

September 1, 2026

The Westport Wave

Published by the Westport Village Society, P.O. Box 325, Fort Bragg, CA

www.westportvillagesociety.org

WVS Annual Meeting

By WVS President Thad Van Bueren

The Westport Village Society will hold its Annual Member Meeting on Friday October 2, 2026 at the Westport Community Center with a potluck to follow. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!! A social mixer will start at 5:30 PM, providing a chance to meet neighbors and renew your membership or join WVS for the first time. The Annual Member Meeting will start at 6:00 PM with an update on WVS, the election of three Board Members, and a discussion of your ideas about priorities for the coming year.

A potluck will take place immediately after the Annual Meeting and is expected to commence around 7:00 PM in the Westport Church. Fourth District County Supervisor Bernie Norvell plans to attend and has agreed to answer questions. Please contact Sheila Winslow at (916) 812-3528 to coordinate contributions of food and beverages if you plan to participate in the potluck!

Four candidates have submitted statements of interest for the three open positions on the WVS Board of Directors. Those positions have 3 year terms. The statements provided by those candidates follow in alphabetic order:

Robert D. Finnell

I am an incumbent WVS Director running for another term commencing October 3, 2026. I am a licensed California attorney since 1984 and currently operate a Fractional General Counsel Practice to a number of emerging growth software companies in the Bay Area. I earned a Juris Doctor

from Santa Clara University School of Law and Bachelor Degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of Michigan.

I own a residence adjacent to the Westport Headlands Park since June 2010. I have consistently attended WVS Board Meetings since 2013 and I've been a WVS Director and the Secretary since October 2022. My other corporate governance experience includes:

- 1. Westport Water County Water District (public entity): Current active Director on the WCWD Board of Directors since November 2024.*
- 2. Westport Municipal Advisory Committee (public entity) – former WMAC Member and Secretary ending/expiring December 2025.*
- 3. Northwoods League, Inc., a summer collegiate for-profit baseball league of 22 affiliates based principally in the Midwest – currently and past 27 years.*
- 4. Crest View Pool Association in Orinda, California – 24 Members - Director, President and Corporate Secretary – currently and past 22 years.*
- 5. Northwoods League Foundation - 501 (c)(3) non-profit entity – currently and past 18 years.*
- 6. 301 Bryant Street Homeowners Association in San Francisco - Board of Directors (and HOA Secretary)- 16 consecutive years (2002-2018).*

I would be honored to continue to serve WVS!

Rob Holt

My name is Rob Holt and I am interested in running for your open board position. I have lived full time in Westport for over 2 years and my family has owned the property located at 24950 Abalone St for 6. Over those 6 years my wife and I have participated in many of the community events at different levels. For the last 2 years I have been involved with the Westport Community Center and Church. I was elected treasurer in 2025, then President/Treasurer in 2026. As a board member of the Community Center, I have:

- *Built a website and e-commerce platform for the community center to bolster membership enrollment*
- *Organized workdays to help maintain the facility*
- *Organized guest speakers for the community*
- *Built an e-commerce site for the Ducky Derby*
- *Designed, procured funding, and built an audio/video system for the community center*
- *Have taken the lead on the replacement of the headland's stairs*
- *Built a donation kiosk for the community garden*
- *Have accepted a lead position in food service at the Ducky Derby and WVFD BBQ*
- *Facilitate the Zoom Meetings for the WVS*
- *My wife Debbie and I mow the headlands and Community Center throughout the year*

As a child, my family vacationed at Westport Union Landing every summer, then as an adult with kids, we continued that tradition until our kids were out of the house. Over those years we knew Westport would be a great place to live, for many reasons, thus our leaving the valley and moving here. I have a broad skill set and feel I could contribute to the mission of the Westport Village Society. I respect the knowledge and history of previous board members and will freely share my ideas with the intention maintaining the "special place" called Westport.

