



Holidays

MORRISTOWN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MORRISTOWN PARTNERSHIP

Christmas Festival at the Morristown Green

Annual month-long tradition kicks off on Dec. 1

By Karen Roettger
Special to The Star-Ledger

Son of a nutcracker, the holidays are here again!

The kick-off of the Christmas Festival at the Morristown Green, and the arrival of the much beloved Santa, is scheduled for 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 1. The evening will also include the 100-plus year traditional countdown to the 'Lighting of the Green,' festive music and plenty of good cheer.

In addition to the sights of the season, the sound of holiday carolers will fill the air while event sponsor Hyatt Regency Morristown returns to provide hot chocolate and cookies to warm those gathered to enjoy this special night in town. Visits with Santa will continue until 8 p.m.

"The Hyatt Regency Morristown is excited for

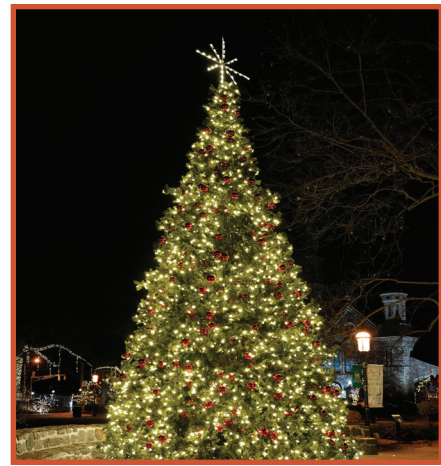


Photo courtesy of Morristown Partnership

another holiday season that we can celebrate with our community," said Kristine Blake, area director of sales, Hyatt Regency Morristown. "Downtown Morristown is an absolute dream in the winter, and there's no experience like the Christmas Festival on the Morristown Green! We are thrilled to be a part of the festivities again and hope that everyone has a chance to check out what makes the holidays in Morristown special" Blake added.

This annual holiday extravaganza is presented by the Morristown Partnership with the support of returning sponsors 40 North Restaurants, Atlantic Health System – Morristown Medical Center, Hyatt Regency Morristown, Morristown Airport, T.E.A.M. (The Educational Association of Morris) and Vision Management. New in 2024, BJ's Wholesale Club joins the fun as sponsor of the Activity Tent and will have representatives on-site select dates to offer membership sign ups and information on their new location opening in 2025.

After the official kick-off, a full schedule of activities is planned throughout the month at the Green and within the heated activity tent on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 22. Visitors of all ages will delight in memorable experiences including rides in a miniature train, ice sculpture demonstrations, musical performances, arts and crafts activities, thousands of sparkling lights and decorations and, of course, visits with Santa.

"Downtown will be transformed into a winter wonderland to be enjoyed by all who live, work, visit or travel through Morristown," said Cassidy



Photo courtesy of Morristown Partnership

Champi, program manager at the Morristown Partnership. "Santa's arrival, holiday music and seasonal decorations are just the beginning of this event that brings families from near and far to enjoy the festivities."

"Thanks to our sponsors, attractions and activities are free of charge to attendees with the exception of Santa photos for \$15," Champi said.

Atlantic Health System's Morristown Medical Center has sponsored the festival for 20-plus years and will continue that tradition this year.

"Atlantic Health System's Goryeb Children's Hospital is pleased to again participate in the Christmas Festival at the Morristown Green, celebrating the holiday season with our community," said Candace Wu, program manager, Pediatric Community Outreach at Goryeb Children's Hospital. "Children and their families

will have the opportunity to spread cheer by making cards for children who will be celebrating the holidays in the hospital as well as cards for their loved ones."

When planning your visit, don't forget to leave time to shop throughout downtown Morristown, take in a show or gather with friends and family for a meal at one of a wide range of popular restaurants. The ideal gift may actually be the gift of Morristown. Morristown Partnership Gift Certificates are able to be used at nearly 200 downtown Morristown businesses and make the ideal gift. You can purchase gift certificates online via the Morristown Partnership website or in their offices at 14 Maple Avenue.

A complete schedule of activities and updates are available on the Morristown Partnership website throughout the month. Visit www.morristown-nj.org

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



The Frog Restaurant & Bar Marks a Quarter of a Century in Morristown

By Karen Roettger
Special to The Star Ledger



Photo courtesy of The Frog Restaurant & Bar

The coming of Y2K may have been worrisome for many in late 1999, but not for three local entrepreneurs intent on opening a restaurant in downtown Morristown. Jack Welch, Jeff Beers and Jim Finnegan were hard at work in preparation for opening their doors on Washington Street before the momentous turn of the century.

The Frog Restaurant & Bar found its home between the Morris County Court House and the historic Morristown Green in November of 1999. From the outset, this family friendly restaurant steadily drew in the crowds from Morristown and the surrounding communities with its full service bar and consistently good food. The restaurant uses the same burger blend from the day they opened and prides itself on its signature chicken fingers

made with Ritz Cracker crumbs and house made mustamaize sauce. Chef Luis Torales creates all the specials and new menu items then carefully trains his culinary staff to maintain the quality and innovation that the Frog is known for.

Only one year after its initial opening came The Side Bar, a no-jeans, no-sneaker hideaway for the over 23 crowd to enjoy premium cocktails and small plates. The Side Bar would adapt through the years, becoming a cigar bar in 2009 and ultimately was renamed HOPS Beer & Craft Bar in 2014.

The Frog offers something for everyone. General Manager, Brian Engler and Chef Luis run the establishment with an attention to detail and maintaining the high quality food and beverage service that patrons have counted on for many years. The restaurant draws the competitive crowd for a lively game of shuffleboard, pool or cornhole, and in fairer weather, patrons can enjoy Finnegan's Beer Garden, a cozy outdoor patio space.

For 35+ years, The St. Patrick's Parade has drawn crowds from throughout Northern NJ to Morristown and The Frog is an integral part of the day. Year after year the lines grow for returning and new visitors to enjoy one of the most exciting days in town. Also not to be missed is NCAA March Madness. The Frog plays host to throngs of basketball fans at this electric time of year.

The fall brings its own brand of fun to Morristown and once again The Frog is in the center of it all. The restaurant plays host of the very popular Beer Tent for the annual Morristown Festival on the Green event, run by the Morristown Partnership; they bring their expertise outside for the fall gathering that draws thousands each year to the downtown on a Sunday afternoon. And throughout the season, Legends Sports Bar caters to football fans with watch parties for the likes of Penn State, Rutgers, Tennessee, Alabama, Villanova and Providence! Food and beverage specials geared to the sports teams add an extra layer of fun! Be sure and visit throughout the year; reservations can be made directly with the restaurant.

The Frog Restaurant
18 Washington Street
Morristown, NJ
(973) 540-9601
famishedfrog.com



Pictured are Chef Luis Torales, Jim Finnegan and Brian Engler

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