

Hills & Homes

Volume 6, Issue 2

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

May '06

A GIFT OF WORDS

Linda Yutmeyer Dupasquier

It has been a long, wonderful spring, albeit a little wet these past few days, with the grass and trees that yummy young, yellowy-green spring color...even the tulips have lasted a long time. What fun I've had taking tulip pictures. With the help of Rhonda, I feel more confident about my picture-taking abilities and being able to download them to the computer. I shared this enthusiasm with my sister recently while out on a photo-taking morning stroll with our digital cameras. Note her beautiful photo on the front of the newsletter; I think she's hooked, too.

And finally, it's planting time! Over the last few years I have planted several varieties of sunflowers, but my favorites are the shorter ones, about four to five feet tall, especially Soraya and Valentine. I have saved hundreds of seeds from my sunflowers from last year, so call or e-mail and I'll send you some! In my cutting garden, I plant seeds that are easy to grow and say things on the package like good for children, reseeding, etc. Many actually are reseeding this year, and I'm anxious to see the results. My recommendations are zinnia, bachelor button, coreopsis, and calendula. For vines, try morning glory and moon flowers. The moonflowers open in the evening for only a day, but the enormous big white buds uncurling before your eyes are a delight to watch. Even Jerry agrees!

Jerry is busy in the vegetable garden. I think he planted about 100 tomato plants!

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Photo by: Vickie Shipman

"Always have something blooming, even if it's just a few flowers at the front door."

- Molly Bundy -

Real Estate Stats

January - March 2006

In The Territory

Single Family Homes

Homes Sold	23
Average Price	\$283,165
Average Days on Market	184

Vacant Land

Land Sold	32
Average Price	\$ 52,479
Average Days on Market	263

Condos & Townhomes

Homes Sold	7
Average Price	\$146,842
Average Days on Market	115

In Galena

Single Family Homes

Homes Sold	8
Average Price	\$145,875
Average Days on Market	177

In Jo Daviess County

Single Family Homes

Homes Sold	17
Average Price	\$89,836
Average Days on Market	197

Based on information from the Freeport-Galena Area Association of Realtors from January 1, 2005 - March 31, 2006.

THE BOOKSHELF

Rhonda's Shelf

- Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog, *John Grogan*
- Condemned to Repeat?: The Paradox of Humanitarian Action, *Fiona Terry*

Linda's Shelf

- Parenting: Are We Having Fun Yet?, *Charlene Wenc* a friend and client. (A quick read at 50 pages, packed full of information not just for parents.) A good gift - call or e-mail Char at charwenc@aol.com or 630-986-0452. \$12.50

Jerry's and Joanne Wilson's Shelf

- The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal 1870-1914, *David McCullough*

Linda Mand's Shelf

- Year of Wonders, *Geraldine Brooks*

A GIFT OF WORDS

Con't from page 1



Well, maybe 35...lots of heirloom, too - our favorites, but the Amish Brandywine tomato is still

our first choice.

The restaurant pick is from a winter trip to the Biltmore in Asheville, North Carolina. I highly recommend The Early Girl Eatery in downtown Asheville. But, if you can't make it, purchase a copy of In Praise of Tomatoes by *Ronni Lundy*, which contains the recipes of John Stehling, owner of The Early Girl Eatery. It also contains lots of interesting tomato information. Don't miss the grit croutons if you're lucky enough to get to dine there.

Many garden centers now carry several heirloom varieties, and I didn't have to start them from seed this year. In the Galena area, try Murphy's Gardens, just west of Galena one mile off Highway 20, now open on the weekends. They offer many unusual perennials and plants, and also produce at the end of summer. Pick

up a package of the Galena Garlic Company Coffee Rub while you're there. The Galena Garlic Company store is coming to Galena soon, in the Desoto Hotel, entrance on Commerce Street.

The real estate market continues to be good in Jo Daviess County. If you're looking for a lot in The Galena Territory, move quickly: they're going fast, especially nice, wooded downsloping lots.

