The Devlivore Post

VOLUME #6 · 13 NOVEMBER 2026 · FREE

THE CASE OF HOBBIT HILL

Mysterious Light, Devlivore Correspondence, and a Postal Service That May Not Exist

BY Matilda Horowitz

HEMINGWAY HEIGHTS — A light in Hobbit Hill has led to the discovery of a suspicious letter, allegations of an unofficial Devlivore embassy, and renewed speculation that the head of the Banana Slug Collective may also be responsible for Hemingway Heights' postal affairs.

Town officials have urged residents to remain calm. This appeal has been largely unsuccessful.

For years, Hobbit Hill has stood among Hemingway Heights' most familiar landmarks, attracting little attention beyond the occasional passing glance and one resident who has long insisted it is the local post office. The resident has never sent or received mail there, but maintains that this is "neither here nor there."

Then someone noticed the light.

Initially dismissed as an ordinary household occurrence, the illuminated window soon attracted speculation about its unidentified occupant. Theories included a reclusive hobbit, a frog of unusual influence, and a clandestine meeting place for the Banana Slug Collective.

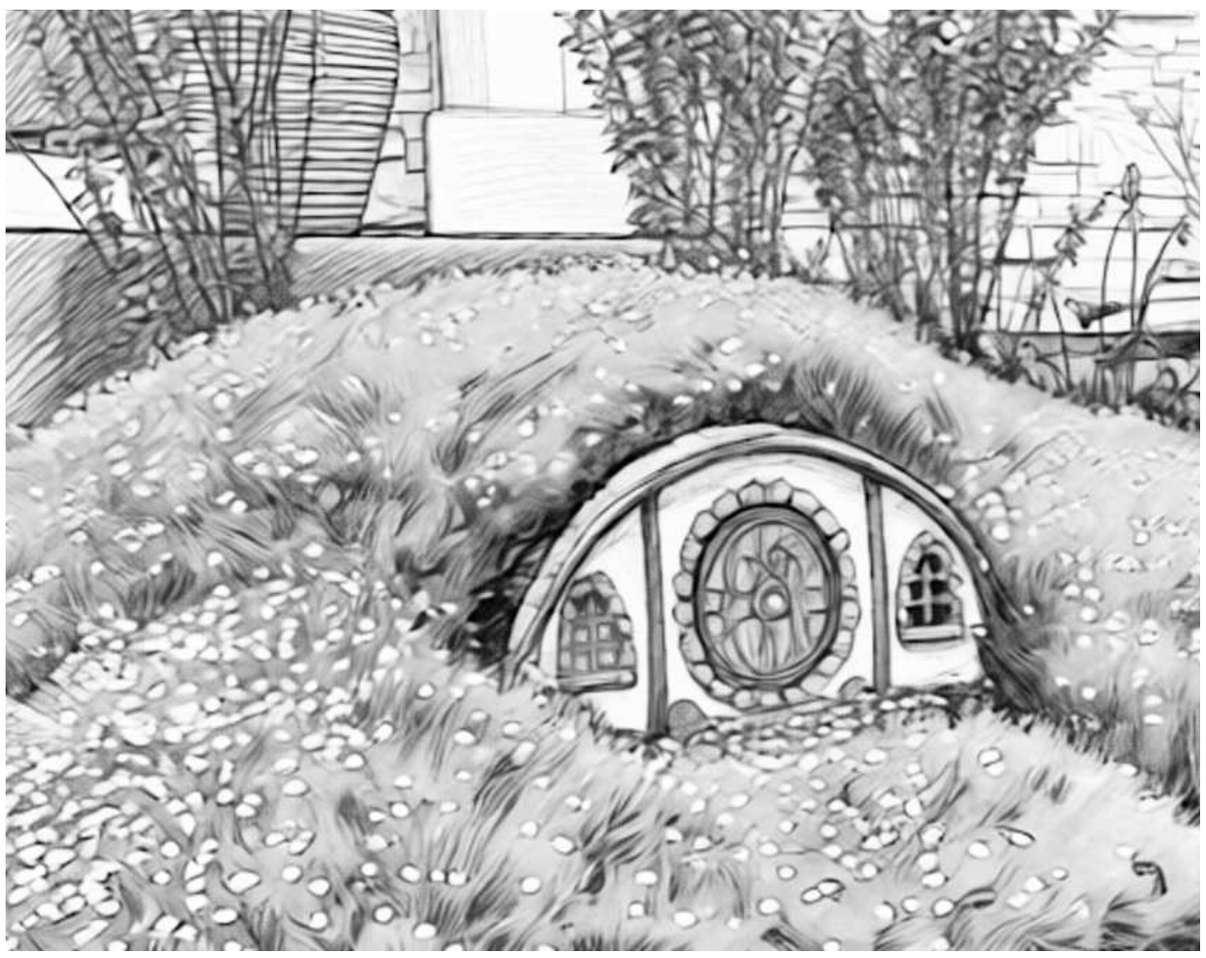
The situation took a more troubling turn when a letter reportedly bearing a Devlivore postmark was discovered addressed to Hobbit Hill. Its intended recipient was listed as "Death, c/o Whoever's In Charge."

