

## HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – October 9, 2023

Cider Mill School is a Community of Learners, ALL committed to being the best we can be.

### Important Dates

<b>Oct 9</b>	No School in Celebration of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day
<b>Oct 10</b>	No School for Students/Professional Learning for Teachers
<b>Oct 12</b>	Cider Mill Walkathon
<b>Oct 17</b>	PTA Meeting 9:15 am
<b>Oct 19</b>	BOE Meeting 7:00 pm
<b>Oct 19</b>	Halloween Bingo Night
<b>Oct 30</b>	Education-Focused Candidate Forum
<b>Oct 31</b>	Cider Mill Halloween Walk

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

Our annual Walkathon Fundraiser is fast approaching! This is the largest fundraiser that the Cider Mill PTA does each year and we aim to make it fun and festive for everyone involved! There will be bubbles, smoke, confetti, music, cheering parents, special moves from each class, and a surprise gift for all students who walk!

We are now three quarters of the way to our goal. We still need your help! Donations can be made by visiting <https://www.cidermillpta.org/walkathon2023>. The Cider Mill PTA thanks everyone who has donated and will donate.

Our Halloween-themed Bingo Night tickets are now on sale! Enjoy some rounds of Bingo along with some pizza, prizes, and some spooky fun. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.cidermillpta.org/spiritwear>.

We are also pleased to announce that our membership portal is now open. PTA memberships can be purchased which provide you with a vote on PTA issues and access to the school directory. Memberships can be purchased at: <https://cidermillpta.membershiptoolkit.com/>.

Our Picture Day was a great success, many thanks to all of the volunteers who came and helped our children look their best!

A reminder that there is no school on Monday and Tuesday this coming week. We hope everyone enjoys a great weekend!

Please see the links below for info that will be helpful this school year. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or issues at [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com) or [carolinehavlin@hotmail.com](mailto:carolinehavlin@hotmail.com).

Melissa Reynolds and Caroline Hoffman  
Cider Mill PTA Co-Presidents

### Helpful Links

#### Important and Helpful Links:

Cider Mill Contact Info: (203) 762-3351

CM Attendance: (203) 834-4950 or [cmattend@wiltonps.org](mailto:cmattend@wiltonps.org)

CM House

List: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNgLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4q9dolNY/edit>

CM Community Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1168962513117647/>

WPS Covid 19 Health and Safety

Protocols: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/2699/wps\\_covid\\_protocols\\_2022-23\\_school\\_opening.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/2699/wps_covid_protocols_2022-23_school_opening.pdf)

WPS Back to School Website: [https://www.wiltonps.org/342738\\_2](https://www.wiltonps.org/342738_2)

WPS 2023-24 School Calendar: [https://www.wiltonps.org/342735\\_2](https://www.wiltonps.org/342735_2)

CM Interactive Calendar: [https://www.wiltonps.org/576928\\_3](https://www.wiltonps.org/576928_3)

WPS App: Located in the Apple and Android app stores

Wilton BOE: [https://wiltonps.org/338734\\_2](https://wiltonps.org/338734_2)

Pay for CM Club/Activities Fee: [https://www.wiltonps.org/575955\\_3](https://www.wiltonps.org/575955_3)

Wilton PowerSchool Login: <https://wilton.powerschool.com/public/>

ParentSquare Information: [https://wiltonps.org/595543\\_3](https://wiltonps.org/595543_3)

Schoology Information: [https://wiltonps.org/576129\\_3](https://wiltonps.org/576129_3)

Special Bus Assignments: [https://wiltonps.org/579910\\_3](https://wiltonps.org/579910_3)

MySchoolBucks: <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain?requestAction=home>

School Lunch Menus: <https://wilton.nutrislice.com/menu/menus-eula>

Join Wilton SEPTA: <https://www.wiltonsepta.org/>

## School News

### **Cider Mill Walkathon**

**Our annual Walkathon Fundraiser is moving along!** We've made some great progress, but want to keep the momentum going in the right direction.

**On October 12 from 8:00 - 9:00 am, all Cider Mill students will not only walk the High School track, they will really MOVE!** They can jump, skip, hop, and more, along to the sounds of cheering parents, bubbles, smoke, music, and more!

The Walkathon is Cider Mill PTA's largest fundraiser of the year. This fundraiser helps us run programs such as:

Visiting Author  
Enrichment Programs  
Fun Nights  
5th Grade Yearbooks  
Gifts and Grants  
Teacher Appreciation  
AND SO MUCH MORE!

