



## A HOLIDAY TABLE



Aspen leaf Interiors designers Marcio Decker, Olivia Osborne and Betty Scott built this fall table from antiques, consignment store finds, fresh flowers, fall produce and items from their personal collections. Visit this story online to see a video of Marcio Decker talk about setting your fall table. PHOTOS BY ANDY BARRON/RGJ

### Seasonal touches carry you from fall to winter

By Laura Longero  
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Entertaining during the fall months leading up to the holidays is usually about friends and family — and the food. But part of entertaining is setting a beautiful table. I admit, I have had panicky moments right before the guests arrive for a party: Is the table centerpiece the right size? Is there enough food? Did I choose the right dishes? How much is too much when it comes to decor? So, when looking to this year's entertaining season, I consulted with the designers at Aspen Leaf Interiors in Truckee, Marcio Decker, Olivia Osborne and Betty Scott.

They said to use a combination of seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh flowers, items from consignment shops, antiques, items from your personal collection, borrowed items and family heirlooms on your table. Reuse flowers from an old arrangement in a new way by cutting them off their stems and placing atop place settings for a festive look. "You have to be creative about it and plan ahead," Decker said. "Be inspired by colors that are trendy in fashion."

Following are 10 things for your fall holiday table.

**1. Colorful table runner or tablecloth**

This is the start of your tablescape. Decker said that wherever else you put items, leave the corners of your table bare to leave space for wine bottles or other items.

**2. Live flowers**

The flowers Scott, Decker and Osborne used in their tablescape came from the River School Farm, where they are Community Supported Agriculture members. The River School does not currently have flowers for sale, but will have them in the spring. They do have honey, jam, jelly, cider and vegetables available now.

**3. Seasonal fresh decor**

Pumpkins and gourds (from Whole Foods), pomegranates, apples, leaves and dyed branches (from a craft store) provide texture on the table and a seasonal touch. Decker said that the leaves add a nice and natural layer.

"It's got elements that will work till Christmas," Scott said.

**4. Antiques and vintage items**

Depression glass goblets remind Osborne of ones her mother used for brunch, so she calls them brunchware.

**5. Staggering heights of items**



A close-up shot of a place setting. The silverware and plates are family heirlooms, goblets are Depression glass and napkins are mix-and-match — fabric swatches combined with traditional napkins.

Tall candlesticks with willowy candles, a large red Murano glass vase filled with fresh flowers provide height for the tablescape, and lower-lying items are arranged around them, like moss globes, which are green spheres wrapped in shiny gold thread, and pumpkins. Donna Karan canoes (long, tapered boat-like wooden bowls shaped like a canoe) can be filled with items like nuts in their shells or, in this case, a gourd and whole fruit.

**6. Candles**

Candles are a must for the Aspen Leaf designers. They provide ambiance and warmth to any setting.

**7. Chargers**

The designers used heirloom china on their place settings, combined with modern blue chargers that were found at a consignment shop.

"Chargers are always a really nice way to set the table," Scott said.

**8. Napkin rings**

"They hold the napkin together so nicely," Decker said. "It's a polished look."

Glass beaded napkin rings are each a different color and look like small fireworks. "You could use them in the spring and

summer and they're not obsolete in the fall," Osborne said.

**9. Placecard holders**

Scott said placecard holders are nice because then people will know where they will be seated during dinner, and can hang their coat or purse on a chair.

"Then, the host doesn't have to be there when people want to sit down," she said.

Decker said the placecard holders they used for their tablescape are vintage, but he said that the holders are something that, if you don't have them, you could find at a specialty store like Williams-Sonoma or in a consignment store.

"Or be creative with what you have," Osborne said.

**10. Texture and color**

Decker said to be creative, and Osborne said everything doesn't have to match.

"Sophistication doesn't have to come out of a box," Scott said.

The designers mixed and matched linens for the napkins and used Ralph Lauren fabric swatches, linen, embroidery and tie-dyed napkins.

"Layering and eclectic is the theme," Scott said.

**INSIDE TODAY**

**ANIMAL FILES:** The Nevada Humane Society's Bonney Brown writes about voting in nontraditional candidates for political office this year. Taffy the cat is this week's Pet of the Week. **Page 2**

Calendar of events.....3D  
Cipher/word search.....3D  
Comics/puzzles.....2D, 4D  
Community news.....2D  
Crossword.....2D  
Dear Abby.....2D  
Horoscope.....4D  
Movie times.....3D  
Television.....3D

## Apple harvest festival at the Enchanted Garden

By Laura Longero  
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Joan and Tim Elam are holding their annual apple harvest festival from noon to 6 p.m. Oct. 28 at their home, 2775 Mayberry Drive (at corner of Mayberry and Sherwood drives).

Tim Elam said the couple has at least 20 cases of apples from their orchard, and will have tables set up that are full of organic apples — apples for eating, making into pie, cider and applesauce. People should bring containers for apples and fresh-squeezed juice.

"We're going to have pie apples, edible organic apples and fresh apple juice," he

said. "It was such a bumper year this year — we had so many apples."

Elam said they will be offering fresh-squeezed apple juice and encourage those who would like to crush their own apples for cider or juice to do so. There will be apple bobbing for children and other fall activities.

"It is an open event to the neighborhood and to the general community to enjoy and celebrate autumn and the fruits of our labor," Elam said. "We welcome all who share this spirit."

Volunteers are welcome, and the event is free.

Details: 775-722-8934 or tim@peoplequest.org



Joan and Tim Elam (pictured) are holding their annual apple harvest festival from noon to 6 p.m. Oct. 28 at their home, 2775 Mayberry Drive. HANDOUT