

February 2019

The Latest News From Jeffrey and Wade



History of Valentine's Day

Every February 14, across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint, and where did these traditions come from? Find out about the history of this centuries-old holiday, from ancient Roman rituals to the customs of Victorian England.

The Legend of St. Valentine

The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Other stories suggest that

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Creamy Chicken Tortilla Soup

Ingredients for the Soup:

2 TBSP vegetable oil, 1 medium yellow onion diced, 4 cloves garlic minced, 2 jalapenos diced, 6 cups low-sodium chicken stock, two 14.5 ounce cans of fire roasted diced tomatoes w/green chilies, one 11 ounce can of corn, one 14.5 ounce can of black beans, rinsed & drained, 1 TBSP chili powder, 2 TSP ground cumin, 1 TSP smoked paprika, 1/8 TSP crushed red pepper flakes, 3 TBSP crushed corn tortillas chips, 3 chicken breasts (diced), 2 limes; 1 juiced and 1 cut into wedges for serving, 1 cup heavy cream, kosher or sea salt to taste, freshly ground black pepper to taste

Toppings:

Shredded Mexican cheese, corn tortilla chips, sour cream, fresh cilantro chopped, fresh avocado slices, lime wedges, jalapeno slices

Directions:

Crush enough tortilla chips to make 3 TBSP and set aside. In a skillet, sauté chicken until done and set aside. In a pot, over medium heat add the vegetable oil. Add onions and cook 3 minutes or until softened. Add jalapenos and cook an additional 1 minute. Add garlic and cook 30 seconds. Pour in the chicken broth, tomatoes, corn, beans, chili powder, cumin, smoked paprika, crushed red pepper and crushed corn tortilla chips. Add chicken breast and simmer for 20 minutes. Add lime juice and heavy cream. Stir well and season with salt and pepper. Cook until heated through



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*Still
"Your House Hubby"*

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Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first “valentine” greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed “From your Valentine,” an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Origins of Valentine's Day:

A Pagan Festival in February - While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to “Christianize” the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus. To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

Valentine's Day:

A Day of Romance - Lupercalia survived the initial rise of Christianity and but was outlawed—as it was deemed “un-Christian”—at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine's Day should be a day for romance. Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem

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written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. (The greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.) Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

Typical Valentine's Day Greetings

In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century. By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings. Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the “Mother of the Valentine,” made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as “scrap.” Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.) Women purchase approximately 85 percent of all valentines.

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15th Annual Denver Restaurant Week

The menus for the 15th annual Denver Restaurant Week were released on Wednesday morning. The yearly tradition that offers people specially priced menus from more than 215 restaurants across the metro area will take place from Feb. 22 to March 3. The restaurants offer multi-course dinners at three price points – \$25, \$35 or \$45. “15 years ago, we created Denver Restaurant Week to combat the misperception that Denver's fine dining scene left a lot to be desired,” said Richard Scharf, president and CEO of Visit Denver. “Now, our dining scene really speaks for itself and Denver Restaurant Week has become a celebration of our award-winning, nationally recognized culinary community.” You can view all the participating restaurants and the menus at DenverRestaurantWeek.com. Reservations are recommended. Officials recommend to be flexible and try earlier or later bookings or reserve a spot Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. *kdvr.com 1/23/19*

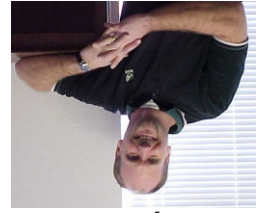
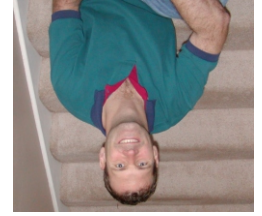
Quick Glance At Home Prices In The Denver Metro Area

