

A Note From Julie Casson Town Clerk & Registrar of Voters

We are accepting applications for absentee ballots at Town Office. You can stop by the Town Office to complete an application. Absentee ballots can be requested online at Maine.gov by searching for Absentee Ballot Request or, you can call 882-8477 x 3 to speak with the Town Clerk to request one (No voice mails!)

Also, If you have already submitted a request for an absentee ballot, you only need to do this once, as all request forms go to your municipal clerk. You may receive an unsolicited absentee ballot application in the mail from a political party or other entity; you can disregard those if you have already made your request, or if you plan to vote in person on Election Day. Those entities have no way of knowing that you have already requested your ballot, and filing multiple requests creates extra work for our municipal clerks. If you request your ballot this month, you'll be among the first to receive them in early October, and if you don't see your ballot by mid-October, you should contact our clerks directly. Finally, please allow for time to mail your ballots back! Plan accordingly and try to mail back by October 25th. We also have a secure drop box at Town Office! You can drop your ballot off anytime! Ballots need to be back by 8:00 pm on November 3rd.

Keeping Maine Healthy / COVID-19 Awareness Grant

Gussy shows off his new "Keeping Westport Island Healthy" hand sanitizer dispenser. Thank you to all participating businesses: Lulu's Barn; Crossroads Coffee Beans; Squire Tarbox Inn; the Lobster Co-op; Westport Pottery; Tarbox Farm; Sasanoa Brewery; Bailey's Blooms & Happy Hippie Lane.



THE WESTPORT ISLAND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

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

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Fold Here

*The Westport Island History Committee
invites you to a*

Ribbon Cutting & Open House

to introduce you to the

Westport Island History Center & the Westport Island History Trail

Sunday, October 25, 10 am – 3 pm

∞ Ribbon Cutting 10 am ∞

OPENING EXHIBIT:

Westport Island in Times of Pandemic, Epidemics & Outbreaks

- Drop-in, socially-distanced viewing throughout the day
- Appointments may be made for private viewing of the exhibit

DOCENT LED CARAVANS:

Westport Island History Trail

- Caravans of cars leaving the Wright Landing House at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm

Updated details will be posted on the Town website and the History Committee & Town Facebook pages
Questions/Information: Gaye Wagner, gdwagner1@gmail.com; Joan Bradford, masonjoan58@gmail.com

Westport Island History Trail

Westport Island's new History Trail will provide a summary of the Town's rich history at ten accessible sites on the island through interpretive signs. Each sign describes what went on there, gives a timeline, and shows historic photos. A scannable QR Code allows quick access to more in-depth information. Trail guides are available on the Town website, at the History Center, and the Town Office. The signs were funded through a grant from the Maine Arts Commission and the Maine Bicentennial Commission.

Westport Island in Times of Pandemic, Epidemics & Outbreaks

As we navigate the “year of COVID-19”, it likely seems to many that we’re breaking new ground. Statistics of people infected and those who succumbed to the virus grow, events are cancelled, and restrictions continue to alter everyday life.

It might be of interest to know that Islanders in days past lived through similar times...

- 5,000 Mainers died in the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918. In the fight to stop its spread – like today -- schools, movie houses, government buildings and events were temporarily shut down.
- The race for a vaccine in 1918 was hampered by the belief that the flu was caused by a bacteria – it wasn’t – and viruses weren’t identified until the 1930’s
- In the early- to mid-19th century, Islanders afflicted with cholera and smallpox were isolated from their loved ones and banished to “Hospital Island”.
- In the early to mid-20th century, Islanders afflicted with tuberculosis were sent to The Central Maine Sanatorium in Fairfield, ME – again, away from families and loved ones.



To learn about other pandemics that challenged island life, visit the exhibit *Westport Island in Times of Pandemic, Epidemics & Outbreaks* which will open at the new History Center on **Sunday, October 25, at 10:00 am.**

The exhibit will also preview a display of *Postcards from the Front*, mementos sent in by your Island friends and neighbors responding to life in times of COVID-19 – fascinating snapshots of our times. The exhibit is dedicated to our Local Health Officers and all our health workers for their service.

Westport Community Association

What a beautiful day we had for All on Sunday, September 13th, celebrating a volunteer organized Preview Celebration for the History/Wright's Landing Committees! The teamwork was apparent and we thank all those that participated to bring a large group of Westport Islanders outside and see each other in a safe way. WCA wishes to thank John Staats and Rich Lorensen for their volunteer work to repair the rotted clapboards on the Old Community Church. Also thanks to David Besecker for finishing the painting. We look forward to our Trunk or Treat at the end of the month for the Island children. Contact us if you would like to dress in costume and decorate your car for this fun time, we already have a few signed up! Rose: lulusbarnshop@gmail.com or Debbie: dclorenson@aol.com

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

Wrights Landing Parking Lot on Ferry Road

Friday,

October, 30th, 2020

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

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

facebook

For everything else Westport Island go to the Westport Island Facebook page.