

February 1, 2022

The Westport Wave

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The Dehaven Headlands

Dehaven Headlands Meetings

Westport Village Society

There is much to report on this project since the introductory article in the January 1 *Wave*. We mentioned in that earlier article that the Westport Village Society has a unique opportunity to conserve a beloved oceanfront 26-acre property west of Highway 1 across from Branscomb Road. It extends from the south end of Westport Union Landing State Beach to the Wages Creek Campground, encompassing the mouth of Dehaven Creek and the headland on either side of it. The property has never been developed and thus remains relatively pristine. The land features a wide variety of natural habitats supporting many types of animals and plants.

In early December, WVS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the owner that gives us 90 days to

get a preliminary appraisal; assess support in the community and among local tribes and partners; and plan a strategy for acquisition in cooperation with the seller if there is substantial support. WVS has the experience to pursue this project. Indeed, land conservation is one of two core elements of our mission since our nonprofit was formed in 1992. The second core element is to help sponsor, organize and fund civic improvement projects which are charitable and educational in nature for the broad cultural, educational and civic betterment of the Town of Westport and its surrounding areas. In 2000 WVS acquired the Westport Headlands with enthusiastic local support and a generous grant from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC). WVS raised over \$25,000 in less than 18 months. Some of you may remember the emblematic fundraising “Thermometer” at the Westport Store!

The possibilities for grant funding of the DeHaven Project are promising, but local fundraising will once again be essential to improve prospects for obtaining grants. One way to show support is to send a tax deductible contribution to WVS listing in the memo line “for the DeHaven Creek Headlands Project.” Over \$5,300 has already come in for the project. To date we have also received supportive comments from 20 community members. Over a dozen local people spoke in favor at the recent WVS Board Meeting January 26.

WVS had to cancel an in-person **public meeting** January 8 due to pandemic considerations. Instead, we have rescheduled it via Zoom for **Saturday February 5 at 10:00am**. We will briefly summarize the opportunity and then seek further community, tribal, and public input. An information package and questionnaire will be sent out in advance of the meeting to those who get this newsletter by email, as well as Tribal and project partners. The package and questionnaire will also be posted on the “Projects” tab on the WVS web site. **A field visit will then follow at 1:00pm on February 5**. We suggest rubber boots and request masks!

The WVS Board will then hold a **special Board Meeting Feb. 23 by Zoom at 6:30pm** focusing on the DeHaven Project to decide how to proceed. Key choices will need to be made at that meeting. The main one is whether WVS should lead the project, work cooperatively with other organizations, or pass the opportunity on to another conservation organization. If WVS assumes the lead, the terms of an agreement with the land owner will need to be discussed and fundraising goals set. We’d appreciate hearing from you about this exciting opportunity. Contact wvs@westportvillagesociety.org or mail them WVS at PO Box 446.

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 ten years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!



Teacher Thich Nhat Hanh
October 11, 1926 – January 22, 2022
A Cloud Never Dies

Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group – Sunday, February 13th, 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 according to the Church Covid precautions.



Church and Community Center Update

Thad Van Bueren

The Westport Community Church has served the community since 1983, providing space for gatherings and diverse activities like classes and a community garden. To ensure those facilities remain available we need your help and direct involvement. There are challenges and opportunities involved in sustaining this valuable community asset.

The challenge involves funding ongoing operation of the Church and Community Center facilities. It nominally costs \$5,000 per year during the pandemic when little use is occurring. That bare bones budget does not include the major costs of delayed maintenance such as addressing termite damage.

We face an anticipated shortfall this year. WCC anticipates cost increases as use resumes and insurance premiums sharply rise across California. Our basic budget may thus rise to \$7,500 this year and our existing reserve is about half of that. Thus we ask you to consider donating generously to help us keep the facility available to the community. We depend on you. **Our address is PO Box 23, Westport CA 95488.**

The opportunity that will be implemented this year is to facilitate the community's direct involvement in WCC governance. Over the past couple of years we have been preparing for that goal by changing our bylaws and articles of incorporation, updating our nonprofit exemption status to reflect our diversified mission, and preparing for the transition to an organization run by members. As explained at our recent Board meeting January 20, WCC will solicit memberships in the fall of 2022 among adults whose principal residence is local. We are considering what dues would be reasonable to set as one way to help raise funds.

We will seek candidates from among those members for one of our five Board positions in November. Members will then vote in early December using mailed ballots. Board positions will be for three years terms elected on a rotating basis. In the next two years two additional Board positions will be elected each year. This is intended to ensure continuity of operation so that terms overlap and new Board members can become familiar with the history and operation of the WCC nonprofit.

