

ROUTING GUIDE FOR SELECT ENTRIES IN THE BLP SPONSORED 2017 LIGHTING AND DECORATING CONTEST



This year marks the 35th year that the BLP has sponsored this Contest! When the contest was started, I doubt the BLP thought it would go on for this many years. But the Contest continues to grow in size and excitement every year. I have people calling me at the beginning of November asking for information and when the bus tours are scheduled. The contest has become a part of the Community's Holiday Season and I am proud of my small part in helping to bring the contest to the Marquette Community.

On Judging Night, I never know what to expect and am excited to see what people have come up with every year. Somehow people get more creative, make bigger displays and seem to add more and more lights and ornaments. If you don't believe me and you are feeling sort of low on Christmas Spirit all you have to do is go on one of the many bus tours available in the area. Pick up one of our routing guides and drive around. After seeing each display, my Christmas Spirit grows in leaps and bounds and it will for you too! When you are driving around, try to see the beautiful displays through the eyes of a child. I hope you will be flooded with happy memories of years gone by.

Every year, I look forward to being involved in the Lighting & Decorating Contest, it is a great beginning to the Holiday Season. I am always astonished to see the beautiful, creative displays, learn of the enormous effort and countless hours that has been put in to create the displays, and always love hearing and seeing the excitement from the community during the Bus Tours. I want to give a huge THANK YOU to all the participants this year for all that you do to make this season special for so many people in our community, young and old alike. Your displays are truly a gift to us all.

Writing this guide for you allows me the opportunity to tell you some of the behind the scenes stories and I can share with you where some of the best displays are. I hope you can take the time this holiday season to pack up the car and go for a ride to see the lights.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

Noreen Collins, Lighting Contest Coordinator



Trowbridge Park

1313 N. Vandenboom:

The Carter Family, John, Stacy, Samantha and Caitlin have done it again! Even when you think they have absolutely no more room to expand, John comes up with another idea! This summer, John built a built a bridge and wooden stairs to reach the very edge of his property in which he filled with yet more new decorations. In this spot, he created a couple of different displays, one is a beautiful nativity scene all in white. It glows so bright in the night! He has added a dog sled display, created Frosty's green house and even has a collection of blowup dinosaurs. Stacy and the girls were also busy making another enclosed display with carolers singing outside a traditional, colonial home made from an old doll house. The home is quite impressive, especially the tiny rock borders around the windows and doors, nice touch! Which brings to mind, the many displays they have made with incredible detail and creativity. It is just amazing! I can't say enough about this stop. Their yard is just covered with hundreds of individually themed displays including nativity scenes, a church with stained glass windows, carolers, angels, Santa, Frosty, the Grinch, penguins sliding down a slide landing in an ice rink and complete with an American Flag, all in lights. You name it, they have it. Just a tip, in order to see the whole display, you really need to take a walk through the yard. Believe me, you won't be disappointed. All I can say is "If you only have time for a few displays this year, make sure Carter's is on the top of your list!" As you walk through the paths, you will be wrapped in the Christmas spirit.

First Place in the Winner's Circle.

Negaunee Township

35 Forest Drive:

Debbie Leiviska did another beautiful job this year. She uses mostly white lights in her display with just a few items with color. She has a tree with white lights and only red ornaments, very tastefully done, Debbie. The judges were "wowed" by the simple yet charming display.

Second Place in in Frosty's Favorites.

