

October 1, 2022

The Westport Wave

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



Conservancy and local supporters touring DeHaven Beach on September 21st, 2022 (WVS photo).

DeHaven Conservation Approved!

Westport Village Society

A 26-acre oceanfront property a mile north of Westport will be preserved and kept accessible for public use thanks to a partnership among the nonprofit Westport Village Society, the land owner, the State Coastal Conservancy, and the California Coastal Commission. The property extends a half mile south of Westport Union Landing State Beach, encompassing the headlands and much-visited beach at the mouth of DeHaven Creek.

The State Coastal Conservancy unanimously approved a grant to WVS at their meeting held September 22, 2022 at the Fort Bragg Town Hall. The

previous day, WVS hosted a field visit to the property for Conservancy staff, SCC Board members, and the interested community. Visitors had a chance to observe the diverse habitats and resources present on the property including a perennial stream that supports salmonids, a beach, and tide pools, headlands, and wetlands.

The conservation project was initiated a year ago through the collaboration between the WVS and the owner of the property, Donna Medley. A purchase agreement was reached early this year predicated on joint funding by WVS, the owner, and grant funding from the SCC and CCC.

The endeavor was strongly supported by the community, local tribes, Congressman Jared Huffman, State Senator Mike McGuire, the State Department of Parks and Recreation, the Mendocino

Land Trust, Audubon Society, and many others. WVS raised over \$25k and Ms. Medley contributed funds to help close the deal. Award of the SCC grant has now clinched the deal. The WVS could not have realized this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity without the involvement of its partners and the generous support of the local community and tribes.

The acquisition is expected to conclude before the end of 2022. Work will then begin on the preparation of a management plan that defines conservation goals and public access improvements. Building on conversations initiated this year, public and tribal input will be sought in an inclusive process. If you are interested in helping WVS manage this property or wish to offer comments please contact wvs@westportvillagesociety.org. For more information about WVS and its activities visit <https://www.westportvillagesociety.org/>.

Westport Village Society 2022 Annual Meeting – 6:30PM Friday October 7th at the Westport Community Center

Westport Village Society

The WVS Board is pleased to announce this year's 2022 Annual Membership Meeting will be a combination physical and Zoom meeting located at the Westport Community Center. Based on current Mendocino County, state, and federal health recommendations we recommend wearing a mask while indoors. Going forward, WVS will continue Zoom participation in public meetings. This will be our first combination meeting, so we will be learning. If possible, please come to the Community Center. Zoom link will be e-mailed separately. The in-person meeting will start at 6:30 PM to allow social mingling and dues paying prior to the 7:00PM formal meeting start.

As usual there will be the annual election to replace Board Members whose 3 year term is expiring. This year Dorine Real and Bill Knapp have expiring terms. The September *Westport Wave* solicited for declarations of interest in running for the WVS Board, with a deadline of September 23rd. There were no candidates other than the incumbents.

Candidate statements:

Dorine Real - The two beautiful pieces of land we are conserving will ensure everything else we do as a community is open to invention and reinvention. The Village Society exists to bring your inventions into reality. Oh, and bring back the Rubber Ducky Race!

Thank you, Dorine Real

Bill Knapp – I have served as the WVS President for the last 3 years. One of the major motivations for me to seek the position was, and still is, a vision of WVS as an enabling resource for the Westport Community to identify and accomplish things that will make Westport a better place for all of the people who live and visit here. The social and political environment of the last three years were not conducive to building community bonds and trust. WVS needs to make sure the actions it takes going forward create an open, welcoming organization that the community members trust and recognize as a place to go to articulate and realize their vision for the community. To quote Dorine from her concise and elegant candidate statement; “The Village Society exists to bring your inventions into reality.”

Looking forward to the future, Bill Knapp

Preliminary Annual Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and meeting protocol
- Review of past year activities and a preview of coming year
- Year-end financial report
- Board Election results
- Open discussion about WVS activities and priorities
 - Signature events and fund raisers – what would the community like to see?
 - Events for Fun vs Fundraising
 - Can we bring back the Ducky Race?
 - Coastal land & natural resource preservation – for the community, for the general public
 - Westport Headlands & now DeHaven Creek Headlands - how to move forward?

