

# The Southwind Times

The Official Publication of the Southwind Civic Association

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## Holiday Decorations And Pets

Christmas trees and holiday greens: Make sure your dogs or cats do not chew on limbs or droppings from the tree. Ingested pine needles could get lodged in the intestinal tract, puncturing the lining or bunching together and causing an intestinal obstruction.

- Water base: The water base of a Christmas tree may contain dangerous chemicals that could harm your pet.
- Christmas lights and tinsel: Position your tree's lights and tinsel away from the bottom of the tree where pets can reach them. Some pets climb up or into trees and can even knock them over. If swallowed, tinsel can be very dangerous to cats.
- Candles: Don't leave candles unattended. Pets may accidentally knock them over and spill wax or start a fire.
- Firestarter logs: Dogs that enjoy chewing should steer clear; these logs contain sawdust and paraffin which can cause an irritated stomach or even intestinal blockage when ingested.
- Plants: A number of seasonal plants are poisonous to pets if nibbled or eaten, including ivy, holly, mistletoe and poinsettias.

—<https://www.humanesociety.org>

*It is December, and nobody asked  
if I was ready. — Sarah Kay*

## Neighborhood Survey

SWCA wants to hear from you!

Please take this survey to tell us what you need from your Southwind Civic Association!



KEEP YOUR WARMTH

## Holiday Events Around Town

**BLOSSOMS OF LIGHTS: Nov. 20, 2024–Jan. 12, 2025,  
Denver Botanic Gardens**

Consistently lauded as one of the top holiday light shows in the nation, Blossoms of Light is a spectacular celebration that illuminates Denver Botanic Gardens' York Street location. Wander a mile-long path through immersive, luminous displays that accentuate and highlight our plant collections. A cherished holiday tradition for nearly four decades, Blossoms of Light is constantly evolving to inspire wonder and delight in even the most seasoned visitors.

**MILE HIGH DRONE SHOW: Nov. 22–Dec. 31, 2024, Downtown**

For 40 magical nights, 400 drones will soar into the sky, creating breathtaking holiday-themed animations. See these dazzling displays from across the city every night at 7 p.m. for free. From Santa and his reindeer to iconic Denver landmarks like the Mile High Tree and Denver Union Station, each night will bring a new visual experience to life.

**THE MILE HIGH TREE: Nov. 22–Dec. 31, 2024, Civic Center Park**

Join in the free festivities at the Mile High Tree. It's a brilliantly lit, 110-foot-tall immersive art installation that provides a dazzling lights-and-music show. You can experience two of Denver's most popular holiday attractions in one place: America's tallest digital tree and the Denver Christkindlmarket, the city's only authentic German holiday market.

**ZOO LIGHTS: Nov. 23, 2024–Jan. 5, 2025**

**(closed Thanksgiving and Christmas), Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance**

It's official: Zoo Lights has been making magic, memories, and even marriages for 30 amazing years! Presented by Your Hometown Toyota Stores, this illuminating annual event transforms Denver Zoo into Colorado's WILDEST winter wonderland. Don't miss this year's historic celebration, with more than a million lights sparkling over 80 acres—plus a host of special measures to keep your family safe and healthy.

**LIGHT THE LIGHTS: Nov. 27, 2024–Jan. 26, 2025,  
City & County of Denver Building**

Starting with the kick-off celebration on Nov. 27, 2024, each night at 5:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. an eight-minute choreographed light and music holiday show will light up the night. It then goes to a festive, static holiday display until 10:45 p.m. Note: There will be no shows on Dec. 7 due to the 9NEWS Parade of Lights and on Dec. 21 for "We Will Remember: Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil."

**TRAIL OF LIGHTS: Nov. 29, 2024–Jan. 1, 2025,  
Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms, Littleton**

Trail of Lights at Chatfield Farms takes you along a winding path glistening with lights that illuminate the Colorado countryside. Tucked into the foothills under the dark sky, the glow of lights can be seen for miles. Just under a mile of walking trail, the illumination of cottonwoods, boxelders and pine trees line the pathway through the Green Farm, Crossroads, Deer Creek Discovery Children's Play Area and 1880s Hildebrand Ranch homestead. There is also the option of a shorter path for those who want to take a shorter stroll. In line with the core value of sustainability, all lights used in the event are LED.

