

July 1, 2020

The Westport Wave

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Community Center Renovations

Thad Van Bueren

Improvements continue at the Community Center property despite the pandemic. It is actually a good time to get things done while the facility is little used. In prior months we've noted the church is now heated with propane and ramps were being replaced. Like most seemingly "simple" jobs, it is a given that unforeseen problems can arise. And indeed, "Murphy's Law" stalled completion of the ramp project as solutions were contemplated.

When the old ramp between the two buildings was removed, utility conduits were left exposed above the ground surface. To solve that problem, a retaining wall was recently completed to bury the pipes between the Church and Community Center buildings. This created a new planter box around an existing ornamental bush. Additional plantings have been installed in this planter and you should feel free to water them if they look dry. But PLEASE do not dig in that new planter box to avoid perforating or exposing the pipes! Hand installation of plants is just fine if you get the urge.

The ramp accessing the restroom now features a stout redwood rail completed in early June. Minor cleanup of the connection between that new ramp and the

existing decking is planned and a finish coat of mortar will be completed to improve the look. The old metal ramp accessing the community center has been lowered to match the elevation of the new concrete ramp more recently. Both buildings are thus once again handicap accessible. A ditch east of the Community Center has also been deepened to improve drainage.

Last but not least, the Community Garden is now in great shape with a new cover on the greenhouse, new planter beds, and lots of veggies growing abundantly throughout. This garden is a collaborative effort by several locals and you are free to pitch in and help with weeding and watering. The produce is free to harvest by anyone in the community. Please visit regularly and enjoy the bounty!



Mendocino County Economic Resiliency Planning

Thad Van Bueren

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council was contacted by the Economic Development Financing Corporation (<https://www.edfc.org/>) and Move2030 (<https://www.westcenter.org/mendo-business-news/creating-mendocino-opportunities-for-a-vibrant-economy-move-2030>). We learned from Diann Simmons at EDFC and Una Wirkebau of Move2030 that the County is preparing a ten year Economic Resiliency Plan. The plan is intended to facilitate local economic development over the next decade. That seems timely, given all the economic disruption we are all facing with the Covid pandemic.

“Everything the County controls is on the table for discussion” according to Una. Simply put, they would like is input on local challenges, opportunities, and concrete actions that might be taken by the County to facilitate local economic development. The suggested actions can be anything from rezoning to easing permit processes, obtaining grant funding for better infrastructure, devoting more of the TOT to advertising Westport, improving business support, and other measures.

This is an opportunity to envision how we might realize prosperity in a way befitting our local values. The WMAC will hold a meeting Tuesday July 7 at 7 PM at the community center to seek your input. Masks and social distancing measures are requested. Input may also be sent to the WMAC no later than July 15 by email (WMAC95488@wildblue.net) or sent by mail to Box 307 in Westport CA 95488. The economy is everyone’s business whether you own or manage a business, work for wages, or live here without employment.

I spoke at length with the Move2030 coordinator Una Wirkebau and the Gualala MAC Chair Tom Murphy. The GMAC was already working on its own plan before the County started this planning effort. Gualala faces many of the same issues as Westport. Tom suggested “Starting with simple questions, like: What would you say are your greatest strengths? What do you like about living here? What do you boast about? Then people will slowly start to say

things like ‘the environment’ or ‘the quiet’ or ‘the weather’ or ‘it’s very friendly.’ Try for at least five answers” he said. Summarize each idea in just a word or two.

Then Tom suggested moving on “to the weaknesses. What could we be doing better? What’s lacking here? What would you like to change if you could? Be honest. Believe that anything is possible, because it is. Gualala folks gave answers like: ‘weak schools,’ or ‘lack of workers,’ or ‘high rents’ etc.” He noted Gualala found one weakness that was also a strength: There’s nothing to do there. That sounds great to someone trying to get away from it all!

