

THE chronicle

A WLWP Digital Publication



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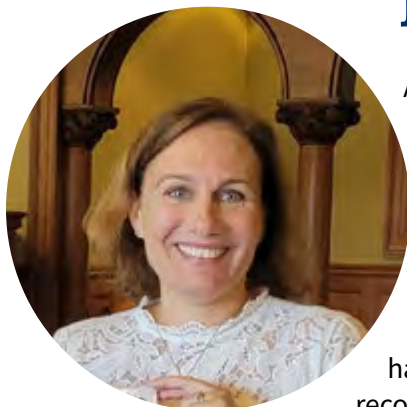
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from the executive director



As the year draws to a close and the spirit of giving fills the air, I want to take a moment to thank you - our patrons, neighbors, and friends - for making Westerly Library & Wilcox Park such a vibrant and cherished part of our community.

This December, consider giving the gift of knowledge, imagination, and connection. A library card is free, but its value is immeasurable. Whether you're looking for a cozy winter read, streaming movies, language learning tools, Makerspace equipment to make a personalized gift, or tech help, we have something for everyone. We also have curated Binge Boxes and reading recommendations - perfect for holiday gift ideas!

And as the temperatures drop, Wilcox Park remains a peaceful haven. Bundle up and enjoy a brisk walk among the trees or bring the family for a festive photo under the twinkling lights. The park is a gift in itself - open to all, every day of the year.

Don't miss our December programs & Holiday Happenings: storytimes, craft/gift giving workshops, wreathmaking, and more. And don't forget to pick up some Westerly Library & Wilcox Park branded totes, tees, hats, and mugs. Round out your gift giving - for that special someone or just for yourself, with some yummy treats from The Candy Box, who will be in The Pop-Up @ Coy from December 16-20.

From all of us at Westerly Library & Wilcox Park, thank you for your continued support. May your holidays be filled with warmth, wonder, and the joy of shared stories.

Warmly,

Brigitte Hopkins
Executive Director

P.S. As a non-profit library & park, we rely on financial gifts to help support operations, from general upkeep and maintenance to programs and services. Our community is important, and your support directly impacts what we can provide to our community. Consider a year end gift towards our [Annual Fund](#).



Wednesday, December 3rd, 5-8 PM

Holiday Pop-Up Shop & Gingerbread House Competition

Join Westerly Library & Wilcox Park for our Holiday Pop-Up! Stop in during the Holiday Stroll to say hello and stock up on gifts for the literature lovers in your life! Located in The Pop-Up at Coy, we will have Westerly Library & Wilcox Park gear and literary-themed gifts for purchase.

While you're here, wander the Gingerbread Village built by fellow community members and vote on your favorites! The Village will be displayed in the Old Main Reading Room the same evening. Registration is required to participate. [Click here](#) for details and to register!



Letters to Santa • Monday, December 1-15, during library hours • Kids Room

Mail your letters to Santa in our special Santa Mailbox and be sure to put your address on it, because he may even write you back!

Teen Gifts & Goodies • Wednesdays, December 3, 10 & 17, 4-5 pm • Teen Space

Create and wrap handmade gifts for your loved ones!

Crafternoon To-Go | Handmade Holiday: Mini Book Garland • Wednesday, December 3, 5-8 pm • The Pop-Up at Coy

Pick up a special “Handmade Holiday” edition Crafternoon To-Go kit at our Holiday Pop-Up Shop! Kits are first come, first served, and only available during the Holiday Stroll. Each kit comes with the supplies you need to make your own festive Mini Book Garland to kick-start your holiday decorating.

Cookbook Club | Cookie Swap • Wednesday, December 10, 6:00-7:30 pm • Terrace Room

This month is our annual COOKIE SWAP! Participants are invited to bring 3 dozen of their favorite cookies to share with the group. Details and **registration (required)** at the link above, or contact Reference at reference@westerlylibrary.org or (401) 596-2877 x306.

