



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
RoAnn M. Destito, COMMISSIONER

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**EMPIRE STATE PLAZA ICE RINK TO OPEN DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 23**

Hannaford Supermarkets Free Skate Rental Fridays kicks off opening day.

Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced that the Empire State Plaza ice rink will open to the public at 11 a.m. on Friday, November 23. The rink will be open seven days a week from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. and skating is always free. Lockers and skate rental are now located on the Plaza level adjacent to the rink.

Each Friday of the season, including opening day, will feature free skate rentals, courtesy of Hannaford Supermarkets, one of the rink's presenting sponsors for the season. Friday evenings will also feature family-friendly entertainment, including live music.

"The skating rink belongs to the people of New York and is a good example of what Governor Cuomo means when he talks about how important it is that government and the community work together," Commissioner Destito said. "We hope that everyone will come down for some fresh air and fun at Empire Skate Plaza, one of the region's most popular winter family-fun spots. Thanks to the generous support of Hannaford Supermarkets, Friday will be the first Free Skate Rental Friday of the season."

"At Hannaford Supermarkets, we strongly believe in encouraging health, wellness and active lifestyles among residents in our community. We are thrilled to partner with the New York State Office of General Services to bring such a beloved winter activity back to the Empire State Plaza and offer free skate rentals to hundreds of families throughout the Capital Region each Friday the rink is open," said Hannaford Supermarkets Community Relations Specialist Molly Tarleton. "Ice skating is the type of activity that truly crosses generations and is enjoyed by people of all ages. We look forward to welcoming families onto the rink for a fun and affordable outing against the backdrop of the State Capitol."

New events this year:

- Hannaford Supermarkets Free Skate Rental Fridays – No charge for skates from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m., every Friday.
- Sunday, December 2, 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. New York State Holiday Tree Lighting and Fireworks Festival presented by SEFCU. The rink will be closed during the fireworks and will re-open afterwards.
- Sunday, December 2, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. – Learn to Skate Clinic presented by BlueShield of Northeastern New York and featuring the Hudson Mohawk Figure Skating Club. Visit ogs.ny.gov to register.
- Friday, December 7, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Live holiday music with Chris Dukes
- Friday, December 14, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Live holiday music with 3 Minute Pop
- Friday, February 8, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Mascot Mayhem (open skate with your favorite Capital District characters).
- Learn to Skate Clinics, sponsored by BlueShield of Northeastern New York – The first Saturday of January, February and March from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. No charge for skates for those participating in the clinic. Visit ogs.ny.gov to register.

General Rink Information

- **Hours:** Every day from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m., weather dependent.
- **Cost to Skate:** Free
- **Skate Rental:** \$3 for children under 12 and \$4 for adults. Skate rental will be available whenever the rink is open.
- **Amenities:** Full-service snack bar open Friday nights, weekends and school holidays; skate lounge with lockers for personal items now located at the Plaza level; and music.

The ice rink originally opened on December 17, 1976, when the Office of General Services held the first holiday festival at the Empire State Plaza. The three-day event drew over 60,000 people to see the lighting of the tree, fireworks, and the dedication of rink.

Sponsors of the rink include Hannaford Supermarkets, Empire State Development, BlueShield of Northeastern New York, Fox 23 News, Dunkin' Donuts, Saratoga & North Creek Railway Snow Train, Monolith Solar Associates, UHY LLP, Times Union, Metroland, Albany.com, Regent Communications and Catseye Pest Control.

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