

Westport Water 50 Years Ago – Lyle Standley's Water System

Bill Brazill

One of the first people we met in coming to Westport almost fifty years ago was Lyle Standley. He had heard we had bought the old Kruger Place (then the only house on the west side of Omega Drive) and came to introduce himself and ask if we would like the house reconnected to his water system, explaining that we had a well but no pump as the house had not been lived in for many years. The monthly water fee was \$6.50. We said sure and from then on we saw Lyle the last day of each month when he came to the house and presented his hand written water bill. We were expected to pay on the spot as everyone did. He would then write "paid" and sign the bill and this was our receipt.

Lyle was probably in his late sixties then, and he and his wife Clare lived in a small house up at Wages Creek Campground. Dutch, his son, lived to the south of us in a tiny cabin that I think eventually slid into the ocean. Turns out we were all cousins as my dad's mom was a Standley from Westport.

Lyle's system had two sources for water. There was a spring up behind town in a gulch, and as I learned from Marjorie Zakula, a well out in Buster Standley's field that we now call The Headlands. Water from both places went to an old redwood tank above town at the end of Abalone Street and from there gravity fed the town. Lyle was fortunate as Dave Morgan helped him with the system and also helped him with his flock of goats that resided where the church is now. For this Dave got free water.

In the winter and spring months the system worked well. The tank over flowed and every one had water night and day. Other times we were mostly in short supply, especially in the fall. That time of year,

around dusk Lyle would come into town in his Ford Falcon pick-up and shut the water off at the tank so it could refill overnight and then he

returned around dawn and turned it back on. No treatment of water in those days.

We did just fine as we used little water. Our house only had one kitchen cold-water faucet. That's it! No hot water, no toilet had ever been installed, just the outhouse on the bluff. No bathtub or shower and no outside faucets. I don't believe we used more than 500 gallons a month. In those days there were fewer houses and more full time residents in town. A few houses had their own wells and used them and most everyone had a septic tank of sorts. We didn't, the kitchen sink water drained to the garden area.

Somehow we all got along and got by. Occasionally in the fall Lyle's tank valve mysteriously would get turned back on at night but that was a rare occasion.

If I remember correctly, Westport in the mid-1970s was noticed by health officials because some of the town's sewerage was making its way to the ocean through the gully out on Buster's field. This made the town eligible for a grant not only for a sewer system but also for a new water system to operate it and at the same time supply water to all the residents. The new systems were installed and I think we all connected before 1980. Those were the days...





Westport Community Church News

Erin Detrick, President, WCC

Dear community members,

Due to the recent Delta Variant COVID surge, the WCC is closing indoor activities at the Westport Church and Community Hall until further notice. Please contact me at erind.3500@gmail.com or 707-489-2546 for information about holding outdoor activities or any other questions you may have regarding the Church or Hall. Again, our Church Board thanks you for your continued patience and support.

Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group – September 12th, 10:00AM

Baile Oakes

This **Westport Community Church** discussion group is focused upon **Thich Nhat Hahn's Book: "Living Buddha, Living Christ"**. No need to have the book. We will share passages from the book and discuss how they might or might not influence how we show up for our selves and all Creation.

We request that attendees be vaccinated and we will meet outside the Church with Covid precautions.

Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy – Thich Nhat Hahn

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

Hotel And Pub Take-Out Only

Tabby Korhummel, Hotel General Manager

We are switching to a take-out only menu starting this Thursday, September 2nd. **Our hours are 5:00PM to 9:00PM Thursdays through Saturdays.** Thanks!

Volunteers Needed For Coastal Cleanup Day September 18th

Mendocino County residents and visitors are invited to join the Mendocino Land Trust and partnering organizations for **Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 18th**. Participants can choose from 14 sites where organizers will equip them with supplies, data cards, and directions about how they can help with this statewide effort.

Visit www.mendocinolandtrust.org for details about each of the Mendocino County sites, or visit www.coastalcleanupday.org to view an interactive map of sites all over California.

