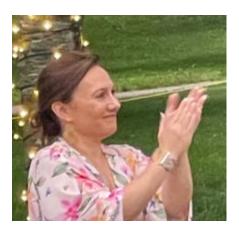




- from the executive director 1
  - adult services 2
    - in the vault 3
  - program highlights 4
  - hanging in the hoxie 6
  - air artist-in-residence 7
    - public services 8
      - <u>park news 9</u>
  - youth services highlight 10
    - books, movies & more 12
      - all programs 13



### from the executive director

Imagine a place where each tree tells a story, every breeze carries a whisper of the past, and the sky changes chapters with the time of day. This isn't a scene from a fantasy novel - it's Wilcox Park. Our beloved refuge in downtown Westerly is a nationally significant historic park and arboretum - nature's library: a living, breathing collection open to all who wander with curiosity.

Just like Westerly Library, Wilcox Park is full of knowledge. The rustle of leaves reveals lessons in patience and resilience. Petals on

flowers mirror nature's exquisite design language. Birds chirp, insects hum, clouds drift—offering endless opportunities for observation and reflection.

In this library, you don't need a card, just invitations to slow down, listen, and learn. We invite you to Wilcox Park to have a small picnic beneath leafy canopies, follow squirrel tracks like punctuation across the earth, or tuck into a book as bees browse their own floral chapters nearby.

Libraries and nature have more in common than you might think: both are sanctuaries of discovery. And when the two come together - say, for a story time beneath a Champion Tree or a scavenger hunt amongst the plants, they create nature-smart spaces that blend learning, wellness, and community connection in powerful ways. And if you are looking to level up your knowledge of Wilcox Park, consider taking one of the free <u>"Native Flowers and Trees</u>" or <u>"Specimen Trees</u>" walking tours of Wilcox Park.

Speaking of leveling up, this summer we encourage everyone to sign up to participate in our summer reading program, "Level Up at Your Library". "Level up" originates from video games, where it means to advance to a higher level and gain new skills, strengths, or abilities. But it's also used to mean improving yourself or something - whether it's your health, relationships, or plant identification knowledge. It's all about growth, progress, and stepping up your game.

So, grab your library card - it's more powerful beyond your imagination. Whether you're leveling up your reading, your skills, or your connection to community, there's no better time to press start with Westerly Library & Wilcox Park. Game on.

Warmly,

2 S.+

Brigitte S. Hopkins Executive Director



# adult services

#### **Exciting New Offering!**



We are pleased to share some exciting news! The Westerly Sun image edition is now accessible through America's News. Previously, only the text version was available, providing access to the articles but missing all of the visual aspects. Starting with the June 1, 2025 edition, you can now view The Westerly Sun as it appears in print, including photos, advertisements, and other graphics. Instead of just the text, you'll be able to access photos of local events, community highlights, and breaking news. Other Rhode Island newspapers with image editions include:

- The Providence Journal (2017-present)

- The Newport Daily News (2019- present)

Accessing these newspapers is easy. From our website go to Online Resources, Databases,

## fun fact

Have you ever wondered what happened to a beloved bookmark or that Mother's Day card from a few years ago? Our Adult Services Associates, Anais, has been collecting bookmarks left inside books and created the Musuem of Abandoned Bookmarks with them. Some highlights include No Drama Llama, dancing seals, and elegant pink flamingos. To view this gorgeous display, please visit the second floor... you just might recognize one! MUSEUM OF ABANDONED BOOKMARKS



# in the vault

June has been very active for our Special Collections! Summer is always our busiest time of year. We have been asked to research the history of two Westerly elementary schools — State Street and Tower Street.

We've also been digitizing some historic photos of Christ Episcopal Church on the corner of Broad and Elm Streets here in Westerly, and we have had visitors from Seattle and Colorado come in to research their Westerly roots. Now we are helping a man with Westerly ancestors determine which if any of his relatives fought in the Revolutionary War.

