

Free Public Library of Monroe Township

Out and About

A Community Newsletter

July 2024

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

Fourth of July Fireworks

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Hard to believe it, but the Fourth is almost here! Though there are fireworks all over our area, Williamstown is one of the few holding their festivities on the actual Fourth itself. (Many nearby ones are on the 3rd.)

The festivities will take place in Monroe Township Dog Park, which will be closed to the general public from 2 PM July 3rd and reopen at 2 PM on July 5th.

The fireworks display begins at dusk (which, at this time of year, is somewhere between 8:30 and 9:00 PM). The display's rain date is July 5th.

Interested in other dates and times? Haddonfield will hold its annual Yankee Doodle Do on Wednesday, July 3rd, which will begin at 5 PM along Kings Highway near the Haddonfield High School. In the run-up to the fireworks at 9:15, there will be entertainment and family-friendly activities. Haddonfield will also hold a Fourth of July parade the following day, at 10 AM on July 4th, featuring a Mummers band and neighborhood groups. For something a little more elaborate, Camden County's Freedom Festival will begin at 5 PM on July 3rd at Wiggins Waterfront Park, featuring the Gin Blossoms and Tara Hendricks.



However and whenever you celebrate it...happy Fourth of July!

Special Points of Interest:

- *Ren's Coffeehouse and Books Opens in Blackwood*
- *Taco-Palooza in Sewell...food and fun for the family!*
- *Concerts and movies in Gloucester County Parks*
- *The classic West Side Story at Oaklyn's Ritz Theatre*
- *Deadpool meets Wolverine onscreen...chaos ensues*
- *Recent novels about American historical figures*

Paint and Sip at Autumn Lake Winery

Autumn Lake Winery on Malaga Road in Williamstown is hosting another of its Paint-and-Sip events at 6 PM on July 30th.



You'll have your choice of two different projects—a 3D wood sign or a ceramic dragonfly lantern. Your \$48 fee includes all materials, the instruction session, and a complimentary glass of wine (further glasses and a charcuterie board are available for purchase, or you can bring your own snacks).

To register, visit <https://www.paintatresure.com/calendar-of-events> and click on the event link. Make sure you get there between 5:30 and 5:45 to check in.

July 2024 Concerts In The Park

Gloucester County Parks and Recreation has some great free concerts scheduled for this summer in various parks around the area! July's schedule is as follows:

Saturday, July 6th, 7:00 PM, Atkinson Park, Sewell—Swing That Cat. This jazz band featuring vocalist Michele Peraino is backed up by brass and flute for a charming retro sound. Rain date: Sunday, July 7th, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, July 13th, 7:00 PM, Atkinson Park, Sewell—Strictly 60s. This cover band covers the groundbreaking music of the 1960s. Rain date: Sunday, July 14th, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, July 27th, 7:00 PM, Atkinson Park, Sewell—Peabody's Wayback Machine. Aptly named, this 1980s cover band will take you back in time to the decade of New Wave synth and neon! Rain date: Sunday, July 28th, 7:00 PM.

Be sure to bring your own blanket or chair (and bug repellent)...and enjoy some great local bands on a summer evening!



Haddonfield Crafts and Fine Art Festival

This year, Haddonfield celebrates thirty years of its annual summer Crafts and Fine Art Festival, which takes place this year along Kings Highway on Saturday, July 13th from 11 AM to 7 PM and on Sunday, July 14th from 10 AM to 5 PM.



The festival is free to the public—and bigger than ever this anniversary year. As well as all the artisans and crafters who will be selling their wares in downtown Haddonfield, there will be live music, a special area to showcase emerging artists from the region (with demonstrations of them working on their art), a make-and-take craft section for kids, an on-site pet rescue station from Friends of Burlington County Animal Shelter, and more!

To find out more, visit Downtown Haddonfield's Facebook page. Enjoy a perfect summer day with plenty of great family fun...and some of the best creative artists in the South Jersey region!

Red Bank Battlefield Butterfly Festival

If you're a fan of our colorful insect friends, join other enthusiasts at the Butterfly Festival on Saturday, July 13th, from 11 AM to 4 PM at Red Bank Battlefield Park in National Park, NJ.

The Gloucester County Certified Gardeners present this family fun day, which is free to the public. The event features a bug zoo, live music, crafts and games for children, and much more.

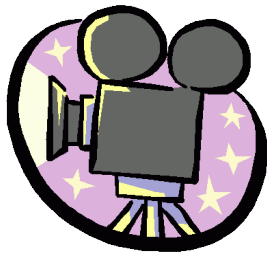
Best of all, there's a photography contest. Take your best picture of an insect and bring it with you to the event, and you could win a prize!

