

January 1, 2017

The Westport Wave

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The Westport Community Headlands Park

A Headlands Tale

Thad Van Bueren, President, WVS

The Westport Village Society has spent the past six months trying to acquire a 50' by 120' private parcel at the southeastern end of our Headlands property. It's the property with the "For Sale" sign on it that has been for sale for most of the past decade, right across the highway from the Seagate driveway. Regrettably, our deal fell through in late November, even after a purchase agreement was signed and escrow was opened. When the owner made it clear that they were unwilling to sell the lot for fair market value determined through an honest appraisal, it made sense to back out.

The WVS has in fact been trying to arrange this purchase for more than a decade. We wanted to ensure that all our Headlands remains open space for the community and public benefit. The deal was negotiated with a lot of help. A generous local donor

agreed to pay half of the fair market value and the State Coastal Conservancy was willing to provide a grant for the other half. The SCC funding was scheduled for a vote of approval on December 1st. Elected officials and members of the public kindly wrote letters supporting that grant application and staff at the SCC worked to negotiate an allocation from a dedicated California Coastal Commission source.

Although the deal fell through, we learned something in the process. This property can only be developed with a variance due to setback requirements. There are also other significant obstacles and costs. A utility assessment would need to be acquired and environmental resources may be present. Those factors together imply any future development would be costly if it could happen at all. A review of seven ocean view parcels sold on the Mendocino coast since 2010 also suggests that the listing price is simply unrealistic. No wonder there have been no other offers for this property.

In any case, we gave it our best shot. Ultimately, the choice to accept our offer was in the seller's hands. They made their choice not to accept the fair market value. We extend our sincere thanks to those who devoted substantial time and energy to the project. Roger Sternberg offered valuable advice and encouragement to pursue this deal ever since helping us negotiate the purchase of the Headlands in 2001. Local realtor Frank Maurice assisted the WVS Board with background research on development policies and comparable land sales.

The WVS Board also invested a lot of time trying to put the pieces together. It taught us how much work is involved trying to conserve land. That goal remains a key aspect of the WVS mission, and we remain vigilant for other local conservation opportunities. We sincerely thank the community for your generous support over many years and we wish you all a very Happy New Year! Drop in on the WVS Board meeting on Saturday, January 21st at the Westport Community Church starting at 10:00AM if you're interested in what we're up to!

Ten Mile Trail Reopened

Thad Van Bueren

On the clear and frosty morning of December 17th, a crew of nine WVS volunteers reopened the historic coastal trail from the Caltrans parking lot at the south end of the Ten Mile Bridge to the haul road. Remember that narrow and deeply entrenched path overgrown with dense brush on all sides? It is now a nice 4 feet wide trail that allows easy passage. We thank all of the volunteers who gave a morning to make this trail accessible again for all to enjoy. This project was made possible through the cooperation of Caltrans, the Mendocino Land Trust, and State Parks.

You may not know that the lands on both sides of the bridge were acquired by the MLT from a private owner this past summer. The MLT will manage them for public access and resource conservation purposes. This means you are free to walk the haul road east along the river to its intersection with the modern gravel quarry road. It is a great place to visit if you are a bird watcher or just love getting out in nature. The Ten Mile River estuary is now a Marine Protected Area that hosts several endangered and threatened species. It is a fascinating place to visit.



Volunteers working on the Ten Mile Trail.

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!



The Westport Community Church

Westport Community Church January 2017 Calendar

Founded in 1880, the **Westport Community Church** is a multi-denominational church which serves the Westport community and its many spiritual paths. We also function as a meeting hall for the Westport community and its activities. We are doing our best to nurture a tradition of having weekly spiritual gatherings and more at the Church (which is at the end of Abalone Street on the left), with all religious and spiritual denominations both welcome and encouraged to hold both regular and special services here. Please contact Church President Millie Saunders at (707) 964-3030 for use of the Westport Community Church and also to see how you can help keep our Westport Community Church organization improving and our buildings and grounds maintained.