The letter has not been made publicly available. Sources familiar with its contents describe the handwriting as "ominous but surprisingly tidy."

AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT, DELIVERED

The letter has reignited questions about the relationship between Hemingway Heights and Devlivore, the mysterious town founded by Death himself.

Two Devlivore natives, Rufus and Frodrick, already reside in Hemingway Heights. Rufus, a member of the Guild of Gargoyles and former comedian at the Dead Men Tales Tavern, has declined to comment on the correspondence. Frodrick, whose principal ambition remains becoming a pumpkin, reportedly asked whether the letter might assist in his transformation.



Hobbit Hill pictuured October 2026 with one light in the window. Picture submitted by a curious local resident of Hemingway Heights.

Continued on Page 2.

WEATHER OR NOT

November Forecasts

METEOROLOGY

November arrives with a noticeable chill in the air, bringing daytime temperatures mostly in the 40s and low 50s, with nights dipping into the 30s and 40s. Residents are encouraged to dress in layers, as the difference between being comfortably bundled and dressed for an expedition to the Arctic may be a matter of personal judgment.

Rain is expected to feature prominently throughout the month. Light showers will give way to heavier periods of rainfall, occasionally accompanied by gusts strong enough to turn an ordinary walk into an unexpected test of character.

Cloud cover will be extensive, offering residents an impressive selection of charcoal, slate, and several shades of what meteorologists have provisionally named mist-erable. Morning mist may linger over lawns and streets, while puddles will multiply with little regard for pedestrian convenience. Sensible footwear is advised.

As this month progresses into the next, daylight will become an increasingly limited resource. Afternoons may grow dim before residents have finished their errands, and the early arrival of darkness will provide ample opportunity to forget what day it is. Those who find themselves checking the clock at 4:30 p.m. and assuming it must be bedtime are experiencing a perfectly ordinary seasonal response.

Residents are reminded that the sun has not been discontinued. It is simply operating on a reduced schedule, with no confirmed date for its return to full service.

NIGHT WATCH



NEW MOON — Sunday, November 8, 2026
FIRST QUARTER MOON — Tuesday, November 17, 2026
FULL MOON — Tuesday, November 24, 2026 ***Beaver Moon***
LAST QUARTER MOON — Monday, November 30, 2026

HOROSCOPE

Aries, the Ram *~March 21 – April 19~* You will feel compelled to confront a problem head-on. The problem has been waiting for this. It brought friends.
Taurus, the Bull *~April 20 – May 20~* Someone will ask you to step outside your comfort zone. Decline. Your comfort zone has cookies, and the outside world has consequences.
Gemini, the Twins *~May 21 – June 20~* Your ability to talk your way out of trouble is unmatched. Unfortunately, you've now agreed to three things, offended two people, and joined a committee.
Cancer, the Crab *~June 21 – July 22~* You will finally let go of something you've been holding onto for far too long. It will immediately become someone else's problem. Congratulations on your growth.
Leo, the Lion *~July 23 – August 22~* All eyes are on you this month. Enjoy the attention. One of those eyes belongs to someone who has been keeping a very detailed record of your behavior.
Virgo, the Virgin *~August 23 – September 22~* You will discover a mistake nobody else noticed. Fixing it will reveal six more. By the end of the month, you will be the only person who knows what went wrong, and somehow, the only person being blamed.
Libra, the Scales *~September 23 – October 22~* A difficult decision approaches. You will weigh every option carefully, consult several people, and consider the consequences. Someone else will make the decision for you while you're thinking.
Scorpio, the Scorpion *~October 23 – November 21~* Your suspicions are correct. Unfortunately, knowing the truth will not improve your situation. In fact, it will give you something new to worry about.
Sagittarius, the Archer *~November 22 – December 21~* A spontaneous decision will lead to an unforgettable experience. Whether you remember it fondly or testify about it later remains to be seen.
Capricorn, the Goat *~December 22 – January 19~* You have a plan, a backup plan, and a backup for the backup. Admirable. Unfortunately, the problem this month is that nobody told you what you're planning for.
Aquarius, the Water Carrier *~January 20 – February 18~* You will finally feel understood by someone who shares your unusual perspective. Enjoy this rare connection. One of you is almost certainly a bad influence, and the stars refuse to say which.
Pisces, the Fishes *~February 19 – March 20~* Trust your intuition. It has been trying to warn you for weeks. Whether you listen this time is another matter entirely. The stars are tired of repeating themselves.

Continued from Page 1.

Neither response has reassured investigators.

The letter has also prompted speculation that Hobbit Hill serves as a diplomatic residence, quietly coordinating relations between Devlivore and Hemingway Heights. If true, the town may have been hosting an unofficial foreign mission without the knowledge of its residents, its officials, or, quite possibly, the mission itself.

The identity of the occupant remains unknown. However, one name has surfaced with increasing frequency: Bandana Nana.

