



The Bonita Highlander

August 2022

James Endicott—Open Space Chair

Hello Bonita Highland Neighbors,

As of this writing (Mid July) we have been blessed with beautiful and amiable summer weather, perfect for trail hiking or street striding. The annual open space mowing has been accomplished, and brow ditched have been swept clean. Just a friendly reminder for those of us who have brow ditches running across our property, please check to see that nature's debris has been removed from those ditches and ready for a possible summer monsoon. I can see some of you rolling your eyes at this hopeful weather prediction. :-)

If you have never ventured on our well-manicured trails, you are truly in for a wonderful treat. The Highlands are absolutely special because of richness of our open space. Designed with walking, biking, and horse riding in mind, the Highland trails offer splendid views of the natural terrain with flora and fauna. At a number of points one can see San Diego downtown and the blue pacific waters. We can also appreciate the design, beautification, and the hard work of many of our neighbors' backyards. Not only will visual sights be a reward, but also trail walking can clear the mind, build the spirit, and exercise those body parts.

Some of the trails are more arduous than others, If this is your first time out, it might be wise to choose a trail of a shorter duration and less difficulty. Take the usual precautions - water, sunscreen, hat, and maybe a walking stick. If you have a furry four-legged friend, he or she can be great company.

Because of the time of year, be observant of the creepy crawlers. We are in snake territory, especially the venomous rattler. San Diego county primarily has three varieties of rattlers: red diamond, speckled (or white face speckled), and the southern pacific rattle snake. (see the pictures below; left to right) Most likely in the Highlands the one that you may encounter is the southern pacific rattler. It is variable in color - generally gray to brown. It likes areas of which we have plentiful in the Highlands; scrub, chaparral, and disturbed areas such as yards, trails, and golf courses. You are more likely to encounter one of these guys in your yard rather than on a trail.

In the 20 plus years living in the Highlands, I have found four southern pacific rattlers at my home. (My home is on a canyon with a riparian preserve below.) I found one on the front porch, one at the back patio, one in the garage, and one just recently at the south side of the house among green foliage. The one in the garage bit little Andy my pug, but it was a "dry" bite no venom. The one on the south side bit little Chata, a new pug which I had had for only a week, and it did release venom. We rushed her to the vet and \$5,000 later she was fine. There is a vaccine to give to dogs for protection from rattle snake bites which is effective and a lot less money than going to the vet after the bite has occurred. I am sure there are many other stories of snake encounters like mine here in the Highlands. The key is to be observant especially with small children playing in the back yard.

Stay safe and be well,
James,
Open Space Chair



BonitaFest 2022

Bonitafest Celebrates its Golden Anniversary in September—1973-2022

Bonita Highlands is at the center of this year's 50th Annual Bonitafest. Our eight-day community celebration steps off Friday evening September 16 with the Bonitafest Twilight Trail Parade. Open to the public, the parade is for equestrians, bicyclists, and walkers who will assemble at 5:00 p.m. at the Sunnyside Saddle Club Equestrian Corral on Sweetwater Road. At 6:00 p.m. sharp the parade heads east, then circles around the Chula Vista Municipal Golf Course trail to the Bonita History Museum for a folksy End of the Trail party.

On Saturday morning, September 17th, the popular Bonitafest Car Parade assembles at 9:00 a.m. at the Sweetwater Community Church, 5305 Sweetwater Road. Led by the Bonita Sunnyside Fire Department, the parade launches at 10:00 a.m. on a 13.1 mile route through Sunnyside neighborhoods, including Bonita Highlands. Cars will enter on Central Avenue, turn right on Country Trails, right on Blacksmith, right on Corral Canyon left on Central, left on Dawsonia, right on Bonita View Drive, right on Glen Verde Drive, right on Bonita Glen Terrace, right on Glen View Place, left on Dawsonia, left on Central and on to Bonita Downs. Set up a lawn chair and cheer them on!

At noon on Saturday, the parking lot of Sweetwater Community Church transforms into the Bonitafest Performing Arts Festival and Street Fair. Talented Secondary and college students will perform from noon until 4:00 p.m. Vendors will sell one-of-a-kind creations as well as a variety of food.

Bonita's venerable Bonitafest Melodrama will run September 21-24 at the Sweetwater Community Church Theater. Celebrating its 45th year, the Melodrama will present the musical-comedy "Really Fast Food" based on the true story of a "mystery meat" scare at a local eatery in the 1980s. Curtain Time is 7:30 p.m..

Parking for the event will be provided at the Pinery parking lot across Sweetwater Road from Sweetwater Community Church. Volunteers will assist fair goers across Sweetwater Road to attend the festivities.

Auditions were held at the end of July and rehearsals are under way. Local actors Tim Evans and Kaede Muller (Highland's resident) will revive their roles as the villains and have been tuning up their maniacal laughs that are the delight of the children in the audience.