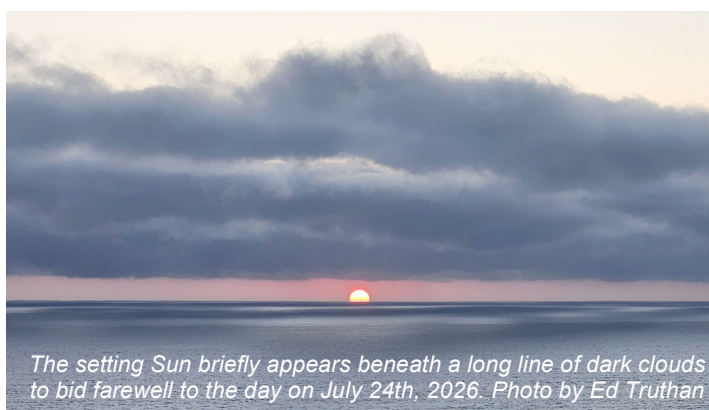
Sabel Regalia

I'd like to be considered for a position on the Westport Village Society board. I moved to town full-time this winter after buying a home here. As a self-employed entrepreneur I have flexibility to volunteer my time to the WVS events and projects.

I have three years experience as a founding member of the steering committee and initial board of a fledgling food co-op in Sonoma County, where I grew membership, organized events, and fundraised. I have experience with meetings, agendas and action items, I have great people skills, decent tech skills, and poor first aid skills (so I'm not joining the fire department).

I have a vested interest in the future of Westport as I plan on living here for the foreseeable future (I have a plot in the cemetery so I'm literally not going anywhere). The Headlands are my front yard. I'm an herbalist and botanist, and I have an interest in native plant and habitat restoration. I'm interested in creating long-term income streams for the WVS through use of the headlands and other community-owned endeavors.

I have a lifelong history in this town, raised scrambling up and down the headlands before there was a staircase. I care deeply about the health and wellbeing of the entire community, most of whom I consider family. I'd love to see the unique assets of Westport remain under the stewardship of the folks who cherish this town, and I believe my contributions within the container of the WVS would be a boon to the village.



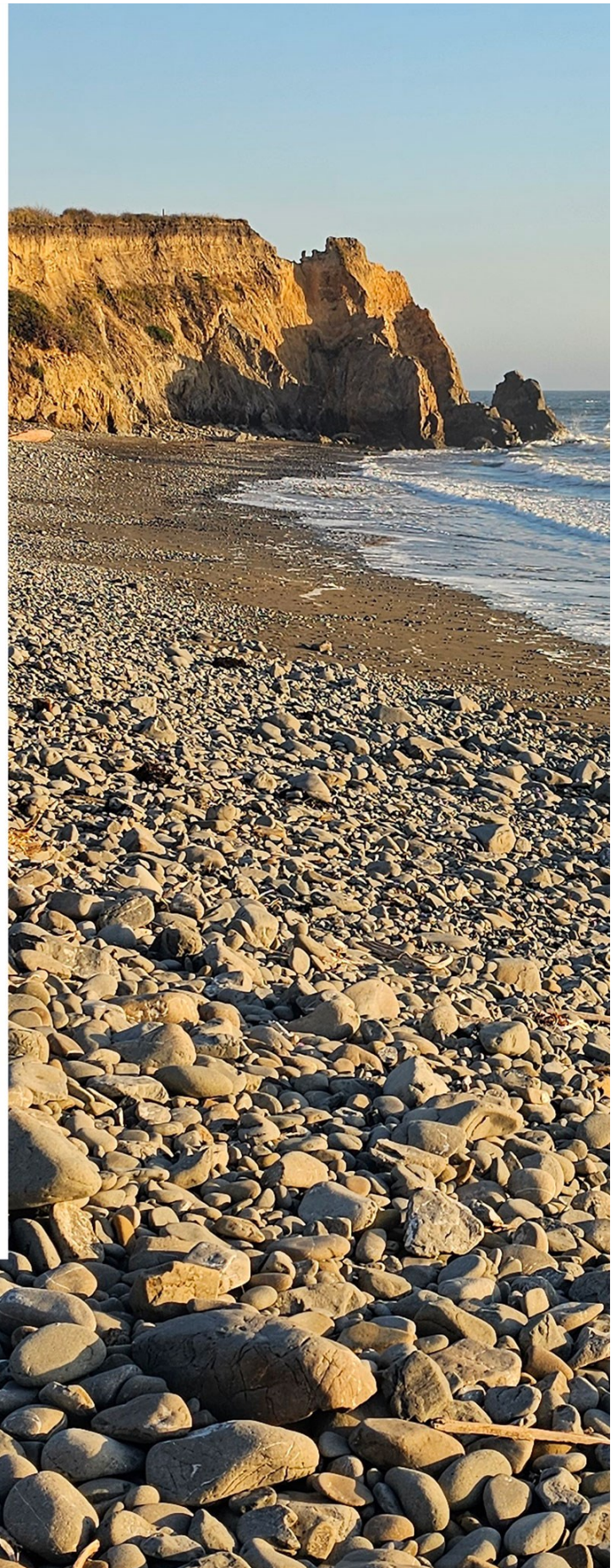
The setting Sun briefly appears beneath a long line of dark clouds to bid farewell to the day on July 24th, 2026. Photo by Ed Truthan

