



The Bonita Highlander

April 2026

It is Annual Assessment Time!!



Assessment Reminder

The BHHA Annual Assessment Fee of \$565 is due and payable on April 1, 2026. It is late if not paid by April 15th. A late charge of \$56.50 will be charged to your account on the April 16th.

For those who already have paid, we thank you for your timely remittance. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have. Please remember to send your Assessment payment to our Las Vegas address listed below. Many people set up their auto pay through their banks last year and changed the amount but not the address. The checks received in our Bonita P.O. Box were mailed to Las Vegas for you but it would be helpful and more efficient if you would change the address on your Assessment payment now so that next year you will be ready.

**Bonita Highlands HOA
c/o PayHOA
PO Box 94046
Las Vegas, Nevada, 89193-4046**

Springtime Projects and SCRs

Spring is the time homeowners start thinking about exterior and landscaping upgrades. The SCR process is streamlined now with PayHOA, with SCR approvals happening in days rather than weeks. As you think of projects, please fill out an SCR and submit it to the BHHA via PayHOA. Homeowners should not start their projects until they receive an Approved SCR. If you need additional time to complete your project, just reach out to the ACC-A at bhha.jjn@gmail.com to coordinate a new completion date. If you decide against the project "no harm, no foul", just reach out to the ACC-A and inform him of your "change in plans". The SCR form is available on our website bonitahighlands.org and those of you who are computer savvy can complete the form online and submit it via PayHOA.

Friendly Reminder — Dogs Are to be On Their Leashes at All Times

The BHHA has received several reports of dogs running free in the Trails without a leash. While several of our pets are kind and friendly to others, there have been reports of unleashed dogs acting aggressive and/or attacking homeowners walking the Trails, in the Open Space, and even on sidewalks. Homeowners are responsible for keeping their dogs on leashes and controlling them when passing other people and their pets.

Updates from the BHHA OSC

Bonita Highlands Open Space & Firewise USA Program Update

As part of our ongoing commitment to wildfire safety and community maintenance, the BHHA has completed a comprehensive tree and brush management program across multiple Open Space (OS) areas throughout Bonita Highlands.

This work supports both our **Firewise USA Program** and our **California 3-Year Wildfire Action Plan**, with a focus on reducing fire risk while maintaining the health and safety of our shared landscape.

What Was Completed

Over the past few months work was completed in the following areas:

- OS 1 & OS 12 (Whirlybird, Central, Wild Oats areas)
- OS 8 (Corral Canyon area)
- OS 9 (drainage and slope areas)
- OS 10 (Central area)
- OS 11 (Country Trail / Wild Oats area)
- Proctor Valley border / Snaffle Bit / Blacksmith areas

Scope of Work

The work included:

- Removal of dead, diseased, and high-risk trees
- Lacing and thinning of mature trees to reduce wind resistance and fire intensity
- Removal of hundreds of invasive saplings and overgrown brush
- Canopy lifting and clearance to meet Firewise defensible space standards
- Clearing vegetation within 100 feet of structures where applicable
- Addressing homeowner-identified hazards adjacent to the Open Space
- Reducing debris buildup in drainage areas, brow ditches, and along trails

All work was performed in alignment with the BHHA **Firewise Program** and CALFire defensible space guidelines, helping reduce fuel loads and improve overall fire resilience.

Why This Matters

This effort significantly improves:

- Wildfire safety by reducing combustible vegetation
- Tree health and longevity through proper pruning and spacing
- Storm resilience, reducing limb failure and debris accumulation
- Trail access safety for residents and emergency services

By proactively maintaining our Open Space, we reduce the likelihood of costly emergency work and help protect homes and infrastructure.

Ongoing Maintenance

Open Space management is an ongoing effort. To help control BHHA costs, large-scale work like this is done strategically and in phases, rather than annually in every area.

Moving forward, the HOA will continue:

- Monitoring tree health and fire risk conditions
- Addressing priority areas as needed
- Coordinating with Firewise guidelines and local agencies

Resident Participation

Homeowners can also contribute by:

- Maintaining defensible space within 100 feet of their homes
- Clearing debris along fences (up to 6 feet into open space where permitted)
- Reporting hazardous trees or vegetation near their property

Questions or Concerns

If homeowners have any questions about recent work or would like to report an issue in the Open Space near their property, please contact the OSC at bhhoapenspace@gmail.com.

Rattlesnake Season is Upon Us

We're already received reports of Rattlesnakes in the Highlands this year. Be watchful as you walk the trails and remember snakes will not chase you — you're too big to eat! But they will strike if threatened.

Safety tips from North County Fire Protection

- Wear appropriate over-the-ankle hiking boots, thick socks, and loose-fitting long pants. Never go barefoot or wear sandals when walking through wild areas, like our Trails and Open Spaces.
- When hiking, stick to well-used trails. Snakes tend to be "off the beaten path".
- Avoid tall grass, weeds, and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide during the day.
- If you hear the warning rattle, move away from the area and do not make sudden or threatening movements in the direction of the snake. Back away slowly to a distance of 10-15 feet.
- Remember rattlesnakes do not always rattle before they strike!

Bonita Fire says if you have a snake in your yard you can call San Diego County Animal Control at (619) 236-2341 or if it's an emergency, call "911".

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 by the 15th of the month, for publication the following month. The Association reserves the right to edit any copy submitted for publication.

BHHA
PO Box 458
Bonita, CA 91908-0458

The BHHA documents, forms, meeting minutes and notices can be found on its website:
bonitahighlands.org



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Bonita, CA. 91908 - 0458

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The next monthly BHHA meeting will be held on Tuesday **April 14, 2026 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: Exterior Lighting Rules Change, E-Bikes,
6. New Business: Annual Assessments Status,
7. Community Items of Interest.
8. Board Member Comments.
9. Adjournment.
10. Board Executive Session (if required).



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.