

March 1, 2017

The Westport Wave

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

Recycled, History

Steve Brigham,
Editor

Alert readers will notice that this month's Editorial has exactly the same two-word title as last month's, but with the words reversed (headline writers just love it when they can pull something like this off!) These two very different Westport news stories both came down at just around the same

time in the latter half of January. One, the washout and rescue of the century-old Bridge Rock Log (see the February *Westport Wave*), I could write about for February, since all the hard facts were obvious at press time. But any hard facts on the issue of our Recycle Center actually closing were still too vague for me to write anything responsible for February 1st. This story developed quickly in February, however, and so now here we are on March 1st, and our Westport Recycle, CRV Redemption, and Waste Transfer Center is already closed (see Thad's article on page 2 of this newsletter for all of the details).

For many years now, Solid Waste of Willits has very considerably operated a Westport Recycling, CRV Redemption, and Waste Transfer Station right in back



Service with a smile! We will miss our convenient and uniquely Westportian Waste Transfer and Recycling Station, as run by SWOW and site attendant/local resident Donna Brigham. Always dependable service, and nowhere else could you ever see such a great display of recycled/reused materials in such an artistic form! (*site office photo*)

of the Westport Firehouse. This has largely been a homespun operation, led by Westportian Operator/Employees Jeff Saunders (for 9 years) and most recently my lovely wife Donna Brigham (for 7 years). We have loved the kind, personal service from people we know. But the bottom line, folks, is that recycling businesses just can't get good money for recycled materials anymore, and that's why over 20% of California recycling centers have closed down in the past year alone, most of them in rural areas.

The good news is that we still have weekly garbage and recycling pickup service here in the Westport area for all who can get their containers to a paved road for pickup. But will our Recycle and Waste Transfer Station ever re-open? See page 2 for more!



Refuse!!

Thad Van Bueren

The Westport Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Center was open for its final day of operation on February 25, 2017. Last minute efforts were made to avert the closure, but they were not successful. The back story gives insight into local politics and the future of trash disposal and recycling.

The Westport area is covered by a franchise agreement between Mendocino County and Solid Waste of Willits (SWOW), a private locally owned business. The agreement is approved periodically by the Mendocino Board of Supervisors (BOS) and managed by the Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority (MSWMA). MSWMA was formed in 1990 as a joint powers authority by the cities of Fort Bragg, Willits, and Ukiah and the County of Mendocino. The Authority implements regional waste diversion programs as required by State law.

Westport lies in Franchise Area 1, while Fort Bragg lies in Franchise Area 2. The contract for our local franchise is in effect until December 30, 2024 while the one for Fort Bragg with Empire Waste Management Company expires June 30, 2021. Although SWOW was beholden to supply trash and recycling services to Westport through 2024, they approached the BOS in the summer of 2016 to advise they would go bankrupt if the terms of the contract were not revised. See the December 20th story at: <http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/article/NP/20161220/NEWS/161229990>.

The BOS heard this matter January 24th, approving the closure of the Westport recycling center. It was not disclosed at that time that the Waste Transfer Station would also close. After inquiries from the local community, Supervisor Dan Gjerde placed the

matter of the February 7th BOS agenda for reconsideration. Several local people wrote letters of concern and signed a petition. Robert Scott, the Vice-Chairperson of the Westport Municipal Advisory Council (WMAC) represented the community at that second hearing. The matter was deferred by the BOS to their February 14th meeting to give MSWMA and the community time to explore ways to retain some services.

The Westport Water District was willing to lower the SWOW rental fees from \$475/month to \$225/month and the WMAC advocated reduced hours of operation as ways for the SWOW to continue modest services. However, a cost analysis supplied by MSWMA reveals that it is not feasible to operate the Westport center in the black even with reduced hours unless CRV fee reimbursement was eliminated. For that reason, the BOS approved the complete closure of the Westport center on February 14th.

Curbside trash and recycling service is still locally available from Solid Waste of Willits for those in the Westport area either living on paved roads or willing to haul their containers to a nearby paved road for weekly, semi-weekly, or monthly pickup. The nearest self-haul trash disposal and recycling locations in the vicinity are now at the Caspar or Laytonville Transfer Stations. Caspar is open M-W 9-3 and weekends from 9-4. Laytonville is open 9-4 on T, W, and weekends. Laytonville pays for CRV, while Caspar does not. Fort Bragg Disposal at 219 Pudding Creek Road in Fort Bragg pays for CRV and takes recycling, but does not accept trash. For more information visit:

<http://www.mendorecycle.org/transfer-station-info-sheet/>.

