**“Waco Lights Up for Christmas 2023” Contest Rules**

1. The “Waco Lights Up for Christmas” contest is open to all residents in the Town limits of Waco.
2. Entry is free, no cost or fees apply.
3. Residents are encouraged to find their inner “Clark Griswold” and decorate their home for the holidays.
4. Contest is for exterior decorations only, including windows, doors and your exterior property.
5. Judging will be done from outside the residence only and will be based on the street view of the residence. Judges will not enter the property to view back or side yards.
6. Participants agree to have one or more photos of their decorated home on the Town of Waco social media and town website.
7. Judging will be done on Friday December 15th between 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Participants should ensure that all lights, animations and decorations are in place and activated for the judging time period.
8. Judging criteria will include [a] Coverage; [b] Atmosphere; [c] Showmanship; [d] Traditional theme; [e] Christmas tree(s) visible from the street; [F] Extra effort; [g] Festiveness.
9. Prizes awarded are: 1st Place $ 250.00, 2nd Place $150.00
10. Winners will be announced at the Town Board meeting on Monday December 18th and on the Town of Waco social media sites.
11. The 1st place winner agrees to have a “Voted Most Festive Home in Waco” sign placed in their yard through the holidays.
12. Winners **Do not** have to be present to win.

**Be creative, be festive, have fun!**

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***Town of Waco***

November 5, 2023

To all Town of Waco households,

Our “Waco Lights Up for Christmas” contest was such a success last year that we are planning to do it again!

We hope to build on last year’s success and we strongly encourage every household in Waco to enter the contest this year and help us make the Town of Waco the most festive town in Cleveland County.

We encourage you to be creative and to join your friends and neighbors by decorating your homes for this holiday season. Whether you choose to place a wreath on your front door and a brightly lit tree in your window or you go completely crazy with inflatables and animation, we just want you to have fun!

The home that is chosen as 1st place will received $250.00 and the 2nd place home will receive $150.00. Judging will be done on Friday December 15th between 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Participants should ensure that all lights, animations and decorations are in place and activated for the judging time period.

Although only one house will be chosen as the winner, I believe in this scenario we all win. The awe of Christmas trees, twinkle lights and brightly colored holiday decorations add a sense of nostalgia and can transport each of us back to our childhood when things were a little simpler.

Join us this year and help turn our little town into a bright holiday Christmas village. Get out there and have some fun!

This year we are adding a new level to the activities. On the night of the judging, December 15th, we invite everyone to join members from our area churches at the Community Center at 6:00 pm to participate in some good old-fashion Christmas caroling. Let’s all get together and spread some holiday magic with the sounds of the season. Join us and let’s add to the ambience of living in a small town during the holidays.

Following the caroling we’re inviting everyone back to the Community Center for coffee and hot chocolate and a variety of holiday cakes and candies all with the backdrop of a holiday classic movie to entertain the kids.

So once again we encourage every homeowner in Waco to help us “Deck the Halls” of our little town by decorating the exterior of your home for the holidays and put in the effort to impress the judges. 1st place home will be awarded $250.00 and 2nd place will get $150.00. The 2022 winning home will be excluded from judging during the 2023 contest. We included the contest rules and judging criteria with this letter. The judging will be held on Friday December 15th between 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm.

To add to the festivities for the night, we’ll be hosting some “Old Fashion Christmas caroling” beginning at 6:00 pm at the Community Center. Come out and join your friends and neighbors as we walk through Waco and spread holiday cheer through song.

To end the evening, we will all meet back at the Community Center for hot chocolate and Christmas sweets while enjoying a classic holiday movie with family and friends. If you can’t make for the caroling, come out for the food!

We cannot express how much we appreciate everyone that participated in the contest last year and we congratulate last year’s winners Darrel and Amanda Vess. It is our most sincere holiday wish this year to see every home in Waco decorated for Christmas. Please help us brighten the holidays by joining us in the “Waco Light’s Up for Christmas” contest and help us turn this into a yearly tradition.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any of the Town Board members. Happy Holidays!

John Barrett, Mayor

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