

This Street of Dreams is big draw

By **ROBERT SARGENT**

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MONTVERDE — Thousands of visitors are flocking here for a chance to explore some of Lake County's most expensive homes.

The Street of Dreams show at the ultra-upscale Bella Collina community has hosted more than 27,000 sightseers since it opened nearly a month ago. The event is expected to draw 45,000 guests before the gates close Nov. 26.

"Attendance at this show is the highest we've ever experienced in an Orlando Street of Dreams," said M. Bryan Ashbaugh, chief executive officer of the Woodinville, Wash.-based show organizer.

Ashbaugh attributed the response "to the fact that we are presenting eight very large, exceptional show homes" in "an extremely well-publicized new community."

Very large homes?

Altogether, the eight sprawling mansions cover nearly 112,000 square feet. They include a total of 58½ bathrooms, 42 bedrooms, 29 staircases, 62 chandeliers and 32 garage bays.

One home has a secret basement wine cellar. Another has a two-story fireplace and game room as well as a robotic butler to take the trash out to the curb.

Yet another mansion has a home theater designed like a pirate ship with a deck and topsail.

The homes aren't just large — they're pricey. The developer said last month that seven had sold, for \$3.1 million to almost \$6 million each.

Show organizers also attribute attendance to sunny weather. They say visitors have come from around metro Orlando and Lake County and from as far away as St. Petersburg.

Street of Dreams is run by a company that works with developers across the country to showcase high-end homes.

Bella Collina, developed by Ginn Clubs and Resorts, is planned for more than 800 homes.

Street of Dreams is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Adult tickets are \$13 on weekdays and \$15 on weekends. Seniors receive a \$2 discount. Children 3 and younger are free.

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