

June 1, 2020

The Westport Wave

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The Restorative Value of Art

Thad Van Bueren

Remember when 'unplugged' trended among musicians? Time now to apply that same principle to all those computer devices! Seriously. The thing about social media is that our brains automatically prioritize and react to bad news. It is our fight or flight reaction. And it can suck us into depression, worry, and other unhealthy emotions. Luckily, we have a choice. Just unplug! You don't need a 12 step program, just willpower.

Many of us are finding more time for creative activities as we shelter in place. And why not? After all, there is a long history of creativity in our small community. Perhaps that is because the idyllic setting here attracts those appreciative of beauty and inclined toward the arts. With my interest in history, people often contact me asking questions. Recently, Vicki Chase inquired about the old Westport Church on Pacific Avenue. The one that collapsed due to bluff erosion in 1952.

Then she shared this image of an oil painting by her father Edmond Gross, done in the 1930s. The family visited local blacksmith and Latvian immigrants



1930s Westport painting by Edmond Gross

Martin Whitol and his wife Elizabeth. The painting appears to be a view down Clay Road from the vicinity of the old school. A better quality image is promised for our archives.

Perhaps this image will inspire your own creativity. Immerse yourself in art and feel the restorative energy of simply being in the moment. I find the most benefit when I abandon myself to the creative activity without judgment. A valuable way to enter that mindset is to begin with one minute sketches and gradually lengthen the time you give yourself to draw, paint, or whatever. Doing it fast is a way to get past those mental censors, freeing one to simply capture gestures and shapes.

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
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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.

Some June Events and Meetings Cancelled

Thad Van Bueren, President, WVS

Most Westport events and some meetings have been cancelled due to the pandemic. Check the Calendar at the end of this newsletter for specifics (some meetings may be subject to change). 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.



The Westport Store (photo by Erin Brazill)

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

Erin Brazill

How can we show our appreciation for our town Store, which has always given us comfort, safety, and love, now more than ever? After the sour pickles and yummy sandwiches have been consumed, how can we keep this vital resource alive?

As I remember from High School, one of the many ways we can vote as citizens is to vote with our dollars. Please consider supporting this precious resource, especially in this time of need, by voting with your dollars to always buy your milk at the store, or your ice-cream, your wine, or your Friday coffee and croissant...make it a commitment! It may cost a few cents more, but isn't it worth it to have this resource in our town? We all need to make the effort to honor the Store with our patronage – especially now. Please show your love to our Community Store, who has loved you all along!

Thank you to all the hard workers at "The Store", and thank you for keeping it alive and well all these years. We appreciate you!

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 Community Church June Spiritual Programs Cancelled

Baile Oakes

The Westport Community Church Board will meet Thursday, June 18th at 11:00 AM at the Westport Church, with social distancing and masks requested in compliance with County Order.

Due to the COVID Crisis, regular Westport Church services are cancelled for the foreseeable future. Here is our Church quote for the month:

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.” – Muhammad Ali

Stay safe and stay healthy!

Community WiFi Hotspot at the Westport Fire Station

WVFD

North Coast Family Health Center has discontinued the remote WiFi telemedicine program, citing limited bandwidth and concerns about privacy and potential liability. **The Westport Volunteer Fire Department has decided to keep the Westport Guest WiFi network available for use by the members of our community who may not have good internet access at home due to a weak signal or a power outage.**

To use the WiFi hotspot, park in one of the two spaces between the traffic cones on the grass south of the main Fire Station. Tune in to the "Westport Guest" WiFi network. The password is posted on the traffic cones.

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

- 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.

Westport County Water District News

Ann Woodhead, Member, Board of Directors

We're happy to report that both the water and sewer systems are doing just fine right now, thanks to our stellar Operator, John Morrill, and his assistant, David Wilson. As always, if you have problems or questions, you can reach the District by calling Office Administrator Kayla Cooper at (707) 357-1057. We are developing a website for the District, so soon you will be able to get info on line as well. Watch for it!

The Board of Directors has given a rate break to folks who can't rent their vacation rentals during the Covid-19 shutdown, reducing their rate from commercial to residential for the duration. Also, we have postponed the rate increase scheduled for this July until July 2021.

