

The Threat of Illegal Fireworks

Westport Municipal Advisory Council

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council recently sent the following comments to the Westport Volunteer Fire Department, CAL FIRE, State Parks, Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol, the Mendocino County Sheriff, and the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors seeking action on a problem of growing concern to us all. The letter follows:

The Westport Community is increasingly concerned about the prevalence of any fireworks in our area. Subsection 8.40.020 of Section 8.40 "Fireworks" of Mendocino County Ordinances reads "it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to have in his or its possession, or to keep, store, use, shoot, discharge, set off, ignite, manufacture, sell, give or transport any fireworks within the County of Mendocino, except for use in a public display of fireworks, pursuant to a permit obtained under the provisions of the Health and Safety Code sections 12570, et seq."

This prohibition is inclusive of public coastal locations that are frequented by visitors to our area such as Blues Beach (also known as Chadbourne Gulch, owned by the California Department of Transportation), DeHaven Creek Beach, and Howard Creek Beach, as well as and the various campgrounds of the Westport Union Landing State Beach.

Despite the increased risk of catastrophic wildfires, particularly in the single ingress/egress canyons containing numerous residences on the East side of Highway One from the aforementioned beaches and camping areas, as well as posted signs at Westport Union Landing State Beach prohibiting fireworks, visitors continue to ignite illegal fireworks with

impunity including sustained barrages from commercial mortars on major holidays.

This recent Memorial Day, nearby residents of Westport, including the nearby homes of four members of the

Westport Municipal Advisory Council, experienced the noise and potential threat of fire from commercial fireworks at Blues Beach, DeHaven Creek Beach, and Howard Creek Beach as well as the camping areas within the Westport Union Landing State Beach. We are deeply concerned that wildfires set on the coastal bluffs by fireworks will spread inland to populated residential areas spurred by the onshore winds from the ocean.

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council seeks a coordinated effort by all agencies with law enforcement and fire suppression responsibilities in our area to halt this mounting lawless behavior that puts the lives of ourselves and our neighbors in our Westport Community at risk of extreme danger.

The July 4th Holiday Weekend will soon be upon us, followed by the Labor Day Holiday. Tactical support is urgently needed to address this foreseeable threat.

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council wishes to participate with other agencies to send a clear message that this risky behavior of discharging fireworks will no longer be tolerated by the local population and is considering encouraging our local residents to call appropriate law enforcement and fire suppression agencies responsible for enforcing Mendocino County Ordinances when observed violations are occurring. (See also page 9.)





Headlands Park Update

Thad Van Bueren

A meeting of Headlands Committee took place on site June 5th at 10 AM to review progress and plan future action. It was attended by Erin Brazill, Rock Bush, Rhiannon Korhummel, and Thad Van Bueren. A variety of suggestions were discussed including the possibility of enlisting the help of goats.

The committee agreed to pursue more mechanical grubbing/mowing of invasive ivy outside of protected resource areas, using hand removal where mechanical methods are not appropriate. Goats cost money, so that idea will need to be weighed further. Removed vegetation will continue to be mulched over the bluff edge for now instead of burning it which would produce carbon emissions. The mulching is helping to suppress a large pampas grass patch, so it serves a dual purpose. The invasive Monterey pine near the south entry was also targeted for removal.

On June 7th mechanical removal of a large ivy patch near the south entry was completed with the help of Gary Quinton and his tractor. Thad helped fell and buck the pine. Piles of removed ivy were also

mulched over the cliff, leaving the altered view shown here.

WVS continues to hold volunteer work days every third Saturday of the month from 10:00AM to 1:00 PM. We thank Jim Genereaux, Bert Roberts, Erin Brazill, Ryan Grossman, Rebecca Picard, and Thad Van Bueren for their help on June 19th. Ivy was removed along the Highway 1 frontage and the used community greenhouse tarp was placed over the recently grubbed area there to suppress regrowth.

