

WHAT'S NEW IN MORRIS COUNTY

6 Court Street, Morristown, NJ 07960 • Telephone: 973-631-5151 • Fax: 973-631-5153

THE GREEN AT MORRISTOWN

For nearly 300 years the Morristown Green has been the most distinguishing feature of the town, appearing on the earliest maps of the area. It recently underwent a million dollar renovation and rededication. One of only two New Jersey greens, or commons, to survive down to the 21st century, it has been restored by an award-winning landscape architect and features interpretive signage and historic sculptures. Formerly a parade ground for General George Washington's troops, it has been central to the life of the town since its founding in 1738.



Photo by Bob Karp

THE COMMUNITY THEATRE at The Mayo Center for the Performing Arts

The Community Theatre was recently given a \$6 million upgrade, which includes state-of-the-art backstage technical capabilities, a new orchestra pit, fly-rail system, dressing rooms and a multi-purpose room known as the 'Starlight Room', to host private receptions, a theatre education studio and corporate meetings. The theatre's monthly programming has drawn people to Morris County. As one reviewer remarked, "Morristown has come alive as a vibrant cultural and artistic center with attention focused on events held at The Community Theatre's Mayo Center for the Performing Arts!".

MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

The National Park Service oversees the park, founded in 1933, as the nation's first national historical park. It consists of four locations: Washington's Headquarters with the Ford Mansion and Museum, Fort Nonsense, Jockey

Hollow, and the New Jersey Brigade Area with the Cross Estate and Gardens. An astounding \$5 million renovation to the park's Headquarters Museum (through public and private partnerships) consists of an update to the overall structure and a brand new wing which houses two outstanding exhibits: Defining American Style and Lloyd W. Smith's Archival and Rare Book Gallery. Two additional exhibit galleries are scheduled to be completed by 2010 and are planned to house the park's extensive historic weapons collections. This has been designated an important National Historic Landmark site for its association with General George Washington who was in residence at the Ford Mansion for 200 days in 1780.



Photo by Bob Karp

MORRIS MUSEUM

Renowned as a vibrant educational center, the Morris Museum was awarded the Murtoth D. Guinness collection of 700 mechanical musical instruments, mechanical figures and more than 5,000 programmed media ranging from player piano rolls to pinned cylinders. This extraordinary collection represents one of the most significant of its kind in the world and is entitled: Musical Machines & Living Dolls: Mechanical Musical Instruments and Automata from the Murtoth D. Guinness Collection. The exhibit is on display in a brand new 4,300 square-foot gallery and takes visitors on a journey through the history of on-demand musical entertainments.



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HISTORIC SPEEDWELL

One of Morris County's National Historic Landmarks is Historic Speedwell. The most important building at Historic Speedwell is the factory where Morristown's Alfred Vail and Samuel F. B. Morse perfected and first successfully demonstrated the electromagnetic telegraph in 1838. A \$1 million structural restoration was completed in September 2008 and boasts a new interactive telegraph exhibit. The Factory Building is now not only an important scientific museum, but a monument to the development of communications in the world.



THE STICKLEY MUSEUM AT CRAFTSMAN FARMS

Craftsman Farms is the former home of noted turn-of-the-century designer Gustav Stickley. This National Historic Landmark site, which consists of 26 acres, is one of the most significant places associated with the American Arts and Crafts movement. The museum has recently completed the third phase of restorations, with momentous refurbishments of the master bedroom at The Log House (built in 1911), a new Education Room in The Annex (which is an ideal rental space for meetings, retreats, classes and events), and significant renovations to the North and South Cottages—all a 'must see' for visitors to this pastoral former agricultural school for boys.



Photo by Daniel Beards