

Holiday Happenings

Steve Brigham, Editor

December 2015 brought a little bit of everything weatherwise to Westport, from ferocious storms to cold nights to (finally) a few sunny days. We even had a “White Christmas” of sorts, via a noontime hailstorm on Christmas Eve that left some white stuff on the ground for a few minutes, at least. We all got some good rainfall totals for the month, with over 14 inches total rain here at the seashore and much more up in our hills and canyons – the first really wet month we’d had in a year. All in all, it was nice to have some good old North Coast wintry weather for the Holidays!

In this issue of *The Westport Wave*, we’ve got photos of some of the fun town Holiday festivities of the past month. I do want to thank you all for all of your great articles and photos this past year – we’ve got one of the best small-town monthly newsletters in the whole country going here, and there’s plenty of folks who live both near and far that will back me up on that! Looking forward to the New Year ahead, I’m hoping this year to get even more contributions from all of you, dear readers, and what I’d really love would be more “lifestyle” stuff – recipes, artwork, household tips, puzzles, pet profiles, local reminiscences and stories, and travel tips and stories from both near and far. We’ve got so much creative talent in this town, and I’d just love it if *The Wave* could be a terrific lifestyle monthly, too – Westport-style, of course!



Piper Fisher and Kylie Whitmire help decorate the Westport Holiday Tree on December 4th. (photo by Sarah Mathias)

Westport Municipal Advisory Council Meeting January 5th

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council will meet at **7:00PM on Tuesday, January 5th at the Westport Community Church** to consider several issues that have the potential to affect local residents in big ways. The WMAC is a community forum that supplies government agencies with local input. The key topics on the agenda for the upcoming meeting include the County's proposed suspension in June 2016 of a contract for 911 services, LAFCO's approval of an expanded sphere of influence for the Westport Water District, and a pending Coastal Development Permit to protect environmental resources at the Chadbourne Coastal Access. We welcome your input on these and other issues having to do with local planning, emergency response, and infrastructure. Visit the WMAC web site for more information: <http://www.westportmac.org/>.



Making hand-made holiday decorations at the Westport Recreation Center on December 4th. From left to right, Piper Fisher, Kayla Cooper, Rusty Fisher, and Hunter Mathias. (photo by Sarah Mathias)

inspire the participation of the community, from the young to the “well seasoned.”

A related topic on the minds of the WVS Board is how to recruit younger Directors interested in serving our community and organizing activities and events that bring the community together. We would love your input on how to make the WVS more relevant to the community. It takes some effort to organize community events, but the benefits of activities like the winter craft fair, Christmas tree lighting, potlucks, dances, yard sales, community garden, this monthly newsletter, classes, recreation, movie nights, and such are huge. If you have some ideas, write me at

wvs@westportvillagesociety.org or come share them directly with the WVS Board in January.

The Future of Community

Thad Van Bueren, President, Westport Village Society

This time of year is a traditional period of reflection. As the wheel of time keeps on spinning, the weather and darkness both turn our thoughts inward. It's a good time to consider the path we have traveled and imagine what lies ahead. So indulge yourself. Walk by the ocean and simply be there with your own thoughts. Resolutions often take root as we contemplate how we'd like to remake ourselves and our world. The commitments that often hold the greatest appeal are those that better ourselves, our community, and the world.

In keeping with this season of reflection, the next meeting of the **Westport Village Society on Saturday January 16th (9:00AM at the Westport Church)** will focus on the future of the organization and its role in the community. The WVS was created nearly 25 years ago to preserve the Westport Headlands. We're wondering now what kind of role the organization can play in the way we support each other and engage in community activities. Our long-term interest is to pursue programs that serve and

Kids' Movie Night January 16th

This month's Movie Night will be on Saturday, January 16th. We'll be watching *Home*. Doors will open at 6:00PM, with the movie starting when the popcorn is ready (usually by 6:20). Bring pillows and blankets/sleeping bags for the kids and a comfy chair for yourself. All are welcome to enjoy the movie!

