

March 1, 2025

# The Westport Wave

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

## Westport Village Society Update

**Thad M. Van Bueren, WVS  
President**

There are a few news items the Westport Village Society would like to bring to your attention as March approaches. First, the stairs at the Westport Headlands are closed until temporary repairs can be completed. Several stair treads were dangerously compromised by rot. It is our plan to complete temporary repairs by the end of May and reopen the stairs. We will then organize a work party in the early summer to remove earth that has slumped against the wooden parts of the structure and apply preservative. A long term solution will then be planned and public input will be sought on possible alternatives, costs, and issues that need to be considered before a decision is made.

In response to public and member input on planned public access improvements for the DeHaven property, WVS reduced the parking lot size and moved it next to Route 1. Signs will be placed at that lot to deter entry by RVs and to discourage overnight camping. An application for a construction grant from the State Coastal Conservancy will be considered in April after the coastal permit is issued.

An encroachment permit was issued in December 2024 and a local contractor provided a bid to build the



**WE NEED YOUR HELP to bring back the Ducky Races on May 11<sup>th</sup>! See below to learn how you can get involved, and tell your friends!!**

parking lot and stairs. Assuming the grant funding is approved, the plan is to build the access improvements this summer or fall.

**Planning continues for a scaled-back version of the WVS Ducky Event on Mother's Day, May 11<sup>th</sup>.** To resurrect this family-friendly event we'll need a lot of help from the community. Please contact Tabby at [wvs@westportvillagesociety.org](mailto:wvs@westportvillagesociety.org) or call her at 367-0010 to get involved!

## Local Land Conservation Update

Thad M. Van Bueren

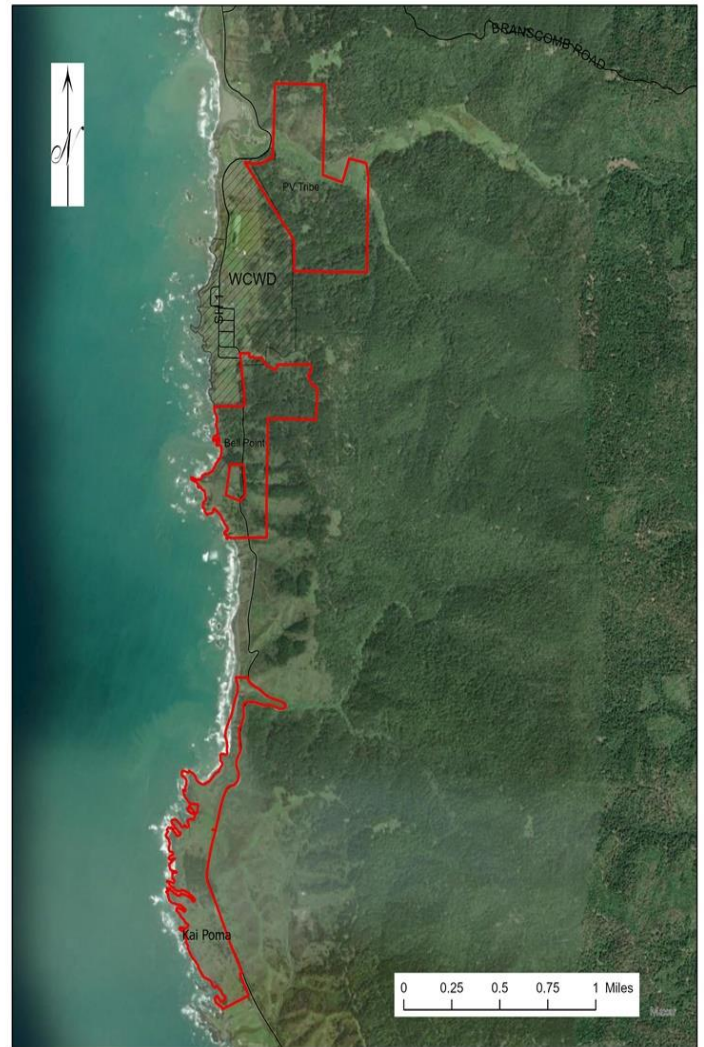
Two local land conservation projects that involve the Kai Poma nonprofit are coming to fruition on the coast south of Westport and the Potter Valley Tribe has also recently acquired the 200 acre property on the east side of Highway 1 in the Wages Creek Valley. Together, the three acquisitions reflect the growing role local tribes will play in conserving local land and managing public access. The map accompanying this article shows the approximate footprints of the three properties.

The Mendocino Land Trust is under contract to purchase a 157-acre coastal property known as Bell Point. This property stretches from the south end of Westport to just north of the slide repair on Highway 1. Protecting this spectacular property was made possible with a \$2.505 million grant from the State Coastal Conservancy awarded to MLT in late 2024. The project is supported by the Westport Village Society and MLT’s project partner, the Kai Poma nonprofit. The Kai Poma is a nonprofit representing the Sherwood Valley Pomo Band of Indians, Round Valley Indian Tribes, and the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians.

