

Westport Volunteer Fire Department 2024 in Review

The Westport Volunteer Fire Department

2024 was a very busy year for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department! From January 1st through December 22nd

2024 we responded to 112 incidents, including 12 motor vehicle accidents (7 of those involved injuries), 4 active fires, 29 medical calls, 5 search and rescues, 1 water rescue, 1 tsunami evacuation, and 19 responses to mitigate hazardous conditions.

Our response area covers 190 square miles, from Abelobediah north to Hales Grove, and six miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. We have 13 active duty members and 2 associate members who can respond to 911 emergency calls. Two of our responders are paramedics and five are EMTs. Our Department conducts regular trainings to maintain and improve our skills on three Wednesdays each month and the third Saturday of each month. CalFire personnel often participate in our trainings.

With the proceeds of grants and other sources of revenue we continue to upgrade our fleet of emergency response vehicles and our equipment. We have a full complement of fire hose and extrication

tools, including a state of the art, battery powered, “Jaws of Life” that came in handy on December 11th in rescuing the driver of a large dump truck that overturned on Highway 1 and trapped the driver inside the cab.

Thanks to an initiative led by Senator Mike McGuire we should be receiving a new fire engine funded by the state next September. We are currently raising the

funds necessary to pay for an upgrade package that will enable the engine to meet the unique requirements of our response area. We anticipate that this engine, once in service, will allow us to surplus three of the older vehicles currently in our fleet.

In August we returned to the Westport Headlands for a very successful fundraising barbecue. The event was 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 Westport Volunteer Fire Department member.

All of us in the WVFD (and *The Westport Wave*) wish everyone in the Westport Community a healthy, happy, and safe New Year!



Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub December News

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Hotel and Pub

Dorine and Lee invite you to stop by the Westport Hotel on New Year's Day from 1:00PM to 3:00PM to have a lucky bowl of "Hoppin' John"!

Eating Hoppin' John on New Year's Day is thought to bring a prosperous year filled with luck! We are closed for our normal winter break through February 5th. Our Pub will resume winter hours from 5:00pm to 8:30pm Thursdays through Saturdays on February 6th.

Chef Odile is planning a very special Valentine's Day dinner menu for Friday, February 14th, and reservation requests can be made via email or phone. westporthotel@mcn.org or 707-964-3688.

Happy New Year from all the Hotel and Pub staff, and see you in 2025!

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 January 15th) are 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Thursday hours (this month January 16th) 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!**



Specializing In Sunsets – Westport, CA, December 2021 (photo by Nelsen Brazill)



The Westport Church

*“When you sit
alone quietly, it's
something
beautiful, even if
nobody sees it.”*

Thich Nhat Hanh

**Thich Nhat Hanh Discussion
Group Sunday, January 12th, 2PM**

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 Enjoying Solitude (see box above). We request that attendees be vaccinated and we will meet according to Church Covid precautions.

**Westport Community Church
Election News**

Erin Detrick, WCC President

The Westport Community Church Board would like to announce that Rob Holt and Erin Detrick will be filling the two available three-year Board Member seats. Thank you to the board and members for your prompt return on the ballots.

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!

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!



Babaji

Loneliness and Being Alone

Babaji

Recently I saw an article that said that loneliness was the biggest cause of a short life. After the festive holiday times, when the sunshine is less and weather makes it difficult to gather with others, it becomes easy for loneliness to set in. When we feel lonely, instead of focusing on what might be missing from our life, can we shift our focus and experience the joy in being alone?

The ability to be alone is a great wealth. *Ekant dhan*—the wealth of being able to be by yourself—is so sweet, so rich. When we are not wishing for things to be different, with nothing flowing in from outside, we are self-contained. In this state, joy arises in the heart.

Dependence on something from outside for our own fulfillment becomes like a bottomless pit. We live in the world like hungry ghosts, constantly looking for something or someone to attach ourselves to. The true company that we seek is our own company, the company of the Self. Even our own senses are slowly leaving us - we cannot count on anything or anyone to be there forever.

As the story goes, there was a man who was accused of committing a crime. When he went to the courthouse, the judge said, “I know you are a good person, but you will need to find one witness who can come and vouch for your good character.”

First the man went to ask the friend who he spent the most time with – the friend he always thought about and tried to be around. The friend said, “I would do anything for you, give you anything you need, but I cannot go to the courthouse.”

The man was disappointed but remembered another friend who he saw from time to time. This second friend said, “I will participate in all your joys and sorrows, go wherever you want me to go. I will even go with you to the steps of the courthouse, but I cannot go inside”.

