

THE chronicle

A WLWP Digital Publication



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from the executive director



June is such a busy month. Personally, I have two immediate family member birthdays plus an anniversary all flanking Father's Day. And then there are graduations, the start of summer, vacations, Summer Pops, but also Pride in the Park and our Summer Reading kick-off! Phew! Despite a hectic month, it's also an exciting month; the end of the school year and lots of possibilities...

2025 celebrates the fourth year of Pride in the Park. We celebrate Pride Month because Westerly Library and Wilcox Park is for everyone. As

such, we are committed to providing a diverse and inclusive environment in which all community members are considered, welcomed, and represented. We wish to support and enrich our diverse materials through the materials we collect, the services we provide, the programs we offer, and the partnerships we forge. We are also committed to achieving equity by contributing to a more just society in which all community members can realize their full potential. Pride in the Park is just one of the many ways we show our commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility.

June also celebrates our 94th Summer Reading Program. The first official plan for Summer Reading took place during the summer of 1931 where roughly 70 children took armchair trips around the world and kept (reading) logs of their "trips", including souvenirs acquired from each country they "visited".

We are fortunate to be able to offer a robust Summer Reading Program each year due to our dedicated, creative, hardworking staff and Dr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Sculco, whose generosity allows for funding earmarked for summer reading for all the youth in our community.

This summer, all ages can Level Up at the library. Play is one of the ways we learn to relate to others, to think in new ways, build relationships, and become well-rounded individuals. Level Up at Your Library is built around play including puzzles and games. So think about participating in this year's summer reading program - libraries are not just places for knowledge, they are spaces for fun!

Read on to discover more about Pride in the Park, Summer Reading, and so much more happening this month at Westerly Library & Wilcox Park.

Warmly,

Brigitte S. Hopkins
Executive Director



adult services

find your next great read with NoveList Plus

[NoveList Plus](#) is a valuable database available through the Ocean State Libraries consortium. It is an excellent resource to help find your next book or audiobook. You will find recommendations for fiction and nonfiction across genres such as mystery, romance, adventure, biographies, history, and true crime.

One of the features we find most useful is that you can get a list of read-alikes for favorite books. Simply search for a book you have particularly enjoyed and select either “Title Read-alikes” or “Author Read-alikes.” You will receive a list of suggested titles along with explanations for their selection. There are also many options to browse books by time period, mood, location, and more.

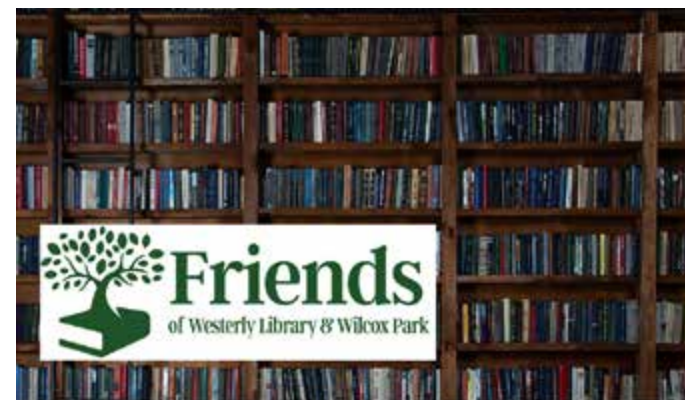
[NoveList Plus](#) also provides information about series and lists of award winners, must reads, and trending now. Next time you are having a tough time finding a great read, do not fret, all you have to do is go to NoveList Plus! To access it, visit the [Databases section](#) on our website, and click the link to access NoveList Plus.



Meet Francisco and Francisca, the distinguished mascots of our Adult Services department! Just look at Francisco's classic bow tie and spectacles, while Francisca exudes refinement with her sophisticated pearls

and perfectly placed hat. They have been adding a little panache to the department since they were created from one of our Crafternoon To-Go kits. These kits are available in our Makerspace on a first come, first served basis starting at 9 a.m. the first Monday of every month. Be sure to keep an eye on our calendar to learn about upcoming crafts and programs!

