



An Official Publication of the Morristown Partnership

Christmas Festival at the Morristown Green

Annual month-long holiday tradition kicks off Dec. 1

By Kerry Serzan
Special to The Star-Ledger

The spirit of the holidays is once again alive and well in Morristown!

The kick-off of the time-honored Christmas Festival at the Morristown Green, including the arrival of the much beloved Santa on North Park Place, is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. The evening will also feature the 100-plus year traditional countdown to the ‘Lighting of the Green’, festive music and plenty of good cheer.

While the sounds of live music and caroling fill the air, event sponsor Hyatt Regency Morristown will once again provide hot chocolate to warm those gathered to enjoy this special night in town. Visits with Santa will continue until 8 p.m.

“The Christmas Festival at the Morristown Green is a magical event that brings families and the community together to celebrate



Photo courtesy of Kevin dePoortere

and be thankful for all that we have during the holiday season,” said Amando Hernandez, director of sales and events, Hyatt Regency Morristown. “We are delighted to be a sponsor for this year’s event and we look forward to working with the Morristown Partnership to ensure an unforgettable experience for members of our wonderful community.”

This annual holiday extravaganza is presented by the Morristown Partnership with the support of many generous sponsors. After the official kickoff, a full schedule of activities is planned onsite at the Green and within the heated activity tent on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Sunday, Dec. 22. Visit the Morristown Partnership website throughout the month for a complete schedule of activities and updates.

All month long, visitors of all ages will delight in memorable nostalgia including rides in a miniature wooden train, vintage oversized rocking horses, ice sculpture demonstrations, thousands of sparkling lights and decorations and, of course, visits with Santa.

Guests can warm up in in a heated tent featuring activities and live music. Planned arts and crafts include gingerbread house making, holiday card making and coloring.

“Downtown will be transformed into a winter wonderland to be enjoyed by all who live, work, visit or travel through Morristown,” said Karen Roettger, director of development at the Morristown Partnership. “Santa’s arrival, holiday music and seasonal decorations are just the beginning of this month-long event that brings families from near and far to enjoy the festivities.”

When the weather cooperates, Roettger said between 1,000 to 1,500 visitors attend the festival each day. Almost all of the attractions are offered free of charge – moving away from commercialism to capture the pure, childlike wonder of the season. “With the exception of Santa photos costing \$10, everything else is free to the public thanks to our sponsors,” she said.

Morristown Medical Center, part of the Atlantic Health System, has sponsored the



Photo courtesy of Morristown Partnership

festival for 20+ years and will continue that tradition this year. Within Morristown Medical Center is Goryeb Children’s Hospital, northern New Jersey’s leading specialized pediatric hospital, ranked first in the state for the treatment of pediatric cancer.

“Goryeb Children’s Hospital is pleased to again participate in this year’s Christmas Festival at the Morristown Green, celebrating the holiday season with our community,” said Maryann Walsh, program manager of Pediatric Community Outreach at Goryeb Children’s Hospital. “Children will have the opportunity to spread cheer by making cards for those children who will be celebrating the holidays in the hospital – and they can also make cards for their loved ones to keep.”

Another ongoing sponsor is The Education Association of Morris (TEAM), an organization comprised of educators and support staff of the Morris School District.

Allison Unger, pride chair for the association, said, “TEAM is excited to sponsor the Christmas

Festival at the Morristown Green again this year. We choose to sponsor the festival every year because it is a great opportunity for us to interact with more families in the community.”

“This event is so meaningful to Morristown, because it gives everyone the opportunity to come together and celebrate the holidays and strengthen the relationships within our community. TEAM will have a table of activities in the children’s tent again this year. Our hope is to spread holiday joy to the children and their families” Unger said.

Another return sponsor this year is TD Bank. “TD Bank is thrilled to support Morristown Partnership and be a part of the festival at the Morristown Green. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year and we are excited to sponsor the miniature train rides to help add to the magic of the season!”

The full schedule of activities and entertainment for the 2019 Christmas Festival at the Morristown Green is available at www.morristown-nj.org.

Visits with Santa and so much more

Enjoy these holiday activities on the Morristown Green Dec. 1 through Dec. 22

Sunday, Dec. 1
Outdoors
5 to 5:30 p.m. – Santa’s Arrival and the Lighting of the Morristown Green, North Park Place
5:30 to 8 p.m. Programming including Mayo Performing Arts Center; hot chocolate and cookies provided by Hyatt Regency Morristown, and the Morris Choral Society.

Santa House
5:45 to 8 p.m. – Santa visits and photos

Friday, Dec. 6
Santa House
3 to 8 p.m. – Santa visits and photos

Outdoors
5 to 8 p.m. – Miniature train rides

Saturday, Dec. 7
Santa House
Noon to 7 p.m. – Santa visits and photos

Tent
1 to 3 p.m. - Create your own Santa Bag Craft
4 to 5:30 p.m. - Mayo Performing Arts Company - singing holiday favorites

Sponsor exhibitor:
The Education Association of Morris (T.E.A.M.)

