

May 1, 2017

The Westport Wave

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The Great Westport Rubber Ducky Races and BBQ is Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14th!

Elika Freeman, Event Coordinator

Just a friendly reminder that our annual event, The Great Rubber Ducky Race fast approaches! If you remember in the March issue of the *Wave* I asked you to gather some lightly used women's clothing, jewelry, or gifts to sell at our Boutique. Now is a good time to get those items to Tabitha Korhummel or myself so we can sort and price everything ahead of time. Also, don't forget to decorate your entry for the Ducky Beauty Contest and get it to the registration table by 12 noon on the day of the Races.

Donations for the baked booth can be brought to the event or left at the Westport Store a day ahead of time. Please label your dishes with your name and phone number and provide an ingredient list to make it easy for the servers to answer questions that may come up. We also could use a few extra folks to help sell ducky merchandise at the event. We will have lots to sell, and this year's beautiful graphic will also



We're Ready To Go!

be available for purchase, but we do need a hand staffing the booth the day of the event. If this sounds like something you can do PLEASE call me at (707) 734-3103. I am looking forward to spending Mother's Day with you all and seeing our community pull off another successful event! Thanks so much to everyone for being a part of our team! -- Elika



From Start...



...To Finish!



YOU CAN WIN this hand-made Quilt and much more at the Ducky Races Raffle on May 14th!

Come to the Ducky Races and Celebrate WVS's 25th Anniversary!

Thad Van Bueren, President, WVS

The **Westport Village Society** turns 25 this year! Help us celebrate by attending our annual fundraising event, the Great Rubber Duck Race and BBQ, held every year since our nonprofit formed in 1992. It all happens at the Westport Beach RV Park and Campground just north of town on **Mother's Day, Sunday May 14th**. Gates open at 11:15AM and the event wraps up by 4:00 PM, making for an enjoyable day filled with fun activities for the whole family, live music, food, drinks, and merchandise. To mark the occasion, there are free flowers for your mom and free flower seeds for kids!

The traditional offerings at this event will be embellished this year with some new treats. Drinks will include mimosas, something your Mom might enjoy with her meal. A boutique of unique items will also be available for shopping in addition to traditional ducky-themed merchandise. The raffle held at 3:00PM will award a beautiful quilt handmade by Aimee Maxey, artfully decorated sunhats, toy baskets, colorful blooming flower bowls, and gift certificates from local businesses. The quilt (see

photo at left) can be viewed at the Westport Hotel, with raffle tickets available there for purchase before the event. Raffle tickets are of course also sold at the event itself. The music this year is performed by the talented Erin Brazill and Joey Goforth.

The Great Rubber Ducky event is anchored by three traditional ducky races on our challenging Wages Creek Racecourse, a Decorated Ducky beauty contest, and a BBQ featuring a tri-tip or vegetarian meal served from noon to 2:30PM. Ducky registration begins at 11:30AM, with the first (Handcrafted) ducky race starting at 12:30PM. The Kids' Race follows at 1:30PM, and the last and featured race of the day is the Classic Race, which starts at 2:15PM. All ducky races take place on Wages Creek, a course that changes every year as the stream makes its way to the finish line near the Pacific Ocean across the sandy beach. Crowds gather along the banks to watch the progress and cheer their entries. Ducky owners are responsible for collecting their entries at the finish line, always a busy scene as each race concludes. Prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Our Rubber Ducky Races help fund the Westport Village Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to land conservation, coastal access, and other projects that benefit the Westport community. The spark prompting its formation was a development project



Don't own your own racing duck? No problem – you can buy one (or more) at The Ducky Races!

planned on the headlands in the village of Westport in the early 1990s. The community rallied to preserve coastal access to the Westport Headlands, a property that served as the historical shipping access for the community from the 1870s until 1930.

With help from many supporters who donated time, money, and energy, the WVS was able to acquire that 9-acre oceanfront property from the landowner in 2000. It did that with a generous grant from the State Coastal Conservancy and help from the Mendocino Land Trust and the community. While few traces of two historic wharves survive, the property continues to play a role as the town commons and wildlife preserve to this day. Community events such as the Westport Volunteer Fire Department's BBQ are held there, while locals and visitors enjoy fishing, kayaking, whale watching, and other outdoor pursuits.

