

Island Filmmaker Offers Free Screening of New Film

Westport Islander and filmmaker Barbara Cray is having a free screening of the working version of her new film that has been accepted for airing on national public broadcasting stations for next year. *Votes for Women: A History of Women's Suffrage Through Song* tells the story of achieving women's voting rights illustrated with archival material from the National Archives and the Library of Congress, and is interspersed with songs of the suffrage movement performed by Portland chorus Women in Harmony. The film will be shown at the Barn at the Squire Tarbox on **Sunday, November 1 at 4 p.m.** The Inn will have light refreshments and beverages available for sale. Please R.S.V.P. if you would like to attend by stating your name and contact information and the number of people in your party who can be considered part of your "pod" so that appropriate distancing in seating can be arranged in advance. Email your R.S.V.P. to Barbara at barbaracrayentertainment.com. Take a break from the pending voting by listening and learning about the past and socializing with your neighbors (with masks and appropriate distancing)!

A Note From Julie Casson Town Clerk & Registrar of Voters

Voting will take place Tuesday, November 3, at Old Town Hall from 8 am to 8 pm. We are adhering to State & CDC guidelines - please wear your masks! If you still want to vote absentee, you can. The last day to vote absentee in-person will be Friday, October 31. The Town Office will be open on that day from 1 pm to 5 pm for voting only. Any questions, please contact Julie Casson, Town Clerk, 882-8477 x 3.

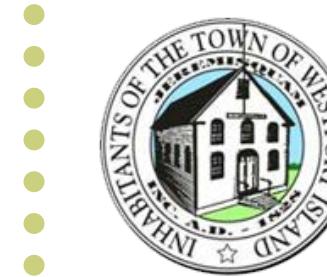
It's that time of year to get your dog licensed for 2021. Reminders have gone out. All we need is a current rabies certificate if one is not already on file. If you don't have a copy provide your Vet's name; we'll call for you. FEES: \$6 if your dog is neutered / spayed \$11 if un-neutered / un-spayed after January 31, 2021, an additional \$25 late fee applies. Note: Fee supports the state's Animal Welfare Program as well as Westport Island's Animal Control Officers.

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/business>. 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 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 NOVEMBER 2020

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

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If Only

Were it true that pen is mightier than sword,
I would scrawl words of Peace;
Justice;
Equity;
and Loving Kindness.
I would scatter trails of prose and mystical
thought,
So you would see where I had visited.

And were it true that a picture is worth a
thousand words,

I would buy ten thousand pens
To counter ten thousand swords;
I would create ten thousand images of Love's fair
face.

by Valerie Lovelace, October 2020



Westport Island in Times of Pandemic, Epidemics & Outbreaks

Come see *Westport Island in Times of Pandemic, Epidemics & Outbreaks* at the Westport Island History Center, Wright Landing, on Sundays from 11 am to 1 pm, or make an appointment to view it by emailing: wihistorycommittee@gmail.com

Westport Island History Trail

The Westport Island History Trail is now a reality. Ten drivable sites on the island now have interpretive signs that tell some of the histories of the people and activities that occurred there. A scannable QR code gives quick access to more detailed information from any smartphone. Recommended starting points for the Trail are the Ferry Landing and Clough Point on the north end, and trail guides have located the signs at those locations, as well as the Westport Community Church, the History Center, and the Town Office. Take a walk in one of the town's preserves and enjoy a bit of history with nature!

Broadband/Internet Survey Results

The Broadband and Cable Committee wishes to thank all community members who took the time and effort to respond to our recent survey. It was very beneficial to our broadband improvement efforts. An initial review of the survey's responses to date indicated nearly 2/3rds of respondents (64%) were unsatisfied with Westport's current internet services. The replies represented a good cross-section of the island's cable (33%), DSL (41%), cellular/mobile (12%), satellite (5%), and other internet service users (7%), as well as residents who don't have an internet connection (2%). The internet is important to residents: 62% indicated that they use the internet to work from home, and 36% use it for educational purposes. The primary reasons given for dissatisfaction with current service are slowness and/or unreliability. Many people were upset about the high cost of their current internet service and the unavailability of choices. Respondents gave strong support to the two options for expanding broadband service: 85% supporting an extension of Spectrum's broadband service, 78% supporting a town-owned fiber-optic network. There were many nuances in the comments that need to be reviewed on this aspect. The Committee is continuing to analyze the survey results and will soon present them to the Selectmen, along with a recommended approach for satisfying Westport's broadband needs.

Town Hall Now Provides Free Internet Service

The Selectmen approved the relocation of the free internet service Spectrum has provided to the Town Office to the Town Hall, and Jason Kates installed it last month. It should be usable in front of the building as well, for those who need a connection. With your laptop, tablet, or smartphone, look for the Town Hall Guest WIFI. There is no password. Once connected to the Town Hall Guest WIFI, you will need to accept the Terms & Conditions to get connectivity. Open up a web browser and start a new session. Try to go to any website, like Google.com, and the Terms & Conditions page should come up, asking you to click on a box at the bottom of the page "I accept the terms of use" The "Guest Access" box should now have "Connect" activated. Click on that, and you should now be connected to the internet.

Westport Community Association

The holidays are coming: Westport Island Holiday Fair, Sunday afternoon, December 6, outside the Old Town Hall We cannot yet be indoors, so let's move outdoors! The Westport Community Association is planning an outdoor event for our Island holiday celebration! Borrowing from the outdoor festivities in Europe, we will have hot beverages and warm snacks, socializing with neighbors (with masks, and guess what they will keep our faces warm!), tree lighting, a giving tree, and activities to be determined. As stated below, we are looking for arts and crafts vendors who might want to bring their products for sale. It would be fun for people to be walking through the "market stalls" like in Europe. Get ready for some fun as we make do with unexpected times with what hopefully will be unexpected new delights. More information to come!

Attention Westport Island arts and crafters: The Westport Community Association would like to invite you to bring your wares to display and sell at our Holiday Fair on Sunday afternoon, December 6 outside the Old Town Hall. Bring your own display and good cheer. We cannot provide power to your booth, but we will help you set up and keep your customers (and you) happy with hot beverages and festive spirit. Email Barbara Cray at craylaw@comcast.net if you are interested in participating. Come one, come all!

2020 Student Awards Recipients

Each year the Westport Community Association hands out Student Awards to students from Westport Island, furthering their education beyond high school by attending classes for a degree or training for a certificate. Over the last several years, the WCA has given nearly \$17,000 in awards. This year five awards of \$350 each have been given to the following students: Alisyn Richardson (University of Maine), Colette McMahon (Northeastern University), Murphy McMahon (Northeastern University), Keara Hunter (Unity College), Kelsey Jones (Pensacola Christian College) The WCA wishes them success in their studies and future occupations. For more information about the Student Awards program, contact Dick Barker, 882-4211.



Thank you, Gaye Wagner, for procuring the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development grant for our town and businesses, including the cost of mailing and printing last month's newsletter. We appreciate your hard work!