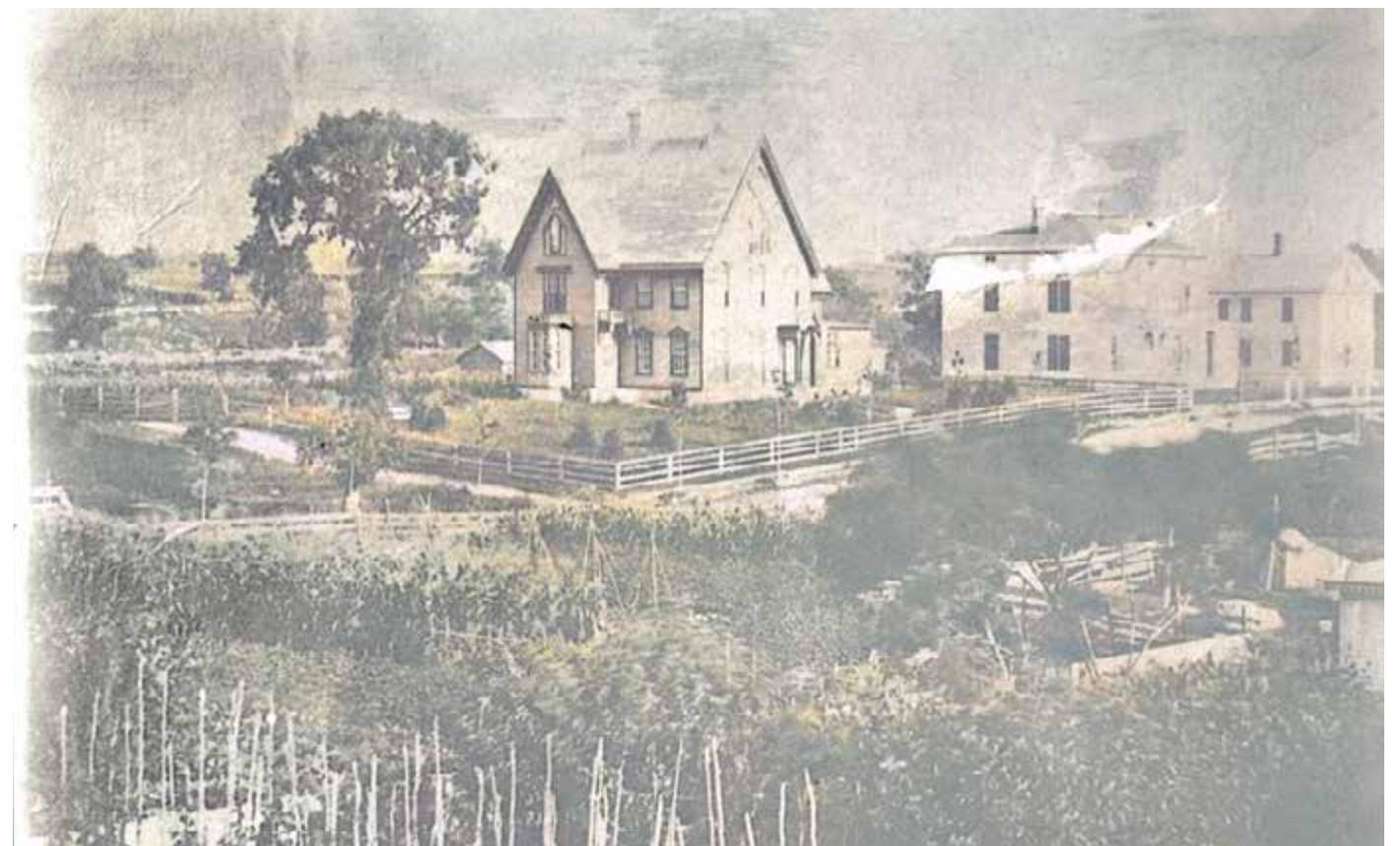
Friends Hidden Bookshope •
June 23-26, 10 am-6 pm | June 27, 10 am-5 pm | June 28, 10 am-3 pm (Bag Sale)
 The Pop-Up at Coy



