

August 1, 2020

# The Westport Wave

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

## Mountain Mike's First Four Saturdays In August Fundraising For The Westport Volunteer Fire Department!

WVFD

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Westport Volunteer Fire Department** is unable to hold its main fundraising activity – the Annual Barbecue – this year.

To help fill the fundraising gap, the **Mountain Mike's** restaurants in **Fort Bragg** and **Ukiah** have agreed to donate **20% of their sales during the first 4 Saturdays in August to the Westport Volunteer Fire Department.**

Enjoy great Mountain Mike's food in Fort Bragg and Ukiah on **August 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>** and help support the Westport Volunteer Fire Department. The restaurant in Fort

Bragg is located at the northeast corner of South Main Street and North Harbor Drive.

Saturday hours at Mountain Mike's are 11:00AM to 10:00PM. Great selection of pizzas, salads and sandwiches. Can call ahead at 707-964-9999. Can also order online at [mountainmikepizza.com](http://mountainmikepizza.com). The County Health orders keep changing, but right now (and probably through August) it's curbside pickup and no inside dining. Best to call the restaurant for current information.

**Spread the word!**



**Help support the Westport Volunteer Fire Department by buying lots of great food at Mountain Mike's on Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

## 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 August Events and Meetings Cancelled

Thad Van Bueren, President, WVS

Some (but not all) Westport events and meetings have been cancelled in August 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.

## Westport Community Church August Spiritual Programs Cancelled

Baile Oakes

Due to the COVID crisis, regular Westport Community Church services are cancelled for the foreseeable future. Stay safe and stay healthy!

***“We are called to live not as one without others, above or against others, but with and for others.” – Pope Francis***

## Draft Westport Economic Resiliency Plan

Thad Van Bueren

A draft plan prepared by the Westport Municipal Advisory Council is now available for review. You can download it on the "Resources" page on the Westport Village Society web page (<http://www.westportvillagesociety.org>). It is based on input received at the July 7th WMAC meeting, as well as earlier input by the community on historical planning efforts for the Pea Patch project in 2003 and the local coastal trail plan in 2011.

Comments from the community are sought by August 8<sup>th</sup>, and should be sent to [WMAC95488@wildblue.net](mailto:WMAC95488@wildblue.net). A revised plan will then be prepared and posted in the same web location on August 9<sup>th</sup>. That revised plan will be shared at that time with the team preparing the County's ten year economic resiliency plan. Please refer to last month's newsletter article for more details.

### 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](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org) – in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!

## 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.

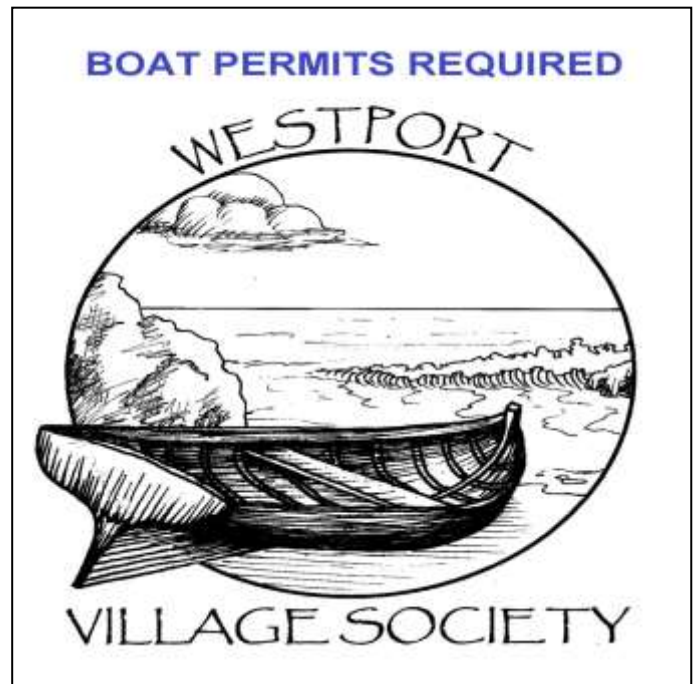
We might not come in for a cup of coffee, but we can get you needed supplies. We can assist you and still be safe to ourselves, our families and our neighbors. When you're quarantined, there might be things that must be done around your property, that have to be done. We can help. There might be any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

**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](mailto:wvs@westportvillagesociety.org) with questions.

### Family Movie Nights

Aimee Maxey

**Family Movie Nights return to Westport starting on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00PM at the Westport Firehouse**, when we will be showing "Throw Mama from the Train". Future family movie nights will be held on the second Saturday of every month at 8:00PM while they last.

