

Making the Sweetwater Valley the best place to live.

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



July 1, 2021

Members
Sweetwater Valley Civic Association

Dear Members:

I am really happy that our community is opening up, activities and organizations are gearing up to take on the world and get us back into the swing of things. This is also true for our Sweetwater Valley Civic Association. As my last act as Secretary, the draft minutes of our June 2nd meeting are ready for your review. I thank you all for your time and feedback to make sure I captured all the discussions and information correctly over these past several years. Elizabeth (Liz) Stonehouse has agreed to, once again, serve in the capacity of Secretary for the foreseeable future or until someone else is willing to step up and fill this role for our organization.

As I step into my new role as SVCA President, I hope to share my enthusiasm for our organization and what it means to the Bonita community and to County Supervisorial District 1. We live in a beautiful place, many of us have been here for 50 years or more, many are new and have yet to discover all that makes this place special. One thing for sure—this place is worth fighting for! We all know that dealing with governments of any kind and on any level, requires tenacity, a consistent message, and many voices. The SVCA has a direct link to Supervisor Nora Vargas. We need to keep this line of communication open and strive to make it more effective. We are truly blessed to have Fire Chief Mike Sims take an active role in the SVCA. He works tirelessly on our behalf to keep our community safe and plan for unforeseen circumstances.

That said, we have areas where effective communication and action are lacking:

Traffic control and enforcement. Our community is overwhelmed by vehicles “passing through” as they head north and west in the morning and south and east in the afternoon. We see multiple traffic violations and unsafe driving practices every single day. We need to redouble our interactions with the CHP, Sheriff’s Department and Chula Vista Police Dept. to address these problems. The SR125 toll road avoidance traffic continues unabated to destroy the Sunnyside community with exhaust fumes, constant lines of traffic, speeding, and so on.

Homeless people trashing our environment. We must redouble our efforts to work with our local Governmental agencies and departments to increase their programs and program effectiveness to move the homeless out of our open space and into permanent housing, and at

the same time clean up their areas. Yes, it is not a crime to be homeless, but it is a crime to destroy our environment by polluting our open space, river, the Sweetwater Marsh National Refuge, and San Diego Bay. The number of these “Urban Campers” (Greg Cox’s words) continues to increase, our neighbors whose properties abut the open spaces experience increased criminal activity, and our open space trails are not safe.

I could go on and on. I’ve been thinking about how our monthly meetings could be more effective in how we continue to address these issues. I think a meeting redesign might help us stay focused but still keep our eye on the big picture. I think we will be more effective if we organize our reports and discussions to better reflect our overall community involvement. For example, with an agenda topic of **Community Governance**, we can work to better focus the City of Chula Vista to resolve long standing issues like the dilapidated shopping center on Bonita Rd. We need County to know we are a force to reckon with—we expect our elected officials to step up, take our concerns to heart, and do something about it. On a national level, our message must be clear and strong that we want Infrastructure money earmarked to pay off the toll road loan. We are not waiting until 2044! And we want problem solving communication between City, County and National level.

Under **Community Safety**, we can have a more cohesive discussion and develop better action plans that reflect how the following components can work together to build a better tomorrow: Fire, Traffic Control, Road Issues, Sr. Patrol, Homeless.

An agenda topic of **Community Enhancement** can take what is good about Bonita and work to make it better: Trails, Valley Cleanup opportunities, Support other local organizations and maybe they will support us, In person SVCA Membership drives, and Member Appreciation Activities (I have a few fun things in mind).

I’m sure you can think of several other ideas that fit within these general headings. We will use our SVCA website and social media to enhance our activities and keep our lines of communication open and effective. These are challenging times, and complacency has no place at the table. Your SVCA Board of Directors is willing and able to work on behalf of our much-loved Bonita, but we can’t do it alone. You need to step up, make your voices heard and participate. Who knows, we might actually have fun and notch some wins! Enough for now.

All the best,

Judy Tieber
President
Sweetwater Valley Civic Association

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.