



# The Bonita Highlander

March 2025

## It is Annual Assessment Time!

Hello Neighbors!

Your 2025-2026 Annual Assessment (HOA Dues) notice for \$550.00 will be arriving by your preferred method (email/regular mail) shortly and you have three options in how you make your payment.

### 1. Mail Your Check:

- Please write your Lot Number and property address on your check.
- Mail your check to: Bonita Highlands HOA  
c/o PayHOA  
PO BOX 94046  
Las Vegas, NV 89193-4046

### 2. Make Your Payment via PayHOA: (2 options)

- Log into your PayHOA Account
- Click the blue “make a payment” link at the top of your owner portal which should take you to your Checkout page
- On the Checkout page, select the invoice that you would like to pay by clicking on the small box to the left of the Assessment invoice.
- Next click the blue “add payment method”. You will have two payment options
  - a. Credit/Debit Card: Select a pre-entered card or enter your card information. This option includes a processing fee of 3.25% + a \$0.50 per transaction.
  - b. Bank Account or ACH:
    - Click “US Bank Account” and search for your bank to see if PayHOA recognizes your bank and follow the instructions to enter you bank’s log in credentials.
    - OR, you can click on the blue “enter bank details manually” button and enter the routing and account number for your bank/credit union.

Once your banks information is entered, PayHOA will validate your account using a \$0.01 micro deposit to your account which will take 24-26 hours. The micro deposit will include a code (SM-xxxx) within the description/title of the transaction. You will need this 4-digit code when you log back into your PayHOA account to make your payment. ACH payments incur a processing fee of \$1.95 per transaction.

Please Note: If your bank sends a check for an ACH transfer, please allow for a 4-7 day delay in your payment being posted to PayHOA. ALSO your Assessment becomes late if not paid or post marked by April 15, 2025. So please pay as soon as you receive your Assessment notice. Assessment Late Fees begins April 16, 2025!

## Meet Mike Webb Our New BHHA Open Space Chair (OSC)

Please Welcome, Mike Webb, as our new BHHA Open Space Chair (OSC)! Mike is a 25-year resident of the Bonita Highlands and has retired after approximately 27 years of public service. He's a self-proclaimed "tech geek" with a passion for geographic information systems and evolving technology. His wife, Liz, of 30 years continues to pursue her passion as a "law geek." They have three children: their oldest, a UCSD graduate, works as an aerospace engineer at General Atomics, their daughter is in her final year of architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and their youngest recently started at UCSD, majoring in mathematics and economics. Mike's connection to the Highlands dates back to 1986 when he briefly lived in the neighborhood. Liz attended Bonita High, fell in love with the area, and in 1999 they seized the opportunity to purchase their current home from family friends.

### Wildfire Experience

Mike's experiences with wildfires have shaped his commitment to community safety:

- During the 2003 wildfires, as a first responder, Mike and his team saved 10 homes in an Alpine cul-de-sac.
- In the 2008 San Diego wildfires, he ran the DHS command center supporting the Lead FEMA coordinator.
- The 125-toll road proved crucial in protecting the Highlands during these fires, creating a natural fire break and allowing firefighters quick access to combat the blaze.

### Community Involvement

Motivated by his experiences and the ongoing threat of wildfires, Mike decided to give back to the community he loves. As the new Open Space Chair, his goals are to:

- Utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to digitize the Open Spaces, trails, maintenance and mowing schedules, brow ditches, erosion areas of concern, and proactively pursue efforts in collaboration with Bonita Fire Department to minimize fire risks where possible.
- Help community members prepare for potential fire threats.
- Work towards making the Highlands more resilient in the face of wildfires.

Mike's unique blend of technical expertise, public service experience, and personal investment in the community makes him well-suited for this important role.

As we welcome Mike Webb to the BHHA OSC Staff position, we bid a **Fond Farewell** to James Endicott who has had this job for the past two years. James succeeded Michelle Kriz who had the job for two years after Glenn Kopp retired. Glenn was the longest serving Open Space Chair serving more than 25 years. All of our Open Space Staff Members have come with unique skills that make them suited for this job, and Mike is no exception!