Do you need some new reads for the beach? Get ready for summer by stocking up on books during the Friends of Westerly Library and Wilcox Park's used book sale June 23-June 28. The space will be decorated like an old-time bookstore and will feature gently-used books from a variety of genres.

in the vault

This month has been busy in the Local History room! We have had travelers coming to Westerly to research their ancestors — one from California, looking into the Frazier family, from the 1700s. Her ancestor, Captain John Frazier, left Westerly in the gold rush to move to California and ended up co-founding the town of Carlsbad, CA! Another person traveled up from Virginia to research her family, and then we were asked to help a man preparing a lecture on the history of Quonochontaug. Lastly, a historic preservation specialist visited, they are working on a report on the village of Ashaway.



This photo is of 34 Elm Street, on the corner of School Street. The house still stands. It is amazing to see this land so undeveloped. This was probably taken before 1900 although the exact year is unknown.

Author Talk and Illustration Demo with Regina Linke: “Big Enough”

Saturday, June 14th
10-11 AM • Terrace Room



Join local author and illustrator Regina Linke for a special storytime of her new book *Big Enough*, which Publisher's Weekly calls “an organically empowering story of self-determination.” Children will find out how a little boy with a big imagination overcomes his self doubt to bring home his family's giant ox, and collaborate with Regina on an illustration demonstration. Books will be available for purchase with Martin House books, for a personalized message and signature, and go home with coloring sheets, prizes, and more.

Pride in the Park • Saturday, June 7th • 12-2 PM • Wilcox Park



Pride is coming to Wilcox Park! Join us as we celebrate Pride Month with activities, gelato, and fun!

[Click here](#) to see who is joining us!

SWE-NESS Workshop • Mission to the Moon: Touchdown!

Saturday, June 14th
1-2 PM • Terrace Room



Join us and the Society of Women Engineers, New England Shoreline section for a STEM Program!

Design and build a shock-absorbing system that will protect two “Astronauts” when they land.

For ages 9-12. No registration required, first come, first served.



**Susan Rosen, Volunteer
Community Resource Advocate**
Tuesdays/1-3 PM/Roberts Room

Susan is available weekly to offer guidance to connect your or loved ones with local resources available based on specific needs.

**Toby, Volunteer Mental Health
Advocate**
Thursdays/10 AM-12 PM/Roberts Room

If you have concerns about your wellbeing and want to talk to someone, feel free to stop in to see Toby, available weekly.

email: advocate@westerlylibrary.org

Thank you!