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 Village Society Annual Meeting Friday October 1st

Bill Knapp, President, WVS

The Westport Village Society Board had hoped to have a combination physical and Zoom meeting located at the Community Center this year. County Health Directives and the trend of COVID-19 Delta Variant infection increases in the County, State and Country have prompted the Board to decide that a Zoom only meeting is the most prudent action. The meeting will be very similar to last year's annual meeting. Going forward WVS will continue Zoom participation in public meetings and as soon as health directives allow will combine in-person and Zoom for public meetings.

As usual there will be the **annual election** to replace Board Members whose 3-year term is expiring. This year Rock Bush and Gary Quinton have expiring terms. The August Wave solicited for declarations of interest in running for the WVS Board, with a deadline of August 25th. Both Rock and Gary submitted statements (printed on this page) that they will run as incumbents. No other inputs were received.

We will again use a **mailed ballot**, following the updated procedures covering mail in ballots. The By-laws require membership voting even when only the incumbents are running. A quorum (10% of membership) is required to have a valid election. Details will be sent out in the Annual Member mailing and posted on the WVS website. Please vote!

Responses from qualified members will need to reach our P.O. Box by regular mail delivery on or before Friday October 1st to be counted. The results will be announced at the annual meeting held by Zoom teleconference on Friday, October 1st at 7:00 PM. Details of how to join the Zoom meeting will be supplied in the annual mailing to members. You can participate by landline phone, mobile phone, tablet, or a computer with suitable functionality (internet/microphone/video).

The meeting will include a report on WVS activities of the past year, a year-end financial report and current status, and an opportunity for discussion among the Members and the Board. The WVS is



looking forward to when we can meet in person and have community gatherings and events again. Please stay safe.

WVS Board Election – Candidate Statement for Rock Bush

I have been on the WVS board of directors for the last three years, and although my term is up this year I have agreed to run for the board for another term. I initially was selected as the board secretary, and have recently transitioned to being the board treasurer. In order to continue the excellent work that Bill Knapp performed as treasurer, there are a number of tasks that I intend to continue and complete including the transition to new accounting software. The current WVS finances are in excellent shape as a result of WVS member contributions and ongoing fund raising efforts. Hopefully we will be able to have in-person fund raising events again next spring.

WVS Board Election – Candidate Statement for Gary Quinton

Dear Village Society members: I Gary Quinton have had the pleasure and honor to serve on the board of directors of the Westport Village Society now for several years. It was my pleasure for many years to arrange for repairs and maintenance of the Headlands under the supervision of Steve Brigham and then to take over his position when he moved out of the area. My present term is now expiring. At the last Board meeting I agreed to keep my hat in the ring so to speak if so reelected.

Westport Volunteer Fire Department News

WVFD

So far, 2021 has been a busy year for the Fire Department. As of August 22 we've responded to 50 emergency 911 calls this year. Here's the breakdown:

- 6 fire calls (which includes 1 false alarm)
- 9 motor vehicle accidents
- 22 medical calls
- 5 hazardous conditions
- 8 miscellaneous public assists

With four months to go, we anticipate ending 2021 with a total of around 80 emergency calls for the year.

In August we were awarded two significant government grants. A CalFire grant will enable us to buy 6 sets of new wildfire turnouts and fire shelters. With the proceeds of a federal grant we'll be able to buy 11 sets of new structure turnouts and 11 new state-of-the-art handheld radios. These grants are making it possible for us to replace outdated gear with new, upgraded gear to better protect our firefighters.

We also added a new active duty member to our ranks. Ethan Jones successfully completed his three months of probationary training and was unanimously elected to become an active duty member of the Westport Volunteer Fire Department at our business meeting on August 11. A Fort Bragg native, Ethan has moved to Westport where he works at the Community Store and is also the sous chef at the Hotel. Ethan is very glad to be part of what he describes as such an awesome community. On taking the Firefighter's Oath administered by Chief Dan Maxey, Ethan became our newest active duty member.