Thad M. Van Bueren

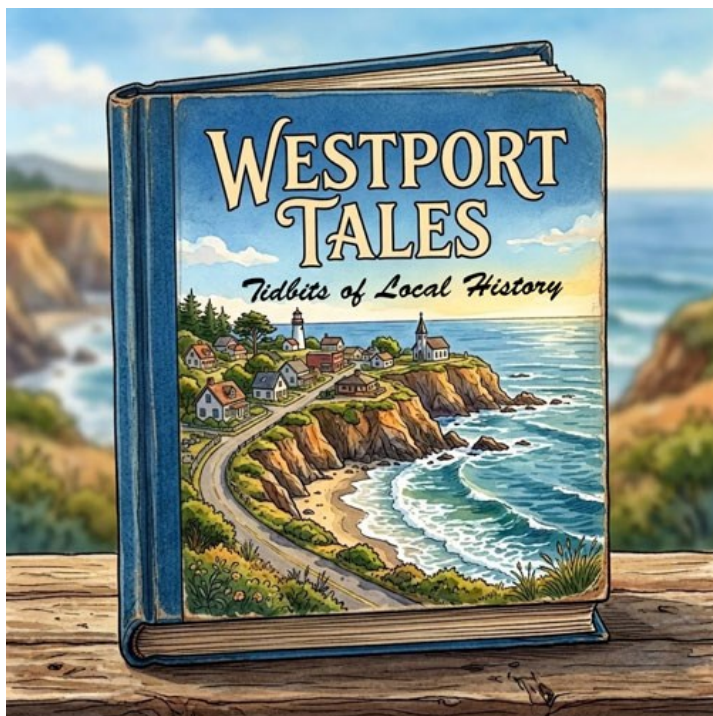
It's been my privilege to serve on the Westport Village Society Board of Directors since 1999. I find the mission of this nonprofit inspiring and enjoy working with other members to make good things happen in our community. I ask for your vote so that I may continue to serve another 3-year term as a Director. My purpose in running again is to support WVS projects and activities that help our community thrive. Some initiatives I'd like to complete with your assistance are the coastal access improvements on the DeHaven property, repairing the deteriorating stairway at the Westport Headlands Park, and fostering activities that nurture our community.

I bring to the position many years of experience serving on the Boards of two local nonprofits (the WVS from 1999 to present; and the Westport Community Church from 2018 to 2024) and two government organizations (the Westport Municipal Advisory Council from 2007 to 2024 and the Westport Ten Mile Cemetery District from 2018 to 2020). I also bring my experience as a professional archaeologist.

During my 27 years on the WVS Board I've served as President, Vice President, and Treasurer. I know how to operate this nonprofit and how it has evolved. During my tenure on the WVS Board I applied for and managed five grants totaling nearly \$2 million in funding awarded to WVS to conserve coastal land and build public access improvements on those properties. I would appreciate your vote so that I may continue to serve.



Evening sun bathes the DeHaven Headland and rock strewn beach in golden light on July 14th, 2026. Photo by Ed Truthan



A Step Back in Time

By Olaf Palm
(Submitted by William Brazill)

The text below is from a Noyo Hill House oral history project, interviewing Olaf Palm, dated August 1991.

Bill Brazill had a house in Westport, right on the ocean. I mean, it was one hundred feet from the back door to the cliff - about as close to the water as I could imagine! We rented that place from him for a couple of years.

