

Free Public Library of Monroe Township

Out and About

A Community Newsletter

September 2022

Your guide to what's going on in Williamstown and the surrounding area!

Main Street Arts & Crafts Fall Festival

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Now that summer's over and (hopefully) fall weather is on its way, Monroe Township will celebrate with its annual Main Street Arts & Crafts Fall Festival, taking place along Main Street from 10 AM to 3 PM.

With the back-to-school hullabaloo settled down somewhat, it's the perfect time for families to visit this community event and check out the wares of local crafters. There will also be food vendors, music, and other fun stuff for the whole family.

If you're a vendor (of art/crafts or food) and you're interested in taking part in the festival, call the Community Affairs office at 856-728-9841 or visit monroetownshipnj.org, where you can access the entry form. It's \$35 for a small space, \$55 for a larger one, and \$150 if you're a food vendor.

Whether you're out to sell your wares or simply want to attend, you're sure to enjoy this fun fall day of arts, crafts, food, and getting to know everyone in our town!



Candy Bar Bingo

Need a break from work...or the new school year? Monroe Township Community Affairs is sponsoring a Candy Bar Bingo night on Friday, Sept. 9th, from 6:30 PM to 8 PM!



Pfeiffer Community Center
Friday September 9th
6:30pm to 8pm
301 Blue Bell Rd.
Williamstown NJ 08094
(856)728-9841
Doors will open at 6pm



The event will be held in the Pfeiffer Center on Main Street and Blue Bell Road. You can play a few games of Bingo and win some sweet treats (after all, chocolate's never unwelcome). The event's free to the public, but registration is recommended due to limited space/supplies.

To register, call 856-728-9841 or email mtcommunityaffairs@monroetownshipnj.org and be sure to let them know how many people will be attending.

Enjoy a fun night of gaming, good company—and yummy

candy!

Special Points of Interest:

- *Local festivals for crafts, wine, and beer*
- *New indoor trampoline park in Turnersville*
- *Tony-winning play Red at the Grand Theater*
- *See How They Run—exciting new mystery movie*
- *Novels inspired by classic lit*

Comedy Night at Blue Cork Winery

With the heat (hopefully) breaking by late September, what better way to enjoy the temperature than an outdoor night of great stand-up comedy? Blue Cork Winery on Blue Bell Road in Williamstown will be hosting its Cricket Comedy Night on Wednesday, Sept. 28th at 6:30 PM. (Rain date: October 5th.)



The show will feature top-of-the-line comedians from everywhere around our area. Ashley Gutermuth is a military spouse who has her own take on military life and what it's like to be married to an Air Force reservist. Bob Marsdale is a former radio DJ from NJ who looks at Irish Catholic life with a humorous eye. Shana Harton has performed at events all over the Delaware Valley. And Eddie Gallagher's hilarious style of comedy has been on view at the Broadway Comedy Room in NYC, as well as many venues in our area.

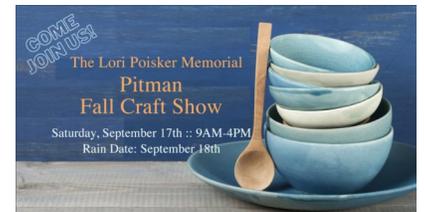
Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the week of the show. To order, visit www.kricketcomedy.com and go to the events tab.

Enjoy a side-splitting night of comedy under the stars at one of Gloucester County's most beautiful wineries!

Lori Poisker Fall Craft Show in Pitman

Twice a year (in the spring and the fall), Pitman presents its Lori Poisker Memorial Craft show. This fall's will take place on Saturday, Sept. 17th, along Broadway in Pitman, from 9 AM to 4 PM. (Rain date: Sept. 18th.)

The festival will feature arts and craft vendors from all over the South Jersey/Philadelphia area...everything from wall art to jewelry to custom pet treats. Food trucks will also offer their wares for sale, and live musicians will entertain the crowds. (Of course, you can also check out the great shops along Broadway.) There will also be shuttle service to the festival from various locations around Pitman, since parking along Broadway will be closed off.



For more information or if you're interested in being a vendor, visit uptownpitman.com.

Yoga in the Sunflowers at Dalton Farms

Yoga is everywhere these days...even at Dalton Farms in Swedesboro, where gorgeous sunflowers bloom. Blissful Butterfly Yoga is sponsoring a yoga session there on Saturday, Sept. 24th, at 12:00 PM. (Rain date: Sept. 25th, same time.)