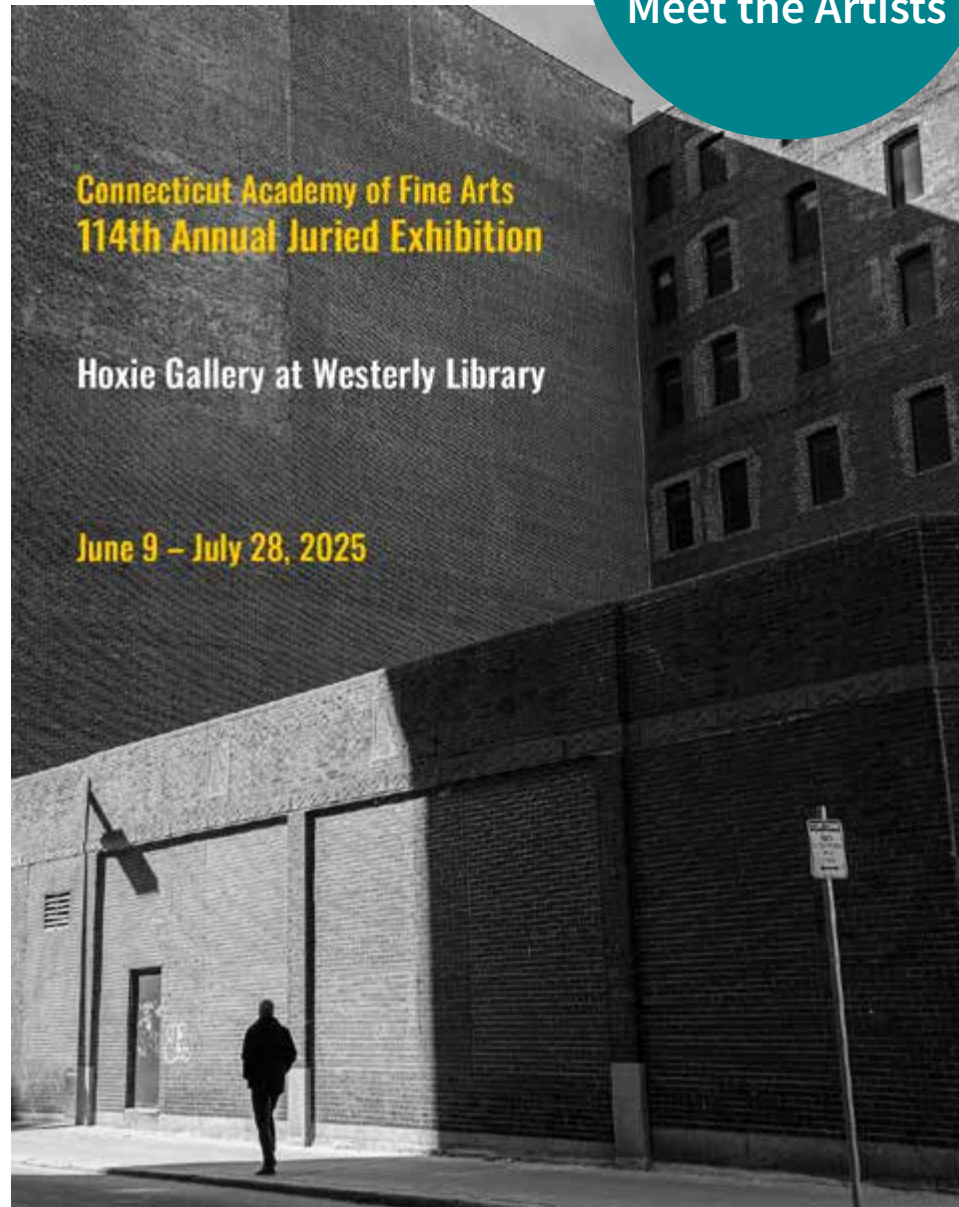
Special thank you to all who contributed to our Community Connections Food Drive. Together we donated **77 pounds** of non-perishables to Jonnycake Center of Westerly.



hanging in the hoxie

presenting: **114th Annual Juried Exhibition**
with **Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts**

Beginning June 9th, view works from artists across the country in Connecticut Academy of Fine Art's 114th Annual Juried Exhibition! Head to the Hoxie Gallery from 5-7 pm Wednesday, June 18th for an opportunity to meet the artists, CAFA leadership, and enjoy light bites and musical entertainment. Works can be viewed in the Hoxie Gallery from June 9th-July 18th during library hours.



Wednesday
June 18th • 5-7 PM
Meet the Artists

About CAFA:

In 1910 the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts was established by a group of renowned Connecticut Artists who enjoyed a national reputation. Their goal was to promote the art of area members. They achieved this through the Annual Salon show, a juried exhibition which held high standards of artistic ability. Artists could gain membership by proving themselves in the jury process.

We are a non-profit organization supported by the membership. All of the leadership positions and exhibition activities are performed by volunteers dedicated to the preservation of this organization and the values it represents. In keeping with our long standing tradition we hold yearly exhibitions which are open competitions. All artists are encouraged to enter their work.

AiR
artist-in-residence



Christine Koubek Flynn • Author/Journalist
ckflynn.com
June 2025



Imagination and the Transformation of Personal Experience in Fiction and Memoir Thursday, 06/12, 6:00-7:30 PM, Auditorium

Presented by our current artist-in-residence, Writer and Teaching Artist Christine Koubek Flynn, join us for a reading from her novel-in-progress, "A Baby from the Back Row," followed by a writing craft discussion on imagination and the transformation of personal experience in fiction and memoir. Bring a notebook to respond to two writing prompts that will help you generate a story idea from your own life.

