Free Public Library of Monroe Township

Out and About

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

November 2026

Gobble Till You Wobble Turkey Trot Fun Run

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The second annual Gobble Till You Wobble Turkey Trot Fun Run, which will raise funds for the Monroe Township PTO, will take place starting 9 AM on Saturday, Nov. 21st at Owens Park! (Rain date: Sunday, Nov. 22nd.)



You'll have to sign up in advance, which you can do at https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-gala-6279. It's $10 per individual, $50 for a group.

Check-in time starts at 9 AM and the actual fun run/walk begins at 10 AM. You can walk or run at your own pace. The proceeds will benefit our local PTO's end-of-year celebrations. Edge Fitness will be there to help you warm up before the race, and food trucks and vendors will be on hand for afterwards.

You're also encouraged to bring some nonperishable canned goods to help needy families during this holiday season. So come to this relaxed, no-pressure event and help our schools and our families this holiday season!

Special Points of Interest:

- ***Sunday Breakfast and Comedy Night at Autumn Lake Winery***
- ***Christmas at Second Chance Ranch***
- ***Annie comes to the Levoy Theatre***
- ***Johnny Depp plays Ebenezer Scrooge onscreen***
- ***Foodie fantasy novels***

Wine and Cupcake Pairing at Blue Cork Winery

Blue Cork Winery and Vineyard on Blue Bell Road, along with H&H Confections, will be hosting a wine and cupcake pairing on Thursday, Nov. 12th at 6 PM!



The event costs $35 per person and tax. You'll get three fall cupcake flavors--Spiced Pear and Honey, Dark Chocolate Blackberry, and Pumpkin Maple Pecan. Some experts will pair three different Blue Cork wines with each one, and give a talk about why they match up. You'll also get to enjoy a couple of trivia rounds!

To register, visit www.bluecorkwine.com/reservations. If you want to show up a little earlier, there will be some charcuterie to enjoy, or you can order from Blue Cork's pizzeria partner.

Sunday Breakfast at Autumn Lake Winery

Autumn Lake Winery on Malaga Road in Williamstown is a sight to behold in the fall, with all the nearby trees in full blazing color. What better way to enjoy it than with their Sunday Breakfast on November 22nd at 11 AM?

These breakfasts are held a couple of times each season. They offer a buffet with lots of breakfast choices from Top Shelf Cuisine--omelets, bacon, and everything you could wish for. You can pair them with a sangria or wine cocktail courtesy of the winery. Best of all, breakfast is free to the public!



But there's more to these mornings than just breakfast. Weather permitting, you're welcome to take a stroll around Autumn Lake and enjoy the beautiful scenery. After that, you can enjoy live music from 1 PM to 4 PM. (This time around, it's from Gina and Steve, a local duo.)

To find out more info on this and other great Autumn Lake events, visit autumnlakewinery.com/event-calendar.

(See below for another great Autumn Lake event...)

Kricket Comedy at Autumn Lake

Kricket Comedy hosts traveling comedy shows at events all over the Philly area. On Saturday, Nov. 28th, they'll feature one at Autumn Lake Winery at 7;30 PM! (Doors open at 6:30 PM.)



The evening of comedy will feature Mike Keegan, Shana Harton and Eddie Gallagher. Mike is a stand-up comedian and podcast host who hails from New York. Shana (pronounced Shayna) is a Philly-area comedian who has had her own comedy special with her wry humor about dating and navigating her thirties. Eddie, the producer of Kricket Comedy, will warm up the audience with his humor about his family life.

Tickets are $18 for one person and $29.95 for two. To order them, visit autumnlakewinery.com/event-calendar and click on the link below the calendar itself, which will take you to Kricket Comedy's website.

Run the Vineyards Half-Marathon at Blue Cork

If you're up for a more athletic event at Williamstown's Blue Cork Winery than the wine and cupcake pairing (see previous page), you can try out the Run the Vineyards Cork-High & Bottle-Deephalf-marathon on Sunday, Nov. 15th at 8:30 AM!

This half-marathon (13 miles, that is) attracts runners from miles around. Blue Cork's flat land is ideal for this run, especially if you're a newbie. You can take part in the run, and enjoy food trucks and live music afterwards. It's a great way to pre-empt those Thanksgiving calories!



The entry fee is $95. Proceeds benefit the HeadStrong Foundation, which provides support to cancer patients and their families. To register, visit https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Williamstown/RuntheVineyardsCorkHighBottleDeepHalfMarathon.

