THE chronicle

A WLWP Digital Publication



volume 2 • issue 11 / november 2026

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from a staff member



This November, we're celebrating all things S.T.E.A.M! S.T.E.A.M. is an acronym that stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Formerly S.T.E.M., *Arts* has been included more and more in recent years. Now, *Arts* might look a little out of place in that grouping. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics are all very technical fields--why include arts?

These fields on their surface don't seem to require much creativity; but in order to grow, innovation requires as much imagination as technical skill. We need artistic vision in S.T.E.M. now more than ever. In an increasingly artificial world, creativity is passed over for convenience. As Maria Mitchell, America's first female professional astronomer, put it: "We especially need imagination in science. It is not all mathematics, nor all logic, but it is somewhat beauty and poetry."

At the library this month, we are thrilled to be offering creative outlets through STEAM programming for youth patrons:

STEAM Squad is a biweekly program where we explore science and engineering concepts. Come on up on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month to build, learn, and explore the topic of the day!

Our new Youth Coding Club is launching on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday from November until the end of April. Powered by Girls Who Code, an organization dedicated to opening the door to tech fields for girls, this program combines learning how to code with community building and absolutely no coding experience is required to participate.

Whether you're joining us for a STEAM program, using the Makerspace, or just spending time in the library we invite you to engage creatively with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics this month.

By Meara Foght
Head of Public Services

STEAM month



November 8th is National S.T.E.M/S.T.E.A.M. Day! We're celebrating all month with activities to inspire kids to explore & pursue interests in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math. Join in any of our themed programs, activities and displays all month long:

KIDS

Monday, 11/02, 9 am-8 pm: Kids Take & Make: Rocket Launch

Wednesday, 11/04, 10-11 am: *Sesame Street & The Great Elephant Adventure* Screening & Storytime

Thursday, 11/05, 4-5 pm: Kids Craft Time: Leaf Rubbing Art & Identification

Wednesday, 11/18, 4:00-4:45 pm: Chapters, Cookies, and Coloring Club: Ivy +Bean What's the big Idea? by Annie Barrows

Wednesday, 11/25, 4-5 pm: Graphic Novel Party: *Press Start!*

TWEENS

All month:

Bulletin Board: Design your superhero crest

Take & Make: Marshmallow & Toothpick House

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4-5 pm: Youth Coding Club

TEENS

All month:

DIY Table Craft (Daily):
Mini Coloring Sets: Fantasy & Pokémon
Take & Makes: Zine Art Kit

Weekly Craft Collective | Build Your Own World: Comic Creation, Book Binding, Paper Flowers & Terrariums

LEGO Table: Build a Solar Powered Robot

Book Display: "Brain Powered" &"Sci-Fi and Tech Reads"

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4-5 pm: Youth Coding Club

ADULTS

Monday, 11/02, 9 am-8 pm: Crafternoon To-Go | Shibori-Inspired Dyed Tote Bags

Nonfiction STEAM Books That Read Like Novels display on Level 2.

fandom fest

Saturday, November 14th • 11 am-2 pm • Throughout the library



Calling all fantasy lovers, cosplayers, video game enthusiasts, and nerds! Join us for Fandom Fest, a library-wide event, to celebrate all things fandom and fantasy related.
We'll have:

Ghostbusters Auxiliary of Rhode Island • Mando Mercs Costume Club • Creation Station with Cat Huang • Cosplay Contest • Anime and Manga Book Nook • Playable Console Museum • Ramen Noodle Bar • SFX Makeup Workshop • Miniature Dungeon & Dragon Figurine Painting • Princess Meet & Greet with Elsa & Anna

For the full schedule of events, visit: westerlylibrary.org/event/fandom-fest-0



embrace your inner nerd

program spotlights

adult services

Chorus of Westerly Pre-Concert Lecture, Tuesday, November 3, 6:00-6:45 pm, Auditorium

THE CHORUS OF WESTERLY
Andrew Howell, The Marion & Bill Palm Music Director

Join us for “Hodie: A Lecture on the Life and Work of Ralph Vaughan Williams,” with a preview of the Chorus of Westerly’s November Concert.

