

ZIPLINE



2022 HOLIDAY EDITION

WARM WISHES FOR THE HAPPIEST HOLIDAYS

Dear Valued zipLINE Reader,

Welcome to one of my favorite issues of the year, the Special Holiday Edition! While I enjoy the creation process for all the zipLINE issues, this one in particular always brings a smile to my face and joy to my heart. I know that sounds so “holiday-ish,” but it’s true! I enjoy reflecting on the year behind us and looking forward to all we still have to celebrate.

The holidays have always been a time of reflection for me. I see my kids get one year older, their belief in Santa still there (at least I still believe!), and the magic that so much changes each year, yet so much remains the same. I enjoy the consistency the holidays bring gathering everyone together to honor tradition, family, and whatever else may be important. Each year we make a family calendar full of photos from the previous year. I always enjoy turning the page to December, where we can see in print all that has changed in the last year and all that has stayed the same (i.e. our Christmas dishware, table setting, and the famous Santa statue we bring out year after year).

At AccuZIP, this embrace of change and growth, yet dedication to our core values, is also something we cherish and remains steadfast year after year. This year brought on many exciting things, including three large in-person trade shows: Minuteman Press Expo, the National Postal Forum, and

Printing United. We welcomed two new Customer Care Specialists to our Team (welcome Meghan and Richard!). And we celebrated the consistency of keeping customer service and excellence our top priority – always.

I hope you enjoy this issue and learn about new recipes, holiday stamps, AccuFun tips, and of course, one of my favorite sections, ‘Places to Journey,’ written by our talented Administrative Assistant Larissa Barrios, who is an incredible writer.

May the holidays bring you both reflections and glances forward that fill your heart with warmth and your whole self with a joyful outlook for the year ahead.

Safest and happiest holiday wishes to each one of you!



Kristen McKiernan, President



OPERATION SANTA

HAS RETURNED AGAIN

BY USPS

In September, the Postal Service announced that letters for the 110-year-old USPS Operation Santa program could be sent at that time — six weeks earlier than in previous years. The holiday season came early!

“USPS Operation Santa allows generous customers to grant the holiday wishes of children and families in need. The program is now accepting wish lists for this year’s program,” said Michael Elston, the Secretary of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors, who served as the dedicating official for the stamp event. “We know this is earlier than usual, but we’re pretty excited to get the season started, and we know kids around the country are eager to write to Santa using these stamps on the envelopes.”

USPS Operation Santa provides an online channel where people can safely and securely help children and families have a magical holiday when they otherwise might not — one letter to Santa at a time. It allows individuals to adopt letters written to Santa and send thoughtful, heartfelt gifts anonymously. USPS Operation Santa is not a guaranteed gift-giving program. It relies solely on the generosity of strangers.

Last year, letters could be sent beginning November 1. While thousands of letters had been received by the time the USPSOperationSanta.com website opened for letter adoption on November 29, only 2,500 letters contained the information necessary to be posted. The 2,500 letters were all adopted within ten minutes of the site opening. The Postal Service is hoping more time to send letters will equate to many more letters available to adopt on opening day, November 28.

Letters need to include the letter writer’s first and last name and a complete return address. A complete return address includes street address, apartment number (if applicable), city, state, and ZIP Code. The envelope must have a postage stamp on it to travel through the Postal Service processing systems. The envelope needs to be addressed to: SANTA CLAUS, 123 ELF ROAD, NORTH POLE 88888.

These letters travel to Santa’s US satellite workshop, where they are opened and reviewed, personal information is redacted, and uploaded onto the website, anxiously awaiting adoption by generous people across the country.

Visit [USPSOperationSanta.com](https://uspsoperationSanta.com) or
usps.com/holidaynews for More Information



2022 HOLIDAY SEASON SHIPPING GUIDELINES BY USPS

The holidays bring many things — gifts, family gatherings, decorating and festivities. For 2022, they also bring a few updates from the Postal Service for shipping deadlines, temporary pricing changes, and new package regulations.

HOLIDAY SHIPPING TIPS

- Use free Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes. They are available at local Post Office locations or online at usps.com/freeboxes.
- Make it easy with Click-N-Ship. You can create shipping labels and pay for postage online at usps.com/ship.
- Schedule a free Package Pickup when the carrier delivers your mail. It's free regardless of the number of packages. Pickups can be scheduled at usps.com/pickup.
- Mail and packages that weigh more than 10 ounces and/or are more than a half-inch thick using stamps as postage cannot be dropped into a collection box or left for a carrier to pick up. Instead, take them to a window clerk at a Post Office location.
- Packages containing used electronics or other hazardous materials must now be shipped via surface transportation.