This interesting building was the Westerly Armory. It was located on Main Street, approximately where McQuade's Marketplace is today. The house you can see in the back, between the Armory building and the parsonage on the right, is 20 Elm Street. At that time, it was occupied by members of the Cottrell family, and now it is the Masonic Temple. The armory burned down in 1898 and eventually was rebuilt in its current location, at the corner of Dixon Street and Railroad Avenue.



#### <u>Thanksgiving Day Football: Westerly vs</u> <u>Stonington</u> Monday, 07/07, 6-7 pm, Auditorium

## UESTERLY VS. STONINGTON CONTRACTOR OF SINCE 1911-

Join Zack Garceau to learn about the history of the Thanksgiving Day football match between the Westerly Bulldogs and the Stonington Bears. The Westerly-Stonington Thanksgiving football game is one of the oldest high school football rivalries in the United States, dating back to 1911. Played every Thanksgiving morning, the game brings together generations of fans to celebrate not just football, but the deep-rooted camaraderie and friendly competition between the two towns.

#### <u>Animation Nation</u> <u>Wednesdays, weekly beginning July 2nd, 2-3 pm,</u> <u>Terrace Room</u>



Animation Nation is returning to Westerly Library! Join us for our exciting LEGO stop-motion movie making program for ages 9-12. Registration is not required to join.

#### Lunch and Learn Thursdays, weekly beginning July 3rd, 2-3 pm



Join us weekly to explore new flavors, discover the fun and ease in creating tasty lunchbox meal plans! All participants will receive a Kitchen Counter Recipe Book, featuring step-by-step instructions, supply lists, and a dedicated section for tips, tricks, and personal notes to help you along the way. Let's get creative in the kitchen—one lunch at a time!

This program is for teens in grades 7-12. Registration is not required. First come, first served up to 10 teens.

<u>Reptile Nook: Learn and See Animals</u> <u>Monday, 07/14, 10-11 am, Terrace Room</u>



Join us for a reptile show with the Reptile Nook! The Reptile Nook is dedicated to teaching people of all ages about reptiles and amphibians. We hope to help people face their fears of these misunderstood creatures and help them to love and appreciate animals of all shapes and sizes.



If you are interested in reserving space for a temporary storefront, informational & resource hub, student project or more, please contact awagner@westerlylibrary.org. For more information about The Pop-Up at Coy, please visit the link above.

#### Next Up in The Pop-Up at Coy:



Shaping the Future of Senior Housing | Tuesday, July 1st, 9:30 am-3:30 pm

Are you a senior who has considered moving or downsizing due to rising housing costs? Are you the child or relative of a senior trying to plan for their future housing needs? The Town of Westerly wants to hear from you!

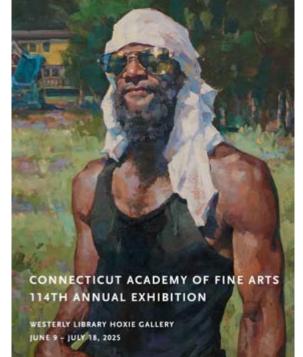
The Town of Westerly's Office of Planning is currently investigating the possibility of developing select town-owned properties into dedicated senior housing. To better understand the housing needs of seniors, we have created a brief, 5–10-minute, survey to gauge interest in this project and identify preferred housing types, amenities and integrated services. Come by The Pop-Up at Coy to ask questions, take the survey and ensure your voice is heard!

## hanging in the hoxie

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



Monday – Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday 9am – 8pm 9am – 6pm 9am – 4pm Closed



Through July 18th, 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.

#### **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.







Tina Hisig | Visual Artist tinahirsig.com July 2025





<u>Tina Hirsig Open House: Champion</u> <u>Trees: Roots & Branches</u> <u>Thursday, 07/26, 2-4 PM, The Cottage</u>

School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts in Boston, Massachusetts. Subsequently, she earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Goddard College through a selfdesigned graduate program. Her interdisciplinary studies focused on

#### About Tina:

"A deep curiosity drives me to explore the inner workings of nature and our interconnected landscape. I find inspiration in elements of the natural world that reflect the passage of time, such as birds, feathers, nests, and forests. My creative process is deliberate and contemplative, marked by careful observation, collecting objects, sketching, and thoughtful assemblage. Through these practices, I aim to deepen my connection not only with nature but also with my own life."

