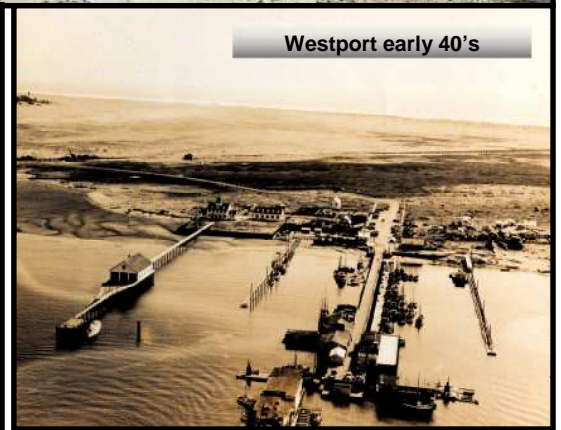


FogHorn

Westport-South Beach Historical Society Newsletter
December 2019

It's Official: Westport, WA is a Coast Guard City, USA (excerpt of an article in Daily World by John Shaw and Dan Hammock)



The City of Westport has had a relationship with the Coast Guard for more than 120 years and the community's welcoming support over the years got it recognized as an official Coast Guard City USA, the first in Washington state.

"The City of Westport has grown up with the Coast Guard, and it has always been at the core of our community," said Mayor Rob Bearden. "We look forward to carrying on that legacy and for being recognized by the Coast Guard Cities program for our city's long standing considerations and continued welcoming of the Coast Guard family and its dependents."

There are currently 26 cities with the designation. Westport will be the first in Washington State. There are three in Oregon: Florence, Newport and Astoria.

In a letter to Bearden dated Aug. 30, Coast Guard Admiral Karl L. Schultz wrote, "The Coast Guard thanks you for your continued support of our men and women stationed in Westport. I am pleased to inform you I have notified the appropriate congressional committees of my intention to approve your request."

The city has selected Feb. 7, 2020, as the date for the official designation ceremony, according to John Shaw, executive director of the Westport-South Beach Historical Society. The ceremony will include Rear Admiral Anthony J. Vogt, Commander of the 13th Coast Guard District headquartered in Seattle, and the 13th District command cadre.

Numerous elected officials have been invited to attend the ceremony. The invitation process started just this week so there are none to announce officially as yet, but invited are members of Congress, Gov. Jay Inslee and a slate of local and state elected officials. According to the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard City program recognizes communities that support local Coast Guard members. A city, municipality, or county earns the designation "Coast Guard City" or "Coast Guard Community" by making special efforts to acknowledge the professional work of the Coast Guard men and women assigned to their area.

The Coast Guard describes Coast Guard Cities as those that regularly reach out to Coast Guard personnel and their families. The city's efforts illustrate a longstanding and enduring relationship with an emphasis on considerations the community has made for the members of the Coast Guard family.

Continued on Page 3

**WESTPORT-SOUTH BEACH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2019
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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Pete Eberle
Term Jan 2019 - Dec 2021

Vice President

Evelyn Robinson
Term Jan 2019 – Dec 2021

Secretary

Bobbi Willard
Term Jan 2017 – Dec 2019

Treasurer

Sherrie Williams
Term Jan 2018 – Dec 2020

Board Position I

Winnie Cragg
Term Jan 2017 – Dec 2019

Board Position II

~~~ OPEN ~~~  
Term Jan 2019 – Dec 2021

**Board Position III**

~~~ OPEN ~~~  
Term Jan 2017 – Dec 2019

Board Position IV

Nicki Kollar
Term Jan 2018 - Dec 2020

Board Position V

Kimmi Kerns
Term Jan 2018 – Dec 2020

Executive Director

John Shaw
johnshaw98520@gmail.com

Education/Operations

Manager
Julie Smith
Julie.Smith.wsbhs@gmail.com

*The FogHorn is a publication
of the Westport-South Beach
Historical Society*

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www.wsbhs.org

Message from your President - Pete Eberle



I would like to start our new year by thanking all of our Board Trustees for their dedication to the organization despite all of the personal challenges that they have faced over the past year. We, as an organization, are lucky to have such dedicated people keeping us all moving in the right direction. So a big shout out to Evelyn, Bobbi, Sherrie, Kimmi, Winnie, and Nicki.

