



For Immediate Release: 05/4/2015

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OGS ANNOUNCES SUMMER OUTDOOR FARMERS MARKET AND FOOD VENDORS AT THE PLAZA AND HARRIMAN CAMPUS

RoAnn M. Destito, New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner, today announced the start of the Empire State Plaza and Harriman Campus summer food vendor and farmers market programs. The farmers market will return to the Plaza on Wednesday, May 6, and food vendors will begin their summer schedule on Monday, May 11. At the Harriman Campus, food vendors will return on Monday, May 4, and the farmers market will be back, starting on Thursday, May 7

Farmers Markets

The Empire State Plaza Farmers Market is held each Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This summer's market will feature more than 25 farmers and other vendors selling fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, cheeses, yogurt, wine, cider, baked goods, flowers, pesto, nuts, granola, and much more.

The farmers market at the Harriman Campus will be held every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., starting on May 7. It will feature vendors selling fresh fruits and vegetables, plants, flowers, and baked goods.

The farmers markets are part of the New York State FreshConnect program, which is designed to meet the needs of communities by bringing fresh food to underserved areas, improving nutrition education, and helping create local jobs.

Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension master gardeners will be coming to the farmers market at the Plaza on Wednesday, May 6 and Wednesday, May 20. They will be available to answer gardening questions and to collect garden and lawn soil samples for pH testing. Testing will cost \$3 per sample.

Lunchtime Food Vendors

The outdoor lunchtime food vendor program runs five days a week, also from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Plaza and Harriman Campus and offers a diverse range of prepared foods to satisfy a variety of palates.

New to the Plaza lunch program this year are DC's Pizza and Catering, and C.H. Wilk Company.

DC's is scheduled to be on the Plaza Monday through Friday and will offer pizza by the slice and a variety of salad options. Returning favorite Mr. Ding-A-Ling Ice Cream will also be selling its sweet frozen treats five days a week.

C.H. Wilk Company will be on the Plaza on Wednesdays and Fridays, offering iced coffees, hand-crafted sodas, handmade ice cream sandwiches, cookies, brownies, blondies, yogurt parfaits, fresh fruit yogurt pops, mixed berry melon salad, and roasted corn salad.

Included on the list of returning popular food trucks and vendors that will be at the Plaza on Wednesdays and Fridays selling everything from stromboli and stuffed grape leaves to avocado fries and smoked brisket are: Capital Q Smokehouse, Euro Delicacies, Slidin' Dirty, Flavors of Lebanon, La Empanada Llama, and DeFazio and Sons.

Employees and visitors at the Harriman Campus will see several familiar food vendors this year, including: DC's Pizza and Catering, Vincent's Catering, The Hungry Traveler, Miranda Enterprises, Mosell's Grove, Crazy Herb's Texas BBQ, The Spud Shack, Old Daley Inn Catering Company, and J & J Catering, which opens early to serve breakfast.

To keep up to date on all programs and events at the Empire State Plaza, visit us online at www.empirestateplaza.org or follow us at Empire State Plaza Events on Facebook or @PlazaEvents on Twitter.

The Empire State Plaza Farmers Market is sponsored by Green Mountain Energy Company.

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