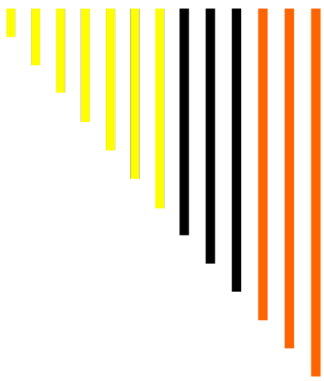




Free Public Library of Monroe Township

Out and About

October 2026

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

Halloween Events In Monroe Township

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Spooky season's here again, and Monroe Township's fall and Halloween celebrations will be in full swing to welcome it!

All events will take place Saturday, Oct. 17th. (Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 18th.) First up will be the Fall Festival in Owens Park, taking place from 10 AM to 2 PM. The festival is free to the public and has lots of family-friendly activities such as a bounce house, pony rides, hay rides, a pumpkin patch, and a pumpkin carving contest. (For the latter, bring your pumpkins by 10 AM to be entered. Prizes will be awarded at 1:30 PM.)

Then, at 7 PM, the township will hold its Halloween parade! The parade route is down Main Street, from the CVS (where you'll gather before 7) to Church Street. There will be three judges to give prizes for the best costumes. You're also invited to decorate your own float or be part of a walking group. Registration is required, so visit app.seemylegacy.com/community/2698/campaign/9603 to sign up.



Join in a day of spooktacular fun with the rest of our wonderful community!

Special Points of Interest:

- Fall and Halloween festivals in Mullica Hill, Hammonton, and Haddon Township
- Brews Cruise in Pitman
- The Addams Family onstage in Philly
- Special showings of The Rocky Horror Picture Show (RIP Tim Curry)
- Spooky, atmospheric reads for the Halloween season



Chili Cook-Off at Blue Cork Winery

If you're a good cook with a special talent for chili, Blue Cork Winery on Blue Bell Road has the perfect opportunity for you to show of your abilities--it's holding a Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, Oct. 18th at 12 PM. (Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 25th.)

This is Blue Cork's first-ever event of this kind, and aside from the opportunity to cook (or eat) chili from talented locals, it will feature live music, fire pits, and of course, opportunities to enjoy Blue Cork's best wines. For those who would like something other than chili, Bear's Burgers food truck will be on-site. You'll also get to vote for your pick of the area's best chili--and help award the winner.

The entry fee is \$15. To register as a contestant, visit <https://forms.gle/EhSkdH4Skvv917cw7>. Warm up on a chilly fall day in the best way--good food, good music, roaring fires, and wine!

Great October Events at Autumn Lake Winery

Williamstown's Autumn Lake Winery on Malaga Road has some great events coming up for October!

The biggest one of these is the annual Harvest Festival, taking place Saturday, Oct. 10th and Sunday, Oct. 11th from 12 PM to 5 PM each day. The festival is free to the public and will feature craft vendors, food trucks, live music, tractor rides, a pumpkin patch...and, on Sunday only, a visit from Trust Rescue with some adoptable dogs. You may end up going home with a new furkid. Or three.

Before that, Autumn Lake will host some great craft events. On Tuesday, Oct. 6th at 6 PM, Paint-A-Treasure Studio will be at Autumn Lake for a Paint and Sip event, with your choice of three projects: a wooden fall sign, a ceramic gnome, or a ceramic pumpkin jar. The cost is \$49 per person and will include all materials (and a complimentary glass of wine).

On Wednesday, Oct. 7th, at 6 PM, there will be a Baked & Bedazzled cake decorating workshop for \$55. The price, again, includes all materials and a glass of wine.



To register for the latter two and other great Autumn Lake Events, visit autumnlakewinery.com/event-calendar and click on the event you want to register for.

Fall Funland at Harbaugh Village

Mullica Hil's Harbaugh Village (entrance next to Ella Harris Park) always has something great going on. As of now, their annual Fall Funland is in full swing until Nov. 8th!



