

Featured System-wide for September 2024

2024 MCLS Amateur Photo Contest

The Mercer County Library System (MCLS) is excited to announce that it is accepting entries for the 2024 Amateur Photo Contest. This year's theme is "Adventures in Mercer County and Beyond!" You are invited to submit a 5x7 photo, encompassing this year's theme, to your local branch. Photos must be submitted by Monday, September 16th. Please see additional information at <https://mcl.org/events/amateur-photo-contest>.

Featured Adult Virtual Programs for September 2024

Seasonal Secrets: Home Gardening this Fall!

Wednesday, September 4, 2:00 pm

Join Ricardo Kairios, FCHS assistant professor, to learn different ways you can start your home garden journey this fall! During the lesson, Ricardo will discuss different methods you can use to create your home garden, provide resources for maintaining your garden, and share seasonal recipes highlighting fall produce. Ricardo is the Family and Community Health Sciences Educator with Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County. *Please visit www.mcl.org to register to receive the link to program.*

Author Talk: Wednesday Morning: Growing up in Grief by Christine Fiorelli Epstein

Monday, September 16, 7:00 pm

Christine Fiorelli Epstein was just ten years old when her father was killed in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Join her as she reads excerpts from her just-published memoir, *Wednesday Morning: Growing up in Grief*, and discover how she learned to cope with her loss, move forward, and find peace. Share your recollections and personal stories of that dark day in history, and find solace in Christine's journey. *Please visit www.mcl.org to register to receive the link to program.*

Rhumba! Samba! Tango! Mambo!

Monday, September 23, 7:00 pm

The influence of Latin American music on American popular music comes mainly from South American and Cuban dance music. Starting with "The Peanut Vendor" in 1928, John Clark highlights music by talented artists including: Xavier Cugat ("Brazil"), Ritchie Valens ("Tampico"), Jimmy Dorsey ("Besame Mucho"), mambo king Perez Prado, Herb Albert, and many others. Enjoy the stories and sounds as we learn about hits of the 40s, 50s, and 60s in this energetic and upbeat program. *Please visit www.mcl.org to register to receive the link to program.*

Featured Adult In-Person Programs for September 2024

Arm In Arm

Monday, September 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Lawrence Headquarters Branch

2751 Brunswick Pike

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

609-883-8292

Are you experiencing food insecurity? Arm In Arm's mobile food pantry will be at the Lawrence Headquarters Branch on Monday, September 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. No pre-registration required. Arm In Arm staff will register participants upon arrival. For more information about the food pantry, visit arminarm.org.

Arm In Arm (Spanish Translation)

Lunes, Septiembre 9, 16, 23 y 30 en las tardes de 2-4 pm

Lawrence Headquarters Branch

2751 Brunswick Pike

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

609-883-8292

Lunes de 2:00 - 4:00 pm

¿Estás experimentando inseguridad de alimentos? Arm In Arm's despensa de alimentos estará en nuestra sucursal de Lawrence los Lunes, Septiembre 9, 16, 23 y 30 en las tardes de 2 - 4 pm. No se requiere registrarse. Arm In Arm personal estarán registrando a cada persona al llegar. Para más información de nuestra despensa visite a arminarm.org.

Craft & Chat

Tuesday, September 3, 2:00 pm

Twin Rivers Branch

276 Abbingdon Drive,

East Windsor, NJ 08520

609-443-1880

Bring a craft that you are working on independently and chat with other crafters while you work. *No craft supplies will be provided during this program. Participants will bring their own crafts to work on.* Registration is required.

Locker Creations

Tuesday, September 3, 3:00 pm

Ewing Branch

61 Scotch Road

Ewing, NJ 08628

609-882-3148

Make decorations for your school locker! All supplies, including mirrors, decorative paper, and washi tape, will be provided by the library. For teens. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Registration is required. *Call 609-882-3148 or e-mail ewprogs@mcl.org.*

Coding with Fiero

Tuesdays, September 3 & 17, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Hickory Corner Branch

138 Hickory Corner Road

East Windsor, NJ 08520

609-448-1330

Try out our new computer coding resource, Fiero Code, in person. Fiero Code is a self-guided, online software program that teaches you how to code through coding tutorials and real-world

projects. Programming languages include: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Python, Scratch, and SQL. Choose your own tutorials and work at your own pace. Assistance is available for beginners. Please bring your tablet or laptop, and headphones or earbuds. *Please register.*

Knitting and Crochet

Wednesdays, September 4, 11, 18 & 25, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Hollowbrook Branch

320 Hollowbrook Drive

Ewing, NJ 08638

609-883-5914

Are you passionate about crafting with yarn and creating cozy, handmade masterpieces? Look no further! Our Knitting and Crochet Club is the perfect place for beginners and experienced crafters alike to come together and share their love for all things yarn art. For ages 16 and up.

