

Community Corner



Call for Candidates



BHA has one seat up for election this summer. If you are interested in serving on the BHA Board of Directors, we encourage you to get involved! Please submit your intent to run, along with a candidate statement to the BHA office no later than **Thursday, April 30th**.

This is a great opportunity to contribute to the continued growth and success of our community.



HOA Dues Update



At our most recent BHA meeting, the Board discussed the need to adjust association dues in preparation for upcoming improvements to our clubhouse, grounds, and community offerings.

As a result, the Annual Homeowners Association dues will increase by 20%, from \$211.00 to \$253.00 for the upcoming year.

We are excited about the enhancements these funds will support and look forward to the positive impact on our community.



April Events



April 5th - *Easter Sunrise Service on the BHA Clubhouse Lawn*



April 7th - *Bunco 6:00 PM at the BHA Clubhouse*



April 11th - *Wine Pairing Dinner presented by Thornhill Vineyards*. Saturday at 6:00 Pm at the BHA Clubhouse. Tickets are \$60.00 each.
Spots are filling quickly—if you haven't reserved your place yet, please do so as soon as possible!



April 17th - *Ladies Clothing Swap* 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Join us for a fun and stylish afternoon of swapping gently used treasures!



Shoes



Jewelry



Accessories (hats, scarves & more)



Limit 30 items per person
12:30 - Drop off and set up time
For more information call or text 707-279-8837



April 28th - *Monthly Board Meeting 4:00 PM at the BHA Clubhouse*



Upcoming Events





May 2nd - Community Yard Sale 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM The Ladies Club will serve coffee and donuts at the Clubhouse. If you would like to rent a table to display your items, there is a \$10 rental fee. Please sign up and pay in advance with Gabby at the BHA office.



May 26th - Monthly Board Meeting 4:00 PM at the BHA Clubhouse



Weed Abatement Season & Chipping Services



As we approach weed abatement season in Lake County, we're pleased to announce that the Clear Lake Environmental Research Center (CLERC) will once again provide chipping services for our residents.

CLERC will reach out to properties that have used their services in the past. If you would like to sign up for chipping this year, please visit the CLERC website to register.

<https://www.chippingday.org>

2026 Chipping Dates:

Spring: April 29 – May 1 (Wednesday–Friday)

Summer: August 5 – 7 (Wednesday–Friday)

Fall: November 18 – 20 (Wednesday–Friday)



Firewise



Fire-Smart Landscaping: High-Risk Trees to Watch

As peak fire season approaches, it's important to consider how landscaping choices can affect wildfire risk—especially in areas like Buckingham and greater Lake County, where homes are often close to wildland vegetation.

Two commonly used ornamental trees—**palm trees and Italian cypress**—are increasingly recognized as high fire-risk plants.



Why These Trees Are a Concern



Palm Trees

Palm trees become hazardous primarily due to accumulated dead fronds, often called “skirts.”

Dead fronds ignite easily from wind-blown embers
They burn rapidly and intensely, acting like vertical torches
Flames can reach roofs, eaves, or nearby structures
Poorly maintained palms can spread fire upward and outward



Italian Cypress

Italian cypress trees present a different but equally serious risk.

Extremely dense and resinous (high oil content)
Ignite quickly and burn very hot
Often planted in tight rows or hedges, creating continuous fuel
Can produce spot fires that spread flames rapidly



Increasing Insurance & Regulatory Pressure

Even though local HOAs like Buckingham may not regulate these trees:

Insurance companies are increasingly flagging them as hazards. In some cases, coverage is denied unless trees are removed or mitigated.

California’s defensible space rules—especially “Zone Zero” (within 5 feet of structures)—are raising expectations for vegetation management



Practical Takeaways for Homeowners



If You Have Palm Trees:

Remove dead fronds annually (no hanging skirts)
Keep palms well away from roofs, decks, and propane tanks
Ensure NO dry debris accumulates beneath them



If You Have Italian Cypress:

Avoid planting in rows or dense hedges near structures
Maintain wide spacing between trees
Regularly remove dead material and lower debris
Consider replacing with fire-resistant species if close to the home



Bottom Line

Palms = torch hazard due to dead fronds
Italian cypress = fuel column due to density and oils

Both can significantly increase fire intensity and threaten nearby structures—especially under ember-driven wildfire conditions.



HELP US IDENTIFY PROBLEM PROPERTIES



We're looking for projects from all of our firewise communities that might qualify for funding under a new PG & E Hazardous materials mitigation grant that we are administering with the Clear Lake Environmental Resource Center.

Funds are limited and there are strict guidelines, but we would like to know of all potential projects that we could add to our list. All projects must involve hazardous situations within 500 feet of a P.G. & E. power line.

So, please send us your suggestions so they can be investigated and put on our list. The best way to send in your suggestions is to do it through our website where you will find a contact link at the bottom of the home page: <https://www.konoctifiresafe.org/>



HOME HARDENING TIPS



Vents

Vents on homes create openings for flying embers. Ember entry through vents can ignite combustible materials in the attic or crawl space, causing the building to burn from the inside out. The importance of ember and flame entry into vents during wildfires has resulted in the development of commercially available vents designed to resist ember and flame intrusion, and recommendations for new or retrofit vents to protect existing openings.

- Use manufactured and California-approved vents (see below) to retrofit existing attic, soffit, basement, foundation, and gable vents, where possible.
- Alternatively, Cover all existing vent openings with 1/8-inch or 1/16-inch wire mesh.
- Common 1/4" screens are ineffective, and should be replaced or retrofitted*.
- Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn.
- Protect vents in eaves or cornices with baffles to block embers, backed by 1/16" wire mesh (mesh alone is not enough).

HEADING FOR A HOT AND DRY SUMMER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA69owt-2R4>

We truly appreciate your support and your continued commitment to keeping Buckingham the best it can be!