



The monthly newsletter for the residents of Genesee Village

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The 3 Pillars of Giving

One of the most exciting things about giving is that there are countless ways to make a difference in the world. And while there really is no wrong way to be generous, you may find that by tapping into your unique skills and creativity that you walk away with an enriched experience

Time: Time may be the most valuable resource we all have—once it's gone, it's gone. That's why it's universally understood how precious the gift of time truly is. This type of giving is providing someone else with your own time to help others. Your gift of time may be direct, hands-on service such as tutoring children at a homeless shelter or an indirect service, such as stocking shelves at a food pantry.

Talent: Whether you share your unique skills or professional expertise, you can use your own talent to give back to your community, or anywhere there is a need. Examples may include a doctor providing pro bono office hours at a local clinic or an investment advisor who manages the endowment of a charity. It's not only rewarding for philanthropists to donate their talents, but also highly valued because it provides a service or expertise that is often out of reach for the recipients.

Treasure: When many people think of generosity, they think of donating their treasure—a euphemism for money or other items with value. While cash is the most common type of charitable donation, it may also come in the form of real estate, collectibles, and more.

—<https://foundationsource.com/>

'Tis The Season For Christmas Trains in Colorado

What Christmas would be complete without hot cocoa, a trip to the North Pole, or a visit with Santa Claus?! Do all that and more aboard one of these Colorado Christmas holiday train rides.

From the Front Range to the Western Slope, there are a number of historic railroads in Colorado that offer something special for the winter holiday season. While most tourist trains shut down over the winter, a few keep rolling on. Board these unique Christmas themed trains for an unforgettable time with your friends, family, and loved ones. Here are Colorado's best Christmas holiday train rides, in no particular order:



SANTA'S LIGHTED FOREST: Witness the snow-covered mountains in all their glory every evening aboard the Georgetown Loop Railroad for an enchanting experience. The train makes a stop at Santa's Lighted Forest where the spirit of the holidays is on display with thousands of colorful lights that cover the trees and Christmas village at the North Pole.

Passengers can meet Santa himself, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies all while watching the beautiful light show synchronized to selected

Christmas carols. Passengers have a choice of the Presidential Car, Parlor Car, or the Coach Car. This train departs only from the Devil's Gate Depot in Georgetown, Colorado. Website: georgetownlooprr.com

SANTA'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE: Perfect for the entire family, hop aboard the Georgetown Loop train for a ride to the North Pole. Passengers will join up with Santa and his little helpers who help pass out presents, treats, and goodies for the children. Choose from the Presidential Car, Parlor Car, or the Coach Car – each decorated with the festivities of the season. This train departs only from the Devil's Gate Depot location in Georgetown, Colorado. Website: georgetownlooprr.com

SANTA EXPRESS TRAIN: With your pajamas on, catch a ride aboard the Santa Express Train where Santa's helpers offer hot cocoa, cookies, and candy canes and even read Christmas stories to all the passengers. Ride through the Royal Gorge for an unforgettable journey to the North Pole, which shines with all the colors and brilliance of Christmas.

Kids, get your Christmas wish list ready for Santa as he makes his way through each class of service, visiting every child aboard the Royal Gorge Route Railroad. It offers up to four daily departures, one of which includes an early morning train ride that includes breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus. There are a variety of classes of service available, from the Vista Dome and first-class lunch and dinner train to the club and coach class. Website: royalgorgeroute.com

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Denver Botanic Gardens Blossoms of Light

A stroll through the Denver Botanic Gardens is a delightful way to celebrate the holiday season. The Blossoms of Light extravaganza is a twinkling and breathtaking twist on the already beautiful gardens, especially on a December evening. From Friday to Sunday, November 17th, 2023 to January 7th, 2024, enjoy warm drinks and holiday treats amongst the most festive lights, blossoms, and pathways in Colorado.

An Extravaganza of Lights at Hudson Gardens

Now–Dec. 31, 2023 Walk through a winter wonderland of thousands of outdoor lights in Littleton. Explore the trails, where bursts of light and color wrap around trees and shimmer on bodies of water.

Trail of Lights Chatfield Farms

Now – Jan. 1, various evenings, 5-8:30 p.m. (closed Dec. 25). 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.

Village of Genesee

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News Articles

The deadline for news articles is the 15th of the month before the next month’s issue. Please email news articles to gary@garymanes.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.

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Christmas Tree Cutting

Cutting down your own Christmas tree can be a memorable and festive experience for the whole family, but it's key to do this activity safely and legally. In Colorado, you typically need a permit to cut down a Christmas tree on public lands. Here are some spots where you can obtain a permit and some tips for doing this activity responsibly. All permits can be purchased online at recreation.gov.

1. Plan Ahead: Contact the forest service or visit their website for more information on permit availability, cutting dates, regulations, and designated cutting areas.
2. Choose the Right Tools: Bring a sharp saw for cutting and ropes or straps to secure the tree to your vehicle.
3. Select a Healthy Tree: A healthy tree will have vibrant green needles (avoid trees with brown or dry needles).
4. Dispose of the Tree Properly: Find a recycling program, chip the tree for mulch, or compost it.

–<https://www.coloradoparent.com/christmas-tree-cutting/>

This Space

Intentionally Left Blank for Teen Services

Homemade Candy Canes

These homemade candy canes are SO much better than store-bought, and so fun to make! Just make sure you have a stick of butter handy to keep your hands buttered for pulling so it doesn't stick to you.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1 tsp. peppermint extract
- 1 tsp. red food coloring

How To Make:

1. In heavy-bottomed large saucepan or small pot, combine first 4 ingredients and stir until sugar dissolves. Cook, without stirring to hard-ball stage. (265 degrees.)
2. Remove from heat and add peppermint extract. Divide into 2 portions, and add coloring to one part. Pour out onto buttered cookie sheets. (Pour half onto one sheet, then add coloring to the rest and then pour onto second sheet.) when it's cool enough to handle, start pulling each part separately. (Best done with 2 people, but if doing alone, go back and forth pulling each.)
3. When you feel like you just can't pull anymore, form into ropes and twist them together. Cut into 8" lengths, form into the shape of candy canes, and place on lightly buttered platter til fully hardened.



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7 Ways To Make The Holidays Safer For Pets

Nothing can spoil holiday cheer like an emergency visit to a veterinary clinic. These seven tips can help prevent a holiday disaster with your pets.

1. Keep people food out of the reach of your pet, and ask your guests to do the same.
2. Make sure your pet doesn't have any access to treats, especially those containing chocolate, xylitol, grapes/raisins, onions or other toxic foods.
3. Don't leave your pet alone in the room with lit candles, a decorated tree or potpourri.
4. Keep holiday plants (especially holly, mistletoe and lillies) out of reach of pets.
5. Consider leaving the tinsel off your tree if you have a cat.
6. Secure your Christmas tree to keep it from falling over if your dog bumps it or your cat climbs it. Hanging lemon-scented car air fresheners in the tree may deter your cat from climbing it.
7. Provide a safe place for your pet to escape the excitement (such as a kennel, crate, perching place, scratching post shelf or hiding place) if you're entertaining guests. If your pet is excitable or scared, consider putting your pet in another room with some toys and a comfortable bed.

—<https://www.avma.org/resources>

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If you have anything to contribute
or any questions, please let us know.**

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