

May 1, 2020

# The Westport Wave

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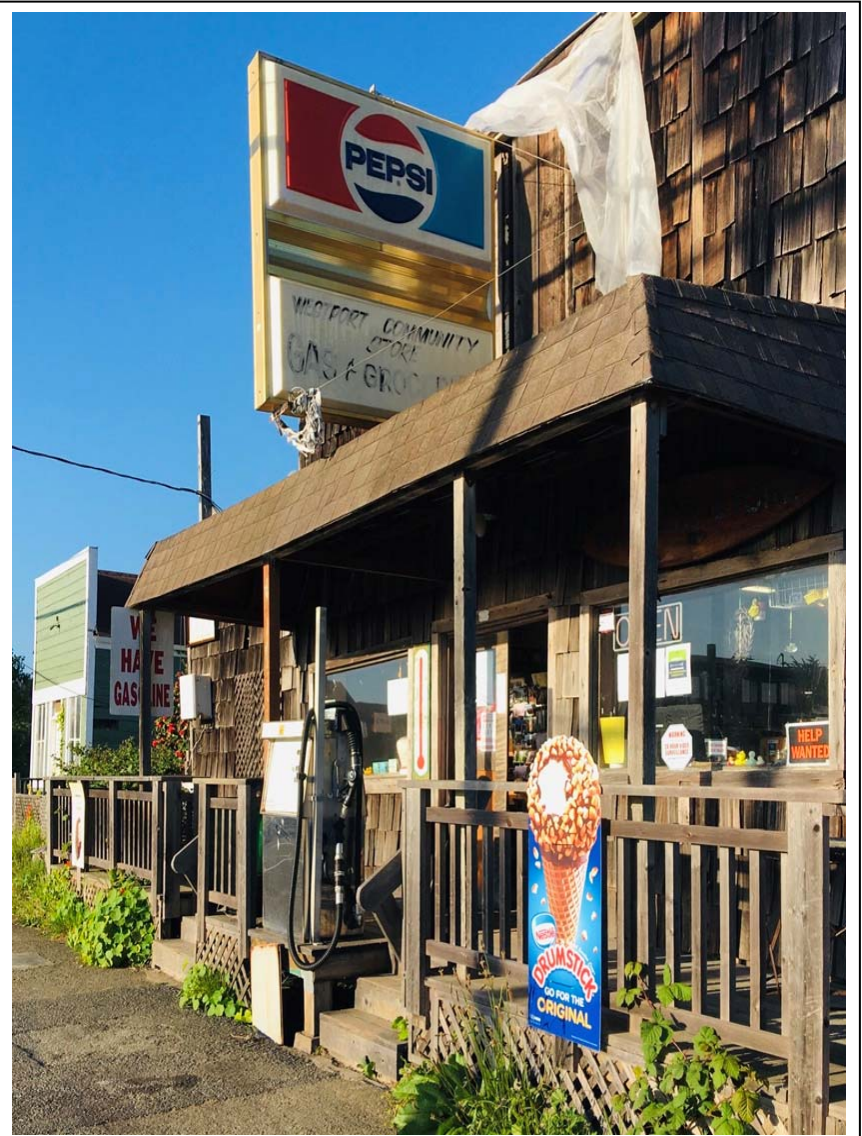
## Let's All Show Our Love For The Westport Store!

Erin Brazill

When I was growing up, I lived in the same house I do now, right down the street from the Westport Store on Omega Street. I think that because of this, throughout my life, even living for 20 years in San Francisco, I have always had a wish to live no more than a block away from a little local store.

As a tiny, wild, and semi-feral Westport child, I remember getting "Lick-Um-Aide", Red Vines, and Hawaiian Punch and the Westport Store. It was where I was picked up and dropped off in the mini yellow bus to go to school. It was where I first learned how to look twice both ways before crossing the street. They would give out entire full-size candy bars for Halloween. The Westport Store is where I would buy those enormous sour pickles wrapped in wax paper that I would relish for an entire day (note: they still sell them!).

