

## Dancing with lights

### Christmas show garnering a lot of attention for Lakewood man

By Samantha Gonzaga, Staff writer

Article Launched: 12/24/2007 07:53:27 PM PST



Ed Faranda and his daughter Gena stand in front of their Lakewood home. Ed, an engineer, has rigged his lights to twinkle in tune with six songs that can be heard on 89.1 FM. (Jeff Gritchen / Press-Telegram)

LAKWOOD - At first glance, the Faranda home is no different from the others glowing along Ashworth Street with the illumination of their outdoor Christmas lighting.

But if you're within a two-house radius of owner Ed Faranda's single-level house and tuned into the open FM frequency 89.1, you might actually hear his lights.

"It's absolutely beautiful," said Jean Brown, a Lakewood resident who recently drove to Ashworth Street to watch the Farandas' light show with her friend, Louise Barber. "I love this time of year, anyhow, but this is great."

Faranda, a manufacturing engineer, had programmed 9,500 red, green and white lights to blink, glow and twinkle in tune with six Christmas songs he broadcasts on the open frequency. Brown's reaction is the kind that he says makes the time-consuming programming work worthwhile.

"It's been great," Faranda said. "I get about anywhere between five to 30 cars per night. They've never seen anything like it, they've never seen anything like it done."

Work decorating Faranda's house at 5203 Ashworth St. began in September, but his first run at synchronizing lights with music was for a Fourth of July flag display.

Both light shows are controlled using a computer, Faranda said.

Behind the Christmas display is a Light-O-Rama software kit, four circuit boards he manually assembled and four controllers; he uses 58 of their available 64 channels for the lighting.

Advertisement





For each minute of a song, Faranda put in an hour and a half to two hours programming the behaviors for each grouping of lights. Overall, he estimated spending \$4,000 for effort, and adding \$100 to his monthly electricity bill.

"All the engineering I had to do this year was really overwhelming," Faranda said.

The result is a music show set to Trans-Siberian Orchestra's "Siberian Sleigh Ride" and "Christmas Eve - Sarajevo," Kenny G's "Winter Wonderland," Josh Groban's cover of "I'll Be Home For Christmas," and Mann-

heim Steamroller's "Fairies."

"Well," said Barber, watching the Farandas' light in her car with 89.1 in the background, "this is all well worth it."

For information about the Farandas' light show, log on to [www.farandalights.com](http://www.farandalights.com)

Advertisement