9 Forest Drive:

This is the second year in the contest for Dennis and Susie James and they have created another beautiful display. Their yard might be a little small but they decorate with so many colorful lights and ornaments. The most unique thing is they created flowers out of lights and they are all situated in their flower beds, (winter flowers if you will). I find it a really clever item and love the effect. **Third Place in Frosty's Favorites.**

Marquette City Limits

938, 1000 & 1002 Wilson: (Right off of McClellan)

For the last three years, Janeen, Justin and Allison L'Huillier, Claudette & Matt Pryor, Janet Cobb and Tom Dagenais have put their heads together and have created an amazing North Pole Neighborhood. They call themselves "The Griswold's of Wilson Street". The three displays are so organized and flow so smoothly from yard to yard, you really can't tell where each yard ends or begins. Of course, this year that are many new additions, Janeen added a display from the movie "The Nightmare on Christmas Eve". Claudette added an amazing display with a flowing river of lights and deer sipping from it and how about the group of Snowmen warming up by the campfire, very creative. Make sure you roll down the windows and listen to the Christmas music and don't miss Santa in the window singing and dancing. **First Place in North Pole Neighborhood.**

1201 Tierney:

Gary Bell has been creating this massive lighting display for many, many years to the delight of the students at Bothwell School, as well as, the entire Marquette community. This display has a little bit of everything in a big, big way; a big yard, a big house, big inflatables, big trees and thousands of lights! He knows exactly what he is doing when creating this unbelievable lighting display for everyone to enjoy! When you get here, roll down the windows, listen to the music and let your eyes slowly take in the decorating feast. **Third Place in the Winner's Circle.**

433 W. Ohio Street:

For the past 20 years, Tim and Jill Bryant have been the creators of this most charming of Christmas displays. Their display consists of beautiful wooden cutout characters that they handcraft and paint throughout the year. When their daughter Emily was young, she choose what new characters were going to be added each year. Every character you would hope to find is represented in their yard: Pretty Pony Minty joins the Grinch, Snoopy, Charlie Brown, SpongeBob, Mickey, Minnie and countless other characters. The display is so whimsical it is sure to excite all the children who go by. **Honorable Mention in the Winner's Circle.**

422 Center:

Mary Bawden has been in the contest for 10 years and each year, she creates a beautiful little display for the community to enjoy. She fills her yard with blowups, candy canes, snowmen, Santa and even an M&M character. Her display is in mostly white and red lights with just a smattering of color. The judges loved her beautiful snowflake lights outlining her house. It is a delightful lighting display that young and old will enjoy! **1st Place in Frosty's Favorites.**

Harvey Area

801 Silver Creek Rd:

Rich and Valerie Neault definitely have holiday spirit and a lot of energy. They joined the contest in 2013 and have either won first or second place awards every year! Each year, they have expanded their beautiful display, but this year they took it to a new level. They cleared another half of an acre of their land to expand the display and put in more walking trails. I can only imagine the time, thought and energy that went into their display this year. It is truly amazing. They have put in more characters and ornaments, a new decorated Christmas tree, a waving Snowman and my favorite, the new archway that has blue and white sparking snowflakes hanging overhead. This is one that you will want to get out of your car for and Valerie encourages people to stop, park and walk through the Candy Cane Lane so you can see all the decorations. **Second Place in the Winner's Circle.**

71, 73, 75 and 77 David Lane:

This year Kelly Mason has talked her neighbors into joining her in the contest and they entered in the North Pole Neighborhood. It is a little hard to find but well worth the effort! (Turn by the Cherry Creek School onto Ortman Road, turn right on Heidi, at the stop sign turn right onto Stephen Lee, another right on Amber and at last right on David Lane.) When you get closer, you will be able to see it sparkling in the night as you approach. The four neighbors have created a charming winter wonderland that is perfectly situated in their little cul-de-sac. **Second Place in North Pole Neighborhood.**

322 Lakewood Lane:

This year, Sandy Tahtinen was a first time entry that garnered her first place. She has a bright and cheery display that brightens the wintery night. Nicely done, Sandy! **First Place in Rudolph's Rookies.**

516 County Road 480:

Carl St. Onge has been decorating for many years and it shows. Their entire yard, house and garage are always tastefully decorated. This woodland beauty sets a brilliant sparkle into the darkened night. This year, he added more ornaments on the porch and an enclosed glass Country Village scene but I love his handmade Ferris wheel. He once again has done a beautiful job with his creative design using the natural beauty of his yard. **First Place in Child Bright Delight.**