



# Westerly Armory Restoration, Inc.

Mail: PO Box 614 Westerly, RI 02891 Location: 41 Railroad Ave  
[www.westerlyarmory.org](http://www.westerlyarmory.org) Telephone: 401.596.8554

## NOT JUST MILITARY

How many times have people said that they thought the Armory's museum was just a military museum???

**Not so.** The museum houses much community memorabilia. Take a look:



Wedding gown of Elaine Sherron Grills, late wife of Sam Grills.  
Original sign from Smith's Flowers on Beach Street.  
Westerly High School (WHS) Class of 1910 large wooden plaque.

## Armory Events

### April 4, Saturday

Museum Open House  
Smithsonian Museum Day  
Free tours from 11-3

### April 25, Saturday

Appreciation Evening  
6 pm sharp; tickets needed

### May 5, Sunday at 3 pm

**Spring Children's Concert**  
Westminster Youth String Ensemble  
Tickets \$10 adults, kids free

### May 7, Thursday

**Pitch Tournament 6:00 pm sharp**  
Prizes, supper --- \$20pp  
64 Teams of Two

### June 7, Sunday

WHS Booster Awards  
Award Night

### \*\* Tuesdays at 7 pm

Line Dancing  
(see more inside)

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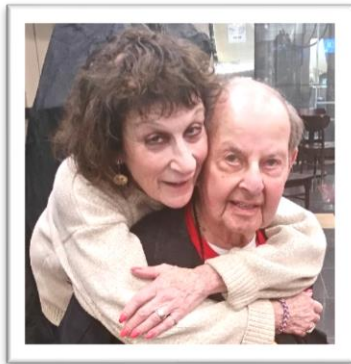
The Armory is open on Mondays **AND** Thursdays from 9 am to 4 pm. Use the side door by the small parking area (every-day entrance). Arrangements can be made for tours and rentals on other days.

# Membership Appreciation Evening: April 25, 2020

Members, mark your calendars for Saturday, April 25 at 6 pm sharp (doors open at 5 pm) for an evening devoted to good eating, superb entertainment, and the honoring of four outstanding people of service. Tickets are \$10pp for members; \$35pp for guests/non-members. You can join as a member **by 1 April**.

You won't want to miss this evening which features a delicious buffet dinner by Wolf Rock followed by the performance of The Company Bees, ladies who are known throughout for their singing of WWII songs.

The honorees this year are:



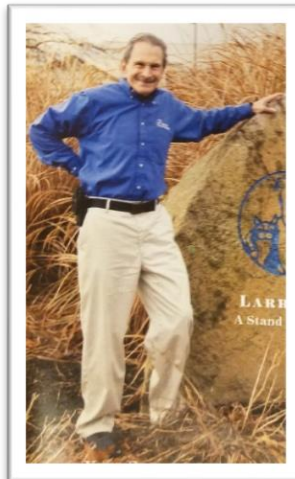
## Rona and Dave Mann

Rona is known for her pieces in *The Westerly Sun* and especially for her charitable work.

Dave is a WWII veteran, a recipient of 3 Purple Hearts, and served under General George Patton.

## Larry Hirsch

It seems that "everyone" knows Larry and for good reason – with his work saving open land, helping animals, among so much else.



## Rev Dr Cal Lord

Always going above and beyond, Rev Cal has made an impression far beyond that of his own church. He has become a Westerly icon for service.



## John Coduri

John's part in producing the story of Westerly granite and his work for the

Babcock-Smith House – and his time in the Rhode Island National Guard make him a man of service.



## Notes & Projects

An **arched doorway** in the Armory's coal room has been created for egress to and from the coal room. The room will become a museum display area and workshop. Come see.

The **"stair"** project has been completed. This has preserved the structure of the Armory's front. The funding for this was helped greatly by a grant promoted by the Phebe Greene Ward Chapter, DAR and awarded to the Armory by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Almost every day the Armory is open, someone comes in with a contribution to the museum. People do not realize how much community memorabilia the museum holds. Ed Ligouri recently brought in yardsticks representing past area businesses, a box from Carrie's, and an assortment of other items. A bag from Burdick's Sporting Goods, a box from Bob Mearns Men's Wear, a menu from Vars Brothers lunch counter (featuring "Egg Phosphate") can be seen. Welcome are these pieces of the community's past.

**Note: The Armory needs monetary support for the waterproofing project. Donations would be very welcome.**



## Line Dancing Lessons

Ellie Coffey, board member at the Armory, is running a weekly line-dancing class with two instructors and a lot of fun. No experience necessary. Tuesday evening from 7 to 9:30ish.

Geoff Hewitt and Dawn Rathbun teach a range of dances, from absolute beginner to intermediate, including new dances and older favorites. Open dancing with requests. Hewitt says: "If you are having fun, you're doing it right. It's all about having a good time."

Drop-in fee of \$10 or purchase a monthly pass for \$35. Contact Ellie at [westerlylinedancing@gmail.com](mailto:westerlylinedancing@gmail.com)



## The Armory's Float

The Armory's float was created by John Humble, manager. It began as a 27'-long piece for the Heritage Festival on the State House lawn, and then came to the Armory and was developed into a float. For the 350<sup>th</sup> parades, the float's theme was "Community Remembered" with likenesses of Charles Utter (publisher/editor of *The Westerly Sun* and WWII veteran) and a Westerly Band drummer (oldest active community band in the nation). On the sides were 2 original plaques for the 169<sup>th</sup> Military Police, RING, and on the front 2 children wearing clothes from the 1940s. A Rhode Island Red rooster sat in the low front section remembering the poultry shows at the Armory. Over 1000 artificial flowers decorated the base. The float appeared in both the Columbus Day and Light parades.

## Coming Again Exhibit & Sale

November 1 from 10-3  
Sunday

Last year was the first Exhibit & Sale featuring crafts, antiques, and Rhode Island authors as well as a café with lunch and snack items. This Armory fundraiser was a big success and will run again this fall.

Quality crafters (juried show) are welcome to apply and we are looking for 1-2 more antiques dealers.

## Open House

Smithsonian Museum Day  
at the Armory  
**Saturday, April 4 from 11-3**

Always free tours, but rarely open Saturday – the Armory will be open on April 4. Come visit and enjoy your 119-year-old friend. Bring family and friends.

## Forget Me Not

I am the Westerly Armory, a friend of the community for 119 years. Over time, I have been home to the RI State (National) Guard – but I have also been a close companion to people of the community hosting car shows, dances where people met their future spouses, boxing with Rocky, singing with Ella, poultry shows, and much more.

Will you remember me in your legacy or even now? I'd like to stay with you. Thank you.

Present Occupant or

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage Paid  
Permit # 44  
Westerly, RI 02891

**WESTERLY ARMORY RESTORATION, INC.**  
P.O. Box 614  
Railroad Avenue  
Westerly, RI 02891

## PITCH TOURNAMENT

*To benefit the historic Westerly Armory*

**Thursday, May 7, 2020**

6:00 pm sharp – forfeit time 6:15 pm

**Grinder Supper ★ Prizes**

64 teams of 2

Donation: \$20.00

