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**Lincoln Park
Zoo**

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Lincoln Park Zoo Lights Up the Night with Festive Cheer
Dec. 4 is last day to wish relocating penguins and seabirds bon voyage

Chicago (Nov. 22, 2011) – ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Charter One kicks off this weekend to light up the chilly Chicago nights. This year's event is bigger, better, and brighter than ever with more than 2 million twinkling bulbs.

ZooLights festivities begin with an opening ceremony at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25 and continue every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night through Dec. 11. Beginning Dec. 16, the event is offered nightly through January 1 (excluding Dec. 24 – 25). The zoo is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., with special ZooLights activities beginning at 5 p.m. As always, entrance to this beloved winter wonderland is FREE for the whole family!

Keep Jack Frost at bay with a winter warmer like traditional spiced wine, hot cider, or steamy cocoa. When the weather is truly frightful, hanging out in the cozy Kovler Lion House with Santa Claus himself is most delightful.

Take a chilly spin on the AT&T Endangered Species Carousel, learn some pointers from our ice sculpture experts, and let our shimmering light show dazzle you.



The creatures here are stirring as Lincoln Park Zoo bids a bon voyage to some old friends at the Kovler Penguin-Seabird House. Stop by to wish the birds happy holidays and a final farewell before the house permanently closes to the public on December 5.



The penguin house is closing after 30 years to make way for a new state-of-the-art animal exhibit in its place in the future. All of the birds in the exhibit have found homes at AZA-accredited institutions throughout the US and Canada. Two rockhopper penguins hatched at Lincoln Park Zoo are staying in Chicago; 3-year-old Dixie and 5-year-old Bryana will be moving to Shedd Aquarium.

“Winter is the best time to relocate these cool weather birds, so as we celebrate the season we bid them a fond farewell. I cannot believe it has been 30 years since I oversaw the opening of the

building,” said Lincoln Park Zoo President Kevin Bell. “We are resolving to include penguins in our future as plans for new exhibits are developed in the New Year.”

During the ZooLights festival, Lincoln Park Zoo invites you to give the gift of warmth this year by participating in the second annual ZooLights winter coat drive. Last year the zoo collected more than 500 winter coat and accessory items for Chicago-area charities. Help the zoo double the donation this year by bringing new or used cozy clothing to the drop boxes at Gateway Pavilion, Park Place Café, and the Kovler Lion House

Whether you are meeting your sweetheart under the mistletoe or fa-la-la-ing with family and friends, the 17th annual ZooLights is a must-do on your holiday calendar.



ZooLights 2011 is presented by ComEd and Charter One. The event is supported by MINI of Chicago, Motorola ELECTRIFY™, United Airlines, and Pepsi. Special thanks to our media partners WLIT The Lite 93.9FM and NBC Chicago.

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ABOUT CHICAGO’S LINCOLN PARK ZOO

Chicago’s Lincoln Park Zoo, a historic landmark founded in 1868, is dedicated to connecting people with nature by providing a free, family-oriented wildlife experience. A leader in conservation science both globally and locally, the zoo exemplifies the highest quality animal care and educational outreach. The not-for-profit zoo, managed by The Lincoln Park Zoological Society, is a member-supported organization and one of the nation’s only free, privately managed zoos. For more information, call (312)742-2000 or visit www.lpzoo.org.