

May 1, 2021

The Westport Wave

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



Firefighter Alta Bingham in driver training with a WVFD fire engine.

Westport Volunteer Fire Department News

Westport Volunteer Fire Department

April was a busy training month as we prepare for what could be an active wildfire season. Our monthly Saturday training on April 17th was devoted to driver training and pump operations – getting engines to the scene of a fire and pumping water. The photo above shows one of our newest members, Alta Bingham, learning to drive one of our engines that carries 2,000 gallons of water and is able to pump water at 1,250 gallons per minute.

Our very newest active duty member is Westport native Savannah Regalia. Savannah successfully completed her three months of probationary training in April, and was unanimously elected to become an active duty member of the Westport Volunteer Fire Department at our business meeting on April 14th. On taking the Firefighter's Oath administered by Chief Dan Maxey (see photo below), Savannah became our twelfth active duty member. Congratulations Savannah! **The WVFD is very grateful for our community's ongoing support of our operations!**



Chief Dan Maxey congratulates Savannah Regalia on becoming WVFD's newest Firefighter.



Mother's Day Brunch At The Westport Hotel May 9th

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Westport Hotel
On Sunday, May 9th from 11:00AM to 2:00PM, The Westport Hotel will present a Mother's Day Brunch as a fundraiser for Westport Village Society. This is our last fundraiser before we open in mid-June. This simple yet elegant brunch will feature Lee's crab cakes and Dorine's cheese cake. There will be a small raffle with wine and plants. **Reservations and pre-order are required, as we cannot accommodate walk-ins as seating is very limited. Please call (707) 964-3688 to reserve and pre-order.**

Brunch includes: Lee's crab cakes or oyster mushroom cakes served atop a citrus avocado salad with bread plus Dorine's cheese cake with raspberry rose sauce, \$35. Waffle with strawberries 'n cream for kids, \$10. Mimosas \$10. Sunday May 9th 11:00AM to 2:00PM.

We are hiring at the Westport Hotel! Seeking positive, fun, energetic team members – servers, innkeeper, housekeeper, grounds/maintenance person, prep-cook, and dishwasher. E-mail westporthotel@mcn.org, call (707) 964-3688, or apply in person at The Westport Hotel.

Free Masks for COVID Protection

COVID Response Network

Courtesy of the Mask Awareness Project of the COVID Response Network, complimentary mask kits are available at the following locations, so anyone can pick up free mask packs anytime. **This project is made possible by North Coast Opportunities, the Community Foundation of Mendocino, and generous community members.**

Fort Bragg – Down Home Foods and Colombi Market

Mendocino – Spark Gallery, Corners of the Mouth, and Frankie's

CRN Mission

The mission of the **COVID Response Network** is to do what we can as concerned people to make a broad, deep, and effective response to the threats of COVID-19. Our pilot region is the Mendocino Coast of California.

Westport Community Store & Post Office Expanded Service During COVID-19 Crisis

In this COVID crisis, the **Westport Community Store** now offers the following services:

- Call-ahead ordering – store personnel can grocery shop for you
- Curbside pickup of take-out food orders, groceries, PO Box Mail and packages delivered to the store
- Delivery of take-out food orders, groceries, PO Box Mail and packages delivered to the store
- Flexible non-contact payment methods
- All orders will be packaged and disinfected prior to pickup or delivery. **The Westport Community Store wants to do anything possible to help its customers stay safe and minimize possible spread of COVID-19. Deliveries available in the greater Westport Community area. Call the Store at 964-2872 to order or get more information.**