Tina Hirsig holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and Fine Art from Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. She sought further artistic training and pursued a diploma program at The education philosophy and methods for cultivating authentic artistic "voice."

Tina exhibits regularly at local and national levels, earning numerous accolades for her work. As a visual art instructor, she has been invited three times as a speaker at the National Art Educators Association convention, where she shares her expertise in fostering individual artistic expression within a choice-based art studio.

Residing in Charleston, South Carolina, Tina shares her life with her husband of 28 years, two sons, and their rescued greyhound, Obi.



# public services

As the summer heat and humidity begin to settle in, why not beat the heat with some cool graphic novels?

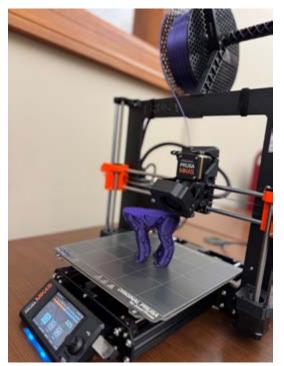
Graphic novels are like any other kind of book – they can be fiction or non-fiction, spanning across different genres for a wide range of audiences. Its difference lies in its use of the sequential art format, which uses images to convey a story. Here at the library, it's easier than ever to start diving into a unique tale that can be found in our adult graphic novel section. From serialized comics to manga to independently crafted one-shot stories, we have many options to choose from for your reading pleasure! If you want a starting point, try checking out *Saga: Volume one*, which starts off the Saga series about a mother and a father struggling to raise their daughter in a war-torn galaxy. Whether it's from the library or the comfort of your home, you can also try exploring the many e-comic titles we have available via Comics Plus! All you need is your library card to instantly begin searching through a catalog of thousands of titles, right at your fingertips. Some chill titles to check out are Patrick McDonnell's collection of summer themed Mutt comics in *Mutts: Summer Diaries* and Akiko Higashimura's *Princess Jellyfish Series*, which features unlikely friends, fashion and, of course, jellyfish!

There's something for everyone here at the library, so come on over and breeze on in to find the perfect graphic novel for this summer!

#### **Coming Soon!**

We will have a brand new 3-D Printer accessible to the public in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more on it in our Makerspace!

service highlight



## 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. Kim

was our winner of May's atta•dude!

Kim's colleagues nominated her for the following: Always having brilliant suggestions for cases for oddly-shaped LoT items. She is the reason the giant



scissors can circ! Being an expert droid operator, production assistant, and collaborator on the Star Wars Day(s) reel! Handling extra Collection Management duties! For the magnanimous job done in Cataloging the mountain of Teen Books! Her patience, understanding and support in being an Amazon Expert! Join us in congratulating Kim!

# park news

The Summer Pops concert was very well attended and the weather and performers were spectacular. The Town Band held their Children's concert and also had great attendance and many happy toddlers and young ones got to parade around the bandstand.

The park volunteers, including the URI Master Gardeners, as well as park staff have been busy like beavers tending to the park's gardens, lawns and trees. The dahlias have been planted and will come into full bloom by late summer. The Formal Gardens on the Esplanade (the area across from the Town Hall) is in its "Purple symphony" phase with several notes of purple to behold. These gardens will be transitioning to its red and white phase as the particular flowers cycle into bloom. Many park patrons have commented on how amazing the Kousa Dogwood blooms were this spring. Both the white and reddish pink blossoms seemed to be extra abundant this year.

With some of the major annual park events (Garden Market Fair, Virtu Art Festival, Summer Pops) now behind us, we look forward to being host to both the Flock and Colonial Theatres. Respectively, they will be providing performances of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing (starting June 26th) and Frank Ferrante's Groucho (starting July 30th). For additional information on these offerings as well as a host of smaller concerts, exercise classes, and more, please visit our <u>website events calendar</u>.



