

Giving Thanks: Past, Present, and Future

Steve Brigham, Editor

The autumn leaves are ablaze on Branscomb Road right now, with that bright fall color that always reminds me of "thanks." Thanks for another successful growing season, thanks for what we have, and thanks for all that has gone before us. It's always been amazing to me how the concept of "thanks" is so important in every human culture I've ever seen or read about – indeed, it seems an elemental part of humanity itself. There are many ways to express thanks, of course, as well as many things to be thankful for. With our Thanksgiving approaching, this month's *Westport Wave* is all about "thanks."

A better understanding of our history helps greatly in giving thanks for both our past and present. And that folds in nicely with the premier of the brand new history book of the Westport area, <u>Belonging To</u> <u>Places</u>, by our own Thad Van Bueren. Unlike previous histories of our area, this is a definitive account of all aspects of our history, with many heretofore-unseen photos. This is a book that focuses not just on facts and figures, but the way people really were and the way they really lived, and it is an extremely captivating read. Sure to be on your Holiday-giving list (it certainly is on mine), it is available now at the Westport Community Store (see pages 2 and 3 for more on The Book and The Store).

This issue of *The Wave* is full of thanks for the present as well, including thanks to *real living people*, which is perhaps the greatest thanks of all. Have you ever noticed how it makes you feel good to say "thank you"? (Of course, it makes the other person feel good, too!) Are these good feelings a key to the energy that propels us into a bright future together? I think they are, so say "thank you" to someone today!

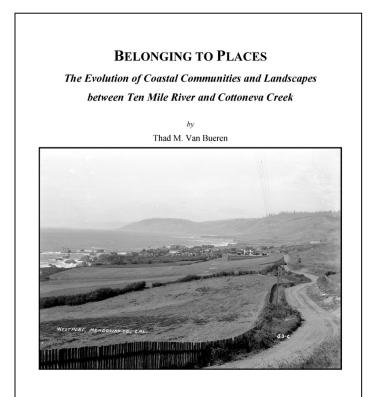


Westport Village Society News

Thad Van Bueren, WVS President

Twenty years after the founding of the Westport Village Society, it is clear we have a lot to be grateful for. We appreciate not just the things that have been achieved, but the vision and dedication of so many in the community who have supported us over the past two decades. Working together with your support and generous contributions, we preserved our Westport Community Headlands and raised funds to ensure that it will still be there for future generations, as well as completing many other projects. To celebrate and thank our supporters, the WVS is planning a special 20th anniversary party in early December. Look for the details in the next newsletter!

Our Annual Meeting on October 5th filled the Westport Church to capacity, and we are very pleased to welcome new Directors Gary Quinton and Nita Regalia. Gary and Nita are both long time supporters, and we look forward to their new ideas and energy. Our huge thanks go out to outgoing Directors Jeff Whitehouse and Liza Saenz-Bernard, who are taking a break after their lengthy and much-valued service (see Lois's article on page 2 for more on that). The Westport Village Society Board will hold a special meeting November 19th at 7:30 PM at the Westport Church to consider, among other matters, a new recreation program that Tabitha Korhummel is planning for the Westport School. If this interests you, we would value you input and ideas. All are welcome!



Mendocino Historical Review Volume XXVI * Summer 2012

The NEW Westport History Book is available now!

This year saw the completion of a brand new book on Westport history that sprang from a long-term WVS effort to collect, preserve, and share the past. Published jointly by the WVS and the Kelley House Museum, this book is now available to members for a \$10 donation, or to non-members for a \$17 donation. This is a good reason to join (visit www.westportvillagesociety.org)!! If you want it mailed to you, add \$2.50 for postage and handling and send your donation to WVS at P.O. Box 446, Westport, CA 95488. Marie Fostiak is willing to make the Westport Community Store the primary outlet. The store will be given a list of current WVS members by November 5. Thanks for your patience as that list is compiled. The books can also be acquired at a book signing held in conjunction with the WVS 20th Anniversary Party in early December.

Thanks to Homer and Liza!

