

## Welcome to the Morris County Pre Parade Show

**March 17, 1780** – After the long hard winter of 1779-1780 in Jockey Hollow, Morristown NJ, George Washington, in recognition of the support of his **Irish Militiamen**, and there were plenty of them approximately 80%, gave them the day off and thus began the **first St. Patrick's Day Parade Celebration in the United States.**

- March 17, 1979, thanks to the Irish American Association of Northwest Jersey (IAANJ), the first official **modern day Morris County St. Patrick's Parade** in Morris County, was held in Wharton, NJ. Parade marchers paraded down a one mile stretch of Main Street, Wharton, to the cheers of hundreds of spectators.
- **Eleven years later in 1990**, the parade in Wharton had its largest parade with the greatest number of spectators ever marching down Main Street, It was clear that the parade had outgrown Wharton, a small and gracious community that hosted the Parade.

**In November 1990**, the Friendly Sons of St Patrick of Morris County teamed up with the Irish American Association of Northwest Jersey and began working with Morristown's Former Mayor Norman Block and the administration to bring the parade to Morristown. It was a perfect place for the parade with Morristown's rich history in Irish culture going back to the Revolutionary War.

- **January 18, 1991**, a Certificate of Incorporation for Non-Profit Organization, was issued for St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County, Inc., and a Board of Trustees was formed for the new **non-profit organization**. It was formed to run the parade, to pay parade expenses, and most importantly, to provide **charitable contributions**, to promote Irish culture and support various local children's and other deserving organizations that benefit Morris County.
- **March 16, 1991**, the annual Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade stepped off in Morristown for the first time with 3000 marchers, 13 bands and several floats and fire companies. There were thousands of spectators there to enjoy the day. It was a great day for everyone and has been ever since.

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- **From 1991 to the Present**, the parade has grown to over 120 diverse groups, including over 20 bands, with over 4000 marchers with 60,000 to 80,000 spectators enjoying the Parade each year **depending on weather.**  
**It is the Largest Family Oriented Parade in the State**

- **In 2000** - Our parade got national recognition thanks to **Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen** who submitted the Morris County Parade history to the Library of Congress Local Legacy Program, a high honor and tribute to the efforts of parade organizers and volunteers. Today, it takes over 75 volunteers putting in excess of 2500 hours each year to put on the Parade.

The parade **is fully self-funded** and receives no public funds for parade expenses. It is funded solely by generous donations **from Corporate and Individual sponsors**. There is no public money involved

- Since 1991, the Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade, Inc. has donated over \$350,000 to local charitable organizations in keeping with the mission of our Non-Profit organization.
- Since 1991 Parade Day has begun with a Mass at Assumption Church at 10:00 AM. The Mass is a special celebration of Irish Culture in honor of St. Patrick.
- In 2012, the Parade added a **Pre-Parade Show** to entertain spectators around the Green while waiting for the Parade to start.
- The Parade organization takes great pride in having provided a safe fun-filled day for Morris County residents and their families to enjoy each spring at no cost to Morristown for 26 years, and look to continue to do so in the future