

# Panorama Ridge

Homeowner's Association

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## Help Protect Loved Ones From Scams

*In part from the Jeffco Sheriff's Behind the Badge Newsletter*

Our victims of scams are not numbers, however; they're real people. People like Susan, who was victimized and whose name we have changed to tell her story.

Susan, 76, got a call from a man claiming to work for an Internet provider. He told her that while he was checking her Internet speed, he noticed she had a \$500 credit on her account for services she was entitled to but did not use. He instructed her to get on her computer and when she did, a page was already open that she did not recall opening. The caller told Susan she had accidentally hit a button that selected a refund of \$5,000 instead of \$500. The caller then told Susan he would lose his job if he didn't get the extra \$4,500 back.

The caller instructed Susan to withdraw \$4,500 from her bank and purchase nine \$500 gift cards. He stayed on the phone with Susan while she went to the bank and two separate stores to purchase the gifts cards. During the call, Susan asked him several times if he was scamming her. He said no. Once she had the gift cards, the caller instructed her to tell him the gift card numbers and security codes. Susan did. After the call ended, Susan tried calling his phone number back but the number was disconnected.

Unfortunately Susan was scammed for \$4,500.00. Could the same happen to your parents? Your grandparents? Even you?

Scams come in many forms, but how we should respond to them is the same:

- Do not answer calls from unknown numbers. If it's important, they'll leave a message.
- Do not provide personal information on the phone or in an email or text message to anyone you do not know. Personal information includes date of birth, social security number, credit

*continued on page 2*

## Family Mother's Day Activities

### TAKE AN AT-HOME TRIP

Even if you can't hop on a flight to Paris for the weekend, Mom can still enjoy a little taste of France (or any other destination that intrigues you). Start by buying some French croissants for breakfast. Then pack a picnic lunch of French bread, cheese, and fruit—or order a meal from your favorite deli or restaurant (quiche, anyone?). For an added touch, adorn your kitchen or dining room table with a red-and-white-checked tablecloth and fresh flowers, put on some French music, and teach the kids a few basic words in French, such as “bonjour” (good morning) and “merci” (thank you). Even better? Have your waitstaff do all the food prep and cleaning!



### SHARE OLD MEMORIES

One sentimental way to share family memories is by looking through old photographs or home movies. If you live near Grandma or Grandpa, ask them to pull out old mementos of Mom as a child, and take a trip together down memory lane. The kids will get a kick out of the styles of clothes their mom wore—not to mention

the fact that there may be visible proof that Mom was once a baby, toddler, and teen. And who knows? The clothes Mom rocked in the past just may very well be back in style again!

### CREATE A FAMILY COMIC STRIP

Start a new tradition this year by creating a family comic strip. Take a long sheet of paper, and draw three or four large squares next to one another, like a newspaper comic strip. Then, think of an event, celebration, or something funny that happened this past year, and illustrate it with markers, crayons, or paints. Be sure to include dialogue, a date, and a title, such as “Life with the Smiths.”

Older children can help with the drawing and writing, while younger kids can dictate their thoughts or help color. Save your comic strip, and create another one next year and others in years to come. When you're ready to compile all of your strips into a book, stack the pages and thread them together with sturdy yarn. Or, go digital and upload them to your favorite photo-sharing website and order a memory book to enjoy together.

### HOST A LIP-SYNC CONTEST

Nothing brightens a family celebration quite like music. But if you want to really turn up the fun, stage your own “lip-sync” contest. To begin, each family member will choose a favorite song. Then turn on the music, and have each person lip-sync the words to the song, doing their best to mimic the performer. Other family members can rate the performance from 1 (not at all like the performer) to 5 (exactly like the performer), and write down their score on a card. The person with the highest score wins the contest.

*continued on page 4*

# Scams, *continued from front page*

card numbers, and bank account information.

- Do not withdraw money, send money, purchase gift cards, or make other financial transactions for someone you do not know.
- If you suspect it's a scam, end all communication – hang up the phone or delete the email or text message.
- If you have been scammed or your personal information has been used without your knowledge or permission (for example, a new credit card arrives in your name), report it to local law enforcement immediately (and cancel the card!).

– Reggie Marinelli, Sheriff

## This Space Intentionally Left Blank for Teen Services

# Panorama Ridge Homeowners Association <http://panoramaridge.net/> Board Members

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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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# Memorial Day Activities With Kids

We're so excited for the summer! The pools are opening, the grill's heating up, and school's winding down. But in the midst of the fun, take a few minutes to teach your family that Memorial Day is a special time to recognize the service men and women who've fought for our country.



