## Lights, Sights, Gifts & Bites

From twinkling lights to bustling shops and cozy restaurants, downtown Morristown is gearing up for the holiday season. Whether you're searching for the perfect gift, planning a special dinner with friends, or looking for family-friendly fun, there's plenty to see and do. Mark your calendar and make time to explore, shop and savor the holiday spirit that fills Morristown this time of year.

AMC Headquarters Plaza 10 is the local cinema where you can find the latest movies, including holiday films that are released this season. Check the website for the most up-to-date schedule of showtimes.

AMC Loews 72 Headquarters Plaza.

Assumption Church's 15th annual Morristown Christmas Market scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., bringing with it two full days of shopping, seasonal cheer, and community spirit. Assumption Parish, 91 Maple Ave.

Chanukah on the Plaza scheduled for Dec. 15 starting at 5 p.m. and hosted by Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael. This is where the party is at this Chanukah! This celebration is one that everyone, regardless of age or stage, will enjoy. Join in the celebration to light up Morristown and together spread the message of goodness and kindness. For more information, visit JewishMorristown.com.

Pioneer Park at HQ Plaza, 3 Speedwell Ave. (between HQ Plaza and 1776 Morristown).



"Not a Creature was Stirring:Thomas Nast's Christmas Animals exhibit at Macculloch Hall.

Frelinghuysen Arboretum — Festival of Trees on Fridays Dec. 12, 19 and 26. Tour the mansion and enjoy trees decorated by Scouts, families, floral designers, and garden clubs in this outing for the family.

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 E. Hanover Ave.

Hannukah Happening at Temple B'nai Or is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. for latkes, candle lighting, and Hanukkah singing. Please RSVP at templebnaior.org

Harmonium Choral Society Seasons of Blessings Concert will be held on Saturday, Dec.. 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m.

The Presbyterian Church in Morristown, 57 E.

Temple B'nai Or, 60 Overlook Road

Park Place.

Holiday CraftMorristown scheduled for Dec. 12 through 14. Spend the days shopping for uncommon and one-of-a-kind gifts for every age, taste and budget from 175 of

America's finest craft artists.

Morristown Armory, 430 Western Ave.

Hyatt Regency Morristown Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, Dec. 1 from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy refreshments and listen to sounds by the MayoPac Children's Choir, while awaiting a visit from Santa! Hyatt Regency Morristown, 3 Speedwell Ave.

Macculloch Hall Historical Museum

"Not a Creature was Stirring: Thomas Nast's Christmas Animals Exhibit" opens on Saturday, Dec. 6 and will run through Jan. 16, 2026 at the museum. In January, the museum will only be open weekdays by appointment. Macculloch Hall, 45 Macculloch Ave.

Mayo Performing Arts Center Theatre of Light on Nov. 23 5 to 7:00 p.m., will transform Morristown into a winter wonderland with a dazzling display of lights, music and entertainment. Home for the Holidays 2025 on Dec. 3 featuring performers Peabo Bryson, Sheena Easton, Ruben Studdard and Ilya Serov; and the annual favorite New Jersey Ballet's The Nutcracker with New Jersey Symphony returns on Dec. 12 to Dec. 27. Look for additional holiday programming at mayoarts.org/events.

Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St.



South St.

Photos courtesy of Morristown Partnership

Morris Education Foundation Morristown ONSTAGE auditions will take place on Dec. 13. Advance registration is required by Monday, Dec. 8. Center stage is calling! Morristown ONSTAGE is seeking the best amateur and local talent to be a part of this unforgettable experience. Selected finalists will perform at the Mayo Performing Arts Center on Feb. 24, 2026 with a chance to win \$1,000. For eligibility and audition requirements, visit morrisedfoundation.org.

Morris Museum has a full schedule of holiday entertainment including Carolyn Dorfman Dance in Dances of Hope at 3 p.m. on Sunday Dec. 7; Film: Lotto and Berenson: Crossed Destinies at 2 and 7 p.m. on Dec. 17; Water Gap Jazz Orchestra: Nutcracker and Grinch Suites at 3 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20; Notes on Napkins from Dec. 12, 2025 to May 17, 2026.

Bakeries galore! Stock up on all your holiday favorite treats at Tatte Bakery & Cafe, The Artist Baker, Swiss Chalet Bakery & Cafe, Kirshenbaum Baking Co., Dan Bakery & Café, Paris Baguette, Rico Pan Bakery, Verrillis, LOKL Café,Pan Casero Bakery and Coniglio's

Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road.

Dining experiences for all tastes.

Old Fashion to name a few.