Josh Hambrick, new Chef at The Westport Hotel

Westport Hotel Welcomes Chef Joshua Hambrick

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Westport Hotel

Born and raised in the foothills of Northeast Georgia, Joshua Hambrick found his love for cooking as a young boy in his grandmother's kitchen and seasons on the farm. Growing up, he learned the importance of quality produce and respecting each ingredient. Soon after school, Josh moved to Atlanta, Ga to pursue his interest in cooking. There he developed his skills and techniques before moving to New York City and advancing his career in fine dining and Michelin-awarded restaurants. Over the years, he has worked and learned from many talented chefs, including Top Chef contestants/runner-ups, as well as James Beard winners and nominees. In Westport, he will utilize his attention to detail and technique but in a more casual, relaxed atmosphere. On the menu he plans to strictly showcase local ingredients such as sustainably sourced meats, organic produce, and natural wines. We will work closely with local, independent farmers and purveyors to bring the freshest ingredients that will enable us to maintain a rotating, hyper-seasonal menu. We are very excited for what Josh will bring to the Westport Hotel and community. He and his wife Taylor are looking for a

place to rent locally. They fell in love with Westport last year when the Oak Fire re-routed them from Highway 101 to the coast.

Westport Community Church News

Erin Detrick, President, WCC

Hello community members! At our last meeting, the Westport Community Church Board members decided that we would write a monthly article to better inform our community about WCC news. During the last quarterly meeting, we discussed the following matters:

We would like to announce that the Westport Community Church is planning on opening up membership opportunities. The WCC Board has much to discuss and plan, but towards the end of the year look for more information about different membership choices (individual, family, etc.). Membership will be limited to those living full-time in the local area.

Also, if you are interested in holding a WCC Board Member position, information about different positions and their roles in the organization will be available later this year. You will be able to find that information in *The Wave* and posted on the billboard at the Westport Community Store.

Thank you to everyone that has a hand in helping our little Westport Community Church and Community Hall. Please remember we have not yet reopened our buildings for use, but the outdoor space is available with appropriate health precautions. We will inform the community about broader reopening of the facility in future articles. We welcome input on how to do it safely.

Lastly, I would like to invite community members to send me quotes, sayings or a short narrative that has inspired you. We all could use a little inspiration during these times. So I look forward to hearing from you. Please send correspondence to erind.3500@gmail.com. In that spirit of sharing, we understand there is a new spiritual center operating in our neighborhood and we want to welcome them to the community. It is a retreat located at Walter's Hilltop that is operated by the Sonoma Ashram. For more information see <https://sonomaashram.org/>.

What's Happening Around Westport

Bill Knapp, WVS President and WMAC Vice-chair

You may not have heard about **California Senate Bill 231**, but it offers both an opportunity and a challenge and will have a large impact on the Westport community. First, a brief background. In February of 2019 three local Tribes, the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, the Round Valley Indian Tribes, and the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, created a formal Working Group with Senator Mike McGuire's office with the purpose of advocating for joint ownership of 172 acres of property that roughly covers the area from the State Hwy 1 entrance to Blues Beach south to the Bruhel Point Vista Point, Hwy 1 being the easterly boundary and the mean high tide line being the westerly boundary. Cal Trans has owned this property for several decades as the result of a Federal Scenic Easement Program. Cal Trans doesn't have the authority to transfer land to Tribal Governments. But does have authority to transfer to municipal governments and nonprofit corporations.

SSB 231, jointly sponsored by Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblyman Jim Woods, is the legislative result of the Tribal Working Group and Senator McGuire's office. The Westport MAC became aware of SB 231 last February, and had it on the Agenda for the March and April meetings. An article appeared in the March *Westport Wave* (you can download a copy from www.westportvillagesociety.org under the Newsletter tab) providing a historical perspective of the ancestors of the Tribes which formed the Working Group and an overview of SB 231, including a Tribal Leader's objectives, "an opportunity to conserve resources, maintain access, and deepen ties with the community".

