

THE **chronicle**

A WLWP Digital Publication



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from the executive director



The Power of a Library Card

Every September, libraries nationwide celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month, a campaign launched by the American Library Association (ALA) in 1987 to coincide with the back-to-school season. This is a perfect reminder to students, parents, and lifelong learners that a library card is one of the most powerful school supplies of all.

In an age of digital overload and rising costs, remember that some of the best things in life really are free. Yes, your humble library card is a quiet superhero. This small but mighty card is absolutely free and packed with perks that go far beyond borrowing books.

Whether you're a student, a parent, a professional, or just a curious soul, having a library card is essential as it serves as your passport to knowledge, creativity, and connection.

With a library card, you unlock access to thousands upon thousands of books, e-books, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, movies, music, and even video games. Your Westerly Library & Wilcox Park library card also gains you access to streaming movies and documentaries via platforms like Kanopy and Hoopla, all access to the New York Times online, Consumer Reports online, museum and experience passes, and over one hundred Library of Things items.

Your library card serves as your gateway to everything else the library and park have to offer including online courses from coding to photography, tutor assistance, research databases for school, work, or personal projects, local events, lectures, art exhibitions, nature, history, and social programs such as book clubs or Dungeons & Dragons, as well as volunteer opportunities.

As Rona Mann often says when we visit with her on Mann About Town, the first Wednesday of every month from 3-4 pm: it's the best deal in town because your card (and everything else in the library and park) is completely free. Just walk in, sign up, and start exploring.

Speaking of exploring, I'd be remiss to not remind you what a treasure we have in Wilcox Park. Take the time to discover all the beauty that awaits you there, particularly this month - the best month to see our Dahlias in all their glory. If you don't know much about Dahlias, consider checking out this [article](#), written by some of our local experts. They will be sharing more knowledge about other features of Wilcox Park as we move forward into fall.

So if you haven't signed up yet, or visited the dahlias in the park, what are you waiting for?