Introduction to Personal and College Essays Wednesday, 06/25, 6:00-7:30 PM Terrace Room *registration required

Presented by our current artist-in-residence, Writer and Teaching Artist Christine Koubek Flynn, join us for this introductory writing workshop. Life challenges, relationships, identity, interests—these are just a few of the subjects personal essays explore. In this 90-minute workshop we'll examine short published essays, and 'college essays that worked' to illuminate the ways imagery, dialogue, scene and structure transform a personal experience into a compelling story. In session writing prompts will help you generate ideas and essay beginnings.



The Cottage in Wilcox Park is available for private events! Reserve it now for an upcoming work or family gathering, a bridal suite or birthday party, temporary office space or workshop, and more. Click the image to inquire.



public services

Have you stopped by our Makerspace? This open space is available to bring out your creative side! You can convert your old VHS tapes or vinyl records to DVD or CD with easy to use software and equipment. We also have access to a sewing machine, which is great for fiber-loving patrons. This popular machine can help you repair clothing items or create a totally new craft project. We also have a Glowforge laser cutter - make your holiday gifts or personalize a birthday present with this impressive machine. It can cut wood, paper, acrylic, and more! All you have to do is talk to one of our tech associates, and make an appointment to learn how to use these amazing devices. Keep an eye out for a popular item returning soon - a 3-D printer!



atta•dude

At WLWP we celebrate our dedicated staff members monthly. Colleagues are nominated for going above and beyond by their peers. Atta•dudes, as we call them, are awarded to the staff member who receives the most nominations in a month. Kristen was our winner of April's atta•dude!

Kristen was nominated for assisting with duck race sales for the annual Ocean Community Chamber Duck Race event. She also organized a thoughtful farewell for a staff member that was moving out of the area. Kristen was also part of the team responsible for a successful Community Connection program, and for all the behind the scenes work she does to keep things at Circulation running smoothly. Join us in congratulating Kristen!



It's golf season! Up your game with the [Library of Things](#). We lend out a travel putting practice set that is easy to set up anywhere, even indoors in front of a mirror to make sure you've got good form. And once you're putting like an expert, challenge your friends or family to a game of Putt Partee. Players try to be the first to sink a golf ball into their opponent's six holes. We just added our second set of this fun 2-player game to the [Library of Things](#)!

service highlight

park news

Wilcox Park was buzzing with more than pollinators at the Garden Market Fair. Approximately 2,000 visitors strolled the park stopping at the many participating vendors along the way. With the sun beaming, Westerly Band's music filled the park, folks enjoyed the Westerly High School Culinary Team's delicious creations, stretching during the Essentrics program and the apalcas were a hit as always. Thank you to all the farms, vendors, and community members for participating in this annual celebration of plants.



save-the-date
Sunday, May 17th, 2026
Wilcox Park





It's our favorite time of year in Youth Services, Summer Reading is almost here! This year's theme is Level Up at Your Library, and we're celebrating all kinds of games from video games, tabletop games, and board games too!

Join us for our Summer Reading Kick Off Party on June 28th from 12:00–2:00 PM in Wilcox Park. We'll have on-site registration for our Summer Reading program, and anyone who signs up will receive a free book! Can't make it to our Kick Off event? No problem, you can register for Summer Reading at the Kids/Tweens or Teen desk anytime the library is open and still get a free book! Reading

logs will run from June 28th until September 2nd. From 12:30–1:30 PM, we'll be playing bingo on the park lawn. Feel free to bring a blanket or chair. Keeping with our gaming theme, our bingo winners will receive board games as prizes, including Giant Sorry, Giant Candyland, Drone Home, LEGO Monkey Palace, and more to choose from!

The fun doesn't stop there! Enjoy free gelato from Pompelmo Gelato and take part in a park-wide scavenger hunt. Anyone who completes the scavenger hunt will receive a small prize. It's game on at the library! How can you level up?

