

*April 1, 2026*

# The Westport Wave

Published by the Westport Village Society, P.O. Box 325, Fort Bragg, CA

## WVS Update

By Thad Van Bueren, WVS President

The Westport Village Society will hold its regular quarterly Board meeting on Wednesday April 22 at 6:30 pm in the Community Center. Members and the public are invited to attend. An agenda will be available to download a couple of days before the meeting on the “Meetings” page of the WVS website at: <https://www.westportvillagesociety.org/meetings.html>. For those unable to attend in person, please contact [wvs@westportvillagesociety.org](mailto:wvs@westportvillagesociety.org) for details about how to join via Zoom. We look forward to using the new audio-visual system at the Community Center to host that Zoom.

Some of the topics that will be discussed at the April 22 meeting include the planned revival of the Great Rubber Duck Race on May 10 at Wages Creek Campground and progress reports on the DeHaven

access improvement project and the Westport Headlands stairway replacement project. Those are just a few of the items the WVS Board will consider.

A special WVS Board meeting was held March 25 to discuss whether or not to continue to issue permits for events on the Westport Headlands and to choose someone to oversee that program. WVS developed an event policy and permit application process for the Headlands Park to allow uses compatible with conservation and public access mandates for that property. Discussions clarified that community events and weddings for local people benefit the community and will continue to be allowed, while permits for events by outsiders will need further consideration. WVS Treasurer Sheila Winslow was appointed to manage the permit application and event oversight process. The WVS Board will retain the discretion to approve or deny future event permits and impose special conditions.



Dehaven Beach and Headlands bask in the mid-morning sun on a clear spring day. Photo taken April 25th, 2024 by Ed Truthan



# MENDOCINO COUNTY Fire Safe COUNCIL

## Westport Fire Safe Council Next Meeting April 7 10-2 pm Westport Community Center

On March 7, Westport Fire Safe Council held a community meeting with Eva King, Mendocino Fire Safe Council. Several programs were discussed including chipper days, defensive space brush clearing, roadside fuel reduction, home hardening and 2500-gallon water tanks for fire control. There was enthusiastic community support from attendees to obtain Certification as a Fire Wise Community.

To start that process of the application to the National Fire Wise Program, the Westport Fire Safe Council will host a meeting run by Eva King, Mendocino Fire Safe Council.

This Fire Wise Community Planning Meeting is on:

**April 7th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Meet at the Westport Community Center, 24900 Abalone St, Westport, CA 95488.**

- At 10 am several community homes volunteered to serve as examples for an outdoor home assessment demonstration by the Mendocino Fire Safe Council.
- At approximately Noon, Eva King from MCFSC will help attendees draft a Westport Wildfire Risk Assessment and a Westport Fire Wise Action Plan. The documents will be open for community input after they are drafted.

These two plans are the starting process for applying for Community-Wide Fire Wise Status.

### Benefits of a Fire Wise Community Certification:

- Fire Wise Community Certification does not require 100 % participation of individual properties.
- Fire Wise helps us keep our fire insurance as low as possible and not get cancelled. Fire Wise has the support of the CA Attorney General and CalFire.
- Fire Wise gives us access to grant programs only offered to a Fire Wise Community.
- Fire Wise is not property specific, but is general for a defined community boundary and the general community accomplishments.
- Fire Wise does not cost anything to join.

*We hope to see you there! If you can't make the meeting starting at noon, you can join us via Zoom. See [Community Church Calendar](#) for zoom link info.*

If you have any questions you can text or call  
Carla Thomas 707-272-1994  
or email [carlaSthomas@earthlink.net](mailto:carlaSthomas@earthlink.net)





## Salmon News

by Tom Kisliuk ~ Wages Creek

When I moved to the Westport I hoped one day I would see many large fish in Wages Creek. I am pleased to report that while the rest of the world may be pretty screwed up it appears that in the Westport area there are some promising exciting trends. There is quite a bit of science underway in our area and I received the following info from Coastal Fisheries Scientist Sarah Gallagher of CA F&W.

