

December 1, 2015

The Westport Wave

Published by the Westport Village Society, P. O. Box 446, Westport, CA 95488

Our Holiday Tree

Steve Brigham, Editor

It's pretty hard to miss – all of a sudden, a beautiful 25-foot Grand Fir tree has appeared in the field across from the Westport Store. Although it looks like it's been growing there forever, this tree was just recently cut from John Allison and Rebecca Picard's property and laboriously moved down the hill by a small army of Westport volunteers. Oceans of Thanks go out to John and Rebecca for donating this year's tree, and to all the volunteers for cutting, moving, and setting it up (including Jim Ferguson of AT&T, who "planted" our tree on his own time just like he would a phone pole!)

So for the second year in a row now, the town of Westport has a Community Holiday Tree! Is it a Christmas Tree? Of course. A Hanukkah Tree? Why not? A Solstice Tree? You bet! **Our Town Tree is anything we want it to be.** As we appreciate its beauty this month (especially when it is lit up at night), let us all be very aware that what we see is not just lights and ornaments, but a reflection of energy – the energy put into our Tree by all of the volunteers who make it happen, as well as the energy we all put into our Tree by simply appreciating its beauty.

Energy can be a powerful thing when it is properly focused. May our 2015 Westport Holiday Tree fill **you** with the happiness and good will that comes from the togetherness that we share as a Community!



Come join the party December 4th and decorate the Westport Holiday Tree!

Westport Holiday Fun!

Sarah Mathias

This year our Holiday Tree Lighting and activities for the kids will be on **Friday, December 4th**. Activities will include ornament making, decorating the tree, the tree lighting itself, a visit from Santa, and a holiday movie. Ornament making will be from 3:30PM to 4:30PM at the Recreation Center. We'll have supplies to decorate ornaments made from craft sticks and to make glass ball hand print ornaments. At about 4:30PM, we'll head down to the tree site across from the Westport Store and let the kids finish decorating the tree. The plan is to plug in the tree around 5:15PM, and then head back up to the Recreation Center for a visit from Santa and a holiday movie with popcorn, hot cocoa, and hot apple cider. Anyone is welcome to come participate and watch all the fun, or at least be there for the lighting of our town tree!



faire, holiday tree decoration, and others you'll notice in articles and the community calendar in our monthly community newsletter. Succumb to the urge and participate in some of the social activities you read about here – it's a great way to renew old connections and meet new friends too. We also encourage you to organize an event and publicize it in this newsletter.

As the year comes to a close, think about donating to the **Westport Village Society** to help keep this newsletter and other community programs and events going. If you appreciate the WVS, consider sending a tax deductible donation to us at P.O.

Glen Jones, Jeff Mathias, Art Crone, and Gary Quinton hoist the Holiday Tree onto Gary's trailer at John and Rebecca's house on November 25th.

Box 446, Westport CA 95488. Also check out Erin Brazill's wonderful new original music CDs now available at the Westport Community Store for a \$5 donation to the Westport Village Society (these will make a nice holiday gifts for everyone on your list!).

The WVS welcomes your ideas, contributions, and participation as we look forward to the new year ahead. Here's wishing you a joyous holiday season and (before you know it) a Happy New Year!

Westport Holiday Tree Lighting Friday Dec. 4th Schedule:

Ornament Making: 3:30PM, at the Recreation Center

Tree Decorating: 4:30PM, across from the Westport Store

Tree Lighting: 5:15PM, across from the Westport Store

Kids' Holiday Movie Night: 6:00PM (or once we return from the tree lighting) at the Recreation Center

Giving Thanks

Thad Van Bueren, President, WVS

As seasonal festivities get into full swing, there is a lot to be grateful for. The most important is our connections with each other. It is a time of year when gatherings and celebrations bring us together for some fun. One way we connect is through events announced in this newsletter like the winter craft



All loaded up and ready for the trip down the hill to Westport Village!

Westport Doggie Play Date December 12th

Erin Brazill

Hello! I am excited to announce and help organize the first of many Westport Doggie Play Dates!

Please bring your small or large people and dog friendly doggie(s) to the observation platform on the gorgeous Westport Headlands at **12 noon on Saturday December 12th** (12/12 at 12), where we will meet one another and our furry companions. From there we can decide if we would like to play at Eddie White's Beach (the tide should be about mid-level at that time) or stay up on top in the field – depending on the agility of humans and dogs in attendance. If it is extremely rainy or windy, we will try again next month. I will put a notice out at the Westport Store the night before.

