

“Green” Ornaments Sought for Orland Park’s Community Christmas Tree

ORLAND PARK, IL - The color green in Orland Park this holiday season means more than one half of the traditional red and green.

Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin has invited the community to provide “green” ornaments for the village’s community Christmas tree in front of the Village Hall.

“We’re carrying the village’s green initiative into the holiday season,” McLaughlin said, “We’re inviting the entire community to make ornaments for the village’s tree, incorporating this year’s theme, ‘Orland Park Goes Green’.”

Ornaments must be durable and weatherproof for use outdoors for at least twelve weeks in wet and wintry conditions. They should be decorated with colorful materials that, if possible, are reflective. To minimize environmental impact, ornament makers are encouraged to use wood or recycled materials.

“This is a great way to let the younger members of the community be an active part of the village’s green initiative, Smart Living Orland Park,” said Trustee Kathy Fenton. “Many of these kids have grown up with recycling as a way of life and it just makes sense to use something that would normally go into the recycle bin to make a beautiful ornament for Orland Park’s tree,” she added.

Ornaments should be eight to ten inches in size, light weight and light in color, relatively simple in design so they can be enjoyed from a distance. They must be ready for hanging with a ten inch loop of 20 gauge (coat hanger weight) wire attached to the top corners. Ornament makers are encouraged to add their name, organization and the year on the backs of the ornaments they create. Those made of glass or other breakable materials cannot be accepted.

Creations should be delivered to the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall, 14700 South Ravinia Avenue, by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 13 so that Parks Department employees can add them to the tree. Ornament donors will be asked to leave their names, organizations, addresses and email addresses for future community projects and events.

McLaughlin will officially begin the holiday season in Orland Park on Sunday, November 29 at 5:45 p.m. when he lights the village’s tree at the close of the Winter Festival.

“We’re hoping that all of our ornament makers come to the Village Hall on November 29th when we light the community’s tree so they can see what a beautiful display they helped to create,” McLaughlin said.

Ornaments should be delivered to the information desk in the lobby of the Village Hall, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Further information is available by calling 708/403-6140.

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PHOTO CAPTION

Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin has invited the community to make ornaments for the village's Christmas tree in front of the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall, 14700 South Ravinia Avenue. Ornament criteria appear on the village's website at www.orland-park.il.us.