



The Bonita Highlander

April 2021

From the BHHA Board President

Welcome to the second calendar quarter of 2021!



This quarter gives us **Easter** and the end of **Passover** (4-4), **Ramadan** (4-12 to 5-11), **Tax Day** (was 4-15, now extended to 5-17), **Earth Day** (4-22), **Cinco de Mayo** (5-5), **Mothers Day** (5-9), **Memorial Day** (5-31), **Flag Day** (6-20), and **Father's day** (6-20), which also happens to be the **First day of Summer!**



This should also be the quarter where most, if not all of the remaining adults and children will receive their COVID-19 vaccinations. I certainly hope so. Now that some of the restrictions are being lifted, let's get out to our local restaurants and other places of business that are open again and give them the retail business they desperately need.

Personally, I'm looking forward to "getting out again" and moving toward some normalcy. There is hope that by the end of this calendar quarter we might even be allowed to move about without the dreaded facial masks that we've been required to wear for so long. No guarantee, of course, because the mask requirement will be lifted when it is deemed appropriate by our County medical experts. But I do hope they, and the state powers that be, use common sense and science instead of what we've been experiencing in some of the extended retail closings and curtailments of youth sports (just my opinion, of course).

This is the also the calendar quarter in San Diego County when folks uncover their BBQs, patio furniture, and get things ready for the Summer season. Outside parties in the evening (please be respectful of neighbors concerning outside music and noise), pool and beach parties during the days, hiking and biking, and nature walks.

We plan on continuing our outside homeowner meetings on Saturdays at our upper horse ring until our local Fire Department again makes its training room available for our meetings. We might consider moving all our meetings to Saturday afternoon, whether outside or inside... which isn't a promise, but something to consider. If you have a thought or opinion on this idea, how about sending in an e-mail to our Recording Secretary at bhighlander@cox.net



Bonita Highlands... unique in San Diego County... city-close, country living! ~ Mike

Open Space Report

April Showers Bring May Flowers. We continue to hope for more rain, but with the few inches we have had, the open space is green and blooming. We will be dragging the trails this month, as well as doing a maintenance on the trail entrances. If you live on the up-hill side of a trail entrance, please check to make sure your downspouts are not draining on to the trail entrance. All Highlands properties should have downspouts discharging water to the front of the property, not the side. When downspouts empty to the trail entrance, a larger amount of water is discharged onto the trail, making it a mess to walk or ride a bike through. It takes longer for it dry up and more weeds grow, which creates more maintenance.



So, what will you see blooming right now? We have several native species of plants blooming with yellow daisy like flowers. One, commonly called **San Diego Sunflower** (small flower with a gold center) and one, **California Brittle Bush** (larger flower with a brown center) are abundant. A large mass of these shrubs can be found on the South Sprinter Lane trail behind Good Karma Way. A few pink



flowering shrubs called **California Aster** are mixed in. **Deerweed** is another of our yellow flowering native plants. It is a little harder to spot as it is smaller with long branches which have a yellow and orange tubular shaped flower on the end of them. I have found larger groupings of these in the open space between Steeplechase and Corral Canyon (south trail entrance on Steeplechase). This area



also has a large amount of **California Buckwheat** and a huge patch of California Brittle Bush mixed with San Diego Sunflower. The California Buckwheat has a rounded head of small white flowers. The leaves are noticeably short and needlelike. In the fall, Buckwheat turns reddish brown and can be seen all over Bonita Highlands.



Many of our slopes are covered with smaller blue and purple flowers. They can be seen peeking out above the grass-like stems. Look for **Blue-eyed Grass**, **Blue Dicks**, and purple **Owl Clover**. The Owl Clover flowers resemble an owl and grow close to the ground. They are ridiculously cute. Many lily-type flowers are blooming now, as well. Red skin onions, early onions, golden stars, **Padre Shooting Star**, and **Fremont's Death Camas** are a few you might notice. As the name of some of them imply, most are long stemmed with clusters of white or yellow star shaped flowers at the end.



