

## Free Public Library of Monroe Township

# Out and About

## A Community Newsletter

November 2022

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

### Designer Bag Bingo for Williamstown Sunrise Rotary

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A fun evening with friends and the chance to win some awesome new accessories...all while benefiting one of Williamstown's most charitable organizations. What could be better? The Sunrise Rotary Club will host its Designer Bag Bingo night on Friday, Nov. 18th, at 7 PM at the Williamstown VFW Post 1616.

The doors will open at 6 PM. Tickets are \$35 and it's strongly recommended to order them in advance. The prizes are courtesy of Coach and MK.

You can order tickets or find out more information by calling Jennifer at 856-889-3507.

This event usually draws a huge crowd, so sign up as soon as possible!



### Pandora Diner Opens

Geet's Diner has some new competition in town...Pandora Diner has opened on the Black Horse Pike, in the former Peter's Diner location.



This is actually the third New Jersey location for Pandora (the other ones are in Springfield Township and Cinnaminson). The Pamuk family, who runs the three of them, also owns Town & Country Diner in Bordentown.

The menu is full of mouth-watering items at a reasonable price, such as broiled seafood specials (twenty-eight of them!), no less than twenty-four specialty burgers, and handcrafted grilled cheese.

After being without Peter's for so long, it'll be great to have another wonderful diner in Williamstown...so stop on by!

#### Special Points of Interest:

- *New businesses in our area...Tea-Tank and Sweet Crumbs*
- *Game of Thrones Trivia at Blue Cork Winery*
- *Onstage at the Grand: Memphis*
- *YIBAMBE! Wakanda Forever premieres*
- *New whodunits*

## Hero Run in Franklinville

We owe a lot to our military and our first responders for all they do for us. You can help give back to them by participating in the 5K Hero Run in Franklinville on Saturday, November 5th.



The run benefits Operation Safe Haven, a private community which provides housing (several micro-houses) and therapy for homeless veterans. They help these vets in need get back on their feet after traumatic experiences that have left them with PTSD.

The run (or walk, if you prefer) starts its check-in at 7:30 AM. The presentation of colors and the National Anthem take place at 8:30. Then, at 9 AM, participants will begin their run/walk along the trails near Operation Safe Haven. You can participate on your own or with a group/family. Prizes will be awarded in various categories, with T-shirts awarded to all participants.

Signup fees range from \$20 to \$35 per person, depending on which difficulty level you choose. To sign up or to learn more, visit [5kherorun.com](http://5kherorun.com).

## Tea-Tank Bubble Tea Shop Opens in Turnersville

Bubble tea—iced tea with “bubbles” of tapioca in the bottom—has become all the rage. Now, our area has a new place to get some—Tea-Tank Tea & Crepes in Turnersville, in the Plaza 42 Shopping Center (where Kohl’s is).

Tea-Tank offers handmade bubble teas in ingenious flavors—one of their offerings is Cheesy Fruit Tea. There’s also green tea, blueberry, and even rose flavorings. Plus, starting in November, the shop will offer a wide variety of fruit-filled crepes.

For more information or to get a look at the menu, visit Tea-Tank’s Facebook page or call them at 856-818-8883.

Come and enjoy a new addition to Gloucester County’s food and drink scene!



## Sweet Crumbs Bakery Opens in Pitman

Pitman’s becoming one of Gloucester County’s best areas for food...and a new bakery is offering some wonderful sweet treats. Sweet Crumbs Bakery is now open at 3 12th Avenue! (It’s next to the Pitman police station.)



Owned by a Washington Township couple, Sweet Crumbs offers homemade pastries...including tons of specialty cupcakes of all sorts of flavors. (Netflix & Chili, anyone?) There are also hot pork sandwiches on Sunday during the fall...just in time for that football game. Sweet Crumbs even has our four-legged friends in mind, with freshly baked dog treats every day! (Sunday hours are 9-12 only during the fall, and the sandwiches sell out, so get there early.)

For more information, visit [sweetcrumbss.com](http://sweetcrumbss.com).

## Healthy HeARTS Festival at Appel Farm Arts Center

As Thanksgiving approaches, it's a time to be thankful for physical, mental, and emotional health...and to do everything possible to improve it. Appel Farm Arts and Music Center will be holding its Healthy HeARTS Festival on Saturday, November 5th from 10 AM to 4 PM.

The day will begin with a 5K/one mile walk around the Appel Farm campus. Check-in for the race starts at 9 AM and the race itself starts at 10 AM. All participants will receive a wooden Appel Farm medal. Registration for the race can be found on the Appel Farm website—\$30 to enter the run, \$15 to enter the walk.

