



CONTACT: Jeff Palm — (717) 796-0811

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Tree Lighting kicks off the holiday season in Mechanicsburg

Mechanicsburg, PA — November 23, 2021 — Mechanicsburg will kick-off the holiday season with its annual Community Tree Lighting on Friday, November 26 at the town square in downtown Mechanicsburg. The event, presented annually by the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled for 5:35 PM. at the corner of Market and Main Streets in front of PNC Bank with entertainment beginning at 5:15 PM. In addition to caroling and the ceremonial tree lighting, a host of other activities, including balloon twisting, refreshments, visiting with Santa and a model train exhibit, will be offered throughout the evening.

The event begins with seasonal music on the square supplied by South Mountain Entertainment of Mechanicsburg beginning at 5:15 PM. Kirk Wise, of the Jazz Me Band, will lead those in attendance to a community sing-along of carols to be followed by the much-anticipated lighting of the tree around 5:35 PM. Afterwards, all are invited across the street to Buhrig's Gathering Place, 23 E. Main Street, where the free festivities will continue. The program includes visiting with Santa Claus, balloon twisting by Top Nozzle, music and refreshments. Visit the Mechanicsburg Museum Association's Freight Station, and check out the popular model train exhibit. Free parking and restrooms are available at Buhrig's Gathering Place and 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 195 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 17 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 the holiday season in Mechanicsburg. ‘Small Business Saturday’ is also on **November 27th**, 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. **Wednesday, December 1st**, Silver Spring Parks & Rec will host ‘Winter’s Night & Sleigh Rides’ with the Silver Spring Community Fire Co. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, seasonal music, carols, crafts, and food trucks are some of the events to happen that evening along with a visit and photos with Santa. On **Saturday, December 4th**, the Mechanicsburg Museum Association will host Candlelight Walking Tours. The two-hour tours will visit several historic buildings, all of which will be decorated for the season. Tours leave every half-hour from 4:30-7:00 PM. Tickets are \$15 for age 10+, age 3-9 is \$5. Pre-registration is required by calling 717-697-0177. Also at the museum, the popular model train exhibit is back. Their Christmas Exhibit is on display now through January 15. On **Saturday, December 11th**, the jolly visitor from the north makes a return to the Mechanicsburg Fire Department Station #2, located at 208 South York Street. Cookies ‘N Milk with Santa Claus will be hosted beginning from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Met Life will also be in attendance to provide fingerprinting kits to families with children. Following snacks (and a quick nap) and starting at 1:00 PM, Santa will forego his reindeer and visit neighborhoods around the Borough on one of the Fire Department’s fire trucks. Check the Mechanicsburg Fire Department Facebook page for routes and times.

The Community Tree Lighting event is presented by the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by PNC Bank, Borough of Mechanicsburg, Buhrig Funeral Home & Crematory, Boy Scout Troop #195, Mechanicsburg First Church of God, AmeriChoice Federal Credit Union, At Home Rehab & Wellness, Cumberland Valley Pediatric Dentistry, Finazzo Agency-Farmers Insurance, Melissa Hiler – Avon, Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church, Reiki by Rickie, Mayor Jack Ritter, South Mountain Entertainment, UPMC, and Walters & Galloway, PLLC. 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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