

September 1, 2016

The Westport Wave

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



On August 20th, there were 12 times as many people in Westport as any other day! (photo by John Allison)

Our Small-Town America

Steve Brigham, Editor

The 2010 USA census lists 60 people as living in the village of Westport, California. We're a pretty darn idyllic little town if you ask me. But on just one day a year, at the annual WVFD Barbecue, our population increases over ten-fold, and we have another way to be idyllic. At our Headlands Park, which our citizens bought and now preserve, we have one of the best parties you'll ever see. And it all happens so that we can keep our volunteer fire department running.

Small-town America has always been the heart and soul of the USA, and for good reason. It is the format which most resembles 99% of human history, and it is the format that our brains have developed over the eons to be happiest with. Much has changed in our country since our town was founded in the 1870s. For much of the USA, small-town America has become a faded dream. Not here in Westport, however.

In small-town America, everyone can make a difference. Everyone pitches in, and everyone feels good when they do. Well done all, and keep it going!

WVFD BBQ A Big Success!

Frank Maurice, WVFD Fire Chief

The "Day on the Westport Headlands" **Westport Volunteer Fire Department** Annual Fundraising Barbecue was a great success again this year! Over 650 meals were served, and by the large crowds and big smiles we know a good time was had by all!

It really does "take a village" of volunteer workers and donors to produce an event of this magnitude. Thank you to all of the fire fighters, community volunteers, and raffle donors who worked very hard to make our BBQ run smoothly while having fun too. Special thanks to nationally famous BBQ chef Barrel John for once again preparing his incomparable tri-tip and chicken, mesquite-smoked in stainless steel barrels. Special thanks also to Logan Smith of Lost Johnson Productions, who produced and also performed in the terrific live music show, complete with some of the finest local bands and singing artists.

We thank local wineries Pacific Star and Frey, local breweries North Coast Brewery, Anderson Valley

Brewery, and to the south of us Lagunitas and Bear Republic breweries. DBI distributors supplied the WVFD with all the beer and wine for the event.

All 14 WVFD firefighters worked like roadies at a rock band concert setting up the stage and tables and food booths on Friday, then worked the event until after 9:00PM Saturday, then

took it all down again on Sunday. Thirty community volunteers took shifts in the food serving line. Five volunteers worked with Firefighter Mike Perry at the "Beer Tender" and wine booth. Four volunteers worked the ticket booths, 3 worked the desert booths, 4 worked the kids' games and jumpy house, and 20-plus volunteers baked the desserts. Assistant Chief Daniel Maxey procured the food and also secured the landing zone for the Cal-Star helicopter.

It takes a village to make this BBQ happen. All the community volunteers and Firefighters did an outstanding job and worked their stations with smiles. Even the Humpback Whales showed up, and were splashing around just off the coast all afternoon, to the delight of all. The Westport Volunteer Fire Department will use the proceeds to buy needed rescue equipment, medical supplies, and protective gear for our Firefighters, EMTs and First Responders. Thanks So Much to Everyone!

Thanks from "Dr. Ruth"

Ann Woodhead

I want to thank all the Westport folks who made it to *Becoming Dr. Ruth* at the Mendocino Theatre Company. I hope you enjoyed the show. Your support is greatly appreciated! – Ann Woodhead ("Dr. Ruth")



The Cal-Star air ambulance helicopter was a popular attraction at the WVFD BBQ!

Erin Brazill to Play at Winesong and Sevrd Head Gallery

Erin Brazill

(Editor's Note: Talented and well-known Westportian musician-singer-songwriter Erin Brazill will be giving two local shows in September. Make it a point to go see these performances!)

I am very excited to announce that I have two wonderful shows in September in Fort Bragg. I play guitar, sing and write pretty much all of the songs for my band "Erin Brazill and the Brazillionaires". Our sound is a genre I just may have invented called "Spooky-Noir-Americana"... with the backbeat of swing music, blues progressions and lyrics full of imagery. My favorite is a piece I wrote called "The Hitchcock Suite" which is a 20 minute long homage to the victims and villains of Alfred Hitchcock movies of which I have a deep love. My full band includes the sounds of a musical saw, glockenspiel, cigar box slide guitar, stand-up bass, organ and lots of harmonies, but I also love to play solo shows with just myself and my guitar...

On Saturday, September 10th, Erin Brazill and the Brazillionaires (or at least 4/6 of us) and I will play from 11AM-2PM at Winesong at the Botanical

Gardens benefiting the Coast Hospital. Tickets are available at winesong.org. Tickets are \$150 and include lots of wine, music and catered munchies.