Lois Senger

Jeff Homer Whitehouse and Liza Saenz-Bernard have volunteered many hours of service to the Westport community during their time as Directors of the Westport Village Society. Both of their current terms were over in October, and while Jeff was willing to continue on as a board member, they both offered their positions to any other member of the community who wanted an opportunity to be on the Board. Two members of the community volunteered to be on the board, and we welcome Nita Regalia, and Gary Quinton. Although we thanked Jeff and Liza at our annual meeting for their service, this seems inadequate recognition for their many contributions. And so we have decided to put together a reception to honor Jeff and Liza, and also include the many other past members who have contributed to the formation of the WVS, the acquisition of the Headlands, and all the other community projects over the years as well. I have volunteered to coordinate with other past board members to gather the history of the WVS and to plan a reception. We will give further details and hope to arrange for an event in the early part of December.

I will highlight Jeff and Liza now, as they represent the current change on the board, and I will include all others and their contributions at our reception. Jeff is a founding member of the organization and has contributed over 20 years of service! Thank you so much, Jeff! I remember Jeff spending hours filling out forms for the government so we could be incorporated as a 501(c) non-profit organization, a thankless task. (He did not pursue this career!) Jeff also contributed many hours helping with the construction of the stairs on the Headlands, and of course he is also the familiar face racing all the ducks for us at the annual Rubber Ducky Races. We certainly hope he is willing to continue to be his usual laughing smile in the water with the ducks!

Liza is remembered fondly for Gallery This and the Plein Air Workshops, which brought so much great art to Westport. She's always had a vision for a community center in Westport, and put her energies toward this goal. Thank you, Liza! She still continues to bring art into the community to enjoy, working with the Westport Hotel to arrange our monthly art showings. I am organizing a gathering of long-time volunteers who are willing to have some fun recalling the history and "good old times" during the formation of the Westport Village Society. Please contact me if you are willing to have fun sharing old memories and compiling our history before we all forget! So far Jeff and Millie Saunders and Marie Fostiak are willing. I plan to ask Lee Tepper, Dorine Real, and Homer, since my memory recalls their active participation in the inception as well. Please, I want to include anyone who is willing to share their memories, particularly in the five years before our incorporation and the next ten or so years after. I don't recall everyone, so contact me (961-0178) if you have interest and/or memories to share. The last ten or 12 years, I believe we have better records and different people, so I will undertake that gathering of information with those folks later. Thanks so much for your help!

20 Years Ago in The Wave

Steve Brigham

Election Day, November 1992 was truly a memorable time for many of us, especially for those of the Democratic persuasion. On that day, a young Bill Clinton and the Dems swept to victory, with a big assist from Ross Perot, who split the Republican vote just enough to make the difference. Nationwide, the voter turnout of 75% of registered voters was high, and remarkable by today's standards.

As reported in the November 13, 1992 *Westport Wave*, local voter interest was also particularly high on that Election Day 20 years ago, with 78% of registered voters in Mendocino County casting ballots. And Westport was the biggest champion of all, with an incredible 95% turnout!

Have you returned your Absentee Ballot yet? There's still plenty of time to mail it in, but it must be postmarked before the polls close at 8 PM on November 6th. You can also submit your absentee ballot in person on Election Day at an actual polling place, such as the C.V. Starr Center in Fort Bragg. You think your vote won't make a difference? Well, 20 years ago, the initial tally had our 4th District County Supervisor re-elected by just one vote! So don't delay, VOTE TODAY!



Let's All Celebrate Marie's 12th Anniversary at the Westport Store!

Steve Brigham

It's a grocery store, a department store, a first-class deli, a post office, and a gas station all in one. It's a haven for tourists as well as a treasure for locals. For generations now, it's been <u>the</u> meeting place for all of Westport, day in and day out, rain or shine. It's the communications center and the life-blood of our community. It's the Westport Community Store!

On Sunday, November 11th, Marie Fostiak will mark her 12th anniversary as owner and operator of the Westport Community Store. For all these years, Marie and Pam Helverson have been there for all of us, together with an illustrious lineup of friendly staff. So much thanks is due to them all for all that they've done for all of us over the years, and the best way to say thanks is to buy lots of stuff on a regular basis! Let's all stop by the Westport Store on November 11th to thank and congratulate Marie, Pam, and Co. for all that they do! And bring lots of money to spend!

