ALWAYS TASTEFUL





Spaghetti Casserole: pg.7 Country Music Hall of Fame: pg.13 Leaving Leaves: pg.16

WHAT'S IN HERE?



Thanksgiving is the best. My Meme and me!



Thanksgiving Beauty

THANKSGIVING HACK

BUTTER CORN





LET'S EAT

SPAGHETTI CASSEROLE



FOR THE TABLE

LESS IS MORE



TABLE SETTING

PLAIN IS GOOD



QUILTS

THE BEST GIFT



GO DO

MELISSA ETHERIDGE



GO DO

COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME



FOR YOUR SAFETY

CARBON MONOXIDE



WHAT'S IN HERE?



YARD WORK

RAKING LEAVES



PAINTING





HONORING





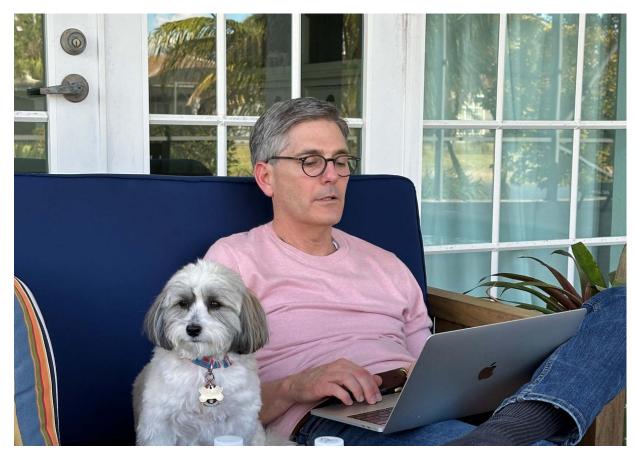
My niece makes cookies every Thanksgiving. Her creations are simple and wonderful.

PAGE THREE | ALWAYS TASTEFUL NOVEMBER 2025

PAUL FOLGER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



November is what I consider the real beginning of winter. In the Carolinas, where I grew up, it starts slow. In Minnesota, we can have snow, but if we don't, you can count on hard freezes. It's that shocking reminder that we are embarking on a long winter. The beginning feels good, snuggling down into your home. You watch movies and throw on a blanket. I know Thanksgiving is coming this month, and I've included a great recipe hack for Thanksgiving, a corn side dish everyone will love. Happy Thanksgiving!



"I spend Thanksgiving at my sister's house in Florida. This is her dog Watson."

LET'S EAT

Buttered Corn Hack





"This corn recipe is an easy hack for Thanksgiving. Years ago, I went to a party and they had this dish. Here's the recipe."



INGREDIENTS:

3 sticks salted butter 4 cans of corn ½ tsp ground pepper ¼ tsp paprika Dollop of Sour Cream

DIRECTIONS:

In a crockpot, pour in 4 cans of drained corn.

Add butter.

Add pepper and stir.

Cook on high for 1 to 1.5 hours.

Serve with paprika sprinkled on top and dollop of sour cream.

PAGE FIVE | ALWAYS TASTEFUL NOVEMBER 2025

LET'S EAT

Thanksgiving Tasters



"I call this Thanksgiving Tasters. A simple meat and cheese platter can be a perfect addition to a Thanksgiving buffet. All the ingredients featured here are from Trader Joe's. To create this easy and quick dish, choose your favorite three or four types of meats and cheeses and arrange them on a platter. Add a few olives in the center, and you're all set. Your quests will absolutely love it!"



NIGHT BEFORE THANKSGIVING

"Hits The Spot"

Spaghetti Casserole

When your guests arrive on Thanksgiving Eve, having a delicious dinner ready is ideal. After their travels, they're likely to be hungry, and you may not want to cook since you're busy preparing for the next day. **Consider making this dish on Tuesday** and refrigerating it. Then, simply do the final bake on Wednesday. This way, you'll have a fantastic meal ready for your guests when they arrive.

