

April 1, 2024

The Westport Wave

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The Westport Slide Project is Back! This map shows the location of proposed SPGA wall and revetment feasibility at the toe of the slide (courtesy of Caltrans).

The Westport Slide

Thad Van Bueren

On March 7th, the Westport Municipal Advisory Council hosted a meeting at the Community Center that focused on the slide on State Route 1 south of the village. The Caltrans presentation included a slide show that covered past maintenance, the current emergency project, and planning for a longer-term

solution. It was followed by a discussion of community questions and concerns. The geological scope of the slide was first characterized by Senior Engineering Geologist Charlie Narwold based on photogrammetric mapping and borings. The massive slide is 1400 feet wide and over 100 feet thick in some places. Slippage is most pronounced in winter months when the slide is lubricated by underground water flows.

Project Manager Trevor Goff and Area Construction Engineer Geoffrey Wright then discussed recent maintenance and the new emergency project that is now underway. Two soldier pile ground anchor (SPGA) walls were completed in 2021 in the south and central portions of the slide to stabilize the road prism and protect it from shallow landslides below the roadway. The walls and roadway essentially “float” on the slide rather than holding the hillside stationary. Above average precipitation the past two years and ongoing removal of material by wave action at the base of the slide both contributed to the roadway settling.

The emergency project has cut the roadway grade down at the north end of the slide seven vertical feet, paved one lane, and installed signals to control one-way traffic. The one-way signalized traffic will be in place until the emergency repair is completed in 2025. Borings are now in progress to inform the design of a new 500 feet wide SPGA wall that will be installed to stabilize the roadway at the north end of the slide (see figure). The emergency project will also include evaluation of the feasibility of a dewatering system and revetment wall at the base of the slide along the beach. The revetment wall would be similar to the one at Juan Creek that is made of rip rap boulders. The emergency project is being designed on an expedited basis and coordinated with regulatory agencies and tribes to protect environmental and cultural resources.

Lianna Winkler-Prins, the Project Manager for the longer-term Caltrans Restoration Project, then covered future planning efforts with the goal of issuing a Draft Environmental Document by 2028. That restoration project will analyze alternatives for a longer-term solution. The alternatives under consideration include a subsurface drainage system; a tunnel; or an inland bypass. The inland bypass has been ruled out as too expensive, difficult to construct, and impactful on the environment. The tunnel is also costly, but has not yet been ruled out. This restoration project would be constructed sometime after 2032.

Comments from the community raised questions about speeding dump trucks, the impacts of hauling materials on County roads (Branscomb and the streets in the village), the long wait time during controlled

one-way traffic including its impact on the passage of emergency vehicles, and degradation of Route 1 south of Chadbourne Gulch and north of the village near Wages Creek. The traffic delays are now minimized as the one-way traffic is signalized. Caltrans will do their best to address community concerns and they plan to develop a website for this project to keep the public informed about scheduling of the work and to provide a channel for further input. That link will be provided in this newsletter once it is known.

Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub In April

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Hotel and Pub

We are currently open for dinners Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights from 5 PM to 8 PM. Call for more information – 707-964-3688. Thanks!

Free Food For All at the Westport Choice Pantry

Melinda McLaughlin

The Westport Volunteer Fire Department is currently hosting a Food Pantry with food for all community members on the third Wednesdays and Thursdays of the month. Fresh produce, meat, dairy, cereal, canned goods, pasta, and juice are available for pick up. Bags are at the ready! Kids’ bags with diapers are available as well.

We are located at the Westport Firehouse, 37551 Shoreline Highway, Westport.

Wednesday hours (this month April 17th) are 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Thursday hours (this month April 18th) are 10:00AM to Noon.

In addition, we are considering being open on the third Saturday of the month as well. If you would like to assist in that regard, please call 707.972.3583. Thank you in advance for your support!

Westport Village Society March Westport Town Hall Update

Bill Knapp, President, WVS

Do you want Westport to be a Community, or just a place where people live?

This question was posed at the Westport Town Hall Meeting held two weeks ago. The stated purpose of the meeting was to stimulate input from the residents of Westport about preservation and utilization of the property and structures owned by the Westport Community Church (WCC), the only structures in Westport not held privately.