Secondly, I would like to thank our esteemed Executive Director, John, for all of his hard work in keeping our community looking to the future by working with State Parks on Westport Light State Park, the City of Westport and the USCG to become a Coast Guard City, USA and working to push on reviving the Westport to Ocean Shores Ferry and all the other projects that he has taken on with great gusto.

Thirdly, I want to thank Julie for all of her hard work organizing all of our volunteers and work campers while running our educational program, all the while working through her own challenges. With her hard work and dedication our admissions are up, gift shop sales are up, and membership is up. This has put our net income up by a large margin over last year.

So going into the New Year, we can all be proud of our organization's achievements, with the hope that we can continue to improve, and work towards finding the support we need to get to the next level. That level is working towards the restoration of our Grays Harbor Lighthouse. Please join us in supporting the proposed Westport Light State Park golf course which will help us be recognized on the national and world stages. This can only help our community and us to reach our goals.

I have enjoyed working with all of you out there this year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please consider WSBHS for a Charitable Year End Donation.

Your donation not only helps us, but also the community.
We are a 501(c)3 federally recognized charity.

**Thank You for supporting the
Westport South Beach Historical Society !!**

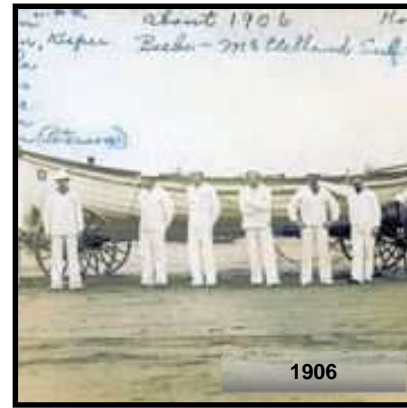
Westport, WA Coast Guard City (continued from Front Page)

The City of Westport put together the extensive application packet for the designation, which included a letter from Bearden, letters of support from unit and district Coast Guard offices, letters of support from local, city and state government offices, and photographs from community events and ceremonies.

Fortunately, Westport has a long list of “specific examples of actions the community has taken and events it has sponsored to reach out to Coast Guard personnel welcoming them into the community and embracing them in a full community partnership;” another requirement of the application package.

John Shaw put that list together for the application, and it included:

- The annual Westport Coast Guard appreciation dinner.
- The Blessing of the Fleet event at the Fisherman’s Memorial, held yearly since 1954.
- Local fishing families group WEfish provides an additional connection for our Coast Guard families, and took the lead in local fundraising for Coast Guard families during the recent government shutdown when Coast Guard members were not getting paid.
- Coast Guard families are included in the annual Santa By the Sea event sponsored by the Maritime Museum, the Pirates group and business community with the highlight being Santa arriving to the dock in from of the Maritime Museum, delivered by the Coast Guard to the waiting families.
- Free admission to the Grays Harbor Lighthouse and the Westport Maritime Museum for Coast Guard families. This past season the historical society logged 240 Coast Guard free admissions.
- The Coast Guard crew participates in the city’s Old Fashioned 4th of July event, with complimentary tickets and kids games coupons for Coast Guard families.
- The city along with the Westport-South Beach Historical Society own and operate the Maritime Museum in the original Coast Guard Station, one of the classic Nantucket-style stations built in 1940. The museum displays the story of the Coast Guard and its local history from lifesaving service to the new Rescue Room for kids. The museum heroes rooms tell the stories of several of the famous local rescues.
- The Maritime Museum’s annual open house as part of Coast Guard day kicks off new exhibits and has become a time for past station mates and the current crews to have a chance to visit.