Warmly,

Brigitte S. Hopkins
Executive Director

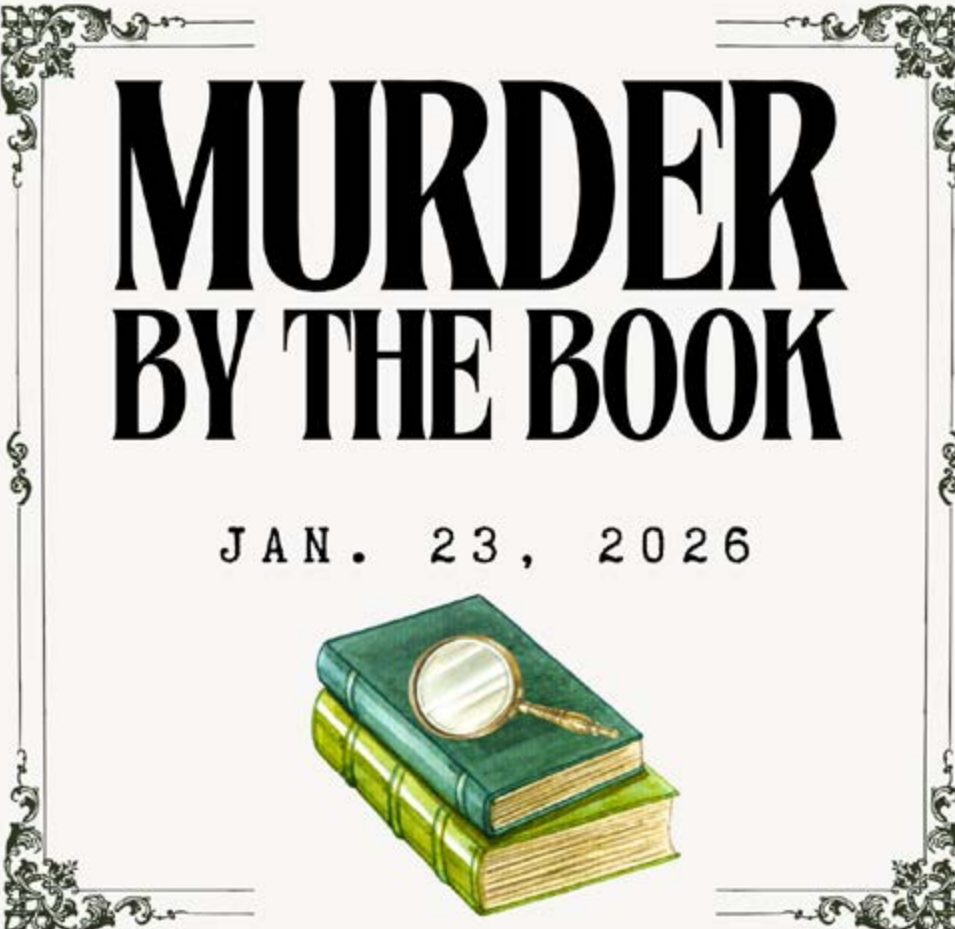


**WESTERLY LIBRARY
& WILCOX PARK**

**SAVE THE
DATE**


Join us for a live
action murder
mystery fundraiser
in the library.

More details
coming soon!



MURDER BY THE BOOK

JAN. 23, 2026



September is Library Card Sign-up Month!

Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month this September with us! A library card is so much more than books; it's an experience! With yours, you can borrow everything from a museum pass to a bird-watching kit. Your card gives you access to a wealth of online databases and helpful resources. Find e-books for your tablet, or stream thousands of tv series and films with hoopla and Kanopy. And even if you don't have a card with us, you can help celebrate by stopping into a program in the library or park! Get a library card with us today by stopping in or visit us [here](#)!



