

Invasaders from the north have taken over Reservoir Park. They waddle, honk and leave feces all over the ground. And their numbers have increased to the point where the city of Massillon wants to get rid of them. But there's only so much the

the majority of the Board tend to stay here year-round because they have a constant food supply," said Kenn Kaminski, Massillon Parks and Recreation director. "The damage they do to the area really hurts the aesthetics of the park."

Reservoir Park and the Legends of Massillon golf course. Their presence has led to a constant stream of complaints from residents and park users. "The feces down there literally covers the track," Kaminski said. As a result, the city has tried

decoys and a dog. Yes, a dog. A Shetland sheepdog named Topper chases the geese, but eventually they come back, Kaminski said. "They're not afraid of that anymore," he said. Please see **GEESE**, Page A-2

Synchronized Christmas display a year in making

BY THE NUMBERS

ADDRESS: 2220 Cyprus Drive S.E.
COST OF DISPLAY: About \$1,000
LIGHTS: 7,343.
WATTS: 843.

EXTENSION CORD: 1,178 feet.
DURATION OF TIMED DISPLAY: 30 minutes with a short intermission.

MUSIC: The lights are choreographed to match up with the beats and measures of "Wizards in Winter" and "Blue Christmas."

By MICHAEL FREEZE
Michael.Freeze@IndeOnline.com

7,343 lights, 843 watts and 1,178 feet of extension cord.

That's what you'll see when you drive by 2220 Cyprus Drive S.E., next to the Legends of Massillon Golf Course. You might witness a series of red, green, blue and white lights bouncing from one side of the house to the other in unison with the

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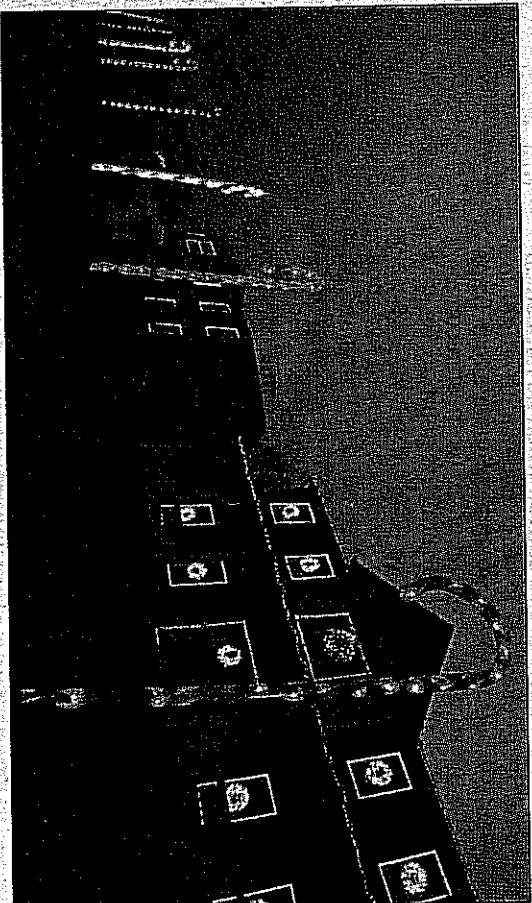
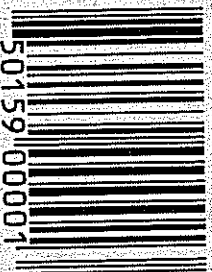


PHOTO BY GLENN B. DETTMAN/THE INDEPENDENT

The Christmas lighting display at 2220 Cyprus Drive S.E. is quite elaborate.



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OBITUARIES A-5

- Edna L. Zurcher
- Robert L. Laase Sr., Massillon
- William E. Pritchard, Massillon
- Robert Frederick Smith, Prescott
- Ronda J. Patt, Massillon

COMING UP

- **SATURDAY:** Rev. Kevin Fate left behind a body of work in photography that went back to his childhood, when he forced family members to pose for long, torturous photo sessions. Now, those photos are the subject of a coffee table book compiled by his brother, Ray Fate.