# youth services



It's time for \*drum roll, please\* <u>Summer Reading</u> at Westerly Library and Wilcox Park! This year's theme is Level Up at Your Library, and we're celebrating all kinds of games while leveling up our reading skills. Stop by the library anytime to sign up for Summer Reading. Everyone who signs up will receive a free book!

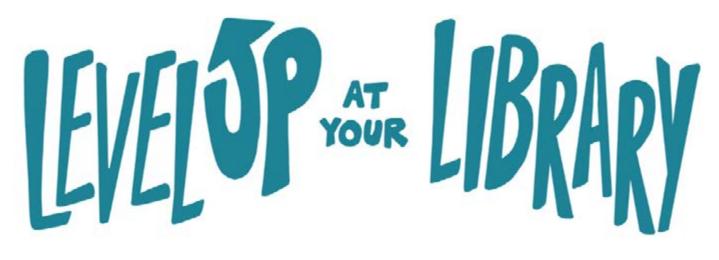
And don't forget, Summer Reading is just the beginning. We've got a whole summer of fun planned!

Teens can chill at our daily Teen Café from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. Swing by for a cold drink and a snack. If you're feeling creative, check out Nails at the Space, a biweekly nail-painting session on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. Or join our Lunch and Learn series on Thursdays to level up your lunch game with fun recipes like ramen, overnight oats, loaded mashed potatoes, and pizza rice bowls.

Tweens can get hands-on with the Society of Women Engineers, where they'll build air-powered rockets and shock absorber systems. We're also excited to introduce a brand-new program for tweens and teens: Mysticus Mindus! Have you always wanted to be a Dungeon Master but didn't know where to start? Let our experts, Ben and Lynn, show you the ropes in our very own Dungeon Master training program! Participants will receive an informational booklet, take a short test, and run a supervised game.

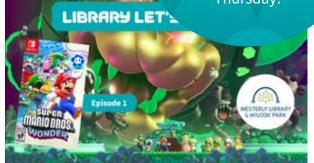
Kids can enjoy Kids Craft Time: Level Up Summer Crafts, where each week features a new craft inspired by our summer reading theme. Alongside our regular Wednesday Storytimes, we're thrilled to announce Seaside Storytimes in partnership with Westerly Recreation. Join us on Fridays at 10am at the Town Beach for stories by the shore! And don't miss our brand-new pirate series! Save the date for a Pirate Treasure Hunt in the park on July 24th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Registration is required to participate in this event. The pirate fun continues on July 25th with a Pirate Storytime and Picnic in the park from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

There's an adventure for everyone at the library. Stop by and level up!



## 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!





#### Super Mario Bros. Wonder Recommended by Ben

Take a classic Mario game and mix in a touch of Rayman Legends and you have Super Mario Bros Wonder. Equally accessible and full of surprises, this is a fun, lighthearted game that is fun to play either alone or with friends.

#### **Stardew Valley**

Recommended by Ben

Escape the hustle and bustle of life to go to your new farm in Stardew valley where you can live life at your own pace. Whether its farming, fishing, foraging, or hunting monsters in the local abandoned mine shaft, you can live the slow life of your dreams! The recent update has added a lot of new things, so even those who have played it before may want to give it another shot!

# youthpicks



#### <u>Let's find Pokémon</u> by Kazunori Aihara

Recommended by Mel

This book will provide hours of fun and excitement for Pokémon fans. Each page is packed with the lovable Pokémon characters, 150 in all, and readers must find them in the busy, colorful scenes.



#### *How to Dungeon Master Parenting* **by Shelly Mazzanoble** Recommended by Mel

A guidebook for gamifying the child rearing quest, leveling up your skills, and raising future adventurers.



#### <u>Curious George Goes to School</u> by Margaret Rey Recommended by Orson

Curious George makes a mistake in the art room of his school but finds a missing painting in time for an open house for parents of the students.