Christmas at the Ranch in Sicklerville

Want to wish some of our local animals a happy holiday? Come to Christmas at the Ranch at the Circle S Second Chance Ranch in Sicklerville on Nov. 21st and 22nd from 10 AM to 2 PM!



Second Chance Ranch rescues at-risk horses and farm animals and gives them a home. This event will allow you to get to meet some of them!

For your five-dollar ticket, you'll get to meet Second Chance's animals, and enjoy plenty of other activities. There's food and coffee for sale from vendors. There are also lots of other local vendors, such as CC & Company's Handcrafted Goods. For some small extra fees, you can take a barrel train ride, enjoy a s'more pit, or feed the horses. There will be some live music to enjoy...and, of course, a meet-and-greet with The Man In The Red Suit!

Proceeds will benefit Second Chance Ranch and its animals. To order, visit https://secondchanceranchfoundation.betterworld.org/events/Christmas-at-the-Ranch.

Enjoy a fun-filled family day out with some of our four-legged buddies as we gear up for Christmas!

Merry Market in Mullica Hill

It's the time of the year when holiday craft markets start popping up right, left, and sideways. Mullica Hill, one of Gloucester County's most picturesque towns, will feature its Merry Market on Main Street on Saturday, Nov. 14rh from 11 AM to 4 PM.

The event is free to the public. All along Main Street, in addition to its wonderful shops, you'll find vendors selling specialty foods, candles, soaps, jewelry, and all kinds of unique gifts that can kick off your holiday shopping early.



Touch of Classics Carolers, a local caroling group, will also be there to serenade you with classic music of the season to get you in a festive mood.

Come start your shopping season with some special gifts and enjoy a festive day before the rush!

Wreath Decorating Class at Duffield's

Want to make your own live holiday wreath? Duffield's Farm Market on Greentree Road is offering a Wreath Decorating Class on Sunday, Nov. 21st !



There will be two different classes--one from 10 AM to 12 PM and one from 1 PM to 3 PM. Join Tina Yerkes of Your Front Door--a Washington Township company that specializes in making wreaths--to learn how to make your own festive holiday wreath.

The fee is $50.99 per person, and includes all materials. To register, visit duffieldsfarm.com/wreath-decorating-class. You're sure to enjoy the opportunity to create your own one-of-a-kind holiday decoration!

All The World's A Stage…

The South Jersey theater community mourns the passing of the Ritz Theater's Bruce Curless.

For some holiday "gold"...the Grand Theater in Williamstown is presenting *Solid Gold: A Show-Stopping Cabaret* from Nov. 19th through Dec. 5th! (There will be no performance on Thanksgiving Day, natch.)



It's the Road Company's 50th year...it was founded in 1976. What better way to celebrate its golden anniversary than with a cabaret show featuring some solid-gold songs from some of the best musical theater of all time? All the songs performed will be from shows The Road Company has done over the fifty years of its existence, from *Into the Woods* to *Rent* to *West Side Story*. They'll all be performed by some of the best up-and-coming stage stars from the Philly area. So get ready for a great evenining of incredible music and performances to celebrate the golden anniversary of one of Gloucester County's best local theater companies!

Tickets are $21.50-$31.50. To order them or to find out more, visit roadcompany.com...and finish out the Road Company's golden anniversary season with this great celebration!

"The sun'll come out tomorrow..." Just in time for the holidays, the Levoy Theater in Millville presents the all-time classic musical *Annie* from Nov. 13th-22nd.



Based on the long-running comic strip *Little Orphan Annie*, this takes place during the Great Depression and tells the story of young Annie, who's lived most of her life at a dreary orphanage under the cruel hand of its mistress Miss Agatha Hannigan. Her parents, unable to care for her, had left her there in her infancy, with half of a locket and a letter promising they would return one day. Annie's luck begins to turn when wealthy Oliver Warbucks takes in an orphan for the Christmas holidays as a publicity stunt. It doesn't take him long to warm up to her, though...to the point he wants to adopt her, but when Annie insists that she must find her real parents, he agrees to help her, even taking her to meet with FDR. But Miss Hannigan's not out of the picture yet--her ne'er-do-well brother Rooster and his girlfriend Lily schem with her to pose as Annie's parents and split the reward money. (Hannigan knows Annie's parents have died, and has the other half of the locket.) It's going to take all of Annie's optimism--and Warbucks' love--to keep her out of the villains' clutches.

