

Autumn 2018
Volume 7, Issue 3
A quarterly publication

MSF Gazette

MAIN STREET FIRST • LITTLE FALLS • NEW YORK



LITTLE CITY, BIG EMPLOYERS

Good jobs are essential to community stability, and the almost 700 people employed by three of Little Falls' largest employers provide much financial stability. Generations of Little Falls families have bought homes, sent their children to college, and paid bills with paychecks from these employers; virtually every Little Falls nonprofit organization, from youth programs to programs for the needy, benefits from their combined philanthropy.

Little Falls Hospital (a subsidiary of Bassett Healthcare Network) is celebrating 125 years of operation. Feldmeier, Inc. (since 1998) began as Whitman and Burrell in 1880 and became Cherry-Burrell in 1928. 2019 marks the 100th year in business for Twin Rivers, LLC, which was Burrows Specialty Paper until 2016. This represents over 350 years of combined business activity.

Little Falls is fortunate to have a hospital that provides high-quality medical care, including emergency room services, while also being networked with a complete-care medical system. Four hundred people (\$15 million in payroll) are either directly or indirectly employed by Little Falls Hospital.

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Little Falls Hospital was the theme of this year's Canal Celebration. This giant cake was in the parade and at the community picnic at Rotary Park.



Mark your calendars for the Election Day Dinner, **Tuesday, November 6, 2018!** Main Street First and Preserve Our Past are teaming up to throw a fundraiser dinner at the Elks Lodge from 4:30 to 7 pm to support the City Hall Restoration Fund! *Please keep an eye out for further details!*

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

Next scheduled meetings:

Monday, September 24
Monday, October 22
Monday, November 5
Monday, November 19
Monday, December 3
@ 6:30 pm
690 East Main Street,
Little Falls

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



The Historic WCA 534 Garden Street Little Falls, NY

Info: Bonnie at (315) 823-0960

Large and small meeting rooms available for a minimal fee.

Affordable rooms for women: short- and long-term rentals, with kitchen privileges.



The WCA proudly sponsors this edition of the MSF Gazette

THE ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP!

WHO? YOU **WHAT?** VOTE!

WHERE? Holy Family Parish Hall
763 East Main St., Little Falls

WHEN? 6 am to 9 pm, Tuesday, November 6, 2018

WHY? It is ***YOUR RIGHT AND YOUR DUTY***

HOW? Register to vote. Be informed. Show up.

You can register online by going to: www.registertovote.org

OR

in person at:

Herkimer County Board of Election
109 Mary Street, Suite 1306
Herkimer, NY 13350 **Phone:** (315) 867-1102

***THINK ABOUT IT!
TALK ABOUT IT!
VOTE ABOUT IT!***

Are YOU registered to vote?

Registration deadline October 12. Your voter registration must be postmarked by this date in order for you to be eligible to vote in the November general elections.



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

ABOUT LITTLE FALLS: THE WCA

It's been around for almost 200 years, hosts many community events, and is a charming residence for women. We're talking about the WCA.

The recognizable Federal-style house on the corner of Jackson and Garden Streets has a long and noteworthy history. It was built in 1827 by Judge Nathaniel Benton. Sounds familiar—Benton Hall Academy and Benton's Landing! Benton was county judge, state senator, New York secretary of state, president of the Herkimer County Bank, and the first village president of Little Falls. In 1856, he authored a definitive book about the history of Herkimer County, which contained first-hand interviews with the few remaining veterans who served in the Revolution. He died on June 19, 1869.

In 1920, the Burrell family purchased the home and gave it to the people of Little Falls for a Women's Christian Association. They dedicated it to the memory of their sister,

Anne Louise Burrell, a pioneer who worked for the welfare and interests of women. The WCA became a meeting house and a home for working or retired women. It is centrally located within a short walking distance from Main Street shops, banks, restaurants, movie theater, and the Little Falls Public Library.