The class is led by Veronica Carpenter, a licensed yoga therapist from Audubon. She will lead a session that's about an hour long, and accommodates beginners. You'll do some yoga that will rejuvenate your body and soothe your mind, in a lovely setting surrounded by the best that nature has to offer. Afterward, you're welcome to stroll the farm and clip your own sunflowers (\$2 a stem).

Tickets to the yoga session are \$30. To order, visit blissfulbutterflyyoga.com. Dalton Farms is located at 660 Oak Grove Road, Swedesboro.



Glassboro Craft Beer Festival

Even if summer heat is waning a bit, it's still a perfect time to cool down with some of the best craft beer in the area. Glassboro Town Square is holding its annual Craft Beer Festival from 12 PM to 5 PM on Saturday, Sept. 24th.

The festival will feature live music, vendors, food trucks...and, of course, representatives from the area's growing number of craft breweries. If you've got a VIP ticket, you're allowed in as early as 12. A standard ticket will get you admission starting at 1 PM.

Your ticket will get you a tasting glass to sample the wares of the various breweries taking part in the festival. It will also allow you to enjoy the live music of Grass n' Gravel, a band which specializes in alt-country and folk music.

VIP tickets are \$70 and standard tickets are \$60. If you're a designated driver or don't want to drink but just want to enjoy the music, vendors, and food trucks, a non-drinker's ticket is \$10.

To order tickets or to apply to become a vendor, visit glassborobeerfest.com.

Enjoy a perfect fall day with a festival that's quickly becoming one of Gloucester County's best new traditions!



Autumn Lake Wine Mixer

Want to enjoy an early autumn day at one of Williamstown's best venues? Autumn Lake Winery will be holding its Wine Mixer on Saturday, Sept. 10th from 12 PM to 5 PM.



The festivities include Autumn Lake's best wines, of course. Your ticket includes a souvenir glass that you can use for sampling. The Billy Joel tribute band We May Be Right will perform some of the Piano Man's greatest hits. Some great food trucks will offer their wares—Lobster Dogs, Buon Viaggio Wood Fired Pizza, Island BBQ and Mannino's Cannolis. Vendors will be onsite, including Black Horse Cigar Lounge. Best of all...for an extra \$40 cash fee, you can take a helicopter ride, courtesy of Platinum Helicopters!

The event will be rain or shine. Tickets are \$20.00 (\$21.33 with tax).

To order tickets or to find out more, visit autumnlakewinery.com.

Fun City Indoor Adventure Park Opens

Indoor family adventure parks seem to be booming these days, and now Urban Air in Sicklerville has a little competition. Fun City Trampoline Park has opened in Ganttown Plaza on Rt. 42!

Fun City offers a trampoline court, arcade games, a ninja course, a rope course, dodgeball, parkour, and more! Families of all kinds can get some exercise while having loads of fun. Tickets begin at \$20 for one hour and increase with the amount of time you spend there.

To book some time there or to find out more, visit funcityblackwood.com.





All The World's A Stage...

A gifted modern artist fears the creation of his masterpiece may destroy him. That's the premise of *Red*, based on an episode in the life of abstract artist Mark Rothko, onstage at Williamstown's Grand Theater from Sept. 8th-18th.



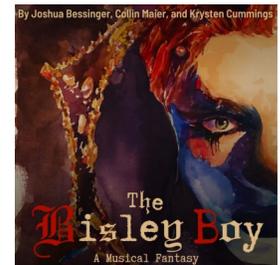
In 1958, at a time when art is developing in intriguing new directions, Mark Rothko is one of the biggest names in abstract expressionist art. He's been hired to create a series of murals for the soon-to-be completed Four Seasons restaurant. Though ambivalent over the commercial use of his art—especially its use as a status symbol for the privileged—Rothko has agreed. That's where the story begins—a two-man show with Rothko and his new assistant Ken as the only characters, taking place entirely in Rothko's studio. Over the course of two years, Rothko tries to complete his commission

while struggling with the line between making a living from his art and “selling out”—questions that only increase when Ken is emboldened to challenge his mentor more and more.

Tickets are between \$20 and \$30. To order or to find out more, visit roadcompany.com.

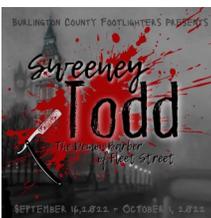
It's always a privilege to see the world premiere of a new musical...even more so when it's written by a local! *The Bisley Boy* will play its very first run at the Ritz in Oaklyn from Sept. 16th to Oct. 2nd.