The Board is now meeting monthly on ZOOM. The schedule is posted at the Westport Village Store, and you can call Kayla for more information if you are interested in participating.

Long-time member Jeff (Homer) Whitehouse has left the Board after many years of generous service to the District both as a Board member and in the field. At one time Jeff was actually our Operator, and since then he has continued to contribute his time, expertise, and labor to the Board and to innumerable District maintenance and repair projects. We miss his knowledgeable input, of course, but he has more than done his share for the District and the community! Thank you, Jeff!

Please Note: The Westport County Water District Board of Directors is now short one member. If you or someone you know might be a candidate for the job --unpaid, often interesting and even entertaining, frequently challenging, sometimes frustrating, but still rewarding--let us know. Only legal requirements: voter registration within and District and no financial conflicts of interest.

Stay safe, stay well--

Board of Directors, Westport County Water District – David Brothers, Val Hale, Lee Tepper, and Ann Woodhead



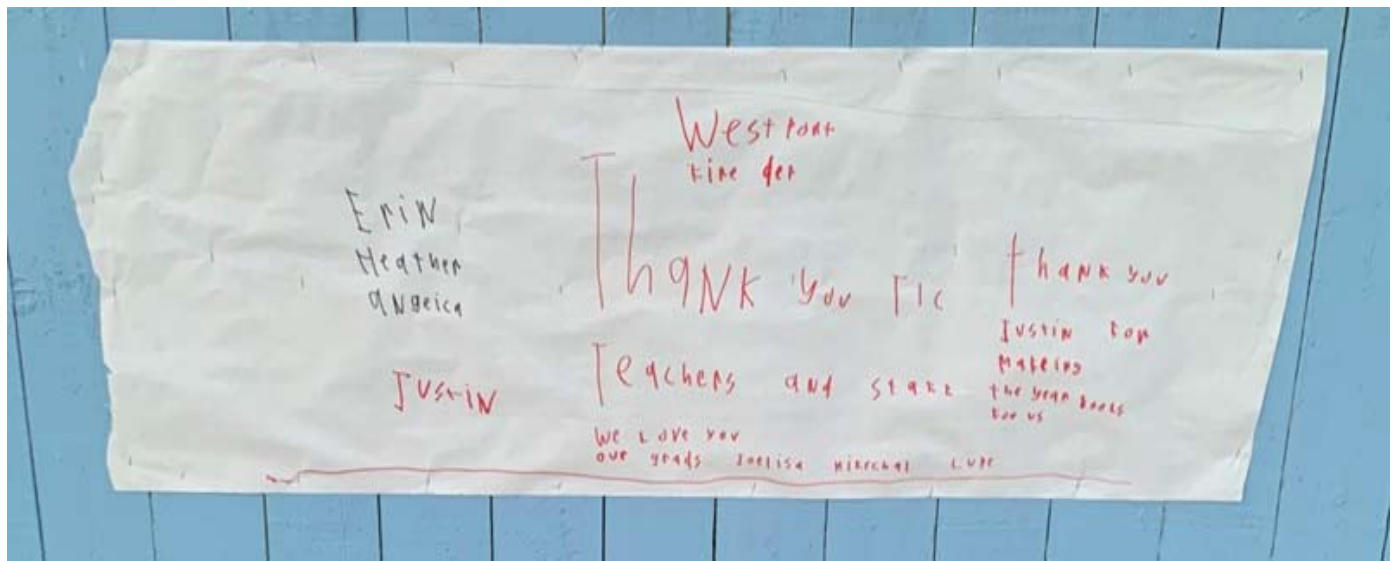
All thanks and love to Derek DiOrio, who has brought the Westport Community Garden back to life for 2020 with many new improvements! – S.B.

The All-New Westport Community Garden 2020!

