

Free Public Library of Monroe Township

Out and About

A Community Newsletter

April 2025

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

Easter Egg Hunt at Owens Park

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Easter's on its way, and the usual festivities are all set for Owens Park! Monroe Township's annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place there on Saturday, April 5th, at 12 PM sharp. (Rain date: Saturday, April 12th.)

The event is sponsored by Monroe Township Parks and Recreation. Bring a basket—kids of all ages are welcome.

The egg hunt will begin at 12 PM on the dot, so be sure you show up on time...as anyone who's ever taken part in an Easter egg hunt knows, those things go FAST, especially when the attendance is high.

Also, don't forget to bring a camera or cell phone...a certain furry party will be there to have his picture taken with egg hunters!



For more information, visit Williamstown Parks and Rec's Facebook page or call 856-728-1372.

Special Points of Interest:

- *Jawnaroo Unplugged artists' market at Blue Cork*
- *Swing into Spring Derby in Mullica Hill*
- *Onstage: Hairspray at the Grand, and West Side Story at Pitman's Broadway Theatre*
- *Minecraft comes to the big screen*
- *Novels set in the ballet world*

Golden Girls Murder Mystery Dinner

Thank you for being a KILLER!!! Scotland Run Country Club on Fries Mill Road in Williamstown is sponsoring a murder mystery dinner on Friday, April 4th...featuring the Golden Girls!



Picture it...Williamstown, NJ, 2025. Dorothy, Blanche, Sophia, and Rose are having a party, with their witty banter spicing things up. But when one of the guests turns up dead, it's up to

you to help our quartet find the killer!

Tickets are \$80 and include a full-course meal. There's also a cash bar. To order tickets, go to scotlandrun.com/events and click on the event's link.

Eggstravaganza at Harbaugh Village

Harbaugh Village in Mullica Hill is making use of its huge outdoor space for an Easter celebration! Their Eggstravaganza will take place Saturday, April 5th and Sunday, April 6th.

There are three time slots: two with an included breakfast (9:30 AM, 11:30 AM) and one with an included lunch (12:30 PM). Each time slot will include an egg hunt with prizes. There will also be a visit from the Easter Bunny, with meet-and-greet opportunities. After you're done the egg hunt, you can enjoy the rest of the village up until 3:30 PM. There's roller skating (timed slots, but free with your general admission), carnival games, and a carousel.

The event is recommended for ages 2 through 7, but of course everyone is welcome. Tickets are \$35 for general admission, which includes the meal.

Harbaugh Village is located at 126 Bridgeton Pike. To order tickets, visit harbaughvillage.com and click on the event link. To find out more, email info@harbaughvillage.com.

You and your family are bound to enjoy this egg-citing egg-sperience!



Paint With The Easter Bunny at Creations By You

If you'd like your kids to have a great Easter memento, look no further than Creations by You at 1951 Black Horse Pike. They'll be holding a Paint with the Easter Bunny event for kids and their caregivers on Sunday, April 13th at 2 PM.



Kids will get to paint a ceramic trivet where they can create a bunny or chick out of their handprint. There will be refreshments on hand for parents and kids, and, of course, the Easter Bunny himself will make a visit. You can have your kid's picture taken with the E.B. in the event's photo area.

The cost is \$32.95 per participant. Please call 856-777-5007 or send a Facebook message to Creations by You to register. There are only 20 spaces, so sign up quickly.

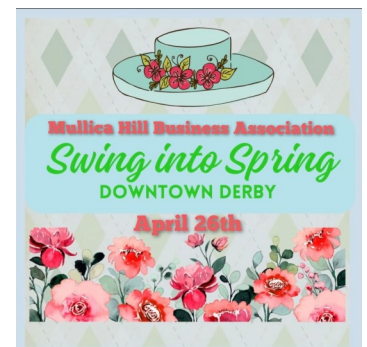
Come and create a perfect Easter keepsake with your little one!

Swing into Spring in Mullica Hill

A historic small town is one of the best places to welcome spring. Mullica Hill will be doing just that with their Swing into Spring Downtown Derby event on Saturday, April 26th.

