

Chamber CHATTER



MECHANICSBURG
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
The Strength of One. The Power of Many.™

11.21.24

6 West Strawberry Avenue, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (717) 796-0811 www.mechanicsburgchamber.org

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News, Events & more!

CHAMBER EVENTS

Watch for Weekly Updates!!

November

21 - After Hours Mixer - Sponsored by
Mechanicsburg Area Community Foundation.
Location: Spice Restaurant and Bar, 125 W Main St,
Mechanicsburg. 5:00 - 7:00pm.

29 - Annual Community Tree Lighting - corner of
Market and Main Streets, on the square, in Downtown
Mechanicsburg. 5:15 - 6:30pm

December

3 - Ribbon Cutting - Thrift on Purpose, 5218 E Trindle
Rd, Mechanicsburg. 11:30am

**10 - Business Women's Networking Luncheon -
The Bridges at Bent Creek**, 2100 Bent Creek Blvd,
Mechanicsburg. 11:30am - 1:00pm. FREE member event.

RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org

For a full calendar of chamber and member events,
visit www.mechanicsburgchamber.org/events

Mechanicsburg Chamber Will Hold Election for Board of Directors at January Meeting

Apply
Now

If you are interested in serving
on the Board of Directors for
the Mechanicsburg Chamber of
Commerce, [click here](#) to review job
description, nomination policies, procedures
and application.

We are accepting applications!

Thank You For Renewing Your Membership!

Cargill Meat Solutions Corp.
Duck Donuts
Karen Simmons
OSS Health

After-Hours Mixer

Thursday, November 21
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

SPONSORED BY:



**MECHANICSBURG
AREA COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Join us and the **Mechanicsburg Area Community Foundation**
and enjoy an evening of networking, refreshments
and a chance to win a prize!

Learn how the Foundation is supporting the Mechanicsburg community
and how you may help, too.



EVENT LOCATION:
Spice Restaurant and Bar
125 West Main Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

RSVP is easy, simply email
info@mechanicsburgchamber.org
or call 717-796-0811

Mechanicsburg's Annual Community



TREE LIGHTING

Friday, November 29 | 5:15 PM

 **DOWNTOWN – CORNER OF MARKET & MAIN STREETS**

Sponsors Welcome starting at only \$25!



Once again, the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce is proud to join the business community of the area in participating as a drop off point for Toys For Tots. If you would like to donate a new, unwrapped toy (or wrapping paper, batteries, tape, etc.), there is a collection box at the office or you may bring your item(s) to any Chamber event.

TOYS FOR TOTS



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

Other local locations participating include:

- A&B Automotive
- AAA
- American Legion Post 109
- Benecard PBF
- Best Line Equipment
- Callery Dental Care
- Classic Rock Design Center
- East Main Dental
- Fusion Financial Group - Thrivent
- GEICO
- Hot Frog Print Media
- Lower Allen Township
- Mechanicsburg Kung Fu Center
- Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop
- Orrstown Bank - Baden Powell Road office
- Orrstown Bank - Market Street, Camp Hill office
- Pivot Physical Therapy
- Premier Martial Arts
- Ritters True Value Hardware
- State Farm Insurance - Denise Dombach
- Trindle Bowl
- University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
- West Shore Chamber of Commerce
- Wolf Brewing Company
- Zimmerman's Automotive Tire Pros

Welcome New Chamber Members

Edward Jones – Wilbur Gordon, 1700 Bent Creek Boulevard, Suite 170, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050; 717-550-2410; Financial Services

Thrift on Purpose, 5218 East Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050; Jodie Smiley; 717-571-2144; www.thriftonpurpose.org; Retail



Please join the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce as we celebrate the expansion of one of our members with a Ribbon Cutting.

You are welcome to come see the power of community at their new store.

Tuesday, December 3rd
Thrift on Purpose
5218 East Trindle Road
Mechanicsburg, 17050
Ribbon Cutting at – 11:30 am

Business Women's Networking Luncheon

Tuesday, December 10
11:30am - 1:00pm



The Bridges at Bent Creek welcomes the Business Women's Networking Luncheon for December.

