



# The Bonita Highlander

March 2021

## From the BHHA Board President

**ANNUAL HOMEOWNERS' MEETING.** It is almost time for our annual homeowners' meeting again. I am hoping that this newsletter will reach you before Monday, March 1st, just in case you have not been caught up on how we will hold our annual meeting.

**This year, our annual meeting will be held via a ZOOM video teleconference (VTC), beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 1st.** Voting has already occurred via mail, so there will be no voting in person this year due to pandemic-induced limitations. We will have a couple of presentations though.

I have asked our Recording Secretary to send out an e-mail to all of you who are on our "FLASH" e-mail listing, which will provide a link to the Annual Homeowners **ZOOM (VTC) Meeting**. That FLASH listing is the one we have had in place since 2012 and lets us advise homeowners of emergency health or safety type issues within the Bonita Highlands. We occasionally use it for special items that are of local importance or value to all, but which are of a non-safety or emergency nature.

If you are not yet on our FLASH e-mail distribution list, you may send an e-mail to [Bhighlander@cox.net](mailto:Bhighlander@cox.net) and ask to be added to the list.

The e-mail for the Annual Homeowners Meeting VTC link should be going out between February 26th and 28th. You may click on the provided "hyperlink" on March 1st and you'll be routed to the ZOOM meeting site. If a first-timer using ZOOM, you will need to sign in with your name and e-mail address. The ZOOM site will then download free ZOOM meeting software onto your computer in about 30 seconds or so. The other directions are pretty simple to follow. However, I suggest everyone try to "link in" at least 20 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to start.

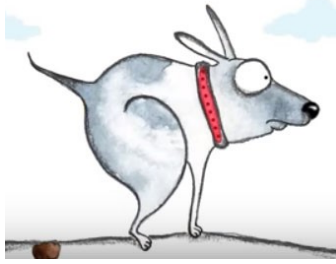
Our BHHA web site now has a note on it that directs homeowners wishing to attend our Annual Homeowners Meeting to send an e-mail request to our Recording Secretary, who will then add them to her distribution list for the ZOOM VTC on March 1st.

**Regular BHHA Monthly Meeting.** As always, we will hold our next regular monthly Board/Homeowners meeting on March 9th, the second Tuesday of the month. That ZOOM meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., and an e-mail will be sent out a few days prior to the meeting with a meeting "hyperlink" included in the message, if you re-make a request to [bhighlander@cox.net](mailto:bhighlander@cox.net) to attend.

The BHHA Board of Directors is hoping to return to meeting at our upper Horse Ring in April. That would return our meeting to the second Saturday of the month. The April meeting would start at 1 p.m. to ensure we have warmth and enough daylight to finish the meeting. We will have more information in our April newsletter on this potential change. It will all depend on how the weather is looking by mid-to-late March.

I hope you older folks, like me, are getting... or have already received your COVID-19 vaccinations by now, and that you younger folks will get them soon. It sure will be nice to see people without masks once again... and maybe even eat inside a restaurant. Hopefully, we just need to "stay the course" for a few more months.

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



Please pick up after your pets when walking them... even in the open space. Then dispose of the refuse at home; don't leave the bag in the open space or beside a sidewalk.

Also, all dogs must be kept on a leash, even in the open spaces. Even friendly dogs can charge an adult, a child, a horse, or another dog. ~ *Ed.*

**Annual Assessment Reminder**

The Annual Assessment Fee of \$435 is due and payable on April 1, 2021.

It becomes late if not paid or post-marked by midnight, April 15th.

For those who have already paid, we thank you for your timely remittance. ~ *F.O.*

**Coyote Danger**

The next 4-6 weeks is mating season for coyotes. Please do not let your dogs out alone. Coyotes can and will attack/kill your pets. Just be aware it can happen to your beloved pet.



Coyote breeding typically peaks in late February and early March, the gestation period averages 58 to 63 days.

While male coyotes can become more aggressive during this time of year, the long and short of it all is that coyotes always pose a risk to your dog (and other small pets). That risk increases during mating season. ~ *Ed.*

**Just A Thought**

While visiting some neighbors, hand delivering the Annual Budget/Reserve & Disclosure packet most received in the mail, I had a chance to talk with some homeowners. I am happy to report that kudos were sent to **Michelle Kriz** for the condition of the Open Space and Trails. One thing I learned is that some homeowners are unclear as to who is paid and who is a volunteer within our homeowners association (HOA).

The Board of Directors are volunteer positions. They have the last word on decisions made, and work for the HOA without compensation. Those of us who do the other jobs, i.e., Open Space, Financial Officer, Architectural modifications, Conformance, Recording Secretary, and Welcome Committee are paid as "part time" employees. We completed time study worksheets to ensure that our compensation reflects the time we spend on the job as is aligned with California's minimum pay standards.



