

Westport COVID Christmas 2020

Steve Brigham, Editor

Photos by Sarah Cullar

Our Community Christmas was a little different this year in Westport, with a socially distanced and mask-wearing crowd of townfolk participating in our first (and hopefully our last) drive-in Holiday celebration on December 12th. But the unusual format did not deter Santa one bit, nor did it deter the many eager children that received presents from Santa in the Covid-safety of their family cars. Once again, Santa and our beautiful town Holiday Tree came through (as they always do) to brighten our spirits even in a troubled year. Thank you so much to Santa and his helpers, plus all who worked so hard to cut, transport, and set up our beautiful Holiday Tree and spread Christmas joy to all Westportians!





Hoppin' John for good luck in the New Year is a Westport Hotel tradition!

[coastal Georgia](#); black-eyed peas are the norm elsewhere.

In the southern United States, eating Hoppin' John on [New Year's Day](#) is thought to bring a prosperous year filled with luck. The peas are symbolic of pennies or coins, and a coin is sometimes added to the pot or left under the dinner bowls. [Collard greens](#), [mustard](#)

Hoppin' John on New Year's Day at The Westport Hotel 1PM-3PM

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Hotel and Pub

Steve Brigham, Editor

Eating black eyed peas on New Year's Day has long been considered good luck, especially in the Southern USA. Who couldn't use some good luck, especially these days? **So stop by the Westport Hotel on New Year's Day between 1:00PM and 3:00PM for some Hoppin' John to-go!** Here, from Wikipedia, is a little bit about Hoppin' John – it's actually pretty good at curing a New Year's Day hangover too!

Hoppin' John, also known as **Carolina peas and rice**, is a [peas and rice](#) dish served in the [Southern United States](#). It is made with [black-eyed peas](#) (or red [cowpeas](#) such as iron and clay peas in the Southeast US) and [rice](#), chopped onion, and sliced [bacon](#), seasoned with salt. Some recipes use [ham hock](#), [fatback](#), [country sausage](#), or smoked turkey parts instead of bacon. A few use [green peppers](#) or [vinegar](#) and [spices](#). Smaller than black-eyed peas, field peas are used in the [South Carolina Lowcountry](#) and

[greens](#), [turnip greens](#), [chard](#), [kale](#), [cabbage](#) and similar leafy green vegetables served along with this dish are supposed to further add to the wealth, since they are the color of American currency. Another traditional food, [cornbread](#), can also be served to represent wealth, being the color of gold. On the day after New Year's Day, leftover "Hoppin' John" is called "Skippin' Jenny" and further demonstrates one's frugality, bringing a hope for an even better chance of prosperity in the New Year.

Hoppin' John was originally a [Lowcountry](#) food before spreading to the entire population of the South. Hoppin' John may have evolved from rice and bean mixtures that were the subsistence of enslaved West Africans en route to the Americas. Hoppin' John has been further traced to similar foods in West Africa, in particular the Senegalese dish *thiebou niebe*.

One tradition common in the United States is that each person at the meal should leave three peas on their plate to ensure that the New Year will be filled with luck, fortune, and romance. Another tradition holds that counting the number of peas in a serving predicts the amount of luck (or wealth) that the diner will have in the coming year.

Westport Community Store & Post Office Expanded 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.

Free Masks for COVID Protection

COVID Response Network

Courtesy of the Mask Awareness Project of the COVID Response Network, complimentary mask kits are available at the following locations, so anyone can pick up free mask packs anytime:

Fort Bragg – Down Home Foods and Colombi Market

Mendocino – Spark Gallery, Corners of the Mouth, and Frankie's

CRN Mission

The mission of the **COVID Response Network** is to do what we can as concerned people to make a broad, deep, and effective response to the threats of COVID-19. Our pilot region is the Mendocino Coast of California.

Westport Church January 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!

“Every person must decide whether they will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness”

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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.

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 nine years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!



Removing invasive English Ivy from the Headlands on Nov. 14, 2020.

Headlands Volunteers Sought

Thad M. Van Bueren

Are you yearning for some socially-distanced quality time with your local friends while furthering a good community cause? Perhaps you need some exercise after all those holiday treats? **Come join an aerobic work day taming invasive plants on the Headlands Saturday, January 23rd starting at 10:00AM.**

Donuts and apples will be provided!! Please bring drinking water and gloves. If you have loppers and a shovel, bring them too! If January 23rd is rainy, we'll postpone the work party until Saturday, January 30th.

You can see some of the largest patches of ivy and periwinkle have already been cleared. But a lot more remains to be done. Our plan for this January volunteer work day is to use a tractor to rip up buried roots and have volunteers manually gather them into piles that will be burned. We will also do some hand clearing in environmentally sensitive areas where no mechanical entry is allowed.

Meanwhile, a Westport Village Society focus group is strategizing how best to keep the most aggressive exotic plants under control and restore natural plant communities. Local botanist Rhiannon Korhummel is lending her expertise and effort. The approaches will likely include repeated mowing, ongoing work parties to mechanically rip and manually gather roots for burning, selective hand removal in sensitive areas, tarping, and replanting native species. Your help and

input would be awesome. Contact wvs@westportvillagesociety.org or call 964-7272.

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



Happy 2021 from the Westport County Water District!

Ann Woodhead, WCWD Director

I'm happy to report that there really is no significant news from the Westport County Water District, which means that everything is going smoothly at the moment. Well, I guess actually that's good news. We can thank our stellar staff for that! Our Board of Directors at the WCWD remains: Lee Tepper, Chairperson, David Brothers, Val Hale, and Ann Woodhead.

