

April 1, 2020

The Westport Wave

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

In The Worst of Times, Help Starts With Community

Steve Brigham, Editor

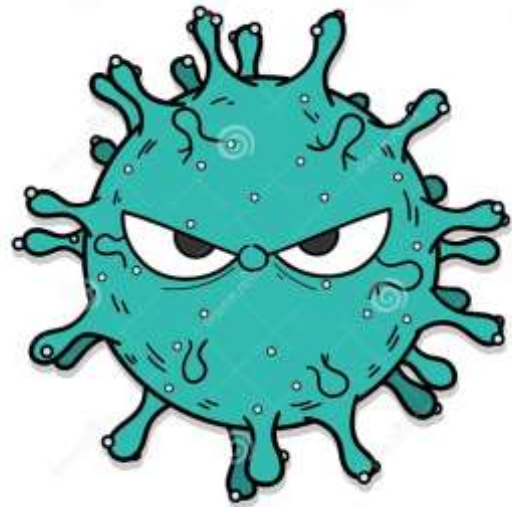
When he was one year old, my father nearly died of the Spanish Flu. Actually, he was given up for dead, and my Great Aunt Fanny, a Christian Science Practitioner, nursed him back to health at a time when conventional medical science had virtually no solutions for the virus.

The Spanish Flu of 1918 and 1919 (which did not start in Spain) was one of the deadliest plagues to hit humanity in history, with one out of every three humans catching the disease and 10% of those affected dying. It struck at a time when medical science was still helpless to fight such a disease, and it spread very quickly due to the then-unprecedented movement of humans around the world due to WWI.

For over 100 years now, people have been asking if there could ever be another global plague like the Spanish Flu. Surely, modern medicine had advanced enough that such a thing could never happen again? And we have vaccines now, so wouldn't we be protected? But medical science has always said that it could happen again. And now it has. And just like 100 years ago, mass movement of people around the planet has helped the COVID-19 virus spread rapidly. And just like 100 years ago, quarantine is a first line of defense, not medicine.

This new virus is remarkable in that it can hide in people without their knowing it, making them traveling Typhoid Marys for a few to several days before they show any symptoms. It is the perfect virus strategy to create the perfect storm of infection.

When crisis hits, whatever crisis that may be, people need help. And that help starts close to home, in our community. Westportians have always helped one



another, through thick and thin, and now is no different. Together, we can help one another.

Paradoxically, these stay-at-home quarantine times are bringing us all closer together – not via in-person social gatherings but rather by medically safe telephone and internet communication. And that's just what we need right now, because let's face it ladies and gentlemen, a lot of us are **just plain scared**. To be sure, to minimize the spread of COVID, we must first and foremost do what the medical doctors tell us to do by limiting our travel and staying at home. But while we're at home, we have the great opportunity to contact our friends both near and far and fight this crisis with friendship and support. In the face of this virus, we are truly all the same!

Yes, these are scary times. Just like our forebears in WWI/Spanish Flu and WWII, we will do what we must and hope for the best. In this issue of *The Westport Wave*, you'll learn how Westport is dealing with COVID. And you'll learn how Westport can help you. Most importantly, you'll also learn how you can help Westport. Stay home, stay safe, stay healthy, stay happy, and call a friend or neighbor and say hi!

Westport Community Store & Post Office Expands Service During COVID-19 Crisis

Effective immediately, the **Westport Community Store** will offer the following services:

- Call-ahead ordering – store personnel can grocery shop for you
- Curbside pickup of take-out food orders, groceries, PO Box Mail and packages delivered to the store
- Delivery of take-out food orders, groceries, PO Box Mail and packages delivered to the store
- Flexible non-contact payment methods
- All orders will be packaged and disinfected prior to pickup or delivery

The Westport Community Store wants to do anything possible to help its customers stay safe and minimize possible spread of COVID-19. Deliveries available in the greater Westport Community area. Call the Store at 964-2872 to order or get more information.

Westport Community Church April Spiritual Programs Cancelled

Baile Oakes

Due to the COVID crisis, regular Westport Church services are cancelled for the foreseeable future. Here is our quote for the month: ***“Have enough courage to trust love one more time and always one more time”*** – Maya Angelou. Stay safe and stay healthy!

Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub Closed For Now

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Hotel and Pub

2020 was off to a fantastic start. We enjoyed five weekends of good times in the Old Abalone Pub before the current COVID crisis escalated quickly, causing us to close our doors. Plans for this year’s upcoming events may be dated for 2021.

