

June 1, 2021

# The Westport Wave

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

## A Little Headlands Nostalgia

Erin Brazill

Growing up in Westport in the 1970s, I have many memories of the lovely, golden, blackberry and rose blossom laden field next to my house. Yes, I know I am so spoiled to have the chance to live here again.

Does anyone else remember playing Kick the Can in the Westport Headlands field at dusk? Hide and Seek? I also have this strong memory of playing an extremely dangerous game that was like football, but played with a tin can that had both ends removed jaggedly (I distinctly remember the semi serrated edges of the can) and was chucked across the field as we tackled each other to the ground. I remember spotting foxes, picking gallons and gallons of blackberries, and generally running around with a gang of other semi-wild, definitely socially hierarchically structured, amazing Westport youth – many of whom are still around today, awesomely. Now, I enjoy walking my dog in the field at sunset, or going down to the beach. I love examining all the Cow Parsnip and Queen Anne's Lace that pops up this time of year-jungle like and mysterious in their enormous sizes and deep green-smelling leaves (never touch the Cow Parsnip, however, or you could get a very bad rash!).

It is in this spirit that I happily, gratefully love to join the **Headlands Work Party** (see page 9) on the third Saturday of each month...to preserve, protect, and love this amazing piece of land that we all steward. This land which has really been there for all of us in different ways – no matter if you are new to town,



Jim Genereux and Rhiannon Korhummel with a pile of eradicated English Ivy at a recent Headlands Work Party.

*(photo by Erin Brazill)*

have been here 20 years, or have spent your entire life in Westport – I'll bet you have a great memory of the Headlands.

The Headlands Work Party met again on May 15<sup>th</sup> to continue our battle against the invasive species on the Westport Headlands (mostly English Ivy, which is sadly choking out more nostalgic species like the flowers and the blackberries bushes (which I count as useful invasives – just my opinion). Present were myself, Bert Roberts, and Jim Genereux (Thad Van Bueren had been there a few days earlier and had created an impressive pile of ivy, dead wood, and other debris). I am continually impressed with the hard work and energetic, strong efforts of Bert and Jim, and it was fun to haul brush and work on clearing alongside them – chatting and catching up a little between wheelbarrow loads. We gave it our all for an hour and a half, enjoying the physical work, the



Treats available at the monthly Westport Headlands Work Party! (photo by Erin Brazill)

ocean, and each other's company. Before the work parties, I didn't know these guys, and they are truly treasures in our community. Friendly, knowledgeable, and so tireless, they put me to shame.

Please know that it is absolutely fine to drop in and out of the **Headlands Work Party on the third Saturday of every month from 10:00AM to 1:00PM**. Do you want a great workout? Come the whole time! If you just want to stop by to say hello and have a donut for 10 minutes (we almost always have an abundance of treats) that is fine too! Please don't be daunted by the 3 hour time period – pop in whenever you like during that time frame. We are just so grateful for the chance to get to know everyone in real life, and maybe pull a few weeds alongside each other for a little bit. It's a good idea to bring a little water to drink, gloves, and the garden tools of your choice...but we seem to always have some extras lying around as well.

After each work party, I leave invigorated, happy, and with a strong sense of fellowship within my community. Truth. Hand on heart. Just ask my mom. It has become one of my favorite days of the month.

Please consider stopping by and just saying hello and enjoy the view...and since this is Westport, come chat about your ideas, visions, and memories of the amazing field we are lucky enough to steward.

**Hope to see you for the next Westport Headlands Work Party on June 19th!**

## 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. 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 Hotel News

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Westport Hotel

**We've been busy working to open the Hotel!! We are still looking for a few key players to open the Pub.**

**Our new Chef is looking for an all-round kitchen helper. Servers and morning innkeepers are also needed 3-4 days a week. Call 707-964-3688 or stop by the Hotel to apply or email**

**[westporthotel@mcn.org](mailto:westporthotel@mcn.org) If we are able to hire the right staff members we will be on track for opening on June 24th!!**



## Westport Community Church News

Erin Detrick, President, WCC

**The Westport Community Church Board members are happy to announce that we are reopening the Westport Church and Community Hall.** As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, community members who would like to use the facilities need to sign-up on the calendar available at the Westport Community Store. All those that attend your function need to wear a mask (vaccinated/non vaccinated), as well as sanitize door knobs and any other surfaces touched. Disposable wipes will be available. We encourage and are grateful for monetary donations, as they help with the upkeep and utilities.

