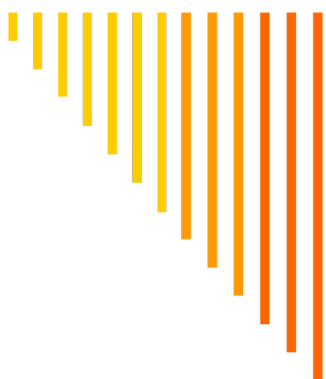




Free Public Library of Monroe Township

Out and About

A Community Newsletter

September 2026

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

Williamstown Fall Arts and Crafts Festival

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Summer's over, but fall activities in our town are just beginning...starting off with Williamstown's Fall Arts and Crafts Festival, taking place Saturday, Sept. 12th along Main Street from 10 AM to 3 PM! (Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 13th, same time.)

The event is free to the public. You'll find booths from local artisans and crafters selling all kinds of handmade wares, from jewelry to soap to specialty foods to treats for your furry friends (who, of course, are also welcome to the festival). There will be plenty of food trucks with all kinds of yummy food for sale. For the kids, there will be face painting, bounce houses, a petting zoo, hair tinsel applications, and other great family-friendly activities!

The festival will be located along Main Street from Church Street to Chestnut. Parking will be available along side streets. If you're interested in becoming a vendor or to find out more info, call Community Affairs at 856-729-9841.

Enjoy a fun day of shopping, food, and fun fall vibes in our wonderful town!



Special Points of Interest:

- *Pumpkin Glassblowing Workshop in Haddonfield*
- *Broom Making Workshop in Pitman*
- *Woofstock Festival*
- *Sweeney Todd onstage at Haddonfield Plays and Playes*
- *Star Trek celebrates its 60th on the big screen*
- *Recent dark academia novels*

Scarecrows on Main Annual Contest

Want to help decorate our great town for fall? You can take part in the annual Scarecrows on Main contest sponsored by Monroe Township Community Affairs.



You can design your scarecrow any way you wish whether you're an individual or a business/organization. Once you've gotten your scarecrow built and put together, setup will take place between September 20th and October 3rd. You can check in at the Pfeiffer Community Center to find out where your scarecrow's been assigned. They'll be displayed throughout the month of October and prizes for Most Original, Funniest, and People's Choice will be awarded during the township's Halloween parade.

To find out more or to register, visit tinyurl.com/Scarecrow-26.

Glassboro Car Show and Food Truck Festival

As the weather starts cooling down, it's the perfect time for outdoor events...like Glassboro's Car Show and Food Truck Festival, taking place on Friday, September 4th, from 5 PM to 9 PM.

Naturally, there will be all kinds of great cars to admire...everything from vintage classic models to muscle cars. If you're taking part in the car show, you'll have a chance to win a trophy in several different car categories.

But there's more to the festival than cars...there will be over twenty food trucks on-site selling food for all tastes. There will also be local vendors and artisans selling their wares. Several different local bands will provide live music. And thanks to the Landmark Americana pub, there will be two beer gardens selling wine and beer (if you're over 21, of course). The festivities will be capped off by the borough awarding the evening's car prizes, including the Mayor's Choice Award.

The event is free to the public and will take place in downtown Glassboro, along High Street.

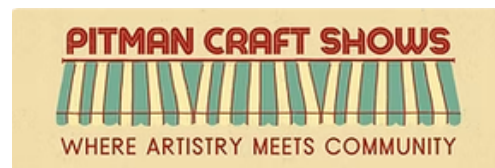
For more information, visit glassboro.org/events.



Lori Poisker Fall Craft Show In Pitman

The twice-annual Lori Poisker Craft Show (there's one in May as well) will take place in Pitman on Saturday, Sept. 19th from 9 AM to 3 PM. (Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 20th.)

The event, sponsored by the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce, is free to the public and takes place on Broadway (the main street), Pitman Avenue, and Ballard Avenue. It features over 350 artisans/crafters, as well as non-profit booths with info on their causes, and plenty of food trucks (with food also available from eateries around town). There's parking at the Sony parking lot on Woodbury Road, with shuttles to take you to the festival.



For more information, visit www.pitmancraftshow.com. If you're interested in becoming a vendor, email the festival at craftshows@uptownpitman.com.

