

Creative Living

Marie McGee editor/591-2300



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(C11E)



organizing

Dorothy Lehmkuhl

Q. My husband died several years ago and I still have quite a few of his personal belongings. What is your opinion of keeping these useless but sentimental items?

A. I would never make that kind of decision for you because this deals with your own deep feelings.

Sentimental items prove you've "been there." Many people retain old college notes, not for the information to refer back to, but rather to remember how hard they worked in that particular class. Dried corsages from your prom or favorite old records you never play are other examples of useless but dear possessions.

Whether it is the loss of your youth or of a loved one, sometimes it is necessary to close doors behind you in order to move forward. Some people cling to sentimental items because disposing of them would involve the painful admission their loss is complete.

A friend of mine was unexpect-

edly widowed some years ago and had a difficult time dealing with that terrible loss. In her mind, she was married for life and could not face being single again.

After finally coming to terms with her grief, this dear lady pitched all her love letters from her late husband. She explained she knew it was time to let go of the past and live in the present. She realized her old attitudes were holding her back and now Shirley feels good about that decision.

On the other hand, you don't want to go to the extreme of getting rid of everything, pretending that part of your life never happened. Try to strike a moderate balance of neither keeping nor disposing of everything.

You might try taking pictures of these items and retaining the pictures instead of the objects. Or you could box up the articles and store them away for a while, to test how you feel about them being gone. Perhaps this memorabilia isn't essential and you would find letting it go less difficult than you expect.

You must be the one to decide if these items are a help or a hindrance. Don't get rid of them because you think you "should" or let anyone talk you into something you don't want to do. You will make the right choices when you are ready.



condo queries

Robert M. Melsner

Q. We want to rent out the clubhouse for a gambling casino night and the board refuses to let us do so. Do we have any rights?

A. The association board generally has the power to regulate the use of the community facility. Generally, the facility must be used for the benefit of the members of the association and the board, if it deems it appropriate, can preclude that facility from being used for commercial purposes. Whether or not the facility can be used for a charitable purpose, assuming that the gambling night is for such a purpose, is also a matter of discretion with the board of directors.

Of course, it would be necessary to consult the condominium documents to determine what prohibitions, if any, are placed on the use of the facilities including any limitations on commercial

usage. You are best advised to review your documents as well as your rules and regulations of the association before presenting your case to the board of directors.

Q. I am closing on a house and am wondering whether I need to look at the deed restriction. I am also having trouble getting it from the seller. Do you have any comments?

A. Contact the title company that is issuing the title commitment and, ultimately, the title policy to you and ask for a copy of all restrictions burdening the property prior to the time you close. If you do not have an attorney, you should ensure that an attorney looks at the deed restrictions to see whether there are any problems incident to the purchase of your property. This is something that ideally should have been done prior to the time that you signed a binding purchase agreement. There may be provisions to the deed restrictions which inhibit your ability to the free use and enjoyment of your property. Better safe than sorry.

Designers to share trade secrets

What is the best way to transform a bedroom into an electronic entertainment center? How do you know that a sofa is "right" for the living room before it comes home?

The answer to these and other questions that perplex most layman-interior designers will be answered when three design experts share trade secrets with the public during the Fairlane Woods grand opening weekend, Oct. 22-23 in Dearborn.

"We've spent the last few months creating the best space options and designs for the rental residences at Fairlane Woods. Now we're going to share our insights with people who

want to live there — and anyone else who is interested," said Bonni Morris of B. Morris Interiors.

Half-hour seminars on Saturday and Sunday at noon, 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. will cover the following topics:

- Function: Making the best use of available space for multiple needs;
- Color and texture: Using them to create mood/atmosphere;
- Furniture: Selecting furniture that's right for the space;
- Lighting: Using light to create balance and accents;
- Style: Choosing the mediums that are good for the space and re-

flect personal lifestyle.

THE DESIGNERS USED a "Home for All Seasons" theme to inspire their work. Shelly Barrad Designs Inc. chose "winter," and will focus her attention on the winter holidays.

"The holidays are a time for extra hands in the kitchen, family parties and overnight guests. We are creating dual-purpose space that can accommodate guests comfortably without sacrificing style during the rest of the year," Barrad said.

Morris chose "autumn" and will use rich, warm colors and supple fabrics, and traditional furniture

that help make a home inviting.

Mary Cook and Associates is responsible for creating a feeling of "springtime."

"We chose colors and fabrics that are open, airy and have movement to simulate spring. We then selected a mix of eclectic furniture to show how to get the most out of space," Cook added.

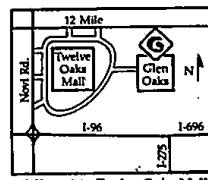
Cort Furniture's "summer" residence will reflect an on-the-go active summer lifestyle. Fabric and color will be used to create a cool effect, a juxtaposition to the "dog days of summer."



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