

Winter/Holiday Round-Up 2016:

Top places to celebrate the season in Pennsylvania's Hershey & Harrisburg Region

HARRISBURG, PA (Nov. 1, 2016) — A round-up of the top seasonal celebrations and holiday attractions in the Hershey Harrisburg Region of Pennsylvania including: **Hersheypark® Christmas Candylane®, Hershey Sweet Lights® Drive-Thru Light Display, Hershey's® Holiday Chocolate House, National Christmas Museum, Kozlar's Christmas Village, Central PA Youth Ballet's Nutcracker Performance, Christmas at Fort Hunter Mansion with a Festival of Trees, Holiday Musical Performances, Antique Automobiles & Toy Trains**, and more.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT PHOTOS: Please note that media is NOT permitted to reuse, repurpose, print, publish, or post any of the photos included in this round-up. The images are only as visual representation of the event or activity described and may not be used for any other purposes. Contact each attraction directly to request images.

Hersheypark® Christmas Candylane®

Select Dates Nov. 11 thru Jan. 1, 2017 - Theme park is open (partially) with Santa & live Reindeer, and more. Get more details on this seasonal attraction at www.hersheypark.com/seasons/christmas.php. Media can contact Kathy Burrows, PR Manager at Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company at (cell) 717-571-5356 or email KBurrows@HersheyPA.com.



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Hershey Sweet Lights®

Select Dates Nov. 11 thru Jan. 1, 2017 - A 2-mile drive-thru light display in Hershey, PA featuring nearly 600 illuminated, animated displays tucked along a trail that winds through fields and wooded areas behind The Hotel Hershey. Get more details on this attraction at www.hersheypark.com/seasons/sweet-lights.php. Media can contact Kathy Burrows, PR Manager at Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company at (cell) 717-571-5356 or email KBurrows@HersheyPA.com.



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Hershey's® Chocolate World® Attraction: Holiday Chocolate House

Nov. 11 – Dec. 31, 2016 – Returning for the 8th year, this human-sized candy house made of Hershey Foods products will be built on location for display during the holidays at Hershey's® Chocolate World® in Hershey, PA. View [video of 2015 build](#). Get more details on this attraction at www.hersheys.com/chocolateworld including Photos with Santa, Holly Jolly Trolley, Sweet Lights Trolley, New Year's Eve Celebration (Dec. 31), and Hershey's Kitchen Live! with celebrity host Kerri Pomaroli (Nov. 12-13). Media can contact Jancy Nightingale, Events/Group Sales Marketing Coordinator at Hershey's Chocolate World by cell 717-826-2328 or JNightingale@Hersheys.com.



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National Christmas Center Family Attraction & Museum

May 2016 – Jan. 8, 2017 - Part museum, part time machine – 15 main galleries and numerous small exhibits at this attraction take visitors back through the ages of Christmas from the past to present and from America’s hometown traditions to the holiday customs of faraway lands. This unique experience includes 20,000 square-feet of life-sized walk-through indoor exhibits appropriate for all ages including a 1950 Christmas Morning living room set, Christmas Around the World, Santa’s Workshop, Vintage Christmas, Images of Santa, and Toyland Train Mountain. Located in Paradise, PA about 50 miles southeast of Harrisburg, PA. Season hours of operation. Open daily from 10am-6pm from May 2016 thru Jan. 8, 2017. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. Open 10am-3pm Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve. Get more details on this attraction at www.nationalchristmascenter.com. Media can contact Heidi Brennan, Museum & Marketing Director at 717-442-7950 or heidi@nationalchristmascenter.com.



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Koziar’s Christmas Village

Nov. 5 thru Jan. 1, 2017 - Celebrating 68 years of Season's Greetings, Koziar's Christmas Village has grown to a mammoth and extraordinary seasonal attraction drawing visitors from great distances as well as local families who have made Koziar's part of their Christmas tradition for three generations. The 2016 Season opens Saturday, November 5 from 5:30 to 9:30pm. The attraction will then be open weekend evenings through Thanksgiving and then 7 nights a week after Thanksgiving (including Christmas Eve & Day, New Year’s Eve & Day) through January 1, 2017. Get more details on this attraction at www.koziarschristmasvillage.com/home/visit-koziar-s.html. Media can contact Sonia Koziar, Owner at 610-488-1138 or SoniaKoziar@yahoo.com.