Outdoors
2 to 6 p.m. – Miniature train rides

Sunday, Dec. 8
Santa House
Noon to 7 p.m. – Santa visits and photos

Tent
1 to 3 p.m. – Macculloch Hall Thomas Nast Ornament Coloring Activity
4 to 7 p.m. - Holiday Performances with the Original Music School

Sponsor exhibitor:
Kitchen Magic

Outdoors
2 to 6 p.m. – Miniature train rides

Friday, Dec. 13
Santa House
3 to 8 p.m. – Santa visits and photos

Tent
6 to 7 p.m. – Holiday Violin Performance

Outdoors
5 to 8 p.m. – Miniature train rides

Saturday, Dec. 14
Santa House
Noon to 7 p.m. – Santa visits and photos

Tent
1 to 3 p.m. - Holiday Card Making
4 to 7 p.m. - Gingerbread House Making

Sponsor exhibitors:
Goryeb Children’s Hospital and The Education Association of Morristown (T.E.A.M.)

Outdoors
2 to 4 p.m. - Ice Sculpting Demonstration
2 to 6 p.m. - Miniature train rides

Sunday, Dec. 15
Santa House
Noon to 7 p.m. – Santa visits and photos

Tent
1 to 3 p.m. – Macculloch Hall Thomas Nast Ornament Coloring Activity
4 to 7 p.m. – Holiday Performances with the Original Music School

Sponsor exhibitor:
Kitchen Magic

Outdoors
2 to 6 p.m. – Miniature train rides

Friday, Dec. 20
Santa House
3 to 8 p.m.. – Santa visits and photos

Outdoors
5 to 8 p.m. – Miniature train rides

Tent
5 to 8 p.m. - Bethel A.M.E. Choir

Saturday, Dec. 21
Santa House
Noon to 7 p.m. – Santa visits and photos

Tent
1 to 3 p.m. – Macculloch Hall Thomas Nast Ornament Coloring Activity
4 to 7 p.m. - Holiday Performances with the Original Music School

Sponsor exhibitor:
Kitchen Magic

Outdoors
3 to 4 p.m. – Tuba Christmas
2 to 6 p.m. - Miniature train rides



Sunday, Dec. 22
Santa House
Noon to 7 p.m. – Santa visits and photos

Tent
1 to 3 p.m. – Gingerbread House Making
4 to 7 p.m. – Holiday Performances with the Original Music School

Outdoors
2 to 4 p.m. - Ice Sculpting Demonstration
2 to 6 p.m. – Miniature train rides

*Visit the Morristown Partnership website at www.morristown-nj.org throughout the month for schedule updates. Schedule subject to change.



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Holidays IN MORRISTOWN

An Official Publication of the Morristown Partnership

The Artist Baker offers delectable treats, hearty fare and a focus on community

By Karen Roettger

It was 10 years ago this past February that Andrea Lekberg, owner of The Artist Baker, opened her doors in Morristown. In that time, this charming cafe has established itself in the community as a favorite haunt of many, a cozy local hub, and a unique and artistic space that everyone likes to claim as their find.



Photos courtesy of Cassidy Champi

Everything served at The Artist Baker is hand crafted onsite — from the preserves to pickles to a wide array of seasonal cakes and pastries. Recent creations for a local event benefiting the Community FoodBank of New Jersey included pickled peaches with vanilla bean ice cream and candied duck bacon crumbles. Teaming up with other like-minded businesses and giving back to the community is high on Lekberg's list.

Enter the café, and you will be greeted with a display case of tempting confections to pass before viewing a chalkboard with the days lunch selections. The choices are all so tempting that you'll need a minute to make the agonizing choice.

"My favorites include the roasted pear and hazelnut salad with blue cheese (also served with goat cheese)," said Marney Rohda, a longtime patron and Morris Township resident. "And the avocado toast — not your everyday version — it's topped with crispy bacon pieces and jalapeños."

"There's also the chicken salad on housemade brioche bread, which seriously is the definition of comfort food. It's so hard to choose," Rohda concluded.

The fall has brought out pumpkin spice with pizzazz at The Artist Baker. As featured in Fortune magazine (Oct. 18, 2019), Lekberg's offerings during this seasonal craze included pumpkin spice cheesecake marshmallows, pumpkin whoopie pies, buttermilk mini cupcakes topped with pumpkin spice butter cream and toasted pecans and, of course, classic pumpkin pie.

With Thanksgiving around the corner (sorry readers, your order deadline has passed on this one), The Artist Baker is offering lots of items with warm spices and plenty of butter. Favorites include butter pie, pecan maple pie and valrhona chocolate pie — all also available gluten-free. Be sure and check the website www.theartistbaker.com for December holiday order deadlines and pick up dates — and order early!