As mentioned last month, the WCC is planning on opening up membership opportunities. The WCC Board has much to discuss and plan, but towards the end of the year look for more information about different membership choices (individual, family, etc.). Membership will be limited to those living full-time in the local area. Also, if you are interested in holding a WCC Board Member position, information about different positions and their roles in the

organization will be available later this year. You will be able to find that information in *The Wave* and posted on the billboard at the Westport Community Store. Thank you to everyone who has a hand in helping our little Westport Community Church and Community Hall.

Lastly, I would like to invite community members to send me quotes, sayings or a short narrative that has inspired you. We all could use a little inspiration during these times. So I look forward to hearing from you.

Please contact me with any questions you may have regarding facility usage process or any other correspondence. You can contact me at (707)-489-2546 or

[erind.3500@gmail.com](mailto:erind.3500@gmail.com). Thank you!

## 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. **This project is made possible by North Coast Opportunities, the Community Foundation of Mendocino, and generous community members.**

**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.



**Fire Chief Dan Maxey (left) congratulates Frank McGuigan as the newest member of the Westport Volunteer Fire Department May 12th.**

## Westport Volunteer Fire Department News

### Westport Volunteer Fire Department

A lot has been happening at the **Westport Volunteer Fire Department**. Ten of our members devoted the evening of April 30<sup>th</sup> and the May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend to a low-angle cliff rescue course meeting California State Fire Marshall standards, and earned certification in that skill. Later in the month, on May 12<sup>th</sup>, **Frank McGuigan** was sworn in as the newest member of the WVFD. A native of Fort Bragg, Frank is an EMT who works at the Inn at Newport Ranch. On taking the oath administered by Chief Dan Maxey, Frank became our (lucky) 13<sup>th</sup> active duty member.

Also in May we received the surplus fire engine that was donated to the WVFD by the East Bay Regional Parks Fire Protection District. This engine joins our fleet as **Engine #8561**, an automatic shift all-wheel-drive vehicle. Thanks to the generosity of an

anonymous benefactor, 8561 is now fully equipped to CalFire standards. It will be our first engine out on most calls.

With the proceeds of a federal grant, we were able to purchase new, state-of-the-art self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs) for our firefighters. We also anticipate receiving an allocation of additional funds from COVID relief money and from a PG&E settlement. Those funds will enable us to purchase new protective structure gear to wear for responses to structure and vehicle fires, replacing our existing structure gear that is outdated.

We are currently completing the paperwork for a new ISO (Insurance Services Office) survey that we anticipate a little later this year. Our last survey, in 2014, led to an improved ISO rating of 05/5X. Since a Department's ISO rating can affect the availability and cost of fire insurance, we would like to improve our rating from 05 to 04, or even to 03 (under the ISO rating system, a lower number is better). One of our challenges is that the hose testing machine we had been borrowing from Fort Bragg Fire is no longer available. We are trying to raise money to buy a hose testing machine of our own. With sales tax and shipping the most economical dependable hose



WVFD Cliff Rescue Training

testing machine costs a little over \$3,000. Once we have a hose tester we'll need some help from community volunteers, since we have over a mile and a half of fire hose to test. Please call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 if you're willing and able to help.

**We are very grateful for our community's ongoing support of our operations, especially as we approach what could be an active fire season.**



**The new WVFD Engine #8561 will be the first engine out on most calls.**

## The Upcoming Fire Season

### Westport Volunteer Fire Department

It's a good idea to plan ahead for what could be an active fire season this year. We're still in a major drought with no rain currently in the forecast. Brush is already dry. Water supplies may not be able to keep up with normal demand.

Here are some things you can do to prepare:

- Maintain at least 100 feet of defensible space around your house and other structures.
- Clean leaves and other combustible debris out of rain gutters.
- Avoid having open flames outdoors. Burn bans are likely to remain in effect for quite a while.

- If you have a water storage tank on your property, do what you can to keep it full.
- Have an emergency evacuation plan in place for everyone in your household.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Fire Department if you have any questions.

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



## Westport Water District News

John Morrill, Westport County Water District Operations  
Manager

### Drought Is Here – Help Save Water!

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors passed a Drought Declaration on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 due to worsening drought conditions across the region. The drought declaration requests all local water suppliers to implement their local water shortage contingency plans and urges all residents to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 20%.

The majority of residents within the County of Mendocino rely on groundwater to meet their residential, agricultural, and industrial needs. Surface water diversions from the Eel River through the Potter Valley Project and Russian River are also used to meet water demands. Both sources are currently vulnerable due to the current and forecasted ongoing drought conditions and we ask everyone to do their part to reduce their water use.

