

# Lifestyles Outdoor Living



PHOTO BY MARY BROTEN

Brian Miller's house is seen decorated in La Center Dec. 19.

## Lighting up La Center



PHOTO BY MARY BROTEN

Brian Miller, owner and decorator of the Christmas house, laughs while being interviewed by The Reflector in his front yard in La Center Dec. 19.

Brian Miller brings Christmas cheer to North County

mom passed, it just got extravagant.” Miller said each year he makes the lights so extravagant so his mother can see the light show from heaven.

**CAMERON KAST**  
cameron@thereflector.com

Drive into downtown La Center and one will notice twinkling lights lining the roadways, businesses decorated in lights of all colors and wreaths on doorsteps to spread Christmas cheer.

However, off in the distance, one house shines brighter than the rest. With stars atop each and every tree and thousands of lights brightening the dark sky, Brian Miller brings the Christmas spirit to La Center.

“I started about 20 years ago and it just grew and grew,” he said about the twinkling winter wonderland that is his property. “And after my

“That’s why the trees, you notice, the trees are always the most detailed out of everything here,” he said. “I haven’t fallen out and slipped yet. Something keeps me from hitting the ground.”

Each year, Miller strings and puts up his entire light show by hand on a ladder without renting any lifts or equipment.

“My starting day is usually Halloween,” he said, noting that the lights stay up until New Year’s Eve. “I like to start on Halloween because when the kids go trick-or-treating I can scare them from the tree.”

From year to year, Miller’s

Continued on Page C3



PHOTO BY MARY BROTEN

Santa, played by John Regal, listens to, from left to right, 5-year-old Hailey McLeod and 9-year-old Layla McLeod as they tell him what they would like for Christmas during their visit at the La Center house Dec. 19.



**WOOD RECYCLERS & LANDSCAPE SUPPLY COMPANY**

*We Accept Recycling*

*We Have Drop Box Containers*

*We Provide Deliveries*

**360-892-2805**

8401 NE 117th Ave., Vancouver

Visit our website: [www.hhwoodrecyclers.com](http://www.hhwoodrecyclers.com)




Removals • Storm Work • Pruning

**(360) 574-4125 • [www.frontiertreeservice.com](http://www.frontiertreeservice.com)**

WA Lic. FRONTTS909D4

**10% OFF HOLIDAY DISCOUNT**

plus an additional

**5% OFF VETERANS DISCOUNT**

on contracts signed by 12-31-19.

Mention this ad/coupon when scheduling your estimate appointment.



**Septic Systems**

**Pressurized - Why Me**



**Pressurized**

A Pressurized system is used when soil conditions require the waste water to be distributed evenly across the drainage bed. One example is very porous soil or sand allowing waste water to run straight down in a stream into the ground water below. A pressurized system sprays the waste water across the entire drain field allowing treatment before it reaches ground water. The most common reasons for failure are: Lack of Maintenance, Roots, and Chemicals.

**Our Services**

• Health Dept Inspections	County Required Contracts
• Pump Repair or Replace	Maintenance
• Pumping	Septic Restoration
• Hydro-Jetting	System Verifications

**AAA SEPTIC SERVICES LLC**

**687-8960**

AAASESS933D3      CLARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPT P1000163

Continued from page C2

**IF YOU GO**

If you want to see Miller's bright lights, you can do so at 625 E Dogwood Ave., La Center.

inspiration changes and so do his lights. Drive by his illuminated house next year and you will experience a completely different show.

"I keep hanging (lights) until I get my inspiration as to where I'm going to put 'MOM,'" he said, describing how each year he lights up the word "MOM" somewhere on his property and he's not done hanging lights until it's up. Miller said every year the word "MOM" gets brand new Christmas lights.

"All the locals, they know that when they see 'MOM' on the roof, I'm done," he said.

While the organization of the lights may be different each year, a famous Christmas guest makes sure to visit every year and sits on the property nightly ringing jingle bells and granting the neighborhood with a bellowing "ho ho ho."

"I love it seeing the little kids come up with their parents. They're afraid at first, you know, but then they don't want to leave," said John Regal, who was dressed in the iconic Santa red robe and hat. "All it takes is one kid to make it worth it."

Each year, as kids come to tell Santa what they want for Christmas, another iconic Christmas figure makes an appearance.

"Every year, I drive up to the Ape Caves and pick up the real Frosty," Miller said, explaining how he drives an empty trailer up into the forest and fills it with snow. He said he doesn't go pick Frosty up until he gets a phone call. "He likes to come down here. He's a troublemaker though. One day he's here and the next, poof, he's gone," he said.

