

PLEASANTON
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Lights displays make holidays special

Do homework on Web before piling family into car

Does your family have a holiday tradition of driving around enjoying the Christmas lights and displays?

You might want to check out the Web at <http://lightsofthevalley.com> for its fifth annual Lights of the Valley site. It began in 1999 as a way to publicize homes with the most lights, the best displays, and the most creative and unique homes.

"We have them all and only list the best," said creator Alex Dourov, a Microsoft Certified Professional. He noted that 76,000 people have visited the site in the last five years.

Some residents in Pleasanton have decorated for the holidays on a lavish scale for years. Bob's World, 2612 Calle Reynoso, is listed on the Web site as a "must see." This Sunday, a five-member a cappella choir will be singing contemporary and traditional Christmas carols outside the home from 7-8 p.m.

Twenty-six houses on Walnut Drive, off Ray Street downtown, continue to decorate every year, making their street a true "Christmas Lane."

The home at 4291 Tulipwood Court received a first-place award from the Highland Oaks Improvement Association.

Two neighborhoods in Pleasanton - Kottinger Ranch and Foothill Knolls - feature luminaries on Christmas Eve.

These facts are all on the Web site, along with addresses and small photos. Communities covered besides Pleasanton are Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon, Alamo, Danville, Concord, Martinez, Fremont, Milpitas, Hayward, Tracy, Lathrop, Manteca and Stockton. Click on the small photo for an enlargement. Click on the address for a map.

For the best viewing, load up the car with family and friends and drive to the beautifully decorated homes. It's a tradition.

-Dolores Fox Ciardelli