

February 1, 2020

The Westport Wave

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



The Westport Community Hall is an important Westport community resource

Our Community Center

Thad Van Bueren, WCC

The Community Center and Church are easy to take for granted. We've used them for community gatherings of all kinds: meetings, services, classes, holiday festivities, musical events, and what have you. But it takes work to keep things going. The nonprofit that manages the property is dedicated to serving those diverse needs, but to be honest, help is urgently needed.

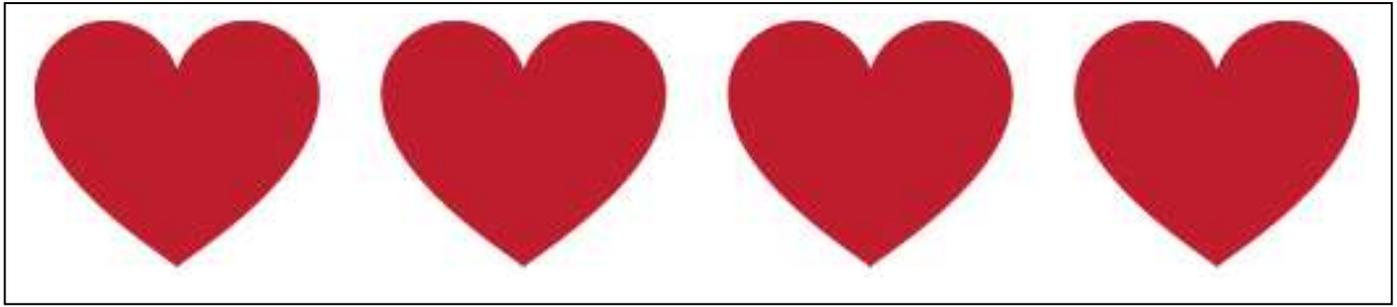
Many problems are invisible until they get pretty bad. For example, the ramp from the Church to the Community Hall is now badly rotted. Termites are making significant inroads and major structural repairs are likely needed. Some initial steps are planned and we hope they will build momentum with your help. We need both labor and funds.

Plans are afoot to remove the compromised parts of the rotted ramps and replace them with simplified

ones that touch down on the basketball court to get between the two buildings. A propane heating system will also be installed in the Church thanks to another generous contribution. With your contributions, larger issues can then be tackled.

There are many ways you might help out, and we welcome ideas for raising funds and work parties. For one thing, a coordinator is needed for the Community Garden. Then there is the termite damage which will likely involve some major structural repairs, plus the usual maintenance tasks on the buildings and grounds. Hosting events at the facility is another great way to help raise funds.

Your ideas for activities and fundraising are always welcome. Donations can be made in the Jar on the counter of the Westport Community Store or by mailing them to the Westport Community Church at PO Box 21, Westport CA 95488. To offer help call 964-7272 or email erind.3500@gmail.com or thad@mcn.org. Thanks!



Community Fundraising Gathering Sunday, February 2nd at 1:00PM

Thad Van Bueren

Help us brainstorm community fundraising on Sunday, February 2nd at 1:00PM at the Westport Hotel. Some of the needs of our local organizations will be sketched. Then we'll discuss how to raise those funds. Traditional events will of course get attention, but maybe new ones also merit consideration. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm. A follow up meeting is scheduled for March 1st at 1:00PM at the Westport Hotel to build the momentum.

Westport Community Hall Open 11:00AM to 2:00PM Every Tuesday for Art, Starting February 4th With "For The Love Of Art!"

Tabby Korhummel

Every Tuesday, from 11:00AM to 2:00PM, the Westport Community Hall will be open for artists and/or aspiring artists :) Everyone is welcome to come and leave their supplies to make it more convenient to create on a weekly basis. Sue Korummel will be onsite to give artistic guidance and encouragement. Some weeks we will have a structured class presented, but you are always welcome to work on your own.

On Tuesday, February 4th, our class theme will be "For The Love of Art!", with completed works to be hung at the Westport Hotel for Valentines Day.

A sliding scale donation of \$5-\$15 dollars is suggested. Your dollars will help to pay utilities and other operating costs to keep our community room open. We also hope to create an art supply cabinet for everyone's use. If you have any extra supplies that you would like to contribute please do. If you can't make a donation you can always donate some time cleaning the building.

February Basketmaking and Ukranian Egg Dying Classes at the Westport Community Hall

Alecia Dodge will present two excellent art classes in February at the Westport Community Hall. **On Sarturday, February 15th from 1:00PM to 5:00PM the topic will be Basketmaking, and on Monday, February 17th from 10:00AM to 2:00PM the topic will be Ukranian Egg Dying.** Suggested donation is \$10 per person per class for facility use.

Last Chance to Get Your 2020 Westport Calendar!

