

Summer 2017
Volume 6, Issue 2
A quarterly publication

MSF Gazette

MAIN STREET FIRST • LITTLE FALLS • NEW YORK



LITTLE FALLS MOVES TO BECOME A “CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY”

Local governments are being encouraged by New York State with rewards and recognition for demonstrating clean energy leadership. By becoming designated as a Clean Energy Community, communities can receive grants to support additional clean energy projects. Recently, Main Street First hosted a presentation by Dan Sullivan, a Clean Energy Communities Coordinator for NYSERDA, to learn more about the program. (NYSERDA stands for New York State Energy & Research Development Authority.)

To qualify, the City must complete four of 10 high-impact actions listed by the State. Mayor Blask and the Common Council were in favor of pursuing this opportunity and quickly passed the necessary resolutions. In support of the City's efforts, Main Street First has formed a task force to help in any way the City may ask, whether that is research, legwork, or community-driven initiatives.

The City has already completed and uploaded the first action, Benchmarking, to NYSERDA. This is a policy to report the energy use of



municipal buildings on an annual basis, which will help to identify opportunities to reduce our city's energy costs.

The City has also passed legislation to adopt the New York State Unified Solar Permit, which is the second high-impact action. Using a standardized permit process will reduce costs and delays for solar projects. This will not only help the city, but also builders and owners. Once completed, the City is eligible for a \$2500 grant for having completed this action.

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

Next scheduled meetings:

Monday, June 19
Monday, July 17
Monday, July 31
Monday, August 14
Monday, August 28
@ 6:30 pm
690 East Main Street,
Little Falls

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

TERRY TIPPIN, 1932 - 2017

Terry Tippin passed away on April 23 in her beloved Masonic Temple home surrounded by her family and her loving companion Louis Baum. Terry is survived by her son Charles Christopher Tippin and wife Carolyn (Lyon) Tippin, her daughter Amanda Yates (Tippin) Straney and husband Charles Straney, her stepson Corey Grant Tippin, and seven grandchildren.



During her 21 years of residency in Little Falls, Terry was the consummate community activist. She served for many years on the boards of both the Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts and the Little Falls Historical Society. She also served as President of the Historical Society. Terry was of the Episcopal faith.

Terry was a committed preservationist and a “heritage hero” who saved the Masonic Temple building from neglect. She had a passion for the arts and was an accomplished potter who mentored many others in the craft. Terry was ever-grateful for the supportive community that welcomed and appreciated her.

Terry made a difference. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother, and loyal companion and friend. To know Terry was to like her. Hers was a life well lived. She will be missed by all who knew her.

—Jeffrey Gressler

“The best portion of a good man’s life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love.” — William Wordsworth



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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, are also available online at www.mainstreetfirst.org.

Suggestions and contributions (articles and art) are always welcome; please contact someone on the staff or write to editor@mainstreetfirst.org.

ABOUT LITTLE FALLS: ELAINE COBB, OUR WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

Main Street First is proud to honor long-time member Elaine Cobb for her recognition as a WCA (Women's Christian Association) "Woman of Distinction." She joined fellow award winners Catherine Kunz, Ruth Petkovsek, Deborah Sterzinar, and Mary Spaulding, at the WCA May 18 award luncheon held at the Little Falls Travelodge.



Elaine was nominated in the category of volunteerism by a number of Little Falls merchants for her stellar efforts as co-chair of Think Local and its offshoot Third Thursday program.



Elaine Cobb is one of MSF's founding members. She has long served as our "go to" secretary and takes an active part in all our projects. She co-chairs the Think Local committee with Christine Van Meter; their work has led to the development of the highly successful monthly Third Thursday events. Elaine produces the accompanying brochures, arranges for their distribution around the town and online, and displays the monthly Third Thursday signs throughout the city.

Under her leadership, this committee has also organized "Super Third Thursdays." These special events include Earth Day in April, the June Art Walk, the July Mid-Summer Night's Picnic, and Oktoberfest. Elaine is the link between the Little Falls business community, MSF, and the many volunteers who make these successful programs possible.

