

THE STATION DISPATCH

April - May 2026

Mechanicsburg Museum Association

2 West Strawberry Alley
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



LIVING HISTORY DAY 2026

Join us on April 18 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Frankenberger Tavern for a day of fun and learning. We have some special crafters demonstrating hearth cooking and spinning. The 114th Pennsylvania Collis'



Zouaves Civil War Reenactors will be joining us along with the Keystone Baseball Club of Harrisburg.



There will be a display of Indian artifacts. New this year will be the inclusion of Oakgrove Farm Museum of Libations from Smithsburg, Maryland. They will be having a special tasting of their non-alcoholic ginger beer.

There will also be food and historic games. Union Church will be open for tours. This historic church celebrated 200 years in 2025. Mark April 18 on your calendar. Don't miss this exciting and fun day!



Inside this issue:

Living History Day	1
Director's Message	2
Events & Programs	3
<i>New Members</i>	
<i>Lecture Series</i>	
<i>Antique Appraisal</i>	
<i>Summer exhibit</i>	
<i>Wish List</i>	
Penn Cumberland Plant Sale	4
<i>Strawberry Pies</i>	
Kids Corner	5
Blueberry Sale	6
Art & Wine Walk	
Connection Lunch	7
Upcoming Events	8



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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.

Director's Message

As we welcome Spring and warmer weather, we have many interesting events going on at the Museum. If you haven't already seen **Artists Around Town**, please stop in and take a look at the beautiful pieces on display.

History is alive at the museum with our lectures on Upper Allen, Historical Costuming and Revolutionary War Heroes from our area.

On April 18th Living History Day will be observed at both the Frankenberger Tavern and Union Church from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. We have some special events this year with the Oakgrove Farm Museum of Libations being part of the event. They make their own Ginger Beer and will be offering samples for tasting. We will also have many other crafts and exhibits to see, plus hearth cooking.

The month of May begins our blueberry sale with the Upper Allen Kiwanis. At the end of the month get ready for those mouthwatering strawberry pies.

Don't forget to check our Facebook page and website for more events in the future. We strive to have exhibits of interest and events that are fun and exciting.

Many thanks to everyone for supporting our events and activities and for helping to "Keep our History alive" in Mechanicsburg.

Steve Zimmerman
Museum Director



WELCOME....

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Dave Hilsinger

Joyce Robinson

The Bee's Knees and the Cat's Meow

These 1920s slang phrases are what we hope will describe our coming exhibit: **The Roaring 20s - A Look Back.**

This exhibit will run from
June 27 -October 3.

However, we need your help! To make this exhibit a success, we are looking for items from the 1920s. (Fashion, photos, toys, music, furniture and the list goes on and on.)

If you have any items you would be willing to loan from the 1920s, please call the office at 717-697-6088.

We want this exhibit to be "The Bee's Knees and the Cat's Meow". (That means the best and greatest!)



Antique Appraisal Reminder

Hopefully calendars are already marked for this popular fundraiser, The Antique Appraisal. As the article stated in the last newsletter, each person may bring 2 items to be appraised by local expert Richard Murry. There is a donation of \$5 per item. See you on Monday, April 6 at 6:30 PM at the Passenger Station.

Lifetime Enrichment Programs @ 1:00 PM

Wednesday, April 22

Upper Allen Township 1850

William Murray, Archivist

Mechanicsburg School District

Wednesday, May 6

Revolutionary War Patriots of Cumberland County

Lawrence Knorr

Author & Historian

Wednesday, May 20

Wear and When - Practical Approaches to Historic Costuming

Nate MacDicken

Artist & Actor

Wish List Reminder

First, thank you to all the folks who contributed money or items from the museum's wish list this past year.

We were grateful for the many cases of bottled water and reams of paper. While it may not seem like much, these donations do save the museum money.

Because of monetary gifts, the museum was able to go ahead with updating the security system at the Freight Station.

Please call the office at 717-697-6088 if interested in learning more about the wish list. The office manager can share what the current needs are.

PENN-CUMBERLAND GARDEN CLUB



PLANT SALE AND MORE!

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Frankenberger Tavern and Museum
217 E. Main Street, Mechanicsburg

FEATURING NATIVE PLANTS and

Perennials, Annuals, Seedlings

Herbs, Bulbs, Shrubs, Trees

Garden Treasures, Tools, Books

Baked Goods!

Most items \$2 to \$6 (some higher)

All proceeds benefit Environmental Organizations, Garden Club Civic
Beautification and Scholarships



It's Strawberry Pie Time Again

Because we heard so many comments about how delicious those strawberry pies were last year, we decided to sell them again this year.

Use the order form included in the newsletter and be sure to complete by Friday, May 22.

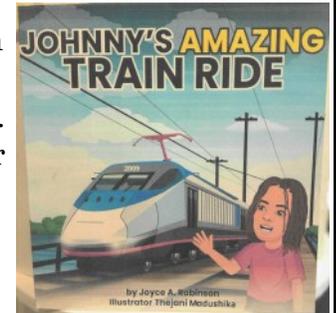
We may also have quarts of strawberries available on the pickup day, Saturday, May 30. It all depends on the strawberry season this year .

Nothing says spring like a delicious strawberry pie!