1st Sunday, January 1st, 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, January 8th, 10:00AM – Carolyne Cathey, Mendocino Center for Spiritual Living, on “Ring. Ring. Anybody There? Yes!”

“Ring. Ring. Anybody there?” Yes! Divine Communication is for you! It’s normal. The setup. The way it is. The God-provided inner power tool for you to use to create the life you desire. Use it! But how? How do you recognize guiding messages and know they really are from the Divine? What fears block you from experiencing your connection with the “All There Is?” Attend Sunday to learn how to develop your own ongoing communication with the Power of the Universe.

Donations are welcome to support the Church.

Carolyne Cathey’s new book, “Divine Messages from Jesus for a Magnificent Life” is now available in paperback form, with a Kindle version ready soon. For more information, please see

www.carolynecathey.com

3rd Sunday, January 15th, 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.

Church Board Meeting January 5th

Steve Brigham, Vice-President, Westport Church

Perhaps you’ve noticed the brand new entrance stairs at the Westport Community Church! This long-needed improvement will allow us to safely use the front door of our Church building again, and has been made possible by a very generous donation of money and time by local Westport residents. We’ll have more on this important community project in the February *Westport Wave*.

At our quarterly Westport Community Church Board Meeting on **Thursday, January 5th at 4:00PM** at the Church, we will be discussing the design for our new Church entrance sign, which also is being made possible by a generous donation. Please attend this important meeting – we greatly value your input as we continue to improve our Church building!

Water Plant Tour?

Bob Finnell

Within our small community, I'm certain that the importance and value of clean water and efficient waste water treatment processes is **not** taken for granted. On December 10, 2016, I attended the Westport County Water District ("WCWD") open public monthly Board Meeting and wanted to offer some reflections.

Every time I've attended in the past, I've learned something new and of importance regarding the WCWD system. And every time, I come away with a refreshed sense of gratitude and appreciation for the operational personnel and what they do for Westport every day, plus their concern to plan maintenance and improvements all within a very tight financial budget. WCWD's intentions to best serve the community are genuine.

The overseeing by the WCWD Board of Directors is also very important to manage the finances, regulations, inspections, and complexities of delivering our region's clean water and removing wastewater.

At the December Meeting, one idea that was floated for discussion by the WCWD is the possibility of scheduling a "Water Plant Tour" for all Westport residents in the coming weeks or months to better inform and communicate the WCWD's purpose and mission. If this comes to fruition (and you can attend), expect to be impressed and informed on the underlying complexities of WCWD work. Another goal discussed by the WCWD would be an endeavor increase the communication processes from WCWD, either directly to customers or from time to time in the *Westport Wave*.

Since now is the time for New Year's Resolutions, I've added one to my personal list, and that is to attend at least several WCWD open monthly board meetings (which are held on the second Saturday of every month at 10:00AM at the Firehouse) in 2017. Food for thought?



