

# Autumn Amusements



Darkness may be falling earlier, but daylight hours are brilliantly colored. It's a great time to enjoy all the fun to be had across Long Island.

"Fall is one of the best times for families to get out and enjoy Long Island. The weather is cooler and there's a variety of fairs and festivals celebrating everything from the humble oyster to the great autumn harvest," says Kristen Matejka, director of marketing and communications for the Long Island Convention & Visitor's Bureau and Sports Commission in Hauppauge. "Many people think they need to go Upstate to see the autumn colors. But a drive along scenic Route 25A will take you past hills and trees and quaint harborside villages."

By Diana Erbio

close to home

Matejka suggests leaving early in the morning if you're heading to the East End or booking a hotel to stay overnight, because two-lane roads can get congested mid-day.

Below is a sampling of events to check out as autumn falls on Long Island

## Fall Rambles

Autumn is the perfect time to take a stroll and Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay is an ideal place to take one. There will be Fall Foliage tours at 2 PM on Saturdays and Sundays Oct. 14 through 30. There's a \$5 parking fee. Call 516-922-9200 or visit [www.plantingfields.org](http://www.plantingfields.org) for more information.

Another beautiful place to amble through is Old Westbury Gardens. Garden tours are held daily at 11 AM and 2 PM through Oct. 30. On Oct. 28 and 29 it's Dog Days at Old Westbury Gardens. You can bring your dog for a special dog-friendly garden tour from 3 PM - 4 PM. Dogs must be on a leash and will be allowed in designated garden areas only. Call 516-333-0048 or visit [www.old-westburygardens.org](http://www.old-westburygardens.org).

## More Traditional Fare

"East-end farm stands welcome families with pumpkin and apple picking, petting zoos and some really challenging cornfield mazes," says Matejka. "While you're there try a Long Island specialty, fresh roasted corn."

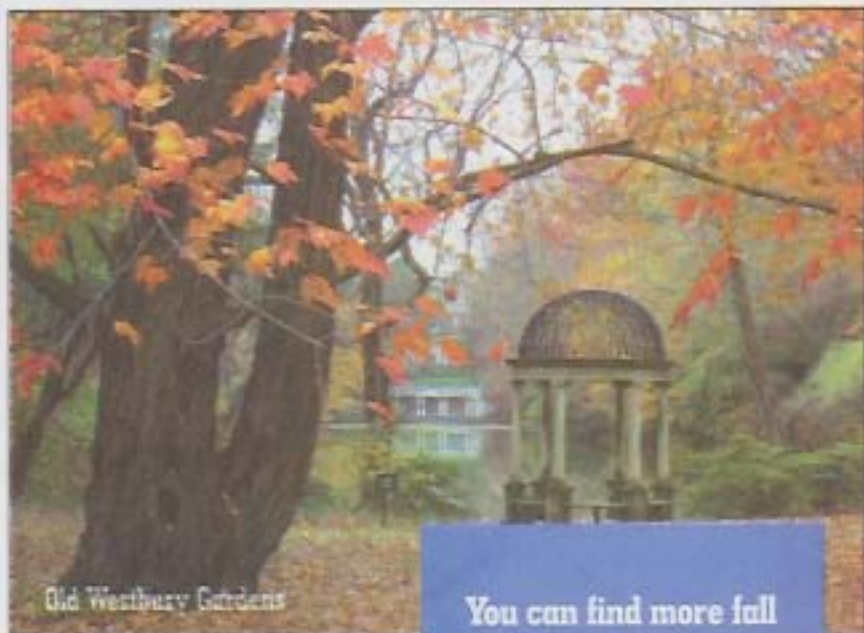
And there are festivals celebrating these fall crops. PumpkinFest is scheduled for Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center in Yaphank. There festival attendees can pick pumpkins and paint them, watch pumpkin catapult demonstrations and wander through a corn maze and a spider house. The \$10 fee is all inclusive; children under three are free. The event will run 11 AM - 5 PM. Call 631-852-5300 or visit [www.cce.cornell.edu/suffolk](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/suffolk).

A country fair heralding the harvest season is held at Old Bethpage Restoration Village. The annual Long Island Fall Festival is scheduled this year for Oct. 5 through 9, from 10 AM - 5 PM. The re-created 19th-century fair will include barnyard animals, a brass band, corn-husking and plowing contests, children's games and wagon rides. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Call 516-572-8400.

On Oct. 6 through 9 visit the Long Island Fall Festival at Heckscher Park on Prime Avenue in Huntington. There will be live entertainment, a farmer's market, 300 craft vendors, equine exhibition, petting zoo, pony rides and more. Admission is free, but there is a fee for rides. Call 631-423-6100 or visit [www.lifallfestival.com](http://www.lifallfestival.com).

Sayville's annual Fall Festival with pumpkins, petting zoo, carriage rides and more will be held Oct. 7, from 10 AM - 5 PM. Call 631-567-5257.

On Oct. 8, the Riverhead Country Fair, featuring farm animals, tractor pull and rides, will



Old Westbury Gardens

You can find more fall events in this book, starting with our Calendar on page 86. For lodging and dining information, contact the Long Island Convention & Visitor's Bureau at 877-FUN-ON-LI or visit [www.discoverlongisland.com](http://www.discoverlongisland.com).