It is the hope of the existing volunteer Board that this will make the organization more responsive to the community's wishes, keeping in mind our mission. The specific purpose of WCC is "to facilitate opportunities for spiritual growth and serve the needs of the Westport community." Your ideas and input are always welcome. Write us or talk to any of our current Board consisting of Erin Detrick, Sue Korhummel, Bert Roberts, Lee Tepper, and I. Our next Board meeting will be Thursday April 21 at 10:00am.

You can sign up to use the Church or Center on the calendar at the Westport Store. That is also where the keys are kept. Rules of use are posted in the buildings and involve wearing masks to address Health orders, cleaning up, shutting things down, and locking up. Contact Erin at 489-2546 with questions.



Westport County Water District News

Westport County Water District Board of Directors

Over the many years the WCWD has been fortunate to have had many residents and homeowners in the District volunteer their time, experience and talents to serve on the WCWD Board of Directors. The Board of Directors participates in monthly WCWD Board meetings that are subject to the Brown Act. Which amongst other protocols, means that almost all Meetings are open to the public community to attend for informational purposes and public inquiries concerning the WCWD operations, finances, and strategic plan for the capital expenditures and operational expenditures over its budget period.

The WCWD is now seeking and actively recruiting interested local District residents/homeowner applicants for the two Director positions that are currently vacant. One position would be available in the next month. The other Director seat opens up for a volunteer applicant for appointment on or about November 2022.

Qualifications for an interested applicant is principally a solid and genuine interest in assisting the District manage its water and sewer services. All applicants and Directors must be registered to vote using their resident/homeowner address in the District boundary. The expenditure of time that a Director applicant should expect (in addition to the 12 monthly meetings (currently all held via Zoom Videoconference) that run for up to 2 hours on the second Thursday evening of each month, could or

would depend on the amount of study, review and various administrative tasks that the Director would volunteer to address. The most material responsibility that each WCWD Director brings to the District is to act in a fiduciary capacity to act in the best interest of the WCWD as a whole. Other fiduciary duties are a duty of dedication or loyalty to the District's customers and to not have and avoid any actual or potential conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise.

A Director's service to the WCWD Board of Directors is not only needed to establish the attendance and voting quorum on governance and operational matters that the District experiences, but it is generally viewed that diversity of thoughts and ideas work together to help the Board of Directors approach its problem solving tasks. The close collaboration is designed to create and sustain a reputation for sound operational and budget judgment and practice.

During June 2021, the District completed and implemented its first formal set of updated Bylaws to provide the public and its customers with a statement of its governance principles.

The District and its customers need and want you to submit your application and expression of interest to join the Board. The Directors are unpaid volunteers that make a material difference to the Community and provide key oversight to the operations, budget and planning. Our resolute Operations Staff and the Board help to ensure that our District customers have clean water and a working sewer system. In this current age of high continued risk of drought, the need for diversity of thought, ideas and implementation strategies is all the more important.

In our view, the value proposition is simple, which is that the District Community will much appreciate your volunteer service contribution, and you will receive and earn positive energy back from your honorable service to the District Community.

Please consider volunteering your valuable time and energy to the District. Contact: Kayla Cooper - WCWD Administrator-Financial Controller via email @ WCWD55@gmail.com or by phone @ 707.367.1057 for an application. Please visit our website as well:

www.westportcountywaterdistrict.com



Blues Beach area, 1972 – three years before Caltrans acquired it through conservation funding

Blues Beach Land Transfer

Thad M. Van Bueren

The landmark Blues Beach land transfer from Caltrans to a tribal nonprofit may be completed as early as the end of 2022, according to information shared at the December 7, 2021 meeting of the Westport Municipal Advisory Council. The meeting was attended by nearly 30 participants. Presentations were offered at that meeting by State Senator Mike McGuire, representatives of the three tribes who are forming the nonprofit, the California Coastal Commission, and Caltrans.

Senate Bill 231 was unanimously passed by both legislative houses and approved by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 24, 2021, as previously reported. The law authorizes Caltrans to transfer the 172 acre Blues Beach property to a local tribal nonprofit corporation for stewardship as a natural area that is available for lawful public access during daylight hours. The presentations at the recent WMAC meeting offered insight into how the process will take place under the oversight of the California Legislature, Caltrans, the State Transportation

Commission, the California Coastal Commission (CCC), and the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC).

The tribal nonprofit corporation is being formed by a consortium of descendant tribes with the goal of completing the incorporation this summer. The nonprofit will be run by representatives from the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, and Round Valley Indian Tribes. Other local tribes have belatedly asked to be involved and those requests are under consideration.

Caltrans discussed three phases of activity to move the transfer forward. During Phase 1 the boundary of the property will be mapped, biological and geological investigations will be completed, engineering and permitting for improvements will occur, and a protective covenant will be drafted. Those tasks will take place in the coming months.

Planned improvements by Caltrans will be confined to the Blues Beach access. They will address drainage issues, slope instability, and measures to secure the beach against illegal vehicular entry. Signage will advise the public use is limited to daylight hours, no camping is allowed, and vehicles are prohibited on



View of Blues Beach, January 2022 (Photo by Bill Brazill)

Once all milestones have been completed to the satisfaction of the oversight agencies, the transfer can then take place. Protective covenants will be part of the deed transferring the property to the tribal nonprofit. Those covenants will address all the requirements in SB 231. The final management plan will be made available to the public.

Court-Ordered Community Service Opportunities in Westport

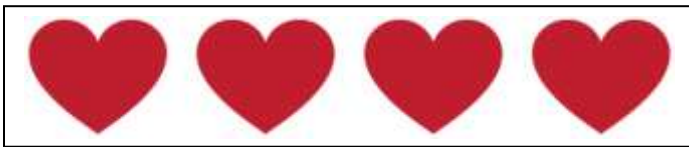
Gary Quinton

the beach. The land to be transferred will exclude the right of way needed for the highway and the vista point parking lot.

A public workshop will be hosted in the late spring to gather more input. Caltrans will construct improvements during Phase 2, tentatively scheduled for completion this summer or fall. The tribal nonprofit will prepare a draft Management Plan with input from involved agencies and the public. An opportunity for public input on that draft plan will be provided before it is approved by the oversight agencies. The CCC has asked the Tribes to consider connecting a pedestrian trail south from Blues Beach to the existing trail connected to the vista point parking lot. The feasibility and specific routing are as yet undetermined.

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.



Special Ed Teacher and Librarian Looking for Housing in North Coast Area

*(Editor's Note: Please help our local school teachers
– our future depends on it!)*

Teacher partners looking for housing

Hi there!

We've been in Fort Bragg nearly 3 years and both of us work for the Fort Bragg school district. Monika is the middle school librarian and Caitlin is a special Ed aide at TLC. We've been in a small one-room cabin nearly two years now and are looking for a larger space for around \$1000.

Housing here has come to a fever pitch crisis for young people in a modest income bracket, with the lure of renting to Airbnb and out-of-towners snatching up real estate. Please consider investing in the long term success of this town and renting to locals to keep teachers, nurses, and other helpers on the coast. We love it here!

Pete the Cat and Mick the Elder Corgi are also indispensable parts of our family. We are low maintenance, quiet, handy, and reliable. Happy to provide references. Please email caitlinwcleveland@gmail.com with any leads. Cheers!

February 2022 Westport Calendar

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

Monday, January 31st – Black New Moon (second new moon in one month), 9:46PM. LUNAR NEW YEAR BEGINS (Chinese Year of the Water Tiger)

Tuesday, February 1st – WMAC meeting CANCELLED. Contact WMAC95488@gmail.com for details.

Thursday, February 3rd – Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store (masks required)

Saturday, February 5th – Westport Village Society Meeting for the Dehaven Headlands Project via Zoom at 10:00AM, field visit follows at 1:00PM. See pages 1 and 2 for details.

Wednesday, February 9th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Thursday, February 10th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom)

Saturday, February 12th – Sweetheart Tea, 300PM-5:00PM, Westport Hotel. Call to reserve a seating or for take-out (see page 8)

Sunday, February 13th – Thich Nhat Han Discussion Group, 10:00AM, Westport Church (see page 2)

Sunday, February 13th – Valentine's Brunch Boxes take out, Westport Hotel, 11AM-1PM (please order by February 11th), see page 8.

Monday, February 14th – Valentine's Day

Wednesday, February 16th – Full Moon, 8:40AM

Thursday, February 17th – Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store (masks required)

Monday, February 21st – President's Day

Wednesday, February 23rd – Special Westport Village Society Board Meeting on Dehaven Headlands Project via Zoom at 6:30PM. See article on pages 1 and 2 for details.

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 ten years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org. **Contributions for our March 1st, 2022 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by February 24th**, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!



**SWEETHEART TEA
AT THE WESTPORT HOTEL**

3:00 – 5:00PM
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12TH
VERY LIMITED SEATING WITH PROOF OF
VACCINATION CARD
OR TAKE HOME TO ENJOY
YOU MUST CALL TO RESERVE A TABLE
OR TO ORDER A SWEETHEART TEA TO-GO
SERVES TWO FOR \$40 PLUS TAX

CALL 707-964-3688

**BRUNCH BOXES
TO TAKE AND ENJOY
WHEREVER
YOUR HEART DESIRES**

ONE BOX OF SWEET AND SAVORY TREATS
SERVES TWO FOR \$40. ADD ON MIMOSA
MAKINGS FOR \$20

CALL TO ORDER BY 02/11/12

PICK UP AT THE WESTPORT HOTEL
SUNDAY THE 13TH
FROM 11:00- 1:00



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!