

The La Honda Voice



May 2020 - **Always Free!**



Information and regulations about COVID-19 are frequently changing on national, state, and county levels. More information on the COVID-19 situation in **La Honda** and a list of related resources are listed on page 7.

La Honda, the little town with the big heart

by Vicki Skinner



On Friday, March 13, 2020, I went to work subbing at Pescadero Middle School. By the end of the day, COVID-19 had rendered me jobless there. This is not an unusual story - there have been many tragic stories related to the virus. That day now seems like it was long ago. The time dilatation was

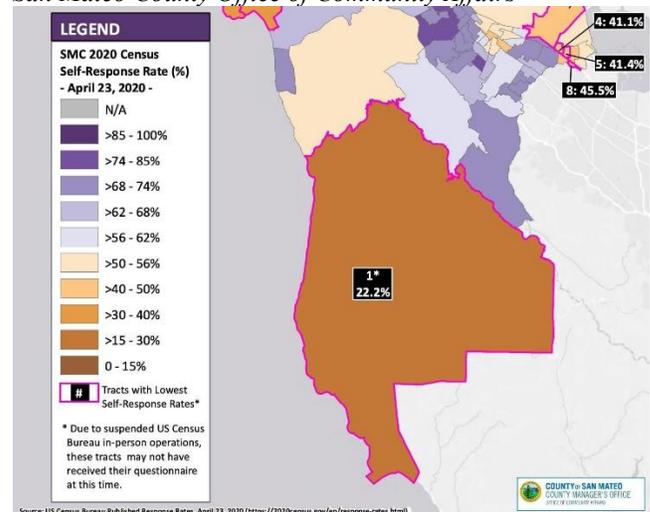
caused by learning about the unending fear, hopelessness, anger, hunger, and death caused by COVID-19.

However, this is an article about hope, good deeds, and stepping up to the plate in the midst of illness, fear, and an uncertain financial future.

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Low census response along the coast

by Melissa Vergara, Community Outreach Specialist, San Mateo County Office of Community Affairs



The County of San Mateo has the highest Census self-response rate of any county in the state of California. Across the County, 65.1% of households have already submitted their Census forms. However, in coastal communities such as Pescadero, **La Honda**, El Granada, Moss Beach and Montara, Census self-response rates are falling behind the rest of San Mateo County with a current rate of 23% (Data as of April 29, 2020 from <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>)

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Puente events & activities

Puente will continue to be flexible in expanding and modifying our programs and services in response to the evolving needs of the community. You can contact us at 650-879-1691 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, and by email at outreach@mypuente.org. More information is available on our website at www.mypuente.org. (continued on page 2)



Puente events & activities

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Our current programs and services include:

- Food distribution at our Pescadero office each Thursday at noon
- Financial Assistance for community members whose incomes have been affected by the pandemic
- Financial assistance for households and individuals whose citizenship status makes them otherwise ineligible for federal relief payments.
- Masks are available for local residents of **La Honda**, San Gregorio, Pescadero and Loma Mar
- Delivery of food and medications for people over 55 without other support.
- Appointments are available for online safety net service consultations and behavioral health counseling.



Facing some tough weeks ahead, Puente is currently meeting with staff, partners and youth to adjust its summer youth program to continue to provide valuable work and learning experiences to participating youth, while still meeting our public health and safety goals.

As families, schools, and businesses are being affected by the Coronavirus, nonprofits like Puente will be deeply affected as well. We know that youth and their families on the South Coast need our support.

Help us reach the campaign goal by supporting our most urgent needs:

- Funds for Puente's Youth Program
- Fund for scholarships for Pescadero High School students graduating in June
- Puente's COVID-19 Relief Fund
- General Operation support

Your donation to the Coastside Gives campaign will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$55,000, doubling your support to help Puente move its mission forward.

Please consider supporting local nonprofits in these challenging times through Coastside Gives at <https://www.coastsidegives.org/puente>.

Puente is seeking a licensed marriage and family therapist or marriage and family intern



Under the supervision of a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist or appropriately Licensed Psychologist or Social Worker, the Marriage and Family Therapist or Intern provides

therapy services to members of the Puente service region including students in the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District.

