

For Release Before May 15

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### ***Museum Offers Free Admission in Honor of International Museum Day***

**Joliet**—On Saturday, May 20, 2006, the Joliet Area Historical Museum celebrates International Museum Day by offering free admission to all visitors. During this free day, sponsored by Midwest Generation Joliet Station, the Museum will offer circus-themed activities and crafts, including face painting, a balance beam challenge, a “ring of fire” for children to jump through, and novelty photo opportunities.

The museum offers a wide variety of rotating exhibits in our Special Exhibition Gallery. The colorful traveling exhibit ***Sideshow Stoppers: 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Circus Prints and Posters*** is on exhibit through June 4, and features more than 50 snazzletastic examples of circus art from the early 1800’s to 1945. This special exhibit also includes several early circus toys, including a nine piece 1920’s wooden Schoenhut Circus, a circa 1900 thirty-four inch long wooden Circus Wagon that opens to display wooden animals in their cages, a mohair circus pony wind-up toy, and much more.

For additional information about the Museum or about Museum programming, call 815-723-5201, ext. 226 or visit the Museum’s website at [www.joliethmuseum.org](http://www.joliethmuseum.org). The Joliet Area Historical Museum is located at 204 N. Ottawa Street in downtown Joliet. Free parking is available in the Museum’s parking lot at the corner of Webster and Ottawa Streets.