



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contacts: John Cirillo: johnnycigarpr@aol.com, Cell: (914) 260-7436, Kevin McCarthy, Kevinmc.cirilloworld@gmail.com, (212) 972-5337; jerry.milani@yahoo.com; Empire City Casino: Clare Galterio, 914-457-2609, crgalterio@yonkersraceway.com, Frank Drucker, 914-968-4200, fdrucker@yonkersraceway.com

THIRD ANNUAL FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATES HARNESS RACING AND AGRICULTURE AT EMPIRE CITY CASINO AT YONKERS RACEWAY ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, FROM 5:30 TO 9:30 PM

*****Fun activities and entertainment for the entire family including pony rides, pumpkin painting, musical entertainment*****

New York— The leaves begin to change color, a sure sign that Autumn is in the air, and that the **Fall Harvest Festival** is back for its third year at **Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway** on **Saturday, October 22**. The one-day celebration of New York State harness racing, agriculture and produce for fans of all ages is on the schedule from **5:30 to 9:30 pm** on the track apron. Admission is free.

There will be activities for the young and those young at heart: harness races, pony rides, a petting zoo, pumpkin painting, and musical entertainment. There will also be New York State apple, cheese and wine product sampling, and the Legislators Exhibition Race featuring members of the Assembly and Senate, all making for a special evening. Two large tents will house the musical entertainment, as well as a wide variety of food and beverages for the entire family. There will be a free pinecone scented candle giveaway, for Empire Club members, as well as \$50 betting vouchers and pastoral photos courtesy of Blue Chip Farms.

A pie-eating contest featuring Yonkers Raceway's drivers squaring off against public contestants.

Dykeman Farms will donate the pumpkins for pumpkins painting fun. **Kimberly's Confections** will be selling their delicious frosted cupcakes a sweet addition to the Harvest Festival. **White Oak Farms**, a member of the New York Maple Association, will have its sugary syrup on display and available for purchase. New York's **Warwick Valley Winery & Distillery** is scheduled to provide wine tastings throughout the evening. A **Sulky Exhibit** and a life-size horse cut out will both allow racing fans the chance for unique picture-taking, and the **Harness Racing Museum Exhibit** will be another treat for fans of the sulky sport.

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The Standardbred Owners Association of New York will feature an autograph session with leading drivers prior to the races. The Standardbred Owners Association of New York, whose membership now exceeds 1000, has represented the interests of the owners, trainers and drivers, who regularly compete at Yonkers Raceway, for more than 50 years. This organization manages both a Pension Plan and Health Care Plan on behalf of its trainers and drivers. It maintains liability, mortality, and sulky insurance on behalf of all its members. Its President and Executive Director meet regularly with both the management of the Raceway and the New York State Racing and Wagering Board to discuss issues relating to purses, racing conditions, safety, advertising and marketing and other matters relating to Harness Racing.

The New York Sire Stakes races at all of the pari-mutuel harness tracks in New York State (Yonkers, Monticello, Saratoga, Tioga, Vernon, Batavia, and Buffalo) and holds non-pari-mutuel races at 22 County Fairs and the Goshen Historic Track.

The Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund (the Fund) is a public benefit corporation established in 1965 by the Laverne Law (Laws of New York, Chapter 567 of the Laws of 1965). The mission of the Fund is to promote the breeding of standardbred horses and the conduct of equine research within the State. To carry out its legislative mission, the Fund administers the New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) Harness Racing Program. Today the NYSS offers approximately \$16 million in purses and \$1 million in Breeders' Awards, holding races at all of New York State's harness tracks and 22 county fairs, providing unmatched racing and money-earning opportunities for the many horsemen in the Empire State. Additionally, the Fund provides monetary assistance to equine related organizations, including county agriculture societies, the statewide 4-H program and the Harry M. Zweig Fund for Equine Research.

Blond Chick Studio is a Newburg based jewelry designer that features eclectic hand-made pieces.

The Catskill Soap Company (CatSoCo) is a small family business out of the Catskills in Sullivan County. All of their soap products are made from local and natural ingredients. Heather's Treasures is teaming up with CatSoco in Dobbs Ferry.

