MEDIA ADVISORY

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART SCULPTURE GARDEN

ICE SKATING RINK TO CLOSE MARCH 5

Washington, D.C. - The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Ice Skating Rink will close on Sunday, March 5, 2000, instead of March 15 as previously announced. The earlier closing date is to allow adequate time for conversion of the ice skating rink into a fountain before the Cherry Blossom Festival takes place in early April.

The ice skating rink, which reopened on December 3, 1999, after closing in 1997 for the construction of the Sculpture Garden, had an attendance of 44,434 from December 3, 1999 to February 21, 2000, an average of 549 visitors per day.

An announcement on the winter 2000-2001 opening dates for the ice skating rink will be made in the fall.

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