



CONTACT: Jaime Perry — (717) 796-0811

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Tree Lighting kicks off the holiday season in Mechanicsburg

Mechanicsburg, PA — November 25, 2013 — Mechanicsburg will kick-off the holiday season with its annual Community Tree Lighting on Friday, November 29 at the town square in downtown Mechanicsburg. The event, presented annually by the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Mechanicsburg Partnership, is set to take place at the corner of Market and Main Streets at 5:30 p.m in front of PNC Bank. In addition to music, caroling and the ceremonial tree lighting, a host of other activities, including free photos with Santa, live music, and holiday shopping, will be offered throughout the evening.

The event begins with holiday music in the square provided by Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church beginning at 5:15 PM. The community tree will be lit at a 5:30 p.m. ceremony. Members of Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ (McBIC) will lead the singing of carols around the tree. Following the tree lighting, spectators are invited across the street to Myers-Buhrig Funeral Home & Crematory, 36 E. Main Street, where the festivities will continue. The program includes free photos with Santa Claus, a live musical performance the McBIC jazz band, balloon twisting, and refreshments. Free parking is available at Myers-Buhrig Funeral Home & Crematory, accessible via East Strawberry Avenue.

In addition to the festivities, several downtown businesses will host holiday shopping specials and offer free refreshments. Several businesses, including Brittle Bark, Civil War and More, and the Mechanicsburg Museum will also have trains on display. “It’s wonderful to see so many local merchants participating in this event, which has become a downtown Mechanicsburg tradition,” says Jeff Palm, Executive Director of the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce.

Additional events on Friday evening include:

- Model Train Display, part of “All Aboard the Santa Express” exhibit, at the Mechanicsburg Museum Association Freight Station, 3 W. Allen St., Mechanicsburg

- Boy Scout Troop 283 will be serving hot cocoa at the community tree
- Extended hours, holiday shopping specials and refreshments at downtown merchants, including: 2nd Floor Gallery, Amos Went West, Brath & Hughes Fine Art, Brittle Bark Co., Cache in the Attic, Civil War and More, Funtastik, Hershey Violins, RecordSmith, Ritters True Value Hardware, and more!
- Toys for Tots Collection Site; Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce is collecting new, unwrapped toys through December 17 for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The toys will be distributed as Christmas gifts to needy children in the Mechanicsburg area. Donations can be dropped off at the Chamber office located at 6 West Strawberry Avenue, Mechanicsburg, PA.

The Annual Community Tree Lighting on Friday evening kicks off a week of holiday fun in downtown Mechanicsburg. On **Saturday** at noon, Santa Claus will be arriving at the Washington Fire Company via fire truck for their 99th Annual Children's Christmas Party at 53 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg from 12-2pm. Every year since 1914, the Washington Fire Company has hosted Santa Claus at their station, providing children of all ages the opportunity to submit their gift requests. Children will have an opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa and a light lunch will be provided. 'Small Business Saturday' is also on **Saturday the 30**, which encourages shoppers to support their local small businesses for their holiday shopping. Shoppers will find a sheet of "Downtown Deals" and coupons at www.downtownmechanicsburg.com. **Friday, December 6** marks "First Friday" in Mechanicsburg. From 6-9pm, shoppers and diners can enjoy strolling through candlelit streets, as well as music by the Praise Ringers handbell choir, who will be performing at Union Church at 7pm and 8pm. On **Saturday, December 7**, Civil War & More, located at 10 S. Market St., is celebrating its 12th Anniversary with a special event featuring refreshments, free raffles and special guests from 1pm – 4pm. Authors Carol Reardon and Tom Vossler will be present, signing copies of their book, "A Field Guide to Gettysburg: Experiencing the Battlefield Through its History, Places and People," one of the best-selling civil war books of 2013. Cooper Wingert, author and local historian, will be signing copies of his brand new book, "Dick Ewell at Carlisle: Chapters of the Confederate Advance on Harrisburg." Then, on **Sunday, December 8**, The Friends of the Simpson Public Library present the '19th Annual Holly Trail House Tour'. From 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm, a total of 14 private homes and buildings will be open to visitors for touring and enjoying their holiday décor. Tickets are available at the Joseph T. Simpson Public Library at 16 North Walnut Street in Mechanicsburg. They may be purchased in advance at a discounted rate of \$12 or on the day of the tour for \$15. More information about the tour can be obtained by contacting the Library at 717-766-0171. On **Saturday, December 14**, Citizen's Fire

Company, located at 208 South York Street, will be hosting “Breakfast with Santa” from 7:00am to 11:00am. The event is free.

The Community Tree Lighting event is sponsored by the Borough of Mechanicsburg, Mayor Jack Ritter, PNC Bank, Carl Photography, Boy Scout Troop #283, Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church and Myers-Buhrig Funeral Home & Crematory. For more information, contact the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce, 6 West Strawberry Avenue, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055; telephone (717) 796-0811; e-mail info@mechanicsburgchamber.org.

About Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce

The Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce supports a variety of community, business and economic development programs throughout the year. It has over 400 business and residential members throughout South Central Pennsylvania; and focuses on the Mechanicsburg Borough, Hampden, Lower Allen, Monroe, Silver Spring and Upper Allen Townships.

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