*"We are excited to report that the Coho Salmon adult population estimate for the Mendocino Coast was 30,197, nearly doubling the largest return of 15,467 from last year and well above average (4,926) since monitoring began. Adult returns in the Ten Mile River, Noyo River, and Pudding Creek met the recovery target set by NOAA Fisheries. While these targets must be exceeded for several generations and within multiple watersheds before consideration is given for removal from the Endangered Species list, these returns are promising.*

*Another notable finding from this spawning season was the wide distribution of Coho Salmon spawning,*

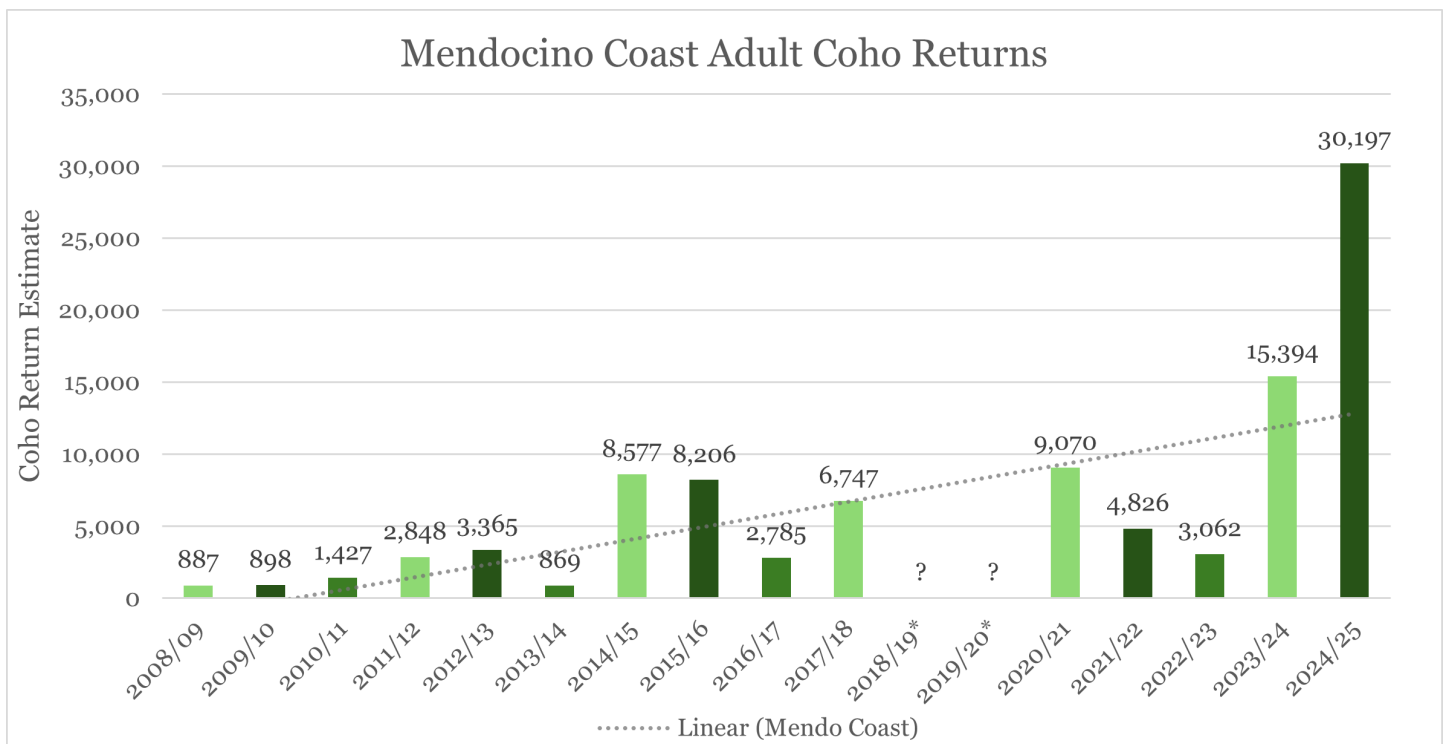
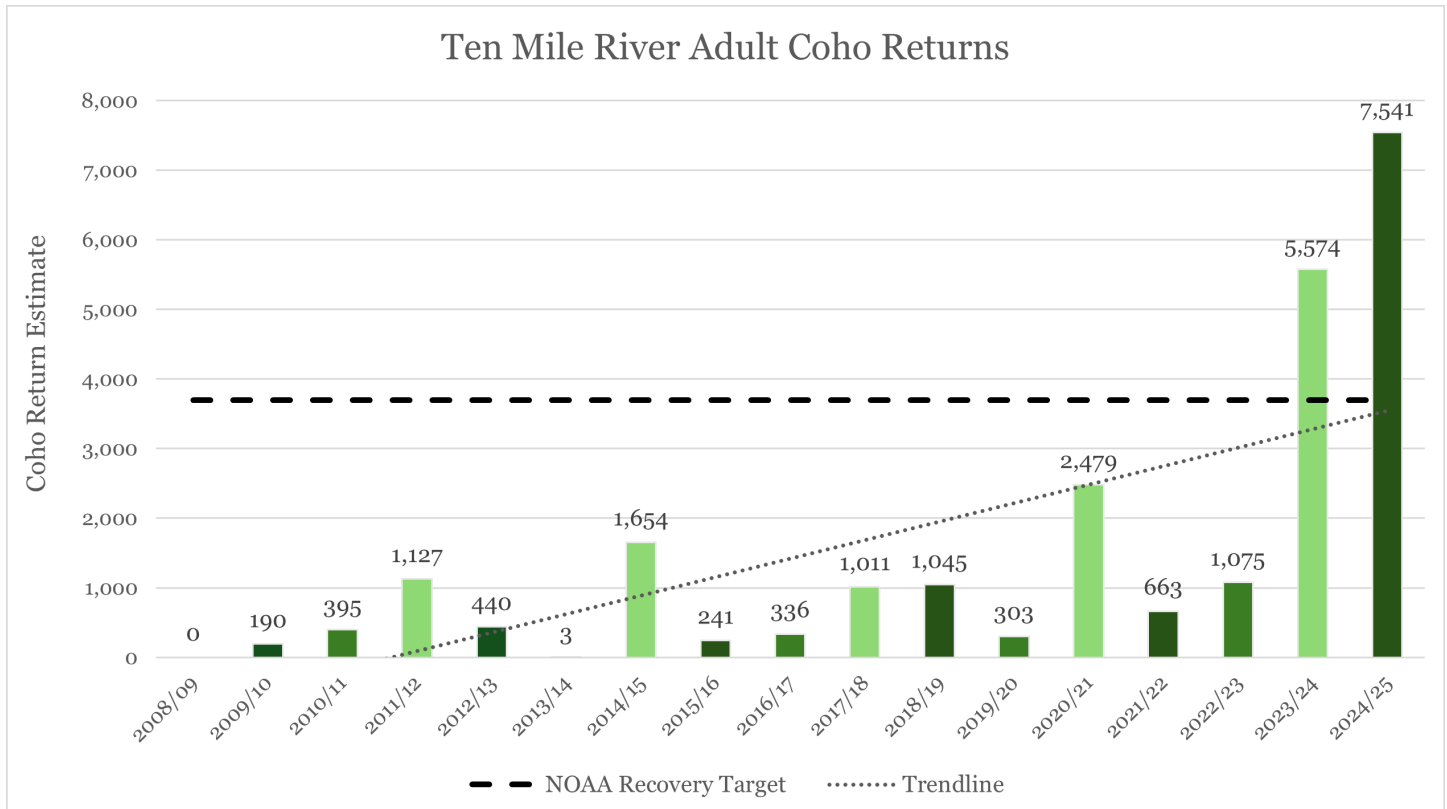
*further upstream and within some watersheds where they have not been detected in many years. Above average returns and increased spawning distribution were also observed in populations to the north and south of the Mendocino Coast, which odes well for the species overall."*

Inquiring Westportan minds will want specific information about the area from Abalobadiah to the Usal. I am a Wages Creeker and found out that true to the trends a recent river foray detected Coho or Silver Salmon young in an area being contemplated for a Salmon Restoration project in Wages Creek.

