



## Office of General Services

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### **THE COMMODORES TO HEADLINE NEW YORK STATE'S ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL ON AUGUST 10**

***Full day of food, drink, and entertainment will feature NYS beers, wines, ciders, and spirits.***

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced the lineup for the annual New York State Food Festival, which will be held from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany.

“Our annual food festival is a celebration for the senses with delicious food, tasty New York beverages, and an exciting lineup of entertainment that will feature a performance by the legendary group, The Commodores,” Commissioner Destito said. “This is our most flavorful and one of our most popular events of the summer, and I want to thank all our sponsors for their support of this special festival.”

The festival will begin with the popular plaza farmers market, offering locally grown fruits and vegetables, along with breads, pastries, and many other specialty items. The entertainment will begin at noon, with a lunchtime Made in the Shade of the Egg performance by The Ajkun Ballet Theater and Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company. The Egg’s resident companies perform a mix of classical and modern choreography.

Be sure to catch lunch or dinner at one of dozens of food vendors who will be serving up a wide variety of delicious international and domestic fare, from German, Greek, South American, Cuban, Lebanese, and Jamaican cuisine to sliders, wood-fired pizza, ice cream, and crepes. There will be something to satisfy most everyone’s palate.

One of the main attractions of the festival is the Taste New York tent with wine, spirits, and other specialties produced by some of the most highly sought-after beverage and specialty food makers from regions throughout the state, including JNB Foods, Catskill Distilling Company, Baron Nahmias, Red Jacket Orchards, Electric City Roasters LLC, Thousand Islands Winery, Pazdar Beverage Company, Mud Road Sugar House, Nut Zez - Gourmet Almond Butter, Cooper Lake Farms, Partyka & Sons Farms, Pata Negra LLC, Nine Pin Ciderworks, B.T. Enterprises (Buffalo Tom's Gourmet Hot Sauce), Adirondack Winery, Albany Distilling Company, Adirondack Distilling Company, Crown Maple, and Yankee Folly Cider.

Although alcoholic beverages purchased in the Taste New York tent are not for consumption on site, there will be a NYS tap tent where adults with proper identification will be able to sample New York State beers, wines, and ciders, including Brooklyn Summer Ale, Druthers Brevity Wit, Empire White Aphro, Genesee Beer, Saranac Legacy IPA, 1911 Original Hard Cider, and Heron Hill Winery Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Riesling.

Those attending the event will be entertained by an exciting lineup of musical acts, headlined by one of the greatest Motown and R&B/funk artists of all time, The Commodores. Walter "Clyde" Orange, James Dean "JD" Nicholas, and William "WAK" King have influenced artists young and old and in all genres with their classic songs, including "Brick House," "Three Times A Lady," "Easy," "Sail On," and "Nightshift." Grammy winners and Vocal Group Hall of Fame inductees with over 75 million albums sold, seven #1 singles, five #1 albums, and 20 Top 10 singles, The Commodores' brand is bigger than ever as they continue to blaze trails all over the world.

Music on the festival's main stage will start cooking at 5 p.m. with a performance by Tara and the Boys, a local American pop band that performs a wide range of musical genres, including classic and neo soul. Next to hit the stage will be Up All Night, a dynamic cover band, made up of veterans of the Capital Region music scene.

#### **Performance schedule:**

**Noon** Made in the Shade of the Egg, The Ajkun Ballet Theatre and Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company

#### **Main Stage**

**5:00 p.m.** Tara and the Boys

**6:00 p.m.** Up All Night

**7:30 p.m.** The Commodores

Free parking will be available after 2 p.m. in the cathedral and museum visitor lots, both off Madison Avenue, and Grand Street lots, and after 4:30 p.m. in the East Garage on Philip Street off Madison Avenue. Parking is also available for \$5 at the visitor or V-lot underneath the plaza after 4 p.m.

For event updates, people can follow @plazaevents on Twitter, visit Empire State Plaza on facebook, or call (518) 474-4759. For additional information, including ground rules, visit our website at [www.empirestateplaza.org](http://www.empirestateplaza.org).

Sponsors of the New York State Food Festival include Taste NY, I Love NY, New York Lottery, BlueShield of Northeastern New York, Geico, Mazzone Hospitality, Times Union, 98.3 TRY, and Renaissance Albany Hotel.

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