

THE **chronicle**

A WLWP Digital Publication



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from the executive director



February is Library Lovers' Month, which makes it the perfect excuse for me to gush about one of our community's quiet but powerful institutions: Westerly Library & Wilcox Park. Library lovers already know we're not just a building filled with books — we're a place of curiosity, a gateway to opportunity, and one of the most vibrant and welcoming public spaces around. For anyone who has ever wandered through the stacks, discovered a new favorite author, or found a moment of calm in a reading nook, the magic is unmistakable. If you know, you know.

For those who haven't yet discovered just how amazing libraries are — or haven't found that love of reading yet - February might be the perfect month to start. A few simple tips can help you ease into a reading habit:

- Start small with short stories or graphic novels.
- Too busy? Try audiobooks — yes, listening absolutely counts as reading.
- Pay attention to your reading style and what draws you in.
- Join a reading challenge or book group. [Ours](#) are a great place to start, and the extra motivation can make all the difference.

And don't worry if the first book you pick up doesn't grab you. Keep trying. When in doubt, ask one of our librarians - nothing makes them happier than helping someone find that book, the one that turns a casual reader into a full-fledged bibliophile.

One's desire to learn, discover, and dream keeps us searching for our next great read. Over the years, I've learned the types of books that speak to me: psychological thrillers like those by Gillian Flynn, transgressive fiction from Chuck Palahniuk, historical fiction by Kristin Hannah or Erik Larson, and the magical realism of Sarah Addison Allen or Alice Hoffman. Even though I know what I like, I still struggle to find new authors sometimes - but when I do, there's nothing better.

And of course, we're not just about books. Library lovers already know that, but whether you visit every day or haven't stepped inside in years, I encourage you to stop by and take a walk around. You might stumble upon something you didn't even know we offered - from our Cookbook Club and Art Exhibits to our Makerspace and Library of Things.

Library Lovers' Month exists to remind us to appreciate libraries as vibrant community hubs and to celebrate all the people who make them possible. Whether you're a patron, a donor, a volunteer, or someone lucky enough to work in a library, this month honors everything libraries make possible. And if you haven't visited in a while, February is a wonderful time to fall in love with your library all over again.

Warmly,

Brigitte Hopkins
Executive Director

New Service Highlight

We have newly added assistive technology items available for use in our Makerspace! [Make an appointment](#) or stop in with our Tech staff to use or learn more about available equipment.

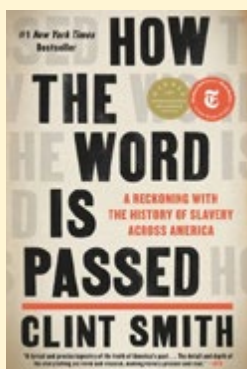
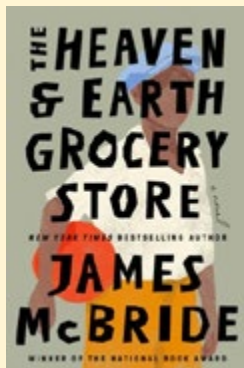


- **Scanmarker Pals:** Scans, reads aloud, and translates printed text in over 140 languages.
- **Nulea Trackball Mice:** Provides precise tracking, reduces muscle stress and assists dexterity issues from traditional mouse utilization.
- **Perkins Brailier:** Allows the user to produce braille notation.
- **Braille Keyboards:** Allows a person who is blind or has low-vision access to typing.
- **Large Print Keyboards:** Allows a person who has low-vision access to typing.
- **Clearview+ Speech Desktop Magnifier:** Displays text at various magnification levels, reads text aloud using OCR to change text into speech to help people who are blind or have low-vision.
- **LED Hands Free Magnifying Glass:** Magnifies up to 10 x 7 inches, perfect for books, magazines, various devices, and monitor screens.
- **JBL Wireless Headphones:** Streams wirelessly from various devices.

black history month

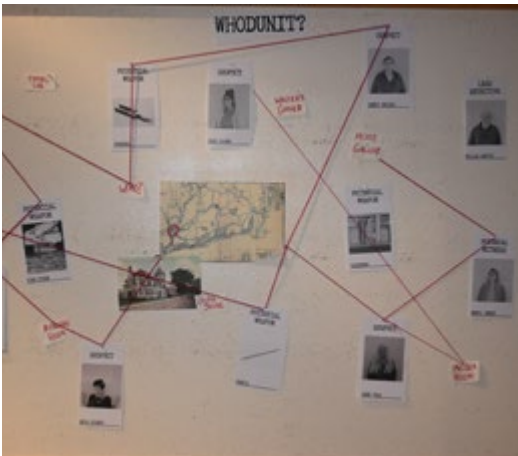
In honor of
Black History Month,
check out these
recommendations
written by
Black authors!

