

January 1, 2024

The Westport Wave

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

Westport Volunteer Fire Department 2023 in Review

WVFD

2023 was a year of growth for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department. We added three new active duty members – Jamie Haggard, Darnell Michlig and, most recently, Kai Chamberlin.

Kai was sworn in at a special ceremony at the end of our Saturday training on December 16. He graduated from Fort Bragg High earlier this year and has been working on a construction project in Westport the past several months. Kai is excited about joining the Fire Department and is committed to doing his best in serving our community. Next year he plans to resume his studies and also attend the Fire Academy.

Our response area also grew. We expanded our initial 911 emergency response area to the north, and now cover 190 square miles on the northern Mendocino coast. To provide our Department and other fire agencies with adequate water for fighting fires in the more remote parts of our response area, we installed 2 water storage tanks off Branscomb Road and 4 water storage tanks in Rockport. As a result, fire engines will be able to draw on 20,000 gallons of water in Rockport and 10,000 gallons of water off Branscomb Road.

With the proceeds of grants we also upgraded our fleet of emergency response vehicles and equipment. Thanks to an initiative led by Senator Mike McGuire we anticipate receiving a new fire engine funded by the state in 2024.



Chief Dan Maxey congratulates Kai Chamberlin on December 16th as the newest active duty member of the Westport Volunteer Fire Department

We also returned to the Westport Headlands for a very successful fundraising event in August. The event was also a lot of fun for the many people who attended. We are very grateful for the support of our community. We still need more active duty firefighters, and encourage anyone potentially interested in joining our team to contact a WVFD member.

We wish everyone in the Westport Community a healthy, happy and safe New Year!



Happy Birthday Shelby!

Erin Detrick

Happy 16th Birthday (January 6th), Shelby!! You are the quintessential daughter and big sister. We admire your independent and strong free-spirit. Have a fun and memorable day. We love you so much!- Mom, Val, Heron, Opa and Oma, (and all of your many Westport friends! S.B.)

24/7 Westport Wave

The Westport Wave is always free to everyone at any time on the Newsletter page of our website www.westportvillagesociety.org – where you'll find our most current issue as well as 12 years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!

Movie Date and Potluck Jan. 27th

Jeff Mathias

On Saturday, January 27th at 6PM, I'll be presenting a potluck and screening of the movie *The Lost Century: And How To Reclaim It* at the Westport Community Center. This is a movie about how we can change our worldwide energy strategy right now to stop what will be a disastrous century if nothing is done. What if we already have the technology to solve our energy problems, but it's long been covered up by big money interests? See you on Saturday, January 27th at 6PM at the Westport Community Center for the movie!

Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub Re-Open February 8th

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Hotel and Pub

The Pub and Hotel will re-open February 8th.

We will have a very special 5 course Valentines dinner on Wednesday, February 14th at 6:00pm by reservation and pre-order. \$160+ tax and gratuity per couple.

Five course meal includes Crab Bruschetta, Creamy Sorrel Soup, Fresh Citrus and Avocado Salad, Herbs D' Provence Roast Leg of Lamb with Flageolet Beans a' la Francaise, or Cioppino w/ crab, scallops, shrimp and clams served with garlic bread or Chanterelle and Asparagus crepe with white wine garlic béchamel.

For dessert choose from Chocolate Hazelnut Torte or Coeur a' La Creme with Red Raspberry sauce or Sorbet Trio.

Please call 707-964-3688 or email westporthotel@mcn.org for dinner reservations.



The Westport Church

Thich Nhat Hanh Discussion Group Sunday, January 14th, 2:00PM

Baile Oakes

This **Westport Community Church** discussion group is focused upon the teachings of **Thich Nhat Hanh**. We will share his messages, different each month, and discuss how they might or might not influence how we show up for our selves and all Creation. This month, our quote is on Enlightenment and Mindfulness (see box below left). We request that attendees be vaccinated and we will meet according to Church Covid precautions.

Westport Community Church Election News

Erin Detrick, President, Westport Community Church

Well, this is interesting!

The Westport Community Church Board would like to announce that with all ballots counted we have a three-way tie for the two open board member positions. Sue Korhummel, Lee Tepper, and Albert Roberts are the members running. Members please check your email and/or mailbox for a runoff ballot. please contact me, Erin, with any questions you may have. Email: erind.3500@gmail.com or see me down at the Westport Store. Thank you!

