

April 2020



# MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## APRIL FOOL'S DAY

The first of April, some do say,  
Is set apart for All Fool's Day.  
But why the people call it so,  
Nor I, nor they themselves, do know.  
But on this day are people sent,  
On purpose for pure merriment.  
~*Poor Richard's Almanac, 1760*

Reservations are being accepted for home schooling days, school field trips, and group tours. Call 816-561-1821 or 913-231-6749 for pricing and available dates.

## HOURS, MEMBERSHIP, ETC!

The 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum (the Mansion House) is usually open Thursday through Saturday from 1 to 5pm. **However, we are temporarily closed until May 1 to be mindful of the CORVID-19 pandemic. Group tours may be scheduled now for service after May 1. Stay IN. Stay safe.**

Admission prices: Adults--\$6; Seniors--\$5; Students--\$4; Active Military—Free; Retired Military—half price.

If you are a Society member and would like to renew your membership, you may do so by sending a check payable to "Westport Historical Society," or use PayPal. If you are not a member of the Westport Historical Society, we invite you to become a part of our society family. You will find membership information on our website [www.westporthistorical.com](http://www.westporthistorical.com) or call 816-561-1821.

## Mark Your 2020 Calendar of Events

**May 1 through June 27**--- Doll Extravaganza

**July 3 through August 29**---- Music Exhibits  
and Concerts

**September 4 through Oct 31**---- Quilt  
Extravaganza & Exhibits  
of Tammy Reid's Quilts

**September 12**----Lost Arts Fair

**November 14**----Westport Historical Annual  
Meeting and Luncheon

**December 5 and 6**----Christmas Open House  
featuring themed  
decorated rooms

**December 19**----House Closes for the Season

**March 5, 2021**----House Opens for the Season

Special events and speakers to be announced.

Announcing New Kansas City Area's Music  
History, Programs and Concerts.

## *Aunt Minerva's Kitchen*

### Spring Pea Soup

A favorite of many hotel guests.

1 cup chopped yellow onions	1 tsp. black pepper
2 cloves garlic, minced	2 cups finely diced carrots (3 to 4)
1/8 cup good olive oil	1 cup diced red boiling potatoes- unpeeled (3 to 4)
½ tsp. dried oregano	1-pound dried split green peas
1 ½ tsp coarse salt	8 cups chicken stock

In a 4-quart stockpot on medium heat, sauté the onions and garlic with the olive oil, oregano, salt and pepper until the onions are clear—10 to 15 minutes. Add the carrots, potatoes, ½ pound split peas, and chicken stock. Bring to a boil, then simmer uncovered for 40 minutes. Skim off the foam while cooking. Add the remaining split peas and continue to simmer for another 40 minutes, or until all the peas are soft. Add more stock if needed. Stir often to keep the solids from burning on the bottom. More salt and pepper to taste if needed. Serves 12



**Arbor Day, April 24, 2020**

Arbor Day was founded in 1872 by J Sterling Morton who lived in Nebraska City, Nebraska. **Arbor** (which means "tree" in Latin) **Day** is a holiday on which groups and individuals are encouraged to plant and care for trees. On the first Arbor Day, April 10, 1872, an estimated one million trees were planted. By the 1920s, each state in the United States passed public laws that stipulated a certain day to be an Arbor Day observance.

All over the United States, National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. Families, friends, merchants and arborists will gather to plant trees, play games, enjoy picnics and observe a holiday that celebrates the past and looks toward the future. You and your family might consider planning a tree at a nursing home or senior citizen's center where residents care for the Arbor Day trees. Check with your church and cemeteries and as some do allow families to plant trees to honor loved ones who have passed. Last, but not least, plant a tree in your back yard and enjoy its beauty year after year.