ENDLESS
POSSIBILITIES

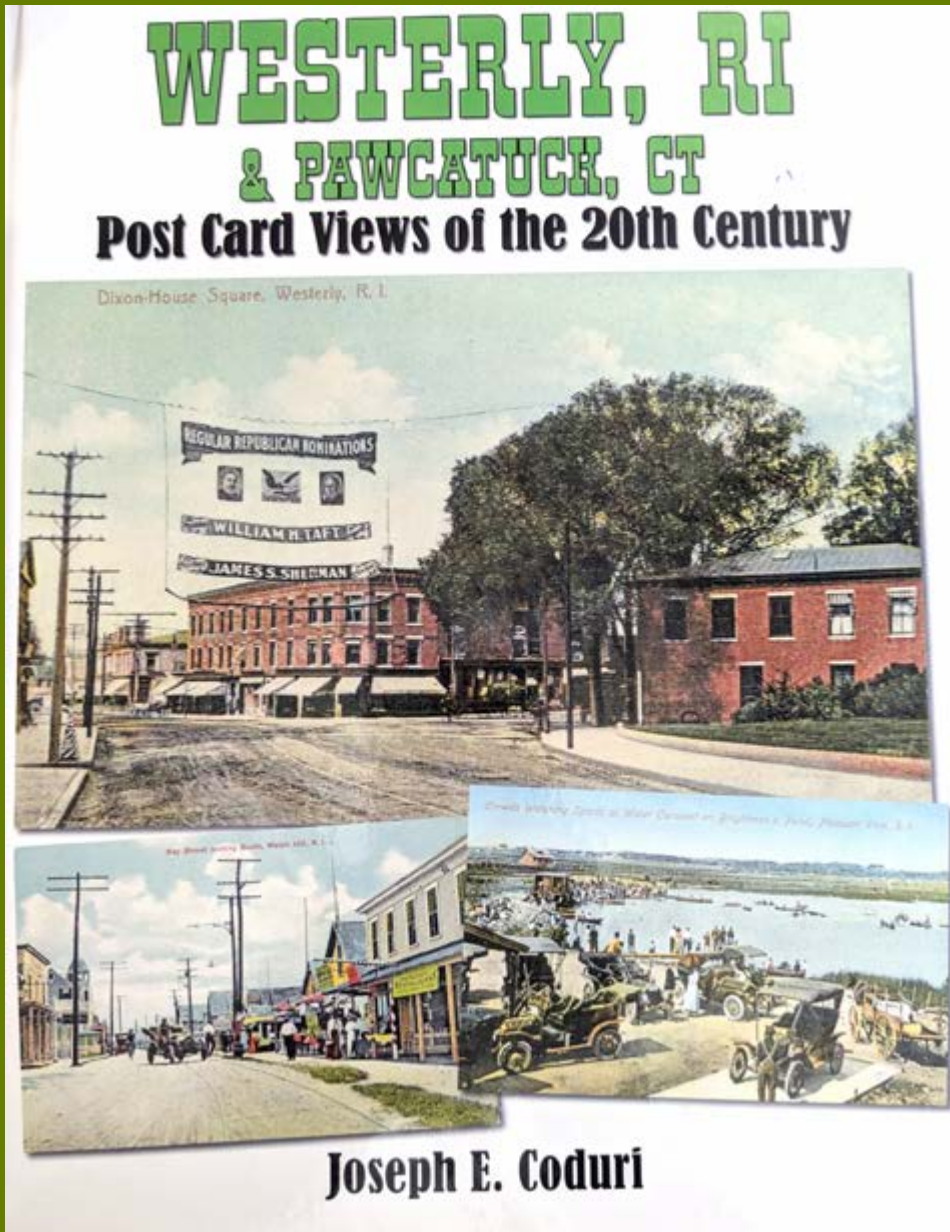
September is

Library Card Sign-up Month





in the vault



This summer we received a donation that is a wonderful addition to our Local History collection — a new book titled *Westerly, RI & Pawcatuck, CT: Post card views of the 20th century* by Joseph E. Coduri. For 45 years Joe has been collecting post cards of Rhode Island, and he has written three previous books featuring his extensive collection of postcard images - one of RI railroad stations, one of RI towns and villages, and one on RI fire departments.

Joe will be sharing his local images in a slideshow and Q & A session at the library! Please join us on Thursday, September 4th, at 6:30 pm for what will be a fun and informative evening!

program spotlights

adult services

[Live Music Concert: Expect the Unexpected,
Tuesday, September 2, 6:00-7:30 pm, Auditorium](#)



Join us for a chamber concert featuring flutist Ann Kuo, violist Annis Ma, and clarinetist Mia Kuo as they perform an engaging program of solo, duo, and trio pieces. The repertoire includes classical duets like Kummer's Duo for Flute and Clarinet and Hoffmeister's Duo for Flute and Viola, No. 2, alongside accessible trios for audiences new and experienced.

[Author talk & Signing with Peter Emanuel:
"Course Change: The Whaleship Stonington in the
Mexican-American War", Wednesday, September
3, 6:00-7:30 pm, Auditorium](#)



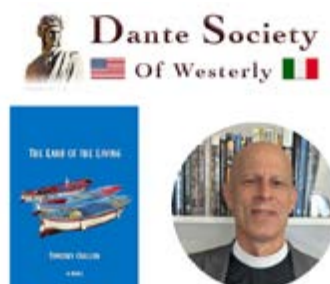
Join historian and author, Peter Emanuel, who will discuss his work of non-fiction. Emanuel relays the harrowing story of the whaleship Stonington and it's unexpected role in the Mexican-American War during 1846. Emanuel researched the story with meticulous detail, using accounts in the ship's log as one of his primary sources.

[Edible Wild Mushrooms of Rhode Island,
Wednesday, September 10, 6:00-7:45 pm,
Auditorium](#)



A special indoor class, and cooking demonstration, with Ryan and Emily Bouchard, creators of The Mushroom Hunting Foundation. With their slideshow, Ryan and Emily will explain the science and the safety rules of mushroom hunting to identify and cook with as well as have samples to try. Pre-registration on our site is required.

[Dante Society presents Author Talk with Timothy
Crellin: "The Land of the Living": Sicilian
Americans and the Myth of the Melting Pot,
Saturday, September 13, 1-3 pm](#)



Please join Dante Society for an author talk with Timothy Crellin and his novel which grows out of the author's fascination with his Sicilian heritage, on his mother's side. The other taproot of the book is Tim's deep study of war in the 20th century, and particularly the generational impact of World War I, World War II and Vietnam on immigrant families.

[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

[Terrace Room Tunes: Teen Jam Session, Wednesdays, 4-5 pm, Terrace Room](#)



Join fellow teen musicians weekly to share and collaborate in acoustic jam sessions! Explore different musical styles, practice your craft, and build confidence in a supportive environment. This program is for teens in grades 7-12.