Fire Chief Dan Maxey congratulates Ethan Jones (right) as the newest Firefighter on the Westport Volunteer Fire Department.

Dumpster Space Available

Baile Oakes

I am renting a large 40-yard Debris Box From Solid Waste of Willits in September and am looking for neighbors who would like to use some of the space and share some of the cost if they can afford to do so....if not and there is room, they would be welcome to fill any open space free of charge. Please call me at 707-964-7721 or 707-367-8986 if you are interested.

Westport Water District News

John Morrill, Westport County Water District
Operations Manager and Chief Plant Operator

To our valued customers,

We are going to implement **Stage 3 of our Drought Emergency Plan as of September 1st 2021**, due to lower than normal Wages Creek flows.

For our residential customers this means a reduced baseline of 4,500 gallons per month. Amounts over 4,500 gallons will be billed at \$0.02 per gallon, not the normal \$0.006 per gallon. The intent of this is not to make money for the district but to get customers to reduce their water consumption.

For our commercial customers this means a reduced baseline of 9,000 gallons per month. Amounts over 9,000 gallons will be billed at \$0.02 per gallon, not the normal \$0.006 per gallon. Once again, the intent of this is not to make money for the district but to get customers to reduce their water consumption.

We will attempt to give all our customers timely feedback on their water usage around the middle of the month.

Please refer to our Drought Emergency Plan for additional information, it is posted at the Westport Store. It was included in your billing for July, it went out in a special mailing August 23rd, and it is also on our website www.westportcountywaterdistrict.com

Board Member Position Open At Westport County Water District

Kayla Cooper, Westport County Water District
Administrator-Financial Controller

Greetings Westport Water consumers! We have an opening for a new Board Member on our Board of Directors. We are looking for someone to volunteer their time in order to help out the Water District. This position requires that you are registered to vote within the Westport County Water District. You will need to attend our monthly board meetings which take place every second Thursday of the month at 7pm. These



meetings are currently being held via Zoom. You will also need to be able to complete a Form 700, which states that you do not have a conflict of interest. Please contact me via email at wcd55@gmail.com or by phone at 707-367-1057 if you would like to inquire about this position.

We regret to inform you all that longtime Westport resident, Valentine Hale, officially resigned from the Board of Directors on July 25th. He has been a volunteer on the Board for a few years now, providing us with knowledgeable input and endless help. Mr. Hale has a very lucrative life raising his family and running two businesses. He decided it is time to step down so he can focus himself and his time on his family and work. We are so grateful for all you have contributed to the Board, thank you for all your time and effort Val.

If you have any questions or comments, please email me at wcd55@gmail.com and please check out our website to get up to date information regarding Westport County Water District news and the drought. www.westportcountywaterdistrict.com



Beautiful Westport Vegetables! (photo by Derek DiOrio)

and peppers (the raised bed on the left contains sweet peppers and the one on the right contains hot peppers). Lettuce, spinach, kale, peas, squash, and a variety of different herbs are all ready for you to harvest as well. We will be planting our cool-weather crops early this month, which will include brassicas, greens, and even more peas, so keep checking them to see their progress.

September at the Westport Community Garden

Derek DiOrio

Stop by the Westport Community Garden in September for fresh, organically grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers – ready for you to harvest, ABSOLUTELY FREE! At the Westport Community Garden, fresh produce is 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).

The greenhouse is currently full of cherry and heirloom tomatoes, cucumbers, pole beans, tomatillos

With California being in one of the worst droughts in recorded history, water conservation efforts are becoming especially important this summer. At the Community Garden I try to minimize our water usage by implementing a couple of water conservation techniques which you could also utilize around your own home and garden:

- Top-dress your garden beds with rice hulls, mulch, straw, hay, or even cardboard to prevent topsoil evaporation.
- Try not to water in the heat of the day. It's best to water early morning or evenings to prevent evaporation loss and the burning of your plants.
- Don't play the game of "catch up". Water your garden consistently - if your soil dries out too much it may become hydrophobic and will then require ample amounts of water to get back to base saturation levels.

