

September 1, 2020

# The Westport Wave

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

## Westport Village Society Annual Meeting & Election

Due to the pandemic, the Westport Village Society Board has determined that members will vote by mail and the organization will host a virtual Annual Member Meeting on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 to announce the Board election results, share information, and hear from members. This change is necessary to safeguard our community and comply with current health orders. WVS hopes to return to a normal Annual Meeting format in 2021.

A key task for the Annual Meeting is to elect three Board members. Four candidates are running and their statements follow at the end of this article. The candidates are WVS members Erin Brazill, Bob Finnell, Derek DiOrio, and Thad Van Bueren. Ballots will be mailed by mid-September to all members, past members, and landowners in our membership area. Responses from qualified members will need to reach us by regular mail by October 1<sup>st</sup> to be counted.

Members living outside the 95488 ZIP code should mail early to make sure delivery is by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Qualified voters are members who live within or own property in our membership area 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, 2020 starting at 7:00 PM. Details of how to join the Zoom meeting will be supplied in the annual mailing. You will be able to participate by landline phone, cell phone, tablet, or a computer with suitable functionality (microphone/video). Visit the WVS website ([https://www.westportvillagesociety.org/join\\_us.html](https://www.westportvillagesociety.org/join_us.html))



This year, voting for WVS Board Members will be done by mail. Please mail in your vote (along with your membership dues if you haven't already paid them) as soon as you get your ballot so that it arrives in the WVS mailbox by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

for a membership form or contact WVS at [wvs@westportvillagesociety.org](mailto:wvs@westportvillagesociety.org) to ensure you are on our mailing list.

## Candidates For WVS Board Member Statements:

### Erin Brazill

Hello. My name is Erin Brazill. I am your neighbor in Westport and have been living and loving this community from the time I was born. I hope to be useful and to support this community further by becoming a Westport Village Society Board member. I teach Special Education in Fort Bragg. I am used to long, detailed meetings that are none the less inspiring in their collaboration as supportive in their common goals for good. Coming together and helping my community is something I am looking forward to doing more of. Sincerely, Erin.

**Robert Finnell**

Acting in the required fiduciary capacity to benefit the Westport Community as a whole, I am interested in contributing and furthering: (1) the published WVS Mission; (2) all Members sense of civic belonging to the Westport Community; (3) exercising a commitment to encourage interested Member volunteerism to contribute their skills and energy for various Westport Community affairs; and (4) to develop and execute against annual and quarterly WVS goals and objectives.

Since June 2010, I have owned a residence abutting the Westport Headlands and over the past decade have attended numerous WVS board of directors' meetings, activities and initiatives. I continue to work part time in the Bay Area as a fractional general counsel providing legal services and counsel for several emerging growth software companies.

Current and past Director (corporate secretary) experience: (a) Northwoods League, Inc., a summer collegiate for-profit baseball league of 22 affiliates based principally in the Midwest – currently and past 21 years; (b) Crest View Pool Association in Orinda, California – 21 Members - Director, President and Corporate Secretary-currently and past 16 years; (c) Northwoods League Foundation - 501 (c)(3) non-profit entity – currently and past 12 years; and (d) 301 Bryant Street Homeowners Association in San Francisco - Board of Directors (and HOA Secretary)-16 consecutive years (2002-2018).

Even though I do not live in Westport on a full-time basis, I would offer my skills and professional work experience to contribute and add value to execute Westport Village Society's Mission.

**Derek DiOrio**

Hey, for those of you who don't already know me, my name is Derek DiOrio. I have been a resident here in Westport for about 5 years now, working as an illustrator, fine artist, graphic designer, landscaper, gardener, and carpenter (to name just a few). Being rooted from Rhode Island, the ocean has always been a deeply cathartic region for me to gain inspiration from and my want to settle here in Westport came as no surprise to my friends and family.