Tickets are $30. Visit levoy.net to order them...and to enjoy one of Broadway's all-time classics. *"Tomorrow, tomorrow, I love ya, tomorrow...you're always a day away!"*

The drag troupe The Golden Gays has put on several Golden Girls-themed musical comedy productions at Pitman's Broadway Theater. For the upcoming holidays, they present *Sophia Got Run Over By A Reindeer* on Thanksgiving Eve. Nov. 25th!



In this hilarious send-up, Dorothy, Blanche and Rose are preparing for the holiday when they receive a ransom note from their neighbor Frieda Claxton (the mean old lady from that tree episode)that...well, you've read the title of the show. So the girls set off for the North Pole, passing through the girls' old hometowns along the way...Atlanta, Brooklyn, and St. Olaf, looking for clues to what's really happened to Sophia. Did she really "get run over by a reindeer"...or is it just part of Frieda's plot to cut down all the trees in the world?! Whatever the answer is, you can help them figure out the clues, enjoy some holiday songs and Easter eggs for the classic sitcom...and split your sides laughing from all the over-the-top camp humor!

Tickets are $30. To order, visit thebroadwaytheatre.org. Keep in mind, this show is meant for mature audiences only...and thank you for being a friend!

What's New Onscreen!

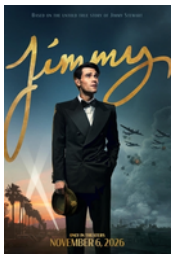
This month marks the 50th anniversary of the iconic film *Rocky*, which spawned a franchise and a still-ongoing spinoff series. On Nov. 20th (after a limited release Nov. 6th), *I Play Rocky* presents the story of how this incredible film came to the screen.



Sylvester Stallone (Anthony Ippolito), a struggling actor and writer, gets a stroke of luck when producers Irwin Winkler and Robert Chartoff read his script *Paradise Alley*. They pass on it, but are interested in his talent and encourage him to come up with another idea. Sly finds it when he learns about underdog boxer Chuck Wepner's fight against Muhammad Ali, and creates his own story of an underdog Philadelphia boxer who gets a shot to fight the world champion--much like Winkler and Chartoff gave Sly his own shot. The producers take a liking to the story, but they don't want to cast the unknown Sly...but Sly's insistent that HE plays Rocky Balboa, not Robert Redford or some other name actor. And that's even before they get into the actual filming and the problems that come with it, such as filming in a meat-packing plant while dodging the head of the meat-packers union...

This crowd-pleaser, which has already been nominated for a prize at the Toronto Film Festival and received good reviews, shows that the making of *Rocky* was every bit as much a million-to-one shot as the life of the iconic character.

And speaking of stories about Hollywood legends...James Stewart was one of the most beloved actors of all time, whether as an everyman in Frank Capra's flicks or as a tormented Hitchcock hero. *Jimmy*, premiering Nov. 6th, portrays a pivotal chapter in this Hollywood icon's life.



In 1940, Jimmy Stewart (KJ Apa) is at a high point in his career--he's just won the Oscar for *The Philadelphia Story*. But the mood of the country changes rapidly with Pearl Harbor and America's entry into the war. Jimmy is drafted, but his Hollywood bosses assure him they can use their influence to get him out of it. But Jimmy realizes he wouldn't be able to live with himself if he ducked out of his duty, even though his friends and even his father don't believe he's cut out to be a soldier. He joins the Air Force and becomes a colonel, flying many missions...and dealing with the loss of some of his men. When the war ends and he returns to Hollywood, he's not sure he can go back to playing pretend after everything he's gone through...but director Frank Capra (Max Casella) urges him to consider the role he's got in mind for him...a man who, like Jimmy, is questioning his purpose in the world...

On the eve of the 80th anniversary of *It's A Wonderful Life*, this stunning biopic shows how its lead actor's experience with war and loss shaped his portrayal of his most iconic role.

Christmas is on its way, and what better way to celebrate it than a fresh visualization of one of the greatest holiday classics of all time? Ebenezer, director Ti West's take on Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, debuts Nov. 13th.



Ebenezer Scrooge (Johnny Depp), a cold-hearted businessman, overworks his clerk Bob Cratchit (Rupert Grint, aka Ron Weasley) and closes himself off from others, refusing charity to the poor even on Christmas Eve. But he's in for a shock when he receives a ghostly visit from his late partner Jacob Marley (Sir Ian McKellen), who's undergoing eternal punishment for his indifference to his fellow humans...and what's more, Ebenezer will be in for the same fate if he doesn't mend his ways. To this end, he is visited by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future, who will take him through the traumas and mistakes of his past, the joys and opportunities of the present, and the horrors of a future that might be. But will this be enough for Ebenezer to swerve from his path?

