Contest Rules & Conditions — 2026 Holiday Light & Décor Contest

1. Eligibility & Participation

- Participation is open to residential properties located within the City of Jamestown, including single-family and multi-family residences.
- Nominations may be submitted by property owners, residents, or other members of the public for eligible residential properties located within City limits.
- Nominated holiday displays must be visible from public spaces, including streets and sidewalks.
- Each property may be nominated in up to two award categories.
- Eligibility is determined by property address, not by individual households or residential units. Each eligible address may receive only one award and one prize, regardless of the number of occupants, nominations, or categories in which it participates.
- No purchase or entry fee is required to participate or vote.
- City elected officials, contest administrators, individuals involved in finalist selection or vote tabulation, and members of the internal Review Committee are ineligible to participate.

2. Nomination Requirements & Submission

- Nominations may be submitted by email to lights@jamestownny.gov or by mail to:

City of Jamestown
Attention: Holiday Lights
200 East Third Street
Jamestown, NY 14701

- Each nomination must include the property's street address, high-quality photograph(s) of the current holiday display, and the selected award category or categories.
- Submitted photographs should be clear and accurately represent the property's current holiday decorations.

- Photographs must be taken from public spaces or locations where the photographer has permission to be. Nominations do not authorize entry onto private property.
- The City may request additional information to verify eligibility or complete a nomination.
- Incomplete, inaccurate, or ineligible nominations may be excluded from consideration.

3. Holiday Lights Hall of Fame Eligibility

- The Holiday Lights Hall of Fame category is reserved exclusively for properties that were previous winners of the City's 2024 or 2025 Holiday Light & Décor Contests.
- Eligibility will be determined by property address and verified using the City's previous contest records, regardless of any changes in property ownership or occupancy.
- All Hall of Fame entries must feature a current 2026 holiday display.
- Eligible Hall of Fame properties may participate in the Hall of Fame category and one additional award category, subject to the two-category nomination limit.

4. Finalist Selection

- Three finalists will be selected for each award category through voting by the employees of Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union and Greater Chautauqua Federal Credit Union.
- Finalists will be selected based on the submitted photographs, overall presentation of the holiday displays, and their relevance to the respective award categories.
- Properties may be selected as finalists in both categories for which they are nominated.
- Finalist voting results will be reviewed and verified before the community voting period begins.

5. Community Voting & Voting Integrity

- Community voting will take place through the City's designated online voting process.

- Each voter may cast one vote per award category.
- Voters may select the same property in two separate categories if that property is a finalist in both.
- Votes will be counted independently within each category.
- The City reserves the right to review voting activity and invalidate duplicate, automated, fraudulent, or otherwise manipulated votes.
- Voting will close at the officially announced deadline. Votes received after that deadline will not be counted.

6. Winner Determination & Award Limitations

- One winning property will be recognized in each of the six contest categories.
- Each property may receive only one award and one prize, regardless of the number of categories in which it receives votes.
- Winners will be determined by the number of valid community votes received, subject to the award assignment procedures, eligibility requirements, and tie-breaking provisions outlined below.
- Following the close of public voting, all finalist entries across all six categories will be ranked from highest to lowest based on their total number of valid votes. Awards will be assigned in that order. Any ranked entry will be skipped if its respective category has already been awarded or if the property has already received an award.
- This process will continue until one eligible winning property has been identified for each of the six categories, subject to the provisions governing voting ties and any necessary review.
- If two or more finalist entries receive an equal number of valid votes and the tie affects the assignment of an award, the City's internal Review Committee will review the results and determine the appropriate award assignment.
- In the event of voting ties, overlapping award determinations, or other circumstances requiring additional review, the City's internal Review Committee will make the final determination in accordance with these contest rules.
- All voting results, eligibility requirements, and award determinations will be reviewed and verified before winners are officially announced.

7. Prizes & Sponsorship

- Each of the six winning properties will receive one $100 ShopLocalCHQ gift card, generously donated by Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union and Greater Chautauqua Federal Credit Union.
- The City of Jamestown will make reasonable efforts to deliver prizes directly to the winning property address. If personal delivery is unsuccessful, the City may mail the prize to the winning address after identifying an appropriate recipient using available information. The City reserves the right to verify the recipient before distributing any prize.
- For multi-family properties, one prize will be awarded per eligible property address. The City may contact the property owner or an authorized resident to confirm the appropriate recipient before distribution.
- The City will not determine how prizes are shared among property owners, tenants, or occupants. Once delivered or mailed to the designated recipient, the City will not be responsible for their subsequent distribution, subject to applicable law.
- Once distributed, gift cards become the responsibility of the recipients. The City will not provide replacements, exchanges, or substitutions for lost, stolen, damaged, or unused gift cards, subject to applicable law.
- All gift cards are subject to the terms and conditions established by the gift card issuer.

8. Photographs, Publicity & Promotional Use

- By submitting photographs for consideration, individuals grant the City of Jamestown permission to reproduce, publish, and display those photographs, together with the nominated property's street address, for contest administration, community voting, and related promotional purposes.
- This permission includes use on the City's official website, social media platforms, press releases, and other contest-related communications.
- Nominated properties will be identified by their street addresses only. The City will not publish the names of property owners, tenants, residents, or individuals submitting nominations as part of its contest publicity.
- Individuals submitting photographs must have the necessary rights or permissions to provide those photographs for contest use.

- The City reserves the right to decline photographs containing inappropriate content or other materials deemed unsuitable for public distribution.

9. Public Safety & Property Responsibility

- All holiday decorations must comply with applicable laws, building and fire codes, and public safety requirements.
- Decorations must not obstruct public sidewalks, roadways, intersections, or rights-of-way.
- Property owners and residents are responsible for the safe installation, maintenance, operation, and removal of their holiday displays.
- The City does not inspect, certify, or guarantee the safety of nominated holiday displays.

10. Privacy & Public Records

- Information collected during nominations and voting will be used for contest administration, eligibility verification, voting integrity, and related communications.
- The City will handle personal information in accordance with applicable laws, records retention requirements, and City policies.
- Information submitted to the City may constitute a public record subject to applicable disclosure requirements, including the New York State Freedom of Information Law (FOIL).
- The City's policy of not publishing participant names in contest publicity does not necessarily exempt those records from disclosure under applicable law.
- Contest submissions, voting records, and related documentation will be retained and disposed of in accordance with applicable records retention schedules.

11. Contest Administration & Modifications

- The City of Jamestown reserves the right to verify nominations, determine eligibility, review voting results, and correct administrative or technical errors.
- The City reserves the right to remove a nominated property from the contest, including related contest materials and publicity, upon request from the property owner or an authorized resident, where reasonably practicable.

- Entries that violate the published rules may be disqualified.
- The City reserves the right to modify, postpone, suspend, or cancel the contest, including adjusting deadlines or voting periods, due to severe weather, power outages, technical difficulties, or other circumstances beyond its reasonable control that affect the fair, safe, or effective administration of the contest, subject to applicable law.
- Any material changes to the contest rules or schedule will be communicated through the City's official communication channels.
- The City will administer the contest in a fair, consistent, and transparent manner.

12. Acceptance of Official Rules

- By submitting a nomination or casting a vote, individuals agree to comply with the applicable contest rules and conditions.
- Nominating a property does not establish acceptance of these rules by the property owner or resident.
- The City's determinations regarding eligibility, voting validation, and award administration will be made in accordance with the published rules and applicable law.