

August 1, 2024

The Westport Wave

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

The WVFD BARBECUE Is BACK on August 17th!

Westport
Volunteer Fire
Department

Come join us on
Saturday, August
17th from noon until
dusk for an
afternoon of fun
and great live music
on the spectacular
Westport
Headlands, while
supporting the
Westport Volunteer
Fire Department.

This fundraising
event will feature live
music by Steven
Bates, Erin and
Riley, Sue Sisk and
Friend, Erin Brazil &
The Brazillionaires,
3:30p Moon Rabbit
5 pm West of Nowhere
6:30p Steven Bates Band.
Admission is free!

Barbecue chicken,
ribs, and a
vegetarian option
will be for sale.
Local craft beer and



WESTPORT FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEER

SATURDAY August 17th
Noon to Sunset
WESTPORT HEADLANDS

Annual FUN-raiser
BBQ Chicken and Ribs!

Bring the Family

PRICES
\$28 adult
\$20 senior
\$12 child

MUSIC LINE UP

11am Steven Bates
12pm Erin and Riley
1 pm Sue Sisk and Friend
2 pm Erin Brazil & The Brazillionaires
3:30p Moon Rabbit
5 pm West of Nowhere
6:30p Steven Bates Band

ALSO TAKING PLACE...
WESTPORT SINGLES FIREFIGHTER DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT
25.00 per person. (\$15 towards the payout & \$10 donated to WVFD)
Prizes & Games after tournament.
Contact Yeti

WESTPORT FIRE & RESCUE
COASTAL MENDOCINO COUNTY
Response Zone covers this 190 square miles of remote, rugged & isolated terrain.
Vital Support Needed

BOUNCE HOUSE
FACE PAINTING
PLAY AREA
LOCAL CRAFT BEERS & WINE

wine, coffee, sweets and non-alcoholic beverages can be purchased. Craft merchants will be selling their wares, and there will also be a silent auction of some very special items.

There will be plenty of fun activities for the whole family, including a Disc Golf Tournament, face painting, and a bouncy house. A helicopter from Reach/CalStar may pay us a visit if weather and availability cooperate.

This will be a great way to spend an afternoon and to support the Westport Volunteer Fire Department, which provides initial 911 emergency response service 24/7, year-round, throughout an expanded area now covering roughly 190 square miles.

See you August 17th
(Sorry, no dogs.)

Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub Summer Hours

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Hotel and Pub

The Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub Summer Hours are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 5:00PM to 9:00PM and Sundays from 5:00PM to 8:30PM. We also serve Saturday Afternoon Tea every 3rd Saturday by reservation from 3:00PM to 5:00PM. **Please 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 August 21st) are 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Thursday hours (this month August 15th) 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!**

We Need BBQ Dessert Donations!

Melinda McLaughlin

Our August 17th WVFD BBQ will have a dessert table once again this year. We'd greatly appreciate any and all dessert donations from our community.

The usual sells well: cookies, cupcakes, pies, cakes, Baked Alaska, Creme Brûlée, Cherries Jubilee (OK, just kidding about the last three). Please identify your donations by name of dessert and drop them off at the Westport Store a day or two before August 17th.

Please contain them in a box or some kind of wrapping to make it easier for transport. Also if bringing in a personal container, label w/your name. Thank you!!!

Westport Village Society Board of Directors Elections October 4, 2024

Robert Finnell - WVS Secretary/Director

Two Westport Village Society Board of Directors positions will be up for election this year. The three year terms for two Directors, Mr. Beck Regalia and Ms. Kayla Cooper are expiring. If you are wondering how you can contribute to helping make the Westport Community thrive, WVS encourages you to investigate and see if WVS can help enable your ideas and energy for the benefit of the Westport Community.

Anyone can join WVS membership; but to vote or run for a Board of Directors seat you must reside or own land in our membership area and be current in your WVS annual dues payment. You can also download the WVS Board Manual to have a better idea of our Mission Statement and what we do and how we are organized. If you are interested in running for a Board position, the deadline to declare interest and submit a brief clearly written application of interest (via email is ok) must be received by WVS by **August 26, 2024**, preferably earlier if possible.

Please send your brief informational statement to: wvs@westportvillagesociety.org so the statement can be included in the September 1, 2024 edition of the *Westport Wave*. Your name and statement will also appear in an Election Packet with ballots and detailed voting instructions that WVS will send to members and prospective members mid-September 2024, prior to the October 4, 2024 WVS Annual Member Meeting. Your statement should explain why you are interested in running for the Board and something about your background/skills that you will bring to WVS. If you are not a current WVS member, you need to renew or submit a membership form with current dues payment before or with your application to be placed on the October 4, 2024 ballot.

Membership forms and additional information can be found at www.westportvillagesociety.org. This is also a good time for all members to consider renewing their annual membership.