[Teen Mindfulness Hub, Thursday, September 25th, 4-5 pm, Terrace Room](#)



Strengthen your mind, body & brighten your day! In September we will be lead through a fun and beginner level Essentrics workout class. The goal of the Essentrics Workout is to create a balanced body such that the strength in your muscles doesn't inhibit your movement, and your mobility is enhanced by your strength.

[Homeschool Hangout: Office Hours, Wednesdays 12-1 pm, Kids Room Castle](#)



Join us for a weekly homeschool hangout in the castle! All ages are welcome. Each week, we will have a collaborative project for homeschoolers to socialize through cooperative play. Activities include marble runs, domino knockdowns, Rube Goldberg machines, cardboard forts, and more!

[Tween DnD: Young Adventurers Guild, Tuesdays, 4:00-5:30 pm, Terrace Room](#)



Calling all adventurers, join one of our Dungeons and Dragons groups run by our librarians and volunteers! We have plenty of dice to borrow, and newcomers are always welcome, so drop by and see what we're about! Newcomers are encouraged to fill out our registration form on our website.
***09/16 We will meet in the Auditorium.**

program spotlights

public services

[Open Art Studio, Wednesday, September 17, 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, Thursday, September 25, 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.

park

[Music in the Park | Next Up Music Festival, Saturday, September 6, 2-9 pm, Wilcox Park](#)



Next Up Music, Inc., a local nonprofit dedicated to supporting youth in music, is thrilled to announce the return of the 4th annual Next Up Music Festival on Saturday, September 6, 2025, at Wilcox Park in Westerly, RI. This free, family-friendly event will showcase live performances by young musicians, student bands, and local artists, along with food vendors, art exhibitions, and activities for all ages. The festival celebrates community, creativity, and the next generation of music makers.

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

forage in the library



September is National Mushroom Month! Forage your way through a variety of mushroom-themed programs and activities for all ages this month. Explore below:

Kids

September 6th: [Sensory Saturday: Foraging](#)
 September 8th: [Kids Take & Make: Mushroom Fairy Houses](#)
 September 11th: Kids Craft Time: [Egg Carton Mushrooms](#)
 September 17th: [Mushroom Storytime](#)

*Throughout the month of September, kids will be invited to decorate a mushroom to add to our bulletin board.

Tweens

September 11th: [Tween Craft Time: Air Dry Clay Mushrooms](#)

*Throughout the month we will have small coloring pages available with mushrooms and other decomposers.

Teens

All month: Build the Mushroom kit at the Lego table.
 Tiny Art Table: Coloring foraging finds from the woods.
[Teen Craft Collective](#): Make a mushroom button to add to your jean jacket or backpack.

Adults

September 8th: [Crafternoon To-Go: Mushroom Magnets](#)
 September 10th: [Edible Mushrooms of Rhode Island Presentation & Cooking Demo](#)

*Stop by the display table on the main floor to find related books for all ages, too.

hanging in the hoxie

September Exhibition | Community Art Show & Reading



Don't miss our 3rd 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 this evening to admire our newest art exhibit, and meet some of the artists. From 6-7pm, we will showcase the talents of our Westerly Writer's Group, whose members will read short pieces inspired by a piece of art in this exhibit!

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.

**Opening
Reception**
Wednesday,
September 3rd,
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

**Noam Makover | Multi-Instrumentalist/
Composer**
September/October 2025

[Music in the Park | Jazz Duo, Saturday,
September 27, 2-4 pm](#)



To learn more about Noam and his upcoming residency, [click here](#).

LOOKING FOR A SPACE FOR YOUR
HOLIDAY GATHERING?

**THE
COTTAGE**

VISIT WESTERLYLIBRARY.ORG/BOOK-YOUR-EVENT

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 to inquire.



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

Next Up in The Pop-Up at Coy:



WEBER*RENEW

[Overdose Awareness Day: Informational Table with Project Weber/RENEW • Thursday, September 4th | 11:30 AM-4:00 PM](#)

In honor of International Overdose Awareness Day, Project Weber/RENEW will be available in The Pop-Up at Coy to provide resources and distribute free Naloxone, the overdose reversal medication.



