

Holiday lights brightening shipyard

Herb and Pat Eldean started stringing lights 20 years ago. Now display has rhinoceros, flamingo

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Staff writer

What began 20 years ago as stringing a few lights to brighten Eldean Shipyard has become a popular destination for people seeking holiday cheer.

Herb and Pat Eldean started stringing the lights to brighten a portion of Macatawa for the season, and their landscapers have continually added new lights and displays to brighten the entire complex. It includes their house, cottage, the shipyard, fuel dock and the Piper restaurant near the intersection of 32nd Street and South Shore Drive.

"This year was good for it," Herb Eldean said of the elaborate display, which had a pink flamingo and charging rhinoceros added this year.

"It's been a cumulative effort."



LIGHTS FOR THE SEASON: Just a sampling of the multitude of Christmas lights which have been put up around Eldean's Shipyard and The Piper Restaurant.

Sentinel/Dan Irving

White icicles, tree shapes and lights draped around 35-foot-high real trees cover the complex. A palm tree, pink flamingo and still rhinoceros sit on the north side of South Shore. A cross shines from a hill on the south side of South Shore and a large star shines from their boathouse, along with several twinkling lights scattered throughout the area.

Herb Eldean said he probably stumbled on the idea 20 years ago while reminiscing about the Olsen Rug Co. in Chicago, where his father brought him to witness a large garden with waterfalls and a Christmas display.

"When you're down there, you feel like you're in Never Never Land in the winter," said Linda Brand, who owns a cottage in Macatawa.