



**Office of
General Services**



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**BOOGIE WONDER BAND TO HEADLINE NEW YORK STATE'S FOURTH OF JULY
CELEBRATION PRESENTED BY PRICE CHOPPER & MARKET 32**

***Free Event to Feature Food, Family-Friendly Activities
and the Capital District's Biggest and Best Fireworks Show***

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito today announced New York State and Price Chopper & Market 32 are teaming up again to present New York State's 41st annual Independence Day celebration at the Empire State Plaza. With an exciting program filled with amazing performances, great food, activities for children, and the largest pyrotechnics display in the region, this year's festivities will run from 3 to 10 p.m. on Monday, July 4.

"We, along with our partners at Price Chopper & Market 32 who have sponsored this great event since our country's bicentennial in 1976, are looking forward with great anticipation to celebrating another Independence Day with all the people who come to the Empire State Plaza each July 4th to enjoy a day full of entertainment, food, and family-friendly activities," Commissioner Destito said. "I am also very pleased to remind everyone who is coming the Plaza for the holiday that reconstruction of the State Cultural Education Staircase was recently completed, and the steps are, once again, available to sit on and enjoy all the great music and fireworks."

"Since hosting the very first event celebrating our nation's Bicentennial in 1976, Price Chopper has helped make the Empire State Plaza *the* place to be in the Capital Region to celebrate the Fourth of July," said Pam Cerrone, Price Chopper's Director of

Community Relations. “We’re pleased to once again present the area's largest and most elaborate July Fourth gathering.”

The July 4 festivities will include a special performance by headliner The Boogie Wonder Band. The band is on the forefront of neo-funk-and-disco bands that capture the horn-fired sounds and fun of the '70s. With spectacular costumes and a solid set of musicians, the Boogie Wonder Band considers itself the most disco-loving band in all the land.

The day’s lineup includes something for everyone, starting with a naturalization ceremony for 32 new Americans from 19 different countries, and including dozens of food and craft vendors, activities for kids, and an evening of live entertainment leading up to the big pyrotechnics show. There will be performances by Saved by the 90s, the ultimate 90s tribute band, and The Primetime Band, which will get the party started.

New For This Year’s Celebration

In addition to bringing back some of the most popular Fourth of July activities, New York State and Price Chopper & Market 32 strive each year to keep this annual event fresh and exciting. New performers will include: DJ Smooth and the Dixie Trio, which will perform New Orleans-style music while strolling around the Plaza.

Returning Favorites

- Roaming singers from Capitaland Chorus of Albany. Quartets from this award-winning all women’s barbershop chorus will sing traditional favorites around the Empire State Plaza.
- African drumming with Badra. From Senegal, Badra’s Nine Steps Away from Africa offers people a chance to play his hand-crafted drums, which, along with other hand-made items from Senegal, are available for purchase.
- Balloon Gal Jenny. This balloon artist’s favorite part of her balloon-twisting adventures is the smile she brings to children's faces and surprising kids by attaching a balloon to them like a backpack, wings, wristlet, or barrette.
- Hula hoop demonstrations by “Hoops by Jem.”
- Watkins Glen International. Watkins Glen will be bringing Kyle Bush’s championship-winning car to the Plaza this year.

At each year’s July 4 festivities a big focus is placed on creating a family-friendly environment at the Plaza. Smoke- and alcohol-free kids’ play areas will be located on the west side of the Plaza by the agency buildings and will feature bounce rides, including the Price Chopper Hopper, pony rides, face painting, and arts and crafts with the Albany Tulip Queen and her Court.

Other returning favorites include Guido's Frozen Desserts, Roy's Caribbean, Maison Crepes, and Times Square Catering. Additionally, The Chuck Wagon and Jamaica Choice Caribbean Cuisine will be among the new food vendors at this year's event.

Plaza security will enforce its alcohol policy consistent with all other events and will not allow outside alcohol beverages, hard-sided coolers, or glass containers to be brought onto the Plaza at any time of day. Alcohol will be served by vendors to adults with proper identification.

The use of sparklers and fireworks is not permitted at the Empire State Plaza. All bags and backpacks will be subject to search. No animals or pets (excludes ADA-defined service animals) will be allowed.

This year's Fourth of July festivities will begin at the Empire State Plaza with live music kicking off at 4 p.m. (see program below) and will continue throughout the afternoon and evening along with other entertainment and activities. The area's longest and most elaborate fireworks display will begin around 9:15 p.m.

Free parking is available in the visitor and "P" lots under the Empire State Plaza, the East Garage, and the Grand Street and Elk Street lots. CDTA will provide enhanced bus service following the fireworks.

For event updates, follow @plazaevents on Twitter or call (518) 474-4759. For additional information about Summer at the Plaza events, including directions and ground rules, visit www.ogs.ny.gov.

Sponsors include: Price Chopper & Market 32, I Love NY, New York State Lottery, Geico, Watkins Glen International, Times Union, CDTA, Albany.com, and Renaissance Albany Hotel.

(Grounds open at 2 p.m.; activities begin at 3 p.m.)

Events Schedule

- 3:00 p.m. Welcome & Naturalization Ceremony
- 4:00 p.m. The Primetime Band
- 5:45 p.m. Saved by the 90s
- 7:30 p.m. New York State's Fourth of July Celebration Official Program
- 8:00 p.m. Boogie Wonder Band
- 9:15 p.m. Fireworks!

About Price Chopper

Based in Schenectady, NY, the Golub Corporation owns and operates 135 Price Chopper and Market 32 grocery stores in New York, Vermont, Connecticut,

Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The American owned, family-managed company prides itself on longstanding traditions of innovative food merchandising, leadership in community service, and cooperative employee relations. Golub's 22,000 teammates collectively own more than 47% of the company's privately held stock, making it one of the nation's largest privately held corporations that is predominantly employee-owned. For additional information, visit www.pricechopper.com.

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