

Westport Church and Community Hall Update

Thad Van Bueren,
Secretary, Westport
Community Church

The Westport Community Church Board met on January 19th, electing **Bert Roberts** to fill a vacancy created by Baile Oakes' resignation. The other

members of the Board consist of **President Erin Detrick, Vice President and Treasurer Sue Korhummel, Secretary Thad Van Bueren, and Val Hale**. We appreciate Baile's long service and his willingness to continue arranging spiritual services. Board meetings will return to the third Sunday of each month at the Church with the meeting starting at 12:00PM. The next meeting is Sunday, February 17th, and community participation is always welcome.

At its January Meeting, the Church Board approved guidelines for use of the **Church and Community Hall** that are posted in both buildings. **We've also put a calendar at the Westport Community Store where you can reserve the two halls for events. Please sign up on that calendar in advance with your name and phone.** The reservations are on a first-come basis. Donations are encouraged when you use the halls to help defray the costs of running the facilities. For now, the Church Board will rely on the community's generosity rather than specifying rental fees. We would greatly appreciate contributions and



The Westport Community Hall (formerly known as the Westport Community Recreation Center) is ready for **your** Community Activities!

bequests that ensure that these facilities remain available for the community. **You can send donations to the Westport Community Church at PO Box 23, Westport CA 95488.** The annual cost to keep our facilities running (maintenance, utilities, insurance, and the like) averages about \$10,000 per year, and we also face a major termite repair expense in 2019. Your help is greatly appreciated!

The mission of the nonprofit Westport Community Church is "to facilitate opportunities for spiritual growth and serve the needs of the Westport community." We hope you will feel inspired to hold events and classes in our community buildings that bring us together. As usual, it is crucial that event organizers and participants help care for the Church and Community Hall. Please leave the buildings in the same condition that you found them (or better), turning off appliances, taking away the trash, and locking up. Due to insurance issues, no smoking or alcohol use are allowed at this time. Please contact Val Hale with any questions at 489-6380.



Valentines Making 3:30PM Friday, February 8th

Sarah Cullar

We'll be opening up the Westport Community Hall (a.k.a. Recreation Center) for Valentine's making on **Friday, February 8th from 3:30PM to 5:00PM**. Anyone is welcome to attend. We'll have paper, doilies, glitter, a variety of accents, and ideas. Bring anything else you'd like to use/share (including snacks)!

Community Garden News

Steve Brigham

"A Passion For Art" Workshop 11:00AM Saturday, February 2nd at the Westport Community Hall

Steve Brigham, Editor

On Saturday February 2nd at 11:00AM at the Westport Community Hall, acclaimed local artist Sue Korhummel will be leading participants in another great art experience. This will be the process of creating an original artwork reflecting your own particular passion, with the added inspiration of having your artwork on display at an upcoming Art Show at The Westport Hotel! You can bring your own art supplies, but most all supplies you'll need will also be provided. There is no fee for this class; however, donations to the Westport Community Church are always appreciated!

At the **Westport Community Garden**, you pick your own fresh, delicious, organically grown vegetables anytime you want them, **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** Even though it's winter, there are lots of great vegetables ready for harvest anytime in February. This month, we'll have Broccoli, Swiss Chard, Red Swiss Chard, Curly Kale, Toscano Kale, Spinach, Beet Greens (and baby Beets), Parsley, Cilantro, Oregano, and Thyme, plus an assortment of salad greens such as (safe!) Romaine Lettuce, Butter Lettuce, Red Lettuce, Arugula, Mesclun (French Curly) Lettuce, and Salad Bowl Leaf Lettuce. 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 your fresh, home-grown vegetables!



Come Celebrate the Re-Opening of the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub!

Tabby Korhummel, Hotel and Pub General Manager

Greetings from the Westport Hotel! During our winter break, we have been busy planning some fabulous fun for February and the rest of 2019 beyond! The Old Abalone Pub officially re-opens for 2019 on Thursday, February 14th for our **romantic five course aphrodisiac dinner** complete with a sparkling wine toast and romantic music. We are now taking reservations for our two seatings that night, at 5:30PM and 7:30PM. Please call us at (707) 964-3688 for reservations and more information.

Beginning on Friday, February 15th, the Old Abalone Pub will be open every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday

from 5:00PM to 9:00PM for dinner. We are also so excited about this season of February love that Dorine has planned two **Valentine's themed Teas, on Saturday February 9th and Saturday, February 16th from 3:00PM to 5:00PM**. Tea at the Westport Hotel is always a delightful time, but even more so with **music by Sarah Flaim!** You may have heard her play at the WVFD BBQ or The Westport Whale Festival – her voice is angelic and she will play during the February 9th Valentine themed tea only. For our first Saturday open on February 16th, we will have Erin Brazill and Chad Swimmer sharing the spotlight. Both Erin and Chad are always crowd pleasers. Chad plays a variety of fun Latin rhythms, and Erin does singer-song writer originals and covers.

