

Charlton Public Library Newsletter

HELLO
AUGUST



Special Hours

The Library is closed Saturdays for the summer. Saturday hours will resume on Sat. Sept. 12.

Friends of the Charlton Library

The Friends remain on hiatus until the fall when we will man a booth at Old Home Day, Monday, September 6. We hope you'll stop by and introduce yourself. Our next meeting takes place on Tuesday, September 8. In the meantime, be sure to take part in the Library's Summer Reading Program, Plant a Seed, Read!

Plant a Seed, Read

June 22 - August 7



Summer Reading is HERE!

This year's theme is Plant a Seed, Read!
Summer Reading started on Monday, June 22
and ends on Friday, August 7.

Everyone is invited to visit the Library,
check out items to read, and win prizes!

Where are the programs for kids and teens?

We have so much going on that we're sending out two newsletters each month: this one which covers our adult programs and another one which covers our youth programs. If you'd like to change which ones you receive send us an email at charltonlibrary@cwmares.org letting us know which ones you'd like to add or drop and we'll make sure that you're getting the news you want!

August Art Exhibit: "Hidden in Plain Sight"

Our Community Room art gallery features the work of Neil Rosenberg this month. Come enjoy Neil's unique talent for images that reveal surprise, joy and wonder in objects, places, and abstract forms. His work spans 50 years of exploration, reflecting an evolving sense of awareness, curiosity, and delight. Visit the Community Room during regular Library hours all month long to visit the exhibit.

Join us for a reception on Thursday, August 13 from 6-7:30 pm
to meet Neil, view his art, and enjoy refreshments.

Interested in exhibiting in either our Front Lobby or Community Room Art Gallery? Get all the details on the library website here: <https://charltonlibrary.org/art-exhibits-at-the-charlton-library/>

Upcoming Programs for Adults

Puzzle Race Thursday, August 6 at 6 pm

Can your team complete a jigsaw puzzle faster than your friends and neighbors? Each team will receive the same 300 piece puzzle provided by the library. The team that finishes first or completes the most before time is called wins! Adults, teens, and families with children aged 8+ are welcome to participate. Registration is required—only one person from each team should register. Teams can have up to six members. Don't have a team? Email Betsy at perryb@cwmares.org and we'll put together a team of interested folks!

[Register](#)

Play Games in the Community Meeting Room

Mondays, August 3, 17, and 31 from 12:30 - 2 pm

This afternoon we're playing cribbage! We've got a few boards and decks of cards and we can't wait to play with you!
Beginner and experienced cribbage players are welcome.

Mondays, August 10 and 24 from 12:30 - 2 pm

Today we'll play a variety of party games together! Come have fun with us!

Play Games is presented in partnership with the Golden Age Club of Charlton.
No registration is required for these programs.

Bead Therapy for Adults

Tuesday, August 11 at 6 pm

Bead Therapy is a hands-on expressive arts workshop where participants work with semi-precious stones and natural materials to create wearable art in a calm, supportive group environment, with no prior art or jewelry-making experience required. The workshop leader Z, or Zangar Freeman, is a first-generation Liberian-American jewelry artist, educator, and veteran. With a background in social work and over a decade of experience in jewelry-making, his work across New England emphasizes accessibility, cultural storytelling, and the power of creative practice as a grounding and reflective tool. This is for adults ages 18 and up. Registration is required.

[**Register**](#)

Adult Craft: Paint-by-Number

Wednesday, August 26 at 11 am

Thursday, August 27 at 6 pm

In this month's adult craft, we are taking a break from decisions with floral paint-by-number. Participants will paint a predetermined design, filling in each section with the specific corresponding paint color. Each design is printed on framed canvas. Registration is required. This class is offered twice to accommodate more folks and differing schedules. The project will be the same each time.

[**Register for August 26 at 11 am**](#)

[**Register for August 27 at 6 pm**](#)

Save the Dates!

Craft Supply Swap

Saturday, September 12 from 10 am - 2 pm

Our third annual craft supply swap is coming in September. Donations will be accepted from August 24-September 11, we will be collecting arts and crafts materials only (fabrics, yarn, paper, patterns, tools, beads, etc.) We will NOT accept office supply donations (binders, file organizers, etc.) items must be able to be reused (new or gently used, not expired.) When in doubt, use the best friend rule—would I give this to my best friend? We cannot accept opened liquids such as paints, chemicals and glue.