In 2005 the WVS built public access improvements on the property with a combination of contracted services and over 1200 hours of donated community time. That follow-up project again relied on a generous SCC grant. The improvements included a stairway to the beach, a foot bridge over a stream, a viewing platform, a handicap-accessible trail and parking space, and interpretive signage. A portion of the historic wharf washed ashore this winter and plans are underway to repurpose the large redwood beam as a viewing bench.

The Westport Village Society continues to play a vital role in the local community. It has acquired two additional coastal access easements and helped maintain local trails in cooperation with MLT and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The group has purchased equipment for local meeting halls and provided support for community gatherings. A mini-grant program has been used to support local event programming and community economic opportunities including a farmer's markets and craft sales. WVS also sponsored an informal Neighbor-2-Neighbor assistance program. Currently, we are sponsoring a contest to design a logo for the WVS (deadline is June 30th – see our website for details).

The WVS has also been involved in preserving and sharing local history. Archival materials have been collected and preserved, with presentations facilitated to share cultural and natural history. In 2012 the WVS created the local history book *Belonging To Places*,

which was published cooperatively with the Kelley House Museum. The book is still available at local outlets, including the Westport Community Store.

So come enjoy the May 14th Great Rubber Ducky Races and BBQ festivities in Westport! Coupon books are available in advance at Tangents in Fort Bragg and the Westport Community Store. The coupon books include a meal ticket, mimosa with logo glass, race entry ticket, boutique gift certificate, baked good certificate, and \$20 worth of raffle tickets for a discounted price of \$50. Tickets can be purchased the day of the event. For more information please visit: www.westportvillagesociety.org.

Westport Yard Sale May 27th

Sarah Cullar

The annual **Westport Community Yard Sale** will be on Saturday, May 27th this year, from 10:00AM to 2:00PM on the Westport Headlands. Bring whatever you have to sell (new, used, handmade, etc.). Please contact Sarah Cullar (962-0181 or sarah.e.cullar@gmail.com) to reserve your spot. The table fee is 10% of your sales (due at the end of the day, with a cap at \$20) to help pay for advertising. This has been a very successful event the last three years. We get a lot of people looking to shop – so let's give them a lot to choose from!

May at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

Joywolf

The Westport Hotel will be serving **Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 14th from 9:00AM to noon** – finishing up just in time so we can all enjoy the Rubber Ducky Races. Reservations are recommended for the Mother's Day Brunch, and thanks. We are looking for a guest chef one night only on Saturday, May 20th who can do a special dinner with their own recipes while our kitchen staff is away at a special event. Also, we are looking for local artists and musicians to visit the Pub and share their music etc. over the upcoming spring and summer season. Thank you all so much for your support!



The Westport Community Church

Westport Community Church May 2017 Calendar

Founded in 1880, the **Westport Community Church** is a multi-denominational church which serves the Westport community and its many spiritual paths. We also function as a meeting hall for the Westport community and its activities. We are doing our best to nurture a tradition of having weekly spiritual gatherings and more at the Church (which is at the end of Abalone Street on the left), with all religious and spiritual denominations both welcome and encouraged to hold both regular and special services here. Please contact Church Vice-President Steve Brigham at stevebrigham2000@gmail.com or (707) 964-6431 for use of the Westport Community Church for community meetings, activities, or religious services, and also to see how you can help keep our Westport Community Church organization improving and our buildings and grounds maintained.

1st Sunday, May 7th, 10:00AM – Our Bi-Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katherine White leads our regular 1st Sunday Quaker Worship Group meeting. The format is a simple, quiet meditation for 45 minutes followed by Katherine reading Quaker passages and a shared discussion of our experience including sharing of any of our thoughts or readings that one is inspired to bring to

the group. This has been and will continue to be a very peace-filled and nurturing experience.

2nd Sunday, May 14th – No meeting today
Please note that Carolyn Cathey's regularly scheduled talk has moved this month to May 28th so that we can all attend the Rubber Ducky Races!

3rd Sunday, May 21st, 10:00AM – Our Bi-Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katherine White leads our regular 3rd Sunday Quaker Worship Group meeting. The format is just like our 1st Sunday Service.