A Calling For Art! We are planning a group show at the Hotel themed "A Passion for Art". Get inspired by attending Sue Korhummel's class on this topic on Saturday, February 2nd at 11:00PM at the Westport Community Hall! And here's a rundown of some of the music artists who will be performing at The Pub on upcoming Saturday evenings:

February 23rd – Mathew Westmoreland

March 2nd – Erin Brazill

March 9th – Christopher Crisper

Please call (707) 964-3688 for reservations and like our Facebook page for weekly special menus: <https://www.facebook.com/abalonepub>. Remember to mention "Local Love"!





The Westport Community Church

Westport Community Church February Spiritual Programs

Baile Oakes

3rd Sunday, February 17th, 10:00AM Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group

This discussion group is focused upon Thich 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.

4th Sunday, February 24th, 10:00AM

Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katharine White leads our monthly 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.

"Thich Nhat Hanh taught that you don't have to spend years on a mountaintop to

benefit from Buddhist wisdom. Instead, he says, just become aware of your breath, and through that come into the present moment, where everyday activities can take on a joyful, miraculous quality. If you are mindful, or fully present in the here and now, anxiety disappears and a sense of timelessness takes hold, allowing your highest qualities, such as kindness and compassion, to emerge."

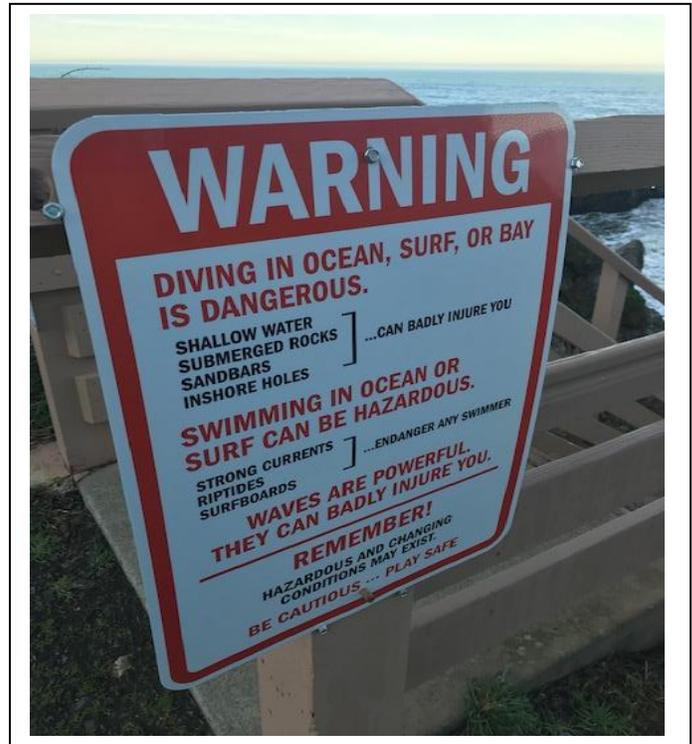
Westport Headlands Boat Policy

Thad Van Bueren, President, WVS

The **Westport Village Society** is taking steps to manage boat use at the Westport Headlands Park due to a recent near-tragedy there (see the January issue of *The Westport Wave* on our Newsletter page at www.westportvillagesociety.org). Since then, warning signs have been installed at the head of the stairway down to Eddie White Beach. They notify visitors to use reasonable caution. Unsecured kayaks have been removed and stored. Owners should call 964-7272 to retrieve their kayaks. Any future boat storage on the beach will require a permit from WVS.

A boat permitting policy is being developed. Until then, no boat storage is allowed on the beach. Input is welcome from the community at the next WVS Board meeting on April 20th at 9:00AM at the Westport Church. These basic rules are being considered: 1) permits will be required for any overnight boat storage on the beach; 2) boats must be secured (locked) to a designated anchorage when not in use; 3) no boats shall be secured to the stairs; and 4) no boat storage will be allowed on the beach during winter months (the closure period is under consideration). The permits will require boat owners to sign a hold harmless clause and agree to the other permit conditions.

A boat anchorage has been established at the large rock outcrop near the base of the bluff in the center of the beach. Stainless steel eye bolts have been installed for securing boats with valid permits. Boats without a permit are subject to removal. The WVS is receptive to proposals for an alternate anchorage, but the permit applicants must obtain prior WVS approval before any improvements are installed. A general consideration is that boat use must not interfere with other beach uses and must consider public safety, minimize environmental damage, and reduce aesthetic impacts.



