veterans.”

Pope, himself a U.S. Army veteran, described the challenge ahead: “We only have until November 8th to gather the 12,000 signatures

necessary on our Referendum Petition to stop this travesty and restore Irvine’s promise to Orange County veterans — by empowering the citizens of Irvine to vote on the Veterans Cemetery project at the next City election. I have great faith in my fellow Irvine residents and am confident that our Referendum Petition campaign will be successful.”

Sign Our Referendum Petition In Person
STOP the FivePoint “Land-Swap”
Let’s Build the Veterans Cemetery *In the Great Park*, as Planned!
www.SaveTheVeteransCemetery.org

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Ed Pope — who is a U.S. Army veteran, a longtime Irvine resident, and a retired Orange County “Teacher of the Year” — issued a formal statement announcing the launch of the Veterans Cemetery Referendum campaign.

This past June 6th — just 10 days before the State of California was scheduled to send \$30 million to our City to start construction of the 125-acre Veterans Cemetery in the tranquil and beautiful Great Park, the Irvine City Council suddenly voted (3-to-2) to abandon the project. Instead, the Council decided to hand the cemetery site over to mega-developer FivePoint Communities. The Council also granted FivePoint “entitlement” to develop the 125-acre parcel with huge office and commercial projects. In return, FivePoint wants to see the Veterans Cemetery built at the El Toro “Y” — a grossly inferior site alongside two major freeways (I-5 and I-405).

As a veteran who has called Irvine home for 45 years, I am outraged by this so-called “land-swap” scheme that dishonors our veterans and enables developer FivePoint to extract hundreds of millions of dollars in windfall profits. Their scheme is to grab this Great Park property that was dedicated by previous City Councils for a Veterans Cemetery, and then quickly develop it in ways that are totally incompatible with the Great Park and surrounding residential neighborhoods. In fact, the FivePoint development scheme would generate 10,000 car and truck trips every day, adding to the already terrible traffic and environmental issues facing our City.

We only have until November 8th to gather the signatures necessary on our Referendum Petition to STOP this travesty, and restore Irvine’s promise to Orange County veterans — by empowering the citizens of Irvine to vote on the Veterans Cemetery project. I have great faith in my fellow Irvine residents and am confident that our Referendum Petition campaign will be successful.

To learn more about the Referendum campaign and how you can help gather signatures or make a financial contribution, please visit: SaveTheVeteransCemetery.org.

Edward S. Pope

Edward S. Pope,
US Army (1961-1963)
Chair, Save the Veterans Cemetery,
and 45-year Irvine resident



CityWatch by Larry Agran

Save the Great Park Veterans Cemetery and Say NO to FivePoint’s Development Scheme

I’ve been thinking about an old saying that was popular among civic activists and reformers in the 1970s: “If the people will lead, the leaders will follow.” That pro-democracy adage is being put to the test here in Irvine with the remarkable Veterans Cemetery Referendum Petition now in circulation throughout the City.

The citizen-led Referendum campaign is in reaction to a City Council majority — Mayor Donald Wagner and Councilmembers Christina Shea and Melissa Fox — that seems determined to do everything it can to please developer FivePoint Communities, while ignoring the wishes and aspirations of veterans, their families, and the entire Irvine community. How else can you explain a Council vote (3-to-2) to abandon more than three years of planning and all the State and Federal approvals for the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park; the rejection of \$30 million in State funds to immediately begin construction of the Great Park Veterans Cemetery; and then the proposed transfer of the land to FivePoint, along with a zone change ordinance that would permit FivePoint to put massive office and commercial developments on the property that was intended to be a beautiful Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery within our Great Park.

This is where the right of referendum comes in. More than 100 years ago, reformers in

California wrote the right of referendum into our State Constitution. Along with the right of initiative, the referendum is a form of direct democracy — allowing citizens to organize to break the stranglehold of special interests. Specifically, the right of initiative enables citizens to write their own laws and, if they can gather enough signatures, put their proposed laws on the ballot so the voters can decide. The referendum enables citizens to overturn bad laws or ordinances ... again, if they can gather enough signatures to qualify for the ballot.

So, here in Irvine, dozens of volunteers are now working day and night to gather 12,000 Irvine voter signatures by November 8th — to qualify the Veterans Cemetery Referendum for the ballot. This would give Irvine voters the opportunity to overturn

the very bad zone change ordinance that was enacted by the Council to give away 125 acres of our Great Park to FivePoint for intensive office and commercial development.

