

THE **chronicle**

A WLWP Digital Publication



volume 2 • issue 9 / september 2026

work by artist-in-residence Cristina Querrer

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A library card **HITS ALL THE RIGHT NOTES!**



September is **LIBRARY
CARD SIGN-UP MONTH**

ALA150
American Library Association

Library
Changemakers
Building a better world

from our executive director



September has a way of feeling like a new chapter. As summer winds down and the first hints of autumn appear, our community settles into a familiar rhythm marked by back-to-school excitement, Labor Day celebrations, and anticipation for the season ahead.

At Westerly Library & Wilcox Park, September is one of our favorite times of year. Students return to classrooms, families establish new routines, and lifelong learners of all ages find themselves ready to explore new ideas, develop new skills, and reconnect with their community.

This month is especially meaningful because it includes Library Card Sign-up Month, a national campaign celebrating one of the community's most valuable resources: a library card. Far more than a key to books, a library card opens the door to digital resources, educational opportunities, technology, cultural experiences, and lifelong learning. If you know someone who has not yet discovered everything we offer, this is the perfect time to encourage them to visit us and get a free library card.

September is also National Literacy Month, a reminder that reading and learning empower individuals and strengthen communities. Every story shared, every book discussed, every new skill learned, and every curious question explored contributes to a culture of literacy that benefits us all.

Our calendar remains filled with opportunities to learn, create, and connect. Whether you want to visit the Hoxie Gallery for the Community Art Exhibit, enjoy a walking tour in the park, participate in a tech class, gather with friends at a book club, or connect with fellow makers in one of our textile groups, there's something for everyone.

As the season shifts, Wilcox Park continues to offer a beautiful setting for the Next Up Music Festival, wellness programs, family activities, and peaceful moments outdoors. We also remain committed to serving our community through initiatives such as the School Supply Item Drive, Community Resource Advocate sessions, and veterans assistance programs, helping connect individuals and families with valuable support and resources.

As we celebrate Labor Day, I'm especially grateful for the dedicated staff, volunteers, trustees, donors, and supporters who make the work of Westerly Library & Wilcox Park possible. Their commitment helps ensure that our Library and Park remain welcoming, inclusive, and inspiring places for everyone. I encourage you to embrace the spirit of discovery that September brings. Sign up for a library card, attend a program, explore a new genre, take a walk through the park, and celebrate the freedom to read. Most importantly, thank you for being part of the remarkable community that makes Westerly Library & Wilcox Park such a special place.

Warmly,

Brigitte Hopkins, Executive Director

library card sign-up month



**A
LIBRARY
CARD
HITS ALL
THE RIGHT
NOTES!**

September is **LIBRARY
CARD SIGN-UP MONTH**

September is Library Card Sign-up Month and we're celebrating with this year's theme, "A library card hits all the right notes!" Join in any of our themed programs, activities and displays for all ages, all month long:

KIDS

Wednesday, 09/02, 10:00-10:30 am: [Storytime](#): Fun at the Library!

Thursday, 09/10, 4-5 pm: [Kids Craft Time](#): Design Your Own Bookmarks

Monday, 09/14, 9 am-8 pm: [Kids Take and Make](#): Library Card Holder

TWEENS

All month:

Bulletin Board: Design your own library card.

Take & Make: Make your own craft stick harmonica.

Book Display: Books that hit all the right notes.

TEENS

All month:

Weekly Crafts: Jar Lid Banjos, Spin Drums, Library Card Keychains, Library Card Holders

DIY Table Craft: Design your own colorful library card sleeve!

Book Display: Audiobooks that hit the right notes!

ADULTS

Monday, 09/14, 9 am-8 pm: [Crafternoon To-Go](#) | Folded Books

ALL AGES

Monday, 09/28, 5:30-7:15 pm: [Family Craft & Movie Night](#): Bedazzle your library card or favorite book cover while watching *Matilda*.

"Libraries are more than books" fiction book display on Level 1.

Library-themed non-fiction book display on Level 2.

Free School Supply Shop

Get ready for the new school year and stock your backpack in The Pop-Up at Coy! We'll have a variety of school supplies available for free to any student.

SHOP HOURS:

Tuesday, September 8th-Thursday, September 10th | 3-7 PM

Friday, September 11th | 1-5 PM

Saturday, September 12th | 11 AM- 2 PM

The library will also be accepting school supply donations from August 3rd through September 8th.