And so it continues in this fashion. The Board of Directors strives to preserve the graceful details that distinguish the Federal style: symmetrically arranged windows, hipped roof, semi-circular fanlight above the front door, and generous interior moldings. The recently refurbished entrance with its fluted columns and intricate ironwork invites you into the central foyer with its winding staircase, which leads to the second-floor bedrooms. But most impressive is the original kitchen on the lower level, reminiscent of what life was like in the early 1800s. The whitewashed stone walls

are virtually untouched, and the massive brick fireplace features a cast-iron Dutch oven that was used in making bread. The hardware was hand-forged, and original benches and tables occupy the central area. A door next to the fireplace opens into an easily missed narrow stairway leading back to the first floor.

The first floor features a beautiful living room with a fireplace and is furnished in Empire style. Each Christmas, the home is transformed into a winter wonderland. Santa visits with dozens of enthusiastic children. During the winter months, bridge games are scheduled and the women are always looking for interested players to join them. The Fortnightly Club, DAR, Girl Scouts, and Little Falls Historical Society are among the area organizations that regularly use the large community room for meetings and presentations. A minimal fee is charged for the use of the building.



Second-floor private bedrooms and bedroom suites are available by the month or for short stays. First-floor common areas include the kitchen, powder room, dining room, and TV lounge area, as well as the spacious formal living room. A coin-operated washer and dryer are available, and Wi-Fi is provided. All applications must be reviewed prior to acceptance, and a security deposit is required. If you are interested, please contact Bonnie at (315) 823-0960.

—Mena Cerone

"Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement." — Golda Meir

ABOUT LITTLE FALLS: LITTLE FALLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Many organizations hitting a 25-year milestone would crow from the rooftops. Yet Little Falls has in its midst an organization that has been quietly meeting the needs of the community since 1993, and you may not even have heard of it.



The LFCO logo

When the First Presbyterian Church was given a sizable donation, the pastor at the time believed that its mission should be found within the Little Falls community. Thus,

Little Falls Community Outreach (LFCO) was formed as a 501(c)3 nonprofit, separate from the church and with an independent board. In addition to funding from the First Presbyterian Church, LFCO receives support from individual donors, the Burrows Foundation, Stewart's Holiday Match Program, Community Chest, and the Dale Trust, as well as local churches and businesses.

Some of its programs include:

- * Banana Splits program for children of divorce;
- * Homework Academy;
- * Micah Hope Christmas Program, which provides Christmas presents to middle schoolers (inspired by the Gram Lorraine program in the elementary school);
- * Grief Support Group;
- * Women's Cancer Support Group;
- * Summer Art Program, which is new this year and hopes to expand next year to include a STEM program;
- * Backpack Food Program that will be starting in September and will provide food for 50 children on weekends and over breaks throughout the school year.

Staffed by three part-time employees and additional contracted staff as needed, LFCO keeps its costs as low as possible.

It also provides space to outside organizations such as the Art Center and Hospice and Palliative Care, which just opened a Little Falls office for its traveling staff serving Herkimer County.

Tamara Razzano, Executive Director of LFCO, moved to Little Falls in September 2016 and fell in love. "I love my job. I love going to work. I can't imagine serving in another community right now—or five to ten years from now. I really love Little Falls, and I hope that the things we are doing continue to connect with those in our community who most need it.

"And I hope our community will continue to reach out to us when they need something, because our entire mission is to serve the needs of the community—and we can only do that when we know what those are."



The LFCO's annual Wellness Fair (held each year on the third Saturday in May at the community meeting room behind the Little Falls Presbyterian Church on Jackson Street), provides a wealth of information to local people, including introducing them to area resources that may help them.

ABOUT LITTLE FALLS: LITTLE FALLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

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Tamara believes in communication and relationships. For example, the Backpack Food Program came into being after a conversation with Elementary School Principal Joe Long, who mentioned that there are more than 360 kids on the free-and-reduced lunch program—60% of the kids at Benton Hall. These are kids that have a high likelihood of not having enough to eat on the days they're not in school. Thanks to a partnership with the Food Bank of Central New York, volunteers will fill backpacks with food and deliver them to the elementary school for 50 of these children, identified by staff and faculty as most at risk, to take home over the weekends and breaks.

