

For Immediate Release

For more information:
Jaime Alvarez, Director of Public Relations
Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park
Phone: (315) 435-8511 x110

County Executive Announces Centennial Activities, Rededicates Zoo

Syracuse, N.Y. (July 8, 2014) –County Executive Joanne M. Mahoney this morning gathered with officials from Onondaga County Parks, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo and Friends of the Zoo to commemorate the zoo’s 100th anniversary (1914-2014) and rededicate the facility to the Syracuse community.



County Executive Joanne M. Mahoney proclaimed July 8, 2014 to be The Official Celebration of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo’s 100th Birthday. Pictured with Mahoney are Friends of the Zoo President Janet Agostini and Zoo Director Ted Fox.

In recognition of the zoo’s centennial, Mahoney announced that Monday, July 14, will be \$1 admission day for all visitors. (Children two and under are always free.)

"The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is a historic cornerstone of our community and an accredited leader in animal care, conservation and visitor experience among Association of Zoos and Aquariums members," says Mahoney. "As we reflect on and celebrate the zoo’s centennial, we look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Central New York and the

visitors who travel here to enjoy our zoo, a true community asset."

"Onondaga County and Friends of the Zoo have enjoyed an exemplary working relationship spanning 40 years, contributing to the rich quality of life here in Central New York," says Janet Agostini, president, Friends of the Zoo. "We look forward to continually improving the zoo for our creatures and guests, and to further benefit the communities we serve and beyond."

"When the zoo opened in 1914, it was a small, four-acre facility housing native species. Today, after much growth and progress, the zoo is home to 700 animals consisting of more than 240 species and spans 43 acres," says Ted Fox, zoo director. "It is exciting to recognize our zoo’s centennial year and to realize how continuous improvements to its

infrastructure, exhibits, programs and more have created a facility that is a leader among zoos and aquariums.”

Officials invited zoo guests to sign a large-scale birthday card for the zoo when they visit. The card is located near the Jungle Café. In addition, guests may also wish the zoo “Happy Birthday” via its Facebook and Twitter profiles (@SyracuseZoo) using the hashtag #SyrZoo100.

As part of centennial celebrations, beginning today through the end of August guests may enter an on-site drawing for unique, behind-the-scenes experiences at the zoo. Entries will be pulled at the end of July and August, and a grand prize drawing will take place after Labor Day.

One winner will be drawn in July and August for a behind-the-scenes experience for up to four people at one of the zoo’s premier exhibits: Asian elephant, Amur tiger or Humboldt penguin. One grand prize winner will be drawn from all entries submitted after Labor Day (with the exception of July and August winners) for an experience for up to eight people consisting of an overnight stay at the historic Jefferson Clinton Hotel on South Clinton Street in Syracuse courtesy of Friends of the Zoo and the Jefferson Clinton, pre-opening arrival at the zoo the following morning, a catered breakfast in the zoo’s banquet facilities and behind-the-scenes experiences at the elephant, tiger and penguin exhibits.

Visit rosamondgiffordzoo.org/centennial to view all of the zoo’s centennial celebration information.

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Founded in 1914, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is among the top 10 percent of zoos in the country as an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is dedicated to connecting people to the natural world by providing engaging guest experiences, exceptional animal care, and unparalleled conservation education.

The zoo actively collaborates with Friends of the Zoo to provide its guests “the best day ever,” ensuring experiences that excite, memories that endure, and knowledge that inspires worldwide conservation.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults (19-61), \$4 for youth (3-18) and \$5 for seniors (62+). Children two and under are free. For more information, call the zoo at (315) 435-8511 or visit rosamondgiffordzoo.org.

One Conservation Place, Syracuse, NY 13204 • (315) 435-8511 • (315) 435-8517 fax

www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org

County Executive, Joanne M. Mahoney • Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Bill Lansley
Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director, Ted Fox • Friends of the Zoo President, Janet Agostini

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