



## Falling for Autumn Décor

Fall is a fun time of year to get festive! Try some of these quick ideas to bring a little Autumn Crisp into your home!

**Move Over, Jack** - Grimacing faces not your thing? Find 3 to 5 pumpkins that stack well atop one another. Hollow and carve your street number, one per pumpkin. String a set of white lights through the middle, and you have a great doorside decoration!

**Center Stage** - For a quick centerpiece, lay a grapevine wreath on your table, and fill the center with mini pumpkins, gourds, fall foliage and mini pinecones. Choose hard-variety apples (red delicious or granny smith) for a longer-lasting centerpiece.

**Pumpkin Placecards** - Having a party? Write your guests' names on mini pumpkins with black permanent marker as an adorable placeholder!

**Pumpkin Vase** - Hollow and clean a small- to medium-size pumpkin. Fit the inside with a small vase or jar. Arrange fresh flowers along with twigs and full-color fall leaves! A mini pumpkin with a few sprigs of daisies makes a terrific gift for a friend or teacher!

**Pumpkin Pedestal** - Place a medium-size pumpkin on a pedestal in the center of the table. Add fall leaves, trailing ivy, nuts, and small clove-spiked oranges. Use toothpicks or floral picks to help hold items in place. For a dramatic effect, carve your pumpkin first... or use a white pumpkin!



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## Roasted Pumpkin Seed Perfection!

Take advantage of the abundant pumpkin crops this October and November, and roast up a special treat for your family! From the traditional to the spicy, this seasonal snack will tantalize your taste buds!

**Traditional recipe:**

- 2 cups raw pumpkin seeds
- 2-3 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 teaspoon salt

Separate seeds from pumpkin fiber, rinse gently and pat dry. Toss seeds in a bowl with melted butter and salt. Spread seeds in a single layer on a cookie sheet, and slow roast at 300 degrees for 40 minutes, turning occasionally until golden brown.

**Try adding one of these variations to your butter:**

- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon sugar, with 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning



# Treats... Not Tricks... This Halloween!

The trick to safe treating is preparation, communication and a watchful eye! Make sure this season is a little less spooky and our children are a lot more safe by keeping the following precautions in mind on Halloween night:

## For trick-or-treaters:

- Make sure children are well lit! Carry a flashlight or glow stick, and consider reflective tape for black costumes!
- No running! Darkness and costumes are an awkward mix. Walk, don't run, from house to house.
- Stick to the rules! While motorists should be more mindful on this night, better to be safe! Stay on the sidewalks when possible, and watch for traffic signals.
- Walk facing traffic if there are no sidewalks, and stay as visible as possible.
- Wear shoes that fit. The princess shoes are pretty, but they're not always safe!
- Only approach houses with lights on. Dark houses mean no one is home or they simply don't want to be disturbed.
- Steer clear of unfamiliar pets. This is an anxious night for household pets, so teach your children to step back when the door is answered, just in case.
- Stick with familiar streets and houses. If your children are walking alone, be sure you know what route they plan to take and that they have a way to communicate with you.
- Masks are fun, but have your kids slide them off between houses or when crossing the street, so their peripheral vision is not impaired.
- Check and double check. While tampering is rare, it is a concern. Thoroughly check your child's candy before consumption. Never allow them to eat unwrapped or suspicious treats.



## For homeowners:

- Keep your yard free of easily tripped-over items such as hoses, ladders or tools.
- Rope lighting is a safe way to mark a path to your door! They even come in orange for Halloween decorating.
- Make sure to keep pets away from your bowl of treats. Pets and chocolate just don't mix. In fact, your best bet might be to close your pets in a different room with their favorite toy or bone for the evening.
- Try battery-operated lights to make your jack-o-lantern glow. They are safer and longer-lasting than flames!

Whether you are a trick-or-treater, a parent, a homeowner or a motorist, remember: **SAFETY FIRST!**

## HARVEST MOON CHILI

- ◆ 1 pound ground chuck
- ◆ 2 medium yellow onions, chopped
- ◆ 3 stalks celery, chopped
- ◆ 1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- ◆ 1/2 teaspoon chili powder or to taste
- ◆ 1 large can tomato sauce
- ◆ 1 large can diced tomatoes, packed in juice or tomato sauce
- ◆ 2 15 1/2-ounce cans Bush's CHILI beans, med-hot, do NOT drain.
- ◆ Elbow macaroni can be added if desired.