At the turn of the last Century DFG Agent Wendy Jones initiated a project over a few seasons planting Coho in the three streams he thought had the best habitat in the County. Wages Creek, DeHaven Creek, and Howard Creek. The project DFG Agent Jones supervised may be coming to fruition...a score of years later. It is also likely some Salmon from the successful 10 Mile Projects have returned to rivers nearby. Famed Fish Expert Dave Wright explained to me this is how they have adapted to repopulate and I had a misunderstanding about site fidelity or returning to the river of origin. Sometimes the Fish reproduced in a different nearby stream.

Fisheries Scientist Gallagher added “Based on our current monitoring, we do know that marine survival rate was very good for this Coho cohort as well as flow conditions in river during spawning and outmigration. I also suspect that accumulation of time under the forest practice rules, TMDLs, land protection, habitat restoration are all slowly coming together to provide better freshwater habitat for the salmon here as well.”

A bit of good news from the outskirts of town! The attached graph colors indicate the corresponding age class. Coho are predicted to return in three year cycles.





## Community Gardening Event & Fundraiser

This spring, our Community Garden is hosting a gardening event and plant sale on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am to support and expanded resources for the community. We'll have a wide variety of starts available, including vegetables, flowers, herbs, ornamental plants, and several varieties of fig trees suited for both inland and coastal growing.

### Available plants include:

Vegetable starts (leafy greens, brassicas, peas, squash, and heirloom tomatoes), microgreens, flower starts (such as dahlias, marigolds, cosmos, poppies, and sweet peas), herbs (including sage, basil, rosemary, lemon balm, and fenugreek), and fig trees. Funds raised will go towards improving the garden with new beds and future greenhouse upgrades. Community participation is always welcome - join us and help the garden grow.

For event times and information about our guest speaker, check out the [Westport Community Center](#) web page.

Happy Spring 2026

If you want to help, contact Daved Brothers  
[davidorlobo@gmail.com](mailto:davidorlobo@gmail.com)

## Thank you so much for your support!

The Westport Church & Community Center is deeply grateful for the generous donations thus far to our repair fund. Your kindness is already making a difference and bringing us closer to completing much needed repairs. If you'd like to help even more, please consider becoming a Community

Center member—\$30 per year for individuals or \$40 for families. Membership support helps keep the lights on, the heater running, and allows us to offer free guest speakers and community events whenever possible. We'd love for you to stay connected—please check our calendar to see what's coming up soon at the Westport Community Center!

Sincerely,

The Westport Church and Community Center Team



# The Great Westport Ducky Race

By Madison McKenney

## Guess what's back? Back again?

That's right we're bringing back the ducky race! It will be held on Mother's Day, May 10th, at the Westport Beach RV Park and Campground from 11-4. Come prepared to enjoy a lovely day at the beach with your friends and family.

We will hold the classic, handcrafted and kids races, as always. The Westport Hotel will be serving up a delicious brunch with mimosas. The funds raised will help the Westport Village Society replace the stairs to Eddie's beach - we like going to the beach right!?

So let's come together and have a fun day for a good cause. If you'd like to help at the races please join us at our meetings April 4th at 2pm and April 23rd at 4pm at the Westport Community Center. Many hands make light work!

**THE GREAT WESTPORT RUBBER DUCKY RACE**

THIS YEAR'S RACE IS IN MEMORY OF MARIE FOSTIAK FOUNDER OF THE RACES

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!**

**PRICES**

ADMISSION	FREE
DUCKY RACE	\$5.00
FOOD	\$20.00
KIDS/SENIOR	\$12.00

**PRIZES**

BEAUTY CONTEST	T-SHIRT
HANDCRAFTED RACE	T-SHIRT
CLASSIC RACE	T-SHIRT
ALL KIDS WIN A PRIZE	

**MENU**

FRITTATAS SERVED WITH HERB ROASTED POTATOES AND A FRESH FRUIT SALAD. VEGGIE OPTION AVAILABLE

**KIDS!** FRENCH TOAST STICKS WITH TOPPING STATION

**DUCKY SIZE**

ALL RACE ENTRANTS MUST BE TOO BIG TO GO THROUGH A TOILET PAPER TUBE, BUT SMALL ENOUGH TO FIT IN A PAPER GROCERY BAG.