HOLIDAY SHIPPING DEADLINES

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines for expected delivery by December 25th to domestic, Air/Army Post Office, Fleet Post Office, and Diplomatic Post Office addresses.*

November 5th	APO/FPO/DPO all ZIP Codes USPS Retail Ground service
December 9th	APO/FPO/DPO all ZIP Codes Priority Mail and First-Class Mail services
December 16th	APO/FPO/DPO except ZIP Code 093 USPS Priority Mail Express Military service
December 17th	USPS Retail Ground service
December 17th	First-Class Mail service including greeting cards
December 17th	First-class packages up to 15.99 ounces
December 19th	Priority Mail service
December 23rd	Priority Mail Express service

Learn More at the Postal Service Holiday Newsroom

usps.com/holidaynews

*Not a guarantee unless otherwise noted. Dates are for estimated delivery before Dec. 25. Actual delivery date may vary depending on origin, destination, Post Office acceptance date and time, and other conditions. Some restrictions apply. For Priority Mail Express shipments mailed Dec. 22 through Dec. 25, the money-back guarantee applies only if the shipment was not delivered or delivery was not attempted within two business days.

HOLIDAY ELVES

Latest Holiday Stamps Released

BY USPS



The stamp art features an original illustration of four elves preparing gifts for the holidays. Working with a simple color palette, artist Don Clark evokes the holiday spirit in the playful, happy scene.

Like many beloved yet relatively modern holiday traditions, including Santa Claus himself, elves did not become a well-established part of the holidays in the United States until the 19th century.

Published in 1823, the poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas,” better known as “’Twas the Night Before Christmas,” refers to Santa as “a jolly old elf,” but there is no mention of other elves. Louisa May Alcott might have been the first to mention Santa’s helpers in an unpublished story collection called Christmas Elves in 1855, but few details of the lost work are known. In 1857, Harper’s Weekly published the poem “The Wonders of Santa Claus,” specifically referring to elves helping Santa create all the gifts he delivers



to good children during the holidays. The 1873 Christmas issue of Godey’s Lady’s Book, a popular magazine, pictured Santa Claus, surrounded by elves and toys, preparing for the big day.

In the 20th century, Norman Rockwell, Haddon Sundblom, and other artists featured elves in some of their popular seasonal illustrations. Holiday Elves were pictured as tiny, pointy-eared, jolly creatures, usually dressed in stocking caps and festive outfits, and always busy with chores for Santa — just as we envision them today.

These stamps commemorate elves’ incomparable skills in product production, time management, problem-solving, collaboration, and overall positivity — as well as their unparalleled logistics acumen.

“The elves have been hard at work here preparing for the upcoming season, and so have the more than 650,000 Postal Service employees nationwide. The Postal Service is proud of its role delivering holiday cards and packages,” said Michael J. Elston, the Secretary of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors. “We know these new stamps will make the perfect addition to holiday greeting cards.”

The Holiday Elves stamps are se-tenant, meaning they work together as a single scene or as individual images. Artist Don Clark sketched his design and then digitally created the final illustration.

**Stamps are Available for Purchase
at USPS Locations and at USPS.com**

LETTERS OF LOVE



**BY KELSEY
HAZELTON**

SALES SUPPORT
ASSISTANT

With the holidays approaching, I find myself reflecting on all this year has brought. I look forward to spending these last moments of 2022 catching up with loved ones. To connect with everyone, especially those we might not see often, I enjoy creating annual holiday cards. These time capsules of the year feature favorite photos of our family and an update on what we've been up to. It is always heartwarming when we receive holiday cards from friends and family, so I am sure they also look forward to our annual updates.

This year I am excited to take these cards to the next level! Our LIVINGPRINT mobile application is the perfect way to share a glimpse into life's recent moments. This simple process allows you to use photos from your device, create your postcard, add a personal message, and design a digital slideshow with music. When you are done creating your postcard, add your addresses and place your order. From there, your card will ship to your loved ones across the globe. When your recipient receives the card, they will scan the QR code, and your photo slideshow, message, and music will play. Your holiday cards will instantly come to life!