Ingredients

2 pounds ground beef

1 large onion

4 cloves garlic

2 cans whole tomatoes, 28 ounces each

2 Tbs sugar

2 tsp. basil

2 tsp. oregano

4 bay leaves

1.5 tsp. table salt, not kosher

½ Cup Grated Parmesan Cheese



Directions

In a large pan over medium/high heat, cook the onions in olive oil until they are translucent. Then add ground beef, cooking until it begins to brown. Next, add garlic and cook all of this together. Drain if needed, then add tomatoes, spices, and salt. As this cooks, use a potato masher to smash the beef and tomatoes together in the pan. Let this simmer.

In a separate pot, heat water and add some salt to your liking. Break the pasta into 2-inch pieces and add it to the boiling water. Let this cook for 6 to 7 minutes; it won't be completely done. The oven will finish cooking it. Then, in a casserole dish, layer in noodles and meat, noodles and sauce until full. Add Parmesan cheese on top and cook this for about 20 minutes at 400°F. It will start to bubble, then put it under the broiler for just a couple of minutes until the Parmesan cheese is toasty.



THANKSGIVING TABLE

Less Is More

"Simple, Satisfying"

A Thanksgiving Buffet for your guests is a great way to celebrate this American tradition. One of my favorite things is to have fewer items on the buffet. A crowded table makes you overeat and looks haphazard. Pick a few items and make those for Thanksgiving. Here you see turkey, green beans, macaroni salad, cranberry sauce, the classics. Do this and it will make your Thanksgiving easy and you won't have a bunch of leftovers



Plain Is Good



Growing up at my house, you could set the table or you could wash dishes. Those were the chores. I would set the table. Here's my tip create a simple table setting that you can use over and over. Use white dishes and clear glasses. Always just right for any occasion. I've got a centerpiece that is a beveled mirror (it's actually a full length mirror you'd hang on a door). The flowers are simple and the little votive candles, make it sparkle.

LIFETIME OF LOVE

Beauty Abounds Quilt

"One of the Great Gifts"

A quilt is wonderful gift. But it gives best later in life. When I was a kid, my grandmother asked me what my favorite color was and I told her it was green.

That Christmas a large box was under the tree. I opened it with excitement and pulled out a quilt that had every state flower in the United States.

This was about 1980. I was a kid and liked it, but today I really appreciate the gift more than ever.

She made me two, one had every state bird, the other every state flower. Each one is hand embroidered.

Today, I sleep under one and it makes me think of my grandmother every day and the hours she spent making quilts for all of her grandchildren. I hope my cousins use them.

My grandmother left us but her love remains under the warmth of her quilts.

The 2 Green Quilts are from my grandmother. The beige, my great grandmother.



Melissa Etheridge



In October, I took a trip to Nashville to see a concert. It was the Indigo Girls and Melissa Etheridge. I love the harmony the Indigo Girls have together. I never really thought much about Melissa Etheridge; she was just a bonus for me. But let me tell you, her concert was great. Blew me away. So much fun. Concerts are good because you can look forward to them. Pick one and go.

Melissa Etheridge



Country Music Hall of Fame

If you ever find yourself in Nashville, Tennessee, you really should go to the Country Music Hall of Fame. It's not terribly expensive and you see a lot. They of course, have a huge display of Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash and the Classics. There are a lot of costumes and history. There's also a video in the museum, make sure you stop and watch the entire thing especially if you're just a casual country fan. It's decades and decades of collecting and it's right in the heart of the city. There's a lot to do in Nashville. It makes a nice weekend trip.