The next work day is **Saturday July 17th** (see page 8). We welcome your volunteer help. Please bring gloves, water, and loppers/pruners. Contact us at wvs@westportvillagesociety.org with questions or input.

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



Westport Community Church News

Erin Detrick, President, Westport Community Church

The Westport Community Church Board members are happy to announce that we are reopening the Westport Church and Community Hall. As of June 1st, community members who would like to use the facilities need to sign-up on the calendar available at the Westport Community Store. Please contact me at (707)-489-2546 or erind.3500@gmail.com for current health protocols such as masking and sanitizing touched surfaces like doorknobs. 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.

A Church Board meeting is planned July 15th at 10:00AM at the Church. Please contact me with any questions you may have regarding facility usage process or any other correspondence. 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.



Derek DiOrio deserves recognition for running the Westport Community Garden on just 1050 gallons of water in May and 1300 gallons in June. He is obviously doing everything right! (see page 5.)

Finally, you may have noticed the sprinklers running at our Wastewater Facility. We do this every year to dispose of the waste water we have collected, treated, and stored since last summer. While this looks like we are wasting water, please understand this is non-potable water, not fit for human consumption. I estimate we will only run the spray fields for 2.5 weeks this year. (A normal year finds us running the spray fields for 7 or 8 weeks – the reduction this year is due to the drought and warm weather.) This year, less rainfall has made it into our non-potable storage lagoon than it does during normal years, and evaporation has steadily reduced our water level for the last 2 months.

Westport Water District News

John Morrill, Westport County Water District
Operations Manager

To our valued customers:

The May district total water produced (water that is provided to and used by our customers) was 489,105 gallons. This was an 8.3% increase in usage from the 2020 May total.

The good news is that the estimated June total water produced and used is 484,332 gallons. This is a 15% reduction in usage from the 2020 June total. This a great step in the right direction toward the voluntary reduction goal of 20% requested by Mendocino County.

When you get your June bill, please review it and consider what you can do to reduce your water consumption, especially if you went over your baseline.

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.



July at the Westport Community Garden

Derek DiOrio

Stop by the Westport Community Garden in July 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).

Well, things are really starting to fill in here at the garden this month.. By the end of July, the greenhouse will be full of tomatoes, cucumbers, tomatillos, melons, pole beans and peppers. Right now, lettuce, spinach, kale, artichokes, peas, peppers, mint and a variety of different brassicas are all ready for you to harvest! By mid-month, some more cauliflower, broccoli, beets, brussels sprouts, cabbage, and radishes will all be ready to eat so keep checking in on them to monitor their progress!

With California being in one of the worst droughts in recorded history, water conservation efforts are becoming especially important this summer. At the Community Garden I try to minimize our water usage

by implementing a couple of water conservation techniques which you could also utilize around your own home and garden:

- Top-dress your garden beds with rice hulls, mulch, straw, hay or even cardboard to prevent topsoil evaporation.
- Try not to water in the heat of the day. It's best to water early morning or evenings to prevent evaporation loss and the burning of your plants.
- Don't play the game of "catch up". Water your garden consistently - if your soil dries out too much it may become hydrophobic and will then require ample amounts of water to get back to base saturation levels.
- Plant flowers and other ornamentals that are native to California and/or are drought tolerant.
- Choose containers to grow in that hold moisture well and don't dry out quickly.
- Adding a bit of moss and/or coco coir to your soil can help retain moisture and cut down on watering.
- Drip irrigation is a great way to cut down on usage by delivering precise amounts of water directly to the plants' roots.