How can you help? Spread the word. Communicate community needs. Make a donation of any size. Tamara notes, "A backpack for the program is \$13. Sometimes people will apologize and say 'I can only give \$10.' You almost bought a backpack with that! That's *huge*. That matters. We honor and feel immense gratitude for anyone who donates. It's a really humbling moment to have someone give you a donation and trust that you're going to use it well, and we don't take that lightly."

—*Judy Wolf*

How to contact the LFCO or send tax-deductible donations:

**Office hours are Monday to Friday,
8:30 am to 1 pm**

16 Jackson St.
P.O. Box 819
(315) 823-1409

lfccommunityoutreach@gmail.com



Above: The LFCO's summer art program nurtures young artists and provides a safe, fun place for them to mingle. Below: The LFCO's Micah Hope program collects and delivers wrapped new Christmas gifts to needy area middle-school children—donations are always needed and welcome.



"May I never get too busy in my own affairs that I fail to respond to the needs of others with kindness and compassion." – Thomas Jefferson



PLEASE RECYCLE,
DON'T LITTER!

BIG EMPLOYERS *(continued from page 1)*

Current Little Falls Hospital President Mike Ogden notes that Little Falls Hospital's commitment to the full range of community needs is central to its mission. He also expresses gratitude to Little Falls for its longtime commitment to the hospital's mission.

This shared city and hospital partnership was strengthened in recent years with the completion of the hospital's \$12 million facility-wide upgrade project.

Feldmeier's 1998 purchase of the Cherry-Burrell Corporation represented a homecoming of sort in that current company president Bobby Feldmeier's grandfather Harvey Feldmeier was an engineering force within Cherry-Burrell.

Feldmeier's has 175 employees in its two Little Falls plants, which generate more than \$30 million in annual sales. The company manufactures stainless-steel tanks and vessels, silos, heat exchangers, and agitation equipment for pharmaceutical and bio-tech, food and dairy, cosmetic and health care companies, as well as beverage companies and breweries.



Company executives stress the importance of family roots and community loyalty. In recent years these family roots went deeper with the construction of a new Feldmeier facility in Industrial Park. Bobby Feldmeier recently commented: "The Feldmeier family is appreciative of all the support Little Falls and

the Mohawk Valley have provided over the years, and we are proud to call you our extended family."



Twin Rivers Paper was founded in 1919 as Burrows-Mohawk Paper Mill by Andrew Burrows. Son Ralph and then grandson Bill ran the company until 2014 when Bill passed away. Even at its founding, the company used recycled paper fiber, and today, in 2018, Twin Rivers manufactures eco-friendly and sustainable specialty packaging, and technical, label, and publishing papers for the financial, pharmaceutical, and consumer markets.

Twin Rivers employs 120 people in its two Little Falls paper mills and offices and has continued the Burrows family tradition of corporate community citizenship.

From health care to world-class manufactured products, good jobs, and extensive community investment, Little Falls Hospital, Feldmeier's, and Twin Rivers together provide Little Falls with so much. We are fortunate to have them and a grateful community says "THANK YOU."

—*Jeffrey Gressler*

"I believe in the dignity of labor, whether with head or hand; that the world owes no man a living but that it owes every man an opportunity to make a living." —John D. Rockefeller

