

Winter 2015-16  
Volume 4, Issue 4  
A quarterly publication

# MSF Gazette

## MAIN STREET FIRST • LITTLE FALLS • NEW YORK



### *A Good and Busy Year: A Look Back at 2015*



Main Street First (MSF) is now in its sixth year, and the group continues to gain new members and develop new projects. When I look at what we've accomplished this year, I'm struck by how so much of what we did involved collaborating with the YMCA, the city's Tourism Committee, and numerous other local civic groups and volunteers:

In June, we organized a major downtown cleanup, which included landscaping, painting, and lots of sweeping and weeding. The project was supported by dozens of volunteers from the community who turned out, brooms in hand, to help make the project a success.

*(continued on page 6)*

### *New Businesses Roundup!*

*Main Street First welcomes the following recently opened businesses.*

#### **Chapter Designs**

616 East Main St.  
home goods and gifts, classes, consultations

#### **Inner Light Transformational Coaching & CST** (new location)

566 East Main St.  
Life coaching, craniosacral therapy

#### **Little Falls Bottle & Can Retrieval Center**

22 North Ann St.  
bottle and can redemption center

#### **Overlook Mansion** (under new ownership)

55 Douglas St.  
overnight lodging, events

#### **Ruggiero's Trattoria**

546 East Main St.  
classic Italian eatery (eat in or take out)

#### **Showcase Antiques**

375 Canal Place  
Estates, consignments + eBay specialists

#### **Vincent Guitars**

588 East Main St.  
Luthier; stringed instrument repair shop

**Curious? Have feedback or ideas for us? Want to help? PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Next scheduled meetings:**

Monday, January 4

Monday, January 18

Monday, February 1

Monday, February 15

Monday, February 29

Monday, March 14

Monday, March 28

@ 6:30 pm

690 East Main Street,  
Little Falls

*(For more details about our group, please see the back cover/p. 8)*



(courtesy photo)

#### KATE SPRENGER

Longtime Main Street First member Kate Sprenger passed away peacefully at home on November 7, 2015 with her husband Siegfried at her side. Kate and Siggy shared a loving forty-five year marriage. Together they had two children, Tara and Darlene, and are also survived by son-in-law Kevin, two grandchildren, Laura and Brandon, and one great-grandson, Liem.

In 1988, Kate and Siggy moved to Little Falls from the Hudson Valley. Their “painted lady” Gansevoort Street home is a Little Falls landmark. Siggy owns and operates his Always Treasured antique store on Main Street, and he is MSF's treasurer and a board member.

*“Without a paper - a journal of  
some kind - you cannot unite  
a community”  
-Mahatma Gandhi*



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## **MSF Gazette Winter 2015-6 Volume 4, Issue 4**

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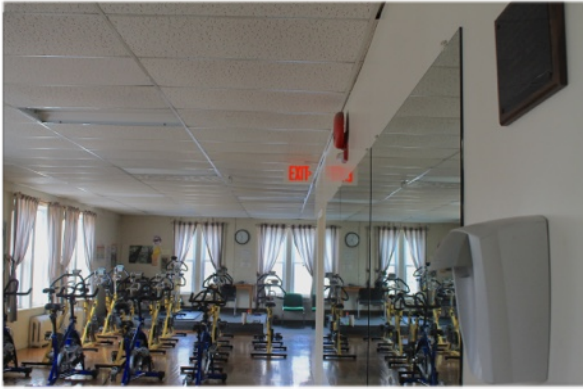
MSF Gazette is published quarterly and distributed throughout the city of Little Falls, Herkimer County, New York. This issue, and an archive of back issues, is also available online at [www.mainstreetfirst.com](http://www.mainstreetfirst.com).

*Suggestions and contributions (articles and art) are always welcome; please contact someone on the staff or write to [mainstreetfirst@yahoo.com](mailto:mainstreetfirst@yahoo.com).*

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## ABOUT LITTLE FALLS: *A Look at the Samuel S. Dale Trust*



*The Dale Trust equipped this exercise room at the YMCA.  
Commemorative plaque is on the wall at right.*

Seventy-five years ago, Samuel S. Dale passed away in Brookline, Massachusetts. He was born in Little Falls, but spent most of his adult life making his fortune in the Boston area as a textile mill executive. But he never forgot his hometown--and we continue to remember that today, thanks to a trust he left behind.

Mr. Dale and his wife Charlotte were childless. During her lifetime, Mrs. Dale was devoted to helping children and elderly people in the Boston area. When she died in 1929, she was buried in the Dale family plot in the Church Street cemetery in Little Falls. When Mr. Dale passed away in 1940, he too was buried in Little Falls.

