



# ARCHEOLOGY EVENT IN THE TOWN OF WESTPORT

**WHEN:** May 10, 2014 from 10:00am-2:00pm

**WHERE:** On Easy Street between Highway I and River Rd.

**COST: FREE!**

**WHY:** The Town of Westport, in conjunction with Dane County, will be hosting a day of public archeology. Archeologist Phil Salkin and staff will be leading the public in an archeological dig at the site of the 1853 Ella Wheeler Wilcox home on Easy Street between Highway I and River Road. Ella Wheeler Wilcox was a poetess in the late 1800s and early 1900s who wrote the lines "Laugh, and the world laughs with you; weep, and you weep alone."

The day will include a lecture on archeology, looking for artifacts such as pottery shards, uncovering the Wilcox home foundation, and mapping the archeological site.

This family-friendly event is open to the public. Wear clothes that can get dirty and come join in at any time during the day. A tent with tables and chairs will be available for picnicking.

*Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ELLA WHEELER WILCOX HISTORIC DIG DAY**

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John Van Dinter, Westport Town Board Chair, says that "The timing of the County's operation on Easy Street could not have been better since the Westport Historical Preservation Committee has been working on this Ella Wheeler Wilcox homesite project for some time. To now partner on this project with the County is the type of intergovernmental cooperation we are known for here. A special thanks to members of the Committee, Rebecca Bernstein and Phil Salkin for their work in making this program happen."

The site for the archeological dig was made possible through clay extraction currently underway to help construct a new expansion for the Dane County Rodefild Landfill. The County is able to obtain the clay it needs thanks to an agreement with the Town of Westport.

"The Town of Westport approached the County two years ago with their idea to create a historical educational center honoring the life of Ms. Wilcox," said Joe Parisi. "We happy to partner with them in the years ahead to make those plans a reality and build an exciting new destination for local residents and visitors from the area to enjoy."

Future plans for the area surrounding the Wilcox home include a shelter/picnic area, trails, educational signage, and a monument honoring Ms. Wilcox.



*Ella Wheeler Wilcox*