**CHECK OUT THE HOLIDAY LIVINGMAIL POSTCARD
INSIDE THIS ISSUE SHOWCASING SOME OF OUR
PAST ACCUZIP TEAM HOLIDAY EVENTS!**

[LEARN MORE AT LIVINGPRINT.COM](https://livingprint.com)



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App Store

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AND TRY IT OUT TODAY!**



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Google Play

APPLE apple.co/3q1GXWS
ANDROID bit.ly/3d4M98C



SLOCALLY MADE

Just twenty miles south of our California office, artists and makers collective ‘SLOcally Made’ gears up for another busy holiday season in San Luis Obispo. At their downtown pop-up shop during the month of December, local shoppers can browse curated handmade wares from dozens of creatives in the area. SLOcally Made was the first pop-up of its kind in the area in 2017. Now in its 6th year, it’s a “one-stop makers-shop” that’s become a beloved month-long annual community event.

The two women behind SLOcally Made envisioned a more streamlined way to shop locally and support indie creatives. Founders Sadie Rogers and Kerry Long were tired of “shlepping” their handcrafted goods all over the state every holiday season, attending countless events, markets, and trade shows. Consumers want to shop local, and creatives want to tell their stories and share their goods. They just needed a centralized location to make it happen. When they were offered a brick-and-mortar space last minute for the first year of the collective, Sadie and Kerry rallied fellow makers and community members to bring their dream vision to life. The event’s success was greater than they could have ever anticipated. Each year since, countless local artists look forward to applying to SLOcally Made for the opportunity to be involved during the holidays.

As part of a collective like SLOcally Made, creatives can worry less about “shlepping” and focus on sharing their passion and unique story with local holiday shoppers. Sadie and Kerry share how joyful the experience is for everyone involved, and that makers often end up with new collaborations and connections, along with plenty of happy customers.

Across the country, there are countless similar collectives full of talented artists. This holiday season, consider seeking out such collectives, pop-ups, and local makers in your area for those perfect handmade gifts and accessories. Spending money in your own community is always a win-win, but doing so during the holidays is even more special.

[Learn More at Slocally-Made.com](https://www.slocally-made.com)





**BY LARISSA
BARRIOS**

ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

Every December, a little bit of magic unfolds in Paso Robles, just ten minutes away from our California office, when the Vine Street Showcase transforms Victorian houses into a miniature Christmas village. From 8th Street down to 21st, homes and businesses decorate with lights, ornaments, candy canes, and every lawn decoration imaginable to bring a winter wonderland to life. For over 30 years, locals have enjoyed the free event that celebrates all things Christmas.

Vine Street Showcase was created by Norma Moye, Executive Director of the Downtown Paso Robles Main Street Association. Norma wanted to create an old-fashioned Christmas, like the kind seen in a Norman Rockwell painting. Over the years, she and the Main Street Association have worked to keep the event going, even during the pandemic, which transitioned from people walking down the street to a drive-thru experience. This year the event will return to in-person.

Every year the showcase begins with a parade, led by the Paso Robles High School Band. Though the band is small compared to other marching bands, they are decorated with years of awards and are a symbol of great pride for the town. The parade also features floats from local charities and businesses, including a trolley on wheels decorated with Christmas lights. The highlight of the parade is Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, who will wave and toss out candy from a sleigh pulled by a tractor.

Each block hosts a variety of performers, from carolers to dance troupes to theatrical performances. Be sure to grab some free hot chocolate and popcorn to warm yourself up as you take in all the sights and sounds the Vine Street Showcase has to offer. A local favorite is Mr. Scrooge, who taunts passersby from his balcony. It's been a long-standing tradition to shout back at him to believe in Christmas, to which he will always reply, "Bah Humbug!" Mr. and Mrs. Claus will also be available at their miniature North Pole to greet children and listen to their Christmas wishes.

For its 36th run, the Vine Street Showcase will be held on December 10th, from 6pm to 9pm. Locals are excited to return to some normalcy and get back to celebrating Christmas the best way they know how – as a community that spreads joy with a thankful heart and asks you to keep the spirit of Christmas all year long.

PLACES TO VISIT

VINE STREET SHOWCASE

WINTER BUCKET LIST

The weather has cooled, and the sun keeps setting earlier and earlier – it finally feels like winter. The end of the year is always full of gatherings and reasons to celebrate, but it always seems to go by so fast. This year, we put together a fun checklist to help you get into the holiday spirit and fully appreciate the nostalgic charm of the end-of-year season.