Two weeks later, on Saturday, September 24th, I am playing solo at a very special creepy-folk art inspired show at the Sevr Head Gallery in Fort Bragg. The inspiration for this show comes from a collaboration with 2 folk-artist painter friends of mine who are traveling from Washington State to present this show – a one-night-only hanging of their work at the Sevr Head Gallery. These two ladies form a collective called "The Bonnet Babes" (please look them up on You-Tube...they also make crazy videos of their projects and are always in full costume) and you can see some of the paintings at [Allegra Rose Brown](http://AllegraRoseBrown.com). (Allegrarosebrown.com)

I will also be joined by the amazing local talent Joey Goforth and friends, who played a set of awesome bluegrass, banjo music at The Rubber Ducky Race last May. September 24th also happens to be my birthday! So the sliding scale of 7-10 at the door gets you a signature cocktail, CUPCAKES and yummy homemade snacks and appetizers... and I have a fantasy of getting a piñata for the event. We shall see... The Sevr Head is right behind Cafe Del Mar and Gordon's Auto Repair at 542 North Main Street. It is all ages and will be a really fun event. Doors are open at 7:30PM, and I will go on at 8PM, followed by Joey and Ryan at 9PM.

You can hear my music at www.erinbrazill.com, the music video "Theories about you" or pick up a CD at the Westport Store (all CD sales benefit the WVS). I hope to see you at one of these shows!

Final Summer Westport Flea Market of the Year September 25th

Sarah Mathias

The final Westport Flea Market of the year will be held on **Sunday, September 25th from 11:00AM to 2:00PM** on the Westport Headlands. Anyone is welcome to come sell whatever they have – things you create, things you found, things you want to get rid of, plants, food, art, whatever! This year there is still no table fee, just be there and set up by 11AM (and let me know you're coming beforehand – it's nice to know I won't be out there by myself, and I can also

have a table for you if you don't have one of your own). For more information, or to let me know you'll be participating, contact me at 962-0181, or sarah.e.mathias@gmail.com, or via the Westport Markets Facebook page.



September at the Westport Community Garden

Steve Brigham

There's nothing like organically-grown garden-fresh vegetables, so fresh because you pick 'em and eat 'em within minutes. And it's even better when those vegetables are absolutely free to all, 24 hours a day! That's what you get at the Westport Community Garden (right next to the Westport Community Church and Community Recreation Center at the end of Abalone Street) – all you have to do is stop by anytime and harvest your fill.

We've had a cool, foggy summer, so our tomatoes have taken a long time this year – but this month, we'll finally have some ripening. The same goes true for green beans, which we will have in abundance this month, including lots of Italian Green Beans. Now these are vegetables that even I really like. They are wider than regular green beans, and they are so buttery that they need no butter in preparation. Just slice and steam or sauté. Mmm-Mmm good!

Also this month, we've got cucumbers, edible-pod peas, several kinds of lettuce, cilantro, basil, 3 kinds of summer squash, 3 kinds of kale, and 3 kinds of Swiss chard. So go for it – Mom says fine!

The Westport Community Garden this year has been funded in its entirety by the CLOM Foundation, who we thank for their generous support!



The Westport Community Church

Westport Community Church September 2016 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!

We are pleased to announce that our popular Quaker Worship Group will now be meeting on the 1st Sunday of each month in addition to their regular 3rd Sunday meetings. We still have the 4th and occasional 5th Sundays 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.

1st Sunday, September 4th, 10:00AM – Our Bi-Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katherine White leads our regular 1st Sunday Quaker Worship Group meeting. 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.

2nd Sunday, September 11th, 10:00AM – Carolyne Cathey, Mendocino Center for Spiritual Living, on “Turning Your Wants Into Realities”

Carolyne Cathey, Spiritual Leader, discusses a crucial aspect to living the life you desire in her talk, “Turning Your Wants Into Realities”.

Visualizations and faith are where miracles happen. Believing, trusting, knowing without doubt it will happen. Move from your head to your heart where you ‘know’ the Truth. Knowing is from within the heart, not the head.

The secret to success is when all of your energy is focused into what you want, (not scattered like foam atop an ocean wave that blows where the wind takes it and not necessarily where you want it to go), but focused like the energy in a storm wave – strong, powerful, moving in one direction – to your goal.

Join us for discussion on how to focus your energy. What fears or distractions hamper your success of turning your wants into realities?

3rd Sunday, September 18th, 10:00AM – Our Bi-Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katherine White leads our regular 3rd Sunday Quaker Worship Group meeting. The format is just like our 1st Sunday Service.

September at the Old Abalone Pub

Joywolf

Thank you to all our loyal locals who are making the Old Abalone Pub a success! We appreciate your business so much. Going into the Fall we will be cutting back our hours but remain **open 5 nights a week in September (Thursdays through Mondays from 5PM to 9PM, closed Tues. and Weds).** Saturday Afternoon Tea is from 3PM to 5PM, and Dorine continues to make it a wonderful relaxing experience. Please note that Friday, September 16th we are closed to the public for a special event.

