



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
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MARCH 9 LAST DAY FOR EMPIRE STATE PLAZA RINK IN 2014

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced Sunday, March 9 will be the last day of skating for this year at the Empire State Plaza rink. A highly successful year despite the unpredictable weather, the rink saw more than 12,500 visitors come to skate this winter with 10,264 skate rentals recorded.

“Though we’re all looking forward to the return of warmer weather, we are going to miss seeing all the skaters, young and old, enjoying themselves on the Plaza ice rink,” Commissioner Destito said. “We got off to a rocky beginning with a rainy and warm start to the winter, but it turned out to be a great season at the rink, and we have my hardworking team at OGS and all our great sponsors and performers to thank.”

The Winter at the Plaza series of events will conclude this weekend with Hannaford Kidz Expo, a fun-filled family event at the Empire State Plaza on Saturday March 8, which runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and then the final day of skating on Sunday, March 9. Skating is always free at the rink, which is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day.

Highlights of the 2014 skating season:

- The first day of skating was December 8, the day of the Empire State Plaza holiday tree lighting.
- There was a marriage proposal on the ice on February 4.
- More than 3,000 skates were rented on Hannaford Supermarkets’ free-skate-rental Fridays.
- There were two performances by Olympic skaters: Paul Wiley, 1992 Olympic silver medalist, on December 27; and Sarah Hughes, 2002 Olympic gold medalist, on February 1.

- Mickey and Minnie Mouse visited the rink on December 19.
- Blue Shield of Northeastern New York held three free learn-to-skate clinics with the Hudson Mohawk Figure Skating Club, each was filled to capacity.
- Three Rock & Skate events were held with a live band performing on the rink-side stage.
- New skate “scooters” were introduced this year to help novice skaters navigate the ice.
- Phil’s Kitchen at the Pavilion, located right next to the rink, served hot chocolate and food.
- Skates were rented to two men from India who said they had never seen snow or ice.

The rink was closed for several years and was reopened under Governor Cuomo in December 2011. It is now regularly recognized as one of the best places to skate in the Capital Region. 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 more than 60,000 people to see the lighting of the tree, fireworks, and rink dedication.

Please stay tuned for the upcoming announcement of the Summer at the Plaza series of events by visiting us at www.ogs.ny.gov, and follow us on Twitter @plazaevents.

Rink sponsors in 2014 include I Love New York, Hannaford Supermarkets, Blue Shield of Northeastern New York, PYX 106 and 99.5 The River.

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