

Get Ready for the
HOME EXPO 2012



**A NEW & EXCITING
 LOCATION FOR 2012!**



**February 4th & 5th at the
 Grand Traverse Resort**



(231) 946-2305 | www.hbagta.com



ALL *aboard* for
HOLIDAY FUN

A father and son duo enjoy Christmas at the Crossroads.
 PHOTO COURTESY CROSSROAD VILLAGE.



trains have played a key role in the establishment of many of Michigan's historic tourist towns. Today, excursions trains offer a different kind of traveler experience – especially during the holiday season.

Families can board the North Pole Express at the Steam Railroad-ing Institute in Owosso to travel to Santa's Village. Departure dates are Saturdays and Sundays, November 26 through December 18 (10am and 4pm). Ride the train to Santa's Village for a visit with Santa and his elves, plus lots of other seasonal fun for the entire family like the Cocoa Class – unlimited cocoa served in your very own North Pole Express souvenir mug. A private "Caboose" option allows groups of 12 to travel together in holiday style. Once on board, the train travels from Owosso to "Santa's Village" in Chesaning's "North Pole USA." www.michigansteamtrain.com/north-pole-express.php

The North Pole USA is conveniently located at the Saginaw County Fairgrounds in Chesaning where Santa's Village is open to the public with the spirit and excitement of the Christmas season. Admission is \$10 each for adults and children six years and older; children five and under are free. Children's rides and activities are included in the admission price. Santa's Village is open Saturdays and Sundays through December 18. www.saginawcountyfair.org

The Coopersville & Marne Railway, in Coopersville (just off I-96, northwest of Grand Rapids), offers The Santa Train with vintage passenger cars for Santa and his friends. Santa's elves help escort each child for their time to sit and visit with the jolly St. Nick, including a special gift for each youngster. Climb aboard on Saturdays and Sundays, November 26 through December 18 (Saturdays at 11am, 1pm and 3pm; Sundays at 1pm and 3pm). Fare is \$14.50; \$13.50 for seniors (60+); and \$11.50 for children (2-12); kids under two-years-old ride free. www.coopersvilleandmarne.org

Christmas at Crossroads, at Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad in Flint, is the place to visit for a sparkling holiday fantasyland featuring over 600,000 lights, and to ride Michigan's most spectacular moving light display – the Huckleberry Railroad. The entire village is aglow and more lights decorate the railroad's locomotive, coaches, and trackside displays. Costumed villagers prepare for the holidays, the Colwell Opera House offers live entertainment and Santa talks with the children. A model train exhibit, craft demonstrations in village homes, unique shopping and holiday music in the Coldwater Chapel add to the festive atmosphere. www.geneseecountyparks.org/pages/crossroads

For more information about holiday fun for the whole family, visit Michigan.org.

ABOVE PHOTO: At Frederik Meijer Gardens, the Railway Garden returns as a highlight of the Christmas & Holiday Traditions Around the World, through January 8. The 25 buildings modeled after Grand Rapids landmarks are all handmade of natural materials by railway garden designer Paul Busse.

Celebrating 35 Years



At Widing Custom Homes, we build each home as if it were our own. We create homes where families can grow and where memories will be made. Superior craftsmanship, talent, and artistry are proudly displayed in each and every home. Not with a signature...but a hand shake, we pledge to do whatever it takes to build your dream home.



WIDING CUSTOM HOMES
 Traverse City 231.933.6680 • WidingCustomHomes.com

Building Northern Michigan Retreats. One Dream At A Time