Black History Month is an annual observance dedicated to recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. Its roots date back to 1926 and is intended to educate the public on Black contributions to civilization. The commemoration was officially expanded to a month-long celebration in 1976. 2026 will mark the centennial celebration of the very first Negro History Week.



thank YOU

Our Murder by the Book 'Whodunit' fundraiser took us back in time and what a night we had! Thank you to our staff and volunteers, Friends of Westerly Library and Wilcox Park and all of our sponsors, Gourmet Galley Catering, and everyone who came to play, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for your continued support!



national library lovers' month



**Tell us why you
love your library!**



#nationallibraryloversmonth

February is National Library Lovers' Month and to help us celebrate we want to know why you love your library! Tag us on social media or stop by our Circulation desk and fill out a heart to share what you love about Westerly Library & Wilcox Park.

program spotlights

adult services

[Soup-er Bowl 2026, Saturday, February 7, 12-1 pm, Terrace Room](#)



In advance of Super Bowl Sunday, we're celebrating Soup-er Bowl Saturday! Join us to taste a variety of soups made by members of the public, and vote for your favorite! All are welcome, and you do not need to submit a soup in order to enjoy the meal. To register to submit, please visit: westerlylibrary.org/event/soup-er-bowl-2026 or contact Reference at reference@westerlylibrary.org or x306.

[Dante Society of Westerly presents: 'It's Gelato, not Ice Cream!' with Melanie Wolf Saturday, February 7, 1-3 pm, Auditorium](#)



Is there a difference between gelato and ice cream? Absolutely! Join Melanie Wolf as she shares her journey to master the art and science of making this delicious treat. Wolf began by traveling with her husband, Denis St. Amand, to Bologna, Italy to attend Gelato University. She returned to take more advanced courses on the chemistry and science behind it so she could create her own flavors.

[Seed Starting Presentation + Free Seed Kits, Saturday, February 14, 11 am-12 pm, Auditorium](#)



Join Master Gardener Sara Michaud for a presentation on starting your spring vegetable garden from seeds. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session, and all attendees will receive a free seed starting kit, along with their choice of seeds from our newly stocked Seed Library! Registration is encouraged by calling Reference at (401) 596-2877 x306 or visit: westerlylibrary.org/event/seed-starting-presentation-free-seed-kits

[From Liberty to Legacy: Exploring American Ideals in the Musicals "1776" and "Hamilton", Thursday, February 26, 6-7 pm, Auditorium](#)



1776 and *Hamilton*: two American musicals telling the story of the founding of our nation. Join Michael Langlois for a lecture that looks at these revolutionary musicals and their contrasting visions of an American society at a crossroads. Note: this lecture features video clips from the two musicals.

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

program spotlights

youth services

[Winter Olympics Reading Challenge, February 2-28, during library hours](#)



Join us for some Olympic fun and test your reading skills! Are you up for the challenge? Sign up by picking up a reading log passport at the Kids/Tween or Teen desks! Challenge runs from February 2nd-28th, during regular library hours. For details on prizes, click or visit: westerlylibrary.org/event/winter-olympics-reading-challenge?recur_number=1

[Homeschool Hangout, Mondays, 10 am-12 pm, Terrace Room](#)



Join us in the Terrace Room for our weekly homeschool hangout. From February 2nd to March 28th, we will be hosting a “Little Engineers” series to explore different building topics paired with an exciting activity! For details and weekly themes, please click or visit: westerlylibrary.org/event/homeschool-hangout-1

[Pokémon Club, Every other Friday beginning February 6, 4-5 pm, Tween Space](#)



Kids ages 7-12 are welcome to join us in the Tween space to enjoy everything Pokémon! We have cards, crafts and more so come check it out!

[Teen Cafe: Winter Break Edition, February 17-20, 12-2 pm, Teen Space](#)



Join us everyday during the Winter Break week in the Teen Space for a hot drink, a tasty snack, and friendly conversation.

program spotlights

public services

[Open Art Studio, Wednesdays, February 4 & 18, 6:30-7:30 pm, Makerspace](#)



Are you looking for an open space to create your own art? Stop by the Makerspace and use our many tools to paint, sew, knit, make jewelry, and so much more! Ages 16 and up, younger ages need parental guidance.