Here is What YOU Can Do To...

SAVE THE GREAT PARK VETERANS CEMETERY and STOP THE FIVEPOINT DEVELOPMENT!

First, if you are an Irvine voter, SIGN the official Referendum Petition. This is NOT an online petition. You must sign the Veterans Cemetery Referendum Petition in person...at a nearby shopping center or wherever it is being circulated in Irvine. Find out where you can sign the official Referendum Petition by going to: www.SaveTheVeteransCemetery.org

Second, JOIN the campaign. VOLUNTEER. DONATE!

Let’s get this Referendum qualified for the ballot! Remember, we have to gather 12,000 signatures from Irvine voters by November 8th! Once we qualify the Referendum for the ballot, we, the people of Irvine, will have the right to vote at the next City election to SAVE the Great Park Veterans Cemetery and STOP the FivePoint development.

— LA

What do YOU want in the Great Park?

Signing the Referendum Petition will empower Irvine voters to decide between:

THIS **or** **THIS**

Larry Agran is a former Irvine City Councilmember and a public interest attorney. He served as Mayor of Irvine from 2000-2004.



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Franklin J. Lunding
Publisher

Senior Life — Youthful Lifestyle

A New ICNV Feature Series On Healthful Living As We Age

As the publisher of Irvine Community News & Views, I am pleased to introduce the second article in our continuing monthly ICNV feature entitled, Senior Life — Youthful Lifestyle.

Dr. Liss is a 75-year-old Irvine resident, who first moved

to Irvine in 1976. A civil engineer, he was part of the team that designed Woodbridge Village, and has a unique perspective on how to live into "old-age" chronologically, while maintaining a youthful quality of life.

— FJL

Irvine's Remarkably Wide Variety of Senior Services

by Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D.



I'm new to Irvine's Senior Services. Having lived in Irvine for more than 40 years, I never associated myself with anything Senior and would toss into the trash any mail with the word "Senior" on it.

I'm learning that many of Irvine's Senior Services are intended for healthy and active seniors, and they are great bargains, such as the well-equipped Fitness Centers at the Rancho and Trabuco Centers (which are for everyone to get fit, not just the already fit).

In mid-September, I visited the Rancho Senior Center to apply for my Irvine Senior Services (ISS) Gold Card (\$10), and also my membership card (\$55 and a super-bargain) for the Fitness Centers at the Trabuco Center (TC) and Rancho Senior Center (RSC). I also paid a \$10 fee for a Fitness Center orientation that I attended a few days later.

A couple of weeks later my ISS Gold Card arrived in the mail. I want to especially point out the Keen Center for Senior Resources, located right next to the Lakeview Senior Center (LSC), in Woodbridge. The LSC provides an amazing array of free assistance programs ranging from Adult Day Health Care Services to Transportation, Financial Investment Counseling and Legal Consultation.

There are, no doubt, thousands of seniors in Irvine who could benefit from the remarkable services available to them that will improve every aspect of their quality of life. I am one of these seniors whose eyes have been opened. In fact, I now have my eye on the Timeless Tappers, offered at the RSC...to learn tap dancing! I'll soon be calling the RSC to find out where I buy my tap shoes!

I want to take a moment to emphasize that some sort of aerobic exercise and weight-bearing exercise is essential for preventing and also actually curing a large variety of chronic diseases. And this is not just my opinion. It is supported by many excellent research articles, and this awareness seems to be spreading, but not fast enough. Check out my online postings at: IrvineCommunityNews.org/senior-life-resources.

Note that you don't have to be a gym bunny to benefit from exercise. A half-hour per day of whatever you find to your liking will do the trick. I prefer

the treadmill because I can get a great amount of reading done. That's because walking on the treadmill requires no mental focus. For maximum benefit, you should set the treadmill at a comfortable slope, gradually increasing it as the months or years go by. You can also have the machine controlled by programs that automatically vary the slope and speed as you "walk." But, I've never used that feature, preferring to gradually increase the speed and slope manually, to my max, and leaving it there. In any case, the variable slope is a huge advantage of the treadmill over walking outdoors (unless you run, or walk in a hilly area). It took a couple of years of gradually increasing slope for me to walk at my current 12% slope, and my reading material is my companion.

If you prefer human companions, and don't have a partner or friends with whom to walk (strenuously, I hope), join the Senior Striders on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:30am to 9:30am at the Trabuco Center. It's free.

