



# The Bonita Highlander

August 2020

## Open Space Report: Do It For Your Health - Get Out and Explore the Open Space

Thank you to all who have contacted us regarding the open space during the last month. It is encouraging to know that you recognize the treasure that our open space is and are willing to be a part of taking care of it. I am still looking for more people to commit to being the “eyes and ears” of the open space as part of an Open Space Committee. We welcome your input for newsletter topics as well as ideas on how to make the open space even better. Please contact us through email at [bhighlander@cox.net](mailto:bhighlander@cox.net).



**Mowing.** The open space “mowing” project is still ongoing. Our new contractor, **LandCare**, is doing an excellent job of cleaning up the open space. Bonita Highlands has four LandCare employees working here full-time. You may have seen them riding their mowers or weed whipping those hard to reach areas. What you may not see is the additional work they are completing while they are mowing: removing dead shrubs that were blocking the trails, clearing behind fences, skirting up trees for fire safety, and clearing brow ditches have all been part of their maintenance tasks. Most of the trail entrances have been cleared of weeds and brush. There are a few more yet to go. Hold tight, they will be there to take care of yours. No one will be missed.

**Tree Work.** On August 3, LandCare along with **Tony Gomez Tree Service**, will be in the open space area between Wild Oats Lane and Central Avenue doing a major tree service. They have cleared two weeks to work in the area. In July, a large Eucalyptus over hanging the trail was removed. It was apparent that the tree was dying and had several recent breaks. Rather than just removing the broken branch, we made the decision to remove the tree. This is a heavily used area, and after walking it several times with the contractor and the arborist, we noticed other trees needing to be removed or trimmed. We are taking this opportunity to do a general maintenance of trees interfering with the trail, threatening homes and fences, roots that are undermining brow ditches, as well as “skirting up” all the trees for fire safety. We understand there are many areas requiring this type of work. It is our intention to review all areas and prioritize each one. This is only the beginning of a huge project that may take years to complete.

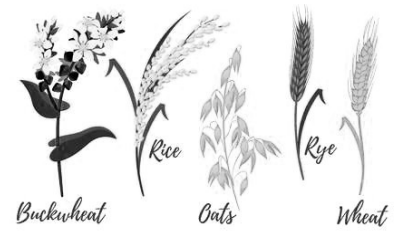


**Brow Ditches.** Brow ditch cleaning will be an ongoing topic as our rainy season is only a few months away. We are aware of several areas where the ditches in the open space need repair. As I mentioned above, LandCare is cleaning them as they are in the open space mowing. After they are clear, a formal evaluation will be made, and they will be repaired where needed. LandCare will perform one more brow ditch cleanings before the rainy season begins, in October. For those homeowners with brow ditches on their property, please take this opportunity to assess your ditches. They are an integral part of the drainage system in the Bonita Highlands and the homeowners’ responsibility to keep clean and running freely. If you have questions, please contact us at [bhighlander@cox.net](mailto:bhighlander@cox.net). We are happy to help.

**Connect with Nature.** In closing, a local author and naturalist, **Richard Halsey**, gave a *Zoom* presentation on the health benefits of being outside and connecting with nature. He promotes exploring San Diego’s native plants and animals. If he lived in the Bonita Highlands, he would step out of his back door onto one of the trails and find a unique environment filled with native plants, animals, birds, and insects. Get outside, stop, look, and listen, you will be amazed at what you find. Check our website at [www.bonitahighlands.org](http://www.bonitahighlands.org) for a link to his presentation. He is also an award-winning author of the book [Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California](#), available from Sunbelt Publishing.

Get out and have fun in our beautiful Bonita Highlands.  
**Michelle Kriz**, BHHA Open Space Chair

**From my perspective...** As Recording Secretary, e-mails with questions and concerns come through the Highlands' e-mail, and I have to say that, to a person, the questions and concerns have been pleasant, with people appreciating the efforts of the staff. I have received numerous e-mails about the flurry of activity over the last month as the new Open Space contractor has made its presence known. **Michelle Kriz**, our Open Space Chair has traversed the trails back-and-forth, and up-and-down to address tree issues and other open space needs. She related to one homeowner that "Buckwheat" left on the slopes is left in place on purpose as a slope stabilizer. Buckwheat is a "weedy" looking plant (in my opinion) and it has a "puff" on the ends of the stems that must be the Buckwheat blossom. Having read Michelle's information, I noticed Buckwheat all along the south side of Otay Lakes Road and remembered 40 years ago when my teaching took our first graders into Rice Canyon to identify the Buckwheat there. Who knew so many years later, Buckwheat would once again appear on my radar. Enjoy this beautiful area. ~ **Mary Ellen**



**When you contact the HOA...**  
please include your **address** and **phone number**.

Open Space: **Michelle Kriz** at  
*michellebhha@gmail.com*

Structural Changes (ACC-A): **John Gilman** at  
*bhha.acc.a@gmail.com*

Conformance Notices (ACC-C): **Silvia Tucker**  
*syltuck2002@hotmail.com*

Finance Issues: **Sandra Jones** at  
*bhighlanderfo@cox.net*

**Note:** Please "Cc" our Recording Secretary  
**Mary Ellen Phillips** in e-mails to Staff,  
to include them in our communications log.  
*bhighlander@cox.net*

**Financial Officer**

The mailing of the **Audited Financial Statements** for fiscal year 2019-2020 will be mailed the first of September. The packet will include the **Annual Notice for Request of Address, Representative and Rental Status**. Please update your personal information regarding your Highlands' home if you have never filled out this form before or if anything has changed since last year. We ask that you return the form within 30 days.