History

John Shaw also provided a brief history of the Coast Guard in Westport.

The relationship between the Coast Guard and Westport started with what was referred to as the “lighthouse proposal.” Developing lumber and shipping interests had been hampered in the 1870s with shipwrecks of significance and accompanying loss of life. In 1882, citing these losses as an impediment to fully developing the potential of the region, business interests published the “lighthouse proposal” in the *Daily Vidette* calling for a light at the entrance to Grays Harbor as well as a Life Saving Station. In 1897, the U.S. Life Saving Service opened Peterson’s Point Lifeboat Station on Grays Harbor at what will become Westport.

The following year the U.S. Light House Establishment completed the Grays Harbor Lighthouse. Both of the services were located at the end of current day Ocean Avenue in Westport. Still a small village on the spit, Westport eventually surrounded the lighthouse and lifeboat station.

In 1915, the Life-Saving Service and the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service joined to form the United States Coast Guard. About this time, the Peterson’s Point facility became known as Station Grays Harbor.

Station Grays Harbor was busy with the needs of the developing shipping and fishing industries.

“Families that are descendants of the original Life Saving Station and lighthouse keepers are still part of the Westport community,” wrote Shaw. “The small town where a lighthouse and a life saving station had opened in 1898 has always been a Coast Guard City.”

The city will provide more information about the Feb. 7 ceremony as more details become available.

Westport South Beach Historical Society 2019-2020 WINTER Calendar of Events

December:

- **WSBHS Santa by the Sea**
- **WSBHS Holiday Party**

Saturday, December 7th
Friday, December 13th

January:

- Enjoy storm watching !

February:

- **Lighthouse opens for season**
- **Coast Guard City Dedication**

Saturday, February 1st
Friday, February 7th



Annual Holiday Potluck Party Friday, December 13th 6:00 pm McCausland Hall



The 2019 December Membership Meeting and Holiday Potluck will take place in McCausland Hall on Friday, December 13th at 6:00 pm. Ham will be provided.

Your "holiday best" salads, rolls, side dishes, and desserts are requested for sharing.

As in the past, non-perishable food donations will be accepted for delivery to the South Beach Food Bank. We also will be collecting small, unwrapped gifts to donate to Ocosta Elementary School for their holiday "Paws-itive" store. Good behavior at Ocosta is recognized by distribution of "Paws" rewards and students can do holiday shopping for friends and family members with their rewards.

By bringing any item for donation, you will be entered in a raffle for some fun prizes.

Museum Front Porch Railing Repair Update



We have made a good deal of progress building a new front porch upper railing to match the original design styling. Working with our partner, The City of Westport, we continue to work on maintenance and make improvements to the "Old Station". Been a good deal of cutting and fitting for the new post skirts and caps and working on fitting balustrade and balusters. We should be up for Santa by the Sea. As with any work we perform on the building, care and documentation is required to meet historical requirements set out as part of the Museum's status as a registered Historical Building.



PLEASE support the following businesses

They support US by their membership and/or donations:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aloha Alabama | Gold Rush Charters | Security State Bank |
| American Sunset RV & Tent | Grayland Hardware | Shoalwater Bay Casino |
| Basket House Gift Shop | Harbor Marine Supply | Shop N Kart - Westport |
| Blackbeard's Brewery | Havenwyld Ceramics | Stitches |
| Breaker's Boutique Inn | Holiday Motel | Twin Harbor Drug |
| Brumfield Construction | Lighthouse Bistro | Vacations by the Sea |
| Cachalot Kites & Toys | Lost River Photography | Washington Coast Real Estate |
| Chateau Westport | Merino's Seafood | WEfish |
| El Rancho Restaurant | Merrill Photography | Westport Inn |
| Englund Marine Supply | Pacific Motel & RV | Westport, LLC |
| First Interstate Bank | Rogers Engineering | Westport LH Writers Retreat |
| Glenacres Historic Inn | Seabird Gift & Candy Shop | Windermere-Westport |

Recap of October's Annual Business Membership Meeting

Our annual business membership meeting was held on October 12, 2019 and as usual there was GREAT FOOD and FUN PEOPLE in attendance.