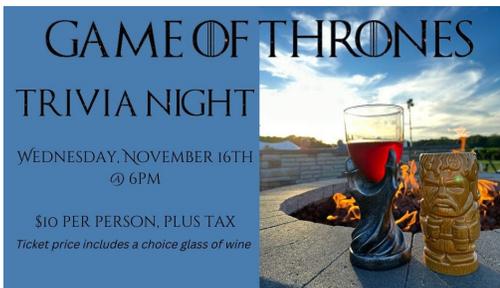
After the race is done, there are loads of other activities for the whole family to enjoy. There's yoga and Bollywood dance, mandala painting on upcycled book pages, tree planting, live music from artists Eric Starr, We Don't Exist, and Swing That Cat, face painting, lawn games, food trucks, and much more!

To register for the race or to find out more, visit the event's website at: [appelfarm.org/healthyhearts](http://appelfarm.org/healthyhearts). Appel Farm Arts and Music Center is located at 457 Shirley Road, Elmer, NJ. Phone: 856-358-2472.



## Game of Thrones Trivia at Blue Cork Winery

Winter is coming...well, in a little less than two months. And with Game of Thrones as popular as ever thanks to its much-talked about prequel series House of the Dragon, there's no better way to show off your knowledge of the books or the TV series than by attending Blue Cork Winery's GoT trivia night on Wednesday, Nov. 16th at 6 PM!



You can sign up in groups of up to 8 people. Tickets are \$10 plus tax and include a complimentary glass of Blue Cork's best wine. (Don't forget, the fee is non-refundable.)

The tournament will be run by a couple of trivia experts. You'll battle your way through several rounds of increasingly-difficult questions, meant to test your knowledge of Houses Lannister, Stark, and Targaryen.

To register, visit Blue Cork's Facebook page and follow the instructions at the event link. It's time to find out whether you "know things"...or "know nothing"!

## Paint and Sip at Blue Cork Winery

Another great event is set to take place at Williamstown's own Blue Cork Winery on Malaga Road...a Paint & Sip event on Thursday, Nov. 3rd, at 6 PM!

Check-in will begin at 5:30 PM. You'll get to paint two fall-themed wine glasses of your own to take home. The class is run by Taylor Rae Cole, a Philadelphia-based independent artist.

Tickets are \$45 per person and include all craft materials. You can register by going to Blue Cork's Facebook page and following the instructions in the event's link. If you've got any questions, you can call 856-885-2545. All participants must be 21 and older.





## All The World's A Stage...

In 1950s Tennessee, racial prejudice is rife, and one man attempts to make a difference in the broadcasting world. That's the premise of the musical *Memphis*, onstage at Williamstown's Grand Theatre from Nov. 17th to Dec. 3rd.



The story is loosely based on the life of the first Memphis disk jockey to play Black music. Huey Calhoun is an aspiring DJ in 1950s Memphis, frequenting the local Black nightclub, Delray's, where he falls for Delray's sister Felicia. Felicia is starting to take off as a singer despite the racial divide that has been barring Black music from White radio stations, and Huey is able to help her with that when he gets a job as a DJ for a local station. He plays her music and other Black music, attempting to break racial barriers. But prejudice and Southern law put the couple in danger when people start finding out about their relationship...leading to shocking acts of violence. Huey must decide

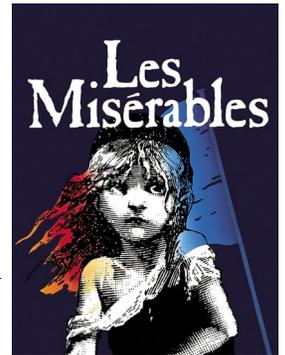
whether the city he's always loved is worth staying in any longer...and what he's willing to put on the line for his convictions and his love.

Tickets are \$20-\$30. To order or to find out more, visit [roadcompany.com](http://roadcompany.com).

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"Do you hear the people sing?" One of the greatest musicals of all time returns to Philly for a limited engagement...*Les Miserables*, onstage at the Academy of Music from Nov. 2nd-13th.