MLT Director of Land Protection Emily Griffen, reports: “The Bell Point property will be protected forever, opened to public access for the first time, and returned to local Native American tribes for long-term ownership and management.” That acquisition is expected to be complete by the end of April. The Bell Point property encompasses about 50 acres of open coastal headlands, coastal meadows, riparian wetland, and a bishop pine forest on the west side of Highway 1 and roughly 107 acres of mixed conifer redwood-fir forest, meadowland, and ocean view ridgelines to the east of the highway.

The California Council of Land Trusts awarded MLT an additional \$95,000 Project Advancement Grant to support planning a new portion of the California Coastal Trail on the Bell Point lands and returning the property to Kai Poma.

Initial suggestions for public access trails, parking, and forest management practices were offered by



members of the Westport community when MLT Executive Director Conrad Kramer visited the Westport Hotel November 22, 2024. Comments and questions can be sent to Emily Griffen at [emily@mendocinolandtrust.org](mailto:emily@mendocinolandtrust.org). You may also contact WVS ([wvs@westportvillagesociety.org](mailto:wvs@westportvillagesociety.org)) to help build consensus about preferred management approaches and public access at Bell Point.

According to Kai Poma Chairperson Eddie Knight, the transfer of the Blues Beach property to the tribal nonprofit is expected sometime this spring. The Blues Beach property comprises roughly 172 acres of oceanfront land extending from Blues Beach south to a point near the Pacific Star Winery. It was purchased by Caltrans in the 1970s with special conservation funds. The transfer to a tribal nonprofit was approved by Senate Bill 231 in 2021, but it has taken several years to work out the details. Caltrans

will retain the highway right of way, as well as easements needed to support repair and maintenance activities such as the slide repair above the north end of Blues Beach.

The Potter Valley Tribe recently acquired the 200 acre Sosa property near the mouth of Wages Creek Valley. PVT is one of 36 federally recognized tribes in California that do not engage in gaming. Non-gaming tribes receive a share of casino revenues from the state's Indian Gaming Revenue Sharing Trust Fund (RSTF). Those funds previously enabled the

PVT to acquired the 40 acre Noyo-bida property north of Fort Bragg, a place where intertribal gatherings and educational events have taken place since 2010. The new PVT acquisition just north of Westport was acquired with RSTF funds and will be used for non-gaming purposes such as conservation, resource gathering, and tribal gatherings. For more information on this topic, please see the article by Frank Hartzell recently published by the Mendocino News at this link:

<https://mendocinocoast.news/potter-valley-tribe-adding-preserving-lands-in-westport-caspar/>



**Westport 50 Years Ago** – This photo, taken by Bill Brazill in 1973, shows the back side of the houses along Pacific Avenue, as seen from Highway 1. The tall wooden poles, installed by Eddie White, served as supports for small analog television antennas, a common sight on the coast 50 years ago.



The Westport Church

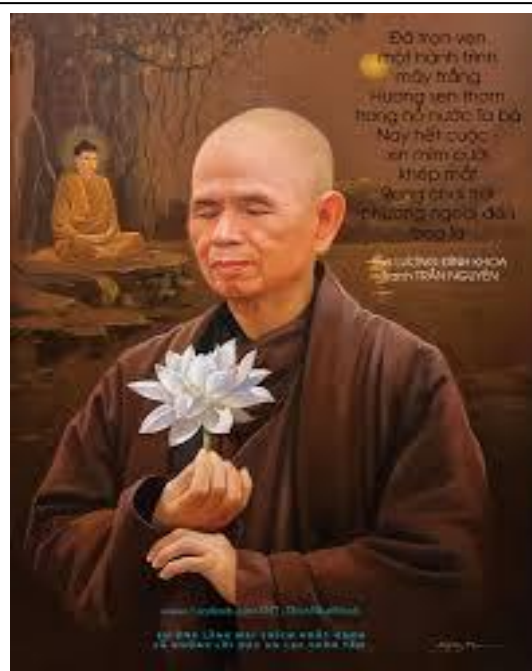
*“Go home to Nature, and let Nature heal you”*

**Thich Nhat Hanh**

### **Thich Nhat Hanh Discussion Group Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 the healing power of Nature and the natural world (see above right). We request that attendees be vaccinated and we will meet according to Church Covid precautions.



**Thich Nhat Hanh**



### **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](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org) – where you’ll find our most current issue as well as over 13 years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!



**Babaji**

## Stillness through Appreciation

Babaji

Everything that we are seeking is within us. We would find the answers to all our questions, if we could only learn to be still.

Our habit of constantly projecting outwards keeps us moving in the wrong direction. No matter how engaged in the world we are or how productive we are, if there is no grounding in inner stillness, there is chaos. If not inside, we create chaos outside.