BANDANA NANA: CRIME BOSS OR CAREER DIPLOMAT?

Bandana Nana's links to organized crime are well established in the court of public opinion, if not yet in every court of law. As the alleged head of the Banana Slug Collective, Nana is already a figure of considerable interest to local investigators. New rumors suggest he may have a second, considerably more respectable occupation: ambassador of Devlivore, operating from the mysterious residence at Hobbit Hill.

The theory would explain the otherwise curious presence of a potential Devlivore diplomatic outpost in Hemingway Heights, as well as the correspondence reportedly arriving at the property. It would also raise questions about whether Nana's activities in the Banana Slug Collective are entirely separate from his alleged diplomatic responsibilities.

Whether this represents a conflict of interest or simply an impressive commitment to professional networking remains unclear.

The theory has attracted further attention from the longtime resident who insists Hobbit Hill is the local post office. The resident now believes Nana may also oversee Hemingway Heights' postal service, offering a possible explanation for the town's notoriously slow mail delivery.

So slow, in fact, that no mail has ever been known to arrive—or, indeed, to exist.

The resident considers this further evidence in support of the theory.

Town officials have no record of a postal service operating from Hobbit Hill. They have likewise declined to explain why correspondence from Devlivore appears to have reached the property, who delivered it, or whether anyone has been responsible for collecting the mail.

The resident has suggested that officials may be participating in a cover-up designed to conceal the town's postal operations. The allegation remains under review, largely because nobody has been able to establish which operations are supposedly being concealed.

The Devlivore Post has contacted Bandana Nana, representatives of the alleged embassy, and relevant postal authorities for comment. None have responded. We consider this silence noteworthy, although we acknowledge that it may also explain the delays.

THE LIGHT REMAINS ON

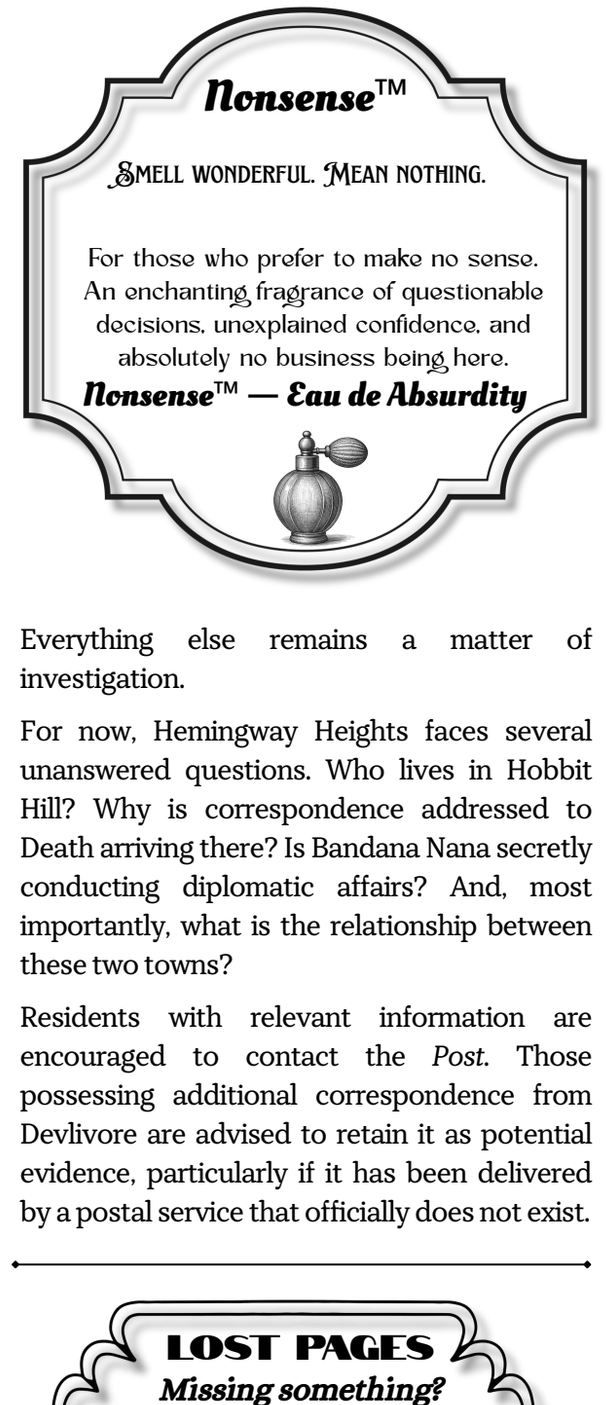
At the time of publication, the light inside Hobbit Hill remains illuminated. The letter's author is unidentified, the occupant's identity remains unknown, and the alleged embassy has yet to receive official recognition from anyone willing to discuss it.

The Devlivore Post can confirm that a light has been observed, correspondence has reportedly arrived, and at least one resident has spent years insisting a mysterious house was a post office without ever attempting to use it.

Everything else remains a matter of investigation.