Film Screening: *Challengers* (2024)

Wednesday, September 4, 2:00 - 4:15 pm

Lawrence Headquarters Branch

2751 Brunswick Pike

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

609-883-8292

Tennis player-turned-coach Tashi (Zendaya) has taken her husband, Art (Mike Faist), and transformed him into a world-famous Grand Slam champion. To jolt him out of his recent losing streak, she signs him up for a Challenger event—close to the lowest level of professional play—where he finds himself standing across the net from his former best friend and Tashi's ex-boyfriend, Patrick (Josh O'Connor). The film runs for 131 minutes and is rated R. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lawrence Library. Advanced registration is appreciated.*

Crafty Crew

Thursdays, September 5, 12, 19 & 26, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Hollowbrook Branch

320 Hollowbrook Drive

Ewing, NJ 08638

609-883-5914

Calling all crafters! Gather any craft you are working on, such as knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching, quilting, scrapbooking, etc., and head down to the Hollowbrook library. There, you can work on your exciting project with other crafters! You will have the space to learn, share ideas, and admire one another's projects. Craft supplies will *not* be provided; please bring your own portable craft projects to the library. For ages 16 and up.

Guided Meditation

Thursdays, September 5, 12, 19 & 26, 12:00 pm

Hightstown Memorial Branch

114 Franklin St.

Hightstown, NJ 08520

609-448-1474

Relax, refocus, and rejuvenate. Take a moment to regain the peace lost during our busy days. Facilitated by staff member, Leena, who is a longtime practitioner of Rajyoga meditation. *Registration required at www.mcl.org/.*

Crochet & Knit Corner

Thursdays, September 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2:30 - 3:30 pm
Hickory Corner Branch
138 Hickory Corner Road
East Windsor, NJ 08520
609-448-1330

Join us to work on your project and enjoy some good conversation. *Please register.*

Fall Garden Tour and Seed Exchange

Thursday, September 5, 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Lawrence Headquarters Branch
2751 Brunswick Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-883-8292

Fall is an ideal time to establish your pollinator garden. Join librarians Sharon, Christine, and Laura for a garden tour of the Lawrence butterfly and native pollinator garden. During the tour, you'll learn valuable tips on creating a monarch butterfly garden, seed collection, and the proper techniques for pruning and transplanting native plants. Plus, we'll give out milkweed seed packets for those interested in starting their own monarch butterfly garden next year. In case of inclement weather, the tour and seed exchange will start indoors. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lawrence Library. Advanced registration is appreciated.*

New Jersey Food Truck Author and Tasting Event

Saturday, September 7, 2:30 pm
Robbinsville Branch
42 Robbinsville-Allentown Road
Robbinsville, NJ 08691
609-259-2150

Patrick Lombardi, author of *The New Jersey Food Truck Cookbook*, will be sharing helpful kitchen tips and a favorite recipe from his book. Chef Andrew from Mama Dude's will be in the library preparing and sharing his Griggstown Turkey Breakfast Tacos! *Registration is required.*

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap

Monday, September 9, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Hickory Corner Branch
138 Hickory Corner Road
East Windsor, NJ 08520
609-448-1330

Take a puzzle, leave a puzzle. Or just take a puzzle (or two)! This is a great opportunity to pass along puzzles you've completed and pick up new ones to try. *No registration necessary.*

Adult Nonfiction Book Club

Monday, September 9, 2:00 pm
Twin Rivers Branch
276 Abbington Drive,
East Windsor, NJ 08520
609-443-1880

We'll be discussing *A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them*, by Timothy Egan. "A historical thriller by the Pulitzer and National Book Award-winning author that tells the riveting story of the Klan's rise to power in the 1920s, the cunning con man who drove that rise, and the woman who stopped them" -- provided by publisher. *Registration is required.*

Relax & Art

Monday, September 9, 2:00 pm
Twin Rivers Branch
276 Abbington Drive,
East Windsor, NJ 08520
609-443-1880