This gothic fantasy musical is co-written by Joshua Bessinger, who recently played Che in the Road Company's production of *Evita*. It's based on the conspiracy theory that Queen Elizabeth I was actually a male impostor—and frames it as the research of a real-life figure. Bram Stoker, best-known as the author of *Dracula*, has been working on a nonfiction book about the lives of famous imposters. In his research, he comes across possible evidence that the young Princess Elizabeth died as a child when she was under guardianship in the town of Bisley—and was replaced by a red-headed boy from the same town. As Stoker dives deeper into the theory, history comes to life before his eyes, raising questions of gender identity, sexuality, and the “performance” of one's public self—themes that resonate with Stoker, who's been involved with the theater all his life and who's also struggled with his sexual preferences.



Tickets are \$27. To order, visit ritztheatreco.org...and support a vibrant new work from a rising South Jersey talent!

“Attend the tale...” The Burlington County Footlighters in Riverton present Stephen Sondheim's masterpiece *Sweeney Todd* from Sept. 16th to Oct. 1st.



The legend of the murderous barber who gave very close shaves has existed for centuries. Sondheim's version (based on a 1973 play by Christopher Bond) re-imagined the Demon Barber as a man driven mad by injustice. Sweeney Todd was once Benjamin Barker, a barber wrongly convicted by a judge who lusted after the barber's wife. After escaping from exile in Australia, he returns to London to find his wife dead and his daughter in the judge's clutches. Vowing revenge on the judge and the society that made the injustice possible, he teams up with Mrs. Lovett, owner of the meat-pie shop below his barber shop, who has eyes for Sweeney herself...and her own ingenious way of disposing of the bodies... When the young sailor who rescued Sweeney falls for his daughter Johanna—and falls afoul of the lustful judge who wants to marry her—events build up to a shocking conclusion.

To order tickets or to find out more information, visit bcfootlighters.com...and gear up for Halloween with one of musical theatre's most delightfully macabre shows.

What's New Onscreen!

What if the perfect life you thought you were living turned out to be manufactured...with something truly sinister at its core? That's what happens in the tense psychological thriller *Don't Worry Darling*, debuting Sept. 23rd.

It's the 1950s, and Jack and Alice Chambers (Harry Styles, Florence Pugh) are living in the seemingly idyllic company town of Victory, California. This oasis in the middle of the desert is run by the "Victory Project", headed up by its founder Frank (Chris Pine). Alice's life seems to be all a 1950s housewife could ask for: a devoted husband, a nice home in a lovely community, every material need she could ask for. But there's something just...not quite right about the devotion Frank asks of his community's residents. And Alice is beginning to have eerie, surreal nightmares and hallucinations that her husband and neighbors dismiss as inconsequential. Is Alice's mind playing tricks on her...or is there something wrong with the fabric of her reality? What is at the heart of Victory, and what is Frank really up to? And as she delves deeper into these questions, what will it mean for her life and her marriage?



This intriguing, mind-bending thriller in the tradition of *The Stepford Wives* (with a dash of *The Matrix* thrown in) confronts the question of just how far certain men are prepared to go when they feel threatened by women.

The stylish, Agatha Christie-style whodunit has come back into style...and a fine example of this is *See How They Run*, premiering Sept. 16th.

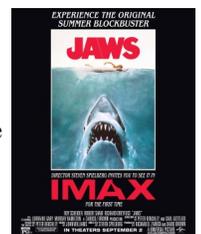


In London of the 1950s, the hit production of Agatha Christie's play *The Mousetrap* is set to be adapted to film, with its original cast. But the little matter of a backstage murder complicates plans somewhat. It's up to world-weary Inspector Stoppard (Sam Rockwell) and his eager rookie partner Constable Stalker (Saoirse Ronan) to unravel the case and pick through the list of suspects. As it turns out, nearly every member of the cast has a motive, even its biggest star Richard Attenborough (Harris Dickinson). Yes, *that* Richard Attenborough, who really *was* in the original cast of *The Mousetrap*, along with his wife Sheila Sim (played here by Pearl Chanda). Nor are they the only real-life figures in this fictional story. And as more deaths follow the first (for isn't that always the way?), the veteran detective and his not-always-predictable assistant have their work cut out for them.

For fans of classic mysteries, this looks like a witty romp of a puzzler. (And since this is a fictionalized story, don't always assume that the real-life figures therein will come out alive on the other end...)

On Sept. 2nd, you're gonna need a bigger screen. That's when AMC Theaters begins a special limited re-release of *Jaws* in IMAX and 3-D!

