

# COMPASS

*Your Guide to Tri-State Events*

October 14, 2021

*plus*  
Tri-State  
Calendar  
of Events



PHOTO BY LEO KULINSKI JR.

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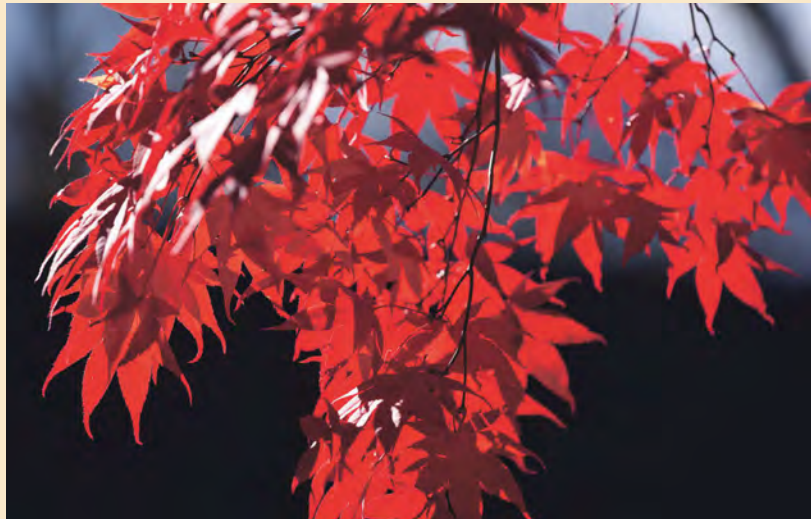


PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

## COMPASS

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### MEN'S FASHION: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

# How to Navigate Sweater Weather Without Breaking a Sweat

I have a lot of sweaters, and they all get worn under different circumstances.

First thing you need to decide: Am I going to wear a sweater under a sport coat? As a stand-alone garment, or under some type of coat?

Second thing: Do I have the physique for a thinnish, clinging sweater?

The advantages of wearing a sweater under a sport coat are numerous. It's warmer. If you overheat, you can remove a layer. With a crewneck, you can wear a tie. With a V-neck, you can wear a tie and people can see it.

The disadvantages are obvious. Modern enlightened thought holds that the human body must be gently poached at an average inside temperature of 72 degrees in winter. It's in the Constitution.

Therefore, when Sam the Sweater Man comes into the coffee shop after a brisk walk, he immediately breaks out in a sweat. And after he obtains his cappaffrappacino with heritage whipped cream and four extra shots of caffeine extract, he steps outside again and turns into an icicle. He then concludes

*Continued on page 4*

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## ... sweaters

*continued from page 3*

he has COVID-19 (delta variant) and sequesters himself inside until March. And so the long day wears on.

So let's consider the big bulky sweater. The kind that fits under some kind of coat, if it's snowing, or is worn as the primary outer garment, if sunny.

The classic here is the L.L. Bean Norwegian sweater. You've seen it a million times in its navy blue with white thingies variant. Sometimes it's offered in different color schemes.

Or you can go with the sort of thing usually marketed as a "fisherman's sweater." These are generally a looser weave than the Norwegian, which can be good if you're moving around a lot.

On the thinner side of the equation, there's an outfit called Naadam



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

that sells a cashmere sweater for 75 bucks. I have examined these in person. They look and feel right. The fabric tag says "100% cashmere." It also reads "Made in China," which is hard to avoid and is not, shall we

say, a particularly robust guarantee of quality.

Since I enjoy a physique kindly described as "sturdy," I tend to avoid the clingy cashmere. And as I often wear tweed jackets, the bulky sweater is out because they are too big to get the jacket over.

Over the years I have found a way. L.L. Bean's washable lamb-wool sweaters are thick enough to smooth out the peaks and valleys of middle age, and thin enough to fit under a sport coat.

Notice I am avoiding sweaters with buttons. This is because at age 59, I am not yet ready for the Full Fred Rogers.

Availability is a problem in fall 2021. The same pandemic-related forces that caused shortages of toilet paper have also disrupted the clothing business.

Normally, in late August, L.L. Bean, Lands' End, Orvis and the other usual suspects would be promoting their fall and winter lines.

But a quick spin around the various websites reveals slim pickings in the categories mentioned above: Lots of cotton sweaters from Bean, ditto from Lands' End (plus a cashmere number that is twice the price of the Naadam item), and a lot

**A sampling of the author's extensive sweater collection, from top: a silk/cashmere blend from Orvis and a lambswool sweater, ancient bulky thing and Norwegian sweater with rare red thingies from L.L. Bean.**

of sweaters designed for activities from Orvis. (Although Orvis does have a cotton/silk/cashmere blend crewneck that isn't too clingy for the sturdy sportsman. I know this because my mother gave me one for Christmas last year.)

A notable exception to the gloomy outlook is J. Press. They have cotton/cashmere sweaters in stock, and their signature piece, the Shaggy Dog, is made of Shetland wool and is, in fact, shaggy.

So, the Great Sweater Search of 2021 will be more arduous than usual. I advise diligence, frequent scouting trips online and in person (if practical), and considering more pedestrian options such as fleeces, which aren't much to look at but undoubtedly get the job done.



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**CLAY WAY 2021: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS**

# The Region's Great Clay Studios Are All Fired Up

The kilns are stacked. The fires are roaring. The clay is baking. Clay Way, the two-day fall extravaganza which traditionally coincides with autumn's splendor, is back, and bigger than ever, according to organizers. The annual event, featuring tours of the great clay studios in Northwest Connecticut and beyond, is set for Saturday, Oct. 16 and Sunday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year visitors will have an opportunity to visit nine studios showcasing the works of a record-number of artists: 19. They include: Amy Brenner (Wingdale, N.Y.) with guest Kathleen Heidemann; Joy Brown (South Kent, Conn.) with

guests Deb Lecce, Naoko Ojio; Jane Herold (West Cornwall, Conn.) with guests Alexandra FitzGerald, Steve Johnson; Ann Heywood (Wingdale, N.Y.); Drew Montgomery (Wingdale, N.Y.); Christine Owen (Warren, Conn.) with guest Jessica Dubin; Alison Palmer (South Kent, Conn.) with guests Missy Stevens, Kathy Wismar; Todd Piker (Cornwall Bridge, Conn.) with guests Sanah Patersen, Kelly Potter; Will Talbot (Washington, Conn.).