Repair Café

Saturday, October 24 from 10 am - 2 pm

The Charlton Library is looking for Fixers for our first Repair Café! Are you good with tools? Do your friends often ask you for advice? Do you enjoy building, maintaining, and fixing things? Are you free on Saturday, October 24, 2026? Reach out to Betsy Perry, Library Director, at 508-248-0452 or perryb@cwmares.org for more information.

What is a Repair Café?

A Repair Café is a gathering of volunteers who offer to consult on and possibly fix items that would otherwise go to landfills. The Repair Café concept is an attempt to reverse our society's throw away culture. We throw out vast amounts of stuff, even things with almost nothing wrong

and which just need a simple repair. The problem is that most people don't know how to fix things and often it costs more to have an expert repair something than to simply replace it. But replacing things rather than repairing them wastes raw materials and energy, increases carbon dioxide emissions and expands our overflowing landfills.

The Repair Café will be held Oct. 24 at Charlton Public Library in partnership with Charlton Business Alliance, Charlton Lions Club, and Keep Charlton Beautiful.

Digital Skills Instruction

Drop-in Tech Help

Teen Space - no registration required
Tuesdays, August 4 and 11 from 3:30-6:00 pm
Thursdays, August 6 and 13 from 2:00-4:00 pm

Do you have a few quick questions about technology? Would you like to learn how to use apps like Libby or Kanopy? Drop in and speak with Charlton Library's Digital Skills Instructor and get the specific support you need. If you will need more than 15 minutes of tech help, please make a one-on-one appointment.

One-on-One Tech Help

Local History Room - registration required
Wednesdays, August 5 and 12 at 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm or 4:00 pm
Thursdays, August 6 and 13 at 4:00 or 5:00 pm

Do you have a more complicated question than we can cover during Drop-in Tech Help? Would you like to learn some basic email or internet skills? Make a one-on-one appointment with the Charlton Library's Digital Skills Instructor and get up to 60 minutes of dedicated support.

AI Image Generators

Monday, August 3 at 12:30—2:00 PM- Local History Room- Registration required
Do you envision something in your mind's eye but struggle to bring it to life? There's an AI tool for that! This lecture will explain how artificial intelligence can turn your words into stunning realistic and imaginative images in seconds. We'll demonstrate an AI image generator and the wide range of visual and artistic styles it can produce. You'll also learn tips for getting the most out of this new and exciting technology so you can get started! This is for people ages 60 and up. *This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.*

Staying on Schedule Using Calendar and Reminders

Tuesday, August 4 at 12:30-1:30 pm- Community Meeting Room - Registration required
Discover how to use the Calendar and Reminders apps to keep track of appointments, tasks, and daily routines. You'll learn how to add events, set reminders, create lists, and even use Siri to help you stay on schedule with ease.

Tidying Up Your Google Drive

Tuesday, August 4 at 2:30-3:30 pm OR Thursday, August 6 from 6:00-7:00 pm
Local History Room - Registration required
Feeling overwhelmed by files in your Google Drive? This beginner-friendly class will show you how to bring order to your digital storage. Learn how to create and organize folders, move files into the right places, and use color-coding to quickly identify important folders. By the end of the session, you'll have practical strategies to keep your Google Drive neat, easy to navigate, and simple to maintain. Perfect for anyone who wants to save time and find their files faster.

Tidying up your Gmail

Tuesday, August 4 at 6:00-7:00 pm OR Wednesday, August 5 at 10:30-11:30 am

Local History Room - Registration required

Is your inbox overflowing with unread messages, promotions, and clutter? Join us for this beginner-friendly workshop on tidying up your Gmail! You'll learn simple, practical tools to organize your inbox, delete unwanted emails in bulk, unsubscribe from mailing lists, create folders and filters, and take control of your email once and for all. Whether you're aiming for "Inbox Zero" or just want to find important messages faster, this session will help you feel more confident and organized online.