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Central PA Youth Ballet – Nutcracker Performance

Dec. 12 - 20, 2016 – “The Nutcracker,” a beloved annual show that takes audiences into a colorful fantasy land of toy soldiers, villainous mice, angels, dancing snowflakes and a Sugar Plum Fairy. The 19th century ballet, set to unforgettable music by Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, is probably the dance world’s most performed work. Amazingly, the original ballet, which is based on an 1816 story by German writer E.T.A. Hoffman titled “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King,” was a bit of a flop when it premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia, in December 1892. That may help to explain why the full version of “Nutcracker” was not performed outside of Russia until 1934. The complete ballet did not premiere in the United States until the San Francisco Ballet staged it in 1944. Today, “Nutcracker” is a worldwide favorite, and never fails to draw an audience. It is a constant presence in the lives of nearly all ballet dancers.

Each Christmas season two renowned ballet schools located in the Hershey Harrisburg Region perform the Nutcracker: **East Pennsboro Township’s Pennsylvania Regional Ballet (PRB)** and **Carlisle’s Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet (CPYB)**.

PRB’s production is based on the original 19th century choreography by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov; while the CPYB performs legendary choreography George Balanchine’s unique version of the work, which he created in 1954. There are many variations on Petipa’s original choreography, but Balanchine’s works are closely controlled by the Balanchine Trust, a nonprofit organization established following the Russian-born dance master’s death in 1983. The Carlisle school is one of the few authorized by the Trust to perform Balanchine’s works, and only under the supervision of an approved repetiteur who ensures the performances are true to Balanchine’s vision. At CPYB, that person is Darla Hoover, a permanent member of the faculty who once danced for Balanchine himself at the New York City Ballet. Each year, Hoover prepares a new cast to perform “Nutcracker,” but all the movements, from hand gestures to footwork, are unvarying. She said the school’s gifted students, who come from all over the United States to learn under school founder Marcia Dale Weary and her staff, make her work much easier.

The performances take place December 12 & 13 at the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in Harrisburg and three more shows December 19 & 20 at the historic Hershey Theatre in Hershey. The performance in Hershey features live music performed by the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra under the direction of conductor Stuart Malina.



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Christmas at Fort Hunter Mansion

Nov. 26 thru Dec. 23, 2016 - Experience life in Victorian times with professionally guided tours of Fort Hunter Mansion and connect to the natural beauty at the 40-acres park along the scenic Susquehanna River. Experience bygone days when everything was homemade and learn how the upper class lived in Harrisburg dating back to 1725. This site includes 10 structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places and remnants of the old Pennsylvania Canal Trail with a free walking tour brochure, museum shop, and picnic areas. TripAdvisor users ranked this #3 for “Top Things to do in Harrisburg” (2016). Fort Hunter Mansion & Park Tour, Mansion closed for season Dec. 23 thru April 30. Media contact Michelle Hornberger, Events Manager, 5300 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110, Tel: 717-599-5751, Email: mhornberger@dauphinc.org, Web: www.FortHunter.org, Hours during the season: 8am – Dusk. Mansion Tours: Tue-Sat 10am-4:30pm/Sun noon-4:30pm/Mondays – Closed.



[Christmas at Fort Hunter Mansion](#) - ADMISSION

Dec. 1–23, 2016 – Fresh greens and fruits, dried materials and fresh flowers provided by the Civic Committee of the Garden Club of Harrisburg decorate the Mansion in Victorian elegance. Open every day but Monday, guided tours highlight holiday trimmings and customs. The [Museum Shop](#) is stocked with tasteful and unique Christmas ideas and is open during museum hours for timely holiday shopping. Hours: Mon-Closed; Tue-Sat 10am–4:30pm, Sun-Noon–4:30pm. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$3 students & children.

[Festival of Trees](#) - FREE

Nov. 26–Dec. 18 – Sat & Sun only – This free event features eight themed Christmas trees decorated with handmade ornaments and trimmed by local garden clubs on exhibit at the Tavern House every Saturday & Sunday from 12:30pm-4:30pm between Nov. 26 and Dec. 18, 2016.



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[Toy Train Exhibit](#) - FREE

Nov. 26–Dec. 18 – Sat & Sun only) - The Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society creates a magical wonderland of HO gauge trains in an 18X24 layout that may be viewed from all sides inside the Centennial Barn. Old and new trains will be displayed each week along with exciting new additions each year. This free exhibit is offered every Saturday & Sunday from 12:30pm – 4:30pm between Nov. 26 and Dec. 18, 2016.