A low-pressure class for adults to explore their creativity in a stress-free and supportive environment. A simple art project is introduced in each class. *Supplies are provided. No prior experience necessary. Registration is required.*

Adult Craft- No-Sew Fabric Pumpkin

Monday, September 9, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Hollowbrook Branch
320 Hollowbrook Drive
Ewing, NJ 08638
609-883-5914

Crafting can be relaxing, and when you craft together with someone, it can help build a friendship and a sense of community. Join us at the Hollowbrook Library as we create no-sew fabric pumpkin. Snacks and water will be provided. For ages 16 and up. *Registration is required.*

Demystifying Credit: Debunking Myths and Unveiling Facts

Thursday, September 12, 6:30 pm
Hightstown Memorial Branch
114 Franklin St.
Hightstown, NJ 08520
609-448-1474

Join us for an engaging and informative workshop aimed at unraveling the mysteries surrounding credit and credit scores. Whether you're a first-time credit user or looking to improve your financial health, this workshop is designed to equip you with essential knowledge and practical insights. Presented by Justin Hughes of MargFinancial. *Registration is required.*

Poetry Reading and Open Mic

Thursday, September 12, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Lawrence Headquarters Branch
2751 Brunswick Pike

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-883-8292

Join us for a fall poetry reading featuring local poets Marie Gray Wise and Lois Marie Harrod. Marie recently published her first chapbook *Anna and Her Daughters*, while Lois, an esteemed Dodge poet, has released her 18th poetry collection *Spat*. Don't miss this inspiring literary event, followed by an open mic session. Light refreshments will be served. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lawrence Library. Advanced registration is appreciated.*

Heartfulness Meditation

Saturday, September 14, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
West Windsor Branch
333 North Post Road
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550
609-799-0462

Heartfulness: living by the heart. Experience simple yet effective guided relaxation and meditation techniques. Reduce stress, calm your mind and improve the quality of your life. Practical sessions on Heartfulness meditation with Yogic Transmission. Open to teens and adults, ages 15 and over.

New Jersey in the Revolutionary War

Saturday, September 14, 2:30 pm
Robbinsville Branch
42 Robbinsville-Allentown Road
Robbinsville, NJ 08691
609-259-2150

Join historian and author Richard Moody in a fascinating discussion about New Jersey's involvement in the Revolutionary War! Topics will include the origins of George Washington's family, arrival of the French Army, local towns' involvement, and much more. *Registration is required.*

Adult Craft: Starburst Flowers

Monday, September 16, 2:00 pm
Twin Rivers Branch
276 Abbington Drive,
East Windsor, NJ 08520
609-443-1880

Simple folding, cutting, gluing, and threading are all that are needed to create these delightful paper flowers. Supplies will be provided. *Registration is required.*

CarFit

Tuesday, September 17, 10:00 – 11:30 am
Hopewell Branch
245 Pennington-Titusville Road
Pennington, NJ 08534
609-737-2610

As we age, changes in our vision, flexibility, strength, range of motion and even height may require modifications to our vehicles to help us feel more confident and comfortable behind the wheel. The CarFit program helps make vehicle adjustments to better fit the driver, which will provide the driver with greater comfort and vehicle control. Participants are asked to drive their own vehicles to this event. Presented as part of the Penn Medicine Princeton Health Community Wellness Program, who are pleased to partner with American Automobile Association (AAA) and AARP to provide this service. *Space is limited; please call 609-737-2610 to make a 20-minute appointment.*

Breathe, Relax, & Focus: Guided Meditation & Relaxation

Tuesday, September 17, 7:00 – 7:30 pm

West Windsor Branch

333 North Post Road

Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

609-799-0462

Be in the present moment and experience the joy of mindfulness, facilitated by Nila Satpute, a 13-year practitioner of Rajyoga. *Sponsored by the Friends of the West Windsor Library.*

Meal Planning on a Budget

Wednesday, September 18, 6:30 pm

Robbinsville Branch

42 Robbinsville-Allentown Road

Robbinsville, NJ 08691

609-259-2150

Join presenter Ricardo Kairios to learn strategies on stretching your food dollars to design healthy and delicious meals and snacks. Ricardo is the Family and Community Health Sciences Educator with Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County. *Registration is required.*

Graduating College Fast and Cheap but not Easy

Wednesday, September 18, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

West Windsor Branch

333 North Post Road

Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

609-799-0462

A college degree has been shown to increase wages, lower the likelihood of unemployment, and open up additional opportunities in the workforce - but it has also become more and more expensive. If you or your child will be pursuing a college degree and you do not want to pay the typically high price tag of some universities, this workshop could help you achieve those goals. Presented by Justin Hughes of Marg Financial.

