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COVID Protocols Bring Changes to Wild Lights

BLOOMINGTON, IL – Some changes for opening weekend of Zoo Lights at Miller Park Zoo sponsored by T-Mobile.

Due to the closing of the Katthoefer Animal Building, prices for opening weekend December 3 & 4, 2021 will be free to Miller Park Zoological Society members and \$5 for non-members. Anyone who purchased full price tickets in advance will receive a \$3 reimbursement or they can choose to have the money go to the Zoo as a charitable donation. For now, pricing for the second weekend of the event, December 10 & 11, 2021 remain at \$3 for Miller Park Zoological Society members and \$8 for non-members.

Zoo Superintendent, Jay Tetzloff said, “With the Katthoefer Animal Building closed, it is important to us that we exceed expectations with the guest experience with the value of a ticket.”

The reason for the Katthoefer Animal Building closure is one Sumatran Tiger and four Snow Leopards are showing signs of COVID. No cat has been confirmed with the condition but staff, consulting with veterinarians, are moving forward with an abundance of caution. The first cat began coughing and had a raspy respiration beginning on November 20. All five cats are being treated and are responding to treatment.

Carnivores and primates have tested positive, including a few deaths, in zoos and aquariums across the country. No animals have received COVID vaccinations at the Miller Park Zoo. Staff have been evaluating and following other facilities that have given the vaccine and their results.

Along with the beautiful lights there will be face painting by the ZooLady Crew and visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus. T-Mobile is sponsoring free carousel rides and hot chocolate all four nights of the event.

Masks are required at all indoor spaces at Miller Park Zoo. Miller Park Zoo is in Miller Park located at 1020 S. Morris Ave. Bloomington, Illinois. For more information on Zoo events phone (309) 434-2250 or online at MillerParksZoo.org