The movies will be held at the Firehouse in the large open bays. Popcorn and drinks will be available for a small fee. **All proceeds help the Westport Volunteer Fire Department.** After the first movie we will put a voting can at the Westport Store for people to vote on the following month's showing.





## Westport Hotel News And Activities

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Hotel and Pub

We hope everyone is staying safe during our time of Covid-Limbo. Our plan remains the same, to open when we feel it's safe for you. The months are quickly passing by; to make the time more bearable we are scheduling monthly seasonal events for our local community. Last month we raised over \$170.00 for our Westport Volunteer Fire Department at our 4th of July socially distanced ice cream social!

We hope you can make some of these events. Keeping the Westport community dream alive is our goal and we need you to make that happen. Of course social distancing and masks are a must. If our local

health officer imposes new restrictions that affect our plans we will have to cancel.

**So mark your calendars!** (Some specifics TBA)

**Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>** – A take-out only benefit for our Westport Volunteer Fire Department from 5:00PM to 8:00PM! We will offer a traditional BBQ chicken dinner with coleslaw, corn on the cob, and garlic bread.

Vegetarian option will be “Beyond Chili” with all the sides. Desserts and raffle tickets will also be available. Now more than ever our donations are needed to keep the WVFD responding. Suggested donation \$25 and up.

**Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** – We will celebrate the Fall Equinox with apples... details to follow in next month's *Westport Wave*.

**Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** – The pumpkins will be ready! Last year we had such a fun time with Erin Brazill and friends playing music and all the kids and

parents carving pumpkins, drinking cider, and face-painting. This year we will be keeping it safe, distanced and without a doubt FUN! Details to follow in the October *Westport Wave*.

**November** is pie season and we are gonna have some pie tasting for you! We love our annual “Pumpkin Pie and Other Things Pumpkin” contest. This year all pies will be made in-house with local berries, pumpkins, and apples! Check the November *Westport Wave* for details.

You scream, I scream we all scream for donuts? Yes, donuts are in our near future, and we are working on perfecting our recipes. So coming to Westport on a Sunday soon, coffee and donuts! Stay tuned.....

**An Opportunity To Earn \$\$** -- The Westport Hotel will pay \$3.00 a pound for blackberries. This is a great way for young people to keep busy and earn a few bucks. Please contact Tabby or Dorine at 964-3688 or text 367-0010 for more information.



Photo of the Branscomb Road Top Of The Hill Fire on July 18<sup>th</sup>, which was successfully extinguished

## Westport Volunteer Fire Department Update

### WVFD

July was a very busy month for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department. By July 22<sup>nd</sup>, we'd responded to 59 emergency 911 calls this year – nine of them during the first three weeks in July.

We now have 10 active duty members, including four EMTs and one paramedic. All our active duty members are unpaid volunteers. We hold regular training sessions four times a month to maintain and sharpen our skills. Our response area covers roughly 108 square miles, and we are sometimes called on to assist neighboring Fire Departments outside our response area.

WVFD continues to need more active duty members. We also have an urgent need to raise money to pay for essential operating expenses including items such as vehicle maintenance and repairs, fuel, fire hose and nozzles, insurance, utilities, medical supplies,

personal protective equipment and accounting fees. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we had to cancel our annual barbecue which has been our main fundraising activity. Also, since the pandemic is having a major financial impact on Mendocino County, we do not anticipate receiving any more tax revenue this year.