- Community well-being and daily life – what do YOU want Westport to be in 5 years?
- Adjourn

The Annual WVS Membership Meeting is open to the public. Please invite anyone who might be interested!

Where Do We Go From Here?

Bill Knapp, President, Westport Village Society

WVS is an organization with some quirks, one of them is there are 2 year-end points; 1st the fiscal year on June 30th and 2nd the operational year on the 1st Friday of October with the annual Board elections. Based on the operational year, we are just over a week away from our 3rd year of operating with the COVID-19 pandemic on our shoulders. Covid has not gone away, but it is now being described as something we can and must live with, that it is now “manageable”. We are being told we will live through Covid and need to adapt to working around it to move our lives forward in a productive way. I believe that adapting to work around Covid, and any other events that disrupt our lives, is good advice. One thing that is clear, COVID-19 has been a stress test on us individually, as a community and as a society. And more specifically a stress test on WVS, at the Board member and greater community level.

Stress is not all bad. The stress has helped us see what we have missed, what we value, and what we hope to see in the future. To resurrect an old somewhat tarnished phrase, to get something done “It takes a Village”. We have a Village and an established organization with a vision of preserving AND improving. Now seems like a good time to do a refresh: values, vision, goals, getting to know one another again, learning to work better together, and trust each other in what we have agreed to do together.

WVS did not wither and die over the last 3 years, but it did slow down. Communication was disrupted: among the Board, between the Board and the membership, and among the community that surrounds Westport and is the source of the membership.

Although WVS slowed down, if we look at the last 3 years, significant things were accomplished. Significant improvements were done on the Westport Headlands: invasive plant removal and remediation, and yes, more needs to be done. The Free Community Garden kept improving, and yes, more improvements are possible, and the Board has agreed to provide more resources. The Dehaven Creek Headlands project was initiated and a California State Coastal Conservancy grant was approved, with significant public interest, interaction, and donations. Maybe it only seemed that things slowed down, most likely because of the above mentioned disrupted communications. When you don't know others are doing something you don't feel involved and don't have a natural way to engage.

As I have stated many times and elsewhere in this issue of *The Wave*, my vision of WVS is as an enabling organization that is open and welcoming to community input and dependent on community participation to succeed. How do we make that happen? Based on past experience, I believe WVS must change how it is presently (my working definition of presently is the last 5 years) doing things. I see this as a process of revisiting “old” practices, reviewing “present” practices for what works and what doesn't, and developing “new” practices, taking the best of what we know and developing new ways to “go from here”. The Board has agreed to spend focused time on Board development with a strong component of improving communication and interaction with the membership and greater Westport community.

I want to close with an observation – we do not lack possible projects, activities, or events that will be beneficial to those who live in and visit Westport, we are struggling with how to capture bottom-up (aka grassroots) input to define what action best suits the community as we move forward. My understanding of a Village is that it is NOT a top down structure. WVS cannot succeed by unilaterally executing finished projects and seeking approval. The approval comes before the project is executed and success is a result of WVS enabling members of the community to execute. Again the question: How do we do this? Only with grass roots community support.



Celebrate Halloween in Westport! (photo by Erin Detrick at last year's Westport Halloween festivities)

Oktoberfest Celebration on Saturday, October 22nd!

Westport Volunteer Fire Department

Join the Westport Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday October 22nd from 1:00PM to 7:00PM to celebrate OKTOBEERFEST at the Westport Firehouse! Enjoy live music with Erin Brazill and Riley, with special guests Aaron Ford and the Seaside String Sisters and Sean Hawthorn. Our menu includes pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw and local beer on tap. Wine, soft drinks and water will also be available. The cost is only \$25 per person for all you can eat and drink. Kids under 12 are free. Vendors will also have their wares for sale.

Proceeds from this fun event will help support the Westport Volunteer Fire Department which provides year-round 911 emergency response service for our community.

Please see our WVFD Oktoberfest flyer on page 10 of this newsletter.

Westport Halloween!

