

VIADUCT

June 2022



Editor's Letter



Hello,

Well, from new and very elegant benches around town to a very royal celebration, there's so much to look forward to in this month's Viaduct. There are art exhibitions, a male voice choir and a 24 hour Board Game Marathon to keep you entertained.

In addition to all the extra curriculae, there are all your usual favourites, breakfasts and bar-b-ques with the Laburnum Drive Residents, a catch-up with the WI and an update from the town council.

So don't let me hold you back, dip in and enjoy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paula". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline.

Editor, Viaduct

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News from your town council

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	14 June 2022	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Land and Properties (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	28 June 2022	7.00pm	Edgar Hall

Everyone is welcome to attend and there will be opportunities to ask questions. Please refer to the somerton Town Council website for Covid 19 related information.

Planning applications may be viewed on the South Somerset District Council website. All agendas, supporting papers and minutes are available on the STC website.

If you have any issues or questions about anything within this report, or in general, please direct them to the Clerk who will ensure they are answered or forwarded to the relevant Councillor or organisation to respond.

Voting results



Following the recent election there is a list of those currently serving as Somerton Town Councillor on the STC website. There are two vacancies on the Town Council that can be filled by co-option. For further details, please contact the Town Council offices at town.clerk@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk or on 01458 272236).

At the Annual Town Council meeting on Tuesday 10 May, two newly elected councillors: Cllr Stephen Tate and Cllr Rob Reid were welcomed. Cllr Dean Ruddle was elected as Town Council Chairman, and other councillors were elected onto Town Council committees, and also nominated to act as Town

Council representatives on organisations in Somerton. For further details, please see the Somerton Town Council website.

Sitting pretty

New decorative benches have been installed around Somerton. There are eight in total to be installed. The benches have been purchased by the Town Council, as a result of grant funding being received from South Somerset District Council.



News from your town council

Time for a right royal party

Thursday 2 June

12:30pm Royal Proclamation

There will be an event in the Town Square commencing at 12:30pm. The Somerton Concert Band will be playing. At 1:00pm our Town Crier, Steve Davis, will read The Royal Proclamation. This will be followed by the National Anthem and the Mid Wessex Singers singing the Platinum verse and other songs. Music will continue up to 2.00pm.

6:00pm Royal Beacon event

The event will be held at the Recreation Ground commencing at 6:00pm. There will be live music, food and a bar. The Beacon will be lit at 9:45pm. The event will finish at 10:30pm.



Friday 3 June

10:00am Jubilee Market Fair

This is being organised by AceArts and Somerton Group of Artists and will include stalls and pavement art for the children. If you would like to have a stall please contact fundraising@acearts.co.uk. In the afternoon residents are invited to hold street parties.

There will also be a display of past Jubilees and the Coronation between 10:00am and 4:00pm in the Pinney Room, Parish Rooms courtesy of Marmaduke Cradock Trust on Thursday and Friday.

Saturday 4 June

12:00pm Jubilee Family Picnic

A family picnic will be held on the Recreation Ground from noon. There will be a range of food available to purchase including hotdogs, burgers, noodles, pizzas and ice cream, or you can bring your own picnic. There will also be a bar. Entertainment will include a disco, skittles, crafts and circus activities. The event will finish at 6:00pm.

Sunday 5 June

10:30am Thanksgiving Service

Sadly, there will not be a parade but the Church service will still take place.

More street parties in the afternoon!

Bunting and flags will be up across the Town, please join us to celebrate this wonderful occasion.



News from around town

Feedback requested

Somerton's Parish Church, St Michael's in the Market Square, has a vacancy. We don't need a gardener, plumber or electrician, or even a double-glazing person. However, there is a vacancy for a new Priest. You see our previous chap the Rev. Alan Symonds, after 16 years of very faithful service in our community, retired in January 2022.



It's important to state that we are open all day every day of the year post covid restrictions, and everyone is most welcome to pop in to a quiet space or to pray. Currently there is a Ukrainian information point and display as a possible focus for consideration and/or prayer. Regular services are held each Sunday and Wednesday.

