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ABOUT TOWN

Opinion

The Sparkly Wreaths Are Up, So The Holidays Are Really Here

The decor that dangles from the arches above the two main Hacienda Business Park entrances is an annual tradition that started 25 years ago.

By [Kari Hulac](#) [Email the author](#) December 1, 2010

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About this column: About Town is a weekday column about Pleasanton life. We welcome your contributions, so please share any and all tidbits, fun gossip, things you've seen, whatever amuses you, inspires and interests you with Editor Marnette Federis at marnette@patch.com.



Do you love those wreaths or not? What other things tell you it's holiday time in the Tri-Valley? [Tell us in the comments.](#)

It just doesn't seem like the holidays are really here until those giant green sparkling wreaths grace the iconic white entrance arches at the [Hacienda Business Park](#).

Apparently I'm not the only person who has grown attached to the annual arrival of the wreaths, which dangle in midair beneath the mission-style structures stretching across the busy intersections of Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive and Hacienda Drive at Interstate 580.

The decorations are so popular, in fact, says **James Paxson**, longtime general manager of the sprawling business park on the city's north side, that people start calling him if the wreaths don't appear as December nears.

"People like the tradition of it," he says. "People look forward to them and enjoy them."

The original wreath over Stoneridge was a one-piece wooden creation that was more solid than some homes, Paxson jokes. When it wore out, it was remade in the same design, using metal, which proved sturdier and lighter and breaks into pieces for easier storage.

Savvy locals will remember that a gold bell once hung from the Hacienda Drive arch, but once it, too, wore out, the popular wreath design was chosen as its replacement.

We inquired as to whether the powerful sparkle ever distracts drivers, but Paxson says his installation team, [T Marshall Electric](#), is careful to install the decorations in the safest possible position.

And, what in the world makes the wreaths sparkle so?

Paxson hesitated a bit before disclosing the secret.

"You know those sides of Alhambra water trucks?" he asks. "It's the same material."

The wreaths are covered with octagon-shaped tabs that have a wildly glittering kinetic effect when struck by sun or wind.

"When you're looking eastward in the winter, it's absolutely beautiful," Paxson says of the view from Stoneridge.