

# September 2019



# MANSION HOUSE NEWS

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**WESTPORT**  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## ENJOY THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND!

**Labor Day** is celebrated on the first Monday in September. The holiday honors the American Labor Movement and the contributions that workers have made to the development, growth, prosperity, productivity, and well-being of the country.

## WESTPORT LOST ARTS FAIR RETURNS

**Saturday September 7 10 AM to 6 PM**

**Sunday September 8 11 AM to 4 PM**

*The Westport Lost Arts Fair – a fun, family friendly, hands on experience in the heart of historic Westport - where Kansas City began. Meet and talk with artisans practicing their long ago crafts. Explore the everyday life of the residents of Ol' Westport when they lived on the frontier.*

The **Westport Lost Arts Fair** brings together a broad array of artisans, practicing nearly vanished skills and crafts. The Fair coincides with the dates of the nearby **Westport Art Fair** which is celebrating its 40th year.

The Lost Arts demonstrators include black smith, hand loom weaving, spinning wool and other textiles, demonstration of a cotton gin, tobacco curing and cultivation, rope making from hemp fiber, lacers, wood workers, corset making and construction of 19th century apparel, period music, dancers, Native American flute making, and many more. The Society expects approximately thirty-five to forty different exhibitors and demonstrations during the two-day event.

The event takes place at 4000 Baltimore on the grounds of the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located on the historic Santa Fe, California, and Oregon Trails. Featured again this year is the provision of a horse drawn carriage to take visitors between the two Art Fairs, at no charge. There is no charge to visit the exhibitors on the mansion house grounds. There is an admission fee of \$5 to tour the 1855 Harris House and see additional exhibits, crafters, and the Native American Art Exhibit. Society members and children 13 & under are FREE.

For more information, see page 4, and the special, 2-page flyer pull-out.

Also, visit: [www.westporthistorical.com](http://www.westporthistorical.com), or e-mail: [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com)

### The Mansion House Piano



One of the highlights in the parlor at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House is the beautiful, burled rosewood Chickering Grand Piano.

Constructed in 1824, the piano is the 50th piano made by the Chickering company. The piano retains its original ivory keys, and the original hand-carved ornamentation which surrounds the top and bottom of the piano's original box. Along with the heavily carved legs and the curvy music rack, the piano's style reflects the peak of 19<sup>th</sup> century fashion.

It is believed that the Harris family was the first in Westport to own a piano. It probably came overland to St. Louis, then from St. Louis to Westport by way of the Missouri River. Finally, an oxcart made the difficult four-mile journey from Westport Landing to the Harris home.

The Harris daughters did play the piano very well. We know that Mary Frances entertained her beau, Seth Ward, as did her sister Elizabeth and her beau, Tomas Mastin. Etiquette books, at the time, advised young girls that if they could play and sing to do so when requested, but to keep the performance brief.

THE KANSAS CITY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



**The Corner Restaurant**



KANSAS CITY ATHENAEUM



## Aunt Minerva's Kitchen

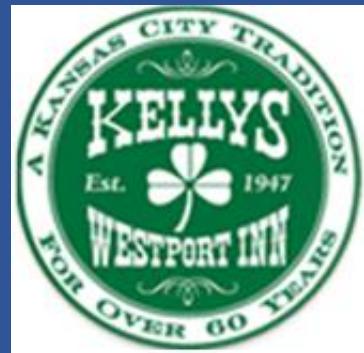
### Pickled Peach Relish

Cook in water till soft, enough peach halves to make one pint.

To the syrup add:

¾ cup firmly packed brown sugar	1 tsp. whole cloves
½ vinegar	1 tsp. all spice
two long sticks cinnamon sticks	

Boil mixture for 5 minutes. Add the peach halves and simmer another 5 minutes. Chill for several hours or overnight. This relish is good with pork, chicken, and fish.



## Westport Arts Fair VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Westport Historical Society is honored to host the Westport Art Fair Information Booth again this year. Located in front of *Harry's Bar and Tables*, this booth is not only the information booth, but the welcoming center for the Fair, and the Westport Community.

We are asking everyone who is a member or friend of the Westport Historical Society, or a resident or friend of the Westport area to consider volunteering your time to help make the fair a success. The shifts are two hours in length and you may sign up for one or more. These shifts are for the information booth and booth sitting. No experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun and welcome visitors!!! Email the Westport Historical Society at [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com), OR call 816-561-1821.

### **Friday, September 6 &/or Saturday, September 7**

9:00am to 11:00am  
11:00am to 1:00pm  
1:00pm to 3:00pm  
3:00pm to 5:00pm  
5:00pm to 7:00pm  
7:00pm to 9:00pm

### **Sunday, September 8**

9:00am to 11:00pm  
11:00am to 1:00pm  
1:00pm to 3:00pm  
3:00pm to 5:00pm  
5:00pm to pack-up

### **CROSBY AWARD WINNER AND PRESENTATION**

R. Crosby Kemper, III and the Westport Historical Society are pleased to announce **Gould Evans** as the 2019 recipient of The **R. Crosby Kemper, III Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation**.

The **Crosby** will be presented at a public program and reception on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 2:00pm at the Gould Evans Office, 4200 Pennsylvania, KCMO. For more information please send an email to [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com)

Also, the Westport Historical Society will present the SHINNING STAR Westport Community Service Award to Mr. Kim Kimbrough, a member of the Westport Community.

For more information and to send a reception RSVP, please send an email to [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com)

### **WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON**

**November 9, 2019**  
**1855 Harris-Kearney House**  
**Upper gallery**

Social at 12:00 noon  
Luncheon at 12:30 pm  
Society updates, election, and speaker

Speaker will be announced in October.