The proposed By-Laws as published in the September 2019 Foghorn were approved by the membership.

Board of Trustees elections:

Bobbi Willard was re-elected as Secretary. Winnie Cragg was re-elected at Board Position I. Both positions terms are Jan. 1, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2022.

The Volunteer of the Year is Ted Berger. This honor goes to the person who has given the most volunteer hours to the Society this past year. Ted graciously gave us 1,001 hours of his time! WOW - Way to go, Ted!



Randall "Will" Willard

For the THIRD YEAR IN A ROW - Randall "Will" Willard is Watch-stander of the Year. The Watch-stander of the Year honor is given to the person who has volunteered the most hours watch standing, either at the museum or at the lighthouse. Will had donated 434 hours - mainly working at the Lighthouse. Guests love his tour talks!



Ted Berger

Congratulations and 'Thank You' to both men for all you do for our Society and our community.

WESTPORT SOUTH BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH****SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- **10:00AM** | SANTA ARRIVES WITH THE COAST GUARD!
- **10:00AM - 1:00PM** | SEE SANTA IN THE LENS HALL
- **10:00AM - 4:00PM** | CHRISTMAS BAZAAR IN MCCAUSLAND HALL



After visiting with Santa, the 'Toy Box' for kid is hosted by our local Pirates and will be at the Tackle Box near the tower on Westhaven Drive. Donations towards those activities may be made at the Chamber, Blackbeard's Pizza or the Maritime Museum.

Types of Lens Glass

- by Pete Eberle

There is nothing more beautiful than a Fresnel Lens as the glass prisms sparkle in the sun light making tiny rainbows of iridescent colored light like a diamond. All of this beauty is produced from common beach sand.

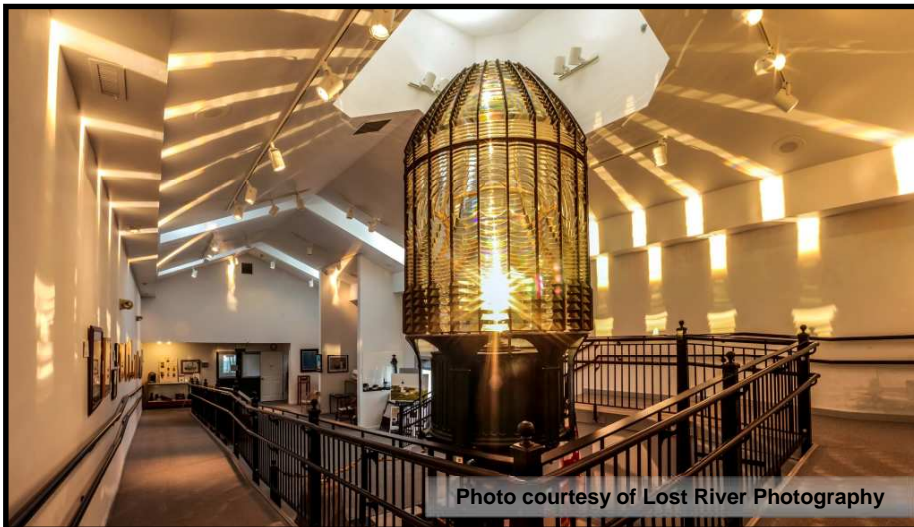


Photo courtesy of Lost River Photography

There are two types of glass that were used to produce lighthouse lens. They are Flint glass and Crown glass. Flint glass is the earlier type and is still used in producing small lenses of the 5th and 6th order. Flint glass is also known as Lead glass or Crystal glass. It is softer, heavier, has fewer bubbles but more striae (an imperfection which is characterized by nearly transparent wavy lines or patches). The manufacturing process is also more expensive than making Crown glass. Crown glass is a combination of silica, alkali and lime. This glass was as close to optical grade glass as could be manufactured. Optical glass could not be made in the large batches needed to manufacture the large lens needed.