Family Movie Matinee: Home Alone • Saturday, December 27, 1-3 pm • Auditorium

Each month we will be featuring a generational favorite that can be passed down to young movie buffs. This month, we will be watching Home Alone and make your own finger trap! Rated PG.

The Most Generous Day of the Year



GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, 12/2

"What better way is there to give back to your community? By supporting Westerly Library and Wilcox Park, you give a gift to the tens of thousands of people every year who visit and enjoy these destinations."

~ Maria Bernier, President, Board of Trustees

[Click to Support Your Library & Park](#)

Wreath-Making Workshop

Thursday, December 4th, 5:30-7:30 PM

Join us for a special wreath-making workshop featuring fresh evergreens cut from Wilcox Park. Our staff will share botanical information, instruction, and tips for creating a stunning holiday wreath. Greens, ribbons, frames, wire, decorative elements, and refreshments will be provided.

*This is a festive fundraiser and a fun way to support Westerly Library & Wilcox Park! [Click here](#) for details.





MURDER BY THE BOOK

JAN. 23, 2026

IN WESTERLY LIBRARY AT 6:00 PM



Scan to Purchase Tickets

Early Bird Special!
\$85 per person
until 4pm on Dec. 31

\$100 per person
after 4pm on Dec. 31

\$150 per person
VIP Tickets



Join us for an interactive murder mystery event!
The year is 1946 and a body is discovered in the library.
Detective William "Willie" Soffit is on the case, but he needs
your help. Join the citizen detective squad to figure out
whodunit! Collect clues throughout the library and enjoy live
performances from potential suspects as you try to crack the
case. Tickets include food stations and open bar. Try your
luck in the 50/50 raffle. Stumped? Buy a bonus clue!

westerlylibrary.org/event/murderbythebook | 401-596-2877 X 322 | sjackson@westerlylibrary.org

SPECIAL AGENT SPONSOR | \$5,000



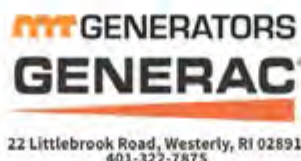
Friends
of Westerly Library & Wilcox Park

DETECTIVE SPONSOR | \$2,500



PARSONSKELLOGG

WHODUNIT SPONSORS | \$1,000



For details on our upcoming fundraiser, or to sponsor, please click the image above or visit:
westerlylibrary.org/event/murderbythebook

service spotlight

public services



Giving Tree

Beginning Monday, December 1st stop by our Giving Tree on the 1st floor to contribute new, gently used and handmade knitted items such as hats, scarves, or gloves, or pick up something warm for yourself or a loved one during the cold months.

[For our full calendar of events, click here or visit: westerlylibrary.org/calendar-of-events](http://westerlylibrary.org/calendar-of-events)

program spotlights

youth services

Chapters, Cookies & Coloring Club, Tuesdays beginning December 2, 4:00-4:45 pm, Kids Room Castle



This winter, kids ages 6 and older are welcome to escape the cold and join us for Chapters, Cookies, & Coloring Club! Kids will be invited to enjoy a sweet snack and work on a themed coloring page while listening to the beginning of a chapter book read aloud by our Kids Librarian. We will begin a new book each week, so join in on the fun anytime!

Teen Maker Monday, Mondays beginning December 1, 4-5 pm, Teen Space



Maker Monday is a collaborative workspace where teens can design, create, and learn new skills. Month by month we will focus on variety of tools and materials. For December we'll be focusing on "Yarn Arts: Loom Weaving".

Tween Craft Time: New Each Week, Thursdays, 4-5 pm, Tween Space



Join us in the Tween Space every Thursday for a new craft! Crafts are planned for ages 9-12.

12/04, 12/11 & 12/18: Holiday Cards and Homemade Gifts

Teen Craft Collective, Thursdays, 4-5 pm, Teen Space



Join in for a variety of fun and creative endeavors all month. Full access to the craft closet and guided use of the featured crafting equipment each Thursday. Refreshing drinks and snacks will be provided.