- ☐ Send letters or holiday cards to loved ones, especially if you won't be seeing them in person to celebrate
- ☐ A joyful Friendsgiving with those you love is always a welcome comfort during such a busy time
- ☐ Cozy up by the fireplace and read a feel-good novel
- ☐ Watch a favorite holiday movie with hot cocoa and freshly baked treats
- ☐ Go ice skating! Or, if it snows where you live, bundle up and build a snowman
- ☐ Give a thoughtful gift to someone you love – Bonus points if you write a personal note to go with it!
- ☐ Watch the last sunset of the year – Midnight gets all the glory, but the final sunset can be just as magical
- ☐ Volunteer with a local charity to flex your gratitude muscles and embrace the season of giving
- ☐ Admire the holiday lights and decorations in your neighborhood
- ☐ Carry out a favorite tried-and-true tradition, or start a brand new one with friends or family
- ☐ Attend a holiday parade or seasonal community event
- ☐ Decorate cookies with some friends
- ☐ Reflect on your favorite memories or landmark moments over the past year, and set some goals for the year to come

HOLIDAY RECIPES FROM OUR TEAM



ERIC LAMBETH'S GERMAN COOKIES

⅓ C	White Sugar	¼ t	Ground Cloves
¼ C	Packed Brown Sugar	⅛ t	Ground Cayenne Pepper
¼ C	Honey	½ T	Kosher Salt
1 T	Water	1 t	Baking Soda
1 t	Ground Cinnamon	2 T	Heavy Cream
¾ t	Ground Ginger	1	Large Egg, Beaten
½ t	Ground Cardamom	2 ½ C	All-Purpose Flour
¼ t	Ground Nutmeg	3 C	Powdered Sugar
¼ t	Ground Allspice	3 T	Lemon Juice

01. Combine sugars in a saucepan with honey, water, cinnamon, ginger, cardamom, nutmeg, allspice, cloves, and cayenne pepper. Place over medium heat and whisk until the sugars dissolve and it just starts to simmer. Immediately remove from the heat and let cool for 4 to 5 minutes.

02. Add salt, baking soda, heavy cream, and egg. Whisk until thoroughly combined. Add flour and stir together until it comes together as a dough.

03. Transfer dough to a piece of plastic wrap. Press into a ball and wrap tightly. Place in the refrigerator and let rest for 1 to 2 days.

04. Preheat the oven to 375°F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

05. Scoop dough into rounded teaspoons. Roll each one into a smooth ball if desired, and place on a prepared baking sheet.

06. Bake until cookies are perfectly dome-shaped with light golden brown bottoms, 9 to 10 minutes. Let cool on the pan to room temperature.

07. Make icing by placing powdered sugar in a bowl. Stir in lemon juice, a few teaspoons at a time, until icing is very thick, but still slightly runny.

08. Dip the top of each cooled cookie into the icing. Let it drip, flip it over, and place on a wire rack set over a piece of parchment paper to harden.



JIM & CATHY LORD'S PECAN PIE

1	9" Pastry for Single Crust Pie	3 T	Butter
3	Large Eggs	½ t	Vanilla
½ C	Sugar	¼ t	Salt
1 C	Maple Syrup	2 C	Pecan Halves

01. Preheat oven to 375°F.

02. Whisk eggs and sugar until smooth. Add maple syrup, vanilla, salt, melted butter, and pecans.

03. Bake 30-40 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean.

04. Cool on wire rack for 1 hour, then serve with whipped cream.

KRISTEN MCKIERNAN'S HOLIDAY SPRITZER

Apple Juice
Cranberry Juice
Sprite

Cranberries
Rosemary

01. In a glass mix equal parts apple juice and cranberry juice. Add a dash of Sprite. Garnish with cranberries and a sprig of rosemary.

KELSEY HAZELTON'S HOT BUTTERED RUM

1 lb Dark Brown Sugar
1 lb Powdered Sugar

1 C Butter
1 Q Vanilla Ice Cream

01. Combine all ingredients and freeze.

02. To serve: Put two heaping tablespoons of the mix with 1 ounce dark rum in a mug. Fill with hot water and stir until creamy. Top with nutmeg if desired.





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Connection is why we're
here. It is what gives purpose
and meaning to our lives.

BRENÉ BROWN

We are always committed to providing
you with the highest level of support.
Please do not hesitate to contact us with
any questions or need for assistance.

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WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO UNSPLASH & PEXELS

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