The sky's the limit when choosing a favorite steakhouse, Italian, Thai, Chinese, traditional Irish fare, Sushi, Greek and the list goes on. Many establishments offer private rooms for holiday gatherings and catering for at-home

entertaining. Don't miss holiday themed bar pop ups including Miracle at Parkside at Parkside Tavern starting Nov. 28 and Santa's Secret Sips at Iron Bar starting on Dec. 5.

Entertainment Outside the Box Morristown Game Vault — Do you remember Pac-Man, Donkey Kong, Q\*Bert and pinball? These and 110 other retro arcade games and pinball machines are waiting for you. 22

**Glassworks Studio** — At Glassworks, everyone can craft fused-glass art for display, gifts, and everyday use. 151 South St., Suite B.

**Topgolf Swing Suite** — Interactive simulators offer a variety of golf and non-golf games plus watch your favorite team on your own big screen. Go from smashing a 7-iron to striking out a batter with a fastball in a matter of minutes. *67 East Park Place (in 1776 Morristown).* 

Shopping, shopping and more shopping! Find something for everyone on your holiday gift list at popular retailers, including Just Jersey, Learning Express Toys & Gifts, Willow St. Boutique and 23 South Boutique to name a few.

Can't decide? Give the gift of Morristown Partnership Gift Certificates, accepted at nearly 200 businesses in downtown Morristown. Gift certificates can be purchased in person at 14 Maple Ave., 2nd floor or online at morristown-nj.org.

## **Best Western Plus Morristown Inn**

Your home away from home in downtown Morristown



Photos courtesy of Morristown Partnership

By Karen Roettger Special to The Star-Ledger

For 40 years, the Best Western Plus Morristown Inn has been a welcoming destination for visitors to downtown Morristown. Family-owned and operated, this 60-room hotel offers comfortable accommodations to travelers from near and far who come to experience everything Morristown has to offer.

The welcoming atmosphere, timeless charm, and attentive staff make every guest feel right at home. Each well-appointed

room offers the comforts of modern living, including cable and satellite television, 50-inch flat-screen TVs with streaming, and high-speed wireless internet access. The hotel is 100% smoke-free and meets AHLA green guidelines including complimentary use of EV chargers and free parking.

Just a short walk from downtown Morristown, the hotel offers convenient access to an array of shops, restaurants, entertainment and sporting venues, community events, historic landmarks, houses of worship, and public parks — ensuring something for everyone to

enjoy. History enthusiasts can explore nearby landmarks such as Washington's Headquarters, the Morristown Green, and the Fosterfields Living Historical Farm. Families visiting college students will appreciate the hotel's proximity to Drew University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and the College of Saint Elizabeth. Travelers in town for leisure can enjoy performances at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, exhibits and events at the Morris Museum, and a lively downtown nightlife scene. Local favorites include The Dublin Pub, a traditional Irish tavern, Legends Sports Bar, and TOWN bar + kitchen; in warmer weather, guests can relax outdoors at Homestead Bar & Kitchen or Stirling Tavern.

Corporate clients make up a large portion of the hotel's regular guests. With its convenient location, exceptional service, and well-equipped business amenities and meeting spaces, the hotel makes it easy for travelers to stay productive. Its proximity to major companies such as Sanofi, Deloitte, Valley Bank, and Atlantic Health System -Morristown Memorial Hospital, along with numerous other Fortune 500 companies in the area, makes it a natural choice for business travelers looking to set up shop in Morristown. Those traveling from a distance to the hotel are 3 miles from Morristown Municipal Airport or 20 miles from Newark Liberty International Airport.

If this all sounds too good to be true, just take a look at the Best Western Plus Morristown Inn's consistent No.1 ranking



on TripAdvisor. The hotel has also earned the prestigious M.K. Guertin Award - the highest honor within the Best Western brand for the past consecutive three years. This distinction recognizes hotels that exemplify exceptional quality, outstanding guest satisfaction, and strong brand engagement. It's a remarkable achievement and a true testament to the hotel's leadership and the dedication of its team. The small but exceptional staff of 17 includes many longtime employees, with several team members celebrating 20 to 30 years of service — and a few who have been part of the inn's 40-year journey from the very beginning.

The staff at Best Western Plus Morristown Inn awaits your visit and looks forward to treating you like family. Reservations are best made via the website or calling directly. 270 South St., Morristown 973-540-1700 Bestwestern.com



## Invest in Our Vision

Your donation will be put to use immediately and contribute to the lives of thousands in our community!

For information on advertising in upcoming issues, sponsoring community events or supporting the Morristown Partnership Annual Appeal, contact karen@morristown-nj.org or (973) 455-1133.

