



Free Public Library of Monroe Township

Out and About

A Community Newsletter

May 2024

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

Derby Day at Autumn Lake Winery

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Once again, it's time for the Kentucky Derby, with celebrations happening all over South Jersey (including the Down and Derby Festival at Cooper River Park). But if you're looking for something right here in Williamstown, there's Autumn Lake Winery's Derby Celebration, taking place on Saturday, May 4th from 2 PM to 8 PM.

General admission tickets are \$20 and include a viewing of the Derby, live music from the TJ Fry Band, and access to many great food trucks from around our area that you can purchase food from. Of course, there's Autumn Lake's best wine available for purchase as well.



VIP tickets, which are \$50 while they last, offer ticketholders a private lakeside tent with upgraded seating and prime race viewing, a private wine bar with table service. All ticketholders—VIP or general—will receive a commemorative wine glass.

To order tickets, visit autumnlakewinery.com and click on the event link. Join others in our area in celebrating the biggest horse race of the year!

Special Points of Interest:

- *Wonderful Mother's Day events in Mullica Hill*
- *Saddlehill Winery Opens in Voorhees*
- *Travel back in time to the Age of Aquarius at Had-donfield Plays and Players*
- *The Beatles' final film now on Disney Plus*
- *Garfield makes the big screen once more*
- *Great new mystery novels set in the Roaring 20s*

Scotland Run Spring Garden Expo and Plant Sale

In the spring, people's thoughts turn to their gardens. Gardeners and plant enthusiasts will find just what they're looking for at Scotland Run Park's Spring Garden Expo and Plant Sale, taking place on Saturday, May 11th from 9 AM to 2 PM.



All sorts of top-of-the-line garden plants will be for sale—both flowers and vegetables. You can also get your garden soil tested to see how well it will grow plants, and get advice from experienced gardeners at the Q & A booth.

The event is free to the public, but proceeds from the plant sales will support local gardens in Gloucester County.

Mother's Day Weekend in Mullica Hill

The weekend of May 11th-12th in Mullica Hill has some great events for you and Mom!

On Saturday, May 11th, the Mullica Hill Arts and Crafts Festival takes place on Main Street from 10 AM to 5 PM. (Rain date: Sunday, May 12th.) You'll find special items for sale by all kinds of artisans and crafters, along with food trucks and kids' activities.

Also on Saturday the 11th, Sew Sassy at 19 S. Main Street will host a Mother's Day Graze Tray Workshop at 1 PM. You can create a "graze box" charcuterie tray—a perfect gift for Mom—and enjoy a snack and beverages as well. Tickets are \$65 and include all materials. To order, visit <https://www.facebook.com/gathertograzemh/events> and click on the event link.

Then, on Sunday the 12th (Mother's Day), Main Street will have its Moms on Main event. The shops along Mullica Hill's Main Street will have lots of activities for the whole family, as well as special sales, giveaways, snacks and drinks.

Take advantage of all the great Mother's Day events Mullica Hill has to offer!



Spring on Tap Beer Festival

Just one day after Cooper River Park in Pennsauken has its Down and Derby Wine Festival, it will gear up for Cinco de Mayo with some great beer. The Spring on Tap Beer Festival will take place on Sunday, May 5th, from 12 PM to 6 PM!



Unlike the Derby festival, this event is free to the public. There'll be craft beers from breweries all over the South Jersey area, as well as a wide variety of food trucks, craft and artisan vendors, and live music by Lecompt, a Philly-area cover band that specializes in classic hits from the 50s to the 90s.

For more information, check out camdencounty.com/events. Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a great party in one of South Jersey's nicest settings!

Two Great Events in Smithville

It's a bit of a drive, but Historic Smithville, a shopping village in Galloway Township, has a couple of great events going on this month.

On Saturday, May 4th, beginning at 12 PM, the Galloway Art Festival will take place at Historic Smithville. You'll be able to enjoy all kinds of visual art on display, as well as various genres of live music and performing arts scheduled throughout the festival day. (Rain date: May 5th.)



Then, on the weekend of May 18th-19th, from 10 AM to 5 PM, Smithville will hold its Mayfest, featuring live music, an international food court, kids' activities, and all sorts of craft vendors. And of course, Smithville's shops will be open to all.