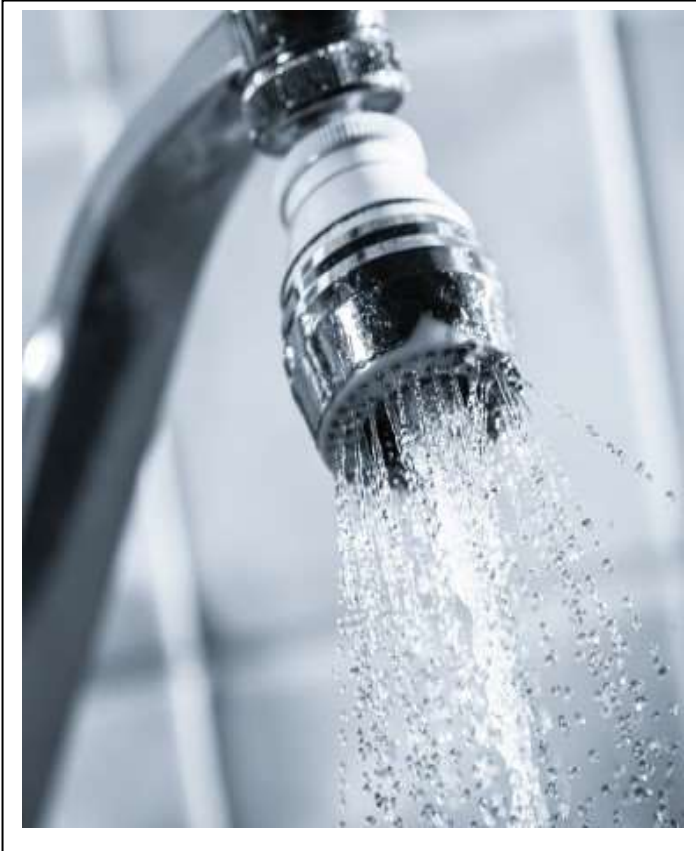
After reviewing our financial needs we established a fundraising goal of \$60,000 between July 1 and December 31 of this year, in addition to whatever we might receive from foundation or government grants for special purposes such as the purchase of a new fire engine. Our initial fundraising focus will be on a virtual online auction featuring the quilt and high-end wine, merchandise sales, and donations. We will also take advantage of Mountain Mike's generous offer described on page 1 of this issue of *The Westport Wave*. We will consider later whether to set up a Go Fund Me page. Any other fundraising ideas will be most welcome!

## August In The Westport Community Garden

Melinda McLaughlin

**“Fogust”** in the **Westport Community Garden** promises to provide **carrots, turnips, chard, kale, lettuce, eggplant, peas,** and many varieties of **tomatoes**. Derek DiOrio has been busy planning and planting new starts to take us through fall. All are welcome to supply your kitchen with these delectable organic delights. Just bring a cutting utensil and a bag to carry the goods home! These fresh vegetables are **free to everyone every day**, so please come do your part by harvesting regularly so that nothing goes to waste! We're at the end of Abalone Street at the Westport Community Center (look for the greenhouse).

We are also looking for wood to build two more boxes. If anyone has extra (!), a donation would be greatly appreciated and provide even more good food for our community. And don't forget all you weeders out there, we meet every first and third Saturday at 10:30AM to keep the garden tidy!



## Westport Water District News

Ann Woodhead, Member, WCWD Board of Directors

There is nothing exciting to report this month, which is good news because it means that the water and sewer systems are functioning well: clean water in the taps, and no poop in the ocean!

On July 11<sup>th</sup> the Board of Directors held its first face-to-face meeting in several months, on the back deck of the Westport Hotel. (Everyone was masked, of course.) It was good to meet in real rather than virtual space. Thanks, Lee and Dorine. **The next Water Board meeting will also be at the Westport Hotel, on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM. Masks and social distancing please.**

A reminder: The Board of Directors is still short one member. An effective Board is critical to the functioning of our water and sewer systems, which are of course vital for the health and general viability of the village of Westport. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving on the Board, please contact the District for more information. Only

legal requirements: voter registration within the District and no financial conflicts of interest.

As always, if you have problems or questions, you can reach the District by calling Office Administrator Kayla Cooper at (707) 357-1057.

Stay safe, stay well—

**Board of Directors, Westport County Water District:**

**David Brothers, Val Hale, Lee Tepper, Ann Woodhead**

## Westport Village Society Annual Meeting October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Thad Van Bueren, WVS President

The WVS Board has determined it necessary to find an alternative to the normal Annual Member Meeting on October 2, 2020. This change is a temporary response to the pandemic and County health orders that restrict gatherings. The following plan has been developed and approved by the Board to ensure our members can safely participate and exercise their voting rights. We hope to return to our normal format in 2021.

A key action required at the upcoming Annual Meeting is to elect three members of the Board. A Search Committee has been formed and we also encourage qualified members to consider running if you find our mission inspiring (visit <http://www.westportvillagesociety.org>). Read on for details about who qualifies as a voting member.

