The 4th annual Winthrop Harbor Holiday Home Decorating Contest will be held this season with the following dates:

Entry Application Period: 11/01/14 through 12/01/14  
Judging Period: 12/03/14 through 12/04/14  
Winners Announced: 12/06/14

Please read these rules and instructions and if you have any questions contact Village Hall at 847-872-3846. Entry applications are available at Village Hall, or on-line at www.winthropharbor.com.

1. Participation is open to all residents within the boundaries of the Village of Winthrop Harbor.
2. Entry is free, no cost or fees apply.
3. Employees of the Village of Winthrop Harbor are not eligible to participate.
4. Entry Applications must be received no later than 5pm on Monday, December 1, 2014.
5. Contest is for exterior decorations only, including decorations in windows that are visible from the exterior. Judging will be done from outside the residence only.
6. Judging will be based on “curb appeal” as viewed from the street only. Therefore only those decorations located on the street side of the property will be judged (corner lots will be judged from both streets). Judges will not enter the property to view back or side yards.
7. Participants agree to have one or more photos of their decorated residence exterior posted on the Village Website and/or published in the Village’s Harbor Shores newsletter. Participant agrees there will be no compensation of any kind for said posting or publication.
8. Judging criteria will include [a] Unique design and creative use of lights and decorations; [b] Storyline or theme; [c] Display and placement of decorations, animated objects, etc.; and [d] Overall presentation.
9. Judging will be done from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 12/03/14. Depending on the number of entries, judging may continue from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m on Thursday, 12/04/14. All judging will be completed no later than 8:00 p.m. on 12/04/14.
10. Participants should ensure that all lights, animations and decorations are in place and activated for the judging periods on both nights.
11. An Entry Number Card will be provided to each participant. This card must be affixed to the exterior of the residence in a conspicuous place where it can be seen by the judges from the street.
12. Three prizes will be awarded: One 1st prize of a gift basket with minimum value of $100; one 2nd prize of a gift basket with minimum value of $75; one 3rd prize of a gift basket with minimum value of $50.
13. Winners will be announced at the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, 12/06/14 at the village park located on the North side of the Fire Department. The ceremony follows the annual Holiday Lights Parade at approximately 5:30 p.m. Winners need not be present to win and if not present will be notified by telephone.
14. The first 25 entries will receive one coupon valid for one FREE photo with Santa Claus at the “Lunch with Santa” event on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014. Value of this coupon is $3.50 (not redeemable for cash).
15. Be creative, be festive, have fun!