

L/Real Estate



Twinkle and shine

Spending thousands to make holiday displays sparkle, avoid risk of falls **c6**

ARE FARMHOUSES STILL IN?

Style popular on TikTok, but what about Long Island? **c5**

HOWARD SIMMONS



WEST HEMPSTEAD

Easy commutes, housing, community spirit draw homebuyers **c2**

LETTING THE PROS TAKE CARE OF HOLIDAY DISPLAYS

For safety and convenience, more Lers are willing to pay

BY LIZA N. BURBY
Special to Newsday

Tom and Nancy DiCicco usually just settle for a wreath on their front door during the holidays. But this year, they spent \$2,700 on a professionally installed display. Twenty years after Tom had a grand mal seizure while hanging decorations, the couple is willing to treat themselves to guaranteed safety.

Vincent Manzo designs the interiors of Tiffany & Co. and Saks Fifth Avenue in New York City as a display director. But when it comes to his own holiday display, he pays \$3,200 to outsource the job to other professionals.

"It was a pleasure to have somebody do it for me," said Manzo.

Many homeowners on Long Island are giving up tangled light cords, blown bulbs and icy conditions and instead are

opting to leave it to the pros. While it might be a hefty price for some to pay during the already cash-strapped holidays, these homeowners are willing to drop thousands — or hundreds of thousands — on safety, design and a wow factor.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

While some elaborate projects can exceed \$500,000, the average project can cost anywhere from \$1,500 to about \$3,000, according to Frank Grogan, 24, owner of Blinky's Christmas Lights in Wantagh. Some companies like his require a homeowner to spend a minimum of \$1,500 to get on the schedule. Factors in the final bill include the house size, number of decorations and color scheme.

The cost to decorate a typical two-story home like a Colonial or a Cape can range from \$2,500 for lights around the roof and some bushes to



Frank Grogan, right, owner of Blinky's Christmas Lights, and East Hampton homeowner Vincent Manzo.

ON THE COVER
Nancy and Tom DiCicco in front of their holiday-decorated home in Brightwaters.

\$7,000 to also wrap bushes and trees, Grogan said.

Manzo, who has hired professionals to decorate his three-bedroom East Hampton cottage for three years, paid Grogan to design a display featuring lights on the gutter lines and on the sides of his house, garland around the door, lights on the bushes on either side of the door, a wreath on the chimney and six starbursts on the lawn.

"In my line of work, I know quality and I don't mind paying for it," said Manzo. "I've had the house for about six years

and I used to just put up garland and a line of lights. Frank [Grogan] introduced me to different design options."

Subsequent years tend to be cheaper after the first season since homeowners generally purchase the lights, added Kyle Rossi, 24, owner of Holiday Lighting by Apex Home Maintenance in Lindenhurst. After that, customers are only paying for labor, and can always add on each year as budgets change.

Rossi installed the DiCiccios' display by stringing lights around their roof line, railings and front walkway, adding a lighted wreath on the door and starbursts on the lawn. Tom DiCicco, 71, liked their décor so much that he asked Rossi to put lights on the fence of the service

station the couple has owned in West Islip for 45 years.

PEACE OF MIND, AND BODY

Quality of design isn't the only draw for homeowners who opt for professional displays.

"I don't want to risk going up on the ladder and falling off the roof just to do what I used to do," said Manzo.

He's on to something. When it came to installing holiday lights between Nov. 1, 2021, and Jan. 31, 2022, there were an estimated 1,300 injuries that clearly occurred outdoors, according to Patty Davis, spokesperson for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. These estimates included falls and other injuries related to installing holiday lights.



Valerie and Joseph Lauto used to love to decorate but decided to spend \$3,000 on their professional display this year.

“I don’t want to risk going up on the ladder and falling off the roof just to do what I used to do.”

— Vincent Manzo

After Tom DiCicco’s health emergency decades ago, safety and convenience were a priority for the Brightwaters couple, who have lived in their 100-year-old thatched cottage for 45 years.