The Westport Village Society 2020 wall calendar is still for sale at the Westport Community Store or by mail order from WVS. It features local historic photographs from the WVS archives in an 8.5x11 format that spreads open to 11x17. Major holidays, quarter moon phases, and key Westport events are listed. They can be purchased at the Westport Community Store for \$12.00 or ordered from WVS for \$10 (members) or \$12.00 (non-members). Write WVS at PO Box 446, Westport CA 95488.



Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub Re-Opening For 2020

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Hotel and Pub

The Old Abalone Pub at the Westport Hotel is re-opening for 2020 on Thursday, February 13th. Our Winter Hours will be Thursdays through Saturdays for Dinner from 5:00PM to 8:00PM, and Saturdays for Tea from 3:00PM to 5:00PM. Our community is our inspiration, and we hope to see you soon at the Old Abalone Pub. Stop by our re-opening celebration on Thursday, February 13th with a special local love hour featuring meal deals and music by Chuck Tourtillott.

On Friday, February 14th we will offer two seatings for our five course prix-fixe dinner Special Valentine's Dinner, with lively romantic latin music by the Cumbaleros. Please call us at (707) 964-3688

to reserve your romantic evening, which starts with a sparkling wine toast at 5:30 or 7:30PM.

Our first Saturday Tea of the year will be Saturday, February 15th, from 3:00 to 5:00PM. Dorine's tea service is truly a labor of love, with fresh baked scones, delicate and beautifully presented tea sandwiches, chocolate, fruit, and a sweet baked Valentine's-inspired treat. This very special Valentine's themed tea with Sarah Flaim singing her love inspired songs will sell out, so reserve your table soon. Also on Saturday, Aaron Ford will play during dinner service, from 5:00 to 8:00PM.

A Call for Art

Our February Art Show theme at the Hotel and Pub will be "A Passion For Art". If you need a little inspiration for creation, come to the art/play workshop "For The Love of Art" at the Westport Community Hall on Tuesday, February 4th from 11:00AM to 2:00PM (see page 2 for more information). Please contact Tabby at the Hotel if you would like to contribute to this show.

We look forward to another fantastic year in our beautiful little town! Like our Facebook page to keep up with our music calendar and weekly specials <https://www.facebook.com/abalonepub/>, and for more information, call us at 707-964-3688 or Email us at westporthotel@mcn.org. Also, check out our website at westporthotel.us

Westport Whale Festival March 28th

Kyle Siler

Save the date! The 4th Annual Westport Whale Festival will be held this year on Saturday, March 28th, from 10:00AM to 5:00PM. We're looking for volunteers to sign up to help with set up the day before, during the celebration and after the event. If you are interested please contact Kyle Siler, the visionary behind the Westport Whale. phone: 510-917-5327 or email: rollingdownariver@outlook.com Full details coming in the March edition of *The Westport Wave!*



"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sign Up To Use The Westport Community Hall And Church

You can reserve the Westport Community Hall or the Westport Church for classes and other activities by placing your event on the Community Hall and Church Calendar at the Westport Store. Reservations are on a first come basis. Donations are welcome to help sustain the facilities. Please leave the buildings in better condition than you found them, turning off lights and appliances, removing trash, cleaning, and locking up. No smoking or alcohol use is allowed. Please contact Val at 489-6380 or Thad at 964-7272.

**Westport Community Church
February Spiritual Programs**

Baile Oakes

**2nd Sunday, February 9th, 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 ourselves and all Creation.

**3rd Sunday, February 16th, 10:00AM
Rabbi Margaret Holub**

Please join us on February 16th for a special presentation by Rabbi Margaret Holub. Rabbi Margaret always brings us fresh insight into ancient wisdom, and we are excited to welcome her back. She has been and hopefully will continue to be a wonder-full presence within our community.

**Court-Ordered Community Service
Opportunities in Westport**

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 weed cutting, painting, handyman work, and more. If you are interested, please call Gary Quinton, (707) 964-7073.



While call volume is way up, our number of active duty members is down. We now have only 9 active duty members. For a variety of reasons fewer than 5 members are typically available to respond to a call.

