

# *A Model of the Visible Universe*

(Taken from James Nickels' book, *Lift Up Your Eyes on High*)

One way to help us comprehend the immensity of the visible universe is to shrink it down. For example, the diameter of the Milky Way galaxy is about 100,000 light-years. From Earth, we can see stars in all directions at a maximum of  $1.4 \times 10^{10}$  light-years away (radius from the Earth).

Looking from a different viewpoint, let's say our galaxy is four inches in diameter. The visible universe would extend from Earth in a nine-mile radius (eighteen-mile diameter). You would find another galaxy like ours every 25 to 35 inches uniformly distributed throughout that eighteen-mile diameter!