

November 1, 2020

The Westport Wave

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WVS Annual Meeting, Board Elections, Officer Elections, and Thoughts on the 2020-21 Fiscal Year

Bill Knapp, President, Westport Village Society

Friday, October 2nd saw the first ever Virtual Westport Village Society Annual Meeting.

Noteworthy elements of the meeting included having four qualified candidates for three available seats, voting by mail, and a record number of votes cast, all without a physical meeting. To say the least we live in interesting times.

Since you are reading this in the WAVE you probably know that the four candidates were Erin Brazill, Derek DiOrio, Bob Finnell, and Thad Van Bueren. 54 ballots were cast, and the winning candidates presented at the Annual Meeting were Erin, Derek, and Thad. The ballot counting process was done in a way that verified that the voter was qualified and the vote was secret. Given the high voter response and success of the process, the WVS Board is considering continuing to have mail in ballots in conjunction with physical Annual Meetings. Feedback on this idea would be welcomed.

The Annual meeting was held via ZOOM. An invitation was sent by email to all WVS members that we have email addresses for. In attendance were the current Board Members, all of the candidates, and five members of the community. While turnout was lower than hoped for, the meeting went well. Everyone got a chance to speak, presentation material was easy to see since each attendee had their own screen, and discussions flowed smoothly.

Since three quarters of the 2019-2020 fiscal year were covered by Covid-19, much of the discussion was about what did not happen and the impact that had on finances. WVS missed the Whale Festival and Ducky Race last spring. Usually there are several events on the Headlands through the summer and fall, which didn't happen this past year. The quick summary of the financial results for the fiscal year ending June 30th was that WVS had a net surplus of several hundred dollars. During that period resources were provided to the Community Garden, facilitating several improvements. Work was also facilitated for repairs on the walkway between the Church and the Community Center (old School building). Funds for the garden and walkway work were donated by multiple community members.

Two specific ideas for future WVS attention were dealing with invasive plant species on the Headlands and helping create a Crises Management Plan for the WVS Community. During discussion of the coming year's activities, it was pointed out that it was unlikely that public events would be possible until summer or possibly fall of 2021. The idea of looking for private grants to offset lack of fundraising events was also brought up. These ideas were all noted to be put on the agenda for the October 17th Quarterly Board Meeting, which is covered below.

The October 17th WVS Quarterly Board Meeting was conducted via Zoom. The following WVS Officers were elected by the board:

President – Bill Knapp

Vice President – Thad Van Bueren

Treasurer – Rock Bush

Secretary – Erin Brazill

The focus of the meeting was to decide how to operate in the “Covid-19 environment”.

- **Greater use of Committees will be utilized. Any member can serve on a committee, but there should be at least one board member on each committee.**
- **Virtual meetings**, probably via Zoom, will be utilized until it is possible to have physical meetings that can include the public. Committee: Bill, Dorine, Rock, Erin.
- **The WAVE and the WVS website** will be primary outreach means, Facebook will be utilized more (may become a communications and outreach function). Committee: Derek, Erin, Thad, Steve Brigham.
- **A Strategic Plan** will be developed to provide a framework with community feedback for future activities. Committee: Bill, others TBD.
- **Headlands** maintenance and development (Guided by the Headlands Management Plan). Committee: Thad, Derek, Rock, Erin (see the Headlands Vegetation Management article on pages 6 and 7 of this issue of the WAVE).

• **Fundraising** has been a major part of how WVS interacts with the community. How can we keep it fun and relevant in the current socially-distanced era and

whatever lies ahead? Committee: Dorine, Derek, Erin, Gary, Bill.

- **Community Center** liaisons; includes Church & Community Garden. Committee: Thad, Derek.
- **Executive Issues:** Governance, elections, by-laws, policies, procedures. Committee: Bill, Rock, others TBD.
- **Historical Preservation.** Committee: Thad, others TBD. WVS has recently had donations of significant Westport connection. We need help to process and prepare for meaningful public access (see Historical article on pages 8 and 9 of this issue of the WAVE).

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.

24/7 Westport Wave

The Westport Wave is always free to everyone at any time on the Newsletter page of our website 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 Halloween (Social Distance Edition) Is A Go!

Sarah Cullar

Even though we can't quite stick to our Westport tradition, Val Hale and Erin Detrick have worked out a way to still have a Covid safe, socially distanced Halloween, but we need the help of local folks. **Your task is to create and donate 30 individually wrapped candy/goodie bags to the Westport Store by October 10th.** These donations will go into 30 larger goodie bags to be distributed to the local ghouls and goblins on Halloween night. Having them in by the 10th will allow them to sit untouched for some time just to be safe.

