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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Onorato Announces Opening of 18th Annual Celebration of Lights

Event will be carbon-neutral for second consecutive year

INDIANA TWP., Pa. — Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato today announced that the 18th Annual Celebration of Lights at Hartwood will open at 6:00 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 20. The event will be carbon-neutral for the second consecutive year as part of the County Executive's Allegheny Green initiative. The estimated greenhouse gasses associated with lighting the displays and each vehicle's journey through the park will be balanced with high-quality carbon offsets.

"Allegheny County is dedicated to sustainable practices and operations, and the Celebration of Lights is a perfect opportunity to demonstrate this commitment," said Onorato. "Each year, thousands of people drive through the three-mile display of nearly three million lights. By purchasing offsets for the carbon dioxide generated, we're responsibly addressing our environmental impact."

The Celebration of Lights, presented by Rite Aid, Allegheny County and WTAE-TV, will be open for viewing from Fri., Nov. 20, 2009, through Sun., Jan. 3, 2010, including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Hours are 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

This year, the Celebration of Lights will feature three new moving displays that highlight our region's love of football, hockey and car racing.

Visitors should enter the park at the Saxonburg Boulevard entrance. The suggested donation is \$12 per car, \$3 per person for non-profit organization buses, and \$5 per person for for-profit organization buses. Proceeds are donated to WTAE-TV's Project Bundle-Up and other local charities. More than \$3.3 million has been raised in the 18-year history of the event.

For additional information or directions to Hartwood, call 1-877-LITE-UP-4.

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