

In response to the proposed Special Events Ordinance and on behalf of everyone in the Amarante family who could not be in attendance tonight, we would like to state the following:

The Amarante Family has always strived to make Amarante's Winter Wonderland a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone who walks in and drives by. With each passing year our display continues to become more popular, thus attracting more people who want to celebrate Christmas with their families. In order to make this as safe as possible we have always worked with the town to try and increase any safety measures within our means.

- Last year the town so graciously provided us with increased signage up and down Pratt Road to help control the traffic flow of people leaving the display. They also included an LED sign halfway down the road instructing visitors to continue straight rather than turning around.
- We always encourage visitors to park on one side of Pratt road and NOT on Rt. 101 as we all know this to be a busy travel route. Ultimately though, visitors are able to make their own decisions on parking and we cannot control whether or not they choose to park on 101. And, because this is a state owned road, we are unable to put signage out.
- We also have signage when leaving our property asking that our visitors do not turn around in our neighbor's properties.
- Last year was our first official year conducting our event as a business. We thus obtained all essential permits to help make Amarante's Winter Wonderland even safer. This includes general liability insurance, certification of LLC and Sales Tax and Use Permits, and all necessary food service permits.
- In response to Police and Fire Protection, we have requested year after year for some police detailing during the duration of the lights. Unfortunately the cost of official police detail (parking with flashing lights) is a cost we cannot afford. Last year we did see them patrolling the area especially on weekends. Their presence helps with ensuring people are driving at a safe speed when passing by Amarante's Winter Wonderland
- Whenever we have a Santa Night, the fire department delivers Santa and never has an issue getting through or down Pratt Road to exit. Santa nights are historically our most busy evenings at Amarante's.
- In response to trash and litter, the Amarante Family has always picked up trash up and down Pratt Road and along Rt. 101. We do not believe that our event

brings any more trash than normal along our road. We have ample trash cans located around our property for people to dispose of their waste in.

- And finally, in response to the proposed ordinance of the event being for 3 days a week only:
 - If we are concerned about heavy traffic and safety of our visitors as well as neighbors on Pratt Road, decreasing our event to only 3 days a week will only INCREASE the amount of visitors on those 3 nights rather than having the visitors more evenly spaced out throughout the entire week. This would only limit peoples options to attend Amarante's and cause everyone who would have visited on the other 4 days of the week to cram into just 3 days.
 - Amarante's Winter Wonderland has always been closed on or before 10pm in the past. This year we have plans to be closed at 9pm every night.
 - Many of our visitors look forward to and have traditions attending the display on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. The people that visit on these days have done so every year since we have been open and look forward to doing so with their families who visit from out of town.

We, as the Amarante Family, look forward to providing a fun and safe Christmas experience for everyone to access each year. We never charge admission and strive to make celebrating Christmas accessible and enjoyable to all who attend. We see people in our display who are visiting our small town of Killingly from all over the country. Spending their money in our town, sitting down in our restaurants and shopping at our stores. Putting Killingly CT on the map for a positive reason.

Putting these ordinances in place would make our mission as Amarante's Winter Wonderland near impossible and could lead to shutting us down. We know how devastated we, and so many others would be if this happened. We are asking that with the proposal of these ordinances, you consider our responses to help us continue doing what we do best - shining the light in our Quiet Corner of Eastern CT.

Thank you.

Ashley Fell

From: Greg Desmarais <gregdesmarais0414@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 1:15 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Special event ordinance

Please vote this proposal down. There isn't a lot to do in this town and this seems to limit what could be and what there currently is for special events that could and does happen here. One example is the display that the Amarante family graciously puts on within their private property at the corner of Pratt Rd and Hartford Pike at their own cost annually. I believe this would ruin their display for everyone, as their spectators seem to come from all over just to see what they do out of their own kindness. It also appears to be government overreach for what will go on inside private property. I respect the men and women serving on our town board, and any "yes" votes to adopt this particular proposal shall be remembered come next voting cycle. Thank you for reading and have a great day!

Regards,

Greg Desmarais
53 Pleasant View Drive

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Ashley Fell

From: robin van hausen <rvhjvh@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 1:14 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Ordinance proposal Amarante's Winter Wonderland

Amarante's WW is a positive uplifting event that Killingly should be proud of. It brings people in from all over CT, RI and MA. My only concern is for public safety on Rt 101, motorists speed, people parking along and walking along the road are possible accidents waiting to happen.

I know efforts have been made to address this and hope the town will work with Amarante's to ensure safety is met without destroying the spirit of this event.

Please do not regulate this event to the extent that the hosts are forced to end this wonderful event.

Regards,
Robin Van Hausen