**Summer Reading
Kick off 2025:
Level Up at Your Library**

**Saturday, June 28th
12-2 pm
Wilcox Park**



Ready, readers? Join us for bingo, a scavenger hunt, sweet treats and prizes at our Summer Reading Kick Off!

video game recs

Visit our YouTube channel where you'll find a new Library Let's Plays courtesy of our Tween Librarian, Ben, every Thursday!



New Pokemon Snap
Recommended by Ben
Gotta catch 'em all - on film that is! This long-awaited sequel to a Nintendo 64 classic has you taking relaxing automated hikes through various wild areas to take photos in the name of Pokemon research.



Ni No Kuni: Wrath of the White Witch
Recommended by Ben
This JRPG had its art done by the legendary Studio Ghibli. Though it may not provide much of a challenge for seasoned gamers, its great for tweens who have been interested in games like Final Fantasy and need an entry-level game in the genre.

youth picks



Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library
by Chris Grabenstein
Recommended by Mel

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.



The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors
by Drew Daywalt
Recommended by Mel

You've played the game. Now read the legend of how it all began...Long ago, in an ancient and distant realm called the Kingdom of Backyard, there lived a warrior named ROCK.



Circle by Mac Barnett
Recommended by Orson
When Triangle breaks the rule about not hiding behind the waterfall while playing hide-and-seek with Circle and Square, Circle must rescue him.



Yours From the Tower by Sally Nichols
Recommended by Casey

In 1896, three best friends--Tirzah, Sophia and Polly--who are leading very different lives after boarding school share their dreams, hopes, frustrations and romances through a series of letters as they search for happiness and love near the dawn of the Edwardian era



The Name of This Book is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch
Recommended by Mel

Two eleven-year-old misfits try to solve the mystery of a dead magician and stop the evil Dr. L and Ms. Mauvais, who are searching for the secret of immortality. This is the story of a secret, and also a secret story.

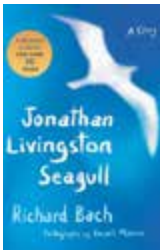


Just Roll with It by Lee Durfey-Lavoie & Veronica Agarwal
Recommended by Mel
A contemporary middle-grade graphic novel for fans of Guts and Real Friends about how dealing with anxiety and OCD can affect everyday life

books, movies & more



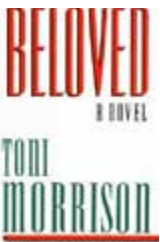
[Be Ready When The Luck Happens](#) by Ina Garten
Recommended by Anna
Here, for the first time, Ina Garten presents an intimate, entertaining, and inspiring account of her remarkable journey. Ina’s gift is to make everything look easy, yet all her accomplishments have been the result of hard work, audacious choices, and exquisite attention to detail.



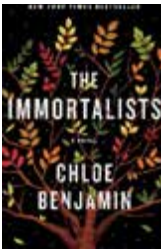
[Jonathan Livingston Seagull](#) by Richard Bach
Recommended by Keith
This is the story for people who follow their hearts and make their own rules... people who get special pleasure out of doing something well, even if only for themselves.



[The Lost Queen](#) by Signe Pike
Recommended by Penelope
The Mists of Avalon meets the world of Philippa Gregory in the thrilling first novel of a debut trilogy that reveals the untold story of Languoreth--a forgotten queen of sixth-century Scotland



[Beloved](#) by Toni Morrison
Recommended by Bill
After Paul D. finds his old slave friend Sethe in Ohio and moves in with her and her daughter Denver, a strange girl comes along by the name of “Beloved.”



[The Immortalists](#) by Chloe Benjamin
Recommended by Penelope
It’s 1969 in New York City’s Lower East Side, and word has spread of the arrival of a mystical woman, a traveling psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die.



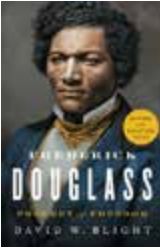
[A True Account: Hannah Masury's Sojourn Amongst the Pirates, Written by Herself](#) by Katherine Howe
Recommended by Claire
In Boston, as the Golden Age of Piracy comes to a bloody close, Hannah Masury - bound out to service at a waterfront inn since childhood - is ready to take her life into her own hands.