We need more active duty members. Joining the Fire Department is a great way to give back to the community. Being an active duty

Westport Volunteer Fire Department News

WVFD

The Westport Volunteer Fire Department set a record in 2019 by responding to 83 emergency calls. This is much higher than our recent average of 50 calls a year. **Here’s a breakdown of our 83 emergency responses in 2019:**

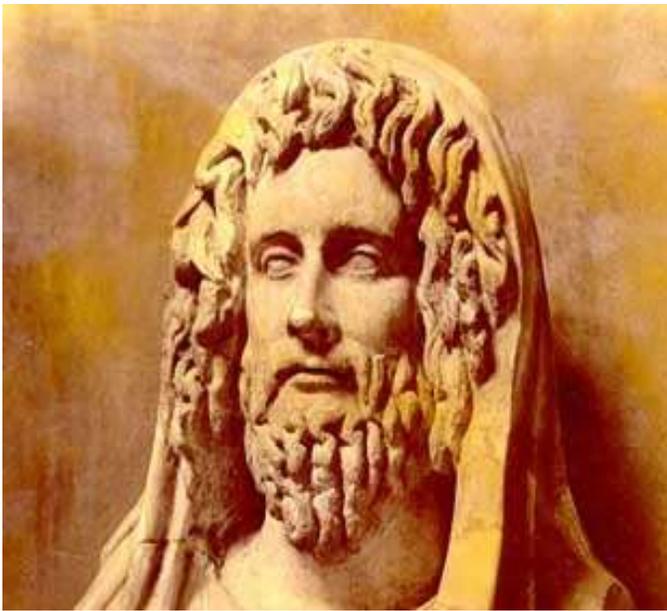
Wildland fires	6
Vehicle fires	2
Trash fires	1
False fire alarms	5
Vehicle accidents	13
Medical	32
Hazardous materials	3
Trees in road	10
Power or phone lines down	5
Misc. public assistance	6

member is interesting, rewarding, and fun. We also need more volunteers to help with our Annual Fundraising Barbecue, which will be held on Saturday, August 15th this year.

If you’d like to learn more about active duty membership or volunteer opportunities, please contact Chief Dan Maxey at 357-4353, or any other active duty member of the Fire Department.

24/7 Westport Wave

This month’s *Westport Wave* and over 8 years of monthly back-issues are always free to everyone at any time on the Newsletter page of our website www.westportvillagesociety.org – in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!



King Numa

Why A Lot of People Never Liked February, and What Some People Did About It

Steve Brigham, Editor

(Editor's Note: This article was first published in The Westport Wave in February of 2016, and I still like it, so I'm happy to publish it again, updated for 2020 just a little. After all, Leap Year (and Leap Day) only comes once every 4 years!)

I've never been a big fan of February. I mean, Christmas is over (I guess we'll finally have to take our Christmas Tree down!), Easter is a long ways away, it's cold and flu season, and it's too early to plant much. It turns out that I'm not the only one who doesn't like February. Back in *really* Ancient Rome (around 700BC), they obviously didn't like February either, since they didn't even *have* a February. They only had 10 months, but then **King Numa Pompilius** was pressured into making two more months by farmers who wanted more of a lunar-type calendar. Numa didn't quite have enough days left in the year for February (which became the 12th month), so February ended up with 28 days. (Much later, Julius Caesar and then Pope Gregory decided that having leap years would be fun, so it eventually became 29 days in February every fourth year except for years which are divisible by 100 but not by 400 and years

when "w" is a vowel.) Back in King Numa's day, they actually had a Lent-type "festival" in February (which we still do today, this year beginning on February 26th) which was a real drag, so no one wanted to have too many days in February anyway. That's the real reason why February is a short month!

Groundhog Day

In the movie *Groundhog Day*, the characters repeat the same day (February 2nd) over and over for what has been estimated by some movie buffs to be almost 34 years (which is even longer than it takes to read this article). This would *really* be a drag if you didn't like February! Can you imagine if the Super Bowl this year (played on Groundhog Day) had many plays endlessly re-played because of penalties? (Because it's the NFL, that could actually happen.)

In reality, Groundhog Day is just one way that humans (especially Northern European ones) have traditionally tried to figure out how long winter is going to last (February 2nd is the exact mid-point of winter, and by then many people especially in Germany are sick of winter and just wish it would go away, probably along with the whole month). Now in terms of predicting the weather, our ancient ancestors were very smart – I mean, who needs weather satellites when you have... a *Groundhog*!

While we're on this topic, why would the Groundhog seeing his shadow mean 6 more weeks of winter? If there's a shadow, that means it's sunny out, and wouldn't that mean it's a mild winter? Some people think that it must be because a sunny winter day is usually a colder day in Germany, which means a worse winter, so there'll be more winter to come (this may not work too well in California). Actually, I've always noticed that there often is a break in the weather in many parts of the USA around February 2nd, but then winter gets going again right afterwards, so it all sorta does make sense to me. (To my knowledge, I am the only person to ever come up with this explanation, but believe me, it wouldn't be the first time.) But it all hardly matters, since the Groundhog (or at least the Pennsylvania one) has only ever been right 39% of the time anyway. In Westport, we don't have Groundhogs, so I always used Kitty-Cat (who looks a little like a Groundhog anyway, and is nearly as big). By the way, Kitty-Cat likes to point out that there are always 6 more weeks of winter on

February 2nd, since the Spring Equinox isn't until at least March 19th. (Come to think of it, that's actually a little more than six weeks. Better call King Numa on that one.)