A visit to The Bridges at Bent Creek at the holidays, a beautiful time to capture the community of what Bridges Senior Living provides.

Introduce yourself and your business to familiar faces and hopefully some new ones, too. Come network with local business women and enjoy a light lunch.

Don't forget to bring your business cards to MIX & MINGLE.

The Bridges at Bent Creek
2100 Bent Creek Blvd
Mechanicsburg

The Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce is collecting new, unused toys for **Toys for Tots**. Please consider making a contribution and bringing one along. Gift wrap, tape, batteries, and similar holiday products are also welcome.

Reservations required.

RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org

SAVE THE DATE



Chamber Annual Meeting

**January 15, 2025
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Mark your calendar to attend the
Annual Dinner & General Membership Meeting

Due to numerous requests, we are moving away from
a buffet meal to a table served meal.

Our dinner and presentation will take place at the
Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center Harrisburg
Trademark Collection by Wyndham.

We are also pleased to announce our
keynote speaker in the very near future. Stay tuned.

*Watch for more information and
details on registration... coming soon...*

Sponsorships available!



Check off Your Holiday “To Do” List While Supporting a Great Cause

Order beautiful poinsettias and help support United Way of the Capital Region’s internal campaign!

These make great office decorations or gifts for family, friends or coworkers!

Poinsettias will be delivered the first week of December. Order 5 or more and receive FREE delivery!

- Poinsettias are 6” pots
- **COLORS:** red, white, pink or burgundy
- **COST:** **\$12 each**
- **Orders are due by November 20** and can be placed using the link below or visit our website at uwcr.org.

For more information, contact Heidi Neuhaus at 717.724.4055, or by e-mail at hneuhaus@uwcr.org.

PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY AT:
www.uwcr.org/uw-poinsettia-sale



What is United Way of the Capital Region’s Internal Campaign?

Just like other organizations, United Way of the Capital Region runs a fundraising campaign among its staff members. Funds are generated through donations and special event sales such as this one. All proceeds from this sale will go directly to United Way’s 2024 campaign.

Thank you for supporting United Way!

United Way of
the Capital Region



JAZZ ME BAND

KIRK WISE UPCOMING
SOLO, DUO & BAND
PUBLIC DATES

Thurs. 11/21 – Big Bottom Brewing @
Al's Pizza, Dillsburg...Kirk solo 7-9

Fri. 11/22 – Buddy Boy Wine, Duncannon
...Matt & Jenn Burn Barrel Duo 6-9

Sat. 11/23 – Sage Lane Holiday Event,
Dillsburg ...Kirk solo 10-Noon

Sat 11/23 – Totem Pole Wine Ranch/
Tasting Room, Carlisle...Kirk solo 6:30-8:30

Tue. 11/26 – Greystone Brew House@
Range End , Dillsburg...Kirk solo 6-9

Wed. 11/27 – Hemauer Brewing,
Mechanicsburg...Kirk solo 7 – 9

Fri. 11/29 – Christmas Tree Lighting
Mechanicsburg ..5 PM

Sat. 11/30 – Small Business Saturday @
Sage Lane, Dillsburg...Kirk solo 10-Noon

Sat. 11/30 – Small Business Saturday
Downtown New Cumberland...Kirk solo 2-4

For complete up-to-date
schedule, information,
and photos go to
www.jazzmeband.com

Bookings: call Kirk at 717-979-0341 or
E-mail wisemotors@aol.com

Tour sponsors:
FARNHAM INSURANCE,
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CLASSIC DRY CLEANERS, STUDIO D &
LANDON WISE PHOTOGRAPHY



Mechanicsburg Churches to Hold 32nd Annual Youth Sleep Out for the Homeless

Friday, Nov. 22, to Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024
4:00 p.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Saturday
First United Methodist Church

Members of community youth groups will participate in the Annual Sleep Out for the Homeless the weekend before Thanksgiving. The church parking lot will be transformed into a community of cardboard boxes, where teenagers from local churches will spend the evening.

