

Charlton Public Library Newsletter

Welcome

July



Special Hours

The Library will be closed Friday, July 3.
The Library is closed Saturdays for the summer.

Friends of the Charlton Library

The Friends wish everyone a rejuvenating summer, filled with relaxation, adventure, and reading. And don't forget to sign up for the library's Summer Reading Program!
See you at our next meeting on September 8!

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@cwmar.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!

July Art Exhibit

Our Community Room art gallery features the works of **Pete and Linda Spencer** this month. Visit the Community Room during regular Library hours all month long to visit the exhibit.

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, July 2 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, July 6 and 20 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, July 13 and 27 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.

Edible Wild Plants and Mushrooms of Summer **Tuesday, July 14 at 6 pm**

The summer months are a bounty of ripe berries, nectar-laden edible flowers, amazing edible plants along the seashore, and edible mushrooms that can carpet the forest floor after warm, rainy days. Learn how to identify, sustainably harvest, and prepare the wild foods of summer, from beach plums to invasive wineberries, including some of the choice summer fungi like chanterelles and the myriad of pored Boletes. Join The 3 Foragers as they teach the edible plants and fungi of summer with their original photos and recipe ideas featured in an educational slideshow. Registration is appreciated.

[Register](#)

Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening Tuesday, July 21 at 6 pm

Raised beds are an easy and productive way to grow vegetables (and some fruits, too!). After a quick review of the basics of growing vegetables at home, we'll explore the details of raised bed gardening, including design, materials, and construction methods. While this talk focuses on vegetables, the raised bed techniques we discuss can be adapted to many other kinds of gardens as well.

Presenter Gretel Anspach is a Trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a Lifetime Master Gardener with the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, and a recently-retired systems engineer for Raytheon. She won the MMGA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. Gretel established and maintains a 20,000 square foot food production garden that has provided fresh produce to the Marlboro and Maynard Food Pantries for the last ten years. Her primary interest and focus is always in the science behind horticulture. Registration is appreciated.

This program is funded by a grant from the Charlton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

[Register](#)

Gentle Yoga Thursday, July 23 at 6 pm

Gentle Flow Yoga – All Levels Welcome! Breathe, stretch, and unwind in this relaxing 60-minute yoga class. Perfect for beginners and experienced yogis alike, this class will blend gentle, mindful movement with calming breathwork and end in a deeply restful savasana. Bring a mat, water bottle and any props. (Some blocks and knee pads available). Led by Erin Anderson – RYT-200 yoga instructor and SEL facilitator. Registration is required. This program is for adults and teens ages 13 and up.

[Register](#)

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@cwmar.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
July 2 & 9 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm
July 7 from 3:30 - 6:00 pm
July 14 & 21 from 1:30 - 8:00 pm
July 16 & 23 from 9:30 am - noon & 1:30 - 8 pm
July 28 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm
July 30 from 10 am - noon & 5 - 8 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, July 1 & 8 at 3:00 pm or 4:00 pm
Thursdays, July 2 & 9 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.

Setting Up a Gmail Account

Wednesday, July 1 at 10:30-11:30am- Local History Room, Registration required
New to email or need help getting started? In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn how to create your own Gmail account using Google. We'll guide you step-by-step through the sign-up process, choosing a secure password, and understanding the basics of sending, receiving, and organizing emails. You'll also learn helpful tips for staying safe online and managing your inbox with confidence. No prior experience is needed—just bring your curiosity!

Intro to Canva

Thursday, July 2 at 6:00-7:00 pm- Local History Room, Registration required
Unlock your creativity and bring your ideas to life with Intro to Canva! This beginner-friendly course is perfect for anyone looking to create stunning visual content without needing graphic design experience. Whether you're a student, small business owner, content creator, or just someone who wants to make

eye-catching presentations, social media posts, flyers, or resumes—this course will walk you through the basics of using Canva.

Intro to A.I.

Monday, July 6 at 12:30-2:00 pm- Local History Room, Registration required

Curious about AI? Want to know more about Chat GPT? This lecture will introduce some of the basic ideas around artificial intelligence. We'll talk about how AI is being used today, what its current limitations are, and how it will shape the future! This is for people ages 60 and up.

