



The Bonita Highlander

April 2020

From the Board President - Mike Seiler

Good grief! What lousy times we are having these days. We are literally at war with a virus pandemic, it's been raining a lot (which we need, but we also miss the sunshine), many places are closed to the public, people are out of work, kids are out of school and bored at home, malls and movie theaters are shuttered, and restaurants are closed for dining in... and it appears we still have months to go in this condition. I hope and pray that our nation will come out of this Corona Virus emergency soon and be better educated in how to deal with similar situations in the future. My hat is off to the first responders as well as the Federal, State, County, and local administrations who are keeping this pandemic somewhat at bay.

You may note on page four of this newsletter that we have no regular April 2020 HOA meeting scheduled. The Corona Virus Disease, or COVID-19, is something that we must not take lightly. It is a deadly virus, in the extreme, and we must take every reasonable action and precaution to comply with the directions that medical experts are giving us. The semi-isolated conditions in which we must now live for a time will most likely continue for some months before we are able to see a semblance of normalcy return to our lives. However, I also expect that we will experience some permanent life changes too.

As a refresher, from the **San Diego County's "211" web site**, here is what to do if you think you have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus, especially if you have had close contact with someone (within 6 feet) who is confirmed to have, or is being evaluated for, COVID-19 infection:



Monitor your health starting from the day you first had close contact with the person and continue for 14 days after you last had close contact with the person. Watch for these signs and symptoms:

A fever of 100.4°F/38°C or higher, taking your temperature twice a day.

- Coughing.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.



Other early symptoms: chills, body aches, sore throat, headache, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, and runny nose.

If you develop a fever or any of these symptoms, call your healthcare provider right away. **But before going to your medical appointment**, be sure to tell your healthcare provider about your close contact with someone who is confirmed to have or is being evaluated for COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected. Ask your healthcare provider to also call the local or state health department.

The official word these days is to remain at home except for essential trips, such as buying groceries, banking, gassing up your vehicle, going to the pharmacy or picking up take-out food. Walk the dog if you must, but maintain a social distance from people you meet (about 6 feet).

Unfortunately, some older (and some younger) single neighbors may feel very uncomfortable these days. The additional, forced physical isolation makes it even harder to maintain a positive mental attitude. **(Even the casino's are closed!)**

This is when those who feel very isolated and alone need to call friends or relatives on the phone... *and be called by friends*. If you are "in the dumps" emotionally, maybe start reading that book you've been putting off reading. Or try to watch light hearted television programs, or maybe just write a letter to someone you know. No close friends? Then perhaps write letters to the editor of the local paper or U-T and express your opinions about things you agree (or disagree) with. It is important that you stay mentally active, and don't forget to stick your head outside from time to time to smell some fresh air. Maybe take short walks around the block. You might even start feeding the birds in the morning.

What's New in the Neighborhood

- The **website** for the HOA, bonitahighlands.org is currently under construction to move from one platform to another. Hopefully, the move and document reorganization will make it easier to find what you need. Letting homeowners know about this and other issues is often difficult as we have two basic modes to communicate: the newsletter and direct mail.
 - Another way to communicate quickly is the **FLASH** e-mail. Homeowners may voluntarily send me a note asking to be included as a **FLASH** recipient. If I add your name and e-mail to the existing list you will be advised of road closures, dangerous animals in the area, police actions, website issues, or other important safety info regarding our neighborhood. **FLASH** e-mails are sent to you as a "Bcc" (*blind copy*) addressee, so no one will see your e-mail address.
- Staff Vacancy:** **Glenn Kopp** has been our **Open Space Chairman** for many years and has decided to retire at the end of April. He is our "go to" person whenever there has been a problem in the open space or trail areas. He has overseen the contracted maintainers for decades to ensure our open spaces are properly mowed and watered, trails groomed and fallen trees and brush cleared away as necessary. We are looking for an existing Bonita Highlands resident homeowner to pick up the task as soon as possible. So if you, or someone you know, is interested in applying for the position, please contact the Association at bhighlander@cox.net or send a letter to: Bonita Highlands Homeowners' Assn., PO Box 458, Bonita 91908. This is a paid staff position and we will forward interested applicants a formal job description, which they may use to provide a tailored resume for the position. Those who previously presented resumes do not need to resend them as they are already held and will be considered along with newly submitted resumes. Resumes will be accepted until April 10, 2020. ~ Ed.

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

Bonita Highlands HOA Assessments

The Annual Homeowner Packets and the Courtesy invoices for the Annual Assessment were mailed to owners last month.

The Annual Homeowner Packets include the pro forma budget, reserve study, collection policy, other policy disclosures, charges for documents, and insurance information.

The Annual Assessment is \$395 for FY 2020-2021 and is due on April 1st, 2020. In the event your assessment payment is received/postmarked after April 15th, a 10% late charge will be imposed, based on the delinquent assessment.

For additional information, please visit the BHHA web site at: www.bonitahighlands.org/association where you will find a link to the full BHHA Collection Policy document. Thank you S. Jones. Financial Officer



**The next monthly
BHHA Board of
Directors meeting:**

Tuesday,
May 12, 2019
6:30 PM in the

Bonita - Sunnyside Fire Station's
Community Room,
located at 4900 Bonita Road.
An Executive Session may follow,
if required.

**All Bonita Highlands homeowners
are welcome to attend!**

**April Meeting canceled due to
Shelter-in-Place restrictions.**



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.