**BUT WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU.** Please consider donating here:  
<https://www.cidermillpta.org/walkathon2023>

And to show how much we appreciate your generosity, the first 100 donations of \$75 or more will receive a plush, Cider Mill Bee! Any donations over \$50 will be entered into a draw for a \$100 Orem's gift

card, and donations of \$200 or more will be entered into a draw to win a membership to the Bronx Zoo!

**The top fundraising class will be gifted Wild Child gift cards!**

And don't forget to show your house colors at the walk. Spirit Wear can be purchased here:  
[Spiritwear | cidermillpta](#)

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**AtoZ Connect**

Our new membership platform is now live! To sign up, please go to [Cider Mill PTA - Home Page \(membershiptoolkit.com\)](#). You can register here and then join the PTA by clicking on Join The PTA.

A Single Membership gives you directory access and one vote when voting on PTA issues. A Family Membership gives you directory access and two votes.

Through this platform we will provide a directory of students, sell tickets to events, sell spirit wear, and conduct surveys. All revenue goes to pay dues to the CTPTA and to support school events, grants, gifts, and more!

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**Cider Mill Spirit Wear On-Sale Online!**

If you didn't grab your **Cider Mill Spirit Wear** at Meet the Teacher or Open House, you can still purchase it online. All orders will be delivered to school for your child to pick up. Please see here to purchase: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/spiritwear>

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**Lost and Found**

Is your child missing a water bottle, a jacket, or a snack bag? A headband, a hat, or a fidget? If any of your child's belongings haven't made their way home, he or she can check the Lost and Found to try to recover them. They are located at the north entrance pickup near Cannondale and inside the door that faces the bus loop in Kent. Please note, however, that everything will be sorted through on October 19, so we encourage all students to look through the bins before then. And a great way to help out is by labelling your child's belongings using Mabel's Labels, where a percentage goes back to the PTA. Here is the link: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/mabel-s-labels>

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**Outdoor Learning Garden**

The Outdoor Learning Garden has had a facelift! Two hardworking groups of parent volunteers have given their time and green thumbs to completely transform this incredible space. The garden had become very overgrown and full of weeds, and work was needed to make it ready for students to plant, learn, and watch their minds and veggies grow. And now it looks fantastic! Check out these before and after pictures and see for yourself:





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### **ParentSquare**

Wilton Schools are now using Parent Square [www.parentsquare.com](http://www.parentsquare.com). This is a new platform to receive school communication (updates, newsletters, class info, etc.). Don't miss out on information!

Once you join, go to notifications, and pick a preference of ways you want to receive information - what method of communication (text, email, or both), and how often (instant, daily). Emergency Alert will override all preferences (ex. Snow Day) and will alert you by text and email instantly.

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### **Wilton SEPTA**

#### **Wilton SEPTA is looking for your help!**

Like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) to join for the 2023-2024 school year, for meeting dates, for volunteer and officer opportunities, and to stay updated with the latest news and information. In preparation for the upcoming PPT, annual meeting, and transition meeting season, we will be sharing planning and organizing tips with families on collaborating with school teams.

- We invite teachers to take advantage of our [gifts and grants](#) program
- Membership, Board, and Committee positions are open - it's not too late to join!
- We are seeking interested parents to help on our Community and Family Events Committee, including help for our April 2024 Diversity and Inclusion Awareness and Be Kind Campaign

Zoom link for all 2023-2024 meetings:

<https://wiltonps.zoom.us/j/91771706236>

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### **Wilton SEPTA Halloween Event**

**The Wilton SEPTA Halloween Sensory Friendly Touch a Truck and Treat event is back!** Open to all! Don't miss this super fun family event held at Town Hall with Wilton Police and Firefighters outside at 238 Danbury Road, Wilton CT on **Friday, October 27 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm**. Wear a costume or just come for the fun! Meet Wilton's amazing First Responders and Sparky the Fire dog, too. There will be fire trucks, police cars, ambulances, even a police ATV available to tour!

**Register here by October 23:**

<https://www.wiltonsepta.org/event-details/sensory-friendly-touch-a-truck-ntreat-halloween-fun>

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**Halloween BINGO Tickets ON SALE!**

Looking to add a bit of fun and spookiness to your Halloween? **Please join us for a night of Halloween-themed Bingo!**

On **October 19, at 6:30 pm**, the Cider Mill Gym will turn into a Halloween Haunt full of prizes, pizza, and maybe even a ghoul or two.

Tickets can be purchased [HERE!](#)

Adults are free, and this is a family event, not drop off. Please come in costume if you dare and be prepared to have a spooktacular good time!