December: All Things Acrylic - practice your artistry and experiment with different mediums to paint.

program spotlights

all ages

[Puzzle Competition & Swap, Saturday, December 6, 10 am-12 pm, Terrace Room](#)



It's a puzzlepaloosa! Teams of up to 4 people (all ages welcome) will compete to see who can solve a 500 piece jigsaw puzzle the fastest! Teams will have 2 hours to complete the puzzle, and prizes will

be awarded to the winners and runners-up! In the event that no team finishes within the timeframe, the team that is closest to completion will be named the winner. Spectators are welcome!

During the event, we will also be hosting a Puzzle Swap! Bring a new or like-new puzzle to share, and leave with some new (to you) puzzles to complete at home. Puzzles can be dropped off at the 2nd floor information desk the week before the event, or you may drop them off during the event.

This event is free and open to the public, but [pre-registration is required](#) for those wishing to compete. Those interested in joining the swap do not need to register. Space is limited. Individuals who would like to compete, but do not have a team, are welcome to register and we will group you together!

Questions? Contact Reference at reference@westerlylibrary.org, or (401) 596-2877 x306

WANTED DUNGEON MASTERS

Do you love tabletop RPG games such as Dungeons and Dragons or Pathfinder?

Westerly Library & Wilcox Park's Youth Services department is looking for VOLUNTEER Game Masters to help us run games for Tweens and Teens.

Join our team to bring adventures to life!

Contact: (401) 596-2877

Teen Games Contact:

Lynn Dougan: ext 301 • ldougan@westerlylibrary.org

Tween Games Contact:

Ben Green: ext 316 • bgreen@westerlylibrary.org

national cocoa day



December 13th is National Cocoa Day! It's recognized to honor the historical significance of cocoa, which was first mass-produced in the American colonies on December 13th, 1765 by James Baker. The roots of cocoa trace back to ancient civilizations, over 2000 years ago, where the Mayans and Aztecs were among the first to cultivate and consume it.

Celebrate it with us in The Pop-Up at Coy on Saturday, December 13th from 11 AM-1 PM!

Serve yourself a hot cup of cocoa, and trade bookmarks and book recommendations. Enjoy a cozy coloring page and warm conversation.