Cost of luncheon is \$14.00.  
RSVP and pay your reservation  
by November 3 to 816-561-1821  
or [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com). We accept credit card,  
or checks made out to Westport Historical Society.  
Please let us know of any dietary restrictions.

### **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR 2019**

**Please join us for**  
**CHRISTMAS in WORD AND SONG**

**Friday, November 29 and Saturday, November 30**

Entertain your Thanksgiving guests with a Christmas Candlelight Tour of the 1855 Harris-Kearney House. Visit Col. John and Henrietta Harris and their family as they welcome you and their holiday guests from near and far. Tour the beautifully decorated mansion house, listen to Christmas music, sing Christmas carols, be inspired by the magic of Christmas stories, enjoy holiday festivities and join in a 19<sup>th</sup> century Christmas dance. **Tours begin every 15 minutes from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.** Reservations are recommended so please call 816-561-1821 or 913-231-6749 to reserve your tour time. Cost for the tour: Adults, \$10; Retired military, \$8; Active military, free; Students, \$6 and children 6 and under are free. Refreshments will be served.

## SPECIAL ART EXHIBIT AT THE 1855 HARRIS-KEARNEY HOUSE THE NATIVE AMERICAN IN ART September 6 through October 26, 2019 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO

Karen White, from Kansas City, Kansas is an exceptional artist who is passionate about creating art which comes to life as she expresses and shares her unique talent with the world. Her works of art tell stories, illuminate history, and depict emotions that capture a moment in time using monochrome and vibrant colors. She draws and paints from her heart with a natural talent and ability that shows what she sees and transfers those visuals to canvas, paper, walls, pavement, and illustrations for children's books. She enjoys creating in pastel, watercolor, white chalk, oil and graphite pencil.

Karen's art has been featured in exhibits in several Kansas City galleries, the Bruce Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, and Crown Center among others. She has created work for Iowa State University Library and Donnelly College and participated in various workshops for the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Storytellers, Inc., Youth Friends, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City. She was also selected as one of ten artists to paint murals at Bartel Hall, and one of 50 featured artists at one of the Columbia, Missouri celebration of Art and Life Festivals. She was a featured artist for a Classic Black Gala and was commissioned to create a portrait drawing of the internationally acclaimed Jazz pianist Jay McShann.

For this exciting exhibit, we will showcase Ms. White's stunning art of Native Americans. You will be delighted with the delicate beauty in the faces of strong people.



Special programming surrounding the art exhibit will take place during the Lost Arts Fair on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 6 pm and Sunday, September 8 from 11 to 5.

Museum hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 pm. Group tours of 10 or more may also be booked on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Exhibit is included with the price of admission to the Museum.

For more information, contact the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO 64111; 816-561-1821 or 913-231-6749.

### Member\$hip Help\$ U\$ Thrive! Pa\$\$ It On!



INDIVIDUAL  
Membership \$40



Business  
Membership \$150



FAMILY  
Membership \$50



Sponsor  
Membership \$300



PATRON  
Membership \$125



LIFETIME  
Membership \$800\*



Westport Historical Society is looking for:

-Board Members (including Secretary & Treasurer)  
-Volunteers FOUR HOURS A WEEK  
(W, Th, F, or Sat, 1-5 p.m.)

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



### Questions or Comments?

Please let us know at [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com)

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HARRIS-KEARNEY  
HOUSE

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Explore the everyday life of the residents of Ol' Westport when they  
lived on the frontier.

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The demonstrators include black smith, hand loom weaving, spinning wool and other textiles, demonstration of a cotton gin, tobacco curing and cultivation, rope making from hemp fiber, lacers, corset making and construction of other items of 19th century apparel.

Visitors to the event will learn the unique history of Kansas City's formation which first started at Westport on the Santa Fe Trail, and soon connected to Westport Landing on the Missouri River (near the City Market). Westport (and Jackson County)--where 1,000s of people jumped off each spring on the westward trails--was at the western edge of the United States until 1854!



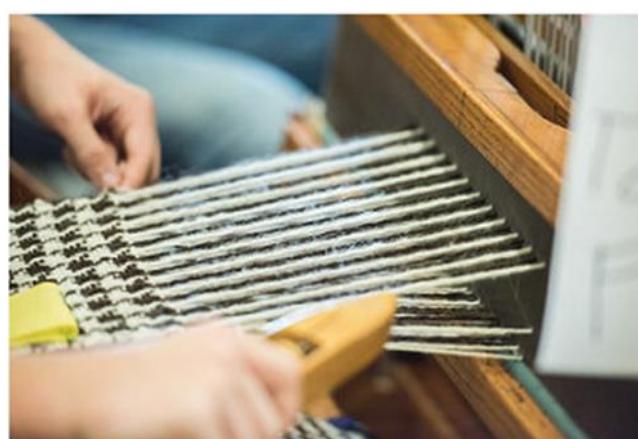
# VISIT

4000 Baltimore (next to Pryde's)  
Kansas City, Missouri

Include the **LOST ARTS FAIR** while enjoying the **Westport Art Fair**, which the **Westport Historical Society** has participated in since its formation two decades ago.



The Lost Arts Fair takes place at the **1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum**, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Society's house museum explores Westport and the Harris-Kearney families' history. They also host the **Battle of Westport Visitor Center**.



There are no charges to visit the grounds. Indoor, guided tours with additional exhibitors is \$5/adult. **Westport Historical Society** members, and youths 13 & under are free.