Returning to Westport as an adult to my childhood home, we still go to the Store to get our mailbox keys, our newspapers, to post information about a show, to buy basics for our woefully undersupplied pantry, and to hear local goings-on. It is where the front door is a place of honor to announce births and deaths in our community. People who work there know me, and they value my safety, my wellbeing, and my individuality. I remember fondly all of the kind faces who have worked there and been with me through thick and thin for so many years. Now, when



The Westport Community Store (photo by Erin Brazill)

I get an order from somewhere, Xav wipes it down before handing it to me. He is delivering packages to houses, and he is keeping the basics stocked in our community long after they are absent from the big stores in the big town. The staff there always have a greeting and a smile! **So let's all Show Our Love for The Westport Community Store!**

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

In this COVID crisis, the **Westport Community Store** now offers 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.**

## May Events & Meetings Cancelled

Thad Van Bueren, President, WVS

Most Westport events and meetings have been cancelled due to the pandemic. Check the Calendar at the end of this newsletter for specifics. **The traditional Great Rubber Ducky Races event sponsored by the Westport Village Society is cancelled for Mother's Day, May 10, 2020.** These actions have been taken in the interest of preventing transmission of COVID-19, in compliance with health directives from the federal, state, and local levels.

The Westport Village Society urges you to take the opportunity to maintain your health with outdoor activities such as walking in the Headlands Park and other wild places. 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.



## A Little Ducky Day Love To All The Moms Out There!

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Hotel and Pub

May at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub is usually the beginning of our busy season. It seems like just the other day that I was collecting vibrant bouquets of rhododendrons for the tables in the Pub and parlor in celebration of Mother's Day. Now, the rhododendrons are back in bloom and a reminder of the fun times we have shared at the Hotel.

Governor Newsom talked about what life may look like after the SIP order is lifted stating that servers most likely would be wearing gloves and masks and your temperature taken at the door before entering a restaurant at 50% capacity for seating with menus disposable. This is just exactly why we will not attempt to re-open until we can greet you with a toothy smile, hug, or hand shake.

The Westport Hotel has been a place for us all to socialize and celebrate. We look forward to those times again. And while we patiently wait to re-open again, we have lots of happy memories to keep us going. A big virtual hug to all those that have reached out giving us encouragement to work to re-open in the future! Please check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/abalonepub/> where I will be posting pictures and videos from past events, keeping the dream alive!

## 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](mailto:gquinton@mcn.org)

**Bill Knapp** at (707) 964-7355 or email [bill@netwidget.com](mailto:bill@netwidget.com)

**Do:**

- Stay home as much as possible.
- Go out for essential needs, such as grocery or medical care.
- Get outside, but avoid groups and stay six feet away from others
- Call, e-mail and connect online with friends and family.

**Don't:**

- Gather in groups for any purpose, at home or outside.
- Buy more than you need when shopping. Save some for your neighbors.

Source: Washington State Joint Information Center

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 Community Church May 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: *"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves."* – Victor Frankle

Stay safe and stay healthy!

## The Westport Community Garden

Thad Van Bueren

Thanks to several community volunteers, plans are afoot to improve and nurture the **Westport Community Garden** on the Church grounds. Additional raised beds are planned and donations will be used to buy topsoil and other supplies like seeds. A new greenhouse cover has been donated and will soon be installed. Help is always appreciated with weeding and watering tasks and the produce is available as always for the community to harvest. Stay healthy with a good dose of local organic vegetables! They are free for all to share!



WVFD Chief Dan Maxey congratulates Sal Palomar, our newest Westport Firefighter and EMT. Let’s all give Sal a big welcome into our community – we’re all so lucky and thankful to have him here to help us!

## Westport Volunteer Fire Department News

### WVFD

Even with the State and County shelter-in-place orders, Westport Volunteer Fire Department continues to respond to emergency calls. Based on the number of calls we’ve had so far this year, it looks like we may set another record in 2020.

Training has focused on preparing for wildland fires with another drought in the forecast, and responding to medical aid calls in the era of COVID-19. Thanks to a grant from the Mendocino Coast Healthcare Foundation, we have been able to increase our supply

of vital personal protective equipment including masks, respirators, safety goggles, and medical gowns.

The highlight for the Fire Department last month is that we have a new member. Salvador (“Sal”) Palomar was sworn in as an active duty member on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Sal currently works as an Emergency Department Technician and EMT at the Mendocino Coast District Hospital. During fire season he works for CalFire as a firefighter based in Fort Bragg. A native of Fort Bragg, Sal is in the process of moving to Westport. Let’s all welcome him to our community!

