

**** PRESS RELEASE ****

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**Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce seeks
to bolster farmer – buyer network in Schuyler County**

Watkins Glen, NY – With so much talk surrounding drinking and dining locally, the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce wants to put that talk into action. The Chamber’s Harvest Schuyler Committee was founded with a mission to support the farm-to-table movement in Schuyler County by connecting local farmers and local restaurants, offering networking and educational opportunities, and showcasing local growers to local buyers. To that end, the Harvest Schuyler Committee will be hosting a networking event – Farmer and Buyer Speed Networking – to bring local farmers and producers together to meet local restaurants, bed and breakfast owners, and chefs.

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017

Time: 6-8pm

Location: Schuyler County Human Services Complex, Room 120, Montour Falls

The event will begin with brief introductions. Attendees will then hear from local farmer Val Carocci of Church Street Produce and Scott Signori, owner and chef at Stonecat Café. Val and Scott will share their experience of building a mutually-beneficial relationship. Their collaboration results in delicious meals, which are crafted from high-quality, incredibly fresh, local ingredients. Their success story will inspire the next portion of the evening, speed dating-style networking!

Restaurants and buyers will be seated at tables around the room, with signage indicating what they are looking to source and purchase locally. Farmers and producers will then circulate from table to table, discussing what they grow, what they could potentially grow, and more. When the bell rings, attendees will move on to the next table. The objective is to make connections between farmers who offer fruits, vegetables, meat, cheese, and more, and those who are looking to source these ingredients locally.

This event is offered by the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce, Schuyler County Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. It is free to attend and open to the public. However, space is limited and RSVPs are requested by 5pm on January 23. Please contact Membership Services Manager Meredith Williams at 607-535-4300 or email meredith@watkinsglenchamber.com.

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