This link, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=20210220SB231, is to a copy of the Draft of SB 231. If you are interested, reading the bill's text is a good place to start, it's only a few

pages long. The first legislative step for SB231 occurred last Tuesday, 4/27/21, introduction to the Senate Transportation Committee. A link to both a video and audio file of the hearing is here: <https://www.senate.ca.gov/media/senate-transportation-committee-20210427/video>. You will only be interested in about eight minutes of the ~3 hour hearing, 30:19 through 38:20. I hope to post an audio file on the WVS Website with just the 8 minutes. The legislative process has many steps, with opportunities for the public to phone in and participate. According to Senator McGuire, at the April WMAC meeting, the fastest, greased lighting express path could put a bill on the Governor's desk for signature in late August or September.

So what is happening here in Westport? At the March 2nd, 2021 Westport Municipal Advisory Council (WMAC) meeting, during a discussion of how the WMAC could participate in the development of SB 231, Senator McGuire expressed a desire for WMAC to be an active participant in the continuing work on the bill. If you take the time to read the draft you will find there is significant opportunity to fill in details related to how and what. It is a work in progress, not a finished product. WMAC, with help from Senator McGuire's staff, is working on how to facilitate interaction among the affected stakeholders, and the Senator's staff. Those stakeholders include the Westport community, the Tribal Working Group, the communities of Branscomb and Laytonville and possibly further.

As a participant in this process, it is my goal to reach out to all "local" groups that utilize Blues Beach and make sure they have an opportunity to participate. How this will be done is also a work in progress and will be an agenda topic for the next regular WMAC meeting or if more appropriate a special meeting focused on the issue. As mentioned at the beginning, there are both opportunities and challenges. The opportunities include the chance to have long term stable active management of the Blues Beach site tailored for the benefit of the majority of stakeholders, recognizing that not everyone will be fully satisfied. As a partial list some benefits include; historical and cultural preservation, opportunities for cultures to meet and interact in a positive educational setting, guaranteed public access, and no development.

So, challenges? There are many, I will lead with the one I feel people discussing this topic have known, but not put on the table. We have at least two cultures who have strong emotional feelings for and ties to the Blues Beach property specifically and many other coastal areas not germane to SB 231. The Tribes have long deep historical and cultural roots on and around the Mendocino coast.

Those facts cannot be denied and are a significant component of the structure of SB 231. What also must be recognized is the historically shorter but none the less strong feelings and ties of the settlers descendants. In terms of human lifespans both groups feel generational links to the area.

In my mind the biggest, most important opportunity and also probably the most difficult challenge is having the two cultures work together on a solution. Westport is the physical hub for this activity. This is a chance for Westport to reach out and link with other local communities, both geographic and cultural. I also suspect that this is one of those once in a lifetime opportunities. I hope that the WMAC, WVS, and the



The Westport Headlands, July 1940 (*photo by Edmond Gross*)

community at large can grasp this opportunity and accomplish something we can all look back on with pride and a sense of accomplishment and fairness.

History in the Rear View

Thad M. Van Bueren

In the photo above, the image of the jutting point in the middle of the Westport Headlands property reveals a building still stood there in July 1940. This photograph was taken by visiting artist Edmond Gross and donated to the Westport Village Society last year by his daughter. The first pier or shipping chute was constructed off of that point in the 1870s and ceased operation in 1930. Although no traces of that chute remained a decade later, if you look very closely the “bridge” beam that spanned to an offshore rock is visible in this image. It now rests on top of the Point as a viewing bench.

WVS encourages donations of local history images and documents. We also plan future articles like this to share some with you. We have a lot of donated materials yet to be cataloged. If you’d like to help or donate, contact Thad at 964-7272.

24/7 Westport Wave

The Westport Wave is always free to everyone at any time on the Newsletter page of our website westportvillagesociety.org – where you’ll always find our most current issue as well as over nine years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!



Westport Water District News

**Kayla Cooper, WCWD Administrator
and Financial Controller**

For the past 7 years, Ann Woodhead has generously committed herself to the Westport County Water District Board of Directors. She gracefully took over as Secretary of the Board when her husband, a local Blacksmith and legend Toby Hickman, passed away. Though she was very busy following her passions as a dance instructor and producer, she still managed to find time to be a great addition to the Board. Ann has decided to move on to a new creative project, so she is resigning from her position as of April 30th. We will still see her smiling face here in town, but she will be missed dearly on the Board. Thank you so much for all your help and insight over the years Ann, and good luck with your new adventure.

