

Free Public Library of Monroe Township

Out and About

A Community Newsletter

June 2026

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

Monroe Township Music Festival at Owens Park

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It's time once again for the annual Monroe Township Music Festival at Owens Park on Saturday, June 6th, from 4 PM to 10:30 PM! (Rain date: Sunday, June 7th.)

The night will feature live music from the Goodman Fiske Band, one of the best cover bands on the East Coast. The second stage will feature Saltwater County, a country-rock band.

But the music won't be the only attraction available. There will be carnival rides, accessible with a ride wristband you can buy in advance. There will be vendors, a food court with plenty of trucks, bounce houses, a beer and wine garden, and more. Best of all, a fireworks display will cap the night off!

To get ride wristbands, visit the Parks and Rec office or go to www.mtprnj.org.

For the live music performances, you'll need to bring your own lawn chairs and blankets. (And plenty of bug repellent. After that wet weekend we had, the mosquitoes are out in full force.)

Start your summer right with a great evening of live music and entertainment!



Special Points of Interest:

- Free summer concerts and movies at Gloucester County parks
- Jurassic Park movies at Edeleman Fossil Park
- Grease is the word at Oaklyn's Ritz Theater
- Supergirl flies onto the big screen
- Recent novels about the life and legend of Marilyn Monroe

Yoga Infused Sound Bath at Autumn Lake Winery

In a world that seems more hectic with every passing day, sometimes you need to center yourself. To help with this, Mending Zenful Minds is partnering with Williamstown's Autumn Lake Winery on Malaga Road for a yoga-infused sound bath on



Thursday, June 4th at 5:50 PM. (You must arrive by 5:50.)

The event takes place outdoors at the winery (so they'll reschedule in case of bad weather) and feature yoga, sound healing, and meditation beneath the moon. Please bring your own mat/chair, a pillow, a blanket, bug spray, and a water bottle.

The fee is \$66 per person. To register, visit <https://link.clover.com/urlshortener/wmddfH>.

Free Summer Park Concerts

With summer here, our local parks are hosting all kinds of great summer concerts—all absolutely free! June's schedule is as follows:



Saturday, June 13th, 7 PM—Bar None Band at DJ Bentz Memorial Soccer Field in Clayton. Bar None is an aptly-named cover band that specializes in pop, rock, Top 40, and even a little disco. (Rain date: Sunday, June 14th.)

Saturday, June 20th, 7 PM—Peabody's Wayback Machine at James G. Atkinson Park in Sewell. This band specializes in hits from the 1980s...as well as some deep cuts you might not be as familiar with. (Rain date: Sunday, June 21st.)

Saturday, June 27th, 7 PM—As If at 25 N. Broad Street in Woodbury. As If's a fusion band which combines hip hop, grunge, classic rock and other styles. (Rain date: Sunday, June 28th.)

For rainout information, call 856-251-6740 after 4 PM the day of the concert.

Jurassic June at Edelman Fossil Park

The newly-opened Edelman Fossil Park and Museum in Mantua is quickly becoming the hot spot for dino-enthusiasts. As a special treat, it's holding three *Jurassic Park* movie nights this month!

Each night will have two screenings: 6 PM and 8:30 PM. June 5th will feature the first *Jurassic Park* movie, June 12th will feature *The Lost World*, and June 26th *Jurassic Park III*.

The night's \$30 admission will get you museum admission, the movie showing, a quarry dig, and other fun events such as Jurassic Park trivia. But if you're a museum member, you'll only have to pay \$4.14...the price of a movie ticket when the first *Jurassic Park* movie debuted. (Yes, you read that right. Hard to imagine...)



For more information or to reserve a ticket, visit <https://www.efm.org/events/jurassic-park-movie-nights>.

Wine Festival At Washington Lake Park

What better way to kick off the summer than with barbecued food and some of the best vintages from New Jersey's finest wineries? The Wine & BBQ Fest is returning to Washington Lake Park on Greentree Road in Sewell from 12 PM to 5 PM on Saturday, June 13th and Sunday, June 15th.



The event will include wines for sale from some of NJ's wonderful wineries, as well as barbecue pitmasters doing some of their best cooking. (Food isn't included in the admission price; you'll have to pay extra.) Plus, there will be artisan/craft vendors and live music!

You're encouraged to bring your own lawn chair. Admission is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the gate (cash only for the latter). Spectators (that is to say, non-drinkers) can pay \$5 at the gate, cash only. Under-21s get in free.

For more info or to order tickets, visit <https://newjerseywineevents.com/events/wine-bbq>.