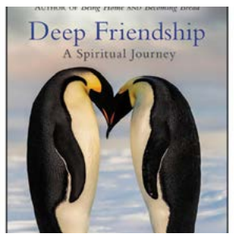
Presented by Artistic Associate, Kathryn Aaron.

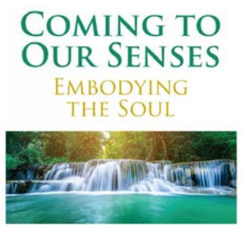
Cookbook Club | Friendsgiving!, Wednesday, November 4, 6:00-7:30 pm, Auditorium



Join as as we share our prepared dishes and experiences with recipes! This month, we’re excited to host our second Cookbook Club Friendsgiving! Attendees are invited to bring their favorite Thanksgiving dish to share with the group. Registration is required at least one day in advance. To register and submit your recipe choice, contact reference@westerlylibrary.org or x306.

Author Talk and Signing with Gunilla Norris, Thursday, November 5, 5:30-6:30 pm, Auditorium





Westerly Library & Wilcox Park and Martin House Books host Gunilla Norris, for an author talk and signing discussing her latest books: Deep Friendship and Coming to Our Senses. Copies of these books and Gunilla’s backlist will be available to purchase at the event and Gunilla will be signing and personalizing any books purchased at the event. Registration is encouraged, here: martinhousebooks.com/events/6318320261105

American Mosaic, Saturday, November 7, 2:00-3:30 pm, Auditorium



American Mosaic invites audiences into a vibrant journey through the many musical voices that shape American life. Designed for a community audience, the program highlights how diverse stories—classical, popular, and contemporary—come together to form a living, ever-evolving musical experience. Performances by Taiwanese flutist Ann Kuo, Hong Kong violist Annis Ma, and Hoi Leong “Zach” Cheong is a Steinway Young Artist pianist.

program spotlights

youth services

Kids Take & Make: Rocket Launch, Monday, November 2, 9 am-8 pm, Kids Room



Stop by the Kids Room Desk on the first Monday of every month for a take and make craft! All supplies and instructions are included.

This month, we are making a paper cup Rocket Launch to celebrate STEM Month!

Crafts are available on a first come, first served basis, and will be available until supplies last.

Sesame Street and the Great Elephant Adventure Screening & Storytime, 10-11 am, Terrace Room



Westerly Library & Wilcox Park is excited to offer an exclusive screening of Sesame Street and the Great Elephant Adventure, presented by Ocean State Media. Join Elmo and the Sesame Street gang on a once-in-a-lifetime African safari adventure. This program is open to Kids ages 0-8 years old and their caregivers. Following the episode screening, join us for Storytime with our Kids Librarian to celebrate Safari wildlife through stories and songs!

Tween D&D: Homeschool Group, Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 pm, Tween Space



Join the D&D group geared towards our homeschool families! We have plenty of dice to borrow and newcomers are always welcome, so drop by and see what we’re about! If you have a character you made yourself, fantastic! Come a bit early to talk them over with the Dungeon Master. Space is limited, contact our Tween librarian for availability.
Ages 9-12. Ages 13 and up can try our Teen Dungeons and Dragons program!

Teen Manga Book Club, Wednesdays, 4-5 pm, Teen Space



Join fellow manga fans each week to explore a new series together! Enjoy lively discussions, themed snacks, and occasional craft activities while connecting with new friends. Whether you’re a longtime manga reader or completely new to it, everyone is welcome. Come be part of the club!

This program is for teens ages 13-18. Registration is not required.

