



## Westerly ARC Newsletter

Weekly Newsletter

16 Oct 2022



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

[Visit Our Website](#)

“Openness may not completely disarm prejudice, but it’s a good place to start.”

– Jason Collins

## Embrace

Westerly ARC offers condolences to the family and extended community of **Chris DiPaola**. Chris was always inviting of our

members and saw to it that we were included in vital conversations on WBLQ. His presence and warm welcome will be deeply missed.

[Chris DiPaola, 'the voice of Westerly,' remembered for his reliability, love of radio](#)



October 16

## This Week's Protest

As we work to increase our understanding of the issues and current events of the day we would like to have a presentation or guest speaker every Sunday but unfortunately that is not always possible. We encourage any of our members or their friends, family or contacts to volunteer to speak at one of our rallies. A personal story, a recommendation for a book or program, a poetry reading, a dance, a song or a sharing of other talents are warmly welcomed. We often just join together in community and solidarity on the Post Office steps from 11am-1pm without any particular focus.

We are committed to continuing our vigil for equality and equity in the face of so much injustice. After two and a half years we have gained some measure of "success." The effect of our persistent presence has become a catalyst for making significant changes in our local political, educational and social systems.

As winter approaches, bundle up in your warmest clothes and stand with us for a few minutes, an hour or maybe, two. We hope you will join us whenever you can, even if you have been away for a long time. All are welcome!



## Last Week's Protest

It was inspiring to hear the stories of **Leslie Dunn** and **Michael Ober** at last week's protest. These two candidates for School Committee demonstrated their passion for making Westerly Public Schools the best it can be while sharing their stories of what led them to run for office.

Leslie has been active in the school system ever since her years as a student through volunteer work, participating in clubs, and as a leader in local initiatives. She is focused on creating a wide range of opportunities for all students in Westerly. Leslie has been spoken frequently at School Committee meetings and played a role in supporting the equity audit.

Michael spoke of his time serving on the Westerly School Committee in previous years and how his experience made a positive impact on our schools, including balancing the budget, building a new middle school, and expanding the high school. He is running for reelection to continue to contribute to the success of Westerly Public Schools.

Many of us enjoyed further discussion with the candidates over gelato at **Pompelmo Gelato** after the protest. Thank you to Mel and her team at

Pompelmo for hosting us!

*Note: Westerly ARC does not endorse any candidate but upon request we welcome candidates to our Sunday peaceful protest to share their stories and platforms.*

We meet every **Sunday from 11:00–1:00** on the steps of the Westerly Post Office on High Street. Join us anytime!

## Empower

### Meet the Candidates, Stay Informed

There are many opportunities to learn about candidates for local and state offices. Mark your calendar and plan to attend or view one or more of these events. Bring a friend! Make an informed decision!



#### **October 13 Westerly Town Council Candidate Forum**

Westerly Town Hall,  
6:30pm

[View Recording](#)



#### **October 20 Westerly School Committee and Senate District 38 Candidate Forums**

Westerly Town Hall  
5:30pm

[More information](#)

---

## Town Meetings

Westerly ARC encourages those who can to attend Westerly Town Council and School Committee meetings. Your presence and involvement is an important way to show our elected



officials that creating a more equitable and inclusive town and school system must always be a priority.

Monday, 17 Oct - Town Council Regular Meeting 5:30 pm

Wednesday, 19 Oct - School Committee Meeting 5:00 pm

Monday, 24 Oct - Town Council Workshop and Regular Meeting 5:30 pm

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

<https://clerkshq.com/westerly-ri>



## Voters' Corner

Mail-In Ballot Application Due by: Oct 18

Early Voting Oct.19-Nov.7 (Town Hall)

Election Day: November 8

Click button below for sample ballot

### Voting Resources

- [Vote.RI.gov](http://Vote.RI.gov) - Update your voting record, register to vote, find your polling place, view a sample ballot, apply for a mail ballot and more!
- [League of Women Voters of Rhode Island](http://League of Women Voters of Rhode Island) - a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government; conducts candidate forums and has many local resources.
- [Vote.org](http://Vote.org) - online voter guides for every state, including where to vote, what's on the ballot, voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications and more!

[Sample Ballot](#)

## Act

Here are a few ongoing ways you can support the

[View our Calendar](#)



### Share

Spread the news!  
**Forward this newsletter to at least one person** you think might be interested in it. Ask them to sign up for our newsletter on the [Westerly ARC website](#).

We have **over 200 subscribers** as of now; help us reach an even wider audience!



### Donate

ARC member Amanda Dunn continues to collect toiletries, personal care items, and non-perishable food to distribute to our community. Please bring your donations to Amanda at our Sunday rallies. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.



### Show Up

Stop by one of our weekly protests, join one of the events listed in this newsletter, attend a town meeting, sign up for one of the trainings linked above.

*"We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."  
— Elie Wiesel*

[Read More](#)

## Educate



### One Square Mile

[In Westerly, first-time candidates aim to be leaders who 'value equity in this community'](#)



### Bystander Training

[Right to Be](#) is an organization that

Listen to this short interview with **Leslie Dunn** and **Kevin Lowther** about making equity a bigger priority in our community.

Here is another compelling interview with Westerly peace activists **Madeline Labriola** and **Frank Thacker**.

[Westerly peace activists see 'worrisome' divisions in U.S. politics, but potential for 'common ground'](#)

provides free online bystander training. Check their website for information about schedules and other types of free training. Please let us know if you participate in a training and how it went!

“Right To Be’s work ranges widely, but our goal is simple: we want to build a world where everyone has the Right To Be who they are, wherever they are. A world that’s free of harassment and filled with humanity.”

---

## Culture Calendar

[Spirit Day](#) - Oct 20

Spirit Day is an annual observance that takes place on the third Thursday in October. This day aims to create awareness for the bullying and harassment that the L.G.B.T.Q community faces.

[Diwali](#) - Oct 24

Diwali is a festival of lights and is one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika. It is a celebration of good over evil.



---

## The Meaning of “White Lives Matter”

This article from Anti-Racism Daily discusses why phrases like “White Lives Matter” or “All Lives Matter” are problematic and why racial justice is not a threat to white people.

[Read More](#)

# Up Next

Calendar of Events	
17 October 2022	Town Council Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm
19 October 2022	School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm
20 October 2022	Westerly School Committee and Senate District 38 Candidate Forums, Westerly Town Hall, 5:30pm
24 October 2022	Town Council Workshop and Regular Meeting 5:30 pm



---

## Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition

Join our weekly protests  
Sundays 11-1  
Downtown Westerly Post Office steps

westerlyarc@gmail.com

You received this email because you  
signed up on our website at one of our  
events.



[Unsubscribe](#)

[Megaphone, Fast, Give icons created by Freepik - Flaticon](#)