Max Branscomb (Highland's resident and journalism professor at Southwestern Community College) will once again direct this very entertaining play.



If you are new to the "Highlands" or know of someone who just moved in, please contact **Ray Snider**, our Welcoming Committee at rsnider742@cox.net or phone at (619) 421-9384. Ray will stop by to Welcome you, or them, to the Highlands and give them a BHHA mug and some information about our HOA.

Please note that Ray is not a point of contact for problems, complaints, or issues. Such items should be identified either at our monthly Board meetings, by e-mail to bhighlander@cox.net, or by letter to our postal address: BHHA, PO BOX 458, Bonita, CA 91908. *Thanks! ~ Ed.*



Remember the ETC Request?

If you have not completed an Electronic Transfer Consent (ETC) Form, please do so soon. In September there is another BIG mailing scheduled.

Please submit your ETC request so that it can be sent to you electronically.

Thanks to the 200+ homeowners who have returned their form; saves the Association printing AND mailing costs!

The BHHA can be contacted via the U.S. Postal Service and email at the information provided below.



U.S. Postal address for the BHHA:
Bonita Highlands Homeowners Association
PO Box 458
Bonita, CA. 91908-0458

E-mail address: bhighlander@cox.net

BHHA documents, forms, meeting minutes, and notices can be found on our **BHHA** website: bonitahighlands.org

From Our Financial Officer

ETC, ETC, ETC...

+300% increase in this cost for the HOA...

Inflation is affecting the HOA too!

We **were** getting an awesome deal with a local Office Depot for \$.04 a copy, but that deal is changing. As of this week the price is \$.13 a copy, who knows what it will be next week. This means our printing budget will increase by at least \$4,000 or more next year. How can you help? I'm glad you asked.

For the last 2 years we have been promoting the fact that you may receive all documents, that the CA lawmakers allow you to receive, electronically. All you must do is fill out an **ETC form (Electronic Transmission Consent)**. Request it from bhighlander@cox.net our official email address. We will email you a form, you fill it out and email it back to us.

Please do your part to keep Association costs down.

FAX—no more

As of August 1, 2022, the BHHA will no longer communicate using facsimile (fax). Homeowners, lenders, escrow companies have all moved to email communications so paying for a fax services is no longer cost effective. Please continue communicating with BHHA via email at: Bhighlander@cox.net.

Our next monthly BHHA meeting will be on **August 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** There was no board meeting in July, but you may still email the Recording Secretary at Bhighlander@cox.net if there is an issue that needs to be addressed. BHHA monthly meetings will continue to be held by way of *Zoom* video teleconference (VTC).

All Bonita Highlands Homeowners are welcome to attend these Monthly Meetings! Homeowners wishing to attend the VTC meeting should contact our Recording Secretary at Bhighlander@cox.net, requesting they be included in the distribution of the e-mail which provides the meeting's VTC link.

Homeowners wishing to attend who don't have a computer may send a letter to our above U.S. postal address with their phone number. The Recording Secretary will contact them with a homeowner's address who has volunteered an outside VTC station at their residence within the Highlands, ~*Ed*.

The Bonita Highlander is the monthly 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 distributed (postage paid) to each residence within the Bonita Highlands community.

Editor / Distribution: **Mary Ellen Phillips**

Information 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.



Remember to carry your "poop" bags when walking your four legged friends. The Highlands is a dog friendly community with lots of places to walk. Please carry the waste home with you for your trash bin as opposed to leaving it on the trail or sidewalk. Thanks in Advance. Enjoy!



The Bonita Highlander

5073 Central Ave. #458
Bonita, CA. 91908 - 0458

PRST-STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chula Vista, CA
Permit No. 171

The next monthly BHHA meeting will be held on **Tuesday August 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** The meeting will be convened via a Zoom video teleconference (VTC). To attend, please send a request to **Bhighlander@cox.net** and our Recording Secretary or Financial Officer will forward an e-mail to you a day prior to the VTC with a link to the meeting. If you do not have a computer or e-mail capability, please send a letter to our mailing address on Page 3 of this newsletter, including your telephone number, and someone will contact you with a dial-in telephone number for the meeting.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introduction of Board members, Pledge of Allegiance, Announcement of the Next Meeting, Adoption of Minutes from last monthly meeting.
2. Homeowner appearances for appeals to violation notices, fines, or requests for structural alterations.
3. Homeowner Open Communications.
4. Committee and staff reports. 5. Old Business. 6. New Business.
7. Community items of interest. 8. Board Member Comments.
9. Adjournment.
10. A Board Executive session may be held if required.



The Bonita Highlands Homeowners Association Board of Directors welcomes and encourages e-mail and letters from the 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.

