

Weathering this past winter's arctic vortex gives even greater reason to get outdoors and enjoy the reward of a sunny summer season.

SUMMER LOVIN': HOW TO PLAN A ROMANTIC PICNIC



- **Location, Location, location!** Choose an unusual spot like a botanical garden, a beach or a lakeside spot.

- **Keep it informal and spontaneous.** If something unforeseen happens, like a thunderstorm, and you've already driven to your location, spread out the picnic in your car. We promise it will be memorable!

- **Pack candles or a vase with flowers.** Remember to add an aphrodisiac like chocolate-dipped strawberries too!

Visit or call Edible Arrangements for some dessert options. 732-730-0878
www.ediblearrangements.com/stores/StoreDetail.aspx?storeid=950

- Think evening picnics – what could be more romantic than wishing upon a star while making a toast to each other. Check a website like StarDate.org to find best viewing locations for upcoming meteor showers.

- Serenade your picnic-partner. For a real surprise, take a few guitar lessons or on another instrument and play a favorite song. Or hire a local musician to serenade the both of you.

Sweet Music Academy is a terrific resource for any of these music needs.
Visit or call Jay at 732-905-9095
www.sweetmusicacademy.com

- Add a bottle of wine or a refreshingly chilled cocktail.

Wine-land Liquors (732 730 2985) has a huge selection of wines and liquors to fit every budget.

- Salads are wonderful ways to combine summer flavors. An Italian antipasta is also great for a variety of bite-sized nibbles.

Call Nonno's Pizzeria and Restaurant (732) 367-3599 to have a fresh salad ready for your dream picnic date.

Find what you're looking for at Howell Plaza

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Route 9 South at Aldrich Road.
4010-4164 US 9, Howell NJ

COOK-OUT CHECKLIST: *THE DOS AND DON'TS OF SAFE BBQ GRILLING*

DOS



1. *Keep your grill at least 10 feet away from your house and wooden overhangs.*
2. *Clean your grill regularly. Grease and fat build-up provide more fuel for a fire.*
3. *Check for gas leaks. Mix a solution of 1/2 liquid dish soap and 1/2 water to rub on the hoses and connections and turn the gas on with the grill lid open. Bubbles will appear if the connection is not tight or if there are holes in the hose.*

For advice, replacement parts, grills, accessories and outdoor dining furniture, consult your experts at Sears Appliance and Hardware (732) 886-3330

4. *Decorations like hanging baskets, pillows and umbrellas are attractive, but keep them away from your grill.*
5. *Keep a fire extinguisher close to your grilling area and KNOW HOW TO USE IT!*

Your Sears sales associate can instruct you on easy to use extinguisher models.

DON'TS



1. *Never turn on the gas while your grill lid is closed. Gas will build up inside your grill and possibly explode when you light your grill.*
2. *Never leave a grill unattended. Organize food prep chores so they are done beforehand to allow you to focus on grilling. Fires can double in size every minute.*
3. *Overloading your grill can be a bad idea. If too much fat drips at once, a large flare-up could result – endangering you and nearby objects.*
4. *Using an outdoor grill inside can be dangerous. Grills release carbon monoxide, the deadly colorless, odorless gas. The gas needs to vent in an open-air space or it can kill you, your family and your pets.*

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