

East Aurora Christmas light display to appear on national TV show

by SARAH SCHREIBER
Reporter

For two years, Ashley and Michael Bojanowski have fascinated many with their Hilltop Light Show. This year they were given the exciting news that their show will captivate a national audience in 2023.

During last year's holiday season where many events were shut down, gatherings were limited, families were struggling and everyone was looking for an escape to normalcy, a synchronized Christmas light show was born.

In Nov. 2020, Michael and Ashley started to work on the show, covering their four acres and over 60 trees in their yard with synchronized Christmas lights. After a month of preparation, the two couldn't believe the number of cars arriving to view the show each night.

Michael who is a mechanical engineer, and Ashley, an interior designer, worked together to make the Hilltop Light Show possible. While he was outside working on the wiring, she was inside working on the computer to ensure everything ran smoothly with the programming.

"The amount of letters in the mail and amazing stories of how this light show brightened their holiday meant everything," said Michael.

How it started? Michael explained he has always been fascinated with Christmas lights and began setting up elaborate displays 10 years ago when he was still living with his parents.

"At our old house [in Lancaster] I proposed to my wife with a message, complete with 'Yes' and 'No' boxes which she could switch on," Michael explained. "Luckily she chose 'Yes', but my little secret was that the 'No' box wasn't wired."

When the newlyweds were looking for a spot to build their future home, Michael said one of the deciding factors would be finding an area suitable to host a light show.

"I always wanted to take our lights to the next level like pairing them up with a music sequence, but admittedly I never had time to work on this until the pandemic," he explained.

Building their new house

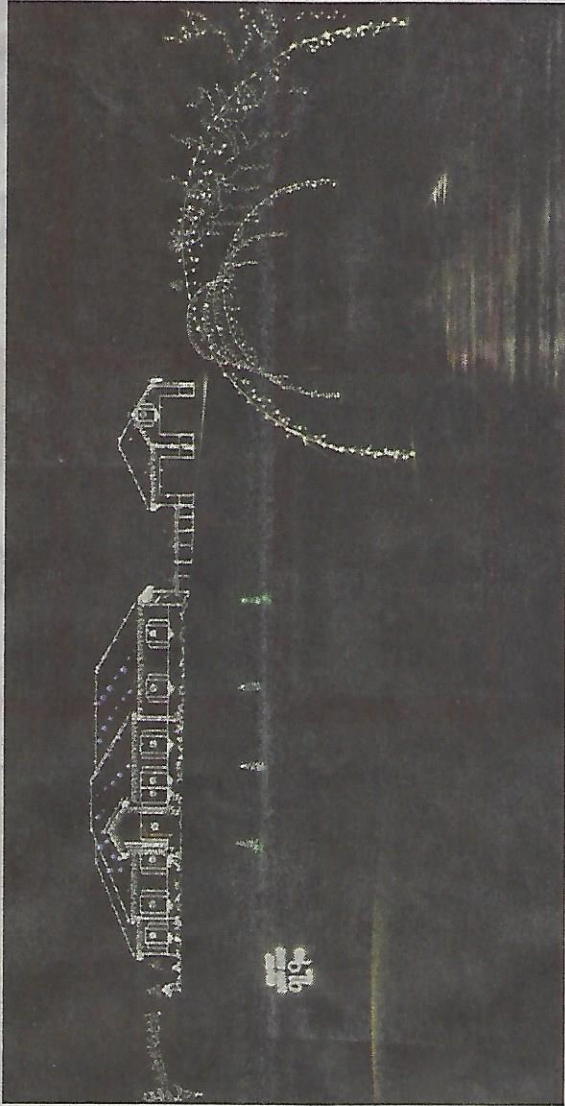
on a hilltop in East Aurora which overlooks the city, the couple found the perfect place, moving into the completed house in 2018.

Now, the family of three has put on a marvelous display once again this year for

all to enjoy, complete with added features and lights.

"This was a way to give our family time to spend with each other and to do something special for others to enjoy," he said.

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The 2021 Hilltop Light Show runs every day from 5 to 9 p.m. until Saturday, Jan. 1.

The couple also received exciting news after receiving a call from the casting producer for the ABC show "The Great Christmas Light Fight." Filming will begin in August 2022, and will be aired on ABC the following year. During this, the couple will be in the running against two other couples, where they will have a chance to win \$50,000.

"I will have to up my game to compete nationally with some of the best, to make something both creative and also eye-catching," said Michael.

This year's display features 20,000 LED lights, lighted archways over the couple's 500-foot-long driveway, 100 new strobe lights and a new 30-minute mu-

sic loop which synchronizes with the lights.

There is no charge to view the light show, but the Bojanowskis have once again set up a GoFundMe page for those wishing to contribute, with all the proceeds this year benefiting the Compass House. Last year, the couple raised \$20,000 for the Rural Outreach Center.

Located on the corner of Boies and Schopper roads in East Aurora, the Hilltop Light Show operates from 5 to 9 p.m. daily and will be available to view until Saturday, Jan. 1. Viewers can tune in to 91.9 FM to listen to the audio of the 30-minute light show. To learn more about the Hilltop Light Show, visit their Facebook Page.