[Laser Basics, Thursdays, February 12 & 26, 6:00-6:30 pm, Makerspace](#)



Have you heard about our laser printer, the Glowforge? It's perfect for personalized gifts and projects. Learn how to use this incredible piece of technology with the help of a knowledgeable staff member. Ages 16 and up.

all ages

[Olympic Watch Party, Wednesday, February 18, 12-4 pm, Auditorium](#)



Join us in cheering on Team USA at the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympics! Drop in to the Auditorium anytime between 12-4 PM for crafts and refreshments.

[Lunar New Year 2026, Saturday, February 28, 11 am-1 pm, Wilcox Park & Terrace Room](#)



Come and celebrate Lunar New Year with us and usher in the Year of the Horse! Westerly Library and Wilcox Park has an afternoon of fun planned, which begins with an amazing Chinese Lion Dance performance out in Wilcox Park. Head up to the Terrace Room for a variety of crafts and treats for all ages. Decorate your own wooden horse head decal, learn the art of hand-folding dumplings, explore traits about your zodiac, receive a fortune, and create your own horse sticker!



We're ushering in the Year of the Horse with themed activities and events for all ages, all month long below.

KIDS

Monday, 02/02, 9 am-8 pm: [Kids Take & Make: Lunar New Year Rocking Horse](#)

Wednesday, 02/11, 10:00-10:30 am: [Storytime: Lunar New Year](#)

Thursday, 02/26, 4-5 pm: [Kids Craft Time: Year of the Horse Bracelets](#)

TWEENS

Thursday, 02/19, 4-5 pm: [Tween Craft Time: Year of the Horse Cardboard Horses](#)

Thursday, 02/26, 4-5 pm: [Tween Craft Time: Year of the Horse Puppets](#)

TEENS

All month long:
Year of the Horse book display; DIY Tiny Art:
Chinese zodiac symbols

Mondays in February, 4-5 pm: [Teen Maker Monday: Create a Paper Horse Automation](#)

ADULTS

Monday, 02/02, 9 am-8 pm: [Crafternoon To-Go: Horseshoe Sun Catchers](#)

ALL AGES

Saturday, 02/28, 11 am-1 pm: [Lunar New Year 2026](#)
11:00-11:45 am: [Lion Dancers in Wilcox Park](#)
11:45 am-1:00 pm: Crafts and treats in Terrace Room

For our full calendar of events, click here or visit: westerlylibrary.org/calendar-of-events

hanging in the hoxie

February Exhibition | Group Show: “Four Visions”



This month's exhibit will feature works by local artists Jean Duffy, Eric Hovermale, Donna St Amant, and George Salter! Head to the Hoxie Gallery from 5-7 pm Wednesday, February 4th for an opportunity to meet the artists and enjoy light bites. Works can be viewed in the Hoxie Gallery from Wednesday, February 4th-Thursday, February 26th during library hours.

About the artists:

Multi Award winning and internationally shown photographer **Jean Duffy** resides in Hope Valley, RI and received her BFA from Rhode Island School of Design. Dean will feature her Infrared Photography as well as her Abandoned Series in this exhibit.

Eric Hovermale lives and works in Newport, RI. Although he studied to be a fine art painter, he has concentrated on photography for the past twenty years. His subject matter centers principally on the portrait and the figure.

Donna St Amant uses a high-resolution flat bed scanner as her 'studio camera', and objects are placed directly on the scanner glass with the cover left open. She builds depth and layers from foreground to background on the glass surface.

George Salter is an award-winning photographer and world traveler based in Rhode Island. For many years he has specialized in street portraiture in countries all over the world, using photography to share the stories of daily struggles and triumphs written on the faces of people in their native lands. His travels have brought him to such places as Cuba, Bolivia, the Philippines, Kenya, Egypt, Russia, India, Bhutan and, in June 2025, Ethiopia.

**Opening
Reception**
Wednesday,
February 4th,
5-7 PM

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

westerlylibrary.org/hoxie-gallery



air

artist-in-residence

February/March 2026

Writer/Director

Dave Solomon

save the date:

Wednesday, March 11, 6:00-7:30 PM

Script Reading with Local Actor Angela Goethals & more.