The Sleep Out aims to give participants a small taste of what it is like to be homeless and to hopefully develop a lifelong passion to help those in need. First Church Youth Pastor Lisa Aronson shares, "Our students become aware of the realities of homelessness. They grow in gratitude for what they have and are empowered to take practical steps to make an impact. Plus, they learn about several local organizations helping those experiencing homelessness in our area."

In addition to awareness, the Sleep Out raises funds to support local homeless families. We invite everyone to stop by and donate to this worthy cause. In addition to donating cash and checks in person on Friday night, donations will be accepted through Sunday, Nov. 24, online at fumchurch.com/give. Last year's Sleep Out raised over \$5,000 for this important cause. Proceeds benefit local agencies dedicated to helping those experiencing homelessness, such as Family Promise, New Hope Ministries and One80 Ministries.

For more information about First Church events, visit fumchurch.com or call the church office at 717-766-4611.



Grants Awarded to Enhance Local Recreation Opportunities

This week, \$277,000 was awarded to two Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) projects in the 88th District through the Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2).

The dollars from these grants will go toward enhancing recreational areas and green spaces in the 88th District. I am glad to see the money reinvested in our growing communities, where places to enjoy nature become more important as building and development continues in the region.



The awards for the 88th District are as follows:

- \$250,000 for Hampden Township to develop Smith Drive Park. Work will include constructing basketball courts, pickleball courts, pedestrian walkways and more.
- \$27,000 for Mechanicsburg Borough to prepare a Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan.

The C2P2 is funded with a variety of state and federal funding sources, including the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Key 93), which includes Key-Community and Key-Land Trust; the Environmental Stewardship Fund (ESF); the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); Pennsylvania Trails Fund (PRT – federal source); Pennsylvania Heritage Area Program (HA); and the ATV Restricted Management Account Fund (ATV).



New Law Aims to Boost Early Literacy

Recognizing reading as the foundation of education success, I am pleased to report legislation I supported in the House to boost early literacy has been signed into law.

Statistics show half of Pennsylvania fourth graders are reading below their grade level. In fact, results of the Future Ready PA Index, released earlier this week, show a decrease from 54.5% to 53.9% proficiency in English Language Arts. Proficiency rates in math and science increased slightly.

Since childhood reading difficulties can produce long-term effects and limit our children's chances at success, it is important we are proactive in advancing child literacy and intervening with students who may need additional help.

[Act 135 of 2024](#) requires the Department of Education to develop and maintain a list of evidence-based reading curricula on its website that must be aligned with academic standards and the science of reading. It also requires the creation of a Reading Leadership Council to develop and maintain lists of approved reading instruction curricula, structured literacy professional development training programs, universal reading screeners and structured literacy intervention approaches.

The law takes effect in 90 days.



Designer Purse Sale November 29 9AM-5PM

Are you looking for a new purse?



**Kate Spade, Michael Kors, Dooney Bourke
Coach & MORE!!!!**



We are hosting a...

FOOD AND TOY
DRIVE



*Join us in helping the
community!*
Canned and dry goods encouraged!
Toys must be unwrapped!



**KINGDOM
CUSTOM DECKS**
(717)-585-0724

Located at:

6 State Road, Suite 112,
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050



November 20th - December 20th

Seeking HOSTS for 2025 EVENTS

- Business Women's Networking Luncheon
 - After Hours Mixer
- Business Leaders Discussion Group

BE A HOST and showcase your business, service and more...

For more information - on HOSTING AN EVENT
contact the Chamber office at 717-796-0811 or email - info@mechanicsburgchamber.org.



VENDORS NEEDED

HOLIDAY SHOPPE

DECEMBER 1, 2024;
FROM 2PM-4PM

The Woods at Cedar Run

824 Lisburn Road, Camp Hill PA 17011
Annually, The Woods at Cedar Run hosts a Holiday Shoppe where our residents can shop for Christmas gifts for their loved ones from the comfort of their own home. We are currently seeking vendors who would be interested in displaying and selling their goods. There is no cost or entry fee to be a vendor. Simply RSVP by November 25th to secure your spot!

