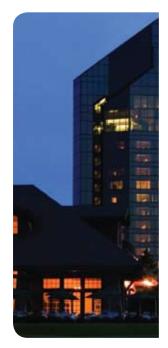
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A NEW & EXCITING LOCATION FOR 2012!





February 4th & 5th at the Grand Traverse Resort



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rains 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 Railroading 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

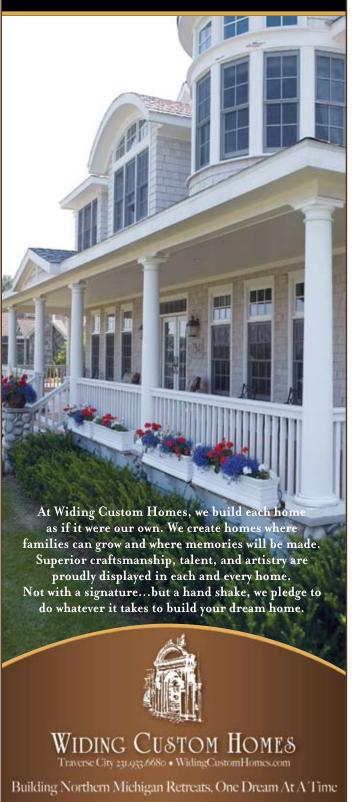
The Coopersville & Marne Railway, in Coopersville (just off I-96, northwest of Grand Rapids), offers The Santa Train with vintage passenger cars for Santa and his friends. Santa's elves help escort each child for their time to sit and visit with the jolly St. Nick, including a special gift for each youngster. 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. \square

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



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