If you are interested in this issue, consider coming to the Westport Municipal Advisory Council meeting on Tuesday, March 7th at 7:00PM at the Westport Community Church. We'll discuss the prospects and strategy for the future of Westport Recycling and Waste Transfer. It may be possible to advocate for moving Westport into the Fort Bragg franchise area to obtain service from an alternate provider, but that realignment may not be feasible until the current contract expires in 2021, four years hence.

WVFD Saint Patrick's Day Fundraising Dinner March 17th

Frank Maurice, Chief, WVFD

All are invited to a fabulous Saint Patrick's Day Fundraising Dinner at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub on Friday, March 17th from 5:00PM to 9:00PM, with all proceeds going to the Westport Volunteer Fire Department for fire equipment purchases. The menu features traditional Irish Corned Beef and Cabbage (\$17.50), with Irish ale and spirits also available. Live Celtic music will be provided by "Devlish Delight" from 5:00PM to 8:00PM.

The whole community is invited including the entire public – we want you all to come and bring your friends and families! So let's all enjoy Saint Patrick's Day in Westport at the beautiful Old Abalone Pub at the Westport Hotel – it'll be great fun for all, and it helps your Fire Department too! (See Flyer on Page 8 of this Newsletter!)

Westport Whale Festival Saturday, March 25th

Kyle Siler

For years, other towns along the coast have hosted whale festivals during various weekends in March. Mendocino, Fort Bragg and Little River each have their own dedicated weekend. As the visionary behind the Westport Whale (right next to the Westport Inn), I thought that it was about time that our sleepy seaside hamlet had our own! And so this year, Westport will be hosting its first-ever **Westport Whale Festival, on Saturday, March 25th, from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. Prepare for a fun and ACTION PACKED day!**

Whale Festival Spring Market Saturday, March 25th

Sarah Cullar

A Spring Market will be part of the festivities for the first Westport Whale Festival. Held on the Headlands if the weather permits, and at the Recreation Center if



it doesn't, vendors can come sell their wares from **10:00AM to 3:00PM on Saturday, March 25th**. I already have several vendors lined up, but more is always better. If we're indoors space will be more limited and we tend to limit things to more the craft and handmade wares side of things, but if we're outdoors bring whatever you have. If you'd like to participate, please contact me, Sarah Cullar, at 962-0181 or sarah.e.cullar@gmail.com to reserve your spot. If you're not interested in selling, be sure to come visit and shop!

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.



The Westport Community Church

Westport Community Church March 2017 Calendar

Founded in 1880, the **Westport Community Church** is a multi-denominational church which serves the Westport community and its many spiritual paths. We also function as a meeting hall for the Westport community and its activities. We are doing our best to nurture a tradition of having weekly spiritual gatherings and more at the Church (which is at the end of Abalone Street on the left), with all religious and spiritual denominations both welcome and encouraged to hold both regular and special services here. Please contact Church Vice-President Steve Brigham at stevebrigham2000@gmail.com or (707) 964-6431 for use of the Westport Community Church for community meetings, activities, or religious services, and also to see how you can help keep our Westport Community Church organization improving and our buildings and grounds maintained.

1st Sunday, March 5th, 10:00AM – Our Bi-Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katherine White leads our regular 1st Sunday Quaker Worship Group meeting. The format is a simple, quiet meditation for 45 minutes followed by Katherine reading Quaker passages and a shared discussion of our experience including sharing of any of our thoughts or readings that one is inspired to bring to

the group. This has been and will continue to be a very peace-filled and nurturing experience.

2nd Sunday, March 12th, 10:00AM – Carolyn Cathey shares a talk on “Glistening Lightlines Connections” from her recent book *Divine Messages from Jesus, for a magnificent life*.

What are glistening lightlines? Carolyn shares one of her visions and a Divine message of how you and everyone are connected with and within God, the Source, the Creator of all there is, and why knowing that connection matters. We all talk about how we are One, but do we really want to be connected with those with whom we disagree? Does God really love equally? You might think that thought impossible because God obviously hasn't met your neighbor, or must not know what is going on in our Government. In other words, Oneness is easier vocalized than lived. How does knowing the connection-truth of who we are, and even more, living that truth, make us, and the world, better?

Donations are welcome to support the Church.