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

program spotlights

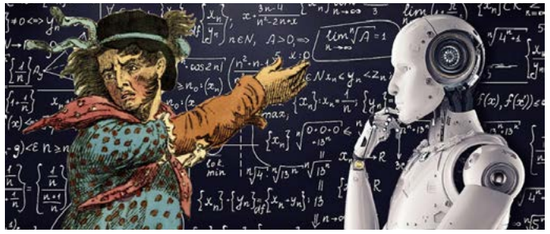
public services

[Youth Coding Club, powered by Girls Who Code, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4- 5 pm, Makerspace]



Learn the foundations of coding with our Youth Coding Club, powered by Girls Who Code! Join a safe, supportive community of peers and role models where students will learn to see themselves as computer scientists. Coders will explore popular topics like web development, cybersecurity, game design, and AI. This program is open to all skill levels and any student in 6th-12th grade.

[Avoiding AI, Thursday, November 5, 1-2 pm, Makerspace]



Learn about AI, how it works, and how to minimize its negative impacts in your everyday life!

all ages

[Gingerbread House Competition: Pickup, Saturday, November 21, 9 am-4 pm, The Pop-Up at Coy]



Help us celebrate the season with our second Gingerbread House Contest! Kits will be available for pickup, limited to one per person or family, while supplies last. Drop off your creations back at the library, in a box, on Tuesday, December 1st between 12-6 pm. You may also provide your own gingerbread house, but registration, beginning November 21st, is still required to submit it to be featured in the Village.

[Make Your Own Wreath, Saturday, November 28, 9 am-12 pm, Terrace Room]



Join Westerly Library & Wilcox Park in our 3rd floor Terrace Room for our Annual Make Your Own Wreath event! We will supply everything you need to create a festive holiday wreath to take home!

Please bring hand pruners, gloves and any festive items you'd like to add to your wreath. Greens, wire and wreath frames will be provided.

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

program spotlights

park

[Westerly Tree Planting Day, Saturday, November 21, 9:00 am-10:30 am, Wilcox Park]

Green Infrastructure Center

THE TOWN OF WESTERLY, R.I. 1669 OFFICIAL SEAL

The Green Infrastructure Center is launching their Westerly's Back-of-Sidewalk Planting Program with a tree planting demonstration in Wilcox Park. The Town of Westerly, Westerly Land Trust, and Westerly Library and Wilcox Park are combining forces to create cooler streets, less flooding, cleaner air and better health for everyone. Come to Wilcox Park to learn how to properly plant a tree. Tools are provided and all ages are welcome.

all ages

[12th Annual Tree Lighting, Saturday, November 28, 4:30-5:00 pm, Wilcox Park]



Join us for some holiday festivities as we welcome in winter with another wonderful tree lighting! Enjoy carols with members of the Chorus of Westerly, holiday treats provided by the Friends of Westerly Library & Wilcox Park, and hot cocoa warmly provided by Washington Trust.

Weather permitting.

Holiday Happenings

save the dates!



[Letters to Santa • 12/01-12/15]

[Teen Gifts & Goodies • 12/02, 12/09, 12/16 & 12/23]

[Gingerbread House Competition: Wander the Village & Vote • 12/02]

[Crafternoon To-Go | Handmade Holiday • 12/02]



[Holiday Pop-Up Shop • 12/02]

[Cookbook Club | Cookie Swap! • 12/10]

[Patron Appreciation Day • 12/12]

hanging in the hoxie






November Exhibition | Nicholas Mook

This month's exhibit will feature works done by local artist Nicholas Mook! Head to the Hoxie Gallery from 5-7 pm Wednesday, November 4th for an opportunity to meet the artist and enjoy light bites. Works can be viewed in the Hoxie Gallery November 4th-27th during library hours.