Candlemas

Back to the Germans. They love candles, and way back in ancient times they always used to light a bunch of them on February 2nd, when (I think I already mentioned this) they were sick and tired of winter. Not to be outdone, the Catholic Church ended up doing their own rendition of Candlemas by using those candles to bless people's throats. Now this also makes a lot of sense really, since February is flu season and people couldn't get their flu shots in the olden days, mainly because there were no flu shots. And no Co-Advil either. You can still get your throat blessed at a Catholic Church on either February 2nd or February 3rd (check your local listings). With all the nasty respiratory stuff going around this year, that wouldn't be a bad idea.

There's Always Carnaval

If February really gets you down, here's a good way to perk up. Just go down to Brazil, where for most of the month they'll be celebrating Carnaval! This is a really fun festival that is actually in summer there (so it's really warm, and people tend not to wear much clothing), and it features lots of singing and dancing and parades, plus a big bunch of marching bands in those parades that will really knock your socks off! This is all just one big party that is expressly designed to "live it up" before Lent, when you're supposed to be austere and give fun stuff up all the way until Easter. Mardi Gras is our New Orleans version of Carnaval, and (for anyone still standing after the weekend) it peaks this year on February 25th, the day (and night) before Ash Wednesday. As they say in "The Big Easy", "Let The Good Times Roll!"

Valentine's Day and Leap Day

Hey, maybe someday February will turn out to be our best month! (King Numa would be amazed.) Here's maybe the best February holiday – Valentine's Day on February 14th is a very nice holiday that among other things features a whole lot of flowers and chocolates, plus plenty of kissing, which is always fun. You might even wish that you had an extra day to keep kissing! That's where, at the end of the month, Leap Day comes in!

Everyone could always use an extra day, and to finish off February 2020, you'll get just that in the form of Leap Day, February 29th. This extra day happens every 4 years, because if it didn't, in 700 years Christmas would be in summer for us (but it would be in winter for Australia, which should really please them, and I'm surprised that they ever went along with the whole thing). In any case, on February 29th, according to ancient traditions, a woman can propose marriage to a man without penalty. Now this being the 21st Century, I don't see why that couldn't happen on any other day. But here's the catch – according to a real medieval law, if a man says "no" on February 29th, he has to give the woman 12 pairs of gloves! (I am not making this up.) So why not give it a try – and if needs be, tell him to give you some nice, sturdy gloves, so you could use them working around the yard or something. (All this because 2020 is divisible by 4 but not by 100 [except by 400], and "w" is not a vowel this year!)



Carnaval do Rio de Janeiro, Sambadrome Parade



For Dave

February 2020 Westport Calendar

- Sunday, February 2nd** – Groundhog Day
- Sunday, February 2nd** – Candlemas (see page 7)
- Sunday, February 2nd** – Fundraising Gathering, 1:00PM, Westport Hotel
- Tuesday, February 4th** – “For The Love of Art” Art Class, 10:00AM, Westport Community Hall (see page 2)
- Tuesday, February 4th** – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting cancelled (see <http://www.westportmac.org/>)
- Saturday, February 8th** – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Firehouse
- Saturday, February 8th** – Full Moon, 11:33PM
- Sunday, February 9th** – Monthly Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church
- Wednesday, February 12th** – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Firehouse
- Thursday, February 13th** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Community Store
- Thursday, February 13th** – Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub Re-Opens for 2020, 5:00PM

- Friday, February 14th** – Valentine’s Day
- Friday, February 14th** – Special Valentine’s Day Dinner, Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub (call (707) 964-3688 for reservations) (see page 3)
- Saturday, February 15th** – Basketmaking Class by Alecia Dodge, 1:00 to 5:00PM, Westport Community Hall (see page 2)
- Saturday, February 15th** – Special Saturday Tea at the Westport Hotel with Sarah Flaim, 3:00PM-5:00PM (call (707) 964-3688 for reservations)
- Sunday, February 16th** – Rabbi Margaret Holub, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church
- Monday, February 17th** – Presidents’ Day
- Monday, February 17th** – Ukranian Egg Dying Class by Alecia Dodge, 10:00AM to 2:00PM, Westport Community Hall (see page 2)
- Sunday, February 23rd** – New Moon, 7:32AM
- Tuesday, February 25th** – Mardi Gras
- Wednesday, February 26th** – Ash Wednesday
- Thursday, February 27th** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Community Store
- Saturday, February 29th** – Leap Day (see page 7)
- Sunday, March 1st** – Fundraising Gathering, 1:00PM, Westport Hotel
- Saturday, March 28th (save the date!)** – 4th Annual Westport Whale Festival, 10:00AM-5:00PM

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 and eight years of past issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our March 1st, 2020 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by February 26th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thank You!