The Westport Church

**Thich Nhat Hanh Discussion
Group Sunday, August 11th, 2:00PM**

Baile Oakes

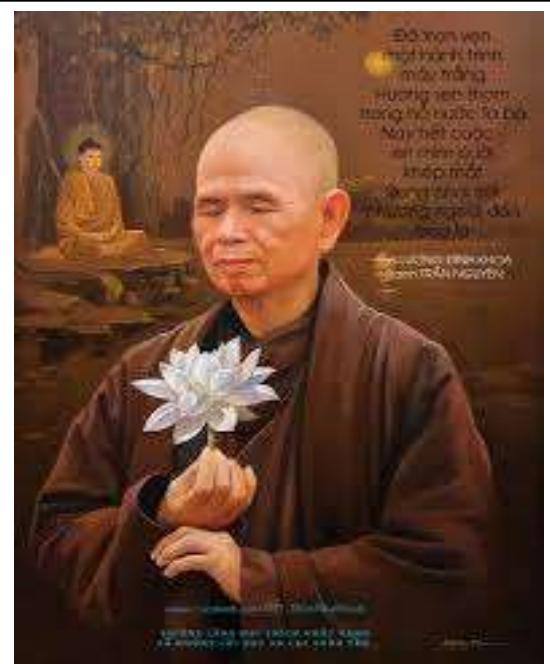
This **Westport Community Church** discussion group is focused upon the teachings of **Thich Nhat Hanh**. We will share his messages, different each month, and discuss how they might or might not influence how we show up for our selves and all Creation. This month, our quote is on Being Kind (see box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

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 over 12 years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!

“Every day we can say something that has the capacity to heal and help people. A grown-up can do this. A child can do this. A businessperson, a politician, or a teacher can do this. We don't need to wait for a special moment.”

Thich Nhat Hanh



Thich Nhat Hanh



Babaji

Being a Good Human Being

Babaji

I was thinking about the first time I met my guru. A sign board at the entrance to his ashram caught my eye. There it was written, “It’s easy to become a Hindu, a Muslim, a Christian, a Jew, a Buddhist. Those willing to be a good human being, come to me.”

You’re born into a family with a certain label, and it’s easy to adopt that label as your own. But the real work of being a good human being goes beyond those labels. Good human beings have existed in all traditions and the way I look at it everybody is a good human being. Everybody is striving to be good. We all want to be liked, to feel that we are good people.

In yogic philosophy, being a good human means staying true to your dharma in every situation. Dharma is about living according to your essential nature. Just like fire’s dharma is to provide warmth and water’s dharma is to offer coolness, the dharma of a human being is to find a place in others’ hearts.

Be kind. Be kind to yourself first and then to the other who is in front of you. Everyone needs a little kindness, even those who might not seem to need it or deserve it. Being kind is one of the most important qualities. Recognizing that everybody is trying their best. It may not seem like it sometimes, but know that wherever they are in their life, they are trying. And you are trying too, so have a little space for yourself.

Listen. How often do we really listen to the person who is in front of us? Usually when someone is talking, we are already reacting with judgment or thinking about what we will say next. When we listen without judgment, we open space for the other person to fully express themselves in a safe environment. Most people just need to be heard, not fixed.

Accept what is. We are all a work in progress, constantly striving to improve. Constant self-judgment and criticism blocks us from truly embracing ourselves and from extending kindness to others. Acceptance means recognizing where we are and where others are, without always pushing for change. It’s about appreciating the present while acknowledging that improvement is always possible.

During times of conflict, it’s important to maintain this perspective of goodness. A good human being pays attention to and accommodates the needs of the other. Always ask yourself if your actions and words will promote harmony or contribute to division. When our interactions start to become negative, how good it feels when we can stop that train of negativity. You can almost feel the expansion in your heart at that moment. That goodness is God and by remembering the goodness in the other person we are remembering God.

Being a good human being is honoring ourselves and honoring this gift of life that we have been given. It is remembering that our dharma is to see that goodness in each individual - not to fix them. The highest spiritual teaching is you are Divine and so is everyone else. Seeing God in everything, in everyone, in every situation.

It’s simple: if you look for faults, you’ll find them, but if you seek out goodness, that’s what you’ll see. When you set out to look for good in the other you are honoring your own goodness. You are being a good human being.

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!



Roadside Fuel Reduction Before Clearing

Our Community Completed 7+ Miles in Westport Roadside Fuel Reduction for Summer 2024

Carla Thomas, Westport Fire Safe Council

Westport Fire Safe Council and Westport Volunteer Fire Department obtained grant money to conduct over 7 miles of Roadside Fuel Reduction on Wages Creek, Lincoln Ridge, Pacific Heights, Sea Scape and Hill Shore Roads. The 6 weeks of work was done by Elk Ridge Landscaping / Tree Service between June 17 and July 19, 2024 (960 Crew hours). The crew limbed up low branches and removed brush up to 10 feet each side and ten feet above the road to remove ladder fuels to allow fire truck and ambulance access and reduce wild fire risks.

