

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – September 23, 2024

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

Important Dates

Sept 23	Open House – Nod Hill/Cannondale, 6:15 – 7:30 pm
Sept 23	So Long to Summer (Dress in Summer attire or something from a place you visited)
Sept 25	School Photo Day
Oct 1	PTA Scott Driscoll Parent Internet Safety Presentation, 6:30 pm
Oct 2	Shortened Day/Early Dismissal, 12:00 pm – Professional Development
Oct 3	Rosh Hashanah – NO SCHOOL, Offices Closed
Oct 4	Super Spirit Day
Oct 8	PTA Meeting, multipurpose room and Zoom, 9:15 am
Oct 10	BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm, WHS Professional Library
Oct 18	PTA Halloween Trivia Night
Oct 21-25	Zero Waste Week
Oct 27	Harlem Wizards vs. WPS Teachers
Oct 31	Halloween Parade/Walkathon

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

We're already a month into the school year, and we hope everyone has had a great start!

Last week, we celebrated Sandy Hook's Promise "**Start with Hello**" program, where students were greeted on Monday morning by music and community members, WHS cheerleaders and football players, firefighters, police officers, and our dedicated staff. It was a fantastic way to kick off the week with kindness and connection!

Photo Day – Wednesday, September 25th

Photo Day is just around the corner! Get ready for individual and class pictures on Wednesday, September 25th. Bring your best smiles for the camera! A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help out this year!

PTA Membership Open for 2024-2025

PTA membership is now open! Join for \$25 per person or \$35 for a family membership. Your involvement helps us bring fantastic programs and events to our students.

Upcoming Events

We have a lot of exciting events coming up this fall, including an Internet Safety Presentation with Scott Driscoll, Super Spirit Day, Outdoor Movie Night, and Halloween Trivia Night. Look for more details below!

Thank you to everyone who has helped get this school year off to an amazing start. We're thrilled about all the great things happening this fall and look forward to seeing you at these events!

Please stay tuned for more emails and information as the year moves along. Again, we thank everyone for their support in all the PTA does. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com or cathleenfareed@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Melissa Reynolds, President
Cathleen Fareed, President-Elect

Helpful Links

Important and Helpful Links:

Cider Mill Contact Info: (203) 762-3351

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

CM House

List: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNgLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4q9doINy/edit>

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

WPS Covid 19 Health and Safety

Protocols: https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/2699/wps_covid_protocols_2022-23_school_opening.pdf

WPS Back to School Website: https://www.wiltonps.org/342738_2

WPS 2024-25 School Calendar: https://www.wiltonps.org/342735_2

CM Interactive Calendar: https://www.wiltonps.org/576928_3

WPS App: Located in the Apple and Android app stores

Wilton BOE: https://wiltonps.org/338734_2

Pay for CM Club/Activities Fee: https://www.wiltonps.org/575955_3

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

ParentSquare Information: https://wiltonps.org/595543_3

Schoology Information: https://wiltonps.org/576129_3

Special Bus Assignments: 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

Scott Driscoll Parent Presentation - 10/1

Internet Safety Night with Scott Driscoll at the Little Theater at Wilton High School! Join us **Tuesday, October 1st, at 6:30 PM** or tune in via Zoom. This will follow the presentation he is doing for 4th and 5th grade on the same day.

RSVP link

here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf671tQy8I5KPI46H8Fj08K5IkNHxNycrlwLL3jtwOZYI26w/viewform?usp=sf_link



Movie Night - Haunted Mansion - 10/4



Join us for an outdoor movie night on **Saturday, October 5th, at 7 PM at Comstock Community Center**. Come early at 6:30 PM to get set up. Popcorn and drinks will be available! \$15 per student, parents are free. **This is not a drop-off event**. Need financial help? Reach out to the PTA!

Tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/product-page/10-5-outdoor-movie-night>

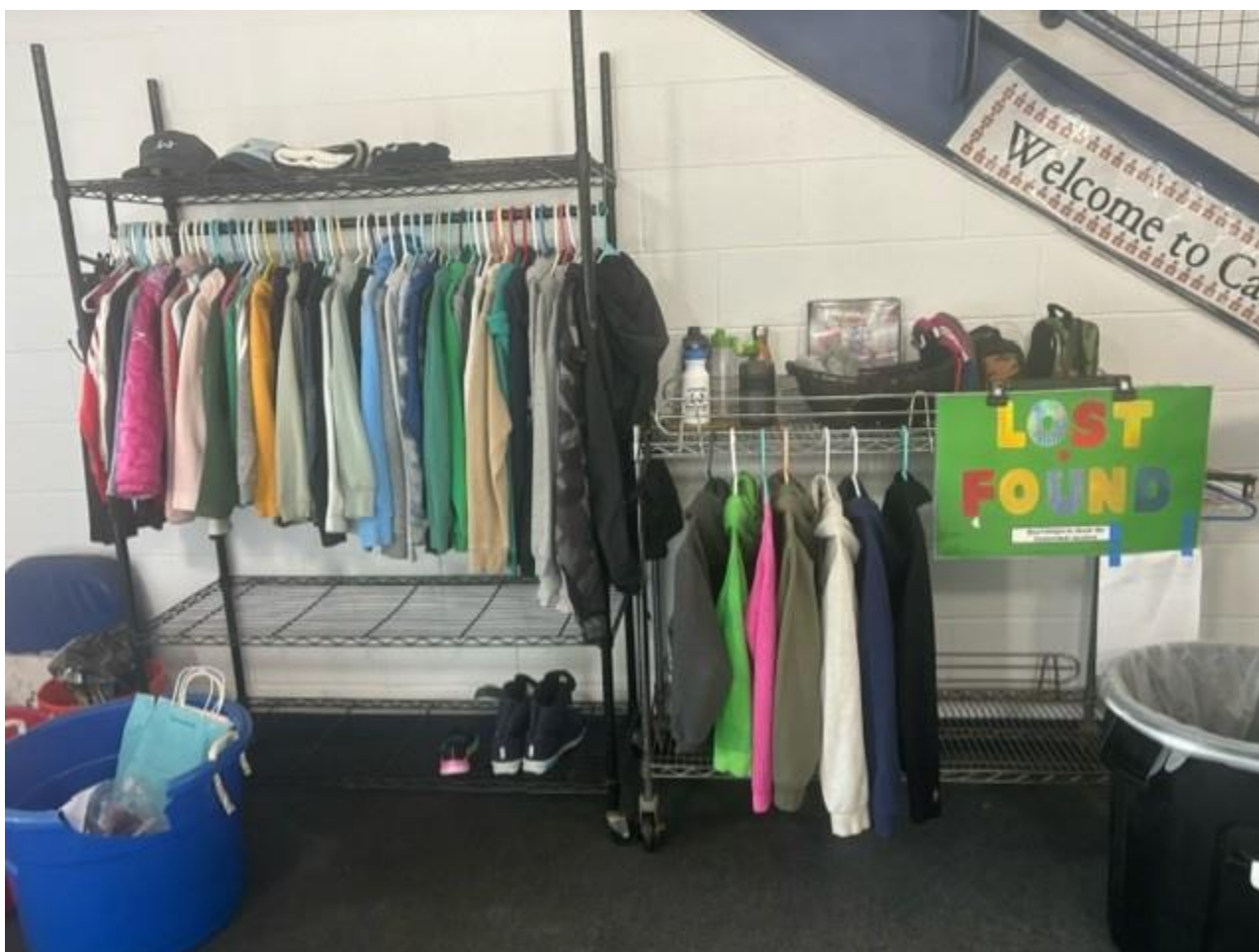
