

## **President's Annual Report for 2008-2009**

### OVERVIEW

The Rancho Bernardo Community Council is responsible for maintaining the quality of life for those who reside in Rancho Bernardo and keeping our neighborhoods safe. As a proactive organization, the Rancho Bernardo Community Council strives to establish itself as an organization which stays abreast of issues that affect our area and provides important information to the residents of our community. The Rancho Bernardo Community Council meets on the fourth Thursday of every month, 7pm, at the Rancho Bernardo Library. Due to the holidays in November and December, we do a combined meeting for those two months which is held the first Thursday in December.

This report covers the present administrative year from March 2008 through February 2009. During that time frame, the Rancho Bernardo Community Council had a very active year. Each month consisted of informative presentations to help increase public awareness of issues surrounding our community. The Community Council, in trying to serve the communities immediate needs, best focused many of our presentations and speakers to fire safety and recovery.

Jay Riordan presented the annual President's report in March.

#### Chronologically our guest speakers included:

Jeff Bowman former San Diego fire resource chief and present chair of San Diego regional fire safety forum, gave a comprehensive presentation on issues pertaining to planning for the next wildfire and what improvements are needed to protect us.

Jo Ellen Jacoby, supervising landscape designer from the water resources management program of the city of San Diego water dept., discussed water sources, usage, ways to conserve, new technology and services. She said that SD residents are getting the message because our water use has remained constant even as our population continues to grow.

Sheryl Bilbrey, of the San Diego Better Business Bureau spoke about the organizations' mission to set standards, rate business integrity, process consumer complaints and provide arbitration. The BBB evaluates businesses (both member and non-members) and charities. After the wildfires there were many cases of consumer fraud and contractors making promises they could not deliver.

Logan Jenkins, a columnist for the San Diego Union Tribune, spoke humorously about the early days in Rancho Bernardo when the developers struggles to incorporate the community and plan events to bring downtown residents up to the new area. He went on to discuss declining newspaper readership which threatens the status of the paper and may eventually cause a loss of the comprehensive and unique voice of the newspaper

writers.

Carl De Maio, district 5 city councilmember- elect, discussed plans to bring change to city hall. Carl emphasized his three priorities,; balancing the budget, refurbishing the infrastructure and core services and improving the ethics and culture of the city council operations, Carl spoke against the new proposed city hall based on financial considerations.

Brian Maienschein, outgoing city council member for district 5, spoke briefly, stating that is was a great honor to represent the community. He recognized Courtney Smith for her hard work and her efforts as liaison with the council.

Jeff Bowman, former San Diego fire resource chief and present chair of the San Diego regional fire safety forum., argued against Proposition A, which was a proposed parcel tax on the November ballot to establish a regional fire protection agency, stating that an expert consultant had not evaluated the situation, the parcel taxation is not fair and the new agency is a “concept with no specifics”.

Chief Augie Ghio, from the San Diego Fire Department, argued for Proposition A, stating that regionalizing the fire service will benefit the entire county and funds are needed to purchase additional equipment.

Cory Beckwith, fire captain for SD Fire Department, and John Wood, also a Fire Captain, discussed rolling brown outs and response time issues that impact all of San Diego.

Chronologically-Some issues brought to our attention during Resident's Remarks included:

Deferred until after Item 6 (Presentation) – Carl De Maio (candidate for City Council) thanked our members for their efforts to better the community and expressed his plans to work with the Council in the future. George George introduced himself as a candidate for the district 5 city council seat. He gave a brief history of his background and his reasons for running for office. Diane Peters spoke about the needed renovation of Station 33 and the scheduled fundraiser of a golf tournament and dinner set for May 19.

Myrna Reese spoke about her concerns with an unusual election situation in March when she was a candidate. There was a tie for the representative in District G and Myrna, who has served on several community councils over the past two decades, felt that it was inappropriate to have the two candidates give presentations and then have the council vote. She recommended that if this situation ever happens again, that a coin flip would be more fair procedure to solve the dilemma. President Riordan thanked Myrna for all her efforts on behalf of the community over the years.

Kiki Willis, a youth volunteer with the Rancho Bernardo United Coalition, encouraged the Community Council to assign a representative to serve on the Coalition.

