

Free Public Library of Monroe Township

Out and About

A Community Newsletter

April 2026

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

Autism Awareness Day at the Pfeiffer Center

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Monroe Township is celebrating its neurodivergent community and their loved ones with its Autism Awareness Day, taking place on Saturday, April 25th at the Pfeiffer Community Center from 11 AM to 2 PM.

In partnership with Parks and Recreation and Finn's Friends (an autism awareness non-profit), the Township will provide a fun day of activities.

The event will feature a petting zoo, a Touch-A-Truck station where you can meet and greet firefighters and police, sensory tables and tents, a bounce house, character appearances, a strolling ventriloquist, face painting, a DJ, informational tables, food and drink, a balloon artist, and much more!

The Autism Awareness Day is free to the public. For more information, feel free to contact the Pfeiffer Center at 856-728-9841.

Feel free to come and enjoy a fun afternoon that's full of all-inclusive activities!

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE In partnership with Monroe Township Community Affairs, Parks & Recreation and Finn's Friends

invite you to our **5th ANNUAL**

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM **AUTISM AWARENESS DAY**
A community celebration of inclusion, understanding, and support

APRIL 25TH **FREE**

Touch-A-Truck
Meet and interact with our local heroes!
Get up close with firefighters, police officers, and other community professionals in a fun, friendly, and welcoming environment.
All are welcome!

Enjoy a fun-filled day featuring:

- Touch-A-Truck
- Informational Tables
- Bounce Houses • Balloon Artist
- Sensory-Friendly Activities
- Justin Thomas, Ventriloquist
- Petting Zoo • Face Painting
- Character Appearances
- Snacks, Music & More!

PFEIFFER COMMUNITY CENTER
301 Blue Bell Road
Williamstown, NJ
Questions? 856.728.9841

Special Points of Interest:

- *Crawfish & Jazz at Washington Lake Park*
- *Psychic-themed events at Autumn Lake Winery*
- *Jesus Christ Superstar at Williamstown's Grand Theatre*
- *Michael Jackson's life story comes to the screen*
- *Novels about interacting with books (happy National Library Week!)*

Mom's Cake Decorating at Cinder Bar

Mother's Day will be here before we know it, and Williamstown's Cinder Bar restaurant (on Cross Keys Road) is partnering with Platinum House of Sweets for a cake-decorating event on Tuesday, April 21st at 6:30 PM.



The event costs \$75 to join and all materials are provided...a small cake, icing, and instructions to create a lovely cake that Mom's sure to enjoy. (Or you will.) There will also be appetizers and soft drinks to make this an especially fun evening.

You can register and pay for the event via Eventbrite.com...just search for the event name.

Enjoy a great evening making your own sweet treat for Mom!

Crawfish & Jazz Festival at Washington Lake Park

Mardi Gras may have been and gone, but you can still enjoy a taste of New Orleans at Washington Lake Park's Crawfish and Jazz Festival from 11 AM to 7 PM on Saturday, April 18th.



You'll get some free Mardi Gras beads, of course. Then you can stroll through the park to sample the great food that's available...of course, there's Cajun seafood such as crawfish, as well as trucks like Cousins Maine Lobster, Just Fork It, and more. You'll also get to listen to live music from jazz, brass bands, and Cajun zydeco groups. Of course, there will be alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for sale as well.

The vendors' booths and food trucks will be decorated, so you can cast your vote for the best-decorated one. Plus, there will be activities for kids.

Tickets to the event are \$8.14 (with the service fee). You can pre-order them on <https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/just-jersey-fest/crawfishfest>. The day of the event, they're \$10.

Come to this fun event and *laissez le bon temps rouler!*

Hats, Horses and Hotrods in Mullica Hill

As we gear up for the Kentucky Derby on May 2nd, the Mullica Hill Business Association is holding its Hats, Horses and Hotrods Celebration on Main Street on April 25th from 10 AM to 4 PM.

The event will feature live music, food trucks of all kinds, family-friendly activities, photo ops, shopping at the great stores on Mullica Hill's Main Street, and a car show.

It's free to the public, but if you want to participate in the car show, it's \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of. You can register your car on [ticketleap.com](https://events.ticketleap.com).

Best of all, you'll get a chance to create your own derby hat with decorations from Main Street shops to pin on it!



