

January 7, 2015

For Immediate Release

Press Contact:

Susan Navarre, Downtown Decorating Committee member, 978-345-1157 and 978-401-2961

Fitchburg's Downtown Window Awards Announced

Decorations Committee Starts to Plan for 2015

(Fitchburg, Massachusetts) The Fitchburg Downtown Decorating Committee has announced the results of the city's window decorations contest, which they organized during the holiday season. A panel of local judges chose the Fitchburg Historical Society as the first place winner among businesses, Duvarney Jewelry as the runner up, and Shack's as the third place. They awarded the Fitchburg Family Dental Center an honorable mention award.

The judges also awarded prizes to community groups for their decorations, in window spaces that were loaned by local businesses and property owners: the first place winner was the South Street Elementary School, the Second Place was awarded to Cub Scouts Pack 17, and third Place was awarded to the youth music and performance group Tribespace. The volunteer judges were: Peter and Ann Capodagli of the Boulder Gallery, Ernie Maguy of Windmill Florest, Rhea Bujold of the Boulder Café, acting Chief of Police Phil Kearns, and artist Eugene Finney of the Rollstone Gallery and Fitchburg Art Museum.

The general public also voted on the decorations, and the "People's Choice" winners were the Scouts Pack 17, followed by Shack's, Fitchburg Family Dental Center and Tribespace. The people's choice voting took place on Saturday, December 6, which was also the date that the Upper Common Holiday Lights were turned on for the first time. Despite the cool temperatures and the threat of rain (which began to fall just as Santa Claus arrived at the Fitchburg Public Library), a good-sized crowd of Fitchburg families came out to see the decorations and lights, say hello to Santa Claus, and enjoy hot chocolate and holiday music provided by a chorus of singers from the Girl Scouts.

The Fitchburg Downtown Decorating Committee raised money through the summer and autumn to supplement the holiday decorations and lighting provided by the City of Fitchburg on the Upper Common. Events included a Pasta Dinner, a Main Street "boot drive" and a donation

booth at Civic Days. In addition, sponsorships were donated by Babineau Insurance Agency, Cleghorn Plumbing and Heating, the City of Fitchburg, Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority, Fitchburg State University, Fitchburg Firefighter's Union, Gomes Liquors, Beaulac Landscaping and Unutil.

New committee chair Joanna Rameau is organizing the next committee meeting, which will be held Tuesday, January 14, 2015 at 5:15 p.m. at the Fitchburg Historical Society, 781 Main Street in the Phoenix Building. "We will be evaluating this year's events and the December 6 celebration," according to Joanna. "And we will start to plan our goals and fundraising events for next year's holiday decorations. Anyone who is interested in learning more and possibly volunteering is invited to attend the meeting at the Historical Society. It's a lot of fun, and extra hands make it easier for us to increase the number of lights we can fund."

For more information, contact Rocco Mammone at 978-855-2040 or visit the group's Facebook page, at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fitchburg-Downtown-Decorating-Committee/298910880246965> .