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





Friends Pop-up Book Sale • February 10th-14th

Stock up on books during the Friends of Westerly Library and Wilcox Park's used book sale. The "Bookshoppe" will be open during the following hours:

February 10 & 11: 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

February 12: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

February 13 & 14: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Girl Scouts Cookie Booth • February 21st & March 14th, 10 am-3 pm

Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England is thrilled to be hosting a Girl Scout Cookie Booth at Westerly Library on February 21st & March 14th. Come get your favorite cookies before they're gone! We'll be located in The Pop-Up at Coy.

save the date

**WARM Community Closet Pop-up •
March 17th-21st**





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:

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.

email: advocate@westerlylibrary.org

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

**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.

books, media & more

for customized
recommendations
click here



[Dapper Dan: made in Harlem: a memoir](#) by Daniel Day

Recommended by Stacey

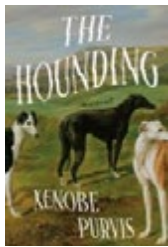
With his eponymous store on 125th Street in Harlem, Dapper Dan pioneered high-end streetwear in the early 1980s, remixing classic luxury-brand logos into his own flamboyant designs.



[Lucky Day](#) by Chuck Tingle

Recommended by Colleen

Four years ago, an unthinkable disaster occurred. A day of freak accidents that proved anything is possible, no matter the odds. Luck is real now, and it's not always good.



[The Hounding: a novel](#) by Xenobe Purvis

Recommended by Kim

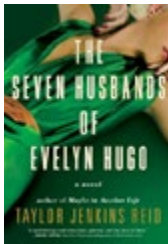
A haunting debut about five sisters in a small village in 18th century England whose neighbors are convinced they're turning into dogs.



[Remarkably Bright Creatures](#) by Shelby Van Pelt

Recommended by Sara

For fans of A Man Called Ove, a luminous debut novel about a widow's unlikely friendship with a giant Pacific octopus reluctantly residing at the local aquarium-and the truths she finally uncovers about her son's disappearance.



[The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo](#) by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Recommended by Casey

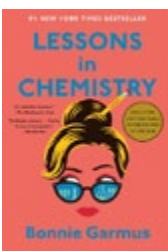
Aging and reclusive Hollywood movie icon Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life.



[A Marriage at Sea](#) by Sophie Elmhirst

Recommended by Cassie

The electrifying true story of a young couple shipwrecked at sea: a mind-blowing tale of obsession, survival, and partnership stretched to its limits.



[Lessons in Chemistry](#) by Bonnie Garmus

Recommended by Brigitte

Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality.



[A Lady's Guide to Scandal](#) by Sophie Irwin

Recommended by Julianna

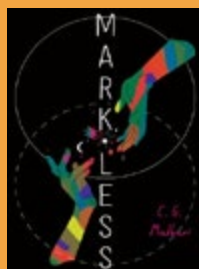
When shy Miss Eliza Balfour married the austere Earl of Somerset, twenty years her senior, it was the match of the season -- no matter that he was not the husband Eliza wanted.

youth picks



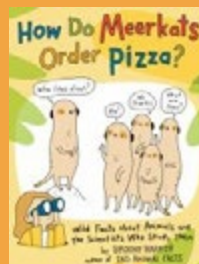
The Memory Spinner by
C. M. Cornwell
Recommended by Lynn

A young girl must choose between staying immersed in a magical past with her deceased mother, or saving those she loves most in the complicated, yet real present.



Markless by C.G. Malburi
Recommended by Casey

Ruti is Markless. In a society where worth is determined by the pattern on your palm and the magic it grants you, this also deems her worthless. But she's a hardened survivor, a protector of the lowest class . . . and the most powerful witch in Somanchi.

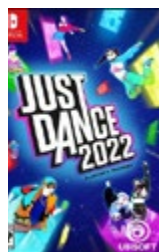
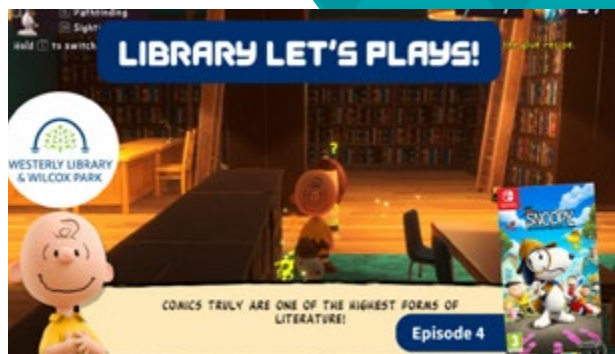


How to Meerkats Order Pizza?
by Brooke Barker
Recommended by Cassie

Did you know that crows never forget a face? Or that jaguars have a favorite cologne? Have you ever wondered how to pet a yeti crab? Or whether dogs can tell if you're smiling? And just what is a burrowing bettong? Meet these weird, wonderful animals and the equally weird and wonderful scientists who study them.

