

July 1, 2026

The Westport Wave

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www.westportvillagesociety.org

DeHaven Public Access Update

By WVS President Thad Van Bueren

Construction of public coastal access improvements began in late May at the 26-acre DeHaven property owned and managed by the Westport Village Society. The improvements are being constructed by Wylatti Resource Management on the southern headlands over the course of this summer. Please avoid the construction zone and instead access DeHaven Beach from the existing parking lot at the south end of Westport Union Landing State Beach. We expect the new parking lot, stairway, and trail system on the south headland will be completed by late September.

Many of you have noticed the parking lot and paved trail are presently under construction. Grubbing, grading and placement of base rock has been completed and paving will take place in the near future. Work on the stairway will begin July 30 taking into account the tides and the work will continue during the month of August. Signage, split rail fences, and striping will be added to the parking area and erosion control measures and native plantings will be nurtured with seeding and transplanting efforts. These DeHaven access improvements are funded by a generous grant from the State Coastal Conservancy.

We are also excited to announce that the California Department of Parks and Recreation has offered to improve the trail from their parking lot at the south end of WULSB down to DeHaven Beach in the late fall. If you would like to get involved with that activity, please contact me at wvs@westportvillagesociety.org. I visited DeHaven Beach during the very low tides that took place in mid-June and was thrilled to see a few live abalones. That is an encouraging sign that the ecosystem is making a modest recovery from the kelp forest depletion of the past decade.



Work progresses on the DeHaven Headland parking area situated just south of DeHaven Beach and the Branscomb Road junction with Highway 1.

WVS JULY BOARD MEETING

The WVS will hold its regular quarterly Board Meeting on **Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at the Community Center at 6:30pm**. All are welcome! An agenda and other information about this meeting will be posted on the WVS website at: www.westportvillagesociety.org/meetings.html.

To participate via Zoom

[Click Here](#) - or contact: wvs@westportvillagesociety.org at least one day before the meeting for details about how to connect.

DeHaven Public Access Update (cont'd)



Handicapped accessible trail leading from the under-construction DeHaven Headland parking area.



View point at the end of the handicapped accessible trail looking south towards Westport

Westport is a now a Recognized Firewise USA® Community!

~ Important Information for all Residents ~

By Carla Thomas

Good News from Westport Fire Safe Council! Westport is now a Recognized Firewise Community! This gives residents and landowners access to potentially lower insurance rates, additional special grant opportunities, and recognition that we are working together to improve our fire resiliency. The map, certificate of recognition and letter of recognition will be mailed from the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) to all property owners within the Westport Firewise Boundary (see page 4). There also is a link that you can use to see if your property is within the boundary <https://www.firesafemendocino.org/existing-firewise-communities>. The outline of the boundary is a combination of the Westport Volunteer Fire Department Area of Influence and adjacent to other already defined Firewise Community Boundaries such as Leggett Firewise Community. If you do not get your letter, please let Carla Thomas know and she can send it to you. carlaSthomas@earthlink.net

Westport Fire Safe Council also received a MCFSC microgrant to cover costs for an opportunity to bring Westport Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Jeff Mathias to your home to give you information about property fire safety requirements and explore affordable solutions you can do before a fire inspection is filed. He'll also give you input on defensible space solutions to make your home more fire resistant. These no cost sessions are first come, first served, so sign up with him soon wvfd8501@gmail.com.



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

How To Verify Your Property is in the Westport Firewise USA® Recognized District and Report Your Fire Mitigation Activities:



Westport's Firewise USA® district boundaries encompass approximately 190 square miles.

As a Firewise Community, we encourage all residents to record the ongoing time and resources they have dedicated toward wildfire preparedness and report them to the Fire Safe Council's handy web portal. Doing so helps keep our status secure!

To report mitigation activities - or - verify a given parcel is indeed within the Westport district visit:

<https://www.firesafemendocino.org/existing-firewise-communities>

At the **top of that page** is a button to report your fire mitigation activities and expenditures. At the **bottom of that page**, there is a map. If you click the overlaid magnifying glass, you can look up an address to see if it falls within the Westport District Firewise Boundary.

Insurance Discount Information

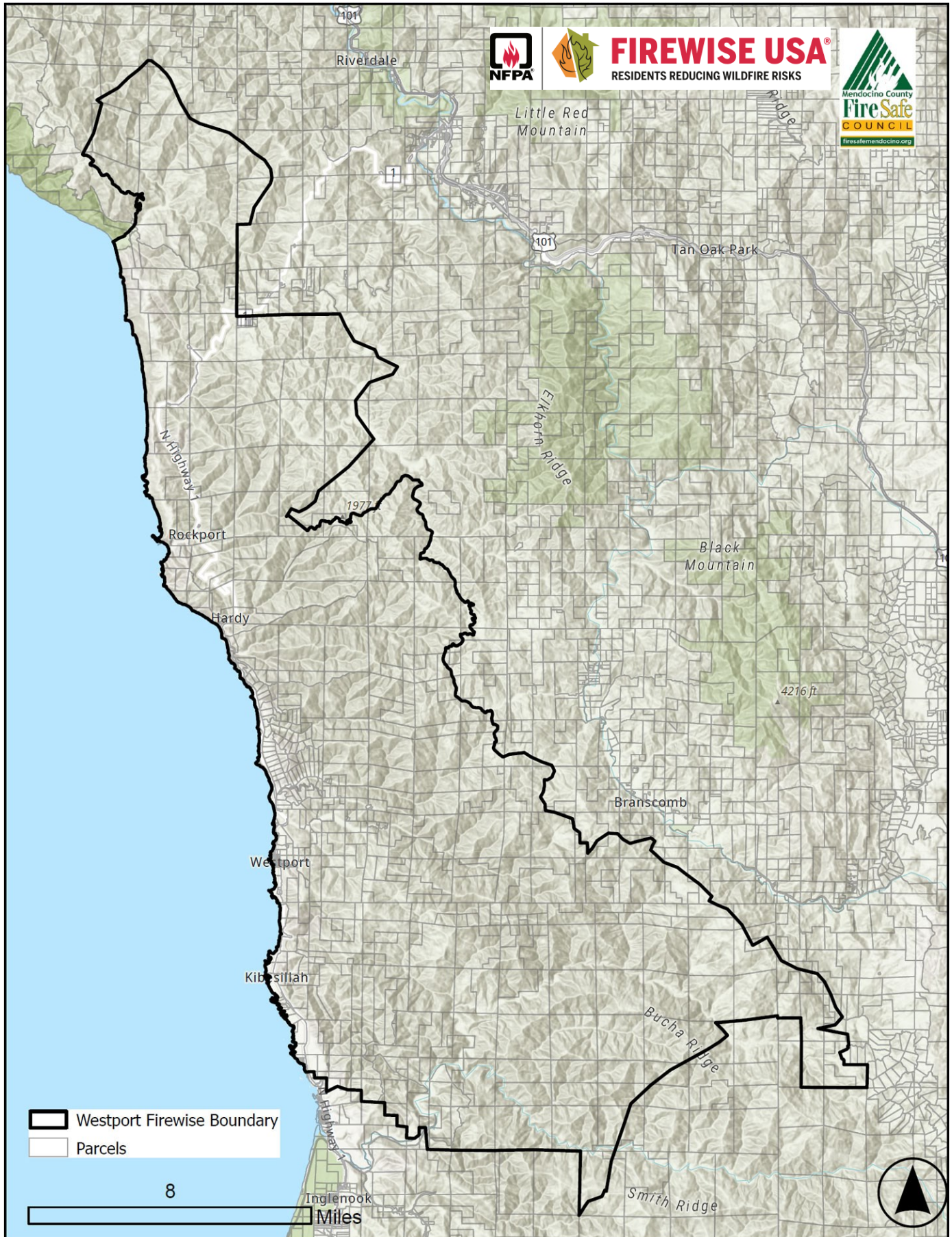
Homeowners insurance in California is rapidly changing as wildfire risk continues to increase and industry standards evolve. Under the California Department of Insurance's "Safer from Wildfires" framework, insurance companies are now required to offer discounts for qualifying wildfire mitigation efforts.

Living in a recognized Firewise Community may help homeowners potentially qualify for additional discounts when combined with home-hardening and defensible-space improvements.

We encourage you to share the Westport district boundary map and certificate with your insurance broker and ask whether discounts may be available for living in a Recognized Firewise Community.



To verify if a given parcel is within the Westport Fire Safe USA[®] district visit: <https://www.firesafemendocino.org/existing-firewise-communities>
Once there, scroll to the map at the bottom of the page and click on the embedded magnifying glass to search for an address.





FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

*The following information was provided by
Mendocino County Fire Safe Council to the
residents of the Westport District:*

Dear Westport Resident,

We are pleased to announce that Westport, and all residents within the boundary map included in this letter, have been recognized as a nationally designated Firewise USA® Community!

This designation reflects your community's commitment to working together to reduce wildfire risk, protect homes, and strengthen neighborhood safety. If you are not already involved in this neighborhood effort, we encourage you to participate and help make the community more wildfire resilient.

What is Firewise USA®?

Firewise USA® is a nationwide program developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and recognized by CAL FIRE to help communities reduce wildfire risk through education, planning, and action. Firewise Communities work together to minimize the vulnerability of homes and neighborhoods to wildfire damage while improving overall preparedness and resiliency.

Benefits of participating in a Firewise Community may include:

- Increased safety for residents and first responders.
- Potential discounts on homeowners insurance.
- Stronger neighborhood coordination and communication.
- Improved eligibility for grants and wildfire-preparedness funding.
- Greater peace of mind throughout the community.

Get Involved

Wildfire doesn't recognize property lines, so the more we work together, the safer the community becomes. To learn how to become involved in your neighborhood effort, sign up for our email announcements, enter your Firewise activities on the website as mentioned herein or serve on the Westport Firewise Advisory Committee. Contact Carla Thomas at 707-272-1994 or carlaSthomas@earthlink.net for more information.

Tracking Your Volunteer Hours and Investments

As a Firewise Community, it is important for residents to track the time and resources they dedicate toward wildfire preparedness. These contributions help demonstrate the community's ongoing commitment and support future funding and grant opportunities.

Examples of activities to track include:

- **Time spent** doing fire-safe work like clearing debris, trimming trees, or weed whacking.
- **Vegetation removed**, such as the # of lawn bags or truckloads taken off your property or chipped.
- **Home improvements** related to wildfire safety - like replacing fencing with non-flammable material, adding pavers or gravel near your home, updating roof or vent screens, enclosing eaves or decks, etc.
- **Money spent**, such as paying a landscaper, arborist, or contractor for fire-hardening.

To record your volunteer hours and investments, visit:

www.firesafemendocino.org/existing-firewise-communities

Once there, click on the orange button at the top of the page entitled "**Firewise Volunteer Hours Tracking Form**" and fill out the appropriate information fields.

No personal or property-specific information is reported; only cumulative community totals are collected. If you have questions, contact Carla Thomas at: carlaSthomas@earthlink.net.

Westport's Firewise Three-Year Action Plan Highlights

Part of the Firewise program asks communities to make a plan for the next 3 years to help prioritize actions to become more wildfire-prepared.

Highlighted goals for the first year include:

- Entering fire resiliency activities such as mowing into the Westport Firewise web link above.
- Order Free Reflective Address Signs from Carla Thomas to improve emergency response time.
- Get a Fire Resiliency Assessment from WVFD to learn low cost improvements for your home.

Shrooming in Westport

By Rob Holt

We had a fantastic turnout on June 7th for a hands-on workshop with Lama Nasser-Gammett, who showed us how to grow oyster mushrooms right at home. It was equal parts fascinating and fun - who knew a bag of growing medium could hold so much delicious potential? After learning the basics, participants rolled up their sleeves and prepared their own mushroom bags, which should be getting ready for their first flush right about now.

Many thanks to Lama for sharing her time, knowledge, and mushroom-growing magic with us. If there is something YOU would like to see at the Westport Community Center - or something you would like to present - we would love to hear from you. Send your ideas to westportchurch@outlook.com and help us keep the learning, laughter, and community spirit growing.

Don't forget to check out our [Events Page](#) for upcoming events like Malenda's Strengthening Class Part II in August and dance classes coming soon!



June News and Save the Date - WVFD

By John Allison

We had our annual elections meeting on June 10. Here are the results:

Dan Maxey – Fire Chief, Board member and CEO
Jeff Mathias – Assistant Fire Chief and Board President
Ski Saunders – Fire Captain and Training Officer
John Huff and Mike Fox – Fire Captains
John Allison – Board member and Secretary
Juliana Sanchez – Board member and Treasurer
Ellie Kelsey – Board member



It's not too early to **save the date!** The **WVFD Fundraising Barbecue** will be held on **Saturday, August 15, 2026** at the Westport Headlands. The event will feature live music by some great local bands, delicious meals, beverages and desserts. More detailed information about the Barbecue will be provided in next month's *Westport Wave*.

WESTPORT HOTEL & OLD ABALONE PUB

New Summer hours Thursday-Sunday 5-9pm

MUSIC IN THE PUB

SAT JULY 11TH CHAD SWIMMER

THURS JULY 2ND & 16TH

FRANK LUCKY & MOLLIE JANE

MOLLIE JANE & FRANK LUCKY

LIVE AT
**WESTPORT
ABALONE PUB**

THURSDAYS
JUNE 11, 25th
JULY 2, 16th
AUGUST 6, 20th
5:30-8PM

38921 CA-1, WESTPORT, CA 94888

TRIVIA NIGHT WITH ARISTA, AT THE OLD ABALONE PUB

Friday July 24th sign up by 6:00pm
with your team name/members \$5 per
person, trivia starts at 6:30 pm.
Theme is summertime. 3 rounds plus
bonus questions. Winning team takes
the pot!