Free Summer Movies in the Park

Now that summer’s here, it’s time for free family movies in the various parks around Gloucester County! June’s schedule is as follows:

Friday, 6/5/2026 - Deptford – Zootopia 2. Deptford Township Building, 1011 Cooper Street, Deptford, NJ.

Monday, 6/8/2026 – East Greenwich – Zootopia 2. Thompson Family Park, 40 Wolfert Station Rd, Mickleton, NJ.

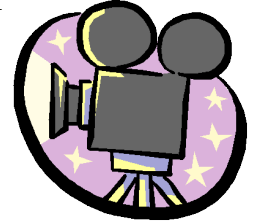
Wednesday, 6/10/2026 - Mantua – Lilo & Stitch. Chestnut Branch Park, 545 Main St, Mantua.

Friday, 6/12/2026 - Scotland Run Park – Gabby’s Dollhouse. Scotland Run Park, 980 E Academy St, Clayton.

Monday, 6/22/2026 - Elk Twp – Zootopia 2. Elk Twp Recreational Park, 700 Whig Lane Rd, Monroeville.

Monday, 6/29/2026 - Wenonah – How to Train Your Dragon. Wenonah Lake, Maple St & Jefferson Ave, Wenonah.

All movies start at dusk. Bring your own blanket/chair and bug spray. For rain-out information, call 856-251-6738 after 4 PM the day of the movie.



Burlington Balloon Festival in Columbus

“Would you like to ride in my beautiful balloon?” You may get the chance to do so at the Burlington Hot Air Balloon Festival at the Burlington County Fairgrounds in Columbus on June 19th and 20th!

Each day of the festival will kick off at 5 PM and go until 10 PM. There will be hot air balloons of all kinds filling the sky...and you can ride in one of them for a \$35 extra fee. The festival will also feature live music, vendors, a kids’ zone for the little ones, and plenty of festival food.



But it’s after dusk that the real magic begins. Instead of fireworks, there will be a display of balloon burns synced to music. There will be glowing balloons to light the night sky, as well as dazzling laser displays.

Bring your own lawn chairs/blankets/what-have-you to sit on and watch the marvelous displays. Tickets are available at <https://www.freshtix.com/events/bbf>. You can find the price list there, with the VIP tickets costing a bit more.

“Up, up, and away, in my beautiful, my beautiful balloon!!!”

Eight Years of Beer at 13th Child

Eight years ago, 13th Child Brewery opened up on Williamstown’s Main Street. To celebrate, it’s holding an anniversary party on Saturday, June 13th!

Mug Club members can get in at 1 PM while the rest of the public will be admitted starting at 2 PM. The afternoon will feature special anniversary brews on tap, live music from locals Harry Beam and Jason Matarazzo, local craft vendors, food from Ash and Oak across the street, giveaways, and other surprises.

The event is free to the public. For more info, visit 13thchildbrewery.com...and cheers to many more years!





All The World's A Stage...

One of the most beloved musicals of all time comes to Oaklyn's Ritz Theatre...built around the premise that maybe the 1950s weren't as clean and wholesome as you might think. *Grease* is onstage from June 26th to July 19th.

It's 1959 in Chicago (that is, on the cusp of the sixties), and school's just begun at Rydell High. The two toughest gangs at Rydell are the greaser Burger Palace Boys and the wisecracking Pink Ladies. But a summer romance between Danny Zuko, one of the Burger Palace Boys, and Sandy Dumbrowski, a sweet, naïve girl, complicates things. Their romance was perfect during summer vacation, but now that Sandy's moved to town and started school at Rydell, peer pressure throws a monkey wrench into things. Danny fears that dating someone like Sandy will be a blow to his super-cool image, while Sandy struggles with her image as a "good girl". In order for their love to survive, both of them may need to break free of their peers' and elders' expectations for them...and simply be their authentic selves. With 50s-inspired songs like "Summer Nights", "Greased Lightning", and "We Go Together", the music and script paint a picture of a society that's undergoing plenty of "magic changes" of its own.

Tickets are available at thebroadwaytheatre.org. You're sure to enjoy this rollicking, sometimes raunchy, but always fun look at life in the days of cool cars, greasers, and the birth of rock-and-roll!

This year, Pitman's Broadway Theater turns 100 years old. To celebrate, the theater will present the cabaret show *A Century On Stage: 100 Years In The Making*, from June 5th to June 7th.