For more information or for the rules to the photography contest, visit Gloucester County Certified Gardeners' Facebook page, call 856-224-8045, or email mcummings@co.gloucester.nj.us.



July 2024 Movies In The Park

Now that summer's here, it's time once more for free movies in various Gloucester County parks! Each movie begins at dusk and, unless otherwise noted, will have a rain date for the following day. July's schedule is as follows:



Friday, 7/5/2024 : Under the Boardwalk. New Street Park, 410 East New St, Glassboro.

Friday, 7/12/2024: Elemental. YMCA, 235 E. Red Bank Ave, Woodbury.

Wednesday, 7/17/2024 : Super Mario Bros. Movie. Swedesboro Auction Block, 400 Anderson Ave, Swedesboro.

Friday, 7/19/2024: The Lorax. Red Bank Battlefield, 100 Hessian Ave, National Park.

Wednesday, 7/24/2024: Trolls: Band Together. Stewart Park, 67 Ferrell Rd, Mullica Hill

Friday, 7/26/2024: Trolls: Band Together. Edgerton Christian Academy, 212 Catawba Ave,

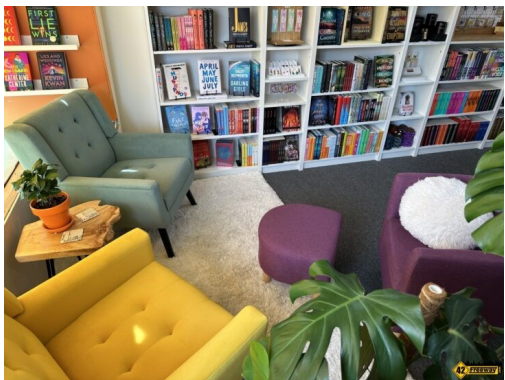
Newfield

Bring a blanket or chair of your own (and plenty of bug repellent). All movies are free to the public and seating is first-come, first-served. To find out if a movie is canceled due to weather, call 856-251-6738 after 4 PM.

Enjoy some great family flicks under the stars!

Ren's Coffeehouse and Bookstore Opens in Blackwood

A new coffee shop and bookstore has joined the list of independent South Jersey businesses...Ren's Coffeehouse and Books, at 26 N. Black Horse Pike in Blackwood!



This takes over the site of the former Book Asylum, which closed during the pandemic. Owner Ren has overhauled the old store, putting in a coffee counter that will offer all kinds of hot and cold beverages as well as pastries and other light bites. Next door to that is a room that offers a wide selection of new and used books for sale, as well as some comfy reading spots.

That isn't all that's in store (literally and figuratively). There are board games and tables for anyone who'd like to sit and play a while. Plus, Ren is hoping to host plenty of public events at the store such as local author signings, book clubs, and open mic nights.

Come and check out South Jersey's newest local business and all it has to offer! (For more info, visit Ren's Coffeehouse and Books on Facebook.)

Taco-Palooza at Washington Lake Park

If you're up for a little Mexican food and a lot of fun, Taco-Palooza will take place on Saturday, July 13th, in Sewell's Washington Lake Park, from 11 AM to 7 PM!



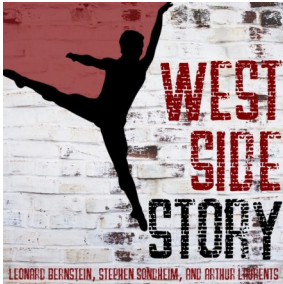
The event will feature tons of taco trucks, as well as other food items for sale, and a beer/sangria/margarita garden. There's also live music scheduled from the bands Grupo K'ndela, Mushroom, and Only Human. For the kids, there are bungee cords and inflatables.

The entry fee is \$5 if purchased in advance (at just-jersey-fest.ticketleap.com/tacosewell) and \$7 at the door. Kids under 5 get in free. You're encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the food pantry. (And be sure to bring blankets or lawn chairs.)



All The World's A Stage...

Something's coming...something good! The Ritz Theatre in Oaklyn presents the all-time classic *West Side Story* from July 12th-28th.



Thanks to composer Leonard Bernstein, playwright Arthur Laurents, and a hotshot young lyricist named Stephen Sondheim, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* gets an update to the harsh streets of New York City's West Side in 1957, as the American street gang the Jets clashes with the Puerto Rican immigrant gang the Sharks. Former Jet Tony is looking for something better than the gang life—and finds it in Maria, sister of the Sharks' leader. He promises her to stop the upcoming rumble between the gangs...but his misguided attempts to do so lead to a shocking act of violence that further threatens the lovers' future. As the forces of interracial hatred close in on them, can Tony and Maria fulfill their dream of a life free to love each other?

