

LIVING IN WESTPORT

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Just the Facts:

Population: 25,749 (2000 Census)
 Government structure: Board of selectmen; Representative Town Meeting (nonpartisan)
 Schools: 5 elementary schools; 2 middle schools; 1 high school plus two private schools, several nursery schools and year-round Adult Education programs
 Economic mix: Residential, retail/service
 Shopping: From international retailers to family farm stands
 Median family income: \$152,894
 Annual town budget: \$135.6 million (\$87.8 million education, \$47.8 million town services)
 Distance from New York: 47 miles (two railroad stations; one hour by train to Grand Central Terminal)
 Distance from Stamford: 10 miles
 Distance from White Plains: 30 miles
 Major highways: John Davis Lodge Turnpike (I-95); Merritt Parkway
 Major airports: Kennedy International (NY, NY), LaGuardia (NY, NY), Newark-Liberty International (Newark, NJ), Westchester County (White Plains, NY), Bradley International (Windsor Locks, CT)
 Library: Westport Public Library
 Major arts organizations: Westport Arts Center, Westport Country Playhouse

WE WELCOME ALL!

Westport is a community that's genuinely open, caring, and committed. Its more than 25,000 residents represent many nations, many religions, and many races. But one thing we all share is a commitment to wanting the best for our families...which has resulted in our nationally known school system, our recreation programs and resources, and our varied housing.

Our residents love living here. Partly, it's the community's vibrancy. Nearly everyone is involved in some aspect of community life—the PTA, a church or synagogue, local politics, athletics, the library, the arts or countless other activities.

And what helps create this vibrant community is the mix of people—business executives, child-rearing parents, corporate leaders, Wall Streeters, retirees, professionals, and writers and artists.

The best way to find out about Westport is to spend time here.



TEAM Westport gathers at Town Hall

Visit Main Street, an oasis of urbanity along the Saugatuck River. Hang out in our award-winning Westport Public Library, and talk to people at one of the local coffee bars. Take in a show at the Westport Country Playhouse or Levitt Pavilion. You'll find interesting folks everywhere, interested in sharing with you why they love Westport. Come take a look. We'd love to say hello...and welcome!

TEAM Westport gathers at Town Hall. (Front row, L-R: Bernicestine Mcleod Bailey, Rev. Susanna Griefen, Wafaa Nagar, Dan Woog, Floyd McCoy; Center, L-R: Cheryl Scott-Daniels, Nicholas Rudd, Steve Daniels, Lisa Friedland; Back row, L-R: Glenn Lau-Kee, Barbara Butler, Alfred Puchala, Craig Polite, Harold Bailey, Jr., Ivan Fong, First Selectwoman Diane Goss Farrell. Not present: José Estabil, Rita Ghei, Amy Lin Meyerson, Cheryl Polite, David Wiltse)

WESTPORT NOW!

Any day is a good day for a visit. Or choose one of the events that make our town special. Our Memorial Day parade draws in just about everyone. Join our Independence Day celebration with a picnic on the beach, followed by fireworks above Long Island Sound.

Stroll along Main Street during our mid-summer Outdoor Fine

Art Festival or wander through our First Night festivities as the New Year arrives. Join Westporters on jUNE Day, when we host hundreds of visitors from the United Nations. Volunteer your time during October's "Make a Difference" Day, a town-wide effort involving everyone from school children to senior citizens.

Browse the antique shows and craft fairs. Sample the cannoli and ride the ferris wheel at July's Festival Italiano.

Join a book group for WestportREADS. Take notes on which restaurant to visit when you attend Taste of Westport (then try them all!).

There is always something going on in Westport.

