

July 1, 2025

The Westport Wave

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

Westport Volunteer Fire Department News and August BBQ Date!

Westport Volunteer Fire Department

Between January 1 and June 23 of this year, the Westport Volunteer Fire Department has been paged out and responded to 45 separate incidents. This total includes 18 motor vehicle accidents and medical calls, 2 fires, 7 hazardous conditions and 1 water rescue. It looks like we are going to have another busy year in 2025!

With proceeds from a grant, we were able to acquire a Kimtek medical rescue skid that has been mounted on our 4x4 UTV side-by-side response vehicle. This unit will enable us to securely transport and treat a patient who is being rescued from a beach or other remote area that is not accessible to an ambulance.

We had our annual elections meeting on June 11. Before voting took place, Ellie Kelsey indicated that she would be willing to be a candidate for a position on the Board and help with the transition to a new Treasurer. Melinda McLaughlin indicated that she would not be a candidate for reelection to the Board. We are very grateful for Ellie's service as Treasurer, and for Melinda's service as an active Board member, for a number of years. Here are the election results so far (we will have a special election for a Treasurer who will also assume the vacant Board seat):



2025 WVFD Fundraising BBQ is Saturday, August 16th!
(Bob Finnell photo)

- **Dan Maxey – Fire Chief, Board member and CEO**
- **Jeff Mathias – Assistant Fire Chief and Board President**
- **Ski Saunders – Fire Captain and Training Officer**
- **John Huff and Mike Fox – Fire Captains**
- **John Allison – Board member and Secretary**
- **Ellie Kelsey – Board member**

It's not too early to save the date! The WVFD Fundraising Barbecue will be held on Saturday, August 16th on the Westport Community Headlands. The event will feature live music by some great local bands, delicious meals, beverages, and desserts. More detailed information about the Barbecue will be provided in the August *Westport Wave*.

Best wishes to everyone in our community for a happy and safe Fourth of July!



Community Potluck and Bingo Night Wednesday, July 9th

Sheila Winslow

Come out and meet your new neighbors and see old friends! **The Westport Village Society and The Westport Community Church and Center will be hosting a potluck and bingo night on Wednesday, July 9th at 5:30PM at the Community Center.**

Please contact Sheila by text or email if you would like to participate. 916-812-3528

sheilawinslow@sbcglobal.net

Westport Village Society Update

Thad M. Van Bueren, President, WVS

The Westport Village Society held a special meeting June 11 at the Westport Community Center to exchange ideas about how to sustain the nonprofit into the future. About 20 people attended and shared ideas. The impetus for the meeting was to identify members who are inspired to help achieve the organization's mission. The other side of that question is to understand what aspects of that mission energize the community to volunteer and pitch in.

Current Board members offered perspectives on the core tasks that need to be completed in order to keep the organization legally viable. Those include financial management, timely government filings, maintaining our properties, holding meetings and elections, and communicating with members. In the short term, several members and sitting Directors expressed willingness to take on that essential work. Many other worthy ideas were also shared including

