

June 1, 2026

# The Westport Wave

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[www.westportvillagesociety.org](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org)

## Ducky Race Wrap-Up

By Maddie McKenney

### Holy Toledo Westport that was a blast!

I want to thank each and every one of you who helped out, came out to enjoy the races or sent loving thoughts in our direction from afar.

#### Special shout outs:

~ **To Homer, Paul and Jared** for setting up the track and ushering the ducks down the track despite slippery rocks - the races are what makes the day and it is not an easy task- so much love to you guys for doing it!

~ **To Melinda** for organizing the serving of food, gathering enough people to put on the ducky race and helping me organize who should do what.

~ **To Tabby and her Westport Hotel crew** for creating an absolutely beautiful and delicious brunch menu with mimosas.

~ **To Sheila** for organizing all the ducky stuff, allowing us to use her party equipment, helping me order supplies, dealing with the money and spending hours cleaning and sanitizing the serving dishes.

~ **To Val and my family** - not many people want to spend Mother's day doing dishes but you happily did it so we could create less trash and let mamas eat with real plates and forks.

~ **To Sabel** for making a gorgeous quilt and her registration crew for registering over 260 ducks and not only thriving in the chaos but looking forward to round two next year.

~ **To Rob** for transporting the food to and from the hotel and creating a website to sell ducky race tickets and raffle tickets which brought in over 2k!

~ **To Debbie** for being a professional dessert slinger.



~ **To David** for sorting through the ducks with me to find the winners.

~ **To WVFD** for lending us their popups and coolers.

~ **To Joe** with Thanksgiving coffee for keeping us awake.

~ **To Marnie** and the campground crew for being gracious hosts.

~ **To the Duck Fairies** - you came out unexpectedly and jumped into whatever task needed to be done when it needed to be done and made the day run smoothly.

~ **And last but certainly not least a huge thank you to Marie.** You created this quirky fun little thing that has evolved into a quintessential Westport event that brings so much joy and pride to all those who participate. We wouldn't have this without you. Our community would not be what it is without you. Love you. Miss you. Thanks for the good weather.

**We are having pizza together** (thanks to Tabby and her pizza oven) **June 8th at 5pm** somewhere in town. Bring your pizza makings and look for the gathering of people.

**Save the date for the Next Duck Race - 5/9/2027.  
Same time. Same place. Same shenanigans.**



*A Big Thanks to all  
2026 Ducky Race  
Volunteers, Participants  
and Attendees!*





## Westport Application for Fire Wise Community Submitted

By Carla Thomas

Thank you all who submitted a Fire Wise Hours Report (April 2025-April 2026) for Westport's application to become recognized as a Fire Wise Community. We had a great community response. This week, we submitted our application for Westport's recognition as a Fire Wise Community <https://www.firesafemendocino.org/firewise-usa>. Thank you to Eva King, Emily Tecchio, and Scott Craty, Mendocino Fire Safe Council for help in this submission process.

Our greater Westport Community of 250 residences covers Rockport, south to Abalobadia and east approximately 6 miles. Our Westport Community reported 950 hours in fuel reduction investment in defensible space mowing and trimming. Community investments in home improvements totaled \$94,854 (new fire-resistant roof, windows, and siding). Our Westport Community Fire Wise total is \$126,670 in community investment in fire resiliency for April 2025 to April 2026. (In the Fire Wise Program, Fuel reduction work hours is converted to \$\$ investment by multiplying work hours by \$34.75/hour (the federal rate for volunteer in-kind value).

When our submission is approved, a Fire Wise Recognition document will be available to present to insurance companies for properties within the Westport Fire Wise Boundary. We will have more information on that document in the July Westport Wave.

WELL DONE WESTPORT COMMUNITY!