According to Palmer, whose pottery studio is located in South Kent, the annual Clay Way tour has come

*Continued on page 6*



PHOTO BY STEVE KATZ

Joy Brown's figure on a swing.



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## ... Clay Way

*Continued from page 5*

a long way since its inception six years ago, and even a global pandemic didn't put a damper on the popular event. "Ironically, our best year was the last. People needed to get out. We exhibited our work under controlled circumstances, and it was a huge success."

As for the artists, noted Palmer, they are definitely fired up this year. She noted that the number of guest artists at each of the featured studios has been steadily growing. "The artists are inviting more guests this year."

She hinted that tour participants will be in for some great surprises. "Staying in their studios during this past year has inspired most of them to come up with some really exciting new work."

Visit [www.clayway.net](http://www.clayway.net) for a tour map and list of participating artists.



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

A peek inside Joy Brown's kiln in Kent.

### BY THE NUMBERS: CLAY WAY AT A GLANCE

- 9** studios throughout Litchfield County and Wingdale, N.Y., are participating in Clay Way 2021.
- 19** artists will be featured during the two-day event, a record number.
- 8** tons of hardwood fuel Joy Brown's 30-foot-long anagama in Kent (shown in photo above) during a typical 7-day firing.
- 1,000+** degrees Fahrenheit is the temperature needed to turn clay into ceramic.
- 22** hours is the approximate time it takes to fire clay in a kiln, including 8 to 10 hours for the first, firing, or bisque fire, and a second, glaze firing which takes about 12 hours. The cooling period adds to the time.
- 2016** is the year Clay Way was launched on Columbus Day weekend.

— Debra A. Aleksinas



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FOOD: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

# Chefs Share Favorite Recipes That Celebrate the Autumn Harvest

At Serevan Restaurant in Amenia, N.Y., Chef Serge Madikians serves his favorite Golden Delicious Apple and Cauliflower Soup every autumn when apples are harvested in the Hudson Valley and cauliflowers mature.

The chef recently included this popular recipe in a cooking demonstration held in mid-September at the HGS (Hillsdale General Store) Home Chef in Hillsdale, N.Y. If you missed the class, HGS has kindly shared the recipe.

Also in a nod to autumn, James O'Shea, chef/owner of the iconic West Street Grill in historic Litchfield, Conn., offered one of his favorite seasonal recipes (see page 8): Braised Beets with Avocado and Citrus.

The recipe, said O'Shea, is amazingly complex in taste, yet it is so basic and reflective of the season. It is not only a personal favorite, but a favorite among patrons who prefer plant-based foods.

"A lot of people are going vegan," said the Litchfield restaurateur, who opened his restaurant on the historic town Green three decades ago to wide acclaim. "They are doing it for a variety of reasons, for their health, the environment and their general well-being."

The chefs' elegant, but simple, autumn-inspired recipes are a sure way to enjoy the season's bounty and welcome fall deliciously.

*Continued on page 8*

## GOLDEN DELICIOUS APPLE AND CAULIFLOWER SOUP

*Submitted by Serge Madikians, Serevan Restaurant, Amenia, N.Y.*

At Serevan, we serve this soup with Armenian coffee crème fraiche, which adds a very nice contrast to the delicate flavors and the creamy nature of the soup. Chiffonade of spinach, some chopped herbs, or even finely diced sweet apples work very well and add some contrast to the silky feel of the soup.

— *Serge Madikians*

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 head of cauliflower, leaves removed and cut into equal size pieces, on the small size
- 4 Golden Delicious apples, peeled, cut into wedges
- 3 shallots, peeled and sliced thinly
- 5 Tbsp butter (Olive oil for dairy-free)
- 2 cups heavy cream (coconut milk for dairy-free)
- 1 cup milk (water or vegetable stock for dairy-free)
- 2 cups vegetable or chicken stock, or water
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- 2 Tbsp honey
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 3 whole green cardamom, smashed
- 1 clove
- 1 allspice
- 1 star anise
- ½ cup cooked rice (optional)
- Pinch of saffron, salt



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY SERGE MADIKIANS

### INSTRUCTIONS

Melt butter in a heavy-bottomed soup pot, add the sliced shallots and stir until they are nice and soft, but don't have any color. Add the spices, and one tablespoon of salt and stir for a few minutes on medium heat. This step allows for the spices to bloom and impart their flavors onto the butter.

Add the apples, the cauliflower and toss well and allow them to coat with the spice-butter mixture. Add the honey, the remaining liquids, the rice and bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce the heat to a simmer for about 30 to 35 minutes or until the cauliflower is tender.

Once the cauliflower has cooked through, carefully remove as many of the spices as you can, particu-

larly the cinnamon stick. Then in batches, transfer the soup to a blender, and make sure the soup is silky and free of any apple peels or pieces of spice.

Adjust seasoning as needed. Sometimes, if the apples are not sweet enough, or you may have added in a bit of tartness and/or you taste bitterness, you could add a bit more honey to the soup.

The soup could be made a day ahead. If you decide to do this, take care and time to make sure you cool your soup quickly, which could be done if the soup is put in a clean bowl placed over an ice bath. The cream, milk and butter make the soup susceptible to spoilage if not chilled quickly.

### CHEF'S NOTE

As an Armenian from Tehran, Iran, I love the delicate aromas of good saffron, especially when it's used judiciously. Often cooks use too much saffron which brings its bitterness and heaviness forward. If that happens, add a bit more honey to your final product.

## ... food from the harvest

Continued from page 7

### BRAISED BEETS WITH AVOCADO AND CITRUS

Submitted by James O'Shea,  
West Street Grill, Litchfield, Conn.

This quick, earthy, thrown-together salad is amazingly complex, yet so basic. It really represents food straight from the ground and the benefits of plant-based foods. This dish is very similar to the foods I ate at my home table in Ireland going back to my grandmother's days and my mother's need for a quick and easy meal.

