



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:**  
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## **NEW YORK STATE HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING AND FIREWORKS PRESENTED BY SEFCU DECEMBER 7**

### **Outdoor Mini Golf, Ice Sculptures, Live Music, Figure Skating Performances, Visit from Santa, and More**

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced the annual New York State Holiday Tree Lighting and Fireworks will take place on Sunday, December 7 at the Empire State Plaza. A full day of indoor and outdoor family fun and activities, including a visit from Santa Claus, will start at 10 a.m. with Roaming Railroad indoor train rides and the opening of the skating rink at 11 a.m. The tree lighting ceremony and fireworks will begin at 5:15 p.m., and the event will conclude with a Rock and Skate from 6 to 8 p.m.

“The holiday season will come alive with all the musical, theatrical, and skating performances lined up for this year’s tree lighting celebration at the Empire State Plaza,” Commissioner Destito said. “Governor Cuomo and I are very pleased to continue this more than 30-year-old tradition of lighting a tree at the Plaza, and I want to thank our presenting sponsor SEFCU, the families that donated the trees, and all our other sponsors for their generous support.”

“SEFCU is so pleased to be part of this wonderful holiday tradition,” said Michael J. Castellana, SEFCU President and CEO. “Our lives are so busy, especially at this time of year, so this fun, family-friendly event is a great opportunity to take a step back and reflect on what is really important in our lives as we kick off the holiday season.”

This year's holiday tree on the Empire State Plaza was donated by VanAken family of Schenectady. The tree displayed in East Capitol Park was donated by the Keeler family of Burnt Hills.

The public is invited to this free family-friendly outdoor event presented by SEFCU to enjoy skating, caroling with the Rusty Pipes, listening to and learning about the piano from Wataru Niimori of the Music Studio, holiday arts and crafts, mini golf, demonstrations by the Hudson Mohawk Figure Skating Club, live music, and fireworks.

There will also be a visit from Santa, hot chocolate and snacks, a llama petting zoo, ice sculptures, and much more, and all are encouraged to also stop by the Taste New York Holiday Expo at the New York State Museum, which runs from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and has a \$5 admission. The new Empire State Plaza Visitor Center gift shop at the north end of the Concourse will also be open from 1 to 5 p.m.

Following the fireworks, one of the Capital Region's premiere horn sections, the Electric City Horns, will perform driving music with vocal harmonies to match for a holiday Rock & Skate at the Empire State Plaza ice rink from 6 to 8 p.m.

### **ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 7:**

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Great Train Extravaganza train ride, Empire State Plaza Concourse (\$3 admission fee)

**11 a.m. – 8 p.m.** Free Skating (**4 p.m. – 6 p.m.** rink will temporary shut down during skating demonstrations and fireworks) Skate rentals and helmets are available and snack bar is open

**11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.** Taste New York Holiday Expo at NYS Museum (\$5 admission fee)

**Noon** – Holiday Marketplace opens, Empire State Plaza Concourse

**Noon – 6 p.m.** Outdoor mini golf, Empire State Plaza

**1 p.m.** – Holiday music with pianist Wataru Niimori of the Music Studio, Empire State Plaza, Meeting Room 6

**1 p.m. – 4 p.m.** Llama petting zoo, north end of Empire State Plaza

**1 p.m. – 5 p.m.** Ice sculpture demonstrations by Schenectady County Community College by the Plaza ice rink

**2 p.m.** Meet Santa, Empire State Plaza Concourse

**2 p.m.** Holiday music with the Capital District Flute Club, Empire State Plaza Concourse, Meeting Room 6  
**3 p.m.** Meet Santa, Empire State Plaza Concourse  
**3 p.m.** Caroling on the Plaza with The Rusty Pipes  
**3:30 p.m.** Performance by cast of “Nun crackers,” improvisation and holiday songs, Empire State Plaza ice rink  
**4 p.m.** Holiday music with the Capital District Flute Club, ice rink  
**4:30 p.m.** Hudson Mohawk Figure Skating Club, skating demonstration, ice rink  
**4:45 p.m.** Caroling with The Rusty Pipes, ice rink  
**5:15 p.m.** Official NYS Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony presented by SEFCU  
**5:30 p.m.** Fireworks  
**6 p.m. – 8 p.m.** Holiday Rock and Skate with Electric City Horns

Sponsors include SEFCU, Hannaford Supermarkets, National Grid, New York Lottery, MetLife, Dave and Buster’s, News10 ABC, Times Union, Metroland, 99.5 The River, 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](http://www.empirestateplaza.org), on Facebook at empirestateplaza, follow us on Twitter @plazaevents, or call the OGS Convention & Cultural Events Office (518) 474-0549.

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