

PRESSRELEASE

Mayor's Office • 100 East Michigan Blvd. • Michigan City, IN 46360 • (219)873-1400 • Fax: (219)873-1515

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For Immediate Release

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Literacy Month in Michigan City

Michigan City, IN (July 25, 2003) – Mayor Chuck Oberlie announced that the City of Michigan City will celebrate Literacy Month in September 2003.

“September is Literacy Month in Michigan City,” said Mayor Oberlie, “and we will be focusing on how literacy affects communities, economic development and individuals. The Michigan City Task Force on Literacy will present facts and articles about illiteracy on the city’s website (www.emichigancity.com) and is partnering with others to bring literacy skills to everyone in our community.”

The Mayor’s Task Force on Literacy has invited the Michigan City Public Library, Purdue North Central University, the News-Dispatch, IV Tech, Workforce Development, Unity Foundation, Healthy Communities, Safe Harbor, and the LaPorte Literacy Coalition to join forces and address literacy issues in our community.

“When you cannot read, it is difficult to complete a job application, use a phone book, understand street signs, or help your child with homework,” said Mayor Chuck Oberlie. “When a community’s citizens cannot read, the challenge of bringing new businesses to the community is even greater. The ability to read and to understand information is crucial to both individual and community success.”

Mayor Oberlie said that his office is also working with the Indiana State Library to create programs for Literacy Month in Indiana. “The Indiana Adult Literacy Coalition’s statewide campaign is ‘Put Your Nose In a Book, Indiana!’ The goal is to create greater awareness of literacy issues in Indiana and to assist those Hoosiers whose literacy skills make everyday life challenging.”

The Michigan City Public Library’s Learning Center needs volunteers to work with adults and children who are learning to read and improving their reading skills. “Helping someone learn to read or to read better makes life better for the entire community,” said Mayor Oberlie. “I urge you to volunteer your skills at the Library.”

Volunteers and people of all ages who want to learn to read or to read better can call the Learning Center at 219/873-3043.

Contact: For more information on Literacy Month In Michigan City or the Michigan City Task Force on Literacy, contact Robin Kohn, Michigan City Public Library; 219/873-3049 or rkohn@mclib.org; or Janet Kostielney, Mayor’s Office, City Hall; 219/873-1400 X350 or jkostielney@emichigancity.com