

# Light Up Your Holidays



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## FROSTBURG, MARYLAND — TREE LIGHTING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

*As Charlie Brown says, “it’s not what’s under the Christmas tree that counts; it’s who’s around it.”*

Christmas is a magical time in the city of Frostburg, MD. From the middle of November, the town is alive with the Christmas spirit. The lamppost wreaths are beautifully decorated, and the streets are filled with greenery, lights, and bows. The small shops add to the decor with all the sparkle and glitter of the season. As you walk the streets of Frostburg, you feel the magic of the holidays. You can tell that Christmas is right around the corner. This is one reason why *Southern Living* magazine named Frostburg one of the best mountain towns.

This year, on December 1st, 2024, the streets of Frostburg will light up with the 16th annual tree lighting celebration. The tree lighting takes place at Saint Michael’s Courtyard. The event is sponsored by the lamppost committee and the organizers work diligently to make the event special for all the attendees. The tree lighting celebration is the perfect way to kick off the holiday season by gathering around the tree with those you love.

The event begins with horse drawn carriage rides through the town. At the Courtyard, spectators enjoy standing around an open fire eating s’mores, tasty cookies and drinking

hot chocolate. The electrifying musical program is filled with classic Christmas songs, local talent, and topped off with Jack Frost sprinkling the children with magical snow.



Many Christmas characters arrive to help greet the children, even the Grinch. The town recognizes Frostburg’s outstanding citizen selected from individual’s that work diligently to help support the town. Topping off the evening is the arrival of Santa Claus. After the lighting of the candles, prayer and the lighting of the tree, Santa arrives on a vintage sleigh built over fifty years ago by William Preston. The glow on the children’s faces as they get the first glance of Santa’s arrival gives the child in each of us the reminiscence of Christmases past.

During the evening, there are several special added attractions. One is the model trains that are housed at 10 W. Mechanic Street in Frostburg. The Community Model Railroad Club, a non-profit organization that has been in existence for almost 30 years, will have their displays operational for viewing. The club hosts hundreds of tourists throughout the holiday season; their layout consists of a beautiful 10x20 foot display depicting several notable reproductions of Western Maryland surroundings. There are scenes depicting coal miners,

which were an important part in the local economy and also in the development of Frostburg State University. The members work year round to help recreate special memories and establish new traditions for visitors. The O Gauge trains are most remembered as being under Christmas trees during the 1960s, and the mix of new trains pleases kids of all ages — especially kids at heart. The members also encourage people to bring in trains they may have in their attic, or basement, to help enthusiasts continue to work on their cherished models.



PHOTO BY LANCE BELL

Another historic attraction located at the Courtyard is the Frostburg Museum. The doors are open during the tree lighting event for visitors that enjoy the history of the community. It houses a collection of artifacts illustrating the unique town of Frostburg. The Santa suit that William Preston wore for more than 50 years is housed in the museum. There are hundreds of artifacts that depict the days of old. The coal mining exhibits, arion band, military memorabilia, and a special exhibit with holiday photos and vintage decorations are on display.



PHOTO BY TY DEMARTINO

The nostalgic feeling of Christmas-past continues throughout the season with events such as Storybook Holiday sponsored by Frostburg State University, along with community involvement in a Parking Meter Decorating competition and the Festival of Trees. Shopping small businesses for those one-of-a-kind presents, and the friendly small town atmosphere that makes Frostburg a comfortable place to visit, can be a memory to enjoy with family and friends throughout the holidays and for many years to come.



PHOTO BY TY DEMARTINO