*continued on page 2*

## Holiday Events, *continued from front page*

### LUMINOVA HOLIDAYS: Nov. 29–Dec. 31, 2024, Elitch Gardens Theme & Water Park

This family-friendly event brings larger-than-life holiday displays and immersive experiences for all to enjoy. It features millions of dazzling lights, a 65-foot-tall Christmas tree, twinkling snowmen who never melt, a 300-foot-long candy cane tunnel, giant presents and ornaments, a wall of lights, rides on Elitch Gardens attractions, interactive activities like a light-up hopscotch, strolling holiday entertainers, Old Saint Nick and his elves, and more.

### HUDSON HOLIDAYS: Nov. 29, 2024–Jan. 12, 2025, Hudson Gardens & Events Center

You'll be enchanted by even more towering trees draped in thousands of colorful lights. A grove of dancing Christmas trees, a multi-colored forest inhabited by giant snowmen, the holiday light tunnel and glowing reindeer will light up Hudson Gardens into an extravaganza of holiday cheer. Purchase a delicious cup of hot cocoa or adult beverage before stopping by for a perfect free family photo opportunity with Santa.

### CANDLELIGHT NIGHTS: Nov. 30–Dec. 31, 2024, City of Golden

Golden's beloved Candlelight Nights returns with quaint holiday shops and festive decorations along historic Washington Avenue and thousands of twinkling lights lining the banks of Clear Creek. The annual Candlelight Walk occurs on Dec. 6, featuring revelers strolling Washington Avenue holding candles and singing carols. Golden's Holiday Parade returns on Dec. 14, with marching bands, floats, horses, Victorian carolers, elves, fire trucks and, of course, Santa. Come back for a magical day in Golden meeting and mingling with family favorite holiday characters along Washington Avenue on December 21, during the Jingle On The Avenue.

### CHRISTMAS IN COLOR: Nov. 15–Dec. 30, 2024, Water World (Denver), Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre (Morrison), Arapahoe County Fairground (Aurora)

With not one but three locations, Christmas In Color is a can't-miss holiday lights experience! Drive through millions of lights perfectly synchronized to holiday music you'll hear right through your radio. Drive by giant candy canes, snowmen, arched pathways and more. Take your time enjoying this lighting extravaganza - we won't judge you if you join the kids with your face pressed against the window!

### DENVER CHRISTKINDLMARKET: Nov. 22–Dec. 23, 2024, Civic Center Park

This outdoor event brings the most beloved elements of an authentic German holiday experience to The Mile High City. Stroll through a European village decorated for the holiday season as you shop for finely crafted artisan gifts and treats at charming wooden huts. Fuel your shopping with authentic Glühwein (mulled spiced wine), German Biers and hot chocolate, and nosh on Bavarian-style pretzels, fresh smoked salmon, Knödel, Goulasch, Nürnberger Sausages, pastries, caramels and European chocolates.

### SNOW DAYS: Dec. 7, 2024–Feb. 17, 2025, Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus

Spend your day gliding around the ice skating rink, sledding on REAL snow and warming up by a toasty fire. Plus, hop on a vintage snowmobile and explore the mountains in a life-size diorama and journey to the center of the snow maze and discover the crooked cabin.

## Southwind Civic Association

710 E. Geddes Ave. • Centennial, Colorado 80122

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The *The Southwind Times* is published monthly  
by the Southwind Civic Association.

## News Articles

The deadline for news articles is the 15th of the month before the next month's issue. Please email news articles to **Hank.victorial@gmail.com**. No endorsement of any product or service is implied or stated by its inclusion in the newsletter.

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## Advertise in this Newsletter!