I can't wait to meet my fellow dog lovers and dogs in Westport! Socializing is so good for dogs and helps dogs be safer, happier, and healthier as well – and it's just plain fun to get out and play! Hope to see you all there...even if you don't have a dog, feel free to come and toss a ball or a frisbee! Any questions, please contact Erin at ebrazill@yahoo.com

Local Information for Newcomers

Sarah Mathias

A “Welcome to Westport!” information packet has been created for distribution to anyone new to the community. The packet contains information about the WVS, WVFD, Recreation Center, Church, local businesses, and more. If you are interested in receiving a packet, or if you'd like one to be sent to someone, please contact Sarah Mathias at 962-0181 or sarah@huntersplayground.com.

Effective immediately, *The Westport Wave* has a **BRAND NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!** We're now at westportwave@gmail.com, so please make a note of it, and keep those articles coming in!



The 2015 Westport Holiday Tree is up and ready for trimming Dec. 4th!

Give Locally For A Better World

Steve Brigham

A better world starts not from the top down, but from the bottom up. A better world starts with your community, where every improvement you help make improves your own life in very direct ways. As you write your Holiday cards and plan your Holiday gifts this month, why not take the time to send tax-deductible donations to our non-profit community organizations that make life in Westport so excellent?

The **Westport Village Society** publishes this newsletter, and funds many community activities and improvements. Their address is **PO Box 446, Westport, CA 95488**. The **Westport Volunteer Fire Department** unselfishly provides so many essential services for all of us every minute of every day – their address is **PO Box 63, Westport, CA 95488**. The **Westport Community Church** provides us with spiritually focused programs on a monthly basis, and also functions as our community meeting and storage place – the Church address is **PO Box 23, Westport, CA 95488**. The **Westport Ten Mile Cemetery District** maintains our historic Westport Cemetery, which is a valuable museum in its own right – their address is **PO Box 133, Westport, CA 95488**.



The Westport Community Church

Westport Community Church December Calendar

Founded in 1880, the **Westport Community Church** is pleased to offer a variety of experiences to help us discover ways to become more in touch with our spiritual heritage. We are doing our best to nurture a tradition of having weekly gatherings at the Church (which is at the end of Abalone Street on the left) to explore various spiritual paths. All suggestions and participants for services are welcome at the Westport Church – and we welcome all denominations to hold services here!

The 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month currently have a regularly scheduled focus. The 1st, 4th, and occasional 5th Sundays are open for community members to suggest other speakers and topics for these days. Please contact Church President Millie Saunders at 964-3030 to discuss your ideas and see how you can help the Westport Community Church.

2nd Sunday, December 13th, 10:00AM – Carolyne Cathey, Mendocino Center For Spiritual Living, “Christmas and Eternal Truths”

Carolyne Cathey, Practitioner Student of the Mendocino Center for Spiritual Living, leads a discussion of the blessings of this glorious season that are meant for everyone, no matter their beliefs.

What are the Eternal Truths within the Christmas Season that are meant for all, for year-round and always? What does Christmas mean to you? Joy? Or Sadness? What Divine messages are for you this Sunday? Join us in discussion and celebration.

3rd Sunday, December 20th, 10:00AM – Our Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katherine White is helping us to establish an ongoing Quaker Worship Group meeting on the third Sunday of every month. The format is a simple, quiet meditation for 45 minutes followed by Katherine reading Quaker passages and a shared discussion of our experience including sharing of any of our thoughts or readings that one is inspired to bring to the group. This has been and will continue to be a very peace-filled and nurturing experience.

The Westport Community Church is more than just a Church – it’s a Community Meeting Place, and so many of our local organizations meet here on a regular basis. We also have a kitchen, making our facility perfect for any community gathering. Our present Church building and storage shed were built in the 1980s by the Westport Community and for the Westport Community – and we are committed to our mission of serving the Westport community in whatever way we can. In short, the Westport Community Church is one of the best community resources Westport has!

Although the Westport Church Board has very little money, we do have a good-sized list of maintenance and improvement projects for our community buildings. We also oversee all of the facilities on our property, which include the Recreation Center building and the Community Garden. Wouldn’t you like to help with these important community projects? Please call Millie Saunders at 964-3030 if you would like to help – let’s all help maintain our important community meeting and storage facilities!

*Happy 135th Birthday to the Westport Church!
On December 28th, 1880, Albert and Peter
Switzer (original owners of the nearby
“mansion” which still exists today) donated an
oceanfront parcel on Pacific Avenue for the
original Westport Church, which was built
during the following months. That first Church
building served the community for over 70 years!*



Preparing for El Nino Rains, Part 3

Westport Volunteer Fire Department

According to the latest prediction from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, after a few years of below-normal rainfall we should anticipate heavy rains at 127 percent of normal starting in late December or early January.

