

Inspired By Franey

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Laura Jarrett, an illustrator and chef, has “always wanted to feed Springs.” Taking over the Springs General Store with her friend and new partner, Sharon McCobb, seemed a good way to accomplish such an ambitious goal, which will be done with the help of “Springs’s first cappuccino machine and its first chicken rotisserie.”

She and Ms. McCobb, a former marketing executive who later cooked in the kitchen of Manhattan’s Pierre Hotel and elsewhere, are aiming for an opening in early April.

Both women live in the hamlet and have famous chefs as mentors. Ms. McCobb changed careers at the urging of her father-in-law, Jean Vergnes, Le Cirque’s chef. Mr. Vergnes is a close pal and next-door Gerard Drive neighbor of Pierre Franey, the chef, cookbook author, and cooking show host. Ms. Jarrett has illustrated Mr. Franey’s cookbooks and assisted on his show.

The General Store is on Old Stone Highway, overlooking Accabonac Harbor on one side and Pussy’s Pond on the other. It was run for many years, starting in 1944, by the Collins family. Michael Collins now leases it out, and said last week that picking a new proprietor from 30 or so hopefuls who called to ask about the space — some serious and some just curious — “was the biggest problem.”

“It’s tough to meet someone for an hour and then get married to them for 10 years,” he said.

Ms. Jarrett and Ms. McCobb inquired separately and later returned as partners. Mr. Collins said he was impressed with their “good ideas and enthusiasm.”

Springs has been without the General Store since Jan. 1,

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