Elaine is a retired Little Falls teacher who has never stopped teaching. Immediately following her retirement, she helped establish a middle school tutoring program that assisted students with their coursework before and after the regular school day. She also presently serves on the Town of Little Falls planning board.

MSF is grateful to those merchants who nominated Elaine Cobb for this well-deserved award. Additionally, we appreciate the opportunity to recognize her ceaseless dedication and support for the City of Little Falls. Thank you, Elaine!

—Pat Frezza-Gressler

*"Everybody can be great...
because anybody can serve."
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

ABOUT LITTLE FALLS: OUTDOOR FUN AND FITNESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUMMER 2017

Now is the time when warm weather beckons us to exercise outdoors. Here is a rundown of some of the outdoor fitness offerings available in Little Falls this summer.

July 8 to July 16, participate in the “**Parks & Trails New York Cycle the Erie Canal: Eric Canal Bicentennial Celebration.**” Learn more about this 19th annual signature cycling event: an eight-day, 360-mile, full-supported tour across New York State: <http://www.ptny.org/cycle-the-erie-canal/annual-bike-tour>.

Week of Canal Celebration (August 7 to 13). Please contact Tony DeLuca at the YMCA for any questions and to sign up, (315) 823-1740. All events are free unless otherwise noted. See also the website: <http://www.littlefallsny.com/CanalDays/Schedule.html>

Wednesday, August 9. Fun paddle with canoes and kayaks. 5:30 pm. Rotary Park.

Thursday, August 10. Annual “Double Dog Dare” mountain bike race and a run through the Little Falls watershed, 6 pm. Meet at the Top Notch Road entrance near the high school. May be shared by two people or completed solo; participants must sign consent form. Adults and kids.

Friday, August 11. Outdoor basketball tournament; 3 on 3. On Main Street after the parade.

Saturday, August 12. Kiddie Fun Run, a noncompetitive half-mile run for children up to age 10. Entry free of charge; t-shirt, \$6. Check in 9:30 am. Start and finish at YMCA. Parents may participate.

Saturday, August 12. Annual YMCA/Little Falls Lumber Company Freedom Run. 10K run and two-mile run/walk. Starts and ends at the YMCA. Check in at 7:45 am. Entry fee \$20; t-shirts for first 125 registrants.

Saturday, August 12. Canoe and kayak guided tour. Little Falls Canal Harbor. Start time TBD.

Little Falls Canal Harbor and Rotary Park: These recently renovated facilities are run by the City of Little Falls and the New York State Canal Corporation. Open daily from 7:30 am to 6 pm. Kayak and canoe rentals (\$32 for the day, \$20 for four hours, or by the hour, \$10), as well as overnight docking for boats, electricity, water, showers, bathrooms, laundry facilities, and an indoor rest area with a television. Useful area visitor information provided. Camping is available in the park for bikers or boaters who are traveling through the area as well. Rotary Park is also available to rent for special events such as weddings.

This summer there is a **Tai Chi Class** on Thursdays 10:20 - 11:05 am in Rotary Park. Classes are held outside or inside depending on the weather. For more information, please contact City Clerk Kira Andrilla at City Hall, (315) 574-5246 or Mark at Rotary Park, (315) 823-1453.

Moss Island: Rock climbing, nature walks, plus you can explore nearby Erie Canal Lock 17. Explore the network of trails on the island, view the unique geologic formations known as “potholes.”

The Clark Sports Center in Cooperstown offers a Challenge Course and Group Rock Climbing Program on the cliffs of Moss Island. For more information, call them at (607) 547-2800 or visit their website: <http://www.clarksportscenter.com/adventure/corporate-and-school-programs/index.php#challenge-courses>

Moreland Park Trail: Woodland nature trail (approximately a half-mile). Picnic area with barbeque grills and restrooms are available; call the Clerk at City Hall to reserve for a large group, (315) 823-2400.

Little Falls is also part of the “**Erie Canalway Trail,**” which is a cycling destination for riders of all abilities. Following one of the world’s most famous man-made waterways, the trail spans New York between Albany and Buffalo. Little Falls has a mile-and-a-half long scenic paved pathway along the Mohawk River.

