

*“It gives the community a chance to come together as a group and celebrate the holiday season, while providing generous donations to those in need.”*

Christine Lewis Morse, president of The Atkinson Resort & Country Club



Courtesy photo

Nearly 3,000 residents gathered at the Atkinson Resort & Country Club Dec. 1 for the town's 10th annual "Light the Tree" celebration, complete with Santa and fireworks.

## Atkinson lights up the season

ATKINSON — The Atkinson Resort & Country Club became a festive winter carnival on Dec. 1 when nearly 3,000 area residents gathered to participate in the town's 10th annual "Light the Tree" celebration.

Goodwill was the theme of the event with donations of more than 400 new unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots program, as well as 100 pounds of non-perishable food items for local soup kitchens.

The event was open to the public and activities such as music, caroling, arts and crafts, hay rides and ice carvings entertained children and adults throughout the evening.

Santa made his grand entrance on an Atkinson Fire Department ladder truck to light the resort's 40-foot evergreen tree.

After a modest fireworks display, Santa posed for photos in the Legacy Ballroom and listened to the children's Christmas wish lists.

Guests enjoyed complimentary refreshments.

"We really enjoy the opportunity to host this wonderful community celebration each holiday season. It gives the community a chance to come together as a group and celebrate the holiday season, while providing generous donations to those in need," said Christine Lewis Morse, president of The Atkinson Resort & Country Club.

"This event would not be possible without the collective efforts of the town of Atkinson, as well as the volunteers, contributors

and staff; we are very grateful for their hard work and dedication."