

# THE KERSEY REPORT

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## The Importance of Brush Management

In the recent fires, nearly 1,600 acres burned within City limits, but thanks to the professionalism and skill of our First Responders, no homes were destroyed and no lives were lost. Fire officials said the defensible space clearance of one hundred feet played a key role in saving countless homes. This is why I joined Mayor Kevin Faulconer and San Diego Fire Chief Javier Mainar to help spread the word on the importance of brush management. This year, wildfire season is no longer just a few months of the year but instead a year-round battle for San Diego. For homeowners, vegetation poses a major wildfire risk and requires proper management to prevent future disasters. As one of many San Diegans evacuated during the Bernardo Fire, I was reminded how critical it is to take the proper safety precautions to ensure that we are prepared when an emergency does occur. Here are some proactive measures you can take:



*At the scene of the Bernardo Fire with Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Fire Chief Mainar (not pictured)*

**Maintain 100 Feet of Defensible Space**—You can create this buffer between your home and the potential fuel source by pruning vegetation around your home, which can slow a fire down. Please visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/fire/pdf/brushpdf.pdf> for more information.

**Remove All Dead Grass, Plants, and Weeds Within 30 Feet of Your Home**— For the homes adjacent to open space and wild land, many of which are located in District Five communities, some of these proactive steps aren't just recommended, but required.

**Have an Evacuation Plan**— I can say from personal experience: making sure you have your important papers in one place, a plan for what you'll take with you in an evacuation, and knowing where you'll go can make an emergency evacuation far less stressful.

This year's budget calls for \$1 million for Brush Management, with a goal to reach approximately 226 acres. It's an ongoing effort, so we all must stay vigilant with all signs pointing to a severe fire season ahead.

## New Rapid Service From MTS



The new Rapid transit service from MTS operates all day with higher frequency and fewer stops. In addition, riders can enjoy Rapid's unique new stations and more comfortable buses. This service currently features three routes, each helping to connect different areas of the City to Downtown. Rapid Route 290 connects Rancho Bernardo Transit Center, Sabre Springs/Peñasquitos Transit Center, and downtown which will be beneficial to residents in our community. Visit <http://www.sdmts.com/marketing/rapid.asp> for more info.

## New Scripps Ranch Library Homework Program

While homework is probably the last thing on most kids' minds this time of year, I'd like to tell you about a great educational opportunity coming to Scripps Ranch this fall. The Scripps Ranch Library has been chosen for a new after school pilot program called, "Do Your Homework @ the Library." This program will expand library hours to their highest level in ten years, as well as provide one-on-one assistance to K-8 students with their school-assigned homework. A learning coordinator will be assigned the library to help facilitate the program. The plan also expands the Scripps Ranch Library hours to forty-eight hours per week, which is an increase of four hours per week. The Rancho Bernardo Library will also see its hours extended by three and a half hours per week. San Diego Unified School District Superintendent Cindy Marten and Public Library Director Deborah Barrow worked with the City to develop the program, which is funded by the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. I'm very pleased that our community has been chosen for this program.



## Water Survey Saves

Thanks to our Customer Advocate David Akin at the Public Utilities Department, one District Five resident saved big on her water bill. Check out her e-mail to my office:

*I wanted to let you know that I have been following up on the Water Conservation and Residential Water Survey Program that you helped me enroll in several months ago with [the] Public Utilities Department. I just received my water bill for the period of April 10 to June 10 and am pleased to report that by following the recommended changes I have saved about 15 HCF (about 33%) in water usage for the same time period a year ago. Given that this year has been warmer and undergoing a significant drought, I think this is a very good outcome. I attended the Water Conservation Workshop that Councilman Kersey conducted (in Rancho Peñasquitos) a couple of months ago. I think the Water Conservation Program and the Workshops are really worthwhile. I spoke to Councilman Kersey and **David Akin** at that meeting and expressed my hope that the advice of **Chad Gabany** (water utilities technician) would produce a good result. I am very pleased with the watering schedule that Chad recommended and the improved water usage. I really appreciate your work in this area. Yours, Sandra Wetzels-Smith*

To schedule a Water Survey, e-mail [watersurvey@sandiego.gov](mailto:watersurvey@sandiego.gov) or call (619) 570-1999.