Broom Making Workshop in Pitman

And speaking of Pitman...the spooky season seems to begin earlier every year. This year, the Amystical Journey shop in Pitman (on the corner of Holly and Broadway) will be hosting a broom-making workshop on Saturday, Sept. 12th at 6 PM.



The workshop's headed up by Dan and Jenn Barber, who are experts at making handmade brooms. For the \$85 fee, they'll provide all materials for making a broom fit for a witch--or just a Halloween decoration. You'll get to weave it on a loom, decorate it as you please, and finish the evening with a cleansing and charging ritual that will give you a clean slate to start the next day.

To sign up, call Amystical Journey Shoppe at 856-821-2083.

Enjoy a magical, mystical evening creating a memento and cleansing away bad influences!

Pumpkin Glassblowing Workshop in Haddonfield

Fall's here, and fall decor is showing up everywhere--but isn't it more fun to make your own fall knickknacks? You can do just that at the Markeim Arts Center in Haddonfield at its pumpkin glassblowing workshop on Saturday, Sept. 26th at 10 AM.

The workshop's led by glass artist Michael Peluso, a Pennsylvania native who's been teaching the art of glassblowing for over twenty years. You don't need any experience...Michael will show you the basic techniques, and then you'll get to make a pumpkin or other fall decor item you can take home with you at the end of the class.

The fee is \$185--maybe a little pricey, but worth it for a unique creation like this. To register, visit <https://markeimartscenter.org/shop/glass-blowing-with-mike-peluso-at-markeim-haddonfield/> and fill out the online form. Registration will cover all materials.



The Markeim Arts Center is located at 104 Walnut Street in Haddonfield. You can call them for more info at 856-429-8585, or email them at info@markeimartscenter.org.

Woofstock Festival at Voorhees Town Center

Every year, the Voorhees Animal Orphanage holds its Woofstock Festival at Voorhees Town Center (the former Echelon Mall). This year, it's not only their 30th anniversary, it's their Fur-Well Tour, since it will be the last one held at this site, and it will take place on Saturday, Sept. 26th from 11 AM to 4 PM.



The Animal Orphanage will have plenty of entertainment at the festival. There will be food trucks, vendors, crafters, face painting, a beer garden, and live entertainment. There will also be a visit from the Sixers Stixers (a local marching band). But of course, it's all about the four-legged ones. Several animal rescue groups will be on-site with adoptable animals, and there will be visits from VAO alumni who have been adopted. You just might end up leaving with a new furbaby of your own!

Tickets are \$2 per person, or \$5 for three people. Proceeds go to the Animal Orphanage, of course. Whether you're bringing your own pet or on the lookout for a new one, you're bound to have a good time--so bring your good wishes as to where next year's Woofstock will be!

Fall Storytimes at Duffield's Farm Market

Duffield's Farm Market on Greentree Road in Sewell always has great activities for the whole family every season of the year. This fall, they're introducing Storytime On The Farm for kids.

On Friday, Sept. 11th at 10 AM, the storytime theme will be apples. Kids will get to hear some apple-themed stories, songs, and a craft, as well as a hayride and an apple-picking session. Saturday, Sept. 12th will feature pumpkins--all of the same, except the hayride will be to the pumpkin patch to pick pumpkins. Each event will cost \$20.99 per child. Each child may have one adult with them.

To register, visit duffieldsfarm.com/story-time.





All The World's A Stage...

“Attend the tale...” Just in time for Halloween, Haddonfield Plays and Players presents Stephen Sondheim’s masterpiece *Sweeney Todd* from Sept. 25th to Oct. 10th.



The legend of the murderous barber who gave very close shaves has existed for centuries. Sondheim’s version (based on a 1973 play by Christopher Bond) re-imagined the Demon Barber as a man driven mad by injustice. Sweeney Todd was once Benjamin Barker, a barber wrongly convicted by a judge who lusted after the barber’s wife. After escaping from exile in Australia, he returns to London to find his wife has poisoned herself and his daughter is in the judge’s clutches. Vowing revenge on the judge and the society that made the injustice possible, he teams up with Mrs. Lovett, owner of the meat-pie shop below his barber shop, who has eyes for Sweeney herself...and her own ingenious way of disposing of the bodies...When the young sailor who rescued Sweeney falls for his daughter Johanna—and falls afoul of the lustful judge who wants to marry her—events build up to a shocking conclusion.