The event is sponsored by the Mullica Hill Business Association and takes place from 12 PM to 5 PM. On arrival, you'll sign in at D-Signed For You (at 45 S. Main Street), where you'll get your passport and (for the first 75 guests) a complimentary derby hat. From there, you can visit the participating businesses listed on your passport to get embellishments for your hat...and enjoy the special sales in these businesses, of course. Bring your hat back to D-Signed or Sew Sassy and they'll help you decorate your hat with these trinkets. For kids, there's a bounce house, as well as games and face painting.

Enjoy a perfect spring Saturday in the best small town in Gloucester County!



Autism Awareness Day at Pfeiffer Community Center

For those on the autism spectrum and for those close to them, Monroe Township Community Affairs is holding its fourth annual Autism Awareness Day on Saturday, April 26th, from 11 AM to 2 PM on the grounds of the Pfeiffer Community Center on Williamstown's Blue Bell Road.



The event is free to the public and is designed so those on the spectrum can enjoy themselves and, along with their loved ones, connect with others. There will be all kinds of activities and fun stuff, such as a bounce house, face painting, a petting zoo, and sensory tables. There will also be some live performers, such as ventriloquist Justin Thomas, a balloon artist, and a surprise character appearance, as well as live music and a DJ. For those who need to learn more about the autism community and its support network, there are informational tables. And, of course, there's plenty of food on hand. Best of all, new for this year, is a Touch-a-Truck!

For more information on this event, call the Pfeiffer Center at 856-728-9840, or visit the Monroe Township Community Affairs Facebook page.

Come and enjoy a fun day connecting with others in the community!

Jawnaroo Unplugged at Blue Cork Winery

Jawnaroo is a yearly event that spotlights the work of artists and musicians from around the Delaware Valley. But before the big event, they're holding an April market that they're calling Jawnaroo Unplugged, at Williamstown's Blue Cork Winery on Saturday, April 26th from 11 AM to 5 PM. (Rain date: Sunday, April 27th.)

The event is free to the public. At least 100 artists from the area will have their creations for sale. Plus, there will be food trucks to satisfy your appetite, and, of course, Blue Cork's best wines for sale by the glass. Finally, there will be several musicians and groups playing live throughout the day: Joe Jack Talcum of the Dead Milkmen, Mike Carney, Nikki Nailbomb and Your Best Nightmare. (Don't Bully Us pit bull rescue will also be on hand if you want to learn more about them or adopt a new furry friend.)

There are still available spots if you want to be a vendor, so to register for that (or to find out more about the event in general, and the upcoming Jawnaroo 3), visit www.jawnaroo.com, or email josh@jawnaroo.com.

To find out more about this and other great events at Blue Cork, visit bluecorkwine.com.



13th Child Brewery's Seventh Anniversary Celebration

Williamstown's own 13th Child Brewery, on Main Street and Blue Bell Roads, is celebrating seven years of serving our community with great brews and good times. To celebrate, they'll be throwing a party on Saturday, April 5th, from 5 PM to 9 PM!



The celebration is free to the public and will include drink specials, food from Ash and Oak across the street, and live music.

Drop in and celebrate with one of Williamstown's greatest businesses, and enjoy some great food and local craft beer!

For more information, visit 13thchildbrewery.com.



All The World's A Stage...

“Good morning, Baltimore!” The high-energy hit musical *Hairspray* takes the stage at Williamstown’s Grand Theater from April 24th to May 10th!



Based on the 1988 John Waters movie, *Hairspray* brings us to 1962 Baltimore, where plus-sized Tracy Turnblad dreams of becoming a dancer on the popular Corny Collins Show. She and her friend Penny audition, and Tracy gets in, despite the dismissal of haughty Velma Van Tussle, the show’s producer, whose queen-bee daughter Amber is a classmate of Tracy’s and a fellow cast member. Tracy sparks the interest of the show’s heartthrob Link Larkin, and befriends Black student Seaweed (who falls for Penny), his sister, and his mother Maybelle. Maybelle is hostess of the show’s “Negro Day”, but she and her family are hoping to de-segregate the show, which Tracy supports as well. But Amber (who’d had designs on Link) and Velma scheme to undermine Tracy’s efforts and her newfound position on the

show. Can Tracy outwit them and defy the forces of social convention?

