



Greetings!

FHN and the Freeport Public Library are already planning for the holiday season!

You are invited to participate in the 2024 **FHN Community Festival of Trees** which will be held at the Freeport Public Library, 100 E. Douglas Street, Freeport beginning Monday, November 25, and continuing through Monday, December 30.

Each year, many unique and beautiful trees are decorated by local not-for-profit organizations, schools, churches, and clubs for public viewing at the Library. For example, last year's winners were:

Judges' Award

- Blackhawk Elementary School, *Holiday Magic Around the World* - 1st Place Award, \$500
- Freeport High School National Art Honor Society, *Sugar Plum Fairy* - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Award, \$300
- YMCA, *Elves Searching for Magic in the Air* - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Award, \$150

Peoples' Choice

- Open Bible Learning Center Elementary School's, *The Magic of Christmas Isn't in Presents but in His Presence* - 1st Place Award, \$500
- The Lincoln-Douglas First Grade, *It Is Christmas in the Heart that Puts Christmas in the Air* -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Award, \$200
- Blackhawk Elementary School, *Holiday Magic Around the World* - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Award, \$100

**Prizes will be awarded again this year!** There will be two top cash awards of \$500 each, one for first-place selection by a formal judging committee and another for the People's Choice Award, which will be determined by public voting via ballots at the Library. A second-place award of \$300 will be awarded by the judging committee, as well as a third-place award of \$150. We will give away a second place-award of \$200 and third-place award of \$100 for People's Choice.

Entries will be accepted from schools, churches, service organizations, clubs, and other officially organized not-for-profit groups (people may not enter as individuals). Judging for the prizes, other than the Peoples' Choice, will be done by a panel of local judges and will be subjective, since the trees will be works of art. However, the following criteria will apply during judging:

- Interpretation of theme selected by the entrants
- Complexity of decoration
- Perceived degree of effort
- Overall creativity

FHN will furnish the trees to be decorated for this event at no cost to your organization. You will be responsible for providing lights for your tree. The trees will be displayed throughout the Library from November 25 – December 30. All trees will be approximately six feet tall and available to decorate on Tuesday, November 20th through Saturday, November 23rd during normal library hours. You may remove decorations on Monday, December 30th through Saturday, January 4th during normal library hours. Please do not include irreplaceable decorations. FHN and the Freeport Public Library are not responsible for any damage to or theft of ornaments and other decorations. The trees themselves remain the property of FHN.

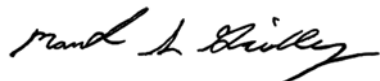
This event will be widely supported through a variety of marketing efforts, so in addition to the cash prizes, your organization will have a great opportunity to be included in a number of promotional activities. For example, FHN and the Library will host storytelling sessions at the Library during the holidays, the Frosty Family Fun event and Santa's visits and letters to Santa drop off.

Should you wish to support the overall theme of this year's Festival of Trees activities when decorating your tree, the theme is "**The Best Way To Spread Holiday Cheer, Is Singing Loud For All To Hear**".

***It's easy to participate*** ... just complete the enclosed form and return it to M45 Marketing Services, 524 W. Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, fax it to 815-297-0166 or email your information to [barb.lessman@m45.com](mailto:barb.lessman@m45.com) by Wednesday, **November 6th. No late registrations will be accepted.** If you have any questions, please call Barb Lessman at 815-801-4195.

We're getting into the holiday spirit and can't wait to kick off all these great activities for this very special time of year. ***We hope you will join us,*** and we look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,



Mark Gridley  
President and CEO  
FHN



## Community Festival of Trees Entry Form

\_\_\_ Yes! We would like to participate in the 2024 FHN Community Festival of Trees!

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Tree Name/Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

We agree/understand:

- We agree to decorate our tree between Monday, November 20th through Saturday, November 23rd during normal library hours.
- We agree to undecorate our tree between Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, January 4th during normal library hours.
- We understand that FHN and Freeport Public Library are not responsible for any damage or theft to our ornaments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Signature

\_\_\_ We are not interested in participating this year. Please contact us again next year.

**Please complete and return this form by Wednesday, November 6th to:**  
M45 Marketing Services, 524 W. Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032  
or fax it to 815-297-0166  
or email your information to [barb.lessman@m45.com](mailto:barb.lessman@m45.com).