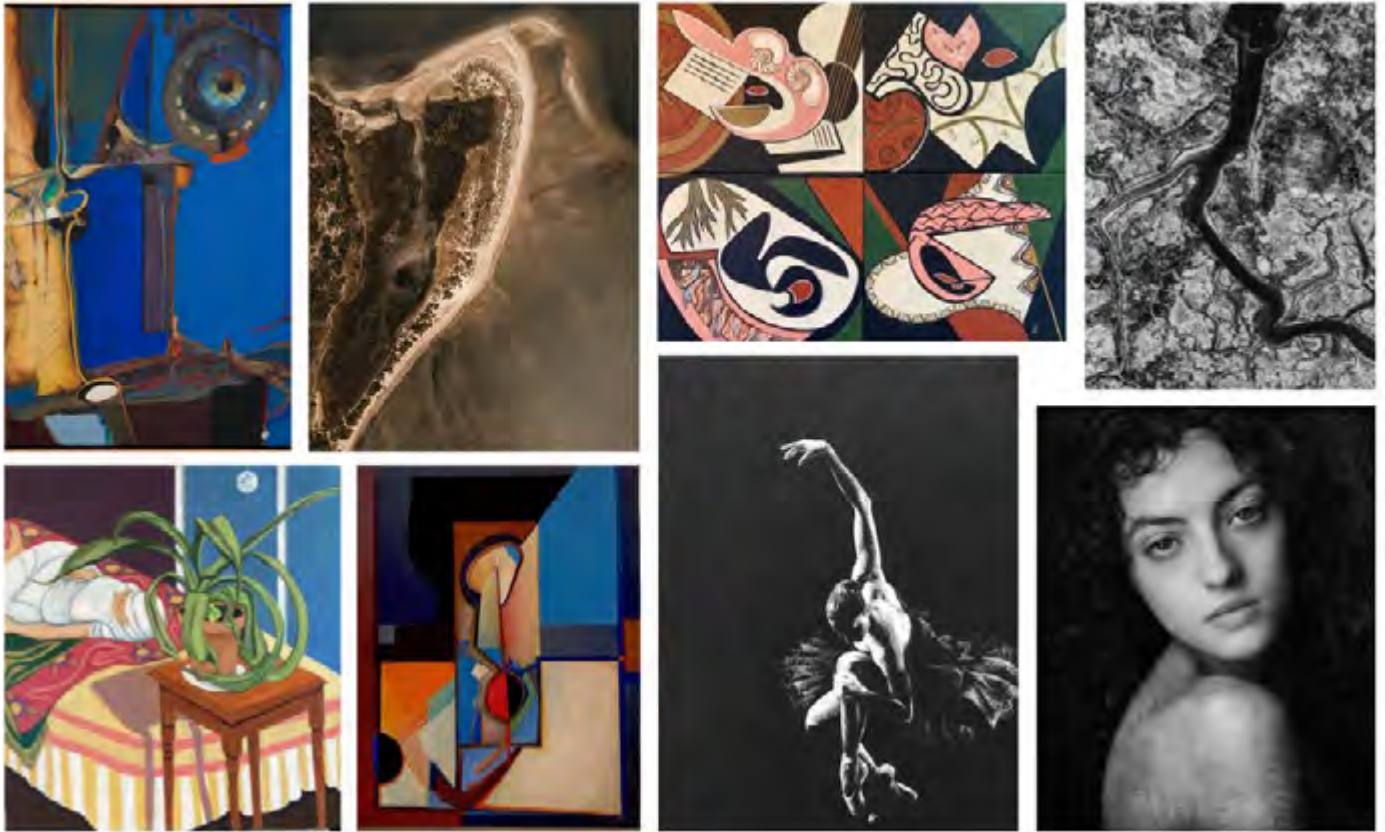
Cocoa and conversation will be available starting at 11 am and continue while supplies last.

[Click here](#) for a curated a list of picture books to enjoy with a cup of hot cocoa!

[For our full calendar of events, click here or visit: westerlylibrary.org/calendar-of-events](https://westerlylibrary.org/calendar-of-events)

hanging in the hoxie

December Exhibition | Artistic Visions of the Butcher Family



This month's exhibit will feature works by local artists and family, Aubrey Feliciano, Jill Butcher, William Butcher Jr. and William Butcher III! Head to the Hoxie Gallery from 5-7 pm Wednesday, December 3rd for an opportunity to meet the artists and enjoy light bites. Works can be viewed in the Hoxie Gallery from Wednesday, December 3rd-Thursday, January 1st, during library hours.

About the artists:

William Butcher's paintings explore personal visions with images derived from life experiences such as landscapes from above and seascapes from below the waves. With the use of texture from various materials and the use of acrylic mediums and paints these images and visual ideas are brought to life.

William Butcher III is a professional photographer by trade focusing on portraiture and various commercial ventures. He is also a painter who is highly experimental with texture and the use of numerous acrylic paint systems and mediums. William's personal photographic work includes the use of a camera equipped drone and various other vantage points for his powerful imagery.

Drawing on an extensive background as a ballet dancer **Aubrey Feliciano**, who is also a college trained visual artist, has brought to life the wonder the beauty and the intense physical difficulty of this art form through her marvelous command of drawing. Also through drawing Aubrey has explored the wonders and mystery of various sea creatures for which she has a passion for.

Jill Abele Butcher has a deep talent and commanding passion for painting. Through extensive drawing and with an innate vision and skill for design, Jill brings to life her personal images through her command of the acrylic paint and medium system.