After identifying local strengths and weaknesses, Tom said they found it useful to talk about opportunities and what prevents locals from fulfilling them (challenges or obstacles). Tom advised that we “be sure to stop for a moment after every answer to ask the group if they agree.” This helps clarify each point in an effort to reach a consensus

The GMAC process involved several meetings that resulted in a report. I’ve posted that report, as well as a list of local businesses and skills on the WVS “Resources” page you can access <https://www.westportvillagesociety.org/resources.html>. We would be happy to add your business or skillset to that Westport list so it can be shared with the people preparing the County plan.

Una said Westport input would be useful by late July or early August to inform the County plan. She and Diann at EDFC may be willing to participate in the July 7th WMAC meeting via Zoom if we can arrange the technology. We will look into that, possibly. There is a broadband connection now available in the Community Center. Contact me at 964-7272 or by email at the WMAC address provided above with questions, input, or offers of assistance.

Once we get your input we will summarize that outcome in a report that will be posted sometime in August on the WMAC website. An announcement will follow in the next WAVE newsletter. We would appreciate your thoughts on how to provide economic opportunities for our community. Also take the time to participate in the 2020 census, since accurate population counts determine government aid.

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 July 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.



Get Your Ice Cream! (Update From The Westport Hotel)

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Hotel and Pub

The Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub will remain closed until Mendocino County enters phase 4 of re-opening. At that point we will begin the process of opening, which will most likely be next year.

In the meantime we are planning a few moral boosters, starting with a **socially distanced Ice Cream Social on Saturday the 4th of July**. Come around to the back of the Hotel from 1:00PM on, and please practice safe distancing.

We will also be serving **Red White & Blue Berry Ice Cream on Sundays** for a donation to benefit our WVFD. You can take your ice cream to-go or enjoy it from a distanced seating area outside.

Stay safe, we can't wait to see you again at the Old Abalone Pub.

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.

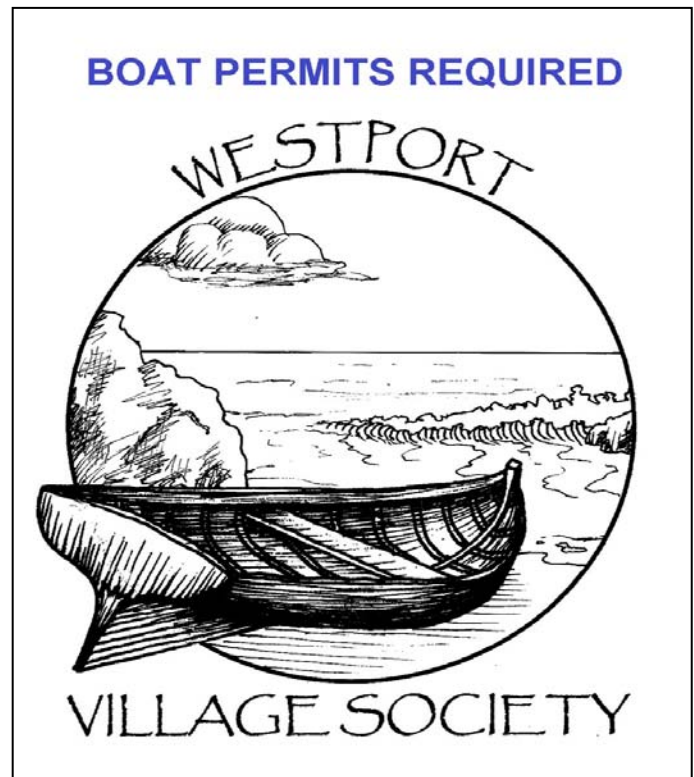
We might not come in for a cup of coffee, but we can get you needed supplies. We can assist you and still be safe to ourselves, our families and our neighbors. When you're quarantined, there might be things that must be done around your property, that have to be done. We can help. There might be any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



Boat Permits Required

WVS

Boat permits must be obtained every year if you plan to store your vessel on Eddie White Beach at the bottom of the Headlands stairs. Certain rules apply to the privilege of storing a boat at the Headlands Park. Those rules and a permit application are available at the Westport Village Society web site on the Headlands subpage. Hard copies can also be obtained at the Store. The program will be managed by Val Hale who can be reached at 489-6380 or you can email WVS at wvs@westportvillagesociety.org with questions.