To order tickets or to find out more information, visit www.haddonfieldplayers.com...and enjoy one of musical theatre’s most delightfully macabre shows.

The music of pop legend Whitney Houston comes to the stage with the musical version of her film *The Bodyguard*, playing at Pitman’s Broadway Theatre from Sept. 4th -27th.

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), especially her cover of the Dolly Parton hit “I Will Always Love You”, 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 thebroadwaytheatre.org.

In Carmen Rivera’s play *La Gringa*, onstage at the Ritz Theatre in Oaklyn from Sept. 4th -20th, a young woman of Puerto Rican descent must figure out what culture, identity, and family mean to her.



Maria Elena Garcia is Puerto Rican, but has been born and raised in New York and is fully assimilated into American culture (not even speaking Spanish well). Wanting to find out more about her roots, she arranges to visit her extended family in Puerto Rico for Christmas. Her head is filled with romantic ideas about finding her true self on the island her ancestors lived on...but she gets a bit of a shock when she finally meets her extended family. They regard her as a full American--a “gringa”--not a Puerto Rican, and therefore, an outsider. Maria is shocked to realize this is how any Puerto Rican not born and raised on the island is seen, and tries to learn more about Puerto Rican culture so she can connect with her relatives. In doing so, she faces questions about her own identity, her past...and her future.

This is performed in the smaller Black Box Theatre, so tickets may run out quickly. To find out more or to order tickets, visit ritztheatreco.org and enjoy this funny, moving tale of what it means for a bi-cultural person when one of their cultures is alien to them.

What's New Onscreen!

One of the most influential science fiction series is celebrating its 60th birthday this month--*Star Trek*! To celebrate, select AMC and Cinemark theaters are planning to run its best movies and episodes.

Four of the best Trek movies will be paired with episodes that correspond with their themes. On September 4th, the episode "The Changeling", in which the *Enterprise* encounters a deep-space probe that has become sentient, will precede *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*. On September 5th, the gold-standard Trek movie, *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, will be paired with its prequel, "Space Seed", which introduced us to Ricardo Montalban's genetic superman Khan. (Oh, sorry...I mean "KHAAAAAAAAANNN!!") September 6th brings us "Amok Time", which first took us to Spock's home planet Vulcan, along with *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*. On September 7th, "The City On The Edge Of Forever", one of the very best episodes, precedes *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* in a time travel two-fer. Finally, on September 8th, the anniversary of Trek's premiere, these theaters will run all four of these in a day-long marathon!



Visit amctheaters.com or cinemark.com to find out participating theaters and showtimes...and join Captain Kirk, Mr. Spock and the valiant crew of the *Enterprise* in boldly going where no one has gone before. (Live long and prosper.)

The British claymation TV series *Shaun the Sheep* (a spinoff from the *Wallace and Gromit* franchise) has captured hearts on both sides of the pond with its dry, nearly wordless humor. On Sept. 18th, Shaun and company come to the big screen with *Shaun the Sheep: The Beast from Mossy Bottom*.



Halloween is on its way to Mossy Bottom farm, but there's a problem--the Farmer has accidentally wrecked his entire pumpkin patch. Shaun and his flock, which includes Timmy, Hazel, and others, decide it's up to them to fix the problem, without letting the Farmer know how smart they are. Shaun decides to turn mad scientist to bring the pumpkins back...but the best-laid plans of sheep and men are bound to go awry...the experiment goes belly-up and causes the Farmer to disappear! As if that weren't enough, there are sightings of a mysterious and threatening beast near the village of Mossingham. Now, it's up to Shaun and his pals to put things right (with a minimum of dialogue--even among the human characters). It all adds up to a Halloween adventure like none other!

Aardman Animation delivers once again with quirky, memorable visuals and offbeat (and VERY British) humor to create another side-splitting masterpiece!

Nearly seven hundred years ago, the lower classes of England made a stand against unfair taxes--a stand that would, perhaps, inspire a legend. That story is revisited in *The Uprising*, due Sept. 11th.

It's 1381, and Richard II is on the throne. In the wake of the Black Death, England's workforce has been halved, meaning people must work harder for the same pay. As if that weren't enough, Richard levies a poll tax on the peasant class to finance the war against France. The people are disgruntled, and when a worker named Wat Tyler (Cosmo Jarvis) and a radical priest named John Ball (Jamie Bell) begin to stir up rebellion across the land, an unnamed ploughman (Andrew Garfield) heeds the call and does his own part to inspire resistance among his community. In doing so, they may accomplish the fair dealing they deserve...and the ploughman may inspire a legend of one who stood up to the rich and powerful.