Erin Detrick

It's almost Halloween! I am super-excited to announce this year's Halloween festivities. Like pre-Covid Halloweens, we will be trick-or-treating house to house, then celebrating with our Halloween potluck party. On Monday, October 31, we will gather at the Westport Community Church around 5:15 PM. We'll take our traditional group photo then set out for town at 5:30 PM. As usual, we will walk as a group through town, escorted by the WVFD. Our route will start off by heading toward Omega, then we'll zigzag through town, then Pacific, and, finally, Hillcrest Terrace ending up at the church...where everyone is welcome to participate in the potluck party around 6:45 PM. Hope to see you all there! Lastly, I want to thank our wonderful community members who generously contribute every year to this event with their enthusiasm and awesome treats and goodies. Thank you to the Westport Volunteer Fire Department members who give their time to making sure we are all safe walking around town!



Honor our dear departed at the Westport Cemetery November 5th

they might have liked in life. We are also hoping that there can be a potluck of finger foods at the cemetery in addition to the provided hot chocolate and 'pan muerto'.

We are working with the Westport Cemetery Committee, The Westport Fire Department, the Westport Village Society, the Children's Fund, and hopefully more local agencies to make this a beautiful event.

We are hoping to show the Movie Coco after at a warm TBD location.

More details to be disclosed closer to this event – please look for fliers in the community coming soon.

And please consider saving the date for what I am sure is to be a very magical and special evening.

Day of the Dead Celebration at the Westport Community Cemetery Saturday, November 5th

Erin Brazill

On Saturday, November 5th from 5:00PM to 7:00PM, we will be having a FREE event to celebrate community, remembrance, and to experience and explore a little bit of the beautiful Day of the Dead Celebration.

An excerpt from the *New York Times* states : The annual Mexican celebration, *Día de Muertos* (Day of the Dead), is a time when families gather to honor and remember deceased loved ones. It is believed that the souls of the dead return to visit the living families in homes, businesses, and cemeteries. (See the whole article here: <http://dayofthedeadnyc.org/meaning-of-the-day-of-the-dead/>)

With sensitivity to the celebration of a culture that might not necessarily be our own but is much a part of our community, I am collaborating with Juliana Sanchez to create an event in the Westport Cemetery with music, face painting, pan muerto (a delicious sweet bread), hot chocolate, and beautification of the grave stones and cemetery.

The event is open to absolutely everyone. We hope that if you have relatives in the Westport Cemetery, you might consider creating a small altar of items

Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub News

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager,
Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

The Old Abalone Pub is open for dinner seating every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 5:00PM to 9:00PM. Reservations are welcome. Saturday afternoon tea by pre-reservation request only. Please call (707) 964-3688 or email westporthotel@mcn.org for reservations.

Next Westport Fire Safe Council Meeting on November 12th

Melinda McLaughlin

The Westport Fire Safe Council will hold its next meeting on November 12th, 2022, at 10:00AM, at the Westport Firehouse. Fire Safe Councils are grassroots, community-led groups organized to help residents protect their homes, communities, and environments from catastrophic wildfire.



The Westport Church

Westport Community Church News

Erin Detrick, President , Westport Community Church

The Westport Community Church board members would like to announce that we are accepting new memberships. Family membership is \$30. Individual membership is \$20. These membership dues go towards the utilities and upkeep of the church and community hall. You will also be able to help with important decisions such as voting in the upcoming December election to fill the available board member position. Please have your membership dues in by no later than October 31st, 2022. Send dues, along with name(s), mailing address, and other contact info. to WCC, PO Box 23, Westport, CA. Eligibility for membership is restricted to individuals over 18 years of age whose primary residence is within Townships 20 North and 21 North of Range 17 West of Township 21 North of Range 18 West of the Mount Diablo base meridian (see map above). Membership is not restricted by Spiritual orientation.

For those looking to get more involved in the WCC, contact me for a new board member application. I will need all applications completed and returned by October 25th, 2022. Board members must be a member of the Westport Community Church. The candidates will be announced in the November edition of *The Westport Wave* and on the bulletin board at the Westport Community Store. Voting info. will be available at that time, as well. Contact me at erind.3500@gmail.com with any questions you may have. Thank you.

Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group – Sunday, October 9th, 10:00AM

Baile Oakes

This **Westport Community Church** discussion group is focused upon **Thich Nhat Hahn’s Book: “Living Buddha, Living Christ”**. No need to have the book. We will share passages from the book and discuss how they might or might not influence how we show up for our selves and all Creation. We request that attendees be vaccinated and we will meet according to Church Covid precautions.

The Wish Fulfilling Tree

Babaji

A man had been walking for a long distance on a hot day. Upon seeing a beautiful tree on the path, he went to sit in its shade. A thought came to him: “It would be so nice if there was a glass of cold water.” A glass of cold water appeared.

As he continued to sit under the tree, he thought, “I’m hungry. I wish I had a little food.” A few of his favorite dishes appeared. Even upon thinking of resting, a bed appeared and he slept comfortably after his long day.

When the man woke up he realized that there must be a genie hidden in the tree that was responding to all his thoughts. As he continued on his journey, he soon came across a small man. The man called to him, “Hello Friend! I need a home. I promise I can give you anything you desire. There is only one condition: the day you don’t have anything for me to do, I will devour you.”

The man realized that this was the genie who had been fulfilling all of his wishes under the tree. He thought about all of the projects he had waiting at home, and said, “Okay, come along.” The man returned to his home with the genie and they started on all of the work that was needed around the house. The very moment that he thought of a project, it would be completed: wells were dug, walls were built, things were moved from here to there. The man



Babaji

started thinking of bigger projects and the genie completed those very quickly as well.

In time, the man began to worry that he would run out of things for the genie to do and that he would soon be devoured. He decided to seek the advice of a sage living at the edge of the town.

The Babaji listened intently to the man's predicament and advised him to install a long pole in the ground outside of his house. "When you have nothing for the genie to do, tell him to go up and down the pole. Whenever you have a project, call him to do it. When the project is finished, send him back to the pole."

The man followed the sage's advice and lived happily ever after!

What is this story really about? The genie of the Wish Fulfilling Tree is our mind.

The mind is a beautiful instrument. The mind can manifest and create whatever we want. However, when we don't cultivate the mind, we get into trouble. With nothing to focus on, the mind's tendency can veer towards destruction, negativity, and getting caught on small things.

What is the sage's pole that can be used to control the genie, our mind? The breath. You can save yourself from all kinds of negativity by simply bringing your attention to your breath.

This is a practice that you can access anywhere and in any situation. Imagine a light sitting at the bottom of your spine. As you inhale and the breath is rising, the light rises up the spine to the space on your forehead between your eyes. As you exhale, the breath and light go back down the spine. Hold that imagery. Breath in and out three times. Then return to engage in the world, renewed.

Babaji's mission is to help people experience fullness in life through simple spiritual practices and meditation. He currently divides his time between the Sonoma Ashram in Sonoma and Upasana Hilltop Sanctuary here in Westport. For more information, please visit www.sonomaashram.org or reach out by email at info@sonomaashram.org.

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



Another successful Westport Clean-up Day! (photo by Erin Brazill)

TLC Students and OARS Clients Accomplish Westport Coastal Clean-up

Erin Brazill

On Friday September 16th, students from the Transition Learning Center (a program for young adults with disabilities) and OARS (a social emotional program for clients with disabilities) cleaned the beach, town and Headlands of Westport, working with the Mendocino Land Trust and Coastal Clean-up Day. This has been a 6 year tradition for these students to take care of the town of Westport. As the teacher of TLC, I can attest that they love coming to the beach, headlands, and town of

Westport so much that they are honored to be a part of the clean-up. We love working with the staff and clients of OARS, many of the clients are TLC graduates, as well as new friends who have joined that amazing program.

This year, we noticed a surprising amount of cigarette butts on the beach and a little fishing twine. The town had much more litter than usual, but the Headlands were pretty spiffy.

As usual, we enjoyed delicious sandwiches from the Westport Store and had a wonderful day.