For now, Hemingway Heights faces several unanswered questions. Who lives in Hobbit Hill? Why is correspondence addressed to Death arriving there? Is Bandana Nana secretly conducting diplomatic affairs? And, most importantly, what is the relationship between these two towns?

Residents with relevant information are encouraged to contact the *Post*. Those possessing additional correspondence from Devlivore are advised to retain it as potential evidence, particularly if it has been delivered by a postal service that officially does not exist.





DISARRAY IN RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF SUSPICIOUS BENCH

Residents divided over seemingly new bronze bench as longtime residents insist it has always been there

BY Matilda Horowitz

DEVLIVORE — Several residents reported an unexpected development along one of Devlivore's more frequently traveled sidewalks this week after noticing what appeared to be a newly installed bronze bench.

The bench, positioned beneath a row of trees along a familiar stretch of pavement, has reportedly been present for an indeterminate amount of time. Several residents were surprised to discover it.

"I've walked this sidewalk every day for years," said one resident. "I have never seen that bench before."

Other residents were less surprised.

"I've seen it every day for years," said another.

The two residents were standing approximately twenty feet apart at the time.

"IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE"

Longtime residents have generally rejected the suggestion that the bench is new. Several said they have sat on it previously. Others recalled passing it regularly without ever having a particular reason to sit.

"I think people are just noticing it now," said one longtime resident. "It happens."

Another resident said she had always liked the bench.

"It's a nice bench," she said. "It belongs there."

Asked when it was installed, she said she couldn't remember.

"It's literally always been there. I think."

THE BENCH ITSELF

The bench is made of bronze and has developed visible areas of natural oxidation across its surface. Despite the circumstances surrounding its recent discovery, it appears to be in good condition.

Several residents have described it as attractive. One resident said the oxidation gave it "a little history." Another said it looked "comfortably old."

There is no plaque indicating when the bench was installed, nor an indication that it was installed recently. The absence of either has done little to settle the matter.

THE DEAD AND THE DYING TAKE DIFFERENT VIEWS

The discussion has produced a familiar division among Devlivore residents. The distinction between the dead and dying is less about physical condition than outlook: the "dying" still look toward escape, cures, and the possibility of moving on, while the "dead" have accepted Devlivore and settled into its way of life.

Those still considered among the dying have generally shown greater interest in determining when the bench appeared and why they had not noticed it sooner.

"I feel like I should remember seeing it," said one resident.

Another suggested that the bench may have been installed while she was away.

"Maybe I missed it."

Although, the resident could not recall ever leaving town.

Residents considered among the dead have shown considerably less concern.

"It was there," said one longtime resident.

When asked how he knew, he looked at the bench.

"I've sat there some time ago."

The distinction has not produced any significant disagreement between the two groups. The dying continue to wonder. The dead continue to sit.

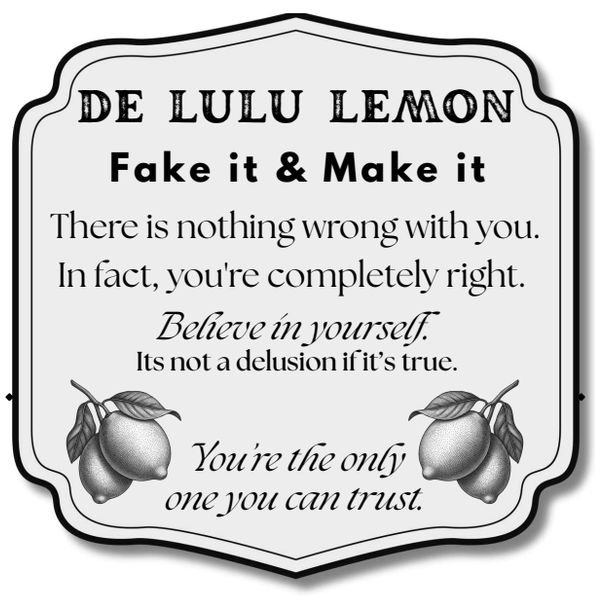
MAYOR'S OFFICE DOES NOT COMMENT

The mayor's office did not respond to requests for comment regarding the bench, its installation, or whether the town has any record of when it first appeared.

The lack of response was considered consistent with the office's usual approach to matters of this nature.

No public notice concerning the bench has been located. No announcement regarding its installation has been issued. No resident has come forward claiming responsibility for placing it there.

The mayor's office has also not confirmed whether the bench is considered public property. It has remained available for public use regardless.



THREE CROWNS FOR BETTY!

Countess Calabaza Claims the Hearts of the People

BY Matilda Horowitz

HEMINGWAY HEIGHTS — The pumpkins have been judged, the votes have been counted, and Hemingway Heights has crowned a new pageant legend—or, rather, confirmed an old one.



Crowned winner, Betty Boopkins, of the 2026 Pumpkin Pageant.

Betty Boopkins, the porcelain-white darling of the pumpkin world, has once again charmed the judges to claim the Judges' Choice title for the third consecutive year. With this historic victory, Betty retires from competition as the pageant's reigning three-time champion, her crown secure and her legacy firmly established. Though she may no longer compete, organizers confirm that she remains eligible to return as a guest judge in future pageants. We can only hope she finds the experience of judging others as rewarding as being admired herself.