The **Community Garden** work days are the first and third Saturdays of the month @10:30AM (weather permitting) and this first Saturday (July 3rd), I will be working on finishing the irrigation system here at the garden - so, if you are at all interested in learning about drip systems and how to set one up for yourself then please feel free to come by. But, also, 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 harvested 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 the rest of the month, our focus will be on repairing fencing, re-arranging layout, pruning, weeding, trellising, re-planting and getting a compost bin built. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the garden in some way and has helped to make it into what it is today. It's really starting to come together for us and I'm excited for the future! **Happy Summer Everyone!!**



(Photo by Erin Brazill)

Wonderful Westport Recipes

Erin Brazill

I have been thinking for a while that it would be fun to share and collect local, seasonal, and possibly Westport Community Garden-based recipes for *The Westport Wave*. If you have an idea of a recipe you would like to share, please send it along to the *Wave* email address (westportwave@gmail.com), and I can help put it together to go into *The Wave* if you would like. I would love to unearth some of the ways we use local, seasonal foods around here... mussels, blackberries, salt, lingcod, seaweed, salt...and also what we are able to grow in our gardens, including our truly amazing Community Garden. I am working with Derek DiOrio to see what is up and coming in our garden as well to add to these recipes.

This month I was inspired by some leftover ears of corn and some other goodies from a recent barbeque, as well as a family favorite of tomato and basil salad. The tomatoes are starting to ripen in the community garden as we speak, and basil is on the way. In addition, I like to include any "luxury protein items" I

can to this salad...fresh mozzarella cheese from the cheese platter, maybe some leftover BBQ salmon, toss in a few baby shrimp from the freezer...whatever you have lying around as a leftover – I promise it is so good in this simple and healthy (ish) salad. It is a great way to use up party leftovers or make it on its own as dinner...the sum is truly greater than the parts here!

Summer Corn, Tomato, and Basil Salad

(please add and subtract ingredients to your taste)

1-3 ears of leftover BBQ or steamed corn (cold)

1/2-1 cup chopped large or halved cherry tomatoes

5-10 leaves of fresh basil

1 slice of red onion or shallot minced

Salt/pepper to taste

drizzle of olive oil

drizzle of balsamic vinegar or squeeze of lemon juice

“Luxury protein” add-ins, if you got 'em (I would just stick with one so it doesn't get too confusing on the pallet-but you do you!): small chunks of fresh mozzarella, a handful of baby shrimp, chunks of grilled prawns or lobster, flakes of cooked salmon, small slices of BBQ chicken, or anything else you like!

Cut the corn kernels from the cobs. Lovingly chop other ingredients while listening to Sam Cook or other music of your choice. Gently mix ingredients together in a favorite platter or bowl. Taste to make sure it doesn't need anything else. Decadently drizzle the top with more olive oil and flutters of fresh herbs or more basil. Let the flavors mingle and get to know each other for a little bit – at least 15 minutes. Scoop into a dish and serve to a loved one, or enjoy alone while watching the sunset or a murder mystery crime series of your desire. Leave the dishes for someone else to do, or just do them in the morning!

July Westport Calendar

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

Saturday, July 3rd – 50th Annual World’s Largest Salmon Barbecue, 11:00AM-6:00PM, Noyo Harbor, Fort Bragg

Saturday, July 3rd – Fort Bragg Fireworks, Todd’s Point, Fort Bragg

Sunday, July 4th – Independence Day

Tuesday, July 6th -- There will not be a WMAC meeting in July. Please have a safe 4th of July, especially a Fire Safe celebration. See the WMAC article on page 1 about fire danger and the serious risks and consequences of fireworks usage in our coastal area.

Thursday, July 8th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

Friday, July 9th – New Moon, 6:16PM

Wednesday, July 14th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Thursday, July 15th – Westport Community Church Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Church (see p.3)

Thursday, July 15th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom)

Saturday, July 17th – Headlands Work Party, 10:00AM to 1:00PM, Westport Headlands (see page 2)