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.

email: advocate@westerlylibrary.org

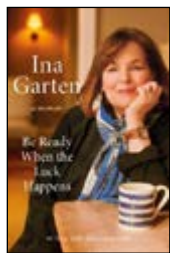
Visit our website events calendar for their most up-to-date schedules.

**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

staff curated recommendations



[Be Ready When the Luck Happens](#) by Ina Garten

Recommended by Hannah
Ina Garten presents an intimate, entertaining, and inspiring account of her remarkable journey. Ina's gift is to make everything look easy, yet all her accomplishments have been the result of hard work, audacious choices, and exquisite attention to detail.



[Ballad of Wallis Island](#)

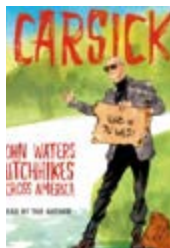
Recommended by Julianna

The Ballad of Wallis Island follows Charles, an eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island and dreams of getting his favorite musicians, Mortimer-McGwyer back together.



[How to Sleep at Night](#) by Elizabeth Harris

Recommended by Casey
Ethan and Gabe's marriage is tested when Ethan announces his congressional run as a Republican, while Nicole rekindles a romance with Ethan's sister Kate, a political reporter whose life spirals as family and career collide.



[Carsick: John Waters Hitchhikes Across America](#) by John Waters

Recommended by Stacey
John Waters is putting his life on the line. Armed with wit, a pencil-thin mustache, and a cardboard sign that reads "I'm Not Psycho," he hitchhikes across America from Baltimore to San Francisco, braving lonely roads and treacherous drivers.



[A Man's Skin](#) by Hubert Boulard

Recommended by Ericka

A graphic novel set in Renaissance Italy about a young woman named Bianca who uses a magical family heirloom, "a man's skin," to disguise herself as a man named Lorenzo to learn about her arranged fiancé, Giovanni.



[The Phoenix Ballroom](#) by Ruth Hogan

Recommended by Brigitte

A wealthy widow, 74-year-old Venetia Hargreaves declares her independence, first with a makeover, then by adopting a dog and then by buying the Phoenix Ballroom to revive one meaningful thing from her past, finding a supportive and loving community of lost souls who become a multigenerational family-by-choice.

for customized
recommendations
click here

youth picks



Till Human Voices Wake Us by Rebecca Roque

Recommended by Lynn

When her best friend's death is ruled a suicide, 17-year-old Cia must expose an underground society preying on those they think no one will miss, putting her in the crosshairs of a killer who is closer to home than she ever imagined.



Sandwiches! by Alison Deering

Recommended by Franklin

The Pigeon is dirty and he needs a bath, but he won't go willingly



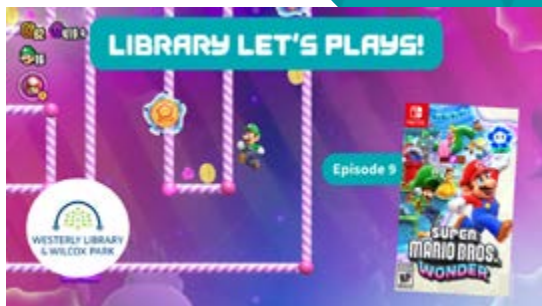
Love is My Favorite Thing by Emma Chichester Clark

Recommended by Orson

Plum the dog loves everything, and his enthusiasm knows no bounds--sometimes getting him in trouble.

video game recs

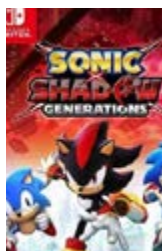
Visit our YouTube channel where you'll find a new Library Let's Plays courtesy of our Tween Librarian, Ben, every Thursday!



Dave the Diver

Recommended by Ben

Explore the depths of the Blue Hole! From tropical fish to ancient relics, the sea is full of mysteries! Run a sushi restaurant by night! Create special sushi menus using fresh-caught fish. Danger lurks in the deep! Enhance your equipment and prepare for the dangers in the deep!