For more information on the artists, upcoming exhibits, and the Hoxie Gallery please visit:

westerlylibrary.org/hoxie-gallery

**Opening
Reception**
Wednesday,
December 3rd,
5-7 PM

air

artist-in-residence

To learn more about our AIR program, upcoming artists, or to apply, please visit: westerlylibrary.org/artist-in-residence

*Our 2026 AIR Program is now full. We are accepting submissions for 2027 residencies with a rolling deadline. To be considered for a 2026 residency in the event one opens up, please note that in your application submission.



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 above or visit the link to inquire.

the pop-up at coy

The Candy Box • Tuesday, December 16th-Saturday, December 20th:

Established in 1955, The Candy Box has been creating a fun and memorable summer experience for visitors to Watch Hill for over 60 years. Family owned & operated, we are the purveyors of the finest collection of handmade chocolates & old fashioned candies. We are excited to offer our specialty items for the holidays. We will have a variety of stocking stuffers, hostess gifts & yummy handmade chocolate treats. [Click here](http://westerlylibrary.org/thepopupatcoy) for market hours or visit: westerlylibrary.org/thepopupatcoy



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.



HOMEBOUND DELIVERY

A library service for homebound patrons, delivered to you by our volunteers! Service provides monthly delivery and pickup of materials provided to those unable to visit the library, upon approval. Must be a Westerly or Town of Stonington resident.

For more information or to apply, please call 401-596-2877 x342 or visit:
www.westerlylibrary.org/homebound-delivery



**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

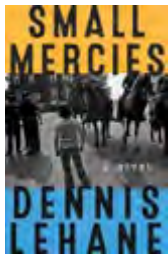
If you have concerns about your wellbeing and want to talk to someone, feel free to stop in to see Toby, available weekly.

email: advocate@westerlylibrary.org

Visit our website events calendar for their most up-to-date schedules.

books, media & more

for customized
recommendations
click here



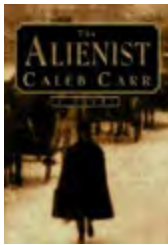
[Small Mercies](#) by Dennis Lehane
Recommended by Stacy

One night Mary Pat's teenage daughter Jules stays out late and doesn't come home. Mary Pat, propelled by a desperate search for her missing daughter, begins turning over stones best left untouched.



[Atmosphere](#) by Taylor Jenkins Reid
Recommended by Julianna

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo and Daisy Jones & The Six comes an epic new novel set against the backdrop of the 1980s Space Shuttle program about the extraordinary lengths we go to live and love beyond our limits.



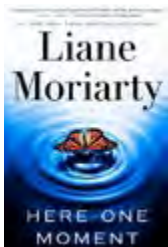
[The Alienist](#) by Caleb Carr
Recommended by Claire

Set in New York City in 1896, The Alienist tells the story of Dr. Laszlo Kreizler, a psychologist ("alienist," in the parlance of the day) who leads a secret investigation into a string of gruesome killings.



[Firefly Beach](#) by Luanne Rice
Recommended by Brigitte

Under the summer sky, anything is possible as three sisters come face-to-face with the past and find in each other the courage to go on.



[Here one moment: a novel](#) by Liane Moriarty
Recommended by Sara

A woman stands up on a plane, and predicts when everyone will die. Everyone laughs it off until it starts to come true.



[The Bombshell: a novel](#) by Darrow Farr
Recommended by Kim

The story of a young woman who is kidnapped by Corsican separatists, forms intense bonds with her captors, and becomes the global face of a radical movement in the early nineties



[We Spread](#) by Iain Reid
Recommended by Cassie

Penny, an artist, has lived in the same apartment for decades, surrounded by the artifacts and keepsakes of her long life. She is resigned to the mundane rituals of old age, until things start to slip.



[Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow](#) by Gabrielle Zevin
Recommended by Colleen

A modern love story about two childhood friends who reunite as adults to create video games, finding an intimacy in digital worlds that eludes them in their real lives.

youth picks



Our Castle by the Sea by Lucy Strange

Recommended by Casey

England is at war. Growing up in a lighthouse, Pet's world has been one of storms, secret tunnels and stories about sea monsters. But now the clifftops are a terrifying battleground, and her family is torn apart.



Once Upon a Broken Heart by Stephanie Garber

Recommended by Hannah

Raised in her father's curiosity shop, Evangeline Fox grew up on legends about immortals, like the tragic Prince of Hearts. He has plans for Evangeline that will either end in the greatest happily ever after... or the most exquisite tragedy.



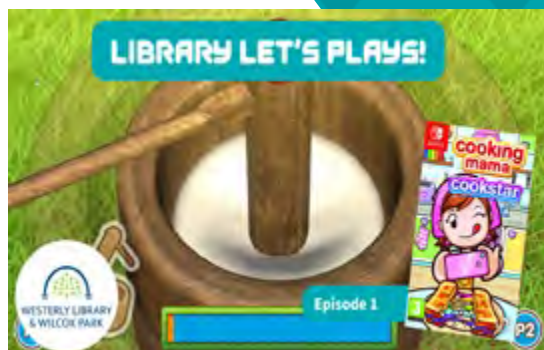
Pokemon adventures by Hidenori Kusaka

Recommended by Ben

Pokemon trainers Pearl and Diamond are starstruck! Their lifelong dream is to floor an audience with their Pokemon comedy act. So how do they wind up as bodyguards to a pampered little rich girl on a quest to reach the peak of Mt. Coronet...?!

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!



Balatro

Recommended by Ben

Balatro is a hypnotically satisfying deckbuilder where you play illegal poker hands, discover game-changing jokers, and trigger adrenaline-pumping, outrageous combos.



Mario Kart 8 Deluxe

Recommended by Hannah

Jump into the driver's seat with more tracks, modes, and features than ever before! New faces to race with! Duke it out in a new-and-improved battle mode.

all programs

Program Highlights

- [Crafternoon To-Go | Handmade Holiday, Wednesday, December 3, 5:00-8:00 pm](#)
- [December Exhibition | Artistic Visions of the Butcher Family, Wednesday, December 3, 5:00-7:00 pm](#)
- [Gingerbread House Competition: Wander the Village and Vote, Wednesday, December 3, 5:00-8:00 pm](#)
- [Holiday Pop-Up Shop, Wednesday, December 3, 5:00-8:00 pm](#)
- [Wreath-Making Workshop, Thursday, December 4, 5:30-7:30 pm](#)
- [Puzzle Competition & Swap, Saturday, December 6, 10:00 am-12:00 pm](#)
- [RIDOT Rail Plan Public Listening Session, Wednesday, December 10, 6:00-7:30 pm](#)
- [Celebrate National Cocoa Day at the Library, Saturday, December 13, 11:00 am-1:00 pm](#)
- [The Candy Box Pop-Up Shop, December 16-20](#)
- [Family Movie Matinee: Home Alone, December 27, 1:00-3:00 pm](#)

Ongoing Programs & Events

MAKERSPACE

[Laser Basics, Thursdays, December 4 & 18, 6:00-6:30 pm](#)

[Sewing Basics, Wednesday, December 10, 6:00-6:30 pm](#)

[Open Art Studio, Wednesday, December 10, 6:30-7:30 pm](#)

ADULTS

[Caregiver Support Group, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:30-6:30 pm](#)

[Chess Club, Thursdays, Excluding 12/25, 5:30-7:30pm](#)

[Cookbook Club | Cookie Swap!, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:00-7:30 pm](#)

[Crafternoon To-Go, 1st Monday of the month, 9 am-8 pm](#)

[The Dramatic Book Club, 1st Monday of the Month, \(December 8 this month\) 2-4 pm](#)

[Knit and Crochet, Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30pm](#)

[Learn the Language of Ireland with Irish Coastal Club, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm](#)

