### Community

# Ideas for Thanksgiving leftovers

### METRO CREATIVE **CONNECTION**

Holiday hosts toil for hours to create lavish meals everyone will enjoy. It's not uncommon for Thanksgiving tables to be covered with more food than guests can conceivably (and comfortably) consume. Leftovers are the norm, but without a plan for what to do with leftovers, food can spoil or end up in the trash.

Here are some delicious and wasteconscious ways to put Thanksgiving or other holiday meal leftovers

### Wrap it up promptly

Even though you may want to sit around and chat with guests

METRO CREATIVE

People of a certain

age might remember

the often hectic Black

Friday of old, when

shoppers would line

up outside stores in the

wee hours of the morn-

ing hoping to land the

best deals on gifts

for their loved ones.

While many shoppers still make such early

morning pilgrimages to their favorite stores, the internet has helped

to thin the deal-crazed

herds on Black Friday.

ing crowds might not

be as common as they

once were on Black Fri-

day, shoppers may still

face some stiff competition as they try to land great deals before the

shelves empty. The fol-

lowing are a handful

of tips to help shop-

pers make the most of

the unofficial kickoff to

the holiday shopping

emptyhanded. Shop-

ping on Black Friday

without a list can lead

to excess spending on

items you or your loved

ones may not even

need or want. Creating

a shopping list in ad-

vance gives shoppers

time to research the best deals and where

to find them. That or-

ganized approach can

increase the likelihood

that they land the best

deals on a day that

the National Retail

Federation reported

brought in \$6.2 billion

in online sales alone in

2018. That's stiff com-

petition for deals that

typically have limited

supplies, which only

highlights the impor-

tance of shopping with

• Shop local. Shoppers who want to

venture out on Black Friday but still avoid

crowds should skip

shopping malls and big box stores in favor of lo-

cal retailers. Shopping local is a great way to

keep money in your community, and local

shops tend to have more unique offerings

than chain stores. Oneof-a-kind gifts can be a

great way to show loved ones how much you ap-

preciate them. And lo-

cal shopping districts

likely won't draw the massive crowds or pro-

duce the long checkout

lines that consumers

are likely to encounter

Comparison shopping

can make Black Friday

• Comparison shop.

at malls.

a list in hand.

• Don't go shopping

Though stamped-

CONNECTION

when the meal is finished, leaving food out at room temperature for too long can create a breeding ground for microbes that may lead to food spoilage and sickness. With a few helping hands, all foods can be packaged away in no time, ensuring that drumsticks or stuffing can safely be served another day.

### **Collect containers**

Be sure to have reusable food storage containers, zip-top bags, foil, and plastic wrap at the ready. Before all of the food is put away, encourage guests to make their own doggie bags.

#### Plan with other meals in mind

Shop for and prepare holiday fare with

a nod toward what can be used in subsequent meals. Turkey is a versatile ingredient that can be made into everything from breakfast burritos to casseroles. Turn potatoes and sausage stuffing into latke patties that can be whipped up for breakfast or lunch. Sweet potatoes, squash and pumpkin can be mashed and reworked into batters for quick breads, pancakes and even doughnuts. Spoon leftover cranberry sauce over hot oatmeal in the morning or use it as a substitute for grape jelly in PB&J sandwiches. Try grinding up stale biscuits to make a breading for turkey slices and turn them into fried cutlets.

### Take care of the needy

Find out which organizations accept food donations. Even if you cannot donate previously prepared foods, if you have surplus packaged, boxed or canned items, you can bring them to food pantries and soup kitchens to help others.

### Organize a pot luck

Turn leftovers into an opportunity to fraternize with friends or relatives who couldn't make it to Thanksgiving dinner. Pool your leftover resources and enjoy the fruits of everyone's labor.

Thanksgiving leftovers can provide a few extra delicious meals when hosts plan ahead.

If you want to find the

best deals, you should

probably avoid sleep-

ing in on the day after

changed, but many

of the strategies that

worked in the pre-in-

ternet era can still help

shoppers land the best

Black Friday has

Thanksgiving.

deals today.



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Black Friday shopping tips

even more deal-friendly. If you're stuck on a long checkout line, use the time spent waiting for the next cashier to look for the same item online. You might find it's less expensive somewhere else, and you can then pres-

ent that price to the

cashier at checkout. Many retailers are willing to match lower prices from other retailers, but you won't know unless you ask.

• Start early. The proverbial saving "the early bird catches the worm" is especially true on Black Friday.

## The history of Black Friday

Black Friday marks the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season. Come Black Friday, shoppers strive to get the lowest prices on gifts for their loved ones.

Much of the focus of Black Friday is on finding the best deals, but it can be interesting to take a breath and learn how this phenomenon developed and how it has evolved over

### "Black Friday"

The term "black Friday" was originally associated with gold prices and manipulation on the part of speculators Jay Gould and James Fisk. This scandal occurred in September 1869. Commodity prices plummeted 50 percent as a result, and the term "black Friday" was coined to refer to that drop.

The phrase "black Friday" also became famous for all the wrong reasons in 1966. Philadelphia police used it to refer to the Friday traffic jams and crowding in downtown stores from tourists and shoppers who flooded into the city in advance of the Army-Navy football game held the Saturday after Thanksgiving each year. Bigger crowds and rowdiness contributed to long hours and stressful shifts for local police.

### **Black Friday reinvented**

The retail industry started using the term "Black Friday" in the late 1980s. Spin doctors turned previously negative connotations into positive ones by associating the phrase with stores turning a profit and moving accounting ledgers from "red to black" thanks to big year-end sales. Retailers and consumers rallied around low-cost "doorbusters" and other discounted prices.

Interestingly enough, according to the National Retail Federation, Black Friday really hasn't been the most lucrative day for retailers over the years. In fact, greater profits and larger crowds are often seen on the last Saturday preceeding Christmas.

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Thanks to Rep. Brandon Reed for sponsoring the December meals.

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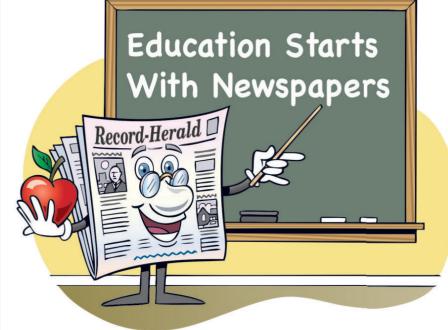
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