WVS Annual Meeting October 7th

Thad Van Bueren, President, WVS

Please join us at the **Westport Village Society's Annual Members' Meeting on Friday October 7th** at the Westport Community Church. Socialize with your neighbors starting at 6:30 PM. There will be a variety of snacks and beverages. Donations of sweet or savory edibles are most welcome if you are inspired to contribute! This is a great opportunity to catch up with local friends, learn about the WVS and local history, purchase T-shirts and history books, and become a member. Your dues help defray the costs of communication and mailings. You can also join at http://www.westportvillagesociety.org/Data/WVS_Membership_form.pdf). If you feel generous, additional tax deductible donations help support the Headlands Park, community center activities, and other WVS community programs.

The Annual Meeting starts at 7:00 PM with a review of WVS activities over the past year. That will give you a sense of what we do. This year we'll offer special thanks to founding WVS Director Lois Senger who has decided not to run for another Board term. She has been the central force organizing the annual Mother's Day ducky fundraising event for many years, making sure it's a fun-filled family event. Next year Erika Freeman has agreed to organize the event and we invite you to share ideas.

The expiring terms of two directors will be filled by a vote of our members. Please consider running for one of the Board vacancies if you are interested in community service and appreciate the WVS mission and goals (also available at our web site). Being on the Board means getting involved and making things happen for our community. Each candidate will have an opportunity to address the group prior to the election, telling us why you are interested in joining the WVS Board. Current members who reside or own land in the membership

area will then vote in a secret ballot.

The focus will then shift to our latest project. A primary mission of the WVS is conserving open space in and around the village of Westport. We're currently renewing our commitment to that mission. Land conservation is one of our primary objectives and we would appreciate your input on priorities, as well as assistance with making it happen. After that we'll listen to your input on other WVS programs and activities. We thrive on your ideas and we absolutely depend on your participation. All of our programs and activities happen through the action of our volunteers—so come join us and get involved!

New Paint for Recreation Center

Steve Brigham

The Westport Community Recreation Center (still known to many as the School Building) recently got a brand new paint job due to the splendid volunteer work of Bob Finnell and Gary Quinton. Its new colors (Cape Cod Gray with Slate Gray trim) are similar to the old color, but more vibrant. It is interesting how the new colors take on a pleasing bluish tint in their surroundings. Bob and Gary did a beautiful job – well done mates, and thanks so much for your expert work! Sincere thanks also to the Westport Village Society for providing the paint for this project through the WVS Community Mini-Grant Program.



Thanks to Bob and Gary, our Recreation Center looks new again!



Naked Ladies

Steve Brigham

I've been studying naked ladies for years, and I know a lot of other guys who have too. And in all my travels, I have never seen more impressive naked ladies than right here in Westport. Especially this year – they're just beautiful!

(Long pause...)

Most people around these parts know that I'm a career horticulturist. So what I'm talking about here, of course, is *Amaryllis belladonna*, a bulb native to the Cape Province in South Africa that was planted in Westport as an ornamental over a century ago, and has multiplied ever since. It is called Naked Lady because it blooms without leaves (which only appear in winter when the plant is out of bloom). Perfectly suited to our climate, it neither needs nor wants any irrigation, being quite happy with just our natural rainfall. Every August and September, thousands of flower stalks with clusters of large pink trumpet-shaped flowers are very showy all over town.

This year, our Naked Ladies in Westport are especially showy because of the combination of abundant rainfall and warm temperatures that we had last winter, and also because our summer fog this year has kept the flowers fresh for a longer period of time

than usual. Not only are there more flowers per clump, but the flowers are bigger and darker pink, and they are lasting well into September. You just won't ever see a better display of them anywhere as you have in Westport this year.

Did you ever wonder why the deer don't eat Naked Ladies? That's because they're poisonous – mildly to adult humans but more so to children and other animals. Just to be on the safe side, I always weed-whip the spent flower stalks before the

seeds form (the seeds are toxic too).

There are actually two kinds of Naked Ladies in Westport (if that's the first line of a joke, I'll let you provide the punchline). One is the common one, which closely resembles the original South African species – it blooms from August into September here, with tall greenish flower stalks and light to medium-pink flowers. The other form, a hybrid, blooms a month later, with much shorter blackish stalks of darker pink flowers. Both forms have been spread throughout Westport over the decades largely by people giving excess bulbs to their neighbors.

The time to dig and replant Naked Lady bulbs is right after the plants are through blooming and before the new leaves emerge – if you replant at other times of the year, bulbs may not bloom again for several years after that. Naked Ladies bloom best when they are left undisturbed for many years. Somehow, that makes perfect sense to me.