The deadline for advertisements is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue, except for the Jan. issue which is Dec. 6th.

**Newsletter Connections: 303-979-7499 or  
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## This Space Intentionally Left Blank for Teen Services

## Holiday Carriage Rides

Embrace the magic of the holiday season with our Holiday Carriage Rides at Aspen Grove! Hitch a ride every Saturday from November 23rd to December 28th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a horse and carriage ride around Aspen Grove.

**Ride Details:** Pick-Up & Drop-Off Location: Near Pink Attic Cat in Block 100. **Cost:** FREE

—<https://aspengrovecenter.com/event/holiday-carriage-rides>

**Ready for Retirement? Here are 3 Tips for a Smooth Transition!**

- 1. Set New Goals:** Think about what you want to achieve in retirement—travel, learning new skills, etc.
- 2. Stay Active and Engaged:** Explore hobbies, volunteer opportunities, or part-time work to keep your mind and body active.
- 3. Plan Your Finances:** Start by reviewing your savings, investments, and potential income sources.

Ready to embrace this new chapter?  
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## Package Protection Day

National Package Protection Day encourages homeowners to stay alert during these high delivery times. The Wednesday after Thanksgiving is a time to remind us to protect our homes against package theft, which becomes more and more prevalent during the holidays. The internet has made it easier to find deals and have packages shipped straight to our homes. But this has also made it easier for thieves to snatch our deliveries right from our doorsteps. Cyber Monday, in particular, is a big online shopping day where most purchases are shipped directly to the buyer's home. With the advent of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, there became a need for a day that raises awareness of package theft and helps homeowners protect themselves against thieves. And just like that, Package Protection Day was born.

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## Looking To Get Involved And Make An Impact This Holiday?

Volunteering can be a fun and deeply rewarding experience where you can meet like-minded people, help improve lives and build a stronger community.

Here are some upcoming opportunities to engage in our community. We hope to see you this Holiday season!

**1. Run a toy drive.** Mile High United Way collects toys each year for our Children's Holiday Party. This annual event, which is filled with face painting, cookie decorating, and photos with Santa, brings the spirit of the Holidays to hundreds of families in our community. Run a toy drive for the event and help bring joy to children this Christmas.

**2. Support our community resource center.** Our 2-1-1 Help Center serves as a critical resource and safety net for Colorado residents, particularly during the winter months. Our Resource Navigators work every day to help vulnerable people in our community gain access to basic needs like food and shelter.

**3. Help children develop a love of reading.** You can help a child build confidence, improve their literacy skills, and develop a love of reading. Volunteer to build literacy kits for young students or become a reading partner through our weekly Read With Me program.

**4. Support people experiencing homelessness.** Volunteer to put together hygiene kits for at risk individuals and families in our community. The kits, which contain a wide range of important self-care items, are distributed to people across Metro Denver who are currently experiencing homelessness. Contact us to see when you can join in on the next kit build.

**5. Join a donor group.** We believe the most fulfilling way to get involved is to do it together. Join a network and meet other socially minded individuals who are dedicated to creating a lasting impact. During the Holidays, our donor groups engage in a range of activities, such as creating Thanksgiving gift baskets for families in need.

**6. Help a small business owner in Denver.** Are you a small business expert? Volunteer your time and expertise to help small, local businesses in Metro Denver reach their growth potential through our United Business Advisory program.

**7. Become an advocate.** Mile High United Way works every day to remove barriers and create pathways to success for all people in our community through our policy initiatives. Become an advocate and help us change the odds and move families out of poverty.

**8. Become a corporate partner.** Get the whole team involved and become a Mile High United Way Corporate Partner. We're proud to partner with hundreds of local companies to execute strong, effective CSR programs that positively impact the community while improving employee engagement and business returns.

Mile High United Way believes every person that calls Colorado home deserves the opportunity to thrive. With your support, we can continue to meet the short and long-term needs of residents in our community.

—<https://unitedwaydenver.org>

Wishing you a  
Cozy and Warm Holiday Season

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