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Christmas-Themed Spectacle

Minneola Man Puts On Light, Music Show at His Home

Holiday Display



Linda Charlton | For The Reporter

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The night is lit up by Jay Peterson's Christmas Light Show 2009 at his home in Minneola. For some of the musical numbers, snowflakes appear on the garage door.

By LINDA CHARLTON The Reporter correspondent

Published: Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 12:01 a.m.

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For the third year in a row, Jay Peterson has set up a computerized Christmas light-and-music show at his south Lake County home in Minneola.
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Jay Peterson's Christmas Octopus, with a dolphion background, is one segment of his Christmas Light show 2009 in Minneola.
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Linda Charlton | For The Reporter

For the third year in a row, Jay Peterson has set up a computerized Christmas light-and-music show at his south Lake County home in Minneola, accented by garlands lining the sidewalks and complemented by a low-range FM radio broadcast, allowing watchers to listen to the music through their own sound systems, as they watch the lights change with the music.

On Nov. 28, the second day of Peterson's Christmas Light Show 2009, there was a steady trickle of watchers and listeners. The show takes between 20 and 30 minutes to cycle completely. Some had noticed Peterson's fliers in local stores, while others read about the show in local newspapers or heard about it from friends.

As Robin Kieft of Clermont said of the show, "I particular like the way that the lights are coordinated to the music."

Although Peterson currently works in the insurance industry, he's also a former DJ with an associate's degree in electrical engineering.

"I enjoyed synchronizing the lights to the music in nightclubs," Peterson says. "I would like everyone to have the opportunity to come out and see my light shows."

As for how he got started doing lights at the house, Peterson says "I saw a house on the Internet that had Christmas lights and they flashed to the beat of the songs that were playing. I was hooked immediately. I had put up a basic Christmas display at my house that year and decided to take it a step further the following year.



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"Each year, I add more lights and try to add at least two new songs," he said. "I work on my shows all year long," which includes planning and programming.

"It takes approximately 10 to 12 hours to program three minutes of music," he added. "Each light that flashes has to be programmed."

And why does he do it? "I love bringing happiness to others, and my light shows do just that," he said.

On the third day of his show, Peterson noted that "Tonight I watched some children dance around on the sidewalk to 'Jingle Bell Rock.' I smiled and thought to myself, 'This is why I do this.' All of the hard work I put into my shows pays off. When it gets closer to Christmas, I will be outside greeting everyone and passing out candy canes."

Peterson's lights are located at 1119 Jayhil Drive in the Pine Bluff subdivision in Minneola. From U.S. 27 in Minneola, you take Old State Road 50 east from the traffic light. At the point when Old 50 curves right, stay straight and follow the road to Grassy Lake Elementary School. Pine Bluff is across the street. Once you're in Pine Bluff, you'll see the lights.

The show runs through Jan. 3. Show hours are 6 to 11 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, and 6 p.m. to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. In addition to the Christmas light shows, Peterson has done Halloween light shows for the past two years.

For more information, visit his Web site at www.jayslights.com.

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