

## Free Public Library of Monroe Township

# Out and About

## A Community Newsletter

April 2024

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

### Monroe Township Arts and Crafts Festival

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Our annual Spring Arts and Crafts Festival has been a resounding success, and there's no reason to think this year will be any different. This year's will take place on Main Street on Saturday, April 13th, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

This event, free to the public, is one of the best ways to ring in the spring. There will be craft vendors from all over the area, selling their wares. There will also be food trucks with plenty of goodies for sale. For the kids, there will be face painting, a petting zoo, and some bounce houses. And a DJ will be there with plenty of music to add to the fun.

The fair will be set up from Church Street to Washington Avenue (naturally, that section of Main Street will be closed to traffic.)

If you're interested in being a craft vendor, visit [tinyurl.com/Craft2024](http://tinyurl.com/Craft2024) to register.

For more information, call the Department of Community Affairs at 856-728-9841.

Enjoy a fun family day checking out over 150 craft vendors and all the great stuff they've got to offer!



#### Special Points of Interest:

- *Spring events at Bellview Winery and Red Bank Battlefield*
- *Adopt a furry friend at 13th Child's Yappy Hour*
- *The Bodyguard comes to the stage at The Grand*
- *Before Damien, there was The First Omen...debuting April 5th*
- *Great autobiographies from the entertainment world*

### Bottles and Besties at Autumn Lake Winery

If you'd like a fun night out with your best friends, Autumn Lake Winery on Malaga Road has just the thing for you...its Bottles and Besties night on April 11th from 5 PM to 9 PM.



The event is free to the public. You'll get \$1 off glasses of wine, \$2 off bottles, and you can try glasses of sangria for \$6. There will be special vendors on-site as well, offering such treasures as handmade jewelry and hair extensions. The Tacos al Carbon food truck will be on hand, as well as live music from Jim Commander.

For more info, visit Autumn Lake's website [autumnlakewinery.com](http://autumnlakewinery.com).

## Run The Vineyards At Renault Winery

Want to take part in a great race and a fun family day? You can join the Run The Vineyards five-mile race at Renault Winery in Egg Harbor City on Sunday, April 28th.

The festivities begin at 8 AM, when you sign in. You'll start out with a 5-mile race over flat terrain, with awards for the top three winners overall and for the top three winners in each age group. After that, there will be a great food truck festival day that includes live music until noon from the Matt Noffsinger Band and a variety of food trucks like Papa Jai's BBQ, Buon Viaggio Wood Fired Pizza, and more.

Tickets are \$50 per person and the proceeds will benefit the HEADstrong Foundation, which aids the families of cancer patients. Each participant will receive a finisher medal, a T-shirt, a souvenir Renault wine glass and a complimentary glass of wine.

To register, visit [renaultwinery.com/events](http://renaultwinery.com/events) and click on the event's link.



## Second Sunday Nature Walks in Haddon Township

Want to check out South Jersey's natural beauty? The second Sundays of April and May (April 14th and May 12th) will feature guided nature walks in Saddler's Woods in Haddon Township at 10 AM.



Jeff Calhoun, Director of Education for the Saddler's Woods Conservation Association, will lead groups through Saddler's Woods pointing out the various species of plant and animal life that can be found. Each one will feature different phases of new growth as spring progresses.

Tours are limited to 20, so you must sign up as soon as possible. Visit [saddlerswoods.org](http://saddlerswoods.org) and click on the event's link. You can also email Jeff at [jeff@saddlerswoods.org](mailto:jeff@saddlerswoods.org).

Saddler's Woods is located at 250 MacArthur Blvd., Haddon, NJ.

## Yappy Hour Adoption Event at 13th Child

There's one fool-proof way to get unconditional love in your life—adopt a dog! Don't Bully Us, a rescue organization for pit bulls and mixed bully breeds, can help you do just that with their Yappy Hour adoption event at Williamstown's 13th Child Brewery on Sunday, April 7th, from 2-5 PM.

Don't Bully Us will have doggos available for adoption during the event. There will also be food from Not Your Average Weiner available to buy, in case you're hungry for a "dog" of another kind. And with every brewski you purchase, one dollar will be donated to the rescue group.

13th Child Brewery is located on Main Street at the intersection with Blue Bell Road. For more information, visit the brewery's Facebook page. You just might end up going home with a furry friend—or two!



## Spring Fling at Bellview Winery

Bellview Winery in Landisville always has something great to offer...and now it rings in the spring with its annual Spring Fling, taking place on Saturday, April 13th and Sunday, April 14th, from 12 PM to 5 PM.