Throughout the month of October, the festival runs Saturdays from 10-7 and Sundays from 10-6. (On Halloween, which falls on a Saturday, it's 10-2. Gotta leave room for trick-or-treat prep.) You'll get to enjoy a corn maze, a carousel, pedal carts, a tire play yard and a tubing hill, boardwalk-style games, and other great family fun events. Best of all, from 10 AM to 2 PM on October 17th, 24th, and 31st, there will be live meet-and-greets with the Sanderson Sisters of *Hocus Pocus*! (Better watch your kids around them, though.)

Tickets are \$17.95 for a single-day flex admission and \$49.95 for a season pass. To buy tix, visit <https://harbaughvillagellc.ticketspice.com/harbaugh-village-fall-2026>. Enjoy a great fall day with the family!

Mullica Hill Fall Festival

And speaking of Mullica Hill...its Fall Festival will take place along Main Street on Saturday, Oct. 10th from 10 AM to 5 PM and on Sunday, Oct. 11th from 10 AM to 3 PM.

The festival is free to the public. All kinds of great family-friendly activities will be available to enjoy, such as free pumpkin painting, bounce houses, some hands-on educational workshops, live music, food trucks and much more.

But that's not all! This is also a living history weekend, with Civil War re-enactors performing a couple of battles. You can stroll through their encampments between battles to get a look at life in a Civil War-era military camp. On Saturday night, for \$8 per person, there's Ghastly Tales of the Civil War, a 45-minute guided ghost tour.

For more info or to order ghost tour tickets, visit events.ticketleap.com/tickets/mh-events-llc/ghastly-tales-tour.



Witch-Craft Festival in Hammonton

Most Halloween/fall festivals in the area are meant for the whole family, but there's one that's definitely only for adults. Hammonton is holding its Witch-Craft Festival on Oct. 9th and 10th from 7 PM to 11 PM.



The event will feature local breweries and distilleries, so naturally, it's aimed at ages 21 and over--even for designated drivers. (You'll need a valid ID.) Your ticket (\$90) will allow you full access to all the drinks that are offered. But don't forget, the location of this place--Paradise Lakes Campgrounds--means that cell phone service is very limited, which means that credit card tech is hampered--so bring cash if you pay at the gate, or for other stuff. There will be over 60 tents along the path through the "haunted woods", decorated in best Halloween style, with brews and liquors available. You'll get a chance to vote on best-dressed tent. There will also be food for purchase, as well as some great activities like a silent disco, a live seance, fortune-telling, a costume contest, games, and lots more!

To find out more, visit witchcraftnj.com. You'll be able to order tickets in advance. In addition to the entry price, it's \$29.99 for parking. If you'd like to camp out overnight at Paradise Lakes, it runs several hundred more. But it just might be worth it to enjoy a great Halloween event with some terrific "brews" and a witchy atmosphere!

Pitman Brews Cruise

And speaking of "brews"...Pitman's holding its annual Brews Cruise, a 25-mile bike ride through some of Gloucester County's most beautiful areas, on Saturday, October 10th!

The ride will begin at 10 AM at the Caffeinated Cyclist in Pitman. After you've checked in, off you go on a 25-mile casual cycling loop of the area. All levels of experience are welcome. There will be a rest stop at Mood's Farm Market, then back to uptown Pitman. After the ride is done, the fun really starts...from 12 PM to 5 PM at the end of the line, you'll get some post-ride drinks courtesy of Merryman's Pub, Martini's on Broadway and the Beer Garden on Theatre Avenue. There will also be live music throughout the afternoon. Your registration will include two free drink tokens.



Registration is \$50 per person and includes all of the amenities mentioned above. To sign up, visit uptownpitman.com/brews-cruise.

Enjoy a great fall day getting in some cycling, admiring the area's best scenery, and enjoying some great drinks and good times! (For non-cyclists, the Witches of Pitman Shoppe Hop is taking place the same day from 2 PM to 6 PM. Visit uptownpitman.com/witches-shoppe-hop for info on that.)

