

The Country Hills Garden Club judges drove through the neighborhood tonight admiring the holiday decorations. Despite the pouring rain (which did eventually let up), the mood for the evening was set by the camaraderie of the Garden Club, full of laughter and good cheer, and holiday songs playing on the radio.

We were impressed by how many CCH-ers (including Old Lee Highway residents) participated in this year's Holiday Decorations Contest. In addition to our award categories (Traditional, Best Lighting, and Overall Excellence), we want to give a few special shout-outs:

To the DIY-ers: When you're out viewing lights, check out the XMAS on Boxford Court, the No-L on Brookwood Drive, and the Merry Christmas CCH on Broadview.

To the neighbors who always do a wonderful job, and have won the award many times in the past, while we decided to spread the love, you still deserve recognition. Your homes always delight us and we appreciate your continuing efforts to light up our neighborhood with holiday cheer.

To everyone who strung lights, hung wreaths, put candles in their windows, featured inflatables in their design, whether it was over the top or minimalist, it all adds to the spectacular Holiday Spirit of Country Club Hills.

And now to what you all have been waiting for... (horns blaring...)

The TRADITIONAL AWARD goes to Lisa and Roger Rosenberger, 9915 Pinehurst. "Why?," you ask. Because their roof is completely outlined in white lights. Candelabras glow in the wreath-decorated windows. A holly tree is decked out in white lights at the foot of the driveway. The bushes in the front of the house are lit with red and white lights and are a lovely backdrop to the lit Nativity scene. While there is still more to see, notice the Christmas tree lit up in the window.

The BEST LIGHTING award goes to Elizabeth and David Bishop, 3554 Old Lee Highway. Gabriel can surely blow his horn in delight at this display. Be sure to slow down and maybe pull over to see this majestic illumination! Closest to the highway, on the right side of the driveway, is a vignette with a star-topped twinkling blue lit tree, two animated deer and a pair of wise owls. Over on the porch is a spectacular wreath (Santa could drive his sleigh through the center) and beside it a trellis with crystalline snowflakes. The shrubs in front of the house are bejeweled with a profusion of colorful lights.

The OVERALL EXCELLENCE award goes to Tony and Cathy Rollins, 10006 Blackthorn Court. We went back several times to admire this beautiful, festive, cohesive design: the brightly lit wreaths, and red bowed greens in every window compete for your attention with the grove of Christmas trees and Santa's reindeer grazing underneath. We loved the roof outlined in lights; even the chimney! There's plenty more to see... Check it out for yourself!

Happy Holidays to one and all and to all a good night!

Jovially and Fa-La-La-lilly Submitted by,
Jennifer Judelsohn, Joyce Skoglund, Nancy LeBow, and Teresina Christy
(This year's Country Hills Garden Club Judges)