



The Bonita Highlander

November 2025

Happy Thanksgiving !!

An annual thanksgiving holiday tradition in North American colonies is documented for the first time in 1619, in what is now called Virginia by 38 English settlers that arrived aboard the ship *Margaret* by way of the James River at Berkeley Hundred in Charles City County on December 4, 1619. But the more familiar explanation of the origins of the Thanksgiving holiday involves the Pilgrims and Puritans who emigrated from England in the 1620s and 1630s. Over the next 160+ years, several celebrations were held in early New England history that have been identified as the "First Thanksgiving", including Pilgrim festivals in Plymouth in 1621 and 1623, and a Puritan holiday in Boston in 1631. As the first President of the United States, George Washington proclaimed the first nationwide thanksgiving celebration in America marking November 26, 1789, "as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God", and calling on Americans to "unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions."

Giving Back...

Whether you've got a little extra **Time, Food, or Money**, there's a way to put it to good use in your community for Thanksgiving.

If you have Time:

- Write a Thank-You note to someone who helped you in some way this year!
- Donate items to local charities that support the less fortunate, i.e., Goodwill, Salvation Army, etc.

If you have Food:

- Donate food to local food banks
- Invite friends, neighbors, and military service members to a Big Thanksgiving Dinner
- Drop off a Thanksgiving Meal(s) to neighbors who are alone

If you have Money:

- Donate a grocery gift card to someone that is less fortunate
- Donate money to Feeding America or another charity



!! NIGHT SAFETY !!

As we roll out of Summer and into Fall with shorter days and the shift to "Standard Time", everyone is reminded to watch out for homeowners, children, and pets in the Highlands that are out and about "after the sun goes down" as it gets dark much earlier and quicker! Many folks will be walking their pets and kids will be playing in their yards after dark! Drivers need to be extra cautious after it gets dark earlier. So please slow down and be extra vigilant.

BHHA Reminders

Annual Elections: If you are considering a run for the Board of Directors, its not too late to get your "Candidate Qualification Form" from the Recording Secretary at bhighlanderhoa@gmail.com. Your completed form must be received by the Recording Secretary by December 5th.

BHHA Committees: The BOD has established two Committees to allow homeowners volunteer opportunities to get involved with the work of the BHHA. The **Open Space Committee** is currently working on developing a BHHA 3-Year Landscape Maintenance Plan. The **Architectural Control Committee** is looking for volunteers to get involved with the processes associated with keeping the Bonita Highlands well maintained, beautiful, and the wonderful community it is today! Both Committees will meet locally 3-4 times a year on a schedule suitable to all involved.

Holiday Lighting: Tis the holiday season and homeowners have begun putting up very festive decorations for the upcoming holidays. The rule of thumb is to put up decorations 2 weeks before the holiday and removed the decorations 2 weeks after the holiday. Homeowners have become very creative with their tasteful holiday decorations with lights, figurines, inflatables, etc. Enjoy the holidays!

Salvation Army: Watch for additional information regarding a possible local Salvation Army donation drop off day in the Bonita Highlands. Once set up, this will allow homeowners to bring their donations to a common area within the Highlands, saving a longer trip to the local Salvation Army store on Broadway in Chula Vista. Giving in this way is in the Spirit of Thanksgiving because your donations will help others in the community.

Watchout for Your Neighbors: Sadly, this time of year is when communities see an increase in home thieves. While we don't have a formal "Neighborhood Watch" program in the Highlands, we can still "keep an eye out" for our neighbors. If you know your neighbor is out of town for a few days, you can be just a little more observant of their home to make sure nothing happens to their property. They may even ask for help with house lighting, mail pick up, trash cans, etc. If you see anything suspicious in the neighborhood, you can always contact the San Diego County Sheriff or CHP in the case of possibly abandoned vehicles. This is a wonderful community where people look out for one another. This happened recently when a large tortoise, new to the neighborhood, ventured out of his yard. A neighbor spotted it and started a search for its owner. It only took a couple of days, but his owner was found and he got home safe and sound! You'd be surprised at the number of people who have a tortoise or know someone who does!

Scams: This is also the time of year when we see an increase in scams, especially for older adults.

- **Grandparent Scam**. Scammers pretends to be a loved one in trouble, using AI to mimic loved one's voices.
- **Financial Service Scam**. Fake calls, emails, or texts claiming you're late on a payment or acting like they're from your bank or credit card company, asking for your personal information — Don't give it to them!
- **Tech Support Scam**. Pop-up screens or messages on your cell phone or computer warning of "viruses" that want you to "click" on fake support links/URLs — DON'T!
- **Government Impersonation Scams**. Callers or texts from people pretending to be from the IRS or SSA — these organizations never call or text!!

If you're not sure about any of these, contact a friend/family member before responding!!!

\$\$ Annual Budget Review Time \$\$



Money, Money, Money...

It's annual budgeting season. The first of three budget "Readings" will be held at the November 11th BHHA Board meeting. The second and third readings will take place at the December and January monthly meetings. The 2026-2027 Budget and the Annual Assessment amount will be approved at the January meeting. If you are interested in the budgeting process, please attend the meetings.

November is Full of Special Days and Holidays!!!

November 1st — Author's Day and Love your Lawyer Day!

November 2nd — Ends Daylight Savings Time! We "fall back" one our at 2 a.m. and get an extra hour of sleep! Plus it National Bison Day!

November 10th — U.S. Marine Corps' 250th Birthday; you can check it out at <https://www.marines.mil/Marines250/>

November 11th — Veterans Day; you can check it out at <https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/history-of-veterans-day/>

November 13th — World Kindness Day; organizations in our community are hosting events that will remind people of the importance of being kind to each other.

November 15th — America Recycles Day!

November 27th — Thanksgiving Day; which is followed by "Black Friday"!

November 29th — Small Business Day; get out there and support our Small Businesses!

And for those homeowners that display the American flag, November is also a good month to check the condition of your flag. If it is showing signs of wear, it may be a good time to replace it with a new one! You can turn in your old flag at a Flag Disposal Box at a police station or your local VFW, American Legions, or Boy Scouts who will properly dispose of the flag.

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, Mary Ellen Phillips at 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
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The BHHA documents, forms, meeting minutes and notices can be found on its website:
bonitahighlands.org



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The next monthly BHHA meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, November 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: Committees, BOD Election, Budget Review
6. New Business: Salvation Army event
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.