A Dolly Parton Dress



Minnie Pearl's Hat With The Tag





FOR THE WINTER

Carbon Monoxide Detector

Here's your reminder to get your heater checked out, especially if you have oil or gas. Carbon monoxide can be produced by both of these furnaces; carbon monoxide is colorless and odorless. It can kill you. It's worth the investment to purchase a carbon monoxide detector; you can get them on Amazon or at any big box store. Don't wait for the symptoms like dizziness or sleepiness. Here's a link on Amazon. Carbon Monoxide Detector



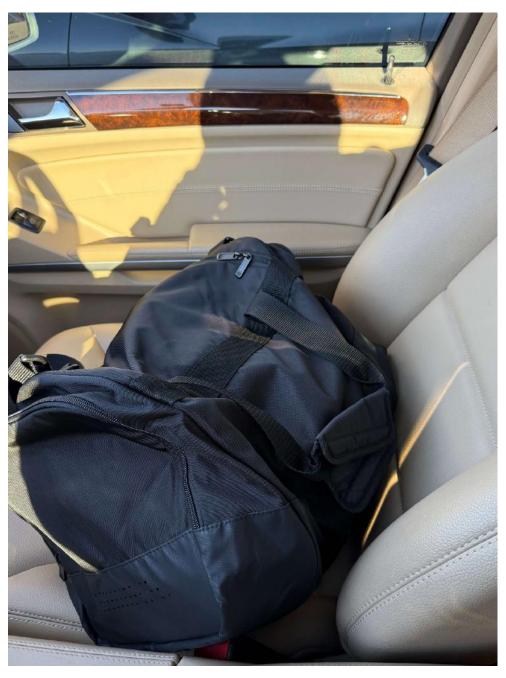
While you're at it, test your smoke detector too.



HELPFUL HINT

Travel Alert!!

"As You Travel, Don't Be An Easy Target"



The other day I was walking out of the gym when I saw bags, a purse, and shoes in other cars as I walked through the parking lot. People left those items inside their cars, things that are available for a thief. If you've ever had your car broken into, and I have, it is extremely inconvenient, costly, and an invasion of your space. Hide your belongings and don't leave things in your car. This is your reminder as you travel.

CHORES

Yard Raking

Raking leaves is probably one of my least favorite jobs. Trees are great, but they are dirty and messy. No one tells you that when you buy a house with big old trees. I know some folks have questions about whether you should rake your leaves or not. Recently, I read that if you have 20% of your yard covered by leaves, it's OK to leave them. It's when you have a thick layer of leaves across the yard that you want to think about picking them up to prevent damage to your grass. For me, I usually give yard raking three passes each season. By the time I get to the third pass, it's very cold out and about to snow. Once it snows, my raking leaves is done. Leaf Link





CHRONICLE: LIVING IN A LOVE STORY

When I moved into my house, one of the guest rooms was gray. Gray is just not my preferred color, but I left it because it was freshly painted. I finally decided to change it, and I went with a shade of white. I also moved a queen bed downstairs and brought up this twin bed. I think the smaller bed fits the room better; now I just have to find a headboard for it. Do I think the white made that much difference? Maybe a little. I think both colors are nice, but I do think I like the white better. I also moved lamps and tables around.





VETERANS DAY

"Tuesday, November 11th. Veterans Day"

"Honoring Veterans"

For the last few years, I have been honored to emcee a veterans breakfast event at the end of the year. This is an event for hundreds to celebrate and give thanks to those who have served our country. I appreciate being asked and am happy we live in a country that serves others. Veterans Day is November 11th.







ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST & VETERANS DAY CELEBI

HONORABLE MENTION

Fall Decor

"Beautiful and Fun Idea Pumpkins in the Flowers"





I went for a walk in this beautiful neighborhood and found this cool idea for pumpkins last month. A neat idea for next year!

Final Thought:

November

November has arrived, and many of us are likely thinking about Thanksgiving, a truly wonderful holiday. I hope you enjoy this month and find your cozy sweaters, winter boots, and thick socks. If you are away from family and working this Thanksgiving, I have two suggestions for you. First, consider joining others to share a delightful Thanksgiving meal together-your own version of Thanksgiving, if you will. Alternatively, you could order a pizza and spend the day watching movies in your pajamas. Embrace my "Winter Is Coming" reality check as we slowly transition into cooler weather. It's time to pull out those warm clothes as we get ready for November.