To help our community prepare for heavy rains, with possible power outages, mudslides and flooding, the WVFD is working with the Mendocino County Office of Emergency Preparedness to obtain emergency supplies that will be stored inside the metal Fire Station building. We decided it would be better to store those supplies inside the building than to park a large semi-trailer next to the building. We are also working with the Fort Bragg Food Bank to obtain food that will be available in the event of an emergency. Drinking water will also be available at the Fire Station. We are working with the County to obtain sandbags and sand. The sand will be stored on the property just south of the main Fire Station building, thanks to the generosity of Lee Tepper and Dorine Real.

There are also things each of us can do to prepare for El Nino rains. Here is a consolidated list that includes the items mentioned in the last two issues of the *Westport Wave*:

- Make sure gutters, downspouts, drains and sump pumps are clear of debris and functioning properly.
- Trim or remove trees that might threaten buildings or power lines in a windstorm.
- Make sure propane tanks are full.
- Have plenty of flashlights with spare batteries.

- Maintain an extra supply of prescription medications (a 60-day supply is recommended).
- Have plastic jugs or other empty containers on hand that can be filled with potable water.
- Review your insurance policy and contact your insurance agent if you have any questions about coverage for your home or business property in case of flooding, mudslides or earth movement. After reviewing your insurance coverage you may want to update your coverage and consider FEMA flood insurance.
- Develop an evacuation plan, especially if you are located in a low-lying area that could be flooded by heavy rains or high surf, or if you are located on property that could be affected by a mudslide.
- Keep the vehicle you would use to evacuate as full of fuel as you can.
- Create a survival kit you can take with you if you have to evacuate. The kit should contain canned food and other non-perishable food, a manual can opener, flashlights with extra batteries, a portable radio, prescription medicines, toiletries and other personal items, extra clothing and blankets, a first-aid kit, and drinking water (a gallon of water per person per day is recommended).
- Read the article in last month's *Westport Wave* about Power Line Safety.

In case of an emergency during the rainy season, call 911. If you can't reach 911, call or text our Fire Chief, Frank Maurice, at (707) 357-1866 or send him an email at FrankMaurice@sbcglobal.net. If you can't reach Frank, go to the Fire Station. If all else fails and you need help, call Howard Forest Central Dispatch at (707) 459-7403. We are still working on a back-up plan for shelter and warmth and restroom facilities for any displaced members of our community. If you have any suggestions, or if you would be willing to contribute supplies or facilities to help in a community emergency, please call John Allison at 357-3732 or send him an email at jrallison27@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more information in next month's *Westport Wave*.



The 2015 Trick-Or-Treat gang, Westport style, with their Westport Volunteer Fire Department engine escort.

Halloween Thanks!

Sarah Mathias

A big thank you to everyone who made this Halloween memorable: everyone who greeted our kids at their doors with candy, the families that came to trick or treat, everyone who brought food to the church afterward, and Xave Hale for the fantastic barbecued albacore. A very special thank you to the Westport Volunteer Fire Department for, once again, accompanying our kids on their trek through town to make sure that they navigated our streets in safety. We had a wonderful time. Thank you!

Clean Your Stove Pipes and Chimneys For Fire Safety

Steve Brigham

A chimney or stove pipe fire can be a very dangerous and scary thing – if you burn wood for heat, please make sure that you have your stove pipes and chimneys cleaned once a year to remove soot and creosote. A lot of us burn lowland fir and pine, since these types of trees are often killed by disease and must be removed – both of these types of wood leave a lot of deposits in stove pipes in a hurry. But no matter what kind of wood you burn, stay warm safely this winter and keep those stove pipes clean!

Water District News

The Westport County Water District is pleased to announce the appointment of two new board members, Ann Woodhead and Lee Tepper, who will assume office on December 3rd for 3-year terms. Along with our current board members Steve Cardullo, David Brothers, and Homer Whitehouse, this brings our Water Board back to our optimal 5-member level. More in next month's *Wave*!

Court-Ordered Community Service Opportunities In Westport

Gary Quinton

Do you need to serve court-ordered Community Service or serve in a Sheriff's Department Work Release program? Why not serve it in your community? We would value your time!

There are several places and varied types of work in Westport where you can provide your hours and get credit towards the satisfaction of your court order, including work for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department, Westport-Ten Mile Cemetery District, and the Westport Village Society. Jobs include grass/weed cutting, painting, handyman work, and more. We can help you with the registration paperwork and compliance/completion documents. If you are interested, please call Gary Quinton at 964-7073.