- Plant flowers and other ornamentals that are native to California and/or are drought tolerant.
- Choose containers to grow in that hold moisture well and don't dry out quickly.
- Adding a bit of moss and/or coco coir to your soil can help retain moisture and cut down on watering.
- Drip irrigation is a great way to cut down on usage by delivering precise amounts of water directly to the plants' roots.



Left to right, Rob, Jim, and Bert working on the Headlands on August 21st.

The Community Garden volunteer work days are the first and third Saturdays of the month @10:30AM (Sept. 4th and 18th). But also please feel free to stop in anytime you feel like getting your hands in the dirt - there are always weeds that need to be pulled, vines that need to be trellised and veggies harvested this time of year. If you are uncertain about what to do, just check the white board inside the greenhouse for up-to-date tasks/jobs needing to be done around the garden. For the month of September, our main focus will be on finishing our perimeter deer-fencing. Other tasks will include pruning, weeding, trellising, and cleaning up any dead/dying plant matter. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the garden in some way and has helped to keep things watered and growing whilst I was away for most of the month of August. I'm excited to get back in there this month and start planting our cool weather crops for everyone to enjoy soon. **Happy Fall Everyone!!**

Headlands Work Day

Westport Village Society

Westport Village Society volunteers turned out on Saturday August 21st at 10:00AM for several hours of hand removal of invasive plants. The work focused on a section fronting on Main Street (Highway 1) near the intermittent stream. We thank regulars Jim Genereaux, Bert Roberts, and Thad Van Bueren, plus a new volunteer named Rob from Camp 1 Ten Mile Road. Val donated pastries and Christine brought chili to feed the crew.

WVS continues to hold **volunteer work days every third Saturday of the month from 10:00AM to 1:00PM.** The next work day is **Saturday, September 18th.** Come join the fun. It is a great way to meet friends and neighbors while doing something positive for our community park. We recommend bringing gloves, water, and loppers/pruners. Contact us at wvs@westportvillagesociety.org with questions or input.

Fort Bragg Students Give Westport Beaches a Little “TLC”

Erin Brazill and Amy Wolitzer

The Transition Learning Center (TLC) is a Fort Bragg Unified School District program that works to teach life skills and empower young adults with special needs. During the first week of school, teacher Erin Brazill and the 18- to 22-year-olds in her class discussed why Coastal Cleanup Day is an important event for their group.

One student said, “We love to go out to the beaches all over the coast and hunt for litter.” Brazill summed up other comments: “We are proud and shocked to see how little litter there is at times - though we are saddened by the growing number of cigarette butts and very dangerous fishing line. The dog debris is annoying and we will pick it up for others, as we are also dog lovers.”

When asked what was the most interesting item they ever found during a cleanup event, students decided it was a tie between a Coke bottle with Arabic writing on it and a piece of kelp that looked like Swiss cheese.

“The beaches have brought so much calm, peace of mind and fun for our community of wonderful young adults,” says Brazill. “We have students who have learned to meditate on the sand and practice mindfulness. Students also engage in a kind of driftwood LARP-ing (Live Action Roleplay) with superheroes and characters from Star Wars and Lord of the Rings.”

Brazill says this event is especially fulfilling for the special needs group: “As a community of people who sometimes feel like their needs are taken care of by others -- caretakers, parents, and teachers -- cleaning up the beaches gives us a chance to give back and be the agents of support to the land ... and to see the results immediately and tangibly.”

“We love to be a part of an organization that is bigger and to be a part of an important environmental movement,” Brazill says. “It brings us pride, love, and recognition, as well as the sweet reward of a clean beach.”