KIDS CORNER

New Train Books for Children in the Gift Shop

The Freight Station gift shop now has three new train books for children. The titles are **Little Logan Loves Trains**, **Johnny's Amazing Train Ride** and **Railroad People**. They are beautifully illustrated in bright colors and the stories are endearing. And the most exciting thing about these books is that they are all written by local author and museum member **Joyce Robinson**. Joyce not only writes about trains, she had a career with trains and simply loves trains. No one knows more about trains than Joyce. She began her train career as an Operator for Conrail in 1977. In 1994, she became a Brakeman and then a Locomotive Engineer. She operated freight trains throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. If you know a child who loves trains, these books would make the perfect gift. **Joyce Robinson will be part of our summer Storytime with Simpson Library. Mark your calendar for Friday, July 24 at 10:15 AM at the Passenger Station. Bring your children and grandchildren and meet the train enthusiast, Joyce.**



Little Artists Corner

Although the exhibit Artists Around Town is for folks of all ages, we have created a special area in the Passenger Station designed especially for our youngest visitors.



Little Artists Corner has coloring pages of famous paintings for children to color while at the museum or to take home. They can color sunflowers by Van Gogh or the famous Mona Lisa to name just two. This is a great opportunity for our youngest visitors to

become little artists and show off their creativity.

***Adults, feel free to take coloring pages home to share with the children in your family and your friends.**

Do You Know a Fourth Grader?

If you know any fourth grade students, be sure to ask them about their field trip to the Mechanicsburg Museum buildings. What did they like about the experience? What facts do they remember? All fourth grade classes from Elmwood Academy will have had either a fall or spring school trip to Union Church, the Frankenberger Tavern, the Passenger Station and the Stationmaster's House. Students learn history first-hand as they walk from building to building and hear about life in early Mechanicsburg. A special thanks to all museum members who volunteered to help with this important event.

4TH GRADE

Earth Day Update

Some of our flyers listed a children's Earth Day event being held at the Passenger Station. Because the town is now holding the Earth Day Festival at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park, the museum will not be having a children's activity at the Passenger Station. We wish all groups participating at the park a successful festival.



Pies, Coffee Cake, Pancakes and Muffins

What do they all have in Common?

Blueberries!

The annual blueberry sale is the museum's most successful fundraiser. These blueberries come fresh from New Jersey, ready for you to eat or freeze. Start checking recipes for the many ways to use blueberries. What better way to begin the day than with fresh blueberries on your cereal and a warm blueberry muffin. See the form in the newsletter for the dates and all the details on ordering.

ARTISTS AROUND TOWN

Artists Around Town closes on Saturday, May 16. This exhibit has been receiving rave reviews. Be sure you don't miss seeing the beautiful art on display by our local artists.

While most of the art is on display at the Freight Station, be sure not to miss additional paintings on display at the Passenger Station.

Three framed prints by Eva Williams are being raffled. Tickets may be purchased while visiting at the Freight Station. The raffle ticket will be placed in the numbered container, matching the numbered print of your choice. The prints to be raffled are on display in the Freight Station lobby. **Thank you to all of the amazing artists who made this exhibit such a success.**



Art and Wine Walk

Saturday, May 2

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



Artists Around Town, the current exhibit at the Freight Station, will be part of this year's Art and Wine Walk. Whether you participate in the walk or not, it will be a fun day to be in town. And while strolling the streets, be sure to stop by the Freight Station to enjoy the art.

New CONNECTIONS Are Forming

The museum is thrilled to CONNECT with merchants in town to brainstorm and organize some community events. Everyone working together and supporting one another is part of the vision. New events for all ages will bring people to town and encourage them to stroll our downtown streets. Watch the newsletter and our Facebook page for future event details. **CONNECTIONS - everyone wins!**

Next Connection Lunch

Mechanicsburg Family Restaurant

5235 Simpson Ferry Road

Tuesday, May 19 at 11:30 AM



The Mechanicsburg Family Restaurant recently opened at the site of the former Wendy's and Santucci's. If you haven't tried this new diner yet, now is your chance. The extensive menu offers everything from omelets to dinners. Their reviews highlight not only the food, but the friendly service and reasonable prices.

Let's Stay Connected! Invite a friend!

To make a reservation call, text or email Faith Matthews at:

fmatthews3@verizon.net - 717-877-9796

Let's Ring in the Spring on Sunday, April 19

What better way to celebrate spring than to attend a handbell concert at Union Church. Beautiful music played by The Praise Ringers from First United Methodist Church will certainly delight your heart and soul. The ringers are directed by Kathie Bittenbender.



This handbell choir has been busy preparing for their summer trip to Scotland by presenting concerts throughout the year. We are happy to be part of their concert schedule.

See you at Union Church on Sunday, April 19 at 3:00 PM

Located at 51 East Main Street

Our newsletters can now be viewed on our website:

mechanicsburgmuseum.org



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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|-----------------|---|
| 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
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM |
| April 19 | The Praise Ringers at Union Church - 3:00 PM |
| April 22 | Lifetime Talk at the Passenger Station - 1:00 PM |
| May 2 | Art & Wine Walk at the Freight Station - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM |
| May 6 | Lifetime Talk at the Passenger Station - 1:00 PM |
| May 16 | Penn-Cumberland Garden Club Plant Sale at the
Frankenberger Tavern - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM |
| May 19 | Connection Lunch at Mechanicsburg Family Restaurant - 11:30 AM |
| May 20 | Lifetime Talk at the Passenger Station - 1:00 PM |
| May 30 | Strawberry Pie Pick-Up at the Passenger Station - 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM |
| June 9 | Museum Picnic at Saint Paul's United Church of Christ - 6:00 PM |
| June 10 | Lifetime Talk at the Passenger Station - 1:00 PM |
| June 13 | Local History Day at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM |