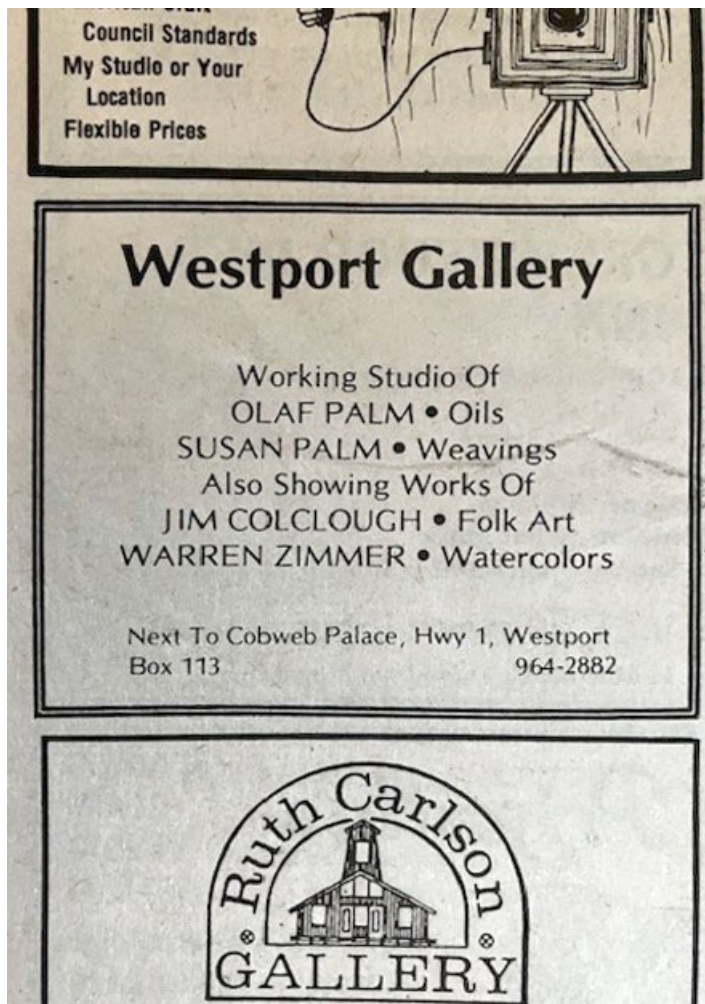
There was a place for rent next to the Cobweb Palace Hotel and we rented that for \$200 as a storefront.

Susan got a nice new, big loom and set it up in there. The Westport Gallery. People would drop in on their way down from Laytonville or up from Fort Bragg. What do you do in Westport? Well, you go into the store, get some gas, maybe, and that's about it.

So, they would walk into the gallery, look around, and likely as not they'd buy something. We actually made money in there, did alright sometimes, until they sold the place.

The Westport Gallery lasted a couple of years and then the guy sold the building. I think I'd still be there if it wasn't for that.

- Olaf Palm



This ad is from the Mendocino Art Centers publication, Arts and Entertainment dated September 1982.

As a side note: There are two amazing paintings by Olaf Palm that can be seen today in The Westport Hotel. Olaf passed in 2000.



*View of Westport on December 31st, 2023.
The Westport Hotel & Old Abalone Pub (formerly known as "The Cobweb Palace" Restaurant, Hotel, and Bar) is center left.*

Photo by Ed Truthan



Babaji

Practicing Patience

There was a person visiting me the other day after looking through some old pictures from when the Ashram was created. He asked me, "Babaji, how did you keep up with some of these people over so many years? You must have lots of patience."

For me, creating the Ashram was very easy because my mind was focused. Whatever came that was helpful, I had all the patience for. No matter how challenging, no matter how difficult, no matter what it was, because my mind was focused on one thing - to create a place where people could gather in the name of inner search and peace.

It's the same principle in our life. When we are devoted to a higher vision, we can find that patience to overcome the hurdles that come our way.

The earth, who bears us all, who holds all of the Creation is the ultimate embodiment of patience. Whether someone is sinner or someone is virtuous, without judging, Mother Earth bears us all.

As long as we live in this human body, ups and downs are bound to happen, challenges are bound to arise. Patience is an essential ingredient for a stable, grounded life.

We all experience impatience. Whether sitting in traffic, waiting on news, or facing a tense conversation. What happens to us when we react? A thought or fear arises, and our normal response is to immediately flow towards whatever the mind suggests. The first step in cultivating patience is learning how to catch ourselves before jumping into reactive mode. The very moment we begin to react, we lose the connection with ourselves.