We are always overwhelmed with gratitude and joy when the community comes out to share a meal, celebrate a birthday or just sip a drink and enjoy the live music in the Pub. Our feeling is that this is a much needed space for the community to connect, and we will be working very hard to re-open.

With so much uncertainty looking to the future, it is challenging to set an actual date to re-open. We would love to hear your feed-back as to what our business means to you and if a take-out or meal delivery would be something that you would utilize.

Please email westporthotel@mcn.org to share your thoughts, and join our community Facebook group (Westport area networking and announcements).

Lots of love to all,

The Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub



Rubber Ducky Event Cancelled

Thad Van Bueren, President, WVS

The Westport Village Society has cancelled the May 10, 2020 Great Westport Rubber Ducky Race event. We are doing so in the interest of preventing transmission of COVID-19 (coronavirus), in compliance with health directives from the federal, state, and local levels. At press time Mendocino County and many other regions of the US and world are taking precautionary measures including banning gatherings and discretionary travel, and encouraging social distancing and sanitizing.

The WVS urges you to take the opportunity to maintain your health with outdoor activities such as walking in the Headlands Park and other wild places along our beautiful coast. Our mission is to support land conservation and our community. We wish you good health and enjoyment of outdoor recreation opportunities as we weather this period of difficulty.

Help In Westport During The COVID Crisis

Gary Quinton and Bill Knapp

When you live in the Westport community, you do not live alone. You do have friends and neighbors. It's kinda like the old sitcom Cheers, "where everybody knows your name".

If you get sick or are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 during these unprecedented times, remember that you live in an unprecedented part of the United States. This is not the big city where you are just a name and number, you are a neighbor and friend. If you are quarantined at home, let your community know about it. For your sake and ours. We want to help, and we can.

If you are quarantined at home with COVID-19 or in self-quarantine because of medical advice, symptoms or underlying medical conditions, it will be hard living in our area, but your neighbors can make the difference, we can help.

We might not come in for a cup of coffee, but we can get you needed supplies. We can assist you and still be safe to ourselves, our families and our neighbors. When you're quarantined, there might be things that must be done around your property, that have to be done. We can help. There might be any of a long list of things you cannot do, that a neighbor can do, but only if you let us know.

We want to reactivate the Westport Neighbor to Neighbor Network. Contact either of us if you need help or can help if notified. We will coordinate calls for help and offers to help, while helping as much as we can.

Gary Quinton at (707) 964-7073 or email gquinton@mcn.org

Bill Knapp at (707) 964-7355 or email bill@netwidget.com Your Neighbors can't help you if they don't know you need help. Remember, if you have an emergency, any emergency, call 911!



Be calm and safe, and use common sense. Social distancing is proving to be effective. We are all in this together.

Westport Water District News

Ann Woodhead, Member, Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Westport County Water District has suspended regular meetings in response to the shelter-in-place orders from local and State governments. In case of a water or sewer problem, please contact the District at (707) 367-1057, the number for the District Administrator. We can report that at present, all water and sewer operations are proceeding smoothly.

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

Welcome to the Covidian Era

Thad Van Bueren

Ready or not, we have entered another defining period in history. The Covidian Era. The primary characteristics include the spread of a global pandemic, widespread economic stress, a glut of media coverage, and many associated worries. It is a phenomenon we are all pondering.

Obsessive attention to the COVID-19 pandemic highlights some of the problems of our technological age: namely, the explosive spread of misinformation. Now, as always, it is important to consider sources, reliability, and to use critical thinking.

Misinformation can be used to distract, harm and manipulate us.

Modern technology is making that worse as the pace of communication escalates.