“Ever since then, we didn’t even want to think about lights because we’d think of the time he had the seizure,” said Nancy, 70. “And with our medical history we don’t want to take chances.”

The couple have pared their decorations over the years. “We’d just have a plastic Santa or a plastic snowman out front with some lights. Through the years, someone would steal them, so then we just put a wreath on the door,” Nancy said.

Then, Nancy saw a sign for an installer last month and the couple, who just celebrated their 50th anniversary, decided it was time to try something different.

“Now I can just concentrate on decorating inside, and this year we’re going to have Christ-

mas Eve at the house instead of going out,” said Nancy.

WHAT DO THEY DO?

Professional installers offer residential and commercial services like decorating consultations, installation, maintenance, takedown and storage. Many installers also own seasonal businesses like landscaping, tree care, sprinkler, power washing and window washing companies, which used to be able to rely on snow plowing for offseason income.

As a result, finding a company that does holiday lighting installation has become easier, and there are a growing number on Long Island. You can even ask your own landscaper if they’re able to take on the project.

But installers aren’t just

working during the usual holiday season, also offering light installations for Valentine’s Day, Halloween, Diwali and Hanukkah, as well as parties and events like weddings.

While the main reason to hire a professional is that they have the equipment to do an installation safely, they also offer customization, making sure that the lights and cord fit to the exact measurement of your home, said Brendan McCaffrey, 37, owner of Mr. Holidays Lighting and Mr. Holidays Power Washing in Lynbrook.

“Homeowners will buy a 20-foot section of premade lights from Home Depot for a 16-foot roof line, and you can always tell they did it themselves because that overage of 4 feet will be hanging down on

the side of the house,” he said.

Customers can buy or rent the lights, depending on the company. Installation is done with clips that can withstand stormy conditions.

Installers maintain the lights throughout the season, re-securing anything that is damaged and replacing any bulbs that go out. They also take them all down and most will store them for you.

IS IT TOO LATE FOR 2023?

Grogan said this is the time of year that companies like his get calls from longtime homeowners who started to hang their own lights and changed their minds.

“We also get a lot of calls when people move into a new house and they discover the roof is a lot steeper and higher than the one they used to do,” he said.

Installations for the holiday season start in mid-October, or September for existing customers, but you can call companies until a week before Christmas, said McCaffrey.

“It’s never really too late to call, but we start installing lights in September for our renewals and for the larger projects that take longer to plan, our clients know to call even in July because they know if they call a week before Thanksgiving it might not be possible to get everything they wanted.”

You might find an available installer as late as Dec. 22 — and even possibly Christmas Eve, said Rossi. But, he added, you may pay more for a last-minute gig.

“You have to decide if it’s going to be worth it for you if it’s only up for two weeks,” he said.

Rossi recommended trying to get at least a month ahead of the holiday, whether it’s Diwali, Hanukkah or Christmas.

SHOPPING AROUND

Valerie Lauto, 52, said for three of the past five years she and her husband, Joseph, 51, have lived in their Huntington ranch, she decorated the exterior herself.

But in 2022, Valerie didn’t feel like being on ladders and believed that decorating the 1-acre property was getting to be too much. The couple started calling installation companies in late October and had trouble getting an appointment. They did find someone, but the company charged them twice as much as the one they hired this season and Valerie said they didn’t show them as

See HOLIDAY on C9

PAYING FOR HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATIONS

HOLIDAY from C7

much variety. This year they started in early September and got several estimates.

Valerie, a physical therapist, and Joseph, a business owner, recommend getting at least three or four estimates.

"You really have to search around to get somebody to give you good ideas and make it worthwhile," she said. "And start early so you can find someone who will help you design what you want."

The Lautos spent about \$3,000 this year for design options they hadn't known were available. Now, Valerie said she can concentrate on decorating the inside with three different trees and garland. A bonus for starting early is that they get to enjoy the outdoor decorations longer because they turned them on mid-November and will keep them until about Jan. 6.

