

THE STATION DISPATCH

February - March 2026

ARTISTS AROUND TOWN OPENS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

The new exhibit at the Freight Station, Artists Around Town, opens Saturday, February 21 and runs through Saturday, May 16.

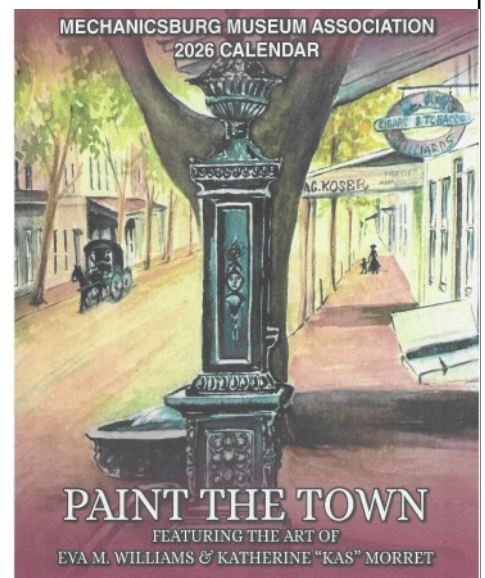
This exhibit will feature not only paintings, but other art media as well. All art on display will have been created by local artists.

Featured at the exhibit will be paintings by both Eva Williams and Kas Morret. Eva Williams was born in Mechanicsburg and was a 7th grade English teacher in the Mechanicsburg School District for 26 years. She was a prolific artist, painting many buildings around town as well as other subject matter. She died in 2001.

Kas Morret was born in 1918 and also was from Mechanicsburg. She taught art classes to both adults and children. Her paintings can be seen in many offices throughout town. Kas died in 2002.

Be sure to stop by the Freight Station to see Artists Around Town. Regular hours are Wednesday - Saturday, 12 - 3 PM.

***Be sure to buy our 2026 desk calendar Paint the Town. This calendar features artwork from both Williams and Morret. \$10 + tax**



Mechanicsburg Museum Association

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Mechanicsburg, PA
17055-6213

Passenger Station
(717) 697-6088

Email: mechanicsburgmuseum@gmail.com

Website:
www.mechanicsburgmuseum.org
Look for our hours here

Find us on Facebook



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The Mechanicsburg Museum Association is incorporated under Pennsylvania law as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. The official registration and financial information of the Mechanicsburg Museum Association may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

President's Message

February is a month of celebrations. Whether you recognize all of these days or not, they exist. There is Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday and President's Day. It is Black History Month.

For those of you who know me well, you also know there is one more holiday that comes in February this year. The Chinese New Year! Year of the Horse!

I have celebrated this lunar event for about 30 years. The Chinese New Year marks the new year according to the lunar calendar. This year it falls on February 17. The years are associated with 12 animals from the Chinese zodiac.

The traits of this year's animal, the horse, have a great parallel for us at the museum. The horse is associated with **freedom, hard work, strength** and a **passion for life**. The horse also characterizes a **fast-paced kind of energy**, symbolizing **progress** and a **desire for adventure**.

It is said The Year of the Horse brings a **restless energy**, encouraging to **take risks, embrace change** and **pursue long-delayed plans with vigor**.

As the museum begins not only a new year, but begins the next 50 years, let's think about these traits. We certainly celebrate freedom, as our country has its 250th Anniversary.

The museum has been built on **hard work, strength**, and a **passion** for history.

The "horse" now challenges us to think about **taking risks** and **embracing change**. Let's use this Chinese New Year's restless energy to look into our future with new eyes and new visions, building on our strong past.

Faith Matthews
President



WELCOME....
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS
The Mangine Family

Celebrate 250 Years 1776-2026

In 2026 the United States will celebrate its 250th anniversary. It's a time for everyone to reflect on history. It's a year to remember our country's people, places and stories. It's about how a group of colonies came together in 1776 to declare independence and how that moment set the course for the country we live in today. There will be many special events planned throughout our country this year. There are books to read and documentaries to watch.

Find a way to become part of this grand 250th celebration.



Antique Appraisal set for Monday, April 6

This popular museum fundraiser is back again in 2026. Antique Appraisal Night is the museum's version of the popular PBS program, Antique Roadshow.

Join us at the Passenger Station on Monday, April 6 at 6:30 PM. Bring up to two items to be appraised by our local expert, Richard Murry. A donation of \$5 per item is requested.



Have you been wondering about the value of a treasured vase? Or maybe how much a precious piece of jewelry is worth? Perhaps an original painting? The list is endless. Start looking at your possessions and choose two that you would like appraised.

Don't miss this fun and informative night!

Mechanicsburg Museum
Lecture Series

Wednesday, March 11
 1:00 PM at The Passenger Station

Pennsylvania Trivia: Fun facts from A to Z

John Maietta

Colonel, US Army, Retired

Record Breaking Attendance at Polar Express 3,448!!!

Believe-A Polar Express Christmas broke all attendance records for any exhibit held at the Freight Station. **3,448** folks enjoyed this year's amazing train display. Thank you to the folks who created the train layout and to those who decorated the room to further The Polar Express theme. Also, a special thanks to the many volunteers who greeted visitors and worked the gift shop. The museum's Christmas train exhibit has become a Mechanicsburg tradition for many. We are already looking forward to 2026 with a snow and North Pole theme.