[Florida](#) by Lauren Groff
Recommended by Stacey
Florida: a place of storms, snakes, and sinkholes, and so much more. Lauren Groff explores a different side of her adopted home state in this collection of stories.



[A Lady's Guide to Scandal](#) by Sophie Irwin Recommended by Julianna
When shy Miss Eliza Balfour married the austere Earl of Somerset, twenty years her senior, it was the match of the season -- no matter that he was not the husband Eliza wanted. Now, ten years later, Eliza is widowed.



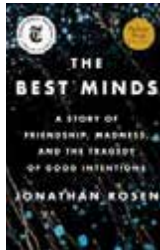
[Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom](#) by David Blight
Recommended by Caroline
As a young man Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) escaped from slavery in Baltimore, Maryland. He was fortunate to have been taught to read by his slave owner mistress, and he would go on to become one of the major literary figures of his time.



[Ten Birds That Changed the World](#) by Stephen Moss
Recommended by Casey
In Ten Birds That Changed the World, naturalist and author Stephen Moss tells the gripping story of this long and intimate relationship through key species from all seven of the world’s continents.



[For the Table](#) by Anna Stockwell
Recommended by Amanda
During socially distanced times, the perfect dinner party might have felt like a lost art, but in For the Table, up-and-coming food writer Anna Stockwell provides all the tools needed for bringing back the ritual of hosting memorable yet modern dinner parties.



[The Best Minds: A Story of Friendship, Madness, and the tragedy of good intentions](#) by Jonathan Rosen
Recommended by Sara
An acclaimed author investigates the forces that led his closest childhood friend, a paranoid schizophrenic with brilliant promise who defied the odds and graduated from Yale Law School, to kill the woman he loved, in this exploration of the ways in which we understand--and fail to understand--mental illness



[Godzilla Minus One](#) Recommended by Bill
In postwar Japan, a new terror rises; Godzilla. Will the devastated people be able to survive... let alone fight back?



[Sabriel: The Old Kingdom](#) by Garth Nix
Recommended by Lynn
Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.



[Lirael: The Old Kingdom](#) by Garth Nix
Recommended by Lynn
With only her faithful companion, the Disreputable Dog, to help her, Lirael must find the courage to seek her own hidden destiny.



[Abhorsen: The Old Kingdom](#) by Garth Nix
Recommended by Lynn
Abhorsen-In-Waiting Lirael and Prince Sameth, a Wallmaker, must confront and bind the evil spirit Oranis before it can destroy all life.

[Crafternoon To-Go](#) • First Monday, 2nd • 9 am-8 pm
[Sewers in Stitches](#) • Mondays weekly • 2-4 pm
[Couch to 5k Run Club](#) • Monday, 2nd • 4-4:45 pm
[Tween Dungeons & Dragons \(Ages 8-12\)](#) • weekly
[Homeschool Group](#): Tuesdays 1:30-3 pm
[Group 1](#): Tuesdays 3:30-5pm
[Group 2](#): Tuesdays 5-6:30 pm
[Group 3](#): Wednesdays 4:30-6 pm
[Teen Dungeons & Dragons](#) • Tuesdays weekly • 4-5:30 pm
[Knit & Crochet Group](#) • Tuesdays weekly • 5:30-7:30 pm
[Essentrics Stretch in the Park](#) • Wednesdays weekly • 9:30-10 am
[Storytime](#) • Wednesdays weekly • 10-10:30 am
[4th Annual Head to Toe Wellness Fair w/ Wood River Health](#) • Wednesday, 4th • 1-4 pm
[Playdough Playtime](#) • Wednesdays weekly • 3:30-4:30 pm
[Teen Pride Alliance](#) • Wednesdays bi-monthly, 4th & 18th • 4-5 pm
[Get Organized & Clear the Clutter: Clearing Your Way to a Brighter Summer](#) • Wednesday, 4th • 6-7 pm
[Learn the Language of Ireland with Irish Coastal Club](#) Wednesday, 4th • 6:30-7:30 pm • (hybrid)
[Teens DIY Craft Kits](#) • Thursdays weekly • 9 am-8 pm
[Three & Younger Playgroup](#) • Thursdays weekly • 10-10:45 am
[Kids Craft Time](#) • Thursdays weekly • 4-5 pm
[Chess Club](#) • Thursdays weekly • 5:30-7:30 pm
[Westerly Cross Stitchers Group](#) • First & Third Saturday, 7th & 21st • 9 am-12 pm
[Community Yoga Class](#) • Saturday, 7th • 10-11:15 am
[Westerly Writers Group](#) • 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays • 10 am-12:30 pm
[Pride in the Park](#) • Saturday 7th • 12-2 pm
[The Westerly and Children’s Concert | Teddy Bear Picnic](#) • Sunday 8th • 4-5:30 pm
[The Poetry Gathering](#) • Second Monday, 9th • 5-7 pm
[Mostly Fiction Book Club: “Honor”](#) • Second Tuesday, 10th • 6-7:30 pm
[Project Outreach Veterans Assistance](#) • Second Wednesday, 11th • 10-11 am