Headlands Rainfall Report

Steve Brigham

It rains for two weeks, then it's dry for two weeks (well, give or take a couple of days). Pretty much what I forecast for this winter back in November. No big deluges yet for us this winter, which is mostly why our seasonal rainfall total (since October 1st) here on the Headlands (as of January 30th) sits at a measly 16.92", around 75% of "normal" (most all of our storms this winter, however, have brought more rain to higher elevations nearby). It's gonna be hard to get anywhere near a normal rainfall year now unless we get some good rains in February (last year, we had only an inch of rain in February, which made for a dry year). So start doing your rain dances, boys and girls! We're gonna need 'em!



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, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!

Cancer Type	Sex	Age	County Rate*	Expected Cases**	Actual Cases	1998-2018+
All Types	Both	All	436.6	36.1	34	
Breast Cancer	Female	All	120.7	4.6	5	7
Bladder Cancer	Both	All	38.6	3.2	<5	3
Leukemias	Both	All	12.6	1.0	<5	4
Leukemias	Both	0-19	6.8	0.4	<5	1

*Age adjusted rate per 100,000 (2000 US Standard Population)

**Based on county rate +Anecdotal reporting (1998-2018)

Cancer Incidence Rates in Westport

Dr. Beardsley said there are no significant cancer clusters in the Westport precinct based on consultation with the California Public Health Department. The National Cancer Institute defines a cancer cluster as “the occurrence of a greater than expected number of cases among a group of people in a defined geographic area over a specific time period.” Clusters usually involve a specific type of cancer or cancers known to have the same cause. She notes “we oftentimes combine larger geographic

areas or multiple years of diagnosis to meet these criteria.” However, even if a particular cancer occurs at a higher rate in Westport it does not necessarily imply a cluster. It may simply reflect a differential distribution of risk factors.

As an example, the risk of cancer significantly increases with age. Because the Westport population is older than the rest of the county, that could be one possible cause for a higher rate. When I raised the issue of herbicides, Dr. Beardsley said it is rare to find a cancer cluster caused by a specific substance in the environment. The American Association for

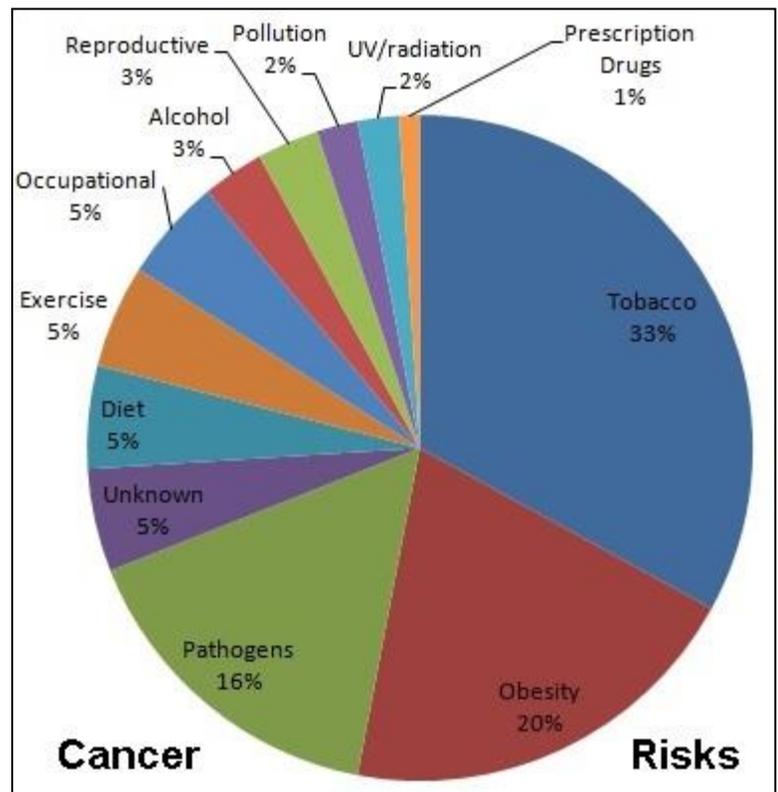
Westport Cancer Study Update

Thad Van Bueren

A cancer forum was held at the Community Center on January 5 to discuss preliminary findings of an investigation into the question: Is the local rate higher than normal and, if so, what is the cause? About a dozen people attended to discuss the topic and share ideas and information. The participants agreed the topic is worth further investigation.

