

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Mill Neck's Fall Harvest Festival
Traditions Old and New Arrive on October 11 and 12

After five decades, Mill Neck Family's Fall Harvest Festival continues to draw tens of thousands of returning visitors and new friends too. See what it's all about by joining us this year on October 11 and 12, from 9 am to 5 pm. Located on the grounds of a historic Gold Coast estate between Oyster Bay and Bayville, the Festival, also known as "Apple Sale," has something for everyone!

Visitors to Mill Neck's beautiful 86-acre campus will find a wide variety of foods, like specialty cheeses (including some exciting new additions this year), assorted baked goods, jellies, fudge and strudels. Roasted corn, always a favorite, will be available along with other seasonal produce and jewel-toned mums. The "Country Store" will stock a full line of meats, and of course, there will be plenty of New York State apples.

Aside from food, the Festival hosts numerous children's activities and games, like balloon art, exploring the pumpkin patch and facepainting. Hand-crafted merchandise from a number of vendors will be featured, offering items from jewelry and decorative wood items to holiday crafts and clothing. Many of these vendors have returned to the Festival year after year.

While many repeat visitors to the Festival have fond memories of traditions past, each year we strive to introduce a little something new. For this year's Festival, we're pleased to announce that Sean Forbes, an exciting hip hop artist, will be joining us. Forbes, who is Deaf, will take the stage on Saturday at 2 pm. His debut EP/music video, titled "I'm Deaf," was released in 2010 and includes the catchy, Latin-influenced "Let's Mambo."

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The Festival also showcases the latest in Deaf technology and sign language novelty items and will again feature a free hearing testing van on Saturday. In addition to the hearing testing van, medical students from Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine will be on hand Saturday as well to conduct free health screenings, including blood pressure checks, smoking cessation counseling and BMI measurement. They will be available between 11 am to 3 pm.

Finally, don't forget to take a chance on our popular 50/50 raffle. Tickets are only \$10 each, and the winner, picked on Sunday at 3 pm, receives half the net profit of money collected. Over the years, winners have taken home over \$10,000!

The Festival has come to mean so much, to so many, especially members of the Mill Neck Manor alumni who look forward to their "homecoming" at the Fall Harvest Festival. They're joined by a large number of other participants who are Deaf or hard of hearing, making the venue one of the biggest gatherings from among the entire Long Island Deaf community.

The annual Fall Festival owes its continued success to the vast network of dedicated volunteers and support from civic groups, students, alumni and parents. In addition, local businesses contribute to the Festival by providing donations, services or products. For sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at www.millneck.org or email info@millneck.org.

Proceeds from the Festival benefit the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, which includes Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, founded in 1947 by Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, the Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center, Mill Neck Services, Mill Neck Interpreter Service, Mill Neck Audiology and Lutheran Friends of the Deaf. Please join the Mill Neck Family at this delightful weekend of food and festivities.

Photo(s) Caption:

Since the first "official" Apple Sale began in 1961, apples have been plentiful at Mill Neck Manor, the first ones gathered from the previously existing orchards. Today's Festival has grown to include many other items and activities too.

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