On Halloween night, local kiddos will participate in a socially distanced, outdoor parade through town, beginning and ending at the Store (please come out to cheer them on as they pass – we will take our usual route). We will gather at the store at 5:15PM, and set out shortly thereafter. At the end of the parade the kids will each receive a goodie bag and be present

across from the store when the WVFD pulls the ticket for this years' WVFD quilt winner.

Please join us in making this happen and have a little fun in these strange times!

Halloween Family Movie Night October 31st at 7:30PM

Aimee Maxey

This month, we will have movie night on **Saturday, October 31st, Halloween.** The movie will be a "scary" one – we haven't chosen the right one yet, but it will be something chilly!

We are going to run the movie at the Hotel back lawn at 7:30PM, with all the right Covid protocols in place. Since we will be getting into colder weather, I would encourage everyone to bring jackets, blankets, and if you'd like one, a camp chair (we do have hay bales just in case). It would be fun if people wanted to dress for Halloween – just a thought!

Westport Community Facilities Use Suspended

Erin Detrick, President,
Westport Community Church

Due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, the Westport Community Church and the Community Hall will not be available for use of any kind until further notice. Outdoor events are permissible, only under COVID-19 county health protocols. Please contact me, Erin Detrick, at erind.3500@gmail.com or call/leave a message at [707-489-2546](tel:707-489-2546) with any questions you may have. Thank you for your patience during this sensitive time.



Westport Church November 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!

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them.”

—John F. Kennedy

COVID Response Network Survey

Baile Oakes

Our community's Covid Response Network is asking you to please respond to this county wide survey. It will help us to better-serve the needs of our community.

[:https://covidresponsenetwork.net/survey/](https://covidresponsenetwork.net/survey/)

We also now have a supply of good, washable masks that are free. Just contact Baile @ 964-7721 if you need some. Onward!

Pie Day At The Westport Hotel!

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Hotel and Pub

Saturday, November 21st will be our annual PIE DAY at the Westport Hotel! Just stop by the back entrance to the Hotel between 2:00PM and 6:00PM. We will have your choice of a single slice served with whipped or ice cream and coffee/espresso drink. Or you can taste three! A limited number of whole pies will be available for your holiday celebration, and all donations will go to support our Westport Volunteer Fire Department!

Pie by the slice or tasting with coffee will be \$8, with a latte \$10. Whole pies \$25, cheesecakes \$30. Here are your choices:

Pumpkin with graham crumble crust

Apple tarte tatin

Traditional apple

Dorine's cheesecake with cranberry topping

GF Vegan Organic Pumpkin cheesecake with coconut cream

Please call 707-964-3688 or email westporthotel@mcn.org to reserve your pies ahead!

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@netwidet.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.



November In The Westport Community Garden

Melinda McLaughlin

Stop by the **Westport Community Garden** in November for fresh, organically grown veggies -- ready for you to harvest, **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** 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). 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!

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.



Headlands Vegetation Management

Thad Van Bueren, Vice-President, WVS

A Westport Village Society group formed recently to discuss plans for managing invasive plants in the Westport Headlands park. The group of community and Board members includes Erin Brazill, Derek DiOrio, Gary Quinton, Thad Van Bueren, and Carolyn Yale. The group met in person at the Headlands Park on October 24th to discuss and identify desirable actions, with ongoing email exchanges to fine-tune the action plan.

A management plan created in 2004 promotes the maintenance of natural habitats, protection of resources, and control of invasive plants. Many exotic plants are present at this time, but only a few of those introduced species are aggressively spreading and thus pose significant concern. The most notable colonizers are ivy, periwinkle, and pampas grass. The group agrees measures should be taken to control aggressive exotics, while maintaining protection of native plants, wetlands, and other resources that supply habitat for wildlife. So control measures will be implemented selectively. For example, exotic plants in the riparian corridor will be left to retain habitat for animals like river otters that have been seen there.

Several tasks will be implemented this fall. WVS welcomes community help. The first step will involve mowing and mechanical grubbing in three locations (see map on page 7). Mechanical mowing

will take place in the smaller patches, while the large ivy patch in the south will be grubbed to pull up as many roots as possible. The grubbed material will be pushed over the cliff into the cove south of the bridge rock peninsula. What is not washed away by the ocean may take root and eventually choke out the huge stand of pampas grass present there. This could also help reduce bluff retreat by stabilizing the steep cliffs of this cove.

A work party is planned for Saturday, November 14th starting at 9:00 AM to follow up with manual pulling of roots, raking and burning dried mowings from the smaller patches, and reseeding and planting native species. Come out and join us!! The work will happen unless there is serious rain. Bring your own gloves, rakes, and other gardening tools. We will maintain social distance, but recommend you bring masks as a contingency. We will also be seeding and planting native species in the three patches during this community gardening party.

