

Making the Sweetwater Valley the best place to live.

P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 www.sweetwatervalleyca.org



SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING September 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: President Judy Tieber called the meeting to order at 6:30 at the Bonita Museum Community room. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Judy asked for a moment of silence to honor the people of our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Fire and Safety Professionals; and an appreciation of those currently serving to protect us, including Health Care workers and Teaching Professionals.

Directors Present: Judy Tieber, Sharmane Estolano, Tony Tieber, Stephen Stonehouse, and Sharon Clayton, Mike Clowers, Sharon Coleman, Guillermo Torres and Teresa Capanis.

Members Present:, Bill Coleman, Jim Woodford, Harriet Taylor, Mike Parnell, Daryl Hern, , Prudence Prince, Shlomit Haim, and Mike Sampsel.

Guests Present: Andrew Harvey of Supervisor Nora Vargas' Office, Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia, Lisa Schmidt from Assemblymember David Alvarez's Office, Dan McAlister who is the San Diego County Tax Collector. Other guests present were Julio Guru and Lynn Prater.

Introduction: Judy introduced Dan McAlister, San Diego County Tax Collector, who was there to make a presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Judy asked for a motion to approve the minutes; Sharmane Estolano moved to approve; Sharon Clayton provided the second. Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stephen Stonehouse reported the September 2023 Treasurer's Report.

	<u>September 2023</u>
Checking	\$ 6,469.38
Ending Balance	\$ 6,469.38

The previous Balance was \$1,593.32.

There was A Museum Dues charge of \$25.00.
There was one charge from KIG of \$180.00 for Web Service.
There was A printing Charge for Judy Tieber of \$33.94.
There was a Transfer of SARPA Funds of \$5,115.00.

The report was accepted as written.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims: Chief Sims was not in attendance but did provide a report which was presented by Tony.

Chief Sims reported that Weed abatement notices and Enforcement are ongoing. The Chief reminded us that the BFD will be providing a Firehouse Dinner for 6 to the Women's Club for their 55th Annual Bonita Holidays fundraiser on October 26-28.

He wanted to encourage us to attend and bid on the Firehouse Dinner.

THE BFD is currently evaluating Fire Engine Manufacturers for a new fire engine, the cost of the engine is expected to be \$1.2 million.

The BFD gave out over 8000 sandbags and sand for the bags during a recent weather event. The San Diego County DPW and the Sheriff's Senior Volunteer Patrol were instrumental in making this distribution possible.

Law Enforcement Reports:

Sheriff's Department: Crime Specialist Julio Garcia presented the Crime Map for August which is included with these minutes. Julio indicated that Bonita has the lowest crime rate of any area in the County and that the Sheriff's office was transitioning to a new Crime analyst. Julio indicated that the stolen car rate is low at this time and may be due to Neighborhood watch programs in Selected areas. However, certain apartment complexes are still experiencing stolen cars.

The Sheriff's Office is short-staffed, and this includes a shortage of clerical staff.

Jim Woodford explained that there was a break-in at the Church of the Good Shepard. The alarm for the building went off; and the thief ran, and nothing was taken.

Elected Representative Reports:

Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative: Andrew Harvey said that the County was trying to arrange a meeting with Judy to discuss the list of street signs that needed to be replaced. Judy and Mike Clowers, have been the collector of the locations for the signs that need replacement and Mike has been forwarding to the County the photos of these signs.

Andrew also mentioned that the County still has Grant funding available.

Council Member John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo. Amanda Angulo was not in attendance. However, she did send a report. Unfortunately, I did not see the email until after the meeting. Consequently, her report was forwarded to all members in an email which included flyers for the events mentioned below. The following is her written report.

Mayor McCann had quite a few exciting events in September.

