

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Winter Holiday Events In Michigan City

Michigan City, IN (November 5, 2004) – The majesty of Lake Michigan and the dunes in winter is the background against which winter plays in Michigan City ...and you won't want to miss experiencing the winter holidays in this charming community on the southern- tip of the Great Lakes.

If you haven't previously visited the Michigan City **Festival of Lights** in Washington Park on Lake Shore Drive, this is the year to experience it for the first time. This is the largest FREE holiday light extravaganza in the Midwest! Enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies in the Jaycee Stage building, listen to the beautiful holiday music provided by the Michigan City High School Chorale, and warm up near the giant bonfire tended by the Michigan City Fire Department. Tour the free light show in your car, on foot, or on a free horse-drawn wagon ride. You'll never forget this unique experience on the shores of Lake Michigan. The Festival of Lights grand opening will be held from 5-7 pm. on **Saturday, December 4th**. Lights will be turned on at 5 p.m. and will remain lit through January 16, 2005. FREE. Call 219/873-1506 for more details.

Warm your tummy during the Festival of Lights' grand opening. The Mayor's Campaign Against Cancer is sponsoring a **Chili Cook-off** as a fundraiser. Department Heads from City Hall will offer their delicious and unique chili to the public. Taste all the entries for \$3 and vote for your favorite... then purchase a full bowl of the one you like most for \$3 more. Michiana Resources will have hot dogs available for \$1 each. All funds collected from the chili cook-off will be donated to the American Cancer Society for use in our area. This new event for our community will be held from 5-7 p.m. at the "old bumper car building" in Washington Park on Lake Shore Drive on **Saturday, December 4th**. Look for the pink Breast Cancer Awareness pin in lights! Call 219/873-1506 for more information.

Experience "The Nutcracker," "The Polar Express," "The Twelve Days of Christmas," "Frosty The Snowman," and other cherished traditional stories and poems of the Christmas season at the historic **Barker Mansion**. On **Saturday, December 4th**, Mrs. Claus will read stories at 5 p.m. Kathy Zmuda, our renowned local storyteller, will entertain kids of all ages at 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 11th. Children may attend the story-telling events at no charge if accompanied by an

adult. Reservations are strongly recommended. The festive holiday decorations on three floors in the Mansion may be viewed with a self-guided tour during the annual **Open House from December 4th through December 19th**. Hours for the Open House are Monday through Friday from Noon through 3pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from Noon through 4pm. **Christmas family tours** are scheduled for **Sunday, December 12th** and **Sunday, December 19th** at 5:00 pm. Phone reservations are required for this tour. From **December 20th through January 15th**, the decorations may be seen only with a **guided tour** Monday through Friday at 10:00 am, 11:30 am, and 1:00 pm. Saturday and Sunday guided tours are at Noon and 2 pm. The Mansion will be closed December 24, 25 and January 1. Admission cost is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for youth 18 and under. Call 219/873-1520 for more information or group tour reservations. Call 219/873-1520 for more information. Barker Mansion is a thirty-eight room 1905 House Museum on the National Register of Historic Places and contains many original furnishings and art objects. John H. Barker, freight car industrialist, built the manufacturing plant that was located on the site of Lighthouse Place Premium Outlet center. The Mansion is only one block east of the shopping center at 631 Washington Street, Michigan City, Indiana.

Lions and tigers and bears. Lemurs and zebras and deer. Baboons and lizards and snakes. Oh, my! Experience the Zoo in lights during **Zooltide at Washington Park Zoo** on Lake Shore Drive. Carolers, Santa, special activities and more will be on hand at one of the only zoos located near the shores of the Great Lakes. Be sure to visit the Big Red Barn where horses, pot-bellied pigs, goats and bunnies wait for tiny hands to pet them. Have your child's photo taken by elves in a photo-op area there. The Children's Rotary Castle, designed to replicate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' logo, is home to reptiles and more...and is one of very few such structures, built as one of the WPA projects, which still exist in the United States today. Zooltide is the last time to visit the animals before the zoo re-opens after the winter season in April 2005. This popular event will be held from 5-7pm on **Saturday, December 4th and Sunday, December 5th**. Admission fees are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Call 219/873-1510 for more information.

On **Sunday, December 5th**, bring the family and friends to Franklin Street at 4 p.m. to watch the annual **Snowflake Parade**. The parade travels down Franklin Street north from 9th to 4th Street where it ends at the front of the Michigan City Public Library. The parade is packed with costumed characters, precision marching teams, floats, bands...and of course, Santa! Hot chocolate served free at the Mainstreet Theatre and the Library entrance. The parade will be followed by the traditional lighting of our community holiday tree at the library plaza; a holiday sing-along will be conducted as the tree lights go on. This event, part of Yuletide Splendor, is sponsored by the Michigan City Mainstreet Association; call them at 219/874-3647 for more information.

Harken back to the days of yore and see the downtown decorations while enjoying a **horse-drawn wagon ride**. The memorable rides through northern sections of Michigan City are the other component of the Mainstreet Association's Yuletide Splendor celebration. The LaPorte County Draft Horse Association, co-sponsor of the wagon rides, will pick up passengers at the Brickstone Bed & Breakfast, 215 W. 6th, from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, **December 11th** and Saturday, **December 18th**. The wagon rides are free, on a first-come, first-served basis.

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