For more information on the artist, upcoming exhibits, and the Hoxie Gallery please visit:
westerlylibrary.org/hoxie-gallery

Opening Reception
Wednesday, November 4th
5-7 PM



air

artist-in-residence

Our 2027 residencies are now full. We are accepting submissions for 2028 residencies with a rolling deadline. To be considered for a 2027 residency, in the event one opens up, please note that in your application submission.
To learn more about our AIR program, or to apply, please visit: westerlylibrary.org/artist-in-residence



save the date

artwork by Janiver Miller

take a piece of WLWP with you



01 (Canvas Tote)	$35	06 (Baseball Cap)	$20
02 (Grocery Tote)	$2	07 (Magnet)	$5
03 (T-Shirt)	$15	08 (Sticker)	$1
04 (Small Tumbler)	$12	09 (Game Set)	$7
05 (Large Tumbler)	$18		

Stop by our Circulation desk anytime during library hours to purchase yours, or gift to a loved one!

essays on our park

Over the last year, Board & Committee members and URI Master Gardener park volunteers have been writing essays about major park features, hidden gems, and everything in between that you may not know about. To read the monthly featured essay, click the image below or visit: westerlylibrary.org/about-wilcox-park



The holding area behind the barn holds equipment, plants, compost, and many other items essential to keeping Wilcox Park healthy, beautiful, and growing.

next up in the pop-up at coy

Grammy Joan Handmade | Saturday, November 28th, 10 am- 3 pm



Grammy Joan creates unique handmade hats for infants and toddlers. Knitted hats for fall/winter feature colorful designs and seasonal themes. Hats come in 3 sizes: 6 mo., 12 mo., and 2T. Knitted hat and bootie sets for newborns- 0 to 3 mo. - great first photo outfits! Hats are unique, one-of-a-kind items, all made in Westerly, RI, and all easy care - machine wash/tumble dry. Accepted payment methods include - cash, Venmo, major credit/debit cards.



Interested in reserving space in The Pop-Up at Coy?
Visit: westerlylibrary.org/thepopupatcoy













Tradition since 1892

Dear Friend,

Tradition can unite generations of people. It can be a source of comfort and give people a sense of pride.

What we have here in our community is special. We come together to share experiences in a way that is slipping away in many places.

Families have been making memories at Westerly Library & Wilcox Park for more than a century. Patrons often share stories that capture just how central this organization is to our community's traditions. Stories of ice skating on the pond, getting their first library card, participating in the Summer Reading Program, taking prom pictures by the fountain, and lying down blankets in the park to hold a spot for the Pops.

We will be celebrating our 135th anniversary in 2027. That's 135 years of shared traditions and memories. **Your support helps us provide programs, services, materials, and physical spaces where people from all walks of life connect.**

Our Annual Fund goal for this fiscal year (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027) is $260,000. Please help us reach our goal so we can continue to keep your family traditions going and build new ones for the future. **Invest in your community—please make a gift to Westerly Library & Wilcox Park.**

With gratitude,

Brigitte Hopkins
Executive Director

Maria Bernier, President
Gara LaMarche, Vice President
Peter Robinson, Treasurer
Mary Jo Girard, Secretary
Thomas F. Boll
Timothy Flanagan
Mojie Friel
Deborah Harold
Kenneth Julian
Mary Carol Kendzia
William J. Miller, Jr.
Ian Newbury
Jennifer Obrey
Colleen Sullivar
Louis M. Toscar

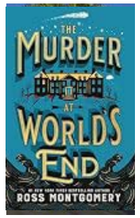
Click to Support

or visit:
westerlylibrary.org/support-us

books, media & more

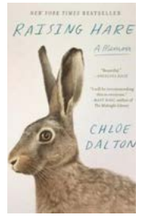
for customized recommendations click here

staff-curated recommendations



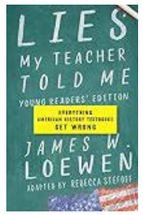
The Murder at World's End **by Ross Montgomery**
Recommended by Caroline

The paranoid Viscount of Tithe Hall prepares for the apocalypse that he believes is imminent and locks himself away with his family and staff on a remote island:only to turn up dead later!