Here are some simple water-saving ideas you can practice at home:

- Let lawns go brown or replace the lawns with artificial turf
- Plant drought tolerant species
- Water deeply and less often and use mulch to minimize evaporation
- Use a broom instead of hose to clean driveways and patios
- Install water-saving showerheads and take shorter showers – five minutes or less
- Turn water off when brushing teeth and washing hands
- Check faucets, sinks, toilets and showers for leaks and repair promptly if necessary

For more water conservation tips as well as a detailed guide on how to identify and measure leaks in your home please visit the County Drought and Water Conservation Website at: [www.mendocinocounty.org/droughtwaterconservation](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/droughtwaterconservation)

If you have any further questions, please call the Drought Hotline: (707) 234-6363.

### To our valued customers:

As of this writing the May water usage numbers are not in. I am hoping that everyone is taking the drought seriously and planning for robust conservation this fall, when our water supply will be strained.

We have opted to not do our scheduled tank cleaning and our twice-yearly distribution system flushing to conserve water. We are working to finalize our Drought Emergency Plan as well.

Thanks! John Morrill

P.S. – The Westport County Water District has officially made it into the cyber world! We are proud to announce that we have a website now, so go check it out! [www.westportcountywaterdistrict.com](http://www.westportcountywaterdistrict.com)



mint, and different herbs are all ready for you to harvest. By mid-June we will start to see an abundance of cauliflower, broccoli, beets, brussels sprouts, cabbage, and radishes all ready to eat, so keep checking in on them to monitor their progress!

The Community Garden work days are the first and third Saturdays of the month @ 10:30AM (weather permitting). But please feel free to stop in anytime you feel like getting your hands in the dirt - there are always weeds that need to be pulled, vines that need to be trellised and veggies

## June at the Westport Community Garden

Derek DiOrio

Stop by the **Westport Community Garden** in June for fresh, organically grown vegetables, herbs, and flowers – 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 in. We're at the end of Abalone Street at the Westport Community Center (look for the greenhouse).

In May, with the help of several other community members, we managed to get the last of the weed barrier cloth staked down in the greenhouse and more wood chips added on top. The raised beds were all prepared for planting and a variety of different brassicas and leafy greens were planted mid-May. The greenhouse is now fully planted and growing inside are tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, tomatillos, melons, pole beans, and eggplant. Right now, butterhead lettuce, kale, spinach, arugula, chives, beans, artichokes, peas,

harvested at this time of year. If you are uncertain about what to do, just check the white board inside the greenhouse for up-to-date tasks/jobs needing to be done around the garden. For June, the focus will be on repairing fencing, laying down the last of the weed barrier cloth (and wood chips) in the greenhouse, pruning, weeding, trellising, re-planting greens, and getting a compost bin built. Thank you to everyone who has contributed already in some way and helped to make the Garden what it is today. It's really starting to fill in and I'm excited to see where it's headed!



## 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.

### June Westport Calendar

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

**Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>** – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting, 7:00PM via Zoom. An agenda will be sent out by email to everyone on the WMAC mailing list. If you are not on our mailing list and wish to be added, please email [WMAC95488@gmail.com](mailto:WMAC95488@gmail.com) (note new email address) to be added to the list.

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

**Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>** – New Moon, 3:52AM

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

**Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>** – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom)

**Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>** – Headlands Work Party, 10:00AM to 1:00PM, Westport Headlands (see pages 1 and 9)

**Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Father’s Day

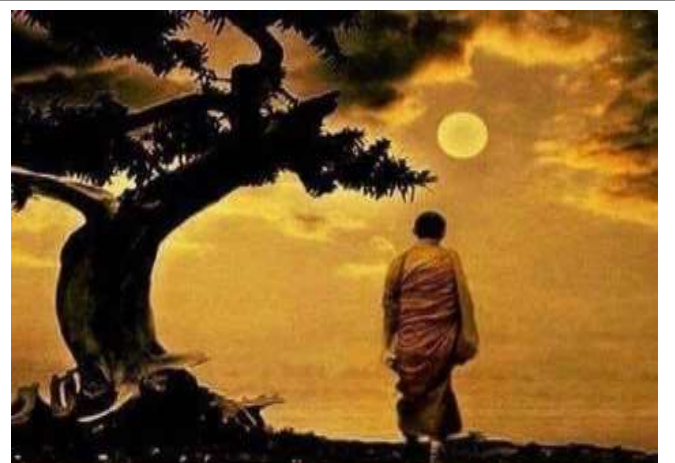
**Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Summer Solstice, 8:32PM

**Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

**Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>** – Full Moon, 11:39AM

*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 9 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 July 1<sup>st</sup> issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by June 26<sup>th</sup>**, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at [westportwave@gmail.com](mailto:westportwave@gmail.com). Thanks!