People's Choice winner, Countess Calabaza, of the 2026 Pumpkin Pageant.

Meanwhile, the people have spoken! Countess Calabaza has captured the People's Choice award, proving that mystery, drama, and an exceptionally dark complexion can win over even the most discerning neighborhood voters. The Countess has offered no statement regarding her victory, though witnesses report that she appeared unsurprised. Naturally.

Continued on Page 3.

Continued from Page 2.

Congratulations to both winners, and a heartfelt thank-you to all five contestants for bringing beauty, intrigue, and a frankly unreasonable amount of pumpkin-related excitement to Hemingway Heights.

As Betty prepares for life beyond the pageant circuit, one question remains: who, exactly, will dare to fill her crown?

The answer will have to wait until next harvest season. In the meantime, the new champion of champions may rest easy—and the Countess may continue being mysterious in peace.

GUILD OF GARGOYLES CLARIFIES HOTEL PROTECTIVE DUTIES

Residents reminded that gargoyle work extends beyond looking ominous

BY Matilda Horowitz

DEVLIVORE — The Guild of Gargoyles has issued a brief clarification regarding its members' responsibilities at the Devlivore Hotel, following renewed questions about the nature of gargoyle work and whether standing very still constitutes a full day's labor.

According to the Guild, its duties include the protection of buildings, the discouragement of unwanted visitors, and the prevention of various disturbances that are best left unspecified.

"People think we sit around looking decorative," said one gargoyle familiar with the Guild's operations. "We do. But we also do other things."

The Guild declined to elaborate on the other things.

A LONG HISTORY OF WATCHFUL SERVICE

Gargoyles have long been associated with the Devlivore Hotel, where their presence has served both practical and aesthetic purposes. Their responsibilities reportedly include monitoring entrances, observing suspicious activity, and maintaining a general atmosphere of architectural disapproval.

Former hotel fixture Rufus, now stationed in Hemingway Heights, remains one of the Guild's better-known members. Before his appointment as a neighborhood protector, Rufus reportedly enjoyed a successful career as a comedian at the Dead Men Tales Tavern.

Guild representatives declined to comment on whether his former profession has proven useful in the performance of his current duties.

RECRUITMENT AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Guild has not announced plans to expand its membership, though aspiring gargoyles are encouraged to demonstrate patience, attentiveness, and an ability to remain composed under prolonged exposure to weather.

A spokesperson also emphasized that membership does not automatically entitle a gargoyle to a position at the Devlivore Hotel.

"Not every gargoyle is suited to hotel work," the spokesperson explained. "Some are better suited to storefront rooftops. Others lack the temperament for hospitality."

When asked what qualities distinguish an exceptional hotel gargoyle, the spokesperson cited discretion, reliability, and an unwillingness to discuss matters outside one's assigned duties.

The interview concluded shortly thereafter.

The Guild has assured residents that the hotel remains adequately protected. From what, precisely, remains a matter of professional discretion.

LOST PAGES FLOOD BOOKS

Notes and Books Report Unusual Increase in Unclaimed Writing

BY Matilda Horowitz

DEVLIVORE — Notes and Books, the opposing storefronts on Withers Way long known for helping newcomers record their pasts and allowing residents to read them, have reported an unusual influx of what staff members are calling Lost Pages.

The pages have begun appearing at Books in quantities that employees describe as "concerning, but excellent for business." Unlike the completed journals typically sold at the establishment, Lost Pages often arrive without covers, identifying information, or any clear indication of who wrote them. Some appear to be fragments of longer accounts, while others seem complete despite offering little explanation of their origins.

"We usually know where our books come from," said one Books employee. "These are a different matter entirely. Someone brings in a handful of pages, and suddenly we have a story with no author, no title, and absolutely no instructions."

Notes has also reported an increase in customers seeking journals specifically to record unusual experiences, unexplained encounters, and memories they fear may otherwise slip away. Staff have declined to speculate on whether the two developments are connected.

A STORY WITHOUT ITS BEGINNING

Longtime customers of Books have welcomed the new arrivals with characteristic enthusiasm. Residents have reportedly begun searching the pages for familiar names, recognizable locations, and clues that might reveal their origins.

Others have expressed concern that some fragments appear to describe events no one remembers witnessing.

Mrs. Mimi Whimston, a frequent customer of both establishments, remains optimistic.

"Everyone has a story," she remarked. "Sometimes you just have to find the right piece of it."

She subsequently purchased three notebooks from Notes and declined to elaborate.

Neither establishment has confirmed who is responsible for delivering the pages, and no consistent method of arrival has been established. For now, the Lost Pages remain available for examination at Books, where curious readers are encouraged to handle them carefully.