I like to travel. I have my wings from American Airlines, and I have logged over 3,000 miles of flight time. But I love my home here in Westport, where I can nap in a sunbeam, chase waves, and get nose-to-nose with a hummingbird one day, and eat fresh seafood (salmon is best) the next day.

Safe and Happy Holidays to everyone, and don't forget that special treat for your pets. Good wishes to all, from Marty.

Companion of the Month

Marty Anderson

Hi there! My name is Martha Amanda. I will be nine years old in February. Genetically speaking, I am a Cavachon, which is a “designer dog” cross between Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and Bichon Frise. Sounds pretty impressive doesn't it, and thank you very much – but it's really no big deal to me. We're all different breeds these days anyway.

Most people call me Marty, although I have some other nicknames that we won't go into. I enjoy playing with stuffed toys and also running in the house, as long as I am on carpet. I do not care for wood floors. I like other doggies, and cats can be a lot of fun. I love Westport but miss chasing bunnies (I have not found any rabbits here yet). Birds are OK to chase also (although some around here seem to be disturbingly bigger than me), but Mom makes me stop. Does she not understand that girls just want to have fun?

Did I mention that I have a human companion? Her name is Barb. I have her pretty well trained. I help her as a companion and as a watch dog, and I can also alert for medical problems (I have done some work as a nursing home visitor, or “cheer dog”).

Citizen Initiative on Intentionally Killed Trees Left Standing

Sarah Mathias

I am collecting signatures for a petition to put an initiative on the ballot regarding tress that are poisoned and left standing on forest lands. If passed, this initiative would declare such trees a nuisance and hold the party that killed them liable for any damage cause by them when they are located in certain areas (within 1,000 meters of: roads, private roads and driveways, fire lanes, telecommunication infrastructure, electrical infrastructure, significant water sources, and structures, or within Cal Fire State Responsibility Areas). The initiative is being backed by Mendocino County firefighters as these trees present a fire danger as well as a safety risk to firefighters in the event of a fire, both as snags and in the form of toxic smoke if the poisoned trees burn.

If this topic is of interest to you, please contact me for more information or to sign the petition (Sarah Mathias, 962-0181 or sarah.e.mathias@gmail.com). You may also get more information at www.citizensforfiresafeforests.com

Logan's Corner "The Dream"

If you don't have the Dream,
can't come true...
All the best,
For all of You.

If your mind counts in Time –
One, Two, Three;
Numbers get greater,
Starts with you and me.

Someone said:
I have a Dream,
I have a Dream...
True ta' Heart –
So it seem.
I have a Dream,
I have a Dream –
Seen the Promised Land...
I have a Dream.

Time passing in decades,
There's still the Dream –
Still counting...
One, two, three.

Love remains,
With Greatest Truth;
Still alive,
In dreams and youth.

-- J. Logan Smith, 10/15, Westport, Ca.

Westport Hotel and Abalone Pub Closed Until February 11th

Thank you to all our local patrons, and we hope you have Happy Holidays! Our staff really appreciates seeing Westport faces in the Pub. We will be closing the Hotel and Pub for our regular winter closure until February 11th, when we will re-open with our Valentine's Dinner special. See you next year!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE WESTPORT WAVE!

December 2015 Westport Calendar

- December 1st** – WMAC Meeting CANCELLED
- December 4th** – Westport Holiday Tree Trimming, Lighting, and Kids' Activities (see page 2)
- December 6th** – Hanukkah begins at Sundown
- December 9th** – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Firehouse
- December 10th** – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
- December 11th** – New Moon, 2:29AM
- December 12th** – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Firehouse
- December 12th** – Doggie Play Date, Westport Headlands, 12:00PM
- December 13th** – Carolyn Cathey, Mendocino Center For Spiritual Living, "Christmas and Eternal Truths", 10:00AM, Westport Community Church
- December 14th** – Last Day of Hanukkah
- December 20th** – Third Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church
- December 21st** – Winter Solstice, 8:48PM
- December 24th** – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
- December 25th** – Christmas Day
- December 25th** – Full Moon, 3:11AM
- December 27th** – Westport Community Church Board Meeting, 11:30AM, Westport Church
- December 31st** – New Year's Eve
- January 1st, 2016** – New Year's Day

The Westport Wave is a free monthly community newsletter published by the **Westport Village Society**, a non-profit community-benefit organization. Internet subscribers to *The Wave* receive their **COLOR** copies on or before the first day of every month by e-mail. Printed (black-and-white) copies of our current newsletter are also available for free at the Westport Community Store. **Check out our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org, to read and download both present and past issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our January 1st, 2016 issue are due by December 27th, and should be sent to editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488.