The Spring Fling is free to the public—no tickets or admission needed, but space and seating is first-come, first-served. There will be special wine cocktails and wine flights available for purchase...including Bellview’s signature dandelion wine. There’s also wine available by the bottle or by the glass. If you’re hungry, there are several food trucks visiting the events such as The Crabby Chef, The Traveling Tomato and B & B Concessions. You’re also welcome to bring outside snacks (as long as they’re not large trays or platters). Live music is also in the offing on the Vineyard’s stage...acoustic duo Erik and Cailin on Saturday and the Nancy Malcun Duo on Sunday. You can also check out a variety of craft vendors who’ll peddle their wares on-site.

Most tables have umbrellas or are in shaded areas, but you’re welcome to bring your own umbrellas/folding tables/chairs/blankets in case table space runs out. Pets aren’t permitted. Needless to say, no outside alcohol is either.

Enjoy a perfect spring day at one of South Jersey’s many great wineries!

## Taste of Community at Auletto Caterers

If you’d like to sample the fare of some of South Jersey’s best eateries while benefiting a good cause, the Taste of Community event is for you. It takes place on Monday, April 8th, at Auletto Caterers in Almonesson from 6 PM to 9 PM. (VIP admission is at 5 PM.)

Over three hundred restaurants, wineries, and coffee houses will be there with their best foods available...cuisine from all cultures, as well as wines, drinks, and desserts (save room). There will also be several auctions throughout the evening.

A regular ticket costs \$60 per person and allows admission to the event at 6 PM. A VIP ticket (at \$90 per person) lets you in at 5 PM, through the wine cellar entrance. All proceeds (as well as optional donations) will benefit the Volunteer Center of South Jersey, which provides volunteers for causes throughout the area.

To buy tickets or to sign up to volunteer for the event, visit [sjvolunteers.org/taste-of-community](http://sjvolunteers.org/taste-of-community).

Take part in a wonderful event that spotlights all the great food in our area—and raises funds for one of the best causes in our area!



## Spring Fest & Earth Day Celebration at Red Bank

Celebrate the season—and our planet—at Red Bank Battlefield’s Spring Festival and Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 21st, from 12 PM to 4 PM!



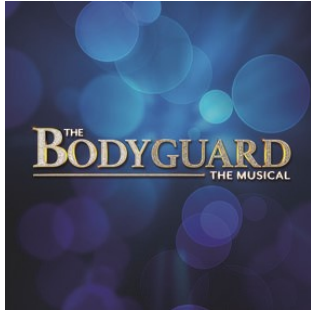
The festival, which is free to the public, features crafts, games, live music, and a magic show for kids. There are also farm animals to make the acquaintance of, as well as demonstrations of what colonial life was like, and tours of the battlefield and the historic Whitall House. Plus, you’ll get a free tree seedling to take home and plant—all the better for our Earth.

Red Bank Battlefield is located at 100 Hessian Avenue in National Park. For more information, visit [gloucestercountynj.gov/740/Special-Events](http://gloucestercountynj.gov/740/Special-Events).



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

The music of pop legend Whitney Houston comes to the stage with the musical version of her film *The Bodyguard*, playing at Williamstown's Grand Theater from April 25th to May 11th.



Rachel Marron is the queen of the pop music world...but her charmed life is turned upside down when she begins to receive disturbing, threatening messages from a stalker. To protect herself and her loved ones (which include her sister and her ten-year-old son), she hires former Secret Service agent Frank Farmer. At first, Frank finds it difficult to adjust to the life a pop diva leads, and has trouble convincing her to keep herself out of the limelight for a while. But soon the two begin to form a bond...which grows romantic. Frank now has all the more reason to want to protect Rachel and her family...and the stalker is growing ever closer to them. Can the couple and those close to them survive the threat?

With all of Whitney Houston's songs from the movie (and some of her other pop hits as well), this is a perfect showcase of the late singer's talent and one of the most famous roles she ever played. To order tickets, visit [road-company.com](http://road-company.com).

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"Listen to that Ragtime!" The award-winning musical *Ragtime*, based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow, comes to Pitman's Broadway Theatre from April 19th to May 12th.

