

“Light the Light” Information

The Kenosha Southport Lighthouse is located on Simmons Island (formerly Washington Island) in Kenosha, Wisconsin. It is listed on the Wisconsin and National Registers of Historic Places.

The lighthouse lights every evening, from dusk until dawn. Individuals or organizations may sponsor the lighting of the lighthouse through the Kenosha History Center’s “Light the Light” program. The Light can be “lit” as a memorial or in celebration of an occasion.

In addition to sponsoring the lighting of the lighthouse, a black and white ad is placed in the Kenosha News on the requested date. A sample of the newspaper ad is printed in this brochure, and usually includes dates of birth and death (for a memorial), and a message. A photo is optional.

Reservations are made with staff at the Kenosha History Center, by email to office@kenoshahistorycenter.org, by telephone at 262-654-5770 ext. 2, or in person.

Information must be received by the History Center staff at least ten days before the publication date. The information is not considered “received”


until the sponsorship has been paid for. Payments are accepted in person, through the mail (if time allows), or over the phone.

Cost is \$35.00 for the sponsorship and Kenosha News ad, or \$50.00 for an ad with a photo. If the ad is exceptionally long it will be subject to an additional fee.




Sample:

THE LIGHT
SHINES!
Tonight
The 1866
Kenosha
(Southport)
Lighthouse
Shines



November 10, 2022

In Loving Memory of
Susan E. Leuck
May 12, 1979 – August 25, 2022



There are some who bring a light
so great that when they have gone,
the light remains.
Your light will always shine in our hearts.
We love and miss you.

Your family and friends

World Neuroendocrine Cancer Awareness Day

Call or email for reservations
262-654-5770 ext.2
office@kenoshahistorycenter.org

Lighthouse History

The Kenosha Southport Lighthouse was built in 1866. It was the third light station built on the island. Originally designated as a coast and harbor light, the light station was the first navigational light a mariner would see upon entering Wisconsin from Chicago. It was functional until 1906, at which time higher light stations built to the north and south replaced it. A new Pier Head Lighthouse at the north harbor pier now identifies the harbor entrance.

The Lantern room was removed around 1913 and replaced with a 25-foot tripod mast for the display of storm warning flags and lights. The weather signal tower was removed in the 1960's and the tower was boarded up.

A 1989 restoration feasibility study by the Kenosha County Historical Society and Museum led to the preservation of the tower. A replica of the lantern room was positioned on the tower on May 7, 1994, completing the first phase of restoration.

The tower is constructed of yellow Milwaukee Cream City Brick in a conical shape. The height of the tower from the base to the lens focal plane is 55 feet, and there is an additional 19 feet from the base to the water level. This makes the focal plane of the light 74 feet above the lake level. There are 72 steps from top to bottom of the structure. The light was a fixed white light varied by flashes from the fourth order Fresnel lens.

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Kenosha History Center
220 – 51st Place
Kenosha, WI 53140
262-654-5770

Museum Hours
Tuesday – Friday: 10:00am – 4:30pm
Saturday: 10:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday: 12:00pm – 4:00 pm
Closed on Mondays