Thanks to "The Station" in New Cumberland

We want to extend a big "Thank You" to Doris and Shawn at The Station in New Cumberland for donating a train again this year for us to raffle off at our Christmas exhibit. The Station has been donating a train for over 10 years and it is greatly appreciated. We thank them for their kindness and support. This year the raffle brought in \$523.00. The winner of the raffle was Nicole Philipkosky. **Congratulations!**



Living History Day 2026

Living History Day will be April 18th at the Frankenberger Tavern. We will have different crafters demonstrating blacksmithing, weaving, hearth cooking and more. This year's coming attraction will be **Oakgrove Farm Museum of Libation** from Maryland. They do 18th century brewing and ale making. They will be having a tasting that day of their non-alcoholic ginger beer. The event will be from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. So mark your calendars now. Food will also be sold that day.



Join us for a fun historical day! Watch for more information in the next newsletter.

KIDS CORNER

Gingerbread Houses WOW Everyone

The gingerbread houses were absolutely amazing this year. The two cases were admired with “oohs and aahs” throughout the Polar Express exhibit.

Preschoolers to adults were represented among the creations. The People’s Choice Award this year has been given to 3 entries, The voting for 2 of the adult entries was very close. **First: Trudy Martin, First Runner Up: Melissa Jacoby, and the People’s Choice for children/youth was given to Erin Orndorf.** However, as everyone knows who voted for the gingerbread houses, each entry was truly a winner.

Thanks to all who participated this year. Hope to see everyone’s amazing creations in 2026.



Golden Ticket Scavenger Hunt

The scavenger hunt has become a favorite tradition at the Christmas exhibit. This year the participants were looking for gold ticket stickers. In the movie, the golden ticket was a key part of the magical Polar Express journey. This year's scavenger hunt winner was **Cara Trudgeon. Congratulations!** And thank you to all those who had fun searching for those special golden tickets.

Let's Connect at Lunch

Our first Connection Lunch in the new year will be at Wolf Brewing Co. on Friday, March 27 at 11:30 AM.

Wolf Brewing Co. is located at 100 Legacy Park Drive in Mechanicsburg. They are an award-winning craft brewery and scratch kitchen. Their beers are artfully crafted on-site and they try to support local farms as much as possible. Their food menu utilizes the finest and freshest local ingredients which means the menu changes seasonally.

These lunches are a perfect way to create new friendships and renew longtime relationships. It's a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor who might be interested in becoming a museum member. It's a time to enjoy food, support local business, and have meaningful conversations. No business takes place at these lunches.

To make a reservation, call, text or email:

Faith Matthews - (717) 877-9796 - fmatthews3@verizon.net

Staying connected among each other and with the businesses in town is the goal. This is a perfect way to



Cherry Pie Sale

Have you ordered your cherry pie? An order form was included in the last newsletter. Forms are also available at the Passenger Station. Or you may call the museum office to place an order (717-697-6088). 9" cherry pies are \$13.00 (crumb or lattice topping). Deadline to order is Friday, February 20. Pick up is Saturday, February 28 at the Passenger Station from 12 - 3 PM. Don't miss ordering!



These pies are delicious!

Museum Loses Former Board Member

The museum was sorry to learn of the passing of Dorothy (Dot) Capp in December. She was 99. Dot was a board member from the mid 1990s to the early 2000s. She, along with her husband Bob, helped with the Frankenberger Tavern.

Dot also took pictures at all of our events and activities for many years. She compiled yearbooks for the museum highlighting each year's happenings.

Our sympathy goes out to her family.

Let's Ring in the SpRING!

How appropriate that the word “ring” is found in the word “spring”. Why? Because the Praise Ringers (a handbell choir) from First United Methodist Church will ring at Union Church this spring on Sunday, April 19 at 3:00 PM.



The Praise Ringers are planning to participate in the 22nd International Handbell Symposium in Scotland this summer. They have been busy preparing for this trip by ringing frequently at First United Methodist Church and many other venues this past year. The Union Church concert is just one of many.

If handbells are new to you, you will thoroughly enjoy both listening and watching the ringers perform. Come support one of our town churches and at the same time, experience an afternoon of beautiful music. Mark your calendar for April 19.

Union Church is located at
51 East Main Street.



Thank You to all the folks who contributed to our 2025 Wish List. We are using those donations to improve the security system at the Freight Station.

Our newsletters can now be viewed on our website:

mechanicsburgmuseum.org



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 11 - February 20 | All museum buildings closed for winter break |
| February 20 | Cherry pie preorder deadline |
| February 21 | Spring Exhibit Opens @ the Freight Station - Artists Around Town |
| February 28 | Pick up cherry pies at the Passenger Station from 12 - 3 PM |
| March 11 | Lecture Series - Pennsylvania Trivia: Fun facts from A to Z
Passenger Station - 1:00 PM
John Maietta, Colonel, US Army, Retired |
| April 6 | Antique Appraisal at the Passenger Station- 6:30 PM |
| April 14 | Blueberry Sale begins |
| April 18 | Living History Day at the Union Church and Frankenberger Tavern
from 10 AM - 2:00 PM |
| April 19 | Praise Ringers at Union Church - 3:00 PM |