In Jerry's column below, you will see that there will not be a Northgate Builders Goodwill Golf Outing this year...a big disappointment to many people I know, including me, because besides having fun and seeing lots of friends and clients, we usually raised about \$5000 to donate to The Galena Territory Foundation for scholarships for non-traditional students in Jo Daviess County...something near and dear to my heart. If you would like to continue to support this event, please consider making a donation to the The Galena Territory Foundation, 2000 Territory Drive, Galena, IL 61036 and indicate that it should be earmarked for Northgate Builders Scholarships.

TOOLBOX TRIVIA

Jerry Dupasquier

HGTV DREAM HOUSE

While in the Asheville area, we drove up the side of a mountain at Lake Lure to see the HGTV Dream House. That was fun. We took a few ideas home with us, too.

GOODWILL GOLF BENEFIT

Unfortunately, because of various circumstances, we are unable to have our golf outing this year. We will miss the all the fun.

MOVIE PICK

Something the Lord Made

This HBO film is a true story of two

men, a white surgeon from Johns Hopkins Hospital and Vivien Thomas, a black carpenter with only a high school education, who pioneered cardiac surgery.

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. As we head into spring, this is just as important. Frozen pipes are not the

only culprits; fitting issues, pipe fractures, and numerous other things can and do happen.

2006 PARADE OF HOMES

We are working hard on our next showcase home. Although the unveiling is down the road, there will be many new and exciting amenities to see. We have been working with vendors around the world to bring you the latest and greatest in new home innovations. It will be well worth the wait. Mark your calendar for the Galena Parade of Homes October 14 and 15, 2006.

IN THE OFFICE

with Rhonda



DAYTONA

I finally made it to the "Great American Race", the Daytona 500! Holy smokes, that place is enormous. The infield alone is 180 acres. Unfortunately,

race day was pretty cold, a whopping 45° with light rain. Brrr... I thought I had it bad until my brother went to the race at Bristol. He sat through snow and wind in the mountains of Tennessee. Hmmmm, Daytona wasn't so bad after all.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

I just finished teaching a class called "Our City" to a group of third grade kids through the Junior Achievement program. It was the most fun I have had in a long time. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity that doesn't take a lot of time,

consider Junior Achievement. JA uses hands-on experiences to help young people understand the economics of life.



SPRING, SWEET SPRING

Spring is the time when I can kiss another semester goodbye and move on to...another semester. I have only two classes left; I should graduate with my MBA this December. After nearly ten years in night classes, I have no idea what I am going to do with myself.

The campus at the University of Dubuque is quite pretty. Next time you are in Dubuque, take a drive past. Spring and fall are the best times to study in the courtyard.

For the latest in listings, stats, and open houses visit
www.galenahomes.com



For the latest in building visit
www.northgatebuilders.com



from the kitchen of Bettye Jo Hamm - sweet sister of Karen O'Dell

Layered Enchiladas

2 lbs. ground beef (85% lean)
1 29 oz. can tomato sauce
5 American cheese slices
3 T. flour
3 teaspoons chili powder

onion powder
salt/pepper
18 corn tortillas
8 oz. grated cheddar cheese

Brown ground beef in large skillet. Remove meat from skillet and reserve drippings. Stir flour into drippings and add 2 cups of water to make a gravy. Add tomato sauce, chili powder, onion powder, salt/pepper to taste. Melt american cheese slices into mixture. Place six tortillas in bottom of 9x13 pan - top with 1/3 meat and 1/3 sauce. Repeat, making three layers.

Bake casserole uncovered for 45 minutes @ 350°. Top with grated cheddar cheese and let melt in oven 3-5 minutes. Can be assembled and frozen to bake at a later time.

Galena Realty, Ltd.

**11400 Highway 20 West, P.O. Box 6067 Galena, IL
61036**

815.777.9500 fax 815.777.4038



Linda Yutmeyer Dupasquier, GRI
Jerry Dupasquier
Broker/Owners

Rhonda Prellberg, *Broker/Assistant*

Newsletter Design & Typesetting - Rhonda Prellberg

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www.galenahomes.com info@galenahomes.com



MLS



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<http://www.galenahomes.com>

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Furnishings by Sylvia at Old Mill Home Furnishings



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11400 Highway 20 West
P.O. Box 6067
Galena, IL 61036

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