Brown ground chuck in a medium, heavy-bottomed saucepan, breaking it up as browns. Add onions and celery, continue to cook at medium heat, add salt and seasoning. Add remainder of ingredient, and Cook over low heat, until all is tender.

Set out dishes of shredded Colby-Jack cheese, sour cream, and additional chopped onion for garnishes. Enjoy!

# Real Estate tips

brought to you by Harvey & Nancy Paepke, TEAM

## THE "ETHICS" DIFFERENCE

Many people incorrectly use the terms real estate agent and REALTOR® interchangeably. While both are licensed to sell real estate, the basic difference is that a REALTOR® is a member of the National Association of REALTORS® and, as such, must subscribe to a strict REALTOR® Code of Ethics.

The Code of Ethics is a promise to the public that when dealing with a real estate agent who is a REALTOR®, they can expect honest and ethical treatment in all transaction-related matters. All REALTORS® are required to complete a minimum of 2 1/2 hours of orientation on the Code of Ethics. Existing members must take a refresher course every four years.



Only REALTORS® pledge to abide by the Code of Ethics, and only REALTORS® are held accountable for their ethical behavior.

### The basic principles of the Code of Ethics include:

- Protect and promote your client's interest, but be honest with all.
- REALTORS® shall be careful at all times to present a true picture in their advertising and representations to the public.
- Assure, whenever possible, that transactional details are in writing.

We will be happy to provide a complete copy of the REALTORS® Code of Ethics for your review. Call us to get yours today!

### CALL TODAY FOR A FREE:

- Comparative Home Analysis
- Merchandising Review
- List of Properties
- Mortgage Options Analysis
- For Sale By Owner Kit
- LISTING GUARANTEE

## TAKE FIVE! Handy Household Tips

Friends coming over? Unexpected company? Here are five quick ways to make your house feel like home sweet home in no time!

1. Fill a medium saucepan halfway with water. Add 1 orange (quartered), 1 apple (halved), 2 tablespoons cinnamon, 1 tablespoon clove and 1 teaspoon ginger. Simmer on low to fill your home with a fresh, inviting aroma.
2. Take your disposal for a spin! Put a 1/2 lemon or lime (cut up), 1/2 cup ice and 2 tablespoons baking soda down the drain. Turn the disposal on, and let the mixture chop while the water's running. Sweet sink!
3. Break Bread. Keep a ready-to-bake loaf of French bread in your refrigerator. Open, place on a cookie sheet, and in less than 20 minutes you have a loaf of fresh bread (and your home smells like a bakery)! Combine a few tablespoons of good olive oil and your favorite dipping mixes or a little Italian seasoning in a bowl for a quick bread dip!
4. If you have frequent stop-by guests, you'll love the simplicity of slice & bake cookies. In 10-12 minutes, your guests can enjoy fresh cookies... and feel right at home in your kitchen!
5. Candles are wonderful home enhancers. Find some with the right scent for your home, and light for any occasion—or every day! Candles add atmosphere, warm scents and an opportunity for your family to make memories!





"Let this TEAM get you MOVING today!!

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## Our Treat...

As the air turns crisp and the leaves present their dazzling display of extraordinary color, it is easy to get caught up in this season of change. The days ahead will be filled with pumpkin patches, sweater weather, fall festivals and hot apple cider!

How will we spend our days? Hurried and hassled? Worried and worn out? Let us borrow an early page from November and remember to slow down and give thanks to the people in our lives who make a difference, the little things along the way that make us smile, and this incredible time of year filled with color and beauty.

Go for a walk with your family or friends. Find those first early leaves as they fall. Discover the laugh-out-loud fun of apple picking or pumpkin carving.

However you choose to celebrate the season, know that we are here when you need us. Knowing the **tricks** necessary to help people find the right home and solve their real estate riddles is more than our job, it is **our treat!**

Thank you, and have an incredible October!



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