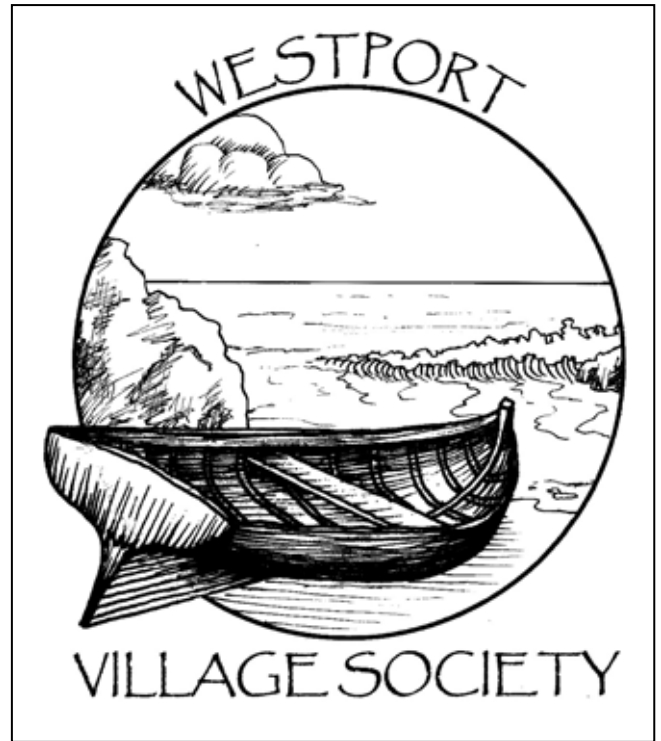
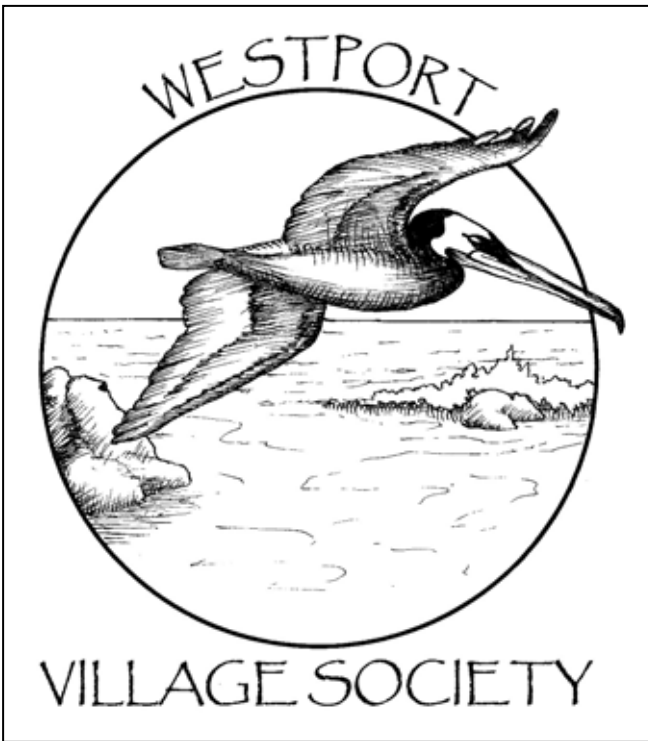
In this month's historic photo, here's the view north across the mouth of Dehaven Creek on July 1, 1963, before the new Highway One bridge was built. (Caltrans photo)

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 and weed cutting, painting, handyman work, and more. We can help you with registration paperwork and compliance/completion documents. If you are interested, please call Gary Quinton, (707) 964-7073.



Westport Village Society Logo Contest Update

Steve Brigham, Editor

The Westport Village Society has been around for well over 20 years now, but we've never had an "official" logo. So we decided to have a logo contest! So far, here are the three submissions that we've gotten. Additional submissions of logo concepts are

encouraged, and may be submitted via e-mail to wvs@westportvillagesociety.org. The designs will be considered at our next Westport Village Society Board meeting on Saturday, January 21st, at 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church. Come to the meeting and tell us what you think, or drop us a line at the above e-mail address! We thank the artists who have taken the time to send us these initial concepts, and we'd love to get many more logo concepts and ideas from our community to go with them!





considered relatively unlucky for you, but we'll get to that in a minute.)

Well, Steve liked my column, but he canned it! He said he was thinking many of the same things himself, but he didn't want to publish my column because he didn't want to "jinx" things for 2016 (especially the election). Just my luck to have a superstitious Editor! In retrospect, we now know that weird things

Getting The Monkey Off My Back

Marty Anderson

Whoa-boy, that was one heck of a New Year's party last night! At the end I fell asleep without even taking my mask off! I'm just a little tired this morning – oh well, maybe there's a football game on or something. I believe that your human phrase for what I need now is to "get the monkey off my back".

But that's actually not why I titled this column like that. It all goes back to nearly a year ago, when we ushered in the Chinese Year of the Monkey.

According to Chinese astrology, every 12 years we get a real wild card in the Monkey Year, when crazy and unpredictable things can and do happen. Especially with 2016 being an election year, I thought this was all very newsworthy, and so I started putting together a column on Monkey Year history and why we should watch out for weird stuff in 2016, particularly in the competition for President of the USA. (It also did not escape me that in Chinese astrology, each year of your birth sign is actually

happened anyway, and it didn't have to do with the *Westport Wave* at all. (Unless not publishing my column made it all happen, but that concept in itself is way too weird for even my advanced canine brain to figure out, "butterfly effect" notwithstanding!)