WHAT TO BRING/DONATE

School supplies including, but not limited to:

Backpacks, Calculators, Folders, Lunchboxes, Markers, Notebooks, Pencils, Pens, Rulers



program spotlights

adult services

[Cookbook Club, Wednesday, September 9, 6:00-7:30 pm, Terrace Room](#)



Please join us to share our prepared dishes and experiences with recipes from the selected cookbook. This month, we will be preparing and sharing recipes from “Linger” by Hetty Lui McKinnon. Registration is required and you must register at least one day in advance. Register at the link above or contact our Reference department at reference@westerlylibrary.org or x306.

[QPR & Suicide Prevention, Friday, September 11, 9:30-11:00 am, Terrace Room](#)



Presented by the Ocean Community Collaborative, Rob Harrison, MD, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Yale New Haven Health, Westerly Hospital, will facilitate a 90-minute evidence-based QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention training. Register at the link above.

[National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 15, 10 am-2 pm, Wilcox Park \(Esplanade\)](#)



Don't miss out on your chance to vote in the General Election in November. Update your registration today and make sure your vote is counted! The League of Women Voters of South County RI will be there to answer all of your questions, and will have registration applications available to fill out and submit. If it's raining they will be inside the library in The Pop-Up at Coy.

[AIR Cristina Querrer | Memory Made Visible: Art, Story, and the Materials We Carry, Saturday, September 19, 2-3 pm, Auditorium](#)



How do ordinary objects become vessels for memory? What stories can a piece of wood, a length of twine, or a charcoal mark hold? Join interdisciplinary artist Cristina Querrer for an engaging conversation about the relationship between memory, material, and making. Through images, personal stories, and examples from her studio practice, Querrer will explore how found objects, drawing, painting, sculpture, and installation can preserve histories that are often overlooked or left untold.

program spotlights

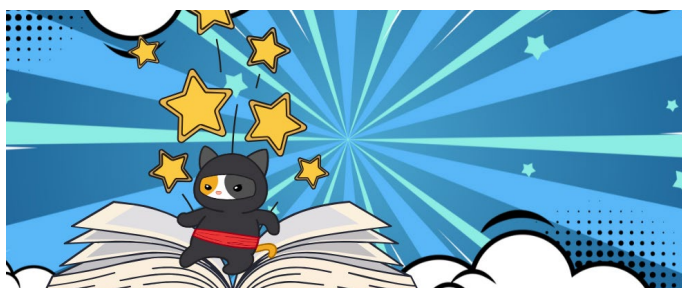
youth services

Busy Little Hands, Mondays, 2-3 pm, Kids Room (Castle)



Kids ages 1 to 4 are welcome to join us for an hour of squishing, sorting, and smiling! Various fun activities will rotate to build fine motor skills and learn fundamental preschool concepts through play. Activities will include playdough, magnetiles, pattern blocks, and more!

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.

STEAM Squad, Every other Wednesday, beginning September 23, 4-5 pm, Terrace Room



Come join us in the Terrace room as we explore a new Science and Technology topic and project every other week! For ages 9-12.

Graphic Novel Party: *Dog Man*, Wednesday, September 30, 4-5 pm, Kids Room (Castle)



Let's celebrate our favorite graphic novels! Join us on the last Wednesday of the month to celebrate, *Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey. Whether you have read every *Dog Man* book three times or you are new to the series, all are welcome to celebrate this beloved tale.

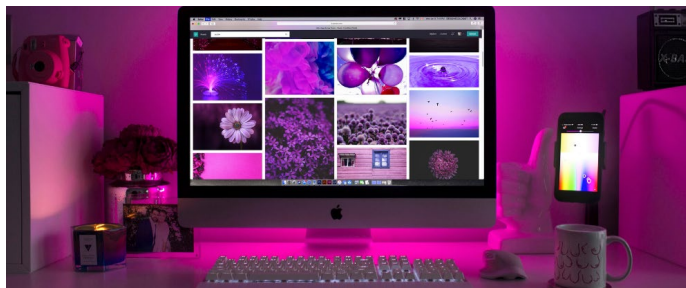
Reading the graphic novel before the program is not required.

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

program spotlights

public services

[Digital Learning Hub: Resume Basics, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6-7 pm, Makerspace](#)



Join us to learn how to create a basic functional or chronological resume and format the resume to best sell your skills and experience to potential employers in this class. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own materials. The Digital Learning Hub program will be held every third Wednesday of the month from 6-7 pm in the Makerspace, located on the first floor. Register at the link above.