To learn more about TLC or OARS, here are our websites:

<https://www.oarsinc.com/>

<https://sites.google.com/fbusd.us/tlc>



HAPPY WESTPORT HALLOWEEN! (see page 4)

October Westport Calendar

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

Tuesday, October 4th – Yom Kippur begins at Sundown

Tuesday, October 4th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community Church. Face masks required. Contact WMAC95488@gmail.com for info.

Wednesday, October 5th – Yom Kippur

Friday, October 7th – Westport Village Society Annual Membership Meeting, 6:30PM at the Westport Community Center. This will be a combination in-person and Zoom meeting. Please request Zoom details by emailing wvs@westportvillagesociety.org before the meeting. See article on page 2 of this newsletter for more meeting details.

Saturday, October 8th – Westport Community Garden Volunteer Work Day, 10:30AM, Westport Community Garden

Sunday, October 9th – Thich Nhat Han Discussion Group, 10:00AM, Westport Church (see page 6)

Sunday, October 9th – Full Moon, 1:54PM

Sunday, October 9th – Sukkot Begins at Sundown

Tuesday, October 11th – Indigenous Peoples’ Day

Wednesday, October 12th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Thursday, October 13th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM to 10:00AM, Westport Store (masks encouraged)

Thursday, October 13th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom)

Sunday, October 16th – Sukkot ends at Sundown

Saturday, October 22nd – Westport Volunteer Fire Department

OKTOBEERFEST, 1:00PM to 7:00PM, Westport Firehouse (see page 4 and flyer page 10)

Monday, October 24th – Diwali

Tuesday, October 25th – New Moon, 3:48AM

Wednesday, October 26th – Westport Village Society Quarterly Board Meeting, 6:30PM, Westport Church and Zoom. Contact wvs@westportvillagesociety.com for info.

Thursday, October 27th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM to 10:00AM, Westport Store (masks encouraged)

Monday, October 31st – Halloween (see page 4 for Westport Halloween festivities starting at 5:15PM)

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 ten years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org.

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



7th Annual
OKTOBERFEST
Saturday - October 22nd
From 1-7 at the
WESTPORT FIRE HOUSE

Live Music!

ERIN BRAZILL & RILEY
with very special guests,
AARON FORD, SEAN HATHORN
and
SEASIDE STRING SISTERS

**ALL YOU CAN
EAT & DRINK
PULLED PORK
SANDWICHES &
COLESLAW \$25**

Kids 12 & under are free!



*Local Beers
&
Vendors*

Debit and Credit Card Accepted on site.

WESTPORT VILLAGE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 446, Westport, CA 95488
<http://www.westportvillagesociety.org/>
(707) 964-7272

supporting local charitable and educational projects &
fostering the preservation, enhancement, and interpretation of the natural environment

About WVS

The Westport Village Society, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation organized in 1992 to foster the preservation, enhancement, and interpretation of the environment in and around the village of Westport, California and to support local charitable and educational projects. Anyone can access our newsletter on line, participate in events, and contribute to WVS, but voting privileges are reserved for those who pay annual dues and reside within or own property in the area shown on the back of this form.

Membership Application

Name(s):

Mailing Address:

Email Address (for newsletters):

Telephone (optional):

(____) _____

I/we live or own property in the Membership area (see attached map): YES NO

Annual Dues:

Number of members: _____ x \$15.00 per person/year = _____

Family membership (\$25.00/year) = _____

Donations: a) Headlands Fund (solely for this purpose) = _____

b) DeHaven Fund (solely for this purpose) = _____

b) General Fund (unrestricted use) = _____

Total Amount Enclosed = _____

Members and the interested public are encouraged to participate in the WVS Annual Member Meeting (the first Friday in October at 7:00 PM), Board meetings (3rd Wednesdays of Jan/April/July/Oct at 6:30 PM), and other activities and events hosted by the organization. Learn more about our organization visiting our web site at:

<http://www.westportvillagesociety.org/>
or email us at: wvs@westportvillagesociety.org.

Dues pay for the cost of communications, while donations are tax deductible. Donations and bequests are encouraged. Your financial contributions help us maintain our community enrichment programs, conserved lands, and access easements.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY!!