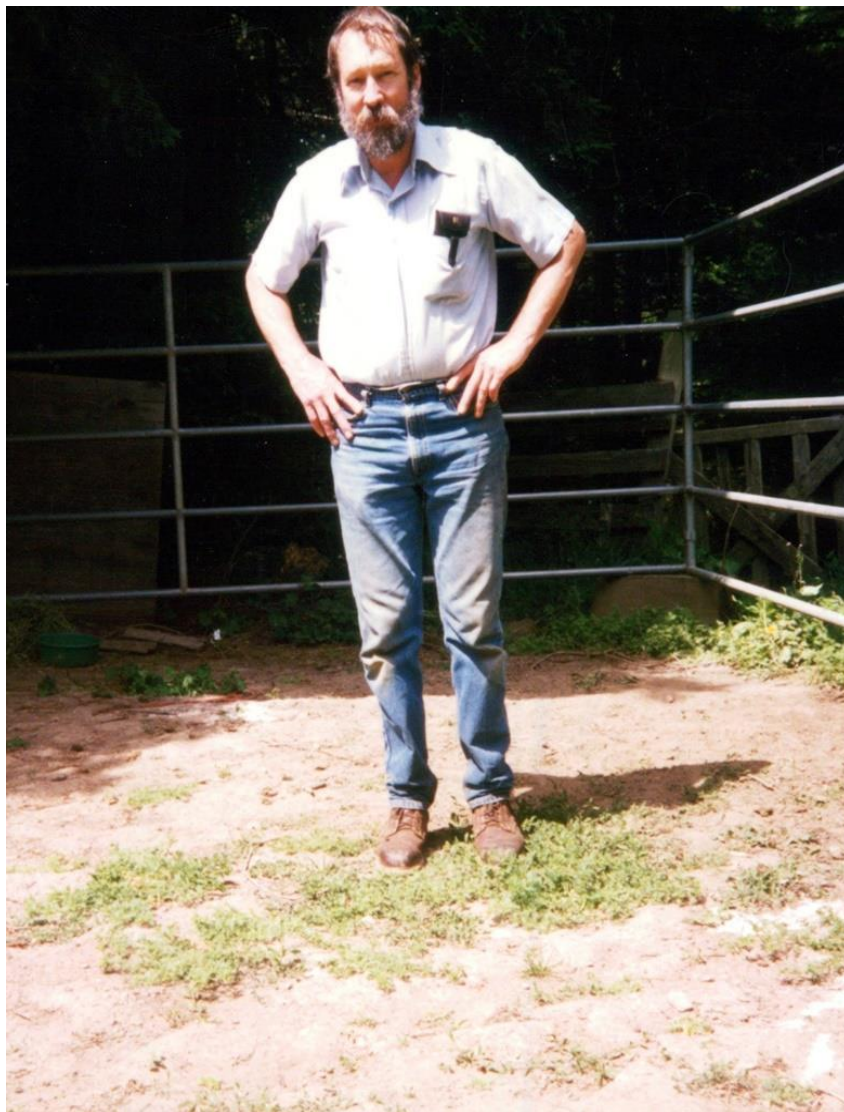
pursuing grants for land conservation and housing improvements, sponsoring various activities that build community cohesion, and engaging in the preservation of local history. Those ideas can be pursued if volunteers are willing to invest their energy.

One outcome of the June meeting was that we agreed to support more fun. In keeping with that suggestion, a potluck will be held Wednesday July 9 at 5:30 PM at the Community Center. You are invited to bring some food, enjoy conversations with your neighbors, and perhaps even hatch some far-fetched or well-conceived ideas that contribute to the future of our community. Please coordinate with Sheila about the food you plan to bring so we don't all bring the same thing. You can reach her at (916) 812-3528 or sheilawinslow@sbcglobal.net.

WVS will hold its regular quarterly Board Meeting Wednesday July 23, 2025 at 6:30 PM at the community center and the community is welcome to participate. Please put these events on your calendars and come share your ideas and enthusiasm!!

24/7 Westport Wave

The Westport Wave is always free to everyone at any time on the Newsletter page of our website www.westportvillagesociety.org – where you'll find our most current issue as well as over 13 years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!



Remembering Gary Markley

Cassie Nichols

Gary Lee Markley was born in Oakland, CA to June and George Markley on November 27, 1942 and left us June 12, 2025 at Sutter Santa Rosa Hospital with his daughter, Cassie, by his side. He is preceded in death by his parents. Gary is survived by his daughter Cassie (Kevin) Nichols, bonus daughter Melissa (Casey) Pickford-Ladner, grandson Nick Nichols, and many nieces and nephews.

Gary's family moved to Santa Cruz, CA after he was born and he grew up on a ranch on Glen Canyon Road in Santa Cruz. They raised chickens, rabbits,

pheasants, fruit, and vegetables. Gary attended San Jose State for a time before working for a Stanford research lab. He then focused on travel and opened an art gallery, the Emperors Gate, in Sausalito. He later settled in Westport, CA, creating Calico Farm, in the early 70s where he raised llamas until the mid-2010s.

Gary was a craftsman, who was skilled in woodworking and a jack of all art trades. He had many hobbies including ceramics, beekeeping, mechanics, photography, and rockhounding. He planned then constructed the barn for his farm, and always had a craftsman project he was working on. Gary was a runner in his youth and enjoyed hiking and camping. He was also passionate about access to public lands and public roads, including Cahto Rd, believing in the ability to access rivers and evacuation routes.

Gary was a geologist at heart and enjoyed geologic formations and hunting for rocks. Following the immediate recovery from hip surgery when he was about 70, he found himself stopping by the river for a hike on his way home because he wanted to go and make sure that he could. He served many offices

for the Mendocino Coast Gem and Mineral Society, and loved sharing about his rock adventures and teaching the next generation in all trades.

In loving memory, be outside, go on a hike, take a camping trip, protect public access, look for rocks, visit the Gem and Mineral Society shop on a Tuesday or Saturday, or attend their Gem and Mineral show on Labor Day weekend in Fort Bragg.