But the purpose of this article is to invite the good folk of Somerton to have their say and we welcome feedback on matters such as:

A Parish Priest does so much more than Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals but what would be some of the qualities you would look for in a new Priest?
What, if anything does the Parish Church mean to you?
What, if anything do you require from your Parish Church?
What would you like to see happening at the Church that currently is not happening?
And finally, have you any further comments?

Please send your comments to vacancystmichaels@gmail.com or call 01458 274401 before the closing date of Tuesday June 21 2022. With thanks, Graham Taylor and David Speed.

Lucy Willis exhibition

Lucy Willis finds inspiration for her watercolours on location and, although she has connections to Greece, she has travelled extensively around Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, where she leads painting groups capturing unique moments of life. Lucy has exhibited her work for over 35 years and has won several awards, including the prestigious BP Portrait Award at London's National Portrait Gallery. She was elected to the Royal West of England Academy in 1993. Her exhibition runs at the Courthouse Gallery in Somerton from 18 June until 30 July (Weds-Sat 10am-5pm). For more information visit courthousegallery.uk



©Lucy Willis, White Bourgainvillea, watercolour, 59cm x 42cm 2021

News from around town



Raise your voice and sing

We are a prize-winning local choir with a long history, and are looking to boost our ranks in preparation for our centenary year in 2023.

You don't need to be an experienced singer. We have places for bassists with deep down voices, tenors with high voices and plenty of room for those in between. Come along for a fun evening, meet the guys and see if singing is for you. Being part of a choir is a great way to relax and make new friends, and it's good for your health and well-being. We opened the

show at last summer's Glastonbury Extravaganza, and we perform at a variety of events around the area. Check out our website at glastonburymalevoicechoir.com and our Facebook pages for more information.

Also, come along to an informal concert at the Lady Smith Hall in Somerton on 21 June at 7.30pm for a taster of our style.

Air-raising talks at the WI

Somerton WI's AGM was enlivened by hearing Clive Linham's account of his career as a senior British Airways steward. We will still have an airborne connection in June (Tuesday 21 June at 2.30pm in the Parish Rooms) when we welcome a speaker from the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. Their bright yellow helicopters are seen over the area from time to time. They remind us to be grateful that the service exists – though we hope not to need it!



A refreshing look at art

Wednesday the 8 June 7.30 pm is the date of our monthly meeting. Dorset artist Tracy Linwood will demonstrate her work which she enticingly calls "Mixed Media Magic". So come along to The Parish Rooms, Market Square Somerton – entry is free to Members, but visitors are always welcome for £5 which also includes tea or coffee.

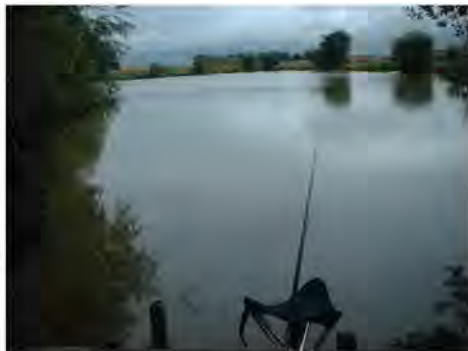
Our summer series of outdoor painting begins on Friday 10 June, when our venue will be St Margaret's Chapel and the Magdelene Almshouses in Glastonbury. For details of these and all our events, visit our website somertonartists.co.uk and click on the programme tab.

News from around town

Fresh air, fishing and friendship

A new coarse-fishing group for the over 60s will start in Somerton this June. With research showing that being outside, and especially being close to water*, is great for boosting physical and mental well-being, Age UK Somerset has organised these brand new sessions for anyone who wishes to enjoy these benefits.

The sessions will take place on Wednesdays at a stunning private lake in South Somerset with easy access and is well-stocked with carp, perch and tench. Anglers will need to bring their own kit and wear appropriate clothing, however bait will be available on site at a small cost. The sessions are led by a volunteer and cost £3, pre-booking is essential as spaces are limited.



Photograph by Adie Jackson

Becky Bostock, Age UK Somerset's Ageing Well manager has said, "If you fancy getting outside and making new friends, whether it's to take in the view, have a catch-up over a catch, or enjoy some friendly competition, then coarse fishing may be for you."