Several white blooming plants can be seen. The **Milk Vetch** blooms a creamy-white and when the pods dry, they rattle in the wind. Coast Morning Glory can be seen trailing along the ground and up in the bushes. White Sage has been spotted near the trails at the upper horse ring. What a treat to live so close to all these California native plants.



Get out there and take a walk, much of these smaller plants are short lived and will soon be overtaken by the wild oats, mustard weed, thistle and other non-native grasses. Be careful to look for snakes and our native Coast Chollas while you are looking at the wildflowers.

Please visit our slideshow on YouTube at < https://youtu.be/Uun6Xk_DWE0 > to view photos of the native plants of Bonita Highlands. Photos are courtesy of **Rebecca Kriz**, and all have been taken in the Bonita Highlands.

Michelle Kriz, BHHA Open Space Chair



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.



Another thought ...for what it's worth: The Rumble of the Trash Trucks



A few years ago, I did a comparison of the companies servicing the Highlands area. A homeowner asked me to do it again, as now three companies travel our streets on Tuesday. That is nine trucks rumbling up and down our streets every Tuesday, making three-point turns in the cul-de-sacs. I called customer service for each company and obtained the following information:

EDCO (619-287-7555) is \$66.60 every other month (**\$33.30 per month**). 96-gallon waste containers for trash are free. Additional waste containers cost \$5.50 per bill and after three free Green Waste containers, the charge is \$5.50 per additional container per bill. They will also pick up to three large items on Tuesdays if scheduled in advance and do this once each calendar quarter. (Note that this is also the cheapest of the three services.)

Republic (619-421-9400) is **\$36 a month** after an initial \$73 fee and a \$50 deposit. Each additional 96-gallon trash container is \$11.51 per month. I called twice and was on hold 15 minutes the first time and 25 minutes the second time waiting for their "first available rep." The information above was taken from their website and there was no mention of landscape waste. I looked up Allied on the internet and it said "Now Republic." Allied didn't even answer their phone.



Waste Management (855-211-6556) is \$79.10 every other month (**39.55 per month**). 64-gallon trash, recycle and yard waste containers are free. Additional trash containers are \$8.60 a month and additional yard waste containers are \$9.12 a month. Bulk pick up is \$35 for the first item and additional items (2-6) are \$15 each. This must be scheduled in advance as well.

I listed the companies in alphabetical order so this is, by no means, an endorsement of, or recommendation for any company. Calling these companies is not for the faint of heart because they are so busy that wait times for a representative can be 15+ minutes. You are able to sign up for services on-line via their websites. The ladies I spoke with at EDCO and Waste Management were very helpful. Waste Management quoted the 64-gallon container as being for a family of four, and the 96 gallon container is more. Also, stopping Waste Management service will result in a bin removal fee being assessed. ~ *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:

bonitahighlands.org

Assessment Reminder. Your Annual Assessment Fee of **\$435** is due and payable on **April 1st, 2021**. It is late if not paid or post-marked by midnight, **April 15th**. A late charge of \$43.50 will be charged to past due accounts on the **April 16th**.

If you have already paid, we **thank you** for your timely remittance. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have by letter, e-mail, or by attending our monthly meeting April 10th.

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.

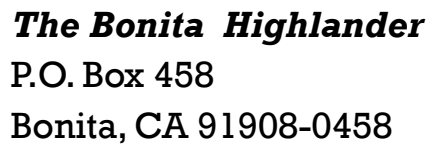


The next monthly **BHHA Board & HOA meeting** is scheduled for an Open Air meeting on

April 10, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.
at the **Upper Horse Ring area**.



Homeowners who wish to attend the meeting will be able to drive to the site using the paved access road off the west side of Corral Canyon. The gate will be unlocked a half hour prior to the beginning of the meeting. Bring a chair and sun hat as we are hoping for good weather.



The next monthly BHHA HOA meeting will be held on ***Saturday April 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the Upper Horse Ring.***

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