

# Window Wonderland: Scranton Tomorrow announces winners



CLAYTON OVER, STAFF WRITER / PUBLISHED: DECEMBER 26, 2018

SCRANTON — The storefront of the Velvet Elvis on Bogart Court boasted several festive offerings, including a silver tinsel Christmas tree and a fishnet-stocking-clad leg lamp much like the “major award” won by the Old Man in the bingeworthy holiday classic, “A Christmas Story.”

Tucked in a corner of the store window is another award, a plaque proclaiming the display “Most Traditional.” The presentation

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At 91, West Side garage owner still fixing cars

is one of 15 category winners in this year's Holiday Window Decorating Showcase hosted by Scranton Tomorrow.

"It was so hard for the judges to decide," said Leslie Collins, executive director of Scranton Tomorrow. "It was a hard decision to make; there were so many great windows."

This year marked the 10th annual showcase, which is intended to promote the downtown and bring shoppers and families there. Since the inaugural year, the event has turned into something downtown business owners look forward to and plan for each year. The number of awards and participants has grown over time. This year, more than 50 downtown businesses took part, Collins said.

For Jamie Constantine of Clarks Summit, owner of the Velvet Elvis, the display she crafted is the first she showcased for the event. All of the items in the display are for sale at her shop. The lamp sold Sunday, but other holiday items remain. Constantine worked to make the get-up representative of the goods for sale there, vintage clothes and antique household items, many with a gaudy bent.

She was going for a nostalgic, kitschy vibe with her display, Constantine said.

"There's the beautiful, 1940s elegance of antiques," she explained. "Yeah, you won't find that here, so you won't find it in my store window either."

Another category-winning display lies yards down the way from the Velvet Elvis. The storefront window of AOS Metals won the award for "Most Spirit of Christmas."

Inside the storefront window there, decorated Christmas trees and faux snow make for a wintry setting. Wooden stars suspended from the border of the window and a steel bar hang above the scene.

Shop owner Kari Johnson asked customers to write holiday wishes on the stars to help spread love, peace and joy to anyone coming inside or people passing by outside.

"I just wanted it to be meaningful," Johnson said. "I thought it would be fun to get the customers involved, and they helped us decorate and wrote all their wishes out into the world on the stars."



CLAYTON OVER / STAFF PHOTO AOS Metals, 527 Bogart Court, Scranton, won for Most Spirit of Christmas in this year's Holiday Window Decorating Showcase.

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 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)

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"Find time to spend with the ones you love," reads one message.

"Find peace in your world," reads another.

There's still time to check out all of the 50-plus decorated storefronts and the winners. Holiday-themed windows will remain on display through Friday, Jan. 4, according to Scranton Tomorrow.

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Winning Windows:

- Most Childlike Wonder: People's Security Bank, 150 N. Washington Ave.
- Most Elegant: Posh @ The Scranton Club, 404 N. Washington Ave.
- Most Festive: Lavish Body & Home, 600 Linden St.
- Most Luminous: 8 Count Dancewear, 534 Lackawanna Ave.
- Most Innovative: Northern Light Espresso Bar, 536 Spruce St.
- Most Non-Traditional: Ballet Theatre of Scranton, 310 Penn Ave.
- Most Original: Terra Preta Prime, 301 N. Washington Ave.
- Most Outrageous: New Laundry, 127 N. Washington Ave.
- Best Painted Windows: Scranton School District Art students and Frank Dubas, windows at 516-518 Lackawanna Ave.
- Best Use of Greenery: Peculiar Slurp, 307 Penn Ave.
- Most Spirit of Christmas: AOS Metals, 527 Bogart Court
- Most Traditional: The Velvet Elvis, 523 Bogart Court
- Most Whimsical: The Pink Pedal, 222 Wyoming Ave.
- Best Winter Scene: Ufberg & Associates, 310 Penn Ave.
- Most Rustic: The Daisy Collective, 328 Penn Ave.