Tickets are \$35. To order, visit ritztheatreco.org. With timeless songs like “Maria”, “Tonight”, and “Somewhere”, this groundbreaking musical still speaks to any of us who wish for a future without hatred or prejudice...somehow, someday, somewhere.

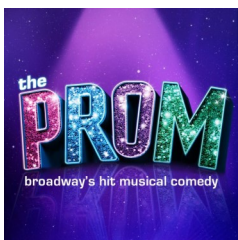
One of the greatest Broadway musicals of all time—about the life of one of the most famous performers of all time—comes to Philly in a new Broadway tour. *Funny Girl* is onstage at the Academy of Music from July 16th-28th.

The show, with a score by Bob Merrill and Jule Styne, is a somewhat romanticized retelling of the early life of Fanny Brice, a popular stage, screen, and radio comedienne of the early twentieth century. Fanny, a rough-around-the-edges Lower East Side girl, is far from the kind of raving beauty who usually becomes a showgirl in the Ziegfeld Follies, but her comic talent endears her to Florenz Ziegfeld, and soon she's a major star. She also falls for handsome, debonair gambler Nicky Arnstein, and the two marry. But when Nicky's luck at gambling runs out, he becomes resentful of his wife's greater success, and her well-meaning attempts to help him back on his feet only make things worse. When he lands himself in prison for embezzlement, Fanny must decide whether their marriage can survive his personal flaws.



With standout songs like “People” and “Don't Rain On My Parade”, this bittersweet musical comedy is deserving of its reputation as one of the all-time best. To order tickets, visit kimmelculturalcampus.org.

A high-school prom becomes the battleground for the right to live, and love, as oneself. The hit Broadway musical *The Prom* comes to Pitman's Broadway Theater from July 5th-28th.



Four Broadway actors, led by the self-centered Dee Dee, have fallen on hard times, largely due to their own egos and personal flaws. They decide that what they need is a bona fide CAUSE to rehabilitate their images, and a controversy in small-town Indiana seems to fit the bill. The town's high school prom has been canceled because Emma Nolan wants to bring her girlfriend Alyssa (who's still deeply closeted). The four actors immediately jump on this crusade, but their bull-moose efforts, as well as their self-centered reasons for “helping”, only complicate matters further. With Emma's relationship with Alyssa in the balance due to the controversy and Alyssa's reluctance to come out, it's time for her to take matters into her hands and resolve the problem with the help of two of the more empathetic actors...and, in doing so, teach Dee Dee a thing or two about selflessness and honesty.

Tickets are \$40. To order or to get more info, visit thebroadwaytheatre.org.

What's New Onscreen!

Marvel movies are a little thin on the ground this year, but the Merc With A Mouth will fix all that come July 26th, when *Deadpool and Wolverine* premieres!

Wade Wilson, aka Deadpool (Ryan Reynolds) is in a pretty good place despite his physical disfigurement...he's engaged to longtime love Vanessa and lives a peaceful life with her. But when the Time Variance Authority (introduced in the Disney Plus series *Loki*) snatches Wade up for a new mission, it turns out that his own universe is under an existential threat—and that he must team up with the mutant Wolverine (Hugh Jackman), though not necessarily the same one from the universe of the X-Men films, to fight it. The two, often clashing, must travel through different universes, including the MCU we know and love (that, before this, neither character was a part of). It may seem like a straight-up action-adventure flick...but, with the fourth-wall-aware Deadpool, nothing is ever that simple.



There have been hints that this might affect the course of future MCU movies despite not being an official one, so the only way to know what's going to go down is to see this fun comedy-adventure! (Just keep in mind that, unlike most other MCU movies, this is a *strong R*, as if the trailer didn't give you enough indication.)

Former supervillain Gru, his growing family, and his lovable minions have given us some of the funniest and most heartwarming moments in animation for fourteen years. Now, we get another look in on the family in *Despicable Me 4*, which debuts July 3rd.



Gru (Steve Carell) has been living happily with his wife Lucy, their three adopted daughters, and a newly born son, Gru Jr. But when an old enemy, Maxime Le Mal (Will Ferrell) escapes from prison bent on revenge against Gru, the family must go into temporary relocation under new identities. In their new life as the "Cunninghams", they try to disguise their work with the Anti-Villain League, but their new neighbors the Prescotts grow suspicious...especially their daughter Poppy (Joey King), an aspiring supervillain who's a fan of Gru and may be able to figure out his identity. Now, to defeat Maxime and restore their old lives, the family must ally with Poppy even at the risk of blowing their cover. Can they keep their past hidden long enough to succeed (no easy task with those Minions running around)?

Fans are sure to welcome these characters back to the screen in their newest hilarious adventure!