Mr. Dale's will created a private trust known as the Samuel S. Dale Memorial Trust with the State Street Bank in Boston named as co-trustee. Mr. Dale's intent was to carry on his wife's work of assisting children and elderly people in need of medical care.

It wasn't until his last beneficiaries passed away in the 1980s that the Dale Trust as we now know it began to function. A local Little Falls resident was selected as co-trustee and a committee comprised of Little Falls residents began to review grant applications.

Since 1999, countless children under 14 and people over 65 who are residents of Little Falls have received up to \$1150 per year in grant money for medical expenses not covered by their own insurance.

Additionally, many local non-profit organizations have received grant money from the Dale Trust, including Main Street First (chalk art sponsorship), Little Falls Food Pantry (Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter Baskets), Little Falls Family YMCA (exercise equipment) and Little Falls Hospital (TVs in the Emergency Department's exam rooms).

Applications and guidelines are available for the public to review at the Little Falls Library. Those over 65 are asked to contact Mrs. Kathy Fox at the Herkimer County Office for the Aging at 867-1124 for an interview. All grant money continues to be disbursed through Mr. Dale's bank in New England.

*This article continues the MSF Gazette series on community philanthropy. Earlier articles included "Expatriate? Here are Some Ways to Help Your Hometown" (Spring 2015) and "Bill Burrows, A Life That Mattered" (Winter 2014). If you missed those, you may read them on our website, [www.mainstreetfirst.com](http://www.mainstreetfirst.com).*



*Although they did not live here, the Dales' devotion to Little Falls lives on. Both are buried in the Church Street cemetery.*

*"I resolved to stop accumulating and begin the infinitely more serious and difficult task of wise distribution." --Andrew Carnegie*



## *COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD:*

### *News, Updates, and Local Volunteer Opportunities*

The **Little Falls Micro Fund**: If you or someone you know needs one-time financial help in the form of an interest-free loan of \$2,000 or less, please contact:

P.O. Box 817, Little Falls, NY 13365

[littlefallsmicrofund@gmail.com](mailto:littlefallsmicrofund@gmail.com)

[www.littlefallsmicrofund.org](http://www.littlefallsmicrofund.org)

(315) 219-9396



### **WINTER APPEAL TO THE LITTLE FALLS COMMUNITY**

**The Little Falls Food Pantry** at 45 Furnace Street, (315) 823-1793, **urgently needs donations.** Many of our neighbors and fellow residents struggle to feed themselves this time of year. Supplies are needed for the Holiday season, but also beyond.

Donations can be dropped off at the Pantry or the YMCA on Jackson Street.

While nonperishable food items are always welcome, monetary donations are better still. For every \$1 you donate, \$5 worth of food can be purchased to feed the hungry in our community. Donate directly here in town, or you may mail your check to the Food Bank of Central New York, 7066 Interstate Island Rd., Syracuse, NY 13209, attn. Mrs. Stress; note "Little Falls" on the memo line.

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***The Greater Little Falls Community Chest*** has launched its 2016 campaign to raise \$40,000 for organizations that directly serve local communities, the organization announced recently.

For more than 50 years, the Community Chest has raised money to distribute to agencies that serve Little Falls and Dolgeville.

"Odds are very good that at least one of the local causes that we support has touched the life of nearly everyone in the greater Little Falls and Dolgeville area," said 2015 Campaign Chair David Van Meter. "That's because we support causes that improve our lives through sports and recreation activities for children, youth and seniors, by supporting local cultural treasures such as the Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts and by reaching out to protect and adopt animals."

Donations are tax deductible, and may be sent or hand-delivered to the Greater Little Falls Community Chest, Inc., 15 Jackson Street, Little Falls, NY 13365.

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## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### DECEMBER 2015

- ❖ Thursday, 12/10. Yuletide Dinner at the Overlook Mansion, 6 to 8 pm. A farm-to-table dinner to kick off “Christmas in Little Falls.” Tickets \$40 individual, \$75 couple. Call Jessica at 868-8304 or buy online at [overlook.brownpapertickets.com](http://overlook.brownpapertickets.com).
- ❖ Saturday, 12/12. “Christmas in Little Falls,” annual citywide celebration. Holiday shopping and festive family fun at many locations downtown and at Canal Place. Santa visits, horse & carriage rides, scavenger hunt, Red Nose Reindeer 5K run, indoor farmer’s market, craft fair, Soup Fest, Christmas cards for soldiers, and much more. Please visit [www.christmasinlittlefalls.com](http://www.christmasinlittlefalls.com) for full details.
- ❖ Saturday, 12/12 (during Christmas in Little Falls) and Saturday, 12/26. Indoor Winter Farmers’ Market, Travelodge.
- ❖ Saturday, 12/12. Dmitri Levkovich piano concert, Benton Hall, 7:30 pm. Concert only, \$20. Concert plus “Meet the Artist” dinner following, Canal Side restaurant, \$70. Tickets available at the MVCA and online at [mvca.brownpapertickets.com](http://mvca.brownpapertickets.com).
- ❖ Thursday, 12/17. “Third Thursday” at participating area businesses. Last Minute Stocking Stuffers! Please visit [www.shoplittlefallsny.com](http://www.shoplittlefallsny.com) or the Think Local Little Falls Facebook page for full details.
- ❖ Student Art Show through 12/24, Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts (on display is work by students of the MVCA art classes).