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

Kimberly Alford, Community
Relations Director
717.660.1055
kalford@integracare.com

VIRTUAL

PAYROLL & BUSINESS

Seminar



You're Invited!

Annual Payroll & Business Seminar

Please join us on Thursday, December 5, 2024, for our Annual Payroll & Business Seminar. This virtual event promises to provide valuable insights on key topics, including updates on payroll, AI in the workplace, DOL regulations, payroll fraud, and much more!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP](#)



**TURKEY
DONATIONS
NEEDED!**

HELP!! 2,000 turkeys needed for families in need!

New Hope Ministries, a social service agency which feeds the hungry and helps people achieve stability in their lives, is asking for help from the community to provide low-income families with turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner this year. At the time of this news release, 2,000 turkeys are still needed.

Community organizations (such as churches, businesses, and civic groups) are already lined-up to provide non-perishable food for the Thanksgiving dinner baskets, which are distributed to families beginning November 21 at each of New Hope's nine locations. Turkeys are usually obtained as separate donations from the community and through purchases at local wholesale and retail outlets. The goal is to give every family a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.

Donations of fresh or frozen turkeys are the highest need right now, and can be dropped-off at any New Hope location through November 20th. Volunteer opportunities to help distribute Thanksgiving dinner baskets to families are also available.

For more information, please visit our website at www.nhm-pa.org.



SPREAD
KIND
NESS

FOOD DRIVE

Support local **Blessing Boxes** and **Little Free Pantry** with your food donation! For the months of October and November, we ask that you collect nonperishable foods at your home or office.

These Blessing Boxes provide barrier-free access to food any time.

Drop off items to First United Methodist Church Mechanicsburg (135 W. Simpson Street, 717-766-4611) or if you need it picked up, contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com. Donations will be distributed to all three locations.



Most needed items

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Meat (tuna, chicken)
- Small Cereal Boxes
- Pasta and Pasta Sauce
- Peanut Butter and Jelly

**UNEXPIRED &
NONPERISHABLE FOOD ONLY**

Blessing Boxes located at Trinity Lutheran Church (132 E. Main), Turning Point Church (near Finkenbinder Park) and Little Free Pantry at First UM Church, Mechanicsburg

Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com



HOST A WATCH
PARTY AT YOUR
LOCATION!
Livestream Event



THE TIDE

End of Year Celebration

Celebrate God's work around the world in 2024!

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER

11

2024
7 PM EASTERN

Take a virtual trip around the world with Director Don Shenk and hear directly from some of The Tide 'Boots on the Ground' partners in various countries.



