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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Tree Lighting kicks off the holiday season in Mechanicsburg

Mechanicsburg, PA — November 21, 2016 — Mechanicsburg will kick-off the holiday season with its annual Community Tree Lighting on Friday, November 25 at the town square in downtown Mechanicsburg. The event, presented annually by the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Mechanicsburg Partnership, is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the corner of Market and Main Streets in front of PNC Bank with entertainment beginning at 5:15 p.m. In addition to music, caroling and the ceremonial tree lighting, a host of other activities, including balloon twisting, refreshments, visiting with Santa, and holiday shopping, will be offered throughout the evening.

The event begins with live music in the square performed by members of the Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church (McBIC) worship team beginning at 5:15 PM. The tree will be lit at 5:30 p.m. Following the lighting, McBIC will lead the singing of carols around the tree. Afterwards, all are invited across the street to Myers-Buhrig Funeral Home & Crematory, 37 E. Main Street, where the free festivities will continue. The program includes visiting with Santa Claus, balloon twisting by Top Nozzle, music and refreshments. Free parking and restrooms are 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.

Additional events on Friday evening include:

- Boy Scout Troop 283 will be serving hot cocoa at the tree lighting
- Extended hours, holiday shopping specials and refreshments at downtown merchants
- Toys for Tots Collection Site; Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce is collecting new, unwrapped toys through December 15 for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The toys will be distributed as Christmas gifts to less fortunate 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, November 26** at noon, Santa Claus will be arriving at the Washington Fire Company via fire engine for their 102nd 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 share their wish lists with Santa. Children will have an opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa and a light lunch will be provided. This event is free. 'Small Business Saturday' is also on **Saturday the 26th**, which encourages shoppers to support their local small businesses for their holiday shopping and throughout the year. Many merchants in the community will be offering special events and promotions. **Friday, December 2nd** marks "First Friday" in Downtown Mechanicsburg from 6-9pm. On **Saturday, December 3rd**, the Mechanicsburg Museum Association will host Candlelight Walking Tours. The two-hour tours will visit the Passenger Station, Stationmaster's House, Freight Station, Union Church, Frankenberger Tavern and Eckels Dugstore, all of which will be decorated for the season. Tours leave every half-hour from 4:30-7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15/person. Reservations are required. Also at the museum, the popular model train exhibit is back. 'Winter Wonderland Express' is on display now through January 14. On **Sunday, December 4th**, The Friends of the Simpson Public Library present the '22nd Annual Holly Trail House Tour.' From 12:30 pm to 6:00 pm, eight private homes and two businesses, as well as the Museum's historic properties, will be open to visitors for touring and viewing holiday décor. Tickets are available at the Joseph T. Simpson Public Library at 16 North Walnut Street in Mechanicsburg. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 on the day of the tour. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Library at 766-0171. On **Saturday, December 10th**, Citizen's Fire Company, located at 208 South York Street, will be hosting a free "Breakfast with Santa" (donations accepted) beginning at 7:30 am. Santa and Mrs. Clause will arrive at 8:00 am via fire engine.

The Community Tree Lighting event is sponsored by the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Mechanicsburg Partnership, Boy Scout Troop #283, Harrisburg Auto Auction, Mayor Jack Ritter, Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church, Myers-Buhrig Funeral Home & Crematory, and PNC Bank. 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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