Check out the large variety of activities available, from dance to yoga, and from canasta to Mah Jongg (though not particularly fitness enhancing) in the Irvine Senior Connection, published bi-monthly by the City, and available free at all Senior Centers. Or, go to: CityOfIrvine.org/senior-services.

For best information, call one of the three Senior Centers and you will talk to very helpful and friendly staff. (See inset.)

Lastly, I'd very much like to hear from our readers.
Write to me at: harvey@IrvineCommunityNews.org

IRVINE SENIOR RESOURCES Directory of Essentials. Map showing locations of Trabuco Center (TC), Lakeview Senior Center (LSC), and Rancho Senior Center (RSC). Includes contact information and website: IrvineSeniors.org.

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Community Calendar

November/December 2017



UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT IRVINE FINE ARTS CENTER

Rooted • Shelter •
The Reverberations of Causes and the Avalanches of Creation

Exhibition Date:
Nov. 18, 2017–Jan. 6, 2018
Opening Reception:
Saturday, Nov. 18, 4–6 p.m.

Main Gallery and Gallery 2

Rooted
Sedi Pak, Carrie Minikel, Tim Musso, Hiromi Takizawa and Elijah Wooldridge

Rooted brings together artworks that reflect the origins of the materials used in their making and examines the link between nature and artificiality. By engaging in an open dialogue with their materials, artists create works that highlight the role of observation in how we relate to natural phenomena.

Gallery 1

Shelter
Rick Reese

The painting practice of Orange County based artist Rick Reese looks at how the environments we create and inhabit separate us from the natural world, posing questions about our relationship to nature and our sense of belonging to landscape.

The Project Wall

The Reverberations of Causes and the Avalanches of Creation

Cheryl Sorg

Using a variety of colorful neon and metallic tape, artist Cheryl Sorg will create a site-specific installation in the lobby of the Fine Arts Center, connecting the two concurrent exhibitions through designs inspired by tree rings and their reference to stories of origins.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>November</i>			1 Day of the Dead Program. Heritage Park Library. 3:30-5pm. Info: 949-936-4040	2 Thursday Morning Trek. Fremont Canyon. 8-11:30am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	3 Holiday Faire. Irvine Fine Arts Center. 5-9pm. Info: 949-724-6880	4 Preserving the Season: Gifts from the Kitchen. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: 866-829-3829
5 Intermediate Mountain Bike Ride. Hicks Haul Road, Irvine Ranch Open Space. 8-11:30am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	6 Brainy Bookworms Book Group. Katie Wheeler Library. 4-5pm. Info: 714-669-8753	7 Moods of California. Irvine Museum Collection. 11am-5pm. Info: 949-476-2565	8 Collect Wildflower Seeds. Native Seed Farm. 8:30am-12pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	9 Teen Movie Event. Heritage Park Library. 4:30-6:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040	10 Feathery Friends. OC Zoo. 10:15-11:15am. Info: 714-973-6846	11 Veteran's Day Ceremony. Bill Barber Memorial Park. 11am-12:30pm. Info: 949-724-6606
12 Calligraphy Trio Workshop. University Park Library. 2pm. Info: 949-786-4001	13 NTL Screening: Obsession. Irvine Barclay Theatre. 6:30pm. Info: 949-854-4646	14 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6205	15 America Recycles Day. Pretend City Children's Museum. 10am-4pm. Info: PretendCity.org	16 Annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast. Irvine Marriott Hotel. 7:30am. Tickets \$45. Info: 949-660-9112	17 Thanksgiving Luncheon. Lakeview Senior Center. 11:30-12:30pm. Info: 949-724-6900	18 Scholastic Chess Tournament. OC Great Park. 8:45am-6pm. Registration Required. Info: 866-829-3829
19 Thanksgiving Day Crafts. University Park Library. 1-3pm. Info: 949-784-4001	20 Evening Hike. Orchard Hills. 6:30-8:30pm. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	21 Green Ribbon Environmental Committee. Irvine Civic Center. 4:30pm. Info: 949-724-7365	22 Family Movie Night. Heritage Park Library. 4:30-6:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040	23 Thanksgiving Day. 	24 CHOC Toy Drive. Pretend City Children's Museum. 10am-5pm. Info: 949-428-3900	25 Family Hike. Round Canyon. Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. Info: LetsGoOutside.org
26 Earthcache Hike to Dripping Springs. Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. 9-11:30am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org	27 An Irish Christmas. Irvine Barclay Theater. 8pm. Info: 949-854-4646	28 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6205	29 Wild North America. OC Zoo. 10-15-11:15am. Info: 714-973-6846	30 STEAM Night with Google Fiber. University Park Library. 6pm. Info: 949-786-4001	1 DECEMBER Chess. Rancho Senior Center. 11am-1pm. Info: 949-724-6800	2 Magnificent Oaks Interpretive Walk. Irvine Open Space Preserve. 9-11:30am. Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org

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.

