

Stony Creek News

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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/>

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'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: georgetown-looprr.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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This Space Intentionally Left Blank for Teen Services

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**Newsletter Connections: 303-979-7499 or
info@newsletterconnections.com**



To find ad rates and discounts, go to NewsletterConnections.com or scan QR code.

*We elves try to stick to the four main food groups:
candy, candy canes, candy corn, and syrup.*

– Buddy, Elf

Christmas Trains, *continued from front page*

THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE

Enjoy the warmth and fun of the season with a trip to the North Pole aboard the Polar Express via the Durango and Silverton Train. Experience the classic book, The Polar Express, come to life with the chefs, conductor, Billy, and of course with Santa and his elves.

Enjoy treats and a bedtime story of The Polar Express as you head to the North Pole to pick up Santa. On your return to Durango, Santa visits each car while your chefs lead all passengers in the singing of Christmas carols. Passengers can choose from three different classes of service; coach, deluxe, and first-class.

–<https://www.uncovercolorado.com/christmas-holiday-train-rides-in-colorado/>

NEWSLETTER CONNECTIONS

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Transform Your Home This Season!

As the holiday season approaches, it's natural to want your home to look its best for festive gatherings and celebrations. Thankfully, there are ways to spruce up your living space, without breaking the bank. Here are three options to think about that can transform the feel of your home without major renovations:

1. Fresh Paint and Carpet:

A fresh coat of paint and new carpet can work wonders, complementing each other to instantly revitalize a room and make it feel brand new. The new paint brings a fresh perspective to the room that can potentially lighten things up and make it feel more modern. Meanwhile, new carpet enhances the comfort of a living space, creating an inviting and cozy atmosphere.

2. Window and Gutter Cleaning:

Crystal-clear windows usher in natural light, amplifying the room's vibrancy. This is especially nice for the holiday season, allowing Christmas lights to shine through for a festive atmosphere. Clean gutters serve a practical purpose, preventing water damage and preserving your home's structural integrity.

3. Deep Detail Cleaning:

Most of us forget how dirty our homes are until we begin cleaning them. Dust and dirt build up throughout the year, and the majority of people only clean surfaces and floors. That is why it is good to invest in a quality deep detailed cleaning that will cover neglected areas such as baseboards, light fixtures, and appliances. This service ensures that your home not only looks great, but also promotes a healthy living environment.

Continual investment in your home is the greatest thing you can do to increase its value. With these three options, you can make a difference in the feel of your property without breaking your budget or engulfing in large renovation projects. If you happen to need help with any of these activities, feel free to give me a call, as my team and I are happy to assist! I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year as well!

— Rob Stark, 303-503-5736,
Stark Real Estate Group


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.



For over 30 years, lights have transformed this cultural pocket of Denver and become an annual tradition for many local families and friends. 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.

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Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks

You don't have to hit the slopes to have some cold, wintery fun. Check out these rinks to get your ice skating fix.

RINK AT BELMAR, LAKEWOOD

Admission (skate rental included): \$10 (\$8 for kids 12 and under; seniors and children two and under skate free) or \$6 if you bring your own skates. Park in the lot at Teller Street and West Virginia Avenue. Even in the daytime, the Rink at Belmar can get plenty of shade, so make sure you check the weather and bundle up. Extreme weather may close the rink, so check online or call ahead to make sure the rink is open as planned. Outdoor heaters and fire pits help friends or parents stay toasty.

SKATING IN THE SQUARE, ARVADA

Admission (skate rental included): \$10 (\$7 for kids 12 and under). Take the G Line to Olde Town Arvada, and you'll find a cozy little skating rink in the square on 57th Avenue, between the library and the pedestrian mall. Pick up your skates at the nearby shed and take to the (synthetic) ice.

PARKER ICE TRAIL, PARKER

Admission: \$9 (\$7 for kids 10 and under). **Skate rental:** \$4. The ice circles a center grassy area and is fenced in on both the inside and outside, offering more space for beginners to hold on as they get accustomed to the ice. Located at the edge of downtown Parker in Discovery Park (behind the library), the ice trail offers concessions, skating aids for new skaters, and a handful of fire pits and seating for spectators to keep warm.

DOWNTOWN DENVER RINK, DENVER

Admission: Free. **Skate rental:** \$11 (\$9 for kids 12 and under; fourth graders skate free). The downtown rink sits in Skyline Park, in the shadow of the Daniels & Fisher clocktower between the 16th Street Mall and 17th on Arapahoe Street. Open late on holidays and weekends, the rink offers concessions and locker storage for your belongings. Fourth graders skate free, and double-bladed skates are available in children sizes.

EVERGREEN LAKE, EVERGREEN

Admission: \$14 (children four and under skate free); \$20 with skate rental included. **Skate rental:** \$10. Winning the prize for best views while skating, Evergreen Lake is open throughout the winter as weather permits. Learn to Skate classes are available for children, and athletes can sign up for hockey and broomball online. Regulars or families can purchase 10-punch skate cards for \$120 (\$30 savings). Park at Evergreen Lake House or take the shuttle from Stagecoach Park lower parking lot on weekends and holidays.



– In Part From <https://www.5280.com/best-places-for-ice-skating-in-denver/>

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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. There is the option of an alternative path for those who want to take a shorter stroll.

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.



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