In lieu of flowers please send any donations to the Mendocino Coast Gem and Mineral Society. A celebration of life will be held on August 2nd at 17300 Franklin Rd, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 from 2:00PM to 5:00PM. All are welcome to attend. Please bring a dish if you wish, and dress casual or with your best rockhounding outfit. More information is available here: <http://www.mcgms.org/memorial>.



Babaji

Everyday Sadhana – Reactivity

Babaji

Each one of us is unique. The Divine is expressing itself in a unique way through each of us. Do we ever take time to really look at the sacredness of our own life?

It is said that each soul has gone through 8,400,000 wombs before reaching the pinnacle of being a human being. We have lived through so much. We have seen so much. We have experienced so much. From here we have a chance to ascend, nirvana, moksha, liberation.

When we think about this sacredness of our life, the mind will come with all kinds of agitations. Our habit is to react to every little thing that the restless mind suggests. Paying attention to this provides the perfect opportunity for sadhana (spiritual practice).

Find a moment when you are sitting, keeping your eyes closed or open, notice the suggestions that come into your mind. Like, “Oh, I need to scratch here” or “I’m uncomfortable sitting here. I want to move.” Don’t immediately jump to react. Make that moment a moment of sadhana. Take two or three deep breaths and see if you could breathe out that little suggestion of the mind.

Our breath is very powerful if we truly use it in a proper way. Mind is the horse. Breath is the rein that controls the horse. So easily our situation becomes like that person who was aimlessly riding a horse. His

friend saw him and asked, “Hey, where are you going?” The man said, “I don’t know. Ask my horse!”

Sometimes we know that what we are doing or saying is not the right thing, but we react, and the animal within comes out. It happens to us all. A thought might come in regarding a situation or a relationship and the tendency is to jump and react to whatever the mind suggests. Can we look at those situations from a calm place and ask ourselves, how important is it? Is following this thought going to make me lose my peace and harmony with the other person? Can we let it be and not be bothered by it? This kind of practice saves us from unnecessary engagements. Negative emotions only poison our body.

Pay attention to what happens to you when you are being reactive. That reactivity is not only in the mind – sometimes it’s very physical. When you are presented with something that’s uncomfortable, your belly tightens, and eyes stiffen. Our body is giving us clues as to where to bring our attention. Soften your belly, soften your eyes, and take a nice deep breath. It sounds very simple, but this is a very powerful practice.

These everyday moments define our character, our personality, our interaction with others, and ultimately, our life. The problems that we think are problems are just creations of the mind. There is always another angle. If something or someone is irritating you, instead of reacting right away, can you develop a habit to take a nice deep breath? Take two breaths, or three breaths!

Make this life a life of practice. Then, no matter where you are, you *are* in a special place and are connected with the sacredness of your own life. Please remember, nothing is worth losing your peace.

Babaji’s mission is to help people experience fullness in life through simple spiritual practices and meditation. He divides his time between the Sonoma Ashram in Sonoma and Upasana Hilltop Sanctuary here in Westport. For more information, please visit www.sonomaashram.org or reach out by email at info@sonomaashram.org. We’d love to hear from you!



Westport from Cemetery Looking South to Town (upper right).
Photo by Nelsen Brazill, December 2023.

**Thursday, July 10th –
Full Moon, 1:36PM**

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

Thursday, July 17th –
Bookmobile, 9:00AM
to 9:30AM, Westport
Store

**Wednesday, July 23rd
– Westport Village
Society Quarterly
Board Meeting,
6:30PM, Westport
Community Center**

**Thursday, July 24th –
New Moon, 12:11PM**

Westport Calendar July 2025

Thursday, July 3rd – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to
9:30AM, Westport Store

Thursday, July 3rd – Westport Municipal Advisory
Council Meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community
Center (see <https://www.wmac95488.org/> for meeting
confirmation)

Friday, July 4th – Independence Day

**Friday, July 4th – Mendocino 4th of July Parade
starts at Noon in downtown Mendocino**

**Saturday, July 5th – Fort Bragg 4th of July
Fireworks, 9:30 PM, Noyo Headlands, Fort Bragg**

**Wednesday, July 9th – Community Potluck and
Bingo Night, 5:30PM, Westport Community
Center (see page 2)**

Wednesday, July 9th – Westport Volunteer Fire
Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport
Firehouse

**SAVE THE DATE! – Saturday, August 16th –
Westport Volunteer Fire Department BBQ
Fundraiser, Westport Headlands (see page 1)**

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 13 years of monthly back-
issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS
website www.westportvillagesociety.org.
**Contributions for our August 1st, 2025 issue of *The
Westport Wave* are due by July 26th, 2025 and
should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at
westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!**