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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Tree Lighting kicks off the holiday season in Mechanicsburg

Mechanicsburg, PA — November 16, 2023 — Mechanicsburg will kick-off the holiday season with its annual Community Tree Lighting on Friday, November 24 at the town square in downtown Mechanicsburg. The event, presented annually by the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled for 5:30 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 5:30 PM. Afterwards, all are invited to Buhrig’s Gathering Place, 25 E. Main St., where the free festivities will continue. The program includes visiting with Santa Claus and balloon twisting by Top Nozzle Entertainment courtesy of Mattress by Appointment. Also, visit the Mechanicsburg Museum Association’s Freight Station for the current exhibit “An ABC Christmas – S is for Santa” and the popular and ever-expanding model train exhibit. Free parking is available at the municipal lots via East and West Strawberry Avenues.

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 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 the holiday season in Mechanicsburg. ‘Small Business Saturday’ is also on **November 25th**, 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. On **Friday and Saturday, December 1st and 2nd**, 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 \$18 for age 10+, age 3-9 is \$10. Pre-registration is required by calling 717-697-0177. Also at the museum, the popular model train exhibit is back. Their Christmas Exhibit – An ABC Christmas – S is for Santa - is on display now through January 13. **Wednesday, December 6th**, Silver Spring Parks & Rec will host ‘Winter’s Night and Sleigh Rides’ with the Silver Spring Community Fire Co. Seasonal music, carols, crafts, and food trucks are some of the events to happen that evening along with a visit and photos with Santa.

The Community Tree Lighting event is presented by the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by the Borough of Mechanicsburg, PNC Bank, South Mountain Entertainment, Buhrig’s Gathering Place, Boy Scout Troop #195, Mechanicsburg First Church of God, Melissa Hiler – Avon, Bethany Village, Buchanan & Erb, Business Men’s League, Caring Transitions of Mechanicsburg, Eichelbergers, Inc., Mattress by Appointment, Nestle Purina PetCare, 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.