Did you know that the USA itself was born in the Year of the Monkey? Yep, 1776. And nearly every 12 years since, in another Year of the Monkey, we've had a notable presidential election, often excessively so – here following are just some of the examples:

In 1788, George Washington became our first President. No surprises there, since he ran virtually unopposed, but he was the first. Twelve years later, in 1800, Thomas Jefferson ushered in a generation of power for the new Democratic-Republican Party, but a voting error made it an electoral tie vote between him and his own running mate, so for the first time the House of Representatives actually had to decide who the President would be. (Aaron Burr?)

In 1824, Andy Jackson won the election, but then got totally robbed of it, again in the House of Representatives (he would return triumphantly four

years later, however). In 1848, Zachary Taylor won, but died several months later after eating a bowl of cherries. 1860 featured a fresh new face named Abraham Lincoln (and the election marked the start of the Civil War). Lincoln was the first President from the brand-new Republican Party, which (unlike now) in those early years was in many ways more like today's Democrats. In 1872, newspaperman Horace Greeley lost the presidential vote, then died despondent a few weeks later, before he could even claim his 66 electoral college votes (he still ended up getting 3 electoral votes even though he was dead).

It was a very close win for Grover Cleveland in 1884, when he broke a 24-year Democrat losing streak. But soon enough, the Republicans were in again – the “silver”-tongued populist William Jennings Bryan ran unsuccessfully for President 3 times for the Democrats, and 1896 and 1908 were the first and last of those years. In 1920 (after 8 years of Woodrow Wilson and World War I was over), the Republicans swept into power again with Harding (who would die in office), but in 1932, FDR won big for the Democrats in a Great Depression landslide, and he won for the last time 12 years later (in another war).

Do you remember 1968? That was a pretty crazy election, and there were lots of riots that year (yes, you guessed it, during another war). The winner was Richard Nixon, who had waited 8 years for his big moment. In 1980, Ronald Reagan swept into power (also after waiting many years), re-inforcing another long run then of predominantly Republican rule.

More people alive today remember 1992, which saw the Democrats sweep back into power with a young fellow named Clinton, who was also re-elected in a big win 4 years later. Could a Clinton ever lose? Well yes, one did, a New York Clinton who lost in a very tight race. Nope, I'm not talking about 2016 – this was DeWitt Clinton, and the year was 1812, yet another Monkey (and war) year! Yes, 2016 was actually the second time in our history that a Clinton from New York lost the Presidency of the USA in a very tight race in a Year of the Monkey!

All of these surprising presidential elections happened in a Chinese Year of the Monkey. In retrospect, you could have predicted our rather surprising 2016 election results on this basis alone. On January 28th, we'll finally have that monkey, at least, off our backs,

as we shift to the Chinese Year of the Rooster, which will hopefully be more benign and stable. No more monkey business until twelve years from now, in 2028? Now that would be something to crow about! I'm already looking forward to my Chinese New Year's party at the end of this month, so I'm gonna keep my mask handy! GONG XI FA CAI!

January 2017 Westport Calendar

January 1st – New Year's Day

January 1st – First Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church

January 3rd – WMAC Meeting CANCELLED

January 5th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

January 5th – Westport Community Church

Quarterly Board Meeting, 4:00PM, Westport Church

January 8th – Carolyn Cathey, Mendocino Center for Spiritual Living, “*Ring. Ring. Anybody There? Yes!*” 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church

January 11th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Firehouse

January 12th – Full Moon, 3:33AM

January 14th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Firehouse

January 15th – Third Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church

January 16th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 19th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

January 21st – **Westport Village Society Quarterly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Church**

January 27th – New Moon, 4:07PM

January 28th – Chinese 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 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 February 1st, 2017 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by January 27th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488. Thank You!