4th Sunday, May 28th, 10:00AM – "Through the Looking Glass", Carolyn Cathey, Mendocino Spiritual Center

On the last Sunday in May, Carolyn Cathey shares a fun and informative message called "Through the Looking Glass." Like Alice in Wonderland, we will step through the looking glass to discover fascinating and perhaps surprising aspects of ourselves that we might choose to develop for a more fulfilled life. What is meaningful to each of us? What might we be denying ourselves because we think we're not worth it, or have doubts, or don't know how? Is our life out-of-balance? Join this discussion for an intriguing inner-exploration.

Donations are welcome to support the Church.

Carolyn Cathey's new book, "Divine Messages from Jesus for a magnificent life" is now available in paperback and Kindle versions. For more information, please see

<https://carolynecathey.com/divine-messages-from-jesus/>

The Board of Directors of the Westport Community Church currently has two vacancies. If you are interested in becoming a Church Board member, please call Steve Brigham at 964-6431, or e-mail him at stevebrigham2000@gmail.com. Thank You!



A BLAST FROM THE PAST by Lee Tepper... *Here is a photo taken in 1974 of Lyle Stanley (the Thomas Jefferson of Westport), Lyle's goats, and Lyle's garden, in the Northeast corner of the large field at Hillcrest and Highway 1 in Westport (the field is still there today). The child in the foreground across the street is Navarro Chandler, who with parents Chris and Bob Chandler were living there at that time.*

Rainfall By The Numbers

Steve Brigham

43 years ago, when Lyle Stanley grew this impressive garden (photo above), Westport had had two wet rainy seasons in a row. But the next three rainy seasons would be much, much drier. Indeed, it was the droughts of the 1970s in California that I remember more than the rains – these were the droughts that motivated me and many of my friends to focus on drought-tolerant landscape plants in general, and California native plants in particular – a new direction at that time that is still the driving force in California horticulture.

California has always alternated between wet periods and dry periods. In case you hadn't noticed, the 2016-2017 rainy season that's just now winding down was by anyone's measure a wet one. Here in Westport, it's been an extended rainy season, with a full seven months of rain, rain, rain. Let's take a look at my monthly totals here on the Headlands: October, 10.70"; November, 7.43"; December, 7.39"; January, 13.04"; February, 12.48"; March, 6.16"; April, 6.01" – for a season total to date of 63.21". That's already

150% of our annual average of 43 inches! About the only way we could have gotten a higher total is to have stronger atmospheric rivers (which can happen in some years – see my column in last month's *Wave*). If that had been the case, there would have been a lot more storm damage this past winter than there already has been.

If you really like atmospheric rivers, you can make your own mini-rivers at home, just by living in the right place. If you live in a canyon or up at a higher elevation than I do here at the ocean, you'll get heavier rain when it does rain. This is because when moist air gets squeezed into a canyon or pushed up a slope, more water is squeezed out of it. Josh at the Water District at the Wages Creek bridge is up to 67.25" for the season now, around 6% more than the Headlands, and Thad in Howard Creek Canyon is up to 77.01", a full 22% more than my total – these ratios are fairly consistent from year-to-year. Further inland (and higher up), places like Branscomb, Laytonville, and Leggett get even more rain – Leggett is already over 100 inches for the season! That's a lot of rain in just 7 months – no wonder they've had so many landslides there!



Drawing sent by Diane Bush

Remembering Millie Saunders

Millie said she loved to visit Calico Farm because she rode her pony up there when she was young. She was friends with the old couple who lived up there then. Rest in Peace, sweet friend.

Love Always, Diane Bush

I would like to write a few words about Mildred. She was such a nice sweet person much like her mother Vernice. Always wanting to help others.

My memories of her will always be running on the beach at Wages Creek, about 3 years old, eyes sparkling, sunshine in her hair, with her two-piece polka dot bathing suit on and a trail of giggles coming from her. She was a lot younger than we were so I remember her most as a young child.

Sincerely, Veltha Wilsey Prine (a Westport girl)

When I was born, I was lucky enough to spend the first 15 minutes of my life with Mille Saunders. She was working at the hospital and had heard that my mom had come into labor, so when her shift was over she came to check in. She happened to arrive just as I was born, and although she wasn't one of the official birth attendants, when the midwives and nurses needed to turn their attention to my mom post delivery, they handed me to her. Perhaps it was because she was a hospital employee, or perhaps it was because she carried with her that calm,

nurturing sweetness everywhere she went. Whatever the reason I feel so blessed to have gotten to spend part of my "magic hour" with such a special woman and to have her tell me this story as we spent time together when I was about to become a mother myself. Indeed we are all better off for having known Millie. I will carry a part of her in my heart for all of my days.