To join call Age UK Somerset's Ageing Well Service on 01823 345626 or email us at ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk.

*www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/impact-sea-lakes-rivers-peoples-health

Gardener's delight

Instead of meetings in the Edgar Hall for June and July, we have arranged visits to gardens which we know members will find interesting. These visits are on Wednesdays 8 June and 13 July, and members will need to book in advance.

With the advent of some better gardening weather, we hope that all gardens in Somerton will be looking their best. The Town Council has asked members of Gardeners' Club to judge the town's front gardens as part of encouraging a brighter Somerton. We will not come onto your property, but will be viewing from the pavement or road.



News from around town



Photograph by Lawrence OP

History and heraldry

At long last Somerton History Society is open for business. We meet every fourth Thursday in The Parish Rooms at 7.30pm.

Our next meeting is on 23 June starting at 7.00pm for coffee, then followed by our guest speaker Allan Gibbs who'll be talking about heraldry. There is no charge for members, and guests are welcome at £2 entrance fee.

Treasure hunt, stories and crowns

If you're feeling creative, Somerset Libraries are running an Essay Competition, but hurry, the deadline is 31 May. We've also got our usual library treasure hunt, this time the theme is Spring Babies.

Story time is on every Thursday at 10.30am, and on Saturdays there's the Chess Club at 10.00am until 12pm and Lego Club 10.30 to 11.30am.

We've also, like many shops and businesses in town, the Jubilee Spot the Crowns feature in our windows. Come and see how many you can spot.



Monday	Closed all morning	Open 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Tuesday	Closed all day	
Wednesday	Open 10.00am to 1.00pm	Closed all afternoon
Thursday	Open 10.00am to 1.00pm	Open 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Friday	Open 10.00am to 1.00pm	Open 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Saturday	Open 10.00am to 1.00pm	Closed all afternoon



What's my name?

Well done to Chelsea Curtis who had the wonderful idea of raising money for the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal. She asked people to make a donation and guess the correct name of this cheerful bunny.

Congratulations are due to Cheryl Tuttiet who guessed that he was called Jax, and congratulations to Chelsea for raising £106.32.

News from around town

Laughter and tears

Charity Theatre Trips is an enjoyable way to support our Langport & District Red Cross by taking a coach to Bristol Hippodrome to see a superb show.

Our next trips are to Mamma Mia! on 20 June and Les Miserables on 19 July. Tickets are in very short supply, but do ask. Call Chris on 01458 273085, email charitytheatretrips@btinternet.com or go to charitytheatretrips.com.



We're in stitches

We are so pleased to be able to host free Flock Together drop in sessions again. These will be held on Friday mornings starting on 10 June and running until 29 July from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Please call us on 01458 273008, email us at hello@acearts.co.uk or pop in to reserve a place as we do have to limit numbers. You can find more information on the Flock Together project, our year-long community sewing project inspired by the Red Dress, on our website acearts.co.uk under the Flock Together tab.

If you would like to find out more about what our charity does and our exciting plans for the future, please join us anytime between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Thursday 16 June 2022 in the gallery where light refreshments will be served throughout the day. No need to book, just drop in.

Countdown to Somerstock

Somerton's one day family-friendly music festival returns to the Recreation Ground on Saturday 9 July with just over 12 hours of live music, a children's fun zone, DJs, bars, street food from around the globe and plenty of shopping opportunities as well as on-site parking and camping facilities.

For Information and tickets go to somerstock.co.uk. Tickets also available from Rocket 68 in Somerton. Please also note that Funday on the 10 July is still free but you will need to download a ticket from somertonartsfestival.co.uk.



News from around town

A marathon you won't be bored with

After four successful years of fund raising for Cots for Tots Bristol, the neo natal intensive care baby charity, The 24 Hour Board Game Marathon is back again for the fifth year. Our venue has changed to the Edgar Hall, Somerton where there will be 24 hours of Board Gaming, Card Gaming, Dungeons and Dragons and more.

