

Rather than addressing differences between neighbors and developers through often time-consuming and expensive all-or-nothing litigation, the CCRA process of negotiation and collaboration generally results in a project that is acceptable to most parties and reflected in detail in the CBA. Many developers are always going to want to build larger projects on land

they own. If, early in the process, they and the community (represented by CCRA) can modify their plans to reflect our concerns, agree to harmonize the building with the neighborhood, minimize the disruptions involved in large-scale new construction, protect the environment, and provide increased minority employment and purchasing, then we think this a true win for all.

What's Going On

12 Ideas for a Fun Winter Holiday Staycation

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Introverts and stay-at-homes may be happy to hibernate alone cozily during the holidays, but others may miss being with family and friends, traveling to exciting places, or going out to dinner and shows. Here are 12 ideas for getting into the holiday spirit while observing the rules during the pandemic. For most enjoyment, *plan ahead!*

1. **Try new recipes.** Spend some time researching recipes, asking friends for recommendations, and thinking about what you would like to cook or bake. Find the recipes, buy the ingredients in advance, and enjoy new tastes. Plan B: order a meal from a different restaurant.
2. **Have an old-fashioned phone call.** If there is relative or friend you haven't spoken to for a while, plan a day and time to have a long chatty catch-up conversation.
3. **Review your old photos.** Enjoy memories of people, places, and events. You may even find a special one you want to frame or share with someone else. If you like to organize, this is the time to label and categorize your photos.
4. **Set up Zoom social hours.** Chatting with friends and family over Zoom can be very satisfying. Practice setting up a Zoom meeting in advance, plan a holiday outfit, and invite people to attend on a specific day and time. If you're exchanging gifts, you can open your gifts together.
5. **Create a film festival.** Choose a favorite theme, actor, director, or genre. Choose which films you want to watch and find out how to get them. Get a library card and go to Kanopy to enjoy free streaming of critically acclaimed movies, inspiring documentaries, award-winning foreign films and more: <https://www.kanopy.com/>

6. **Share a talent.** If you are an artist, create holiday cards. If you are a singer, musician, or dancer, plan a Zoom performance event with others. Or you can perform solo and videorecord to send to family and friends.
7. **Create a music festival.** Choose a favorite composer, musical group, or selection of pieces, and find them on YouTube or other website. Arrange a time to listen alone or with family or friends.
8. **Travel virtually.** Choose a place you have been before and loved or have always wanted to visit. Find a virtual tour, plan a time, get dressed for travel, and go there on your computer.
9. **Plan outdoor events.** Arrange an outdoor holiday event with your neighbors. Each neighbor can bring their own chair, food, and drink. Decorations, music, and "white elephant" gifts optional.
10. **Write a Holiday E-Letter to Family and Friends:** Write about creative, amusing, or uplifting experiences you've had during the past year, and add photos too.
11. **Go to outdoor destinations.** Certain outdoor places are open such as ice-skating rinks, parks, and arboreta. If you can go in a car, check this list to learn about interesting places in our area that are open: <http://americasgardencapital.org/updates>. Consult websites for days, hours and facilities.
12. **Hold a virtual garage "sale."** Make a list with photos of newish useful items that just aren't right for you, but that someone else will love, and send it to family and friends so they can choose what they want. Then gift wrap and deliver or mail the items. Donate the leftover items to a thrift shop.

Charitable giving at holiday time

In between fun activities, make time to review your charitable contributions for 2020 and send some extra bucks to nonprofit organizations providing emergency food and other essentials to disadvantaged people. They need it now more than ever. Then start your giving plan for 2021.