After all, a missing page is one thing. A missing page that somehow finds its way to Devlivore is quite another.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION: ***The Devlivore Post*** **is published every 13th day of the month.**

Publisher: ***The October Hour***

Editor-in-Chief: ***Matilda Horowitz***

Lead Illustrator: ***Winston Smith***

Contact: inquiry@the-october-hour.com

CRISS CROSS

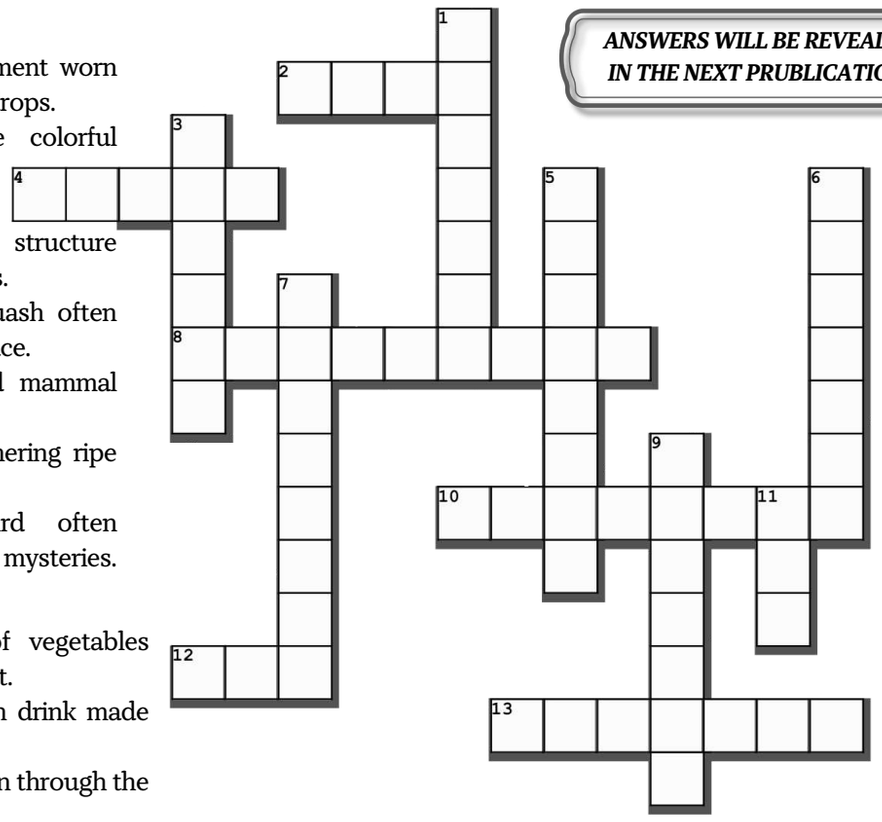
ANSWERS WILL BE REVEALED IN THE NEXT PRUBLICATION.

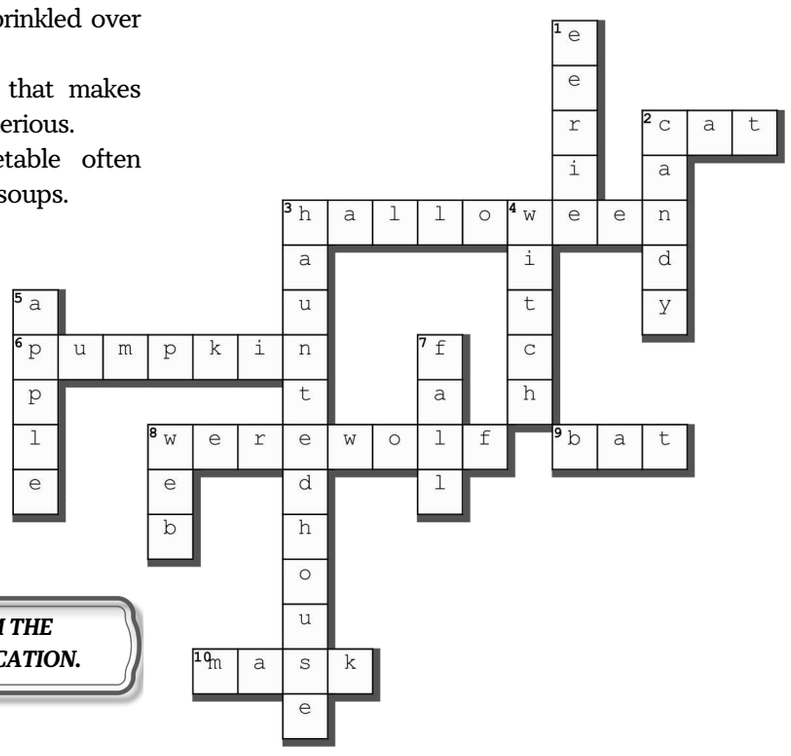
DOWN

1. A warm woolen garment worn when the temperature drops.
3. Trees shed these colorful treasures in autumn.
5. Spiky seed-bearing structure that falls from pine trees.
6. Orange autumn squash often carved into a grinning face.
7. A prickly woodland mammal preparing for winter.
9. The process of gathering ripe crops from the fields.
11. A nocturnal bird often associated with autumn mysteries.