[Mostly Fiction Book Club, 2nd Tuesday of the Month, 6:00-7:30 pm](#)

[The Poetry Gathering, 2nd Monday of the Month, 5-7 pm](#)

[Sewers in Stitches, Mondays, 2-4 pm](#)

[Westerly Area Needle Workers, 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 9 am - 12 pm](#)

[Westerly Writers Group, 1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturdays, 10:00 am-12:30 pm](#)

TEENS

[Homeschool Hangout: Office Hours, Wednesdays, Excluding 12/24, 1-3 pm](#)

[Teen Cafe, Saturdays, 1-3 pm](#)

[Teen Craft Collective, Thursdays, Excluding 12/25, 4-5 pm](#)

[Teen Maker Monday, Mondays, 4-5 pm](#)

[Teen and Tween Young Adventurers Guild, Tuesdays, 4:00-5:30 pm](#)

[Teen Gifts and Goodies, Wednesdays, Excluding 12/24, 4-5 pm](#)

TWEENS

[Homeschool Hangout: Office Hours, Wednesdays, Excluding 12/24, 1-3 pm](#)

[Tween Craft Time, Thursdays, Excluding 12/25, 4-5 pm](#)

D&D

Homeschool Group: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm

Teen and Tween Young Adventurers Guild,
Tuesdays, 4:00-5:30 pm

Group 2: Tuesdays, 5:00-6:30 pm

Group 3: Wednesdays, Excluding 12/24 & 12/31,
4:30-6:00 pm

KIDS

Chapters, Cookies, & Coloring Club, Tuesdays,
4:00-4:45 pm

Homeschool Hangout: Office Hours, Wednesdays,
Excluding 12/24, 1-3 pm

Kids Craft Time, Thursdays, Excluding 12/25, 4-5
pm

Kids Take & Make, 1st Monday of the month, 9 am-8
pm

Letters to Santa, December 1st-15th, Business Hours

Storytime, Wednesdays, Excluding 12/24, 10:00-
10:30 am

Three & Younger Playgroup, Thursdays, Excluding
12/25, 10:00-10:45 am

RESOURCES/INFORMATIONAL TABLES

Community Resources Advocate, Tuesdays, 1-4 pm

Mental Health Advocate, Thursdays, Excluding
12/25 10 am-12 pm

Project Outreach Veterans Assistance, 2nd
Wednesday of the month, 10-11 am

PARK

*See Program Highlights



Clubs & Meetups

Sewers in Stitches: Mondays • 2:00-4:00 PM • Terrace Room

Knit & Crochet Group: Tuesdays • 5:30-7:30 PM • Makerspace

The Dramatic Book Club • 1st Monday of the month • 2-4 pm • Roberts Room

The Poetry Gathering: 3rd Monday of the month • 5:00-7:00 PM • Terrace Room

Monday Night Book Discussion: 3rd Monday of the month • 5:30-6:45 PM • Roberts Room

Mostly Fiction Book Club: 2nd Tuesday of the month • 6:00-7:30 pm • Terrace Room

Learn the Language of Ireland: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month • 6:30-7:30 pm • Terrace Room

Caregiver Support Group: 2nd Wednesday of the month • 5:30-6:30 PM • Roberts Room

Cookbook Club: 2nd Wednesday of the month • 6:00-7:30 PM • Terrace Room

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 Area Needleworkers: 1st & 3rd Saturdays • 9 AM-12 PM • Roberts Room

Westerly Writers Group: 1st & 3rd & 5th Saturdays • 10:00 AM-12:30 PM • Makerspace

December 2025

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

holidays • closings

Tuesday, December 9 • Open at 1 pm for Staff Development

Friday, December 12 • Closing Early at 1 pm for Staff Appreciation

Wednesday, December 24 & Thursday, December 25th • Closed for Christmas Eve & Christmas

Wednesday, December 31 • Closing Early for New Year's Eve

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



**WESTERLY LIBRARY
& WILCOX PARK**