

December 1, 2018

The Westport Wave

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

WVFD Holiday Thank You Gifts

Lois Senger

You may have noticed (or if not, look in the **Westport Community Store and the Westport Hotel**) a **Westport Volunteer Fire Department Boot** decorated with holiday lights and a **Donation Box** in

holiday wrapping. It has long been a Westport holiday tradition that the community donates funds so that every Firefighter/EMT on the WVFD is given a Safety Gift from the WVFD district. This is our opportunity to show our appreciation for all their dedication and hard work for the past year to protect us and our homes. The WVFD Chief, Dan Maxey, selects a gift that would improve safety for each individual while on the job. We certainly want our Firefighters/EMTs to be as safe as they can while keeping us safe, so please be as generous as you can.

I know there are many in need at this time, and we as a community always come together and help one another. At the last WVFD Open Business Meeting, our firefighters voted to donate to two families in need, the Perry family and Layla Brown's family, both which have also volunteered for the community on the WVFD both now and in the past. Thanks, and have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!



Come help trim the Westport Holiday Tree on Friday, December 7th!

Westport Holiday Tree Lighting 5:15PM Friday, December 7th

Sarah Cullar

This year our **Holiday Tree Lighting** and activities for the kids will be on **Friday, December 7th**. Activities will include holiday crafts, decorating the tree, the tree lighting itself, a visit from Santa, and a Holiday movie. Ornament making will be from 3:30PM to 4:45PM at the Community Center. At about 4:45PM, we'll head down to the tree site across from the Westport Community 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 Community 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 Westport Holiday Tree!

Fundraiser for Layla Brown Sunday, December 9th

Thad Van Bueren and Tabby Korhummel

A fundraiser will be held for Layla Brown at the **Westport Hotel on Sunday, December 9th from 5:00PM to 9:00PM**. There will be food, a Silent Auction, and music and dance performances. A \$25 DONATION is requested at the door. The Silent Auction has many great items, from get-aways to wearable and hanging art. The spaghetti dinner will have gluten free and vegetarian options, as well as desserts. Music will feature Erin Brazill and Sarah Flaim (others TBA), with dance performances by [Toniq Vivant](#) and games.

Can't make it? You can still contribute in several ways. Check out the Silent Auction items and get in your early bids during the regular hours of the Old Abalone Pub (Thursday through Saturday from 5-9 pm), or leave a donation check made out to Otis Brown. You can also donate through this Go-FundMe page: https://www.gofundme.com/assistance-for-the-brown-family?fbclid=IwAR35MXBnKY_QUB_uQg537v55RfRee1LHHY-QrBiUeYGr8VsEZ_NQcMwrx_o

Layla just celebrated her 20th birthday on October 19th. She went to the emergency room in Fort Bragg a few days later, not feeling well. The blood test results raised serious concerns, and Layla was sent immediately to UC Davis Medical Center for further testing. There, doctors performed a bone marrow biopsy and lumbar puncture, and friends and family awaited the results and hoped for a best case scenario. On Wednesday afternoon, Layla was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.

Layla began her chemotherapy treatments the same afternoon. Her mother, Felicia, put her life on hold in order to stay with her daughter in the oncology wing as Layla faces the battle ahead. Her father, Otis, is driving back and forth between Sacramento and Fort Bragg, trying to be both emotional support for his family as well as financial provider. They are trying to stay positive.

In the face of everything before her, Layla has shown nothing but bravery and determination. Her strength is an inspiration to us all. Because of her age, Layla's



prognosis is very good. Her doctors are hopeful for a successful recovery. However, Layla is facing a long road ahead. She finished 10 days of intensive chemotherapy and additional therapy may follow. Layla hopes to be able to spend Christmas at home.

With jobs on hold and their lives interrupted, plus the cost of necessary travel expenses making the 400 mile round trip back and forth between Westport and Sacramento - this family could use a little help in the face of these sudden and unexpected financial burdens that have been placed upon them.

The family is very grateful for the outpouring of love and support that has been shown to them since the news of Layla's diagnosis. They are thankful to the community for any support through this difficult and strenuous time in their lives. Letters and contributions can be sent to the Brown Family at PO Box 38, Westport, CA 95488. Thank You!

December at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

Tabby Korhummel, Hotel and Pub General Manager

From December 1st through December 15th, the Old Abalone Pub is open from 5:00PM to 9:00PM Thursdays through Saturdays for dinner. We are also open from 3:00PM to 5:00PM on Saturdays for Tea in the Parlor. **Please see our flyer on page 9 of this newsletter for our December music and special activities.** Saturday, December 15th will be the last night of the year that the Pub will be open, and we will be re-opening for 2019 on Thursday, February 14th for Valentine's Day dinner. Happy Holidays!