The theater's gone through plenty of changes in its century of life, from its days as a movie palace, to a dry spell when it occasionally showed movies and had live shows, to its grand reopening in 2007 as an exclusively live theater with some of South Jersey's best shows. The show will present moments in the Broadway Theater's life, from its glamorous days as a showcase for Hollywood, to scenes and songs from the many shows it's brought us, such as *West Side Story*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Chicago*, to a celebration of Broadway musicals in general with songs from shows that haven't reached this stage (yet) such as *Phantom of the Opera* and *Wicked*.



Tickets are \$30. To order, visit thebroadwaytheatre.org, and celebrate a century of one of Gloucester County's—and South Jersey's—best entertainment venues!

And speaking of Pitman's Broadway Theater and all it has to offer...how about a tribute to one of the greatest, if not the greatest, rock band of all time? Britishmania, a Beatles tribute band, hits the Broadway stage on Friday, June 19th for one night only at 8 PM!



The Beatles changed pop music forever from the moment they hit the charts in 1963, and evolved with changing times to last until 1970. Britishmania, one of the country's leading Beatles tribute bands that's been featured on the CBS Sunday Morning Show, pays tribute to all stages of the Fab Four's musical development, from their early mop-top days taking the Ed Sullivan Show by storm, to the experimental psychedelic years of *Sgt. Pepper* and *Magical Mystery Tour*, to the tension-filled but creatively rich period of *Let It Be* and *Abbey Road*. In only about two hours, you'll get to see nearly the entire 1960s as experienced by the band, backed up by multimedia elements.

Tickets are \$35. To order, visit thebroadwaytheatre.org...and get ready to "twist and shout" with the best pop music of all time!

What's New Onscreen!

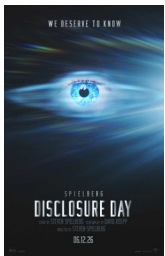
One year ago, James Gunn's *Superman* showed us that the director really *got* the Man of Steel as few other film directors have. With *Supergirl*, premiering June 26th, he'll give us his perspective on another DC universe character.

We glimpsed Superman's cousin Kara Zor-El (Milly Alcock), superdog Krypto's actual owner, at the end of the previous film. Now, we get to know her in all her flawed glory. At the moment, Kara doesn't share her cousin's idealism or desire to help others...all she wants to do is numb the pain of losing her entire homeworld with her party-girl lifestyle. But when young Ruthye Marye Knoll (Eve Ridley), fleeing her family's death at the hands of space pirate Krem (Matthias Schoenaerts), interrupts Kara's galaxy-spanning twenty-third birthday celebration, Kara realizes she's found a kindred spirit...someone else who's lost her family and everything she ever knew. And in using her powers to avenge Ruthye's loss, Kara may be able to come to terms with her own....and re-discover her buried idealism.



One of cinema's best superhero directors re-frames the Girl of Steel's story into a meditation on trauma and how to deal with it.

From *Close Encounters* to *E.T.*, Steven Spielberg's films about aliens have always captured audience's hearts. With *Disclosure Day*, coming out June 12th, Spielberg returns to the genre he's always excelled in.

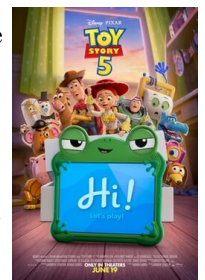


Kansas City meteorologist Margaret Fairchild (Emily Blunt) undergoes a strange transformation on-air, speaking in what appears to be some kind of alien language. Her efforts to find out what happened lead her to contact Daniel Kellner (Josh O'Connor, *Wake Up Dead Man*), a cybersecurity expert who's been trying to blow the lid off a conspiracy that's kept the existence of aliens under wraps for almost eighty years. The main proponent of secrecy is the Wardex Corporation, headed by Noah Scanlon (Colin Firth), who believes the truth is too much for the human race to handle and that it must be kept silent at all costs. But others, including former Wardex worker Hugo Wakefield (Colman Domingo) believe that humanity can not only survive the truth, but benefit from it. When Margaret and Daniel finally meet, they realize they have met before, and recover childhood memories of being abducted and examined by aliens. It may be that they have been chosen as messengers to mankind to shepherd them into a new phase of knowledge...

Early reactions are overwhelmingly positive, so it seems as though the combination of Spielberg and aliens is a hit yet again.

For over thirty years, Pixar's *Toy Story* films have given viewers a peek into the secret life of toys. Now, Woody, Buzz, Jessie and the gang return to the screen in *Toy Story 5*, premiering June 19th.