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**Family Fun Event at the Bridgeport Islanders hockey game**

Join us for a Cider Mill School Family Fun Event at the Bridgeport Islanders AHL hockey game! **The game is on Sunday, November 5, at the Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport, and the puck drops at 3:00 pm.** This event is especially noteworthy for our 5th Grade Chorus who has been invited to sing the National Anthem prior to the game.

To purchase your discounted tickets, click on this link: <https://fevoqm.com/event/Cidermill>

We look forward to seeing all who can make it to the arena for this fun afternoon event. Feel free to contact Andrew Pearson ([pearsona@wiltonps.org](mailto:pearsona@wiltonps.org)) or Beth Bakst ([bakstb@wiltonps.org](mailto:bakstb@wiltonps.org)) with questions or concerns.

Thank you, as always, for your on-going support of our music program!

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**The CHET Dream Big! Competition**

The Dream Big! Competition is an exciting program offered by Connecticut’s Office of the Treasurer (OTT). **The competition gives Connecticut parents and guardians the opportunity to win money toward their child’s future education.** Participants are asked to submit an entry based on specific grade-level topics. Students can submit an original essay, video, or artwork (painting/drawing or illustration):

K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade: What is something you could do to make your community or neighborhood better?  
5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade: What is something you could do to make the lives of others better?

**New prizes for 2023:**

- 3 Grand Prize winners receive \$20,000 (one student from each age group)
- 24 winners receive \$6,000 (eight students from each age group)
- 336 winners receive \$500 (112 students from each age group)
- 10 randomly selected participating schools will win \$7,500 in tech equipment

To enter this competition and for official rules, go to: <https://www.fidelity.com/about-chet/dream-big-competition>. **All entries are due by November 5 by 5:00 pm.**

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**We are excited to announce the 17th Annual HRRR Recycling Billboard Contest!**

The theme this year is: **“Keep It Loose” Don’t Bag or Bundle Your Recycling!** Student’s artwork should encourage residents to NOT put their recycling in plastic bags or tie with a string. Regional Winners could win \$500, \$75, \$50 or \$25 prizes for their artwork!

**NEW!! FOUR Grand Prize Regional Winners!**

One Grand Prize winner in each of the following categories will receive \$500.

- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

Students can visit <https://hrra.org/annual-billboard-contest/> for a complete list of rules, to print a template, as well as get [information on why this theme is so important!](#)

**Original artwork should be submitted by November 15**, in the collection box located in each schools' lobby or the vestibule at Town Hall starting mid-October.

We are excited to see the inspiring messages our students create this year!

Questions? Email our Town Coordinator, Tammy Thornton, at [tammy@wiltongogreen.org](mailto:tammy@wiltongogreen.org).

**Community News**

**The Turnover Shop**

The Turnover Shop is a great Wilton resource when looking to reuse or donate items you no longer need. They run on volunteers and sell by donations or consignment. Many of our lost and found items end up at the Turnover Shop at the end of terms! Please check them out at <https://turnovershopwilton.org/>

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**YB Taekwondo**

YB Taekwondo was just added as a bus stop for Cider Mill this year!! It's a great option for parents looking for an after-school activity (**Tuesdays and Thursdays until 4:00 pm**). Please see the link to find out more and register! [www.ybworldtkd.com](http://www.ybworldtkd.com)

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**Ambler Farm**

The fall brings family fun and frights to Ambler Farm! Here's what's coming up:

**Fright Night:**

Creepy sights and mysterious sounds abound when the moon rises at Ambler Farm. Join us for a not-too-frightful evening of spooky stories, a haunted hayride, and some sweet treats. This is a drop off program for children in grades 3rd-5th. **Enrollment is limited, advance registration required.**

Choose from one of four nights each running from **6:00 - 8:00 pm!** Please note that parents/guardians may only sign up their OWN child(ren). Parents cannot sign up other children. Children are not permitted to wear costumes. This fun evening sells out quickly. Become a member to take advantage of securing a spot for your child now.

**Dates: Fridays, October 20 and 27, Saturdays, October 21 and 28;** cost is \$35/child.

Registration is now open to both Members AND Non-members, subject to availability. Please click on the following link to register your child(ren) or create your account and join the Ambler Farm family: [https://amblerfarm.campmanagement.com/p/campers/login\\_m.php](https://amblerfarm.campmanagement.com/p/campers/login_m.php)

Please email [Kevin Meehan](mailto:Kevin Meehan) with any questions.