**WHAT TO BRING?**

- \*SUNSCREEN, HAT, SUNGLASSES.
- \*SLEEVES/LAYERS FOR COASTAL WEATHER.
- \*YOUR FAVORITE HANDMADE OR BOUGHT DUCKY (OR BUY ONE AT THE RACE).
- \*YOUR MOM AND LOVED ONES!

**WHAT NOT TO BRING?**

- \*YOUR DOGGIES (SORRY!)
- \*ALCOHOL
- \*A BAD ATTITUDE

**RACE RULES**

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- ALL RACES ARE OPEN TO ALL AGES!
- A DUCK MAY ENTER MORE THAN ONE RACE WITH A TICKET FOR EACH.
- ANY DUCK WITH A RACE TICKET MAY ENTER THE 'BEAUTY CONTEST'.
- NO TOXIC MATERIALS OR SOURCES OF POWER MAY BE USED.
- ALL ENTRANTS MUST ABIDE BY SIZE REQUIREMENTS.
- ONLY MANUFACTURED BATHTUB DUCKS MAY ENTER THE 'CLASSIC' DUCKY RACE, BUT THEY MAY BE MODIFIED.
- INTERFERENCE = DISQUALIFICATION

**SCHEDULE**

11:00	GATES OPEN
11:30 - 2:15	DUCK REGISTRATION
12:00 - 2:30	FOOD SERVED
12:30	BEAUTY CONTEST
~ 12:45	HANDCRAFTED RACE
~ 1:30	KIDS' RACE
~ 2:15	CLASSIC RACE
2:30	FOOD SERVICE ENDS



# The Great Westport Easter Egg Hunt

by Westport's Easter Bunny

Hey kids! The Great Westport Easter Egg Hunt is happening once again! **Join us on Easter Sunday, April 5th, at 11AM on the Westport Headlands.**

We're asking that the adults for each child participating donate a dozen eggs, per child, filled or dyed (all donations are welcome, whether you have kiddos participating or not). Donations of eggs can be left at the Westport Store on Saturday or dropped off on Easter Sunday by 9AM on the Headlands to the egg hiders (Erin and anyone who would like to help out).

*See you there! Happy Easter!*



## Spring Community Center Work Day

**Date:** Saturday, Apr 18, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Location:** Westport Community Center,  
24900 Abalone Street, Westport, CA

### About the Event

Spring has sprung! Time for clean-ups and organization.

Let's get together and paint some lines on the basketball court, repair some of our benches and spruce up the place.

Hope to see you there!

- Rob Holt



# WESTPORT HOTEL & OLD ABALONE PUB

**April 2026**

**PUB HOURS: THURSDAY-SATURDAY 5-8:30PM**

## **MUSIC IN THE PUB**

SAT APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>: ANDALELE

SAT APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> ACOUSTIC

SERENADE

FRI APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> FRANKIE AND THE

LOST SOULS

## *Mad Hatter Tea Party*

PRIZE FOR THE MOST  
CREATIVE HAT

SATURDAY APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>

3:00- 5:00 PM

BY RESERVATION ONLY

Westport Hotel  
Presents

# ANDALELE

Original & Classic  
Latin & Jazz Music  
In Spanish & English

**Chad Swimmer**  
Guitar, Tres, Uke, Vocals

**Cathryn Guillette**  
Flute, Percussion

**James Whiting**  
Percussion

Great Food, Sunset Views, Great Company  
**Saturday April 4 5:30-8:00**

38921 N Highway One, Westport  
707-964-3688 [www.westporthotel.us](http://www.westporthotel.us)



## TRIVIA NIGHT WITH ARISTA, AT THE OLD ABALONE PUB

Friday April 17th, sign up by 6:00pm with  
your team name/members \$10 to play, trivia  
starts at 6:30 pm. Theme TBA, 3 rounds plus  
bonus round. Winning team takes the pot!