On a personal note, Brazill says, “This year, we will clean the beach as a class on my birthday - and wow, are we looking forward to it so much already! A celebration of the ocean, cleanliness, and our beloved jewel Westport.” All FBUSD Covid safety rules will be carefully attended to, as well as precautions for the individual safety needs of each student's ability level.

Finally, this group gives a nod to the larger effort: “Thank you Coastal Cleanup Day for letting us be a part of this! We love you so much!”

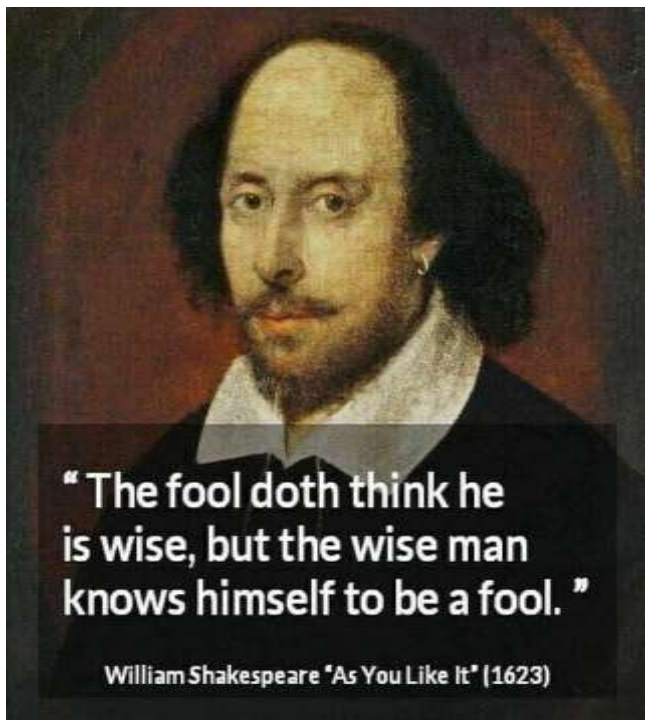
The Mendocino Land Trust thanks Teacher Erin Brazill, Assistant Teacher Angelica M. and the students at the Transition Learning Center; Shepard B, Luis D, Ashely G, Rosendo M, Nathan V, for sharing their Coastal Cleanup Day experiences. While the TLC cleanup is just for students, they hope their stories will inspire members of the community to join public cleanups on Saturday, September 18 (see page 2). Visit www.mendocinolandtrust.org to find a list of 14 public sites seeking volunteers or www.coastalcleanup.org for an interactive map of cleanup sites all over California.

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.



(Submitted by Baile Oakes)

September Westport Calendar

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

Thursday, September 2nd – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

Saturday, September 4th – Westport Community Garden Work Day, 10:30AM, Community Garden (see page 7)

Monday, September 6th – Labor Day

Monday, September 6th – New Moon, 5:51PM

Monday, September 6th – Rosh Hashana begins at sundown

Tuesday, September 7th – WMAC meeting, 7:00PM. Please contact wmac95488@gmail.com for details

Wednesday, September 8th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Thursday, September 9th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom – see page 5)

Sunday, September 12th – Thich Nhat Han Discussion Group, 10:00AM, Westport Church (see page 2)

Wednesday, September 15th – Yom Kippur begins at sundown

Saturday, September 18th – Coastal Clean-up Day (see page 7)

Saturday, September 18th – Headlands Work Party, 10:00AM to 1:00PM, Westport Headlands (see p. 7)

Saturday, September 18th – Westport Community Garden Work Day, 10:30AM, Westport Community Garden (see page 7)