## Telemedicine At The Fire Station

### WVFD

Some healthcare providers are using telemedicine to minimize patient contact during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Westport Volunteer Fire Department has partnered with the Mendocino Coast Healthcare District to establish a WiFi telemedicine hotspot outside the Fire Station.

If you have a telemedicine appointment scheduled with your healthcare provider, you can keep that appointment right here in Westport. You can obtain a strong WiFi signal for your Smartphone or tablet at the Fire Station. All you need to do is park in one of the two designated parking spaces at the Fire Station, which are clearly marked with traffic cones and signs. Tune in to the Westport Guest WiFi network. You should have received the password from your healthcare provider.

To make this program work for everyone, please follow these guidelines:

- Access the Westport Guest WiFi network only for telemedicine appointments
- Park off the pavement so that WVFD personnel will be able to respond to emergency calls
- Remain in your vehicle with the doors closed
- Do not enter the Fire Station

Thank you for your cooperation in following these guidelines!



## Are You Positive About the Pandemic?

Thad Van Bueren

I recently thought of Alfred E. Neuman's character from Mad Magazine, who classically said: "What, Me Worry?" Trying not to worry in these times may actually be good medicine since anxiety is a health stressor. That does not mean ignoring precautions. Instead, I'm simply seeking ways to follow Jazz vocalist Bobby McFerrin's advice to "Don't worry, be happy." Here is my spin on some of the positive aspects of the Covidian Era.

With motorized travel reduced, dramatic natural effects are happening. Distant vistas have magically reappeared as air pollution is reduced. Wildlife sightings are also more frequent, especially in urban areas where animals face less competition from vehicles and people. Less travel not only prevents the spread of COVID-19; it exposes us to the wonders surrounding us. There is a whole wild world in our back yards. We might learn to truly belong instead of wishing we were somewhere else. Since motorized travel is a major cause of global warming and

pollution, perhaps we'll regain an appreciation for the fact that it is not an entitlement.

There is also a positive aspect to the vulnerability many of us feel. It offers the opportunity to realize what really matters. It's not just the risk of infection or death. There is also our economic vulnerability. If you feel invulnerable and ignore the precautionary orders, you probably have no idea what I am talking about. But for those of us who are touched, it is a useful opportunity to reassess priorities. We might even make some temporary lifestyle changes permanent. I am greatly heartened that so many are reaching deep to help others. This is what community is about. That altruism stands in sharp contrast to the problematic American emphasis on money and self interest.

Many of us are tightening our belts. Maybe it hurts, but it's also an opportunity to learn to live more simply. To sort out what is essential from the fluff and mounds of stuff. Instead of maxing out the credit, we can perhaps learn to live within our own means. And while we are at it, discover what really matters however that is defined in our own hearts. It's sharpened my focus on becoming more self-sufficient, but also sharing with others. We've always grown our own food and gathered from the wild, but this moment is a good time to think hard about how to live sustainably.

Reducing consumption and population are the only way humans will be able to solve the drastic global challenges we face. As I pointed out last month, it is a myth that growth can go on perpetually when the world and its resources are finite. We are already accelerating into major, irrevocable climate change, sea level rise, and the sixth global mass extinction event. As we tighten our belts perhaps we notice what we do really does make a difference. Don't be conned into believing that scarcity will be solved by producing something out of nothing.

Perhaps this crisis has drawn useful attention to our broken model of medical care in America. We are the only developed country that does not provide coverage for all. That's because profits are valued over human needs. Medicare for all means we all get coverage and choice at a lower cost. Most other developed countries appropriately regard medical care as a right and most have better outcomes than we do.

There will still be large numbers of jobs in the medical and pharmaceutical fields. And some of those people processing our claims would be needed by government.

This is a good time to make your own list of positives. Here are some more on my list: More solitude allows more time for reflection and tuning in to our inner voice; there is more time for creative pursuits; meaningful conversations can occur with more time on our hands; and there is more time to play.

## **SF Resurgence During 1918 Flu**

**Thad Van Bueren**

When the clock struck noon on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1918, San Francisco residents gathered in the streets to remove their masks and celebrate the recent end of World War I. It was the end of an onerous ordinance that shut down the city and required all residents and visitors to wear face coverings in public to stop the spread of the Spanish Flu. Despite warnings from the health department to maintain face coverings, many doffed them and congregated in celebrations. Many residents flocked to theaters, restaurants and other public spaces.

