



Hello, neighbors.

Drive around Stonewater and check out all the terrific Christmas decorations. And say hi to the winners of the first Stonewater Subdivision Holiday Lighting contest. They are:

The Smith family, 1756 Waters Edge Way, Martha Stewart Award for most festive display



The Scurlock family, 401 Stonewater, Clark Griswold Award for most lights



All is bright at the Smith home, where Jeff Smith said it was a relatively quick task to get the lights up.

“Me and my son set it up,” Jeff said. “Probably took just a day to set it all up.”

Was there a theme or an inspiration?

“It’s just lights. No, no, no theme,” Jeff said. “Everything was white. We wanted to add a little color so we added the blue and white. But other than that, no.”

At the Scurlock home, the whole family pitched in. Jamie, Rene and especially their daughters -- the A Team -- were up on the rooftop like busy elves. The job was not without hazards, including a hole in the pants. And it was kind of scary. But they succeeded in their task.

“So their goal was to make most lights,” Rene said.



“We put lights on the trees and the bushes and we put lights on the side of the house. And also on the back porch,” said Ayla Scurlock, the climber whose britches needed mending. “And then we added the snowflakes on the back.”

The roof, the front yard and the back porch were handled with care in what has become a holiday tradition.



“We mostly do that every year,” Ayla said. “We added a couple strands.”

More than a couple, apparently.

Winners were decided by votes sent to Stonewater’s helpers at Ernst Management. For their efforts the Smiths and the Scurlock receive a \$50 gift certificate.

Which might help cover the electric bills.

Great job, everyone. Get out and about this week and see what your neighbors did. This was the first year for the Stonewater Subdivision Holiday Lighting contest, but it won’t be the last.

Reminder

With Christmas and New Year on Fridays this year trash collection will be on Saturdays, a day later than usual on Waste Connections' schedule. Have the bins out by 6 a.m. on the next two Saturdays.

Recycling collection will be as scheduled on Monday, Dec. 28.

Final words

Be safe this holiday season. Remember, the youngsters are out on the streets on the nice days so be careful. The subdivision speed limit is 20. Wear your seatbelts when driving. Continue to practice social distancing and wear masks to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and seasonal maladies. Spend time with your loved ones and hold them close. If your merriment includes alcoholic beverages, turn the keys over to a designated driver.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and let's have a better 2021.