

A Note From

Julie Casson Town Clerk & Registrar of Voters

Let's make sure to keep Westport Island healthy this holiday season. Town Office is following all State issued guidelines and rulings in this time of COVID. Remember when doing business at Town Office:

1. Masks are required while in the parking lot or inside the building.
 2. Vehicle Registrations are handled outside at Dedee's window.
 3. All other business may enter the front door - only one customer at a time.
 4. We have clean and dirty pen cups - consider bringing a pen.
2. Dog Licensing is underway. It is State Law to license your dog! All we need is a current rabies certificate and proof of spay/neuter if not already on file. Fees - \$6 if your dog is spayed/neutered or \$11 if un-spayed or un-neutered. After January 31, 2021, an additional \$25 late fee will be applied.
3. The staff at the Town Office wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season

Did You Know?

In the 1800s, Westport Islanders afflicted with cholera and small pox were banished to this island.



photo circa 1908

Find out how Westport Islanders took care of each other during times of pandemic. Visit the **Westport Island in Times of Pandemic, Epidemics and Outbreaks** exhibit at the new Westport Island History Center (Wright Landing house) on Sundays, 11 am to 1 pm. Or contact us for a private viewing.

Gaye Wagner, gdwagner1@gmail.com
Joan Bradford, masonjoan58@gmail.com

Listing of Westport Island Businesses

The Town of Westport Island webpage has a listing of island businesses and contact information. Go to <http://westportisland.us/businesses>. Have a business on the island and would like to be added? Fill out the online form for consideration.

Newsletter Submissions

Anyone in town wishing to publish articles, artwork, and meeting dates should contact Rose Bodmer at lulusbarnshop@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month. Submission guidelines are located at westportcommunityassociation.org



THE WESTPORT ISLAND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

Westport Community Association
6 Fowles Point Road,
Westport Island, ME 04578

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

Original Painting by John McBee

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER



Fold Here

Westport Island History

The Westport Town Hall is usually referred to as “historic”, and was built circa 1795, but did you know that it wasn’t built to be a Town Hall? It was originally built as a Meeting House, a house of worship, primarily used by the Free Will Baptists at first, then also by the Methodist Episcopal congregation on the island. Through the 18th and most of the 19th centuries town business, including town meetings, were held in people’s homes, or sometimes in school buildings or businesses.

The town of Westport acquired the meeting house, which had been derelict for some years, in 1885, and renovated it to serve as a town-building, with a stage for a small orchestra for dances and celebrations as well as town meetings. An act of the Legislature was required, approved March 3, 1885, authorizing the sale, and a town meeting that month approved paying \$1 for it. “The young people are to have use of the hall without charge once a week and the ladies’ sewing circle may have the hall whenever they wish.” A Grand Dedication Ball was held December 1, with 22 dances listed, most a variation of “quadrille”. Outhouses were added to the west end of the building in 1888. The building was now the Westport Town Hall.



Coming soon: **Friends of Westport Island History note cards** just in time for holiday giving – images of Island sites by Island artists & visiting artists. Check off your gift list and benefit Westport Island history. Sets of 8 cards for \$10, or \$1.50 each, on sale at the History Center beginning December 6. A preview of the cards and how to purchase them will be available soon on the Westport Island History Committee Facebook page.

Thank you, Davies Allan, for your donation to Westport Community Association and your continued generosity toward our charity. We are most grateful for your kindness.



Brad and Emily Adler have generously purchased the holiday tree that will be placed in front of the Old Town Hall. Archie Bonyon, Art Weber, Dick Barker & Rich Lorenson will donate their time to string lights on the tree for a festive glow.

Westport Community Association

WCA regretfully cancels the Westport Island Holiday Fair

The WCA has decided to cancel the upcoming Westport Island Holiday Fair on December 6. In light of new COVID cases popping up in our area, we feel that it is in the best interest to save social gatherings to a later date. Thank you to Barbara Cray for all of the work you put into organizing the event.

The Westport Community Association would like to thank all of the community members that donated their time and resources to participate in our first trunk or treat event. Thank you to Nancy Shaul, Jill & Bill Cooney, Jessica Pancake, Barbara Cray, Deb Lorenson, and Carol & Christy Hopkins for taking the time to dress up, decorate your cars and hand out candy. Thank you to Warren Martel, Barbara Cray, and Drew Porter for the additional donation of candy, and thank you to our new community member, Karen Neil, for offering to help pass out candy. Thank you to Jeannie Laub for your hand-painted decorations and dressing up. And, a special thank you to Art Weber for your creative Cemetery Halloween decorating! And Dick Barker for your electrical help.



Art Weber decorating for Trunk or Treat
Photo provided by Gaye Wagner

Christy Hopkins, the granddaughter of Bill Hopkins and daughter of Carol Hopkins, had surgery on November 23rd. If you would like to send Christy a get well card, her address is **Christy Hopkins 42 West Shore Road Westport Island, ME 04578**. Get well, Christy! We are all thinking of you! We're looking forward to seeing your smiling face back at Shaw's!