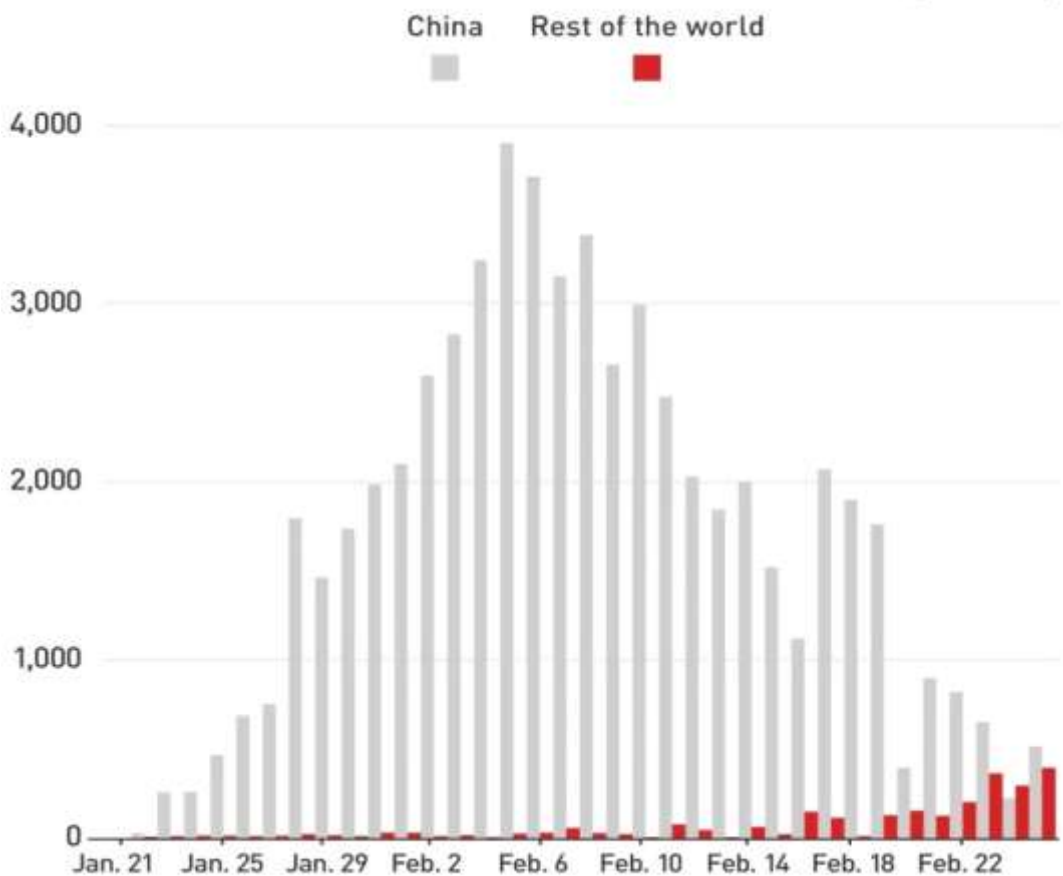
A few things are clear from analysis of facts. Preventive measures can make a BIG difference in curtailing the spread of COVID-19. China's epidemic is now in steep decline because they practiced drastic social distancing, banned travel, and implemented draconian hygienic measures, as shown in this graph by the World Health Organization. The success of that approach is the reason radical precautions are now being taken in many other places. China kept the mortality to just 4% of about 81,000 cases.

The global mortality rate in all resolved cases (people who either recovered or died) stands closer to 16% as

of March 26, however. That higher death rate is a result of shortcomings in prevention (not enough folks taking precautions or having access to personal protective equipment), diagnosis (not enough testing), and treatment (shortages of ventilators, for example). Simulations of the spread without any precautions suggest up to 4 million deaths could occur in the US. With drastic prevention that could be reduced to thousands. So you really can help make a difference.

The infection rate is still rising steeply everywhere outside of China. In other words, we are not seeing the top of the curve yet. You can examine the trends yourself at <https://ncov2019.live/>, <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>, and other places. For historical perspective, it's worth mentioning the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic killed

New coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases per day



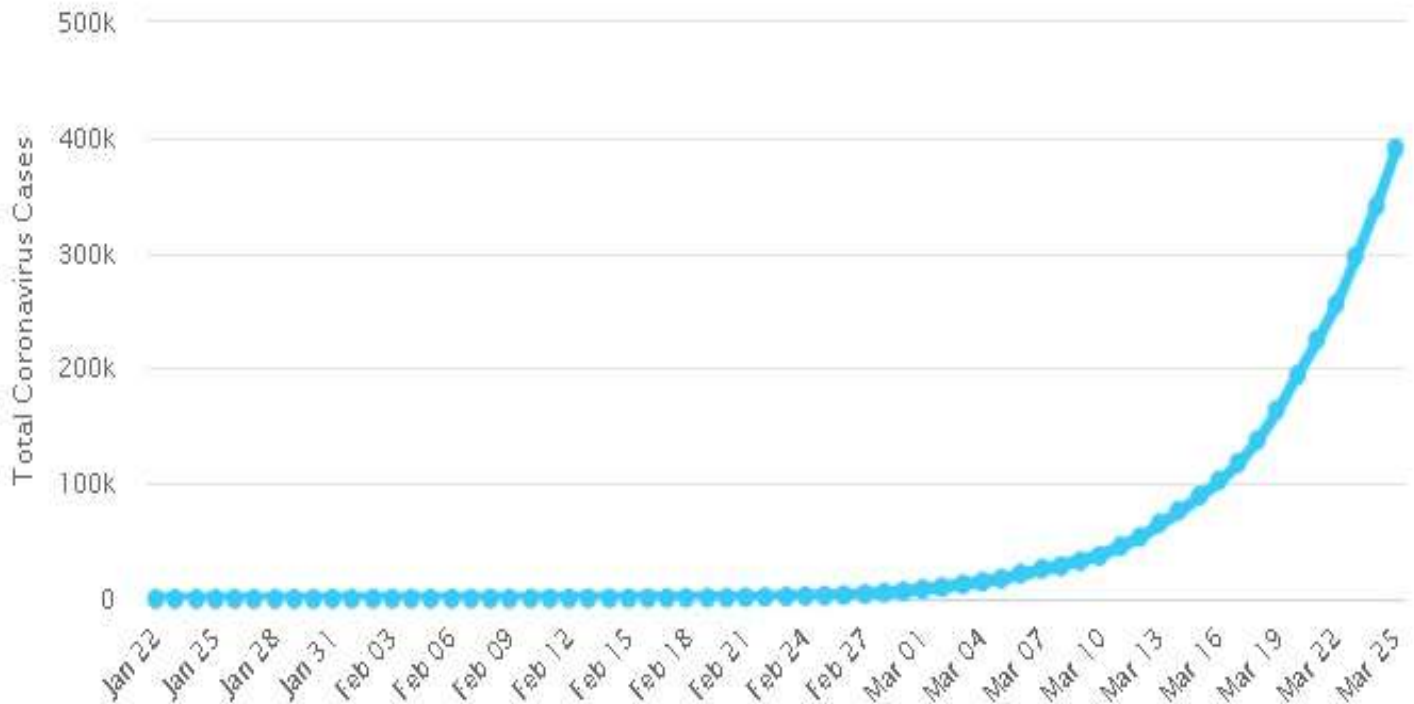
CBC NEWS


Source: WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-2019) situation reports

about 50 million people and spread through a third of the world's population, then about 1.5 billion souls. That was before disease spread and prevention were well understood.

Total Cases outside of China

(Linear Scale)



Source: **Worldometer** - www.worldometers.info 

There are some positive things to consider amid all the worries. Shelter in place orders have reduced travel and consequently air pollution is way down. The reduction in air travel is particularly valuable because planes inject pollution into the upper atmosphere, where it contributes disproportionately to global warming. This is a good time to evaluate how much of our travel is a luxury. Is it possible to reduce our carbon footprint? Perhaps walk or bike more?

This current economic pain also holds the opportunity to reduce consumption. Perhaps we can learn to live more simply, unplug more often, and even grow our own vegetables. Contrary to the capitalist myth of perpetual growth, the world and its resources are finite. There is no Planet B. As a scientist who has studied both issues, climate change is accelerating and we are entering the sixth global mass extinction event. So what we do really does matter. Technology will not magically solve scarcity by producing something out of nothing.

As the Iroquois counseled, it might be good to consider the next seven generations. If that interests you, try reading Wendell Berry’s many thought-provoking essays. He asks a lot of good questions about what it really means to live sustainably. The present moment provides an opportunity to think seriously about our future. **Please stay healthy and comply with the latest directives from Mendocino County at:**

<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus>

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!



Transition Learning Center students on volunteer day at the WVFD

Transition Learning Center Volunteers at the Westport Fire Department

Erin Brazill

On a beautiful, sunny Friday the 13th of March, my wonderful students and staff from The Transition Learning Center (TLC) in Fort Bragg (part of the Fort Bragg School District, a program specializing in work and lifeskill services for young adults with disabilities) came to Westport to spend a day volunteering at the Fire Station. Chief Dan Maxey has, in the past, come to TLC to do demonstrations on First Aide and Safety, and his daughter, Angelica, is a beloved staff member at TLC.