Organize Your Photos Without Feeling Overwhelmed

Tuesday, August 4 at 6:00-7:30 pm- Community Meeting Room - Registration appreciated

Most people have thousands of photos stored in boxes, albums, computers, and phones. While these images capture meaningful memories, the sheer quantity can make organizing them feel daunting. In this presentation, Susan McCarthy shares a practical approach to sorting and organizing both printed and digital photographs. Participants learn how to focus on preserving the photos that best tell their story while letting go of duplicates and unnecessary images. Simple organizing strategies make it easier to store, find, and enjoy photographs again. Attendees receive a downloadable handout with additional ideas for continuing the process at home.

Visual Identity & Accessibility

Tuesday, August 4 at 6:00-7:30 pm- Dexter Hall - Registration required

This is the fourth part of a six part beginner-friendly workshop series designed to help small business owners and entrepreneurs build a professional, safe, and effective digital presence. Participants will learn practical digital skills including branding, websites, AI tools, online visibility, cybersecurity awareness, and social media integration.

Learn the fundamentals of creating a cohesive and accessible visual brand. Topics Include: Purpose of a visual identity, Common DIY branding mistakes, Logos versus full visual identity systems, Introduction to accessibility best practices, Choosing fonts & colors and Visual consistency.

Digital Art for Beginners: Exploring the Procreate App for ages 8-12

Wednesday, August 5 at 10:30-11:30 am -Community Meeting Room - Registration required

In this class, we cover the basics of creating art in Procreate, the most popular digital art app for the iPad. We cover various features in the app, such as using different brushes, blending colors, and importing photos to work from. This class is for youth ages 8-12.

Digital Art for Beginners: Exploring the Procreate App for ages 13-19

Wednesday, August 5 at 12:30-1:30 pm -Community Meeting Room - Registration required

In this class, we cover the basics of creating art in Procreate, the most popular digital art app for the iPad. We cover various features in the app, such as using different brushes, blending colors, and importing photos to work from. This class is for youth ages 13-19.

Wait, is That Real?: Exploring Truth, Trust, and Safety in the AI Era for adults and teens ages 13 and up

Friday, August 7 at 2:00-4:00 pm - Community Meeting Room- registration required

Think you can spot what's real and what's AI-made? Put your sleuthing skills to the test in this interactive and family-friendly workshop presented by Joint Family! Through hands-on activities, we'll see how easy it is to create AI-generated images, voices, and videos and how hard it's becoming to tell the difference. Together we'll explore emerging trends in deepfakes and AI-generated content, real-world case studies of scams and misinformation, and practical strategies for protecting ourselves, our families, and our communities. No prior experience with AI necessary. Bring someone you trust - a friend, a grandparent, a neighbor!

AI Voice & Video Generators

Monday, August 10 at 12:30-2:00 pm - Local History Room - Registration required

Have you heard about voice-cloning, digital avatars, or text-to-video? This lecture will explain how artificial intelligence programs can turn scripts and even just ideas/a few sentences into realistic voices and videos in a matter of minutes. We'll explore AI voice and video generators, their common features,

and the wide range of content they can produce. You'll also learn tips and considerations for using these tools so you can get started! This is for people ages 60 and up. *This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.*

Staying in Touch Using Phone, Messages, and FaceTime

Tuesday, August 11 at 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - Registration required

This class focuses on using the iPhone and iPad to stay in touch with friends and loved ones. We learn about sending texts in Messages, managing contacts in Phone, and setting up video calls in FaceTime. We also learn to use Siri to make calls and send messages.

Creating a Budget Tracker through Google Sheets

Tuesday, August 11 at 2:30-3:30 pm OR Thursday, August 13 at 6:00-7:00 pm

Local History Room - Registration required

Take control of your finances with this beginner-friendly workshop designed to help you build a fully functional budget tracker using Google Sheets. Whether you're new to spreadsheets or just starting your personal finance journey, this workshop will guide you step-by-step through creating a simple, organized, and customizable budgeting system. You'll learn how to set up income and expense categories, use basic formulas to automate calculations, and design a clean, easy-to-use layout. By the end of the course, you'll have your own personalized budget tracker that helps you monitor spending, identify savings opportunities, and make more informed financial decisions. No prior experience with spreadsheets is required—just a willingness to learn and a desire to better manage your money.

