



# The Bonita Highlander

**December 2024**

## Holiday Events in San Diego

San Diego is full of fun and festive holiday events for everyone to enjoy all across the city and county. Below is just a short listing of some of the more common events that happen in San Diego during the holiday season. Plus there are always a myriad of new movies, various local theater performances, and neighborhoods that are all lite up for the holidays!

**Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas.** When: Nov. 6 - Dec. 31, 2024. Take a walk around Balboa Park and discover its beautiful architecture. Be sure not to miss the "Whoville" decorations in the plaza outside the Old Globe Theatre, which are on display to coincide with the theatre's annual holiday production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*!

**Paradise Point Tree Lighting Ceremony.** When: Dec. 5, 2024. Bring your family and friends over to Paradise Point in Mission Bay for a festive tree lighting ceremony where you can roast s'mores over the bonfire, enjoy caroling, eat at The Churro Addict food truck, have a holiday cocktail, and enjoy activities for kids of all ages.

**Coronado Holiday Parade.** When: Dec. 6, 2024. Join Coronado in holiday cheer from the San Diego Bay Ferry Landing, down Orange Avenue, all the way to the Hotel del Coronado for live music, local business open houses, sing-alongs, a parade, and a grand tree lighting at Rotary Park.

**Balboa Park December Nights.** When: Dec. 6-7, 2024. Enjoy a two-day holiday celebration filled with carolers, live music, light displays, theater and dance performances, and delicious foods from around the world at the International Cottages.

**La Jolla Christmas Parade and Holiday Festival.** When: Dec. 8, 2024. Spread some holiday cheer at the La Jolla Christmas Parade and Holiday Festival in downtown La Jolla. The event includes marching bands, community groups, drill teams, vintage vehicles, horses, and yes ~ a camel. There is also a Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.

**Port of San Diego Bay Parade of Lights.** When: Dec. 8 & 15, 2024. Enjoy the twinkling waters of the San Diego Bay and more than 80 private boats decorated with holiday lights for the annual Port of San Diego Bay Parade of Lights over these two weekends in December. Great views are available on dry land from Shelter Island, Harbor Island, the Embarcadero, Seaport Village, the pier at Cesar Chavez Park, and Coronado's Ferry Landing.

**Las Posadas: An Old Town Celebration.** When: Dec. 13, 2024. There will be six stations in Heritage County Park as we follow Joseph and Mary astride a donkey. Each station features a brief narration and call-and-response verses performed by volunteers from the Mormon Battalion Historic Site. After the finale, guests are welcome at the Mormon Battalion Historic Site for refreshments.

**Gaslamp Pet Parade.** When: Dec. 14, 2024. This holiday parade presents cute dogs and their amazing owners parading in colorful fashion as they proudly promenade through the heart and soul of the Gaslamp for all the onlookers to see!

**Liberty Station Hanukkah and Menorah Lighting.** When: Dec. 26, 2024. Liberty Station in partnership with The Chabads of Downtown San Diego and Pacific Beach will host a public menorah lighting at Point Loma's Liberty Station's Central Promenade to commemorate the first night of Hanukkah.

**Port of San Diego Holiday Bowl Parade.** When: Dec. 27, 2024. Gaze up at the numerous balloons during the port of San Diego Holiday Bowl Parade, which is one of the country's largest balloon parades. Floats, balloons, and marching bands are just some of the offerings in this colorful holiday parade along San Diego Bay's Embarcadero in down town San Diego.

## Holidays in the Neighborhood



### Time to Blow Up the Inflatables and Hang Those Lights!

The holidays in the Highlands get better every year. It seems people are more creative and energetic every year, and they decorate their yards and hang lights almost everywhere they can! The different types and themes of inflatables grow each year, and they get more animated and exciting! Some are story themed, others religious, but they are all appreciated by those who have a chance to drive through our neighborhood. Each year we have a **Bonita Highlands Holiday Decoration Contest**. The Judging takes place the week before the Christmas Holiday. The BHHA Team of judges cruise the neighborhood between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. checking out all the decorations and ranking them. Each Team member will choose a first, second, and third place ranking, and then get together and pool their rankings to decide on the winners. It is no easy task. I am sure it will take a few drives through the neighborhood and a couple of meetings to decide on the final winners.