The makers of this have been cagey on whether this is meant to be a Robin Hood origin story--it was briefly advertised with the subtitle *The Rise of Robin Hood*. It is, however, inspired by the poem *Piers Plowman*, where the name Robin Hood first appeared in print. Whether it is or not, it promises to be a compelling portrayal of a time in history when the oppressed said, "Enough!" and set out to win their rights.



The Biblio-Files

What better time than back-to-school time to catch up on some recent novels in the “dark academia” genre?

Alice Hoffman is famous for her Practical Magic books, centered on modern-day witches. With *The Witches of Cambridge*, she focuses on different witch characters at Radcliffe College.

Cambridge, Massachusetts, was once a hotbed for the seventeenth-century witch trials, but by the 1950s it's left all that behind--or has it? Two new students at Radcliffe College end up finding out differently--bright but unsophisticated Ava and wealthy, extroverted legacy student Lauren. The two of them are invited to live in Lilith House, the home of a secret organization of witches who have operated out of Cambridge for centuries. At first shocked to learn their heritage, Ava and Lauren soon acclimate to the idea, bonding with each other and the other witches in Lilith House. But Senator McCarthy's anti-Communist mania is plaguing the country...and it soon becomes clear that its “witch hunts” aren't metaphorical. It seems Cambridge's past isn't as far behind it as the Lilith Society thought, and now Ava, Lauren and their new coven must protect each other and their legacy as everything they value is put under threat.



This charming and suspenseful read from a master of witchy fiction has some interesting things to say about the tendency to suppress women's independence...in the 1600s, in the 1950s, and today.

In a world where magic is so commonplace that corporations control it, witches' familiars have their own special vets--two of whom we meet in Keshe Crow's *Strange Familiars*.

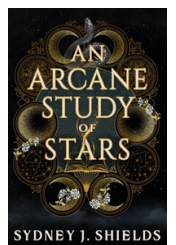


Gwendolynne Chen has worked hard at Seamere College's magical veterinary school, but bristles to find that Harrisford Briggs, son of the CEO of the Magecorp company, is competing with her for the top spot at graduation. Gwen's had to work for everything she's gotten, and resents Harrisford's privilege and easy life. Harrisford, for his part, has had to deal with his father's insistence on the family's legacy...but can't help noticing that his dad's been acting strangely lately. It could just be a coincidence that rumors of accidents involving excess magic have been floating around. But suddenly, these surges of magic begin to affect London...and the school, where animal familiars turn vicious. Gwen and Harrisford must put aside their differences to find the answer to this catastrophe, which could put their entire world at risk. With a little help from Gwen's own familiar (a very opinionated kitty), the two try to unravel the riddle of what's been threatening their world...and to navigate their budding feelings for one another.

The first in a duology, this romantasy focuses on a likable couple, as well as on a unique and interesting fantasy world that combines modernity with the trappings of magic.

In Sydney J. Shields' *An Arcane Study of Stars*, steamy romance combines with high fantasy in a dark academia story that's bound to keep you turning the pages.

Claudia Jolicoeur knows that if she doesn't get into Cygnus University, all that's left for her is a marriage of convenience to settle her father's debts. Naturally, she's devastated to be rejected...until a demonic stranger named Dorian appears in her dreams to offer her a deal: for a piece of her soul, he'll arrange her entry into Cygnus so she can learn how to free him from his prison of stars. She accepts, and promptly gets word that she's been accepted to replace Odette, a student who's died. But when she gets there, rumors that she killed Odette run wild...even her debate partner, Cassius, seems to believe them. She and Cassius spar in their classes...until their sparring turns into a steamy affair. But as she tries to clear her own name and free Dorian, she learns that celestial witches such as herself and Odette have been getting murdered...and Cassius may have something to do with it. Time is running out for her to fulfill her end of the bargain...and the man she's growing to love may be the biggest obstacle in doing so.



Shields (*The Honey Witch*) brings us a dense, engrossing magical world that's only enhanced by the dark romance at the heart of the story. (Warning--the spice level's high.)