— James O'Shea

#### INGREDIENTS

8 small to medium beets (approx. 2 inches in diameter) roots left on, beet greens trimmed to 1 ½", gently scrubbed  
1 Tbsp mixed pickling spice  
1 bay leaf  
Sea salt  
Extra virgin olive oil to drizzle  
2 oranges in season  
2 avocados, ripe yet firm  
6 Tbsp walnuts

#### Citrus Dressing

1 tsp lemon juice  
1 tsp lime juice  
1 Tbsp orange juice  
1 tsp seasoned rice wine vinegar  
3 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Fleur de Sel or other high-quality sea salt

Good pinch of Piment d'Espelette (red chili pepper powder)

1 tsp Madras curry, gently heated in a nonstick pan to remove rawness. (note: if using the Madras curry, you may want to reduce the sea salt)

Wisk all ingredients in a small salad bowl and set aside.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat convection oven to 375 degrees F.
2. Place beets in a small roasting pan. Cover the beets halfway with cold water and add the pickling spice and bay leaf. (Tip: Cold water may be substituted with a good, dry Rose' for added flavor.)
3. Drizzle with extra virgin olive oil and cover pan with aluminum foil.
4. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour depending on the size of the beets. Carefully fold back foil and check on how tender the beets are by piercing the center with a paring knife. If there is no resistance, the beets are cooked, if not, allow an additional 10 to 15 minutes of cooking time.
5. Remove from oven, transfer beets to large container and allow to cool until they can be handled (they will be easier to peel when they are slightly warm). Gently squeeze the beets out of their skins.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JAMES O'SHEA

6. Meanwhile, prepare the orange segments. Trim both ends of oranges. Using a sharp paring knife and using the shape of the orange as your guide, remove the peel of the orange. Be sure to remove all the white pith. Using the knife, carefully segment the orange by slicing between the membrane and the fruit. Set orange segments aside. Use the remaining orange core, and skins, to squeeze out any remaining juice and pour over oranges.
7. Cut the peeled beets into sections and toss with half of the dressing. (Tip: The beets can instead be sliced with a Japanese mandolin, if preferred).
8. Cut the avocados in half lengthwise, remove the pit, and very carefully peel off the flesh leaving the avocado half whole and slice thinly.
9. Divide the beets between 4 large plates or shallow bowls. Place half of an avocado on the side of the beets. Divide and place orange segments between the beets and avocados. Drizzle with remaining dressing. Top with walnut halves and micro beet greens and a sprinkle of Fleur de Sel, if desired.

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— The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC

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## SCENIC HIKES: JOHN TORSIELLO

# May the Forest Be With You

Autumn is an enchanting time in Litchfield County. The air is crisp and the hillsides come alive in a kaleidoscope of colors. What better time to lace up your hiking shoes and head for the hills in search of breathtaking views?

Earlier this month, the Kent, Conn.-based Northwest Connecticut Land Conservatory (NCLC) sponsored a trek to its Cobble Mountain Preserve, accessible from Macedonia Brook State Park. Those who participated were treated to magnificent views of the Taconic and Catskill Mountain ranges.

The trail passes along Macedonia Brook and includes a steep ascent over a rocky outcrop to the blue-blazed Macedonia Ridge Trail. Referring to Cobble Mountain, "This is a special preserve because it is adjacent to Macedonia State Park and visitors park at the state park," noted Elizabeth Schrang, Membership Engagement Manager at NCLC. The conservancy has protected 192 acres of Cobble Mountain and the surrounding area, which includes 86 acres of ridgeline and the northwestern hillside.

## VIEW OF THE BERKSHIRE AND LITCHFIELD HILLS

There are many other worthy sites

*These are only a sampling of recommended hikes to enjoy this fall. You can easily find your own special path by merely taking a drive, stopping at a roadside pull-off and venturing into the woods.*

to hike throughout Litchfield County. Trails run through high land and low, across difficult and easy terrain, and they offer unique insight into the history, geology, flora and fauna of the area.

Lion's Head in Salisbury, Conn. is a rather short hike in total distance, but it offers a stunning vantage point. The overview at Lion's Head is high above the valley you hiked up from, and you can see for miles into the distance. Take in the view of the Litchfield Hills south to southeast, Twin Lakes to the east, Massachusetts north and northeast, and surrounding mountainsides, farmland, and woodlands.

Rand's View, also in Salisbury and part of the Appalachian Trail system, also has some spectacular views, as you can see the Berkshire Hills in the distance. The hike is through some woods and about four or five miles



PHOTO BY LEO KULINSKI JR.

## The Bantam River passes through a portion of the 4,000-acre White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield, Conn.

in total, so it is very doable even for beginners.

Salisbury's Mount Riga State Park is an undeveloped public recreation area and offers hiking, such as the Undermountain Trail, which connects to the northernmost section of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut.

## FOREST HIKE REVEALS RARE WETLANDS

The Sharon Land Trust's 197-acre preserve located on the Kent/Sharon town border is a delightful place for a short autumn hike. The preserve is predominantly forested and also encompasses several post-agricultural fields and extensive wetlands, which includes rare, red spruce wetlands, considered to be one of Connecticut's critical habitats.

Here a few other great hikes to enjoy this autumn, according to Visit

Connecticut:

Roxbury has several natural preserves that are perfect for hiking, but among the most interesting is the Mine Hill Preserve that runs past old iron mines, granite quarries and the ruins of a 19th-century iron-making complex. You'll pass a sparkling reservoir, two mine tunnels, a series of grated air shafts and granite cliffs as you eventually descend back to the Shepaug River Valley, past an abandoned quarry and finally to a former furnace complex.

The 4,000-acre White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield has 35 miles of trails, including interpretive nature trails, a boardwalk trail that circles a wetland habitat and a good portion of the Mattatuck Trail. Before heading out or after your walk, you might want to visit the Conservation Center, which features displays,



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PHOTO BY JERRY MUNKMAN

**The view from the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy's Cobble Mountain Preserve.**

hands-on exhibits, live animals, an outdoor bird sanctuary and a gift shop.