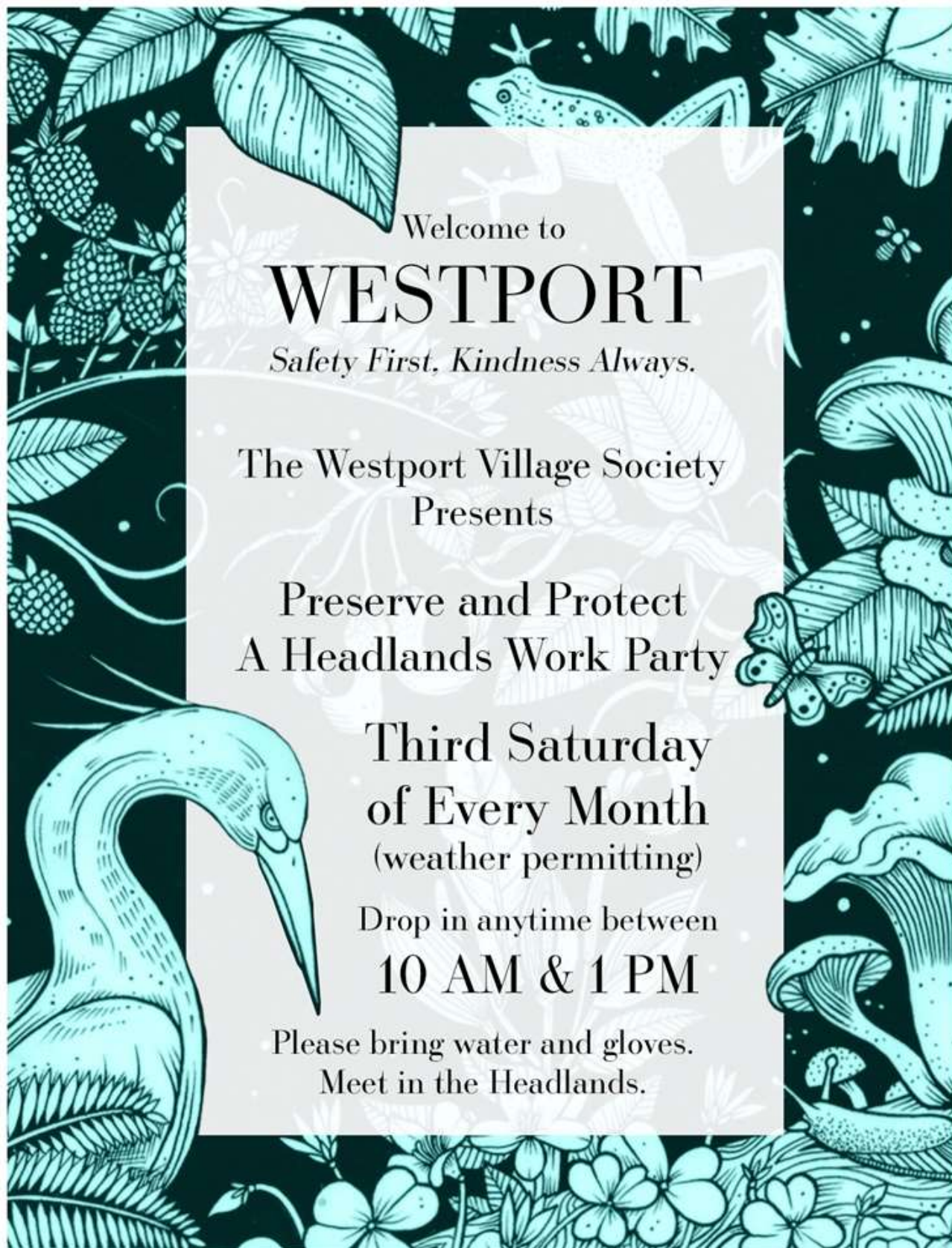
Monday, September 20th – Full Moon, 4:54PM

Wednesday, September 22nd – Fall Equinox, 12:20PM

Thursday, September 23rd – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

Friday, October 1st – Westport Village Society Annual Member Meeting, 7:00PM via Zoom. Please contact wvs@westportvillagesociety.org for details (see article on page 3)

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 9 years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org. **Contributions for our October 1st issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by September 27th**, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!



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)

Drop in anytime between
10 AM & 1 PM

Please bring water and gloves.
Meet in the Headlands.