

Four Lessons from the Bernardo Fire

It's not what we expected to deal with in May but the Bernardo Fire was a stark reminder that fire season is no longer just a few months out of the year but instead a year-round battle. That means none of us can get complacent in our preparations for the next fire likely to affect our region. Like many of you, I was evacuated from my home when the Bernardo Fire threatened areas of Rancho Peñasquitos, Del Sur, Black Mountain Ranch and Santaluz. It's pretty incredible that despite nearly 1,600 acres being burned in the City, no homes were damaged and no lives lost. It says a lot about how far we've come since 2003 and 2007 when major wildfires devastated our community. I learned several lessons in the hours and days following the Bernardo Fire that I hope we can all learn from because each of us plays an important role in preventing and preparing for wildfires.



Getting a n update on the Bernardo Fire from Asst. Fire Chief Brian Fennessy .

Lesson 1: Have an evacuation plan. Know what you want to take in the case of an emergency evacuation. Sometimes you only have a few minutes to gather your most important belongings. Make a list of pre-determined items, have important papers in one spot and plan for where you'll go—especially if you have pets. For ideas about how to prepare an evacuation plan, visit the American Red Cross “Prepare San Diego” website www.preparesandiego.org.

Lesson 2: Sign up for Alert San Diego. If you haven't already, sign up for the County-wide emergency notification system. Your landline is automatically registered but you'll want to register your cell phone and email as well. Sign up at www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego.



Taking calls from residents at the 2-1-1 San Diego headquarters.

Lesson 3: Call 2-1-1. Let's be honest, it can be confusing when evacuation notices start to come in and even more confusing when they are being lifted. 2-1-1– San Diego has information from all of the different responding areas and can answer almost any non-emergency question like road closures and evacuation sites. It's important to leave 9-1-1 available for emergencies. Just dial 2-1-1 from any phone or visit www.211sandiego.org for up-to-date information.

Lesson 4: Check your defensible space. Our fire fighters did a great job protecting homes from the fire and they said a lot of credit goes to residents who've heeded the 100-foot defensible space requirement. Cal-Fire said defensible space saved many homes throughout the region. Double check that your defensible space is maintained. Check out San Diego Fire-Rescue's Ready Set Go brochure on how to prepare your home. www.sandiego.gov/fire/safety/tips/.

Celebrate Fourth of July in District Five

As the holiday approaches, District Five provides plenty of opportunities to have a great Fourth of July with everything from veteran celebrations and community fairs to patriotic pet contests and, of course, fire works. Here are just a couple events taking place in our district:

- The **Spirit of the Fourth community fair** in Rancho Bernardo's Webb Park kicks off with a pancake breakfast at 7 a.m., followed by a classic car show, patriotic pet contest, a memorial ceremony honoring our veterans and parade. End the night with a bang at Bernardo Heights Middle School with a fireworks show! Entertainment begins at 6 p.m. and the fireworks display begins at 9 p.m. For more information on additional events in the area go to www.spiritofthefourth.org.
- The **44th Annual Scripps Ranch Fourth of July Parade** starts at 10 a.m. at Red Cedar Drive and Ironwood Road and ends at Scripps Ranch Blvd. at Aviary Drive. I'll be riding the Wells Fargo Stage Coach so please come by to wave hello! Following the parade, festivities will continue in Hoyt Park from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. More info: www.scrippsrancho.org/events/4th-of-july.html



The Fourth of July is a time to celebrate our community spirit so I hope wherever you spend the holiday, you have a chance to connect with your neighbors and meet new friends.

Miramar Ranch North Marks 20th Anniversary

On June 3rd, I proclaimed it "Miramar Ranch North Day" in the City of San Diego, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the first house in the community closing escrow on June 24th, 1994. Miramar



Ranch North was designed as a twin community with Scripps Miramar Ranch and is one of three community planning areas that make up the picturesque neighborhoods of Scripps Ranch, which I am proud to represent. The first Community Plan was prepared by an exceptional group of Scripps Ranch residents and adopted by the Planning Commission in December 1979 and the City Council in March 1980. Today, Miramar Ranch North provides a scenic and unique lifestyle not found anywhere else in the country and has grown to meet the needs of its residents. This

community continues to make a positive impact on the quality of life in District Five and the entire San Diego region.

New 5-1-1 App Features Traffic, Toll Rates and More

The new 5-1-1 app from SANDAG, the San Diego Association of Governments, is helping San Diegans plan a more efficient commute – especially for those traveling from the northern parts of the city. It provides up-to-the-minute traffic information to the cities of San Diego, Poway and Escondido and allows users to track real-time toll rates for the I-15 Express Lanes. The app also provides access to MTS bus routes, fares and arrival times. The free app should make utilizing the increasing number of public transportation options — including a new Rapid bus service — easier for everyone. Visit 511sd.com/app for more details.



First Responder Appreciation BBQ

Join me for a barbeque to thank our hard working first responders who bravely fought the Bernardo Fire and professionally managed the evacuation of our community.



Saturday, June 21

11 a.m.—2 p.m.

**South Village Neighborhood Park
14756 Via Azul, San Diego 92127**

Presented in partnership with the Peñasquitos
Emergency Response Council and Rancho
Peñasquitos Town Council

For more information, email me at markkersey@sandiego.gov.

Black Mountain Ranch Skate Park Gets Updates

Positive activities for our youth should be encouraged, and it's one of my top priorities while serving on the City Council to provide activities that will benefit our youth and the community as a whole. I'm pleased to announce upgrades at Black Mountain Skate Park in Rancho Peñasquitos, which include improvements to the previously existing wooden skateboard ramps and structures at the skate park. The construction has already begun and should be completed by November 2014. A special thanks to the devoted residents and City staff who helped craft this neighborhood treasure. Once completed, this will be a wonderful improvement for District Five residents to enjoy for years to come.



One of several ramps under construction at Black Mountain Ranch Skate Park.

Meet the Staff: Patrick Bouteller, Chief of Staff

I recently had some staffing changes in my office so I wanted to introduce you to the wonderful people who make up my team and will continue to get the work done for District Five. I'll introduce you to more new staff members in upcoming newsletters.



Patrick Bouteller is taking over the Chief of Staff role. He previously managed the Government and Civic Relations office at the Port of San Diego where he implemented the Port District's first legislative platform, helped develop legislation critical to the region's water quality and regulatory sustainability, and worked on a variety of trade, tourism, and infrastructure issues. Previous to the Port of San Diego, Patrick worked in the California State Legislature. There he oversaw 26 individual legislative proposals that were signed into law, and worked on budgetary, water bond, public safety, and tax reform legislation critical to the San Diego region. Email Patrick at pbouteller@sandiego.gov.

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You're Invited to...

Meet the Chief



Wednesday, June 25, 6-7 p.m.

Meet the new San Diego Police Chief

Shelley Zimmerman

Presented by Councilman Mark Kersey

**Rancho Bernardo Library Community Room
17110 Bernardo Center Dr. San Diego 92128**

Also Featuring:

**San Diego Northeastern Division,
Rancho Bernardo Community Council and
Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council**

RSVP to (619) 236-6655 or MarkKersey@sandiego.gov