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## Woodcock Nature Center

The Woodcock Nature Center has something for everyone this fall! Here's what's happening:

### "Planting Party":

**Tuesday, October 10 from 11:15 am – 1:00 pm**

Woodcock is having a party... a "planting party"! Help us as we set some sensory plants in our new playground garden beds. Explore our lush pollinator garden and learn about pollinators as you collect some seeds. Make a tin can bumble bee craft to bring home or leave at Woodcock. You can even stop in the nature center to say 'hello' to Woodcock's ambassador animals. And don't forget your party favor so your planting fun can continue at home!

All ages welcome. Must be accompanied by an adult. 56 Deer Run Road, Wilton. This event is FREE, but registration is requested at [woodcocknaturecenter.org/events](http://woodcocknaturecenter.org/events).

### After School Programs:

#### Navigators

Dive headfirst into nature and explore your fascination with the natural world! Through hiking, animal encounters, nature activities, and more, we'll enhance our understanding of nature as we appreciate and enjoy precious time spent outdoors! Learning will be guided by our observations as we play and explore.

**Tuesdays, 4:15 - 5:45 pm through October 24**

#### Earth Artists

Do you love nature and art? Join the Earth Artists!

Each week we will create art projects inspired by animals and nature (and sometimes made from nature too!). **Wednesdays, 4:15 - 5:45 pm through October 25**

Register here: [3-5 Afterschool | Woodcock Nature Center](#)

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## Wilton Historical Society

### Great Wilton Pumpkin Fest:

**The 3rd Annual Great Wilton Pumpkin Fest will take place on Saturday, October 14 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm.** It's fun for all ages with all things pumpkin! Play fall themed lawn games such as pumpkin bowling or pumpkin tic-tac-toe, join costumed colonial docents as they cook over an open hearth, weave on reproduction colonial looms, or hammer away in the blacksmith's forge, all while munching on complimentary cider and donuts. Visitors can also pick up their very own pumpkin to bring home! Browse the pumpkin patch of the Wilton Kiwanis club on the Society's front lawn and purchase the perfect one. Then head over to the pumpkin decorating station and put your creativity on display. Kiwanis will also have small gourds and mums on sale to help fill out your personal harvest display. New this year, explore and complete a scavenger hunt for hidden items and images scattered across the Society's grounds!

Wilton Historical Society members are free; non-members \$5 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by purchasing ahead of time at <https://wiltonhistorical.org/events/event/the-3rd-annual-great-wilton-pumpkin-fest/> or by calling 203-762-7257.

### Scarecrow Making Workshop:

**The Wilton Historical Society is offering a scarecrow making workshop on Saturday, October 21 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm.** Participants will assemble miniature scarecrows using hay, burlap, felt, and yarn while Museum Educator Catherine Lipper talks about their history and popularity.

Register here: [scarecrow making workshop](#)

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**Wilton Youth Council**

Wilton Youth Council offers the following upcoming programs:

**Wilton Youth Council presents Coffee - Community - Conversation.** Building relationships leads to less stress, a greater sense of self and healthier behaviors. Grab a cup of coffee and come meet some fellow Wilton residents, ask (and answer!) questions, and help build community during this informal opportunity for connection! No registration required.

**Friday, October 13 from 9:30 - 10:30 am**

Tusk & Cup, Wilton (located at 142 Danbury Road)

**Saturday, November 11 from 9:30 - 10:30 am**

Nova Café, Wilton (located at 200 Danbury Road)

**Author Talk: "Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic - and What We Can Do About It" with Jennifer Wallace**

**October 17 at 7:00 pm**

Wilton Library

In the ever more competitive race to secure the best possible future, today's students face unprecedented pressure to succeed. Their schedules are packed with AP classes and resume-padding activities, while family resources are stretched to a breaking point by tutoring fees and athletic schedules. Yet this drive to optimize performance has only resulted in skyrocketing rates of anxiety, depression, and even self-harm in America's highest achieving schools. It does not need to be this way.

Join us for a discussion led by Susan Bauerfeld PhD, with award-winning reporter Jennifer Breheny Wallace, on the deep roots of toxic achievement culture, and what we must do to fight back. Through deep research, some of which was conducted here in Wilton and highlights our local youth activists, Wallace reveals what kids need from adults is not more pressure, but to feel like they matter.

Jennifer B. Wallace is an award-winning reporter, social commentator and author. She frequently contributes to The Wall Street Journal and Washington Post. To learn more about this important topic visit: [www.jenniferbwallace.com](http://www.jenniferbwallace.com)

This program is brought to you by [Wilton Library](#), [Wilton Youth Council](#), [Susan Bauerfeld](#), and [Thrive with a Guide](#).