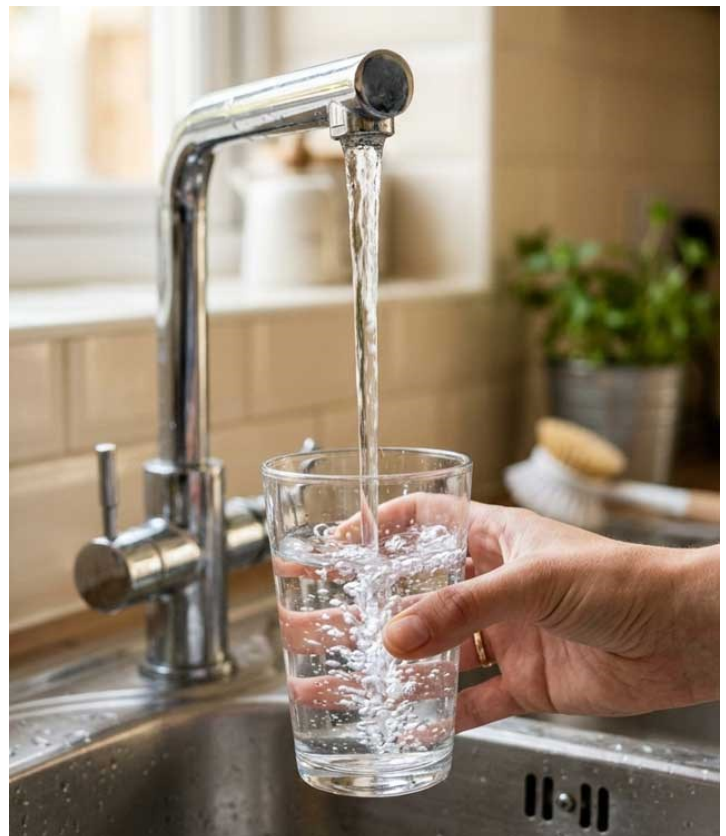
## Westport County Water District Needs You!!

By Kayla Cooper

We are coming up on elections this November 3, 2026, and will have two Short Term Board Member seats up for renewal/election. They are both 2-year terms. We are looking for two people within the water district boundaries, who would like to be part of our team. Our District holds regular monthly Board Meetings the second Thursday of each month at 6pm via Zoom (unless otherwise posted). If you are interested in becoming part of our team, please join us at our Monthly Board Meetings to start familiarizing yourself with what we do in order to provide Westport with clean drinking water and safe waste water removal.

In order to take a seat on our board, you must go to the County-Assessor Clerk-Recorder's Office at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020, in Ukiah to fill out and file the required paperwork. The paperwork needs to be submitted between **July 13, 2026 and August 7, 2026** in order to be an eligible candidate for our elections.

For more information, please contact Kayla Cooper at [wcd55@gmail.com](mailto:wcd55@gmail.com)





*California Department of Water Resources 2,500 gallon water tanks await their new owners outside the WVFD building on May 30th, 2026. All of the 22 tanks have now been assigned to individuals who submitted their requests in accordance with the program's guidelines.*

## Water Tank Program - March 2025

By Carla Thomas

In early March, 2025, the CA Department of Water Resources announced a Small Community Drought Relief Program. The program was distributing 2,500-gallon new water tanks to residents. The orders could be made by local Non-Profit Organizations in each county. All tanks had to be ordered and most delivered before March 31. The March program had very quick completion requirements of less than 2 weeks, barely enough time to get the contracts for delivery in place.

Program Requirements to receive a tank included the tank must be 1) properly set up on a solid platform 2) plumbed to fit WVFD hose fittings, 3) kept filled with water for fire fighting during fire season 4) located for fire emergency vehicles to quickly and easily access the tanks for filling and draining.

On March 7, 2025, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council's Eva King, came to Westport to discuss MCFSC programs during a Westport Fire Safe Council Community In-Person/Zoom Meeting at the Westport Community Center. Eva spoke about the water tank program during her presentation. Community members attending the meeting and wanting to receive one or more tanks placed their orders with the Westport Volunteer Fire Department during the meeting.

The WVFD ordered as many tanks as there was room for staging safely, at the Westport Volunteer Fire Department Station, 22 tanks. First priority for the tanks was given to those who 1) attended the WFSC meeting, 2) committed to follow the requirements and 3) placed an order at the meeting. There were a few extras remaining. Those are now all committed. If you wanted a tank and didn't get one, you can contact WVFD Assistant Chief Jeff Mathias to put your name on a waiting list, in case a similar program is offered.

In the July Westport Wave, WFSC and WVFD will have news on new grants awarded for Fire Resiliency and Home Hardening Preparedness. More fun ahead!

