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EDITORS: The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, contact Mollie Force, Development Associate of the Chester County Historical Society at 610-692-4800, ext. 230.

Chester County Historical Society hosts kickoff of Town Tours and Village Walks

Yearly tours begin Thursday, June 16

WEST CHESTER _ The 17th annual Chester County Town Tours and Village Walks series will begin at the Chester County Historical Society on Thursday, June 16.

“The county’s annual program is excellent and introduces many residents to the rich history of Chester County,” Kim Hall, President of the Historical Society, said. “We’re pleased that the kickoff tour begins at the Historical Society.”

The tours begin at 5:30 p.m. and the last one will depart at approximately 7:00 p.m. The program will continue at various locations each Thursday through August 25. For more information contact Town Tours Program Director, Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, Chester County Parks & Recreation, 610-344-6415; kmarshall@chesco.org.

The West Chester tour is sponsored by the Historical Society and the West Chester HARB. For reservations and information, call 1-877-442-2746, extension 101. The Historical Society is located at 225 North High Street, West Chester.

The northeast quadrant of West Chester will be the area of this year’s tour and includes part of the historic town center and street after street of distinguished buildings in all styles which flourished from the end of the 18th century through the decades of the 19th century.

Chester County author Bruce Mowday will be signing copies of his book *Six Walking Tours of West Chester* and other history and true crime books on June 16. A percentage of the sales will be donated to the Historical Society. Lukens Band is also scheduled to play and light refreshments will be served.

This year’s *Town Tours & Village Walks* honors those who lived and died during this country’s Civil War and explores the county’s iron and steel heritage. Last year, over 2,000 Chester County citizens and visitors enthusiastically endorsed the assortment of historic evening walking tours! In 2005, Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission awarded the program one of two statewide educational awards. The program is also sponsored by the Chester County Historic Preservation Network and the Chester County Conference and Visitor Bureau.

The Chester County Historical Society is a not-for-profit educational institution whose mission is to promote an understanding of the history of Chester County and southeastern Pennsylvania by collecting, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting that history and its relationship to the region, and nation beyond, to audiences of all ages and interests. For more information, call 610-692-4800 or visit ChesterCoHistorical.org.