Elika Freeman

Millie was such a sweetheart! She was always there when you needed something. One day, maybe 20 years ago or so, we went to a fund-raiser on the Headlands. Millie was selling her delicious homemade baked goods, and we bought some "Miami Dolphins Lemon Bars". This is perhaps the most dangerously delicious dessert on the planet! By the time we left that day, Millie had also gone home, hand-copied her recipe for us, and gave it to us. Everyone who's ever had these lemon bars raves about them! Millie was always there when you needed a glad hand or hug. You can't beat a friend with a heart like that!

Margie and Gus Gustafson

As Jeannie Filmer wrote to say, "Millie was such a wonderful girl". But you don't have to be older than Millie to say that. Millie always seemed so youthful to me, and I have always been amazed that she had such long-ago memories of Westport and the surrounding settlements. Millie had in fact spent more time living in these parts than just about anyone. Here in the Village, Jeff and Millie have always been the most trusted neighbors of the Gundersons, going back to when Don and Darlyne and Donna and Joe built our house back in the late 1980s. Living in the center of town for most of her life, Millie was the center of town, and the best friend everybody ever had. She was also a fantastic gardener!

Millie was, not surprisingly, a founding member of the Westport Village Society. But what a lot of folks don't know is that she set a Westport Board Member record that will perhaps never be broken, with 40+ years on the Board of the Westport Community Church. Millie took over that Board position when her mother died – and I believe that their mother and

daughter combo held that Board position for over 60 years! Now I've only lived in Westport for 8 years, so I'm just a baby. But that's why I joined the Church Board – for Millie and Vernice and those 60+ years of dedication to our town's oldest institution.

The Spring Equinox sunrise over the Westport Headlands this year was unusual. For around 3 to 4 minutes, I watched from my upstairs bedroom balcony an unprecedented "sunset at sunrise". The sun was "setting" right over the ocean, right where it should be, right through the clouds. But this was at sunrise! It was actually a very rare reflection of the real sunrise over the hill, on the opposite side of the sky! I was so awestruck I couldn't get my camera in time. Totally unbeknownst to me, it was right around the time that Millie passed, just down the street. Millie was born on the Winter Solstice, she died on the Spring Equinox, and this was her extremely creative celestial goodbye. But there can never be a complete goodbye, because Millie is in our hearts.

Steve Brigham

Editor's Note: We'll be featuring your remembrances of Millie Saunders in not just this issue but in future issues of *The Wave* this year as well. Please send your thoughts to me at westportwave@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488. Thank you!

Court-Ordered Community Service Opportunities in Westport

Gary Quinton

Do you need to serve court-ordered Community Service or serve in a Sheriff's Department Work Release program? Why not serve it in your community? We would value your time!

There are several places and varied types of work in Westport where you can provide your hours and get credit towards the satisfaction of your court order, including work for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department, Westport-Ten Mile Cemetery District, and the Westport Village Society. Jobs include grass and weed cutting, painting, handyman work, and more. We can help you with registration paperwork and compliance/completion documents. If you are interested, please call Gary Quinton, (707) 964-7073.

May 2017 Westport Calendar

May 2nd – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Westport Church

May 7th – First Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church

May 10th – Westport Ten-Mile Cemetery District Quarterly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church

May 10th – Full Moon, 2:42PM

May 10th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse

May 11th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

May 13th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Firehouse

May 14th – Great Westport Mother's Day Rubber Ducky Races and BBQ, Westport Beach Campground, 11:00AM to 4:00PM

May 21st – Third Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church

May 25th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

May 25th – Super New Moon, 12:44PM

May 27th – Westport Community Yard Sale, 10:00AM to 2:00PM, Westport Headlands

May 28th – Carolyn Cathey, "Glistening Lightlines Connections", 10:00AM at the Westport Church

May 29th – Memorial 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. **Check out our website www.westportvillagesociety.org, to read and download both our current issue and over five years of past issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our June 1st, 2017 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by May 27th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488. Thank You!



Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, 2017
Caspar Beaches at Westport Campground
Gates open at 11:15 am

Races, Raffle, BBQ
Live Music by Erin Brazill & Joey Goforth