



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SANTA ARRIVES AT NAVY PIER® BY BOAT TO LAUNCH CHICAGO'S
HOLIDAY SEASON THIS THANKSGIVING WEEKEND!**

Sparkling Lights, Fireworks, Photos with Mr. & Mrs. Claus, Holiday Caroling, FREE Family Entertainment, Magic and Special Performances

Join Navy Pier's a cappella group, the *Mistletones* and official mascot, *Patch the Pirate Dog*, his friend *Pickle*, *Enchanted Elves* and a host of other *Holiday Characters* for a spectacular fireworks display, festive music and dancing to celebrate **Santa's Arrival at Navy Pier on Saturday, November 24, 2007 at 5 p.m.** Be the first to welcome Santa ashore from Lake Michigan as he arrives with Mrs. Claus and his "chief" elf! Once the season's most important guest docks his boat on Navy Pier's waterfront, he joins the party at the Grand Staircase on Dock Street and serves as Master of Ceremonies to officially light thousands of sparkling lights down *Dock Street* and throughout the Pier!

Following the lighting ceremony, children will have a chance to whisper their holiday wishes and take **photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Family Pavilion Stage from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Look for special **holiday performances on the Family Pavilion Stage** from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, November 23 and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 24 before Santa and Mrs. Claus visit with children each day until Christmas Eve!

The six-member **Mistletones** will be decked out in traditional Victorian garb to warm up the stage for Santa with their hip renditions of popular holiday tunes on the *Family Pavilion Stage* at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Friday, November 23 and at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 24.

Celebrated illusionist **David Kovac brings his vaudevillian style of magic mixed with comic wit and trickery** to the *Family Pavilion Stage* at 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday, November 23. Renowned circus artist **Rick Colen** will perform his cutting edge juggling routine at 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 24.

Beginning on Sunday, November 25, Santa steals the show for daily appearances from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Sunday, December 23. Whisper your last-minute holiday wishes to Santa from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, December 24 before he dashes off to gather his reindeer and start delivering gifts!

After you visit Santa, don't miss **Bank of America® Winter WonderFest®** returning to Navy Pier for a seventh year of non-stop holiday entertainment and acres of indoor family fun from Friday, December 7, 2007 through Sunday, January 6, 2008 inside *Festival Halls A and B*. This spectacular festival is packed with new attractions and perennial family favorites to provide a thrilling experience for people of all ages. For more information, visit www.winterwonderfest.com.

For more information about other upcoming events and entertainment at Navy Pier's, visit www.navypier.com/things2do/entertainment/special_events.html.

About Navy Pier

As the Midwest's #1 tourist and leisure destination, historic Navy Pier® is one of the nation's most unique recreation and exposition facilities, attracting more than 8.6 million visitors a year and adding \$1.2 billion to the Illinois economy. Navy Pier (www.navypier.com) is operated by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (www.mpea.com).

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