

STYLEMATTERS

Tips for dressing up home in twinkle lights

By [Marques G. Harper](#), Melanie Spencer
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Perhaps it seems premature to think about stringing up the Christmas lights before the Thanksgiving table is even set, but we disagree. Now is the perfect time to start planning your exterior holiday display, especially if you are hoping for one that can be seen from outer space. "Holiday Hero: A Man's Manual for Holiday Lighting," by Brad Finkle (\$9.95, Chronicle Books) will guide first-timers and old-timers alike through the grueling task of illuminating the house, trees and even the wire reindeer. Finkle, an award-winning holiday light display professional, offers tips and instructions on everything from wrapping branches to attaching lights to brick or stone and devotes an entire chapter to the ins and outs of electricity. And ladies, don't let the title deter you; the instructions are female-friendly, too.

Show your warmth with a coat donation

It's time to clean out your hall closet for Coats for Kids, the annual project of the Junior League of Austin, Jack Brown Cleaners, KASE 101 FM and KVUE TV. A public coat drive begins Monday and goes through Dec. 5. Coats will be distributed from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road, to children who show proof of need. Coats can be dropped off at any Jack Brown location or through any organization or school that collects them for the drive. To volunteer for coat distribution, register at www.jlaustin.org/coats or call 467-8982, ext. 292.

Pure Austin cuts prices for debut

Pure Austin, an all-natural nail salon, will celebrate its opening from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. today by offering \$5 off any service. Prices are \$20-\$25 for basic and ultimate manicures. Services include mini-manis for children (\$12), as well as sports manicures for men or women who want a buffed look without polish. Pedicures start at \$40 for the ultimate package, including a custom sugar scrub, foot and leg massage. Add a towel wrap for \$10. Color swaps start at \$10 and other add-ons such as foot and hand masks are available for an \$5. 2110 S. Lamar Blvd. 284-6000, www.pureaustinnails.com.

Better Homes teams up with Star Furniture

Star Furniture in Austin is now one of only four of the 10 Texas locations offering the new Better Homes & Gardens collection. The line includes three styles — Classics Today, Cottage View and Modern Outlook — that are designed to mix and match. Locations in Houston, where Star Furniture began in 1912, Bryan and San Antonio will also offer the collection. 9503 Research Blvd. 346-9400, www.starfurniture.com.

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