For 10 years, The Artist Baker has been a hidden gem on an otherwise quiet Cattano Avenue, however, an influx of businesses and residential to the area has increased foot traffic and brought attention to this quaint but thriving business neighborhood. An

outdoor tiered brick courtyard shared by several of the area establishments, including The Artist Baker, offers an oasis from the hustle and bustle of downtown Morristown.

"The best thing about our business is our customers" Lekberg shares when asked about her success. "They are a mix of living locals and office workers and both add a sense of community to the shop," she added.

To say that she's made an impact on the community, is an understatement. The Artist Baker is known for its extensive work with local organizations such as The Seeing Eye, The Community FoodBank of New Jersey, Grow it Green Morristown, Art in the Atrium and The Market Street Mission. This year, The Artist Baker is excited to be going onsite at the Market Street Mission to spread holiday cheer and teach the men in residence how to make gingerbread houses.

Stop in for lunch, linger over tea or coffee and any number of delicious fresh baked desserts and you're sure to join the many admirers and likely to become a regular patron at The Artist Baker.

The Artist Baker is located at 14-18 Cattano Ave., Morristown; open Tuesday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; theartistbaker.com or (973) 267-5540.



10 tips from JCP&L for safe holiday decorating

Seasonal decorations, including lights, trees and wreaths, can help put your household in the holiday spirit. However, when not used properly, decorations — particularly lights — can create safety hazards or cause fires.

Keep the family safe during the holidays. Prior to use, read the manufacturer's instructions for each item to understand how to use it properly. In addition, follow these best practices to ensure your holiday lights and decorations are installed correctly:

1. Double check lights for frayed wires or cracks, and be sure there is a bulb in each socket. Discard and replace damaged strands.
2. When decorating outside, keep ladders and decorations away from overhead power lines. Ensure the ladder is securely placed on the ground before climbing.
3. Lights should be approved by Underwriters Laboratory. "UL" will be clearly displayed on the tag, signifying the product has been inspected for potential safety hazards. Red UL



marks indicate the lights are safe for indoor/outdoor use, and green UL marks indicate the lights are only safe for indoor use.

4. Do not hammer tacks or nails into the electrical cord when hanging lights. Instead, use clips to safely attach lights to the house.
5. Use heavy-duty extension cords, and only use cords outdoors if they are designated for outdoor use. Avoid overloading extension cords by using no more than three sets of standard lights per cord.
6. If possible, outdoor lights and inflatable decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). GFCIs help prevent electric shock by breaking the circuit when differences in the currents of hot and neutral wires occur.
7. Use a timer or turn off lights before going to bed, or if you will be away from home.
8. For special ornaments that plug into a bulb receptacle, use no more than two per strand, or check the manufacturer's directions.
9. Indoor lights should not touch drapes, furniture or carpeting. Keep lit candles away from flammable items, too.
10. Prevent tripping by placing cords and decorations in low-traffic areas where they won't be walked on. Avoid twisting, kinking or crushing cords.

Additionally, if you have children in your home, use safety caps on all electrical outlets that are not in use to prevent shock. Keep sharp objects out of reach, as well as items that could be swallowed.

By taking the proper precautions both inside and outside of your home, you can prevent hazards and focus on friends and



family during the holidays. Don't forget to periodically check lights and decorations throughout the season to ensure they continue to operate safely. **Happy holidays!**

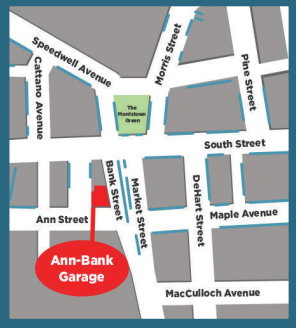
Local groups can request a presentation about keeping safe around electricity through the FirstEnergy Speakers Bureau. For more information, visit the Speakers Bureau web page or contact speakersbureau@firstenergycorp.com.

Jersey Central
Power & Light
A FirstEnergy Company

Enjoy FREE Parking in the Ann/Bank Garage Saturdays and Sundays in December!



Our Gift to You!
Visiting the downtown to take in the spectacular lights and holiday activities? Doing a little shopping or dining out? Park FREE Saturdays and Sundays in the Ann Bank Garage with entrances off of Schuyler Place and Bank Street.



Think Local Shop Morristown

Morristown Parking Authority
(973) 539-4810

Saturdays and Sundays
December 1, 7, 8, 14,
15, 21, 22, 28 and 29

2020 Event Calendar



Monday, April 20 through Friday, April 24



Thursdays, May 28, June 25, July 30 & August 27



Sundays, June 21 through November 22



Sunday, October 4



Friday, October 30



Sunday, November 29 through
Sunday, December 20

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