

For Immediate Release

May 27, 2020

GOFCC and Partners to Launch Farmers Market in June New Format & Protocols Promote Safety During COVID-19

Farmers Market presented by Oswego Health with support from Richard S. Shineman Foundation and Oswego & Fulton YMCA

OSWEGO, NY - The Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce (GOFCC) has developed a two phased approach, in response to COVID-19, to launch the 2020 Oswego - Fulton Farmers Market, presented by Oswego Health. Through collaborations with Oswego Health, The Oswego YMCA, The Fulton YMCA and the Richard S. Shineman Foundation, the 2020 markets has developed new operational protocols to promote patron safety while also supporting local farmers.

“The safety of our staff, volunteers, vendors and patrons is our priority during these unprecedented times,” said Katie Toomey, executive director, GOFCC. “Our team, managed by Sara Broadwell, has thoughtfully developed a plan that includes COVID-19 safety protocols and procedures, to ensure this long-standing tradition can continue. The event is designed to support local farmers and bring the Oswego County Community together. It would not be possible without our presenting sponsors Oswego Health, donations from the Richard S. Shineman Foundation and the generous support of the Oswego and Fulton YMCAs who will act as pick up locations and staff during phase one of our market roll-out.”

“Pre-Order to Pick-up” Market – June 2020

Oswego Market Pick-up:

June 4, 11, 18, 25

3 to 5 p.m.

Oswego YMCA, 265 W 1st Street

Fulton Market Pick-up:

June 6, 13, 20, 27

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Fulton YMCA, 715 W Broadway

Throughout the month of June, The Oswego and Fulton YMCAs will act as the drop off locations during abbreviated Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning pick up hours. Oswego and Fulton YMCA employees will assist GOFCC staff during designated pick up hours. The GOFCC will provide an online list with direct links to farm vendors contact information. Patrons are encouraged to contact farms ahead of time, but pre-ordering is not required.

This new format will allow shoppers to pick up produce in a low crowd, controlled environment. Patrons will be directed by GOFCC and YMCA staff to leave immediately upon purchasing food. Additionally, sign-in, social distancing, hand washing and personal protective equipment (including masks) will be worn by staff and patrons) at all times during hours

“Traditional Market” July 2020 – October 2020

Beginning Thursday, July 9th, in Oswego (West 1st Street) and Saturday, July 11th in Fulton (Canal Landing Parking Lot), the markets will move to their traditional locations and operations, unless state guidelines change. Market times will be announced later in June. Patrons will be directed by market staff to leave immediately upon purchasing food. Similar to phase 1, sign in, social distancing, hand washing and personal protective equipment protocols will be enforced at all times during hours. Customers will not be allowed to touch produce and vendors will be spaced in accordance to safe operational guidelines.

The GOFCC will continue to follow all local, state and federal COVID- 19 guidelines and asks the Oswego and Fulton communities remain patient during these unprecedented times.

“It goes without saying that the planning process will continue to evolve, and we will look to our state and local leaders for guidance on increased or eased protocols. Our number one priority is the safety of our employees, our patrons and our vendors,” said Toomey.

Visit www.OswegoFultonChamber.com for more information or email sbroadwell@oswegofultonchamber.com to learn more about the Oswego-Fulton Farmers Market, presented by Oswego Health.

About Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce advances the business and community interests of the region through advocacy, member services and community enhancements. The GOFCC is a fully integrated affiliate of CenterState CEO, enabling it to be strong chamber, dedicated to the needs of the Oswego-Fulton community, while bringing the area prominently into the overall growth and success of the region.

www.oswegofultonchamber.com

About CenterState CEO

CenterState CEO is an independent and forward thinking economic development strategist, business leadership organization and chamber of commerce; dedicated to the success of its members and the prosperity of the region. We serve as an advocate and resource for smart business, catalyze and facilitate regional growth, and promote community prosperity through results-driven partnerships, planning and problem-solving. www.centerstateceo.com