Macedonia Brook State Park in Kent encompasses 2,300 acres and crosses over mountains and peaks, giving visitors an opportunity to enjoy various levels of hiking and trekking. One of the most popular trails includes the 6.5-mile blue-blazed Macedonia Ridge Trail, which crosses the aforementioned Cobble Mountain. You will pass by numerous springs and streams.

A hike along the Tunxis Trail in Barkhamsted leads to Indian Council Caves, where you make your way into the woods from Route 219. After reaching an old woods road, a small climb reveals a lush evergreen forest enveloped in tranquility.

**GREEN CIRCLE TRAIL HUGS THE SHEPAUG RIVER**

One of Connecticut's most spec-

tacular land trust properties, Steep Rock Preserve in Washington, Conn., has many trails within a 974-acre natural setting. Just a few are the four-mile Steep Rock Loop, which showcases many of the preserve's features, and the three-mile Green Circle Trail which follows snaking curves of the Shepaug River.

Hidden Valley Preserve, also in Washington, offers 700 acres of mixed forest and meadows crisscrossed by nearly 17 miles of trails which offer a variety of terrain for hiking. Wooded hillsides slide into a river valley below, and there are spectacular views from the Lookout and Pinnacle.

These are only a sampling of recommended hikes to enjoy this fall. You can easily find your own special path by merely taking a drive, stopping at a roadside pull-off and venturing into the woods. You never know what wonders await.



PHOTO BY GERRI GRISWOLD

**The Brave Old Oak at Cat Swamp at White Memorial Conservation Center.**

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## HOME DÉCOR: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

# Readying Your Home for Fall Involves More Than Meets the Eye

When it comes to transitioning your home décor from summer to autumn, the experts suggest deploying your major senses: sight, smell and touch. The changes needn't involve major renovation or extravagant expense, just a mélange of additions that set the mood for a season of cozy nesting and homey entertaining.

The easiest way to start, according to Carolyn Piccirelli, owner of the Honeychurch Home décor store in

Salisbury, Conn., is with scent, as in candles that release a delicate aroma of allspice or cinnamon. "It brings you back to fall on a basic level," she noted.

Then comes color, and Piccirelli's favorite fall hues range from pumpkin to ochre, to russets and earthy greens. She takes a visitor on a tour of some textiles, glassware and decorative items that give off a decidedly autumnal vibe: table linens, candle holders with tapered candles in muted, fall colors; luxurious alpaca throws and hand-woven wool and cotton throw pillows; decorative cement mushrooms and acorns made in Belgium that would look right at home on an end table or shelf.

"It's the biggest trend right now in home décor," said Piccirelli of 2021's acorn-and-mushroom love affair. "I think it will last through the year. I like to create a little story with different textures and layers." A shelf nearby revealed brilliant glassware reminiscent of autumn. "The colors are super fun and unusual," noted Piccirelli, who suggested the small bowls could double as candle holders. "It sets a mood."

Lighting is another way to bring warmth into your home as daylight dwindles and the air turns crisp. "That's when I start thinking about nesting," she noted. Hurricane lamps, pillar candles or floating candles "make the room feel cozy."

## PILLOWS, WOOL THROWS ADD COZY TOUCH

Ditto for luxurious throws and decorative pillows perfect for placement on a bed, bench or sofa, or perhaps when switching out a three-season room or porch, said Piccirelli. And if you're not a fan of the color



These ornamental acorns and mushrooms at Honeychurch Home would be perfectly at home on an end table or mantel.

*"I love green for the fall,  
and you can mix it with everything."  
Carolyn Piccirelli, Honeychurch Home, Salisbury*

orange, fear not. Items in muted shades of green, from dark to moss, compliment fall's palette. "I love green for the fall, and you can mix it with everything," she explained.

Piccirelli said she likes to focus on her front door, dining table and mantel. "I always do the doorstep first, with fall flowers in pots, and pumpkins." Natural materials like wheat bundles, grape vines, branches or mini pumpkins are a nice addition to a fall mantel or as a centerpiece for the dining room table.

The acorn motif also showed up at Carolann Fuss' Millerton, N.Y., home accessories store, Charlotte Taylor, on placemats featuring a design of green-hued oak leaves. "It's simple to change things around by adding

some pillows and wool throws," she said, pointing to a plush, wool blanket from Scotland and a throw pillow with the playful message, "Peace. Love. S'mores."

Fuss said in response to demand from many of her customers who enjoy walks among the fall foliage, the store also offers several items with take-out comfort, like a fully stocked picnic basket and a wool and wax picnic blanket all rolled up and ready for outdoor occupancy.

## RE-UPHOLSTERING RECOMMENDED

Unprecedented delays in orders for new chairs and sofas nationwide, in part due to a shortage of foam as a result of a pandemic slowdown, has



PHOTOS BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

A trio of green candlestick holders at Honeychurch Home add a natural earthiness to their surroundings.



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

**Todd Page, owner of Millerton Redux, selects a fabric upholstery pattern befitting the season.**

resulted in a severe backlog to vendors nationally, according to Todd Page, owner of Millerton Redux on Main Street, next door to Charlotte Taylor.

“If you need upholstered furniture, there is nothing available to buy,” explained Page, whose shop, which opened in June 2021, features mid-century antiques, decorative accessories and gifts from Italy, India and Morocco. With a five-month lead time on orders, customers looking to add a few new pieces to their home in time for the fall and winter holidays may be out of luck, he said.

One option, said Page, is to consider re-upholstering your existing furniture, whether it be a sofa, bench, armchair or dining room seating, a service which Millerton Redux offers. Page pointed to several binders containing samples from the upscale Thibaut line of fine fabrics, including linens and brushed cotton.

“We can re-do something in six to seven weeks,” he explained, as he fingered an English linen sample, “Cornwall Red and Blue,” which he recommended as one pattern of several which would be quite at home with the upcoming holidays.



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

**Practical and decorative items pay homage to fall at the Charlotte Taylor home accessories store in Millerton, N.Y.**

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## FALL SPORTS: BILL DUNN

# It's Christmas in October for College Football Fans

Fall is a wonderful time of year. In fact, on my personal list of all-time favorite seasons, fall is in the top four.