Westport Community Church July 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. Stay safe and stay healthy!

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Martin Luther King Jr.



Fire Chief Dan Maxey congratulates Eric Dumars, the newest active duty member of the Westport Volunteer Fire Department. Thank you Eric, and Welcome!

Monterey earlier this year. Eric and Ellie are both lawyers. Eric has a private law practice in Salinas, and Ellie is a Mendocino County Deputy District Attorney. She was also elected to WVFD's Board of Directors at our annual election meeting on June 10. Let's all welcome Eric, Ellie, and their family to our community!

Here are the complete results of WVFD's annual election:

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|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Fire Chief | Dan Maxey |
| Assistant Fire Chief | John Huff |
| Captain | Jeff Mathias |
| Captain | Ski Saunders |
| Captain | Steve Goleman |

Dan Maxey, as Fire Chief, is automatically a member of the **Board of Directors**. The other four Board members are **John Huff (President)**, **John Allison (Secretary)**, **Kayla Cooper (Treasurer)** and **Ellie Kelsey**.

Westport Volunteer Fire Department News

WVFD

June was a busy month for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department. So far this year we've responded to 50 emergency 911 calls. With the year barely half over, 2020 could set a new record for call volume.

We train regularly to maintain and sharpen our skills. On Saturday June 13th we spent half a day training on the use of "jaws of life" and other tools to extricate people who are trapped in a vehicle after a crash, and we also practiced extinguishing a vehicle fire. Two CalFire engine companies and firefighters from several nearby volunteer Fire Departments participated in the training with us.

As interesting as that training was, the highlight for the Fire Department in June is that we have another new active duty member. Eric Dumars was sworn in on June 10. Eric, his wife Ellie Kelsey and their children moved to Westport from



Firefighter training on the use of the "Jaws of Life" in Westport on June 13th



For the last three months the Board has been meeting on ZOOM. This month we will resume meeting in person, though of course observing social distancing protocols. The plan is to meet at 10:00AM on Saturday, July 11th, which is a return to the regular 2nd Saturday of the month meeting time. To allow for easier social distance, the meeting will be at the Westport Hotel (thanks to Lee Tepper and Dorine Real). There will be limited space available for the public, so if you are interested in attending, please contact Kayla Cooper at (707) 357-1057 to reserve a place. Anyone attending the meeting, including District Board members and the Staff, will be expected to wear a mask. Welcome to our brave new world!

The All-New Westport Community Garden 2020!

Melinda McLaughlin

Westport Water District News

Ann Woodhead, Member, WCWD Board of Directors

We're happy to report that the Westport County Water District has had another good month. Both the water and sewer systems are doing fine, thanks to the expertise and diligence of our staff.

Plans for our website are proceeding. When it is up and running, it will have lots of information, including, but not limited to: minutes of Board Meetings; schedule of future meetings; a map of the District; info about Directors and Staff; schedules of sewer pond spraying; info about ordinances, rates, and other administrative subjects. It is going to take some time to get all of this online, so please be patient—it is happening! In the meantime, and even when the site is available, we will continue to post the Board meeting schedule and agenda at the Westport Store. (In July we will begin posting meeting minutes as well).

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!

Mishkei Revisited

Baile Oakes

The conversations regarding the concept of agreeing upon a new name for Fort Bragg has gathered steam and interest through recent national and world wide conversations and direct actions regarding racism, exploitation, repression, slavery, murder, and genocide of Black people in our country.

Within this atmosphere it is also important for all of us living within the embrace of our village, county, state, and country to remember we have also greatly benefitted by the savagery, slavery, murder, and genocide afflicted upon the aboriginal peoples here and throughout our country and the world as well as the accompanying ecocide of the environments that nurtured their lives.

The question on the table regarding changing the name of a fort that became a city goes directly to the heart of whether we owe recognition and honor to symbolically amend a fraction of the horror that followed white Americans settling in this area.