In the summer of 1974, the peaceful community of Amity Island is shocked by several shark attacks. Though the new police chief Martin Brody (Roy Scheider) wants to close the beaches, he is overruled by the Mayor and the rest of the town council, since Amity's existence depends on summer tourism. Visiting marine biologist Matt Hooper (Richard Dreyfuss) confirms that a very dangerous great white shark is menacing the waters, but the Mayor turns a deaf ear...until yet another attack occurs in full view of a beachful of July Fourth tourists. Once the repentant Mayor finally takes action, Brody and Hooper join the local shark-hunter, crusty war veteran Quint (Robert Shaw), on his rust-bucket the *Orca* to hunt the dangerous predator...but once they're in the shark's world, they realize they're dealing with a stronger and craftier foe than they realized.



There is no better way than the big (VERY big) screen to enjoy the movie that spawned the summer blockbuster...and put Steven Spielberg on the map! (Check AMC's website for theaters and times.)



The Biblio-Files

*Literary classics, reclassified...
Enjoy some recent novels that re-imagine classic
works of literature.*

To read, or not to read? When it comes to Lyndsay Faye's newest novel *The King Of Infinite Space*, that is certainly NOT the question...it's undeniably the former with this work of contemporary fiction inspired by Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

Ben Dane has grown up in the theater, what with his father Jackson Dane owning the prestigious New World's Stage Theatre. But after his father's sudden death, Ben's mother Trudy hastily marries Jackson's brother Claude. Reeling from this tragedy, and from his recent breakup with his fiancée Lia, Ben (who's bisexual) sends for his best friend Horatio Patel, whose friendship with Ben has recently developed into something more. Before Jackson's death, he made a video in which he expressed his fear that someone was out to kill him; Ben needs Horatio's help in discovering the truth. Meanwhile, Lia, a performance artist who has recently kicked substance abuse, is working for a florist shop run by three sisters who may not be all they seem. For some reason, she keeps showing up in Ben's dreams and talking with him there. As she helps her ex and his friend-turned-one-night-stand unravel the mystery, an events planner named Robin Goodfellow is stirring the pot even further. Will this story turn out to be a tragedy like its ancestor?



Filled with Easter eggs for other Shakespeare plays, this enthralling novel provides an updated take on the greatest drama ever written...while giving its heroine more agency than she had in the original.

Daphne Du Maurier's *Rebecca* is one of the great gothic romances of the 20th century. But its conclusion can leave modern readers wondering how much we're supposed to sympathize with the male lead. In Lisa Gabriele's 2018 novel *The Winters*, the author explores this question in a contemporary retelling of Du Maurier's story.

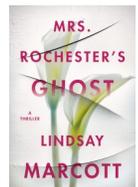


An unnamed (of course) young woman becomes engaged to wealthy politician Max Winters after a whirlwind romance. But on his Long Island estate Asherley, she begins to feel inadequate compared to the shadow of Max's late wife Rebekah, recently killed in a fiery car crash. This only grows worse with the rebellious attitude of Max's teenage daughter Dani, who won't stand for anyone trying to take her mother's place. As the soon-to-be second Mrs. Winters discovers more about the tragedy of Rebekah's death, she begins to suspect that either Max or Dani might have somehow been behind it. Can either of them be trusted? And why is she forbidden to enter the old greenhouse? The deeper she gets into these mysteries, the more it seems old ghosts don't stay quiet...

This modern-day spin on a classic gives a far clearer-eyed view of the so-called hero...and whether he was justified in his past actions.

And speaking of classic gothic romances with problematic male leads...just how much CAN we trust the word of a guy who locks his crazy wife in the attic and lies to his girlfriend that he's single? *Mrs. Rochester's Ghost*, Lindsay Marcott's modernization of *Jane Eyre*, faces that question head-on.

Jane is a television writer who's fallen on hard times—she's barely processed her mother's death when her boyfriend dumps her, her show is cancelled, and she's evicted. So when a friend tells her that his boss, wealthy Evan Rochester, needs a tutor for his troubled daughter, Jane takes him up on the offer. As she settles into her cottage on the grounds of Thorn Bluffs, Evan's Big Sur estate, strange things begin to happen...strange sights and sounds plague the misty nights. As she develops feelings for Evan, she learns more about the death of his wife Beatrice, a model who was plagued by mental illness and whose drowning was ruled a suicide. But there may be more to the story than meets the eye...especially when the reader encounters chapters narrated by the unhinged Beatrice herself from beyond the grave. Or is it beyond? And can her perspective be trusted?



This is a fresh and compelling look at Charlotte Bronte's masterpiece that can make us question whether we were getting the whole story to begin with.