



PO Box 1089
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**HOLIDAY
CHEER
FROM
JASPER
THE
RHYME-A-
SAURUS**

'Tis almost the season for joy and glee,
let the bells jingle while we trim the tree!
More important now than ever before,
we hope this newsletter finds you smiling more.
Give it a read once or twice,
find some local events – maybe even thrice.
And as you spend time with family and friends,
this is a good time of year to make amends.
We wish you the best and here is the reason,
everyone deserves a happy holiday season!

- Jasper



Is Santa a financial genius?

We think so! Imagine, 12 months in a year and Santa chooses December to hand out all those gifts. How does he do it?! I bet he knows how to budget — do you?

• If Santa needs to save \$100 for one child's Christmas gift and \$10 for a stocking gift, then he needs a total of \$110 for this plan to work. (Here's the math: $\$100 + \$10 = \$110$)

- He has 12 months to save up starting every January, so $\$110$ divided by 12 is $\$9.17/\text{mo.}$
- That doesn't seem too bad, he just saves little by little until he reaches his goal!

You're as capable as Santa when it comes to budgeting. Just remember, slow and steady wins the race when you have a clear goal in mind! (*Add Santa laugh for effect.*)

Holiday Recipe – Cookie Santa Hat

It's a known fact that Santa Claus loves cookies! So, here's a fun and festive cookie recipe for you to try this Christmas. ...

Ingredients:

1 lb. of strawberries (tops removed)
12 sandwich cookies (winter edition)
½ cup of softened butter
1 tablespoon of whole milk
1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
2 cups of powdered sugar

Instructions:

1. After removing the hulls and washing the strawberries, make sure they're dry.
2. Freeze the strawberries for 30 mins. or until firm.

3. In a bowl, cream the butter by mixing it gently then stir in milk. Little by little add powdered sugar until whipped consistency.
4. Pipe* frosting into a circle at the top of the sandwich cookie until it resembles a mini fur ring.
5. Press a strawberry into piped frosting large end down.
6. Pipe a dot on top of the strawberry to resemble the hat's fluff ball. Now enjoy!

**If you don't have a piping bag, you can use a Ziploc bag and just snip off a bottom corner to squeeze out the frosting.*



BakingBeauty.net

#EVENTS

Get out there and enjoy some holiday fun

Whether you're looking for free or low-cost activities, or hoping for an area holiday hoedown, these events are sure to provide some holiday cheer!



Trail of Lights

PEPPERMINT PARKWAY

When: Nov. 25 – Dec. 30
Where: Circuit of the Americas
Tickets: on sale NOW!

Experience a winter wonderland and synchronized classics on this mile-long pathway! From reindeer to candy canes, to music and dazzling lights, you'll be ready to make ever-lasting memories at Austin's Circuit of the Americas. Peppermintparkway.com

TRAIL OF LIGHTS

When: December 8-23
Where: Zilker Park

An Austin favorite is back to its traditional roots with a walking tour in Zilker Park. Visit Austintrailoflights.org for all the details.

OLD TOWN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

When: December 3, 9:30am–9pm
Where: 105 N. Brushy St. Leander
Tickets: Free admission!

A joint effort by Leander and its Chamber of Commerce to make anew

Old Town with Christmas joy! Family and friends will find activities such as the Rudolph Run, Christmas Marketplace, Hometown Parade, pictures with Santa and other local entertainment. You'll also be able to donate gifts and clothing for their Blue Santa program. Leandertx.gov

PUBLIC ICE SKATING AT NORTHCROSS AUSTIN

When: Daily through December. Typically, 3-5pm but additional times are available.
Where: Chaparral Ice, 2525 W. Anderson Ln. Ste 400, Austin
Tickets: \$12 per person, skate rental is \$6.00 per person.

Whether you're a beginner or expert, ice skating is open to all during the open skate times at Chaparral Ice! They also offer public/private lessons and community hours for those looking to sharpen their skills; visit Chaparralice.com to learn more.

#BETTERTOGETHER

Help others by volunteering this holiday season

Is your family looking for volunteer opportunities? Our community is filled with them. Whether it's a local food pantry or a toy drive, everyone can give back. Here are a couple of worthwhile places to start:

Central Texas Food Bank

Centraltexasfoodbank.org

This year, Velocity Credit Union and members donated \$2000 to support CTFB's community efforts in running food pantries, delivering school meals to qualifying children, and providing educational material on healthy eating across the state of Texas.

Operation Blue Santa

Bluesanta.org

This season can bring joy to many families, but not everyone can experience the delight of opening Christmas presents or trying on a warm coat.

Operation Blue Santa, led by our local police department, is a chance to donate gifts and/or clothing that will be given back to deserving community members.

