FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Mr. Michael P. Kuss
1100 East 8th St.
Michigan City, Indiana 46360

Mayor Meer Appoints Committee on Lead

Michigan City, Indiana – 7 March, 2017

Mayor Ron Meer recently established a committee to help educate community members about the dangers of lead and preventative measures to protect families from exposure to lead. The Committee was established as a result of newly compiled data showing high levels of blood lead levels among children under the age of seven in some Michigan City neighborhoods.

The goals of the committee are to find the best means to educate our community about the dangers of lead, and to promote awareness of and access to current resources at the local, state, and federal levels on the topic of lead. The committee will continue to meet and report regularly to the Mayor, the Michigan City Common Council, and to the public.

In the group’s four meetings they have gathered and evaluated pertinent information for dissemination from institutions such as the La Porte County Health Department, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, United Stated Environmental Protection Agency, Michigan City Housing Authority, Michigan City Water Department, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Michigan City Code Enforcement, and the Michigan City Department of Community Development. Additionally, multiple local resources have been engaged for their input and expertise on the subject.

The committee has concluded the prevalence of lead-based paint in homes constructed prior to 1978 as an important emerging issue and as the most likely source of above average lead levels in children’s blood. Michigan City’s drinking water has met the Safe Drinking Water criteria for lead and there are no indications that the high lead levels are being caused by the City’s drinking water. The Michigan City Water Department will be testing the City’s drinking water for lead again this summer.
Committee on Lead

As more information is gathered and communicated, the committee would like the public to know there is an immediate need for parents of young children, especially those with children below the age of seven, to utilize the available resources in our community to complete lead screening in children. Children can be screened for free at the La Porte County Health Department, 801 N. Michigan St., LaPorte, Indiana, during their normal working hours. Parents may also have their children tested by their local family physician, but such testing may not be free.

The Committee on Lead will continue to meet regularly during 2017, and they plan to work with local community leaders and the newly formed La Porte County Task Force on Lead, to help reduce the risks from lead to our families.