### JANUARY 2016

- ❖ Tuesday, 1/5. 7 pm. Monthly Common Council meeting. Little Falls City Hall. Swearing in of mayor-elect and Common Council.
- ❖ Thursday, 1/21. “Third Thursday” at participating area businesses. “New Year, New You.” Please visit [www.shoplittlefallsny.com](http://www.shoplittlefallsny.com) or the Think Local Little Falls Facebook page for full details.
- ❖ Saturday, 1/9 and Saturday, 1/23. Indoor Winter Farmers’ Market, Travelodge.

### FEBRUARY 2016

- ❖ Tuesday, 2/2. 7 pm. Monthly Common Council meeting. Little Falls City Hall.
- ❖ Saturday, 2/13 and Saturday, 2/27. Indoor Winter Farmers’ Market, Travelodge.
- ❖ Thursday, 2/18. “Third Thursday” at participating area businesses. Please visit [www.shoplittlefallsny.com](http://www.shoplittlefallsny.com) or the Think Local Little Falls Facebook page for full details.

### MARCH 2016

- ❖ Tuesday, 3/1. 7 pm. Monthly Common Council meeting. Little Falls City Hall.
- ❖ Saturday, 3/12 and Saturday, 3/26. Indoor Winter Farmers’ Market, Travelodge.
- ❖ Thursday, 3/18. “Third Thursday” at participating area businesses. Please visit [www.shoplittlefallsny.com](http://www.shoplittlefallsny.com) or the Think Local Little Falls Facebook page for full details.

## *A Good and Busy Year: A Look Back at 2015 (continued from p. 1)*

Our “Think Local” project continued with its “Third Thursday” events, including a very successful “Oktoberfest” on Main Street and “A Mid Summer Night’s Picnic” at Canal Place. We also had our first “Pizza Challenge,” in which local pizza places competed for the title of best cheese pizza. These events couldn’t happen without the support of the YMCA and the help of volunteers from the community.

We’ve expanded our Gazette, and debuted a new website (see article, page 7).

We completed the installation of five art benches along the canal in Little Falls. The original benches were commissioned and purchased last year and installed this summer. Each bench was designed and constructed by a different regional artist. This project was achieved in partnership with Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful and the Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts. If you haven’t walked down to see the benches yet, check them out!

We helped support the first-ever Little Falls Cheese Festival, a very successful event that used our Main Street as a venue for introducing thousands of people to the area’s cheese makers and other regional vendors.

MSF is very grateful for the support of the community. We got a lot accomplished in 2015, but we didn’t do it alone. Your willingness to volunteer your time, talents, and resources helped make these projects possible.

MSF is also excited to announce that we have just become a non-profit corporation. This is a significant and important step. It will help the group and our work be more sustainable, and we should be better poised to take advantage of grant opportunities as they arise. We are looking forward to another great year of working together. Thank you!

*--Rob Richard, MSF President*



*Pumpkin bowling was a highlight of the harvest-themed Third Thursday in October.*



*Art benches were installed along the Canal.*

*"We can never get re-creation of community and heal our society without giving citizens a sense of belonging." – Patch Adams*