Can you imagine a moment when you are by yourself in stillness, without needing anything from outside? Without your phone, without your television, without your book. The day you learn to be comfortable by yourself, a whole other universe that is hidden within you begins to reveal itself. There are galaxies within us. All of the oceans, rivers and valleys are within us. We can find them only when we become still.

Being in a state of acceptance and appreciation helps us connect with our inner stillness.

What happens when you are appreciating something? Imagine looking at a beautiful flower. You are absorbed in its color, shape, and beauty. You are not thinking about yourself at that moment. When you are in a state of appreciation, everything else disappears. This is the beauty of appreciation. It takes you away from your story, your problems, your challenges, your likes and your dislikes.

There is no end to the mental confusion we create for ourselves by the constant thinking about “me and mine”. When we take a break from the incessant focus on ourselves and our problems, there is a little freedom, there is a little space for something new to emerge.

Whatever we are able to appreciate, be it music, be it a flower, be it a tree, be it a river, a mountain, whatever, can give us those moments of stillness, and that alone

is meditation.

Appreciation plays a great role in our life. No matter what’s going on, may we be able to just stop, take a step back, and find something to appreciate. Appreciation brings sweetness in our hearts. When there is sweetness in our heart, stillness comes naturally and we connect with the wealth of knowledge that is already inside of us waiting to be discovered.



*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](http://www.sonomaashram.org) or reach out by email at [info@sonomaashram.org](mailto:info@sonomaashram.org). We’d love to hear from you!*



On the Administrative side of things, thanks to Ms. Kayla Cooper’s (Administrator-Financial Controller) good work, WCWD finances are reported as in good order and recent diligent efforts have materially brought nearly all customer financial accounts current. For those that like numbers, at the end of January 2025, WCWD operating account checking was \$35,668.74 and Water Capital stood at \$16,570.55 and Wastewater Capital came in at \$16,653.55. Mr. Morrill generally commented that Ms. Cooper deserves major accolades as she has taken up many extra project activities for WCWD in the past months

For Entity Governance, for the first time in several years, due to the November 5, 2024 County Election process, the WCWD now has all five Director seats filled and fully participating.

The WCWD Staff and Board of Directors invites and encourages the general interested public to attend the regular monthly open Board of Director’s Meetings (currently via Zoom).

## Westport County Water District – Positive News Update

### WCWD

Greetings fellow Westportians ! Here’s a brief update from your Westport County Water District:

Our esteemed Operations Manager and Chief Plant Operator, Mr. John Morrill, favorably reports good and healthy water production of 263,736 gallons in 150 hours of operation for January 2025. WCWD is current on monthly sampling and reports as well as monthly drought reporting requirement. Various regular agency reporting is current. The Electronic Annual Report (drinking water) and annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) are in process. On the wastewater metrics, lagoon depth increased from 44.25% in December to 46.9% in January, and the Self-Monitoring Reports and Sanitary Sewer Overflow reports were timely filed.

Website: <https://westportcountywaterdistrict.com/>

OPERATIONS MANAGER/CHIEF PLANT OPERATOR: **John Morrill**

ADMINISTRATOR-FINANCIAL CONTROLLER: **Kayla Cooper**

DRINKING WATER PLANT SHIFT OPERATOR AND DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR: **Beck Regalia**

DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER PLANT SHIFT OPERATOR: **David Wilson**

DIRECTORS: Chairman **Lee Tepper, Carla Thomas, Steve Cardullo, Robert Finnell, and Gary Weiss**



**Westport 50 Years Ago** – Here’s a photo from 1973 of our town of Westport, submitted by Lee Tepper and Dorine Real. Note the absence of forest on the hills above town. Westport was just a little smaller back then.

**Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM, Zoom. Call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom.

**Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** – **Total Lunar Eclipse Begins, 11:26PM**

**Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** – **Full Moon, 11:54PM**

**Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** – **Total Lunar Eclipse Maximum Totality, 11:58PM**

**Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** – **Total Lunar Eclipse Ends, 12:31AM**

**Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** – **Holi (Hindu Festival of Colors)**

**Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** – St. Patrick’s Day

**Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** – **Spring Equinox, 2:01AM**

**Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store

**Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** – **Super New Moon, 3:57AM**

**Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** – Ramadan Ends

## Westport Calendar March 2025

**Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** – First Day of Ramadan

**Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** – Mardi Gras

**Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** – Ash Wednesday

**Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community Center (see <https://www.wmac95488.org/> for meeting confirmation)

**Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** – **Daylight Saving Time Begins, 2:00AM (SET CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR)**

**Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** – Thich Nhat Hanh Discussion Group, 2:00PM, Westport Community Church (see page 4)

**Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse

**Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store

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*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 13 years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website [www.westportvillagesociety.org](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org). **Contributions for our April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025** and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at [westportwave@gmail.com](mailto:westportwave@gmail.com). Thanks!