The Town Hall Meeting was lightly attended, but there was meaningful discussion on the topics. A quick summary of some of the more interesting ones are:

- There are currently few public events allowing people to meet and mingle.
- Local organizations seem to be struggling and don't feel open and friendly.
 - Primarily the WCC and Westport Village Society (WVS).
- Topics directly related to the WCC
 - Preservation and stewardship of buildings
 - Significant deferred maintenance and needed structural repairs.
 - How to identify/prioritize what needs to be done and actually get it done.
 - Concern that lack of action will result in permanent loss: Do while we still can!
 - Utilization
 - Who wants to use WCC buildings for events, meetings, activities?
 - How do interested Westport residents engage?
 - How can WCC and WVS do better outreach?
 - Management
 - WCC Board lacks funds and people to operate the organization.

- Topics for WVS consideration
 - How can WVS help?
 - WVS does have operational and financial resources.
 - WVS bylaws and policies allow members to suggest/request projects/actions that are beneficial to the WVS served area.
 - Any help from WVS needs to be seen as beneficial by WCC's Board and Members as well as WVS's Members and Board.

The next Westport Town Hall meeting has been scheduled for April 25th at 6:00PM at the Westport Community Center. Details will be emailed to the WVS email list in mid-April. There will be an Agenda item related to this topic at the April 24th Westport Village Society Quarterly Board meeting. If you have any input, please send an email to wvs@westportvillagesociety.org or talk to any WCC or WVS Board member.

Fire Safe Council Speaker Coming to Westport May 4 at 11:00AM

Carla Thomas, Westport Fire Safe Council

Eva King, Community Outreach Coordinator of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) will be speaking in person at our next Westport Fire Safe Council Meeting on Saturday May 4th at 11 am, at the Westport Fire House. Please join us to hear about funding available to help you with clearing vegetation around your home or driveway and making your home and outbuildings less wildfire vulnerable.

These fuel reductions and home modifications may help to keep fire insurance costs down or avoid fire insurance cancelation. Please join us to learn more from Eva about Fire Safe Council grants and Fire Wise programs at the Fire House at 11 am, Saturday March 2. We look forward to getting your input during the meeting on wildfire prevention and protection priorities you have for your home and our community. For more information, please email carlaSthomas@earthlink.net



The Westport Church

**Thich Hanh Discussion
Group Sunday, April
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 Mother Earth and Love (see below). We request that attendees be vaccinated and we will meet according to Church Covid precautions.

Westport Community Church

The Directors of the nonprofit Westport Community Church will hold a regular quarterly Board Meeting on Thursday, April 18th at 10:00AM at the Church and all are welcome to attend. For more information please contact Erin at Erind.3500@gmail.com. The Directors also encourage you to join a Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 25th at 6:00PM at the Community Center to discuss your vision for the future of the Church and Community Center (see separate article). Those buildings are the only public indoor spaces available for meetings, classes, events, and other purposes. If they are to remain available for future community activities and gatherings some challenges need to be addressed. We will be listening carefully to your input.

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!

Dear Mother (Earth), wherever there is soil, water, rock or air, you are there, nourishing me and giving me life. You are present in every cell of my body. My physical body is your physical body, and just as the sun and stars are present in you, they are also present in me. You are not outside of me and I am not outside of you. You are more than just my environment. You are nothing less than myself.

— Thich Nhat Hanh



Babaji

Freedom From Everything, Including Yourself

Babaji

Waking up this morning, I was walking around the grounds of the ashram, and I was looking at all of the little moths that come at night and just cover the wall. Our ashram is located on the banks of the river Ganga, and given the location, all these pesky things are around. They are such a nuisance. But I also noticed that there are monkeys that come every morning to pick the critters off the walls and eat them, and that's their breakfast. It was such a reminder to me that everything has its purpose. Maybe what is inconvenient or irritating to me is a necessity for somebody else.

It is so easy to get caught up in our judgment on the way we think things should be. We remain agitated, caught up in "me" and "my way" of thinking and our mind spins around trying to find a solution or to blame someone else. If we take a step back and look at the bigger picture, we can see that everything has its place and there is really no reason to lose our peace over anything.