Pacific Coast Bike Route Meeting December 6th

Steve Brigham

The proposed Pacific Coast Bike Route and California Coastal Trail along the 105-mile Highway One corridor in Mendocino County is entering an important new phase of public review. To facilitate public input, four upcoming public meetings are scheduled: in Gualala, Point Arena, Mendocino, and Westport. The Westport Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 6th from 5:30 to 7:30PM at the Westport Community Church. This is an important meeting to attend, since the new Draft Study Report will be explained, and you will have the opportunity to provide feedback on many aspects of this project. So save the date – December 6th!

Fall Back, and Check for Fire Safety!

Bill Knapp, President, Westport Volunteer Fire Department, and Steve Brigham

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2AM Sunday, November 4th – which means we "fall back", and set our clocks back an hour until next April. But if you haven't already done it, that's not the only thing you should be doing. With winter on the way, now is the time when we traditionally must think about fire safety, and most especially if we have a woodburning stove. Now is the time to install and maintain your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors, and make sure your stovepipes are clean and your wood stove is operating safely. And if you don't? Well, you could be endangering your very life, and everything and everyone else in and around your home.

First off, a word about Carbon Monoxide Detectors. Do you know what they even are? Well, woodburning stoves and many kinds of heaters can produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, particularly in a poorly ventilated home. In the state of California, part of the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010 requires that all residential properties, not just those being sold, be equipped with a Carbon Monoxide detector if the property has a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, and/or an attached garage. All single-family homes in structures with 1 to 4 units (owner or tenant occupied) must have been equipped with a CO detector on or before July 1, 2011. Carbon Monoxide is odorless, colorless, and tasteless gas which is slightly lighter than air. Although you cannot detect dangerous levels of CO without a detector, you may detect the symptoms of CO poisoning. Early symptoms include: headache, dizziness, and nausea. Later symptoms include confusion and drowsiness, fast breathing, fast heartbeat, or chest pain, vision problems, and seizures. Carbon monoxide poisoning is LIFE THREATENING. Carbon monoxide replaces the oxygen in the blood stream and cells start dying. If you detect any of the symptoms in yourself or others, GET FRESH AIR IMMEDIATELY. Leave the structure, or open or break out a window - whichever is quickest. The most common time for CO poisoning to occur is while people are sleeping, making the use of an audible alarm even more important. CO

detectors are easy to install, similar to smoke detectors. A common version of CO detector plugs into a standard wall outlet and has a battery back up in case of power outage. Since different manufacturers recommend different heights for mounting, check installation instructions for the unit you are considering.

Smoke Detectors save lives, and now is the time to replace your batteries on your existing smoke detectors, or buy and install new smoke detectors if you don't already have them. In any case, PLEASE make sure you HAVE a smoke detector and that it works. For existing ones, push the test button once in a while to check them. Make sure you didn't paint over them last spring when you spruced up your place. Smoke detectors are one of the most effective and least expensive ways to save lives related to structure fires. We hope you never need us, but if you do, your Fire Department is the best way to get a fire out. Your <u>smoke detector</u> is the best way to get <u>you</u> out!

Now about Wood Stove safety – and this is particularly important for all of you that regularly heat with wood, as well as all of you who even occasionally use a fireplace or wood stove. If you haven't already done it, now is the time for your annual Fire Safety Check and thorough cleaning of all chimneys and stovepipes. There are some very nice folks in our area that make a living cleaning chimneys and stove pipes (remember Dick Van Dyke in Mary Poppins?), and it's a fairly inexpensive service, so just make that call. But if you're the do-it-yourself type, here are a few tips.

From the inside check your stovepipe for tight connections, especially where it connects to the insulated chimney pipe at the ceiling,, and make sure the damper is working properly. One sign of possible creosote buildup is a stuck or very sticky damper. Any gaps in the stovepipe connections can allow combustion gases or even burning material to enter the living space. If you can access the attic or space between the ceiling and the roof, check for any sign of smoke smell or discoloration near the chimney pipe. Check that any chimney section joints are tight and that the chimney pipe doesn't move when you push on it. If it can flex, wind can move the chimney from the outside and loosen the seal at the joints. On the roof, check the chimney cap screen (you have one, right?) for any debris. If you see any ash or build up the chimney it probably needs to be swept. Remove the cap and shine a flashlight down the chimney. If you see buildup or obstruction of any kind, chimney sweeping is indicated. Also check that the chimney pipe is stable and doesn't wobble. If any problems are found, maintenance and repairs should be done now, making the heating system ready to go prior to heating season. Inspection can be done by many homeowners, but if you are unsure contact a professional. Your best bet by far is to have all major repair done by a reputable professional. Then, you will be able to safely enjoy your nice, warm house, all winter long, knowing that you're FIRE SAFE!