Puente offers a competitive salary and benefits package. Please e-mail cover letter, resume, and three references to Lisa Mateja, Human Resources and Admin Coordinator at lmateja@mypuente.org. For more information please visit our website at <https://mypuente.org/career-opportunities/>

Low census response along the coast

(continued from page 1)

The disparity in Census response rates is harmful to coastal communities. The government uses Census data for decision making about allocating resources, and an accurate count is necessary to ensure that each community receives its fair share. We need everyone on the coast to respond to the 2020 Census so money and services can be allocated equitably. This means money to health clinics, schools, affordable housing and more.

The County has partnered with organizations who have been working on census outreach along the coast. Given the serious public safety concerns raised by the COVID-19 virus, many census partners had to change their plans. The County has quickly shifted outreach strategies to continue supporting census efforts with the health and safety of our community in mind. That said, we need YOUR HELP in motivating residents along the coast to respond to the 2020 Census!

- Encourage friends and neighbors to respond: We can't change anything if we're not counted!
- Promote Census participation on social media, for ideas follow us on Twitter and Instagram [@smc_commaffairs](https://twitter.com/smc_commaffairs)
- Pick up a lawn sign from our office (no contact deliveries by appointment available) and show your support
- Remember to take the Census and count everyone in your household

Your work, family, health, and community are essential and depend on your voice, so please stand up and be counted. The 2020 Census Questionnaire can be completed online at my2020census.gov in 13 different languages, or by calling (844) 330-2020 for English and (844) 468-2020 in Spanish. For any census related questions, you can contact us at smc_census@smcgov.org or visit smccensus.org

A woman shot and killed by deputies in Half Moon Bay

(excerpt from <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/california/articles/2020-05-06/woman-shot-to-death-by-deputies-in-northern-california-ided>)



“A woman shot and killed by deputies in Half Moon Bay after she allegedly fired a shotgun at them has been identified, officials said Wednesday [5/6/2020].

The San Mateo County Coroner’s Office identified the woman as Sandra Lee Harmon, 56, of Half Moon Bay, the Mercury News reported.

San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office said deputies returned fire at Harmon after she fired a shotgun at them. The deputies were not injured.

The deputies, who were not injured, were responding to a report of a woman carrying a firearm and alcohol, the office said...Harmon was taken to a hospital, where she died of her injuries, it said.”

The **La Honda Voice** sometime uses excerpts from other news sources. If an excerpt is of interest, it is important that you seek out and support the original source of the article. Links to these sources will always be provided.

Go to lahonda.com to download the Voice and copy/paste these links into browser.

La Honda Fair Postponed



The La Honda Fair Committee and the La Honda Educational Foundation hopes this message finds you well and healthy. It is with much disappointment that we will be postponing the **La Honda Music and Arts Fair** until August 1, 2 (tentatively). This is a super strange time all around and we sincerely hope that you and your loved ones are safe. If you have any questions, you can contact me (Kristen Lindstrom) at lahondafair@gmail.com.

La Honda Country Market Update



From Dusty Boyd:
 “This upcoming month, we have ICE! There is a new ice merchandiser in the store that holds 90 bags of 10 lb ice; we are also working on getting some 20 lb bags. We also have a new cooler specific to craft beers in 6 packs, as well as a new sit-up

mahogany bar at the front window built by Christian.

Lastly, we continue to offer "call-in" take-away baked pizza - any toppings on a 16" pizza for \$22. (I think the previous owner’s price was higher for an only 12" pizza!).

Juleea continues to work over 70 hours a week to ensure the community has supplies, so please everyone relax a bit on personal opinions, negative statements, etc. as hearing it over 100 times a day is extremely mentally exhausting and unfair to Juleea.”
 The store’s number is 650-747-9722

La Honda, the little town with the big heart

(continued from page 1)



Bob White’s Dinos sporting masks: a sign of the times

First of all, I want to say that **La Honda** rocks for a SIP location. I can hike for miles (starting within 5 miles of here, I promise!) with my dog, greet fellow walkers, stand outside friends’ homes keeping 6 feet apart, and even walk with other friends 6 feet apart. We howl at 8 pm and hear other voices echoing through the canyons in solidarity for the people who are putting themselves in danger to keep our society healthy and fed.