“The one common characteristic that Westporters from all walks of life share is love of community – a special sense of place. Westport is a place where the rich and famous live side by side with descendants of the original Yankee farmers – a real patchwork quilt of people. It is eclectic and cosmopolitan; it has unusual beauty, but it is still a small New England town. Settled by farmers and fishermen, diversified by immigrants from many countries, developed by tradesmen and professionals in all fields, enriched by artists, actors, writers and celebrities from around the nation and the world, Westport has become a mecca for those who are traditionally untraditional.”

from Joanne Woodward’s *Forward to “Westport, Connecticut: The Story of a New England Town’s Rise to Prominence”* by Woody Klein (Greenwood Press, 2000)

Under the guidance of Creative Director Joanne Woodward, the Westport Country Playhouse mounts notable theatrical productions.

HOUSING IN WESTPORT

The variety of homes in Westport astounds: antiques, colonials, capes, farm houses, Victorians, contemporaries, ranches, split-levels and custom-built mansions, deep in the woods or along the shoreline.

Within Westport, it is possible to find homes ranging from \$350,000 to \$10,000,000 or more. Although Westport is primarily a community of single family home owners, some town-houses as well as houses for rent are also available.

Most national real-estate firms have offices in Westport, along with local companies and individual brokers. All offer a knowledge of the town, and a knack for matching properties with your needs and budget.

WESTPORT SCHOOLS

Westporters take great pride in our children and our schools. We recently completed several important building addition and renovation projects that modernized and upgraded all five elementary schools and our two middle schools.

In 2004 the Wall Street Journal rated Staples High School -- the jewel of our educational system -- one of the 50 best public or private schools in the country. In its most recent evaluation, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges said it could not imagine a finer high school anywhere.

A \$74,000,000 transformation, to be completed in the fall of



2005, makes Staples truly a school for the 21st century. Staples graduates consistently gain acceptance at the most competitive colleges.

TOWN HALL



An elected Board of Selectmen includes the First Selectwoman, or mayor, while the non-partisan Representative Town Meeting brings together four citizens from each of nine electoral districts.

The Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning Commission and Board of Education are other important elected positions.

Local government blends full-time employees with more than 400 citizen volunteers, who staff everything from the Commission for Senior Services and the Human Services Commission to the Land Acquisition Committee

and the Youth Commission.

The combination of a largely affluent population and supportive town government makes Westport attractive to retailers, while the town’s many features persuade both small and large businesses of many types to base their operations here.

WESTPORT RECREATION

Westport devotes more than 200 acres to town recreation facilities, including Longshore Club Park and Compo Beach (golf, tennis, paddle tennis, swimming, sailing, kayaking, boating, Rollerblading, softball, skate park, basketball, biking, hiking, jogging, walking, snack shops and fine dining, and two marinas).

Westport's Sherwood Island was Connecticut's first state park, and private clubs offer

golf, tennis, swimming and horse-back riding.

The Levitt Pavilion is an outdoor amphitheater located on the banks of the Saugatuck River, providing nightly summer entertainment under the stars -- from big band and Latin music to programs just for kids. Over 50 performances are free to the public each summer.

In addition to gallery exhibits, the

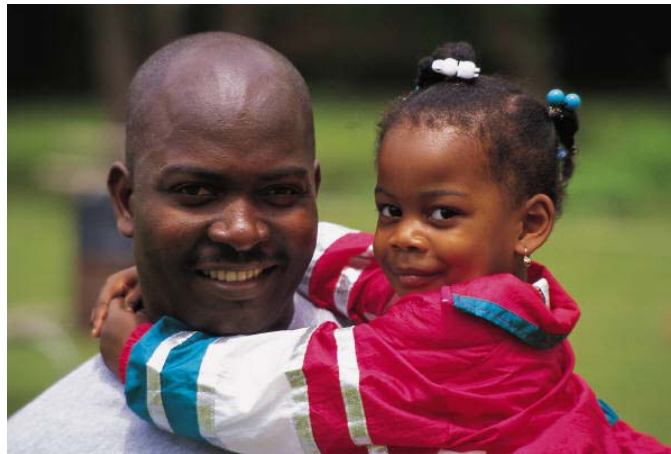


Westport Arts Center offers chamber music, folk and jazz series. The nationally known Westport Country Playhouse under the guidance of Joanne Woodward, as Creative Director, mounts notable theatrical productions. Westport is also home to dance and music schools, a community band, a community theater and lots of people who just love doing creative things!