Work Ability Christmas Employer Appreciation Party December 12th

Erin Brazill

Are you a local business owner that would like to make a difference in a young adult’s life? Would you like to have a couple of extra hands for your business? On Wednesday, December 12th from 1:00PM to 2:30PM, local businesspeople are invited to Cucina Verona at 124 E. Laurel St. in Fort Bragg to enjoy delicious complimentary hors d’oeuvres and drinks with the Fort Bragg School District’s Work Ability students, teachers and job specialists. Work Ability is a statewide program that has been serving the Mendocino Coast for over 20 years, providing career education and job training to special needs teens and young adults. We pay capable workers up to 10 hours a week to work in your businesses. Please join us for a little merrymaking, some tasty treats, and to join the discussion as to how we can best serve you, the community, and our youth! If you have any questions, please call Chad Swimmer, Work Ability Job Developer, at (707) 961-3506 or Erin Brazill, Workability Teacher at the Transition Learning Center at (707) 964-0508.

A Community Request

Thad Van Bueren

I seek information about the incidence of diagnosed cancers in our community over the past 20 years. The County averaged 0.42 new cases per year per 1000 people between 2011 and 2015, while the national average was 0.52 cases. With the local population averaging about 300 people over many decades, this implies only 2.5 cases would be expected over a two decade period assuming the rate has been constant. I personally know of three cases in one small Westport watershed, two of them in individuals 20 years or younger. I’ve heard of many additional cases in the Westport community. If this doesn’t alarm you, it should.

My initial research reveals that the Center for Disease Control does not identify locations more specifically than the entire County. This means the only way to find out more about our local situation is to ask for your help. Please contact me at thad@mcn.org or

964-7272 if you are willing to share information that will contribute to a better understanding of the cancer pattern in our community. I agree to protect privacy unless you allow sharing. My purpose is to identify patterns and potential causes at the community level. To participate, you (or your deceased relative/friend) must have lived in the local area at the time of diagnosis. I seek information on name, gender, household address, year of diagnosis, age at diagnosis, specific type of cancer, source of potable water supply, and any known health or genetic risk factors (smoker, etc.).



Westport Water District News

Westport County Water District Board

David Brothers, Val Hale, Lee Tepper, Jeff Whitehouse, and Ann Woodhead, your Westport County Water District Board of Directors, are happy to report that there is nothing dramatic going on with our water and sewer systems right now – everything is flowing as it should. The new service rates are keeping us well afloat: the bills are paid, and we are even managing to put a little bit in the District Capital Fund, which is required by law but which has not always been possible. Our devoted staff – John Morrill, Heather Hawes, and David Wilson, with Freddie Heldstab as emergency backup – continue to do a great job.

We are always trying to anticipate future needs, not only for maintenance, repair, and improvement of the physical components of the systems, but for personnel as well. In that regard, we are pleased that in addition to David Wilson, Beck Regalia is working on the long process of becoming certified as an operator. So for now, the District is going along swimmingly. (Yeah, too many water metaphors, but who can resist?) Happy Holidays from your WCWD!



The Westport Community Church

Westport Community Church December Spiritual Programs

2nd Sunday, December 9th, 10:00AM – Tich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group

This is the second in a series of 2nd Sunday Discussion Groups focused upon Tich Nhat Hahn's Book: "Living Buddha, Living Christ". No need to have the book. We will share passages from the book and discuss how they might or might not influence how we show up for our selves and all Creation.

3rd Sunday, December 16th, 10:00AM – Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katharine White returns to lead our monthly Third Sunday Quaker Worship Group meeting. The format is a simple, quiet meditation for 45 minutes followed by Katharine 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.

Westport Church Broadens Mission

Founded in 1880, the **Westport Community Church** has recently approved a change in its Articles of Incorporation to embrace a broader mission. The new mission of this nonprofit is: **"to facilitate opportunities for spiritual growth and serve the needs of the Westport community."** While the Church has always served the community, the recent acquisition of the school building underscores an expanded role for community service. The community property will continue to provide a space for both community and spiritual events. The altered WCC mission signals a shift toward greater inclusiveness and service to the community. Church Trustees Val Hale and Erin Detrick are heading up the effort to plan for revitalized community use. Please chat with them. Input is sought on desirable uses, as well as how to sustain the operation with fundraising, donations, and other approaches.

Our December Westport Community Church Board meeting will be held on Sunday, December 2nd at 11:30AM at the Church – all are welcome to attend!

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.