We also try to support our local markets and restaurants (we only have a couple within 5 or so miles). We try to buy a take-out dinner at Alice’s or Loma Mar Store on alternate Friday nights. The food is delicious and affordable. (Continued on next page)

You can call in to find out what's for dinner, and place, pay, and pick-up your order. In the Loma Mar Store (650) 879-0203, they only allow one patron at a time. At Alice's (650) 851-0303, they bring it out to you. The La Honda Country Market number is (650) 747-9722. A big shout out to those establishments for supporting the people who work for them and offering a viable alternate to cooking every night.



Please support them if you are financially able.

Fred Rosenberg and Vicki Skinner wearing masks made by Mask-R-Aides

In between other tasks in my "busy" COVID-19 life, I cut out masks for Mask-R-Aides.

Mask-R-Aides was started by realtor and long-time friend, Karin Bird, in response to the lack of protection our country is providing now to our nurses, doctors, hospital workers, caregivers, school lunch employees, grocery workers, delivery people, and others who are working to help us be safe. Karin said she texted friends on March 21st with the idea, "I knew from previous experience that **La Honda** is a step-up-to-the-plate community. Everyone I texted replied with an overwhelming YES! So I ordered the material and then we waited.... March 26 was the day I got the elastic and material."



Karin Bird, the force behind Mask-R-Aides

Mask-R-Aides has cutters and stitchers (they're on sewing machines, but to describe them as sewers seems undignified). Karin Bird,

Deborah Rosas, Vanessa Ramirez, Karen Christian and Caroline Olsen are our main stitchers. Vicki Skinner, Cindy Crowe-Urgo, Zoe Harrington, and Trudy Schoneman are the cutters. Maile Springer cuts and sews many herself including some for Mask-R-Aides.

In compliance with social distancing regulations, Karin drops off material in plastic bags with a pattern and any directions needed. The cutters return it or Karin picks it up. Then she compiles a stitcher's packet with cut pieces, elastic, and instructions to the stitchers to complete the process.

Karin says, "I heard through the grapevine that people were dropping off masks at hospitals and the hospitals were discarding them because they weren't what they needed. So, I found this web site *maskmatchers.com* that matches our masks to

facilities that request them. We started out with 3 mask patterns, but eliminated one that was too time consuming in these days of urgency for protective gear. We had our first order of 75 masks go to Kaiser Marietta who had 1000 COVID-19 cases and 26 deaths at the time of the April 13th delivery, just a month into the SIP. We also supply Puente, the VA in Palo Alto, and are getting ready to ship at least 85 to our next match - that totals approximately 225 masks so far."

Heather Miller, another La Honda resident who works for Stanford Theater, received a grant and puts together kits for making masks. The reach of her masks are nationwide. If people are interested, she has ten more kits left which the grant will pay for; she is now looking for stitchers. She can be contacted at *heathermiller@stanford.edu*.

Many of us feel helpless in the face of the new reality of COVID-19 and its detrimental impact, both monetarily and health-wise. However, there are some positives emerging from this disaster. People all over the world, the country, and even in this beautiful little town of **La Honda**, in which we live, are making a difference.

To join Mask-R-Aides, please get in touch with Karin Bird at *karin@BirdHayes.com*. Stitchers, along with donations of fabric and elastic, are needed. (Karin has been buying all of the materials herself). You can even donate clean old sheets as they can work as linings for the masks.

Little Ventura library update

by Vicki Skinner

I have been so pleased with my little library's existence since 2018, located at the base of Ventura Ave. La Hondians have used it exactly as it was intended: to find interesting reads or pass on good books to others. The little library includes books for all ages. During this pandemic, when our regular libraries are closed, SIP rules are being followed, and we have plenty of time on our hands to read, I feel its existence is more important than ever. I have stocked



the little library with disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer. Please wipe down books with disinfectant wipes being donating them. Also, please use the sanitizer before handling books and on the lock afterwards.

Keep those books coming. Thanks, La Honda! The little Ventura library will be closed for one day this week or next (last in April/first in May) for a little upkeep of caulking and painting. Thank you, Fred Rosenberg, husband extraordinaire, for making and maintaining the library!

