2026 Gingerbread House Contest

Official Rules and Guidelines

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 | ART PROMENADE PARK | DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON

Art Promenade Park: 33104 Grand River Ave, Farmington, MI

Who can enter

- **Business division:** any local business, organization, or team entering on behalf of a business.
- **Community division:** individuals, families, friend groups, classrooms, scout troops, and community groups.
- Entry is free. Spots are limited, and each division closes when it fills.
- Entrants under 18 need a parent or guardian to complete the registration.
- Registration closes Monday, November 30 at 11:59 PM.

Building guidelines

- The base can be no larger than 14 x 14 inches, and the entry can be no taller than 24 inches.
- Decorations must be edible, with **up to two non-food items allowed**. Battery-operated twinkle lights count as one of the two. The base and hidden internal supports do not count toward the limit.
- Kits and pre-baked pieces are welcome, as long as you do the assembly and decorating.
- Build on a sturdy, portable base you can carry, since entries are moved and displayed outdoors.
- Entries are for display only and will not be eaten.

Important to know

- **No supplies are provided.** Please bring your finished entry ready to display. Event organizers do not provide building or decorating materials.
- **Battery-operated elements only.** There is no power source on site, so nothing that plugs in can be used.
- Each entry receives a display card with its number and your display name.
- Gingerbread houses are displayed outdoors in December. Organizers will do their best to protect entries, but are not responsible for damage from weather, wind, or handling.
- Photos of your gingerbread house may be shared on Holly Days social media, the website, and in promotional materials.

Drop-off, voting, and pickup

- **Drop-off:** 8:00 to 9:30 AM on Saturday, December 5 at Art Promenade Park, 33104 Grand River Ave. Entries arriving after 9:30 AM cannot be accepted.
- **Check-in:** stop at the contest table to receive your entry number and display spot.
- **Public voting:** 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Holly Days attendees vote for their favorites.
- **Pickup:** 3:45 to 4:30 PM. Entries not picked up by 4:30 PM may be discarded or donated.
- **Winners:** a People's Choice winner is named in each division and announced at the Tree Lighting Celebration at Governor Warner Mansion following the Light Up The Grand Parade. Winning entrants are asked to leave their entry on display at City Hall or the library.

Questions? Visit HollyDaysFarmington.com. The Art Park Holiday Contests are sponsored by DTE Energy. Holly Days is organized by Compo & Medema Group, made possible by our sponsors, and supported by the City of Farmington and the Farmington Downtown Development Authority.