



The Bonita Highlander

January 2021

From the BHHA Board President

Well, it is here... our first Video Teleconference or VTC meeting. The days are too short and the weather too unpredictable to continue to meet at

our upper horse ring, where we have enjoyed several meetings over the summer and fall months.

Sandra Jones will be facilitating our VTC on **Tuesday, January 12, 2021 starting at 6:30 p.m.** As has been discussed previously, you will need to send a message to our Bonita Highlander Recording Secretary and ask to attend. **bhighlander@cox.net** is the e-mail address. A day or two before the meeting, you will see a message that has a web site address on it, which you may just “click” on. That will hyperlink you to the VTC site on the day and time of the meeting. You may be asked to click on “Join Meeting,” which will bring you on into the meeting. Note that you’ll need to click on “start video” and “start audio” when you get in. However, we’d appreciate it if you would announce your presence, then mute the audio.

Worth noting is that you may need to download the ZOOM software. If you are joining on an iPad, Tablet, or phone you will need to download the Zoom software and create an account. If you are joining on a PC or laptop computer you just do a “Google” search for ZOOM, go to the web site and create an account (basically just your name and e-mail address). There is nothing to download. Once you are signed in with an account, you may select “Join a Meeting” in the upper right hand corner. It will ask for the meeting ID first and then the pass code, but the last time I joined a meeting, all I needed to do was just select “Join Meeting.”

I expect that we may have some growing pains, and I’ll ask for our Facilitator to provide a telephone number to call if you are experiencing a problem. Hope to see you on line in January.

Lastly, kudos to all of you who put up lights this year, and especially those who were judged as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in our lighting contest. A special thanks to **Sylvia Tucker** and **Sharon Clayton** for judging this year’s contest. Well done all! ~ Mike

Now that our weather has cooled down, take a walk, and see what has been going on in the open space.

What’s Up In The Open Space

We had some trail erosion left behind by the rains last year and it has been repaired. To prevent erosion this year, straw wattles (long straw sausages) have been placed in strategic locations to move the water to the side of the trail. Please leave them in place, and if you happen to see one blowing around, please let us know at **bhighlander@cox.net**. The trails were dragged in October/November and are ready for a walk or a horseback ride.



Our trees and trails are our treasure, and preserving the beauty of Bonita Highlands is the priority of the Open Space Committee. Our tree work continues. We had a major limb break off from a Eucalyptus tree at the trail entrance on the West side of Corral Canyon at Blacksmith. The break resulted in a large wound to the tree, and the tree will need to be removed. We are hoping to do something with the stump and have asked to have about 6 feet of it left in place. Please keep your eyes open and let us know if you see any other broken branches, especially after a wind event.

We anticipate our next major tree trim and removal project to take place in the area bordered by Country Trails, Wild Oats, and Central Avenue. We call this “Eucalyptus Grove” and have been told that it is, in fact, a Eucalyptus grove. We have

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walked through the area with several arborists and have a conservative plan of action. If you care to look, many of the trees (but not all) intended for removal are marked with orange dots. Most of these are along the trails or next to fences where they could fall on people or damage property. Trees will be trimmed to meet the Fire Marshall's guidelines, as well as dead trees removed. This project has yet to be scheduled but we anticipate starting it sometime early next year.

We placed a "Private Property, No Trespassing" sign on the gate to the upper horse ring. This was done for insurance purposes and is not meant to limit access by homeowners to the area. All trails are open to the public, but not all areas. The horse ring itself is only available for use by Bonita Highlands homeowners. If you have any questions or would like to drive to the horse ring, send an email to bhighlander@cox.net.

Lastly, please do not dump, or allow your contractors to dump, anything in the open space. This includes tree and brush trimmings. It is unsightly, expensive to remove, and dangerous. Furthermore, it is not allowed by our Rules & Regulations and can result in a fine. Why? When the oats grow in the open space, much of this debris gets covered up. When a lawn mower or a weed whip hits a piece of concrete, wood, wire, or pipe, it can cause severe damage to



equipment and people, not to mention a fire if a spark is created. Put all construction waste and debris in your trash, not in the open space. Keep our open space clean, our maintenance costs down, and enjoyable for everyone. ~ Michelle Kriz

Board of Directors Election Time Line

- December 1-30, 2020 - Election Inspector and vote counters determined.
 - January 25-30, 2021 - Ballots mailed to HOs.
 - March 1, 2021 - Ballot deadline at annual meeting
 - March 1, 2021 - Election results announced.
- Election Results will also be posted on the BHHA website and announced in the April *Bonita Highlander* newsletter.

From The Financial Officer

Our January Board and Homeowners meeting will be our third and final reading and review of the budget for FY21-22. The Board will vote to approve it at our January meeting.

We have had two previous readings of the proposed budget at our November and December outdoor meetings by the upper horse ring. Adjustments have been made as appropriate. This reading and review will be by video teleconference.



U.S. Postal Address for Correspondence

Bonita Highlands Homeowners' Association
P.O. Box 458 Bonita, CA 91908-0458

E-mail address: bhighlander@cox.net

FAX only: (619) 479-2200 (24 hours) You may also find documents, forms, meeting minutes, and notices on our **BHHA web site:** www.bonitahighlands.org



The next monthly **BHHA Board & HOA meeting** is scheduled for a **ZOOM meeting on January 12, 2021** at 6:30. .

