



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS: EMPIRE STATE GAMES MOMENTUM IS BUILDING

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks today announced that PAETEC Park will be the location for the Opening Ceremony of the Rochester Empire State Summer Games, July 26-30. Brooks was joined by Geff Yancey, Chairman of the Games, members of the Local Organizing Committee, and sponsors. Local athletes competing in this year's Games were also on hand for the announcement, including Laura Hansen, a soccer player from Pittsford. Laura led her team to a gold medal victory in last year's Empire State Games.

The Opening Ceremony begins at 7:30 p.m. July 26. Brooks announced that PAETEC Park and Frontier Field will be the local ticket outlets. Tickets will be available for sale at the stadium box offices, beginning July 12. A "Master Pass" good for admission to all events is \$18 for adults and \$8 for children 6-12. Day passes and Opening Ceremony tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 6-12. Children younger than 6 get in free with a paying adult. The Opening Ceremony is the official "kick off" to the Games and will feature the parade of athletes, lighting of the torch, as well as local entertainment and a special performance by national recording artist, Hannah, from Knoxville, Tennessee. Hannah opened for Teddy Geiger at this year's Lilac Festival.

"As we approach the start of the Games, the excitement and momentum is building," said Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks**. *"Since we learned two years ago of our successful bid to host the 2006 Games, we've been busy planning for the thousands of athletes, families and fans who will be arriving at the end of the month. We couldn't have gotten this far without the support of our sponsors, colleges and universities, committee members, GRVA and other supporting organizations. Sporting events contribute a lot to our local economy, and the Games are no exception. We estimate the Games will have a \$10 million impact on our local economy."*

The Games include almost 30 different sporting events that will be held at more than 20 venues throughout the area. The Games are expected to bring nearly 6,000 athletes and an estimated 20,000 visitors, resulting in an economic impact of \$10 million.

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Empire State Games

Page 2

“The Empire State Games represent more than just a great sporting event. The Games represent first-class competition and provide significant opportunities for young amateur athletes,” said **Geff Yancey**, Chairman of the Games. *“The Local Organizing Committee has worked very hard, attending to every detail of the event, and making sure the Games are a huge success not only for the athletes and their families, but also for our entire community.”*

Brooks recognized Gold Level sponsors Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, Bank of America, and Monroe County’s Senate Delegation – Senators Mike Nozzolio, Jim Alesi, Joe Robach and George Maziarz.

Brooks also recognized additional sponsors: Time Warner Cable, WROC TV 8, FOX, Partners + Napier, Democrat & Chronicle, WBEE 92.5, Wendy’s, Paychex, Printing Methods, Inc., Home Depot, T-Mobile, Waste Management, The Pike Company, Monroe Ambulance, and Dick’s Sporting Goods. The Monroe County Sports Commission is also a supporting sponsor.

“Clearly, there is widespread community support for the Games. It’s this type of community-wide partnership that makes Monroe County a premier destination for sporting events,” **Brooks** added.

In addition, Brooks encouraged more volunteers for the Games, and said volunteers will help serve as “ambassadors” for the community while staffing individual sporting events and assisting in the media center. About 250 volunteers have signed up, to date. Organizers are looking for 500 volunteers. Excellus BlueCross BlueShield and Time Warner Cable have committed over 100 volunteers for the Opening Ceremony.

Volunteers should be 16 years of age or older, and no experience is necessary. Each volunteer will receive a t-shirt, hat and a pass good for admission to all events. Volunteers can submit a Volunteer Application Form online at rochesterempirestategames.org.

The Games were last held in Rochester in 1998. The 2006 Games marks the 29th celebration of the Games, one of the largest amateur state-sponsored athletic programs in the nation.

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