[Westerly Tech Social, Last Thursday of the month, 4-5 pm, Makerspace](#)



Want to learn more about using your computer or phone in a casual, social environment? Join us every last Thursday of the month in the Makerspace to troubleshoot, help others, and chat about the tech we use every day!

all ages

[Family Craft & Movie Night, Monday, September 28, 5:30-7:15 pm, Auditorium](#)



This month, we're celebrating Library Card Sign-up Month by bedazzling our library cards or favorite book cover with rhinestones! While crafting, attendees will enjoy the 1996 film *Matilda* starring Danny DeVito, Rhea Perlman, and Mara Wilson. Preregistration is required at the link above or by calling Reference at (401) 596-2877 x306.

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

program spotlights

park

Walking Tours of the Park & Soil Testing with URI Master Gardeners



[Walking Tours | Native Flowers & Trees:](#) Tours are held the 2nd Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 am, through October.

[Walking Tours | Specimen Trees:](#) Tours are held the 4th Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 am, through October.

[Soil Testing Kiosk:](#) Every 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month, 9 am- 12 pm, through October.

[Next Up Music Festival, Saturday, September 5, 2-9 pm, Wilcox Park](#)



The Next Up Music Festival is a free, family-friendly celebration of live music and community. Performances by Big Lux & the Hype, Tyler Seton, Hawk in the Next, Teevio and the Aces and many talented youth musicians, and other emerging artists. Guests can also enjoy local food and vendors, an interactive Artist Village, children's activities, and more.

[The Westerly Band in Concert, Sunday, September 20, 3:00-4:30 pm, Wilcox Park \(Bandstand\)](#)



The Westerly Band will present the last concert of the summer on Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 3 pm in the historic bandstand in Wilcox Park. Music will include pieces celebrating America's 250th anniversary, themes from well-known movies, easy listening, and American marches. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and join us for a relaxing musical end of summer in beautiful Wilcox Park.

hanging in the hoxie



September Exhibition | Community Art Show & Reading

Don't miss our 4th Annual Community Art Exhibit!

All summer long, we've been accepting art submissions from the public. As we wrap up our all-ages Summer Reading Programs, it's time to display all of your beautiful artistry. Join us in the Hoxie Gallery Wednesday, September 2nd from 5-7 pm, to admire our newest art exhibit, and meet some of the artists.

This event is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served. The exhibit can be viewed in the Hoxie Gallery from September 3rd-26th during library hours.

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

westerlylibrary.org/hoxie-gallery

**Opening
Reception**
Wednesday,
September 2nd
5-7 PM



air
artist-in-residence

Cristina Querrer
September/October 2026

Interdisciplinary Artist (Visual, Writing, Music)



Cristina Querrer is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, musician, and educator based in Mystic, Connecticut. Working across drawing, sculpture, installation, poetry, and sound, her practice explores memory, migration, family history, labor, and the emotional lives of everyday objects. She earned her MFA in Interdisciplinary Visual Arts from Western Connecticut State University and has exhibited throughout New England. Her work has been recognized through the Connecticut Urban Artist Initiative Fellowship and other awards. Querrer is also the author of multiple books and performs electronic music under the name CQ. She teaches writing at CT State Community College and believes art can transform ordinary materials into spaces for reflection, connection, and discovery.



save the dates:

Saturday, September 19th • 2-3 PM | [Memory Made Visible: Art, Story, and the Materials We Carry](#)

Saturday, October 24th • 1-3 PM | [Between Histories: Works from the Artist Residency](#)

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

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



Each fall, Wilcox Park becomes a canvas of color, thanks to the dazzling display of dahlias there.

next up in the pop-up at coy

Grammy Joan Handmade | Thursday, September 24th, 10 am-2 pm • Saturdays, October 11th & November 28th, 10 am- 3 pm



Grammy Joan creates unique handmade hats for infants and toddlers. Stop by to shop sewn reversible bucket hats for the summer, and knitted hats and booties for the fall and winter. Sizes vary from birth-2T.



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



older adult resource

Our Adult Services Librarian, Cassie, is pleased to introduce the new 2026 Westerly Older Adult Resource Guide. This comprehensive directory was developed as part of Age-Friendly Westerly, a town-wide initiative in collaboration with Yale New Haven Health, dedicated to supporting our older residents. The resource guide is available on our website at westerlylibrary.org/older-adults, and printed copies can be obtained at the 2nd floor Information Desk.

our online catalog

A new app is available for our Online Catalog through [Ocean State Libraries](https://oceanstatelibraries.net). Download the app by scanning the QR code to the right, to gain quick access to request materials, find curated material lists, and more. For more information, visit: catalog.oslri.net/mobileapp



Ocean State Libraries Catalog

A New Mobile App Experience Is Here!