## Community Garden Update

By Rob Holt

The garden is almost fully planted out. In the greenhouse we planted tomatoes, eggplant, cucumber, basil, peppers, bush beans. Outside there are greens, cabbage, squash, snap peas, kale, flowers. Potatoes recently added.

Greens outside are ready to harvest but ***be mindful not to over-harvest individual plants***. In the greenhouse, there is a small amount of basil that's harvestable. Ripe tomatoes are a few weeks away, and cucumbers, etc to follow.

Thanks to those who are helping water, etc. And thanks for the recently donated starts. As we produce new starts to fill in open spaces in the garden, extras will be available on the table against the building. Coming up in the next week or so will be Cabbage, Kohlrabi and Brussels Sprouts.

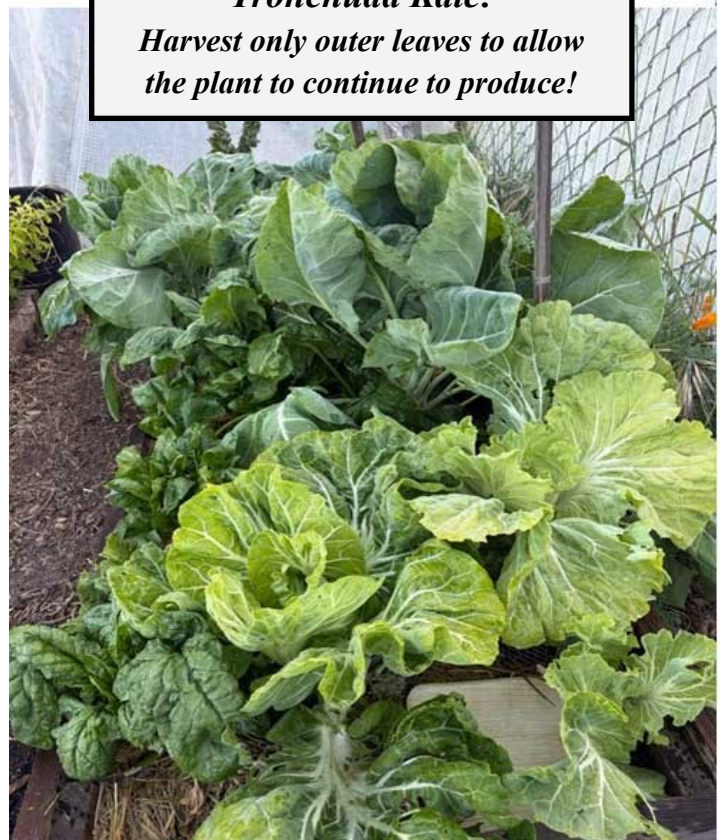
A vertical planter is on loan for this season for bush beans in the greenhouse. Another will be installed outside with strawberries, lettuce and flowers.

The new compost pile is heating up!

*~ Friends of the Garden*



***Tronchuda Kale:***  
***Harvest only outer leaves to allow***  
***the plant to continue to produce!***



## Mushroom Cultivation Class at The Community Center

By Rob Holt

Meet [Forest People Mushrooms](#), a gem in Mendocino County committed to radically sustainable mushroom cultivation!

Owners Lama and Matthew grow over 100 pounds of gourmet oyster mushrooms weekly and will be here at the Westport Community Center on **Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00AM to 12:00PM** to show you how to do the same!

There is a material fee for this class of \$10 which covers the everything you will need to produce your first crop of oyster mushrooms at home!

RSVP [here](#) to secure your spot... or visit:

<https://www.westportcommunitychurch.org/event-details/grow-gourmet-oyster-mushrooms-at-home>



*Join us as Lama Nasser-Gammet provides us with the supplies and knowledge to grow oyster mushrooms in your own home!*

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## Work Begins on The Dehaven Headlands Public Access Improvements...



*The planned public access improvements for the Dehaven Headlands acquisition have now begun. An article by WVS President Thad Van Bueren highlighting the construction and public safety concerns as the project progresses is slated for next month's Westport Wave.*

# WESTPORT HOTEL & OLD ABALONE PUB

**New Summer hours Thursday-Sunday 5-9pm**

## MUSIC IN THE PUB

SAT JUNE 6TH CHAD SWIMMER

THURS JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup>

FRANK LUCKY & MOLLIE JANE



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

Friday June 12th, sign up by 6:00pm with your team name/members \$5 per person, trivia starts at 6:30 pm. Theme is summertime. 3 rounds plus bonus questions. Winning team takes the pot!