The 24 Hour Board Game Marathon was founded in 2017 by Dan and Victoria Apsey when their son Archer had a difficult start to life when he was born. A stressful time for the parents, Dan and Vicky were blessed by kindness when Cots for Tots House, just opposite the hospital where Archer was in care, contacted them and said they could use their house as a base while Archer was receiving treatment. They stayed there for two weeks as Archer made a full recovery.



Both Dan and Vicky want to give back to the charity through the best way they know how....through board gaming. A big hobby that has grown in the last 10 years. The event has so far raised a staggering £11,000.

On the 30 July 2022 at the Edgar Hall you can join the 100 attendees who have already booked their tickets for six, 12 or (if you're brave enough) 24 hours of open board gaming (from Risk, to Catan, Ticket to Ride to

Rummikub), card games including Pokemon and Magic the Gathering, Dungeons and Dragons plus tournaments to win prizes (all included in the ticket price). Or you can be part of the audience as the event is streamed live across the world.

Tickets are available on the24hourboardgamemarathon.co.uk or if you fancy seeing what it's all about before buying, contact Facebook under the same name or pop down on the day. And remember, your money helps babies and their families all across the South West.



News from around town

On the trail of good living

Somerset is home both to some of Britain's most established food producers – it is the birthplace of English cheddar – and to some of the most innovative artisan food makers working in Britain today. The Somerset Food Trail Festival on July 15-24 is an 'open farm' and farm-to-fork showcase that puts the spotlight on Somerset's smaller-scale, nature-friendly farmers and artisan producers in all their fascinating diversity, giving visitors a better understanding of where food comes from and the many benefits of buying local.



From biodynamic vineyards to community-funded food forests; small batch, organic cheesemaking to rare breed pigs, apple orchards, aquaponics and cider making; buffalo mozzarella to milk-based vodka; the 10-day event offers a wealth of foodie experiences – and some cultural ones as well.

Live performance and art will complement talks, tastings and tours in multiple destinations across the county. The festival offers visitors a rare 'behind-the-scenes' access to the farms, landscapes, people and places that produce Somerset's best, most flavourful food.



Stewart Crocker, chair of the Food Trail's organising committee, says the event aims to give visitors a better understanding of where food comes from, and the benefits of supporting more regenerative and climate-friendly approaches to farming*.

He says: "There's a growing interest in healthier, more environmentally-friendly food. Buying local, sustainably-grown food supports the producers, the local economy and the environment. It's good for our health, good for the soil and the climate** – and food that hasn't travelled hundreds of miles just tastes a whole lot better!"

Rob Walrond runs an organic farm at Pitney and took part in the first Food Trail. "One of the ways we can make the biggest difference to our health and the environment is to value food more highly... and learn about it," he says. "The Food Trail is a great way for people to understand more about how our food is produced – and to learn about the growing movement of farming in harmony with nature."

You can find out more at somersefoodtrail.uk, see Facebook @somersefoodtrail or go to instagram at somersefoodtrail22.

*Regenerative farming describes farming and grazing practices that promote ecological growing, improve soil quality and increase biodiversity to protect the natural environment and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

**Somerset's Climate Action Strategy states that local authorities have a crucial leadership role to play, promoting healthy, climate-friendly and nature-friendly choices to residents.



Have your say

It's not really a brush-off

After years of keeping the Parish Rooms in tip-top order, our caretaker/cleaner, Cheryl Tuttiett is hanging up her broom and duster and taking a well-earned retirement from the end of September, so we are looking for a new Cheryl from the beginning of September. The duties involve keeping everything clean and tidy and unlocking and locking the building for the various meetings (about 50 per month).



Cheryl will be a hard act to follow, but if you can rise to the challenge and would like full details, please contact Denise Clarke, secretary of the Lady Smith Memorial Institute (the Parish Rooms' official name) by email at deedclarke2910@gmail.com or on 07762 131700..

Cheryl also keeps our library clean and tidy for a couple of hours each week – generally an hour on Wednesday afternoon and an hour between closing on Saturday lunchtime and re-opening on Monday lunchtime. If you are interested in this position, please contact Sheila Taylor by email at s679taylor@btinternet.com or on 07792 114485. Applications for both jobs by 8 July please.



