

Message from District 5 Council Member

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am more than proud of everyone in our community for pulling together and giving their neighbors a helping hand when one was so desperately needed for many. Hurricane Ike did a number on Baytown, I do not think anyone can deny that, and still everyone kept a positive attitude throughout the pre- and post stages. Slowly, we are getting back to normal activities, with stores opening back up, houses being repaired, and families and friends coming back together for their weekend traditions.

My family and I decided to stay and ride out the storm and to wake up and see what happened during the night was crazy and calm at the same time. Trees of every type and age were across streets, power lines, and unfortunately, houses. It was quiet though, in the early morning. For those of us who live by 146, I-10, or the plants it was eerie how quiet everything was. The low hum of the highway wasn't there anymore and it was replaced with the melody of chainsaw spurts and neighbors calling to other neighbors, wondering what happened to their property and if their families were all right. After the initial awe and shock, everyone realized that it was time to roll up their sleeves and get to clearing what Ike had thrown at them.

While everyone was tending to their homes and property, Centerpoint was working hard to get the power back up. Some of us hadn't ever gone more than 2 hours without power, so 2-3 weeks seemed like an eternity. The rest of America thought we wouldn't have power for 6 weeks, but the outcome was totally different. Last week, Baytown had 99.8% of its power back and we can thank the hardworking men and women of Centerpoint for helping us achieve that.

I would also like to thank City staff for the amazing job they did before, during and after Ike. We are

truly blessed to have received their energy and dedication throughout the disaster.

So to let you get back to your lives, I will thank you very much, District 5 for acting the way you did. I couldn't be more proud of you.

Lynn Caskey

Message from District 6 Council Member

District 6 Residents,

It was really good to see everyone at National Night Out. It was very nice visiting with so many of you that evening. I was glad to see that everyone was in good spirits, particularly after such a devastating hurricane. It is amazing how much better one's attitude is after having their power restored. I must say that the community really came together well after the storm. It was so nice to see everyone's neighbors helping one another so willingly. It's really a shame that it takes such a tragedy to bring us all together and to really appreciate what great neighbors we actually have.

Overall, I think the City responded very well to the aftermath of the storm. Did we make some mistakes? Of course. However, I feel like we learned some valuable lessons from this event. We could utilize our low power emergency A.M. radio station better than we did. I think when you compare how we performed to our neighboring cities, we compared very favorably. Now we can start to get back to regular City business and start trying to reach the goals that we set for ourselves in the City visioning process. There are a lot of great things happening in Baytown. I am proud to be your representative and to be a part of our city's positive transformation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 832-876-8363 or jamesmccartney@msn.com.

David McCartney



City of Baytown Newsletter

Special Edition

Message from The Mayor

As I write this article, our City continues the cleanup from one of the most devastating events in our history. We have all seen sights that we thought we would never see, from complete destruction of portions of our City from tidal surges and rising water to widespread tree and home damage to insufferable delays in the restoration of power to many of us. Through it all, I want you all to know that I have never been more proud to be your Mayor.

I have witnessed neighbors helping each other, politeness and generosity far more evident than selfishness, patience in those long gas and supply lines, and families sharing time together in the most difficult circumstances. I have witnessed extraordinary efforts by hundreds of dedicated City employees, who are too often overlooked and taken for granted by us, but who came through on our behalf in this storm with unfailing good cheer and their usual efficiency, at the cost of repairing their own homes and comforting their own families. I would ask each of you to take a minute the next time you see a City employee and just thank them for doing their job so well. Be assured, they won't expect it, but they surely deserve it.

Stephen DonCarlos

Message from District 1 Council Member

THANK YOU, BAYTOWN!!!!

Your eagerness to make our city great again is commendable. Please take advantage of the programs FEMA, SBA, Blue Roof Program and the United Way have to offer in your efforts to recover from Hurricane Ike.

Reach out to your neighbors and share information. Please join your Neighborhood Civic Groups and Crime Watch to protect your neighborhood. Your ideas, concerns and solutions have been appreciated.