First, he hosted the El Grito Mexican Independence Day Celebration on Saturday, September 16th from 5pm to 9pm at Memorial Park, 373 Park Way, Chula Vista, CA 91910. He partnered with the Mexican Consul General, Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez, and the House of Mexico to ensure everyone had a fantastic celebration. There were tacos, corn, agua frescas, as well as mariachi, ballet folklórico, and traditional Chinelos dances.

Second, Mayor McCann hosted the State of the City Address. This took place on Tuesday, September 26th from 6pm to 7:30pm at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center's Visitors Center. This was an

outdoor event, in which he provided an update on the City's accomplishments that we have made as a community.

U. S. House of Representatives (52nd District) Juan Vargas Office Representative

Genevieve Fong: Genevieve Fong was not available.

California State Assembly Representative David Alvarez: David Alvarez represents California's district 80. His representative, Lisa Schmidt reported that Assembly member Alvarez is/was hosting town hall meetings.

On September 23rd, David Alvarez was at the Community Resources Fair from 10:00 AM to 2:00PM at Memorial Park, which is in Chula Vista (91910) at 373 Park Way.

On September 26, David Alvarez hosted a Community Town Hall in Otay Mesa-Nestor. At the Otay Mesa-Nestor Library Community Room from 6-7PM, at 3003 Coronado Avenue, San Diego 91154.

On October 3, 2023, David Alvarez is hosting a Town Hall meeting from 5:30-6:30 PM the Hub (Passport Office) at Otay Ranch Town Center, which is located at 2015 Birch Road, Suite 407 in Chula Vista 91915.

Judy reminded Lisa that when Assemblymember Alvarez comes to our October SVCA meeting. the people of Bonita want to discuss traffic and resultant fines, and the proposal for SDGE to charge upfront fees based on income.

State Senator (18th District) Stephen Padilla office representative Thomas Lawton.

Thomas Lawton was not available.

U. S. Senator Alex Padilla Office Representative Angel Marquez. Angel Marquez was not available.

New Business.

Guest Speaker Dan McAllister, San Diego County Tax Collector: Dan McAllister provided a brief Bio which included that he was born in San Diego (LaJolla) and has always been heavily involved in the San Diego County Community.

He Then talked about taxes and informed us that 1M tax bills have been sent out; and that building construction in the county is still growing, and thus there will be more taxable entities. He said that for the current tax year, \$8B has been collected and that is \$500K more than had been projected. He then talked about paying by E-Check and indicated that 73% of tax bills are now paid on-line and that E-Check payment is completely free. He indicated that the current collection rate is 98% and that non-payment penalties are steep. The good news is that San Diego taxpayers are good about paying on time.

Dan McAllister then talked about how the tax money is allocated. He indicated that the County has an investment pool of \$18.2B with schools getting 42% of the money. The fund also has bonds, and everything is done on a systematic process.

Dan McAllister said he has been in office for 21 years and has 125 employees who work with him, but retirements are occurring. There are 17 different languages that are spoken to assist taxpayers.

Tony asked about how ADUs and Mini ADUs affect a person's tax rate. Dan reminded us that he is the tax collector and not the assessor, and thus he is the wrong person to answer the question. Sharmane postulated that Proposition 13 is under attack and wondered what Proposition 19 was about. Mike Clowers was concerned about the Lottery and taxes. The lottery money was supposed to go to schools and isn't going there. Dan McAllister reminded us that his job is to collect and distribute collected taxes.

Bonitafest Support: Judy reminded us that She and Tony would be the hostess and host this year and thus are participating directly in the Twilight Parage and the opening night of the melodrama. She also mentioned that Sharmane Estolano is the Historian, and John and Harriet Taylor are the grand marshals. It was agreed that the SVCA would have a booth at the library and would have cold water to be distributed. Sharon Coleman would be at the booth and Tony and Judy would provide her with support.

Attendees talked about sidewalks, especially along Bonita Road that need to be installed. Judy reminded us that if someone has signs that need replacement to let her or Mike know. The county wants pictures, so Judy and Tony have been driving around taking pictures of signs that need replacement. Jim Woodford noted a pedestrian sign at the Belle Bonnie Bray school crosswalk is burned out. This is part of the flashing light system used as an alert for the school crossing.