If your home is a rental and it is managed by a property management company, you should request a third party agreement form from the HOA.

We appreciate your help in keeping our information current.



**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 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.



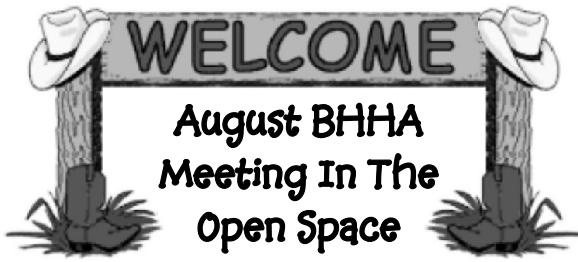
The next monthly **BHHA Board & HOA meeting** is scheduled for **4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 15th**, at the **upper Horse Ring**, which is located off Corral Canyon Road.

**The meeting will be outside. Attendees should bring face masks or face shields and bring chairs or blankets to sit on.**

See the article on page 3 for more details.

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

## Outside Homeowner Meeting Planned for Saturday, August 15th.



I'm sure you will agree that we are long overdue for a regular Bonita Highlands Homeowners' Association meeting. Due to the current pandemic conditions with social distancing requirements, we've searched for a low cost or no-cost venue but have been unable to locate one that is available or, if available, doesn't require that we sanitize the meeting room after we have finished. Therefore, the Board has decided to hold an outdoors Board/Homeowners meeting.

**Where:** In our Open Space area, next to the Upper Horse Ring.

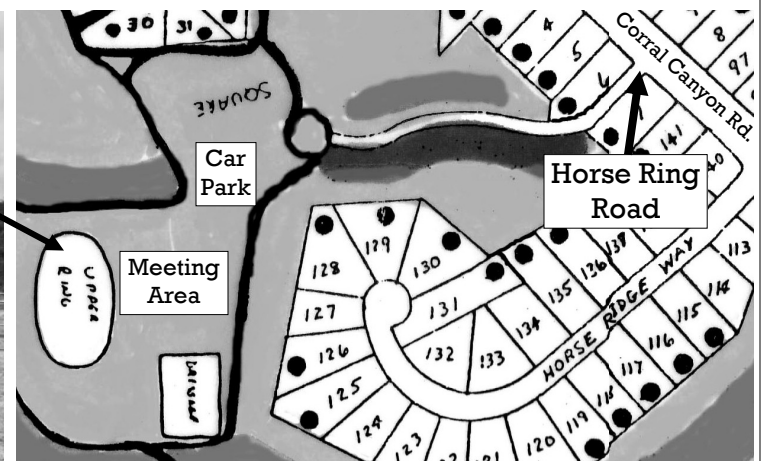
**When:** Saturday, August 15th at 4:00 p.m. This will allow homeowners that normally can't attend our evening meetings to stop by. The afternoon timeframe will take advantage of the cooler temperatures while still having sunlight. **Please arrive by 3:45 p.m. so we may start our meeting on time. The gate will be open by 3:15 p.m.**

**What to Bring:** Face Masks (adults & kids over 2 yrs), Lawn Chairs or Blankets to Sit on. Adults wishing to attend must wear face masks or plastic face shields and we ask everyone to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from non-family members. Everyone should bring their own lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Board and Staff members will have tables but will bring their own chairs. You may bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages, but please take home any trash or containers.

**Children are Welcome:** Families may bring children, but please plan on bringing snacks or activities to keep them occupied (and quiet) during the 2-hour or so meeting. This will be a formal Association meeting, and we won't have any public address system. Therefore, we'll need everyone's cooperation to hear and to be heard when discussing items on the floor. Attendees may leave early, if they need to do so.

**Getting There:** You may drive to the Upper Horse Ring and park fairly close to where the meeting will be held. (see below picture & diagram). The Ring Road entrance is on Corral Canyon, between addresses 3718 and 3726 Corral Canyon Road. Drive to the top, bear left, and you will see the parking area.

**Special Highlight: Horses!** Board Member **Daniel Diaz** and wife **Barbara** will be bringing one or two of their horses that will be loose inside the horse ring, which should provide some atmosphere to the meeting. Young children will need their parents to accompany them when near the horses. ~ *Mike Seiler, Board President*



**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.





***The Bonita Highlander***

P.O. Box 458

Bonita, CA 91908-0458

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**The August Meeting will be held outdoors on Saturday, August 15th, at 4:00 p.m. beside the upper Horse Ring. The meeting agenda is as follows:**

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 or fines, requests for structural alteration.
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 may be held.



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.