Most companies have catalogs and photos on their websites from which customers can choose, with selections in a variety of price options. Basics are lighted garland around the front door and a wreath with a bow. Grogan said a traditional look for a Colonial or Cape can be lights on the gutter line and some lights in the landscape.

"You have to balance the light all the way up," he said. "You don't want to have all the lights on the top and nothing on the bottom. . . We want to keep it clean and elegant, and you can always add to it this year or next."

The DiCiccios said they started out with fewer lights in mind, but once it was done, added about another \$500 worth of lights and labor to their original budget of \$2,200 because they liked the look.

Rossi said that color options include multicolor, warm white or pure white, which is LED lighting.



Kyle Rossi, owner of Holiday Lighting by Apex Home Maintenance, places Christmas decorations at the home of Nancy and Tom DiCicco in Brightwaters.

The initial installation on most houses can take three to four hours, according to Grogan. Larger homes can take a few days.

"But reinstalls go faster because your lighting is already mapped out," Grogan said.

McCaffrey said most clients want the lights up until Little Christmas, Jan. 6. But takedowns can begin any time after Jan. 2 and go through March when most

of the seasonal companies will have to switch gears for spring cleanup.

If you're not sure you want to hire someone this year or you discover you're too late, most installers accept new contracts year-round. Once you're on their list, you can arrange for an installation anytime starting early fall 2024. If that seems too soon, many installers use timers, so you can simply turn them on when you're ready.

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Legal Notice # 21820180
Formation of MHF MILLER PLACE LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/23/2023. Office loc.: Suffolk County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Ashish Parikh, 301 Rte. 17 N., Ste. 802, Rutherford, NJ 07070. The address of the business is 275 Rte. 25A, Miller Place, NY 11764. The LLC is to be managed by one or more members. The purpose of this company is limited to owning, operating, and developing Taco Bell, KFC or Pizza Hut branded foodservice operations, and other branded concepts expressly approved in writing by location by YUM! Brands, Inc., or one of its subsidiaries.

Legal Notice # 21820284
Notice of Qualification of GR STAFFING, LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/20/23. Office location: Suffolk County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/17/23. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543, DE add. of LLC: c/o CSC, 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State of the State of DE, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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Legal Notice # 21819472
Notice of Formation of BE A SAVER LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-09-23. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. Secretary of State shall mail process to Victoria Nesnick, 8 Miller Farms Drive, Miller Place, New York 11764. Purpose is any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice # 21821421
HERE 4U, THERE 4U, LLC. Filed: 6/30/23. Office: Suffolk Co. Org. in VIRGINIA: 04/09/2012. SSNY design. as agent for process & shall mail to its principal office: 550 Fleetwood Rd, Cutchogue, NY 11935. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy Of State Bernard J. Logan, Clerk Of The Commission Commonwealth Of Va State Corp Commission, P.O. Box 1197 Richmond, Va 23218-1197 Or 1300 E. Main St, Richmond, VA 23219. Purpose: General.

Legal Notice # 21822836
MOUNT SINAI KNOLLS PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS LLC App. for Auth. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 11/7/23. LLC was organized in DE on 8/11/23. Office in Suffolk Co. SSNY design. as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to Marcia Zwillenberg, Director Of Accounting, Fairfield Properties, 538 Broadhollow Rd., 3rd Floor East, Melville, NY 11747. Required office: 614 N. Dupont Hwy., Ste. 210, Dover, DE 19901. Cert of Org filed with: SSDE, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste.4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice # 21819651
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE KIDS HALL OF FAME, LLC. Articles of organization filed 10/19/2023 with New York Secretary of State, Office Location: Suffolk County. Secretary of State is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Secretary of State shall mail process to Victoria Nesnick, 8 Miller Farms Drive, Miller Place, New York 11764. Purpose is any lawful activity.