We now have 2 vacant spots available on the Board of Directors, and we will be accepting applications for the positions. Being a board member involves attending our monthly board meetings, which occur every second Thursday of the month at 7:00PM. These meetings are currently held via zoom, but we hope to have them in person at the Fire House again soon. To be a Water District Board Member, you must be a registered voter within the Westport County Water District, and have no financial conflict of interest. If you are interested, please contact Kayla for

an application. She can be reached via email at wcwd55@gmail.com or by phone 707-367-1057.

The Westport County Water District has officially made it into the cyber world! We are proud to announce that we have a website now, so go check it out! www.westportcountywaterdistrict.com

A Note from John Morrill, WCWD Operations Manager:

Greetings. In the 6.5 years I have been involved with the WCWD Westporters have, for the most part, been very responsible with their water consumption. Most households have been consistently under their monthly base rate usage of 6000 gallons. Thanks to all.

As of now our water supply is fine but I anticipate a strain on it from possibly August until significant rainfall this coming Winter. It could become serious. We are working on Water Conservation/Drought Preparedness /Water Shortage Contingency Plans.

At his time, I am asking for voluntary water conservation. It is a great time to develop good habits and be mindful of our water use. Shutting off water when washing dishes, during showers, brushing teeth etc. can all help without compromising hygiene or safety.

Outdoor usage can be huge and a good opportunity for conservation. Please plan your outdoor plantings with water conservation in mind and an awareness that outdoor watering may not be possible this fall.

Faulty plumbing is another potential gross waste of water. A leaking toilet can easily waste 700 gallons a day. Dripping faucets can also add up to significant amounts. Broken sprinklers or sprinkler pipes also hurt.

David Wilson, our very capable shift operator, and I daily monitor our water use from the tanks and our wastewater intake. We usually can spot bigger problems from looking at the trends. We are always available to assist if you are having a water leak emergency. We may have some plumbing supplies you might need and can shut your water off to facilitate repairs and minimize loss. You can always call my cell phone at 707-303-6677 for assistance.



May at the Westport Community Garden

Derek DiOrio

Stop by the Westport Community Garden in May for fresh, organically grown veggies – ready for you to harvest, ABSOLUTELY FREE! At the Westport Community Garden, fresh vegetables are free to everyone every day, so please come do your part by harvesting regularly so that nothing goes to waste! Just bring your own cutting utensil and a bag to take your goodies home in. We're at the end of Abalone Street at the Westport Community Center (look for the greenhouse).

As usual, the Community Garden work days are the first and third Saturdays of the month (weather permitting) and we could really use some extra hands in the dirt this month - thanks for your support everyone!

In April, we managed to get a lot of the garden planted and things are growing! Right now, radishes, butterhead lettuce, kale, chives, artichokes, and a variety of different herbs are all ready for picking. A variety of different brassicas are on the way including

romanesco, cabbage, and brussels sprouts and should be ready for picking by mid-May. The greenhouse is filling up with peppers (hot and sweet), cucumbers, tomatoes, and other tasty veggies – you'll just have to come and see for yourself!

With the help of a couple of other community members, we made some good progress in laying down weed barrier in the greenhouse, getting all the tomato pots topped off and amended, beds weeded, and the garden shed all cleaned up and looking new - thank you to those who helped!

For May, the focus will be on repairing fencing, amending/mixing soil, laying down the last of the weed barrier cloth (and woodchips) in the greenhouse, pruning, weeding, trellising vines, planting, and finally getting a functioning compost system built! With these improvements done, we'll be on track to get the last of our planting done by mid-May and will then

focus on getting everything in the greenhouse hooked up to a drip irrigation system. What an exciting time of year everyone – hope to see you in the garden soon!

