



The Bonita Highlander

December 2021

From the President

Christmas is on Saturday, December 25th this year. We will again have a holiday lighting contest, which will be judged most likely the week of December 19th. I hope we can all get into the holiday spirit again this year. Last year saw some wonderful light displays which really made the Bonita Highlands a wonderful place to drive through at night.

As you may see later in this newsletter, we are trying to get homeowners to sign up for electronic mail. Request this form by emailing bhighlander@cox.net or request it by mail to the address on page 3. The next challenge will be minimizing the number of *Bonita Highlander* newsletters we mail out too. In the meantime, the full color copy of the newsletter is available on our website and if you want one emailed to you please contact our recording secretary bhighlander@cox.net and she will add you to our email list. We anticipate that electronic transmission of almost all HOA correspondence will eventually become mandatory. I'll work with our Board and Staff on a way forward.

I wish a very "Merry Christmas" to our Christian neighbors and "Happy Holidays" to our neighbors of Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Baha'i, Hindu, or other religious faiths. I hope you will all have a safe, happy, and prosperous New Year in 2022. ~ *Mike*

From the Open Space Chair

What's Happening in the Open Space: Ditches, Trails, and Slopes

The brow ditches in the open space have been cleaned by our "LandCare" open space contractor. If you happen to come across a brow ditch that does not appear to have been cleaned, please contact us, and give the location. Pictures are great. It is possible it could have been missed. It is also possible it belongs to a property but is not inside the property owner's fence line.

Homeowner's who have brow ditches on their property are responsible for the condition of the ditches. This includes the structural integrity of the ditch as well as the removal of any debris that would prevent rainwater from flowing freely. If you have blocked the ditch in any way, including the stacking of bricks or blocks of wood between the ditch and a fence, please remove the block, as you are in violation of our Rules and Regulations and could be fined.

LandCare finished dragging the trails last week and they look great. Please, take some time to go for a walk. Our neighborhood was developed around the trails and open space. Instead of amenities like a pool and community room, we have miles of trails and over 100 acres of open space. It is yours to enjoy.

Slopes in the Highlands continue to be a challenge. The cost and availability of water and the size of our lots leave us with quite a dilemma. Should I plant my slope and water, or let it go and save water and money?

(Continued on page 2)

December Events in Our Community

Botanic Wonderland - December 4th & 5th, 10-23, 26-30 – 5:30 pm to 9 pm...The annual winter event Botanic Wonderland at San Diego Botanic Garden has become a local favorite tradition. The nighttime festivities provide families and friends the opportunity to stroll through the garden to enjoy outdoor holiday lighting and activities in a safe setting. Advance time ticketing required. sdbgarden.org/botanic-wonderland.htm

Gaslamp Quarter Holiday Pet Parade - Sunday, December TBD, 2021 at 3:00 pm. Wear your holiday costume and join the parade. Prizes for Best Costumed Duo, Cutest Critter, Best Pet Costume and Best of show. Enjoy the pet expo from 1-5, parties and more. \$15—\$20 to register and FREE to watch. www.gaslamp.org

Del Mar Santa by the Sea - Sunday December TBD from 3-5 PM. Horse and carriage rides, Santa, cake walk, live music, tree lighting and more in downtown Del Mar. More fun activities for this holiday season. www.delmarmainstreet.com

San Diego Bay Parade of Lights - Sunday December 12 and 19 2021 from 5 PM. The parade of decorated boats starts at southwest end of Shelter Island and travels east, past Harbor Island, the Embarcadero, Seaport Village, and the Coronado Ferry Landing Marketplace before ending at the Navy carrier turning basin. www.sdparadeoflights.org

(From the Open Space Chair, continued from page 1)

That is a problem. However, there is a solution. Several articles have been written over the last year about the benefits of planting slopes with our California native plants, and back issues of our *Bonita Highlander* are available on our web site if you wish to read them again. These plants are perfectly adapted for our soils and amounts of rainfall. They not only provide a beautiful habitat for birds and native insects, they stabilize our slopes through a network of interlocking roots. They are also drought tolerant. Once established, they require water only once a month in the summer to keep them green. Please do not plant your slopes with ice-plant or red apple types. While these are good ground covers, they are not recommended for slope stabilization. Their shallow roots and heavy tops can help pull the slope down. Use ice-plant only on the flat.

One more observation, if you have used ice-plant next to your fence and you adjoin to open space or a trail, please keep the ice-plant in your yard. This is especially important when a brow ditch runs behind your fence. The ice-

plant can grow into the brow ditch, which causes additional work for the contractor when they need to remove it. This is a big help.

Get out and enjoy the trails! ~ Michelle Kriz



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.



From the Financial Officer - Budget Time

The second of the three budget “Readings” will be held at the December Association meeting. The last one will take place in January where the 2022-2023 budget and the annual Assessment amount will be approved .If you are interested in the budgeting process, please attend any of the remaining meetings.

You may request an invitation to the monthly ZOOM HOA board meetings by sending a note to the Recording Secretary at our bhighlander@cox.net address. The link to the meeting will be sent out the Monday before the meeting. If you wish to attend a Zoom board meeting but don’t have a computer, contact the Recording Secretary and we will link you up with someone who can host you. ~ **Sandra Jones**

December 7, 2021 is the last day to submit a **candidate form** to run for the **BHHA Board of Directors for the fiscal year 2022-2023**

Those who wish to be on the 2022 ballot form must complete a Candidate Qualification Form. The candidate form and election timeline may be found on the Bonita Highlands web site (bonitahighlands.org), and must be received by December 7, 2021. When completed, you may return the form by U.S. mail (BHHA, P.O. Box 458, Bonita CA, 91908), or scan and forward a .pdf or .jpg document to bhighlander@cox.net. Again, this must be done by December 7, 2021.

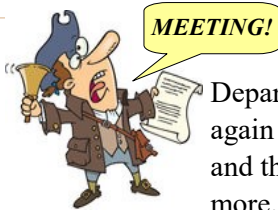


U.S. Postal address for the BHHA:
Bonita Highlands Homeowners’ Association
PO Box 458
Bonita, CA. 91908-0458

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



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 VTC meeting will be on [December 12th](#) 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*.

Save a Tree & Save Some \$\$\$

For Homeowners only! Receiving HOA documents electronically instead of by postal mail saves BHHA time, paper, and postage. With your permission, we now have the ability to send some documents via email. Request an Electronic Transmission Consent Form from our Secretary at bhighlander@cox.net . According to the law, some documents must still be sent by U.S. mail. **We will still send your annual courtesy invoice by mail. As of this mailing, only 35 of 667 homeowners have returned the form. We would like a large majority of you to respond...PLEASE!**

Our largest mailing takes place in January when we will be mailing the budget for 2022-2023. We are required to send this to each homeowner. As postal rates and printing costs have increased, the ability to send documents electronically would save the HOA a considerable amount of money. Please consider filing your request with us before our next mailing. Thank you.

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.



The Bonita Highlander

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The next monthly BHHA HOA meeting will be held on **Tuesday December 12, 2021 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 secretary 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, 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.



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.