Alex Navarro, the assistant director of the Center for the History of Medicine at the University of Michigan, studied the 1918-19 flu pandemic in 43 cities. "There was a lot of pressure in pretty much all of these American cities to reopen," he said. "When they removed those restrictions too soon, then many cities saw a resurgence in cases." The Center's research found that cities that used "early, sustained and layered" practices such as social distancing, closing public events and stay-at-home orders "fared better than those that did not."

San Francisco progressively imposed various restrictions after cases spiked in October 1918. By the end of October, there were 20,000 cases and more than 1,000 deaths. However, as the days went on, the city saw a dip in newly reported cases, which prompted officials to begin to reopen the city and rescind the mask order. By the end of November, officials believed the city had stabilized. But three weeks after that celebration the city saw a dramatic resurgence.

San Francisco's ambivalence to quarantine measures ran counter to other US cities. Navarro said Los Angeles, for instance, implemented strict social distancing and face coverings about a week before San Francisco and its measures stayed in place for weeks longer. As a consequence, they did not face a resurgence. "A lot of people thought, 'Well, what did we go through that for?' It had an impact, they just didn't know it" he said.

As Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, put it in March, "If it looks like you're overreacting, you're probably doing the right thing." Back during the Spanish Flu, San Francisco's failure to take swift action and its decision to ease restrictions after only a few weeks had huge ramifications. With 45,000 cases and more than 3,000 deaths, the city was reported to have been one of the hardest-hit big cities.

## **Westport Water District News**

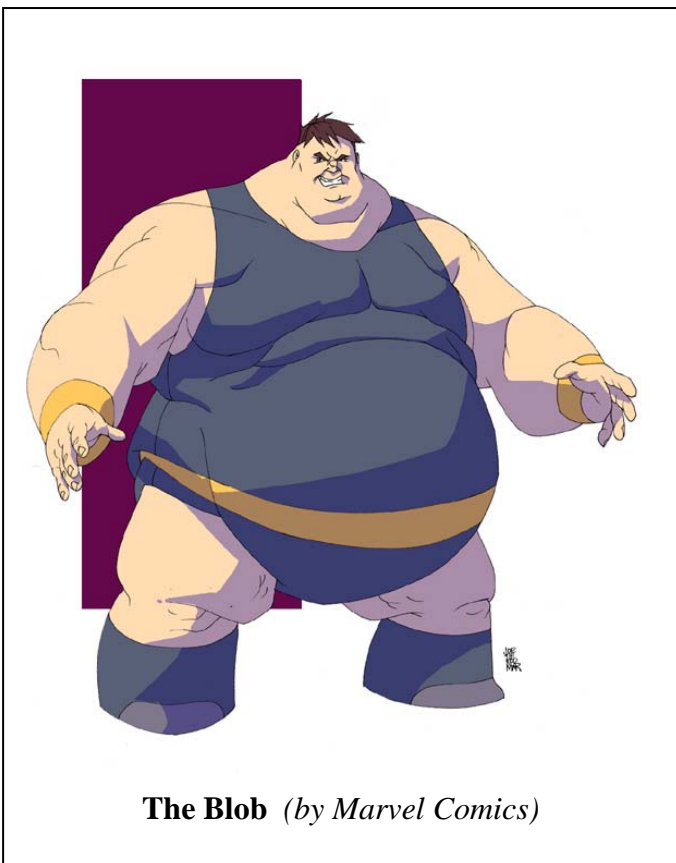
**Ann Woodhead, Member, Board of Directors**

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.



**The Blob** (by Marvel Comics)

## The Blob And Arctic Oscillation Join Forces For A Dry Winter

Steve Brigham

Four years ago, during the fall and winter of 2015-2016, I did a series of articles for *The Wave* on Westport's weather at a time when everyone was predicting that the Godzilla El Nino Of The Century would come and wash California into the ocean. But El Nino wasn't the only story that year, because there was also a dry weather feature around called The Blob (I am not making this up – that's a real name coined by one of the best climatologists in the country). And so to help explain things, I did what any self-respecting amateur climatologist would do, which is to describe the whole thing as if it were a *lucha libre* pro wrestling match. Godzilla vs. The Blob! You can still read the articles on our Newsletter page at [www.westportvillagesociety.org](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org). What ended up happening back then is that The Blob won Round 1, Godzilla won Round 2, and then just when a lot of people thought he was going to win, Godzilla took a dive in Round 3 and The Blob was declared the winner (even though he did nothing in particular to

win). I think the match was fixed, but in any case, California did not wash into the ocean.

Now, four years later, Westport has had a dry fall and winter, and we are left wondering why. Well, I guess we shouldn't be surprised, since still-reigning champ **The Blob** (a big area of high pressure off the northern west coast of North America which is famous for blocking storms and not moving) was still around, and there was no Godzilla to bring us heavy rain from the south. So how come last October I predicted an overall average rainfall winter for Westport? Well, part of that was wishful thinking (which is not the way scientists are supposed to be, so my bad). I like rain, and despite disappointing indications I was hoping it would rain a lot. Besides, in past years, Westport had usually gotten just enough rain from the north to claw its way to average rainfall totals even when the rest of the state was dry. And I knew just the wrestler (sorry, I mean climate factor) to help out in this year's fight with The Blob – **Arctic Oscillation!**

Yes, boys and girls, El Nino isn't the only big climate factor that can influence Westport weather.

Worldwide, there are actually a whole bunch of major air and ocean circulations that can be just as powerful, and they can all influence one another. Just as The Blob can be a major West Coast winter storm blocker these days (it is in summer and fall as well), a big storm maker nationwide can be what you may know as the North Polar Vortex, or Arctic Oscillation.



**Arctic Oscillation** (by Skipperish)

Arctic Oscillation is the major air circulation pattern around the north pole, and when it is strong, it pretty much keeps all of its cold air up there to itself. But when AO gets lazy, cold storms leak down into our latitudes from the north and cause wintry weather. Further, this “negative phase” of AO can kick-start all sorts of weather factors, often strongly enough to beat The Blob and strengthen our winter jet stream.

The only problem with Arctic Oscillation is that he is notoriously unpredictable. So unpredictable that I probably shouldn't ever have bet on him. This past winter, I was hoping AO would show up for the fight and somehow move The Blob out of the way of our Pacific storms. But then, surprise – rather than show up for the fight, AO went major-league into his “positive phase” and actually *joined forces* with The Blob by failing to augment our jet stream, thereby limiting our rainfall! So here we are, stuck between 50% and 60% of average rain for the season in Westport (especially due to a record-dry February). We better start doing some rain dances ‘round here!

All fun aside – in reality, of course, climate prediction is more complex than a *lucha libre* wrestling match, or even a Legion of Doom comic book. In fact, it's even more complex than our most powerful computers can handle. So if you really want to study weather and climate, you'd better be prepared for some very complicated 3-D math, with a ton of unknown variables. (Or just look out the window.) Oh, and in case you're wondering why it rained in Southern California this year when there was no El Nino, it was due to a few unpredictable but very strong cut-off lows which were actually due to a weak jet stream at our latitude, not a strong one.

In California, due to a variety of factors, “normal” weather has always been extreme weather, so “normal” is anything but average. And so it's always a good bet that next year's weather will be different than this year's weather (except maybe for The Blob). Next month, we'll talk a little bit about “normal” California weather, and what that really means. Until then, **Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, and Stay Happy!**

*"Laughter is the shortest distance  
between two people."  
— Victor Borge*

## May 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.*

**Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting CANCELLED (see <http://www.westportmac.org/>)

**Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** – Full Moon, 3:45AM

**Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile CANCELLED

**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting CANCELLED

**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** – Mother's Day

**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** – Monthly Westport Church Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group CANCELLED

**Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Westport Rubber Ducky Races CANCELLED

**Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting CANCELLED

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** – Monthly Westport Church Quaker Worship Group CANCELLED

**Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** – Bookmobile CANCELLED

**Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>** – New Moon, 10:38AM

**Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>** – Memorial Day

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*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](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org), to read and download both our current issue and over eight years of past issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by May 27<sup>th</sup>, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at [westportwave@gmail.com](mailto:westportwave@gmail.com). Thank You!