

Bewitching Touches

Goodwill opened a new store in Wauwatosa last week at 124th and Capitol Drive. For the grand opening, I presented several Halloween and fall themed table setting ideas for your parties. When shopping for your table be sure to have a basic idea or theme in mind. You never know what sort of 'tricks or treats' you will discover!

The Edgar

My tribute to Edgar Allen Poe was inspired by a basket of little wooden crows I found.



If you don't have a black table cloth, look for a sheet or curtain. Stretch "spider webs" across the top to create a haunted house look. I needed a contrasting color for the plates and lucked out when I found a set in vintage orange.



I really love to mix and match dishes because it gives me so much more variety! The clear soup bowls complement the glossy black salad plates. I couldn't resist perching the wood crows on the edge. A group of young girls waited patiently for the popcorn ball treats! Battery powered tea lights create a nice atmosphere and are a safe alternative to candles especially if you are entertaining children.



I piled mini pumpkins and gourds around and an antique cage. Simple, fast and colorful.



Old tarnished wine glasses look like they came from an old castle add to the atmosphere. A little dry ice added to punch would be the finishing touch.



Making Magic

I loved these white plates with the black floral border. You could use them year round, but are perfect for October 31. These bold dishes really needed a strong color for the table. You might get lucky and find an orange table cloth or use an orange sheet like I did. You can cut it down to fit your table or simply fold it in half.



There weren't any matching dishes, but who cares; the thrill of the hunt is half the fun. The octagonal bowls (from France) are such a nice contrast to the curvilinear design on the plate. The white coffee cups on black saucers are the mirror color image.



Presentation is everything and Halloween is all about the candy. I filled the mini pumpkins with chocolate 'eye-balls', but it could have been fruit or nuts or even peeled grapes!



A bit of raffia tied around a folded napkin serves as a place card.



A real pumpkin would have been an obvious choice for the centerpiece. I draped the table with black garland and set an orange paper lantern instead. Topped with a colorful witch's hat and voila, a unique conversation piece.



Pumpkin Patch

My inspiration for this place setting was a piece of a rubber used to keep area rugs from slipping! I love the texture and feel of it and it was black. I just cut it into a placemat size.



The table cloth is a sherbet colored shower curtain. Who would know? No need to invest in Halloween dishes; you can make your own. I set a black salad plate on a simple white dinner plate for contrast. For a custom look, I placed a pumpkin cut out under a clear plate. Depending on your guests, you could do a ghost or skeleton or goblin. Use your imagination.



In keeping with the theme, I placed a little straw broom on folded napkins.



Even if you don't need to tell your guests where to sit, place cards are another way to be creative with your table. I cut little ribbons of paper and wove them in the tines of the fork. So simple! Frosted glasses and black and white votive candles complete the place setting.



Arrange mini pumpkins and gourds around a white cake stand. The black garland fills in the space and a metal cut-out bowl gives the pumpkin a place of honor in the center of table.



Have fun with your Halloween table. Get inspired by a dish or accessory and you never know what you will come up with to treat your guests!

