

PRESSRELEASE

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

For Immediate Release

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Mayor Proclaims Relay For Life Days In LaPorte County

Michigan City, IN (June 16, 2004) – Mayor Chuck Oberlie is joined by LaPorte Mayor Leigh Morris and the LaPorte County Commissioners in proclaiming June 18th & 19th as Relay For Life Days in LaPorte County. Mayor Oberlie asks that all citizens recognize and appreciate the efforts of the American Cancer Society and the hundreds of volunteers who assist them in raising awareness and funds used to vanquish cancer.

“I encourage everyone to include the American Cancer Society and the Relay For Life in their list of charitable donations,” said Mayor Oberlie, “and to participate in the Luminaria Ceremony at 9:00 p.m. on Friday, June 18th, at the LaPorte County Fairground during which survivors will be honored.”

The Relay For Life begins at 6pm Friday, June 18, 2004, and the closing ceremony will begin at 11:30am on Saturday, June 19, 2004.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States, and one of every four deaths is attributed to cancer. An estimated 555,000 will die from cancer this year, about 1,500 people every day. Prevention and early detection can reduce risk and improve chances for survival. The 5-year survival rate for cancers that can be detected by screening – breast, colon, rectum, cervix, prostate, testis, oral cavity and skin – is about 82%. The rate could be increased to 95% if all Americans were regularly screened for these cancers.

Smoking is the most preventable cause of death in our society. It is responsible for 30% of all cancer deaths and 87% of lung cancers. Tobacco use is also associated with cancers of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, pancreas, uterine cervix, kidney and bladder. The National Institutes of Health estimates overall costs for cancer in 2001 were \$156.7 billion dollars.

The American Cancer Society represents the interests of cancer patients, their families and the general public in the development of local, state and national health care policies. One of the American Cancer Society's most successful projects, designed to raise awareness of cancer-related health concerns and to raise funds that will be used for educational outreach programs, is the Relay For Life. The Relay is a unique, empowering and fun way to make a difference in the fight against cancer.

Mayor Oberlie said, “The Relay For Life supports those who have lost loved ones, offers encouragement to those who are currently battling the disease and celebrates life with those who have survived. Come out to the LaPorte County Fairgrounds this weekend and be part of a memorable event which does so much good for our community.”

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Contact: Laura New, Relay For Life Coordinator **Phone:** 219/873-1506 **E-mail:** lnew@michigancityparks.com