Chief Dan Maxey congratulates new WVFD Firefighter Kayla Cooper on Nov. 14th

We've also received the two state of the art extrication tools that were purchased with the proceeds of our 2018 Annual Barbecue (see photos below). One is a "jaws of life" combination tool, and the other is a DeWalt Sawzall with carbide-tipped rescue blades that can cut steel. These tools are used to rescue people who are trapped inside a vehicle. Both tools are self-contained, battery powered, and can be operated by one person. We would like to thank everyone in the community who made

Westport Volunteer Fire Department News

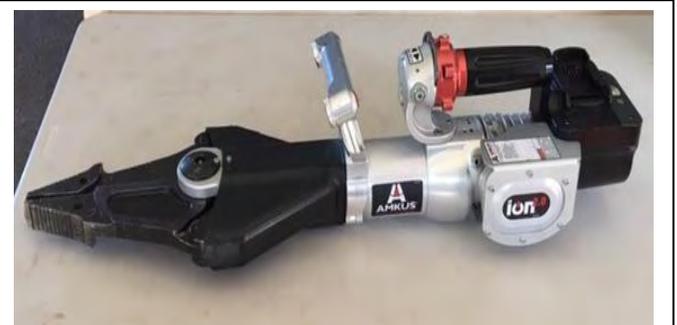
Your WVFD Responders

The Westport Volunteer Fire Department responded to several 911 emergency calls during the month of November. We also had some exciting developments we'd like to share.

On November 14th, Kayla Cooper was sworn in as an active duty firefighter by Chief Dan Maxey. She has been participating in training sessions since August, and has already driven our rescue vehicle to an emergency call.

We are also making some progress in our efforts to recruit at least four more active duty members by June of 2019. John Huff has decided to join the Department as an active duty member and he has been participating in our recent training sessions. John is a paramedic on the Mendocino Coast District Hospital ambulance, and he has previous experience working as a full-time firefighter.

our Annual Barbecue a success and enabled us to purchase these life-saving tools. Happy Holidays from all of us at Your WVFD!



These tools save lives!





Shout Out To The Fort Bragg Public Library!

Jane Vartanian

This is a “*Shout out!*” for our North Coast County Public Library in Fort Bragg, CA. Great changes are both in the planning, and already taking place!

After the big fire in 1988, which left only a few smoking embers of our beloved library, the Friends of the Fort Bragg Library immediately opened a place where the outstanding books could be returned, and these became the kernel of the new Fort Bragg Library, now known as the Phoenix, or “up from the fire” Collection. They were determined to rebuild, and again the North Coast would have its treasure trove of great classics, mysteries, romances and humor to serve all ages of its population. They found a building, (which had been originally built for the local mortuary) and it has served well until recently.

The “little” library’s clientele has now grown to more than 10,000 visits per month, and the shelves are so crammed that there is no room for expansion. Libraries must grow alongside their customers. The Friends of the Fort Bragg Library continued to support their library by supporting its programs, but they were alert to the coming crush. Then, the property next door came up for sale!! They looked wistfully out of their windows on that side of their building. *Could they buy it? If so, how?*

They studied their finances, and future finances. ***They did buy it!***

Now they had twice the footprint of their original building and they began to dream of what the future library would look like. They planned for two stories, with expanded room for books, (naturally!), with more meeting rooms for the public (always in short supply), a large workroom supplied with the tools for creation of the patron’s works, more workroom for the staff, etc., and the dream of many a

library; a small comfortable place to nosh and drink a beverage and have quiet conversation, etc.. After all, dreams are the possibilities of the future!

They still have yearly “Book Sales”, and on line, all year. They have membership drives of \$5.00 each from a loyal group of supporters. They gave circus performances that successfully brought in \$\$\$\$. And Sandra Figuerido came up with the idea called “The Thousand Dollar Club”. The total, she figured, for this grand plan would be \$2,000,000, and there are just 200 \$1,000 dollars in two million! This would allow the huge group of library users a chance to donate to their new library in a communal way.

Whether they gave the \$1,000 for tax credit at the end of the year, or in memory of a loved one, the money would help bring fruition to the North Coast’s dream library. Some groups, feeling that \$1,000 is a bit much for one subscriber, have got together and pooled their contributions to create the \$1,000, and donated it as a group. *Where there is a will, there is a way!!*

Check out the progress of the Library expansion at <http://fortbragglibrary.org/library-expansion/>. If you are interested in donating (any sum) to the creation of the “library of the future” on our North Coast, or to become a member of the FFBL, make your check out to Friends of the Fort Bragg Library and bring, or mail it to P. O. Box 2718, Ft. Bragg, CA 95437. You will make yourself feel better as well help your community.



The home-grown lettuce that saved Thanksgiving

Westport Lettuce Saves Thanksgiving!

Dorine Real

Sixteen healthy eaters were preparing Thanksgiving dinner. Of course several people brought lettuce for the salad. But — oh, no! — it is *all* romaine, and subject to a serious health warning. No problem: an expedition to the Community Garden returned with an armload of perfectly fresh, tender, ruffly lettuce. We are grateful for the Community Garden.