Monday, July 19th – Eid al-Adha begins at sundown

Tuesday July 20th – Eid al-Adha ends at sundown

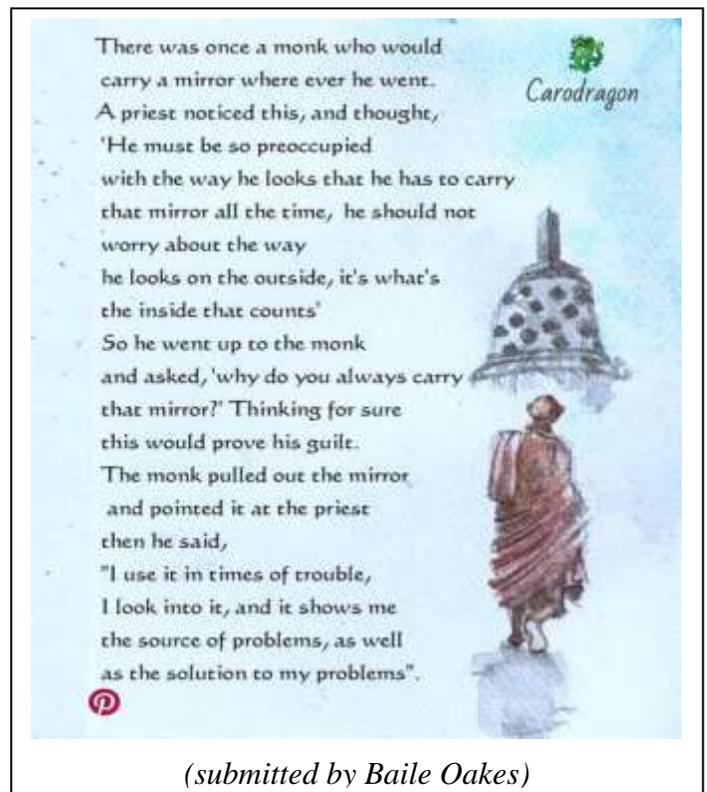
Thursday, July 22nd – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