## MSF PROJECT: *Revamped Website Debuts*

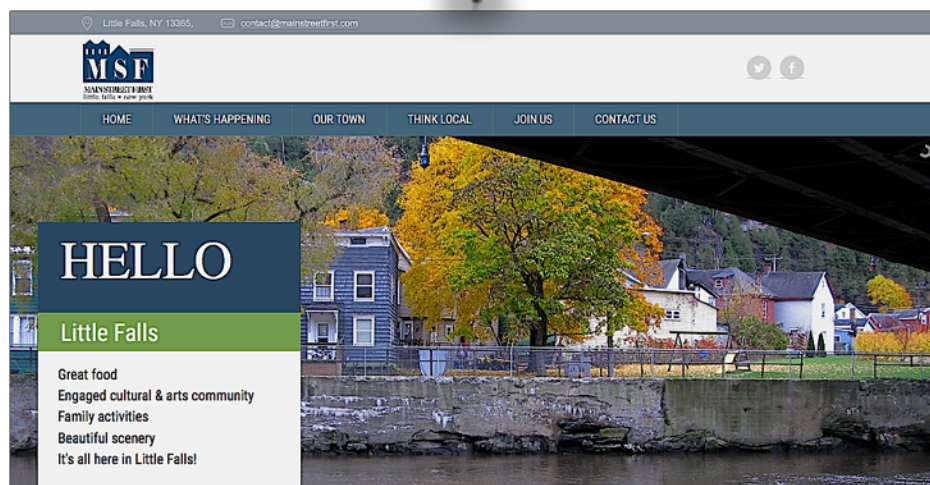
The Main Street First website has received a face lift! After many years of generous and attentive care-taking, long-time MSF member Darryl Harrington handed over the reins to a new web development team. MSF members Kevin Volo and Judy Wolf volunteered to help update the website (formerly MainStreetFirstNY.com) and were immediately pleased to discover that the domain name **MainStreetFirst.com** was available for purchase. After acting promptly to acquire it, the husband-and-wife team started building a fresh, mobile-friendly site using a highly rated WordPress theme designed for social activism websites.

Being based on a WordPress theme, the new site includes features such as the ability to integrate MSF blog posts directly into the site's content, rather than having to maintain a separate blog and thus splitting the audience. Previously, users and people searching for MSF had to figure out which site was "legitimate" and up-to-date – the web site, the blog, or the Facebook page. Now the website and blog are unified, and the Facebook page and other social media maintained by MSF will be better integrated with the website.

Having the MSF blog integrated into the website also allows for updates and additions of relevant content—an important consideration for search engine optimization (in other words, ranking higher in Google searches). Other features include: an events calendar to help highlight all the great activities taking place in and around Little Falls; a section to capture information about past and current projects; opportunities to get involved with MSF; and an "Our Town" section that will continue to be expanded to highlight the activities, businesses, organizations, history, festivals, and features we enjoy having here in Little Falls. It also includes a repository for back issues of this newsletter, a section highlighting the outstanding work of our Think Local committee, and a new capability for visitors to give donations and/or pay for their MSF membership online using PayPal or a credit or debit card.

Feedback is welcome and appreciated, and can be submitted using the new Contact Us form on the updated site. Please take a moment to visit [www.MainStreetFirst.com](http://www.MainStreetFirst.com) and let us know what you think!

--Judy Wolf and Kevin Volo



*"The internet is becoming the town square for the global village of tomorrow."-- Bill Gates*

[www.mainstreetfirst.com](http://www.mainstreetfirst.com)



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**Main Street First, Inc.** does not act on the behalf of individual businesses in Little Falls, but is dedicated to the interests of our residents in preserving and revitalizing the Little Falls City Center.

**PURPOSES:** The purposes for which the Corporation is formed are to combat community deterioration in the city by organizing the community to create sustainable initiatives to revitalize the city, by supporting city revitalization through smart growth principles, the creation of a comprehensive master plan, the participation of all interested parties in directing the city's future, citywide residential revitalization, the development of green and sustainable technologies throughout the city, to provide financial assistance and volunteers for the improvement and maintenance of the city's buildings and homes, and to increase recreational facilities, to do any other act or thing incidental to or connected with the foregoing purposes or in the advancement thereof, but not for the pecuniary profit or financial gain of its members, directors, or officers.

## MSF'S SHORT-TERM GOALS

- ❖ Continue to work with local businesses to promote monthly "Third Thursday" events.
- ❖ Expand and develop our network of volunteers.

## MSF'S LONG-TERM GOALS

- ❖ Continue to expand and improve the "Think Local Little Falls" venture.
- ❖ Position MSF as a strong partner with Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful (KMVB).
- ❖ Pursue grant opportunities for projects aligned with MSF's mission and principles.

*These are the sorts of things we discuss and plan at our meetings. Join us! Bring your ideas, skills, and energy and help us reach these and other good goals for our community.*

To receive a copy of this quarterly newsletter electronically, please send your request to:  
[mainstreetfirst@yahoo.com](mailto:mainstreetfirst@yahoo.com).



## HOW TO JOIN MSF

If you would like to get involved, have questions or ideas, or are thinking of joining, we invite you to come to our meetings — everyone is welcome!

Email us at:

[mainstreetfirst@yahoo.com](mailto:mainstreetfirst@yahoo.com)

Visit our new website at:

[www.mainstreetfirst.com](http://www.mainstreetfirst.com)

Facebook:

"like" the Main Street First page  
"like" the Think Local Little Falls page