Over 40 years ago, when I first visited the land within which I live, roots grew out of my feet and have been going deeper into the earth ever since.

Since childhood, I have always identified with earth-based cultures of aboriginal peoples.

So when Thad Van Bueren published his book *Belonging to Places*, I glanced through his book and greatly enjoyed discovering that a Yuki hamlet, Mishkei, historically thrived where I live prior to the arrival of white Americans.

I moved to this land with the concept of establishing a self-sufficient homestead. Knowing of this native village on the land where I live fed the possibility of this concept.

My sense of joy was soon shattered when I went back a few pages in the book and read the history of white Americans arriving on this coast and realized that the Yuki and Pomo peoples who had lived here for thousands of years were murdered, enslaved, and almost eliminated within 20 years of the white American migration to the Mendocino County coast.

For quite some time, this genocide dominated my psyche with visions of native blood and destruction of a peaceful people living in balance within Creation for thousands of years.

This grieving process was helpful for me to move on into feeling/remembering the blessings of their respect for and living within balance with Creation.

There exists a very valid reason to atone for /make reparations for the genocide of the aboriginal peoples here and throughout the world.

I fail to know what I can do at this time to truly atone for and make reparations for their loss...I am open for suggestions.

What I can do, and would like to do, is make reparations for the ecocide that this coast suffered and continues to suffer.

Yes, most, of their aboriginal Gardens of Eating were destroyed with the decimation of primordial forests and ocean ecosystems worldwide that continue to this day.

I am well aware that the flora and fauna here today are vastly different than 170 years ago. At the same time, I will begin the process of educating my self about the native edibles that survived the devastation.

I intend to find /acquire some Tan Oak acorns similar to the coastal oaks that thrived here within recent history, sprout them, and begin the planting of same here to nurture the healing of this Garden of Eating...atonement, one step at a time.

If anyone has any suggestions/sources of information regarding native edible coastal plants, please contact me...I am easy to find.

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!



Family and friends gather at the Westport Cemetery on June 5th to honor George Lancaster
(Rebecca Picard photo)

A Westport Cemetery Salute

Bill Brazill

The Westport Cemetery looks absolutely beautiful this year and I would like to salute the folks that are responsible. I had no idea who they were until I contacted Gary Quinton and here is what I learned.

Jim Korhummel accepted the mowing responsibilities for the front half of the cemetery as well as a lot of weed whacking all on a volunteer basis and the Westport RV Campground owner Steve Brown mows the back half. Steve has been doing this for several years and volunteers his time each year.

Gary also pointed out mowing and weeding a cemetery properly is no easy task. It takes time and attention to work around historical headstones and markers that are one of a kind.

The nicely painted fences, new gate opening and all the flags, coupled with the fine landscaping really made the Westport Cemetery shine on Memorial Day.

Please, when you see Jim Korhummel and Steve Brown in town, as well as our cemetery board members, Gary Quinton, Bill Knapp, John Allison and Thad Van Bueren, give them a thumbs-up and a sincere "thank you" for all the work they do for our beautiful Westport Cemetery.

July 2020 Westport Calendar

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

Thursday, July 2nd – Bookmobile CANCELLED

Saturday, July 4th – Independence Day

Saturday, July 4th – Full Moon, 9:44PM

Tuesday, July 7th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting 7 PM at Community Center (see <http://www.westportmac.org/>); wear a mask please!

Wednesday, July 8th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Saturday, July 11th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Hotel (please contact Kayla Cooper at (707) 357-1057 to reserve a space – see page 5)

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

Thursday, July 16th – Bookmobile CANCELLED

Saturday, July 18th – Westport Village Society Quarterly Board Meeting, 9:00AM, Westport Community Center (social distancing and masks required, may meet outdoors if weather permits)

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

Monday, July 20th – New Moon, 10:32AM

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. *The Wave* is also on our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org. Contributions for our August 1st, 2020 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by July 27th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thank You!