A great aspect of fall is the good ol' American tradition of college football. There is nothing quite like the atmosphere of a college campus on game day. There is the crisp, clean autumnal air rustling through the brilliant foliage. There is the ivy clinging to the sides of majestic brick buildings. And of course, there are students and alumni excitedly making their way to pre-game tailgate parties.

Here in Connecticut, there are

no fewer than 10 colleges that field a football team. There are the state schools: UConn, Central, Southern, and WestConn; the Coast Guard Academy; and the private schools: Sacred Heart, University of New Haven, Wesleyan, Trinity, and an Ivy League school based in New Haven, whose name escapes me at the moment. But you know it.

This means there are a lot of opportunities to experience the excitement and nostalgia of college game day right here in the Nutmeg State.

*Continued on page 15*



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

**Ed Schopp, left, and Mike Schopp are the owners of the North Canaan-based Stadium System, which refurbishes tens of thousands of football helmets annually in preparation for the new gridiron season.**

## STADIUM SYSTEM TACKLES THE TASK OF RECONDITIONING HELMETS

While most people spend the summer in leisure mode, for Mike and Ed Schopp, owners of Stadium System, Inc., in North Canaan, Conn., it's crunch time. That's because from June through the beginning of September it's all hands on deck in preparation for the arrival of fall football season.

The third-generation company, founded by Arthur Schopp in 1948, specializes in refurbishing football helmets and equipment for school athletic programs throughout the Northeast, from youth to college teams.

Tens of thousands of helmets pass through their factory each year. For months, the Schopp brothers are literally up to their eyeballs in football gear. The helmets get washed and buffed. Primed and painted. Inspected, repaired, re-decaled and refurbished to spit-shiny perfection.

During an early September visit, rolling carts cradled rows upon rows of refurbished helmets, adding a kaleidoscope of color throughout the sprawling North Canaan factory.

While refurbishing football equipment is only one component of the family-owned business [an adjacent building houses the company's sports retail store], it is a major focus and has roots in Stadium System's humble beginnings.

Founder Arthur Schopp was a former football player at New Rochelle High School and New York's Columbia University. His passion to stay in the game inspired him to start his own business serving schools in the athletics supply and reconditioning industry.

Under Arthur's guidance, his son Roald "Rollie" Schopp and son-in-law Richard Brooks learned the reconditioning craft and carried on the family business through the early 1990's. Currently Roald's sons, Mike and Ed, own and operate Stadium System and are carrying on their grandfather's mission: to provide quality service and products to athletic programs throughout the Northeast and beyond.

— Debra A. Aleksinas



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## ... college football

Continued from page 14

There is one surefire rule-of-thumb regarding college football: the less you pay for the admission ticket, the more honest and pure your football experience.

Let me explain. There are college football programs in America that rival the National Football League. Schools like Alabama, Ohio State and Oklahoma come to mind. The stadiums are packed with anywhere from 80,000 to 110,000 fans. On game day, the highways for miles around are clogged with cars and trucks and gaudy Winnebagos proudly displaying school colors. It's a lot like the invasion of Normandy, except with more noise.

The athletes on the field are stunning physical specimens; freaks of nature, really. In many cases the only reason they attend college is to play football and strive for the huge payday of a professional career. These ball players are often separated from the regular student body and usually do not take part in typical college activities. Their sole purpose on campus is to maximize their football skills and try to attract the attention of pro scouts.

There is no doubt game day at a football powerhouse school is a spectacular event. But it's often shallow and superficial. Many seats in the stadium are so far from the field the players look like ants.

Also, let's not forget how corrupt big-time college sports can be. The

recruiting process is rife with illegal shenanigans.

On the other hand, small schools, like the ones here in Connecticut, have genuine student-athletes (like the afore-mentioned New Haven school). Yes, some of them receive scholarships or financial aid because they play football. But the vast majority are sacrificing so much and working so hard simply because they love the sport. When you attend one of these games, there is no chance your ticket will be in Row 96 (since most fields have seating that only goes up to about Row 20). And there is little chance you'll need to take out a second mortgage to finance your tickets.

When you attend a football game at a small school, you'll be a lot closer to the field and the players will be more representative of the student body, even though the odds are slim that they will ever get drafted by the NFL.

Before the gorgeous season of autumn gives way to winter (also in the top four on my list of all-time favorite seasons), make sure you attend a college football game here in Connecticut. The experience will bring back a lot of fond memories and create many new ones.

*Bill Dunn is a freelance writer, humor columnist and faith essayist known as The Merry Catholic. His essays appear each week on his website and can be heard on WJMJ radio. Contact Bill at MerryCatholic@gmail.com*



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# TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send items to [calendar@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:calendar@lakevillejournal.com). All entries can be found at [www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar](http://www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar).

## ART

**American Mural Project**, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. [www.americanmuralproject.org](http://www.americanmuralproject.org)  
Preview Tours, Oct. 20 and Nov. 17, 5:30 p.m., Dec. 4 and 5, 11 a.m. and noon.

**Argazzi Art**, 22 Millerton Road, Lakeville, Conn. [www.argazziart.com](http://www.argazziart.com)  
Victor Mirabelli Without Boundaries, Aug. 28 through Oct. 17.

**Berkshire Art Association**, Pittsfield, Mass. [www.berkshireartassociation.org](http://www.berkshireartassociation.org)  
DISTILLATIONS, An Art Show, Through Nov. 28.

**Berkshire Botanical Garden**, 5 West Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, Mass. [www.berkshirebotanical.org](http://www.berkshirebotanical.org)  
A Berkshire Harvest in Watercolor, Oct. 13 to Nov. 3 on Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

**Carol Corey Fine Art**, 12 Old Barn Road, Kent, Conn. [www.carolcoreyfineart.com](http://www.carolcoreyfineart.com)  
Elise Ansel: The Women, Through Oct. 31.

**The Clark Art Museum**, 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. [www.clarkart.edu](http://www.clarkart.edu)  
Almost Forgotten: Marginalized Histories In Bahamian Art (1950–1960S), Oct. 22, 5 to 6 p.m.; Halloween At The Clark, Oct. 31, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**The Cornwall Library**, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. [www.cornwalllibrary.org](http://www.cornwalllibrary.org)  
Oil Paintings By Curtis Hanson, through Oct. 26.

