Krafty Korner by Karen

Hello fellow crafters! As August rolls in, it brings with it a unique blend of summer's warmth and the anticipation of fall. This month is also a gentle reminder that while the days are still long and filled with sunshine, okay, maybe mixed with a little bit of rain, but the season of barbecues, beach trips and lazy afternoons are gradually drawing to a close.

This month is not only about enjoying the last days of sunshine where everyone tries to squeeze out the last drops of summer fun before we all start pretending to enjoy pumpkin spice everything, but also about diving into creative projects that can brighten your day.

Whether you're looking to spruce up your home, prepare for back-to-school, or simply indulge in some DIY fun, August is the perfect time to let your creativity shine. Channel your inner Picasso, or perhaps a slightly less talented version, and embark on some quirky craft projects by utilizing seasonal materials and preparing for what is just around the corner.

So, take advantage of the warm weather while it lasts. Host a backyard barbecue, plan a picnic or gather with friends for one last beach day. These gatherings are the perfect opportunity to create long lasting memories while enjoying the company of family and friends before the hustle and bustle of fall takes over. Savor the last rays of summer while you take time to appreciate the warmth of the sun before you are gently nudged to prepare for fall. Remember that August is all about embracing the fun and getting crafty! Whether you're working with what nature has to offer, upcycling your old treasures, or just gearing up for fall, there's no shortage of creativity. So, grab your supplies and let your imagination run wild and remember: If it's not a little messy, you're not doing it right!

Happy crafting everyone and may your glue sticks never run out!

BOOK BALLS

(These paper hydrangeas are made from book pages and can be used as ornaments or table centerpieces. They have been priced in various stores anywhere from $10 to $25 a ball)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- **Styrofoam Balls (any size)**
- **Book Pages**
- **Scalloped Circle Paper Punch**
- **Glue Gun & Glue Sticks**
- **Un-Sharpened Pencil**

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Punch out circles from book pages. (Punch out enough circles to keep working)

- Place the center of each circle on the end of the pencil and press the sides against the pencils. The paper will look scrunched up with the flat area on top of the pencil.

- With the pencil still inside the paper, place a drop of glue on the circular flat area and press into the Styrofoam ball.

- Repeat this step until the ball is completely covered with paper.

There are so many uses for these balls:

- Glue ribbon to the top and use as Christmas ornaments.
- Place multiple balls in a bowl for a table centerpiece.
- Insert a craft stick into each ball to make a floral arrangement.
- Turn pedestal glasses upside-down and place a ball on the foot of the glass.

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