thetide.org/events

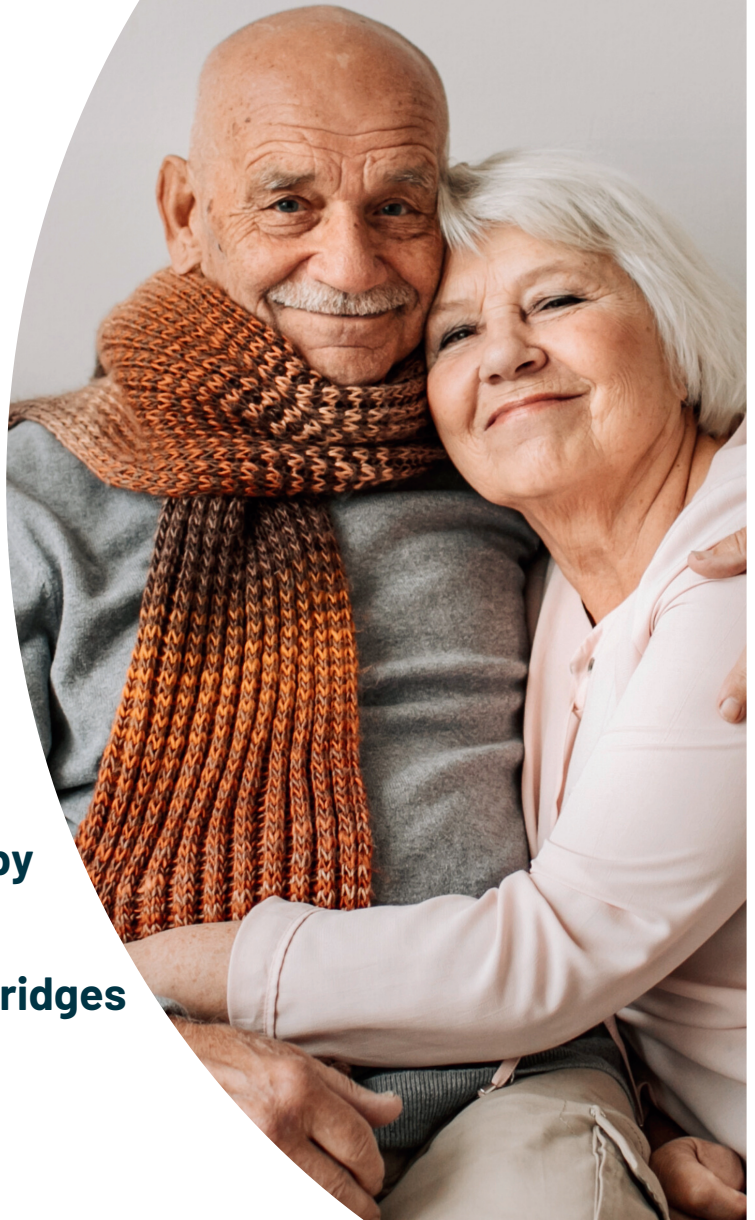
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(717) 620-0350

📍 2100 Bent Creek Blvd, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

🌐 BridgesAtBentCreek.com



CANNOT COMBINE WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY.
LOCAL MOVES ONLY. MOVE IN BY 12/31/24.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP WORKING FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Fall 2024

Help provide free tax preparation to low- and moderate-income families through United Way of the Capital Region's Money in Your Pocket (MIYP) program. You'll help ensure working families in our community claim all available tax credits while saving them the cost of high tax preparation fees and refund anticipation loan interest rates.



MIYP HIGHLIGHTS since 2003...

- **No previous experience necessary** - returns are prepared with easy-to-use computer software.
- **Learn a valuable skill** - volunteers receive IRS tax training and certification, which can help volunteers in both their personal and professional lives.
- **Make a big impact** - you can help a family receive thousands of dollars in Earned Income Credits and Child Tax Credits, which are the nation's largest anti-poverty programs.
- **Flexible enough for any schedule** - volunteer days, nights or weekends at one of 17 tax prep sites within our footprint of Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties. Most volunteers work one day a week during tax season (late January through mid-April). Some remote opportunities will be available.
- **Other ways to volunteer** - you can also serve as a greeter, screener, local tax preparer or translator at one of our tax sites. These positions do not require any tax preparing.

- 73,562 federal returns filed
- \$78.7 million returned to our community
- \$23,000 – average annual income for clients receiving service
- \$14.7 million saved in tax preparation fees (based on average cost of \$159 per return)
- 17 sites in Dauphin, Cumberland and Perry counties
- 1 site through a partnership in Mifflin and Juniata counties

For More Information

Contact Heidi Neuhaus at hneuhaus@uwcr.org or call 717.724.4055.



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSIONS

The following sessions will be held virtually:

- Thursday, October 3
noon - 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 8
6-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 16
6-7 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 22
6-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 30
6-7 p.m.
- Thursday, November 7
noon - 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 12
6-7 p.m.
- Monday, November 18
6-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 20
noon - 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 26
6-7 p.m.

The following session will be held in person:

- Tuesday, November 19: 6-7 p.m.
Tri County Community Action, 1514 Derry Street, Harrisburg

Sign up online at: bit.ly/miyp-info-sessions

Questions? Contact Heidi Neuhaus at hneuhaus@uwcr.org or call 717.724.4055.