Laburnum Drive off to the garden centre

Our plans are made with you in mind and suggestions are always welcome. Every Tuesday is Coffee Morning, with the exception of our Monthly Coach Trips that fall on a Tuesday, so please check.

Tuesday 7 June Bacon Butties and a Cuppa 10.00am for just £2.00. Saturday 11 June we are celebrating our Queen with a BBQ at 4.00pm. Tickets are £6 and bring your flags. Monday 20 June we're serving breakfast at 9.00am for £4 (pre-paid please). Tuesday 21 June we're on a coach trip to Sanders Garden Centre in Weston-Super-Mare departing at 10.00am, tickets are £11. Enquiries telephone 01458 272620.

A Play School poser

This month, Peter Simmonds challenges you about architectural features and asks 'what name is given to this type of window'?

The answer to last month's question was the Lecture Hall on the south side of West Street opposite the car park exit.



Local clubs and activities

If any of the details for the current list are incorrect or you would like to be added to the list, please email viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

GROUP	CONTACT NAME	MEETING PLACE	MEETING TIME	EMAIL/WEBSITE	TELEPHONE
AceArts Life Drawing	Book on website or in Old Town Hall	The Courthouse, West Street, Somerton	Wednesday 10.30-12.30	www.acearts.co.uk	
Ageing Well	Age UK somerset	Parish Rooms, booking required for a place	Monday, Thursday and Friday	agingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk for details and to book a place.	01823 345626
Archies Extra	Alex Judith	Sports Ground, Gassons Lane by MUGA	Thurs 7.30-9.30pm 11 to 18 year olds		01458 272047 01458 273079
Creative Writing Group (Somerton)	Geri Gibson Yolande Lane	Keinton Mandeville Village Hall, Chisles Lane, Keinton Mandeville TA11 6ED	Every other Friday (6 and 20 May) 10.00am-12.00pm	geri.mgibson@gmail.com yolandelane@supanet.com	01458 851287 01458 273130
Flexercise		Buttercross Surgery	Fridays 2.30-3.30pm		
Friendship Club	Mo Fletcher	Somerton Sports Club	Second Thursday of the month 10.30am	fletcher080@btinternet.com	01458 274631
Health Walks	Mo Fletcher	Somerton Library	First and third Thursday of the month 11.30am	fletcher080@btinternet.com	01458 274631
Marital Arts Self Defence	Dan Palmer	Village Hall, High Ham, Langport TA10 9DA	Weds 7.00-8.00pm Kids and Adults Thurs 5.00-6.00pm and 6.00-7.00pm Kids	info@realitymasd.co.uk	07484 849157
Mild Wessex Singers	Rowena	West Street Church Hall	Tuesday 7.15-9.00pm	info@midwessexsingers.co.uk www.midwessexsingers.co.uk	07929 603097
Rugby Club	Gary Saunders & Steve Benn under 18s & 15s	Eirian Williams Memorial Pitch	Tues and Thurs 7.00pm		07870 861731 07919 153205
Scottish Country Dancing	Anita Wilson	Long Sutton Village Hall	Thursday 7.30-9.30pm	anitaandjim22@gmail.com	01460 929363
Somerton Bridge Club	Joan Davies, Jim Dawson	West Street Church	Thursday 7.00pm	joandawies15@rockemail.com	01458 272418 01458 251228
Somerton Carers		West Street Church Hall	Second Friday of the month 10.30am		01458 250603

Local clubs and activities

If any of the details for the current list are incorrect or you would like to be added to the list, please email viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