The Grays Harbor Lighthouse Lens, having been manufactured in Paris, France, was of course made of French Crown glass which contained French sand, carbonate of soda, lime, Cullet, or scrap glass, and arsenic. The French makers used more than 4 times more soda than lime. This formula produced a glass with a lower index of refraction and was decolorized and had less bubbles due to the arsenic used.

Basic Fresnel lens glass color:

The trace iron oxide in the sand used at St. Gobain, France caused a chemical reaction that made the glass have a greenish color tinge. Arsenic was added to reduce air bubbles and both Arsenic and Manganese were added to reduce the intensity of the green color and changed it into a very slight yellow green tinge. Early glass that was produced was hygroscopic, meaning that it absorbed some of the sea air and water spray. Over a very long period of time, when soda lime glass is exposed to salt water in the air, sodium silicate is leached out of the glass and is slowly transformed into sodium hydroxide. This in turn can attack the glass and cause it to have a permanent dull stain. Sodium carbonate may also be formed from the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere giving a white deposit on the surface of the glass. The glass produced in France after 1859 was much less hygroscopic and generally did not have these problems. Glass makers added Arsenic, Manganese or Cerium Oxide in the glass mixtures to try to decolorize it and reduce the number of air bubbles in the glass. This produced a nearly crystal clear glass. Over years of exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun these additives cause the glass color to change to a yellow or yellow-brown color.

Colored Glass:

Red glass is made by adding gold to the mixture (1 oz gold to 60-80 pounds of glass). This ruby red glass absorbs up to 75% of the light passing through it. This is one reason the red flash panels are so much larger.



Umpqua Lens Photo courtesy of Douglas County Museums

Follow Along (10 of Our Favorite Instagram Feeds) *-by Joni Rodgers*

Enjoy beach scenes, clam digs, Coast Guard history, fun at the museum, and lots more on these Instagram feeds that celebrate local history, culture, and science.

Chief Finn

https://www.instagram.com/chief_finn_westport/

Chief, a German Shepherd, is the mascot for the Westport Maritime Museum. Look for #PNWGSDPACK and join Chief's Club on FaceBook.

Westport South Beach Historical Society

<https://www.instagram.com/maritimehistory/>

Follow along as we grow our fledgling feed. We'll be adding lots of archive photos, exhibit info, and lighthouse photos. Look for #tagthisphoto and comment on the places and people you recognize.

John Shaw - Westport-South Beach Historical Society Executive Director

<https://www.instagram.com/johntshaw98520/>

Trek the local beaches and museums far and wide with John Shaw for images of ships and shipwrecks, harbors, floats, gooseneck barnacles, driftwood, and interesting sea creatures.

Marcy Merrill - Junk Store Cameras

<https://www.instagram.com/junkstorecameras/>

Visit Marcy Merrill in "the land of misfit photographica" and look for her books in the Maritime Museum gift shop.

Don Ross

<https://www.instagram.com/drjr87/>

Longtime Historical Society member and former trustee, beach denizen, and grill wizard - Don Ross takes amazing photos around Grays Harbor and beyond.

Kimmi Kerns - Havenwyld Ceramics

<https://www.instagram.com/havenwyldceramics/>

Kimmi Kerns, ceramics artist and WSBHS president emeritus, creates ceramic story poles, garden art, serving pieces, and wall tiles, including the lighthouse tiles she donated in our Museum & Lighthouse gift shops.

Westport Chamber of Commerce

<https://www.instagram.com/visitwestport/>

"Sharing that Westport life!" Our COC is posting images of everything we love about Westport on land and sea.

Washaway Beach

<https://www.instagram.com/washawaynomore/>

Washaway No More is a non-profit community organization working to rebuild the barrier dune in North Cove.