**The Easter Bunny**

The Easter Bunny is a folk figure and a beloved symbol of the Easter holiday. Originating in Germany in the late 1600s, the Easter Bunny was first known as the Easter Hare. His role was to evaluate whether children’s behavior had been good or bad during the Easter season. Legend has the Hare wearing decorative clothing, carrying a basket filled with colored eggs, candy, and small toys, and delivering the goodies to the good boys and girls on the night before Easter. On Easter morning, the treasures would be found and laughter would be heard. Today, the Easter Bunny continues the tradition as sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, grandchildren, and even some adults await the bunny’s arrival and search for the treasures he has so cleverly hidden.

*Doll Extravaganza 2020*  
*Westport Historical Society*  
*May 1 - June 27, 2020*

Throughout the Harris-Kearney Historic Home, dolls will be on exhibit from:

Heirloom Doll Club\*, Kansas City, Missouri  
 Jana’s Historic and Modern Doll Hospital,\*  
 Topeka, Kansas

Over the Rainbow Doll Club,\* Lawrence, Kansas  
 Individual Collectors, \*Westport Historical Society

*Programs, Workshops, Events*

Judy Porter* Workshop	Postponed
Decades of Dolls by Connie Harrell*	May 2, 2020
Learning and Collecting with the VDC	May 9, 2020
Sophie Doll Workshop	May 22, 2020
Folk Dolls by Susie Graber*	May 23, 2020
Doll Collecting by Neal Foster* and Susan Hedrick*	May 30, 2020
A Doll’s Night at the Museum	June 5, 2020



Ethel Newcome, the Sanitation Doll	June 6, 2020
Afternoon Tea at Harris-Kearney	June 7, 2020
Little Women Dolls and Miss Alcott	June 13, 2020
BAPS Dolls by Nancy C. Felix-Moore*	June 27, 2020



*All presentations will be held at 2:00 pm at the Harris-Kearney House.*

*For more information on all programs, workshops, and the afternoon tea, visit the Westport Historical Society website: [www.westporthistorical.com](http://www.westporthistorical.com).*

\* denotes members of the United Federation of Doll Clubs.

*Thank you to the United Federation of Doll Clubs, their officers and membership, for their advice, support, and assistance.*

*Thank you to our partner, the Virtual Doll Convention.*

## AMAZING CLEANING TIPS

1. For stains on your carpet, rub a little bit of shaving cream (not gel) into the stain. Let it sit for at least 30 minutes. Blot dry. Repeat if needed. Be sure to test on the carpet color in a hidden spot.
2. Clean your woodwork with scented dryer sheets. The sheets will pick up unwanted dust while at the same time lending a sweet scent to each room.
3. Dryer sheets will clean the grime stuck to your cookie sheets and frying pans. Simply put your dirty pans or sheets in the sink with a little dish soap, warm water, and a dryer sheet, and let the combo sit for an hour or two. Drain the water and wipe the mess from the pans and cookie sheets.
4. Remove silverware scratches from dishes using a paste of baking soda and water. Buff the paste into the scratches, rinse, and your dishes will look like new.
5. When you need to clean up the spills from a craft project or get pet hair off of pillow or a lampshade, grab a sticky lint roller and start rolling. This trick works every time.
6. After sanitizing your kitchen and bathroom sinks with an antibacterial cleanser, polish your faucets and tap handles with waxed paper. Not only will the waxed paper remove water spots, but the wax will also help prevent future stains.
7. To clean your computer's keyboard, dip a toothbrush in a half vinegar/half water solution and scrub-a-dub-dub both on and between the keyboard keys to eliminate any germs.
8. To clean your washing machine run the machine on the sanitize setting with a combination of hot water and a quart of bleach. So long, funky-smelling clothes!





Westport Historical Society seeks volunteers:

--Board Members (including Treasurer)

--Executive Director

-Docents and other volunteers **FOUR HOURS A WEEK**  
(W, Th, F, or Sat, 1-5 p.m.)

If you are interested, or you would like more information, e-mail Alana Smith  
[westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com), or call (913) 648-0952



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