

# PRESSRELEASE

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

[www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com)

## For Immediate Release

**Date:** May 21, 2005

## GRAND OPENING Of the Washington Park Zoo

**Michigan City, IN** (May 21, 2005) - Visit the Grand Opening of the Washington Park Zoo, May 28-30, and have a WILD time at The Little Zoo By The Lake.

Children who visit the zoo while wearing an animal costume on May 28, 29, and 30 will receive FREE admission! Costume must be more than just a mask. Adults and non-costumed children will pay regular admission fees. (Seniors 62 and over \$3; adults age 12-61 \$4.50; children 3-11 \$2.50; and children 2 and under are free.)

The first 100 FAMILIES who enter the zoo on May 28, 29, and 30 will receive a bag which includes a postcard from the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Center, a 20% off coupon to Top Dog Restaurant, a coupon voucher from Lighthouse Place Premium Outlet Center, a coupon to purchase two tickets to Barker Mansion for the price of just one, and a FREE Zoo Pass! (Limit of one bag per family/group.)

The LaPorte County Sheriff's Posse will be on hand with their horses, demonstrating maneuvers and discussing horses and their care with zoo visitors. The Posse will be located in the area directly across from the Ostrich Exhibit from 1-3 pm on May 28, 29, and 30.

Learn all about K-9 officers during a special presentation by the Michigan City Police Department on Monday, May 30, from 1-2pm. K-9 officers will be located near the concession stand at the Zoo.

Children will have an opportunity to create art with a professional artist during the Zoo's Grand Opening. The Lubeznik Center for the Arts will conduct a special art project for children on Saturday, May 28 from 11:30 am - 3:30 pm near the Education Center. Children will create animal masks under the direction of local artist Laurel Izard.

Bill Bolton, Beachside Gardens, will demonstrate how to build a beautiful butterfly garden at your home. Visit his display near the Children's Rotary Castle on Saturday, May 28, at 1pm.

Guess the age and weight of our tortoise and win a free zoo pass! Ballots will be available near the tortoise exhibit. Twenty-five winners will be chosen at random from correct (or close!) entries.

Join us in creating a sense of "Provence in LaPorte County" at the Washington Park Zoo during the Grand Opening on Memorial Day weekend. Upon entering the zoo, pick up 2-3 sunflower seeds and plant them in flower beds prepared at the Zoo. Later this summer, these seeds will have blossomed into beautiful sunflowers, bringing a sense of Provence, France to our community on the shores of Lake Michigan. "Provence in LaPorte County" is sponsored by Purdue North Central University; NIPSCO has generously donated sunflower seeds for this project.

The Old Lighthouse Museum, located in Washington Park within view of the Zoo, is one of Michigan City's oldest attractions. Representatives of the museum will be on hand at the zoo's grand opening from Noon-5pm May 28, 29 & 30 to provide information about the unique collection of artifacts from Michigan City's marine past.

The Washington Park Zoo has three new chameleons - and they need names! Ballots will be available for zoo visitors to suggest names for the zoo's newest residents. Winners, chosen by members of the Washington Park Zoo staff, will receive free zoo passes.

Grand Opening attendees will receive information about Washington Park Zoo memberships, Zoo Camp, Birthday Parties, Facility Rentals, the zoo's Adopt-An-Animal program, and volunteer opportunities.

The Washington Park Zoo has adopted new hours:

- **April 1 - May 27** 10:30 am - 4 pm with gates closing at 3pm.
- **May 28 - September 5, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday** 10:30 am - 6 pm with gates closing at 5pm
- **May 28 - September 5, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday** 11 am - 7 pm with gates closing at 6 pm
- **September 6 - October 31** 10:30 am - 4 pm with gates closing at 3pm

Visit [www.washingtonparkzoo.com](http://www.washingtonparkzoo.com) for information on events scheduled at the Zoo, regular admission fees, zoo's open hours, volunteering opportunities, memberships, parties at the zoo, and more!

(Winners of all contests will be notified by phone and/or email. Winners will be mentioned in press releases and on the city's website. Photos may be taken and may be posted on the website.)

####

**Contact:** Johnny Martinez  
**Phone:** 219/873-1510

**E-mail:** [jmartinez@adsnet.com](mailto:jmartinez@adsnet.com)

**Janet L. Kostielney**

*Mayor's Office*

*City of Michigan City*

219/873-1400 X350

Fax 219/873-1515

[www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com)

[jkostielney@emichigancity.com](mailto:jkostielney@emichigancity.com)