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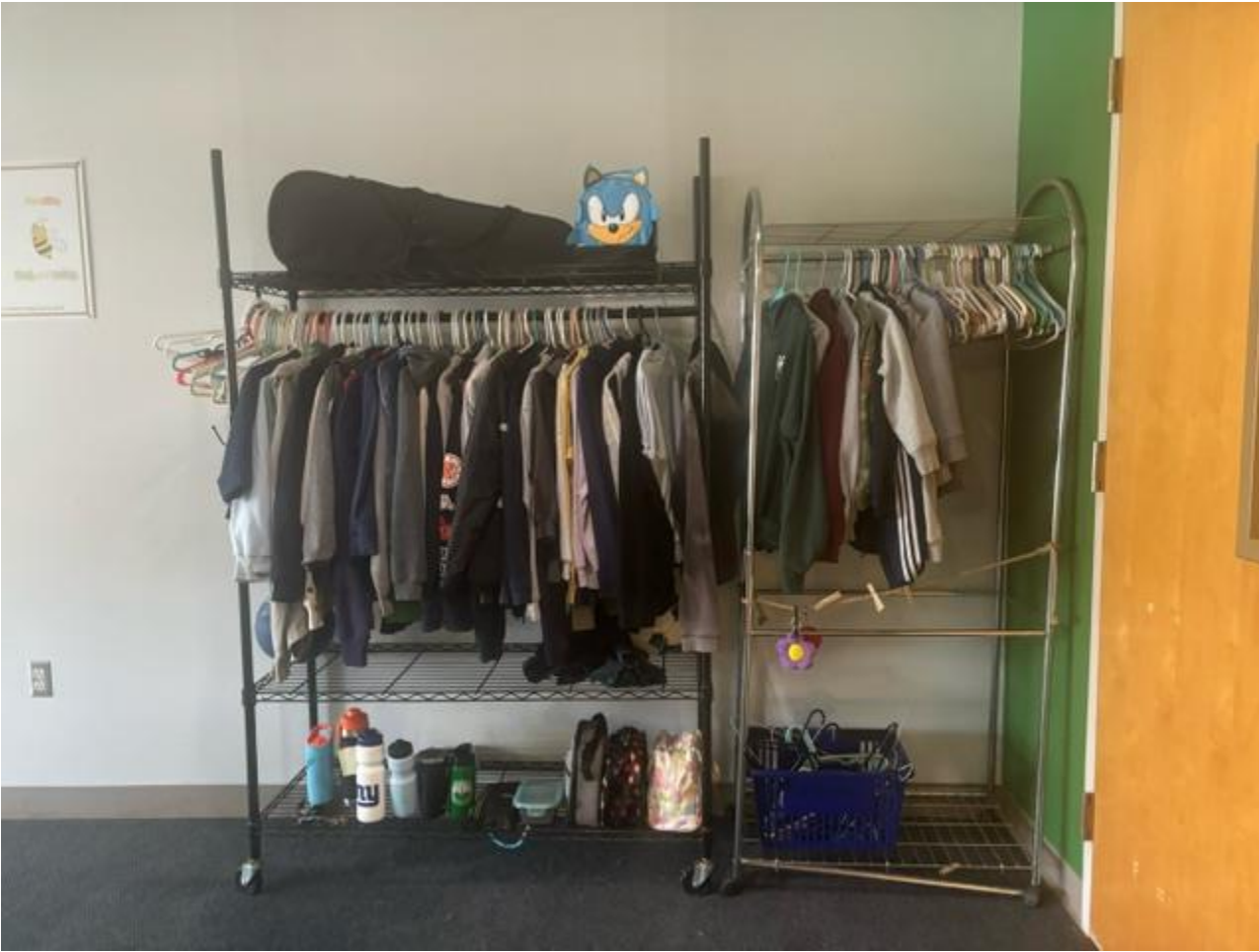
Halloween Trivia Night - 10/5