SIP Inspires the “At Home in La Honda Cookbook”



Tim Nelson posted a **La Honda** cookbook online on the Google message board with an invitation for locals to add and edit. So far it has

about 10 recipes, including one unusual addition for baked raccoon. (The recipe appears to be genuine, including a link to a video for how to remove the raccoon’s lymph glands before cooking). Although, I’m not sure about the utility or legality of that recipe, check it out at:

https://groups.google.com/forum/#!searchin/lahonda_digest/cookbook%7Csort:date/lahondadigest/KTf7czOGvvg/VHVB5581BQAJ

Gardening in La Honda?



Enter a California address or click the map
La Honda

758 plants native to 37.319,-122.2742 (La Honda)

Thanks to Kathleen Dickey for calling attention to the California Native Plant Society website, where you can search

for native plants by categories like low water usage, bank stabilization, and ones that can host butterflies. For **La Honda** plants, go to: [https://calscape.org/loc-37.3190,-122.2742\(La%20Honda\)?&poploc=1](https://calscape.org/loc-37.3190,-122.2742(La%20Honda)?&poploc=1)

COVID-19 and our Local Real Estate Market

by *The BirdHayes Team (submitted by Karin Bird)*

As you probably guessed, the current shelter in place order is affecting our local real estate market, as well as the market pretty much everywhere. This can be seen through the extreme lack of inventory and sales. We attribute this in part to financial hardship from job loss and the crashing stock market, as this often the source of down payments. All this, coupled with uncertainty as to how this will pan out, is

leading buyers to hold off, waiting to see what will happen.

As of May 1st, in the entire Skyline, **La Honda**, San Gregorio and Pescadero areas, there are 23 listings on the market and only 2 of those are pending sales. One went in escrow before the shelter in place and one after. In the 94020 zip code, during the time period April 1st through April 29th, the amount of active listing are down 40%. We don’t really have a handle on how prices are being affected because of the lack of sales data.

A recent report generated by the California Association of Realtors shows that one in four agents has had a transaction fall out of escrow due to Coronavirus, and 9 out of 10 buyers expect prices to be more negotiable.



Another big real estate factor is how the shelter in place order affects the marketing of homes.

There are currently strict guidelines that must be followed: “If the sale is essential at this time, the County ordinance allows REALTORS® to perform services outside of their residence in a limited capacity.

No open homes are permissible under any circumstances. Showings of homes must be virtual. Only if it is not possible to show a home virtually, may a showing of a vacant home take place, by appointment, and the number of people in a home may not exceed a maximum of 2 visitors from the same household. No showings of any occupied homes may take place, even if the occupants leave the home for the day. At any showing of a vacant house, social distancing protocol must be in place and a form must be completed and posted at the showing.

While there are huge hurdles to jump, if someone needs to sell their home, it can be done. One thing we had noticed prior to this event is that more people living in the Bay Area are looking for a quieter lifestyle and a bit of land. We sold 3 remote properties in the 2 months leading up to the shelter-in-place, and the buyers basically wanted to get farther away from the rat race. We would expect that trend to continue and even increase coming out of this.

The situation is fluid, if you would like the latest information please feel free to give us a call 650-851-8100.

Contact Bob Dougherty at voice@lahonda.com for content questions and Lisa Mateja of Puente at LMateja@mypuente.org for advertising ...and a big thanks to Puente for printing the **La Honda Voice!**

La Honda on my Mind

by Christine Page

As I sip coffee in bed this morning, my Sunday blurs into any other Coronavirus day. Asheville, North Carolina is geographically far from La Honda, but close in natural beauty and spirit. A green canopy of mountain laurel adorns my Grove Park home. A creek resounds with life, flowing steadily westward outside my window. Norm always said, “Be Here Now!” and for the most part I am. This virus and recent “stay at home orders” have me more settled than ever, but like many Sundays, La Honda is on my mind.

Effortlessly, I am transported to California. I am in my van driving past a fragrant grove of Eucalyptus. On Highway 92, there are fruit stands, plant nurseries, pony riding stables, and Christmas tree farms. I stop for gas in Half Moon Bay and then eventually turn left at the Pacific Ocean. The road opens to waving grasses and expansive views. I step firmly on the gas pedal as I ascend the hill, “To the Store, or not to the Store: that is the question.” It is late morning and still too early for live music at the San Gregorio General Store, so I drive past the exit for Highway 84 and continue along the coast.