Register at <https://wiltonlibrary.evanced.info/signup/calendar?df=calendar>.

**A follow-up book discussion group with Wilton Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Smith, will be held on Thursday, October 26, 10:00 - 11:30 am** at Comstock Community Center. Stay tuned for registration information at [Wilton Youth Council](#).

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**Wilton Chamber of Commerce**

In partnership with ASML and the Town of Wilton, **the Wilton Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce the return of the much-anticipated Pumpkin Parade and Trick or Treating in Wilton Center on Saturday, October 28 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm!**

With the support of our event sponsor, ASML, all are invited to dress up and don their Halloween best as they gather treats throughout Wilton Center. Join us for some frightful fun and gather at the gazebo as we feature *spooktacular* interactive games and activities for the whole family this year!

Enjoy some howling good music with our band and plenty of entertainment as the Town Green and Wilton Center is transformed into a (not so) scary gathering place, featuring our participating local businesses and non-profit organizations as they hand out sweet treats for the ghouls, goblins, prince and princesses trick or treating that afternoon!

This is a RAIN or SHINE event.

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**Education-Focused Candidate Forum**

On behalf of the Miller-Driscoll PTA, Cider Mill PTA, Middlebrook PTA, WHS PTSA and SEPTA:

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Education-Focused Candidate Forum**  
**Monday, October 30, 7:30 - 9:30 PM**  
**Clune Auditorium, Wilton High School**  
**Livestream Link Forthcoming**

Come hear candidates for the Boards of Education, Finance, and Selectpersons respond to education-focused questions. All candidates running for these three boards are invited to attend.

To submit questions for the candidates, please submit suggestions via this [Google Form](#) by Sunday, October 22. Not all submitted questions will be used. Find out more information about the candidates and their platforms via:

[Good Morning Wilton Election Coverage](#)  
[Wilton Democrats](#)  
[Wilton Republicans](#)  
[Sara Sclafani \(Independent\)](#)

**There are also two candidate debates/forums, held at the Wilton Library, that will cover a broad range of issues and topics.** These two events are sponsored by the Wilton League of Women Voters, Wilton Library, and Good Morning Wilton.

**Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 - 8:30 PM**, Board of Education, [Registration](#)  
**Thursday, October 26, 7:00 - 8:30 PM**, Boards of Finance and Selectmen, [Registration](#)

To check your voter registration status [click here](#).  
To learn about how to register to vote [click here](#).

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**Improve Your Academics**

All Wilton School District students can receive tutoring at no cost. All tutors are fellow Wilton High School students.

Please fill out this [FORM](#) if you need help in any subject. For more information, please visit our [WEBSITE](#). **Tutoring available in person and virtually for grades 6+, virtually only for 3rd-5th graders.**

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**IvyMath**

**Is Your Child on Track in Math?**

<https://ivymath.com/> is providing all Cider Mill families with a free online math tutoring session and an in-depth parent conference to discuss your child's strengths and weaknesses and how they compare to grade level. IvyMath will also create a custom learning plan that maps out the exact areas your child should be focusing on in math. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions, and understand what your child needs to feel confident and stay on track in math this year. The IvyMath tutoring session, parent conference, and learning plan are free for all Cider Mill families. Popular times fill up, so please register quickly! **Signup now at: [IvyMath.com/Boost](https://ivymath.com/Boost)**

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## **NAMI-CAN WILTON**

School is back in session and for many children, so are the academic and social stresses that can cause behavioral changes. **The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Child and Adolescent Network (CAN)** is a Support Group for parents of children with behavioral, emotional, and mental health issues.

The meeting is free, confidential, safe, and led by trained volunteer facilitators who themselves have had personal experiences raising children with these concerns. Our meetings are a place to speak freely, find resources and be understood without embarrassment or the fear of being judged or treated differently. Parents come from Redding, Weston, Westport, Wilton, and towns in the surrounding area. <https://namisouthwestct.org>

Our remaining fall meeting is **Monday November 6 over zoom from 10:00 - 11:30 am.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83775421936>

Meeting ID: 837 7542 1936

For the password and more information: Beth at 203-984-0123 or [beth44es@gmail.com](mailto:beth44es@gmail.com) OR Vanessa at 203-970-4130 or [eliasvanessa5@gmail.com](mailto:eliasvanessa5@gmail.com).

**Submit News to Hot Cider**

Danielle Michalisin at [micdch72@gmail.com](mailto:micdch72@gmail.com)

Melissa Reynolds at [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com)

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is October 19, 2023.

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*Content may be edited at the discretion of editors. To keep Hot Cider timely and concise, your article may be published only twice.*