Members of the community continue to report cases to me and I’m treating those data as confidential. Those anecdotal reports suggest incidence rates of leukemia and breast cancer in the Westport precinct are higher than the mean County rates over the past 20 years. The County rates were obtained from the California Cancer Registry and the US Centers for Disease Control. Four cases of leukemia are reported locally since 1999, with only one case expected. Seven cases of female breast cancer exceed the 4.6 cases that would be predicted.

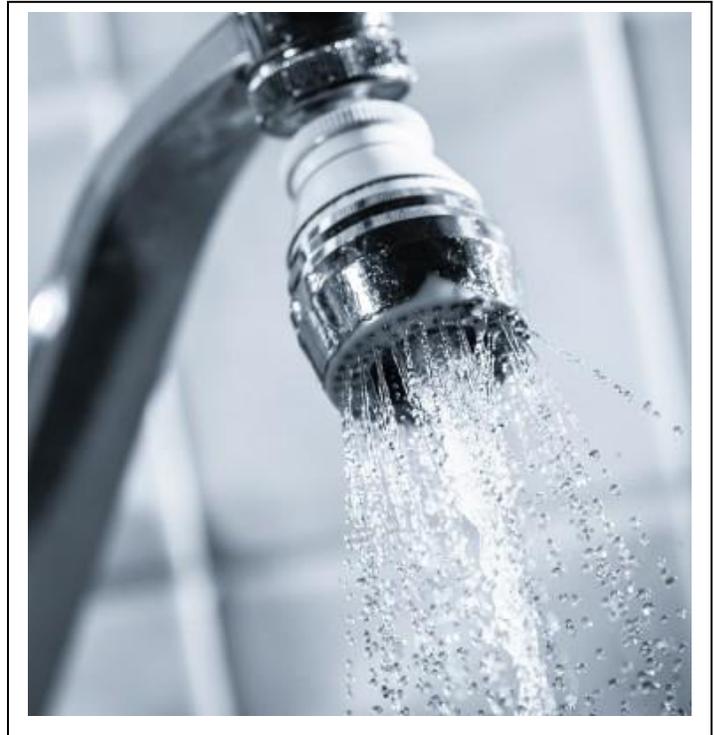
I asked the County’s Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace for comprehensive data for the Westport precinct because the information is restricted to protect privacy. Staff epidemiologist Dr. Julie Beardlsey of his staff kindly supplied cumulative totals for Westport for the period 1996-2015. The results for the Westport precinct are shown in the following table as “Actual Cases.” If there were less than five cases, the exact number is not tallied.



Cancer Research's 2017 Annual Report estimates that pollution is implicated in only 2% of all preventable causes of cancer. The overall ranking of preventable causes is shown in the pie chart. It is very hard to prove the causes of cancer because there are many contributing risks, including non-preventable causes such as age and genetic inheritance.

The rate of cancer in Westport dropped from 23 cases between 1996-2005 to 11 cases between 2006-2015 according to Dr. Beardsley. So the short answer to the question I posed is that the overall cancer rate in Westport closely mirrors the County rate. While health experts do not feel there is a cancer cluster in Westport, it is still reasonable to wonder about the higher than expected incidence of leukemia and female breast cancer.

To pursue this investigation to the next level, I plan to compare the rates for the two types of cancer in Westport and Fort Bragg. Dr. Beardsley kindly supplied data on both populations for use in that assessment. If a similar pattern emerges in this neighboring area, perhaps the experts may consider it worthwhile to take a closer look. Meanwhile, I have mapped herbicide applications on timberlands throughout the county and I would be happy to share that data. Feel free to contact me at 964-7272 if you'd like to learn more.



Westport Water District News

Ann Woodhead, WCWD

The Board of the Westport County Water District is happy to report that the system is operating well. David Wilson is now an official operator-in-training, having passed his state T2 exam. Yay David! As always, John Morrill is keeping a close eye on all of our facilities, and we have had no major issues.

Some good/not-so-good news: The good: Heather Hawes, our bookkeeper/office administrator is engaged to be married. Congratulations to you, Heather, and to your fiancé – he's a lucky guy. The not-so-good: Heather and her family are planning to move out of the area, so she will no longer be able to work with us. She's done a fine job, and we will miss her.

We are now in the process of finding a new person to assume bookkeeping/office administration duties. (See our classified ad in the Fort Bragg Advocate if you are interested.)

The next regular Water District Board Meeting is February 9, 10:00 am at the Westport Volunteer Fire Department Fire House. All are welcome. The meeting agenda will be posted at the Westport Community Store.

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.

