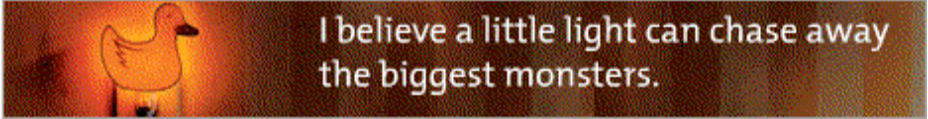




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A boo-tiful display of Halloween spirit



By **Frank Mathie**

October 31, 2002 — Times sure have changed as far as decorating for Halloween is concerned. It used to be that a pumpkin on the front porch was enough. Now it's lights and music and animated figures. And what one North Riverside man does every Halloween is absolutely-- scary. ABC 7's

Frank Mathie paid a visit. [More images from ABC7 News](#)

For some people Halloween is the ultimate holiday. Christmas, New Year's and July 4th are nothing compared to this late October fright fest. That's certainly the way it is for Mark Sajatovic of North Riverside, who decorates his entire block all by himself.

"It started about fifteen years ago," said Mark Sajatovic. "Every year I make three or four characters ... and this is what we got." And he's got plenty. Mark now decorates both sides of his block on Forest Avenue just south of Cermak. Somehow he convinces his neighbors to go along with the program.

"Thank God I've got good neighbors ... they let me use their property."

He uses the neighbors' lots and their electricity, but he does the rest. The ideas are his, the equipment is his and so is all the time consuming setup. He takes a week's vacation for that.

"Before it used to take like a day but now I have so much stuff it takes a good four days to almost a week."

Mark's theory on all this-- the gorier the better, no holds barred, and absolutely no restrictions.

"Some people say I go too far but I think I do a pretty good job."

As soon as the sun goes down they say this neighborhood is filled with thousands of visitors and over the years this project has cost thousands.

"It's probably around \$20,000 I would think," said Mark, who is already working on next year.

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ABC7's Frank Mathie

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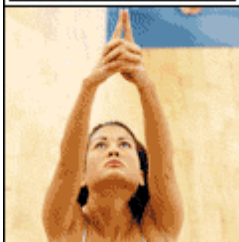
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