Restored planter boxes at the Westport School.

Community Garden News

Steve Brigham

Thanks to all of you who have been enjoying the new Westport Community Garden, which is right next to the Westport School at the end of Abalone Street. This self-serve organic garden is always open and free to all. We (actually you) are currently harvesting organically grown tomatoes, Italian beans, Swiss chard, cucumbers, green peppers, zucchini, summer squash, butternut squash, tomatillos, kale, broccoli, and many kinds of salad greens on a daily basis. Quantities are, of course, limited in this, our first "trial run" year. Although the main growing season for this year is coming to a close, you can still look forward to leafy vegetables and salad greens in the greenhouse throughout the coming winter months. The Westport Community Garden is more than just vegetables, however, and you can also look forward to herbs and ornamental flowers for your kitchen and bouquet use next year. As a start, I recently replanted the two large planter boxes in front of the Westport School, which were in need of some re-doing but had surviving plants of bearded iris, lavender, and daffodils. Rather than a complete re-do, I chose to restore, since I could only assume that these old plants likely started out as proud, locally donated plant babies! (If you know what's good for you, you've got to honor the past, and past gardeners!)

So now the replanted beds have even taken on the theme of a remembrance garden. It doesn't look like much just yet, but the replanted bearded iris and daffodils will soon flourish, and I have also replanted three types of lavender, which is a plant notable for its soothing powers. And nearby, I planted rosemary, which is useful in the kitchen but also "for remembrance," as Shakespeare once pointed out. And if you ever have to remember anything Australian, I even planted an ornamental Australian rosemary nearby – it's actually a first-class bouquet filler, especially during the winter holidays.

Our Westport Community Center is our Community Jewel! Let's all give thanks for the countless donations and hours of time that have built our current Westport Church and Community Center, starting in 1984 and continuing to the present. And let's particularly remember all of the <u>people</u> who have built, and continue to build, what we enjoy today. There's no better way to do that than to be a volunteer and donor yourself, as we build for the future!

Are You Reading This In Color?

Well, if you're reading a paper copy that you've just picked up from the Westport Store and you're seeing it in color, you've got quite an imagination! We may not have the money to <u>print</u> *The Wave* in color, but if you sign up for the <u>e-mail</u> version of this newsletter on our website <u>www.westportvillagesociety.org</u> (it's free), you'll be one of the first folks to get each issue, in glorious, living color (and you can make the photos and print bigger, too!) Sign up today, and save a tree!

Spooky Sightings at the Westport Recycle Center

Donna Brigham

"WALKING-TALKING HEADLESS TORSO SIGHTED IN WESTPORT!"

That got your attention, didn't it! Well, it got mine, too, earlier this summer at the Recycle Center! Waddling toward me were two gold feet, and the biggest, most brilliantly white torso I'd ever seen. With No Head! But I heard mumbling, and suddenly, one eye peered out at me from the torso. Now it was just on the other side of the fence from me...

What I had encountered, however, was no monster. It was a Canada Goose, who's neck had been badly injured either by a predator or in a fight. Turns out he did have a head, after all, but his neck was so weak that his head mostly just stayed tucked into his body. This guy was in trouble, but I hoped I could help. So I named him "Grace", while I rustled up some goose chow and began the process of "Saving Grace."

With some food, Grace became a little stronger over the next few days. But all the other geese shunned him, and some of the males tried to drive him away. Grace's flock flew away, continuing their fall migration, and Grace remained behind, unable to fully raise his head or fly. But he was still alive! And Grace became my friend. When he saw me arrive at work, he would come for his food, sometimes taking 2 hours to walk from the large pond over to me. After eating, he'd take a nap near me until closing. But I was respectful of his status as a wild bird, so I took care not to get too close.

Gradually, Grace gained more strength, and after about 6 weeks he began to have more mobility in his neck. Now he could groom his feathers better, and stretch out his wings. By September, Grace could stretch his neck out all the way and flap his wings; and then he started to fly short distances. In early October, a new flock of geese arrived – 7 females and one male. Grace began to follow one of the females, and she began to follow him. I named her Valentine.