The Westport Community Church, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation organized in 1983 to facilitate opportunities for spiritual growth and serve the needs of the Westport community. The Westport Community Church is located at 24900 Abalone Street in the unincorporated village of Westport, California, and includes a church, community center, storage building, and grounds used for community gatherings, meetings, and other purposes. We depend on donations and volunteer work by members to keep the nonprofit operating. Thank you for your support!

***We need enlightenment,
not just individually but
collectively, to save the
planet. We need to
awaken ourselves. We
need to practice
mindfulness if we want
to have a future, if we
want to save ourselves
and the planet.***

Thich Nhat Hanh



Babaji

What Is Spirituality?

Babaji

Our breath is the most precious thing we have. We take it for granted and never try to understand its richness. If we tune in, we can hear the sound “Sooo” with each in-breath and the sound “Hummm” with each out-breath.

So Hum

Each breath is telling us who we are. In Sanskrit, “So” means “That” and “Hum” means “I Am”. That I Am. Not “this”. “This” is my drama, my story, whatever I am dealing with now. “That” is the aspect of our lives which is always there, never changing, ever whole, unblemished, unattached, eternal and one with all. Any attempt to connect with “That” can be called “spirituality”.

Whatever we identify with becomes our reality. How often does our mind go to “That” - the true foundation of our life? Most people put all of their energy and focus on “this”. Just like when we are reading a newspaper, we stay caught up with the news of the day. Our mind never goes to the paper on which the words are printed. Because the paper is there,

something can be printed on it that we can read. In the same way, there is a part of our life there in the background. That divine presence is the foundation on which life is reflecting. Many challenges, our aspirations, traumas, dramas, happiness, sorrow come and go like clouds. The blue sky is always there in the background. That never changes. Any thoughts or actions that bring us closer to “That”, our own inner wholeness, is “spirituality”.

Can you think of a moment that was perfect, when you were not wishing for anything to be different? The first step on the spiritual journey is connecting with that state of mind. The ability to recognize that at this moment, everything is here, nothing from the outside is needed - being absorbed in the appreciation of what is. When you are in that state of appreciation, you are not even aware of yourself. You are not separate. It is too much thinking about ourselves that gets us into trouble.

Living a human life, challenges come our way every day. Even entertaining the thought that there is something more than “this” gives us a little space from whatever we are feeling overwhelmed by. In that space there is the possibility of something new to emerge.

How do we know if we are growing spiritually? We are less reactive. We deal with what comes our way a little more gracefully. There is more love, more kindness, more forgiveness, more of a focus on bringing joy to others.

May the new year bring you health, happiness and continued connection with your spiritual life.



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. We'd love to hear from you!



DeHaven Beach At Low Tide

DeHaven Retrospective

Thad Van Bueren

Just one year ago the nonprofit Westport Village Society acquired the 26 acre oceanfront property at the mouth of DeHaven Creek through a rewarding partnership with the land owner, a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy, and your generous contributions. Since then much has been accomplished to conserve the property's resources and plan responsible public access.

Early this year signs were posted at the main entry points onto the property and foot paths on the south headland were maintained by mowing them. Studies were carried out to inventory natural and cultural resources and preliminary concepts for improving public coastal access were developed with input from our community, local tribes, and other stakeholders like SCC. A Management Plan was finalized in late September and can be downloaded on this web page: <https://www.westportvillagesociety.org/DeHaven.html>.

The DeHaven MP includes a proposal to improve public coastal access in a way consistent with resource conservation. The proposed project encompasses a small parking lot on the south headland, mowed foot trails, and a modest stairway

from the top of the south headland to the beach at the mouth of DeHaven Creek. Applications for a Coastal Development Permit and a Caltrans Encroachment Permit were submitted with the completed engineering plans.

It is anticipated the permits will be issued in the coming year. Once that occurs WVS will seek construction bids and apply for another grant from the SCC to construct the access improvements. In the mean time we hope you will enjoy visiting the property, taking care to respect the rules posted on the entry signs. Let us know if you'd like to help WVS manage the property by sending email to wvs@westportvillagesociety.org or calling 964-7272.