Welcome to the new and improved
Ocean State Libraries Catalog app!
You can access your library anywhere, anytime!

Do more on the go!

-  Search for books
-  Place & manage holds
-  Renew items
-  View your account
-  Use your digital library card
-  Find locations & hours

Make the switch today!

Scan to get the app today and
enjoy the improved performance!



To ensure a smooth transition, the old app will remain active through October 31, 2026.

books, media & more

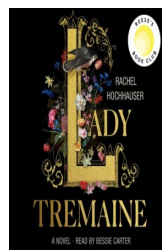
for customized
recommendations
click here



A Little Bit Bad by Cassandra Neyenesch

Recommended by Kim

Perdita Jungfrau thought she was going to be married to her husband forever, so falling in love with Nando, her neighbor's anarcho-Marxist roofer, is a crisis. Life seems to put every possible obstacle in their way.



Lady Tremain by Rachel Hochhauser

Recommended by Amanda

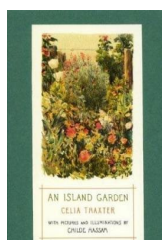
Twice-widowed, Lady Etheldreda Verity Isolde Tremain Bramley is solely responsible for her two children, a priggish stepdaughter, a razor-taloned peregrine falcon, and a crumbling manor.



Waitress: The Musical

Recommended by Robin

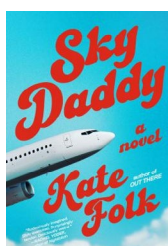
Jenna Hunterson, a waitress and expert pie maker, is stuck in a small town and a loveless marriage. When a baking contest offers her a chance at escape, she fights to reclaim part of herself.



An Island Garden by Celia Thaxter

Recommended by Casey

a classic 1894 book by American poet and writer Celia Thaxter that chronicles a year in her famous flower plot on Appledore Island in the Isles of Shoals off the coast of Maine and New Hampshire.



Sky Daddy by Kate Folk

Recommended by Keara

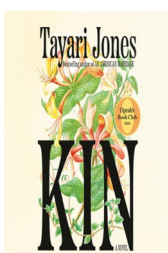
Once a month, Linda indulges her true passion: taking the AirTrain to SFO for a clandestine meeting on the cheapest flight out that night. Linda isn't interested in pilots, though. She has a thing for planes.



A Dark and Drowning Tide by Allison Saft

Recommended by Lynn

A sharp-tongued folklorist must pair up with her academic rival to solve their mentor's murder in this lush and enthralling sapphic fantasy romance from the New York Times bestselling author of *A Far Wilder Magic*.



Kin by Tayari Jones

Recommended by Stacey

In *Kin*, Vernice and Annie grow up as motherless neighbors and close friends in Honeysuckle, Louisiana, but their lives diverge as they reach adulthood.

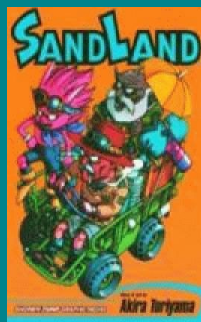


Stupid Faces in Stunning Paintings by Matthijs Van Mierlo

Recommended by Colleen

Matthijs Van Mierlo takes you on a journey to the strangest corners of the art world, uncovering the stories behind 50 wacky faces--stories about religion, love, vanity, and just one very confused unicorn.

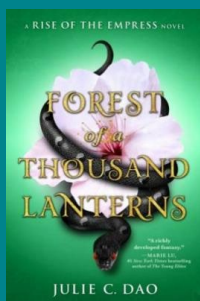
youth picks



Sand Land by Akira Toriyama

Recommended by Ben

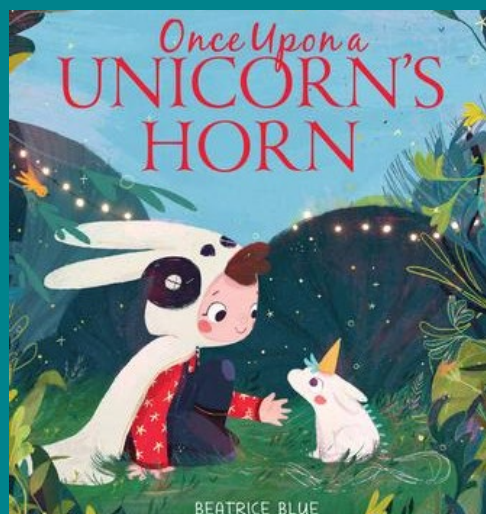
On a future world that has become a barren wasteland, the supply of water is controlled by the greedy king. Sheriff Rao, the demon prince Beelzebub, and his assistant, Thief, have teamed up to find a long-lost lake, facing dragons, bandits, and the King's army along the way