Favor Warehouse is an internet based party favor company based out of Farmingdale, NY. They cover every kind of event and are the number one source for party favors and accessories. Go to www.favorwarehouse.com for more information.

The Saratoga Peanut Butter Company delivers all-natural peanut butter that packs a punch. Their delicious peanut butter is made in small batches, ensuring a quality product. Please visit www.yopeanut.com for more information.

Among the Fall Harvest Festival highlights is the third Legislators Challenge, comprised of four non-wagering events with 16 New York State elected officials competing under the tutelage of SOA President Joe Faraldo. The schedule participants include: Assemblyman Michael R. Benedetto (D-Bronx Co.), Assemblyman Philip M. Boyle (R-Bayshore, Suffolk Co.), Assemblyman Nelson Castro (D-Bronx Co.), Assemblyman Michael J. Cusick (D-Richmond Co.), Assemblyman Michael G. DenDekker (D-East Elmhurst, Queens Co.), Assemblyman Dennis Gabryzyk (D-Depew, Erie Co.), Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow (D-Mount Vernon, Westchester Co.), Assemblyman Andrew P. Raia (R-East Northport, Suffolk Co.), Assembly Member Addie J. Russell (D-Theresa, Jefferson Co., St. Lawrence Co.), Assemblyman Joseph Saladino (R-Massapequa, Nassau Co.), Assemblyman Mike Spano (D-Yonkers, Westchester

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Co.), Senator Tony Avella (D–Whitestone, Queens Co.), Senator Greg R Ball (R–Patterson, Dutchess Co., Putnam Co.), Senator Martin Malave Dilan (D–Brooklyn, Kings Co.), Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson (D–Mount Vernon (Bronx Co., Westchester Co.) and Senator Kevin Parker (D–Brooklyn, Kings Co.). It should be noted that Assemblymen Castro, Cusick and Pretlow won their Challenge divisions a year ago, with Mr. Pretlow in fact going after a three-peat.

Tucked away in the beautiful Shawangunk Mountain Range of Upstate New York, **Udder Ideas** has been making high quality, delicious fudge using only the finest ingredients available since 1978. Making confections is all they do, and fudge is their specialty. All the fudge is made in small batches using old world recipes. This allows them to focus on the quality. Udders Ideas Fudge is proud to be a locally owned small business and will ship their delicious fudge right to your door anywhere in the country. To learn more on how you can enjoy any of their over 25 flavors please visit them on the web at www.udderideasfudge.com.

About Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway

Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway features: 5,300 slot machines, video roulette, electronic craps and baccarat tables, Italian dining in Nonno’s Trattoria, and trackside in the Empire Terrace Restaurant, which overlooks the track for live harness racing, as well as a quick bite at the International Food Court and its wide-ranging menu. The multi-faceted Good Time Room is available for parties, benefits, weddings, and major events for up to 500. Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway is located at 810 Yonkers Avenue (at Central Avenue) in Yonkers, New York, Westchester County, (I-87 to Exit 2). Empire City Casino is open seven days a week from 10:00 AM to 2:00 AM Sunday through Thursday, and until 4:00 AM on Friday and Saturday. For more information call 914.968.4200 or log onto www.empirecitygaming.com.

OCTOBER 22 EMPIRE CITY CASINO FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL QUICK FACTS

WHO: Pumpkin-painters, pony-riders, leading harness drivers, pie-eating contests and a collection of New York’s wineries representatives, agriculture farmers, and product vendors.

WHAT: **The third annual Fall Harvest Festival** – an event for all ages, featuring harness races, pony rides, a petting zoo, pumpkin painting, musical entertainment, and blacksmith demonstrations. There will also be apple, cheese and wine product sampling, and a few racing exhibits to make for a special evening.

WHERE: **Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway**
810 Yonkers Avenue (at Central Avenue, I-87 to Exit 2)
Yonkers, NY, Westchester County

WHEN: **Saturday, October 22, 2011** **TIME:** **5:30 PM to 9:30 PM**

ADMISSION: **Free**

INFORMATION: **914-968-4200, www.yonkersraceway.com**