



The Bonita Highlander

March 2022

From the President

This will be my last message as the President of the Bonita Highlands Board of Directors, as I'm stepping down from the Board in March. It has been my honor to serve our Bonita Highlands community over the past years, especially these recent years. There have been some significant challenges, to be sure, but our wonderful Staff and volunteer Board of Directors have been the team that made it possible to successfully rise to the occasions that came before us.

I want to give a special recognition and thanks to **Mr. Dave Schlesinger**, who has served as our Board's Vice President. Dave is also stepping down in March. His regular business and engineering acumen have been invaluable to the Board and Staff over the past three or so years.

I would be remiss if I didn't also thank Board members **Sharon Clayton** (Treasurer), **Caroline Pierce** (Secretary), and **Daniel Diaz** (Member at Large), for the stellar jobs they have all done in support of our Association and our wonderful Bonita Highlands community.

But it is the Association's Staff members who do most of the heavy lifting and deserve a hearty "Well done!" for the extra effort they give in performing their jobs: **Sandra Jones** (Financial Officer), **Mary Ellen Phillips** (Recording Secretary), **John and Ana Maria Gilman** (ACC-Architecture), **Sylvia Tucker** (ACC-Conformance), **Michelle Kriz** (Open Space Chair), and **Ray Snider** (Welcoming Committee).

Dave and I will make ourselves available to the next Board, as volunteer consultants, should our inputs be requested on any matter that comes before the Board or Staff. I have every confidence that our new Board of Directors for the 2022-23 fiscal year will also rise to every occasion that comes before them and steer our Association smartly forward over the next 12 months. ~ *Mike*

Your VOTE Counts!



You should have received your Bonita Highlands Homeowners' Association ballot for the Board of Directors by now. Hopefully, you have also received our post card that reaffirms we will be holding an "in person" **Annual meeting on March 7th at the Bonita Orthodox Presbyterian Church**, located at 5111 Central Avenue, near the Bonita Post office, just down the hill. We will begin at **6:30 p.m.**

We hope to see you at our annual meeting, and you might even win a coffee mug!



Note: Our next monthly meeting, on **March 8th**, will again be via *Zoom* (see page 3 for details) ~ *Ed.*

ANOTHER REMINDER TO HOMEOWNERS WALKING FURRY FRIENDS. We ask that you bag the dog "poop" when your "furry friends" relieve themselves on the trails, open space or a neighbor's yard. The second part of this equation is to carry the bag home with you or drop it in the nearest trash can if cans are out. We are 50% successful in the following of the request. Sadly some people are dropping the filled bags on the trails or throwing them in/or under the brow ditches. This defeats the purpose. Please bag and dispose of properly. Thanks. ~ *Ed.*



IS YOUR FENCE FALLING DOWN?

Are you looking for a spring home repair project? Check the condition of your fence, shed, and outside structures. The Bonita Highlands Rules and Regulations **Section 6.1** state: **All domicile, fence, storage, and animal sheltering structures must be maintained in sound condition, regardless of whether visible from the street or open space/horse trails. Repair (or replacement equivalent to repair) does not require Board approval, provided color or structural appearance is not changed. Homeowners must maintain in a condition of good repair all fencing abutting trail entrances and/or open space lots.**



If your lot is one that kept horses in the old days, check the condition of the animal shelter. It can become dilapidated and an eye sore. If you have a pool in your yard, there are County regulations regarding fencing or enclosing of swimming pools.

Architectural guidelines to keep in mind are stated in the Bonita Highlands CC&R's **Section 9.1.7 (i): Fences, Hedges and Rails. No fence, rail or hedge over 36 inches in height shall be placed in front of the most forward wall of the house located on each Residence Lot, and no fence, wall (except a retaining wall), rail or hedge shall be over 72 inches in height elsewhere on a Residence Lot except with the prior written consent of the Board.**

If you are keeping the same style and color of fence, you do not need Board approval for the replacement. If you plan to replace your wood or chain link fence with vinyl **or make any changes in design or color**, please submit a Structural Change Request for approval before you begin the project. This form is available on our website www.bonitahighlands.org. A good rule of thumb is, if in doubt, fill it out.



If you have not been out back in a while, take a few minutes to venture to the back of your lot and check the condition of the fence. Any shrubs, ground cover (especially ice plant), or trees (many varieties are invasive) that are escaping from your yard through the fence into the open space, are the maintenance responsibility of the homeowner. **Section 5.3.b.** of our Rules and Regulations pertains to this problem and reads as follows:

Shrubs, trees, and other plants growing onto the open space or into a neighboring residence from a residence lot must be cut back by the homeowner to end the encroachment.

Nothing should be planted in the open space by a homeowner without prior Board approval. If privacy from the trails is a concern, shrubs and trees for screening should always be planted on the inside of your fence. With home values soaring, take a few minutes to check out the condition of your fence, sheds, and other outside structures. A beautiful neighborhood like ours is always in demand. ~ **Michelle Kriz**, Open Space Chair



EGRET ALERT!



This Egret travels the Highlands, and on this particular day, he was on Country Trails. But I know he spends a lot of time on Good Karma too.

We do live in a beautiful place, don't we? ~*Ed*.



If you are new to the "Highlands" or know of someone who just moved in, please contact **Ray Snider**, who will stop by to welcome you, or them, with a Bonita Highlands mug and some information about our HOA. Ray may be reached by electronic mail at rsnider742@cox.net or by phone at (619) 421-9384.

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 on page 3 of this newsletter. *Thanks!* ~ *Ed*.



**A FRIENDLY
REMINDER**

The Annual Assessment of \$445 is due and payable on **Friday April 1, 2022.**

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

For those who already have paid, we thank you for your timely remittance.

DUE DATE



St. Patrick's Day 2022
Thursday, March 17

**Irish
blessing**

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always
at your back,
May the sun shine warm
upon your face,
and the rain fall soft
upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
May God hold you
in the hollow of his hand.



U.S. Postal address for the
BHHA:
Bonita Highlands Homeowners'
Association
PO 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



MEETING! Until the Fire Department's Training Room is again opened for community use and the pandemic eases up a bit more, BHHA monthly meetings will continue to be held by way of **Zoom** video teleconference (VTC). Our next **monthly** VTC meeting will be on **March 8, 2022** at 6:30 p.m.

All Bonita Highlands Homeowners are welcome to attend! Homeowners wishing to attend the VTC meeting must send an e-mail to our Recording Secretary requesting that they be included in the distribution of the e-mail, which will provide the meeting's VTC link: bhighlander@cox.net

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 and our Recording Secretary will contact them to provide a homeowner's address who has volunteered an outside VTC station at their residence within the Highlands. ~Ed.

Help Save a Tree and Some \$ for Your HOA.

Thank you! Thanks you! To those of you who sent your ETC form in BEFORE the mass mailing went out...125 of you. Thank you to those who used the form in the mass mailing (53) to send it in. I have received forms daily since the mailing.

We are reducing our newsletter count for every homeowner who submits the form, unless the property is a rental, or you would still like a paper copy. We want all who live in the Highlands to be kept abreast of what is going on and at the same time reduce mailing costs for state mandated mailings. If you have the form on your desk, send it in any time. The next mass mailing will be in September.

If you'd like the form, simply send an e-mail Bhighlander@cox.net and request the form. Note that this is not the same as a **Third Party Agent Form**. For that you may request a form from me at bhighlander@cox.net. ~ **Mary Ellen Phillips**, Recording Secretary

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**

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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Bonita, CA. 91908 - 0458

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The next monthly BHHA HOA meeting will be held on **Tuesday March 8, 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 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.