Honestly, the Pacific Ocean is why I moved here; but, what really kept me here and continues to keep me here are the amazing people of this tiny community. I feel so lucky to be a part of this big, extended (sometimes dysfunctional) family we call Westport and to be able to call it "home". I have already gained so much from living here and from the people in it and am now looking to further my involvement in the community by putting myself in the nomination process for a Board position on the Westport Village Society. Thank you.

**Thad Van Bueren**

It's been a privilege to serve on the WVS Board since 1999 variously as President, Vice President, Treasurer, newsletter editor, webmaster, and manager of three grants that were used to acquire and improve the Headlands Park. If you support me with your vote, I would like to continue serving WVS and the community.

I find the WVS mission of land conservation and community benefit projects inspiring. Working collaboratively with the community to accomplish those shared goals is satisfying. I've gained additional insights about finding common ground and working toward goals through my service on the Cemetery, Church, and WMAC Boards, as well as for organizations in the wider world.

WVS plays a vital role in our shared community experience and I'm dedicated to ensuring the organization remains a sustained force for good by engaging and supporting our diverse and talented community. There are many beneficial projects worth pursuing in the future and I hope you will share your ideas at the virtual Annual Meeting October 2nd. I will work hard toward our shared goals if elected.

***24/7 Westport Wave***

*The Westport Wave* is always free to everyone at any time on the Newsletter page of our website [westportvillagesociety.org](http://westportvillagesociety.org) – where you'll always find our most current issue as well as over 8 years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!

## 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.**

## Westport Community Church September 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!

*"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."*

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

## 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.**

## Family Movie Night Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM

Aimee Maxey

**September Movie Night** will be held in the field behind the Westport Church this month, weather permitting. Dress warm, bring something to sit on, and remember that we are practicing COVID safe distancing and mask wearing!!!!

The movie choices this month are as follows: **Gosford Park** (a murder mystery rated R), **Casino Royale** (James Bond, lots of action, rated PG13), **Mystery Men** (silly, fun comedy, great for the family, rated PG13), and **Young Frankenstein** (a comedy spoof on the classic horror Frankenstein, rated PG).

Please put your vote in now at the Westport Post Office for 1, 2, 3, or 4. **Our showing of the winner of this popular vote will be on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM.** The first Movie Night in August was great fun, so don't miss out! We will take donations for the Church upkeep, bills, mowing, etc. Concessions are available for purchase, and all proceeds benefit the Westport Church.

## 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 grass and weed cutting, painting, handyman work, and more. We can help you with registration paperwork and compliance/completion documents. If you are interested, please call Gary Quinton, (707) 964-7073.



### 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.

## Help Your Local Fire Department

Steve Brigham, Editor

National politics can sure be frustrating at times, and sometimes we feel helpless to do much (except VOTE!) But the most important politics starts with Community, and that's where we can all take direct and fruitful action. This year, since the annual Westport Volunteer Fire Department Bar-B-Q had to be cancelled due to COVID, it is especially important that our fire department receives the community financial support that they depend on. So how about considering a *monthly* donation to the WVFD, anything you can afford? It's less of a drain for the many of us on a fixed income than an annual lump sum, but if you keep it up, it can help just as much!



Fresh beets and other great veggies now at WCG!

## September In The Westport Community Garden

Melinda McLaughlin

In **September**, the **Westport Community Garden** is chock-full of **Peas, Tomatoes, Lettuce, Kale, Chives, Beets, Cucumbers, Eggplant, and both Winter and Summer Squash**, all ready for you to harvest, **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** 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).

Thanks to all who helped out in The Garden last month! Big shout out to Tom Kisliuk for the donation of lumber for additional beds. Thanks also to Dan Maxey for helping to unload. Please visit, pick, and take some food home. And don't forget all you weeders out there, we meet every first and third Saturday at 10:30AM to keep the garden tidy!

## Sharing Apples

Thad Van Bueren

The fruit harvest this year is bountiful due to a very heavy set this spring. The apples are also early due to climate change. Here at Soulsong we are picking before the bears break all our trees. We plan to bring surpluses to the Community Garden to share over the coming weeks, starting September 1. Bring your own bags or boxes to take a share, leaving some for others to enjoy. Time for pies, cider, sauce, drying, or just eating!