Afternoon Tea

FRUITS OF SUMMER TEA
SATURDAY JULY 18TH
3:00- 5:00 PM
BY RESERVATION ONLY



707-964-3688

www.westporthotel.us

**Babaji**

Unwinding the Mind: How to Free Our Energy from Fear

We all have experienced fear. What is the definition of fear? Lack of love. We want to protect ourselves. Out of that need to protect, we create fear.

What is love? In ancient eastern traditions, true love is described as seeing the Self, God or the Divine, in all. This is a beautiful state to aspire towards, but the truth is we live in this world, we have our memories of hurtful moments and we want to protect ourselves. We create separation - "us and them" - and there goes the world.

How do we access that feeling of love that unites us all? How do we practice it?

It all starts with looking at our mind. Here is an example: at times we all find ourselves feeling dislike and disgust towards something or someone. When you see a person that you have had a negative experience with in the past at a distance - what's happening in your mind at that moment? Usually we start justifying our dislike and our mind starts pulling memories of the difficulties we experienced.

Pay attention to your mind and how you create that story. Try to unwind it. Can you say to yourself, "I'm going to practice love?" You don't have to do anything outwardly or try to start fixing things with that person. Fix it in your mind first. It's a very safe place to practice. Look at the emotions that arise and, instead of justifying them, try to turn your thoughts in a different direction.

Fear, lust, greed, jealousy, hatred - these emotions have so much energy trapped inside them. The usual tendency is to keep investing more and more energy into that negative emotion. Actually those experiences provide a wonderful opportunity to practice. In your own quiet moments, just stop, pause your breath, recollect yourself fully, and in your mind, approach the situation or that relationship and try to unwind it.

It's not going to change the world. It's not going to fix that relationship immediately. But at least your mind is not creating and building the story. It may take some time, but ultimately, change does happen - and new possibilities and a deeper understanding and appreciation enter in. We spend so much energy trapped in anything that we have an aversion to. Can we try to embrace those things, even for a moment?

It's breaking the habit of the mind. It's not easy. It doesn't give you immediate joy or satisfaction in the beginning because it's unfamiliar. But real spiritual practice is unfamiliar. We are always walking on new ground and turning the energy of unfamiliar territory into a familiar and pleasant territory.

Living in fear is a miserable state to be in. But we can free ourselves from it by taking a little time to pull back, and in our own quiet and safe space, taking time to look at what is really happening inside.

Take one fear and work with it. Feel it. And then let the love from your heart come in. The mind will go to the past and its sense of entitlement. When that happens, if you try to unwind the negative thoughts, piece by piece, you will discover another strength that you already have.

Love is a very powerful medicine. With a little patience, perseverance, continuity, and a little practice every day, we will be able to move further and further away from fear and find that love within ourselves.



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!

July 2026 Westport Calendar

Thursday, July 2nd - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Thursday, July 2nd - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

Saturday, July 4th - Independence Day. The United States of America's 250th Birthday.

Wednesday, July 8th - Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse.

Thursday, July 9th - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Thursday, July 9th - Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 6:00PM, Zoom. Call Kayla Cooper at (707) 367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom.

Thursday, July 16th - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Thursday, July 16th - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

Wednesday, July 22nd - WVS Quarterly Board Meeting, 6:30PM at the Westport Community Center. See inset on page 1 for Zoom attendance information.

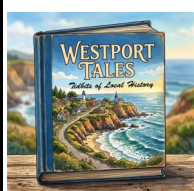
Thursday, July 23rd - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Wednesday, July 29th - The Full "Buck" Moon occurs at 7:36AM PDT.

Thursday, July 30th - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Thursday, July 30th - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

Note: Basic/beginner Tai Chi Chuan with Beck on Thursday mornings improves focus, balance and strength, and is no charge for persons with paid memberships to the [Church/Community Center](#).



Do you have a tale of local interest to share with the community? Submit your "Westport Tale" to editor Ed Truthan at: thewestportwave@gmail.com

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

Contributions for our August 1st, 2026 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by Tuesday, July 28th, 2026 (or earlier if possible) and should be sent to editor Ed Truthan at thewestportwave@gmail.com
Thanks!

Support the Westport Volunteer Fire Department...

Our Department depends on your donations!



Your support and contributions will enable us to meet our goals and improve our equipment and training. Any amount helps... and helps keep our community safer.



To
Donate
Today