Francis Skinner Municipal Swimming Pool at 96 Burch Street open in June thru mid August. Lifeguards on duty. Adult swim, Wednesday nights. For more information, please contact Tony DeLuca at the YMCA, (315) 823-1740.

Monroe Street Athletic Field at 96 Burch Street has a soccer and multi-use playing field. **Little Falls High School** has a running track. Please call the Little Falls High School for more information about hours and availability of both facilities, (315) 823-1167.

Veterans Memorial Park on Burwell Street. Offers two basketball courts, four tennis courts, a softball field, a baseball field, a modified field for youth, and a Little League field. They offer tennis lessons for young children in the summer. Please contact the City Clerk at City Hall for more information about schedules and availability, (315) 823-2400.

—Adrienne Neff

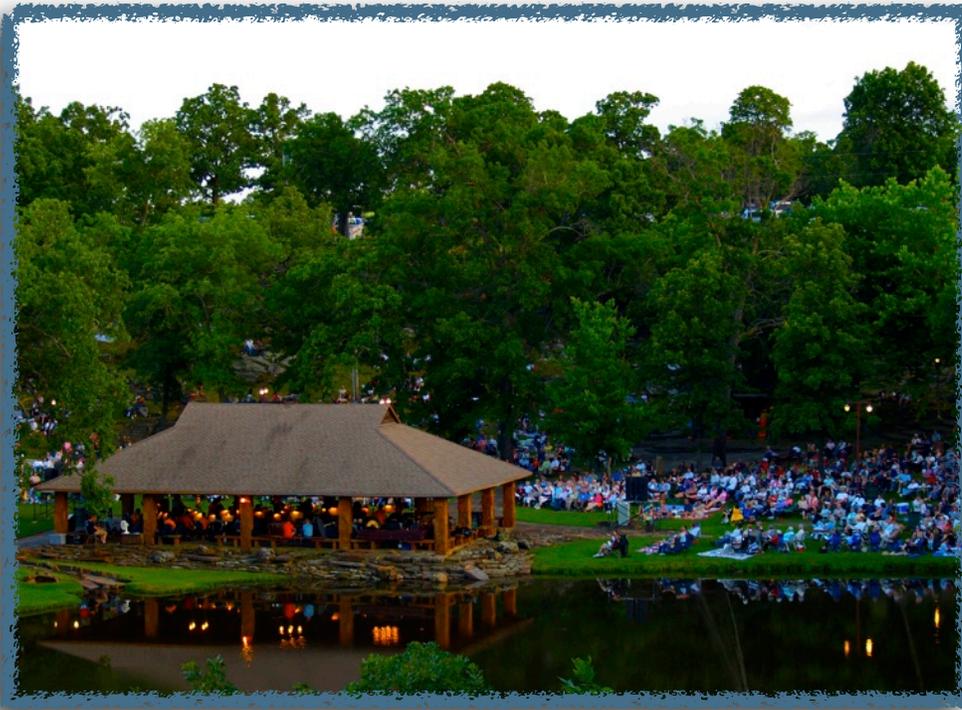


SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH SOMEONE

PLEASE RECYCLE, DON'T LITTER!

“WATER MUSIC NY” COMING TO LITTLE FALLS

At 8 pm on Wednesday, July 5, music will begin filling the air at the Rotary Park Marina on the Erie Canal in Little Falls. A special performance from a traveling barge by the 32-piece Albany Symphony Orchestra will be the centerpiece of a special Water Music NY program commemorating the bicentennial of the July 4, 1817 groundbreaking for the Erie Canal. The orchestra will be under the direction of Benjamin Wallace. The event is open to the public and, best of all, free!



A musical adaptation of the 1922 “Little Falls Waltz” written by William H. Euron and musically scored by Charlotte Staring will be performed. Various historic and patriotic songs and classical pieces will be featured. A youth choir and an 80-person adult choir from the Mohawk Valley Choral Society will also perform as part of this evening event.

An afternoon of food, music, and fun is being planned for Canal Place and in other parts of our downtown area for the same day. The citywide celebration allows the

community to reflect with pride upon our historic involvement in the visionary Erie Canal.