## Westport Hotel Fall Activities

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Hotel and Pub

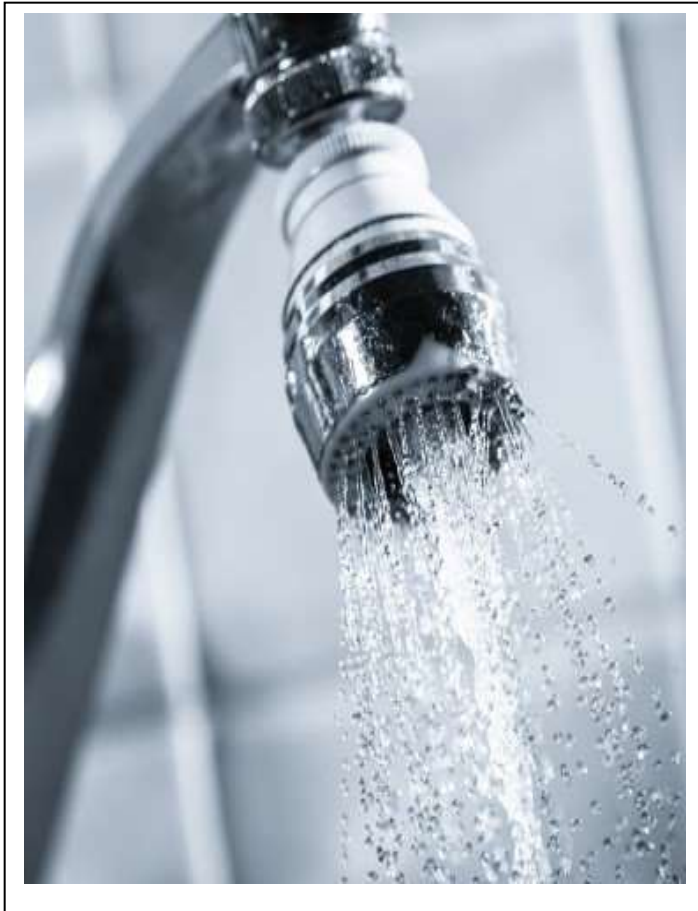
We hope everyone is staying safe during our time of Covid-Limbo. Our plan remains the same, to open when we feel it's safe for you. The months are quickly passing by; to make the time more bearable we are scheduling a few fall seasonal events for our local community. We hope you can make some of these 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, September 26<sup>th</sup>** – We will celebrate the Fall Equinox with apples... details on our Facebook page TBA.

**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.



## Westport Water District News

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

At the time of this writing, the District is doing fine: enough money in the operating account to cover expenses, some money in the capital funds for water and sewer, the water and sewer systems running smoothly, and a dedicated, able staff. Our big concern right now is finding another person to serve on the Board of Directors.

The District By-Laws specify that the Board of Directors has 5 members, meaning that at least 3 votes are required to pass a motion, ordinance, or any other item that needs to be approved by the Board. At the moment there are just 4 people serving on the Board. That means that if there is a disagreement about an issue, we can get stuck at 2 to 2. This happens rarely, as we almost always quickly find a way to consensus. However, if a Board member must miss a meeting, which of course happens occasionally – we all serve as volunteers and life sometimes gets complicated – and we are down to 3, which can make

it even more difficult to get business done. We really need a fifth Board member!

The Board meets on the second Saturday of each month, usually at the Fire House. Because of Covid-19, we met for a few months on zoom, and most recently we've been meeting outside at the Westport Hotel, with masks of course. (Thank you, Dorine and Lee.) Meetings usually run about 2 hours, and include reports from the staff as well as discussion of new and ongoing business. Because we are a County government entity, we are subject to the Brown Act, which requires openness and transparency. With the exception of meetings about personnel issues, all meetings are open to the public.

The WAVE lists our meetings, and we post an agenda for each meeting at the Westport Store at least 3 days before the meeting unless we need to have a special meeting to deal with something that needs immediate attention. Even with these meetings we make an attempt to post a notice. (Soon we will be able to post on a new website as well.)

