



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS KICKS OFF 2006 EMPIRE STATE SUMMER GAMES OPENING CEREMONY

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks kicked off the Opening Ceremony of the 2006 Rochester Empire State Summer Games this evening at PAETEC Park. The 29th Summer Games will run July 26-30, 2006.

At the Opening Ceremony, State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro, on behalf of Governor George Pataki, announced that in recognition of former Governor Hugh Carey's role in creating the successful annual program, the Games would be re-named in his honor, the Governor Hugh L. Carey Empire State Games.

"Monroe County is proud to be part of the Empire State Games tradition in New York State. The Games will have a significant impact on our local economy and will further enhance our community's reputation as one of the nation's premier sports destinations," said **Brooks**. *"I thank Governor George Pataki, State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro, and Lottery Director Nancy Palumbo for their support. I also congratulate Governor Hugh Carey on this well-deserved honor."*

"I especially want to thank our Local Organizing Committee Chairman, Geff Yancey, the members of the committee, and all the sponsors and volunteers who have made these Games possible," **Brooks** added.

"The Empire State Games represent more than just a great sporting event. The Games represent first-class competition and provide significant opportunities for athletes," said **Geff Yancey**, Chairman of the Games. *"This is an exciting and highly anticipated day, as we celebrate the Opening Ceremony and get the Games off to a great start."*

The largest competition of its kind in the nation, the Games is a multi-sport event for amateur athletes, patterned after the Olympic program. The Rochester Games include almost 30 different sporting events that will be held at more than 20 venues throughout the area. The Games are expected to generate \$10 million for the local economy and draw about 20,000 visitors from around the State.

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This is the third time the Empire State Games have been held in the Rochester area. The Games were last held in Rochester in 1998 and 1993.

The Empire State Games is a program of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and is partially sponsored by the New York Lottery. The Monroe County Sports Commission is a supporting sponsor of the Games. This year, Summer Games athletes number over 6,000 and represent all regions of New York State.

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