**Eckert Fine Art**, 1315 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, Mass. [www.eckertfineart.com](http://www.eckertfineart.com)  
Gallery Selections, through Dec. 6.

**Geary**, 34 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. [www.geary.nyc](http://www.geary.nyc)  
Field Recordings | Alan Prazniak|, through Nov. 6.

**Norman Rockwell Museum**, 9 Glendale Road, Stockbridge, Mass. [www.nrm.org](http://www.nrm.org)  
Online Symposium: Enchanted: Mythology and Fairy Tales, Oct. 23, 10 a.m. (online); Online Symposium: Enchanted: Mythology and Fairy Tales – Keynote Program, Oct. 22, 7 to 8:30 p.m. (online).

**Souterrain Gallery of The Wish House**, 413 Sharon Goshen Turnpike, West Cornwall Conn. [www.souterraingallery.net](http://www.souterraingallery.net)  
Amber Maida - Oubliette, through Nov. 21.

**Standard Space**, 147 Main St., Sharon, Conn. [www.standardsspace.net](http://www.standardsspace.net)  
'Country Come to Town': Curated by Courtney Childress, through Nov. 14.

**Wassaic Project**, 37 Furnace Bank Road, Wassaic, N.Y. [www.wassaicproject.org](http://www.wassaicproject.org)  
Natural Dyeing and Quilting with Julia Norton and Natalie Baxter, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## BOOKS

**Hotchkiss Library of Sharon**, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [www.hotchkisslibrary.org](http://www.hotchkisslibrary.org)  
Fall Discussion Series with Mark Scarbrough, Oct. 21, 10 to 11 a.m. (online); American History Book Group: The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America by Louis Menand, Oct. 20, 10 to 11 a.m.

**Kent Memorial Library**, 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. [www.kentmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.kentmemoriallibrary.org)  
Movement, acting and singing for youth ages 3-13. See website for details.

**David Michaelis**, "Eleanor", Oct. 19, 6 p.m.; Fall Book Discussion Series: The Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway, Nov. 9, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Oblong Books & Music**, 26 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. [www.oblongbooks.com](http://www.oblongbooks.com)  
Alan Cumming in Conversation, Oct. 25, 8 p.m.

## KIDS

**American Mural Project**, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. [www.americanmuralproject.org](http://www.americanmuralproject.org)  
StopMotion @AMP (virtual program), Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24, 5 to 6 p.m. (online).

**Berkshire Botanical Garden**, 5 West Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, Mass. [www.berkshirebotanical.org](http://www.berkshirebotanical.org)  
Garden Sprouts: Pumpkin Play!, Oct. 28, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Kent Memorial Library**, 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. [www.kentmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.kentmemoriallibrary.org)  
Music and Rhyme for Children from Birth to 3s, Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. (online); Tween Costume Party and "Minute-to-win-it" Game Night, Oct. 29, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Hotchkiss Library of Sharon**, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [www.hotchkisslibrary.org](http://www.hotchkisslibrary.org)  
Make Your Own Zombie Barbie, Oct. 15, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.; Trick or Treating at the Library!, Oct. 31, 5 to 7 p.m.

**The Institute for American Indian Studies Museum & Research Center**, 38 Curtis Road, Washington, Conn. [www.iaismuseum.org](http://www.iaismuseum.org)  
Sunday Fun Day Craft Workshop: Leather Pouches, Oct. 17, 1 to 4 p.m.

**The Mount**, 2 Plunkett St., Lenox, Mass. [www.edithwharton.org](http://www.edithwharton.org)  
Family Ghost Tours, Fridays, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

**NorthEast-Millerton Library**, 75 Main St., Millerton N.Y. [www.nemillertonlibrary.org](http://www.nemillertonlibrary.org)  
Teen Dungeons and Dragons with DM Ida, Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Scoville Memorial Library**, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [www.scovillelibrary.org](http://www.scovillelibrary.org)  
Online Teen Writing Club, Fridays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. (online).

**Sharon Playhouse**, 49 Amenia Road, Sharon, Conn. [www.sharonplayhouse.org](http://www.sharonplayhouse.org)  
Movement, acting and singing for youth ages 3-13. See website for details.

**Wassaic Project**, 37 Furnace Bank Road, Wassaic, N.Y. [www.wassaicproject.org](http://www.wassaicproject.org)  
2021 Haunted Hamlet, Oct. 30, 3 to 7 p.m.

## MOVIES

**Kent Memorial Library**, 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. [www.kentmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.kentmemoriallibrary.org)  
Vintage Horror Movie Night - Old Dark House, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.; Vintage Horror Movie Night - Cat People, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.; Vintage Horror Movie Night - Bride of Frankenstein, Oct. 28, 7 p.m.

**Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center**, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. [www.mahaiwe.org](http://www.mahaiwe.org)

**DEDICADA A MI EX (2019)**, Oct. 21, 6 p.m.; PSYCHO (1960), Oct. 30, 7 p.m.

**The Moviehouse**, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. [www.themoviehouse.net](http://www.themoviehouse.net)

**The French Dispatch**, opens Oct. 22; Horror of the Decade, Oct. 6 to 30; Horror of the Decade: The Shining (1980), Oct. 20 and 23; Horror of the Decade: Misery (1990), Oct. 27 and 30.

## MUSIC

**Close Encounters With Music**, Great Barrington, Mass. [www.cewm.org](http://www.cewm.org)  
Café Music—Jazz, Rap and Grand Reopening!, Nov. 21, 4 to 5:45 p.m.; The Roaring Twenties – Berlin, Paris, New

York, Dec. 12, 4 to 5:45 p.m.

**Crescendo**, Lakeville, Conn. [www.worldclassmusic.org](http://www.worldclassmusic.org)  
Chamber Orchestra Concert "Italian Concerti", Oct. 29 and 30.

**The Egremont Barn**, 17 Main St., South Egremont, Mass. [www.theegremontbarn.com](http://www.theegremontbarn.com)  
Mark Mandeville and Rianne Richards, Oct. 22, 8 to 10 p.m.; Hawthorne, Oct. 28.

