



# The Bonita Highlander

May 2021

## From the BHHA Board President



(Left)  
Lowering of the cutting horse sculpture from the transport truck.



(Right) Sculptor **Mehl Larson** standing in front of his life-sized bronze sculpture of a cutting horse.

**A New Sculpture is in Bonita!** I enjoyed meeting some members of the **Sweetwater Valley Civic Association**, **Sunnyside Saddle Club**, **Bonita Valley Horsemen**, and other guests down at the County's **Greg Cox Civic Complex** on April 10th. By 7:30 a.m., a unique, life-sized bronze sculpture of a cutting horse was placed on a pedestal beside the front entrance to the complex. Special guests included Western Sculptor **Mehl Lawson**, who sculpted the horse, and our previous County Supervisor, **Greg Cox**, after whom he complex is named. The statue was partly paid for by a County grant as well as private donations. It helps remind passersby of the equestrian history of the Bonita-Sweetwater Valley. It stands next to the monument sign for the civic complex, which is dedicated to the man who has helped maintain and improve the quality of our Bonita-Sweetwater Valley for many years... **Mr. Greg Cox**.



(Left)  
Sculptor **Mehl Larson** and **Greg Cox**.

(Right)  
Cutting horse sculpture on its pedestal next to the civic complex's entrance.



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

## Open Space Report

### What You Can You Do To Help Us In The Open Space.

**May Is Right Around the Corner** and typically that is the month when we start the annual mowing of the open space. Because of our lack of rain fall this season and the late mowing last year, the oats in some areas are not growing as tall as they would normally grow. Some have not grown at all. But, in those areas where they are growing, homeowners have asked if they can get out there and cut the grass and oats from behind their fence. The answer is **“Yes!”**

Per our Rules and Regulations, Section 9.4, “...Homeowners may trim (weed whack) a distance not to exceed six (6) feet onto the common area from the property line of homeowner’s residence lot.”

I would like to encourage our homeowners who are able, to do this. A homeowner can usually get out there and get the oats, grasses, and mustard cut back before they get too tall and overgrown. When the grasses are younger, there are less clippings and seeds to deal with. I began weed-whipping the area behind my house years ago because I did not like the oat, grass, and weed seeds thrown into my yard. As a result, I have a lot less weeds to pull.

Another thing homeowner’s can do to help with maintenance is to take a few minutes to make sure none of the plants from your yard have escaped through your fence into the open space, onto a trail, or a trail entrance. If they have, please cut them back. Ice plant, vines, cacti, and some shrubs are prime examples of “escapees.” Small, “volunteer” trees can also be removed from the fence lines at this time. For the safety of those on the trail, please cut back any trees that overhang a trail or trail entrance. Pick up all debris. Please, do not leave the clippings or yard waste in the open space expecting the contractor to remove it.

In most cases, it is easier for homeowners to remove the debris to their yard waste bins, than to pay the contractor to drag it through the open space. This type of work is not part of our landscape maintenance contract. If there is a shrub that you feel needs to be cut back and is in the open space, please email the location (sending a picture helps, too), and we will check it out.



**A Big “Thank You”** to the **San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department**. Those of you who live on the East side of Country Trails may have noticed brush clearing along the trail this month. The County has agreed to take on this job for us every couple of years, which will save us thousands of dollars on brush removal. Please note this trail borders the Proctor Valley, which is a protected natural preserve and is not part of

Bonita Highlands open space. Please do not dump any yard waste, trash, concrete, bricks, or debris into the open space along this trail or anywhere in the open space. Dumping is not allowed in Bonita Highlands or in the Proctor Valley preserve. This type of debris removal is not part of our landscape maintenance contract and costs extra when we have to remove it. If you see any dumping in the open space, please contact us immediately.

**Have a suggestion for a Newsletter topic?** Email your idea to us at [bhighlander@cox.net](mailto:bhighlander@cox.net). Next month, I hope to be able to do an article on the reptiles of Bonita Highlands.

**Michelle Kriz**  
BHHA Open Space Chair



**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.



**Another thought.** There is a "new horse in town" (sculpture, that is)! Sculpted by Western artist Mehl Lawson, the life-sized bronze cutting horse sculpture was placed on its pedestal during an early morning informal ceremony on April 10th. It is located at the "Greg Cox Civic Complex" (a.k.a., the Bonita County Library and Museum & Cultural Center Complex) across from the Vons Shopping Center. There will be a bronze plaque affixed to the base of the work telling about both the horse sculpture and the sculptor himself.

**A Friendly Reminder.** Many of our homeowners contact the HOA with question regarding projects and forget to add their contact information, such as their **property address, telephone number,** and their last **name.** To speed our response and save you time, if you include that information, John Gilman can visit the property, call and discuss your project with you to help ensure it will be approved. On another note, if you are planning a "summer project," please submit your SCR before the June 8th meeting. There is no meeting in July, and if you decide on something you would really like to do after June 8th, you will have to wait until the August 10th meeting for approval of the project. Starting without approval is not a good idea, so I hope you all plan effectively and get your plans approved in June.

**Last but not least: Respond, respond, respond!** If you receive a fine warning letter and take care of the issue, please still respond by e-mail or letter that you have resolved the issue. If you are going to do the needed work in a week or so... please respond. Not responding often leads to a second, fine letter and needlessly upsets homeowners. This is all easily remedied by responding.

We appreciate all that each of you do to keep the Highlands a Beautiful community in which to live. ~Ed

**U.S. Postal address for the BHHA:**

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:

**bonitahighlands.org**

**Assessment Reminder.** As of 4/22/2021 97% of BHHA Members have paid their annual assessment. "Thank you" to those who have paid.

For remaining homeowners who have not yet paid, if your Annual Assessment is not received by **May 1, 2021, please pay \$482.09** (see below late fee schedule for additional payment amounts due). When sending in late payments, we recommend that you also forward a message to **bhighlander@cox.net**.

with date of mailing. This will ensure that you have an email record in our communications log with our "Designated agent for receipt of Association mail," per CA Civil Code Section 4035.

Thank you. ~ *F.O.*

Legal and/or Late Fee Schedule		
If paid/postmark between:		Amount Due
04/16/21	..and.. 04/30/21	\$478.50
05/01/21	..and.. 05/15/21	\$482.09
05/16/21	..and.. 05/31/21	\$732.09
06/01/21	..and.. 06/15/21	\$737.58
06/16/21	..and.. 06/30/21	\$837.58
07/01/21	..and.. 07/15/21	\$843.86
07/16/21	..and.. 07/31/21	\$1,763.86*



Until the Fire Department's Training Room is again opened for community use, BHHA monthly meetings will be held by way of Zoom video teleconference (VTC).

Our next meeting will be on **May 11th 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

**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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P.O. Box 458

Bonita, CA 91908-0458

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The next monthly BHHA HOA meeting will be held on ***Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.***  
The meeting will be convened on a Zoom Video Teleconference.

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.