# Hills & Homes

Volume 4, Issue 1 A Newsletter for Friends and Clients of Galena Realty, Ltd. March `04 - May `04

## A Gift of Words

*Linda Yutmeyer Dupasquier*

Is this spring? This morning the wind chill is -2°! But, it is a good day for ordering flower seeds. What fun! I, of course, must have whatever will grow on its own with little help from me. I usually find that with sunflowers (I ordered a really exciting mixture this year), cosmos (lots of varieties, too), my usual moonflowers for night blooming, the pin wheel variety morning glories, and lots of zinnias. I like the really big ones for cutting, but don't forget the award-wining profusion series I raved about last summer. If you want a low-growing annual that will fill up a big space and make a smashing appearance, the profusion series zinnia is for you! It's one of Jerry's favorites, too. In Napa Valley last year I had my first heirloom tomato. Yum. Searching through my seed catalogs I found lots of seeds for heirloom varities, and a few catalogs even carry seedlings for people like me who have difficulty starting plants indoors from seed.

If you didn't make it to Hearts and Art this year, mark your calendars now for February 5 and 6, 2005—we're expanding our event to two days, with plans for "An Elegant Evening in Red" as a preview party on Saturday night. New to Hearts and Art this year was won-

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"There is nothing better than a good friend, except a good friend with chocolate."

-unknown-

## Real Estate Stats

January 2003 - December 2003

### In The Territory

#### Single Family Homes

| | |
|---|---|
| Homes Sold | 114 |
| Average Price | $241,434 |
| Average Days on Market | 187 |

#### Vacant Land

| | |
|---|---|
| Land Sold | 131 |
| Average Price | $ 26,236 |
| Average Days on Market | 320 |

#### Condos & Townhomes

| | |
|---|---|
| Homes Sold | 56 |
| Average Price | $134,152 |
| Average Days on Market | 241 |

### In Galena

#### Single Family Homes

| | |
|---|---|
| Homes Sold | 74 |
| Average Price | $133,735 |
| Average Days on Market | 193 |

### In Jo Daviess County

#### Single Family Homes

| | |
|---|---|
| Homes Sold | 73 |
| Average Price | $111,733 |
| Average Days on Market | 204 |

*Based on information from the Freeport-Galena Area Association of Realtors from Jan. 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003.*

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derful digital photo cards by WGN talk show host, Spike O'Dell. He and his lovely wife, Karen, also made a personal appearance—much to the delight of their many fans. The cards sold at Hearts and Art 2004 were the inspiration for Spike's cards to benefit of the WGN Neediest Kids Fund at the Flower and Garden Show this year. If you didn't get a chance to buy them there, go online at WGN.com

Buy a kite at
Velocity Sports
and
have some fun
this spring
with someone
you love!

815.776.9075

## WWW.GALENAHOMES.COM

### New to Our Site

We have added a wonderful new feature to our website—our open house schedule. Now, when you are planning a visit to Galena, log on to our site and see where we will be having open houses. Because of the ever changing market, we will be updating the schedule on Friday's.

### Links

For those who have not logged on in a while, we have added a page of useful links to our site. Here you can connect to sites for city and county government, schools, restaurants, The Galena Territory Association, statistics, and more. It is a simple way to get where you are going or find a new site.

## WWW.NORTHGATEBUILDERS.COM

### The Gallery

The gallery has expanded! Log on to northgatebuilders.com and take a look at the wonderful homes of Northgate Builders. This spring we will be adding several more homes to the gallery. Check back often.

## TOOLBOX TRIVIA

*Jerry Dupasquier*

### Spike and Karen O'Dell

joined in the fun at Hearts and Art 2004. As always, the event was a success and raised over $5.600 for the Galena Public Library.

### Eating Establishments

Fried Green Tomatoes is moving to town with an expected re-grand opening this spring They are located in Galena at 213 N. Main Street. The best part, proprietor Fred Bonet has expanded the hours to include lunch. Stop by and welcome Fried Green Tomatoes to downtown Galena.

### $H^2O$...$H^2O$...$H^2O$

Water is one of the most damaging elements to a home. Please, remember to turn off your water when you leave your home even in summer. Frozen pipes aren't the only culprit of water damage. Water can do extensive damage in just a few days.

### Lindaís Movie Picks

Cold Mountain
Girl with the Pearl Earring
Calendar Girls

### Lindaís DVD & Video Picks

Open Range
*(get the DVD and watch the disc of the making of the movie, too)*

Secondhand Lions
*(a good family movie)*

# In the Office

with Rhonda

### THE WEB

To complete my degree, Dr. Abdul Sinno, the Communications Department Head at Clarke College, and I have agreed that I would conduct a research project that uses both visual communcation and theory.

Essentially, I am conducting a survey consisting of a variety of people to see if there is any correlation between what types of visual aids participants prefer in a real estate setting and their VALS (value and lifestyles) type.

If anyone is interested in participating, (it takes about 15 minutes), log on to my website at www.ridgedalecommunications.com, click anywhere on the splash page, then click on the research button. It is simple, fun, and enlightening.

### THE BOOKSHELF

**Rhonda's Shelf**

- High Maintenance, *Jennifer Belle*

**Nancy Peltz's Shelf**

- Morgan's Run, *Colleen McCullough*
- Nothing Like It In The World, *Stephen E. Ambrose*

**Ken Bilderback's Shelf**

- Snow Fox, *Susan Fromberg Schaefer*

**Liz Mitchell Laubhan's Shelf**

- The Book of New Family Traditions, *Meg Cox*
- Disobedience, *Jane Hamilton*

**Jerry, Linda, and Marcy Meyer's Shelf**

- Sign-Talker, *James Alexander Tom*

**Barb Keller's Shelf**

- Digital Fortress, *Dan Brown*

**Martha Bundy's Shelf**

- Storm Track, *Margaret Maron*

# Black Bean Salad

This recipe came from Maren Coates, the Library Director here in Galena.
This salad is extremely tasty and fits perfectly with the Mediterranean diet. I have had it with a nice piece of salmon for an energy-packed healthy dinner. The flavors blend together nicely if you make it ahead of time and chill until ready to eat. Enjoy!

2 cans black beans rinsed
1 10 oz. package frozen corn, thawed
1 C. green pepper, chopped
1 C. red pepper, chopped
3 green onions, thinly sliced
2 T. minced fresh parsley
1/8 tsp. salt
2 T. olive oil
3 T. fresh lime juice (I have used concentrate)
Freshly ground black pepper to taste

Drain beans. Combine with corn, the peppers, green onions, parsley and salt. Add olive oil and lime juice. Grind black pepper generously over salad. Mix well. Adjust seasoning and lime juice to taste.

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**www.galenahomes.com**

# A Few Fun Things...

## Prom from the Past

Saturday, April 17, 2004

7-11 p.m. at DeSoto House Hotel Ballroom in Galena. Whether you went to prom during the "big-hair 1980s" or the "rockin' 1950s" you will fit in. Attendees encouraged to wear their prom fashions from any decade (the gaudier, the better). Advance tickets $15. (815) 777-3681.

## 3rd Annual Northgate Builders Goodwill Golf Benefit

Saturday, July 31, 2004

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Goodwill Golf Benefit. Call us if you are interested in participating in this year's event. 815.777.3700

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*"Because Nice Matters"*