Haunted Haddon Night Market

As Halloween draws closer, there's at least one pre-trick-or-treating event that's great for the whole family--the Haunted Night Market at Haddon Event Square at 51 Haddon Avenue in Haddon Township, on Friday, Oct. 23rd and Saturday, Oct. 24th from 5 PM to 9 PM!



The event is free to the public. You'll get to enjoy vendors of all kinds of spooky merchandise, fire pits, a s'more station (yum!!!), face painting, a DJ spinning Halloweeny tunes, crafts and activities for kids, seasonal food and drink, a pumpkin patch, a beer garden for the grown-ups, and more! (The Saturday night one coincides with the annual Brews & Books Crawl-O-Ween Pub Crawl...the market's a stop on the crawl.)

For more information, visit shophaddon.com/event/haunted-haddon-market-2/2026-10-24.



All The World's A Stage...

A beastly monster in love with a beautiful princess...what could be more fairy-tale-like? But in this case, there's quite a twist. Williamstown's Grand Theater presents *Shrek: The Musical* from Oct. 8th-24th!



The show's based on the hit Dreamworks animated movie (which was, itself, based on a children's book by William Steig). When cruel Lord Farquaad exiles fairy-tale characters from his kingdom, they all end up in the swamp of Shrek the ogre. He travels to demand his home back from Lord Farquaad, befriendng a sassy donkey along the way. Farquaad, deciding he must make a royal marriage to cement his hold on the kingdom, hires Shrek to rescue tower-bound Princess Fiona in return for the deed to his swamp. But once Shrek arrives at the princess' tower, he finds a kindred spirit in her, and begins to form a bond with her, questioning whether he really wants to deliver her to Lord Farquaad. However, it seems Fiona is keeping some secrets of her own...will these secrets divide the couple, or unite them?

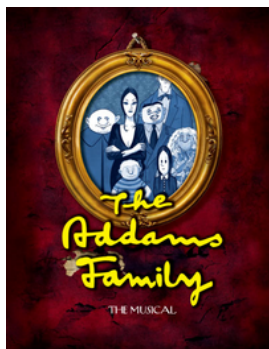
Gleefully mocking traditional fairy tales, the show presents a message that everyone has a right to be themselves, no matter how "freaky" they may seem in the eyes of the world. For more info or to buy tickets, visit roadcompany.com...and let your "freak flag" fly!

Sometimes, art is the only resistance you can offer...and the greatest. Oaklyn's Ritz Theatre presents Alex Wilkie's play *Trolls and Men* from Oct. 9th to Oct. 15th. Based on a true story, *Trolls and Men* introduces us to Julius Thoreson, the artistic director of Norway's Trondheim Transformation Theatre. When the Nazis take over the country, the first thing they do--as all dictators do--is to control the kind of art people create. But Julius and his daughter Astrid are having none of it. Even though the new "Minister of Culture and Enlightenment" (translation: censor) gives him some veiled and not-so-veiled threats, as does a childhood friend of his who's thrown his lot in with the Nazis, Julius fights back the only way he can: through his theater, refusing to put on a German propaganda play and mounting a production of Peer Gynt that contains anti-fascist imagery. Even as the Nazis increase their threats against him, they may find out that they can kill a man, but not the resistance he's inspired.



Tickets are \$40. (On October 9th, opening night, it's "pay what you can" as long as you bring a non-perishable food item.) To order or to find out more, visit ritztheatreco.org, and prepare to be moved by the story of a man whose commitment to his art made a difference.

*Da-da-da-dum (click, click)...*The classic sitcom *The Addams Family*, based on the macabre cartoons of Charles Addam has been delighting viewers for years, whether it's the original show, the 1990s movies, or the recent Netflix spinoff *Wednesday*. Now, Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theater is putting on the musical version until November 1st!