Coast Guard History

https://www.instagram.com/coastguard_history/

Follow for your daily U.S. Coast Guard history lesson and current images of exciting rescues and adventures.

Washington Historical Society

<https://www.instagram.com/washingtonhistory/>

Founded in 1891, the Washington State Historical Society is dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting Washington's rich and storied history.

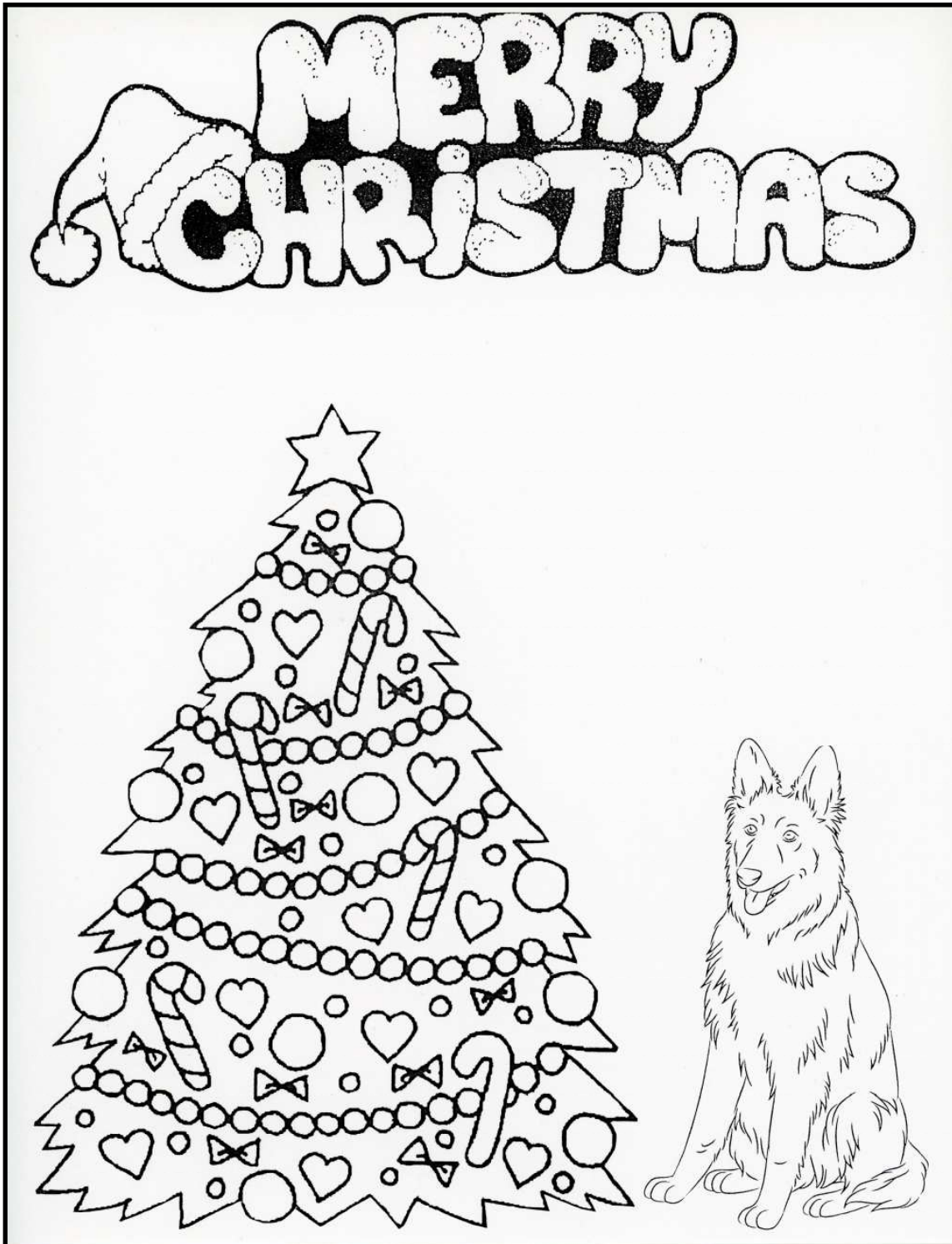
What are your favorite local, maritime, and lighthouse-related Instas? Let us know so we can follow along!