GROUP	CONTACT NAME	MEETING PLACE	MEETING TIME	EMAIL/WEBSITE	TELEPHONE
Somerton and District Bowls Club	Peter Jones	Sports Ground, Gassons Lane	Tuesday 5.45pm Friday 2.00pm	somertonbowlsclub.co.uk	01458 224212
Somerton Gardeners' Club	Pauline Saunders	Edgar Hall £2 for visitors	Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm		01458 272769
Somerton Group of Artists	Mandy McAllen	Parish Rooms, Market Square, Somerton	Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm £5 Includes tea or coffee	l_dissagree@hotmail.com	
Somerton History Society	Joan Banbury	Parish Rooms, Market Square, Somerton	Fourth Thursday of the month 7.30pm	j.banbury@myposioffice.co.uk	
Somerton Probosc Club	Derek Long	Somerton Sports Club	Last Wednesday of the month 11.30am for 12.00noon start	long.derek1946@gmail.com	01458 274038
Somerton Runners	Keith Brackstone	Somerton Recreation Ground hardstanding by 5-a-side football pitch	Tuesday 6.00pm	coachkeith53@gmail.com	07999 511366
Somerton Tennis Club	Membership Secretary	Somerton Tennis Club, Somerton Sports Ground, Gassons Lane TA11 6HS		somerton.tennisclub@gmail.com	01458 396006
Tai Chi	Jacqui	Parish Rooms, Somerton	Tuesday 9.30-10.30am Thurs 9.30-10.30am £20 for four weeks		01458 270258
Somerton U3a	Marilyn Muffett	Various venues and Edgar Hall fourth Friday of month 10.00am	40 different groups meet at various times - details online	Full information including speakers at u3asites.org.uk/somerton/groups	01458 899773 07736 425426
Wessex Junior Youth Club	Clive and Sara Dyer	Wessex Rooms, Broad St, Somerton TA11 7ND	Thursday 6.00pm to 7.30pm £1 entry, free first night for new members	sarad53@hotmail.com	01458 273655
Womens' Institute	Sue Long Pauline Saunders	Parish Rooms	Third Tuesday of the month 2.30pm		01458 274038 01458 272769

Somerton MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

This year the Somerton Music & Arts Festival extends to a fortnight of music, art, culture and family fun at venues across the town. There is a wide variety of events to suit all tastes and age groups, many of which are free - including plenty of bands playing at the local Somerton hostelrys.

Get your tickets now!

Prices shown are for Advance Tickets
Tickets for all events are available now online...



www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk/tickets



www.somerstock.co.uk/tickets



Enquiries: 07928 508700

Tickets can also be purchased at
Rocket 68, 46 West Street, Somerton.



SOMERSTOCK

11.00am - 11.30pm Saturday 9th July
Somerton's own one-day, family-friendly
music festival returns to The Rec Tickets: Various Prices

FAMILY FUN DAY

11.00am - 6.00pm Sunday 10th July at the Rec Tickets: Free



somertonfestival



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Friday 1st July

Gilbert & Sullivan Concert
7.30pm St Michael's Church Tickets: £12

Sunday 3rd July

Festival Church Service
10.30am St Michael's Church Tickets: FREE

Nature Walk
9.30am Market Cross Tickets: £5 per family

D-state at The Globe
3.00pm The Globe Tickets: FREE

Monday 4th July

Festival Quiz
7.00pm Somerton Sports Centre Tickets: £10 per team

Tuesday 5th July

Talk: Service Dogs in Action
7.00pm Parish Rooms Tickets: £7

Wednesday 6th July

Truffle Making Class
2.00pm Craft House Chocolate Book direct

Talk: Naval History
7.30pm Parish Rooms Tickets: £7

Thursday 7th July

Digital Photography Forum
7.00pm Parish Rooms Tickets: £6

The Drystones
7.00pm Etson Arms Book direct

Friday 8th July

Fiddleback
7.30pm White Hart Tickets: FREE

Wine Tasting
Somerton Wines Book direct

Thursday 14th July

Live Night
7.30pm Edgar Hall Tickets: £9

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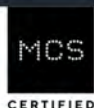
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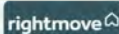
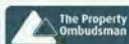
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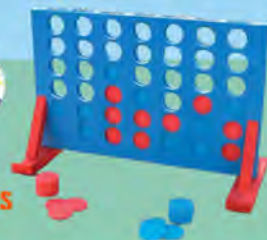
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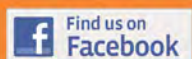
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