Miller said his Christmas cheer doesn't go unnoticed in the community as people will donate their Christmas lights to him to see his display grow. Miller said he used to always look forward to his friend Alan Morrison because Morrison would drive up and call Miller "Mr. Christmas."

Along with his old friend, Miller said he gets letters from people in the community talking about how much they love his display and

how they look forward to it every year.

"It's really gratifying and humbling," he said. "I almost feel a little obligated but not obligated because I'm going to do it anyway. But, it's nice to know that there's so many people out there that really enjoy it."

While the Christmas display lights up the town like a literal Christmas tree, Miller said it's not all fun. Each day, the breaker under his house flips three to four times and he needs to climb under and flip it back. Along with this, there is the December electric bill.

"It's gotten a lot better because it's all LEDs," he said. "But it used to jump almost a thousand dollars for one month."

One year, Miller ran a generator to keep his display going while the power was out.

"I fired my generator up and lit up the big tree and I got so many phone calls here from everybody coming into La Center and all they could see is a total blackout except for my house," he said.

But to Miller, it's all worth it when a kid comes by to see Santa and La Center is filled with Christmas cheer.

"I do it for the kids, it's all for the kids," he said while smiling and petting his "reindogs," Dugan and Holly. "Sometimes I get a headache from smiling so much."



A side view of Brian Miller's decorated house in La Center Dec. 19.

PHOTO BY MARY BROTEN

**VANCOUVER Land Law**  
**(360) 907-5696**  
 Residential and Commercial Real Estate, Small Business, and Wills  
**Cassie N. Crawford**  
 Attorney at Law  
**Flat Fee Consultations Available**

**ENCLOSED PERMITTED BUILDING**

**ROOF ONLY FARM BUILDING**

Please Visit Our Website [www.parkerbuildings.com](http://www.parkerbuildings.com)  
 To view our customizable Options & Prices

**Kit Contains:** (1) 3'X6'-8" Entry Door, (1) 11' Wide Slider Door, Galvanized Roof, Painted Walls & Trim

These buildings have Engineered Plans & Prices are based on 30 lb Ground Snow Load, 135 mph Wind Load, "B" Exposure

EAVE	10'	12'	14'	16'
24 x 36	\$5,836	\$6,403	\$6,886	\$7,435
30 x 36	\$6,790	\$7,375	\$7,909	\$8,497
30 x 48	\$8,087	\$8,677	\$9,337	\$10,237
36 x 36	\$7,491	\$8,080	\$8,677	\$9,455
36 x 48	\$8,990	\$9,654	\$10,321	\$11,405
40 x 48	\$10,076	\$10,669	\$11,451	\$12,466
40 x 60	\$11,642	\$12,302	\$13,193	\$14,122

\*\*\* Prices subject to change without notice \*\*\*  
 All prices subject to code requirements  
 CCB #: OR 86204 - WA PARKEB1071D6

**PARKER BUILDINGS INC.**  
 Providing Pole Buildings Since 1982

**DIY KITS!**  
 \* BUILDING MATERIAL SUPPLIER  
 \* GARAGES  
 \* RV STORAGE  
 \* BARN SHOPS

**Kit Contains:**  
 Galvanized roof based on 30 lb Snow Load

EAVE	10'	12'	14'	16'
24 x 36	\$2,990	\$3,025	\$3,080	\$3,200
30 x 36	\$3,385	\$3,436	\$3,558	\$3,682
30 x 48	\$4,212	\$4,301	\$4,410	\$4,569
36 x 36	\$4,108	\$4,208	\$4,280	\$4,449
36 x 48	\$5,080	\$5,170	\$5,279	\$5,516
40 x 48	\$6,230	\$6,365	\$6,501	\$7,078
40 x 60	\$7,458	\$7,587	\$7,737	\$8,349

FOB: Hubbard  
 P.O. Box 407 • 3540 2nd Street  
 Hubbard • OR • 97032  
 Fax: 503-982-2515

**1-800-331-0155**  
**503-981-0890**

# Tis the Season for Warmth!

Call on ENTEK's Quality Service and NATE Certified Technicians.

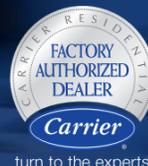
We are ready to serve you...

- Heating System Tune-Up & Service
- Energy Efficient Furnance or Heat Pump
- Professional Duct Cleaning & Sealing
- Install Ductless Heat Pump

Financing, Rebates & Incentives Available

**ENTEK CORPORATION**  
 Heating, Cooling and Energy Solutions Since 1946

Merry CHRISTMAS from ENTEK



800.633.1354 • [www.ENTEKhvac.com](http://www.ENTEKhvac.com) • 24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE  
 LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED WA: entekc\*893we • OR: ccb\*49202