GOOD MORNING, EILEEN PAULIK. THANK YOU FOR SUBSCRIBING TO THE INDEPENDENT

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By MATT
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● LIGHTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

come and go freely," Peters said. "That's why the most populations build. They've got food and water and they're not being shot at."

Reproduction rates also contribute to the growth in their numbers. One nest, Peters said, can yield 10-12 eggs at a time, and the geese have few predators in the parks.

Canada geese, like many other birds, are protected by state and federal laws. No one may destroy nests, eggs, babies or adults without a proper permit.

Hultman said people who feed the geese are not doing the birds any favors because the food usually is non-nutritious.

"If we would eliminate the feeding of the geese," Kaminski said, "I believe eventually the geese will leave this area."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

port and services would be cut of the evidence," for the levy, nos said.

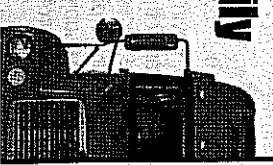
DD eliminated 22 positions in its (WET) unit to accommodate Those workers were reassigned program-development specialists The move is expected to save

consider the reorganization levy on the ballot. MRDD," she said.

Departing Daily

PACKAGES

CDL training for
sider drivers get



Trans Siberian Orchestra's "Wizards in Winter," or Elvis Presley's "Blue Christmas."

The two-house Christmas light-show sequence runs for more than 30 minutes, with a short intermission between performances.

Drivers can enjoy the music by tuning into 88.5 FM on their radio while passing near the houses.

You can even enjoy the display without leaving the comforts of your own home, thanks to YouTube. The site features two videos posted by homeowner Don Koehler. Just search for "Massillon lights."

Koehler's labor of love started when he noticed another house with a light display in sequence to a Trans-Siberian Orchestra song.

From that point on, he set out to create a display of his own. Koehler started in January, when holiday lights and other Christmas decorations are sold at discounted prices.

"The lights came from the Flower Factory," Koehler said of his shopping experience. "And the candy canes came from Wal-Mart. I bought it all after Christmas. Seven thousand lights was all my pocket-book could handle."

Meticulous in detail, Koehler focused on the windows initially, then worked his way to the house and yard. With help from his family and his



PHOTO BY GLENN B. DETTMAN/THE INDEPENDENT

With the glow of the computer on Don Koehler's face, he tweaks the controls of his holiday lighting display at his home.

next-door neighbors, Doug and Danny Baltzer, he put up about 300 lights per window, stretching from his house to the Baltzer's.

With lights covering the two houses plus the decorations on the lawns, the display needed some sequencing work for the actual performance. Koehler, a self-proclaimed "hard-hacker," did some research on sites such as ComputerChristmas.com and Vixenlights.com.

"For some 20 years, I've been messing with electronics as a hobby," said Koehler, who is a registered nurse at Akron General

Medical Center. "I like talking VCRs and televisions apart and building something else out of them."

From his research, Koehler was able to find numerous relay boxes to bring his vision of a Christmas light display close to fruition. All he needed were some computer power cords to put the whole thing together.

He went to Discount Computer Center, 114 Sixth St. S.W., to purchase 50 cords for a dollar each and struck up a conversation with one of the employees.

"I told them what I was doing, then they gave me a

computer (control center for the lighting display)," Koehler said. "It was great because I didn't have to use my good computer at home in case I fried the circuit."

With a donated computer running the light show, Koehler turned the bulbs on. "Thanksgiving night and was beside himself."

"I was the one who was the most surprised when I turned it on for the first time," Koehler said. "When it worked, I said, 'I cannot believe this.'"

Other than some minor inconveniences, he is extremely pleased with the finished product, which cost him around \$1,000.

Koehler's display is in conjunction with a canned food drive. Passers-by are encouraged to donate their perishable goods for the Fairless Food Cupboard.

Koehler said that he wants to expand on his creation going forward. "If I could get the cooperation of my neighbor, I would like to do this on Hal-loween," he said. "My dream is to be like (the massive Christmas lighting display in) Pickerington, Ohio."

"I want to have more lights on the house. A megatree, a Christmas tree full of light bulbs, nativity scene and gala lights. Then, we'll see what craziness ensues."



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