If you are interested in how the District operates, please consider attending a meeting. You are welcome! And if you have an interest in being part of the decision-making process, so much the better. Anyone who is registered to vote in the District is eligible for the Board, as long as that person has no financial conflict of interest, (e.g., staff members cannot be Board members).

So that's my pitch for Board membership. Please talk to one or more of the Board members if you think you might be even a tiny bit interested in joining the Board! Or just come to a meeting—the next one is **September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM at the Westport Hotel.**

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**

## A Baseball Game Of Life And Death

John A. Gallo, Covid Response Network

How should we as a coastal community respond to the COVID pandemic? What is this new Covid Response Network we are hearing about? Baseball provides a useful metaphor and a good story.

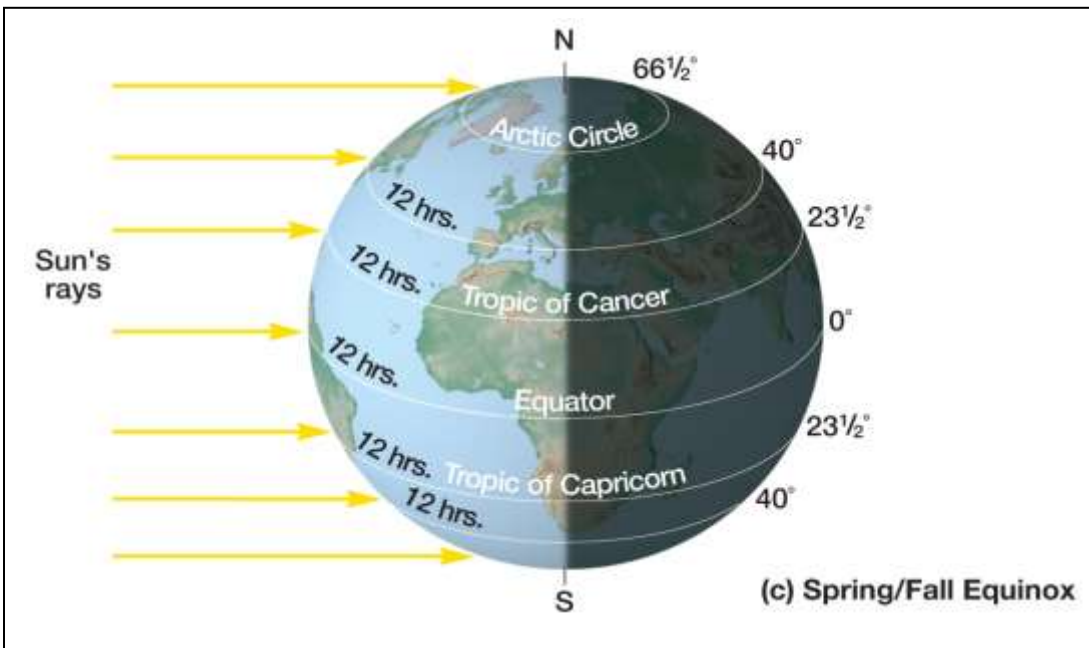
We can imagine that we are the Mendocino Coast Northcoasters, the home team, playing the COVID Invisibles. It is mid-game. Here is the scoring so far: in the top of the first inning the Invisibles threatened with the bases loaded, and scored one run. This first inning was our first economic shutdown in March, when there were no cases on the Coast but we lost many of our local businesses, perhaps forever. 1-0 Invisibles. The second half of the first inning was when we got to hit: we opened for Memorial Day through mid-July, and we got a boost to our economy, represented by 2 runs. 2-1 Northcoasters after one inning. But now it is the top of the second inning, and the Invisibles are rallying. They have killed 7 of us (as of end of July) and injured 65. Hence, they have one run in already, the bases-loaded, and one out. 2-2 Tie at the moment. Our pitching coach calls timeout and comes to the mound for a quick conference.