## Along with the Holidays Comes “SCAMS”!

Consumer Scams significantly increase this time of year. There are warnings about these Scams everywhere, TV, radio, newspapers, social media, etc. The vast majority of them come from robo phone calls and/or emails, and are asking you for your personal and/or account information. These Scams usually come from automated systems imitating charities, utility companies, packaging services (UPS, USPS, FedEx), and even banks and credit unions or credit cards!! BEWARE! Never use links provided in an email to verify any of your personal or banking information, unless you are 100% sure it's valid. I have recently received Scams from USPS, UPS, VISA/MC, Amazon, and Verizon!! Plus, with all the home delivery services, keep an eye out on your doorstep and mailbox to make sure you receive all the things you were expecting! And always remember to lock your car, especially if you have packages in it! Thankfully there are very few reported burglaries in the Highlands, but we need to be aware.



## From the Financial Officer.

The BHHA Annual Budgeting process has started. The first open budget “Reading” was held at the November BHHA Board meeting on 12 NOV 2024. The second and third “readings” will take place at December 10, 2024 and January 14, 2025 monthly BHHA Board member’s meetings. The 2025-2026 budget and the annual Assessment amount will be approved at the January 2025 meeting. If you are interested in the budgeting process, please attend the meetings.



## Holiday FUN Facts

### MISTLETOE

In some parts of Europe the midsummer gathering of mistletoe is still associated with the burning of bonfires, a remnant of sacrificial ceremonies performed by ancient priests, the Druids. Mistletoe was once believed to have magic powers as well as medicinal properties. Later the custom developed in England (and, still later, in the United States) of kissing under the mistletoe, an action that once was believed to lead inevitably to marriage. Most mistletoes are evergreen and are easy to locate and harvest after their deciduous hosts have lost their leaves in late fall and winter; hence, the plants often are used as festive decorations at Christmas time, especially in the Northern Hemisphere.



The flowers, in compact spikes, are bisexual or unisexual and have regular symmetry. They are yellower than the leaves, appear in late winter, and soon give rise to one-seeded white berries, which when ripe are filled with a sticky semi-transparent pulp. These berries, and those of other mistletoes, contain toxic compounds poisonous to many animals and humans, so keep them hung high and out of reach of pets and children!

### POINSETTIA

Indigenous to Mexico and Central America, the poinsettia was first described by Europeans in 1834. It is particularly well known for its red and green foliage and is widely used in Christmas floral displays. It derives its common English name from Joel Roberts Poinsett, (1779-1851) the first United States minister to Mexico, who is credited with introducing the plant to the U.S. in the 1820s. Wild poinsettias occur from Mexico to southern Guatemala, growing on mid-elevation, Pacific-facing slopes. They were cultivated by the Aztecs for use in traditional medicines. One population in the Mexican state of Guerrero is much further inland however, and is thought to be the ancestor of most cultivated populations of today. Wild poinsettia populations are highly fragmented, as their habitat is experiencing largely unregulated deforestation. Every year in the United States, approximately 70 million poinsettias of many cultivated varieties are sold in a six-week period around October to December. Many of these poinsettias are grown by Paul Ecke Ranch in Encinitas which serves about 50% of the worldwide market and 70 percent of the U.S. market.



**The Bonita Highlander** is the monthly newsletter of the Bonita Highlands Homeowners' Association (BHHA), a California non-profit corporation. The Newsletter is distributed (postage paid) or emailed to each residence within the Bonita Highlands. Information for publication should be sent to the recording Secretary & Editor, Mary Ellen Phillips at [bhighlanderhoa@gmail.com](mailto:bhighlanderhoa@gmail.com) by 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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The BHHA documents, forms, meeting minutes and notices can be found on its website:  
[bonitahighlands.org](http://bonitahighlands.org)



## ***The Bonita Highlander***

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The next monthly BHHA meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 6:00 PM***, in person at the Bonita Sunnyside Fire Station. All homeowners are welcome to attend.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introduction of Board members, Pledge of Allegiance, Announcement of the Next Meeting, Adoption of Minutes from the last monthly meeting.
2. Homeowner appearances for appeals to notices, fines, or requests for structural alterations.
3. Homeowner Open Communications.
4. Committee and Staff Reports: ACC-A (SCRs), ACC-C (violations), Financial Officer, Open Space Chairperson, and BHHA Communications.
5. Old Business: BHHA Signage, Open Space Contract Status, Reserve Study Review.
6. New Business: Annual Budget Reading (#2), Election '25 Budget Discussion, Mr. Sampsel legal Request, Communication Log Topic Discussions (as required).
7. Community Items of Interest.
8. Board Member Comments.
9. Adjournment.
10. Board Executive Session (if required).

Note: The meeting agenda can also be found on the BHHA website.



The BHHA Board of Directors (BOD) welcomes and encourages e-mail and letters from homeowners. Any letter sent to the Board may be published in this newsletter. Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author or other contributor, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the BOD or any Staff Member.