The staff and students washed the trucks, swept the station, cleaned the bathroom and kitchen and vacuumed. Three firefighters (Sal, Jeff, and Dan) assisted the students, using the fire hoses to wash the trucks, holding the cord while they vacuumed, and welcoming the students with snacks and drinks.

Afterwards, the students got delicious sandwiches and treats from the Westport Store (with extra help from Xav) and sat on my deck to enjoy the sun and look for whales.

It was a wonderful day full of community, support, friendship, and laughter...and a great example of how doing-good-feels-good for all parties involved.

Thank you so much for all you do Westport Volunteer Fire Department! We will be back soon!

Free Summer Camp Experience

Thad Van Bueren

A generous donor is funding a grant that will pay the fees for one Westport kid in the 5-7 grades to attend a one week summer camp experience offered by the Redwood Adventure Camp in Leggett. The nonprofit RAC has three choices of

dates for this age group in July. The program focuses on the fundamentals of outdoor living and includes activities such as crafts, nature education, challenge course, horses, swimming, archery, backpacking, and beginning outdoor living skills for both boys and girls.

This is a supervised outdoor experience and the participants will be sleeping, eating and playing in the out of doors. For that reason they are encouraged to pack for “the layered look” and a list of suggested things to bring along is provided. You can check out the website at: <https://redwoodadventure.org/our-programs/>.

Summer camp experiences have been transformative for many of us. You can check out the comments of past participants at this camp on the organization’s Facebook page or official website. We would like interested kids to write a brief statement of why they would like to be considered for a free camp experience and send them to the Westport Village Society at PO Box 446, Westport CA 95488 or wvs@westportvillagesociety.org by no later than April 30, 2020. The selected child and their parents will be notified early in May.



Renovations at the Westport Church and Community Hall

Thad Van Bueren

Thanks to the work of many volunteers and generous financial contributions from the community, several renovations have been completed at the Church and Community Hall over the past month. You may have seen some of that work in progress. We ask that you exercise caution in areas marked with warning tape as the work is still in progress. Please be aware gatherings at the facilities are temporarily suspended to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

When activities resume, the Church now has a working propane heater. It heats things rapidly and replaces the small electrical space heaters. The old wood stove will be retained because it can still be used during power

outages when the propane heater will not work. The Community Hall is still heated with a heat pump powered by electricity. Please, please, be certain to shut off the heat when the buildings are not in use!

The major construction improvement was the replacement of a termite-infested wood walkway

between the two buildings. The walkway was replaced by two concrete ramps that now connect each building to the basketball court. The old concrete slab with handprints and signatures dating back to when the old Westport School was built was saved and installed nearby. A railing and some bank stabilization are still in progress, so please exercise caution and stay out of areas flagged with yellow caution tape. Completion of this project is expected by early April.





A Blessed Easter and Passover to all from The Westport Wave!

April 2020
Westport Calendar

Please note that because of the COVID crisis, all meetings and classes at the Westport Church and Westport Community Hall are cancelled until further notice.

Wednesday, April 1st – April Fool’s Day
 CANCELLED

Sunday, April 5th – Palm Sunday

Tuesday, April 7th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting CANCELLED (see <http://www.westportmac.org/>)

Tuesday, April 7th – Super Full Moon, 7:35PM

Wednesday, April 8th – Westport Ten Mile Cemetery District Quarterly Board Meeting CANCELLED

Wednesday, April 8th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting CANCELLED

Wednesday, April 8th – Passover Begins at Sundown

Thursday, April 9th – Holy Thursday

Thursday, April 9th – Bookmobile CANCELLED

Friday, April 10th – Good Friday

Saturday, April 11th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting CANCELLED

Sunday, April 12th – Easter Sunday (Westport Easter Egg Hunt CANCELLED)

Sunday, April 12th – Monthly Westport Church Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group CANCELLED

Thursday, April 16th – Passover Ends At Sundown

Saturday, April 18th – Westport Village Society Quarterly Board Meeting by

Zoom teleconference only, 9:00AM

Sunday, April 19th – Monthly Westport Church Quaker Worship Group CANCELLED

Wednesday, April 22nd – Earth Day

Wednesday, April 22nd – New Moon, 7:25PM

Thursday, April 23rd – Bookmobile CANCELLED

Thursday, April 23rd – Ramadan Begins at Sundown

Friday, April 24th – National Arbor Day

Sunday May 10th – Annual Westport Rubber Ducky Races CANCELLED

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 over eight years of past issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our May 1st, 2020 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by April 27th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thank You!