The July 5 event is part of the July 2 to 8 weeklong series of concerts taking place at select locations along the Erie Canal. It is an honor for Little Falls to be included in this concert series along with Albany, Schenectady, Amsterdam, Baldwinsville, Brockport, Lockport, and Buffalo.

Local involvement was initiated by the Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts. They worked closely with New York State, the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council, Taste NY, and Market NY. This event is also made possible through the strong collaboration between city government, local businesses, and various community volunteer organizations. Don’t miss it—July 5 in Little Falls promises to be quite a thrilling and fun day, and evening!

—Pat Frezza-Gressler

“CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY” *(continued from page 1)*

The third task will be the Energy Code Enforcement Training. City employees Mr. Jim Palmer and codes enforcer Mr. Phil Green are taking the training course. This training focuses on what code-enforcement officials need to know about the energy code in the context of its practical application on active construction projects.

The fourth item is being discussed between the City and NYSERDA. There are several options under discussion, and the City is also exploring whether it can use a project that has already been completed.

Upon the completion and submission of the four action items, the City will be eligible for a grant of \$50,000 towards a clean energy project. The grants are on a first-come, first-served basis, so there is a sense of urgency to get the four items completed as soon as possible.

Some uses for the grant money that have been suggested include changing to LED street lights, planting of trees throughout the city, charging stations for electric cars, solar fields, and upgraded heating and insulation in the municipal buildings.

—Mike Evans

*We do not inherit the earth from our
ancestors, we borrow it from our children.
— Native American proverb*

NEW BUSINESSES ROUNDUP!

Main Street First welcomes the following recently opened/recently relocated local businesses:

Buyer's Market Realty, LLC.

35 North Ann St.
(315) 542-0123, call anytime
robyn@buyersmarketrealty.com
“Strictly for buyers,” Robin Safford,
Licensed R.E. Broker

Happy Waffle

566 East Main St.
open Wed./Thurs. 11 am to 5 pm, Fri./Sat.
11 am to 6 pm, Sun. 10:30 am to 3pm
(315) 360-6031
41@gmail.com
Everything and anything waffle, plus ice
cream, cold-brew coffee, free WiFi

Huckleberry Letterpress Co.

590 East Main St.
(585) 329-6247
Justin@huckleberry-press.com
Customized invitations, stationery, greeting
cards, and business cards, “hand-printed in
the USA”

LCJ Custom Cabinets and Finished Carpentry

256 Burwell St.
(315) 717-5162, call anytime
lcj@yahoo.com
Custom kitchen and bath design

Rochette, A Curated Hive

410 Canal Place
open Thursday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm,
Sunday noon to 4 pm
(518) 937-3060
rochetteandcompany@gmail.com
High-quality goods from local artisans and
antique dealers

Verizon Wireless/Russell Cellular

544 Albany St.
open Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 8 pm,
Sunday, noon to 5 pm
(315) 430-5392
littlefalls.ny_mgr@russellcellular.com
“Every customer, every time”—
customized service plans—cell phones

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

JUNE 2017

- ❖ Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm. Little Falls Farmers' Market. M&T Bank parking lot. For more information, please visit and "friend" the Facebook page, LFFarmersMarket.
- ❖ Thursday, 6/15. "Super Third Thursday" at participating area businesses. Citywide "Art Walk" starts at 4:30 and ends at 8pm. Buy a \$10 ticket for "Art of Food, Little Falls" and sample Main Street's restaurants. Please visit www.shoplittlefallsny.com or the Think Local Little Falls Facebook page for full details.
- ❖ Saturday, 6/17. 9 am to 5 pm. 690 Main St. Workshop for anyone looking to buy a home and needing help and advice. Presented by the Utica Home Ownership Center in partnership with the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank and MSF. Please call UHOC at (315) 724-4197. Space is limited.
- ❖ Thursday, 6/22. 7:30 to 9:30 am. 7th Annual "Hot Cakes with the Historical Society" Celebrity Server breakfast at the Little Falls Travelodge. \$10. Presented by the Herkimer County Historical Society.

