

# WESTPORT~NEWS

## On the Home Front

Bi-monthly column by: Linda Skolnick

### Why We Are Thankful to be in Westport

Every year, around this time, I pose a question to my clients, friends and neighbors that pertain to something in Westport. I tell them they can answer sincere or funny, and that their answer does not need to mean anything to anyone else but themselves. In the past, we have touched on Westport's hidden jewels, What Westport needs and more.

This year, we all seem a bit more introspective, so I decided to ask my fellow Westporters **"What they were thankful for in Westport"**. Any Westporter whose email address was in my Palm Pilot was asked the question. Those who knew how to reply to an email are included below. Interestingly, I expected the answers to be more commercial, and tangible, but many of the replies were abstract and full of feeling. Luckily, many still have a great sense of humor and others gave shameless but true plugs. So, here's what some of us are "thankful for in Westport":

- Linda Skolnick – The Coleytown Elementary School Team, lead by Kay May along with Charlotte Janis and Margaret Ruff, and especially teachers Lori Buskey and Lesa Tischler who give more of themselves everyday than any parent could hope for (plus fabulous past teachers Anne Sklar and Bobbi Hauer who set great foundations for future successes), and all the great students, faculty and parents that make up the Coleytown Family.
- Beth Cody – The city, the country and the beach all in one town
- Jeanne Burris – Wonderful educations my children are receiving at Long Lots and A Child's Place, plus the wonderful communities within these places.
- Joanie Reznik – Wonderful friends who have become a family to us in Westport.
- Karen Wingate – Having a beach so close by to escape to when desiring a private place to think and star gaze.
- Chris and Dom DePinto – The ambiance of Westport in the evening...walking down by the beach, window shopping on Main Street after dinner in town.
- Randi and Rob Lehrman –That "Lice-enders" arrived in town last year (clear so far...but good to know just in case).
- Jamie Camche – Spending Saturdays at "JL Rocks" Jewelry store (292 Post Road East)
- Glenn Camche – At least she's not out spending.
- Lisa Moskowitz – Spending Wednesdays and Fridays at "JL Rocks"
- Jacquie Tolkin – Covering "JL Rocks" when Jamie and Lisa aren't.
- Nancy Marshall- That her parents live so close, in Westport.
- Bari Gerson – That she lives in Southport

- Elyse Tessler – Family, Friends, Caroline at Fitness Edge and the future Katzenbergs Express
- Jennifer Freedman- All the friendships I have in the community and all Westport offers my family.
- Sherri Raifaisen – Girls, Girls, Girls....Girls
- Barry Raifaisen – Early Tee Times
- Susan Glick – The sense of community and the Beach.
- Todd Hammer –That Westport offers a wonderful contradiction of small town warmth with large town aura of events, sports, recreation and sense of diverse community.
- Joyce and Ken Backman – Linda Skolnick (I swear, they said it!!), because anytime we need to know something about Westport, she has the answer...and also, Mrs. Tischler and Coleytown Elementary School, who have made our transition into Kindergarten easy.
- Avi Kaner – All the people who “care” about our community and volunteer their time to make it better.
- Lisa Dalinka -My friends, the beach and you (I think she means me...I did find her her house after all!)
- Jill and Marc Isaacs – Westport’s natural beauty.
- Larry Bartimer – Although no location is completely safe, I am most appreciative that we no longer live in Manhattan, where I would be feeling additional strains post 9/11.
- Mike Daversa – Mitchell’s – one of the top clothing stores in the country in our own backyard. Not only do they service our community, they also give back generously.
- Danny and Rena Barsanti– Tarantinos and Good friends.
- Andi Frimet – All the great sports the town offers (that get me home from carpooling at midnight)
- David Skolnick – The Westport News – so more people can listen to my wife’s advice, besides me.
- Devin Skolnick (age 8) – All the town sports, PAL Cheerleading, and my friend Tiphonie Liehti
- Caryn Bortniker – The great adult Parks and Rec stuff ,that I never take advantage of (yet)
- Samantha Bortniker (age 8) – The beach, Ice Skating at Longshore, Town softball
- Tiphonie Liehti (age 8)- her great school and her family
- Jeff Millar (tennis pro) – All those busy Westport Mom’s who find time to continuously take tennis lessons.

Obviously, we are all happy to be here. And, luckily, we are also taking the time to notice and acknowledge those that make our lives richer. I truly thank all of you that emailed me back and said they were thankful for “Linda Skolnick” in Westport (no chuckles from those who know me well!). I didn’t mention all of you who said it, because I thought everyone else wouldn’t believe it anyway! Thanks to all of you who I couldn’t get to, who make this the best community around!