"Ron" is an unaltered male, black and white Guinea pig. He is about 1 year old.

For more information about Ron and other adoptable pets, or the IACC, call 949-724-7740 or email info@irvineshelter.org www.cityofirvine.org/irvine-animal-care-center



FALL FOOD DRIVE: SCARE AWAY HUNGER

Support hunger relief efforts by donating canned goods or nonperishable food items to benefit local food banks. Donations will be accepted at the OC Great Park Visitors Center and Sports Complex 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information, call 949-724-6247.



Child Health & Safety

by Phyllis Agran, M.D.

Sports Injuries: Q & A with Dr. Chris Koutures

As a long-time pediatrician, it has been my privilege to be an activist and leader in our local, state and national organizations. This has given me the opportunity to collaborate with many outstanding pediatricians and health professionals here in Orange County and across the U.S.

Allow me to introduce Chris Koutures, M.D. Dr. Koutures, an Irvine

resident, is a dual board-certified Pediatrician and Pediatric Sports Medicine specialist, affiliated with ActiveKidMD in Anaheim Hills. Dr. Koutures is the team physician for the USA Volleyball National/Olympic Teams, CSU Fullerton Intercollegiate Athletics, Chapman University Dance, and Orange Lutheran High School. His website, www.ActiveKidMD.com, includes frequently asked questions — and answers — about sports injuries among young athletes.



Chris Koutures, M.D.

Q. Typically, when do we see injuries in sports? And what are their causes?

A. Sports injuries occur under a number of circumstances, and fall into several categories. For example, I've found that a remarkable number of injuries occur when an athlete is not wearing appropriate protective equipment. Bike helmets do no good when they are strapped to the handlebars, just like shin guards cannot work if they are left in the gym bag. I tell athletes — and their parents — to make sure their equipment is in good condition, that it fits well (especially with growing children), and that it is always properly used.

Q. What are some of the other risk factors for sports injuries?

A. Typically, many sports injuries occur within 30 days of undertaking a new season or a new activity. Good studies on Marine recruits show that foot stress fractures are most commonly seen three weeks into boot camp. My experience with young athletes is quite similar — about three weeks into a new sport, I will start to see overuse injuries. The body is unable to handle the stress of a new activity, and breakdown occurs. The answer to this problem? Prepare for a new sports activity with light conditioning. Going straight into football with double-workout days on the field can be a recipe for disaster. Also, start slow and increase intensity or length of workouts slowly in order to allow the body to adjust. And don't forget those rest days!

Q. What advice can you give to parents of kids who are "sports crazy" — and seem to be taking on too much?

A. Young, enthusiastic athletes rarely have the judgment needed to reduce the risks of injury. That's where good coaching, good parenting, and common sense come into play. Kids are at risk when they are playing more than one sport at a time; or when they are playing just too much of one sport. They are also at risk when they step up to a higher level of sports competition, playing with older and bigger athletes; or when they enroll in an intense sports camp; or start high school or college training. No matter what success the young athlete has enjoyed in the past, these situations can overtax a young body. Sports medicine physicians are mindful of a mantra that coaches and parents should take to heart as well: *Too Much, Too Fast, Too Soon is a recipe for overuse injuries.*

Appropriate sports activities can be terrific for kids — and grownups too — in building strong bodies, good health, and good character. The idea is to enjoy sports while avoiding sports injuries.

Phyllis Agran is a practicing pediatrician and a Professor at the UCI School of Medicine. Phyllis can be reached at phyllis@irvinecommunitynews.org



TUSD Reforms Its Elections...IUSD Should Do the Same

by Carolyn Inmon

As I reported in my last column, the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD), which administers four schools in Irvine, recently committed to reforming its process for electing its five School Board members, beginning in 2018.