## Summer Safety Tips From the Red Cross

With summer upon us, we all must remember to take some extra precautions to avoid accidents. I wanted to share with you some important safety tips from the Red Cross. Dehydration increases the risk of heat stroke, which can be life threatening. Make sure you never leave children or animals in your car unattended, as the inside of a car can reach over 120 degrees during the day. It's also important to know what heat stroke looks like and how to react to it. Some of the signs of heat stroke include: hot, red skin which may be dry or moist; changes in consciousness; and high body temperature. If someone is experiencing heat stroke, call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number. If you're near a pool, be sure to keep a close eye on any children and don't let them swim unattended. Constant supervision is important to keep kids safe. You can download the free Red Cross app at <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps>. Stay safe out there!



**American  
Red Cross**

## Community Profile: Jim Hearn

On July 1st, the Council proclaimed it “Jim Hearn Day” in the City of San Diego. Jim is an exemplary San Diegan who has volunteered extensively in the community, dedicating over 1,000 hours of service last year alone! Jim joined the San Diego Police Department’s Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol in 1995 and served as a Patrol Manager for sixteen years and a Field Training Officer for fifteen years. Jim has proven to be an outstanding District Five resident through his extensive volunteer efforts and commitment to the community. Congratulations to Jim on his well-deserved proclamation.



## Upcoming Events in the District

**National Night Out**— I would like to invite you to join the San Diego Police Department’s Northeastern Division at the 2nd Annual National Night Out. The event will take place at 13396 Salmon River Road and will be raising awareness on crime and drug prevention, anti-crime programs, and strengthen police and community partnerships. To RSVP, contact Shannah Oliveras at [soliveras@pd.sandiego.gov](mailto:soliveras@pd.sandiego.gov).

**Rita’s Grand Opening**— If you’re looking for a fresh way to cool down this summer, you’re in luck. The grand opening of Rita’s of Rancho Peñasquitos will be on July 22nd from 12pm to 10pm. Rita’s specializes in Italian Ice, but also offers milkshakes and frozen custard.

**Mission Federal Grand Opening**— Mission Federal Credit Union’s new branch in Scripps Ranch will be celebrating its grand opening on August 2nd from 9am to 1pm at 10393 Spring Canyon Road. This branch will feature many services including an envelope-free walk-up ATM. Come out and welcome Mission Federal to the neighborhood.

## Meet the Staff: Garrett Hager, Community Representative

**Garrett Hager** represents the communities of Rancho Peñasquitos, Black Mountain Ranch, Torrey Highlands, and is also in charge of our proclamation, certificate, and letter writing program. Garrett is



a graduate of San Diego State University, where he received a Bachelor’s Degree in International Security & Conflict Resolution with a specialization in Cooperation and Conflict Resolution. Prior to joining the District Five team, Garrett has been very active in local government, community outreach projects, and spent ten months interning for Councilmember Scott Sherman in District Seven. Garrett is an avid tennis player, enjoys a good slice of pizza, and is dedicated to serving the constituents of District Five. Garrett can be reached at [Ghager@sandiego.gov](mailto:Ghager@sandiego.gov) or 619-236-6655.





**San Diego City Councilman Mark Kersey**  
202 C Street, MS #10A  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Telephone: (619) 236-6655  
MarkKersey@sandiego.gov  
[www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd5/](http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd5/)

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## My Photo Stream



*Honoring our First Responders with a Thank You BBQ*



*Re-opening Rancho Peñasquitos Skate Park With Upgrades*



*Celebrating the 4th of July at the SRCA Parade in Scripps Ranch*



*Proclaiming "RB Chorale Day" in the City of San Diego*