Our plan is to also seed or plant natives in the cleared patches with plants that are indigenous to the Northern Coast Sage Scrub and Coastal Prairie communities. Characteristic shrubs include coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), coast silk-tassel (*Garrya elliptica*), California wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*), salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*), and many other native shrubs, herbs, and bunch grasses. If you have native seeds or plants to donate, please contact Derek DiOrio (401) 525-8220. It's a good time to collect seeds on walks in the Headlands Park or other similar coastal settings.

Lastly, your help would be appreciated sharing information on animal sightings and exotic plant locations. We challenge you to send us a list of invasive plants you've seen on the Headlands (common and scientific names), as well as where you found it (a map can be downloaded from the WVS website on the Headlands tab). This is a good ecology project for school kids. The person with the longest verifiable list will win copies of the old (1978) and new (2012) Westport history books. Send your entries to wvs@westportvillagesociety.org before the end of the year. We will give bonus points if your entry includes close up wildlife photos taken in the Headlands Park!



Westport Community Headlands Vegetation Management Map (see page 6)



Lucy Gross on Clay Road, Summer 1941

Donation of Westport Paintings

Thad Van Bueren

Vicki Gross Chase recently donated three paintings to the Westport Village Society, along with biographical materials about the painter, who was her father. Vicki wanted the materials to return to the community where they originated, believing her father would heartily approve that generous gesture. All three paintings feature Westport landscapes created during a 1941 summer visit to the village by Edmond Gross, accompanied by his mother Lucy. They stayed with a

local Latvian widower named Martin Wihtol, then age 72, who lived across from the original church at the foot of Pacific Avenue.

The artist who created these paintings was Edmond R. Gross, a man of Latvian heritage born in San Francisco on 6 August 1920 to Robert Gross and Lucija (Lucy) Greenberg Gross. His father arrived in San Francisco on 26 Dec 1902 as an adult, while his mother immigrated in 1886 with her parents. Both of Edmond's parents became naturalized citizens, marrying in 1908 and having their first son Robert in 1910. Robert senior was an iron worker engaged in building construction, according to census records for the period 1910-1940. The family resided in a house they owned at 42 Uranus Terrace in San Francisco.

Edmond won a scholarship to the California School of Fine Arts at the University of California, Berkeley and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree there in 1942. His art career was interrupted by World War II. He enlisted 14 July 1942 and was discharged 25 October 1945 after serving in the Army Corps of Engineers in Guadalcanal as a warrant officer. Upon discharge, he taught advertising art at his alma mater as listed in a 1948 UC Berkeley class register.

He married Joyce Romeyn Richardson in 1947, a woman who took a degree in history from UC Berkeley in 1944. The couple lived in Marin County



Clay Road painting, by Edmond Gross



Westport Church Sunset, by Edmond Gross

The donated paintings include an oil of the southern portion of Westport as seen from Clay Road, an oil painting on burlap featuring a sunset behind the old church, and a watercolor of the cliffs south of town entitled “Gloomy Morning.” Vicki’s donations also included a photograph of the artist circa 1942 and a photo of Lucy Gross (see page 8) up Clay Road beside an easel with her son’s painting as it was being created plein

and raised a family there. They had three children: Vicki, Valerie, and Robert. Edmond pursued a career in commercial art, producing work for Wells Fargo, PG&E, Bank of America, Fuller Paints, and many other clients.

air in the summer of 1941. All three paintings will be hung in the Church for the enjoyment of the community. **Thank you Vicki Chase!**

Edan Hughes notes in his book *Artists in California, 1786-1940* (published in 1986) that Edmond Gross’ fine art included scenes of San Francisco, coastal settings, and images of day-to-day life. There are no auction listings for sales of his fine art, but his daughter Vicki believes he may have sold one or two paintings during his lifetime. He died in northern California while fishing on Baum Lake in Shasta County on 19 September 1988, succumbing to a heart attack at the age of 68.



Gloomy Morning, by Edmond Gross



2020 Hindsight – Anything But Normal

Steve Brigham, Editor

Well folks, unless you've been living in another galaxy somewhere for the past year, I don't have to tell you that the year 2020 worldwide and even Westport-wide has been anything but normal, and even seemingly everything but normal. It's our human nature that makes us want things to be normal, mainly because it makes us all crazy when we have to deal with too many abnormal things all at once. This year, our defenses have been overwhelmed on so many levels, as we've all had to deal with unimaginably extreme extremes and surprises.

Since this is just my **Annual Westport Weather Report And Fearless Winter Weather Forecast**, we won't get into all the other stuff (which I've already said I don't have to tell you about anyway). Let's just talk about the weather. Or maybe not, since a lot of that has been yucky this year too. I don't like yucky stuff, so I'll try to keep this brief.