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2018

- ❖ Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm. Little Falls Farmers' Market, M&T Bank parking lot, "rain or shine." For more information, please visit and "friend" the Facebook page, LFFarmersMarket.
- ❖ Wednesday, 9/19, 6 pm. Mayor's Conference Room, upstairs in City Hall. A public hearing on the City of Little Falls' "2018 Comprehensive Master Plan." Public comments invited. Copies available in advance at City Hall and the Public Library.
- ❖ Thursday, 9/20. "Third Thursday" at participating area businesses. Annual "Pizza Challenge." A \$5 ticket will get a party-size slice of pizza at each of our four pizza shops, a bite-size dessert at Il Caffe, and one vote for the best pizza in Little Falls. Family activities on Main Street and a free movie (Incredibles 2) at Valley Cinema. Please visit shoplittlefallsny.com or the Think Local Little Falls Facebook page for full details.
- ❖ Tuesday, 9/25, 7 pm. Little Falls Historical Society meeting, WCA, 534 Garden St. "Native American Culture." Free, everyone welcome.
- ❖ Saturday, 9/29 starting at 1 pm and Sunday, 9/30, starting at 11 am, Moreland Park. "Bluegrass, Bikes & BBQ," Moreland Park. Chicken BBQ on Saturday by Little Falls Elks, 4:30 to 6:30 pm or until sold out. Come enjoy live bluegrass music in the park! More information: LFBbluegrassBBQ@gmail.coms

OCTOBER 2018

- ❖ Tuesday, 10/2 at 7 pm. Monthly Common Council meeting. Little Falls City Hall.
- ❖ Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm. Little Falls Farmers' Market, M&T Bank parking lot, "rain or shine." For more information, please visit and "friend" the Facebook page, LFFarmersMarket.
- ❖ Saturday, 10/6, 2 to 4 pm. MVCA's 401 Gallery, Canal Place. "The Dark Forest" opening reception. Free. Exhibit on display through 11/10.
- ❖ Thursday, 10/18. "Third Thursday" at participating area businesses. "Oktoberfest," featuring a Zombie Run, a Poker Run on Main Street & kids' events at the Travelodge with pumpkin bowling, Touch-a-Truck, a Mad Scientist, and more. Please visit shoplittlefallsny.com or the Think Local Little Falls Facebook page for full details.
- ❖ Tuesday, 10/23, 7 pm. Little Falls Historical Society meeting, WCA, 534 Garden St. "A Life on the Erie Canal." Free, everyone welcome.

NOVEMBER 2018

- ❖ Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm. Little Falls Farmers' Market, M&T Bank parking lot, "rain or shine." For more information, please visit and "friend" the Facebook page, LFFarmersMarket.
- ❖ Tuesday, 11/6, 4:30 to 7 pm. Election Day Dinner, a fundraiser for the City Hall Restoration Fund. Elks Club, W. Gansevoort St. Take-out and local delivery available. Co-sponsored by Preserve our Past (POP) and Main Street First (MSF). \$10 per plate.
- ❖ Tuesday, 11/6 at 7 pm. Monthly Common Council meeting. Little Falls City Hall.
- ❖ Sunday, 11/11 at 3 pm. Syracuse University Brass Ensemble concert at the Holy Family Parish. Annual fundraiser for MVCA; \$10, adults, \$5, students, under 5 free.
- ❖ Thursday, 11/15. "Third Thursday" at participating area businesses. Included will be a Holiday Wreath raffle benefitting Think Local and MVCA (see next entry).
- ❖ Thursday, 11/15 through Wednesday, 11/21, Holiday Wreath raffle, a collaborative fundraiser of the MVCA and Think Local. Stop by the MVCA's 401 Gallery in Canal Place to place a bid; high-bid winners pick up their wreaths there on Saturday, 11/24.
- ❖ Friday, 11/16, 5 to 7 pm. Opening reception for the "2018 Great Art Giveaway." MVCA's 401 Gallery in Canal Place. Show continues through 12/15.
- ❖ Saturday, 11/24. "Small Business Saturday." Think Local Little Falls will have a "welcome station" at The Shop on Main Street. We encourage shoppers to visit merchants throughout the city. Tuesday, 11/27, 7 pm. Little Falls Historical Society meeting, WCA, 534 Garden St. Meeting and elections. Free, everyone welcome.



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

- ❖ Work with the city in support of a tree survey and urban reforestation project.
- ❖ Coordinate a Community Property Selection Committee of community representatives to fight blight in our neighborhoods.
- ❖ Partner with Bassett Research Institute to develop and present a project highlighting community development best practices.
- ❖ Hold a fundraiser to support the City Hall Restoration Fund.

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:
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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