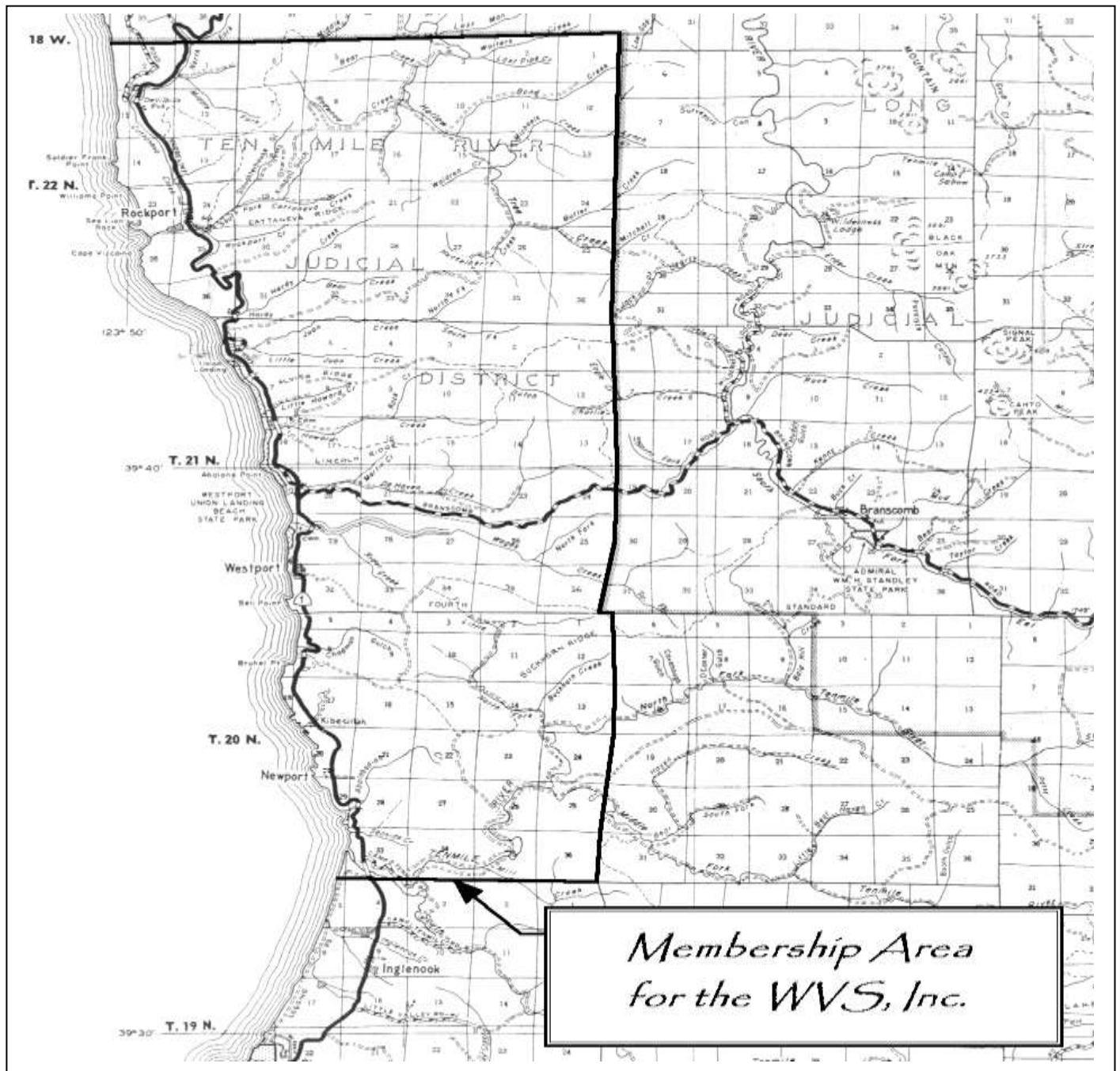
For those qualified members interested in running for the WVS Board, please send a candidate statement to [wvs@westportvillagesociety.org](mailto:wvs@westportvillagesociety.org) by no later than August 27 so it can be included in the September *Westport Wave* newsletter and the mailing we send to members and prospective members. Your statement should explain why you are interested in running and something about your background and skills.

A mailed ballot will be used this year to vote for three Directors. It will be mailed to all members, past



members, and landowners in our membership area by mid-September. Responses from qualified members will need to reach us by regular mail by October 1 to be counted. Members living outside the 95488 ZIP code should mail early to make sure delivery is by October 1. Qualified voters are members who live in or own property in our membership area (see map below) and have paid their dues between September 1, 2019 and October 1, 2020. Dues payment can be included with the ballot. Please follow the directions printed on the ballot.

A quorum of 10% of the members will be required for the election results to be certified. The results will be announced at the annual meeting held by Zoom teleconference on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM. Details of how to join the Zoom meeting will be supplied in the annual mailing to members. You can participate by landline phone, cell phone, tablet, or a computer with suitable functionality (microphone/video). Visit the WVS website for a downloadable membership form or contact WVS to ensure you are on our mailing list.