Since Woody left the gang in the last movie to join Bo Peep and help her find owners for abandoned toys, Jessie's become the leader of Bonnie's toy pack, with Buzz as her deputy. Life's as good for the toys as they could hope for...but things are about to change. Bonnie, now eight years old, has discovered tech for the first time, thanks to a state-of-the-art kids' tablet called Lilypad (voiced by Greta Lee). Engrossed with Lily, Bonnie pays less and less attention to her old low-tech toys, leading them to fear that they might end up abandoned themselves. Naturally, the best toy to ask for help on this issue is Woody himself, showing signs of age but still as sharp as ever. He and Bo return to help the toys formulate a plan to remind Bonnie of their importance...but they've got Lily, who's not about to cede first place, to contend with. Can toys and tech live together in peace?



As always, the *Toy Story* movies manage to incorporate current kids' trends—in this case, their growing dependence on tech—into their world with humor and heart.



The Biblio-Files

This month would have marked Marilyn Monroe's hundredth birthday. Enjoy some recent novels about her life and legend.

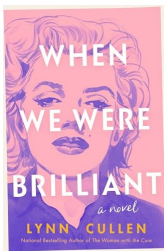
The greatest screen bombshell of the Fifties and the Queen of England...who would have thought they'd have so much in common? But in Julie Owen Moylan's *Elizabeth and Marilyn*, we see that these two seemingly different women, born weeks apart from one another, have far more similarities than differences.

In 1956, Marilyn Monroe, recently married to celebrated playwright Arthur Miller, arrives in England to film *The Prince and the Showgirl* with Sir Laurence Olivier. In the meanwhile, Queen Elizabeth is still navigating her new position, contending with her sister Margaret's discontent and her beloved husband Philip's insecurities at coming second best...as well as possibly-unfounded rumors of his infidelity. Marilyn, for her part, struggles with the demons of her past, her own insecurities that Arthur looks down on her, and her isolation on the set among most of Sir Larry's other costars, theatre friends who make no secret (as does Sir Larry) of the fact that they'd rather have his wife Vivien Leigh reprise her stage role. As Marilyn prepares for a public meeting with the Queen at the London premiere, she unknowingly runs into the monarch near the home she and Arthur have rented...and the two trade advice that may end up benefiting them greatly.

This fascinating "what-if" about a prior meeting between these two women before their well-documented public one shows just how much the two of them, both newcomers among men sometimes hostile to them, had to share.



Lynn Cullen's *When We Were Brilliant* is another story of Marilyn's similarities to another well-known woman of the 1950s...one who had her own path to forge.



After a brief meeting with budding actress Norma Jeane Baker—professionally known as “Marilyn Monroe”—in 1952, photojournalist Eve Arnold, the first woman to join the Magnum Photos agency, thinks little of it. But Marilyn seeks Eve out to ask her to photograph her...she believes Eve has the gift of capturing her subjects' true selves. Eve, hoping for more prestigious subjects than a Hollywood sex symbol, is reluctant at first. But as she gets to know Marilyn, she realizes that the starlet's hidden depths mirror her own...the difficulties of trying to be taken seriously in a male-dominated profession and the conflict between wanting a home life and a career. By the time Eve takes her best photographs yet of Marilyn—her candid shots of the actress on the set of her last film, *The Misfits*—she has come to recognize that neither of their careers—or lives—could have flourished without the other.

This portrait of an unsung friendship is brilliant indeed, thanks to the author of *Mrs. Poe* and *The Creation of Eve*.

The filming of *The Misfits*, which would prove to be the last movie for both Marilyn Monroe and her co-star Clark Gable, is presented through a new perspective in Tatiana de Rosnay's *Blonde Dust*.

It's 1960 in Reno, Nevada, and hotel chambermaid Pauline, a French immigrant and young single mother, steps in for her co-worker to clean “Mrs. Miller's” suite, which she thought would be empty. But when Mrs. Miller shows up at the door bleary-eyed, Pauline's in for a shock...this is none other than Marilyn Monroe, here to film *The Misfits* which was scripted by her playwright husband Arthur Miller. The lonely Marilyn, contending with her mental problems, her substance abuse issues, and her fracturing marriage, strikes up a conversation—and soon, a friendship—with Pauline. As she witnesses a side of the actress that's hidden from the public, she becomes determined to follow a new path in life...one that Pauline remembers forty years later as she makes one last trip to the soon-to-be-demolished hotel.



The author of *Sarah's Key* shows us how this declining period in Marilyn's life might have looked to an outsider...and how it might have inspired her despite everything.