Free Eye Screening

Thursday, September 19, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Hickory Corner Branch

138 Hickory Corner Road

East Windsor, NJ 08520

609-448-1330

Register for a free vision screening performed by a certified eye screener and an eye doctor. Presented by the NJ Department of Human Services' Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI). *Registration is required; call 609-448-0957 or visit the Reference Desk.*

Cancer Compassion: A Health Champion Workshop

Thursday, September 19, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Lawrence Headquarters Branch

2751 Brunswick Pike

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

609-883-8292

Join Crossroads4Hop on a mission to support those facing cancer. As a Health Champion, you'll be a trusted figure in your community, providing immediate help and hope. By attending our upcoming workshop, you'll learn how to respond effectively when there is a cancer incidence in your family or community. *Advanced registration is appreciated.*

Non-Fiction Book Group

Thursday, September 19, 7:00 pm

Ewing Branch

61 Scotch Road

Ewing, NJ 08628

609-882-3148

Join us to read *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* by Stephanie Land. A journalist describes the years she worked in low-paying domestic work under wealthy employers, contrasting the privileges of the upper-middle class to the realities of the overworked laborers supporting them. *Registration is preferred. Call 609-882-3148 or e-mail ewprogs@mcl.org.*

Sahaja Yoga Meditation

Saturday, September 21, 10:00 – 11:00 am

West Windsor Branch

333 North Post Road

Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

609-799-0462

Relieve stress via meditation, anyone can do it! Sahaja yoga meditation is practiced worldwide. Open to all ages.

Adult Craft: Fall Wreath

Monday, September 23, 2:30 pm

Ewing Branch

61 Scotch Road

Ewing, NJ 08628

609-882-3148

Make a fall themed wreath! All supplies will be provided. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. *Registration is required. Call 609-882-3148 or e-mail ewprogs@mcl.org.*

A Conversation That Makes a Difference: Five Wishes for Advance Care Planning

Tuesday, September 24, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

West Windsor Branch

333 North Post Road

Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

609-799-0462

70% of Americans nearing the end of their lives are unable to make decisions about their own healthcare. In this one-hour presentation, Paul Knight will discuss the benefits of Advance Care Planning, which involves discussing and documenting end-of-life healthcare preferences ahead of time. Everyone who attends will receive a complimentary copy of Five Wishes, a valuable tool for facilitating this process.

Ewing Health Department Information Table

Wednesday, September 25, 10:00 am

Ewing Branch

61 Scotch Road

Ewing, NJ 08628

609-882-3148

Join us to receive free health information and blood pressure screenings. Provided by Ewing Township Health Department. *Registration is preferred. Call 609-882-3148 or e-mail ewprogs@mcl.org.*

Getting Started with the *New York Times*

Wednesday, September 25, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Hickory Corner Branch

138 Hickory Corner Road

East Windsor, NJ 08520

609-448-1330

Learn how to access the *New York Times* through Mercer County Library System. Please bring your library card and personal device (smartphone, tablet, or laptop). *Please register.*

Adult Fiction Book Club

Thursday, September 26, 2:00 pm

Twin Rivers Branch

276 Abbington Drive,

East Windsor, NJ 08520

609-443-1880

We will read *The Vaster Wilds* by Lauren Groff. "A servant girl escapes from a colonial settlement in the wilderness. She carries nothing with her but her wits, a few possessions, and the spark of god that burns hot within her. What she finds in this terra incognita is beyond the limits of her imagination and will bend her belief in everything that her own civilization has taught her. *The Vaster Wilds* is a work of raw and prophetic power that tells the story of America in miniature, through one girl at a hinge point in history, to ask how--and if--we can adapt quickly enough to save ourselves." *Registration is required.*

Friends of the Lawrence Library Fall Book Sale

Early Admission: Thursday, September 26, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Friday, September 27, 10:00 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday, September 28, 10:00 am – 4:30 pm
Sunday, September 29, 12:30 am – 4:30 pm
Monday, September 30, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Lawrence Headquarters Branch
2751 Brunswick Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-883-8292

Thousands of used, gently-read books will be available at the Friends of the Lawrence Library Book Sale. Payment by cash or check only. A special Early Admission event will be held Thursday, September 26, 1:00 – 4:00 pm where the public will have the first chance to get some amazing deals. Entry to the Early Admission is free for current members of the Friends of the Lawrence Library, \$5 for the general public, and \$20 for patrons with scanners. This event is the only time scanning devices will be permitted. Sunday and Monday will be \$5 a bag. Bring your own bag. Call 609-883-8294 for more information.