Thank you to all who sent in landowner permission forms. Westport Fire Safe Council will send a survey to participants. We are

committed to understanding what worked well and how we can improve in the future. You can provide your feedback by email, text or phone to Carla Thomas.

Westport Fire Safe Council received \$128,995 in grant funds for Roadside Fuel Reduction on Wages Creek and Westport Beach Subdivision private roads. The funds are provided by grants from Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) Micro Grants (\$9,975), MCFSC PG&E Grant (\$99,020) and MCFSC Chipper Days (\$6,750). Additionally, the International Association of Fire Chiefs funded another \$20,000 using Ready Set Go! Funds. This project is a continuation of the MCFSC 2023 Micro Grant (\$7,950) and Chipper Days (\$3,000) last year for Ponderosa and Howard Creek Roads.

Come by the Fire Safe Council Table at the Westport Volunteer Fire Department Fund Raiser BBQ on August 17th with your questions or comments.

For more information for the Westport Roadside Fuel Reduction Program, please contact Carla Thomas Westport Fire Safe Council 1-707-272-1994 carlaSthomas@earthlink.net

Thank you for your help in making our Community more Wildfire resilient!



After Roadside Clearing

Submitted by Gary Markley

An Abbreviated Cahto Road History



For eons past the Cahto People have spent their winters near a lake west of the present day Laytonville walking to the coast near the present day Westport for their summers over a route that has come to be known as Cahto Road. In 1856 Robert White and John P. Simpson drained the lake and built the town of Cahto on land previously occupied by the Cahto People. In 1864 Lloyd Beal claimed ownership of the land on the coast containing all of the land used by the Cahto People for their summer home. Beal's Landing was renamed Westport in 1877.

February 28, 1871 the road that will come to be known as Cahto Road was declared to be an open public highway. (BoS B2P68)

On July 11, 1890 Rice & Baltzell prepared the official map of Mendocino County which shows Cahto Road. Rice & Baltzell also surveyed the county roads, mets and bounds, including Cahto Road.

On January 9, 1893 Mendocino County advertised for contractors to repair, keep in repair, and maintain the public roads in each of the several Road Districts of Mendocino County. On February 16, 1893 contracts were awarded to C. Hanson for \$1,800 per year to maintain roads in the Westport road District including "commencing at the village of Westport and running thence Easterly on the old Cahto Road to its intersection with the line between the 3rd and 4th supervisor districts" (the Western part of the road to be known as Cahto Road) and to James White for \$1,300 per year to maintain roads in the Cahto Road District including "commencing at sign boards two miles south of Cahto on present traveled road and running thence Westerly through Jackson Valley to the summit at the intersection of the line of said road with the line dividing the 3rd and 4th supervisor districts" (the Eastern part of the road to be known as Cahto Road).

In 1921 U.S. Corp of Engineers maps for Cape Vizcano and Branscomb Quadrangles show Cahto road as "old county road".

On April 10, 1923 permission was granted George H Fee (predecessor to Gary Weiss) and William Standley (predecessor to Gary Markley) to place one gate each on the road running east from Westport and known as the Old Cahto Road. (BoS B16P195)

In 1957 after the passage of the Collier-Burns Act Cahto Road (among many others) was not accepted into the County Road System and became an unmaintained public road. The county has NO OBLIGATION to maintain any road not in the County Road System. (SHC Division 2, Chapter 2, Sec. 941 b)

The 1977 U.S. Topographic Map shows Cahto Road running from Westport to Branscomb.

On June 8, 1990 Mildred Bouldrin et al. (Predecessors in title to Roger Burch) Filed a complaint No. 60508 alleging that Cahto Road is a public road.

On May 7, 1993 Judge James W. Luther ruled "Without conflict, these undisputed facts establish that, where it passes through the Siames property, the Cahto Road is part of the Westport and Cahto Road, which first existed and was first used by the public no later than 1878, and which was first officially recognized by the County as a public road on February 18, 1878." and also "In addition to the facts determined above to be undisputed facts, the court finds, based on Mr. Way's declaration, that the COUNTY'S proffered Fact 15 is undisputed; that is that — The road delineated on the "Road Surveys of Mendocino County "denominated "Jackson Valley and Westport" Road is the same as shown on the 1977 U.S. Topographic Map, commonly known as Cahto Road, which passes through the Siames property." (Notice of ruling No. 60508)

The court records of Case No. 60508 INEXPLICABLY VANISHED!

On November 22, 2019 Roger Burch dug several deep trenches across Cahto Road blocking all use.