Pacific Ocean on South Coast

Just ahead lies the quaint little town of Pescadero. It is the perfect place to order a Bloody Mary on a Sunday morning. The front door is open and darkness welcomes me in. Duarte’s Tavern is charming, just the way I remember. I brush past my favorite jukebox while reminiscing about foggy afternoons and Patsy Cline tunes. I take a seat at the center of the bar, respectfully avoiding the local’s corner. Twenty years of memories, along with the Bloody Mary, flow through me. I can almost hear the laughter of friends, some long gone. The homemade artichoke soup looks and smells delicious, but today I am heading to the beach for a picnic. Sunlight pours into the window and illuminates the last cubes of ice in the bottom of my glass. I stab the pearl onion with my straw and I am off.

Outside, brightness blinds me briefly. I walk to the old cemetery at the edge of town. Lichens cling to oak trees along the mostly dirt, once graveled road. I am reacquainted with gravestones of strangers. Little plastic flowers would seem odd and quirky anywhere else, but not here at Mount Hope Cemetery. I could stay all day, and I briefly consider it, but the sea air calls and I head back through town. I visit the Pescadero Country Store where I buy a fresh-made sandwich, macaroni salad and a soda before continuing south on Highway 1.



The old cemetery at the edge of town

If there is a name to this place, I do not know, but it is my favorite picnic spot. From a dirt pullout, two familiar cypress trees guide the way and point to the Pacific Ocean. I walk with my little cooler and blanket about a half-mile to a shallow alcove. The beach is deserted except for a lone surfer in the distance. His wet suit, deep red, contrasts the foamy white breaks in the waves. I can hear the calls of sea lions in the distance. Sandpipers play hide and seek with the tide. Great hawks fly overhead. Now rejuvenated, it’s time to go.

The San Gregorio Store is a very special place where live music and sea air create a melodic tonic. Sunday is “locals” day. Pat, a patriarch of La Honda, is standing outside drinking a Miller High Life. He is tall and thin with a long white ponytail and beard. Carl sits in his motorcycle leathers on the windowsill. They recognize the van and wave. As always, I am greeted with a big hug, La Honda-style. Johannes smiles at me from behind the bar. “How was the surf today?” He responds, as usual, “Great!” David and the band are playing a jam that goes on and on. Some folks are dancing slowly to the music. Gary winks at me from behind his saxophone. I see a picture of Johnny glued onto the wooden coffin in the corner behind the band. A bird book distracts and I hold back the tears.

Suddenly, my phone rings. Coffee spills on my pillow...

(To be continued)

COVID-19 Information and Resources



Information from”

<http://www.pescaderocouncil.org/south-coast-covid19-resources> - unless specified

Current Status, General

- California-wide Shelter-in order until May 31st
- No Unnecessary Travel. No Gatherings
- Wear face coverings in public when you can't maintain your distance (or others are not!) Fines up to \$1000, 90 days in jail
- Call 211 for non-medical / non-emergency questions about corona virus.

County financial and food aid



- Free Testing is available at the County Fair Grounds. You must go online and fill out a questionnaire and then make an appointment.

<https://www.projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/>.
Number for safe and free transportation: 650-779-9375. Yes they will come to the South Coast!

- County property taxes can be deferred to Monday, May 4th.
- All Businesses must display Social Distancing Protocol at or near your entrance. All employees must wear face coverings as of April 22nd.
- Updated price gouging executive order:
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/4.3.20-EO-N-44-20-text.pdf>
no more than 10% over February prices.



San Mateo County:

Face Coverings: <https://www.smcgov.org/covid19-face-covering> and the full details:
<https://cmo.smcgov.org/sites/cmo.smcgov.org/files/documents/files/HO%20Order%20c19-8%20Face%20Covering%2020200417.pdf>

- Health Department:
<https://www.smchealth.org/coronavirus>

- Mental Health and Substance Abuse services: 650-595-9772 or 1-800-686-0101
<https://www.smchealth.org/bhrsservices>
- Relationship Abuse Services:
<http://www.corasupport.org/covid19/>
- Health Equity initiatives:
<https://www.smchealth.org/health-equity-initiatives>
- Shelter-In-Place info:
<https://www.smcgov.org/shelter-place-faqs> for related Legal questions call 650-363-4588 (8am-4pm)
- Small Business and Workers Advice:
<https://www.samceda.org>
- Emergency Operations Center:
<https://cmo.smcgov.org/eoc>
- Price Gouging contacts: <https://da.smcgov.org/price-gouging-covid-19> or call the District Attorney: 650-363-4403