Events happen in our lives, in the world. We are human and judgment will come. But may we not go too far with our reactions. Remaining agitated doesn't do any good to ourselves or to those around us. We make small things into big things and they become like a grain of sand in our eye that hides the beauty surrounding us. My guru used to say, "How can we evaluate someone else's life and conduct? We cannot measure even a blade of grass against a mountain. A blade of grass has its own importance in its place."

Our responsibility is first to ourselves. To maintain simplicity of the mind. To maintain peace. When we connect with our inner peace, we see solutions to everything and can access our own ability to deal with whatever is in front of us. This is why maintaining a simple daily practice of coming back to ourselves is so important.

Every soul has come alone and leaves alone. Every soul has its dharma, and that dharma is to realize freedom from any kind of bondage of the world. Whether that bondage is created by our own way of thinking or by someone else's neurosis. The reality is that we have come into the world alone to experience the divine within and that we will leave this world alone. That is the ultimate truth.

The drama of life goes on. There will be joy and pain, there will be happiness, there will be unhappiness. We can take a break from it all. When we carve out time to be quiet, to connect with the peace that is always inside and get a little distance from all of the aspirations and failures, judgements and resentments, fear and anger, all of that. Taking a step back, coming to that pure state of being where there is nothing, and in *that* nothing, there is everything. Everything is there.

Babaji's mission is to help people experience fullness in life through simple spiritual practices and meditation. He 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!

Remembering Diane Bush

Sharon Goodwin

Someone with an abiding love for Westport town, its surroundings and its residents is Diane Ginnette Bush who on March 3, 2024, at 81 succumbed to her illness in Kona, Hawaii. Unofficially dubbed Westport's "social director", she hosted numerous and unforgettable gatherings...Easter egg hunts for the town's children; unique "color" parties for guests attired in a single color, dining on foods of that single color; bringing to her Calico Farm residence up Clay Road behind Westport town its first llamas and then at times walking those llamas in town stopping to talk to friends and folks curious about the animals. She managed Dehaven Valley Farm for a while, tending its personnel, guests and animals.

Diane's curiosity brought her to amazing places around the globe. Besides putting down roots in Westport, she did the same in Santa Barbara, New Zealand, and Hawaii. She stayed abreast of Westport news online with the Westport Wave. She possessed a style all her own – proper yet gentle and giving, and with artistry in everything she did. Her artwork is a joy...fresh, colorful, flowing...

Diane's much-loved family includes sister Jane of Kona, sister Nancy from Costa Rica and nephew Morgan of San Francisco. Diane touched our lives and our hearts in so many ways. Please celebrate her life by the remembrances you have of her wonderful spirit and enthusiasm.

April 2024 Westport Calendar

Ongoing classes at the Westport Community Center:

Wednesdays at 9:00AM – Tai Chi with Beck.

Thursday April 4th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community Center

Monday, April 8th – Partial Solar Eclipse, 10:18AM to 12:13PM (Peak Eclipse at 11:14AM)

Monday, April 8th – Super New Moon, 11:20AM

Tuesday, April 9th – Eid al-Fitr Begins at Sundown

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

Thursday, April 11th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM to 10:00AM, Westport Store

Thursday, April 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, April 14th – Thich Nhat Hanh Discussion Group, 2:00PM, Westport Community Church ((p.4)

Monday, April 22nd – Earth Day

Monday, April 22nd – Passover Begins at Sundown

Wednesday, April 17th – Westport Food Pantry, 6:00PM to 8:00PM, Westport Firehouse (see page 2)

Thursday, April 18th – Westport Food Pantry, 10:00AM to 12:00PM, Westport Firehouse (see p.2)

Thursday, April 18th – Westport Community Church Quarterly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church (see page 4)

Tuesday, April 23rd – Full Moon, 4:48PM

Wednesday April 24th – Westport Village Society Quarterly Board Meeting, 6:30PM, Westport Community Center

Thursday, April 25th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM to 10:00AM, Westport Store

Thursday April 25th – Westport Town Hall Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Community Center (see page 3)

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

Contributions for our May 1st, 2024 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by April 25th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!