WHY WE CHOSE WESTPORT

"We were attracted to Westport for all the "usual" reasons -- excellent location, wonderful amenities such as Longshore and Compo beach, the strong school system, and a lovely downtown. But another major factor was Westport's history of being welcoming to those of diverse backgrounds. We were aware of Fairfield County's reputation, and frankly we were concerned about the environment in which we would be raising our children. Although we can't say our concerns were totally unfounded, we are glad we chose Westport. It's indicative of the commitment to promote diversity Westport has made that active groups such as TEAM Westport exist." -- *Sharon & Ivan Fong*

"Our primary concern was our sons growing up in a less diverse community. We knew that the social and cultural aspects would be our greatest challenge, as the boys had no choice but to socialize in town. However, we felt that we would consciously work through those issues in order to enjoy the trade-off of getting a good education for



our children and enjoying life in a more peaceful and healthy environment. And we have"-- *Cheryl and Craig Polite*

"We had heard that Westport had a history of inclusiveness, having once been an artists' community. We felt the attitude of the town would be welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Our friends who lived in town confirmed that. Once we visited them, we told our agent that rather than showing us 40 houses up and down Fairfield County, we wanted to spend 40 weeks looking for a place in Westport or Weston." -- *José Estabil*

"23 years ago, we chose to move to Westport for the schools. Also, when we compared Westport to other towns nearby, where we looked at houses, we just felt more welcome." -- *Wafaa Nagar*

"As a gay man, I find that Westport is certainly not a Mecca -- but neither is it a desert -- wonderful people, plenty of activities, beautiful, and enough controversy to make things interesting. This is a relatively welcoming place for single gays and lesbians -- and those who have formed families -- and it is becoming more so all the time. I have a wonderful mix of friends here -- and, just as importantly, it is close to New York!" -- *Dan Woog*

"Our family moved to Weston because of the excellent educational system. We found Weston's two-acre zoning attractive for privacy. There's easy access to Westport and to New York City by Metro North Railroad. Here, we feel part of a small community, where many residents get to know one another by face, if not by name." -- *Floyd McCoy*

WESTPORT WANTS YOU!



As First Selectwoman, it is my pleasure to introduce you to Westport. In many ways it is a traditional New England town. As you drive along our roads and lanes, you will see clapboard homes and wooden barns, some built long before the Revolutionary War. We have a town green and a Veteran's Green (complete with the statue of a doughboy). Through it all runs a river that once shipped onions, lumber and other goods up and down the East Coast.

But Westport is also a very contemporary town. Driving along, you'll see many modern homes. Our charming downtown shopping district hosts some of the most sophisticated retailers in the world. We are immensely proud of our riverside library, with its wealth of resources and innovative programming. Our Center for Senior Activities in the heart of downtown, opened in 2004, offers an enormous variety of classes, social activities, programs and meals. Also downtown – in an 1860's opera house that's been converted into a hip loft – is Toquet Hall, a teen coffeehouse used for concerts, meetings and hanging out.

In many ways, Westport is a 21st century town. More than 10% of Westport's residents speak one of 20 languages other than English. We have embraced the racial, ethnic, religious and sexual orientation diversity represented here, and celebrate the unique perspectives and contributions of all our citizens. TEAM Westport (Together Effectively Achieving Multiculturalism) is an official town committee that has sponsored community conversations, organized events around multiculturalism, and reached out to schools and neighborhoods to increase awareness of the mosaic of people that make up Westport.

We invite you to look around. Seek out members of TEAM Westport. And think about making Westport your home, too.

Diane Farrell
First Selectwoman

Town of Westport

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*New England in Tradition, and
cosmopolitan in outlook*