To order tickets, visit roadcompany.com. And remember...*you can't stop the beat!!!*

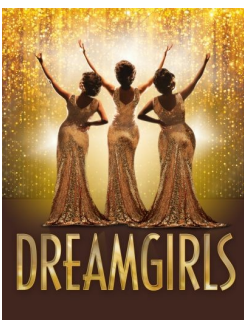
Something’s coming...something good! The Broadway Theatre in Pitman presents the all-time classic *West Side Story* from April 25th to May 18th.

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 Jets, an American street gang, clash 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 he will 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 \$40. To order, visit thebroadwaytheatre.org. With timeless songs like “Maria”, “Tonight”, and “Somewhere”, this groundbreaking musical still speaks to any of us who long for a future without hatred or prejudice...somehow, someday, somewhere.

A singing group rises to fame during some of the most turbulent years of our country’s history...and deals with turbulence within as well. That’s the premise of the musical *Dreamgirls*, playing at Philadelphia’s Walnut Street Theatre from March 25th to May 4th.



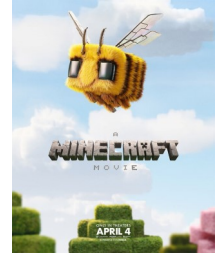
Dreamgirls (the basis for a hit 2006 movie) is a thinly disguised retelling of the career of the Supremes, and the birth of Motown in general. In the early 1960s, the Dreamettes are playing local theaters, when car salesman and would-be manager Curtis Taylor spots them and offers them a chance as a back-up group for established singer James Thunder Early. From there, his machinations (not all of them legitimate) propel the newly-renamed Dreams to the top of the charts. But this means sidelining the group’s best singer Effie (with whom he is romantically involved) in favor of the more pop-friendly (read: white-friendly) Deena. When Curtis finally replaces Effie both as a singer and as his partner, will she be able to recover?

The show features a sparkling score that recalls the best years of Motown (and features the standout hit “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going”). For more information, visit walnutstreettheatre.org or call 215-574-3550.

What's New Onscreen!

Minecraft is one of the most popular video games of the twenty-first century, all because it encourages the player's creativity. Now, it reaches the big screen with *A Minecraft Movie*, debuting April 4th.

As with so many "quest" stories, we begin with several ordinary people...Garrett (Jason Momoa), Henry (Sebastian Hansen), Natalie (Emma Myers), and Dawn (Danielle Brooks). Each of these people is a misfit in their own way, dealing with life's mundane problems. But all that changes when they come upon a strange portal that transports them to the Overworld...where everything is made of cubic blocks. (Yes, that includes the animals and insects...check out the film's poster.) Using these blocks, and mining for more, they can build anything their minds can come up with. With the help of Steve (Jack Black), a crafter who found his way into the Overworld long ago, they must navigate the dangers of this world (such as Piglins) and master the skills of creation to find their way home...skills that could be of use to them when they finally do return to their own world.



Building (sorry) on the game's premise, this unique blend of live action and CG animation celebrates the remarkable power of creativity and ingenuity.

It's been twenty years since the final chapter of the *Star Wars* prequel trilogy came to theaters. On April 25th, *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith* returns to the big screen.



The Clone Wars are at their height and Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) and his friend and mentor Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) are at the forefront. By defeating the Separatist Count Dooku (Sir Christopher Lee), they are able to turn the tide in their favor. But Anakin struggles with keeping his marriage to Padme Amidala (Natalie Portman) a secret from the Jedi Order, which forbids its members to marry. This gives Chancellor Palpatine (Ian McDiarmid) an opening to manipulate the young Jedi...especially now that Padme is pregnant and Anakin has had a prophetic vision of her dying in childbirth. Feeling that Palpatine is the only one he can trust, Anakin turns more towards his influence and against the Jedi, finally committing a shocking act of violence that begins the wholesale slaughter of the Jedi Order. Obi-Wan's final effort to redeem his friend may not be enough, as Anakin embraces the Dark Side...and a new identity, without realizing that these acts will bring about the tragedy he so desperately wished to avoid.

This entry in the saga gives us the rise of its most iconic villain...but also a new hope for the galaxy.

Robert Littell's 1981 novel *The Amateur*, which took place during the Cold War, was adapted into a Canadian film that same year. Now, on April 11th, a new adaptation, updating the spy thriller to the present day.