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.



Top Left: Gary Quinton installing lights on the Westport Holiday Tree, Dec. 3rd

Top Right: Holiday Tree at Night

Center Left: Santa and Kylie Whitmire
(photo by Sarah Mathias)

Lower Left: Tree trimming, December 4th

Lower Right: Hunter Mathias and holiday ornaments
(photo by Sarah Mathias)





The Westport Community Church

Westport Community Church January 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, January 10th, 10:00AM – Carolyn Cathey, Mendocino Center For Spiritual Living

Carolyn Cathey, Practitioner Student of the Mendocino Center for Spiritual Living, leads a discussion on a topic to be announced. Plan on attending this popular speaker's presentation!

3rd Sunday, January 17th, 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.

For 135 years now, The Westport Community Church has also been a vital meeting hall for our community. 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 Westport Recreation Center (the School 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!

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.



Is Frank asking Santa for a new Fire Truck?
(Santa's definitely heard that one before!)

this past August was the most successful one ever!

WVFD is looking forward to 2016. Plans are underway to equip our Type 1 engine and water tanker with fire hose and fittings so they can be placed in service. We have started work on some initiatives to improve fire safety and awareness in our community. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of our community that makes all of our activities possible.

One additional feature for this year (see photo below) – in December, the WVFD presented Captain Beck Regalia with a brand new custom surfboard in appreciation of Beck's awesome ten years of leadership as Chief of the Fire Department. This gift was made possible

solely by personal donations from Beck's fellow firefighters. Well Done, Beck!

WVFD Chief's Report

Frank Maurice, Fire Chief, WVFD

The Westport Volunteer Fire Department hopes you and your loved ones enjoyed the Holiday Season. We all wish you a Safe and Happy New Year!

2015 was a busy year for WVFD. From January 1st through Christmas Day we responded to 49 calls. These included 4 fires, 24 medical responses (including 10 responses to patients with serious medical emergencies), 2 cliff rescues involving serious injuries, 10 motor vehicle accidents with injuries, and 2 downed power lines. One of our members completed the rigorous Fire Academy course sponsored by Mendocino County Fire Chiefs. Three of our members completed EMT training and passed the National Registry Exam. We acquired a Type 1 fire engine capable of pumping 1,500 gallons a minute and a 2,000-gallon water tanker. All our in-service fire hose has been inspected and pressure tested and it meets National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Insurance Services Offices (ISO) standards. Our preparedness plan for the upcoming heavy El Nino rainy season is essentially complete.

During the course of a pretty intense year, we also managed to have fun. The Annual WVFD Barbecue



Are You Reading This In Color?

If you're reading a black-and-white print edition of *The Westport Wave* right now and you've been seeing it in color, you've got quite an imagination! Don't miss out on all the great color photographs that accompany the terrific articles in your *Westport Wave*! Find a computer, tablet, or smart phone and go to www.westportvillagesociety.org, where you can read and download all current and past issues of *The Wave* in living color, and even sign up for free e-mail delivery each month. In fact, you don't even have to do that much anymore – just type “Westport Wave” into your search engine box (in other words, google it), and you'll be instantly transported to the most recent 4-plus years of *Waves*! Do it today, tell your friends, and save a tree!

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!

January 2016 Westport Calendar

January 1st – New Year's Day
January 5th – WMAC Meeting, 7:00PM, Church
January 7th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
January 9th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Firehouse
January 9th – New Moon, 5:30PM
January 10th – Carolyne Cathey, Mendocino Center For Spiritual Living, 10:00AM, Westport Church
January 13th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Firehouse
January 16th – Westport Village Society Quarterly Board Meeting, 9:00AM, Westport Church
January 17th – Third Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church
January 21st – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
January 23rd – Full Moon, 5:45PM

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 February 1st, 2016 issue are due by January 26th, and should be sent to editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488.