Sonic x Shadows

Recommended by Ben

Modern and Classic Sonic team up to defeat Dr. Eggman and the Time Eater to restore their timeline to normal!

September 2025

Program Highlights

- [Live Music Concert: Expect the Unexpected, Tuesday, September 2, 6:00-7:30 pm](#)
- [September Exhibition | Community Art Exhibit & Reading, Wednesday, September 3, 5-7 pm](#)
- [Author talk & Signing with Peter Emanuel: "Course Change: The Whaleship Stonington in the Mexican-American War", Wednesday, September 3, 6:00-7:30 pm](#)
- [Overdose Awareness Day: Information Table with Project Weber/RENEW, Thursday, September 4, 11:30 am-4:00 pm](#)
- [Westerly and Pawcatuck Postcard Views of the 20th Century with Joe Coduri, Thursday, September 4, 6:30-7:30 pm](#)
- [Sensory Saturday: Foraging, Saturday, September 6, 11 am-12 pm](#)
- [Music in the Park | Next Up Music Festival, Saturday, September 6, 2-9 pm](#)
- [Edible Wild Mushrooms of Rhode Island, Wednesday, September 10, 6:00-7:45 pm](#)
- [Dante Society presents Author Talk with Timothy Crellin: "The Land of the Living": Sicilian Americans and the Myth of the Melting Pot, Saturday, September 13, 1-3 pm](#)
- [National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 16, 11 am-5 pm](#)
- [Celebration for International Day of Peace, Sunday, September 21, 4:30-6:30 pm](#)
- [Music in the Park | Jazz Duo with Artist-in-Residence Noam Makover, Saturday, September 27, 2-4 pm](#)

Ongoing Programs & Events

MAKERSPACE

[Open Art Studio, Wednesday, September 17, 6:30-7:30 pm](#)

[Sewing Basics, Wednesday, September 17, 6:00-6:30 pm](#)

[Laser Basics, Thursday, September 25, 6:00-6:30 pm](#)

ADULTS

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

[Chess Club, Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 pm](#)

[Cookbook Club, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:00-7:30, Terrace Room](#)

[Crafternoon To-Go, 1st Monday of the month, \(09/08 this month\) 9 am-8 pm](#)

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

[Learn the Language of Ireland with Irish Costal Club, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month \(beginning 09/17\), 6:30-7:30 pm](#)

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

[The Poetry Gathering, 3rd Monday of the month, 5-7 pm](#)

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

[Silent Book Club, Last Wednesday of the month, 5:30-7:00 pm](#)

[Way Back Wednesday Movie Night, Last Wednesday, September 24, 6:00-7:45 pm](#)

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

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

TEENS

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

[Teen Craft Collective, Thursdays, 4-5 pm](#)

[Teen Mindfulness Hub, monthly, September 25, 4-5 pm](#)

[Teen Pride Alliance, Mondays, 4-5 pm](#)

Terrace Room Tunes: Teen Jam Session, Wednesdays, 4-5 pm

TWEENS

D&D

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

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

Group 3: Wednesdays, 4:30-6:00 pm

Tween Craft Time, Thursdays, 4-5 pm

KIDS

Homeschool Hangout: Office Hours, Wednesdays 12-1 pm

Kids Craft Time, Thursdays, 4-5 pm

Kids Take & Make, 1st Monday of the month (09/08 this month), 9 am-8 pm

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

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

RESOURCES/INFORMATIONAL TABLES

Community Resources Advocate, Tuesdays 1-4 pm

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

The Pop-Up at Coy: Overdose Awareness Day: Informational Table with Project Weber/RENEW, Thursday, September 4th, 11:30 AM-4:00 PM

PARK

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

URI Master Gardener Kiosk, 2nd Saturday of the month, 9 am - 12 pm

Clubs & Meetups

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

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

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

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

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

Tech Social: 2nd Wednesday of the month • 1-2 PM • Makerspace and via Zoom

Silent Book Club: Last Wednesday of the month • 5:30-7:00 PM • Old Main Reading Room

Chess Club (All ages): Thursdays • 5:30-7:30 PM • Old Main Reading Room

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

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

September 2025

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 1 • Closed for Labor Day
Wednesday • September 24 • Library Opens 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**