

# November



*"The Key to Buying or Selling"*

## Beyond the Bird: 7 Out-of-the-Box Thanksgiving Ideas

### *Did You Know...*

Only male turkeys make the iconic "gobble, gobble" sound we associate with Thanksgiving. This is why they're often called "gobblers." Female turkeys, on the other hand, communicate with softer sounds, like purring and cackling.



Here are some creative and "out of the box" ideas to celebrate Thanksgiving in ways that bring people together and make it extra memorable:

- 1. Friendsgiving with a Cultural Twist** - Host a Friendsgiving where everyone brings a dish inspired by their heritage or culture. This is a fun way to share traditions, stories, and recipes, expanding the spirit of gratitude to a global perspective.
- 2. Gratitude Tree** - Create a "gratitude tree" as a centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table. Use a small, bare branch in a pot, and provide paper leaves for guests to write what they're thankful for. Guests hang their "leaves" on the tree, adding a visual representation of collective gratitude.
- 3. Turkey Trot for a Cause** - Organize a "turkey trot" walk or run with your family and friends in the morning. Turn it into a fundraiser by asking people to donate to a cause close to everyone's heart. This makes for a fun and meaningful start to Thanksgiving Day.
- 4. Table Topic Cards** - Create or buy table topic cards with unique "twist" questions like, "If you could invite one historical figure to Thanksgiving, who would it be?" or "What's a holiday tradition you would invent?" It makes for light-hearted, memorable conversations.
- 5. DIY Cranberry Bar** - Set up a DIY cranberry sauce bar with various add-ins like orange zest, jalapeños, cinnamon, ginger, honey, or even whiskey. Guests can customize their cranberry sauce to their taste and have fun experimenting with flavors.
- 6. Decorate with Edible Centerpieces** - Instead of traditional flowers, set up edible centerpieces made of fruits, cheeses, nuts, and chocolates. It not only adds color but also keeps people snacking and engaged in the decor.
- 7. Pumpkin Spice Bar** - Set up a "Pumpkin Spice Bar" for dessert with various pumpkin-spiced treats like lattes, cookies, mini pies, and popcorn. You can also include non-dessert options like spiced butternut squash soup shooters or a pumpkin cheese spread.



# Home Winterization Hacks for a Toasty Season

Here's a checklist of practical ways to winterize a home, perfect for sharing with homeowners to help them prepare for colder months:

- 1.Reverse Ceiling Fans** - Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise at low speed. This pushes warm air down from the ceiling, keeping rooms warmer.
- 2.Install a Programmable Thermostat** - Programmable or smart thermostats can help regulate the temperature efficiently, saving on energy bills.
- 3.Protect Exterior Plumbing** - Drain outdoor faucets, disconnect hoses, and cover outdoor spigots with insulated covers to prevent freezing.
- 4.Inspect Insulation on Doors and Windows** - Consider storm doors and windows or plastic window insulation kits to add another layer of protection against drafts.
- 5.Trim Trees and Bushes** - Remove overhanging branches near the roof and gutters. Ice and snow can make them heavy, risking damage to the home.
- 6.Stock Up on Winter Supplies** - Buy ice melt, shovels, sand, and other winter essentials before the first snow to ensure you're prepared.
- 7.Check Carbon Monoxide Detectors** - Replace batteries and test detectors, as heating systems can increase carbon monoxide risks in winter.
- 8.Inspect the Water Heater** - Drain your water heater to remove any sediment and ensure it's working efficiently. You may also insulate the water heater.
- 9.Protect and Store Outdoor Furniture** - Cover or store patio furniture, grills, and other outdoor equipment to protect them from snow and ice.

## *Weird, but True!*

*Originally, Jingle Bells wasn't a Christmas song at all—it was a Thanksgiving tune! Composed by James Pierpont in 1857 and titled One Horse Open Sleigh, the song was intended to celebrate Thanksgiving. But as its catchy melody swept through the holiday season, by 1859, it was rebranded as Jingle Bells.*



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