Carolyn Cathey's new book, “Divine Messages from Jesus for a magnificent life” is now available in paperback and Kindle versions. For more information, please see

<https://carolynecathey.com/divine-messages-from-jesus/>

3rd Sunday, March 19th, 10:00AM – Our Bi-Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katherine White leads our regular 3rd Sunday Quaker Worship Group meeting. The format is just like our 1st Sunday Service.

Our Church Needs Dry Firewood!

Our Community Church needs some dry firewood to keep us warm for the rest of these cold rainy Sundays this winter and spring! If you can spare some dry wood, please contact Baile Oakes at 964-7721. With really dry wood of the right size, it still takes 2 hours to heat up the Church on Sunday mornings, so we need that dry wood. Thank you for any help you can give us!



Save the Date! Ducky Sunday 2017 is Mother's Day, May 14th

Elika Freeman

Hello Friends and Neighbors! It's getting to be time to start planning our amazing annual event "**The Great Westport Rubber Ducky Races**" on Mother's Day once again in this, our 27th year. That's **Sunday, May 14th, at the Caspar Beaches Westport Campground (Wages Creek and Beach)**, so save the date! As you know this is the main fundraiser for the **Westport Village Society**, allowing them to keep the Headlands and other spaces in our area open to the public. This event is sponsored and run by our awesome community and cannot continue without your energy, enthusiasm, and involvement.

You may know that after 25+ years of dedication and hard work the main organizers are stepping aside and hoping the next generation will step up and continue this successful and fun family event for our village. I have offered to step into a leadership position but will really need community involvement to pull off a successful event. I do have a bit of event planning and promotion experience, most recently helping produce a benefit for the Standing Rock movement that netted \$15,000 in donations to that cause. I have also helped to dream, build and fundraise a large scale interactive mobile community art space known as "What's in the Box?", which brought together collaborative efforts of over 50 local artists, builders, and performers. I did not do these things alone, and I am a believer in the power of collaboration to accomplish large tasks. I look forward to working with you to make this year's Ducky Races a successful and fun event for our whole community.

I do have some small changes in mind for the event, and I want to outline a few of them here, as well as a

few of the existing tasks that rely heavily on the community's participation. As usual we will have the baked goods booth which always has delicious homemade goodies made by locals. I hope that this year will be no different. There will be a sign up sheet at the store as well as drop-off instructions when we get closer to the event. One change I would like to make this year is to have you provide an ingredient card with your dish to help the servers accommodate people with food sensitivities and allergies.

The quilt raffle and flower pot raffle will also be happening this year as usual, but I would also like to add a Sun Hat raffle. I hope that some of our local artists and artisans will want to get involved and create lovely hat pins, or sashes to decorate a sunhat of their choosing (or creation). These will be accompanied by gift certificates to local spa services and are a part of my attempts to capitalize on the Mother's Day aspect of our event by having a raffle stocked with things every mother will love.

Another new addition that will also draw on that theme is a "Boutique" booth full of second hand treasures. So look through your closet and jewelry boxes for some items that you might want to donate to that. It could be a beautiful scarf or shawl that you just never wear, a piece of jewelry or a sun dress that's somehow left out of every outfit, or a piece of art or sculpture collecting dust in your home or storage that someone else would be excited to go home with. Your donations can be tax deductible, should be in good condition, and will be sold at a reasonable rate to benefit the Westport Village Society. You can contact me or Tabitha Korhummel to arrange pick-up/drop-off of these items at anytime between now and the event.

These are the items I wanted to put forward to the community at this time in hopes that you will get inspired to start getting some excitement built up for the event. Promotions and further planning will begin in the next week, and you will likely be receiving a friendly phone call from me asking what your level of involvement for the event can be as there are still more tasks integral to this event. If you would like to reach out to me first for any reason please do: my cell number is [707-734-3103](tel:707-734-3103), and my email is mendomermaid@msn.com. I look forward to hearing from you, and thanks so much! – Elika.



This view of Westport from the southeast, 137 years ago, shows a thriving new town with a functioning pier!

Time Warp

Thad Van Bueren

This photo comes from the archives of the California Historical Society in San Francisco. It shows the nascent village of Westport as it looked in 1880. Although the image has a lot of foxing, many details can be discerned. The first wharf that crossed to bridge rock is visible, while the main road is the one still used as Route 1. There was no Pacific Street at this time and the Switzer mansion had not yet been built on that low mound that partially obscures one house. The prominent three story house with a porch and two dormers facing south was a hotel that once sat on the parcel where many RVs now park.