TUSD will be transitioning from the old "at-large" election system to election of Board members "by-area" — five smaller geographic areas to ensure fairer representation. **In the case of Irvine families with school kids attending TUSD schools located in the northern parts of Irvine — Hicks Canyon Elementary, Myford Elementary, Orchard Hills Elementary & Middle School, and Beckman High School — this new system will ensure that these Irvine families have their "own" school board representative.**

I recently spoke with TUSD Communications Director Mark Eliot, who told me, "This will be the biggest change in how TUSD does business since its inception." He seemed to enthusiastically embrace the new system, which should provide for fairer representation of the District's geographically and ethnically diverse populations.

With 33,500 students, Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) is the 25th largest School District in California, and one of the few large districts to still choose its five Board members in at-large elections. Isn't it time for IUSD to reform how its Board members are elected, by going to a by-area system?

What would it mean if IUSD made this change? More voices in the

community would be heard because citizens will have a better opportunity to communicate with "their" School Board member. In a City as large as ours, each Irvine neighborhood deserves to be represented by someone who is from that area and is likely to become an expert on its schools. This is especially true for the older parts of town, where the schools may require larger budgets for maintenance, repairs and modernization — and they need a School Board member from the area who will press the rest of the Board for greater equity in the allocation of School District resources.

Elections by area would bring greater diversity to the School Board. As intended and required by the California Voting Rights Act of 2001, in moving from at-large elections to elections by smaller areas, the Irvine School Board would not only be more representative geographically, but it would likely reflect more racial and ethnic diversity among elected Board members as well. Right now, even though Irvine is a remarkably diverse community — with about 60 percent of the City non-white — all five School Board members are white, and three come from the same part of town, north Irvine.

The Tustin Unified School Board decided to transition from at-large elections to elections by-area — voluntarily and constructively — rather than having to fight a lawsuit under the California Voting Rights Act. Let's hope that IUSD Board members give consideration to adopting and implementing election reforms before being forced to do so by others.

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

Science & Technology

An ICNV Series On Climate Change

ICNV's series on climate change began in June with an article that illustrated how Irvine's past activism on an issue of global importance — destruction of the atmosphere's ozone layer — helped provoke a worldwide solution to the problem. Subsequent articles have explained that although the climate crisis is global, it's time to act locally, especially since the national outlook under the Trump administration and Congress appears so poor. But, as science writer Ed Sharman notes, the effects of climate change are no mystery — they are now observable by facts in our everyday lives.

— Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D., ICNV editor for Science & Technology

Global Warming in Irvine: Now, It's Personal!

by Ed Sharman

For quite some time, global warming — although real enough — seemed to me to be a rather abstract and far-off threat, both in time and space. Okay, I get it! Glaciers melt and turn into gully-washers; the Arctic Ocean ice is melting; and U.S. forests from the Rockies, west, are dying from heat stress and beetles. But otherwise, the "bad stuff" won't be much in evidence close by until my grandchildren are grown. Move on.

As a matter of fact, global warming has lately become very up-front and personal for me, with real, immediate and expensive consequences.

Global warming's first impact in my life was merely a fun observation from my backyard. Back in the 1980s, the coral tree there regularly lost its leaves for a couple of months in the winter (during which time a dusting of frost on the lawn or my neighbor's roof occasionally appeared in the early morning, as well). Now my coral tree is an evergreen! In some years, the leaves are sparser in the winter, but the branches are never truly bare, and frost is a distant memory. Benign enough events, but I should have recognized them as a serious wakeup call!

First Consequence

The first high-impact consequence came just recently. My house came without mechanical air conditioning, and all through the 1980s, 90s and 00s I used to joke that "my air conditioner is the Pacific Ocean." And in truth, the onshore ocean breezes kept my Irvine house perfectly comfortable. Later, however, it seemed that there were longer and longer periods when the house felt a bit too warm, but still sufferable. The breaking point came two summers ago when it became too hot to sleep even with no sheets on for a solid two weeks or so — a veritable eternity! So, at a cost of thousands of dollars, I installed air conditioning, and — pained by much higher electric bills — now find it necessary to use it 1-2 months out of the year.

