

Hills & Homes

Volume 6, Issue 1

A Newsletter for Friends and Clients of Galena Realty, Ltd.

Jan '06

A GIFT OF WORDS

Linda Yutmeyer Dupasquier

Not too long ago I sat down at my desk and found a miniature Dove dark chocolate wrapper-the kind with the message inside-taped in the middle of my computer screen. The message said: you're allowed to do nothing. Thanks, Rhonda; I needed that. I moved it to the side of my computer, but it's still there.

Winter does give one permission to hibernate and enjoy some inside activities. At our house, one of Jerry's big, roaring fires in our fireplace makes for a wonderful wintry Sunday afternoon to watch birds at the feeder (we've had eagles in our backyard recently), enjoy the blooming amaryllises, watch a good movie (we are enjoying netflix), read, browse through the seed catalogs and, of course, make cards...my all time favorite winter activity. Today, as Rhonda and I are putting this newsletter together, it's about 50 degrees outside...it's giving me spring fever in the middle of January! It's much too soon; I need a little more hibernation time.

My New Year's resolution, besides the ubiquitous lose weight and eat healthier, is to do better communicating, including getting out more newsletters, sending thank you notes in a more timely manner, arriving with wedding and birthday gifts on the date instead of months later. My nieces will laugh at this. As I get older, I realize how special a phone call or a card on your birthday is. I had a birthday recently a received the same card from two different

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Gratton Farm, Mount Hope Road

One
kind
word
can
warm
three
winter
months.

- Japanese proverb -

Real Estate Stats

January - December 2005

In The Territory

Single Family Homes

Homes Sold	142
Average Price	\$268,656
Average Days on Market	185

Vacant Land

Land Sold	172
Average Price	\$ 32,443
Average Days on Market	240

Condos & Townhomes

Homes Sold	72
Average Price	\$147,939
Average Days on Market	108

In Galena

Single Family Homes

Homes Sold	53
Average Price	\$134,123
Average Days on Market	135

In Jo Daviess County

Single Family Homes

Homes Sold	98
Average Price	\$131,631
Average Days on Market	165

Based on information from the Freeport-Galena Area Association of Realtors from January 1, 2005 December 31, 2005.

THE BOOKSHELF

We love hearing from you about what you are reading; keep sending us your suggestions. And...correction! In my last newsletter, I had stated that I had just reread The Morning Glory Vine. Several astute readers wrote to ask if I meant to write The Moon Flower Vine. Well, yes, of course...I was just seeing who was on their toes!!! Actually, these are two of my favorite flowers.

Barbara Ray's Shelf

dear friend since junior high school

- The Lost Colony, Eugene C. Harter

Barbara says she was fascinated about the Confederate colonies that were established in Brazil right after the Civil War, written by a descendant of those "Confederados" who settled in Brazil.

- Texas Tears, Texas Sunshine, Jo Ella Exley, an English teacher in Katy, Texas a collection of diaries and journals written by Texas pioneer women

- Frontier Blood, Jo Ella Exley

the story of Cynthia Ann Parker and her famous son Quanah Parker

Nancy Peltz's Shelf

long-time friend from Bettendorf

- My Sister's Keeper, Jodi Picoult.

Rosalind Hodgkins' Shelf

former Galena Territory neighbor

- The Forest Lover, Susan Vreeland

Lindas' Shelf

- Plainsong, Kent Haraf

- Eventide, Kent Haraf

- The Tie That Binds, Kent Haraf

Make plans for the
**The 5th Annual
Northgate Builders
Goodwill Golf Benefit**

Saturday, July 29, 2006

Galena Golf Club

Silent Auction

Fabulous Door Prizes

Exciting Raffle

**Look for more
information this
May**

TOOLBOX TRIVIA

By: Jerry Dupasquier

COST VS. VALUE

According to the January/February 2006 issue of *Building Products Magazine*, the Cost vs. Value Report for 2005 continues to indicate that remodeling projects in the Chicago area for the kitchen and bathroom are good investments, recouping from 93.7% of the cost for a major upscale kitchen remodel to 117.8% for a mid-range minor kitchen remodel. Replacing the roof, siding, and windows also brought in returns from 96% to 134%. The average cost of a major upscale kitchen remodel was \$88,575 and \$48,712 for a mid-range. Upscale remodeling included such things as custom cabinets, stone countertops, built-in refrigerators, and commercial-grade ranges.

Remodeling Magazine (remodeling-magazine.com) also has an article on cost vs. value. I agree with their rec-

ommendation...check with your local contractor and consult an experienced Realtor in your market place for advice before proceeding w/ an extensive remodeling project.