City	Baths	Beds	St Above	SF Total	Gargage	Style	Yr. Blt.	Lot SF	DOM	Sold Price
Golden	4	4	4442	4442	3	Bi-Level	1995	89520	116	\$ 1,158,000
Arvada	5	4	3994	4834	3	2 Story	2001	46304	152	\$ 1,155,000
Buffalo Creek	3	3	4451	4451	2	Multi-Level	1998	435600	119	\$ 870,000
Golden	3	5	1762	2674	3	Bi-Level	1980	43124	65	\$ 820,000
Erie	4	4	3954	5150	3	2 Story	2018	10920	58	\$ 789,999
Denver	4	3	2250	4500	2	Ranch/1 Story	1983	6750	6	\$ 700,000
Centennial	4	5	2816	3935	4	2 Story	1973	8668	5	\$ 695,000
Broomfield	2	2	1847	3678	2	Ranch/1 Story	2015	6272	63	\$ 615,000
Highlands Ranch	4	4	2569	3497	3	2 Story	1993	8233	6	\$ 565,000
Broomfield	3	3	2083	2083	8	Raised Ranch	2001	44867	240	\$ 562,000
Arvada	3	4	2035	4040	2	Ranch/1 Story	1979	8348	17	\$ 560,000
Littleton	4	4	2282	3229	2	2 Story	1977	9049	41	\$ 550,000
Littleton	3	4	2384	2816	4	Multi-Level	1963	11925	4	\$ 527,000
Denver	2	4	1411	2131	3	2 Story	1910	3190	78	\$ 525,000
Parker	3	4	3011	4391	3	2 Story	2006	10542	33	\$ 515,000
Castle Rock	3	3	2706	4122	3	2 Story	2005	10367	80	\$ 510,000
Arvada	3	4	2084	2084	3	Multi-Level	1976	12350	30	\$ 479,500
Highlands Ranch	4	4	1895	2860	2	2 Story	2013	5750	40	\$ 477,000
Wheat Ridge	2	4	1446	1960	3	Multi-Level	1957	10619	2	\$ 457,000
Longmont	4	4	2150	3197	2	2 Story	2000	7650	54	\$ 455,500
Westminster	3	4	1440	2196	2	Ranch/1 Story	1995	8817	8	\$ 450,000
Aurora	2	3	2158	4292	3	Ranch/1 Story	2001	9845	36	\$ 445,000
Aurora	3	3	1612	2012	2	2 Story	2000	6795	5	\$ 427,500
Littleton	3	3	1753	2374	2	2 Story	1975	7910	3	\$ 420,000
Arvada	2	3	936	1872	2	Ranch/1 Story	1976	7325	65	\$ 405,000
Aurora	4	5	2097	3109	2	2 Story	1994	7187	3	\$ 399,000
Aurora	3	5	1833	2873	2	2 Story	1980	9104	5	\$ 390,000
Highlands Ranch	4	2	1284	1912	2	2 Story	1999	4487	102	\$ 388,000
Denver	1	3	1117	1117	3	Ranch/1 Story	1949	9430	10	\$ 385,000
Thornton	3	3	1662	2107	5	2 Story	2000	7846	20	\$ 385,000
Lakewood	2	3	1981	1981	2	Tri-Level	1955	9249	34	\$ 383,000
Henderson	3	3	1970	2822	2	2 Story	2005	6300	7	\$ 374,000
Denver	2	5	900	1800	1	Bi-Level	1971	10200	35	\$ 330,000
Commerce City	3	2	1668	1668	2	2 Story	2004	6193	58	\$ 329,237
Denver	2	3	832	1664		Ranch/1 Story	1950	6800	4	\$ 328,400
Aurora	2	4	1621	1621	4	Ranch/1 Story	1952	8756	13	\$ 320,000
Thornton	2	3	1525	1525	2	Tri-Level	1975	8000	4	\$ 310,500
Commerce City	2	3	1294	1294	2	Ranch/1 Story	2003	5235	46	\$ 310,000
Westminster	2	4	1061	2122	2	Ranch/1 Story	1958	7200	5	\$ 308,000
Aurora	1	3	1230	1230	2	Tri-Level	1982	6142	28	\$ 307,000
Denver	1	3	1252	1252	1	2 Story	1986	4020	14	\$ 290,000
Denver	1	2	871	871	2	Ranch/1 Story	1941	6500	49	\$ 270,000
Lakewood	1	3	936	936	2	Ranch/1 Story	1956	6650	2	\$ 268,500
Aurora	1	3	809	809	2	Ranch/1 Story	1940	6350	9	\$ 185,000

Sampling of Data From The Multiple Listing Service For Single Family Homes Which Closed On 1/22/2019.

If you would like more information on one of the homes listed about, please email us or call us with the home information and we would be happy to send you the full MLS data sheet for that home.

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The Latest News From Your Real Estate Experts



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