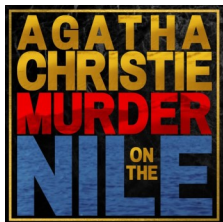
In 1906, two families face great upheaval in their lives...the upper-class, sheltered (and mostly unnamed) family of young Edgar in New Rochelle, NY, and the poor Latvian Jewish immigrant Tateh ("Father") and his young daughter as they struggle to make a new life in NYC. Edgar's family is changed forever when his father goes away on an expedition to the Arctic, and a desperate young Black woman named Sarah, mother of an illegitimate baby, comes into their protection. When the baby's father, piano player Coalhouse Walker Jr., reconciles with Sarah, Father comes home to find a strange new situation in his family. But when Coalhouse is the victim of a racist incident, whose aftermath leaves Sarah dead, he swears violent revenge. Edgar's mother, whose outlook on her life has changed since meeting Sarah, asserts her independence even as events threaten to overtake the family. Meanwhile, Tateh has come into his own as a film director, which brings him into Edgar's family's orbit. Their stories play out against the backdrop of great racial and social change in America, with many famous figures from the time period also playing a role.



To order tickets, visit [thebroadwaytheatre.org](http://thebroadwaytheatre.org), and enjoy some of the best music ever written for a Broadway show.

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One of Dame Agatha Christie's most famous mysteries comes to the stage with *Murder On The Nile*, playing at Oaklyn's Ritz Theatre from April 5th to April 21st.



Despite being based on one of Dame Agatha's most famous Hercule Poirot novels, this adaptation features an entirely different detective altogether! (Dame Agatha had had it up to here with Poirot by the time she adapted *Death on the Nile* for the stage.) Instead, our detective is Ambrose Pennefather, a clergyman whose niece Kay, a wealthy heiress, has just married Simon Mostyn, who jilted her friend Jacqueline for her. Jackie has followed the couple on their honeymoon cruise to discomfit them, culminating in an incident where she shoots Simon in the leg in a fit of rage. But when Kay turns up murdered the very next morning, Jackie, who had the clearest motive against her, has an equally clear alibi—she had been sedated in her fit of hysterical remorse. It turns out that, in true Christie tradition, many other passengers on the ship had grudges against Kay. Can Pennefather ferret out the truth and bring his niece's killer to justice?

For tickets or for more info, visit [ritztheatreco.org](http://ritztheatreco.org).



## What's New Onscreen!

The idea of kidnapers who find themselves in over their heads is a familiar story...but in *Abigail*, premiering April 19th, a group of criminals discover just HOW dire such a situation can be.

It seems like easy money to a band of aspiring criminals...kidnap the 12-year-old ballerina daughter of a notorious underworld figure and collect the ransom. All it means is keeping her locked up overnight in the isolated mansion they've set up as their headquarters. But young Abigail (Alisha Weir, *Matilda the Musical*) seems strangely unafraid...and, as the kidnapers begin to die off, they realize why. This is no ordinary little girl...and she's not trapped with them, they're trapped with HER. As the night goes on, the tables are turned and the would-be criminals find themselves the ones hunted and threatened, by a child they now realize is the most dangerous kind of monster. It all goes back to the identity of her infamous father...someone who's far more deadly than any run-of-the-mill crime lord.



For lovers of vampire stories, this is a spooky (and quite gory) twist on the lore behind one of the most famous Universal monsters.

Interested in bigger guns than vampires for your horror movie? The *Omen* film series has always dealt with the greatest horror of all...the Evil One himself, and his son the Antichrist, incarnated as the child Damien. Now, in *The First Omen* (debuting April 5th), we see what happened before Damien was brought to be.



In 1971, novice nun Margaret Daino (Nell Tyler Free) agrees to serve at an orphanage in Rome before taking her final vows. She grows to enjoy her work there, caring for the orphaned girls. One of them draws Margaret's attention...a strangely feral girl named Carlita, whose mannerisms suggest deep trauma. Margaret, out of the goodness of her heart, tries to provide Carlita with compassion and guidance. But strange and horrifying things seem to happen in Carlita's presence—including the unexplained suicide of a nun. As Margaret uncovers more information, with the help of priest Father Brennan (Ralph Ineson), it becomes clear that Carlita is at the center of a cult working to bring about the birth of the Antichrist...and, worse, that elements within the power-hungry Vatican are in on it.

If you're a fan of this classic horror series, you're sure to enjoy this prequel that adds some new wrinkles to its frightening and demonic lore.

Up for something a little lighter (but no less thrilling) than horror fare? How about a historical comedy-drama about the first covert special forces department? *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare*, based on Damien Lewis' nonfiction book *Churchill's Secret Warriors*, debuts April 19th.