Kids Corner

-by Julie Smith

HEY KIDS ! It's a coloring contest!

Color the Holiday picture of Chief and bring it to the museum to be displayed until Dec 15th. Winner will be chosen and notified on the 16th. Prize is a book or stuffed animal from the gift shop.



Westport-South Beach Historical Society
Newsletter

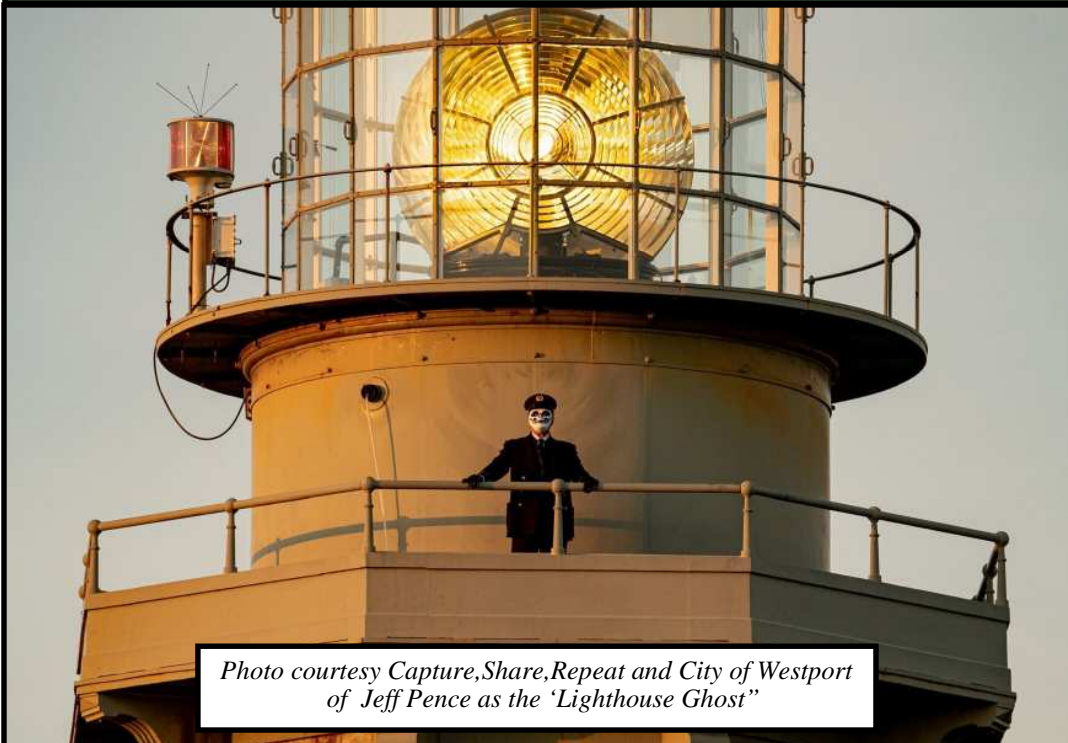
PO Box 1074
2201 Westhaven Dr.
Westport, WA 98595

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Put a stamp
here or it
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mailed !!

Mailing Label Here

The Lighthouse 'Ghost' Thanks You



*Photo courtesy Capture, Share, Repeat and City of Westport
of Jeff Pence as the 'Lighthouse Ghost'*

A BIG

THANK YOU

To all the volunteers who
donated their time and
CANDY to make this
year's Haunted Lighthouse
event the biggest and best
EVER !

We couldn't do it without
YOU.