

NEWS RELEASE

Orland Park Announces Christmas House Decorating Contest

Competition Categories Include

“Clark Griswold” and “Charlie Brown”

ORLAND PARK, IL – The Village of Orland Park is adding to the 2008 holiday season with its first Christmas House Decorating Contest.

“In Orland Park, we officially begin the holiday season during the Thanksgiving weekend with the village’s free Holiday Shopper Trolley Service and when we light the village’s tree during our annual Winter Festival,” said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin.

“The Christmas House Holiday Decorating Contest is another way to bring the community together to celebrate the holidays,” McLaughlin added.

Participation in the contest is free and open to residents of single family homes within the corporate limits of the Village of Orland Park. Completed entry forms must be received at the Village Hall by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2008.

“Orland Park has a number of families that create magnificent displays at their homes during the holidays,” said Trustee Kathy Fenton, chair of the village’s Special Events and Outreach Committee.

Participants are invited to compete in one of five categories, including the best religious display, most nostalgic, best theme, Clark Griswold or Charlie Brown.

“Best religious, most nostalgic and best theme are self-explanatory,” Fenton noted, adding, “The Clark Griswold Award is named for Chevy Chase’s character in the movie ‘Christmas Vacation’.”

“For this category, we’re looking for the family that goes above and beyond with lights and decorations. For example, if one family member has a tendency to go overboard with outside decorations, perhaps another family member would nominate him or her,” Fenton said smiling.

The Charlie Brown Award is for any building on the resident’s property other than the family home. “Participants can decorate their kids’ play sets, the shed, doghouse or any structure that is not connected to the main house,” Fenton explained.

“This is a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays as a community and to recognize the hard work, time and expense that go into these outdoor displays,” McLaughlin said.

Judging will take place the weekend of Friday, December 13 through Sunday, December 15. “Everyone should be sure that their lights are on that weekend,” Fenton said. Winners will be honored at a Village Board meeting in early 2009.

Entry forms are available at Orland Park’s Frederick T. Owens Village Hall or on the village’s website at www.orland-park.il.us. For more information, call 708/403-6140.

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PHOTO CAPTION

Residents of single family homes within the corporate limits of the Village of Orland Park are invited to participate in the village’s first Christmas House Decorating Contest. Entry forms are available at the Village Hall or on the village’s website at www.orland-park.il.us. The deadline to enter is December 1, 2008.