It's 1940 and the Second World War has been raging across Europe. Gus March-Phillips (Henry Cavill), a military officer out of favor with the government for his maverick ways, suddenly gets called in to the Ministry. It turns out that Winston Churchill has realized the Nazis aren't playing by the rules of war...so neither should the Crown. Churchill is organizing a covert operations group to carry out missions that will cripple the Nazi forces, and Guy, with his unconventional ways, is the perfect man to lead it. Guy assembles his team, which includes a would-be writer named Ian Fleming, to carry out brutal up-close-and-personal missions...with no less than the fate of the free world at stake.



Director Guy Ritchie brings his brand of stylish, tongue-in-cheek action to a film based on real-life people and events. (Yes, 007 creator Ian Fleming WAS part of this special force...as was, it's believed, his cousin, actor Sir Christopher Lee!) This looks to be an exciting romp fit for all fans of thrilling spy flicks.

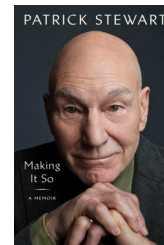


## The Biblio-Files

This month, enjoy some great new autobiographies by top figures in the entertainment world!

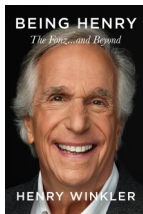
“*Make it so.*” These words were often spoken by Captain Jean-Luc Picard on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Now, with his new memoir *Making It So*, Picard’s actor Sir Patrick Stewart tells his readers how he has done just that, all his life.

Sir Patrick was born in Yorkshire and grew up with a father whose post-war PTSD often erupted into violence (which influenced his anti-domestic-violence advocacy in later life). In his young adulthood, he earned a spot with the Royal Shakespeare Company, becoming a celebrated stage actor and one of the best interpreters of Shakespearean roles (second only to his BFF Sir Ian McKellen). In the eighties, he had prominent roles in films like *Dune* (the original) and *Lady Jane*. But his career and life would change when he was offered the role of Captain Picard in the *Star Trek* sequel series. From here, he became a household name and received roles in many other high-profile films and series on both sides of the pond. Sir Patrick tells us his story with his usual grace, good humor, and gift for words, honestly recounting difficulties in his personal life (two failed marriages before finally finding happiness with third wife, jazz singer Sunny Ozell). His fascinating life story is certainly one to “engage” with.



There’s no better actor’s memoir to enjoy with a cup of tea (Earl Grey, hot).

Henry Winkler found fame in the 1970s with his role as Arthur Fonzarelli in the sitcom *Happy Days*, but none of that came easily. In his new autobiography *Being Henry: The Fonz...and Beyond*, he tells us what that journey has been like.

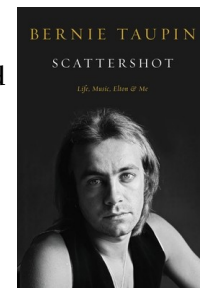


The son of German Jewish refugees who got out from under the Nazis while the getting was good, Henry grew up contending with severe dyslexia. Since dyslexia wasn’t understood very well in the forties and fifties, everyone (including Henry’s own parents) assumed he was simply slow. Having dealt with this disability and his parents’ harshness, Henry struggled with self-confidence issues even after he started acting. Even after his rise to fame as Fonzie, he still always felt as though he were “chasing after the cool kids” (despite playing the ultimate cool guy!). But with the love of his wife and children, he has become a respected producer, director, and writer (co-author of the Hank Zipzer tween series, whose main character, like Henry, is dyslexic).

Without any sugarcoating (even of his own failings), Henry tells the story of a remarkable life that only promises to become more so.

Sir Elton John is one of the greatest singer/songwriters the music world has ever known...but his songs wouldn’t be what they are without the beautifully written lyrics of Bernie Taupin. The lyricist’s new memoir, *Scattershot*, details the life and friendship that gave us some of the best songs in the world.

Bernie was born in the English countryside to a family that encouraged his creative ambitions, and one fateful day in 1967, met Reginald Dwight through a record company’s talent advertisement that both lads responded to. Since Reg couldn’t really write lyrics but had a talent for melodies, and Bernie was vice versa, the two formed a partnership...and a friendship that has lasted to this day. When Reg became “Elton John”, the two rocketed to the top of the charts, but fame, as always, has its pitfalls. Like his best friend (and, let’s face it, most rock musicians in the seventies), Bernie struggled with substance abuse and personal problems, but like Sir Elton, he has fought his way through them to find happiness with his fourth wife Heather, their two daughters, and the life they share on his California ranch, where Bernie also indulges his passion for painting. He hasn’t slowed down on his lyric writing...and, luckily for all of us, there’s no indication he’s going to.



Bernie’s gift is this memoir...and this one’s for you.