24/7 Westport Wave

Did you know that *The Westport Wave* is always free to everyone at any time on the Newsletter page of our website westportvillagesociety.org – where you'll always find our most current issue as well as over four years of monthly back-issues, all in living color! Check it out, and tell your friends!



A beautiful addition to our historic Westport Cemetery.

New Westport Cemetery Monument Completed

Steve Brigham

The brand new gazebo monument at the Westport Cemetery has been completed. Made from imported Italian marble that will last indefinitely, this monument has been built to honor all of the people who have been buried in the Westport Cemetery over the past 140+ years but who have lost their old-fashioned wooden markers over time. The new monument has a splendid ocean view, and is visually very compatible with our existing Victorian-era grave monuments. Managed by Board Member Gary Quinton, this project was funded in its entirety by a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Soon, the central cemetery road at the Westport Cemetery will be restored to its original configuration, which is supposed to be in a straight line from the front entry gate to the new monument in the back of the cemetery. You may also notice that the entire fence on the eastern side of the cemetery has recently been completely rebuilt, thanks to volunteer labor and a very generous donation by Steve Brown of the Westport Beach Campground, who paid for all of the fence materials. This new fence is constructed with redwood and cedar, and will last far longer than the old perimeter fence did.

Autumnal Equinox September 22nd, But Equilux 3 Days Later

Steve Brigham

The kids are back in school, and the tourist traffic is beginning to slow down. We hope that some rain will follow soon! It's time for autumn in Westport, which officially begins on our Autumnal Equinox on September 22nd at 7:21AM. That's the day when our days and nights are of equal length, right? Well, not exactly...

Although the word "equinox" means "equal night", the days and nights are *never* equal at an equinox! This is because the sheer size of the sun (it's not just a point of light) plus its light's refraction through our atmosphere makes any "day" 7 to 8 minutes longer than

you would otherwise celestially expect. If it's equal days and nights that you're after, then what you're really looking for is the "Equilux", which in fact varies by latitude.

Our "Autumnal Equilux" here in Westport this year is 3 days after the equinox, on September 25th, when our official sunrise (when the top of the sun first peeks over the true eastern horizon, which I can't see from my house because mountains are in the way) is 7:06AM and our official sunset (when the top of the sun finally dips below the western horizon over the ocean, which I can see) is 7:06PM. The closer to the equator you get, the longer after the equinox you'll have to wait for the equilux. We're at nearly 40 degrees latitude here in Westport, but if you lived in the Manaus, Brazil (latitude 3 degrees), you'd have to wait until November 19th for the equilux! And guess what – maybe you've heard that the days and nights are always equal right on the Equator? Nope, they're *never* equal – the days are always around 7 to 8 minutes longer!

Of course, the Autumnal Equinox (not Equilux) day on September 22nd is still good for something. And that is finding true east and west. The sun rises that day exactly due east, and it sets (at 7:11PM here) exactly due west. This will be true anywhere in the world on that day except for the north and south poles (which is why practically nobody lives there).



Lois Senger, Miki Smith, and Robin Cardullo serving up food at the WVFD BBQ on August 20th.



Beer and Wine served from a Fire Engine!



Tabby completing a masterful face-painting.
(photo by Rebecca Picard)



JUMPY! *(photo by Rebecca Picard)*



New WVFD merchandise booth.

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 (707) 964-7073.

September 2016 Westport Calendar

- September 1st – New Moon, 2:03AM
- September 1st – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
- September 4th – First Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church
- September 5th – Labor Day
- September 6th – WMAC Meeting CANCELLED
- September 10th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Firehouse
- September 11th – Carlyne Cathey, Mendocino Center for Spiritual Living, speaks on "Turning Your Wants Into Realities", 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church
- September 14th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Firehouse
- September 15th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
- September 16th – Full Moon, 12:05PM



WHAT A RIDE! This 1959 Cadillac Cyclone is the second in a continuing series of photos of 1950s "concept cars" submitted by Jim Genereux. These works of art never went into mass production, but they did define "modern", some 60 years ago!

- September 18th – Third Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church
- September 22nd – Autumnal Equinox, 7:21AM
- September 25th – Westport Flea Market, 11:00AM to 2:00PM, Westport Headlands
- September 25th – Autumnal Equilux(sunset 7:06PM)
- September 29th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
- September 30th – New "Black" Moon, 5:11PM

October 7th (save the date!) – Westport Village Society Annual Members' Meeting, 6:30PM, Westport Community Church

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 website www.westportvillagesociety.org, to read and download both our present issue and over four years of past issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our October 1st, 2016 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by September 26th, and should be sent to editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488. Thank You!