Legal Notice # 21820812
Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC) Name: TOPATIME LLC Articles of Organization filed by the Department of State of New York on: 09/25/2023 Office location: County of Suffolk Purpose: Any and all lawful activities Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC PO Box 539 Shelter Island Heights, NY 11965

Legal Notice # 21822250
Notice of formation of FASTDATAIQ LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 08/26/2023. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a process served to: CORPORATE CREATIONS NETWORK INC., 600 MAMARONECK AVENUE #400, HARRISON, NY, 10528, USA. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice # 21819670
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 1199 OLD COUNTRY ROAD, LLC. Articles of organization filed 10/19/2023 with New York Secretary of State, Office Location: Suffolk County. Secretary of State is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Secretary of State shall mail process to Antonio Asta, 890 Pleasure Drive, Flanders, New York 11901. Purpose is any lawful activity.

Legal Notice # 21820383
Notice of Registration of Cohen & Associates CPA's LLP. Certificate filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/19/23. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY designated as agent of LLP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the principal office of LLP: 150 Broadhollow Rd., Ste 207, Melville, NY 11747. Purpose: practice the profession of public accountancy.

Legal Notice # 21822736
Notice of formation of Guedi Transports LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023/11/07. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against may be served. SSNY should mail process to Guedi Transports LLC: 50 Montauk Hwy, Blue Point, NY, 11715. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice # 21825376
MJEM Products LLC. Filed 8/5/23. Cty: Suffolk. SSNY design. for process & shall mail POB 967, Shelter Island, NY 11964. Purp: any lawful.

Legal Notice # 21824546
STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY COURT
BAY SHORE MHC, LLC
1419 SUNRISE HWY
BAY SHORE, NY 11706

Petitioner,

V. LEROY WISTUBA
3 ROSE LANE
BAY SHORE, NY 11706

Respondent.

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF PETITION TO DECLARE MANUFACTURED HOME ABANDONED
INDEX NO: 603799/2023
TO: LEROY WISTUBA:

TAKE NOTICE that a hearing to declare the manufactured home located at Lot 3RS at 3 Rose Lane, Bay Shore, NY 11706 (the "Home") abandoned will be held on January 8, 2024 before the Suffolk County Court at 210 Center Drive, Riverhead, NY 11901, Riverhead, NY 11901 on submission.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if Respondent fails at such time to interpose and establish any defense Respondent may have to the petition, Respondent may be precluded from asserting such defense or the claim on which it is based, in any other proceeding.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE demand is hereby made that you answer the petition at least three days before the aforesaid date by serving an Answer upon Morgenstern DeVoesick PLLC, attorneys for Petitioner, at 1080 Pittsford Victor Road, Suite 200, Pittsford, NY 14534.

WHEREFORE, demand is made in the petition for a declaration that the Home has been abandoned, for an Order that the Home should be sold in lieu of removal and that the proceeds of such sale be distributed to the Petitioner for amounts owed, and any proceeds from the sale in excess of this amount be returned to the Respondent.
Dated: November 8, 2023
To: Leroy Wistuba

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: IF RESPONDENT(S) FAIL TO TIMELY INTERPOSE AND ESTABLISH ANY DEFENSE THAT RESPONDENT(S) MAY HAVE, RESPONDENT(S) MAY BE PRECLUDED FROM ASSERTING SUCH DEFENSE OR THE CLAIM ON WHICH IT IS BASED IN ANY OTHER PROCEEDING OR ACTION, THAT A FINAL JUDGMENT MAY BE RENDERED IF THE COURT FINDS THAT THE PETITIONER HAS MADE THE REQUISITE SHOWING; AND THAT THE RESULT OF THAT FINAL JUDGMENT SHALL BE THE LOSS OF THE RESIDENT'S HOME.

This action pursuant to RPAPL §792 in which Petitioner Bay Shore MHC, LLC (Petitioner) seeks a declaration that Respondent Leroy Wistuba (Respondent) has abandoned his manufactured home located at 3 Rose Lane, Bay Shore, New York 11706 (the Home). If Respondent fails to respond, the Home will be deemed abandoned and sold, with Petitioner retaining the value of past-due rent totaling \$4,676.12.