**Fisher Center at Bard**, Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y. [fishercenter.bard.edu](http://fishercenter.bard.edu)  
GUSTAV MAHLER'S SYMPHONY NO. 2: Resurrection Symphony, Oct. 23 and 24.; Songs From The Real World: The French Cabaret with Stephanie Blythe and the Bard Vocal Arts Program, Nov. 6, 8 p.m.

**Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center**, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. [www.mahaiwe.org](http://www.mahaiwe.org)  
Rosanne Cash, Nov. 6, 8 p.m.; An Evening with Hot Tuna, Acoustic & Electric, plus special guest David Grisman's Dawg Trio, Nov. 27, 8 p.m.

**Warner Theatre**, 68 Main St., Torrington, Conn. [www.warnertheatre.org](http://www.warnertheatre.org)  
Terence Blanchard's Fire Shut Up In My Bones, Oct. 23, 12:55 p.m.; Melissa Etheridge - 2021 Tour, Nov. 2, 8 p.m.

## TALKS

**The Salisbury Forum**, Salisbury, Conn. [www.salisburyforum.org](http://www.salisburyforum.org)  
Nicole Perlroth: "The Cyberweapons Arms Race" -- a Zoom Webinar, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. (online).

**Scoville Memorial Library**, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [www.scovillelibrary.org](http://www.scovillelibrary.org)  
Margaret Ackley presents The Basics of Medicare, Oct. 19, 6 to 7 p.m.

## THEATER

**Shakespeare & Company**, 70 Kemble St., Lenox, Mass. [www.shakespeare.org](http://www.shakespeare.org)  
The Chairs, through 31.

**Sharon Playhouse**, 49 Amenia Road, Sharon, Conn. [www.sharonplayhouse.org](http://www.sharonplayhouse.org)  
Teen/Adult Beginner and Intermediate Tap, see website for details; Cocktails and Comedy: Adult (21+), Oct. 27, 7 to 8:30 p.m.; Scene Study: Teen/Adult (15 and up), Nov. 3, 10, 17, 7 to 8:30 p.m.



**BEER: WILL SISS***Autumn in a Glass*

# Enjoy Falls' Beers This Fall

How do you capture a season in a beer? In the winter, a bold, roasty stout complements the dark hours. In the summer, a citrusy India pale ale embodies the moment. Come fall, brewers search for the right amount of amber, sweetness and crispness to match the promise of refreshing air and leaves underfoot.

Two local breweries, Kent Falls Brewing Co. in Kent, Conn. and Great Falls Brewing Company in North Canaan, Conn., hope to capture autumn in a glass this year.

**NEW RELEASES AT KENT FALLS BREWING**

Kent Falls Brewing (33 Camps Rd., Kent, CT 06757) recently released a malt-forward “fall lager” called Wooded Streams that balances the refreshment you get from a lager with a bread crust flavor that lingers in a robust beer.

“It’s a celebration of fall,” said Barry Labendz, one of Kent Falls’ owners. “As the weather turns and it gets cooler, it’s easier to drink something with more body to it.”

With its deep, copper tone and lower alcohol, it’s similar to beers swigged at German festivals, including Oktoberfest in Munich. Kent Falls’ take on it is not quite to Oktoberfest-beer style, primarily because it uses local ingredients. Its malt comes from Connecticut and Massachusetts.

The brewery’s rural location and stunning views make it a destination, especially as the leaves turn as dark as Kent Falls’ Candy Cap imperial stout or as golden as their Pilsner, known as The Hollow.

Labendz noted that enjoying any beer, but especially a fall beer, means taking in the experience with all your senses. At Kent Falls, that can mean catching a brisk breeze, sitting at a

picnic table listening to kids laugh and crunch in the leaves, sipping a warming porter.

“The fall gets you where you want to be drinking something warm outside like a cup of tea or coffee,” he said. “A little higher alcohol beer fits that sort of vibe.”

This month, Kent Falls is also releasing a new West Coast-style India pale ale.

**AT GREAT FALLS BREWING COMPANY, CHANNEL THE FLANNEL**

Another nearby brewery that relishes the season is Great Falls Brewing (75 Main St., North Canaan, CT 06018). Its taproom in a converted train station is continually refreshing its taplines with seasonal offerings.

In the spring, their Fruit Snack Berliner Weisse, a wheat beer made with lactose, with varieties that feature passionfruit and pineapple, is a sweet lift out of the doldrums. And you can taste summer in their Lazy Hazy Housy IPA, which coaxes mango from the hops.

But before diving into their Ski Tracks spiced winter ale, there are two autumn beers that complement the invigorating season.

Its lighter, cleaner twist on a traditional Oktoberfest-style lager is called Layderhoz’n Oktoberfest. It catches your attention with its malty aroma but doesn’t leave a cloying aftertaste. It’s crisp and begs for further sipping.

Its deep amber harvest ale, Channel the Flannel, might be a reward for raking leaves or a pleasant pairing with apple fritters.

*Will Siss is the “Beer Snob” columnist, podcaster and author of “Connecticut Beer” (The History Press). He can be reached at [www.beersnobwrites.com](http://www.beersnobwrites.com)*



PHOTO BY WILL SISS

**Kent Falls Brewing’s assistant brewer Ralph Alterisio with Wooded Streams, their “fall lager.”**



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## FALL ACTIVITIES: LEILA HAWKEN

# Carve Out Good Times, Family Memories at Ellsworth Hill Orchard

Among the many things that Northwest Corner towns do well are fall farm activities bathed in vibrant foliage, bright blue skies, invigorating air and the always uplifting laughter of children delighting in all that seems new.

Just around the next bend in the road or beyond the next hill, trees compete for attention, blaring their sunlit colors at passers-by, vying to be called “the fairest of them all.”

Area farms embrace the fun, welcoming visitors and offering a variety of planned agricultural experiences. Ellsworth Hill Orchard and Berry Farm in Sharon, Conn., is one of them. Ellsworth has specialized in organic, earth-embracing fall activities for many seasons, making it a repeat destination for generations of families.

This fall season will be no different. During an early September visit with owner/operator Mike Bozzi, he noted

that a pause to chat was possible only because it happened to be a rainy day. Such rare days provide a bit of respite from the hard work of agriculture.