From the trailers, this seems to have a very Tim Burton-esque sensibility (it stars Johnny Depp, after all!) so it looks like a wonderfully festive but sensitive visualization of Dickens' most beloved classic. And so, as Tiny Tim observed...God bless us, every one!

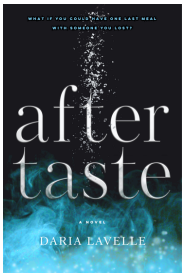
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713 Marsha Ave.
Williamstown, NJ 08094
Phone: 856-629-1212
Website: www.monroetpl.org

The Biblio-Files

With Thanksgiving on its way, it's the perfect time to enjoy some recent fantasy-tinged novels that revolve around food...

What if all it took to reunite you with a deceased loved one...was a taste of a certain food? Daria Lavelle explores that question in her 2025 novel *Aftertaste.*



When he was ten, Konstantin Duhovny, of a Ukrainian immigrant family, lost his beloved father after an angry exchange of words with him. Afterwards, regretting his impulsive words, he discovered that he could sense the spirits of the departed...not with sight or sound, but with the taste of their favorite dishes. Though he learns to keep his gift under wraps for fear of being misjudged as a loony, he works his way up to a career as a sous chef in New York, learning to cook the favorite dishes of customers' deceased loved ones and bring back a connection with them for a while. Though he believes he is doing good for others who need closure, he soon meets Maura, a clairvoyant who warns him that his tampering with the boundaries between life and death carries a high risk. Now, Konstantin faces a tough decision...should he keep trying to provide help for the grieving, even at the risk of breaking down boundaries that shouldn't be broken? The fact that he's developing feelings for Maura only throws a further monkey wrench into the mix...

Lavelle's debut novel mixes magical realism, poignant observations on grief and loss, and some wonderful culinary descriptions into a very rich dish indeed.

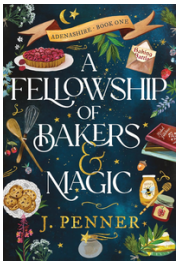
In Anna Mercier's *All We Hunger For*, a YA romantasy, magic and culinary skills collide in a France-inspired country on the brink of revolution.



The kingdom of Anesperer has a unique magic system: magic manifests through one's particular talent. But the ruling council of Souverains still controls magic, along with everything else, and the folk of the Restes--the working-class neighborhoods--get little to no say in it. Elara Rousseau would like nothing more than to open her own bakery--but she can't even find work because of the stigma of her mother's death as a supposed terrorist. A friend from her past, allied with the revolution, submits her under a false name for the Objet d'Art...a magical baking contest that will decide the replacement for a murdered Souverain. She runs into Nikolas Dupont, illegitimate son of a Souverain who is desperate to be publicly acknowledged by his father...even to the point of agreeing to his plans to groom Elara to be his political pawn. The high stakes of the competition, as well as the sinister plans behind it, are only intensified by the unrest in the city...and by Elara and Nikolas' growing attraction to one another.

Political intrigue combines with an unusual kind of magic and a bit of spice...in every sense of the word.

And speaking of magical baking contests...J. Penner's 2025 novel *A Fellowship of Bakers and Magic*, the first in the Adenashire series, features one, with far less drama and political intrigue and far more tongue-in-cheek humor.



The tagline on the back cover is, "A human, a dwarf, and an elf walk into a baking contest..." (Told you this was a very tongue-in-cheek novel.) Magic, especially that of dwarves and elves, is the norm in the kingdom of Adenashire. Arleta Starstone, a human baker, has no magic of her own, but incorporates apothecary herbs into her baking to increase its beneficial properties. Without her knowlege, her orc neighbor, a huge fan of her work, enters her into the Langheim Baking Battle--this kingdom's answer to The Great British Bake-Off. Arleta is unsure of her ability to win, she heads off to Langheim, in the company of the handsome forest elf Theo. When she gets there, she's faced with other bakers who are all out to win, and may have an advantage over her, since many of them are able to use magic. But with the help of newfound friends, her supporters, and a growing connection with Theo, she may be able to prevail...if she still wants to. It may be that winning the contest won't be her heart's desire after all...

Though part of a series, this works well as a standalone, and will whet your appetite for later visits to Adenashire. *Bon appetit!*