Run the Vineyards at Heritage Winery

Fitness freaks, take note...Heritage Winery on Rt. 322 in Harrison Township is holding its fifth annual Run the Vineyards 5-mile run on Sunday, April 26th at 9 AM.



Each participant over 21 years old will get a complimentary glass of Heritage's wine and a stemless souvenir wine glass. All participants will receive a custom T-shirt and a 5-mile finisher medal. There will be awards for the top three overall winners, and the top three for both male and female. After the run, there will be an afterparty until noon, with food trucks and live music.

Registration is \$55 per person. To sign up, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/MullicaHill/RuntheVineyardsWilliamHeritageWinery5K>.

This race is in partnership with The HEADstrong Foundation, a charity to benefit cancer patients.

Psychic-Themed Events at Autumn Lake Winery

Do you think you might be psychic...or, at the very least, are you interested in psychic phenomena? Williamstown's Autumn Lake Winery on Malaga Road is hosting two fascinating psychic-themed events this month.

On Sunday, April 19th, the Springtacular Psychic Fair will take place from 12 PM to 4 PM. It will feature live music, artisan vendors, food trucks...and, of course, psychic readings (which cost extra). Tickets are \$20 for regular admission and \$85 for VIP admission. The latter will get you a free drink ticket and a free psychic reading.

Then, on Monday, April 27th at 6 PM, psychic Priscilla Salcedo will host the discussion "Am I Psychic?" She'll break down the difference between psychic intuition and fear-based thinking, and explain how to tell the difference. Tickets are \$35 per person.

Both events are co-hosted by Sips and Psychics. You can find out more about them at www.sipsandpsychics.com.

You can order tickets—and find out more about these and other great Autumn Lake Winery events—at autumnlakewinery.com/event-calendar.



Spring Stroll in Haddonfield

With the weather turning warmer, there's no better time to stroll the streets of a charming small town...and no town more charming than Haddonfield. The Haddonfield Spring Stroll will take place daily from April 15th through April 19th.



For those five days, there will be live music along Kings Highway, from bands like April Mae and the June Bugs, the Big Trip Duo, the Woodland Avenue Band, and others. There will also be sidewalk sales from the great shops along Kings Highway.

Best of all, it will be the half-birthday of Haddonfield's most famous resident... "Haddy", the Hadrosaur that was discovered in this town and is commemorated with a statue. Kids will be able to enjoy cupcakes, a dino egg hunt, hands-on dino-themed activities,

and more!

For more information about the schedule and event times, visit <https://downtownhaddonfield.com/event/spring-stroll>.

Brews and Bedazzle at Village Idiot Brewing

If you love books so much that you'd like them to look better, join the Brews and Bedazzle event at Village Idiot Brewing in Mount Holly on Saturday, April 11th at 4 PM!

For \$35 per person, you'll get all materials...a book, gems, glue, and other stuff to dress up the cover. If you don't want to do the craft, you can still hang out for no charge at all...grab one of the Village Idiot's brews and shop the books on offer from The Literary Love Affair, a traveling book fair.

To sign up or to find out more, visit theliteraryloveaffair.square.site.





All The World's A Stage...

Even the greatest story ever told can have a fresh new perspective. Williamstown's Grand Theater on Main Street presents Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's *Jesus Christ Superstar* from April 23rd-May 9th.

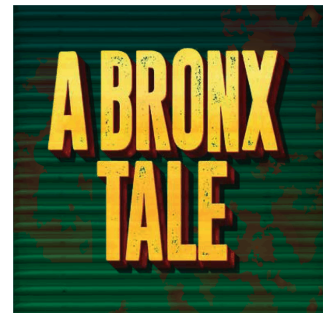


The show began life as a concept album before it was staged, and was controversial for presenting the last week in Jesus' life in the form of rock music. This version of the story gives a far more sympathetic role to Judas Iscariot, who fears that Jesus' growing movement will bring the wrath of the Roman authorities down on all their heads. In a misguided attempt to stave off trouble, he turns Jesus in...only to find that he may be a pawn in a greater plan than he ever imagined. As for Jesus Himself, He struggles with His own feelings of self-doubt, fear, and questioning His destiny...and all the while, His disciples (including Mary Magdalene, who is trying to deal with her romantic feelings for Him) wrestle with their own role in the tragedy to come.

With a driving, compelling rock score that includes the standout hits "I Don't Know How To Love Him" and "Superstar", this groundbreaking pop/rock opera illuminates the human side of the Passion. For more information or to order tickets, visit roadcompany.com.