Second Consequence

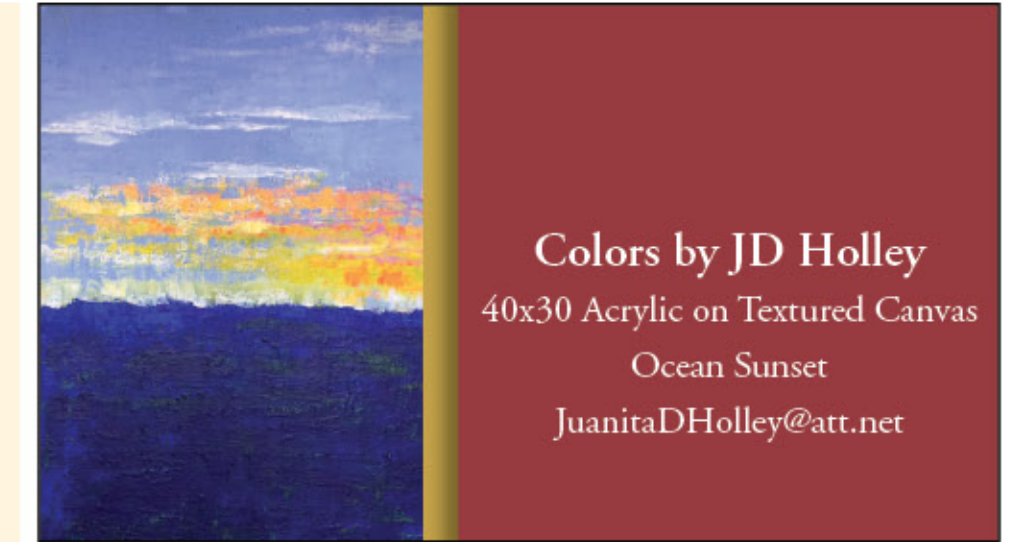
A second big-consequence event occurred last year. Many years ago, I acquired a couple of acres of nicely forested land in the Sierra foothills with the idea of possibly building a vacation home there. The tall, prime-of-life ponderosa and sugar pines were gorgeous, and so cool to walk under, especially in summer! Imagine my shock upon receiving notice from the electric company that some of these trees had died and would have to be removed. A short time later a neighbor sent me a horrifying photo showing that all my pines had died within the last year, along with a polite inquiry as to what I intended to do.

Well, I consoled myself, "At least I'll be able to salvage the trees for lumber or firewood and probably break-even cost-wise." Then, the reality of "western pine forests in the U.S. are dying," hit home: loggers and tree-cutters are overwhelmed with dead and dying pines; there's no market for my wood and it would have to be trucked off to a (gasp) landfill, at a very substantial cost.

I truly hope you're lucky, and global warming does no more than induce your once-deciduous tree to provide shade all year 'round, as mine now does. But be forewarned by my experience: sooner rather than later, the consequences of climate change in your own life may be much more impactful and costly than you expect!



Ed Sharman holds a Ph.D. in chemical physics from USC, and is currently engaged in research on ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) at UCI in the Department of Neurology. Previously, Dr. Sharman worked in industry developing industrial gas analyzers and control equipment that improved combustion energy efficiency, with the added benefit of reducing carbon dioxide emissions. He has been an Irvine resident since 1981.



Colors by JD Holley
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ATTENTION IRVINE VOTERS:

Save the Great Park Veterans Cemetery! Stop the FivePoint Development!

SIGN THE VETERANS CEMETERY REFERENDUM PETITION

Dear Irvine Neighbors:

On October 10th, the Irvine City Council voted (3-to-2) to *kill* the Great Park Veterans Cemetery and *replace* it with a massive FivePoint Communities office and commercial development, which would bring thousands of cars and trucks to Irvine's neighborhoods *every day*.

In response, our citizen-led committee to **Save the Veterans Cemetery** is now urging all Irvine voters to sign our official Veterans Cemetery Referendum Petition that is being circulated throughout the City.

More than 12,000 Irvine voters must sign the Referendum Petition *in person* by Nov. 8th to qualify the Referendum for the ballot. This will give Irvine voters the opportunity to vote "YES" on the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, and say "NO" to FivePoint's plan for massive commercial development.

Volunteers in the Referendum campaign are circulating Petitions at neighborhood shopping centers and coffee shops across Irvine.

Please take a moment to sign the Referendum Petition and encourage your friends and neighbors to sign, as well. Together, we can do this!

To learn more about this critically important campaign—and how you can also volunteer to help us—go to our website.



Edward S. Pope

Edward S. Pope
US Army (1961-1963), Chair,
Save the Veterans Cemetery,
and a 45-year Irvine resident



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