The show takes us further into the life of the Addamses than we've seen in any other incarnation...Wednesday is now a young woman in love, and recently engaged to a guy named Lucas her folks haven't met yet. She confides the engagement to her father Gomez, but wants to keep it a secret from her mother Morticia for the moment, leaving Gomez conflicted because he's never kept anything secret from his beloved "Tish" before. With both families meeting up at the Addams mansion for dinner, it's a recipe for chaos, what with Gomez trying to keep the engagement under wraps, Wednesday's brother Pugsley resenting the potential marriage, Lucas' parents having their own problems, and possible divisions between the two lovebirds. Not to mention the trapped spirits of the Addams ancestors creating havoc!

To learn more or to order tickets, visit walnutstreettheatre.org. "So get a witch's shawl on/A broomstick you can crawl on/We're gonna pay a call on/The Addams Fam-i-ly! (click, click)" (And just in time for Halloween, no less!)

What's New Onscreen!

Colleen Hoover's novels have taken the world by storm. Now, an adaptation of one of her most popular, *Verity*, premieres Oct. 2nd.

Lowen Ashleigh (Dakota Johnson) is a struggling writer hoping for a break. She finds it when Jeremy Crawford (Josh Hartnett), who hires her as a ghostwriter to finish the last novel of his wife Verity (Anne Hathaway). Verity has been in a catatonic state since apparently trying to commit suicide in a car crash after the tragic death of one of her children. As Lowen goes through the bits and pieces of Verity's manuscript, she finds notes on Verity's life up to that point...notes that hint at the sinister truth of Verity's life, her real role in her child's death, and her supposed illness. As she and Jeremy grow closer, she finds out more and more about what Verity may have done...but can she be sure that it's the truth? Or does Jeremy have more of a role in these sinister goings-on than Verity has let on?



Fans of Hoover's work should enjoy seeing this suspenseful and gripping story brought to the screen.

And speaking of literary adaptations, we've got something a little more highbrow for Jane Austen fans. *Sense and Sensibility* comes to the screen once more on Oct. 16th.



In the early 1800s (the time period common to all of Austen's novels), the Dashwood sisters Elinor (Daisy Edgar-Jones), Marianne (Esme Creed-Miles) and Margaret (Bodhi Rae Breathnach) face poverty along with their widowed mother when their father's estate passes to their late brother and his snooty wife. Living as an unwanted guest in her own home, Elinor begins to form a bond with her sister-in-law's brother Edward Ferrars (George Mackay) while Marianne develops an ill-judged infatuation with the rakish John Willoughby (Frank Dillane), overlooking the quiet devotion of the older Colonel Brandon (Herbert Nordrum). As the sisters settle into a relative's cottage to escape their uncomfortable home, Elinor finds out that Edward is honor-bound to an arranged betrothal, and Marianne closes her eyes to Willoughby's true nature...until he breaks her heart and indirectly causes a health crisis for her. Will the sisters' wishes for their lives be thwarted, or can they overcome the strictures society and their own choices have put on them and achieve happiness?

This classic novel was previously adapted by Ang Lee for the screen in 1995, with Emma Thompson starring. Fans of the author will be pleased by this lavish new adaptation.

"I would like (*you would, would you?*) if I may (*you may!*) to take you (*take me, take me!!!*) on a strange journey..." Rocky Horror fans, (and fans of the late Tim Curry) rejoice...the cult classic film has got several special showings in our area this month!

The 1975 film introduces us to Brad Majors (*A-----E!!!*) and his fiancée Janet Weiss (*SLUT!!!*) played by Barry Bostwick and Susan Sarandon, as a flat tire strands them at the castle of mad alien scientist Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry, RIP) who's just created a male sex object named Rocky Horror. The film unfolds with plenty of audience partic-i- (*SAY IT!!!*)-pation and shadowcasts re-enacting the scenes in front of the screen. The Ritz in Oaklyn will be showing it Friday, Oct. 30th at 8 PM and Saturday, Oct. 31st at 8 PM and midnight. The Eagle Theatre in Hammonton is showing it on Saturday, Oct. 17th, at 8 PM. Millville's Levoy Theatre will show it on Saturday, Oct. 24th at 8 PM. Prop bags (with toilet paper, rice, etc.) will usually be for sale at the venue.