We're still working on the website—these things always seem to take longer than expected. But sometime in 2021 you will be able to get a lot of information from the site, including the agenda for the next Board of Directors meeting. The public is always welcome to attend Board meetings, though these days you need to contact our Office Administrator, Kayla Cooper at (707) 367- 1057, for information on joining us on Zoom. (Of course, we do hope to be able to resume in-person meetings some time in 2021.)

A reminder: We are looking for at least one, preferably two new Board members. Official Board size is five, with three members necessary for a quorum. We've been managing okay with four

members, but one of us (me, actually) is leaving in the spring, reducing the membership to just three; if any one of the three has to miss a meeting, no official decisions can be made. So this is a good time to bring new people (with, one would hope, some fresh perspectives) on board (forgive the pun—kinda irresistible). If you have any interest in joining the Board, you can speak to any of the present Board members, or call Kayla for information. Serving on the Board is always interesting, sometimes challenging, and occasionally even fun—I recommend it.

With the Winter Solstice past, the light is returning—hurray! It's been a hard year for a lot of people, so here's hoping for easier times to come.

Hubs & Routes Needs Volunteers

John Allison

Hubs & Routes is a project designed to help communities on the Mendocino Coast plan ahead for the possibility of being isolated by mudslides, road closures, major storms, wildfires and other natural disasters. The project is being coordinated by Rick Hemmings and Jennifer Kreger, M.D. Anyone living within the boundaries of the Mendocino Coast Healthcare District (along the Coast from Usal to Gualala, and inland as far as Comptche) can participate.

For our Westport community, the Hubs & Routes project gives us tools to help plan for the possibility of being temporarily cut off from the rest of the Coast. We have already experienced times when Highway 1 northbound, Highway 1 southbound and Branscomb Road have been blocked. In case all three of these normal routes are blocked at the same time (and that has happened in the past) we need to have alternative ways for people to get into and out of our community. We also need to know ahead of time if members of our community have critical resources they are willing to share, or critical needs that need to be filled, during a period of isolation.

The Hubs & Routes project is creating crowd-sourced maps and other tools. These tools make it possible to update, share and find critical information for responding to community-wide disasters. More

information can be found on the Hubs & Routes website at hubsandroutenet.net.

In order for the Hubs & Routes project to work well in our community, at least two volunteers who are not members of the Fire Department are needed to serve as Public Hub Leaders. Being a Public Hub Leader is a great volunteer opportunity for someone who would like to help plan and coordinate for resilience during a community disaster. Public Hub Leaders will need to have reliable Internet service and will also need to preserve the confidentiality of sensitive information about members of the community, such as gate combinations and personal medical information. For more information, and to volunteer, visit the website at hubsandroutenet.net and click on the image of a water tower on the home page. If you are interested in volunteering, fill out the online Public Hub Form. If you have any questions about the Public Hub Leader role, you can make a phone appointment with Hubs & Routes by sending an email to hubsroutes@mcn.org. You can also call John Allison at (707) 357-3732.

January at The Westport Community Garden

Derek DiOrio

Stop by the **Westport Community Garden** in January for fresh, organically grown veggies – ready for you to harvest, **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** At the Westport Community Garden, fresh vegetables are free to everyone every day, so please come do your part by harvesting regularly so that nothing goes to waste! Just bring your own cutting utensil and a bag to take your goodies home. We're at the end of Abalone Street at the Westport Community Center (look for the greenhouse).

A variety of winter brassicas, leafy greens and herbs are all

available for picking during the month of January. With cooler temperatures and shorter days now upon us, things in the garden have slowed down; but, that doesn't mean there isn't still work to be done in order for us to have a bountiful growing season. As usual, the community garden work days are the first and third Saturdays of the month (weather permitting). If you're free and care to join us for a few hours some Saturday in the garden we just ask that you please wear a mask and socially distance when possible. If you're not into the idea of working alongside others during this time, or just can't make it on Saturday, you can always stop by the Community Center and check the Garden whiteboard to see what needs to be done and work on your own time. Thanks!

Heading into the new year, our focus for January will be improving the infrastructure of the garden by rebuilding garden beds, repairing fencing, amending soil/compost mulching, laying down weed barrier cloth in the greenhouse, moving potted plants, and of course... weeding... there's allwaaayys weeding to be done. With these improvements done in the cooler months, 2021 is looking to be the most productive and bountiful year our little garden has ever seen! Here's to brighter days and an abundance of veggies for our little community in 2021! Happy New Year and Bon Appetit!





Saturday, January 16th – Westport Village Society Quarterly Board Meeting, 9:00 AM via Zoom. Public is invited, instructions will be emailed to the Wave e-mail list. If you wish to be added to the e-mail list please email the Westport Village Society at wvs@westportvillagesociety.org.

Sunday, January 17th – Monthly Westport Church Quaker Worship Group CANCELLED

Monday, January 18th – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 20th – Inauguration Day

Thursday, January 21st – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

Thursday, January 21st – Westport Community Church Board Meeting, 11:00AM, Westport Community Church, masks and 6-foot social distancing required

Saturday, January 23rd – Headlands Work Day, 10:00AM, Westport Community Headlands (see p. 4)

Thursday, January 28th – Full Moon, 11:16AM

January 2021 Westport Calendar

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

Friday, January 1st – New Year’s Day

Friday, January 1st – Hoppin’ John take-out, 1:00PM to 3:00PM, Westport Hotel (see page 2)

Tuesday, January 5th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting CANCELLED (see <http://www.westportmac.org/>)

Thursday, January 7th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

Saturday, January 9th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom) (see page 5)

Sunday, January 10th – Monthly Westport Church Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group CANCELLED

Tuesday, January 12th – New Moon, 9:00PM

Wednesday, January 13th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

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 9 years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org. **Contributions for our February 1st issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by January 27th**, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!