Email Features

Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00-7:00 pm OR Wednesday, August 12 at 10:30-11:30 am

Local History Room - Registration required

Learn the essential skills to use email confidently and safely in this beginner-friendly workshop. Participants will explore common features found across all email platforms, including sending messages, adding attachments, creating signatures, and setting up away messages. The session will also cover how to recognize and avoid spam and phishing emails, helping you protect your personal information online. Perfect for beginners or anyone looking to build stronger digital communication skills, this workshop includes guided instruction and hands-on practice in a supportive environment.

Websites and Online Presence

Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - Registration required

This is the fifth part of a six part beginner-friendly workshop series designed to help small business owners and entrepreneurs build a professional, safe, and effective digital presence. Participants will learn practical digital skills including branding, websites, AI tools, online visibility, cybersecurity awareness, and social media integration. Learn how to plan an effective and user-friendly business website. Topics Include: What makes a successful small business website, Website build options, Mobile-first design practices, Sitemaps and wireframing, Effective calls to action, Beginner SEO and AEO and search visibility basics, Contact forms, FAQs and booking integrations and Domain ownership and website hosting

You, Me and AI: Exploring Mental Health, Connections, and Boundaries

Wednesday, August 12, 2:00-4:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

What happens when AI becomes a friend, a tutor, a therapist, a co-worker? Come find out in this hands-on workshop led by Joint Family. In this session, we'll test the limitations and capabilities of popular AI tools and how they're quietly reshaping the way we connect with technology and each other. We'll explore the support gaps they're filling, where we need to draw boundaries and why real world human connections matter more than ever. No prior experience with AI necessary. Open to ages 18 and up.

Using the Google Gemini App

Monday, August 17 at 12:30-2:00 pm -Local History Room- Registration required

In this hands-on workshop, we'll practice chatting with Google Gemini using the mobile app. We'll go over tips for writing effective questions, or prompts, as well as different use cases, from drafting emails

to travel planning. We'll also practice using the app's voice features, including Gemini Live. Finally, we'll explore the privacy settings and discuss best practices to ensure you can use the app safely and confidently. This is for people ages 60 and up. *This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.*

Using the iPhone for Health and Emergencies

Tuesday, August 18 at 12:30—1:30 pm -Community Meeting Room - Registration required

In this class, we explore how the iPhone can help in different emergency situations and offer insight into our health. We learn how to set up emergency contacts, use the SOS feature, turn on voice activation, and use the Health app to find patterns and changes in our physical health.

Organize Your Digital Files So You Can Find Things Again

Tuesday, August 18 at 6:00-7:30 pm -Community Meeting Room - Registration appreciated

Computers, phones, and tablets make it easy to store information—but without a clear system, digital files can quickly become difficult to find. Documents, downloads, photos, and email messages accumulate until searching for something becomes frustrating. This non-technical presentation focuses on simple ways to organize digital information so it's easier to locate when needed. Susan McCarthy shares practical strategies for managing files, organizing folders, handling email, and saving useful information online. Participants learn techniques that can be applied to almost any device or operating system. A downloadable handout provides additional ideas for organizing digital information at home.

Connecting Your Digital Ecosystem

Tuesday, August 18 at 6:00-7:30 pm- Dexter Hall - Registration required

This is the last part of a six part beginner-friendly workshop series designed to help small business owners and entrepreneurs build a professional, safe, and effective digital presence. Participants will learn practical digital skills including branding, websites, AI tools, online visibility, cybersecurity awareness, and social media integration. Learn how to connect your website, Google presence, and social media platforms into a cohesive digital strategy. Topics Include: Setting up and optimizing Google Business Profile, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram best practices, town pages, Interlinking, and connecting websites and social media accounts, Basic content planning strategies, Understanding analytics and meaningful metrics, Identifying fake engagement and social media scams and Maintaining consistency across digital platforms.

Creating an AI Agent with Gemini

Monday, August 24, 12:30-2:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

In this hands-on workshop, we'll introduce Google Gemini's version of a custom AI agent, known as a gem. We'll explore Gemini's premade gems that can help with writing, learning, brainstorming, and more. Then, you'll learn how to create a new gem from scratch for your specialized requests. We'll also cover tips and best practices for testing, refining, and using gems. Please note that you must have your Google (Gmail) username and password to sign in to Gemini. This session is designed for people who are already somewhat familiar with AI chatbots. This is for people ages 60 and up. *This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.*