Celebrate the life of the incomparable actor who made his debut in this hilarious cult comedy...and LET'S DO THE TIME WARP AGAIN!!!

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Township
713 Marsha Ave.
Williamstown, NJ 08094
Phone: 856-629-1212
Fax: 856-875-0191



The Biblio-Files

Celebrate the spooky season with some great Halloween-y reads!

The magical, mystical side of the Marvel Universe has become one of its most popular...and the centuries-old witch Agatha Harkness, memorably played by Kathryn Hahn in *WandaVision* and *Agatha All Along*, a fan favorite. Sara Shepard's YA novel *Agatha Harkness: Fall of the Coven* takes the character into uncharted territory.

Agatha begins the novel as an adult in a seventeenth-century witch's coven in Salem, though she has her own agenda--to get her hands on the powerful spellbook the Darkhold. But after finding out one of the other witches has gone missing, Agatha is caught up in the spell of her obnoxious coven-mate Martha--which yanks them both forward in time to a modern-day boarding school and puts them in the bodies of teenage girls! Agatha must keep up her cover as the student "Alice", preparing for the Halloween festivities with the rest of the school, while trying to figure out the location of the Darkhold and the incognito Martha. Usually a loner, she begins to make friends with some other students, and is attracted to the handsome guy West. Complicating things is a new teacher who is more than he seems...he calls himself "Dr. Novis" (and is devastatingly attractive, but that's neither here nor there) and seems to be keeping tabs on Agatha. As Agatha grows closer to her goal, she may find that true strength lies in her coven--wherever and whenever it may be.



The *Pretty Little Liars* author brings us a wonderfully witchy Marvel adventure (with Easter-egg references to other characters like Wanda Maximoff). So follow Agatha, my friend...to glory at the end!

Plenty of authors and filmmakers have speculated on aspects of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. Charlotte Cross' *The Brides* takes place both before and after the events of the novel, filling in the backstories of the vampiresses Jonathan Harker encountered at Castle Dracula.



Some years after the events of Stoker's novel, Dr. Jack Seward, one of its main characters (who has been knighted since), comes across a patient whose experiences revive memories of his past experience with Dracula. The story (told in letters and diary entries like its predecessor) goes back to 1884, when Mafalda Lowell visits Europe to stay with a widowed aunt...and finds out that her uncle's death was not what it seemed. She summons her friend (and secret love) Lucy to join her, along with Lucy's maid Eliza and her friend Alice. But when Eliza falls ill, her doctor recommends sending her to Transylvania where the waters will cure her. And only Alice seems to see the mysterious man in black who's been tailing them...

The so-called "brides of Dracula" have been overlooked until now, so this fresh and atmospheric take on the legendary Count (whose most famous movie turns 95 this year) is well worth a look for fans of classic gothic horror.

The story of the creation of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is almost as spine-tingling as the novel itself: four talented people trapped by the weather, coming up with their own macabre stories. Leila Siddiqui's *The Glowing Hours* not only puts a supernatural spin on this real-life story, but tells it through the eyes of a fictional--but compelling--character.

Mehrunissa Begum, a South Asian from India, travels to London in 1816 to deliver a notice of inheritance to her brother...only she can't locate him and has no money to return to India. There's nothing to do but find work and save for the return trip...and, when poet Percy Shelley and his wife Mary hire her as a maid, it seems that she's in luck. But when Mehr accompanies them, as well as Mary's stepsister Claire and writers Lord Byron and John Polidori, to Lake Geneva during an unseasonably cold and rainy summer, things take a turn for the sinister. Mehr seems to see ghosts, and the Villa Diodati where they're staying seems eerily alive. Mary, who Mehr has grown fond of, withdraws into her new literary creation. And as the other inhabitants of Villa Diodati seem to be descending into madness, Mehr's only hope is to hold on to her own sanity if she's to live to tell her own tale.



Siddiqui's unusual take on a much-told story continues the recent trend of featuring marginalized or overlooked categories of people in gothic horror.