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American Music Theatre 2016 Christmas Show: Winter Wonderland

Nov. 1 thru Dec. 30, 2016 - This holiday season, join our Yuletide tradition with AMT's 2016 Christmas Show: Winter Wonderland and recapture the Christmas spirit. Step through the doors of this beautiful modern theatre and be transported to a wonderland of music and enchantment – from a Bavarian mountain village to the festive, holiday excitement at the North Pole. Winter Wonderland features the secular and sacred holiday songs you know and love, with all-live performances by our sensational cast of Singers and Dancers, as well as the remarkable 9-piece AMT Orchestra. Performances November 1 – December 30, 2016. Contact Donna Haefner, 800-648-4102 X6202, dhaefner@AMTshows.com, www.AMTshows.com.



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Antique Auto Museum: Cars & Christmas

Nov. 19 – Dec. 31, 2016 – This celebration gets you into the holiday spirit featuring dozens of themed decorated Christmas trees, unusual vehicles, vintage toys and cars, Hess Truck display, Model Train exhibits, Sammy the 29ft. snow plow, Grinch Scavenger Hunt and much more. Each year the museum partners with schools in the community to have students decorate a themed Christmas Tree with ornaments they create. Guests vote on their favorites throughout the holiday season. The top 3 schools will receive gift cards. Get more on this event at <http://www.aacamuseum.org/cars-christmas-at-the-aaca-museum/> or contact Nancy Gates, Director of Marketing & Communications at 717-566-7100 or NGates@AACAMuseum.org.



See more on the following permanent exhibits at the museum by clicking the links below:

1. [From Roads to Rails – Custom Model Train Display](#)
2. [Tucker Automobiles: The Cammack Collection](#)
3. [Route 66](#) – New Permanent Exhibit opened Oct. 2016

See more on the following limited time exhibits at the museum by clicking the links below:

1. [Magic Skyway 1964 Ford – “World’s Fair” Thunderbird Convertible](#) – Now thru April 1, 2017
2. [Mopar Midsize Muscle](#) - Nov. 18 thru April 22, 2017
3. [3 Chevys & A Diner](#) - Nov. 18 thru April 22, 2017
4. [Amore della Strada: Italian Cars](#) – Nov. 19 thru April 22, 2017

Upcoming Event in January 2017

Spirits 161: A Speakeasy Soiree – Friday, Jan. 13, 2017

Live entertainment, dancing, learn the Charleston, bubbly bar, specialty drinks, distilled spirits, fabulous 20s inspired foods, luxurious 20s automobiles & more.

PA State Police Museum: Holiday Ornaments Exhibit

Winter is a great time to visit the Pennsylvania State Police Museum with its hilltop view of Hershey. The unique and educational exhibits are indoors and highlight topic such as the State Police Rodeo, uniforms and cars through the years. There is an exhibit on the Camp Hill Prison riots, where you can stand behind bars. This year the limited edition annual pewter ornaments feature the State Police Rodeo, one of the museums main exhibits. The exhibit includes a clown car and original costumes, artifacts, and a video of the 1968 rodeo. Another exhibit and ornament features Omar, the Pennsylvania State Police Dog, who won a medal for heroism. The museum hours are Mon-Fri 9am-4pm. Call ahead for Saturday hours.



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MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Mary Smith, President & CEO of the Hershey Harrisburg Regional Visitors Bureau is available for media interviews regarding the contents of this news release. Please try to make interview requests at least 12-hours in advance. The bureau will make every effort to accommodate all interview requests. Contact Rick@HersheyHarrisburg.org or cell 717.884.3328.

ABOUT THE HERSHEY HARRISBURG REGIONAL VISITORS BUREAU

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The HHRVB is the official non-profit partnership-based Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) leading economic growth for Pennsylvania’s Hershey & Harrisburg Region through destination marketing and tourism development. The organization, accredited by Destination Marketing Association International ([DMAI](#)) since 2010, is committed to actively marketing the tourism assets in Dauphin & Perry County to business and leisure travelers both domestic & international. The bureau also leads regional sales efforts to attract meeting & event organizers, sporting event producers, and group tour leaders. For more information go to VisitHersheyHarrisburg.org or call 877-727-8573. Media can use #HHRVB and #HHRVB4Media when tagging stories and social media posts related to the region.