Melinda McLaughlin

Our Westport Community Garden has been restored! Derek DiOrio graciously undertook the project. He cleaned up the winter debris, built new boxes, and planted lots of food for our community to harvest and eat when ready. Through an informal fund raising effort, \$320 was donated by various community members for the purchase of soil. Derek contacted several nurseries for prices. Weathertop Nursery in Laytonville not only provided a great price (\$310.14) but also donated another 7.5 yards! If any of you shop there, please give them our thanks and gratitude for their generosity. Val also donated new plastic sheeting for the hoop house. Please give him a shout out as well.

Help with weeding will be needed. Lori Haynes (707-357-6190) has agreed to be our contact person for this. We can meet the first and third Saturdays of the summer and fall months at 10:30AM in the Garden and help it grow. Of course, any time you weeders out there could give the garden would be greatly appreciated!



The Transition Learning Center Class of 2020 Thank You Banner – Congratulations to all of you!

Transition Learning Center Graduation

Erin Brazill

The Transition Learning Center in Fort Bragg (a school for young adults age 18-22 with disabilities) will be having a special graduation ceremony for its graduates on June 1st from 12:00PM to 2:00PM. During this time, a school bus containing staff (and some special graduation gifts) will be accompanied by a firetruck from the Westport Volunteer Fire Department for a strong send off into adult-hood. Thank you Chief Dan Maxey for making the graduation of these amazing young people so special. If you see Mike Price, Chris Roddy, or Lupe Toscano out in the community, be sure to wish them a special congratulations for accomplishing this post-secondary, four year transition program graduation achievement!

Participate in the Census

Adriana Dakin, Mendocino Community Foundation

We're helping a community team bring in more Census completions in Mendocino County and get the word out about why it's so important for funding our county's essential services. Have you filled out the Census yet for your household? Our area is currently undercounted, and this impacts federal funding

returned to our community over the next 10 years. It also impacts how political districts are delineated.

If you haven't yet, it's very easy to provide the information in a safe and secure way. It only takes about 10 minutes to complete. Visit <https://my2020census.gov/> or call 1-844-330-2020! The deadline is August 14th, but please do it well before then. Although census workers are now visiting the community, you may prefer the digital input option as a way to stay healthy and avoid potential Covid-19 exposure.

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.



had to row in with one oar from 3 miles out one evening) and gas can down the 90ft cliff in Westport. Then we'd go out and catch 300 or 400 pounds of bottom fish. The WHOLE town would show up to help us bring up the catch. We'd drink too much beer and fillet fish for hours.

Remembering George Lancaster

Bill Eagleton

In February 1978, we moved to Westport. Our little family of 4 raised the population of Westport to 58 people. It was a wonderful town. A great place to raise kids, kind of a hippie Mayberry. Everyone knew everybody and we all helped one another. A real community. We left in 2000. Since then, we have lost a lot of community members. First it was the older generation. Now, for the last 5 years, it's been OUR generation. I guess we are the older generation now.

On May 22nd, we lost George Lancaster. George was a timber faller (tough job). He worked for Anderson Logging. He was with the Westport Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years. When we moved to Westport in 1978, the entire Fire Department was George, Nedra, and Mike Stillwell. They had one old beat up International Fire Truck kept in a shed on George's property. George was Fire Chief for years. Built it from nothing to a terrific department, with 5 trucks and a large, up-to-date firehouse. At one time we trained 20 EMTs (all on our own). Many of them went on to become nurses on the coast. George arranged training for us in cliff rescue, propane fires, ocean rescue, and auto extrication.

George was the driving force behind the Westport Chicken Bar-B-Q and the Albacore Feed, both great fundraisers for the Department. He taught me how to abalone dive. And we spent many happy days diving for abalone and spearing fish. We used to drag a 13-foot Sears boat, with an iffy 5hp outboard motor (we

The whole town would take home bags of fillets.

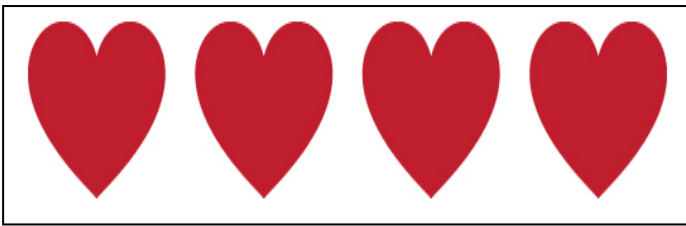
George was the engineer for the Westport Water and Sewer District. He kept everything running there for many years. I've always thought of George as MacGyver. If you don't know who that is Google it. In fact he was MacGyver before there was a MacGyver. He could look at anything, figure out why it wasn't working, take it apart, fix it, and put it back together.

George kept my refrigeration at our Westport Store running. He had never done any refrigeration before, but he figured it out just for me. He could take anything apart and put it back together for pennies. Kept me in business!

For several years, George ran the Lone Star Tavern in a building on our property. And after he closed it, I put the Scrub Board Laundromat in that building. George was my partner in the laundromat. In all the years I knew George, he was there for anyone who needed his help. No matter what he had going on, if someone needed a hand, or a tow off Chadbourne Beach, George dropped what he was doing and went to help.

George Lancaster was my friend. Sure gonna miss you George.

The Community is invited to the burial service for George Lancaster at the Westport Cemetery on Friday, June 5th at 12:00 Noon. A social will follow at the Church. Please wear a mask and observe social distance.



Redwood Adventure Camp

Bill Eagleton

Hi! I've been asked to write a few words about Redwood Adventure Camp. Redwood Adventure Camp is a camp in Leggett that is held in the month of July, and it's for kids from 11 to 17 years old.

Bonnie and I have made a donation this year to sponsor one kid from Westport to attend this camp.

Camp is kind of special to me. I started going in 1959 to Valley of the Moon Camp in Sonoma. It was a great way to meet kids your own age and do things that you wouldn't normally do at home. And, a great way to get out of the house during the summer.

I sent my kids to Camp St Michael in Leggett (which now is Redwood Adventure Camp) when they were 11 and 12 years old. They enjoyed Camp so much, they eventually became counselors and directors of the camp. Both of them take an active part in camp at this time, and my grandson Ian will be a camp counselor this year. It was a Catholic summer camp when I started sending my kids there, but the Catholic Diocese backed out of the summer camp and my daughter Michelle formed a group that took over the camp and renamed it Redwood Adventure Camp. They ran it for 2 years at the Boy Scout Camp on Hwy 20. But now it's happens every year in Leggett, California.

The camp itself has crafts, nature education, horseback riding and horse care, swimming, archery, backpacking, Outdoor Living skills, and a challenge course.

It's a wonderful way for kids to get together during the summer and be away from home.

This year we're sponsoring Shelby Detrick-Morlatt to go to the camp, and we hope she has a fantastic time!

June 2020 Westport Calendar

(Please note that because of the COVID crisis, meeting occurrences, dates, and modes may vary.)

Tuesday, June 2nd – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting CANCELLED (see <http://www.westportmac.org/>)

Thursday, June 4th – Bookmobile CANCELLED

Friday, June 5th – **George Lancaster Burial Service, 12:00 Noon, Westport Cemetery with social following at Church** (masks requested)

Friday, June 5th – Full Moon, 12:12PM

Wednesday, June 10th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting CANCELLED

Saturday, June 13th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, Zoom only (see page 4 for details)

Sunday, June 14th – Flag Day

Sunday, June 14th – Monthly Westport Church Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group CANCELLED

Thursday, June 18th – Bookmobile CANCELLED

Thursday, June 18th – Westport Community Church Board Meeting, 11:00AM, Westport Community Church (social distancing and masks requested)

Saturday, June 20th – **Summer Solstice, 2:43PM**

Saturday, June 20th – New Moon, 11:41PM

Sunday, June 21st – **Father's Day**

Sunday, June 21st – Monthly Westport Church Quaker Worship Group CANCELLED

The Westport Wave is a free monthly community newsletter published by the **Westport Village Society**, a non-profit community-benefit organization. Email subscribers receive their **COLOR** copies on or before the first day of every month. Printed (black-and-white) copies are also available for free at the Westport Community Store. **Check www.westportvillagesociety.org, to read and download both our current issue and over eight years of past issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our July 1st, 2020 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by June 27th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thank You!