

2002 - 2018 Parade History

2002 - parade was put on by Dee Jungman and her son Brian Jungman. No balloons but had the Gladwin High School Band.

2003 - parade was attended by 5,000 spectators - Elmo helium balloon 60 floats entries band's including the Tittabawassee Fife and Drum Corps and Shriner's Hillbilly outhouse band. Fireworks in the Gladwin City Park

2004 - attendance was approximately 5,000 - Elmo and Rainbow Fish were the two helium balloons - 80 float entries - Gladwin High School, Beaverton High School and the Tittabawassee Fife and Drum Corps Band. Fireworks in the city park. 1st place in float competition was Larry's Auto Repair, 2nd place Sugar Spoons Red Hat Society, 3rd place Koontz Rental

2005 - attendance around 5,000 - Elmo and Cow Jumped Over the Moon helium balloons, 90 float entries - Gladwin and Beaverton High School Band's - fireworks in the park - 1st place Skeels Christian School, 2nd place Gladwin Rotary Club and 3rd place Gladwin 4 H Club.

2006 - attendance around 5,000 - Elmo, Rainbow Fish, Sunshine and Otto the Octopus balloons, a total of 4 helium balloons - 100 float entries - Beaverton High School Band - fireworks in the park. 1st place - Mid Michigan Regional Medical Center AND Gladwin Rotary Club, 3rd place Wooden Shoe Big Boys Club, 3rd place.

2007 - approximately 5,000 spectators - Elmo and Big Bird - 100 entries and fireworks in the park. 1st place Mid-Michigan Medical Center, 2nd place Wooden Shoe Big Boys Club and 3rd place Gladwin Co-Op Preschool.

2008 - it was a blizzard but the show must go on!! Who remembers the blizzard of 2008? 5,000 spectators, Elmo and 2-star balloons - unfortunately because of the weather Uncle Sam could not be blown up. 75 float entries - Fireworks in the park. 1st place Mid-Michigan Medical Center, 2nd place Sacred Heart Catholic Church and 3rd place Mark Shull's Wolf Pack Club.

2009 - the parade was attended by approximately 7,000 spectators - Elmo and a turtle balloon stole the show - 80 float entries - Grand Marshal was Dan Sheehan. 1st place

Mid-Michigan Medical Center, 2nd place Santa Moose, Molesworth Family, 3rd place Wooden Show Big Boys Club.

2010 - parade spectators estimated at 5,000 - helium balloons consisted of a caterpillar and a turtle - 90 float entries - fireworks in the park - Grand Marshal was Rosa Herrera and Volunteer of the Year was Bill and LaVel Smith. 1st place in the Church Category: The Springs, and tie for 2nd place between Secord Baptist Church AND Christ the King Church, Organization: 1st place Gladwin Hockey, 2nd place Girl Scouts and 3rd place 4 H; Business - 1st place Stevens Sports Center, 2nd place Mid-Michigan Medical Center and 3rd place Jim's Body Shop Family Category: 1st place Millhisler Family

2011 - the parade was attended by thousands - Cow Jumped Over the Moon and a huge elephant were the balloons this year - 90 lighted floats - fireworks in the park - Grand Marshal was Joyce Swartzmiller and Volunteer of the Year was Darlene Conner. Church: 1st place The Springs and 2nd place Christ the King, Organization: 1st place the Girl Scouts and 2nd place Gladwin youth Wrestling, Business: 1st place Mid-Michigan Community College, Family: 1st place the Molesworth Family.

2012 - Theme: Once Upon A Time, estimated at 6,000 spectators - Large Caterpillar and Elephant - 100+ float entries and the Gladwin High School Marching Band, Grand Marshal Earl & Georgann Schuster and Volunteer of the Year Chris Kokotovich.

2013 - Theme: Northern Lights, Light Up the Night was attended by 5,000 - 6,000 spectators, Large Fireman and Cookie Monster balloons, 100 float entries, Gladwin High School Band, fireworks in the park - Grand Marshal was George & Polly Alward and Volunteer of the Year was the Gladwin Rural Urban Volunteer Fire Department.

2014 - Theme: Christmas Vacation attended by 6,000 with 100+ float entries - balloons were Elephant and Caterpillar - fireworks in the park - Gladwin High School Band - Grand Marshal was Jean Mercer and Volunteer of the Year was Laura Brandon-Maveal

2015 - Theme: How the Grinch Stole Christmas - 6,000 in attendance - balloons were Santa Elmo and Octopus - fireworks in the park - Gladwin High School Band 95 float entries - 1st place - Chemical Bank, 2nd place Mid-Michigan Dental Care and 3rd place MFCU. Grand Marshal was Terry Brokoff and Volunteer of the Year was Maureen Thurlow.

2016 - A Merry Mardi Grai Christmas - 7,000 in attendance - balloons were Sammie the Sea Lion and a Giant Party Cake - 100+ float entries and Gladwin High School Band - first year we changed the route from going into the park to making a giant loop thru beautiful downtown Gladwin. fireworks were held at the Gladwin County Fair Grounds - Grand Marshal was Dirk & Carole Presidio and Volunteer of the Year was Tammy and Scott Hawblitzel

1st place Chris Muma Forest Products, 2nd place First United Methodist Church, 3rd place Triple M Collision & Gladwin City/County Transit

2017 - Theme: A Merry Marvelous Christmas - 6,000+ in attendance - 100+ float entries - Gladwin High School Marching Band - balloons were Big Bird and Angry Bird - fireworks at the Gladwin County Fair Grounds - Grand Marshal was Fran & Dick Seebeck and Volunteer of the Year was Fred Sisco

1st place Chris Muma Forest Products, 2nd place First United Methodist Church, 3rd place Roll Rite.

A note from the Gladwin County Festival of Lights Christmas Parade Committee: from 2003 - 2018 the parade committee which consisted of Shannon Dorn and Lori Stout for 15 years and in the past years Kim Bruner, Selena Volmering, Wanda McClain had the pleasure of bringing the Festival of Lights Christmas Parade to life. In 2018 we announced our retirement and are training the next parade committee of Jennifer Feuerstein and Janelle Thurlow to continue to bring you this fabulous event. Again, it was our pleasure to work with so many fabulous sponsors and vendors. We could not do it without you. Many hugs.

2018 - A Country Christmas - Grand Marshal is Bill and LaVel Smith and Volunteer of the Year is Mike and Donna Ridley. more to come..... 96 Lighted Floats and 3 cold air balloons, Elmo, Cookie Monster, and Rudolph. Mother Nature sure had her way with how things were going to play out. One and a half hours before the parade was to start it started snowing HUGE snowflakes. This last about 30 minutes, then it drizzled for a while, then nothing throughout the parade. It was cold and damp but no rain as they were predicting all week (heavy rain). we were blessed with a beautiful event.

1st place was Kirk Cameron Forest Products, 2nd place went to Chris Muma Forest Products and 3rd place went to Gladwin First United Methodist Church.