Get your spooky smarts ready for Halloween Trivia Night on **Friday, October 18th, at 6 PM** in the Cider Mill Cafeteria. Tickets coming soon!

Lost and Found

Our lost and found is already overflowing! Please check the racks in the lobby during Open House on Monday night, have your children look during the school day, or stop in!





Middlebrook Science Fair Helper

Love science? Help make the fair amazing! We need someone to shadow the Science Fair chair this year at Middlebrook and take over next year. It's fun, the kids love it, and it's all after school and evening work. Contact Cathleen Fareed or Melissa Reynolds to learn more.

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Lunch Monitor Wanted

Help out in the cafeteria! We need a lunch monitor on full school days from 9:45 AM to 1:15 PM. Pay is \$17/hour. Contact Jeremy Cross (crossj@wiltonps.org) for more info!

Teacher Photocopying Aides Needed!

We need your support to keep things running smoothly! We're looking for volunteers to help make copies for our teachers and staff on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 – 10:00 am. If you can spare an hour of your time, please sign up using the link below. Your assistance is greatly appreciated and makes a big difference!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D49AEAF28A5FB6-51225341-cider#/>

Thank you for considering this opportunity to help our school community!

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School Picture Day - 9/25

Picture day is coming up on **Wednesday, September 25th**. Get those smiles ready! We are excited to announce that class photos will now be available to all students, free of charge! Pre-order individual pictures using the link: [Picture Day is 9/25! Order Pictures at "my.lifetouch.com" with the Event Code: EVTPK4P26](https://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch/#/pictureDayId/EVTPK4P26)

(<https://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch/#/pictureDayId/EVTPK4P26>)

Thank you for your support in making Photo Day memorable!

AtoZ Connect

PTA Membership and Directory ARE LIVE!

Our Membership Portal is now live and ready to accept members for the 2024/2025 school year!

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!

Sign up now! <https://cidermillpta.membershiptoolkit.com/story/364235>

Cider Mill Spiritwear

Get into the “spirit” and snag your Cider Mill swag! New solid color house shirts are now available as well.

PROOF

September 6, 2024 • 1:45 PM

Cider Mill School - Port & Co PC54Y Short Sleeve - Image approx. 8" w



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CIDER MILL - SPIRITWEAR

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www.cidermillpta.org**



****NEW PRICE**
CM Bee Plush
\$10**

**HOUSE COLOR TEE SHIRTS - \$20
Limited supplies available**

***NEW* Stock
Coming
Soon**

ParentSquare

Wilton Schools will continue to use the Parent Square platform www.parentsquare.com to facilitate school communication (updates, newsletters, class info, etc.). Don't miss out on any 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.

The CM Green Team is Back in Action!

Your CM Green Team is here to remind all of our families of simple easy ways to reduce waste when packing school snacks and lunches!

Did you know?

PACKING A WASTE FREE LUNCH/SNACK:

SAVES MONEY! Packing a reusable lunch and snack instead of disposables can save families over \$400 per student per school year.

BETTER FOR THE EARTH! Life cycle analyses show that reusables have significantly less environmental impacts than single-use disposables, including energy use and air pollution.

CUTS WASTE! Every year the average student tosses 67 pounds of packaging and 39 lbs of uneaten food. Lunch in reusable containers could save over 58 million pounds of trash statewide that we pay to haul and burn.

Questions? Please email Tammy and Denise at tammythornton1112@gmail.com and dee0128@gmail.com.



Wilton SEPTA

The Wilton SEPTA's mission is to build compassionate, trusting, and collaborative relationships with all members of our schools and community. We strive to ensure that the diversity of all children receiving Special Education and related services will be supported, celebrated and socially embraced. Collectively, we will work to increase access to resources, empowering every child with the opportunity and inspiration to thrive.

Like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) to join for the 2024-2025 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. Please stay tuned!

Community News

Wilton Youth Council

Throughout the coming year, **Wilton Youth Council will offer Parent Programs on timely and relevant topics such as a community event on Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 pm at the YMCA** to talk about issues facing our children and teens today. We will have a panel of speakers who work directly with our kids, talk about what they see as challenges and give parents insight on how we can best support our young people. The panel will be followed by a resource fair.

On Wednesday, October 23 WYC will partner with the Wilton Library to offer a presentation on Gambling and Addiction.

If you have questions or would like to get involved in [Wilton Youth Council](#), email Chandra Ring at cring@wiltonyouth.org. Stay tuned for more information about community events, parenting groups and programs on healthy families, building connections, transitions, and more!

Wilton Education Foundation

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to help out at the Harlem Wizards game and other events! If interested, please contact Jen Carvajal Jencarv@hotmail.com or join us at our next Board Meeting on **Nov. 21st!**

The Harlem Wizards are Coming to Wilton!