Emergency Preparedness

Bill Knapp, WVS Treasurer and WVFD President

The **Westport Village Society** Board will actively promote Emergency Preparedness awareness. WVS and WVFD will be working together to identify and provide access to various resources that can help both individuals and groups identify and understand risks, prepare for risks, and understand actions to take during emergencies that will improve the outcome for individuals, families, and the community. In another article on this page, WVFD Chief Dan Maxey describes the MendoAlert system. That information came from a visit to a WVFD training by the Emergency Preparedness Outreach Officer from the Sheriff's Office.

WVS would like to sponsor an Emergency Preparedness meeting at the Westport Community Center. We need to hear from at least 15 people who

are interested in attending before that course can be scheduled. The course will cover the county in general and Westport specifically. Anyone interested should contact me at 964-7355 or bill@netwidget.com.

In the meantime here are some web pages to get started with:

www.ready.gov

<http://www.myhazards.caloes.ca.gov>

www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html

www.mendocert.com

And some phone numbers:

707-463-4086 – Mendocino County Sheriff Dispatch (non-emergency)

707-964-0200 – Fort Bragg Police Dispatch (non-emergency)

1-800-427-7623 – CalTrans Information Line (Road conditions)

Recent Grant for New Radios

Westport Volunteer Fire Department

The **Westport Volunteer Fire Department** would like to acknowledge and thank the Community Foundation of Mendocino County for its \$3,000 emergency grant that enabled WVFD to purchase six new portable radios.

On December 15th, we were paged out to respond to a water rescue off the beach in Westport. At the time, Chief Dan Maxey was in Mendocino attending a farewell celebration for the retiring Mendocino Fire Chief. Chief Maxey tried to contact other agencies on his portable radio to arrange for helicopter support. When he was unable to reach those agencies by radio, he called them on his cell phone.

Good and reliable communication is crucial when responding to an emergency. When the Community Foundation of Mendocino heard the details of Dan's

experience, an emergency grant was quickly approved. The grant enabled us to purchase six new Kenwood portable radios which were placed in service shortly after the first of this year.

Signing Up for Reverse 911

Dan Maxey, Chief, WVFD

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and Office of Emergency Services sponsor MendoAlert, commonly known as "reverse 911." People who participate in MendoAlert will receive an automatic message to notify them about possible threats to life, safety or property in their area.

While some landlines are automatically enrolled in MendoAlert, cell phones are not. To receive a voicemail, text or email message on your cell phone or other device, you need to sign up. Signing up is easy, and you can receive alerts about threats to different locations, such as your home, a workplace or a child's school. Visit www.mendocinocounty.org/mendoalert for more information and to sign up.





February 2019
Westport Calendar

- Saturday, February 2nd – Groundhog Day
- Saturday, February 2nd – Groundhog Day
- Saturday, February 2nd – Groundhog Day
- Saturday, February 2nd – “A Passion For Art”
Class with Sue Korhummel, 11:00AM, Westport
Community Hall (see page 2)
- Monday, February 4th – Micro New Moon, 1:03PM
- Tuesday, February 5th – Chinese New Year of the
Yin Earth Pig
- Tuesday, February 5th – Westport Municipal
Advisory Council Monthly Meeting CANCELLED
- Friday, February 8th – Valentines Making,
3:30PM-5:00PM, Westport Community Hall
- Saturday, February 9th – Westport County Water
District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport
Firehouse
- Wednesday, February 13th – Westport Ten Mile
Cemetery District Board Meeting, 10:00AM,
Westport Community Church

- Wednesday, February 13th –
Westport Volunteer Fire Department
Monthly Business Meeting, 6:00PM,
Westport Firehouse
- Thursday, February 14th –
Valentine’s Day
- Thursday, February 14th –
Bookmobile, 9:00-9:30AM, Westport
Community Store
- Thursday, February 14th – Special
Reservation-only Valentine’s Dinner,
5:30PM and 7:30PM, Westport Hotel
(see page 2)
- Sunday, February 17th – Monthly
Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group,
10:00AM, Westport Community
Church
- Sunday, February 17th – Westport
Community Church Monthly

**Board Meeting, 12:00PM, Westport Community
Church**

- Monday, February 18th – Presidents’ Day
- Tuesday, February 19th – Super Full Moon, 7:53AM
- Sunday, February 24th – Monthly Quaker Worship
Group, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church
- Thursday, February 28th – Bookmobile, 9:00-
9:30AM, Westport Community Store

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 the Newsletter page on our website www.westportvillagesociety.org to read and download both our current issue plus over seven years of past monthly issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our March 1st issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by February 24th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488. Thank You!