## Fortunately, I Keep My Car Keys In My House

Ann Woodhead

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, when I unlocked my minivan and opened the side door to load up my dog Jack for the drive to Fort Bragg, he and I were both very startled to find a largish raccoon, also quite startled, hunkering down in the back seat. Jack was very interested in an encounter, which I considered undesirable to say the least.

After I wrestled my reluctant dog back into the house, I returned to the car to find that the raccoon had skedaddled. At first I thought there was no damage done, but on further inspection, I realized that the weather stripping around most of the doors and windows had been completely pulled off, and of course there were piles of raccoon poop everywhere. Aarggh! Okay, so now I knew I had some major cleanup to do.

Question: How did I manage to lock a raccoon in my car? (I know that these critters are incredibly ingenious and persistent, but it seemed unlikely that this fellow had been able to get himself into a locked car.) Simple explanation, of course: The day before, I had left my driver's side window down all day. In the

evening I went out, started the car so I could roll up the electric window, and then locked up the car for the night. Mr. Raccoon must have been in the van when I shut it up – he never made a sound and obviously I never thought to look in the back seat.

I really can't blame him for the all mess – he was locked up for at least 14 hours and must have been frantic to escape. Poor guy. And poor me – he cost me the \$500 deductible on my insurance. Oh well, it could have been worse: I could have trapped a skunk!

## Wildfire Escape

Gary Markley

Escape from wildfire has always been a concern, but after the Camp Fire it has taken on a new sense of urgency. There is public road (called Cahto Road among other names) leading East from Westport that serves as an evacuation route among other uses (you can see this road going east out of Westport on the map on page 7). During November of 2019, three deep trenches were dug across this road completely blocking any vehicular escape.

During the course of litigation, "Cahto Road" was shown to be an unmaintained county road, but the court records (Case No. 60508) were purged even though the action affected an interest in real property and thus should have been retained permanently. The supporting documents still exist, and while the expert witnesses interpreting them are no longer available, any new expert would come to the same conclusion. It should be the county's position that the barricades are an unlawful interference with the public right-of-way and the county should request that the landowner (Rodger Burch, c/o Redwood Empire Sawmills, P.O. Box 156, Cloverdale, CA 95425) remove them.

There are no liability or maintenance requirements for the county relating to the use for evacuation by the public on an **unmaintained** county road. The risk (and maintenance) is on the public (evacuee). Of course, there may be some liability for the entity placing barricades to prevent public use. Perhaps the county could spare a little of its precious resources to make a statement that might jawbone those corporate entities that seem intent on denying the public use into modifying their position.

Gary Markley, 16200 Cahto Road, Westport





**Special Westport Volunteer Fire Department Fundraiser BBQ Chicken Dinner Take-Out at the Westport Hotel on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:00PM to 8:00PM! See page 4 for more info., and Be There!**

## August 2020 Westport Calendar

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

**Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> – Contribute to the WVFD by patronizing Mountain Mike’s in Fort Bragg and Ukiah, 11:00AM to 10:00PM, (707) 964-9999 (see page 1)**

**Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Full Moon, 8:58AM**

**Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting CANCELLED (see <http://www.westportmac.org/>)**

**Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup> – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)**

**Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Hotel (see page 6 – please contact Kayla Cooper at (707) 357-1057 to reserve a space)**

**Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> – Contribute to the WVFD by patronizing Mountain Mike’s in Fort Bragg and Ukiah, 11:00AM to 10:00PM, (707) 964-9999 (see page 1)**

**Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> – Family Movie Night, featuring “Throw Mama From The Train”, 8:00PM, Westport Firehouse (see page 3)**

**Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Westport Church Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group CANCELLED**

**Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)**

**Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> – Contribute to the WVFD by patronizing Mountain Mike’s in Fort Bragg and Ukiah, 11:00AM to 10:00PM, (707) 964-9999 (see page 1)**

**Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Westport Church Quaker Worship Group CANCELLED**

**Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> – Black New Moon (3<sup>rd</sup> of 4 new moons in one season), 7:41PM**

**Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> – Islamic New Year begins at Sundown**

**Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)**

**Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Contribute to the WVFD by patronizing Mountain Mike’s in Fort Bragg and Ukiah, 11:00AM to 10:00PM, (707) 964-9999 (see page 1)**

**Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> – Take-Out Benefit BBQ for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department, 5:00PM to 8:00PM, Westport Hotel (see page 4)**

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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. *The Wave* is also on our WVS website [www.westportvillagesociety.org](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org). Contributions for our September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by August 25<sup>th</sup>, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at [westportwave@gmail.com](mailto:westportwave@gmail.com). Thank You!