

A virtual community of decorated homes

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There are those of us who hang a string of lights or two across the eaves of our homes and call it a day.

And then there are people like the more than 300 families on the Web site <http://www.lightsofthevalley.com/>, who proudly go all out decorating their homes and are not shy to let everyone know.

It is a community of folks led by Alex Dourov who share a common interest - making the holidays bright - really bright.

Dourov, who lives in Livermore, owns a Web design company. Since 1999, he has put his talents to work compiling an extensive list of homes with owners who show Christmas spirit in amperes. Dourov says the site is the most comprehensive list of decorated homes from all over Northern California.

To get started, just to <http://www.lightsofthevalley.com/> and click on a city name. You'll be taken to a page of small photos of decorated houses in that town. Click on one of those and find a larger photo, an easy link to get directions and in some cases, additional photos, links to a personal Web page, and more. And there are instructions for submitting houses for consideration.

New this year is the "House of the Day." One dramatically decorated abode is featured each day on the home page. Check back daily; new houses will be featured through Jan. 1, Dourov says.

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