Enjoy food, art, music and fun at this charming village of shops!

Saddlehill Winery Opens in Voorhees

There's a wonderful new addition to South Jersey's growing list of great wineries. Saddlehill Winery has opened in Voorhees, at 1407 Whitehorse Road. (The entrance is just past the intersection of Springdale/Whitehorse and Eve-sham Roads, where the Holly Ravine shopping plaza and the Shoprite are.)



The winery is set on picturesque grounds and features a beautiful tasting room. In the tasting room, you'll not only get to sample some great vintages, but also, thanks to the Farmhouse Kitchen, you can order some great food. There are plenty of great dishes to be tried, such as truffle parmesan fries, several different flatbreads, grilled salmon, and several different burgers and sandwiches—all with farm-to-table ingredients. (Reservations are recommended.) There's indoor seating available, as well as a covered, heated patio, and a family area with picnic tables on the lawn. (That area doesn't have table service, but you can order through QR code.)

You can also sign up for a tour of the winery and vineyard, to see how such great wine is made. The owners of the winery are hoping to host special events here, such as live music nights. You can find out more about the winery and upcoming events (or make dining reservations) at its website, saddlehill.com. Saddlehill's hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11:30 AM to 9 PM. Come and check out this new venue that's sure to become one of South Jersey's greatest places to gather and dine!

Lori Poisker Craft Festival in Pitman

Pitman's twice-yearly Lori Poisker Memorial Craft Show will take place on Saturday, May 18th, from 9 AM to 3 PM, along Broadway, Pitman Avenue, and Ballard Avenue.

The festival will feature over 250 local artisans and crafters with various wares to sell. You'll be able to browse handcrafted jewelry, wall art, candles, local honey, and more. Many non-profits will also be there with info on how you can do your part for them.

You'll also find food trucks, music, and all kinds of activities for all ages to enjoy.

There's free parking at the Sony Parking Lot on Woodbury Road, with shuttles that run to the festival area.

If you're interested in being a vendor, email the festival's runners at craftshows@uptownpitman.com.

You can find out more about this and the September edition of the festival at www.pitmancraftshow.com.



Plant and Sip at Blue Cork Winery

Williamstown's own Blue Cork Winery, on Blue Cork Road, is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. As one of its celebratory events, it will host a Plant & Sip gardening workshop on Thursday, May 2nd, at 6 PM.



You'll enjoy a complimentary glass of wine from Blue Cork, as well as your choice of planter that you can use to plant a mini-garden of succulents.

Tickets are between \$50 and \$65, depending on which planter you choose. To register, visit Blue Cork's Facebook page and click on the event's link.

You can also find out about other great events at Blue Cork this month—including their Mother's Day lunch—on the winery's Facebook page.



All The World's A Stage...

“When the moon is in the seventh house/And Jupiter aligns with Mars/Then peace will guide the planets/And love will steer the stars.” Haddonfield Plays and Players presents the classic 1960s “tribal love rock musical” *Hair* from May 10th-25th!



Hair tells the story of a “tribe” of hippies and how they deal with the problems the older generation has handed to them—as well as conflicts and connections among themselves. One of them, Claude, has joined the tribe searching for himself—and faces the question of whether he’ll dodge the draft or go to Vietnam. What will he choose, and what will it mean to him and his friends?

The score has spawned several radio hits (its title song, “Aquarius”, “Let The Sun Shine In”, and “Good Morning Starshine”, for starters). Be warned, though: *Hair* is traditionally performed with some nudity, and features strong language and references to drug use as well. (Consider it an R, to be on the safe side.)

Tickets are \$30. Visit haddonfieldplayers.com to purchase them or for more info. Come enjoy one of the sixties’ most iconic and groundbreaking shows...and “let the sun shine in!”

Even the greatest story ever told can have a fresh new perspective. The Village Playbox in Haddon Heights presents Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Jesus Christ Superstar* from May 3rd-18th.