Community Garden News

Steve Brigham

What a heartwarming story (above) – I’m so grateful that our Community Garden works, especially in a Holiday pinch. Yes friends, fear not those E. coli health warnings about commercial lettuce – instead, the **Westport Community Garden** has plenty of fresh, safe, organically grown Salad Bowl leaf lettuce ready for you right now, any time you need it! And I should know, since I grew it myself!

At the Westport Community Garden, you pick your own fresh, delicious, organically grown vegetables

anytime you want them, ABSOLUTELY FREE! And even if it’s cold and stormy, there are still lots of great vegetables ready for harvest anytime right through December! This month, we’ll have edible pod Sugar Snap Peas, Tomatoes (if you can find some ripe ones), Swiss Chard, Red Swiss Chard, Curly Kale, Toscano Kale, Spinach, Beet Greens (and baby Beets), Parsley, Chives, Cilantro, Oregano, and Thyme, plus an assortment of salad greens such as (safe!) Romaine Lettuce, Red Lettuce, Arugula, Mesclun (French Curly) Lettuce, and Salad Bowl Leaf Lettuce. Plus, there’s a bush of fresh rosemary (who would roast a turkey without it?) right by the school building door. So just look for the greenhouse at the Westport Community Center at the end of Abalone Street, and yes, **everyone in the whole world is welcome** – and the Garden is open 24/7, so it just doesn’t get any more convenient than that. Just pick what you want, at any time, and enjoy!

The Westport Community Garden has been made possible this year through the generosity of you, the donors to the **Westport Village Society**, through a WVS Mini-Grant (see below). And so a big Holiday Thank You goes out to all of you – what a great concept, turning your donation dollars into safe, nutritious food. It’s money you can eat!

WVS Mini-Grants

Do you have a Westport community project in mind, but need some funding for it? **The Westport Village Society Mini-Grant Program** awards grants of up to \$250 in three different community service categories: 1) benefit/beautification of the community, 2) events, and 3) outreach. Funds are available again this fiscal year, through June 30, 2019. Please see the Mini-Grant Application Form on our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org for details.

24/7 Westport Wave

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 seven years of monthly back-issues, all in living color! Check it out, and tell your friends!

December 2018 Westport Calendar

Sunday, December 2nd – Westport Community Church Monthly Board Meeting, 11:30AM, Westport Community Church

Sunday, December 2nd – Hanukkah Begins at Sundown

Tuesday, December 4th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community Church

Thursday, December 6th – New Moon, 11:20PM

Thursday, December 6th – Bookmobile, 9:00-9:30AM, Westport Community Store

Friday, December 7th – Holiday Ornament Making, 3:30PM to 4:45PM, Westport Community Center, and Holiday Tree Trimming, 4:45PM to 5:15PM, Westport Community Store

Friday, December 7th – Westport Holiday Tree Lighting, 5:15PM, Westport Community Store (followed by a Holiday Party at the Westport Community Center)

Saturday, December 8th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Firehouse

Sunday, December 9th – Tich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church (see page 4)

Sunday, December 9th – Fundraiser for Layla Brown, 5:00PM to 9:00PM, Westport Hotel (see page 2)

Monday, December 10th – Last Day of Hanukkah

Wednesday, December 12th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse

Sunday, December 16th – Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church (see p.4)

Friday, December 21st – Winter Solstice, 2:23PM

Saturday, December 22nd – Full Moon, 9:48AM

Monday, December 24th – Christmas Eve



HAPPY HOLIDAYS from Kitty-Cat and all of your friends at *The Westport Wave*!

Tuesday, December 25th – Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 26th – Boxing Day

Monday, December 31st – New Year's Eve

Tuesday, January 1st, 2019 – 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 current issue plus seven years of past monthly issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our January 1st, 2019 issue of *The Westport Wave* 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. Thank You!



Saturday December 15th
in celebration of the
season Erin Brazill will
play original and classic
Holiday favorites.
6:00-9:00pm

LIVE MUSIC IN THE PUB

Fri. Nov. 30th 6-9 *Mark Gouche'
"Songs That you love to hear"

Dec. 1st 6:30-9 *Matt Westmoreland
acoustic singer/songwriter/bluegrass

Sat. Dec 8th 6-9 *Que Onda
Chad Swimmer and friends plays a very intoxicating style
of Latin music

Dec. 15th 6-9 Erin Brazill
Holiday music for our last night of the season.



Special Seasonal Themed Teas

Saturdays 3:00- 5:00pm

By reservation

Dec. 1st & 15th "Winter Holiday"

Dec 8th "Hanukkah"

707-964-3688



Tea Time

