



News From

Cheryl Dinolfo

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release
Friday, June 21, 2019

DINOLFO DEDICATES LIFE-SIZE GIRAFFE SCULPTURE AT SENECA PARK ZOO

Sculpture dedication kicks off International Giraffe Weekend June 21-23

Monroe County Executive **Cheryl Dinolfo** and officials from the Seneca Park Zoo today “unveiled” and dedicated a life-size giraffe sculpture, created by artist James “Jay” Seaman and commissioned and donated by Gill and Gail Petri of East Rochester. The sculpture is located at the entrance of the Animals of the Savanna building, which opened in 2018 as part of the Zoo’s Phase 1 Master Plan Improvements.

*“We are delighted to have this amazing giraffe sculpture as part of our new Animals of the Savanna exhibit,” said **Dinolfo**. “It is such an impressive piece of art, and so fitting for this transformational new area of the Seneca Park Zoo. My thanks to James Seaman for his incredible work and Gill and Gail Petri for their generosity. I encourage local families to visit the Zoo soon to see the new sculpture and enjoy our exciting new additions, including our Animals of the Savanna and Cold Asia exhibits.”*

The twenty-two foot stainless steel sculpture was designed and constructed by local artist James Seaman, of Trumansburg NY. The artist modeled the sculpture after observing the Zoo’s resident giraffes. Seaman has a particular talent for animal sculptures, and this is one of his largest works to date. His eagle sculpture at Montezuma Wetland Complex is a prominent sight along the New York State Thruway.

The sculpture was commissioned by Gill and Gail Petri, retired educators and long-time members of Seneca Park Zoo. Avid fans of the artist, the Petris commissioned the sculpture and donated it to Monroe County, which has placed it at the Zoo for generations of guests to enjoy.

*“Gill and I were both teachers for over 30 years, and we’ve been members of Seneca Park Zoo almost as long,” said **Gail Petri**. “We are so thrilled to have this beautiful sculpture at Seneca Park Zoo where it will be appreciated by millions of people over the years.”*

The dedication occurs at a fitting time, as June 21 is World Giraffe Day, the longest day of the year, a perfect tribute for the world’s tallest mammal. It also kicks off the Zoo’s celebration of International Giraffe Weekend. In addition to regularly-scheduled programs and giraffe feedings, there will be special demonstrations and keeper talks at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Seneca Park Zoo is open 10:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. with last entry at 4:00p.m.

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