The Harlem Wizards will face our very own WPS teachers and staff in an epic showdown! All proceeds will benefit Wilton Public Schools through Wilton Education Foundation grants. **Tickets are currently on sale.** You won't want to miss this inaugural event!

Date: Sunday, October 27

Time: 4:00 pm

Place: WHS Zeoli Fieldhouse

Tickets Link:

<https://pretix.eu/harlemwizards/wiltonct10-27-24-04-00pm/>



Woodcock Nature Center

Registration is now open for the following fall programs for Grades 3 – 5:

Earth Artists

Each week we will create art projects inspired by animals and nature. Projects will often be made from natural or upcycled materials too!

Limited to 10 students.

Dates: Wednesdays, September 11 – October 23

Time: 4:15 – 5:45 pm

Cost: \$260 (7 classes)

Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

Earth Keepers

Each week we will learn about a different sustainability inspired topics and find ways to incorporate our newfound knowledge into our own lives! Using interactive games, activities, and art projects, we will learn how to make a difference.

Limited to 10 students.

Dates: Thursdays, September 12 – October 24

Time: 4:15 – 5:45 pm

Cost: \$260 (7 classes)

Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

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 explore.

Limited to 10 students.

Dates: Fridays, September 13 – October 25

Time: 4:15 – 5:45 pm

Cost: \$260 (7 classes)

Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

One Day Only

Nighttime Wonders – Moth Madness

In this special after dark drop-off program, we will uncover the wonderful world of moths! Many of these primarily nocturnal insect species are seldom seen and underappreciated for their strikingly beautiful patterns and interesting range of adaptations and behaviors. Educators will lead students in visiting light traps and baited trees which will attract different moth species.

Limited to 12 students.

Date: Friday, September 13

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Cost: \$45

Grades: 5th and 6th

Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

Minecraft vs. Nature

This drop off program will be all about the massively popular game Minecraft and the environment. Join us to compare the world of Minecraft to real life nature! Students will go for a hike to learn about the biomes on our property, create a pixel art craft, and meet some resident animals that are similar to those you can find in Minecraft!

Limited to 12 students.

Date: Saturday, October 12

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Cost: \$45
Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

Shelter Builders

In this drop-off program for students in grades 3 - 5, we will learn to build shelters using materials that nature provides! We'll gather everything we need, find an ideal place, and construct a temporary shelter that provides protection from the elements. Students will be able to test the effectiveness of their work by getting inside their shelter while educators shower the roof with water!

Limited to 12 students.

Date: Saturday, November 2
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Cost: \$45
Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

Ambler Farm

Ambler Farm Day

Families from Wilton and beyond descend upon the farm for our most pinnacle event of the year; a fall festival for all ages! We offer live music, food trucks, sweets and treats, as well as an array of activities to commemorate fall that the entire family will enjoy. Fan favorites include the Apple Slingshot, Haymaze, Build-Your-Own Scarecrow, Pumpkin Patch, Dunk-A-Local Celebrity and more! Check out the amblerfarm.org website for more info. We depend on adult volunteers to help out with this fun event! Please [sign up here](#) and enjoy the day with your family at the Farm! Reach out to laura@amblerfarm.org or amy@amblerfarm.org with any questions.

Date: Sunday, October 6
Time: 12:00 – 4:00 pm

Fright Nights

This is a drop off program for children in grades 3 – 5. 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. Choose from one of four nights! Enrollment is limited, advance registration required. Check out amblerfarm.org for more information, and registration is coming mid-September. You may also reach out to info@amblerfarm.org with any questions.

Dates: Fridays, October 18 and 25, Saturdays, October 19 and 26
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

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/>.

IvyMath

Is Your Child on Track in Math?

[IvyMath](#) 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**

Wilton NAMI-CAN: Free Parent Support Group

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.

Website: <https://namisouthwestct.org>

Fall Meeting Dates: Mondays, October 7, November 4, and December 2

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 am

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81998029176>

Meeting ID: 819 9802 9176

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

Submit News to Hot Cider

Danielle Michalisin at micdch72@gmail.com

Melissa Reynolds at giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is October 3, 2024. The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on October 7, 2024.

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