We work together and support each other. I am delighted to work for such a responsible Board of Directors and with a great group of "Staff" people. ~ *Ed.*

\* *We have a new Neighborhood Watch sign on our lamp post. "Thank you" to whoever ordered that!* ~ *Mary Ellen*

**U.S. Postal Address for Correspondence**

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

**E-mail address:** [bhighlander@cox.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 a **ZOOM meeting on March 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

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](mailto:bhighlander@cox.net)

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

# Open Space Report

**BIRD, BIRD, BIRD; BIRD IS THE WORD.** The next few months, the Bonita Highlands Open Space will be all about the birds. Nesting season in San Diego begins in March and runs through July for almost all species of birds. We have decided to postpone the removal of trees or doing any heavy tree work during nesting season, except for emergencies. We have some areas on our list that do not require any removals, but only the “skirting” or removal of downed branches. That work will continue. Dead brush removal along the trails can continue, as well. We will begin our planned tree removals again in July.

While out and about, here is a list of a few of the birds you might see hanging around Bonita Highlands. Our birds of prey include, the White-tailed Kite, four species of hawks, and the nocturnal Barn and Great Horned Owls. You probably hear the Great Horned Owl’s “who who who-who.” You might mistake the Turkey Vulture for a hawk, but it has a larger wingspan, up to 6 ft, and the wing tips are different. Let us not forget the Crows and Ravens that hang out in our trees in large numbers and harass just about everything else. The Raven is about the size of the Red-tailed Hawk and the Crow, about the size of a Pigeon.



California Thrashers and Road Runners are a couple of the birds you might spot on the Proctor Valley side of the Highlands. They like to nest in the Lemonade Berry and Jojoba. They prefer to scurry on the ground and are mighty in voice.


You might see these birds bouncing in and out of our native shrubs: Lesser Gold and House Finches, Wrens and Wren Tits, and Warblers. A couple of our nectar loving birds include several species of Hummingbirds and the Hooded Oriole. We have three species of Hummingbirds who hang around all year, the Allen, Anna’s, and Costas. A subspecies of the Allen’s likes to come in and out (migrate).

Also worth mentioning are the Mourning Doves (a cooing sound), Mockingbirds (they mimic other bird calls) and Scrub Jays (a distinctive call). I was once told by an arborist, that most of the Canary Island Palms in the Sweetwater Riverbed were planted by Scrub Jays. You will probably hear the Mockingbirds before you see them, usually early in the morning, and I am reminded of a car alarm (remember the old ones that made a repetition of several different sounds, over and over and over). We even have a few shorebirds such as the White Egret and the Blue Heron hanging around on the West side of Corral Canyon. Earlier this month you may have heard cackling over head as flocks of Canadian geese were seen migrating in V-formation.



We have been blessed with large yards and open space. Attracting birds to your property naturally is easy and beautiful. Landscaping with California native plants not only provide a drought tolerant, low maintenance landscape, but will attract birds, butterflies, moths, and native bees to your area. Plus, you will not have to put out feeders with seed, which attract rodents. If you are ready to begin setting up your yard to naturally attract and feed the birds, look for ideas online. Check out the **California Native Plant Society** and the **Sweetwater Authority** websites for information on using California Native plants in your landscape. If you e-mail me, I can point you in the right direction.

Our open space is full of California native plants and they are getting ready to bloom. When walking our trails, keep your eyes and ears open and you will see and hear many birds. **Michelle Kriz**, BHHA Open Space Chair

<p><b>From the San Diego Zoo Website</b></p>	<p>To help hummingbirds in your own neighborhood, check your local plant nursery for plants that attract these tiny treasures. If you’d like to place feeders in your yard for hummingbirds, use a feeder made of glass rather than plastic, and make sure you change the sugar water (four parts water to one part sugar) at least every other day - “hummers” can get tongue rot from a fungus that forms in standing sugar water. Red dye is not necessary to use in the water for more than just a day or two. As soon as the hummers have found the feeder, discontinue use of the food coloring, as they’ll remember where it is. ~ <b>MK</b></p>	
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Bonita, CA 91908-0458

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**The next monthly BHHA HOA meeting will be held via ZOOM on  
Tuesday *March 9th*, 2021. The meeting will start at 6:30 pm**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, Announcement of the 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 may be held.



**Have Chainsaw skills?**

We need someone who is good with a chain saw to carve out two bench seats from two large stumps near two trail entrances. Nothing fancy, unless you have a special talent. We'd like "free" but can pay a modest amount if you know someone who isn't a homeowner.

Contact Michelle if you, or someone you know, is interested. Her e-mail is:

**[michellebhha@gmail.com](mailto:michellebhha@gmail.com)**

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.