The man started to get nervous, then he thought of a friend that he would occasionally hang out with. This friend said, “Oh, sure – let’s go! I know the judge.” They went into the courthouse together and the man was acquitted.

Who are these three friends? The first one is money. We spend so much time obsessing about money. Money can help us, but it can only take us so far. The second: friends and family. We spend much of our time focused on our relationships with others. They can carry us on their shoulders, but even they cannot be with us all the time. The third friend is our own inner richness. It is the only friend that is available to us at every moment.

How sweet it feels just to be by yourself connecting with what is happening within. The loneliness that we feel and the need for things from outside diminishes. The more time we take to cultivate our friendship with our Self, the stronger the connection becomes.

Loneliness is very real, but there is a way out of it. Pay attention to your thoughts about loneliness and how much of your time you spend thinking about it. Shift your focus from what seems to be missing to the wealth that is inside you. Seek the company of the Self, the friend that is always there by your side.

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!

An Alternate Viewpoint On Cahto Road

Tom Kisliuk, Wages Creek Resident

I have gotten a fair amount of correspondence regarding the Cahto Road Litigation. I have seen one viewpoint presented in a mailed glossy mailer (with stamped envelope for my requested contribution!), opinions by Gary Markley in Westport Wave articles, and now assorted emails.

I have a few observations. For Westport mule skimmers interested in using the Cahto Road for its original purpose of exporting tan oak bark from our sister city, Branscomb. I regret to inform you the last ship left Westport Landing over 100 years ago and tan oak bark is no longer industrially used for tanning hides. May I also suggest if you wish to travel to beautiful Branscomb you utilize the surfaced county road on Packard Ridge known as the Branscomb Road. I have not encountered many mules on this route and will be sure to slow down and enthusiastically wave!

Mendocino County routinely installs locked iron gates on roads that experience a high degree of erosion, seasonal road damage, trash dumping and other vandalism. This would include the County Usal Road, Sherwood Road, Low Gap, and Navarro Ridge, among others. I would expect a locked iron gate here for the same reasons.

The Cahto Road in large part is within the Wages Creek Watershed. Wages Creek is the source of domestic water for urban Westportians and is habitat for salmon. Unregulated use would likely result in trash dumping and erosion, which are unlawful and regulated by the state. There have been two wildfires in this area caused by humans who were not authorized to live/camp on privately owned lands. If there is no iron gate, what would deter scofflaws who are illegally dumping, causing erosion, and possibly igniting wildfires?

I like Gary and worked with him and his neighbor on a proposed fire safety grant for Westport. Both Gary and the Industrial Timberland Owner were

proponents on working together for our community's benefit. I am certain we can accomplish more for Cosmopolitan Westport if we worked together for a common goal rather than becoming proponents of the plaintiff in an arcane dispute which has been adjudicated and is in the long-shot appellate process.

Is it in the interest of all Westportians to take a side in this dispute between one private landowner and the largest landowner in Wages and DeHaven Creeks? The view from this Wages Creeker is we should seek to find issues of shared concern such as fire safety, salmon restoration, and possibly forest recreation. Landscape projects will require the cooperation of the largest landowners. Is the current policy of the WVS, promoting one viewpoint, likely to result in cooperation in future projects?

Westport was originally settled to export forest products by ship. Cosmopolitan Contemporary Westport is adjacent to hundreds of square miles of forestland. A proposal to walk in private forests with others or a hound or two is quite different than proposing to block installation or remove gates that prevent damage to private timberlands.



Westport Holiday Tree December 2022



“RETURN OF THE DUCKS” IN MAY!

Sunday, January 12th – Thich Nhat Hanh Discussion Group, 2:00PM, Westport Community Church (see page 3)

Monday, January 13th – Full Moon, 2:26PM

Wednesday, January 15th – Westport Food Pantry, 6:00PM to 8:00PM, Westport Firehouse (see page 2)

Thursday, January 16th – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store

January 2025 Westport Calendar

Ongoing classes at the Westport Community Center:

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

Wednesday, January 1st – New Year’s Day

Wednesday, January 1st – “Hoppin’ John” served at the Westport Hotel, 1:00PM to 3:00PM (see page 2)

Thursday, January 2nd – Hanukkah Ends at Sundown

Thursday, January 2nd – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community Center (see <https://www.wmac95488.org/> for meeting confirmation)

Wednesday, January 8th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse

Thursday, January 9th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM, Zoom. Call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom.

Thursday, January 16th – Westport Food Pantry, 10:00AM to Noon, Westport Firehouse (see page 2)

Monday, January 20th – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 29th – New Moon, 4:35AM

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

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 February 1st, 2025 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by January 27th, 2025 and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!