



News Release

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SCHOHARIE RIVER CENTER HOSTS A DAY OF FESTIVITIES, FOOD, FUN AND MUSIC FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

USDA Rural Development will hold a press conference at the festival, announcing funding for the development of the Schoharie River Center

BURTONSVILLE, N.Y. (July 9, 2011) – On Saturday, July 9th at noon the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development will host a press conference at the Schoharie River Center announcing the agency's financial contributions to the development of the newly purchased Environmental Education Center and Nature Preserve, a component to the River Center. This new development offers residents an educational opportunity to learn more about the communities of the Schoharie River Valley. The press conference will be held as a part of the *Schoharie River Day Festival*. This town-wide event will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Burtonsville, N.Y.

USDA Rural Development provided the Schoharie River Center, Inc. with a \$129,000 community facility loan and a \$50,000 grant. "The town of Burtonsville is a beautiful place full of potential and opportunities. The center is essential to this town," said USDA's NY Rural Development State Director, Jill Harvey. "The staff at the facility is dedicated to the educational and cultural programming about the Schoharie Creek and communities of the Schoharie River Valley. This is an important educational tool that all upstate New Yorkers should be aware of." Ms. Harvey is a political appointee who represents the Obama Administrations' commitment to ensuring that rural communities are vibrant and thriving economically.

The Schoharie River Center, Inc is a not-for-profit organization that is community based. The facility offers youth development and family activities that forge a connection between the natural history and ecology of the Schoharie and Mohawk River Watersheds.

The day long festival will feature artisans, musicians, farmers, food, nature, and activities for all ages. Registration for the annual fishing derby will be at 5:30 a.m. at the Burtonsville Fire Hall and the fishing will begin at 6 a.m. There will be a pancake breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Fire Hall. The day will conclude with a chicken barbeque hosted by the Fire Department from 3 to 7p.m.

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This event is open to the public. Attendees can enjoy live music from the local bands, Fairview Avenue and The Bentwood Rockers. There will be activities such as: a paddling workshop, a drum circle, a silent auction, guided nature walks, caricatures and face painting. Demonstrations include: live birds of prey, blacksmithing, pottery, learning about local produce and the 100-Mile Diet.

“We are here to provide a place where the public can learn about the Schoharie Creek and enjoy its natural beauty by participating in community based science and art programs, workshops, and walking our trails,” says John McKeeby, executive director. “This festival is a fundraiser for the SRC and proceeds will help add a full environmental biology laboratory to SRC’S new environmental center, and make the facility handicap accessible.”

For more information on this event please visit SRC’s website at www.schoharierivercenter.org. The center is located at 2025 Burtonville Road, Esperance, NY 12066. For more information on USDA Rural Development visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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