The show began life as a concept album before it was staged, and was controversial for presenting the last week in Jesus’ life in the form of rock music. This version of the story gives a far more sympathetic role to Judas Iscariot, who fears that Jesus’ growing movement will bring the wrath of the Roman authorities down on all their heads. In a misguided attempt to stave off trouble, he turns Jesus in...only to find that he may be a pawn in a greater plan than he ever imagined. As for Jesus Himself, He struggles with His own feelings of self-doubt, fear, and questioning His destiny...and all the while, His disciples (including Mary Magdalene, who is trying to deal with her romantic feelings for Him) wrestle with their own role in the tragedy to come.



With a driving, compelling rock score that includes the standout hits “I Don’t Know How To Love Him” and “Superstar”, this groundbreaking pop/rock opera illuminates the human side of the Passion. For more information or to order tickets, visit villageplaybox.org. (The show will be performed in the First Presbyterian Church of Haddon Heights at 28 Seventh Avenue.)

Many high school students would kill to be part of the in-crowd...and some actually do. That’s the premise of the musical *Heathers*, running at Oaklyn’s Ritz Theater from May 10th-26th .

LAURENCE O’KEEFE AND KEVIN MURPHY

HEATHERS
THE MUSICAL



Based on the 1988 movie starring Winona Ryder and Christian Slater, this pitch-black comedy introduces us to Veronica Sawyer, a misfit who aspires to be part of the most popular school clique, “The Heathers.” She succeeds, and shortly afterwards falls for cute bad boy J.D. But when she objects to the Heathers’ cruel prank on her former best friend, they kick her out. J.D. sets out to help her regain her status with this in-crowd...but Veronica suddenly finds herself in over her head when she sees exactly how far J.D. is prepared to go...

Tickets are \$32. To find out more or to purchase tickets, visit ritztheatreco.org or call 856-288-3500. Enjoy this wickedly funny and delightfully sinister musical comedy that exposes the dark side of high school life!

What's New Onscreen!

Everybody's favorite lasagna-loving orange tabby comes to the big screen in an animated film for the first time. *The Garfield Movie* premieres May 24th.

Garfield (voice of Chris Pratt—because let's face it, he voices EVERYTHING these days) started life as a lost kitten, who encountered his future owner Jon Arbuckle (Nicholas Hoult) in an Italian restaurant. This is the start of two of his greatest loves...his human dad (although he seldom admits it) and Italian food, especially lasagna. Since then, he's lived a peaceful, more or less contented life, even if he has to put up with his not-too-bright canine "sibling" Odie. But Garfield's world is turned upside down when his long-lost father, street cat Vic (voice of Samuel L. Jackson) comes back into his life, intent on dragging Garfield and Odie into a heist. The tubby tabby must decide where his loyalties lie...his feline dad or his human one, his lazy indoor life or a high-stakes life with little security but lots of adventure.



After many appearances on the small screen in animation and two big-screen live-action/CGI movies, this seems to be the perfect medium to introduce a new generation to one of the most popular comic-strip characters of all time.

Fifty-four years ago, The Beatles appeared onscreen for the last time, in the documentary *Let It Be*, which was released after the breakup announcement. Now, the original 1970 film comes to Disney Plus on May 8th, after years of languishing out-of-print.



Directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg, the documentary (about the making of the album that became *Let It Be*, meant to be a return to the Beatles' roots) was assembled from the same footage that Peter Jackson used for the eight-hour, three-part *Get Back* (also on Disney Plus). Because of the sad news that preceded the film's release, it inadvertently became a chronicle of the band's disintegration, though the footage was filmed before the breakup and before their real final album *Abbey Road*. Indeed, much of it seemed to be focused on personal and artistic conflicts between the Beatles. Now that *Get Back* has provided a clearer picture of what was going on between the Fab Four—the good and the bad, with more “good” than most fans realized—it is a revelation to watch the movie anew, viewing the footage that was not part of *Get Back* in a new light—and to see the thrilling rooftop concert (the first time the Beatles had performed live in three years) as it was originally filmed.

Beatles fans have every reason to be thrilled that this chronicle of the band is seeing the light of day once more.

Since the *Planet of the Apes* franchise was rebooted in 2011 (Tim Burton's 2001 remake wasn't part of this continuity), a new generation of fans has been introduced to this thrilling and thought-provoking science-fiction classic. The adventure continues with *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes*, released May 10th.