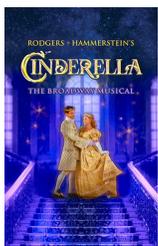
The show, based on Victor Hugo's classic 19th-century novel, tells the story of ex-convict Jean Valjean, released from prison after a 19-year sentence which began when he stole a loaf of bread. Embittered at first, he is influenced by a saintly bishop into using the rest of his life for doing good—but in order to do so, he violates the rules of his parole and sparks an obsessive pursuit by the fanatical police officer Javert. As the years pass, Valjean adopts the child of a dying woman and raises her to adulthood, keeping his past a secret. His adoptive daughter Cosette falls in love with a young law student who's involved in a rebellion that threatens to engulf Paris. As Valjean faces these upheavals in his life, and as Javert begins to close in on him once more, can he remain on the path the Bishop set him on?



You can reserve tickets at [kimmelculturalcampus.org](http://kimmelculturalcampus.org)...and enjoy one of the most inspiring, moving, and thought-provoking musicals that ever came to be.

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"Impossible...for a plain yellow pumpkin to become a golden carriage..." The world's most beloved fairy tale gets a new musical treatment with Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, onstage at Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theater from Nov. 22nd to Dec. 20th!



The famed Broadway duo adapted the fairy tale for television in 1957, with Julie Andrews in the title role. It had two other television adaptations in 1965 with Lesley Ann Warren and in 1997 with Brandi and Whitney Houston. Now, this new version (which had a Broadway run in 2013) provides a whole new script. Ella, treated as a servant by her cruel stepmother and vain stepsisters, can find refuge only in dreams and her friendship with a young revolutionary and an old woman. Meanwhile, the orphaned Prince Christopher is under the influence of his greedy prime minister...but a chance meeting with Ella begins to open his eyes to the injustice in his kingdom. When the old woman reveals herself as Ella's fairy godmother, Ella sees her chance for a new life...and a new direction for the kingdom.

The score includes all of the classic songs from the original, with four others from the R & H catalog (including one that didn't make the final cut of *South Pacific*.) Visit [walnutstreettheatre.org](http://walnutstreettheatre.org) for tickets. And remember...  
"impossible things are happening every day!"

## What's New Onscreen!

In 2018, the Marvel Cinematic Universe wowed audiences with *Black Panther*, which combined exciting superhero action with some thoughtful commentary on racism and how one reacts to it. *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, debuting Nov. 11th, brings viewers back to the nation of Wakanda, which has undergone some changes.

Wakanda is no longer hiding its true status as a technologically advanced nation from the world...but it has lost its King, T'Challa. Mourning his loss, his mother Queen Ramonda (Angela Bassett) and tech-genius sister Shuri (Letitia Wright) face a new threat to their kingdom: the challenge of Prince Namor of Talokan (Tenoch Huerta), an undersea civilization that has been jeopardized by T'Challa's decision to bring Wakanda out of hiding. Namor, able to maneuver on land as easily as on the water, is forced to strike against Wakanda—and the surface world in general—to protect himself and his people. Now, Ramonda and Shuri must call allies old and new to their side as they try to find a way forward that will not endanger Talokan any further...and settle the question of who is to take on the mantle of Black Panther with T'Challa gone.



In the wake of Chadwick Boseman's tragic death, this movie promises to honor his legacy while keeping the world he helped create as exciting and thought-provoking as ever. YIBAMBE!

Classic science fiction put an emphasis on exploring new planets and encountering unusual creatures. Disney's upcoming animated flick, *Strange World*, premiering Nov. 23rd, captures the spirit of those early pulp stories.



The Clade family has always been famous for interstellar exploration, but Searcher Clade (Jake Gyllenhaal) is the odd one out. Searcher wasn't too thrilled with his upbringing by his famous father Jaeger, and after Jaeger's disappearance, he's been contented with a simple farming life with his wife Meridian (Gabrielle Union) and sixteen-year-old son Ethan (Jaboukie Young-White). That all changes when Calisto Mal, president of the nation of Avalonia, approaches the family with a problem—the Earth is in danger, and the key to its survival can only be found on the planet Jaeger disappeared on. Searcher reluctantly agrees to join the expedition, along with his wife and son. On this distant world, the family finds an uncanny, partially living landscape full of strange creatures—but the most shocking discovery of all is that Jaeger (Dennis Quaid) has been living here for years. It may be that the strangest world Searcher has to navigate is his own legacy...

Inspired by classic sci-fi like Jules Verne and the original *King Kong*, this is a visual stunner that doesn't skimp on Disney's special touch with heartfelt human relationships.

Steven Spielberg's childhood and young adulthood have provided fodder for his films in the past...but never so much as in *The Fabelmans*, a fictionalized account of the director's own early life which debuts November 23rd.