Harbes Family Farm

# Autumn Amusement close to home

take place on Main Street along the Peconic River, from 11 AM - 5 PM. The event is free. Call 631-727-1215.

On Oct. 14 an Apple Festival will take place at the Islip Grange on Broadway Ave. in Sayville from 10 AM - 4:30 PM. Amid the restored 19th-century buildings of the Islip Grange, there will be cider making, pie eating and scarecrow making contests, craft vendors and pony rides. The event is free. The rain date is Oct. 15. Call 631-224-5430.

Costumed interpreters will be weaving, churning butter and dipping candles at Huntington Historical Society's Apple Festival on Oct. 15 from noon until 4 PM. The festival will be held at the Kizum Barn on Park Avenue. The 1795 Kizum House will be open for tours. Children can play old-fashioned games and make a life-sized scarecrow. There will be live music, storytelling and pies. Call 631-427-7045.

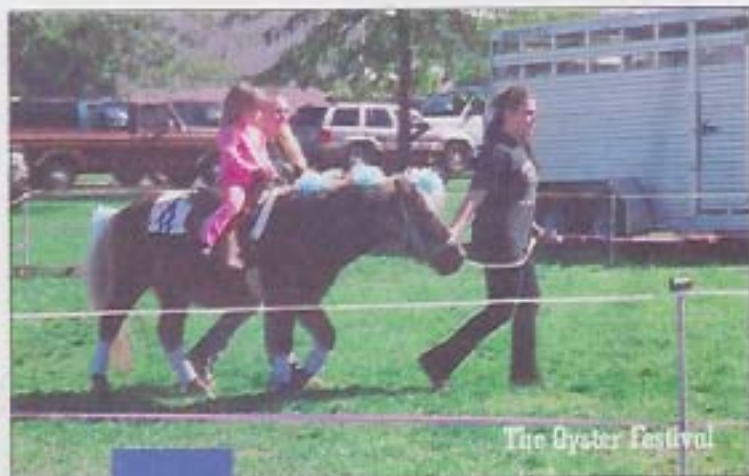
More festive fall fun can be had on Oct. 15 at Benner's Farm in Setauket on Gosford Hollow Road. Cider making, hay rides, games, crafts and folk music will be part of their Fall Festival, which will run from noon until 4 PM. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. Call 631-689-8172 or visit [www.bennerfarm.com](http://www.bennerfarm.com) for more information.

At the Rock Hall Museum Country Fair on Oct. 21 and 22 at 199 Broadway in Lawrence there will be colonial cooking demonstrations, military re-enactments, petting zoo, live music and scarecrow making. The fair will run from 11 AM - 5 PM and admission is free. Call 516-239-1157.

Harbes Family Farm annual Fall Festival will run weekends through Oct. 29. Hayrides, a pick pumpkins and homemade candy apples are available at both the Mattituck and Jamesport locations. At Jamesport you can take the Corn Maze Challenge. The Wild West Maze has been expanded to eight acres and it does present a challenge. There's also a mini-maze for little ones to conquer at Jamesport. Visit [www.harbesfamilyfarm.com](http://www.harbesfamilyfarm.com) or call Mattituck location 631-298-0800 or Jamesport location 631-722-2022.

## Less Traditional Fairs

Fairs with a less traditional seasonal focus are Greenlawn's Pickle



The Oyster Festival



Pumpkinfest

Festival to be held Oct. 1 and the Oyster Festival on Oct. 14 and 15.

Why pickles? They were once grown in abundance in Greenlawn. During the mid-1800s, Samuel Bellton, an ex-slave who made his way to the freedom of the North, once grew a crop of a million and a half cucumbers. Cucumbers were called pickles at the time even before they were pickled and Bellton became known as the Pickle King. A blight called "white pickle" during the 1920s ended the cucumber's reign. But today six of the Pickle King's houses still stand in Greenlawn, and an annual festival celebrating the pickle is held there. This year's Pickle Festival will take place at the John Gardiner Farm on 900 Park Avenue from 11 AM - 4 PM. There will be homemade pickles, jams and jellies, farm-grown vegetables, baked goods and family activities. Admission fee is \$2. Call 631-754-1180.

The Oyster Festival will be held on the waterfront at Theodore Roosevelt Park in Oyster Bay from 10 AM until 5 PM. It originated as a festival celebrating

President Theodore Roosevelt's 125th birthday 23 years ago. Oyster Bay, where President Roosevelt lived, is known for its oysters, so the tasty bivalve became the theme of the festival. There will be oyster eating and shucking contests, a pirate encampment, rides, live entertainment and tall ships to view on the waterfront. And there's Little Miss Oyster.

"The Oyster Festival is all about community and family and Little Miss Oyster is the face of the Oyster Fest," says Pamela Pfeiffer, founder of the Empowerment Society of the United States of America and organizer of the contest. Festival attendees can vote for Little Miss Oyster contestants age 3 through 8 and the top 20 winners will receive a trophy.

Trolleys, horse and wagon and shuttle buses make it easy to get around the festival. Visit [www.theoysterfestival.org](http://www.theoysterfestival.org).

Diana Erbio is looking forward to harvesting fall fun with her family.