On February 4, 2021 Complaint SCUJ- CVG- 21-75067 was filed (Gary Markley v. Roger Burch et al.) alleging that Cahto road is a public road. On April 7, 2023 the Third Amended Complaint (SCUJ- CVG- 21-75067) was filed.

On March 12, 2024 Jared Schwass presented a resolution Number 24-043 to vacate a portion of Cahto road and falsely stated that there is no county record of this road except "an old county road map dating in the eighteen hundreds" and that rather than fight to bring the road into the county road system and include the associated cost we are seeking to vacate any potential claim the county may have. In point of fact Cahto Road HAS NOT been accepted into the county road system and there is no proposal to accept it into that system. "No county shall be held liable for failure to maintain any road unless and until it has been accepted into the county road system by action of the board of supervisors or its designee." Streets and Highways Code, Division2, Chapter2, 941 (b). There is no justifiable reason for the county to abandon Cahto Road other than to settle false claims made by Roger Burch. We can't read a supervisors' mind but the vote certainly has the appearance of impropriety.

On April 10, 2024 Gary Markley filed a Verified Petition for Writ of Mandate (Case No. 24CV00443) requesting that the court vacate and set aside Resolution 24-043.

Chief Dan Maxey's Salary

WVFD Board of Directors

Anticipating the receipt of at least \$80,000 per year in Measure P sales tax funds, at a special meeting on April 12, 2023 the WVFD Board decided to allocate \$50,000 a year of those Measure P funds to compensation and expense reimbursement for Chief Dan Maxey. Dan recused himself from participating in the Board's decision.

WVFD's Fire Chief is elected annually from among the active duty members. For more than seven years Dan has been treating his Fire Chief's role as essentially a full-time job, exceeding the job responsibilities of Fire Chief that are set out in the Bylaws. Under Chief Maxey's leadership we are continuing to upgrade our equipment, expand training opportunities for our members, and significantly increase our capabilities for responding to wildland fires. We also received an ISO rating of 04/4X for fire insurance which puts our Department in the top 32% of all fire departments in the country rated by ISO, whether paid or volunteer. The Board made its decision in order to maintain and enhance the level of excellence and recognition we have achieved as a Fire Department. Some other fire departments on the Mendocino Coast pay a salary to their Fire Chief.

The Board's decision was communicated to the active duty members at the monthly Business Meeting held later in the day on April 12, 2023. The Board's decision received consensus approval by the active duty members, with all comments supporting the decision and no comments opposed. The minutes of



The WVFD in 2005

the April 12, 2023 Business Meeting were unanimously approved at the May 10, 2023 Business Meeting, and no issue was raised about the April 12 decision.

WVFD's law firm, Hogan & Stickel, recommended that the best way to implement the decision was for Chief Maxey to be a W-2 salaried employee of WVFD. Chief Maxey's upcoming status as a W-2 employee of the Fire Department was communicated to the active duty members at the June 14, 2023 Business and Annual Elections Meeting; nobody objected. Chief Maxey's salary is contingent on WVFD's ongoing receipt of Measure P funds.

Beck Regalia was present at all three of the Business Meetings on April 12, May 10 and June 14, 2023. He did not raise any issues or concerns about the April 12, 2023 decision until more than a year later, at the Business Meeting on May 8, 2024.

Beck has been a valuable member of the Westport Volunteer Fire Department for many years. We would like to acknowledge and thank Beck for his significant contributions to the Department, including serving as Fire Chief for ten years during a critical period in the Department's history.



Westport 50 Years Ago – The Westport Store in 1973, Photo by Bill Brazill

At that time, the Westport Store was owned and operated by John and Rosemary Seaman. Youngsters will notice an odd small enclosure on the right, which was called a “phone booth” and used to make public “telephone calls”. The gasoline pumps look much as they do today.



WVFD Barbecue 2019

August 2024 Westport Calendar

Ongoing classes at the Westport Community Center:

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

Thursday, August 1st – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store

Sunday, August 4th – New Moon, 4:13AM

Thursday, August 8th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community Center (see <https://www.wmac95488.org/> for details)

Thursday, August 8th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM, Zoom. Call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom.

Sunday, August 11th – Thich Nhat Hanh Discussion Group, 2:00PM, Westport Community Church (p.3)

Wednesday, August 14th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Firehouse

Thursday, August 15th – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store

Thursday, August 15th – Westport Food Pantry, 10:00AM to Noon, Westport Firehouse (see page 2)

Saturday, August 17th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Fundraising Barbecue, Noon to Sunset, Westport Headlands (see page 1)
(no dogs please)

Monday, August 19th – Full Blue Moon, 11:25AM

Wednesday, August 21st – Westport Food Pantry, 6:00PM to 8:00PM, Westport Firehouse (see page 2)

Thursday, August 29th – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store

Monday, September 2nd – Labor Day

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 September 1st, 2024 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by August 27th**, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!