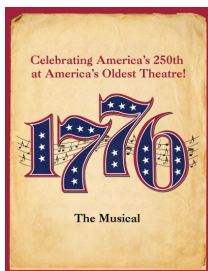
The musical version of Chazz Palmintieri's *A Bronx Tale*, onstage at Pitman's Broadway Theater from April 24th to May 17th, tells the compelling story of a young man's coming of age in a time and place where crime is too often rewarded and honest work seldom gets its just reward.

A Bronx Tale started out as a one-man stage show in 1989. It's an autobiographical drama about young Calogero (Chazz's birth name), a boy from a blue-collar Bronx family. Calogero finds the life of the Mafia, thriving in his area of New York, fascinating and tempting, despite his father Lorenzo trying to instill honest values in his son. Especially glamorous is local mob kingpin Sonny, who takes a liking to Calogero when the boy covers up for a shooting he witnessed. As Calogero comes of age, which of his two mentors will have more influence on him...the flashy but murderous Mafia chieftain or the honest but struggling father? Robert De Niro saw a performance of this show one night, and persuaded Chazz to turn it into the 1993 film version, with De Niro playing Lorenzo. (He co-directed the original film, as well as the Broadway production.)



With a score by Disney legend Alan Menken and a script by Palmintieri, this is an entertaining and thought-provoking adaptation of this fascinating story. Tickets are \$40. To order, visit thebroadwaytheatre.org.

With America's 250th anniversary coming up, it's the perfect time to celebrate the story of its founding in the city where it all began. The musical *1776* comes to Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre from April 14th through May 31st!



As the Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia, with fighting already raging between Britain and the colonies, John Adams is gung-ho for declaring independence from England. But many in Congress are reluctant to take the step for various reasons...especially the loyalist John Dickinson of Pennsylvania. It's up to Adams, Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson to do the political wheeling and dealing that's necessary to get a unanimous vote for independence...a process which leads to Jefferson writing a formal declaration. But when the Southern colonies object to a clause condemning slavery, Adams and his colleagues are forced to ask themselves what price they're willing to pay for independence for *all* Americans.

This Tony-award winning show (it beat out *Hair* for Best Musical of 1969!) brings history alive by showing the Founding Fathers, and their cause, as more complex than some accounts would have us believe. To order tickets, visit walnutstreettheatre.org...and come enjoy this thrilling account of the defining moment of our history in the city where it all started!

What's New Onscreen!

The King of Pop transformed popular music with his enormous talent...all the while, battling demons of his own. *Michael*, debuting April 24th, gives us a portrait of one of the greatest musicians of all time.

Michael (played as an adult by Jaafar Jackson...Michael's own nephew) starts out as a musically gifted kid in working-class Gary, Indiana. When his father Joe (Colman Domingo) gets wise to his oldest five sons' talent, he takes them on the road as The Jackson Five. The quintet rockets towards stardom...but the demands of such a life on a child, as well as Joe's abuse, leave their mark on Michael. As he reaches adulthood, he embarks on a solo career...and as the eighties begin, his fame reaches heights he never could have dreamt of even in those early days. But his childhood experiences have taken their toll...and cause behavior that may threaten everything he's ever worked for.



This biopic of a controversial but dynamic figure is sure to wow fans of the King of Pop, still sadly missed by many.

Three years ago, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* made its debut. Now, everyone's favorite Italian-American plumbers return to animated life in *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie*, based on the Nintendo game Super Mario Galaxy and premiering April 1st!



Mario (Chris Pratt) and his brother Luigi have settled in the Mushroom Kingdom, traveling back and forth between it and Brooklyn where they grew up. They've become tight with many of the Kingdom's residents, including Princess Peach, the toadstool Toad, and the little dinosaur Yoshi. But their peaceful existence comes to a screeching halt when the palace is literally lifted from the earth with many of its inhabitants still in it. Naturally, the Koopas are behind it...the imprisoned King Bowser and his son, Bowser Jr., who started the whole ordeal in a bid to free his father. With Bowser freed and the pair rallying the Koopas, the brothers and their allies begin a quest into outer space to find the means of defeating their enemies. They receive help from Princess Rosalina and her charges the Lumas, starlike beings. But will all of this be enough to defeat the Koopa threat once and for all?