Forest of a Thousand Lanterns by Julie Dow

Recommended by Keara

Growing up as a peasant in a forgotten village on the edge of the map, Xifeng longs to fulfill the destiny promised to her by her cruel aunt, the witch Guma, who has read the cards and seen glimmers of Xifeng's majestic future.



Once Upon a Unicorn's Horn by Beatrice Blue

Recommended by Amanda

A little girl befriends a sad, tiny horse, and, with a little magic (and an ice cream cone), helps him fly.

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!



Sonic Colors

Recommended by Ben

Join Sonic in the high-speed adventure of a lifetime! The evil Dr. Eggman has built a gigantic interstellar amusement park bursting with incredible rides and colorful attractions - but he's powering it with a captured alien race called 'Wisps.'



WarioWare: Move it!

Recommended by Mel

Grab a pair of Joy-Con controllers and get moving as you gently shake, punch, dance, wiggle, and even curtsy through over 200 lightning-fast microgames.



all programs

Program Highlights

- School Supply Item Drive, September 1st-5th, During library hours
- September Exhibition | Community Art Exhibit, Wednesday, September 2nd, 5:00-7:00 pm
- Friends Pop-Up Book Sale, Thursday, September 3rd, 10:00 am-1:00 pm
- Next Up Music Festival, Saturday, September 5th, 2:00-9:00 pm
- Free School Supply Shop, September 8th-10th, 3:00-7:00 pm, 11th, 1:00-5:00 pm, 12th, 11:00 am-2:00 pm
- QPR & Suicide Prevention, Friday, September 11th, 9:30-11:00 am
- National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 15th, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
- Artist-in-Residence Cristina Querrer | Memory Made Visible: Art, Story, and the Materials We Carry, Saturday, September 19th, 2:00-3:00 pm
- The Westerly Band in Concert, Sunday, September 20th, 3:00-4:30 pm
- The Pop-Up at Coy: Grammy Joan Handmade, Thursday, September 24th, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
- Family Craft & Movie Night, Monday, September 28th, 5:30-7:15 pm

Ongoing Programs & Events

MAKERSPACE

Digital Learning Hub: Resume Basics, Wednesday, September 16th, 6:00-7:00 pm

Open Art Studio, Wednesday, September 9th & 23rd, 6:30-7:30 pm

Sewing Basics, Wednesday, September 9th & 23rd, 6:00-6:30 pm

Westerly Tech Social, Thursday, September 24th, 4:00-5:00 pm

ADULTS

The Dramatic Book Club, 2nd Monday of the month, 2:00-4:00 pm

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

Cookbook Club, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:00-7:30 pm

Crafternoon To-Go, 2nd Monday of the month, 9:00 am-8:00 pm

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

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

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

The Poetry Gathering, 2nd Monday of the month, 5:00-7:00 pm

QiGong Practice, Thursdays, 6:15-7:00 pm

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

Silent Book Club, Last Wednesday of the month, 5:30-7:00 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 Cafe, Saturdays, 1:00-3:00 pm

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

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

TWEENS

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

Pokémon Club, Mondays, 4:00-5:00 pm

STEAM Squad, Wednesday, September 23rd, 4:00-5:00 pm



September 2026

Tween D&D: Homeschool Group, 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

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

Graphic Novel Party: *Dog Man*, Wednesday, September 30th, 4:00-5:00 pm

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

Kids Take & Make, 1st Monday of the month, 9:00 am-8:00 pm

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

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

PARK

URI Master Gardener Kiosk, 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Walking Tour of Wilcox Park | Native Flowers and Trees, 2nd Saturday of the month, 10:00-11:30 am

Walking Tour of Wilcox Park | Specimen Trees, 4th Saturday of the month, 10:00-11:30 am

RESOURCES/INFORMATIONAL TABLES

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

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

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

Project Outreach Veterans Assistance, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10:00-11:00 am

September 2026



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 CLOSED for Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Open at 1 PM for Staff Development	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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

holidays • closings

Monday, September 7 • Closed for Labor Day

Wednesday, September 23 | Opening at 1 PM for Staff Development

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**