ACROSS

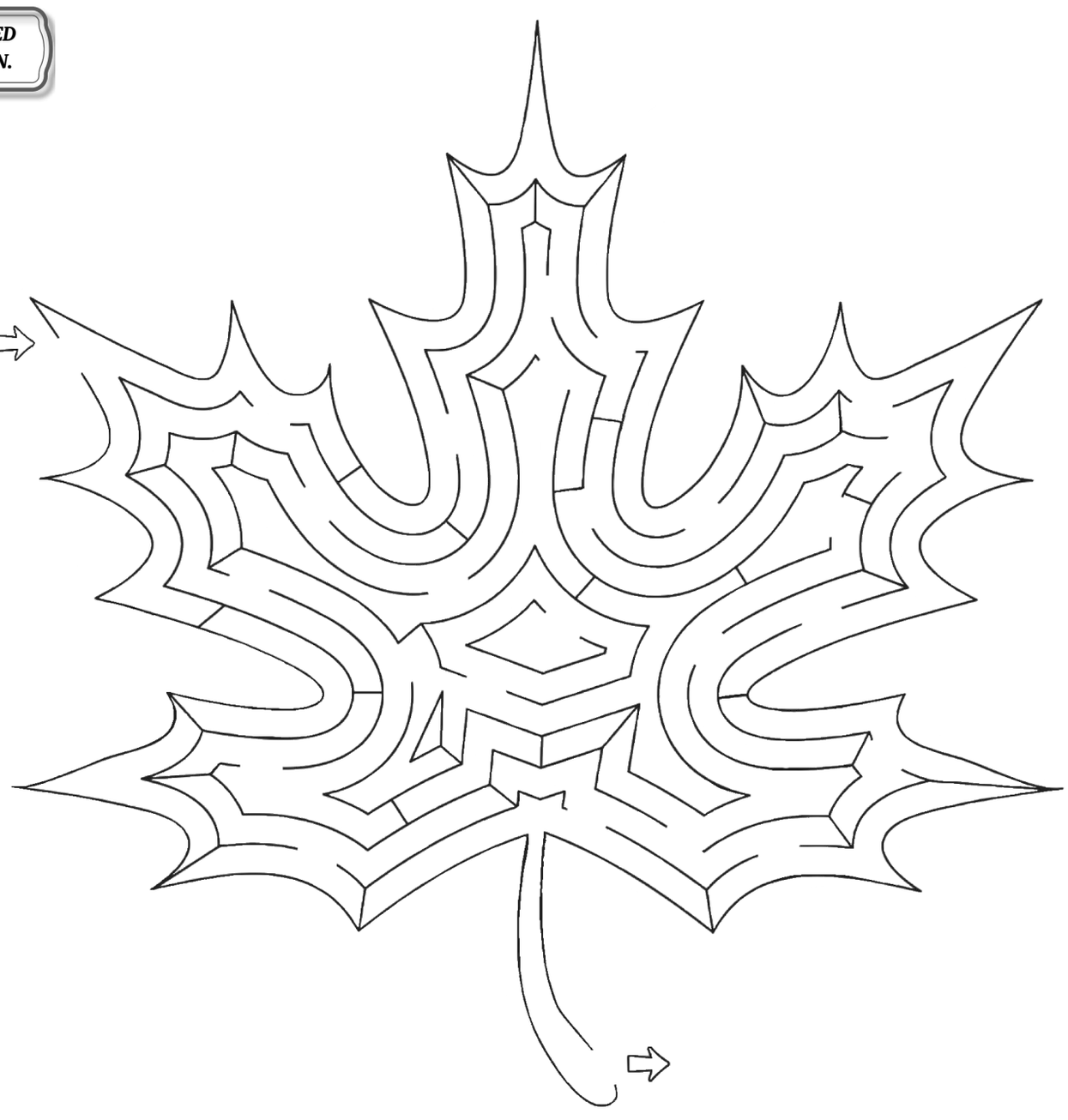
2. A thick mixture of vegetables simmered slowly in a pot.
4. A traditional autumn drink made with pressed apples.
8. A tree that stays green through the coldest months.
10. Warm spice often sprinkled over apples and pastries.
12. A thick, low cloud that makes familiar places look mysterious.
13. A long, thin vegetable often associated with autumn soups.





ANSWERS FROM THE PREVIOUS PRUBLICATION.

LABYRINTH



RECIPE

Cinnamon-Sugar Apple Muffins

OUR SEASONAL PICK BY
Chef Ja Ja



INGREDIENTS
MUFFINS

- 1¾ cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg
- ½ cup milk
- ⅓ cup vegetable oil or melted butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 medium apple, peeled and diced into small pieces

INGREDIENTS
CINNAMON-SUGAR TOPPING

- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon melted butter

METHOD

Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C) and line a 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners or lightly grease each cup.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. In a separate bowl, beat the egg with the milk, oil or melted butter, and vanilla extract until combined.

Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and stir gently until just combined. The batter should be slightly lumpy; avoid overmixing, as this can make the muffins dense. Fold in the diced apple until evenly distributed throughout the batter.