COALITION PARTNERS

- United Way of the Capital Region - Lead Agency
- Belco Community Credit Union
- Bosler Memorial Library
- Central Pennsylvania Food Bank
- Citizens Bank
- Code For America/Get Your Refund
- Dickinson College
- Employment Skills Center
- First Christian Church of Lemoyne
- Market Square Presbyterian Church
- Messiah University
- Middletown Public Library
- Midwest Food Bank
- Mifflin-Juniata Human Services
- New Hope Ministries, Inc.
- Penn National Insurance
- Penn State Dickinson School of Law
- Perry County Literacy Council
- PNC
- The Professional & Educational Empowerment Center
- Shippensburg University
- Tri County Community Action
- Truist Foundation
- United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County
- U.S. Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service
- Widener University Commonwealth Law School



UPMC

LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

UPMC to Host Virtual seminar

Comprehensive Guide to Chronic Kidney Disease and Transplant Options

Gain a better understanding of chronic kidney disease from the UPMC Transplant Services team, including who is eligible for a kidney transplant and the differences between kidney donation from living and deceased donors.

- o Virtual
- o Wed., Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m.
- o To register, visit UPMC.com/VirtualEvents or call 717-231-8900.



The Tide[®]

Your Soles ~ Their Souls Shoe Drive Fundraiser



thetide.org/shoes



SEEKING 2025 COLLECTION SITES

IMPACT • Literacy Classes in India
• Microbusiness in Developing Countries

Contact The Tide office at 717-264-7288 or events@thetide.org to place a community collection box at your church or business location.

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Department of Labor (DOL) Overtime Exemption Rule Thrown Out

We're writing to inform you of a significant development regarding the Department of Labor's (DOL) 2024 Final Rule on exempt employee salary thresholds. On November 15, 2024, a federal court in Texas ruled that the DOL exceeded its authority with the rule increasing the minimum salary for exempt employees. As a result, the changes that took effect on July 1, 2024, are no longer valid. The additional increase that was scheduled for January 1, 2025, and the automatic three-year increases have also been nullified.

Key Details

- **Minimum Salary Requirements:** The minimum salary threshold for most executive, administrative, and professional (EAP) employees reverts to \$684 per week (\$35,568 annually), instead of the \$844 per week (\$43,888 annually) under the now-vacated rule.
- **Highly Compensated Employees:** The minimum remains at \$107,432 annually rather than increasing to \$132,964.

Next Steps for Employers

1. Employers may roll back salary adjustments made to comply with the July 1 increase and halt any plans for the January 1 update. However, retroactive pay reductions or changes in employee classification are not permitted.
2. Communicate any salary or classification changes to affected employees in advance, adhering to applicable state and local notice requirements.
3. Consider potential morale impacts and ensure transparency about the reasons for any changes to avoid misunderstandings.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the impact of these changes on your business, please do not hesitate to contact us.

930 Century Dr, #104
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-697-2900
www.troutcpa.com

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South-Central PA Big & Little from York, PA to perform alongside fellow Bigs and Littles in 2024 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade®

Antoine "AJ" Shoff and Siddhesh "Sidd" Pawar from Big Brothers Big Sisters of South-Central PA, have been selected to perform in the 98th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade® on Thursday, November 28. In celebration of a multi-year partnership, AJ and Sidd will join the Parade to the call of "Let's Have a Parade," the iconic phrase that has signaled the start of every Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade since 1924.

As BBBS makes a return appearance in this year's Parade, members from BBBS of South-Central PA will perform on Macy's Winter Wonderland in Central Park float. For this year's Parade, Macy's invited 20 Bigs and Littles – selected from an extensive talent search – to join Macy's colleagues and Sebastián Yatra as they take center stage and travel through New York City on Thanksgiving morning to spread joy and cheer to live spectators and viewers nationwide.

Chamber Chatter is published on-line every Thursday.

We encourage member businesses to send us information on sales, promotions, news and events. It is a great way to promote your business or organization.

Chamber Chatter advertisements will remain for up to 4 weeks, or as space permits.

If you have something to share, please submit it by Wednesday at noon to
info@mechanicsburgchamber.org.

****Chamber Chatter advertising is a FREE member benefit.****