Local Help:

Puente de la Costa Sur is the San Mateo County core service agency for our area. Puente is the clearing house for basic emergency needs for the South Coast: La Honda, Loma Mar, Pescadero, San Gregorio

- Puente 650-879-1691 outreach@mypuente.org (after 4pm - 650-868-0236)
- Puente COVID-19 Public Health Response Fund. Designed to support ALL local residents effected by changes to work hours, or laid off due to this virus disaster.
<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/puente?code=covid19>
- **If you need support, don't hesitate to reach out** 650-879-1691 or outreach@mypuente.org We are here for you!
- Financial Assistance for rent and utilities for those who qualify
- Food distribution, weekly, starting Thursday, March 21st. 620 North Street, Pescadero. Everyone Welcome! Puente will load your car. This is in conjunction with Second Harvest of Silicon Valley. Contact Maricela Zavala, 650-262-4112 MZavala@mypuente.org
- Assistance filling out the Census questionnaire.
- Story time online! Visit <http://www.facebook.com/Puentedelacostasur> to view or download videos
(continued on next page)

COVID-19 Information and Resources

- Picking up groceries and mediation for adult +55 without other support systems
- Immigration case intakes and other legal services that can be provided by interviews over the phone or Internet
- Weekly Health Clinic
- Urgent Notary Public services
- ACE and MediCal Applications
- CalFresh Applications
- Assistance with unemployment applications
- Tax preparation is on hold because some restrictions. this is being sorted out
- For food distribution resources, text: GETFOOD to (408) 455-5181
- San Mateo County Child Care for Essential Workers <https://sanmateo4cs.org/covid-19-resources/>
- La Honda Post Office - Open
- Pescadero Transfer Station is reported to be open, but struggles. The bins are filling up early on weekends, and so the facility shuts down. Try to call first

You Can Help



Our local organizations need financial support

<https://www.coastsidegives.org/puente>
and www.coastsidegives.org/Pescaderoedfoundation
<https://www.coastsidegives.org/lahondakids>
<https://www.coastsidegives.org/pieranch>
San Mateo Volunteer Opportunities:
<https://www.smcgov.org/volunteers>
SMC_Volunteers@smcgov.org

Other Sources of Information

Here are some other sources of information. Since we started this Resource Page many more like it have appeared.

- Listos California helps individuals, families and communities prepare for disasters like wildfires,

earthquakes and floods. We also help Californians respond to COVID-19. When we all do our part, we keep more people safe.

<https://www.listoscalifornia.org/>

- Sign up for SMC ALERTS
<https://hsd.smcsheriff.com/smcalert>.
- Santa Clara COVID data dashboard:
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/dashboard.aspx>
- IMHE projections (presented in SM County Govt meeting, select CA in pull-down):
<http://covid19.healthdata.org/>
- City of Half Moon Bay's webpage <https://www.half-moon-bay.ca.us/667/6255/Novel-Coronavirus-COVID-19?activeLiveTab=widgets>
- Puente's Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/puentedelacostasur/>
- the La Honda Google Group
- Your Nextdoor group for La Honda
- California Department of Public Health
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx>
- A good looking page on support for Cancer patients during this COVID era:
<https://www.asbestos.com/cancer/coronavirus-guide/>

Libraries and Bookmobiles

Libraries and the bookmobile have been cancelled until further notice

Open Space preserves have been opened

(<https://www.openspace.org/content/novel-coronavirus-updates>)



Although many other parks are still closed, all Midpen preserves are open.

“We're happy to announce that, with guidance from county health officials, we have reopened all preserves. Some trail use restrictions have been lifted: bikes and horses are again allowed on multiuse trails. Safe social

distancing is still required, and to make that easier, Midpen has implemented one-way routes on some popular loop trails. Please follow the signs.

Other changes may be implemented as needed in the future. Please remember to check trail conditions and preserve pages before leaving home.