Sammy Fabelman (Mateo Francis DeFord, Gabriel LaBelle) is growing up in post-WWII Arizona with his parents and extended family. In love with the movies, he develops an interest in filmmaking, encouraged by his mother Mitzi (Michelle Williams), a talented pianist who's dealing with emotional problems brought on by her restrictions as a 1950s housewife. His father Burt (Paul Dano) doesn't fully understand his son's "hobby", but his uncle Boris (Judd Hirsch), a former silent-movie actor, is also there to shepherd Sammy through his growth as an artist. As Sammy comes of age, he must deal with anti-Semitism that makes him feel like an outsider, his beloved mother's volatile moods...and eventually, the problems that have been silently building between his parents that will tear their marriage apart. Weighing the comforts of his art against its pitfalls, he must decide once and for all whether it is worth pursuing.



This moving family drama, coming straight from its director's heart, has already received near-unanimous raves from its debut at the Toronto International Film Festival...and may just be the next Best Picture winner.



## The Biblio-Files

### Whodunit?

Mysteries have never really gone out of style, and now they're more popular than ever. Enjoy these recent ones!

Dame Angela Lansbury, recently deceased, left behind a vast body of stage and screen work...but many viewers remember her most fondly for her role as Jessica Fletcher in the TV series *Murder, She Wrote*. Now, with *By The Time You Read This, I'll Be Gone*, author Stephanie Kuehn begins a new YA mystery series starring Jessica's great-niece Beatrice Fletcher.

Beatrice, who writes a cold case column for a crime website, is as fond of mysteries as her famous aunt was. But when her best friend Jackson goes missing, she may be in for a far more sinister one than she bargained for. Jackson has been chafing under the rule of his borderline-abusive family for far too long, and now he's vanished. She only becomes more suspicious when she meets three students from the nearby Broadmoor Academy—twins Leisl and Leif and their friend Carlos, all of whom seem secretive and sly. They're devoted to mysteries and puzzles too...as long as they're the ones behind them. Not sure whether she can trust them or not, Beatrice enlists their help as she digs deeper into a decades-old cold case that may have something to do with Jackson's disappearance. As some dark secrets of Cabot Cove's residents come to light, Beatrice faces greater danger than she realized, even with her memories of Jessica to guide her...



This gripping start to a new series brings Cabot Cove into the twenty-first century...and is a perfect way to honor one of Dame Angela's most famous roles.

Anthony Horowitz, who's written Sherlock Holmes and James Bond novels, has had great success with a mystery series starring his greatest hero...himself! The fourth book in the series, *The Twist of a Knife*, continues his (by now slightly fractured) partnership with Detective Daniel Hawthorne.



After a few years helping Hawthorne solve crimes (while partnering on true-crime books), Anthony has begged off after their three-book deal is over. He's got a new play opening up at one of London's most prestigious theaters. Hawthorne is far from pleased with Anthony's defection, and doesn't attend the play's opening night...which ends up getting a savage review from prominent critic Margaret Throsby. Which only throws suspicion on Anthony when Margaret turns up dead the very next day...stabbed with an ornamental dagger belonging to Anthony. An old enemy, Detective Cara Grunshaw, still resentful of Anthony for showing her up on an earlier case, is only too delighted to arrest him. With the noose tightening, the author knows Hawthorne's the only one he can depend on...but can Hawthorne put his wounded pride aside to help his friend?

This latest installment from one of the best modern mystery writers is bound to win you over with its charm, wit, and suspense.

What began as a haven for a persecuted class of people may turn into a death trap. That's the premise of Lev AC Rosen's new novel *Lavender House*, an old-school country-house mystery...with an LGBTQ twist.

It's 1952 in San Francisco, and soap-empire matriarch Irene Lamontaine has recently passed away. Irene's partner—and widow—suspects there was more to her death than met the eye, and hires an investigator to ferret out the truth. Evander "Andy" Mills is a disgraced ex-cop, fired from the SFPD after a raid on a gay bar. When he arrives at Irene's home, Lavender House, he finds a world like nothing he's ever imagined. The lavish estate is a haven for its residents and its staff, a found family of LGBTQ people who are free, within its bounds, to be themselves. This is especially appealing to Andy, given his lifetime of enforced secrecy and his recent humiliation. But by the nature of the social climate, the residents of Lavender House must keep most outsiders out...which means that only one of them could have been the killer. And as Andy unravels a web of family secrets and grudges, he may find himself on the wrong side of the wrong person...



Described as "a queer *Knives Out*," this unique historical mystery sheds a light on what life was like for LGBTQ people not so long ago...and what that can mean for a whodunit.