

Steamboats, Fireworks & Farmers Markets!

Waterford's annual Steamboat Meet is coming back to the harborfront on Saturday, July 1 with food, vendors, boat rides, and beautifully restored and maintained steamboats. Historic and interesting vessels will line the docks and mooring wall, with vendors stretching across the length of the canalside park from the "Battery" to Lock E-2 in the storied Waterford Flight, in front of the Waterford Harbor Visitors Center, at the entrance to the Erie Canal in upstate New York. The event runs from 10AM till dusk, followed by one of the best fireworks displays in upstate New York right overhead.

Farmers markets are a summertime staple in upstate New

by **Pete Bardunias, President/CEO, the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County**

York as well, and Steamboat Sunday (July 2, 9AM-1PM) at the Waterford waterfront continues the fun along the docks with fresh produce, meat and other items from local farms available to residents and visitors alike at modest prices. A few of the steamboats will still be around, so people can enjoy the view and some more of the fun. Or, head on over to Upstate Kayak Rentals (www.upstatekayakrentals.com), right under the directional sign at the junction of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, and rent a kayak for a unique perspective on these interesting waters (and catch glimpses of American history all along the banks).

For boaters heading further north, a new Farmers Market is also happening at the Mechanicville Library just a few hundred feet from the City docks. Mondays between June 12 and October 7, between 4 and 7PM. It's another great opportunity to easily provision as vessels make their way north to Lake Champlain.

For more information on these and other local attractions, call (518) 371-3763, visit www.southernSaratoga.org or stop by the Southern Saratoga Information Center (at the Exit 9 Rest Area on I-87), the combined Chamber/WCBA office at 43 Broad Street, or the Waterford Harbor Visitors Center.

Waterford resident Scott Stalker keeps the burgers coming at the 2016 Steamboat Meet. Step back in time to enjoy the steamboats, and enjoy a wonderful summertime experience along the waterfront.



Chris and Gina Freeman, who both serve on Canal Corp tugboats, enjoy a little time together with "Sal the Mule" at the Waterford Steamboat Meet.

Educational institutions such as Sage Colleges and Cornell Cooperative Extension share great ideas on how to use locally grown and raised food products which can be purchased at area farmers markets.



A busy scene along the waterfront as the Steamboat Meet and Farmers Market comes to Waterford every year in early July.