JERRY'S RESTAURANT PICK

Oscar Pike's on Main Street in Galena is another great success by Jack Coulter of the Irish Cottage and Vinny's fame. Linda and I have dined there many times and never had a bad meal.

PREVENTING WATER DAMAGE

And my usual reminder that can't be said often enough: TURN OFF YOUR WATER. We've heard of several near misses in The Territory this winter, but thankfully no disasters because owners had turned off their water. The

Galena Territory Property Owners' Association offers The Winter Watchman System, and Jo Carroll Electric offers the Enviro watch System in our area. Both of these systems are cheap insurance.

AT THE MOVIES

Rhonda, Linda, and I recommend the movie *Walk the Line*.

CALLING ALL COOKS

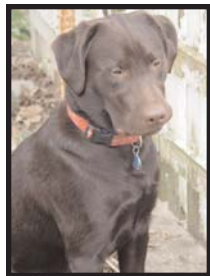
Send us your favorite recipes to include in our upcoming Galena Realty Recipe Book.

info@galenahomes.com
put "recipe" in the subject line

IN THE OFFICE

with Rhonda

THE DOG HOUSE



I am sure you all are wondering how Frankie is doing. Did he live another day? Is he still tons of canine fun?

Yes, Frankie is alive and well. He is after all the love of my life!

However, to keep him occupied, I thought he needed a playmate. To save myself and possessions from further damage, I thought it would be easier to get him a pet kitten rather than getting another dog. This is where I was wrong. I now have two maniac animals running around the house and destroying everything in their paths.



Meet the spunky Lillian Grace. Her motto: NO FEAR!

NORTH CAROLINA

I finally made it to North Carolina! As an avid race fan, this is the heartbeat. What fun, my nieces, brother, his wife, and I had visiting the garages and the memorial for the late, great Dale Earnhardt. My brother's family are not big race fans, but they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

This year I have the chance of a lifetime: tickets to the Daytona 500! Last time I checked there was a mere 36 days, 22 hours, 11 minutes and 21 seconds until race time! Wahooo! Gentlemen...start your engines!

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friends. It has a little mouse on the outside stuffing its face with chocolate cake and says: I think that I shall never budge from this cake of frosted fudge; O, chocolate taste I love so true, nothing else will ever do. I wonder why they sent ME that card?!!!

Please read the recipe below (it was Rhonda's idea to make it a recipe...wasn't that clever), whip up a batch, and make my day by sending me one! Yes, please...I would be so delighted.

Beauty Tip

Need a new do? Galena residents and visitors can take advantage of another of Rhonda's many talents...hairdressing! Last week she gave me a wonderful new haircut and highlights. Studio 1, Saturdays, 815.777.1275. Highly recommended.

Shredded Paper Heart Valentines

Can be served with anything chocolate

- 1 cold, wintry afternoon
- 1-20 people, a good mix of kids and adults
- 1-2 large bottles of white glue
- 1 large bag of shredded white paper from a paper shredder
- Water
- A small tube or bottle of acrylic paint in Valentine colors or try food coloring
- Gold or silver iridescent acrylic paint (optional)
- Plastic trash bags
- Card stock and envelopes (see your craft/art/scrapbooking store)
- Several ounces of imagination
- A large dash of fun

Gather up your friends, neighbors, family, and children for a little winter party. Mix equal amounts of glue and water in a large bowl. Add a little paint. Adding the iridescent color will give a little shimmer. Cover paper shreds and soak until color is absorbed (a few minutes). Shape and press paper in heart shapes that will fit on card stock. Don't make too thick or they won't fit in envelope; hearts that are too thin will fall apart. Place flat on plastic garbage bag to dry. Allow about 24 hours to dry thoroughly. Peel off hearts, glue on card, and write some sweet, loving words inside. My favorite new pens are the gold metallic Sharpie poster paint pens. Put in an envelope and mail off to your favorite people. You may want to check with the post office to make sure extra postage is not required for the thickness. Don't forget to sign your work...they're little pieces of art.

Notes: Consider having two or three bowls of color like pink and purple. I shredded Christmas wrapping paper and used several textures of gold foil paper. After hearts have dried, "dry brush" on a little iridescent paint, just hitting the edges. Try this idea for Christmas trees, too. I used as package decorations.



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Where the sign at the door says, "Because Nice Matters"

Northgate Builders presents...

4 Tower Court

Open House February 25 & 26
 Property Owners' annual meeting weekend

<http://www.galenahomes.com>

Broker Owned

Furnishings by Sylvia at Old Mill Home Furnishings



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 Jerry Dupasquier
Broker/Owners

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