“I’m definitely excited about the upcoming fall season of activities at Ellsworth Farm,” Bozzi said. “It’s like being in heaven every day here.” He has owned the farm since 1999.

“It’s been an enjoyable 22 years,” he said. “I don’t have time to breathe when it’s happening,” he said of the fall schedule of activities. There is never even time to count the numbers of visitors; they just keep on coming.

## PUMPKINS, APPLES, BERRIES AND AN AMAZING MAZE

What can those visitors, young and old, expect to see this year at Ellsworth Farm?

A favorite attraction for everyone is the corn maze, which takes on a different theme each year. The 2021 design? It’s baseball themed: The New York

Yankees.

Asked for the secret of the maze should grown-ups find themselves hopelessly lost and seeking the way out, Bozzi said that the key is to stand still and look for the top of the building that is visible to taller people from throughout the maze, then just head for the building. The kids don’t need to know how you did it.

Apple-picking is traditional, bringing the fun of doing it yourself. Visitors will find 13 varieties to choose from, good for everything from pies to eating fresh off the tree. There are also pear trees bearing sun-ripened fruit, including Asian pears and New Century varieties. And there are Olympic Giant pears. Each pear can weigh as much as a pound.

And a fall favorite, the pumpkin patch, is ready for you to select your own right on the spot where it grew. Pumpkins can be found in all sizes,

small and large, just how they grow. Bozzi noted that he doesn’t fertilize them to achieve the size. They are all-natural.

Fresh berries may be there when you visit, particularly a fall run of raspberries. “We might have them and other berries, too,” Bozzi said, depending on the timing. Hayrides, too, may be a feature of your visit, again depending upon conditions at the time.

Cider making is on-going, using a commercial press that dates back to the 1980s. The operation can be viewed through an observation window. Freshly pressed cider is a popular and welcome treat.

Farm festivities also include an antique Lionel toy train display that the children enjoy seeing in operation. It runs between 6 and 6:30 p.m. on weekends. Other runs can be arranged by appointment.

## BEST TO CHECK WEBSITE BEFORE PLANNING TRIP

All true farming is dependent upon Mother Nature for all things, Bozzi noted. The timing of ripeness, readiness for picking, ground conditions within the corn maze are all affected by the weather. “You can’t predict it.”

Thankfully, though, constant updates on the Ellsworth Farm website are very helpful in planning that trip to the farm and finding out what is in season at any given time. For information, visit [www.ellsworthfarm.com](http://www.ellsworthfarm.com), or call (860) 364-00251

Ellsworth Hill Orchard, located at 461 Cornwall Bridge Road (Rte. 4), is open six days a week, including holidays, but is closed on Tuesdays. The farm will remain open through the fall until the day before Thanksgiving Day. It will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

*“It’s like being in heaven every day here.”*

*Mike Bozzi, owner of Ellsworth Hill Orchard and Berry Farm in Sharon*

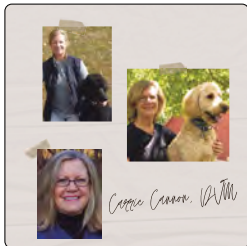


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE BOZZI, ELSWORTH HILL FARM

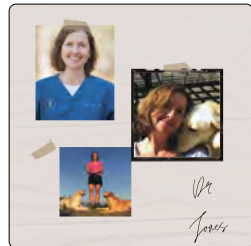
Apple-picking is an annual family tradition at Ellsworth Hill Orchard in Sharon, Conn., where there are 13 varieties to choose from.



# Millerton Veterinary Practice

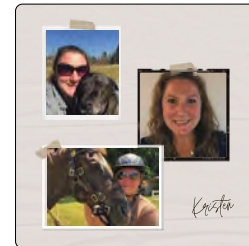


**CAROLYN CANNON**  
DVM, Practice Owner

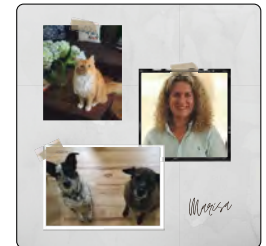


**JENNIFER JONES**  
DVM, Associate Veterinarian

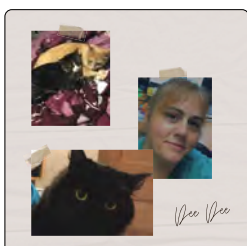
*Meet some of our staff!*



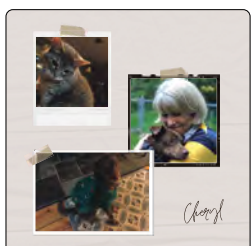
**KRISTEN SALMON**  
Surgical Coordinator, LVT,  
Licensed Veterinary Technician



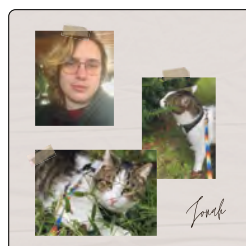
**MARISA SIMMONS**  
CVPM, SHRM-CP,  
Practice Manager



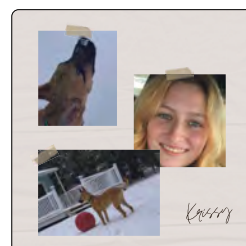
**DEE DEE ST. JOHN**  
Front Desk Coordinator,  
Receptionist,  
Veterinary Technician Assistant



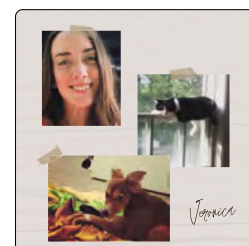
**CHERYL PAULSEN**  
Receptionist



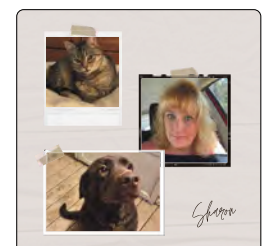
**JONAH CANNELLA**  
Veterinary Technician Assistant



**KRISSY FARNHAM**  
LVT Candidate, Veterinary  
Technician Assistant



**VERONICA WILCOX**  
Operations Coordinator  
Veterinary Technician Assistant



**SHARON STRAMM**  
Safety Coordinator,  
Receptionist

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