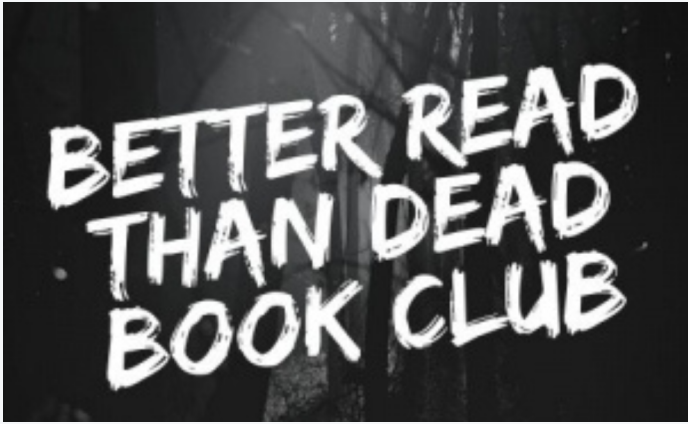
iPhone Essentials: Control Center and Files

Tuesday, August 25 at 12:30—1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - Registration required

This class covers essential features included in the iPhone and iPad. We learn to use tools such as a flashlight, timer, calculator, and alarm. We also explore the Files app, where we can scan documents and organize files.

**This series was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.*

Library Book Groups



Better Read Than Dead Book Club

On hiatus for the summer!

Our next discussion will be
on Wednesday, September 2.

[Read More](#)



CPL Book Group

Beloved by Toni Morrison
Thursday, August 13 from 6:00-7:00 pm
in Dexter Hall

Books are available for checkout at the adult
circulation desk one month prior to discussion.

[Read More](#)

Book Group at the Charlton Senior Center Wednesday, August 12 at 10:30 am

The Senior Center Book Group meets at the Senior Center at 10:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome! We will discuss *The Swans of Harlem* by Karen Valby. Books are available to pick up at the Library one month prior to the discussion date.

Discussion Groups and Ongoing Programs

Threaded Together Fiber Arts Group

On hiatus for the summer; see you in September!

Genealogy Group

Thursday, August 6 at 6 PM | Community Meeting Room

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Thursday, August 20 @ 6:00-7:30 PM | Community Meeting Room

Death Café

Thursday, August 20 at 6:00 pm | Dexter Hall

SARJ (Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam)

Off site, email Rich at Cule5632@gmail.com for more information

CULE (Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble)

Thursday, August 27 at 6 pm | Community Meeting Room

Critical Thinking Discussion Group

Friday, August 28 @ 1:00-2:00 PM | Community Meeting Room

Visit our [Event Calendar](#) for more information on all our Adult programs.



August Movie Matinees Tuesdays at 1 pm

August 4

Percy Vs. Goliath

In rural Canada, a farmer finds his livelihood in jeopardy when a substantial corporation utilizes genetically-modified plants to grow larger produce, the chemicals used by the farming operation leeching into his fields and tainting his crops. He then resolves to face the company head-on in an effort to save his farm. 2020. Rated PG-13. 99 minutes.

Starring: Christopher Walken, Roberta Maxwell, Pathy Aiyar, Monique Alvarez, & Adam Beach

August 11

Project Hail Mary

In the near future, astronaut Ryland Grace wakes from a coma afflicted with amnesia. He gradually remembers that he was sent to the Tau Ceti solar system, 12 light-years from Earth, to find a means of reversing a solar dimming event that could cause the extinction of humanity. 2026. Rated PG-13. 156 minutes. Featuring: Ryan Gosling, Milana Vayntrub, & Sandra Hüller

August 18

Little Shop of Horrors

A quiet, shy flower-shop employee finds an extraordinary plant with unusual appetites. 1986. Rated PG-13. 88 minutes. Cast: Rick Moranis, Ellen Greene, Steve Martin, Levi Stubbs, & Vincent Gardenia

August 25

Wish I Was Here

A 35-year-old father who's never quite grown up learns about life when he's forced to homeschool his kids, since their grandfather can no longer afford their private-school tuition and their public school is a mess. 2014. Rated R. 106 minutes. Starring: Zach Braff, Kate Hudson, Mandy Patinkin, Josh Gad, & Joey King

No registration required. Free freshly-popped popcorn!

Digital Resources



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NoveList Plus is the premiere database of reading recommendations.



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