

## Albany Christmas Decorations Judging

It's time to get creative and make the judges' jobs even harder than last year. Have it all ready before the **judging on Monday, December 5.**

- **Door Decorating Award** – Your door should give a holiday welcome in a festive and stylish way. Good lighting (usually spots) is a must.
- **Lighting Award** – Follow the guidelines outlined below to create a Christmas wonderland in your yard. Weave the lights through your trees, shrubs, even your wreathes and garlands. "Enchanting" is the effect the judges are looking for.
- **Traditional Award** – Think Currier and Ives, think Victorian, think sleigh bells and holly. Consider using red and green for the best traditional effect. Decorations with a stately religious theme such as a traditional manger scene may also be considered for this category.
- **Wonderland Award** – This theme can be carried out using any color scheme for decorating with the exception that the lights must be the traditional white. Imagination and creativity are helpful attributes here. Use Christmas characters, such as toy soldiers, snow men, etc, but remember, this is an historic neighborhood (plastic should be considered carefully since it was not available in the early 1900's).
- **Christmas with a Twist** – New for Albany last year, this category encourages a whimsical theme especially geared toward children. Be creative. Think about what would have thrilled you when you were a child. The main criteria for our judges in this category will be (1) Does it fit any of the other categories? (2) Does it delight children? Colored lights are allowed but please no flashing and blow-ups are also not encouraged.
- **Overall Excellence Award** – For those who can put it all together (lights, greenery, door decoration, façade, yard, etc.) this award is within your reach! Simple or extravagant, the overall effect is what counts.

FOR BEST LIGHTING RESULTS THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS ARE OFFERED:

- Do use miniature white lights
- Do turn on your lights from dusk to bedtime from Sunday, December 5 to January 1
- Do put your lights in trees, shrubs or branches (a dead branch anchored in a pot can give a tree-like effect)
- Do use plugs, lights and extension cords approved for outdoor use
- Do not outline your house, windows or sidewalks
- Do not write words or draw pictures with lights
- Do not use the flasher bulb

Remember – above all, no matter what you do – a simple pine wreath on the front door or 10,000 lights in your trees – it all adds up to the celebration of Christmas in Albany and the festive collaboration of an entire neighborhood. We look forward to forward to your participation!