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STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

Darren Wallen's yard features Halloween decorations he's built himself over the years.

SHOWING SPOOKY SPIRIT

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

Halloween often doesn't feature as much yard or house decorating as Christmas, but some locals like to get into the spirit with spooky, festive decorations.

Darren Wallen of 2420 Fourth Avenue East said he likes to decorate his yard with scary figures and costumes because kids like it.

"When the kids on the bus go by, they all come to one side and look out at it," Wallen said with a laugh.

He's been decorating his yard for about 22 years and has added different things over the years. All of his displays are homemade, he said, and often use his daughter's old Halloween costumes.

On the big day, Wallen said he gives out candy to trick or treaters daring enough to walk past his display, and plays some spooky music.

"Last year, two boys came, and the one made his brother come to the door and get his candy, because he was scared to walk by it," Wallen said. "I showed him it's just a costume, and it's fake, but he was still scared."

Wallen said his inspiration for his displays comes



These Halloween decorations are just some of the freaky sights Darren Wallen has in his yard.



Darren Wallen's Halloween decorations are a favorite among area youngsters, he said.

from the horror movies and actors of his youth, like Bela Lugosi, Boris Karloff, Christopher Lee and more. "I grew up with the real

masters of horror," Wallen said. "Stuff nowadays is more about the special effects, there's no plots. There's nothing to them."

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