October 13th, and Grace remained at the fence for an hour after breakfast, visiting with me, before returning to Valentine. By now, the flock had grown to some 200 geese. Summer was over, and I knew it

was time. All of a sudden, it seemed, Grace was a big, majestic, and exceptionally beautiful bird again, and ready to fly. He had regained his powers! As the flock of geese lifted off for Somewhere South, Grace and Valentine proudly took to the sky along with the others. And we said goodbye.

I miss Grace, but I'm happy for him. I may have been his Saving Grace, but he truly became mine, too! Thank you, my friend!

Holiday Goodies!

Barbara Anderson

Do you have a great Holiday recipe you'd like to share? We'd love to include it in the December *Westport Wave*! Just e-mail Steve Brigham at <u>westportwave@aol.com</u> with your recipe this month, or send it to him at P.O. Box 237, Westport 95488.

To start with this month, here's a great Holiday Cookie recipe of my own. Especially if you didn't carve up your Halloween pumpkin, you can put this recipe to good use!

- 2-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- ¹/₂ tsp. baking soda
- 2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter
- 1-1/2 cup (packed) dark brown sugar
- 1 cup solid-packed unsweetened pumpkin puree
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 10 oz. white chocolate
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecan pieces, toasted

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F.

Combine flour, pumpkin pie spice, and baking soda.

In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar with an electric mixer. Beat in the pumpkin puree. Beat in the eggs and vanilla. Beat in the flour mixture until just combined. Stir in the white chocolate and pecans. Drop the dough by rounded tablespoons 2 inches apart onto parchment paper on a cookie sheet.

Bake at 300 degrees F. for 20 to 22 minutes or until set. Transfer to wire rack to cool. Enjoy!

Hibernation in Northern California

Liza Saenz-Bernard

"Powerful instruments, which are intuition, instinct, and spontaneity" (Artist in Bel Barda Aqui)

There is so much entertainment in November that our calendar is full. It may be impossible to see all these performances. As for art shows, I recommend, "You Art What You Eat," now showing at The Westport Hotel! Our local artist Aimee Maxey's still-life painting is getting great reviews, and was purchased at our Last Saturday opening! Snooze and you lose to those who said, "I love that painting, and want to buy it!" Our local Real Estate magazine is always very informative on local events. Music, art classes, dance workshops, potlucks, comedy, book readings, film (Mendocino Film Festival documentary), etc, can be found on their back page.

www.mendocinostories.com/events.html My friend Pattie DeMattio has put together the best month of the year! There is the Wild Women of the West Part II- a celebration of Mendocino Women, Sat 11/03. The documentary film, "A Fierce Green Fire: The Battle for a Living Planet. Tracy Grammer, Symphony of The Redwoods, see what I mean! Have you heard of the Blushing Roulettes? If you liked Led Zeppelin you'll love this female Rock & Roll band.

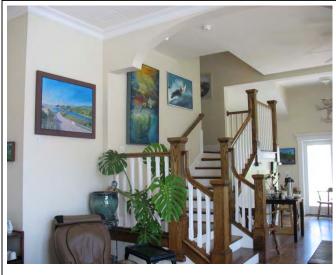
We saw Bob Dylan in Berkeley last Friday night! Wish I had a blog to write a review of how astounding his band was and he himself. There were people in line that have been going to all the concerts on this "Tempest" tour, and one guy said this was so far THE BEST. Email us if you want to hear more. Speaking of touring musicians, go to YOUTUBE for a fun video, of Nicki Bluhm and the Gamblers. This ingenious band has captured their music with an IPHONE glued to their dashboard, while driving in their van. She has had 1,000,000 hits. If you like their music go to <u>www.theindependentsf.com</u> for where they are performing. How fun to have all this technology at ones reach and to share with the masses. Here's a favorite of video of mine from my friend in Spain! <u>http://www.wimp.com/catowl/</u> The Internet is a great escape and with the upcoming election, entertainment is at your fingertips! See www.visitmendocino.com/beer-wine-mushroomfestival.com (11/11/12).