Patrick Hunter, Executive Director of the Citizen's Review Board on Police Practices, presented a brief overview of the program. Twenty three volunteer citizens spend 20 hours a month reviewing about 75 serious complaints each year brought by the public against the Police Department of San Diego. Presently there is no Rancho Bernardo resident sitting on the board - however there are no vacancies and a wait list to participate.

Firefighter Justice Norgord spoke about the reality of future wildfires and warned residents not to have a false sense of security but instead to be ready by clearing brush, safeguarding our homes, etc. He said that our area has several new assets, including a high-tech helicopter and a revised schedule to add extra crews during Santa Anna conditions, and that communication county wide has improved. Frank Auwarter encouraged the council to make fire readiness a priority this year.

Carl DeMaio, our newly elected San Diego City Council Representative, is organizing several "listening sessions" in the district to give residents a chance to share their concerns. The Rancho Bernardo meeting was Monday, July 28 at Carl's Home. He was working on pension reform and has five Council votes of support.

Gus Davis has created a YouTube demonstration with instructions for building an attic vent screen which will deter wildfire ashes. For information go to: [WWW.youtube.com/1!usioyce](http://WWW.youtube.com/1!usioyce).

Robin Kaufman reported on five topics. The Bernardo Hills pilot project speed bumps have been installed.

Lisa Silverman. Representing the North Inland Community Prevention Program, expressed concern over teen alcohol use and pot smoking at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. She is advocating for stricter host party legislation and permanent drinking prohibition at our beaches. Her organization has a ten minute power point presentation which they would like to show at a council meeting. Chairman Jay Riordan explained that our programs were booked far in advance, but we would keep her information for future reference.

Robin Kaufman reported that the Duenda bridge would open shortly after the fence work was completed.

Safe Beaches San Diego spokesperson Scott Chipman urged the council and audience to vote Yes on Proposition D to guarantee that our beaches will continue to be alcohol free. He emphasized that this past year the beaches have been safer and more attractive to families and tourists. For more information go to [SafeBeachesSanDiego.org](http://SafeBeachesSanDiego.org).

Captain Mark Jones, new commanding police officer of the North Eastern Division, introduced himself and shared his vision to reduce crime and strive for better law enforcement in our community.

Hal Altenbern spoke about his concerns regarding the Maintenance Assessment Budget (MAD) budget. He feels it is not right and fair that 42% of the funds for any local project go to engineering and city departments.

Jim Denton presented plans for landscape changes at the Bernardo Heights Country Club. In a proactive measure to conserve water, the BHCC has hired a golf course architect to redesign some of the periphery areas with drought tolerant native plants. Work on the project will begin soon.

Michael Robinson, CEO of the San Diego North Chamber of Commerce, announced that America's largest professional cycling event, the Amgen Tour of Cali, was scheduled in Rancho Bernardo on Sunday, February 22. Up to 80~1000 people are expected to attend the race which begins at noon and features cyclist Lance Armstrong. This is a unique economic opportunity for local businesses and the Chamber is organizing a mini RB Alive type fair and promotional materials.

### 2008 Goals

To bring more value to the community; Fire Safety was still a major concern for the community, so we kept our focus on attracting guest speakers that kept us up to date with news and information.

Our goal was to do things where the community at large would have a direct and immediate effect. One such accomplishment was the Utility box beautification project, headed by Janet Atkin. This project was conceived by Janet early in the year. Janet faced many hurdles that she quickly overcame and has finished her term on a successful note with the first box painted and many more to come.

Another example were our recycling events. Andrea Thomas saw the need in the community for locations to recycle batteries. Once she took on the task it grew to include various electronics the response was overwhelming and request for many more such events from the community;

A more personal goal was implementing changes so that the council would work together more cohesively. Although some progress was made in this direction I do believe this goal was fully realized. It is my hope that this is a focus and goal for the upcoming council.

### New Goals

The newly appointed President will review the Committees and set new goals for the coming year.

Although I have only served two years on the council, one as President, my experiences and new relationships have been eye opening. It has been an honor to serve the community where I have chosen to locate my business and raise my family.

Submitted March 26, 2009 by

Jay Riordan, President

Rancho Bernardo Community Council