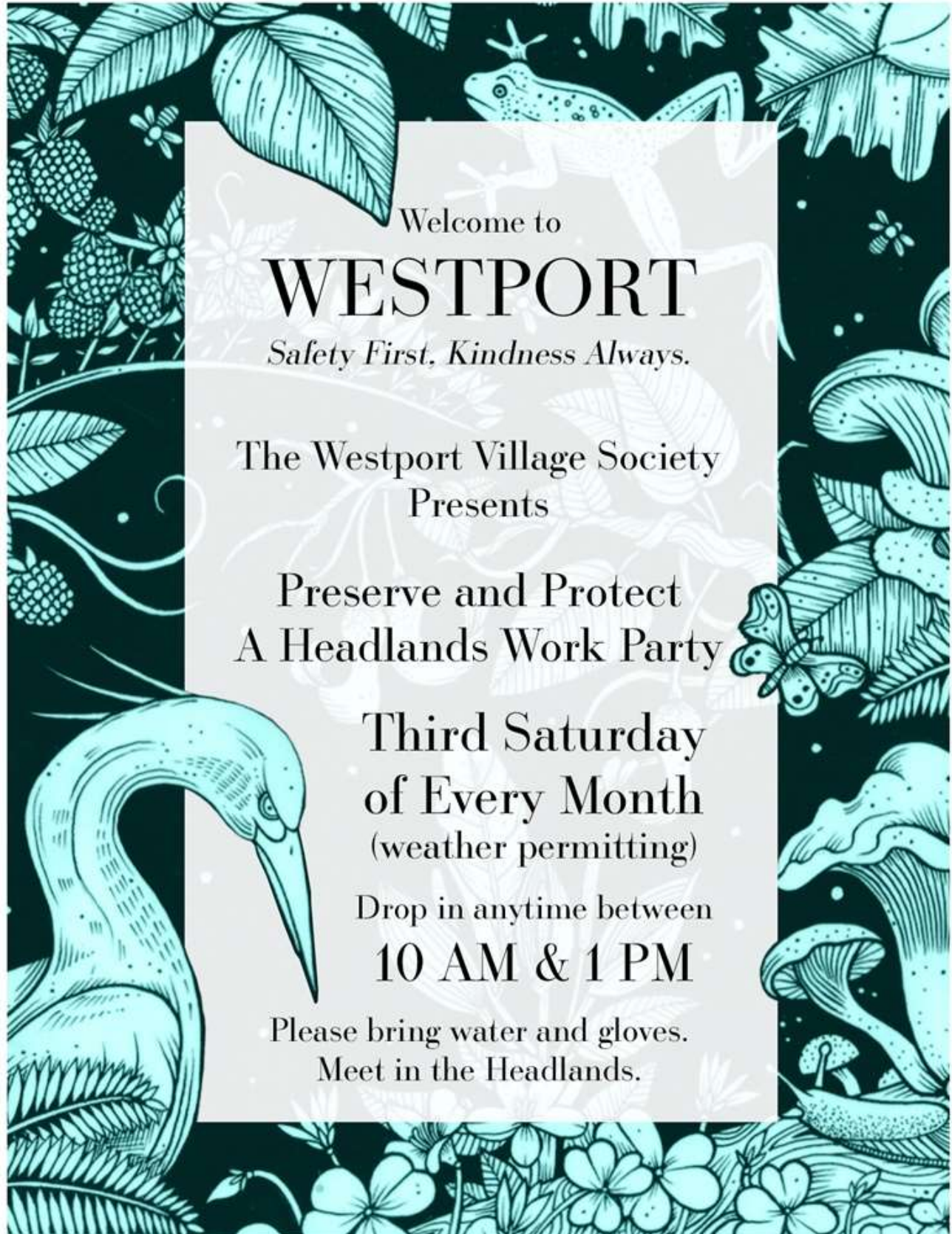
Forgive yourself for not being at peace. The moment you completely accept your non-peace ..... it is translated into peace. Anything you accept fully will get you there, will take you into peace. This is the miracle of surrender.

Eckhart Tolle



*(submitted by Baile Oakes)*





Welcome to

# WESTPORT

*Safety First. Kindness Always.*

The Westport Village Society  
Presents

Preserve and Protect  
A Headlands Work Party

Third Saturday  
of Every Month  
(weather permitting)

Drop in anytime between  
**10 AM & 1 PM**

Please bring water and gloves.  
Meet in the Headlands.