To hold anything, you have to be still, steady, standing in one place. Only then you can lift it and hold it. Our practice of turning inward, learning meditation, and connecting with stillness develops the internal strength needed to remain centered rather than constantly reacting.

Austerity is a powerful ingredient for anyone walking a spiritual path. If we are just running with our mind and doing whatever our mind feels like. Staying grounded requires learning how to hold yourself back from chasing every thought.

Patience requires consistent practice. If you want to work on being more patient, turning your attention to your breath is very helpful.

Watch the breath rise and fill your heart space as you inhale, then descend from your heart to your navel as you exhale. It's a simple, yet powerful practice. Just doing this several times throughout the day, with full presence, will make a difference in your life.

Patience requires the ability to come back to our Self. When you feel an emotional charge come and the mind begins to race, bring your attention back to your core. Let the breath come. Don't react right away. This is a beautiful practice to bring into our life. If you find yourself reacting, try to catch yourself. You don't need to ignore that reaction that arises, but you can address it from a grounded space.

Even one small promise that we can make to our Self can become a great source of energy. And that energy helps to enrich ourselves with patience.

Make a promise to yourself today: "From this day on, I am going to work on my reactive mode." At first, you may not stop every immediate reaction, but becoming aware of the tendency creates the space needed for patience to grow.

I bow to Mother Earth and to the earth element within us, which holds the seed of patience. May we stay in remembrance of it, awakening and strengthening it daily. As patience grows toward ourselves, we become more patient with others and create harmony wherever we are.



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!

September 2026 Westport Calendar

Thursday, Sept. 3rd - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Monday, Sept. 7th - Labor Day National Holiday.

Wednesday, Sept. 9th - Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse.

Thursday, Sept. 10th - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Thursday, Sept. 10th - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

Thursday, Sept. 10th - Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 6:00PM, Zoom. Call Kayla Cooper at (707) 367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom.

Thursday, Sept. 17th - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

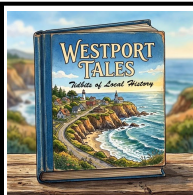
Tuesday Sept. 22nd - Autumnal Equinox occurs at 5:05PM

Thursday, Sept. 24th - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Thursday, Sept. 24th - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

Saturday, Sept. 26th - Full Moon occurs at 9:49AM

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 October 1st, 2026 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by Saturday, September 26th, 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**



WESTPORT VILLAGE SOCIETY

P O Box 325, Fort Bragg, CA 95437
<http://www.westportvillagesociety.org/>
(707) 964-7272

fostering local land conservation and interpretation
and supporting local charitable and educational projects

About WVS

The Westport Village Society, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation organized in 1992 to foster the preservation, enhancement, and interpretation of the environment in and around the village of Westport, California and to support local charitable and educational projects. Anyone can access our newsletter on line, participate in events, and contribute to WVS, but voting privileges are reserved for those who pay annual dues and reside within or own property in the area shown on the back of this form.

Membership Application

Name(s):

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Telephone (optional):

() _____

I/we live or own property in the Membership area (see attached map): ☐ YES ☐ NO

Annual Dues:

Individual membership: (\$15.00/year) = _____

Family membership (\$25.00/year) = _____

Donations:

a) Headlands Fund (solely for this purpose) = _____

b) DeHaven Fund (solely for this purpose) = _____

c) Bell Point Acquisition (solely for this purpose) = _____

d) General Fund (unrestricted use) = _____

Total Amount Enclosed

= _____

Members and the interested public are encouraged to participate in the WVS Annual Member Meeting (the first Friday in October at 7:00 PM), Board meetings (4th Wednesdays of Jan/April/July/Oct at 6:30 PM), and other activities and events hosted by the organization. Learn more about our organization by visiting our web site at:

<http://www.westportvillagesociety.org/>
or email us at: wvs@westportvillagesociety.org.

Dues pay for the cost of communications, while donations are tax deductible. Donations and bequests are encouraged. Your financial contributions help us maintain our community enrichment programs, Headlands Park, DeHaven property, and other land conservation initiatives. Our Tax ID number is 68-0287427.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY!!

