

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Mill Neck's Fall Harvest Festival
Fresh Apples and Some Wooden Ones, Too!

To those familiar with the Mill Neck Family's long-running Fall Harvest Festival, it's the place to find plentiful varieties of New York State apples. At this year's Festival on October 12 and 13, West Virginia resident and acclaimed woodworking craftsman Ervin Jones will be on hand, along with the unique wooden apples he's created especially for "Apple Fest." Additional pieces by Jones will be available for sale and the artisan will be demonstrating his woodturning skills as well.

Retired after 34 years with the US Postal Service, Jones is largely self-taught in his craft. Regarding his passion for wood crafting, Jones credits the enjoyment he derives from working with his hands, particularly when using wood. He specializes in lathe woodturning and uses both native and exotic hardwoods. Before branching out into creating the decorative bowls, cowboy hats, birdhouses and other ornaments that make up his body of work today, Jones's love of working with wood led him to begin crafting furniture. Many of his creations fill the home he shares with his wife, Susie.

Jones creates his works of art at a shop near his home. He uses native wood for most of his work, only incorporating exotic woods to highlight colors and textures in segmented pieces. His wood pieces are featured in galleries and boutiques throughout West Virginia, as well as the Huntington (West Virginia) Museum of Art. For a look at more of Jones's creations, go to www.facebook.com/pages/Ervin-Jones-Woodworking.

Jones is also the recipient of a number of awards and achievements, among them, a segmented bowl selected by MiAppa (Made in Appalachia) gallery officials for presentation to Landau Eugene Murphy, winner of *America's Got Talent*, 2012; segmented bowls, ornaments and other wood pieces selected for inclusion in the "Turning Wood Into Art" exhibit at the Huntington

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Museum of Art, Huntington, WV, 2011; and Mountaineer Woodturners of West Virginia Club Challenge Award, 2008.

So, when you make your way to the Festival this year, be sure to say hi to Ervin Jones and see his art up close. You'll be joining the thousands of anticipated visitors, including Mill Neck alumni and many from Long Island's Deaf community, for a weekend of food and fun. Held on Mill Neck's beautiful 86-acre grounds, located between Oyster Bay and Bayville, the Festival features baked goods, cheeses, grilled fare and seasonal produce, a 50/50 raffle, assorted children's activities and a number of vendors offering hand-crafted merchandise.

Proceeds from the Festival benefit the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, which includes Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, the Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center and Mill Neck Services for Deaf Adults. For more information about the Festival, please call 516-628-4231 or visit our website at www.millneck.org.

Photo Captions:

1. Ervin Jones sporting one of his signature cowboy hats.
2. Wooden apples Jones created specifically for Mill Neck's Fall Harvest Festival.
3. This bowl, along with several other new pieces, was made for "Apple Fest."
4. A shop showcases a variety of Jones's wood creations.

Credit: All photos courtesy of Ervin Jones

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