With colorful animation and tongue-in-cheek wittiness, this promises to be yet another fantastic visualization of the popular video game franchise.

The trend of new re-imaginings of classic Universal horror icons continues with horror maven Lee Cronin's new version of *The Mummy*, debuting April 17th.

It's every family's worst nightmare...the disappearance of a child with no clue as to what happened to them. That's the ordeal that journalist Charlie Cannon (Jack Reynor) undergoes when his young daughter Katie (Natalie Grace) vanishes on an excursion to Cairo, Egypt. The family spends eight years trying to pick up the pieces and move on...until they receive word from the American embassy in Egypt that Katie has been found. Charlie and his wife are overjoyed, but the doctor who's taken Katie into his care seems apprehensive, warning them that she is not the same and might react strangely to certain stimuli. She was found entombed in an ancient sarcophagus...and what has emerged might not be Katie anymore. Now, with his other loved ones threatened by this ancient evil, Charlie must face the question of whether his daughter can ever be brought back...and the terrible choice he may have to face to protect what's left of his family.



This terrifying take on Egyptian mummy lore strikes at the heart of some very human fears...as all good horror movies should.

Free Public Library of Monroe Township

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The Biblio-Files

In honor of National Library Week (April 19-25), enjoy some recent novels about people who can interact with books and their characters!

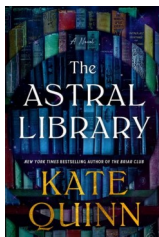
What if there was a special library that brought fictional characters to life? That's exactly what happens in Jennifer Moorman's *The Charmed Library*.

Stella Parker is an assistant librarian at the Blue Sky Valley Public Library in North Carolina. It's a good job, but Stella feels as though she's overqualified for it. However, with her personal life a shambles—her beloved father has recently died and her boyfriend dumped her—she's stumped as to where to go from here. She's also keeping a secret...words seem to act strangely to her, appearing in the air. Everything changes when she burns her diary...suddenly, the words she sees become more urgent. What's more, Jack Mathis, the hero of one of her favorite WWII historical novels, appears to her and explains that this library allows fictional characters to come to life. Stella tests this by summoning a villain from another story, raising the stakes. Now, she and Jack must set things right while also dealing with the fact that fictional characters have a time limit in the real world...all the more complicated now that the two have feelings for each other.



This delightful, fantastical romantic comedy is tailor-made for bibliophiles.

Up for another story about a magical library where you can interact with books? Look no further than Kate Quinn's *The Astral Library*.



After a rough childhood in foster care, Alix Watson has learned to trust books more than people. After all...books won't let you down. That's why, with little hope of being able to afford college, she takes refuge in the reading room of the Boston Public Library. But one day, she stumbles across a scenario right out of the fantasy novels she enjoys: a hidden doorway that leads to a hidden, parallel library. There, she meets the Librarian, a sharp-tongued guardian of this refuge where people can actually enter their favorite books. This sounds like a good prospect for Alix...but before she can do so, the Library comes under attack from an unknown enemy. Now, Alix and the Librarian—along with a handsome costume-shop owner who also loves the Library—must traverse the landscapes of various great books, from Sherlock Holmes' foggy London to *The Great Gatsby's* Jazz Age splendor, to defeat this adversary before they threaten this safe haven for the lost...and all those who need it.

This isn't just a love letter to classic literature...it's one to libraries themselves, and all the possibilities they offer for the lost and searching.

For our third novel about entering and interacting with books, we turn to Meg Shaffer, author of *The Wishing Game* and *The Lost Story*. With *The Book Witch*, out this month, she takes us to a world where a certain kind of witch can enter a book...but only under strict rules.

A third-generation book witch, Rainy March's job is to defend works of fiction...sometimes by fixing them from within. But there are rules for this work: one must never eat, drink, or sleep in these fictional worlds, since it's forbidden to become part of the story. Falling for a fictional character is even worse. Rainy's coven let her off with a warning when she developed feelings for the fictional detective The Duke of Chicago, with the proviso that seeing him again would mean expulsion. But when Rainy's grandfather vanishes, along with a priceless book, there's only one person she can turn to to solve the case: the Duke. As the two traverse the landscapes of classic literature in search of answers, Rainy must contend with her attraction to her hero while staying a step ahead of the coven that has threatened to strip her of her magic if she transgresses again.



If you've ever dreamed of getting (literally) lost in a book, join a character who can...and get lost in this one!