



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

Heather Groll - Public Affairs Office
(518) 474-5987
heather.groll@ogs.ny.gov
<http://www.ogs.ny.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 4, 2013

NEW YORK STATE HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING AND FIREWORKS PRESENTED BY SEFCU DECEMBER 8

Outdoor Mini Golf, Ice Sculptures, Live Music, Figure Skating Performances, and More

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced the annual New York State Holiday Tree Lighting, Fireworks, and Rock & Skate will take place on Sunday, December 8 at the Empire State Plaza. A full day of outdoor family fun and activities, including a visit from Santa Claus and his reindeer, will start with the opening of the skating rink at 11 a.m. and conclude with skating to live music from 6 to 8 p.m. Tree lighting and fireworks scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

“The live music, skating, and fireworks this year will make this more than 30-year-old tradition of lighting a holiday tree at the Empire State Plaza a spectacular event,” Commissioner Destito said. “Governor Cuomo and I are very pleased to have wonderful state resources such as the Plaza and its skating rink available for a delightful occasion like this, and I want to thank our presenting sponsor SEFCU, the families that donated the trees, and all the other sponsors for their generous support.”

“SEFCU is proud to be part of this Albany tradition that brings families and the community together to kick off the holiday season,” said Michael J. Castellana, SEFCU president and CEO. “At a time when we often get caught up in the buying and wrapping that comes with this time of year, I think it’s terrific that we

have such a great opportunity to spend quality time with loved ones right at the Plaza in Albany.”

This year’s holiday tree on the Empire State Plaza was donated by Nancy and Bill Winkler of Schenectady. The tree displayed in East Capitol Park was donated by Dawn and Chuck Dennis of Sharon Springs.

The public is invited to this family-friendly outdoor event presented by SEFCU to enjoy skating, caroling, outdoor mini-golf, visits from Santa and his reindeer, an ice sculpture demonstration presented by Schenectady County Community College, skating performances by members of the Hudson Mohawk Figure Skating Club, and the fireworks.

Beginning at 3:30 p.m., free hot cocoa, courtesy of Hannaford Supermarkets and the Salvation Army, will be served until supplies run out, and all are encouraged to stop by the eighth annual Chocolate Expo and Holiday Gift Market at the New York State Museum, which runs from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Following the fireworks at 5:30, one of the Capital Region’s favorite country bands, The Back40 Band, will perform for a holiday Rock & Skate at the Empire State Plaza ice rink.

The Plaza Pavilion will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., serving traditional snack bar fare and healthy snacks.

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 8:

11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Ice rink open (rink will temporary shut down during fireworks) Skate rentals are available

11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Chocolate Expo and Holiday Gift Market at NYS Museum (admission fee)

Noon – 3 p.m. Ice sculpture demonstration by Schenectady County Community College (sculptures will be on display throughout the event)

3 – 4 p.m. Meet and greet with Santa Claus

3 – 5 p.m. Holiday Fun Putt miniature golf

3 – 8 p.m. Meet and greet Santa’s reindeer and free hot cocoa

4:30 p.m. The Rusty Pipes of RPI perform

4:45 p.m. Skating performances by members of the Hudson Mohawk Figure Skating Club

5:15 p.m. Official New York State tree lighting ceremony presented by SEFCU

5:30 p.m. Fireworks

6 – 8 p.m. Rock and Skate with The Back40 Band

Sponsors include SEFCU, Hannaford Supermarkets, National Grid, NY's 529 College Savings Program, MetLife, News10 ABC, Times Union, 99.5 The River, PYX 106, 810 WGY, KISSFM 102.3, Oldies 98.3, Fox Sports AM980 Capital District, Albany.com, and Schenectady County Community College.

For more information on any of the Winter At The Plaza events, visit us online at www.empirestateplaza.org, on Facebook at [facebook.com\empirestateplaza](https://facebook.com/empirestateplaza), on Twitter at twitter.com/plazaevents or call the OGS Convention & Cultural Events Office toll free at 1-(877) 659-4ESP.

###