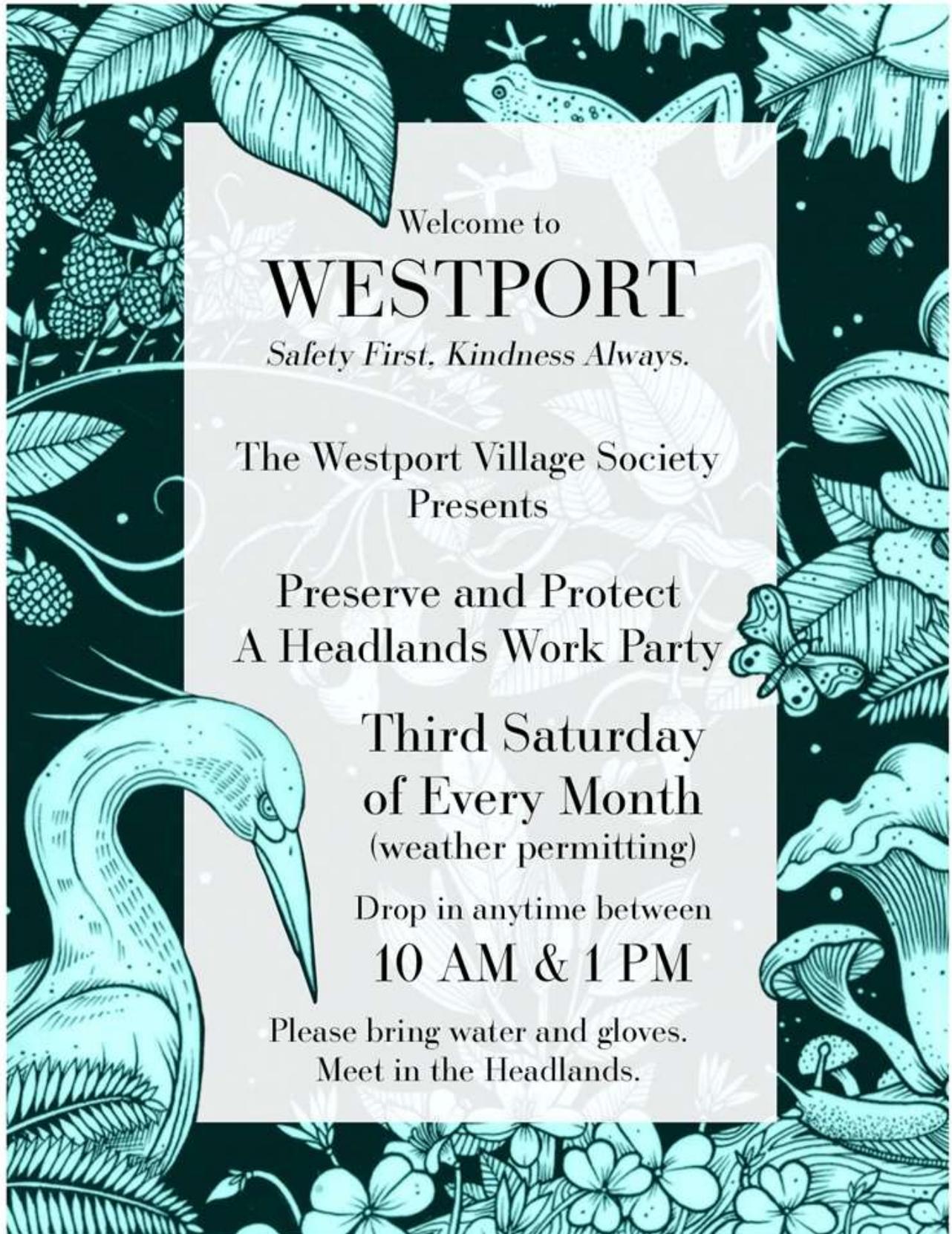
Friday, July 23rd – Full Moon, 7:36PM

Wednesday, July 28th – Westport Village Society Quarterly Board Meeting, 6:00 PM via Zoom, possibly with limited, COVID compliant, in person attendance at the Westport Community Church. WVS

Quarterly Board Meetings are changing from the 3rd Saturday morning to the **4th Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM**. Our intention is to transition to in person meetings with the ability to join via Zoom for people who can’t attend in person. The goal is to make WVS Board Meetings as accessible as possible. If we can organize a meeting that includes in person attendance, notification of the details will be sent to the WVS email list (everyone who gets a *Wave* copy by email is on the list). If you are not on the WVS email list and wish to be added, please send an email to WVS@westportvillagesociety.org requesting you be added. Details will also be posted on the WVS Website at westportvillagesociety.org.

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. **Contributions for our August 1st issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by July 27th**, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!





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.

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT of FORESTRY and FIRE PROTECTION

CONTACT: Tricia Austin
Public Information Officer
(707) 459-7425



DATE OF RELEASE:
Date: June 17, 2021

MENDOCINO UNIT

Fireworks Are Illegal in Mendocino County

Mendocino County, CA –The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Mendocino Unit (MEU) Chief, George Gonzalez, is reminding everyone to do their part to have a safe holiday and help prevent wildfires and injuries caused by fireworks.

In Mendocino County, all types of fireworks are illegal and their use is punishable by law. Anyone possessing, transporting or using fireworks in Mendocino County is in violation of the law.

CAL FIRE is reminding the public of the state's zero tolerance regarding the use or sale of illegal fireworks. CAL FIRE is working closely with local law enforcement and firefighting agencies to seize illegal fireworks and prosecute those found in possession of them.

The Fourth of July is synonymous for sun, fun, barbecuing, and fireworks but fireworks are inherently dangerous and can quickly change a safe and happy Fourth of July holiday into a sad and costly one. Children are at the greatest risk of injury.

Any person can be held liable for the fire-fighting costs as well as property damage costs associated with the start of a wildfire. Often, these costs are in the hundreds of thousands and sometimes, millions of dollars.

We here at CAL FIRE MEU wish you and your family a safe and happy Fourth of July and remember that we need your help to prevent unwanted fires. One Less Spark, means One Less Wildfire.

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For more information about how you and your family can prepare for wildfire visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.