Homeowners who wish to attend the VTC meeting must first send an e-mail to our Recording Secretary requesting that they be included in the HOA monthly VTC meetings. The e-mail address is: bhighlander@cox.net.

**All Bonita Highlands Homeowners
Are Welcome To Attend!**



The Bonita Highlander

...is the newsletter of the Bonita Highlands Homeowners' Association, a California non-profit corporation whose mailing address is:

P.O. Box 458, Bonita, CA 91908-0458

This newsletter is published periodically (usually once per month) at Bonita, CA, and is distributed (postage paid) to each residence within the Bonita Highlands community.

Editor / Distribution: **Mary Ellen Phillips**

Submissions for publication should be sent to the editor, copy-ready, at bhighlander@cox.net. The deadline is the 15th of the month for publication the following month. The Association reserves the right to edit any copy submitted for publication.

Community Congratulations, Notes, and Election

To Brighten Your Holiday: Lighting contest winners!

*** First Place - 3735 Corral Canyon**

*** Second Place - 3835 Wild Oats *Third Place - 5615 Jockey Way**

Honorable mentions: 5624 Jockey Way; 3601 Country Trails; 3726 Wild Oats; 3727 Wild Oats; 3916 Rock River; 5409 Horse Ridge; 3766 Wild Oats; 5718 Winners Circle; 4014 Shadow Rock; 5958 Steeplechase Road; 5957 Lazy Trails; 3843 Wild Oats.

Our thanks to the judges this year, **Sylvia Tucker** and **Sharon Clayton**, for taking on the challenge of judging so many wonderful lights and figure displays that were shining so brightly throughout the Bonita Highlands. Thanks to everyone who took the time and made the effort to share some holiday cheer with their community.

Christmas/Holiday Decorations

Just a gentle reminder to please remove your holiday decorations two weeks after the holiday, which for Christmas decorations will be by January 16, 2021. Christmas trees may be placed in the yard waste bins to be picked up on trash day. You may cut it up or place it in the bin in one piece. There are also composting sites available, if you choose to have your tree used as mulch. Please do not toss your tree into the “natural areas” of our Open Space.

Budget Packet Reminder

The Budget packet for FY2021-22 along with the annual assessment fee (due before April 1st), will be in your mail box before the first of February. Please note the new assessment amount and mark your calendar to ensure payment is made on time. You will receive a courtesy notice the first of March and a payment envelope.

Board Officer Election

The end of January you will receive your ballot for our Board of Director Election. The candidates are all incumbents of the current board: Mike Seiler, Dave Schlesinger, Sharon Clayton, Dan Diaz, and Caroline Pierce. We are lucky to have these knowledgeable people agree to run again. Please have your ballot in the mail so that it is received by our Annual meeting, Monday March 1, 2021. It is important that your lot number, Highland’s address and **signature** appear on the blue envelope.

~ The Passing of a Special Individual ~

Gary Snyder passed away in December, and he will be sorely missed. Gary was a BHHA Board member for several years, the Chair of our Architectural Control Committee for Conformance for many years, and a stalwart supporter of the Bonita Highlands community in his many acts and deeds. We have truly lost a jewel in our leadership crown on the Board, our Staff, and within the Bonita Highlands homeowners population... as we did with the losses of **Debbie Allen** and **Don Scovel** in previous years.

These are just some of the people who have worked, often without recognition or remuneration, to help keep our Bonita Highlands community the special place that it has become. I sometimes see daily walkers who pick up litter and hear about people who have reported unsafe conditions on trails, roads, or in our open spaces. They too share Gary’s spirit and intent. Because of Gary and those like him, there is no other community like the Bonita Highlands within the South County. It is truly our “special place in the sun.” A prayerful “*thank you Gary*” for helping keep it that way. ~ **Mike Seiler**, BHHA BOD Pres.



New Neighbors: Call the Bonita Highland’s “Welcoming Committee” representatives **Bobbie and Ray Snider** and “get mugged” (a coffee mug, that is)!
Call (619) 421-9384 to set up an appointment or ask questions.





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P.O. Box 458

Bonita, CA 91908-0458

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**The January BHHA HOA meeting will be held via ZOOM video teleconference (VTC) on
Tuesday, January 12, 2021 starting at 6:30 p.m.**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, Announcement of Next Meeting, Adoption of Minutes from Last Meeting.
2. Homeowner Open Communications.
3. Homeowner appearances for appeals to violation notices, fines, requests for structural alterations.
4. Committee and staff reports.
5. Old Business. 6. New Business.
7. Community items of interest.
8. Board Member Comments.
9. Adjournment. 10. An Executive Session won't be held on this VTC.

To participate in our monthly VTC, send an e-mail to:
bhighlander@cox.net
and request to be added to the invitation list. An e-mail will be sent to those wishing to attend the VTC.

To participate on your PC, laptop, pad, or cell phone with internet capability, you will need to download Microsoft's free ZOOM software. Just "Google" ZOOM and you should find the MS site from which to download the software. It takes about 30 seconds or so do download.

When you receive the invitation message, just click on the link and you should be able to access the VTC. If you don't have ZOOM software, the link will ask you if you want to load it. You may then do so, after which you will be connected to the VTC.

The Bonita Highlands Homeowners' Association Board of Directors welcomes and encourages e-mail and letters from other homeowners. Any letter sent to the Board may be published in this newsletter. Please sign letters and include a phone number (which will NOT be published). Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author, the editor, or other contributor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Board of Directors or any member thereof.