In 1996, the action thriller *Twister* wowed audiences by pitting tornado hunters against unstoppable forces of nature. Nearly thirty years later, the sequel *Twisters*, premiering July 19th, will do the same for a new audience.

Kate Cooper (Daisy Edgar-Jones) had aspired to be a storm-chaser, but a traumatic tornado encounter has left her studying them safely from behind screens instead. But when her friend Javi (Anthony Ramos, *In The Heights*) asks for her help in testing out a new tracking system that could revolutionize weather research, she joins him in the field. There, her team clashes with that of influencer Tyler Owens (Glen Powell), who's famous for posting his team's tornado encounters on social media. Kate isn't crazy about Tyler's recklessness, especially with her own history in mind, but she can't help feeling interested in him personally. But this particular storm season is sending some very dangerous storm systems across Oklahoma, and the two teams find themselves in the thick of them...and in the fight of their lives, to figure out which approach is best in contending with and researching the deadly twisters.



It's humanity against nature, an enemy that can't be taken down with weapons, magic, or superheroism, in this long-awaited follow-up to one of the best action movies of the 1990s. (Just watch out for flying cattle.)



The Biblio-Files

There's never a shortage of new novels about American historical figures, and Independence Day is the perfect time to explore some of them.

Not long after the fateful duel with Aaron Burr (sir), the widow of Alexander Hamilton must contend with a greater danger to her family—and herself. That's the premise of Mollie Ann Cox's *The Lace Widow*, the first in a series of historical mysteries starring Eliza Schuyler Hamilton.

Eliza is still reeling from her beloved husband's death at the hands of Burr when her son, Alexander Jr., is implicated in the murder of a man he was seen quarreling with the night before the fateful duel. As Eliza combs through her husband's papers to find information that will clear her son, she finds more information about a scandal that occurred during Alexander's term as treasury secretary—evidence that might clear him of the accusation of having embezzled from the government. But Eliza's got more than that to worry about...with eight children to support, she turns to lacemaking, where she joins other widows who have taken this up as a profession. Soon, she discovers that these lacemaking widows form a network that knows the secrets of New York society...which may help her when she finds out that witnesses to the duel are being murdered. Will she be next...and what is the connection between the Burr-Hamilton duel, her son's predicament, and the financial scandal?



As the hit Broadway musical showed, Eliza Hamilton was an admirably strong and resourceful person, which makes her the perfect heroine for this new mystery series spotlighting this “best of wives and best of women.”

And speaking of mysteries centering on American historical figures...the Wright sister, Katharine, proves to be a sharp detective, as Amanda Flower reveals in *To Slip The Bonds of Earth*.



It's 1903, and in Dayton, Ohio, Katharine Wright is managing the family bike shop and teaching Latin, wishing for a greater challenge but frustrated by academic barriers against women. But when Orville and Wilbur return home with the plans for their recently-tested flying machine, which haven't been patented yet, Katharine finds more of a challenge than she bargained for. The plans are stolen at a party the brothers are attending, and it's up to Katharine to find out who's taken them before the thief can file the patent and claim the brothers' life's work for themselves. But when her prime suspect turns up murdered, the stakes rise...now there's a possibility Wilbur and Orville will be suspected of murder. Fortunately, Katharine has brains and resourcefulness...but can they save her brothers' freedom and the groundbreaking invention they've put so much of themselves into?

This wonderful (if fictional) portrayal of an often-overlooked figure runs along the same lines as Patty Dann's recent novel *The Wright Sister* and Tracy Enerson Wood's upcoming novel *Katharine, The Wright Sister*.

Alice Roosevelt, daughter of Teddy, was famous for going her own way...especially with a cross-racial friendship with the daughter of one of the country's foremost Black statesmen, This friendship is brought to life in Piper Huguley's *American Daughters*.

When Theodore Roosevelt is elected President, his daughter Alice's headstrong attitude is often a headache for him (“I can run the country or I can manage Alice...I cannot do both.”). But Portia Washington, daughter of famed speaker and statesman Booker T. Washington, admires that in her, and the two strike up a friendship that mirrors that of their fathers. Portia is determined to carry on her father's legacy as a teacher as well as her own passion for music (classical and spiritual). The two support and inspire each other through their girlhoods and adulthoods, through Portia's marriage to an insecure and controlling husband and Alice's to a philanderer, through changes and upheavals in the country's ongoing battle for civil rights.



Huguley presents a vivid portrait of a little-known friendship that helped to define the country's direction in the ever-evolving fight for equality. (Note: this is not to be confused with Maurice Carlos Ruffin's *The American Daughters*, about a network of enslaved women working to undermine the South during the Civil War.)