A knowledge of trees, plants, soil issues, proper landscape maintenance, fire prevention, water conservation, professional Team Work, and a sincere desire to keep the Highlands safe and well maintained are key elements of being the BHHA OSC.

The picture to the right is one of two unique Eucalyptus trees located in the Highlands!



## Fire Safety and Prevention

From the Bonita/Sunnyside Fire Marshal!

I'm glad you all are so proactive in getting the word out about fire safety/defensible space. I might suggest that for February/March, we can remind people that placement and maintenance of your vegetation is more important than species.

Ensure that trees and shrubs are adequately watered, regularly thinned out, and that dead vegetation is removed. Creating space between plants and trees as well as raising the tree skirts off the ground can greatly reduce the intensity of the fire load in the event of a wildfire approaching your home.

Lastly, the Zone 0 area is the 5' area surrounding the home. During wild fires, embers are sent through the wind-driven storm and up against structures. If you are free of combustible materials in this zone (mulch-synthetic or organic, vegetation, furniture/home decor) then the embers will often burn themselves out, giving the home a better chance of survival. But if you have combustible materials within this 5' zone, these embers take hold of any fuel sources in this zone which can significantly increase the chance of catching your home on fire. .

Thanks for your assistance in getting the word out.

**Jason Oosterbaan** *Captain/ Fire Marshall C Division*

## Sweetwater Authority Water Concerns

Sweetwater Authority (SWA) is keeping you informed about PFAS — man made chemicals found in many everyday products that can make their way into water sources. In April 2024, the EPA set new national limits on PFAS in drinking water. Water agencies like Sweetwater Authority must begin monitoring by 2027 and meet stricter standards by 2029. SWA has already started testing and sharing results:

- First round of testing showed PFAS levels at Sweetwater Reservoir required public notification but did not require action.
- Latest results indicate PFAS levels at Sweetwater Reservoir at the “response level” which require next steps like additional treatment, blending water sources, or taking the water source off line.
- Sweetwater Authority’s water is safe to drink based on all current state and federal standards.

**To learn more, sign up to receive email notifications at [www.sweetwater.org/pfas](http://www.sweetwater.org/pfas)**

**The Bonita Highlander** is the monthly newsletter of the Bonita Highlands Homeowners' Association (BHHA), a California non-profit corporation. The Newsletter is distributed (postage paid) or emailed to each residence within the Bonita Highlands. Information for publication should be send to the recording Secretary & Editor, Mary Ellen Phillips at [bhighlanderhoa@gmail.com](mailto:bhighlanderhoa@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month, for publication the following month. The Association reserves the right to edit any copy submitted for publication.

**BHHA**

**PO Box 458**

**Bonita, CA 91908-0458**

The BHHA documents, forms, meeting minutes and notices can be found on its website:

[bonitahighlands.org](http://bonitahighlands.org)



## ***The Bonita Highlander***

5073 Central Ave. #458  
Bonita, CA. 91908 - 0458

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### **Annual Homeowner's Meeting—March 3, 2025— 6:00 p.m. Bonita Library Community Room**

The next monthly BHHA meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 6:00 PM***, in person at the Bonita Sunnyside Fire Station. All homeowners are welcome to attend.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introduction of Board members, Pledge of Allegiance, Announcement of the Next Meeting, Adoption of Minutes from the last monthly meeting.
2. Homeowner appearances for appeals to notices, fines, or requests for structural alterations.
3. Homeowner Open Communications.
4. Committee and Staff Reports: ACC-A (SCRs), ACC-C (violations), Financial Officer, Open Space Chairperson, and BHHA Communications.
5. Old Business: Annual Assessments, Easement at Wild Oats Lane.
6. New Business: BoD Election 2025.
7. Community Items of Interest.
8. Board Member Comments.
9. Adjournment.
10. Board Executive Session (if required).



The BHHA Board of Directors (BOD) welcomes and encourages e-mail and letters from homeowners. Any letter sent to the Board may be published in this newsletter. Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author or other contributor, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the BOD or any Staff Member.