



IN THIS ISSUE

Keep Guests Entertained

Hosts can lead a tour of their towns to entertain overnight guests during the holiday season.

Thanksgiving Turkey

Do you now just how many turkeys America eats in a single year?

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November 2024

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE
**PAYNESVILLE PRESS &
EDEN VALLEY-WATKINS VOICE**

HOSTING TIPS • DECOR • HOLIDAY HISTORY • RECIPES AND MORE!

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the US Poultry and Egg Association, as well as The National Turkey Federation, between 45 and 46 million turkeys are eaten around Thanksgiving.

That's around as many turkeys as the entire population of Spain.

Americans ate approximately 219 million turkeys in 2019, according to the listed sources, so those millions of turkeys represent around a fifth of all turkeys eaten for the entire year.

The average commercial turkey sold in grocery stores weighs just over 30 pounds, according to the Wall Street Journal. That means Americans are eating nearly 1.4 billion pounds of turkey during the holiday season.



HOLIDAY COOKING FOR A CROWD MADE EASY

These guidelines can help simplify cooking for a large guest count.

A number of things can be expected during the holiday season. Children will anxiously await visits from Santa and travelers recognize there is bound to be traffic on the roadways and crowds at the airport. And if you're opening your home to guests, those visitors will be expecting some delicious food.

Meals are a big component of holiday entertaining, so much so that holiday hosts may spend weeks pondering what to serve guests. These guidelines can help simplify cooking for a crowd.

Plan make-ahead dishes

Simplifying holiday cooking comes down to spending less time in the kitchen on the day of the festivities. Make-ahead dishes that can be reheated or set in chafing dishes for buffet meals are preferable. There's lots of dishes to choose from, including casseroles, stews,

soups, and baked pasta dishes. Avoid fresh pasta offerings, like spaghetti and meatballs, for example. Leftover noodles will get mushy and will not reheat very well.

Ham is a good choice

Ham is a forgiving dish that is quite popular for holiday gatherings. Many hams come pre-cooked and pre-sliced, so producing a flavorful main course may be just a matter of dressing it up with seasonings or even using the glaze that often comes with such products.

Cater a meal

There's certainly pride that comes with offering guests a table full of home-cooked foods. But the expense, effort and time that goes into creating a masterful menu can be taxing. If a lot of people are coming for the holidays, hosts can find out which area businesses offer holiday catering packages and consider them. This frees up more time for mingling with guests. And food establishments often have experience knowing just how much

food to have per person, reducing waste and helping hosts avoid having a refrigerator full of leftovers they may or may not eat.

Delegate some tasks

It's alright to ask guests to bring something to the holiday dinner. In fact, they may be eager to pitch in. If someone brings a salad, another an appetizer and others some desserts, then it is just up to the host to provide the main course and maybe a side or two. This removes a lot of the pressure.

Select familiar foods

Hosts may be tempted to try all of the delicious recipes featured in magazines or online around the holidays. However, sticking with familiar dishes that you have made before reduces the chances for error. Recipes that can be whipped up by rote will make holiday cooking tasks easier and quicker.

Cooking for a holiday crowd doesn't have to be difficult, especially when hosts employ a few strategies to simplify meal creation.

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11/09

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The Mape Baker
Refreshments & Sweets

Small Business Saturday

11/30

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HOW TO KEEP GUESTS ENTERTAINED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Gatherings with loved ones are a big part of what makes the holiday season such a special time of year. As families grow and spread out across the map, they may not get too many chances to spend quality time with one another. But the holiday season is a time each year when families make a concerted effort to get together.

As families get together under the same roof during the holiday season, individuals tasked with hosting gatherings tend to have a lot on their plates. Memories tend to be made around the holiday dinner table, but the season also presents ample opportunities to create nights to remember outside the house as well. Hosts can keep the following ideas in mind as they look for ways to entertain guests this holiday season.

• **Take a turn as a tour guide.** Locals may not make the rounds of nearby tourist destinations too frequently, but the holiday season is a great opportunity for hosts to show guests what makes their towns so unique. Serve as a tour guide for guests on a sightseeing



day with visits to local monuments or museums. Wrap the day up at a holiday bazaar where local small business owners have set up shop. This affords guests a chance to tour a new community or a hometown they haven't visited in awhile, and also makes for a great chance for all to squeeze in a little last-minute holiday shopping.

• **Plan an ugly sweater bar crawl.** If hosts and their guests are all of age, an ugly sweater bar crawl can

make for a fun night out on the town. Encourage guests to wear an ugly holiday sweater and map out a route and schedule of visits to local bars and restaurants. Hosts must prioritize safety on these types of excursions, so arrange for a bus to take guests from one spot to the next if establishments are far away from one another. If Main Street has a local bar district, arrange for transportation downtown at the start of the crawl and home when

the night ends.

• **Take in some local entertainment.** Whether it's a holiday lighting display show or a local theater performance of a classic holiday tale like Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol," a night of local live entertainment is a great way for hosts and their guests to get out of the house. Hosts can even book a reservation for a pre-show meal at a local restaurant so they can be free of cooking and give guests their undivided attention.

• **Host a holiday movie night.** Weary travelers who want to stay in may appreciate a holiday movie double feature. Hosts can let guests pick a pair of holiday films and then host a double feature, complete with traditional movie fare like popcorn and candy. Hosts can even offer adult guests a glass of homemade eggnog during the films to up the holiday ante even further.

Holiday hosts can embrace various ways to entertain guests during a time of year when there's no shortage of fun ways to spend a night.

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