



**Office of
General Services**



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**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE HERITAGE OF AMERICA BAND TO HEADLINE
NEW YORK STATE'S FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION PRESENTED BY PRICE
CHOPPER/MARKET 32**

***Free Event to Feature Food, Family-Friendly Activities
and the Capital Region's Biggest and Best Fireworks Show***

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito today announced New York State and Price Chopper/Market 32 are teaming up again to present New York State's 42nd annual Independence Day celebration at the Empire State Plaza. With an exciting program filled with amazing performances, great food, activities for children, and the largest pyrotechnics display in the region, this year's festivities will run from 3 to 10 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4.

"We are pleased to, once again, be partnering with Price Chopper/Market 32 to present a July 4 event that has been an Albany tradition here at the Empire State Plaza since 1976," Commissioner Destito said. "Based on the number of people who attend each year, we know how important this celebration is to the community, and we are looking forward to a fun day packed with entertainment, food, family-friendly activities, and those amazing fireworks. We are especially excited to have the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band headlining this year's lineup of musical performances."

"2017 marks 42 years that Price Chopper/Market 32 have presented the New York State Fourth of July Celebration. Since 1976, when we hosted the very first event, we've been so proud to be here on the Empire State Plaza, partnering with New York

State to present the biggest and best July 4 gathering and fireworks show in the Capital Region,” said Pam Cerrone, Price Chopper’s Director of Community Relations.

The July 4 festivities will include a special performance by headliner the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band. One of the original Army Air Corps bands, the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band has a rich history of inspiring hearts and minds, building and sustaining American patriotism, and enhancing esprit do corps in the United States Air Force. For over 75 years, the band has represented the Air Force with musical and military distinction, making lasting impressions with their audiences through the universal language of music.

Tonic will also take the stage on Independence Day. With six top 10 singles, over 4 million records sold, multiple Grammy nominations, platinum albums, and hit songs around the world, including “If You Could Only See” and “You Wanted More,” Tonic is a musical powerhouse, merging the raw honesty of rock with their unabashed melodies.

Kicking off the day’s musical performances will be local artist Garland Nelson and Soul Session, who will get the party started.

The day’s lineup includes something for everyone, starting with a naturalization ceremony for 20 new Americans from 17 different countries, and including a C-130 flyover by the 109th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard, dozens of food and craft vendors, activities for kids, and an evening of live entertainment leading up to the big pyrotechnics show.

New For This Year’s Celebration

In addition to bringing back some of the most popular Fourth of July activities, New York State and Price Chopper/Market 32 strive each year to keep this annual event fresh and exciting. New performers will include: Garland Nelson and Soul Session and DJ Brian B. There will also be a new selfie station and reusable Empire State Plaza cups for sale this year at the beer concession stand.

Returning Favorites

- Ragtime Windjammers Dixieland Trio, will perform New Orleans-style music while strolling around the Plaza.
- Roaming singers from Capitaland Chorus of Albany. Quartets from this award-winning all women’s barbershop chorus will sing traditional favorites around the Empire State Plaza.

- African drumming with Badra. From Senegal, Badra's Nine Steps Away from Africa offers people a chance to play his hand-crafted drums, which, along with other hand-made items from Senegal, are available for purchase.
- Balloon Gal Jenny. This balloon artist's favorite part of her balloon-twisting adventures is the smile she brings to children's faces and surprising kids by attaching a balloon to them like a backpack, wings, wristlet, or barrette.
- Hula hoop demonstrations by "Hoops by Jem."
- Triple Threat All Stars Gymnasts.
- Watkins Glen International. Watkins Glen will be bringing a race car to the Plaza this year.

At each year's July 4 festivities a big focus is placed on creating a family-friendly environment at the Plaza. Smoke- and alcohol-free kids' play areas will be located on the west side of the Plaza by the agency buildings and will feature bounce rides, including the Price Chopper Hopper, pony rides, face painting, and arts and crafts with the Albany Tulip Queen and her Court.

Plaza security will enforce its alcohol policy consistent with all other events and will not allow outside alcohol beverages, hard-sided coolers, or glass containers to be brought onto the Plaza at any time of day. Alcohol will be served by vendors to adults with proper identification.

The use of sparklers and fireworks is not permitted at the Empire State Plaza. All bags and backpacks will be subject to search. No animals or pets (excludes ADA-defined service animals) will be allowed.

This year's Fourth of July festivities will begin at the Empire State Plaza at 3 p.m. with the naturalization ceremony and then live music starting at 4 p.m. (see program below) and will continue throughout the afternoon and evening along with other entertainment and activities. The area's longest and most elaborate fireworks display will begin around 9:15 p.m.

Free parking is available in the visitor and "P" lots under the Empire State Plaza, the East Garage, and the Grand Street and Elk Street lots. CDTA will provide enhanced bus service following the fireworks, including extra trips and service on Route 5 from downtown Schenectady to downtown Albany.

For event updates, follow @plazaevents on Twitter or call (518) 474-4759. For additional information about Summer at the Plaza events, including directions and ground rules, visit www.ogs.ny.gov.

Sponsors include Price Chopper/Market 32, I Love New York, New York Lottery, Coors Light, CDTA, Watkins Glen International, Times Union, Albany.com, Renaissance Albany Hotel, and 99.5 The River

Events Schedule

(Grounds open at 2 p.m.; activities begin at 3 p.m.)

- 3:00 p.m. Welcome & Naturalization Ceremony
- 4:00 p.m. Garland Nelson and Soul Session
- 5:30 p.m. Tonic
- 7:15 p.m. New York State's July 4 Celebration Official Program and C-130 flyover
- 7:45 p.m. United States Air Force Heritage of America Band
- 9:15 p.m. Fireworks!

About The Golub Corporation

Based in Schenectady, NY, the Golub Corporation owns and operates 136 Price Chopper and Market 32 grocery stores in New York, Vermont, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The American owned, family-managed company prides itself on longstanding traditions of innovative food merchandising, leadership in community service, and cooperative employee relations. Golub's 20,000 teammates collectively own more than 44 percent of the company's privately held stock, making it one of the nation's largest privately held corporations that is predominantly employee-owned. For additional information, visit

www.pricechopper.com

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