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.



Planting wildflowers on the Headlands in April.

The Bee Patch on The Westport Headlands

Oona Heacock, Executive Director, Conservation Works

Hello! I'd like to share a little about who we are and what we hope to bring the Headlands this year: I am the Executive Director of a local conservation nonprofit, [Conservation Works](#) and am working with the wonderful [Bee Bold Alliance](#) and the Westport Village Society this year to provide an opportunity for the local community of Westport to participate in learning about pollinator habitat needs by planting a habitat forage "Bee Patch" full of colorful native coastal wildflowers along a small section of the Westport Headlands. This habitat will hopefully be whale shaped and provide approximately 400 square feet of wildflower meadow and provide a new diverse ecosystem to support native bees, butterflies, moths, birds, and other small wildlife and a new area of interest north of the Westport Headlands path entrance.

The Bee Patch habitat planting project was supposed to take advantage of the Fall and Spring rains, but because of restrictions on gatherings during the Pandemic and the drought, the project hit some speed bumps. Happily, we were able to bring a small but mighty group of youth & parents out to the Westport Headlands on Saturday, April 17th to spread native coastal California wildflower seeds during the regularly scheduled Westport Headlands Work Day. You may notice a planting area near the Headlands

sign and north of the overlook pathway. This was planted with little clay wildflower [seed bombs](#) (100 + thanks to Lavender Cinnamon and her friends and family!) which were scattered along the "Whale / Bee Patch". Using seed bombs this time of year will help protect seeds from birds and weather until the first storm event in October. We also cast wildflower seeds along the site, but are imagining that most will not germinate until the Fall.

I am hoping that we can attend the next Headlands Work Day (see page 10) on May 15th (World Bee Day weekend).

Here is the tentative schedule for May 15th:

12:00PM – Bee Patches Introductions

12:15PM – Learning about Pollinators and what we can do to help

12:30PM – Bee Alive Tag game for youth

12:30PM – Planting wildflower seed bombs

1:30PM – Closing circle

We hope that the Westport community feels that this project supports your goals for preservation and stewarding the beautiful Westport Headlands site.



Bee Patch information booth.



Easter Bunny sighting in Westport April 4th!

May Westport Calendar

(Please note that because of the COVID crisis, meeting occurrences, dates, and modes may vary.)

Sunday, May 9th – Mother's Day

Sunday, May 9th – Mother's Day Brunch, 11:00AM to 2:00PM. Westport Hotel (see p.2)

Monday, May 10th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Via Zoom, 7:00PM. An agenda will be sent out by email to everyone on the WMAC mailing list. If you are not on the mailing list and wish to be added, email WMAC95488@wildblue.net to be added. **Please note that this is NOT the regularly scheduled 1st Tuesday of the month.**

Tuesday, May 11th – Micro New Moon, 11:59AM

Wednesday, May 12th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Wednesday, May 12th – Eid al-fitr Begins At Sundown

Thursday, May 13th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

Thursday, May 13th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom)

Saturday, May 15th – Headlands Work Day, 10:00AM to 1:00PM, Westport Headlands (see Page 8)