Divide the batter among the muffin cups, filling each approximately three-quarters full. Bake for 20–25 minutes, or until the muffins are golden and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean or with a few moist crumbs.

While the muffins bake, mix the sugar and cinnamon for the topping in a small bowl. Once the muffins are finished, allow them to cool in the tin for about five minutes. Brush the tops lightly with melted butter, then sprinkle generously with the cinnamon-sugar mixture. Transfer the muffins to a wire rack to cool slightly before serving.

WHY IT WORKS

November is an ideal time for baking with apples and warming spices. Cinnamon and nutmeg bring a cozy fragrance to the kitchen, while the apple pieces add natural sweetness and moisture to the muffins. As they bake, the apples soften into tender pockets throughout the crumb, complementing the lightly crisp cinnamon-sugar topping.

These muffins are especially suited to cool mornings and rainy afternoons, whether served alongside a hot cup of tea or enjoyed as an afternoon snack. They can also be made ahead for breakfast or shared at a seasonal gathering. For the best flavor and texture, serve them slightly warm, when the cinnamon is fragrant and the apple pieces are still soft.

Baker's tip: A firm apple, such as Granny Smith, Honeycrisp, or Braeburn, works particularly well. For an extra seasonal touch, add ½ cup of chopped walnuts or pecans to the batter.

DEAR DEVLIVORE

Dear Devlivore,

I've recently discovered that my reflection has begun smiling a moment before I do. It's a very pleasant smile, actually. Much nicer than mine.

I tried smiling first this morning, but it looked rather disappointed in me.

Should I be worried?

— Reflected Glory

Dear Reflected Glory

Not necessarily. Some people are simply better at presenting themselves in a certain light.

I would advise against competing with your reflection. You have enough to worry about without developing a rivalry with someone who knows your every expression and has an excellent view of your worst angles.

Instead, try to establish a few boundaries. Close the curtains at night. Avoid making sudden movements in front of mirrors. And if your reflection begins practicing expressions you have never made, resist the temptation to imitate them. It could be misconstrued as mockery, especially coming from you.

However, should it begin looking over your shoulder when you are alone, I recommend covering the mirror immediately. There are very few things more embarrassing than discovering you have been the least interesting person in your own company.

If the smiling continues, take heart. At least one of you seems happy to see you.

— Devlivore

Dear Devlivore,

I've recently noticed that people keep waving at me from across the street. Naturally, I wave back. The trouble is, they seem disappointed when I do, as though I've interrupted something.

Yesterday, a woman I've never met shook her head at me and mouthed, "Nope."

Should I stop waving?

— Friendly Neighbor

Dear Friendly Neighbor,

At last, someone asking the important questions.

Friendliness, like any respectable social pursuit, requires dedication, consistency, and a willingness to go slightly further than anyone reasonably expects.

Begin with a wave and a smile. The following day, add a tip of the hat. If you haven't a hat, a courteous bow will do, though a curtsy may prove more memorable. Do not worry if the recipient appears confused. Confusion is simply gratitude that hasn't found its footing.

Once you have established a rapport, introduce a subtle inside joke. A knowing nod will suffice at first. Eventually, you may graduate to a particular hand gesture or a phrase that means absolutely nothing to anyone else. The important thing is to behave as though it means everything to both of you.

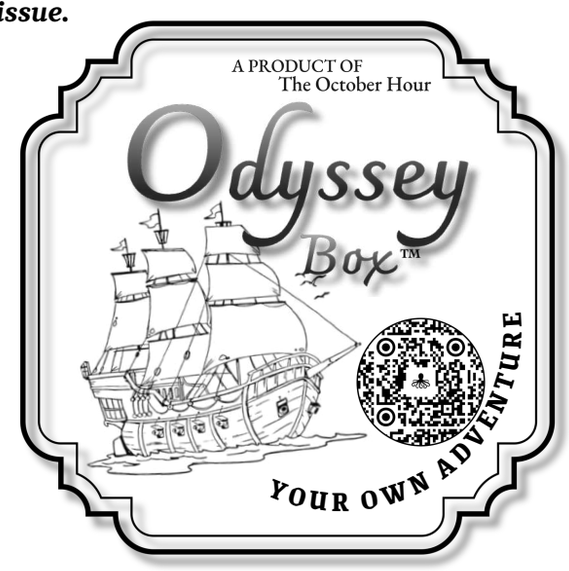
From there, escalate the intimacy. Call them by their name when you wave. If you do not know their name, choose one and stick with it, using it to address them each time you see them. Keep the interactions at a distance, the last thing you want is to ruin the relationship you've cultivated by making it too real.

Remember: the goal is not to make a friend. The goal is to make a friendliness that cannot be out-friendlied.

Do try to keep up.

— Devlivore

Here at The Devlivore Post, we welcome the thoughts, stories, artwork, and notices of our fellow residents. If you have something to share with the community, submit it to our office for consideration in an upcoming issue.



COLOR CORNER