The contemporary Jewish Museum is showing vintage platinum photography, dated from 1936-51. New York's Photo League captures the complexities of society. "It coalesced during the depression, ... and was hounded out of existence by the anticommunist hysteria of the early Cold War years." (Kenneth Baker reviewing in S.F. Saturdays Datebook, 10/27/12.) The photograph by Consuelo Kanaga, of New York tenements, with the bleached white linens and shirts hanging from hundreds of close lines, protruding from each families window, says a lot about our past little America.

www.thecjm.org Going to the museum's website does not show the work, but the site is great for their venues and has short videos of the musicians. The images by Louis Stettner, of a parent and child shivering on the deck of a ship heading for America is an example of the fine art photography that has left us, due to technological world and the rise of, well you know the rest. There goes our Kodachrome! Just one more YOUTUBE that reminded me of what we could create in our little town of Westport on the Headlands. Creating something to sit on like Thad & Donna's dragon would be great. Go to YOUTUBE, Bel Barda Aqui Documentary film 2012. When you find out this man's name please let me know! The town is near San Salvador.

Fires are blazing and the soups on stove, with lots of different broths, practicing for THANKSGIVING. Leah Garchik reminds me of Herb Caen, the way she lists San Francisco's events. Wednesday's Datebook, 11/24/12, had the best description of how to celebrate the publication of a cookbook. Bruce Aidells, meat maven and former sausage mogul, wrote "The Great Meat Cookbook, and his wife, Nancy Oakes, put together a 13 coarse menu at her restaurant. See if this makes you drool. "Frank Boyer's barbecued brisket, and grilled Australian lamb chops with Moroccan mint and lemon paste with tahini sauce."

Remember that art does not just hang on a wall. Making the best pie in town is a creation of the hands that beat the egg and tasted the spoon. Singing while you rearrange your furniture, preparing for the family hoards to enter your home is an art form in itself! If you want to talk or want information on Westport Hotel's next ART show, please e-mail me at <u>saenzphoto@yahoo.com</u>. Thanks!



Come see the Art Show at the Westport Hotel!

November at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

Don't forget the Westport Hotel Fall Pie Contest on Saturday, November 3rd, from 3PM to 9PM! There are rumors of pumpkin pies, pear tarts, and apple galettes being baked for the contest. Come enjoy the beautiful fall days the bounty of the season and the talent of all the local bakers! Ice cream and whipped cream will be provided to accompany your entry. For a \$5.00 donation to the Fire Department, you will get several tasting portions of pie, tea or coffee; and the chance to vote for your favorite pie. We hope to see lots of entries!

Our Neighborhood Nights menu and extended summer hours (Sunday & Monday) ends October 29 for the season. Thanks to our loyal local patrons that supported the additional hours and enjoyed having a meal at the hotel with us. Our winter hours will resume as before: Dinners Thursday- Saturday, 5-9 Saturday Tea 3-5 and Sunday Brunch 10-2.

Welcome to Westport, Grady!

On September 15th, proud parents Heather and Brian Hawes welcomed their brand new baby, Grady, into the world. Grady is a beautiful, healthy boy, and he is doing well. Congratulations to Heather, Brian, and Raven on <u>your</u> new baby, and <u>our</u> newest Westportian! ******

You are reading *The Westport Wave*, a free monthly community newsletter published on the first day of every month by the Westport Village Society, a nonprofit organization. Members of the WVS receive their free copies on or before the first day of every month by e-mail (or postal mail, if requested – please allow a few days extra for postal mail). Printed (black-and-white) copies of each month's newsletter are also available free to all at the Westport Community Store, from the first day of each month on. WVS member dues pay for this newsletter production – which is a good reason in itself to join our Society - join the Westport Village Society today, and sign up for your free monthly newsletter at www.westportvillagesociety.org. Contributions for the December 1, 2012 edition of The Westport Wave are due by November 28th, and should be sent to editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@aol.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488.

November 2012 Westport Calendar

November 1st – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM November 2nd – All Souls Day (Day of the Dead) November 3rd – Pie Contest, Westport Hotel, 3-9PM November 4th – Daylight Savings Time ends, 2AM (set clocks BACK one hour before you go to bed Saturday night, Nov.3rd) November 6th – Election Day November 6th – WMAC Meeting CANCELLED November 11th – Veterans Day November 13th – New Moon, 2:08PM November 15th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM November 19th – Westport Village Society Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at the Westport Church November 22nd – Thanksgiving Day November 29th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

Route Meeting, 5:30PM at The Westport Church