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Lastly, if things are still just not coming together for you, or someone you know, it may be time to call a “Help Line.”

If you feel that you or a friend are having a true emotional crisis, call the San Diego County *Access and Crisis Line*. This is a **toll free** telephone number at 1-888-724-7240, and is available **24-hours a day, 7-days a week**. Note that it is for people who are in an emotional crisis frame of mind. However, if you or your friend just need to talk with someone because of loneliness, here are two numbers to call with caring people who will listen and talk with you:

The Warm Line: Phone **(800) 930-9276**. This is a **toll free** line but is available only from **3:30 p.m. in the afternoon until 11 p.m. at night**. This is a non-crisis telephone service that is a complement to the county’s *Access and Crisis Line* for emergency service. From a 2013 Union Tribune article by Agnes Herman, “...it is also a connection, a telephone line that anyone who is troubled but not in crisis, can dial and find trained active listeners who will offer not only their ears, but knowledge of the community and can offer resource guidance and referrals for someone in pain, discomfort, depression, anxiety or isolation. Too frequently, the caller in crisis is isolated and lonely and simply wants to talk to a patient listener. We call that friendly support. For someone who does not have a friend, because many of us elders have lost our friends and listeners, a phone call to the **Warm Line** will provide a long-distance supportive friendship that helps take the edge off of the isolation.”

The Friendship Line: Phone: **(800) 971-0016**. A **24-hour toll-free** hotline/ “warm line” for older and disabled adults. The *Institute on Aging* Friendship Line provides older and disabled adults reassurance, crisis intervention, information, and referrals. Call to speak with a trained volunteer who specializes in offering caring conversation with older adults.

These hard times, and the rainy weather that comes and goes have a lot of neighbors “in the dumps” because many community services and gathering places they use are closed, including restaurants and libraries. Hang in there friends; things will get better. ~ *Mike*

Good Deeds and Kind Gestures

Former Bonita Highland’s resident continues to do good deeds: **Alain and Sue Gillot** moved from their home of 30+ years on Blacksmith, to Georgetown TX, which is 20 miles from Austin. Those of you who knew Alain, know that he was the first on the scene to offer assistance for those in need. Moving to Texas hasn’t changed that habit. Alain and a few neighbors, in conjunction with **St. David Hospital**, now install wheel chair ramps for lower income, disabled Texans. St. David provides the materials, an engineer to draw the plans, and the wood is delivered with a table saw so volunteers can get to work. Alain has been involved in building two ramps so far. After a ramp is in place, another team of volunteers arrives to paint and seal the ramp. Should the resident leave or no longer need the ramp, St. David sends a crew to dismantle the ramp in sections and stores it so it may be easily reassembled and reused when a new need arises.

Alain is also involved in “tombstone maintenance.” He and his neighbors travel into the country side where OLD family cemeteries are on private property. The state has a record of all these little family or small community plots. Alain and his merry band, get permission, go onto the land, reset any disturbed or damaged head stones and/or repair them. They fix headstones dating back to the early 1800s.

We are experiencing “trying times” now as many in our community “shelter in place.” You hear stories of kindness, such as a woman removing items from her grocery cart as she realized she would be short the amount needed to pay her bill only to have the woman behind her stay “put those things back, I will buy your groceries for you.” As the Highlands is a community where many have lived for 30-40 years, take a moment to check on neighbors who might need help getting the essentials they need. I know our neighbors have reached out to us saying “let us know if you need something,” and that kindness is greatly appreciated. Now more than ever, we need to take care of each other. Stay safe. ~ *Ed*.

Bonita Sunnyside Fire Department



Our Bonita-Sunnyside **Fire Chief Michael Sims** was our guest speaker at the recent BHHA Annual Meeting. Among the information that he shared was that our Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Department has received an “IOS Rating of 2.” The **Insurance Service Office (IOS)** is a for-profit organization that provides statistical information on risk and how well our fire department can protect our community. The Department’s previous rating had been a lesser grade of “3,” so this is something to celebrate! Many insurance companies use this score to help set insurance rates. As your homeowner’s policy is set to renew, you might call your agent and mention the new IOS rating of the Bonita Sunnyside Fire Department. It might help lower your premiums! ~ *Ed*.



New Neighbors: Call the Bonita Highland’s “Welcoming Committee” representative Bobbie 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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Bonita, CA 91908-0458

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**BHHA Board Meeting Agenda May 12, 2020.
Start Time is 6:30 p.m.**

1. Call to order, roll, announcement of next meeting, adoption of minutes and agenda.
2. Homeowner Open Communications.
3. Homeowner appearances for appeals to violation notices or fines and requests for structural alterations.
4. Committee and staff reports.
5. Old Business.
A) Open Space Contract
B) Ring Road Encroachment
6. New Business
A) OS Interim contract
7. Community items of interest.
8. Board Member Comments
9. Adjournment. 10. Executive session may be held.

**BHHA Board Meeting Agenda, June 9, 2020,
Start Time - 6:30 p.m.**

1. Call to order, roll, announcement of next meeting, adoption of minutes and agenda.
2. Homeowner Open Communications.
3. Homeowner appearances for appeals to violation notices or fines, requests for structural alteration.
4. Committee and staff reports.
5. Old Business. 6. New Business. Community items of interest.
8. Board Member Comments. 9. Adjournment.
10. Executive session may be held.

**Do watch out for
kids in the
morning at
Crosswalks!
Slow down or stop
as directed.**

(Cartoon drawn by
Joe Schmidt)



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.