#### Hello Kitty island Adventure Recommended by Mel

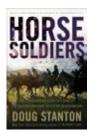
Explore an open world, meet charming Hello Kitty and Friends characters, solve ancient puzzles, cook delicious dishes, customize yourself and your cabins, and so much more.

for customized

## books, recommendations click here movies & more



Kimmie66 by Aaron Alexovich **Recommended by Ericka** A science fiction story about Telly Kade, a 14-year-old girl living in a future where virtual reality is a major part of life.



#### Horse Soldiers: the extraordinary story of a band of US soldiers who rode to victory in Afghanistan by **Doug Stanton**

Recommended by Rob Doug Stanton tells the astonishing story of twelve U.S. soldiers who rode horses into Afghanistan immediately following 9/11 to defeat the Taliban.



Food Person by Adam Roberts Recommended by Amanda An unemployed food writer agrees to

ghostwrite a cookbook for an erratic starlet looking to revive her career and reputation.



#### 84, Charing Cross Road by Helene Hanff

**Recommended by Penelope** 

A heartwarming love story about people who love books for readers who love booksThis funny, poignant, classic love story unfolds through a series of letters between Helene Hanff, a freelance writer living in New York City, and a used-book dealer in London at 84, Charing Cross Road.

#### The Big House: A Centruy in the Life of an American Summer Home by

#### **George Howe Colt**

Recommended by Casey Faced with the sale of the century-old family summer house on Cape Cod where he had spent forty-two summers, George Howe Colt recounts returning for one last stay with his wife and children.



#### Enoch Recommended by Keara

Something in the Heir by Suzanne

**Emmeline and William Pershing have** enjoyed a perfectly convenient marriage for eight years. Their relationship is a seamless blend of their talents and goals.



ome

#### <u>A Thousand Steps Into Night by Traci</u> Chee Recommended by Keara

In the realm of Awara, where gods, monsters, and humans exist side by side, Miuko is an ordinary girl resigned to a safe, if uneventful, existence as an innkeeper's daughter.



When Southern Women Cook: History: Lore, and 300 Recipes with Contributions from 70 Women Writers by America's Test Kitchen Recommended by Keara

A first-of-its-kind Southern cookbook featuring more than 300 Cook's Country recipes and fascinating insights into the culinary techniques and heroes of the American South.



13

Teen Cafe • daily • 2-3 pm

<u>Crafternoon To-Go</u> • 1st Monday, 7th • 9 am-8 pm

Kids Take & Make • 1st Monday, 7th • 9 am-8 pm

YouTube Yoga • Mondays, 7th & 21st • 9:30-10:30 am

Sewers in Stitches • Mondays weekly • 2-4 pm

Game On! • Mondays weekly • 3-4 pm

Mysticus Mundus • Mondays weekly • 3-4:30 pm

Thanksgiving Day Football: Westerly vs Stonington • Monday, 7th • 6-7 pm

Reptile Nook: Learn and See Animals • Monday, 14th • 10-11 am

The Poetry Gathering • 2nd Monday, 14th • 5-7 pm

Shaping the Future of Senior Housing • Tuesday, 1st • 9:30 am-3:30 pm

<u>Community Resource Advocate</u> • Tuesdays weekly • 1-3 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

Family Games Galore • Tuesdays weekly • 2-3 pm

Teen Dungeons & Dragons • Tuesdays weekly • 4-5:30 pm

Knit & Crochet Group • Tuesdays weekly • 5:30-7:30 pm

Mostly Fiction Book Club: "James" • 2nd Tuesday, 8th • 6-7:30 pm

Essentrics Stretch in the Park • Wednesdays weekly • 9:30-10 am

Storytime • Wednesdays weekly • 10-10:30 am

**Project Outreach Veterans Assistance** • 2nd Wednesday, 11th • 10-11 am

Tech Social • 2nd Wednesday, 9th • 1-2 pm • (hybrid)