Community Forum:

Traffic and Roads Mike Clowers: Mike has been consulting with Ernie Bartly at the County regarding the list of traffic signs that need replacement. Specifically, Mike noted the school zone signs on Sweetwater and Vallery Vista roads, no commercial parking on San Miguel Road, and faded signs on Winnetka and other locations.

Regarding the traffic Advisory Committee of which Mike is a member, he mentioned that Quarry Road, after the last house, will be closed, but that the horse trail will remain open.

Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse & Harriet Taylor: Steve reported a house at 3210 Loma Del Sol encroached on the open space. The new owner is required to remove the structures and re-vegetate the area. The owner plans to make the modifications.

The Planning group had a County presentation about the County's Climate Action plan.

Also discussed at the meeting was a proposal by a landowner, whose property is very close to Plaza Bonita, who wants to annex the land, which is currently in the County, to National City.

In a later part of the meeting, Harriet Taylor expounded on the above project. She noted that no residents in that area had been notified of the project and that negotiations had been on-going for one and a half years. She has environmental concerns and attended the National City Council meeting regarding this issue. She indicated that the Council and Builder were helpful. Harriet indicated that she would continue to monitor the project.

Senior Volunteer Patrol Jim Woodford: Jim reported that the Senior Patrol is down to six members and thus patrolling is limited. The Senior Patrol is no longer assisting at the Safety Center.

Jim reported that the Senior Patrol assisted the Bonita Fire Department in the distribution of sandbags. Many people wanted bags in preparation for the anticipated weather event. Jim reported that 2 members of the patrol spent about 5 hours at the Fire Station providing traffic control.

Membership Sharon Coleman: Sharon noted that 16 members have not renewed their membership and that the last notice to renew will be sent out soon. She also provided the following membership report.

Family	18
Family/Silver	1
Individual	18
Gold	20
Org/Profit	4
Org/Non-Profit	4

The following are “for Profit Organizations” that are members.

Bonita Farmers Market

Sharmane Estolano—Realtor

Bonita Dental Center

Mt. Miguel Equestrian Center (needs to renew)

NixTermite

Sweetwater Authority Mike Sampsel. Mike thanked everyone who showed up at the Sweetwater Authority Board meeting. Mike obtained the minutes of the meeting. Unfortunately, he reported that the board is proceeding down the path to overcharge Bonita. Bonita has only one of the directors on the board and thus that member has limited influence on voting.

Sharmane talked about the Solar Panel coverage on the Sweetwater Reservoir. Karen Henry made a formal request to the board for information on how that project was approved. Guillermo thought that perhaps some legal action may be necessary and that we needed a concerted effort to get the word on the project out to the people. Daryl Hern asked for more information on the project to which Shamane responded that the project would occupy 30 Acres and that there has been no community involvement. Mike Sampsel wondered how the SWA would handle an Algae Bloom underneath a solar panel.

Meeting adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony P. Tieber, Secretary, SVCA

Mission Statement: The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association is the direct conduit to local County elected and appointed officials, law enforcement and emergency first responders to discuss and resolve issues related directly to our quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley communities.