Sunday, May 16th – World Bee Day

Sunday, May 16th – Shavuot Begins At Sundown

Wednesday, May 19th – Endangered Species Day

Wednesday, May 26th – Total Lunar Eclipse, 4:11AM to 4:25AM

Wednesday, May 26th – Super Full Moon, 4:13AM

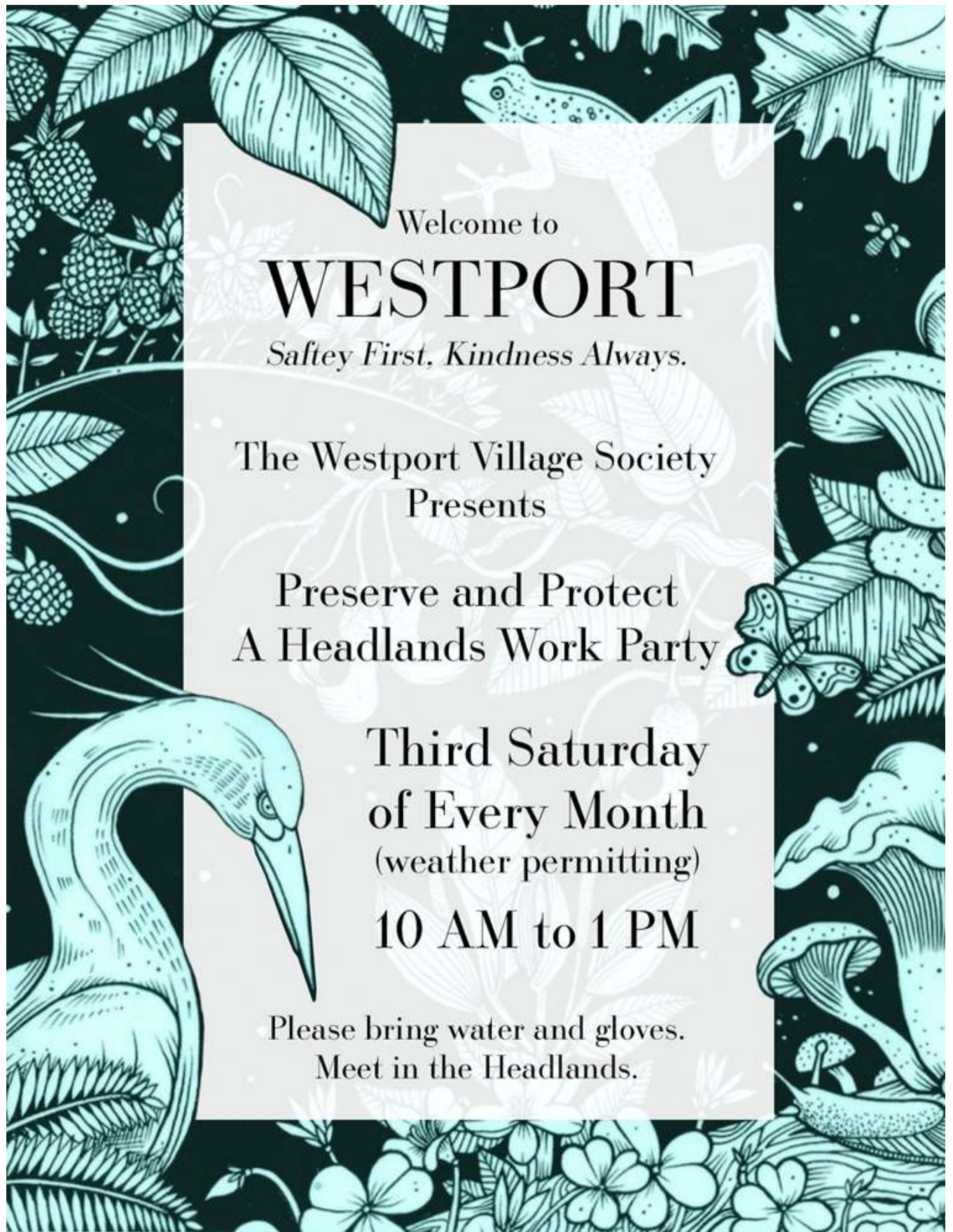
Thursday, May 27th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

Monday, May 31st – 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. **Contributions for our June 1st issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by May 26th**, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!



Kenai, Heron, and Shelby count their Easter Eggs!



Welcome to

WESTPORT

Safety First, Kindness Always.

The Westport Village Society
Presents

Preserve and Protect
A Headlands Work Party

Third Saturday
of Every Month
(weather permitting)
10 AM to 1 PM

Please bring water and gloves.
Meet in the Headlands.