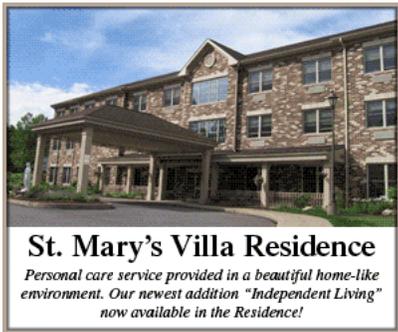


# Festive windows around downtown Scranton compete for awards



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Curtis Salonick of Wilkes-Barre, an Afa Gallery member who took part in the Members' Exhibition is awarded the Paul Youshock award. Tom Noone and Judy Youshock presented the award. The award is named in honor of Judy Youshock's late son. Emma Black/ Staff Photographer



CLAYTON OVER, STAFF WRITER / PUBLISHED: DECEMBER 8, 2018

SCRANTON — For the next few weeks, window shopping is encouraged downtown.

This year marks Scranton Tomorrow's 10th annual Holiday Window Decorating Showcase, where downtown businesses deck out their storefronts with festive decorations. More than 50 shops are participating this year, the most to take part since the event began, Scranton Tomorrow Executive

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Director Leslie Collins said. The contest started with the goal of getting visitors and families downtown. Since then, the event has turned into something downtown business owners look forward to and plan for each year, Collins said.

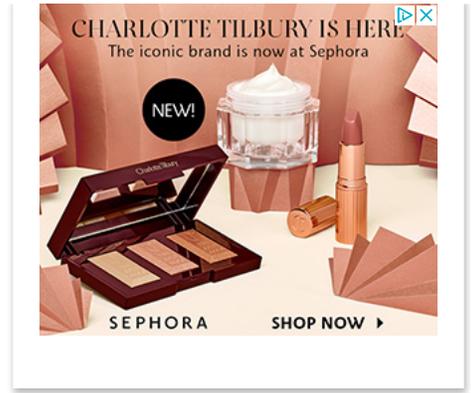
“The businesses put so much thought in their windows; they start planning months in advance on their themes,” Collins said. “As you wander around downtown, you’ll notice how their themes coordinate with their businesses.”

Brightens things up

That’s true of 8 Count Dancewear at 534 Lackawanna Ave. Owner Liza Murray has taken part in the showcase for three years. Each time, the two windows of the shop have taken on dance-related themes. This year, she transformed each into glimpses of scenes from the beloved ballet “The Nutcracker.” A blue and white tutu surrounded by lights and faux snow depict the classic Snow Scene through one pane. The other features lollipops and other pieces of dancewear, a rendition of the Land of the Sweets.

Murray likes the showcase because it brightens up the downtown and gets local business owners to coordinate on a project. It’s fun to see everyone decorating for the holidays, but each with their own unique spin, she said.

“It’s a seasonal display that everyone participates in, but they can put their own tweaks on it,” she said.



Holiday Window Decorating Showcase display profile: 8 Co...





## Scranton School Board to seek donations from nonprofits

SCRANTON — Forced to raise taxes and borrow money for 2019, the Scranton School Board will ask the city's nonprofits for help. (read more)



## At 91, West Side garage owner still fixing cars

Vito Zaccheo takes his car to Merc's Garage because he doesn't get the runaround. There's no sign out front except for the state inspection and emissions test placards. (read more)



## CHRIS KELLY: Unexpectedly hearing from a ghost can be enlightening

He was a merry gentleman. A proud Irish-American. A joker, prankster and

## Holiday Window Decorating Showcase display profile: The ...



### Friendly competition

A glance through the windows of the Beauty Mark Boutique, 546 Spruce St., yields glimpses of reindeer, a tree laden with ornaments and other decorations in white and various shades of silver, gold and pink. Owner Carrie Thorne is quick to point out who the mastermind is behind the display.

"I can't take the credit. My mom did it," she said with a laugh.

They chose the colors because they mesh well with colors already inside the business, which specializes in makeup, beauty and skin care products, Thorne said. She likes the friendly competition the showcase brings out among business owners downtown. It's also nice when customers stop in with compliments on the display, Thorne said.

Marita Woloszyn, of Moscow, admired the decorations as she waited for her daughter, Mia, to get done with a "lash lift," a type of perm on the lashes.

"It's so nicely done," Woloszyn said. "It's charming and cozy."

### A festive feel

At Lavish Body & Home, 600 Linden St., large wreaths exploding with bands of plaid fabric adorn windows on the Adams Avenue side of the business. Lauren Woodward said she and her husband, Micah, start brainstorming for displays about six months before he turns them into reality in the shop windows. The showcase provides plenty of appealing visuals that attract people to the area and its businesses, Woodward said.

"I think any time you can bring a festive feel to the downtown, it draws people in," Woodward said.

A panel of judges will make their way around downtown today to determine winners of several categories: most Scrantastic, nostalgic, whimsical, traditional, festive, dreamy and elegant. Winners will be announced next week.

As the number of participants has increased, so has the number of awards, a testament to how exceptional the displays are each year, Collins said.

storyteller who spun yarns so funny, fantastical and farcical they had to be at least a little bit true. Most of his tales were mostly true. (read more)



## For Bolus dinner patrons, a place that feels like family

SCRANTON — With a practiced efficiency, a team of volunteers meted out turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and other holiday-meal staples onto trays Tuesday inside St. Patrick's Church on Jackson Street. (read more)



## Window Wonderland: Scranton Tomorrow announces winners

SCRANTON — The storefront of the Velvet Elvis on Bogart Court boasted several festive offerings, including a silver tinsel Christmas tree and a fishnet-stockings-clad leg lamp (read more)

## Wandering Hen menus draw from region's farmers, vendors

Falls Twp. native Amanda Banta grew up on family-owned Rowlands Farm, which instilled in her a love for hard-won crops and thoughtful landscaping

"The judges have a hard time every year and sometimes, we have ties," Collins said.

"They all look beautiful."

Contact the writer:

cover@timeshamrock.com;

570-348-9100 x5363;

@ClaytonOver on Twitter

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CARBONDALE — A city man is accused of assaulting a woman Monday, then resisting responding police officers as he held a baby. (read more)

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Three Luzerne County men remain in Wyoming Correctional Facility after a Mehoopany Twp. resident told police he spotted three men running from a neighbor's home early Sunday. (read more)

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