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!



Just Dance 2022

Recommended by Hannah

The ultimate dance game is back with 40 hot new tracks and gameplays from chart-topping hits to great classics! Looking for the perfect game to share with friends and family? Just Dance 2022 is for you!



Snoopy & the Great Mystery Club

Recommended by Ben

Join Snoopy and the gang in an all-new mystery adventure packed with charm, clever puzzles, and heartwarming friendships! Step into Snoopy's paws and detective hat as you explore the town, solve challenging cases, and uncover hidden secrets-with help from the lovable Peanuts gang.

all programs

Program Highlights

- February Exhibition Group Show: "Four Visions", Wednesday, February 4th, 5:00-7:00 pm
- Literacy Volunteers of Washington County | Immigration Lawyer Event, Wednesday, February 4th, 5:00-6:30 pm
- Soup-er Bowl 2026, Saturday, February 7th, 12:00-1:00 pm
- Dante Society of Westerly Presents: "It's Gelato, Not Ice Cream!" with Melanie Wolf, Saturday, February 7th, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Friends Hidden Bookshoppe, February 10th-14th
- Seed Starting Presentation + Free Seed Starting Kits, Saturday, February 14th, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
- Olympic Watch Party, Wednesday, February 18th, 12:00-4:00 pm
- Dante Society Presentation with Dr. Gary Robbins | "A Journey Along the Ancient Appian Way, Italy", Saturday, February 21st, 1:00-3:00 pm
- From Liberty to Legacy: Exploring American Ideals in the Musicals "1776" and "Hamilton", Thursday, February 26th, 6:00-7:00 pm
- Lunar New Year 2026, Saturday, February 28th, 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Ongoing Programs & Events

MAKERSPACE

Sewing Basics, Wednesday, February 4th, 18th, 6:00-6:30 pm

Laser Basics, Wednesday, February 12th, 26th, 6:00-6:30 pm

Open Art Studio, Wednesday, February 4th, 18th, 6:30-7:30 pm

ADULTS

Chess Club, Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 pm

Cookbook Club, 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, 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

Monday Night Book Discussion, 1st Monday of the Month, 5:30-7:00 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-12:00 pm

TEENS

Homeschool Hangout, Mondays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Teen Cafe, Saturdays, 1-3 pm

Teen Craft Collective, Thursdays, 4-5 pm

Teen Maker Monday, Mondays, 4-5 pm

Teen Space Tunes, Wednesdays, 4-5 pm

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

Winter Olympics Reading Challenge, February 2nd-28th, Business Hours

TWEENS

Homeschool Hangout, Mondays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Tween Craft Time, Thursdays, 4-5 pm

Pokémon Club, February 6th, 20th, 4-5 pm

Winter Olympics Reading Challenge, February 2nd-28th, Business Hours

D&D

Tween D&D- Homeschool Group, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm

Tween D&D Group 2, Tuesdays, 5:00-6:30 pm

Tween D&D Group 3 Tuesdays, 4:30-6:00 pm

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

KIDS

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

Homeschool Hangout, Mondays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Kids Craft Time, Thursdays, 4-5 pm

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

Storytime, Wednesdays, 10 -10:30 am

Three and Younger Playgroup, Thursdays, 10 -10:45 am

Winter Olympics Reading Challenge, February 2nd-28th, Business Hours

RESOURCES/INFORMATIONAL TABLES

Caregiver Support Group, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:30-6:30 pm

Community Resources Advocate, Tuesdays, 1-4 pm

Mental Health Advocate, Thursdays, 10 am-12 pm

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



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: 2nd 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 • 6:15-7:30 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 AM-12 PM • Makerspace

February 2026

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

holidays • closings

Monday, February 16 • Closed for Presidents 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



**WESTERLY LIBRARY
& WILCOX PARK**