Rainfall totals are in for the **Water Year October 1st, 2019 thru September 30th, 2020**. Westport (Howard Creek Canyon) reports 33.45 inches of rain for the period, which is over 14 inches short of their average – just 70% of average rainfall. And we were the lucky ones! Fort Bragg (Cleone) only registered 24 inches total, for just 55% of average. The worst in our area was Ukiah Airport, at just 14.75 inches total, only 39% of normal. Yes, it was a dry year, which is yucky if you like rain (as most living organisms in our part of the world do).

For added disappointment, you can contrast these 2019-2020 totals with those of the **October 2018 thru September 2019 totals** from a year ago. Here in Westport (Headlands), we had 49.16 inches total rain,

or 114% of average. Ukiah Airport had 44.01 inches, or 118% of average. You get the picture – we went from a relatively wet year in 2018-2019 to an abnormally dry one in 2019-2020. What happened?

The obvious answer is that 2020 happened! Duh. Yes, in 2019 we had a dry fall, but we were looking forward to a predicted wetter spring in 2020. But then the 2020 sky just turned completely dry, our normally-wettest month of February had no rain at all, and it was a very dry spring over most all of Northern California (because it was news, I should have written about this last spring – but there was so much bad news by then I didn't feel like writing about anything).

OK, so let's move on, weatherwise anyway. It's already a dry fall in Westport so far, so will it ever rain again? Well, we're entering into a predicted **La Nina** rainy season, which typically means less than average rainfall for all but northernmost California (Actually, Westport (see map above left) could do pretty well rainfall-wise in this typical scenario – not great, but not too bad either). And yet, La Nina/El Nino is only one of 5 major factors in Westport winter weather, all of which are quite different and not necessarily in sync with one another. We can have either wet or dry La Ninas, just as we can have either wet or dry El Ninos. This winter, Westport will be right in the geographic middle of a (predicted) wetter-than-normal Pacific Northwest and a drier-than-normal Southern California. Lots of warm "Pineapple Expresses" are not likely, but week-to-week, rain could come to Westport from the northwest or even at times the northeast. Now colder storms from the north typically bring less rainfall (colder air holds less moisture that warmer air does), so that's what we're worried about as far as totals go. Don't expect a really wet winter, and it may be cold at times, but I'm hoping we'll do better than 2020 (which rainfall-wise, we'll probably do).

Well, that's a vague enough winter forecast that I really (once again) sound like a real weatherman! But get used to **extremes becoming the statistical normal, and expect the unexpected**, since that is what's already happening every year now! I promise I'll do my best this winter to send you all in Westport as much rain as I can from up here in the Washington Rainforest. Let's hope for the best!



VOTE NOW!! You can drop your ballot at the Fort Bragg City Hall anytime up to and including Election Day, Nov. 3rd, but the best thing is to DO IT TODAY!

November 2020 Westport Calendar

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

Saturday, October 31st – Halloween

Saturday, October 31st – Micro Blue Full Moon, 7:49AM

Saturday, October 31st – Westport Halloween Parade through town, starts at 5:15PM at the Westport Store (see page 3)

Saturday, October 31st – Halloween Movie Night, 7:30PM, Westport Hotel back lawn (see page 3)

Sunday, November 1st – Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2:00AM (set clocks BACK one hour)

Tuesday, November 3rd – ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 3rd – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting CANCELLED (see <http://www.westportmac.org/>)

Sunday, November 8th – Monthly Westport Church Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group CANCELLED

Wednesday, November 11th – Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 11th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Thursday, November 11th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

Saturday, November 14th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Hotel

Saturday, November 14th – Super New Moon, 9:07PM

Sunday, November 15th – Monthly Westport Church Quaker Worship Group CANCELLED

Saturday, November 21st – PIE DAY at the Westport Hotel! Many take-out pies by the slice, whole pies too – 2:00PM to 6:00PM (see page 4)

Thursday, November 26th – Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, November 29th, 11:32PM to Monday, November 30th, 3:53AM – Penumbral Lunar Eclipse (maximum, 1:42AM) (see <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/usa/fort-bragg-ca?iso=20201130> for details)

Monday, November 30th – Full Moon, 1:29AM

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. Contributions for our December 1st, 2020 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by **November 25th**, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thank You!

We want to hear from YOU! Help improve walking and biking along the state highways in District 1 by participating in our map surveys.



YOUR VOICE COUNTS

Caltrans is developing an Active Transportation Plan that identifies needed bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Your voice counts on how to make pedestrian, bicycling, and disability access along our highways easier and safer for you and your family.



MAP SURVEY

Provide your input via an interactive digital map. Visit survey.catplan.org or scan the QR Code to begin. You will be able to pin-point exact locations and describe where you think improvements could be made for walking, cycling, and disability access.



For more information visit www.catplan.org