707-964-3688

## Afternoon Tea

SUMMER SOLSTICE TEA  
SATURDAY JUNE 20TH  
3:00- 5:00 PM  
BY RESERVATION ONLY





Babaji

## Going Under Your Own Shelter

How good it feels when we return to ourselves through meditation.

When our mind acquires stillness, we go under our own shelter - our own protection. We experience that contentment. We experience peace.

When we are not connected with ourselves, the mind is running, imagining situations that are good or bad, taking us away from reality. Whatever the mind is running towards is just an imagination. Coming under your own protection means coming back to yourself, to that center.

Having a place, time, and routine is very helpful when you are starting any kind of spiritual practice. Something is better than nothing, but if you want to get to the depth, there has to be a continuity. There has to be consistency. There has to be a form. From the form, you go to the formless. In the beginning, we need a form to discipline our mind—something that it can wrap itself around. Then our heart opens, and we connect.

There has to be an element of discipline. It is through discipline that we set ourselves free. How? If you haven't practiced all the notes of a musical instrument, you can't improvise. You have to have the discipline to master it. Then, you are free of all the rules. Then whatever you do becomes music. If you just pick up an instrument and start banging on it and say, "I'm making music," you are just creating noise.

In order to go under your own protection, find that stillness, find that oneness, having a formal practice,

without expectation, is very helpful. The practice doesn't have to be complicated. It could be just focusing on your breath as it comes in and goes out. When you are doing even the simplest practice for an extended amount of time, the mind acquires stillness.

May our practice be so simple that it does not need anything from the outside.

Our mind likes to complicate things. It wants more information, but actually more information is just more baggage. May I be able to live and practice what I already know. Practice it, give it some time, and have some patience. If the mind suggests, "I need to know more, I want to see more, I want to experience more," recognize its trick to get away from that commitment of time and continuity. The mind does not like any kind of discipline; it likes to be spontaneous.

Sometimes a situation appears in our life that's unpleasant. Try to watch the mind in those moments. What kind of suggestions and thoughts is it presenting? Those thoughts are just an imagination or an attachment to something. Can we shift the attention to something positive, something true, or best of all, to our Self? Instead of going into fear, can we say, "I will handle it, I'll be okay, I'll make the best out of it"? That is called going under your own shelter, your own protection.

We have the energy, we have the strength, and we have the capacity within to meet any situation or challenge that comes our way. It's all possible through a little discipline of the mind.

Spiritual practice is not about solving day-to-day problems—it's not an answer. Spiritual practice connects you with your strength, and then you find the answers. If you are connected with your Self, the answer comes.

That which you are seeking dwells within you - it's not outside of you. You can get there by yourself, too. Just have a little patience. Have a little continuity. Carve out a little time.

It's all right here.



*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!*

## June 2026 Westport Calendar

**Thursday, June 4th** - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

**Thursday, June 4th** - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

**Sunday, June 7th** - Mushroom Cultivation Class hosted by Forest People Mushrooms at the Westport Community Center at 10AM. \$10 materials entry fee. See article in this issue for full details!

**Wednesday, June 10** - Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse.

**Thursday, June 11th** - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

**Thursday, June 11th** - Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 6:00PM, Zoom. Call Kayla Cooper at (707) 367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom.

**Sunday, June 14th** - Flag Day

**Thursday, June 18th** - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

**Thursday, June 18th** - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

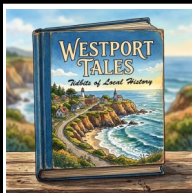
**Friday, June 19th** - Juneteenth National Independence Day

**Sunday, June 21st** - Father's Day

**Thursday, June 25th** - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

**Monday, June 29th** - Full "Strawberry" Moon, at 4:57PM PDT.

**Note:** Basic/beginner Tai Chi Chuan with Beck on Thursday mornings improves focus, balance and strength, and is no charge for persons with paid memberships to the [Church/Community Center](#).



**Do you have a tale of local interest to share with the community? Submit your "Westport Tale" to editor Ed Truthan at: [thewestportwave@gmail.com](mailto:thewestportwave@gmail.com)**

*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 July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by Friday, June 26<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**