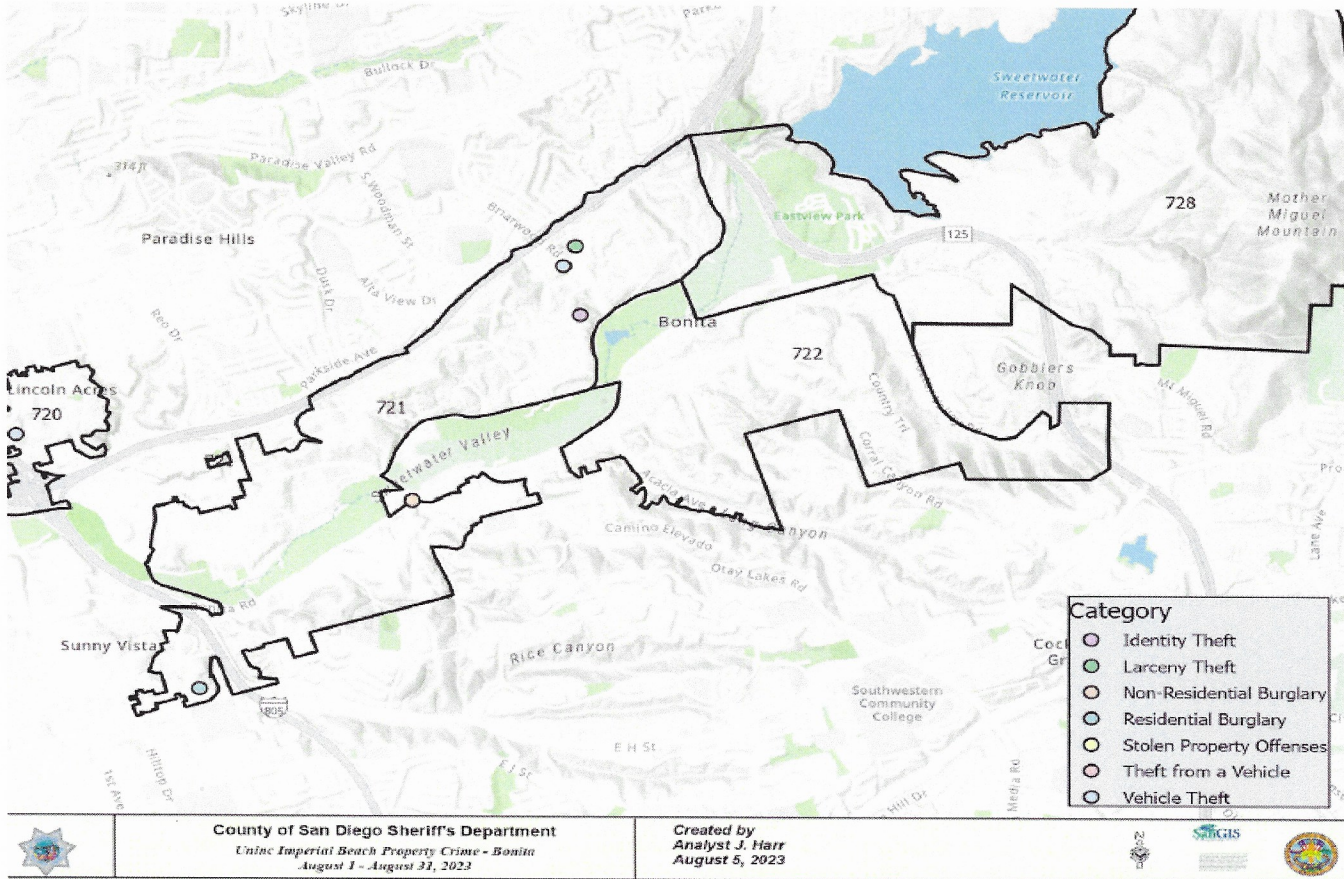


San Diego County Sheriff's Department
Imperial Beach Substation
Crime Prevention Unit



SVCA/BONITA/SUNNYSIDE - CRIME ACTIVITY

The following Bonita area crime reports were filed with the Imperial Beach Sheriff's Substation in the month of **AUGUST 2023**



The Crime Prevention Specialist will conduct a free security inspection of your property at your request. The inspection takes about one hour and involves an examination of the interior and exterior of the structure. Suggestions concerning appropriate security measures may be offered.

Neighborhood Watch has proven to be an effective program in reducing crime.

SDSD NON-EMERGENCY Telephone Number (858) 565-5200

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