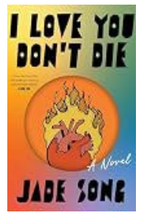
Raising Hare: A Memoir **by Chloe Dalton**
Recommended by Cheyenne

Political advisor and speechwriter Chloe Dalton documents her journey through an unlikely friendship with a wild hare she rescues, diving deep into the life and cutlureal representation of the animal.



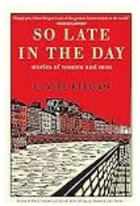
Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything American History Textbooks Get Wrong **by James W. Loewen**
Recommended by Robin

A deep dive into American history unlike you've seen before!



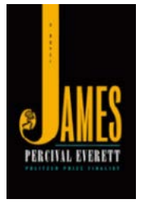
I Love You, Don't Die **by Jade Song**
Recommended by Kim

Depressed Viky is obsessed with death and surrounds her life with it until she is thrown into a loving and intense throuple that challenges her worldview.



So Late in the Day **by Claire Keegan**
Recommended by Kelsie

Three short stories that are an examination of gender dynamics. Cathal faces a long weekend as his mind agitates over a woman he almost married, a writer's arrival at a seaside home is disrupted by a critical academic, and more.



James **by Percival Everett**
Recommended by Stacey

Enslaved Jim embarks on a dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River with Huck Finn to the unreliable promise of the Free States.



The Pretender **by Jo Harkin**
Recommended by Colleen

Set in the tumultuous period of the Tudors' ascent, Harkin brings to life the little-known story of Lambert Simnel. From humble beginnings as a peasant boy, his life takes an astonishing turn when, at ten years old, he becomes a claimant to the English throne as one of the last of the Plantagenet line.



Detectorists: Movie Special
Recommended by Claire

Metal-detecting enthusiasts Lance and Andy make their greatest discovery ever when they unearth evidence of a Saxon battlefield.

youth picks



A Song for You & I **by K. O'Niell**
Recommended by Casey

While their flying horse recovers from injury, a novice ranger travels by foot on a journey of self-discovery and gender exploration alongside a musical companion who shares their growing affections in this thoughtful tween graphic novel!



Wibble Wobble Boom! **by Mary Ann Rodman, illustrated by Holly Sterling**
Recommended by Julianna

Claire can't wait to get on the ice, but when she gets there, it doesn't exactly go as planned!



Titan of the Stars **by E.K. Johnston**
Recommended by Lynn

Celeste is optimistic for the Titan's maiden voyage from Earth to Mars, while Dominic feels trapped on his dad's ship, and ancient aliens displayed for entertainment are released through an act of sabotage, in a science fiction horror story..

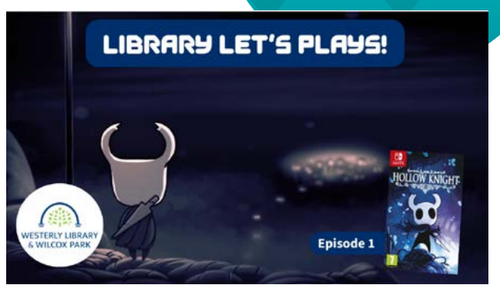


Ron Roy's A to Z Mysteries: The Absent Alpacas **by Kayla Whaley, illustrated by Chloe Burgett**
Recommended by Mel

When a group of alpacas goes missing right before the alpaca costume contest at the Maine State Fair, Abbi, her dog, Barkley, and her friends must sniff out this mystery.

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!



Luigi's Mansion 3
Recommended by Mel

Luigi must explore the haunted Last Resort hotel with his all new Poltergust G-OO to save his friends.