Featured Youth Services In-Person Programs for September 2024

First Day of Kindergarten Storytime

Tuesday, September 3, 10:00 - 10:30 am
320 Hollowbrook Drive
Ewing, NJ 08638
609-883-5914

The Hollowbrook Library will have a Storytime program about going to Kindergarten for the first time. We will read books about what you might expect about your first day of Kindergarten and sing some fun songs. Afterward, we will have a fun craft for you to create, and when you are finished, you can bring it with you on your first day of Kindergarten. For ages 4-6.

Registration is required.

Kids' Concert with Miss Kim (ages birth-7 years)

Wednesday, September 4, 10:00 am
Hightstown Memorial Branch
114 Franklin St.
Hightstown, NJ 08520
609-448-1474

Enjoy classic children's songs and original tunes by local musician Miss Kim of Miss Kim's Children's Music. *Sponsored by the Hightstown Library Association. Registration is suggested.*

Bubble Painting

Wednesday, September 4, 6:30 pm
Lawrence Headquarters Branch
2751 Brunswick Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-883-8295

Did you know you can paint with bubbles? Join Miss Jen, and make some neat bubble-painted projects! Dress for a mess – wear a smock or come in clothes that can get messy. Suggested for

children ages 6-11 years, youngest with a caregiver to supervise. Sponsored by the Friends of the Lawrence Library. *Registration is required.*

Play-Doh Challenge

Fridays, September 6, 13, 20 & 27, 1:30 - 2:00 pm

Hollowbrook Branch

320 Hollowbrook Drive

Ewing, NJ 08638

609-883-5914

Are you up for a challenge? Play-Doh Challenge tests your creativity and thinking skills while the clock ticks down. The challenges involve molding Play-Doh into whatever the challenge card instructs you to do. For ages 5-9.

Watercolor Painting: Autumn Trees

Tuesday, September 10, 6:30 pm

Lawrence Headquarters Branch

2751 Brunswick Pike

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

609-883-8295

Bring your imagination and create a beautiful work of art. We will be painting a scene of autumn trees then you can free paint whatever you want! For children ages 5yr+, with a caregiver. Sponsored by the Friends of the Lawrence Library. *Registration is required.*

Banned Book Jeopardy

Friday, September 27, 3:30 - 4:00 pm

Hollowbrook Branch

320 Hollowbrook Drive

Ewing, NJ 08638

609-883-5914

Come to the Hollowbrook Library for an engaging and thought-provoking Jeopardy-style game to celebrate Banned Book Week and win some prizes! For ages 12-16. *Registration is required.*

Pippa Park Escape Room (ages 9-12)

Saturday, September 21, 10:00 am & 11:00 am

Hightstown Memorial Branch

114 Franklin St.

Hightstown, NJ 08520

609-448-1474

Look for clues and solve puzzles to help Pippa escape being grounded and head out to the basketball game in this 30-minute escape room program based on the *Pippa Park* novels by Erin Yun. Register for one session only. *Sponsored by Hightstown Library Association. Registration is required.*

Pop-Ups

Saturday, September 29, 2:00 pm

Lawrence Headquarters Branch

2751 Brunswick Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-883-8295

Explore a variety of simple pop-up techniques for making cards and books that really “pop”!
Recommended for children ages 5+, with a caregiver to supervise. Sponsored by the Friends of the Lawrence Library. *Registration is required.*

Featured In-Person Technology Programs for September 2024

Saturday Skill Building

Saturday August 14, 2024 | *Check website for exact times*

Lawrence Headquarters Branch
2751 Brunswick Pike,
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-882-4050

Go over Resume and Cover Letter do's and don'ts and leave with the skills to develop a strong resume and cover letter from start to finish in our morning class. Improve your Microsoft Word skills by developing a professional looking document in our Word Essentials class. Finally, end the day by practicing a Northstar Digital Literacy skill, or by taking an assessment to earn a certificate in an area of study of your choice! Sign up for all three, or just one of our August 14th classes.