Using iMovie for Beginners

Tuesday, July 7 at 12:30-1:30 pm- Community Meeting Room, Registration required

iMovie is Apple's moviemaking app. In this class, we learn how beginners can turn a collection of photos and videos from our library into a memorable slideshow commemorating a trip or event. We cover adding music, stylizing our slideshows, and more.

Intro to Chat GPT

Tuesday, July 7 at 2:30-3:30 pm OR Thursday, July 9 at 6:00-7:00 pm

Local History Room, Registration required

Curious about ChatGPT and what it can do for you? Join us for a hands-on introduction to one of today's most popular AI tools! In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn what ChatGPT is, how it works, and how it can help with everyday tasks like writing, researching, organizing ideas, learning new skills, and more. No technical experience is required—just bring your curiosity and get ready to explore the world of artificial intelligence in a simple, practical way.

Exploring E-Cards

Tuesday, July 7 at 6:00-7:00 pm OR Wednesday, July 8 at 10:30-11:30 am

Local History Room, Registration required

Learn how to set up and make the most of your CWMARS library account in this beginner-friendly workshop. We'll walk you through creating your account, logging in, and exploring key features like searching the catalog, placing holds, renewing items, and managing your library activity online. Perfect for new users or anyone who wants a refresher on using the library's digital tools with confidence. We will also discuss the benefits of creating a Boston Public Library e-card and all the features it has to offer!

Brand Strategy and Positioning

Tuesday, July 7 at 6:00—7:30 PM- Dexter Hall, Registration required

This is the second 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 define and communicate what makes your business unique. Topics Include: What branding really means, Defining target audience, Brand positioning and differentiation, Mission & Vision, The "Onliness Statement", Brand Voice and personality, Building trust through consistent messaging.

Everyday Uses of AI

Monday, July 13 at 12:30—2:00 pm- Local History Room, Registration required

Everyone is talking about AI. Come to this class to be a part of the conversation! This lecture will show you the ways AI is already present in everyday tasks and how it is used in everything from voice assistants to customer service and healthcare. We'll look at common applications of AI across multiple industries and discuss ways you too can take advantage of this influential technology. This is for people ages 60 and up.

Finding Transportation Using Uber & Lyft

Wednesday, July 15 at 12:30-1:30 pm- Community Meeting Room, Registration required

This class dives into two popular ride-share apps, Uber and Lyft, and teaches participants to use them to find rides, order groceries, and much more. We learn to book rides for ourselves and others, add payment methods, and stay safe while ordering rides.

AI All Around

Monday, July 20 at 12:30—2:00 pm- Local History Room, Registration required

If it seems like AI is showing up everywhere, it's not just you! From searching the web to attending a Zoom meeting, AI tools are now available to help with most online tasks. In this lecture, we'll explore many of the digital platforms and websites where generative AI is now available. We'll discuss how the tools try to make tasks easier and go over privacy considerations to keep in mind when using them. This is for people ages 60 and up.

AI Tools & Digital Productivity

Tuesday, July 21 at 6:00—7:30 pm- Dexter Hall, Registration required

This is the third 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.

Explore practical and ethical ways to use AI tools to support business operations and marketing. Topics Include: The benefits of AI tools, AI legal awareness, environmental considerations, and privacy concerns, Introduction to a variety of AI tools, Using AI for brainstorming and writing assistance, Generating marketing ideas and social media content, Protecting sensitive business information when using SI, Recognizing AI-generated scams, and phishing attempts.

Back to Basics: An Intro to Smartphones and Tablets

Wednesday, July 22 at 12:30-1:30 pm- Community Meeting Room, Registration required

This introductory class introduces new users to the basics of using the iPhone and iPad. We cover the hardware of the iPhone and iPad, important areas of the devices, and accessing common tools like the flashlight, alarm, and camera.

Is that AI?

Monday, July 27 at 12:30—2:00 pm- Local History Room, Registration required

With the advances in artificial intelligence (AI) technology, AI programs can now create text, images, and much more. At first sight, it may be hard to tell if what you see was created or altered by AI. In this session, we'll teach you tips and tools to help you determine if an image or piece of writing was generated by AI. We'll also discuss what tech companies like Google are doing to create systems to detect the use of AI. This is for people ages 60 and up.

