

COMPETITION OF LIGHTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is last year's winning house on 1405 Grand Oak Lane.

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EAST GOSHEN » As part of the holiday festivities in East Goshen Township, some residents take part in a holiday house decorating competition to claim bragging rights for a year.

Started in 2014, the friendly competition is just a fun way to get residents outside and "brighten" the neighborhood with holiday spirit.

"I think it's fun for the community," said Tim Porreca, a resident of the township. "We just moved to the area and we really wanted to get involved and have some fun."

To enter the competition, the home had to be decorated and a picture sent in to the township by the deadline and the following two days, township residents voted on Facebook as to whose decorations were the best.

The winner was revealed Friday night during the Holiday Celebration at East Goshen Park, which included the annual tree-lighting ceremony.

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augural competition last year, but the Douglass family didn't.

In fact, they were the reigning champions heading into the 2015 holiday season.

"I happen to live in a neighborhood where people kind of helped me win last year," Douglass said. "I only won by one or two votes. I have a pretty good pool of people and that's how I was able to stuff the ballot box last year."

It took a couple of days for Douglass to get his decorations up last year.

"It wasn't perfect - I just had a lot of lights," he said. "I outline the whole house and lay things down on the ground and outline the front yard. It's just fun."

Though this year, the Douglass family missed the deadline due to a late start decorating.

However, it didn't stop them

anyway.

"I tend to go away Thanksgiving week and I don't get home until Sunday and that's typically when everyone decorates," Douglass said. "The next weekend I had a few errands, so it got pushed back, so I got it done late."

Douglass has always been a fan of having fun with holiday decorations and was known for writing messages on the roof years back.

"When we first moved into the neighborhood, we had an old roof and we basically would write on the roof with the lights," he said. "One year, we wrote 'Santa stop here' or 'Merry Christmas.' We would staple it right on the roof because we knew we were getting a new roof. We've always tried to make it fun."

the Porreca's lit up their home, but unfortunately, someone didn't appreciate their work as much and dampened some of their fun.

"We just tried to be completely original," Porreca said. "We tried to go as over-the-top as we could, but unfortunately one of our neighbors didn't appreciate it and somebody came and stole all of our lights."

The Porreca's won't be replacing the lights this year, but do have hopes to participate in the competition and get in the holiday spirit against next year.

"We're going to go on and have a great Christmas (this year)," Porreca said. "We'll wait until next year and maybe (the neighbor) will have a change of heart and bring it back."

Part of the joy of the competition - and in decorating in general - is seeing the children's faces with the lights, both his own and the others in the neighborhood and township.

"It helps raise awareness of the township," Douglass said. "East Goshen is a good township. This is just something fun and hopefully it's a tradition