**Explain the History of Memorial Day:** The Memorial Day tradition began around the Civil War, when folks wanted to honor the soldiers who had died in that conflict by decorating their graves. There's some disagreement over whether this started in the south or in Waterloo, NY, but in either case, the tradition started as Decoration Day. Families would gather together at cemeteries, bringing picnics and remembering, together, those whom they had lost. Gradually Decoration Day became Memorial Day, and in 1971, Memorial Day became a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday of May. While Memorial Day is specifically a holiday to recognize the sacrifices of men and women who have died in combat, many people also spend the day honoring veterans and current service personnel and working for peace and unity with all people.

**Watch a Parade or Memorial Service:** We have some local parades, and kids love a parade, but you can also take the opportunity to point out traditions and Memorial Day etiquette. Teach children that we stand and take off hats as veterans pass in a parade. Have them look for American flags, and point out that, officially, flags are to be flown at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day as a remembrance. During services you may also see soldiers fire rifles into the air or people throwing flowers into the ocean in memory of those lost at sea. Next time you're at your local town hall or playground, check for a memorial and take time to read it with your kids.

**Make a Tasty Treat:** Bring cookies or another treat to our neighbor, a World War II veteran. It's wonderful to recognize someone your kids know. But it's also fun to enjoy a treat yourselves! A simple one is a blueberry and strawberry parfait with yogurt, whipped cream, or ice cream. Put them into clear plastic containers to show the patriotic colors, and pop them into the freezer if it's a hot day.

**Craft Something Special:** Want to slide in a history lesson while keeping little hands busy? You can help kids make a tissue paper poppy while explaining about Memorial Day's origins, then explain that poppies, because they are blood-red, became a symbol of sacrifice during World War I. These are easy to create, and they make a lovely gift.

–<https://denver.kidsoutandabout.com>

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## Family Mother's Day Activities, *continued from front page*

### RECREATE THE SPA AT HOME

At some point on Mother's Day, moms usually want a little rest and relaxation. Make sure they get what they need—and deserve—by creating a list of “spa services” they can choose from. The list could include:

- An hour alone so they can call a friend or soak in the tub
- The opportunity to take a nap
- A massage from their partner or children
- A manicure at their favorite nail salon

The kids can make up coupons with each of these services, and encourage Mom to redeem them throughout Mother's Day.

### PLANT SOME FLOWERS

If you have some extra space in your garden, you can create a live Mother's Day canvas. First, buy various packets of flower seeds that grow fast and well in your region. Then have your kids draw a picture or write a short message (like “We love Mom”) in the garden dirt with a stick. Drop the flower seeds into the dirt lines; then cover them up, and water every few days. Before long, your picture (or message) will be blooming, and you'll have a Mother's Day gift that keeps on growing.

### MAKE SENTIMENTAL ARTWORK

On a warm day, go outside and have your children (and anyone else who's game) place their hands and feet into a shallow tub of colorful, nontoxic paint. Spread out a roll of butcher paper, and encourage everyone to press their hands and feet onto it, leaving their prints behind. Label each handprint and footprint with the person's name, the date, and a special message to Mom, and allow your collective masterpiece to dry. Try this activity again next year, and see how much bigger some hands and feet have become!

### READ A GOOD BOOK

For a family storytime, take a blanket outside and leaf through a children's book that's just right for the day, such as *The Mother's Day Mice* by Eve Bunting, *No Time for Mother's Day* by Laurie Halse Anderson, *Clifford's Happy Mother's Day* by Norman Bridwell, or *Are You My Mother?* by P.D. Eastman. Mom could also select a childhood favorite, and read it with the kids.

### SCHEDULE TIME FOR HUGS

Finally, what would Mother's Day be like without hugs and kisses all around? One way to work them into your day is by setting up a silly “hugs and kisses” schedule and posting it on the refrigerator or other visible spot. For instance, you could write, “10:30 a.m.: Everyone runs around the couch and gives Mom a hug and kiss.” or “2:15 p.m.: Everyone hops around the oak tree on one foot and assembles for a group hug.”

And when in doubt about what Mother's Day activities are best, don't be afraid to simply ask. Every mom has something special that they will enjoy on their big day, so make it special in a way that's just for them.

—<https://www.parents.com/holiday/mothers-day>

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## Bring Flowers To Somone Day

April showers means May 15 is Bring Flowers to Someone Day to celebrate why giving flowers plays a significant roll in kindness. Flowers are one of nature's most beautiful gifts. Bring Flowers to Someone Day is the perfect way to give the gift of love and kindness to those around you. Whether you gift flowers to show sympathy or give them just because, the simple act of giving flowers brings joy to the recipient.

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*-Carrie Jones*



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