

“There’s always room for more!”

98 WOODROW
PKWY.
WEST BABYLON

Family: Thomas and Maria Gangone, with kids Nick and Daniella.

Lights on: Weekdays, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., weekends, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., weather permitting.

Lights off: Jan. 1

Love of light: Thomas Gangone said his affinity for decorating for Christmas (and Halloween) started when he was a kid. “I remember looking forward to Newsday’s annual holiday light section and saying that one day I would have my Christmas lights there,” he said. “I would make my parents buy decorations for outside every year.” He began a tradition of over-the-top decorating once he got married and bought his own home 21 years ago. He started small, but the display has grown every year. A few years in, his parents gave him their blow molds, which he added to the collection. “I have a love for vintage blow molds and make sure I include them in my display each year,” Gangone said. The array also features inflatables and giant-size decorations from Home Depot and Lowe’s. Every year the Gangones purchase more. “Everyone always says that we have no room left on the lawn, but my response is “there’s always more room,”” he said. Five years ago, they added a Santa mailbox where children can drop off their letters (with a return address) and receive a letter from Santa in the mail.

Early start: Gangone said he starts taking down the Halloween decor and putting up the Christmas lights right after Oct. 31. Not all of them, though. The 12-foot skeleton from Home Depot stays — he just gets outfitted in a Santa costume.

Holiday message: “Christmas decorations make most people happy, so just keep adding more to your Christmas display,” Gangone said. “There’s always room for more!”

Giving season: The Gangones are collecting nonperishable food for Long Island Cares food bank. There is a bin next to the Santa mailbox for visitors to leave donations.