Westport Fire Safe Council Fire Wise and Home Hardening Programs Launch

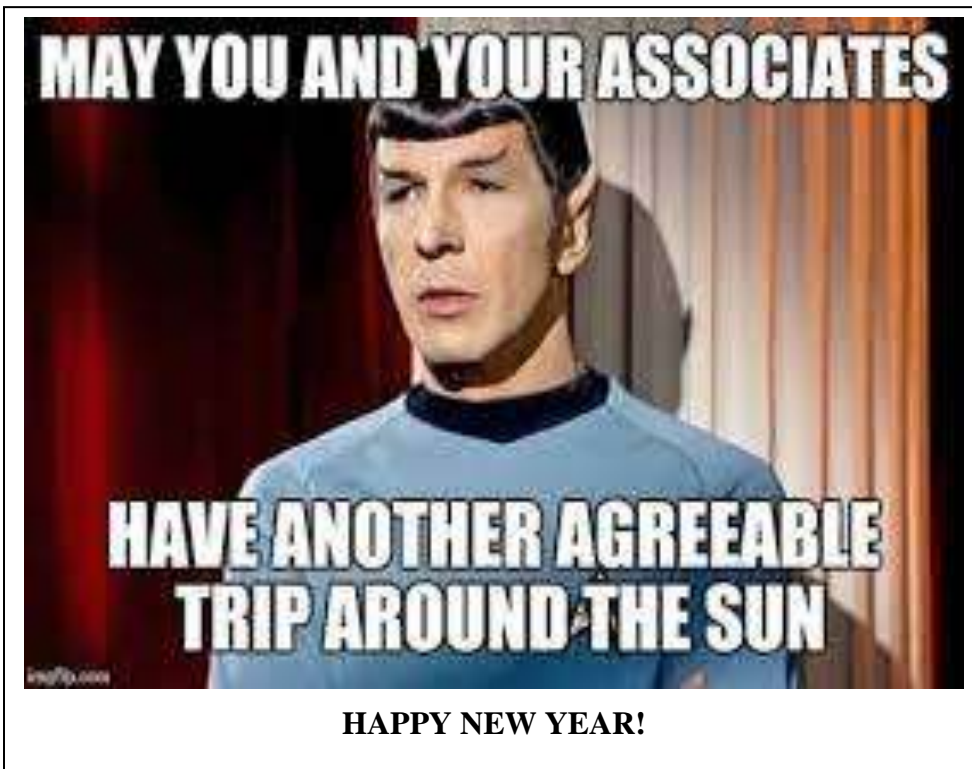
Carla Thomas

The winter is a good season to take stock in the fire resiliency around your property and structures. Westport Fire Safe Council will be conducting home hardening tours this winter and spring in cooperation with Mendocino County Fire Safe Council. Rainy days are a good time to watch informative videos posted in collaboration with Yana Valkovic, UC Cooperative Extension Forest Advisor to learn more about home hardening for fire resiliency. <https://firesafemendocino.org/homehardening/>

If you are interested in having an expert in home hardening come to your home to advise you on steps you can take or if you want help clearing vegetation, please let Carla know. There are grant moneys for conducting this work. We will seek funds to help our residents obtain funding for home hardening suggestions and fuel reduction work for our homes.

Westport Fire Safe Council is also taking steps to enter Westport into the Fire Wise Program that can help to keep fire insurance costs down and avoid fire insurance cancelation. You can learn more about this program at <https://firesafemendocino.org/firewise-usa/>.

Please let Carla Thomas carlasthomas@earthlink.net 707-272-1994 know if you are interested any of these programs.



January 2024 Westport Calendar

Ongoing classes at the Westport Community Center:
Wednesdays at 9:00AM – Tai Chi with Beck.

Monday, January 1st, 2024 – New Year’s Day

Thursday, January 4th – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store

Thursday, January 4th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Meeting CANCELLED. Contact WMAC95488@gmail.com for details

Wednesday, January 10th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse

Tuesday, January 11th – New Moon, 3:57AM

Thursday, January 11th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM, Zoom. Call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom.

Sunday, January 14th – Thich Nhat Hanh Discussion Group, 2:00PM, Westport Community Church (see page 3)

Monday, January 15th – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Thursday, January 18th – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store

Thursday, January 18th – Westport Community Church Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church

Wednesday, January 24th – Westport Fire Safe Council Community Meeting, 1:00PM, Westport Fire House

Wednesday, January 24th – Westport Village Society Board

Meeting, 6:30PM, Westport Community Center. Contact bill@netwidget.com in advance for details about how to join via zoom.

Thursday, January 25th – Full Moon, 9:54AM

Saturday, January 27th – Potluck and Screening of the movie “The Lost Century : And How To Reclaim It”, 6:00PM, Westport Community Center (see page 2)

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 12 years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org. **Contributions for our February 1st, 2024 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by January 27th**, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!