Thank you again for your support. Your efforts are being recognized.

Lena Yepes

Message from District 2 Council Member

I hope all of you are recovering well from Hurricane Ike. I am really impressed with the way so many pulled together. If there was any good about Ike, it was that it rallied our community. As you can see there are many changes going on in our downtown area. Buildings have been inspected and owners have to be responsible for their upkeep. I am so excited about our newest addition to the downtown area. The Visual Art Center, highlighting visual art is coming along really well. If you want to get involved, go over to 110 West Texas Avenue and sign up. It is a work in progress.

I am working very hard to get a recycling and litter curriculum into our schools. Our kids are the key to making an IMPACT on our environment. Our city and school district are working together to make this happen. We are coordinating teacher training with Dr. Arena from GCCISD and she is such a pleasure to work with. It is a goal of Councilman McCartney and myself with Council awareness to find and implement a site or sites for a 1st class recycling center— a recycle site open 6 or 7 days a

week that would offer our citizens a center that handles all sorts of recyclables. We must get serious with our environmental issues. Our community must “Go Green” and make that a priority.

With Council’s support I asked that we make a bold step towards doing the right thing for our youth. The request was to place a young man or woman from the ages of 13 to 18 on active boards, commissions or committees. I encourage parents to talk to your children and urge them to be involved in our city affairs. Go to our website, www.baytown.org and look into each of the selections. The applications are online also. I am pleased and honored that Council saw the importance in our youth.

Scott Sholey

Message from District 3 Council Member

Hello again, I hope everyone has recovered from Ike’s impact. Our community has recovered quickly because of your efforts of “neighbors helping neighbors.” We have begun a new budget year in our city and as always public safety is our priority. Recently, the City and police department approved an agreement that will enhance our efforts to attract and hire new police officers. Construction is continuing on the new Fire Station 5 facility across from Baytown JHS.

This budget year will also bring many quality of life improvements such as, the groundbreaking of a family aquatics center in the first part of 2009 at the Wayne Gray Sports Complex and construction of a dog park at Jenkins Park for dog lovers and their pets to enjoy. Continued focus remains on street reconstruction and resurfacing projects throughout District 3 and the City. As nightfall begins early during the fall, please report street light outages to Centerpoint directly at 713—207-2222 or at www.centerpointenergy.com/outage/. You will need the 5 digit number located on the pole.

I hope you have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas season. May you be blessed always.

Brandon Capetillo

Message from District 4 Council Member

As you are reading this, I trust that your situation following Hurricane Ike has improved. Whether we received damage to our property or lost power, we have all suffered a disruption in our lives.

There are areas of our City that were hit hard by the force of the storm, but through it all, I saw many neighborhoods come together. Some residents helped clean up a neighbor’s yard, while others who had electricity opened their homes to allow those without it a comfortable place to rest.

I have spoken with several District 4 residents and have noted the concerns and issues you shared with me. Please know that our Mayor, City Manager, and their staff have worked tirelessly throughout this recovery period and are aware of these and other matters that fall into the category of “areas for improvement.” In the days following the hurricane, we did have some hiccups with certain functions of services, but you the citizens of Baytown have shown patience and understanding while we return to normal functions.

One group that must be recognized is our City employees, who have done an outstanding job in helping restore our community. I don’t have enough space to share all of the stories about how these fine men and women went above and beyond their normal duties to prepare for and respond to this devastating hurricane. Please join me in thanking them whenever you see a City employee, whether it is a Utility or Parks & Recreation Dept. worker or a member of our public safety departments – Police, Fire, and EMS.

With all of the volunteerism shown by the citizens of Baytown, I can truly say I am proud to be your City Council representative, but more importantly, I am proud to be a citizen of Baytown.

If you have matters that you would like to discuss, my home number is (281) 424-5378 and email address is district4@baytown.org. Again, thank you for the privilege of being your City Councilman.

Terry Sain