It's three hundred years after the previous movie, and the sentient ape population has flourished, becoming Earth's dominant species while the human population, decimated due to a plague of their own making, has regressed into a primal state. The apes' current king, Proximus Caesar (Kevin Durand) has been discovering abandoned human technologies. He has been twisting the teachings of Caesar, leader of the earliest ape society, to lead a group of followers in enslaving other simian clans. It's up to Noa (Owen Teague), a chimpanzee and skilled hunter, to thwart the would-be tyrant, with the help of feral human woman Mae (Freya Allan), whom Noa renames Nova, and who may have an agenda of her own. Together, they must chart a new path in which both apes and humans can have a peaceful future on this much-changed Earth.



The next chapter in this re-imagined classic promises to be as exciting and gripping as the previous entries.



The Biblio-Files

One hundred years after the Roaring Twenties, there have been many recently published mysteries that take place in the Jazz Age. Enjoy some of them.

When a model with a scandalous reputation is found dead, it touches off an investigation that delves deep into the New York City underworld in Sara DiVello's crime thriller *Broadway Butterfly*.

Based on a true story, the novel introduces us to Dot King, a model, actress and quintessential "flapper" with a slew of admirers. But one morning in March 1923, her maid Ella Bradford finds her dead body, with a bottle of chloroform—the murder weapon, which asphyxiated her—next to her, and thousands of dollars in jewelry stolen. Was the motive simply robbery—or is something more sinister lurking beneath the surface? Three people, all outsiders in their own way, set out to find the answer. Ella herself, a Black woman, kept many of Dot's secrets, but which one of them holds the key to the mystery? Detective John Coughlin, struggling against the rampant corruption in the NYPD, is dedicated to finding the truth despite certain figures who would rather not see it brought to light. Crime reporter Julia Harpman, trying to make her way in a man's profession, navigates the slick upper class and the seedy underworld of NYC in a quest for justice...only to find that there are more connections between the two than she thought.



This thrilling fictionalization of one of history's greatest cold cases is sure to enthrall lovers of historical mysteries.

When a Black debutante and the bi-racial owner of a speakeasy cross paths in 1920s Chicago, sparks fly—and both find themselves facing danger. That's the premise of *The Mayor of Maxwell Street* by Avery Cunningham.



Nelly Sawyer, daughter of a wealthy horse breeder, finds herself catapulted to the position of debutante by her brother's untimely death. But Nelly has ambitions that go beyond the marriage market...for some time now, she's been an undercover reporter whose articles have been published in a Chicago paper. Her new assignment: to track down and identify the crime kingpin known as "The Mayor of Maxwell Street." In her attempts to do so, she makes the acquaintance of Jay Shorey, a speakeasy owner who passes for white. She recruits his help in her assignment...but she realizes how fragile her place in the world is when she begins to face the racism that her family's wealth has shielded her from. Jay, meanwhile, is under no illusions about his place in the world, since his interracial parents were murdered for their relationship. As the two get closer to the Mayor's identity—and to each other—will the dangers of the crime world and of 1920s society destroy all they've achieved so far?

This exciting, adventurous mystery shines a light on aspects of 1920s Chicago that are too often overlooked.

Kate Khavari's *A Botanist's Guide to Parties and Poison*, published in 2022, introduced a wonderful romantic mystery series with a captivating heroine.

It's 1923, and Saffron Everleigh has just begun a career as a research assistant at London's University College, specializing in botany. She's fighting upstream against the usual amount of sexism for the time period, along with a pervasive belief that her late father's reputation was the only reason she was hired. But one fateful night at a school dinner party, she finds herself with even worse to contend with...when one of the professor's wives drops dead, apparently poisoned. What's more, Saffron's mentor Dr. Maxwell, one of the few among the staff who really respects her talent and abilities, is the prime suspect...and all evidence seems to be pointing to him as the culprit. With the help of the (rather attractive) Alexander Ashton, a fellow researcher, Saffron sets out to clear her mentor's name, using her knowledge and aptitude for botany to figure out what poison was used, and how it could have been acquired. But will her skill and fortitude be enough to keep her from being the next victim?



This charming mystery does a fine job of setting up a terrific new series. (The second book, *A Botanist's Guide to Flowers and Fatality*, came out last year, and the third, *A Botanist's Guide to Society and Secrets*, is due in June.)