



March 12

Join us this Sunday, March 12 as we continue our vigilant presence in the heart of Westerly. Standing on the steps of the Post Office for almost 3 years we have developed into a loving community. It is amazing that in spite of weather, holidays and other diversions there is almost always about 15-30 people in attendance. Some people passing by are curious and ask us what's happening and stay for a while, others join every so often and still others fly in from Michigan and Ohio to be supportive of their dear friends. It is indicative of our commitment to racial justice and equality that friends and family come to put their arms around us and show their support and love.

Now that the weather is warming perhaps you will join us one Sunday. The discussion is lively, the faces are smiling and the gathering is always one that demonstrates our belief in the democratic process as we navigate the waters of social change. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to add their voice.



Last Week

We gathered on a mild Sunday to catch up with each other and learn more about local issues. School Committee member Leslie Dunn shared an update on issues impacting our students, including the committee's recent discussion of mental health. We learned of the need for committing more resources to addressing students' needs in this area. We were also reminded of the importance of not using language that adds to the stigma of mental health or blames families for their child's struggles.

Town Councilor Kevin Lowther updated us on three major issues that have been discussed lately: coastal access, affordable housing, and the development of the Bradford School and Tower Street School sites. Each issue is multifaceted and complex, and Kevin encouraged us to become involved by viewing or attending meetings and volunteering for one of the open positions

on a town board (see below). We appreciate the hard work and many hours Leslie and Kevin have given to their positions and for keeping us updated on these important topics.

JUNETEENTH COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The Steering Committee of Westerly ARC is inviting anyone from the community who would like to be part of the planning process for this year's Juneteenth celebration to please come forward! This committee will prepare the events for our 3rd annual observance of this federal holiday that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. Please sign up today by sending an email to westerlyarc@gmail.com or speaking to one of the organizers at the Sunday gathering. With everyone's help we can make this the best Juneteenth ever! The committee will convene in the next few weeks.

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

Empower

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.



March 15 School Committee Meeting 5:00

March 16 Multicultural Committee Meeting 5:30 (municipal courtroom)

March 20 Town Council Meeting 5:30

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

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

Help Wanted

Are you or someone you know interested in joining Westerly ARC's newsletter team? We are looking for help with any of the following:

- **Compiling, formatting, and publishing** – We will train you in how to use our newsletter template to add previously created content. You will work with an experienced person and be able to add your own ideas!
- **Creating content** – You will assist with researching and creating specific content for our newsletter. We have some ideas, and you can bring your own.
- **Taking photos** – Can you take some photos at our weekly gatherings on the post office steps and/or at other events? We'd love to use your photos in the newsletter.

Maybe you know a young person who is good with technology or would like to earn some community service hours! Click below to contact us if you are interested or know or have any questions. Thank you!

[Click here to contact us](#)



International Nonviolence Summer Institute

The University of Rhode Island Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies is pleased to announce that the 2023 International Nonviolence Summer Institute will be in person at the University of Rhode Island. Participants can choose Level 1 Kingian Nonviolence Training of Trainers (June 5-9) or Level 2 Advanced Nonviolence Leadership Training (June 12-16). Applicants for the Level 2 Training have to have their Level 1 Training certification before this training. [Click here to learn more and to register.](#)

Positions Available on Town Council Boards

Get involved and make positive changes in Westerly by volunteering for one of the many boards.

Applications can be obtained on the Town of Westerly's website www.westerlyri.gov and submitted to the Office of Town Clerk.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

LICENSING BOARD (AUXILIARY MEMBER)

VETERANS 'ROLLS OF HONOR' MEMORIAL COMMITTEE (1ST AND 2nd ALTERNATES)

HOUSING AUTHORITY (ONE MEMBER)

MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE (TWO MEMBERS)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (FULL MEMBER)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (AUXILIARY MEMBER)

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TWO FULL MEMBERS)

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

BOARD OF FINANCE (TWO FULL MEMBERS)

CONCERTS ON THE BEACH COMMITTEE (TWO FULL MEMBERS)

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

MUNICIPAL LAND TRUST (FULL MEMBER)

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Act

[View our Calendar](#)

Here are a few ongoing ways you can support the work of Westerly ARC.



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](#).



Donate

ARC advocate Amanda Dunn continues to collect toiletries, personal care items, and non-perishable food to distribute to our community. Please bring your donations to



Show Up

Stop by one of our weekly gatherings, join one of the events listed in this newsletter, attend a town meeting, etc.

Don't forget to like, subscribe, comment, and share on our social media posts!

Amanda at our Sunday rallies. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

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

Educate

Herstory is Our Story in Rhode Island

The Gannett Publishing Group launched its Women of the Century project in 2020 to celebrate the outstanding contributions of women to American life. In celebration of Women's History Month in Rhode Island, take a look at their list of influential female leaders in our state's history.



"Rhode Island, it turns out, is flush with history-making women," the USA Network says. "There's Anne Hutchinson, who was also banished from Massachusetts Bay Colony and went on to found Portsmouth."

The list recognizes diverse demographics and a wide range of social and economic sectors in Rhode Island life. Some names may be familiar; others may not, but all help us understand the profound influence of women in Rhode Island. Learn about each of the ten significant women and their contributions to our lives as Rhode Islanders [here](#).

March 11

Big Lux with Special Guest, the Westerly High School Jazz Band

Join Westerly's own Big Lux as he makes his debut performance at the UNITED Theatre! He will be joined by the Westerly High School Jazz Band, a dynamic group that gave Lux his introduction to jazz and improvisation as a student. [Purchase tickets here](#).



March 11, 7:00 pm

Culture Calendar

Equal Pay Day - March 14

This symbolic day denotes how far into the year women must work to be paid what men were paid the previous year. Equal Pay Day 2023 is on March 14 to represent the current state of the gender pay gap: 84% for full-time workers and 77% for all workers (including part-time and seasonal). ([AAUW](#))



St. Patrick's Day - March 17

Although the holiday originally started as a Christian feast day celebrating the life of St. Patrick and the spreading of Christianity to Ireland, today, it is a day of revelry and a celebration of all things Irish. Don't forget to wear green! Read more at [Almanac](#).

St. Joseph's Day - March 19

A local custom followed by many of our community members who are of Italian heritage is the celebration of St. Joseph's Day. Local bakeries sell out of the delicious pastry called zeppole (see photo) which is enjoyed on this day. This is another example of the rich multi-cultural heritage we all enjoy. Learn more about Saint Joseph's Day at [Faith Giant](#).

Up Next

Calendar of Events	
March 11	Big Lux with Special Guest, the Westerly High School Jazz Band , 7:00 pm, United Theater
March 15	School Committee Meeting, 5:00
March 16	Multicultural Committee Meeting 5:30 (municipal courtroom)
March 20	Town Council Meeting, 5:30



Join our weekly gatherings

westerlyarc@gmail.com

Sundays 11-1

Downtown Westerly Post Office steps

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



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