**707-964-3688**



Babaji

## Living Your Highest

Without a vision, nothing can be created. Without a vision for our lives, we get trapped. We start spinning, getting caught up in small things. Little problems become big problems, and we lose ourselves in the process.

When we have a clear direction for our energy, the "side effects" of life - the fatigue, the boredom, the feeling of being stuck - simply vanish. Really, these feelings are just created by the mind. We often say, "I'm tired" or "I'm not feeling this," but when we have a clear goal, we forget all that. Think of a mother: she may be exhausted, but if her baby needs something, she forgets her tiredness and tends to the child. A clear goal allows our energy, our Shakti, to flow in the right direction.

So, what should that vision be? In the yogic way of thinking, there is only one ultimate purpose in life: to know, on a deep level, that you are a divine being. To know the Self. In my thinking, "the Divine" is simply when there is no conflict in the mind - when you are feeling whole and complete, not running around like a "hungry ghost" always looking for something more.

It reminds me of this story - there was a man who stopped every day on his way to work to chat with friends and drink coffee. One day, he got a call: "Your house is on fire!"

He dashed out and started running. His friends called out, "Wait! Have some coffee!" He didn't even look at them. He had no time to waste. This is our situation. If we remember that our "house is on fire" - that this life is short and every moment is precious - we realize we have no time to get hung up on small disappointments.

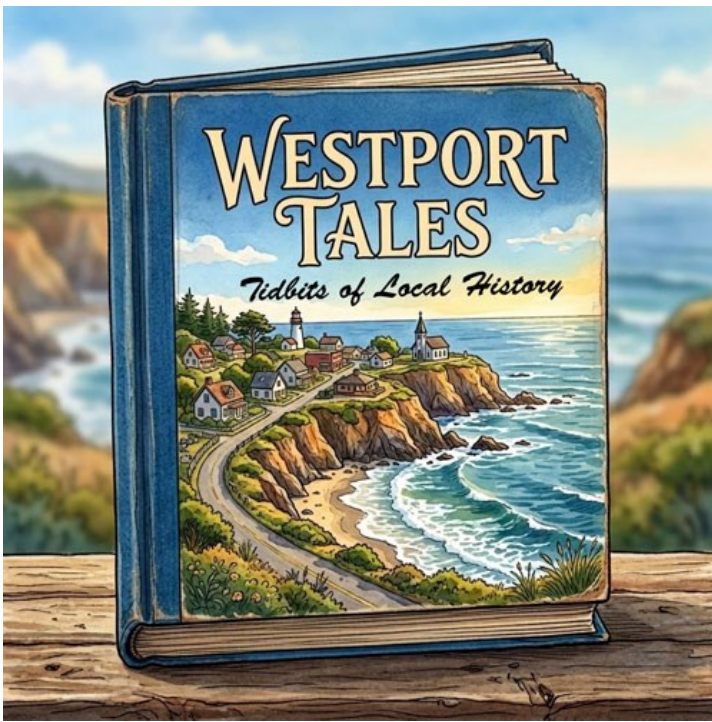
Living your "highest" doesn't always feel good. I often hear people say "I don't feel like" doing this or that. An undisciplined mind always flows toward laziness, but if the purpose is clear, laziness has no place. We do what needs to be done.

Ups and downs are bound to happen in human life. There will be good days and hard days. Keeping a higher vision keeps us going. We fall down, we pick ourselves up, and we keep walking.

Start small. Look for a moment in your day when there is no conflict in your mind - when you aren't eating dinner and already thinking about dessert. Be fully in that moment. That is the Divine moment. When we keep our vision high, the little things can no longer overwhelm us.



*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](http://www.sonomaashram.org) or reach out by email at [info@sonomaashram.org](mailto:info@sonomaashram.org). We'd love to hear from you!*



We outfitted our two boys Dehaven and Ryder with them and situated them in safe locations up on the embankment. On Ryder, 7 years old, the vest came down to his ankles.

The project went smoothly. We had two planks to accommodate any cars. Two crossed over on the planks and one person turned around and went back.