Before we hear what the coach says, you must meet our team: Our county government is the catcher, calling the pitches, eyes on the full field and getting signs from the dugout. Our local governments are the pitcher, including Fort Bragg city, Mendocino boards, and tribal governments. Our tourist industry is shortstop. The shortstop is the star of our team, the player that the fans most come to see. Our first baseman is the service industry, which includes health services. The natural resource industry, which started as logging, then added fishing, then added cannabis, is our veteran player at second base. Watching them turn a double play up the middle is great and can happen more with practice. The rookie playing third base is the tech industry, which includes all of the people using tech to telecommute from here. The outfielders are a different type of player. Out in center field is our local community, and it is the most wide-ranging player. Off in right field is our extended community, all the people in the world that are cheering us on to stay resilient (many of them have a

second home here, and are on their way to live here for the winter.) And finally, in left field, is you and your individual choices. Yes, you are in the starting lineup! To win this game, every player needs to keep their eyes on the ball. Each player has different skills and different characteristics that they bring. We need to reach down inside ourselves and bring these skills rather than pretending like we are still in the good times we had in our lives until this year. Put it this way, if we win this game we get to celebrate, and life might be better than ever. But if we fail to play as a team, we'll lose the "game", meaning many of us and our friends will die unnecessarily, or our economy will die, or both. The ninth inning is a long ways off!

Now, let's get back to the present moment: first half of the second inning. Coach jogs to the mound as all the infielders jog in too. "Team", he says, "We got Invisibles on every base, only one out. Their best hitter is up. Local Government, you are our best pitcher. Back him up with a tight heater, then give a change-up on the outside to get the grounder to one of you, hopefully Tourism. Watch the ball all the way into your glove then bring it to County Government for the force out, and then throw the ball to the Service Industry for the home to first double play!" Coach saw some confusion, so he finished, "OK, team players do things they don't want to do, but do it for the good of the team. That is how you win. For instance, wear your mask, even if you don't think it is necessary. It is not a political statement, it is about winning the game. And stay in better communication! Call for the ball. Know where your teammates are. Let's go, OK?" Nods all around. Meanwhile, you are out in left field and see the infielders running back to their positions. You think, "OK, yeah, this COVID-19 thing is annoying, but I want to win, I'll do what it takes! Let's do this!" Thanks for reading.

*John A. Gallo, Ph.D., and others at the Covid Response Network [covidresponsenetwork.net](https://covidresponsenetwork.net), are forming team of concerned people with a draft mission of making a broad, deep, and effective response to the threats of COVID-19. Our pilot region is the Mendocino Coast of California. Donations to CRN are tax-deductible. Please e-mail [info@covidresponsenetwork.net](mailto:info@covidresponsenetwork.net) for more info. on us and our Expo coming soon, or to suggest ideas for how to write the next chapter of this baseball story!*



**Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

**Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>** – Rosh Hashanah Begins At Sundown

**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** – Monthly Westport Church Quaker Worship Group CANCELLED

**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** – Rosh Hashanah Ends At Sundown

## September 2020 Westport Calendar

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

**Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>** – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting CANCELLED (see <http://www.westportmac.org/>)

**Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>** – Full Moon, 10:22PM

**Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

**Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** – Labor Day

**Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

**Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Hotel (see page 6)

**Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** – Family Movie Night, 7:00PM, Field Behind Westport Church, (page 4)

**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** – Grandparents Day

**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** – Monthly Westport Church Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group CANCELLED

**Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** – New Moon, 4:00AM

**Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>** – FALL EQUINOX, 6:30AM (see drawing above)

**Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** – Yom Kippur Begins At Sundown

**Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** – Full Moon, 2:05PM

**Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Westport Village Society Annual Meeting, 7:00PM, Zoom Teleconference (instructions on how to participate will be in your September mailing – see page 1)

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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. Both the current *Westport Wave* and over 8 years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website [www.westportvillagesociety.org](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org). Contributions for our October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by September 26<sup>th</sup>, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at [westportwave@gmail.com](mailto:westportwave@gmail.com). Thank You!