Animation Nation • Wednesdays weekly • 2-3 pm

Teen Pride Alliance • Wednesdays bi-monthly, 2nd & 16th • 4-5 pm

## July 2025

Nails at the Space • Wednesdays, 9th, 23rd & 30th • 2-3 pm

Playdough Playtime • Wednesdays weekly • 3:30-4:30 pm

<u>Caregiver Support Group</u> • Second Wednesday, 9th • 5:30-6:30 pm

Cookbook Club: Vegetables Unleashed • Second Wednesday, 11th • 6-7:30 pm

Adult Retro Game Night • Wednesday, 16th • 5:30-7:30 pm

Sound Bath in the Park • Wednesday, 23rd • 6-7 pm

Silent Book Club • Wednesday, 30th • 5:30-7 pm

Way Back Wednesday Movie Night "Legally Blonde" • 30th • 6-7:45 pm

<u>Colonial Theatre Presents Frank Ferrante's</u> <u>"Groucho"</u> • Wednesday, 30th & Thursday, 31st • 8-9:45 pm

Friends Pop-Up Book Sale Thursdays weekly • 10 am-1 pm

<u>Mental Health Advocate</u> • Thursdays weekly, 10 am-12 pm

Three and Younger Playgroup Thursdays weekly • 10-10:45 am

Lunch & Learn Thursdays weekly • 2-3 pm

Kids Craft Time: Level Up Summer Thursdays weekly, • 4-5 pm

Chess Club • Thursdays weekly • 5:30-7:30 pm

Flock Theatre presents "Much Ado About Nothing" • Thursday, 3rd, Saturday, 5th, Sunday, 6th • 7-9 pm

Pirate Treasure Hunt • Thursday, 24th • 1-2 pm

Christmas in July: Ugly Sweater Contest • Thursday, 24th • 6-7 pm

Seaside Storytime • Fridays weekly beginning 11th • 9:30-10:30 am

Pirate Storytime & Picnic • Friday, 25th • 2-3 pm

Westerly Cross Stitchers Group • 1st & 3rd Saturday, 5th & 19th • 9 am-12 pm Westerly Writers Group • 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays • 10 am-12:30 pm

Dawnlands Experimental Music Festival • Saturday, 5th • 12-5 pm

URI Master Gardener Kiosk • 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 12th & 26th • 9 am-12 pm

Walking Tour of Wilcox Park: Native Flowers & Trees • 2nd Saturday, 12th • 10-11:30 am

Music in the Park | Kids & Family Album Release with Lianne Bassin • Saturday, 19th • 10:30-11:30 am

SWE-NESS Workshop: Mission to the Moon: Launch it • Saturday, 19th • 1-2 pm

Walking Tour of Wilcox Park: Specimen Trees • 4th Saturday, 26th • 10-11:30 am

Family Retro Gaming! • Saturday, 26th • 11 am-1 pm

AIR Tina HIrsig Open House | Champion Trees: Roots & Branches • Saturday, 26th • 2-4 pm

## **July 2025**

#### Sewers in Stitches: Mondays • 2:00-4:00 PM • Terrace Room Knit & Crochet Group: Tuesdays • 5:30-7:30 PM • Makerspace The Poetry Gathering: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month • 5:00-7:00 PM • Terrace Room Caregiver Support Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month • 5:30-6:30 PM • Roberts Room Cookbook Club: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month • 6:00-7:30 PM • Terrace Room Tech Social: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month • 1-2 PM • Makerspace and via Zoom Silent Book Club: Last Wednesday of the month • 5:30-7:00 PM • Old Main Reading Room Chess Club (All ages): Thursdays • 5:30-7:30 PM • Old Main Reading Room Westerly Cross Stitchers Group: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays • 9 AM-12 PM • Roberts Room Westerly Writers Group: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays • 10:00 AM-12:30 PM • Makerspace

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

#### holidays • closings

Friday • July 4th • Closed for Independence Day

#### 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