---

### About this section and new feature...

#### *Westport Tales* *Tidbits of Local History*

#### Do you have a “Westport Tale” to tell?

From time to time members of our extended but tight knit community submit articles to the editor that they feel might be of interest to share with our newsletter readers large. With varying degrees of import, they are, in general, pleasantly digestible and engaging tidbits of local lore.

But aside from placing the occasional inset among the usual articles of more immediate and pertinent interest to monthly events, there hasn't been a dedicated space for these varietal stories to be featured and shared.

As the collective memory of the many long-time resident's of the Westport area and its surrounding enclaves must assuredly harbor some unique and colorful memories, we've created the “Westport Tales” to serve as a dedicated space for such stories to be shared and savored by the community at large.

Anecdotes and recollections about long established people who've either passed away or moved on, details about local places that have either changed or are in the process of disappearing altogether, or events that are stuck in memory by the manner in which they occurred are but a few examples.

Pictures tell stories too. Perhaps you're aware of some photos of historic interest that have been withering away in an old shoe box for years? Archival items of local import would undoubtedly be much appreciated. As the old adage goes, a picture says a thousand words...

**Submit your “Westport Tale” to editor  
Ed Truthan at:**

[thewestportwave@gmail.com](mailto:thewestportwave@gmail.com)

## The Branscomb Road Gusher

by Kip Goodwin

Sharon and I used to live, and still do part time, at Hilltop, which is what it was called in the 20th century, as told to us by "old timers" when we arrived: Milt and Lois Kerchenko and Jim and Billie Larsen (she called him "Honey Bear"). You will know it as the property 2 3/4 miles up the Branscomb Road from Highway 1, with a house on the south side of the road and another house and cabin on the north side.

We moved there in 1973. One day after arriving home from work in Fort Bragg, we were met with a water fountain shooting up from the middle of the road.

The property was a ridgetop meadow with water sourced from two springs down the north and south sides of the ridge. That was made possible by the arrival of electricity in the 1930's. Half inch galvanized metal pipes connected all three dwellings. They were installed lying a few inches below the surface of the ground. Decades of pounding by log trucks had busted the pipe.

We needed to replace the water pipes, starting with under the Branscomb Road. I found someone with a backhoe who had no misgivings about trenching across a county road. A friend in Westport, Steve Cardullo, was able to get us two of those stop/go slow signs on sticks and two orange and red stripe vests.

## April 2026 Westport Calendar

**Thursday, April 2nd** - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

**Sunday, April 5th** - Easter Sunday featuring The Great Westport Easter Egg Hunt on the Westport Headlands at 11AM. [See article in this issue for more details.](#)

**Tuesday, April 7th** - *Fire Safe Council meeting* to start the process of application to the National Fire Wise Community Program, 10AM–2PM, Westport Community Center. [See article in this issue for more details.](#)

**Wednesday, April 8th** - Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse.

**Thursday, April 9th** - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

**Thursday, April 9th** - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

**Thursday, April 9th** - Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM, Zoom. Call Kayla Cooper at (707) 367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom.

**Thursday, April 16th** - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

**Saturday, April 18th** - Spring Community Center Workday from 9AM - 1PM at the Westport Community Center. Join your neighbors to help with WCC cleanup and repairs. [See article in this issue for more details.](#)

**Wednesday, April 22nd** - The WVS will hold its regular *Quarterly Board Meeting* at 6:30 pm in the Westport Community Center. [See article in this issue for more details.](#)

**Wednesday, April 22nd** - Earth Day

**Thursday, April 23rd** - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

**Thursday, April 23rd** - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

**Thursday, April 30th** - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

*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 14 years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website [www.westportvillagesociety.org](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org).

**Contributions for our May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026** (or earlier if possible) and should be sent to editor Ed Truthan at [thewestportwave@gmail.com](mailto:thewestportwave@gmail.com)  
**Thanks!**

**Support the Westport  
Volunteer Fire Department...**

**Our Department depends on  
your donations!**



**Your support and contributions will enable us  
to meet our goals and improve our equipment  
and training. Any amount helps... and helps  
keep our community safer.**

*Scan me*



**To  
Donate  
Today**