Notes: Your iPhone's Built-in Notepad

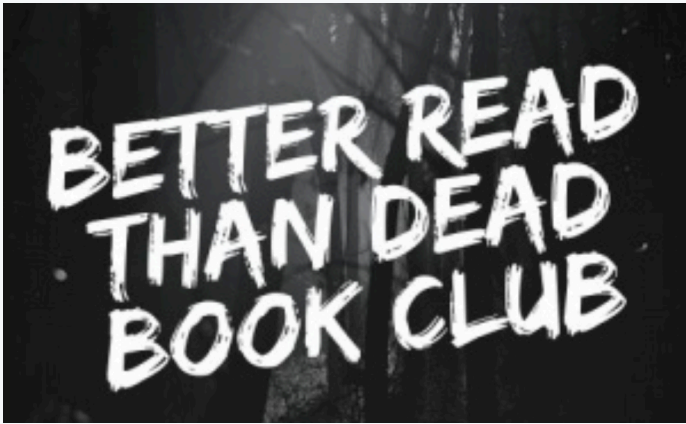
Wednesday, July 29 at 12:30-1:30 pm- Community Meeting Room, Registration required

Learn how to use the Notes app to jot down ideas, make checklists, scan documents, and keep your thoughts organized. This class covers everything from creating simple notes to sharing and collaborating with others using iCloud.

**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.*

[Visit our calendar for dates, times, and registration.](#)

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

The Backyard Bird Chronicles by Amy Tan
Thursday, July 9 from 6:00-7:00 pm
in the Community Room

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, July 8 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 Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Heller. 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, July 2 at 6 PM | Community Meeting Room

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Thursday, July 16 @ 6:00-7:30 PM | Community Meeting Room

Death Café

Thursday, July 16 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, July 23 at 6 pm | Community Meeting Room

Critical Thinking Discussion Group

Friday, July 24 @ 1:00-2:00 PM | Community Meeting Room

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



July Movie Matinees Tuesdays at 1 pm

July 7

Fried Green Tomatoes

A neglected housewife makes an unexpected friend at a nursing home, where she hears a true tale about an independent woman in 1920s Alabama, who ran the town diner, served food to people of color and protected her sister-in-law from an abusive spouse. 1991. Rated pg-13. 130 minutes.

Starring: Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, Mary Stuart Masterson, & Mary-Louise Parker

July 14

Zootopia 2

Brave rabbit cop Judy Hopps and her friend, the fox Nick Wilde, team up again to crack a new case, the most perilous and intricate of their careers. 2025. Rated PG. 108 minutes.

Featuring: Jason Bateman, Ginnifer Goodwin, Idris Elba, & Jonathan Ke Quan

July 21

The Odd Life of Timothy Green

In this heartwarming fantasy for the whole family, an infertile couple unexpectedly become parents when their hopes for a child give birth to a curious young boy who magically emerges from their garden. 2012. Rated PG. 105 minutes.

Cast: Jennifer Garner, Joel Edgerton, Dianne Wiest, C.J. Adams, & Rosemarie DeWitt

July 28

The Lorax

In this charming adaptation of the Dr. Seuss story, a young boy seeks to impress his pretty neighbor by getting a tree, since real vegetation in their land is rare. In the process, he meets the Lorax, a cantankerous yet endearing forest dweller. 2012. Rated PG. 94 minutes.

Starring: Ed Helms, Zac Efron, Taylor Swift, Betty White, & Rob Riggle

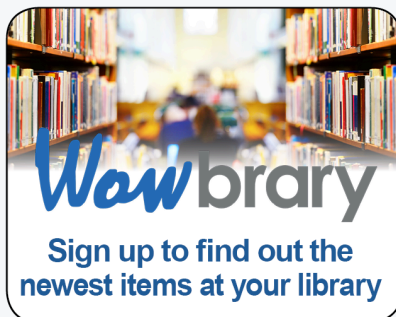
No registration required. Free freshly-popped popcorn!



Digital Resources



Sign up and never miss a book by your favorite author!



Get free weekly emails announcing our latest books, movies, music, and more!



Novelist Plus is the premiere database of reading recommendations.



Free access to over 500 classes with your Charlton Library card!



Free movie streaming with your Charlton Library card!



Over 1,400 instructional video classes; covering 20 different creative passions



Free access on a Charlton Library computer or using Library WiFi.



A streamlined App to download your favorite OverDrive books, audio books, magazines & more!



Watch beautiful classical music, operas, and ballets from around the world, anywhere, anytime.

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