

Community Notes
September 11, 2020

Bodega Land Trust is pursuing an historic easement of 1.5 square miles on ranch land adjoining Estero Americano and park lands along the Russian River and the coast. To find ways you can assist or to sign up for their newsletter go to [Bodega Land Trust](#)

Bohemian Corridor Business Alliance notes that Occidental has been named by “USA Today” as the 10th culturally best small town in the nation. Check the OC Council website and click on “What’s Open in Occidental?” to see a listings of open local businesses. [Occidental Community Council](#)

Fire-safe Occidental was awarded \$15,000 in grants to ensure all residents have reflective address signs. It purchased 500 silver-socks for firefighters that inhibit foot infections caused by long hot hours in boots. Updates are available by signing up for newsletters. [FireSafeOccidental Web Site](#)

Harmony Union School District duties have shifted for instructional staff to distance learning; the cafeteria has shifted to remote distribution. A waiver was just passed by USDA allowing free meals until December 31. Campus is still closed to all non-essential personnel. The CYO Camp has offered enrichment camp programs for all grades. Sign up for news updates at [Harmony Union School District](#)

KOWS Local news and programming proves exceptionally useful during current events. “Laura’s Living Room” featuring host Laura Goldman broadcasts every Friday evening at 5 p.m. Tune in at 92.5 FM [KOWS FM Radio](#)

Occidental Arts and Ecology Center is following state and county guidelines to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The Mother Garden Nursery is open for physically distanced shopping Saturdays and Sundays 10: a.m. to 5: p.m. All courses, retreats, and Garden Volunteer Days/ Tours are cancelled. [Occidental Arts and Ecology Center](#)

Occidental Center for the Arts received a grant from NEA through Creative Sonoma that will assist with expenses until the site is reopened. Meanwhile, virtual performances and Gallery exhibits as well as classes are available online. Check out [Occidental Center for the Arts to](#) enjoy two virtual book launches by local authors this month.

Occidental Community Center Advisory Council has sent a letter to supporters acknowledging the retirement of Steven Kay as President. The Advisory Council will remain dormant until health concerns are lifted to allow indoor activities once again. Meanwhile, the County is setting up a COVID testing station by appointment at the Community Center parking lot.

Occidental Community Choir Zooms for weekly rehearsals and continues to prepare its online Winter Concert titled “Where to Begin”. [Occidental Community Choir](#)

Occidental Community Council [Occidental Community Council](#) will be discussing how to proceed with winter’s craft faire. Community projects will also be discussed. Participation is encouraged. Membership is \$10 per year. Next meeting is September 19 at 10:30 a.m. To participate contact occinfo@sonic.net

Occidental Community Farmers Market will continue until the end of October. Shopping local is a healthy choice. Open Fridays 4: p.m. to dusk. They are seeking volunteers to assist the Vendors. [Occidental Farmer's Market](#)

Occidental Community Service District held its second Zoom meeting Sept. 8th. Warrants were paid including fire training gear and staff time during the Walbrige Fire. Chief Lunardi thanked Fire Safe Occidental for foot gear donation. Grant money is sought for purchase of bulldozer rig for making fire breaks. [Occidental Community Services District](#) and [Occidental Fire Station](#)

Occidental Library Station is offering curbside pickup of book orders in Central Santa Rosa,

Cloverdale, Healdsburg, NW Santa Rosa, and Windsor but has temporarily suspended pickup in Occidental due to poor air quality. Check the Council website and click on their Library link for days and hours. It also offers online book holds and loans. eCards are free. [Occidental Library Station](#)

Occidental's West County Health Center is open for health care services including immunizations for babies. Please call ahead: 874-2444. Patient Portals for enrolled patients can help with answering questions and health reports. [Occidental Area Health Center](#). Go to news section https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/smoke_fires/reduce-your-smoke-exposure.pdf for information on N95 face masks for wildfire smoke lung protection. In collaboration with DHS there will be a pop-up COVID testing station set up in the community center parking lot first Thursdays of the month starting October 1 from 8: a.m. to 12: noon.

Salmon Creek Watershed Council has updated its **Neighborhood Handbook** with resource information for all of West County. Plans continue for this fall's wet/dry mapping in the creeks. [Salmon Creek Watershed](#) Their next Zoom meeting is September 19th. If you want to attend, contact [David Shatkin <dshatkin@sonic.net>](mailto:dshatkin@sonic.net)