

Christmas at home with the mayor

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Nick lives in Rockport, is a floor supervisor at Applebees in Owensboro and has a significant other, Crystal Haycock.

So how does the family celebrate Christmas? After all, Gay Ann is charged with overseeing an entire city, a job she loves but that is also labor intensive with multiple monthly meetings and many important details with which to attend. Kim is a crane operator for Sterret.

"We're still here because he [Kim] loves the house," says the mayor, explaining why they have not downsized, even though it's now just the two of them.

And Christmas, why Christmas is Gay Ann's favorite time of the year. "Everybody comes here," she explains. "It's our little family gathering."

Well not quite so little since the Harneys are joined by Chris and his family, Nick and his girlfriend, her mother (her father passed away), her two sisters and their families and a host of cousins.

"I try to do all the cooking," she says. The menu features smoked pork loins and ham, turkey, dressing and gravy, green beans,

scalloped potatoes, salads and desserts — no small feat for such a large crowd.

But just as she so effortlessly manages a city,

this go-getter oversees preparations and does most of the work for a family celebration of fairly massive proportions.

For Mayor Gay Ann Harney, Rockport is truly home and there is no better place to be than home for the holidays.



The kitchen of Kim and Gay Ann Harney's home has been remodeled twice since they purchased it about 25 years ago. The kitchen was actually one of the reasons they almost didn't buy it because when they looked at the house, which was in a serious state of disrepair, the kitchen sink was rusted metal and there were only two wooden cabinets. Today the kitchen is the heart of their beautiful home — a true showplace in the City of Rockport, where Gay Ann is serving her first term as mayor. She is as adept at decorating as she is at governing.

— Photos by Kathy Tretter

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