WVFD Quad Raffle

Frank Maurice, Chief, WVFD

This year at the Westport Volunteer Fire Department Annual Barbecue on Saturday, August 19th, our Fundraising Raffle will feature a beautiful new all-terrain vehicle known as a “quad”. Raffle Tickets (at \$5 each) will be available at the WVFD Saint

Patrick’s Day Fundraising Dinner on March 17th at the Westport Hotel, and are also available anytime at the Westport Community Store. Raffle tickets will be also sold at locations around Westport and Fort Bragg until the WVFD BBQ on Saturday, August 19th, when the winning ticket will be picked. **Information about this fabulous raffle prize is on page 9 of this newsletter!** – so spread the word, post the flyer, tell your friends, and buy lots of raffle tickets!

Rainfall By The Numbers

Steve Brigham

Hey, we did pretty good on our rainfall numbers in all of California for February! Here on the Westport Headlands, we had 12.48 inches of rain for the month, which brought our total since January 1st to 25.52 inches, and our “water year” (since October 1st, 2016) season total to 51.04 inches. That’s already over our 2015 season total of 50.66 inches, and way over our 43-inch annual average! But that’s not the whole story – Thad in Howard Creek Canyon is at 63.40 inches for the season (as are many of you are in our local hills) and Laytonville is already at 78.36 inches!

Now That's Exciting!

Jim Kirby, Pastor, Mendocino Chapel on the Headlands

In last month's *Westport Wave*, my article "Something to Think About" accomplished a portion of its purpose. It stimulated both thought and conversation. What resulted from some of the discussion was that there really is a clear need in the area surrounding Westport to provide support for the older members of the community. What became clearly defined was that there are existing services which respond well when needs arise, those which can be thought of as reactive services. What is not present in the community is a more pro-active service – one which touches into people regularly, just for the sake of saying, "we're here and we care".

There was something else that bubbled up as well. It became apparent in the discussion that the type of pro-active support we imagined embodies the five-fold function of a healthy church. Those functions are: to proclaim God's message of hope, to teach an understanding of what Jesus had to say, to live a life as an expression of worship to God, to come together in community fellowship, and to serve one another. The idea of serving others is an outgrowth of a personally healthy life, and a healthy life is lived best when it is rightly related to the God of Hope. This thought brought us to a whole new level when we thought about starting up a church. It seems to me, and to others, that the needs of community can be largely met as we join together and live authentic Christian lives. Sounds wonderful, doesn't it? And it can be simple, but, unfortunately, it isn't that easy. It takes something called, "intentionality". It means that we would have to actually come together, actually bond and grow together, and actually reach out to our community. Now that's exciting!

March 2017 Westport Calendar

March 1st – Ash Wednesday

March 2nd – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

March 5th – First Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church

March 7th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Westport Church

March 8th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse

March 11th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Firehouse

March 12th – Daylight Savings Time Begins, 2:00AM (set clocks AHEAD one hour)

March 12th – Full Moon, 7:53AM

March 12th – Carolyn Cathey, "Glistening Lightlines Connections", 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church

March 16th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

March 17th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Saint Patrick's Day Fundraising Dinner, 5:00PM to 9:00PM, Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

March 19th – Third Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church

March 20th – Spring Equinox, 3:29AM

March 25th – Westport Whale Festival and Spring Market, Westport Whale and Westport Headlands (Recreation Center if rain), 10:00AM to 3:00PM