Katamari Damacy Reroll
Recommended by Ben

After the King of All Cosmos accidentally destroys all the stars in the sky, he charges his son, Prince of Cosmos, to restore the stars to the heavens!



all programs

Program Highlights

- Chorus of Westerly Pre-Concert Lecture | A Lecture on the Life and Work of Ralph Vaughan Williams, Tuesday, November 3rd, 6:00-6:45 pm
- "Sesame Street and the Great Elephant Adventure" Screening & Storytime, Wednesday, November 4th, 10:00-11:00 am
- November Exhibition | Nicholas Mook: Opening Reception, Wednesday, November 4th, 5:00-7:00 pm
- Author Talk and Signing with Gunilla Norris, Thursday, November 5th, 5:30-6:30 pm
- Avoiding AI, Thursday, November 5th, 1:00-2:00 pm
- American Mosaic, Saturday, November 7th, 2:00-3:30 pm
- The Poetry Gathering, Monday, November 9th, 5:00-7:00 pm
- Fandom Fest, Saturday, November 14th, 11:00 am-2:00 pm
- Gingerbread House Comeptition: Pickup, Saturday, November 21st, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Westerly Tree Planting Day, Saturday, November 21st, 9:00-10:30 am
- Graphic Novel Party: Press Start!, Wednesday, November 25th, 4:00-5:00 pm
- The Pop-Up at Coy: Grammy Joan Handmade, Saturday, November 28th, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.
- Make Your Own Wreath, Saturday, November 28th, 9:00 - 12:00 pm
- 12th Annual Tree Lighting, Saturday, November 28th, 4:30-5:00 pm

Ongoing Programs & Events

MAKERSPACE

Digital Learning Hub: Online Misinformation, November 18th, 1:00-2:00 pm

New! Youth Coding Club, powered by Girls Who Code, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays starting November 4th, 4:00-5:00 pm

ADULTS

The Dramatic Book Club, Monday, November 2nd, 2:00-4:00 pm

Crafternoon To-Go, Monday, November 2nd, 9:00 am-8:00 pm

Sewers in Stitches, Mondays, 2:00-4:00 pm

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

Knit and Crochet, Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30 pm

Silent Book Club, Wednesday, November 18th, 5:30-7:00 pm

Cookbook Club: Friendsgiving!, Wednesday, November 4th, 6:00-7:30 pm

Learn the Language of Ireland with Irish Coastal Club, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 pm

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

QiGong & Meditation, Thursdays, 6:15-7:00 pm

Westerly Area Needle Workers, 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 9 am - 12 pm

Westerly Writers Group, Saturdays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

TEENS

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

Teen Manga Book Club, Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00 pm

Teen Craft Collective, Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 pm

Teen Cafe, Saturdays, 12:00-2:00 pm

TWEENS

Pokémon Club, Mondays, 4:00-5:00 pm

Tween D&D: Homeschool Group, Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 pm

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

Tween Craft Time, Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 pm

KIDS

Busy Little Hands, Mondays, 2:00-3:00 pm

Kids Take & Make: Rocket Launch, Monday, November 2nd, 9:00 am-8:00 pm

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

Storytime, Wednesdays, 10:00 -10:30 am

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

Three and Younger Playgroup, Thursdays, 10:00 -10:45 am

Kids Craft Time, Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 pm

RESOURCES/INFORMATIONAL TABLES

Community Resource Advocate, Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00 pm

Mental Health Advocate, Thursdays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Project Outreach Veterans Assistance, Wednesday, November 18th, 10:00-11:00 am

WESTERLY LIBRARY & WILCOX PARK

November 2026

November 2026

WESTERLY LIBRARY & WILCOX PARK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 CLOSED for Veterans Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 CLOSED for Staff Training	21	22
23 29	24 30	25 CLOSING EARLY for Thanksgiving Eve	26 CLOSED for Thanksgiving	27	28	28

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

holidays • closings

Wednesday, November 11 • Closed for Veterans Day
Friday, November 20 • Closed for Staff Training
Wednesday, November 25 • Closing Early at 5 PM for Thanksgiving Eve
Thursday, November 26 • Closed for Thanksgiving

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