Charles Heller (Rami Malek, *No Time To Die*) is a cryptographer with the CIA. Despite being rather introverted, he enjoys a happy marriage with his beloved wife. But his world is shattered when she is killed in a London terrorist attack. To make matters worse, the CIA, for reasons of their own, will not take action against the terrorists. Unable to let this stand, Charles takes matters into his own hands. His quest for justice—and vengeance—takes him around the world, as he receives unexpected help from other rogue agents. Charles may be up against a formidable terrorist network, but he's got skills of his own...despite his introverted nature, his intelligence and analytical skills will aid him to track down the killers. But will such skills be enough when it's time for the final showdown?



Rami has already proved his spy-thriller chops in the Bond flicks, so seeing him as the hero in a suspenseful espionage drama is bound to be a delight. (Littell's novel is in our library for anyone who'd like to read it.)



The Biblio-Files

For April, enjoy some recent novels that take place in the world of ballet...in all its beauty and all its brutality.

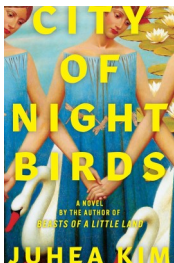
Russia is the center of the ballet world, and its ballet scene was at its most competitive in the Cold War years. Elyse Durham's *Maya & Natasha* introduces us to twin sisters whose passion for their art threatens their bond during this time period.

The sisters are born during 1941's siege of Leningrad. When their mother, a ballerina, dies in childbirth, her best friend at the Kirov takes them in. The girls grow up in the world of the ballet, with their greatest desire to take the stage at the Kirov. But by the time they are ready to join the Kirov on its American tour in 1958, the Kremlin makes a new law...to prevent defections, family members cannot travel out of Russia together. Only one sister may join the tour. This leads to a betrayal between the sisters, as Maya's resentment of living in Natasha's shadow comes to the fore. For the first time, the sisters are on separate paths, with one sister opening her eyes to the world outside Russia for the first time and the other being cast in a film version of the quintessentially Russian *War and Peace*. As the Cold War threatens to turn hot, the sisters question whether their commitment to their art—or to the demands of their State—outweighs their bond with each other.



Communist Russia is no less demanding than the ballet world in this engrossing debut novel.

Even after the Cold War, the Russian ballet world remained competitive...as the protagonist of Juhea Kim's *City of Night Birds* has known all her professional life.



In 2019, Natalia Leonova returns to St. Petersburg two years after an injury sidelined her once-promising career. Since then, she has descended into substance abuse to numb the pain of her wrecked life. But now Dmitri Ostrovsky, who had often belittled and derided her during her ballet days—and whom she blames for her downfall—offers her a chance at a comeback. Having devoted her whole life to ballet, she can't pass this chance up...but as her comeback performance nears, Natalia must struggle with her inner demons, including her addiction, and reckon with the price she's paid for her single-minded devotion to her art. Before she can move on as an artist and as a person, she needs to make her peace with her past lovers and friends—most of whom she turned her back on for her art—and with her own obsession with success.

The age-old problem of what an artist is willing to sacrifice for art is on full display in the hands of this introspective and evocative writer.

Even ballerinas-in-training can be cutthroat...as can their mothers. That's the premise of Tammy Greenwood's *The Still Point*, which revolves around a prestigious ballet school in Southern California.

Etienne Bernay, young ballet impresario, arrives at the Costa de la Luna Ballet Conservatory to teach. He's also brought a documentary crew to film preparations for the year's performance of *The Nutcracker*, and promises a Paris scholarship to one of the young dancers. The competition, already ruthless, becomes even more so...especially among teenage ballerinas Olive, Bea, and Savannah. There's been a breach in the former friendship between Olive and Bea, the latter of whom really needs this scholarship because her recently widowed mother Ever has writer's block and can't afford it otherwise. Olive, meanwhile, has grown closer to Savannah, whose mother Josie is no less determined than she that she get the scholarship. Meanwhile, Olive's mother Lindsay is unsure about the health of her marriage, and has the scholarship and her daughter's friendships to worry about as well. The competition between the dancers' mothers becomes no less fraught than their daughters' rivalries, until hidden truths are unveiled and lives change forever.



The ballet world is a microcosm for personal troubles and rivalries in this gripping novel.
