



64°  
weather  
forecast

NEWS | SPORTS | OBITUARIES | COMMUNITY | CALENDAR | SERVICES | FEATURES | ARCHIVE

JOBS | AUTOS | HOMES | ADS

LOGIN | Today's Ads | Most Wanted | Multi-Media | e-Letter to the Editor | Contact | Advertise With Us | Classifieds



**YOUR MONEY**  
**YOUR GOVERNMENT**

CLICK HERE  
TO FOLLOW THE  
LATEST STORIES

Print Story | Email Story | Discuss Story (0) | Recommend (0)



Ron and Fran Troutman pose for a picture in front of their Villages home Thursday night Dec. 18, 2008. The Troutman's home is decorated with more than 100,000 lights.

click any photo to view this story's photo gallery



advertisement

IT'S A BIG WORLD OUT THERE  
MAKE SURE YOU'RE ATTRACTING  
THE RIGHT KIND OF CUSTOMER...



CLICK HERE TO ADVERTISE WITH THE SOUTH LAKE PRESS

published: Friday, December 26, 2008

### Lighting up the holidays and running up

ROXANNE BROWN and DAVID DONALD

Staff Writers

Two Lake County men are drawing upon their expertise to bring happiness to thousands this holiday season.

Former Disc Jockey Jay Peterson, in Minneola, and master electrician Ron Troutman, in The Villages, blanketed their homes this holiday season with thousands of colorful lights for all to enjoy.

So, why do these men go through the trouble of putting up so many lights?

"It's indescribable the feeling I get when you have 50 to 60 people coming to you and thanking you for bringing this to their community," said Peterson, 37. "The best thing is seeing the kids all excited, smiling and asking questions. It's all very overwhelming."

Troutman had a similar response to why he's put up more than 100,000 lights for the past 15 years.

"When we see the people's faces, that's why we do it," said Troutman. "All we do is collect smiles."

Both men approach holiday light display with a different flare.

Peterson programmed more than 40,000 lights in 16 hours to flash in synchronization with holiday music played on his MP3 player and broadcast from 99.9 FM radio. A sign on Peterson's lawn asks everyone to tune into the station to get the full experience.

"I heard one kid call it, 'the dancing light house,'" Peterson said. "I thought that was great."

The lights took Peterson more than two weeks to put up and he spent nearly a year writing the computer program for the show. This is the second year stringing up the lights and the first year synchronizing them to music.

"I am former DJ and have always been into lighting and music," Peterson said. "This just give me the opportunity to bring it all together."

More than 30 miles north of Minneola, Troutman is turning night into day with his holiday lights display.

Troutman, 75, has been an electrician for 58 years.

A ferris wheel, carousels, a manger bought in 1962, angels, and inflatable snowmen and penguins inhabit Troutman's front yard and rooftop. With more than 100,000 lights, Troutman needs six 20 Amp circuits.

It took Troutman four weeks to set up the lights and make sure every thing worked. After January all the lights and decorations will go into a storage bin until Holidays come around again.

"We enjoy Christmas," said Troutman. "You should see the smiles."

If your interested in visiting Troutman's or Peterson's holiday lights display, Troutman is at 1529 Hillcrest Dr. in The Villages and Peterson is at 1119 Jahil Dr. in Minneola. You can also visit Peterson's Web site at [www.jayslights.com](http://www.jayslights.com).

#### FEATURED AUTO



YOUR LOGO HERE

click here to Advertise

#### FEATURED HOME

LADY LAKE!  
3/2 w/Bonus Room CB#549  
\$176,000



YOUR LOGO HERE!

#### MARKETPLACE ADS

VIEW ALL OF TODAY'S ADS >



Published on 11/03/08  
VIEW ALL OF TODAY'S ADS >