Discover Haverford Holiday Window Display Contest

Now in its 11th year, the Discover Haverford Holiday Window Display Contest added a new category of Best in Show and had well over 20 businesses enter the contest. First and second place awards were made in each of five categories plus the Best in Show award. The contest is one of many programs run by Discover Haverford to strengthen the business districts and enhance community life in Haverford Township through special events, shop local campaigns and beautification projects.

The category of Best in Show recognizes a display that stands out as the singularly best display of all. This year that award goes to **Haverford Dance Center**. Judge Caroline Finnegan describes the display. “The holiday lights and decor in the windows of Haverford Dance Center are truly magical this season! We were captured by the beauty of the ballet tutus displayed, the delicately drawn trees, and twinkling lights! It brought about such a wonderful feeling of sugar plum fairies and Christmas cheer! Beautiful job overall!” Added Chris Kelly, “The Snow Queen danced into our hearts.”

The first-place winner in Our Most Beautiful Window category was **House Cup Coffee**. Caroline Finnegan stated, “House Cup deserved the prize of Most Beautiful Window this year! Their delicate wreath window painting was truly beautiful. We also loved the lighting and snowy forest scene displayed in the window!” Second place went to **Ruthie’s Eyes**. "A glam view of peacocks and holiday finery fills the window with a sparkling scene at Ruthie's Eyes,” said judge Christine Kelly.

In the Most Creative Window category the winner is **Steve Clott, CPA**. Contest judge Angela Serensky says: "The ‘Carol of the Bells’ rang out a first-place win in Most Creative, with a vivid collection of collectible bells and holiday colors that are a must-see for passersby to come in for a closer look." In second place is **Havertown Bicycle Shop**. “The windows at Havertown Bicycle Shop … surrounded by holiday lights - two bicycles are drawn in a snowy scene that mirror the two actual bicycles displayed on the other side of the windows, " says Serensky.

In the Fringe came in first place in the Most Effective Marketing category. Caroline Finnegan says, “In the Fringe came up with a genius window display to advertise their business and skill set, earning them first place for Most Effective Marketing this year. The elves working busy with fabrics and scissors really told a cute story of the beautiful work In the Fringe creates!” Sharing second place are **Novita Boutique** and **Weidenman Architecture**. Finnegan said, “The use of the vibrant red truck and sparkling lights really made Novita Boutique window stand out on Eagle Road. We loved the Christmas list on display repeating the request of Novita and Peace on Earth– it was a very cute and clever touch to market their business!” Chris Kelly added, "The Philly skyline came to Havertown in the holiday window of Weidenman Architecture, its spires and rooftops gave it a second-place tie for Most Effective Marketing.”

A window display contest wouldn’t be complete without a Most Whimsical category. **The Kelly Center** brought home first place. Contest Judge and local artist, Rudy Miller, shared her appreciation. *“*Havertown artist Jackie Greco did an amazing job painting the four windows that make up the Kelly Center frontage. Each window looks like its own Holiday Greeting card and yet they all work together beautifully. Jackie interspersed symbols of the Kelly Center's mission of music and art into the wintry images. She also used a variety of very well executed type styles in the designs. Toys, snow scenes, greenery, and gingerbread men complete the artwork,

which almost appears to be dancing around the holiday messages of Peace on Earth, Let It Snow, the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, and Joy to the World."

Second place went to **Plant Roots**. "The display window in Plant Roots' new location is a creative woodland scene that draws you into an enticing winter view of fir trees and wreaths, " said Chris Kelly.

Sweets on Darby was the winner of the Most Beautiful Facade category. Judge Rudy Miller exclaimed: "Havertown's new bakery did a beautiful transformation on their building prior to opening and has done no less a beautiful job decorating the entire facade for the Holidays. The window displays are charming and capture the old world feel of the storefront. In addition, the entire building is adorned with garland and topped off with a beautiful ornament, making the exterior so inviting, you just want to go inside and purchase some delicious baked goods for the Holidays!"

In a tie for second place is **Faust Orthodontics** and **The Yard Pub**. Contest judge George Heckert, Jr., complimented Faust Orthodontists on its "bright and cheerful display". Judge Don Kelly enthused about The Yard Pub, "The folks at The Yard Pub went all out with elaborate lighting around the theme of the holiday movie, National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."

Discover Haverford was pleased to recognize Brick & Brew as the preview award recipient of our 2023 Most Entertaining Theme category. The Elaborate and fanciful Elf Story display brough such magic to Eagle Road.

The following contest participants are awarded honorable mentions. Judge Don Kelly says "Discover Haverford appreciates the hard work, beauty and cheer these establishments brought to our community this season." Brick & Brew (31 E EAgle Rd), Brew Your Own Beer (2020 Darby Road), Burke's Inn (25 E. Eagle Road), Wagner/Compass Real Estate (2100 Darby Road), Westgate Pub (1019 West Chester Pike), Dream Team (1 E. Eagle Road), Penn Construction (24 E. Eagle Road), Haverford Township Free Library (1601 Darby Road) and Wilson's Secret Sauce (265 E.Township Line Road).

Thank you to Scott Raynolds of STR Productions for the beautiful photographs. To view all of the photos please visit https://discoverhaverford.org/holiday-decorating