[Tech Social](#) • Second & Fourth Wednesdays, 11th & 25th • 1-2 pm • (hybrid)
[Caregiver Support Group](#) • Second Wednesday, 11th • 5:30-6:30 pm
[Cookbook Club: Barefoot Contessa FoolProof](#) • Second Wednesday, 11th • 6-7:30 pm
[The Science of Solar Energy Presentation](#) • Wednesday, 11th • 6-7 pm
[Tax-Efficient Charitable Donation Strategies](#) • Thursday, 12th • 2-3 pm
[AiR Imagination & the Transformation of Personal Experience in Fiction & Memoir](#) • Thursday, 12th • 6-7:30 pm
[URI Master Gardener Kiosk](#) • Second & Fourth Saturdays, 14th & 28th • 9 am-12 pm
[Author Talk & Illustration Demo w/ Regina Linke: Big Enough](#) • Saturday, 14th • 10-11 am
[Walking Tour of Wilcox Park: Native Flowers & Trees](#) • Second Saturday, 14th • 10-11:30 am
[SWE-NESS Workshop: Mission to the Moon: Touchdown](#) • Saturday, 14th • 1-2 pm
[Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts: 114th Annual Juried Exhibition](#) • Wednesday, 18th • 5-7 pm
[Sound Bath in the Park](#) • Wednesday, 18th • 4-5 pm
[Summer Pops](#) • Saturday, 21st • 6-10 pm
[Friends Hidden Bookshoppe](#) • Daily 23rd-28th
[Silent Book Club](#) • Wednesday, 25st • 5:30-7 pm
[AiR Introduction to Personal College Essays](#) • Wednesday, 25th • 6-7:30 pm
[Way Back Wednesday Movie Night](#) • 25th • 6-7:50 pm
[Walking Tour of Wilcox Park: Specimen Trees](#) • Fourth Saturday, 28th • 10-11:30 am
[Summer Reading Kick off 2025: Level Up at Your Library](#) • Saturday, 28th • 12-2 pm
[After School Storytime: Dragons Love Tacos](#) • Tuesday, 6th • 4-4:30 pm
[Summer Strings: A Student Violin Concert](#) • Sunday, 29th • 1-2 pm
[Teen Cafe](#) • Monday, 30th • 2-3 pm
[Teen Game On!](#) • Monday, 30th • 3-4 pm

June 2025

for news, events, programs and happenings please
always refer to our website for the most up-to-date info
westerlylibrary.org

holidays • closings

Thursday • June 12th • Open at 1 pm • Staff Development
Thursday • June 19th • Closed for Juneteenth

Library Hours
Monday-Thursday: 9 AM-8 PM
Friday: 9 AM-6 PM
Saturday: 9 AM-4 PM
Sunday: Closed

Park Hours
Monday-Sunday: Dawn-9 PM