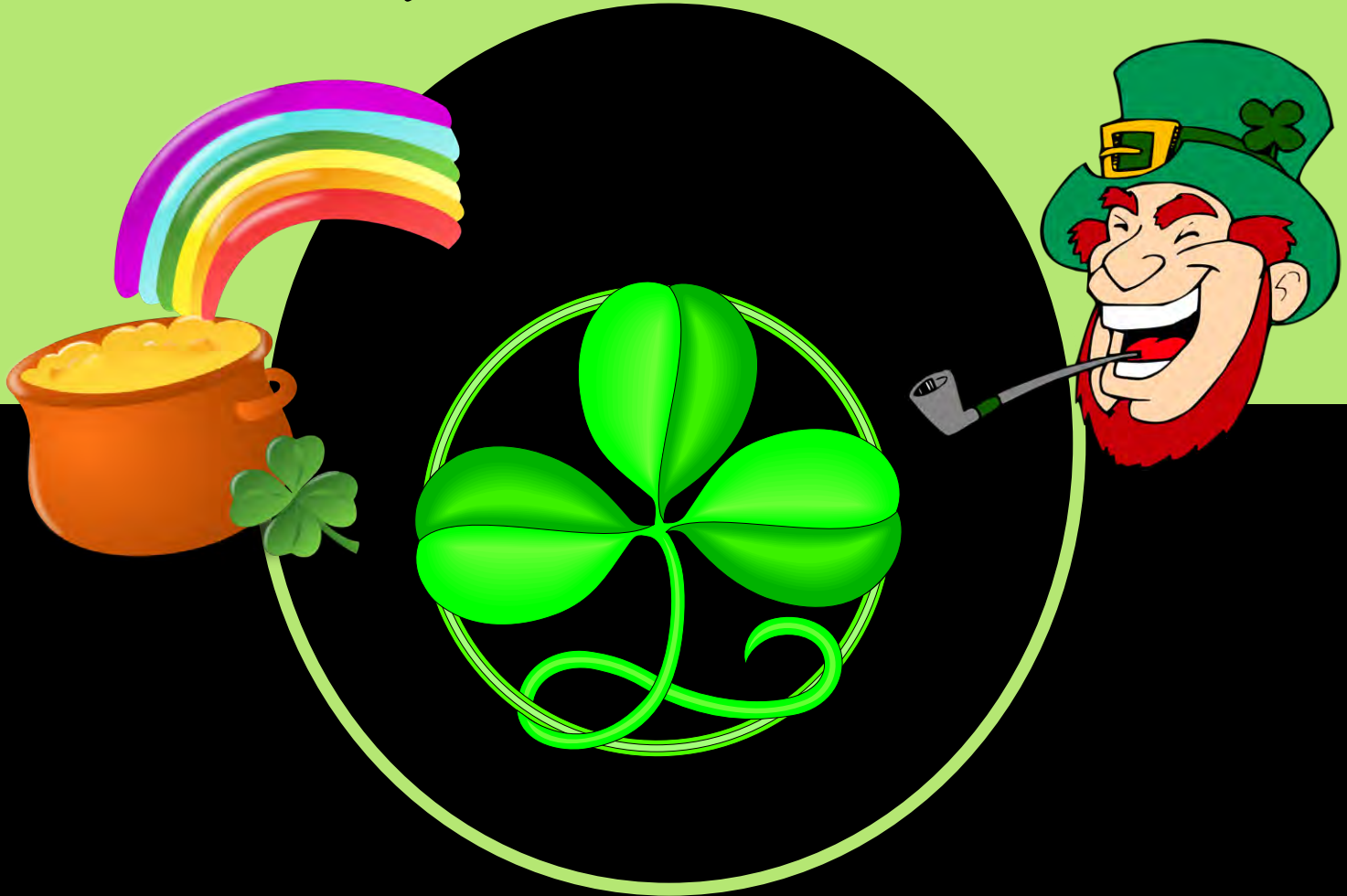
March 27th – New Moon, 7:57PM

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. **Check out our website www.westportvillagesociety.org, to read and download both our current issue and over five years of past issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our April 1st, 2017 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by March 27th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488. Thank You!

St Patrick's Day at the Westport Hotel

March 17th 5:00-9:00.

All proceeds go the Westport Fire & Rescue



CORNER BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER \$17.50

IRISH ALE AND SPIRITS AVAILABLE

LIVE CELTIC MUSIC BY "DEVILISH DELIGHT"

5:00-8:00

Westport Volunteer Fire Department 2017 Polaris Sportsman® 570 Raffle

Donation: \$5.00 per ticket



Thanks to Motorsports of Ukiah for all of their help in making this raffle happen.

- **TRUE ON-DEMAND ALL WHEEL DRIVE:** Polaris Sportsman, the best selling automatic 4x4. The AWD engages all four tires when the rear wheels slip and you need more forward traction. Reverts back to 2WD when you don't. Its simple and doesn't require pushing any extra buttons or pulling levers like the competition.
- **POWERFUL 44 HP PROSTAR ENGINE:** With 44 Horsepower, Electronic Fuel Injection (EFI) and Dual Overhead Cams with 4 valves per cylinder, the 570 starts flawlessly and runs smoothly in varied temperature and altitude.
- **MASSIVE 1,225 LBS. TOWING CAPACITY:** Sportsman 570 works harder than Honda® Foreman® with a huge 1,225 lbs. towing capacity that's 44% larger than Honda's 848 lbs. towing capacity.

Drawing will be held August 19th 2017 at the Westport Volunteer Fire Departments Annual BBQ.

Winner need not be present to win, but you will miss one great party.

All taxes, licenses and fees are the responsibility of the winning ticket holder.

Thank you for your support!