JULY 2017

- ❖ Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm. Little Falls Farmers' Market. M&T Bank parking lot. For more information, please visit and "friend" the Facebook page, LFFarmersMarket.
- ❖ Saturday, 7/1. Open Mic Night, Ole Sal's. 6:30 pm. Free. For more information or to sign up for a 15-minute performance spot, please visit [Ole Sal's Open Mic Night](#) Facebook page.
- ❖ Wednesday, 7/5. 2 to 6 pm. Water Music Street Fair. Canal Place. Food, music, gallery exhibits, Historical Society exhibits, kids' art activities, and other festivities for the entire family. Local artisans will be showing their wares. For more information, please call the MVCA at (315) 823-0808.
- ❖ Wednesday, 7/5. 8 pm. "Water Music NY," Rotary Park. Free. *For more, please see article on page 5.*
- ❖ Saturday, 7/8. 10 am to 5 pm. 3rd Annual Little Falls Cheese Festival, Main Street. Please visit www.littlefallscheesefestival.com for full details.
- ❖ Saturday, 7/8. 7 pm. Overlook Mansion. "Magic and Desserts," an entertaining evening with magician Brian Foley "The Amazing Great" accompanied by special gourmet desserts. \$30. <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2966701>
- ❖ Tuesday, 7/11. 7 pm. Monthly Common Council meeting. Little Falls City Hall.
- ❖ Thursday, 7/20. "Super Third Thursday" and Midsummer's Night Picnic. Please visit www.shoplittlefallsny.com or the Think Local Little Falls Facebook page for details.
- ❖ Sunday, 7/23. The Valley Sound Music Fest. 2 to 8 pm. Little Falls Polish Club, 92 W. Main St. Six bands of all genres. \$5 cover charge. All ages show.

AUGUST 2017

- ❖ Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm. Little Falls Farmers' Market. M&T Bank parking lot. For more information, please visit and "friend" the Facebook page, LFFarmersMarket.
- ❖ Tuesday, 8/1. 7 pm. Monthly Common Council meeting. Little Falls City Hall.
- ❖ Saturday, 8/5. 6:30 pm. Open Mic Night, Ole Sal's. Free. For more information or to sign up for a 15-minute performance spot, please visit [Ole Sal's Open Mic Night](#) Facebook page.
- ❖ Monday, 8/7 to Sunday, 8/13. Little Falls Canal Celebration. Please visit <http://www.littlefallsny.com/Canaldays/Schedule.html> for full details.
- ❖ Saturday and Sunday, 8/12 and 8/13. 10 am to 5 pm. Chicks Along the Canal, an outdoor marketplace and show for creative women set against the historic canal waterway in Little Falls.
- ❖ Thursday, 8/17. "Third Thursday - Last Splash of Summer." Please visit www.shoplittlefallsny.com or the Think Local Little Falls Facebook page for details.
- ❖ Saturday, 8/26. 10 am to 4 pm. "Family Day at the Farm," Raycliff Farm, Snell's Bush Road. Call (315) 823-4321 for more information.

CRUISE-INN Car Show @ LITTLE FALLS MARINA, 5pm to 8pm every Thursday, all summer, except June 15th. Parade is at 8pm.



PO Box 65
Little Falls, NY 13365

Main Street First, Inc. is an organization of Little Falls residents as well as other stakeholders in the cultural and commercial life of our city.

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

- ❖ Strengthen our relationship with the City, and with other not-for-profits
- ❖ Help coordinate community action to flight blight in our neighborhoods
- ❖ Collaborate on maximizing the Explore Little Falls NY initiative
- ❖ Plan and execute a major clean-up project in the City

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.



MSF’S LONG-TERM GOALS

- ❖ Support the development and implementation of a sustainability-based comprehensive plan
- ❖ Expand and engage our membership, especially young adults
- ❖ Find and pursue grant opportunities for projects aligned with MSF’s purposes
- ❖ Hold educational community sessions on topics of interest that are aligned with MSF’s purposes

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:
contact@mainstreetfirst.org
Visit our website at:
www.mainstreetfirst.org

Facebook:
“like” the Main Street First page
“like” the Think Local Little Falls page

To receive a copy of this quarterly newsletter electronically, please send your request to:
gazette@mainstreetfirst.org

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