Hills & Homes

Volume 3, Issue 4 A Newsletter for Friends and Clients of Galena Realty, Ltd. Nov.`03 - Jan `04

A Gift of Words

Linda Yutmeyer Dupasquier

If you're A Techno Moron like Jerry and me, read on. If you're a wiz at the computer, your cell phone, and other gadgets, you may not appreciate this article and may want to skip right over to Jerry's restaurant review. I find myself trying to escape from anything that

requires technical knowledge (unless Rhonda is close by). I even bought a new car just like my old one so that it wouldn't take me a year to figure out how to set the radio buttons and the cruise control. Recently, Jerry began discussing getting me a lap top computer. My eyes began to glaze over and my head started to swim. "Oh, no!" I thought. "My brain will explode if I have to learn more techno stuff!" Thankfully, my dear husband and Rhonda knew that, and it arrived all

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"There is no such thing in anyone's life as an unimportant day."

Alexander Woollcott
American Author

Real Estate Stats

January - October 2003

In The Territory

Single Family Homes

Homes Sold	90
Average Price	$240,007
Average Days on Market	181

Vacant Land

Land Sold	98
Average Price	$ 26,150
Average Days on Market	343

Condos & Townhomes

Homes Sold	42
Average Price	$128,738
Average Days on Market	278

In Galena

Single Family Homes

Homes Sold	58
Average Price	$127,227
Average Days on Market	191

In Jo Daviess County

Single Family Homes

Homes Sold	64
Average Price	$110,635
Average Days on Market	208

Based on information from the Freeport-Galena Area Association of Realtors from Jan. 1, 2003 - October 31, 2003 as of Nov. 6, 2003 .

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programmed and ready to go with a few simple instructions from Rhonda.

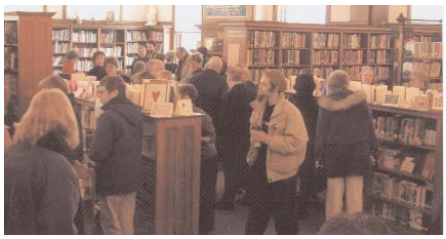
However, I think Jerry gets the prize for the best Techno Moron story. One morning he comes into the office, sits down at his desk, and immediately exclaims, "his computer has one of those viruses!" Rhonda rushes over to his desk and assures him it wasn't a virus just a swirly screen saver that she had installed! If you can top that, let us know: you can be The Top Techno Moron in our next newsletter.

The bad news is Christmas is coming, but the good news is it's Hearts and Art time! See you there!

Hearts & Art 2004

Start making you plans now to attend the eighth annual Hearts & Art event. As before, it will be held at the Galena Public Library. The entrance fee of $2 allows one to hang out among artists, lovers, and chocolate freaks from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm., Sunday, February 1.

This wonderful event brightens the



winter for card buyers, card makers, and the library. With over 1000 hand-made cards donated by local artists, the event has become a major fundraiser for the Friends of Galena Public Library.

Folks line up on the library front steps, waiting for the doors to open at 11:00 am on Sunday. They stream inside to oooh and aaah at the sumptuous collection of cards handmade by many of Galena's finest (and most fun) artists. They buy cards, they send cards, they frame cards, they obviously love beautiful cards.

The cards, all price-marked and with matching envelopes, are displayed on top of bookcases around the library. Some are original drawings, some are prints, some photos, some collages; you name it, if it's creative and beautiful, you'll find it here.

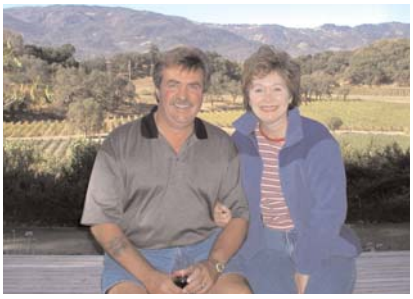
While resting from the difficulty of decision making, event-goers can partake of delicious sweet treats provided by some of the best candy and cookie makers among the Friends membership list.

TOOLBOX TRIVIA

Jerry Dupasquier

Winterize your home

Remember to turn off your water when you will be out of your home for more than a couple of days. In the winter months, when you are



out of your home for days and weeks at a time, issues may arise with high efficiency furnaces. Essentially the condensation that occurs drips into the drain and runs through the pipes to the opening of the septic system. When there is no other water running through the pipes, the condensation freezes. To avoid this problem, have someone run hot water through all the faucets for a few minutes a week to melt the ice that has formed. If you do not have a property manager or caretaker, call the Property Owners Association; they can assist with finding the right person. They can be

reached at 815-777-2000.

Don't forget to sign up for the Heat Light program with the POA.. Get your strobe lights out and in the window! If you need assistance setting up our system, contact security at 815-266-6251.

Eating Establishments

An old standby favorite of mine is Vinny Vannuchi's in Galena. Enjoy warm garlic bread, delicious cold salad, and an array of pleasing homemade Italian dishes.

Napa Valley

If you are visitng the Napa Valley area, try Auberge du Soleil in St. Helena. You will need to make reservations two months in advance, so add this to your list of things to do before you leave.

In the Office

with Rhonda

THE WEB!

Here is a great way to recycle your old books. Visit http://booksforsoldiers.com. There you will find posting from soldiers stationed all over the world who would love to have something wonderful to read. Browse through the lists; perhaps there is a soldier who would love to read a book that you have around your house.

I finally have my website posted. Although it is not complete, many pages such as my favorite photos and pictures of my lovely dog, Ridge, are posted on the site. Let me know what you think.
www.ridgedalecommunications.com

HOME SWEET HOME

This has been a big year for me. Not only am I graduating from college, but after what feels like a lifetime, I finally found the perfect home for me and my dog! Historic brick on a shady street with a really nice yard in the heart of Galena. It is perfect! Closing is scheduled in December just before Christmas. I could not have done this without the help of the world's best real estate brokers! Thanks to Jerry and Linda, *who I drove insane though the search*, for all their expert advice and guidance.

THE BOOKSHELF

Linda's Shelf

- Girl with a Pearl Earing, *Tracey Chevalier*

Joanne Wilson's Shelf

- Burning Margurite, *Elizabeth Inness-Brown*

Martha and Molly Bundy's Shelf

- The #1 Ladies' Detective Agency, *Alexander McCall Smith*

Melanie Smith's Shelf

- Mystic River, *Dennis Lehane*

Baked Pineapple

This recipe came from the family cookbook of Marty Vexter, a wonderful client and friend.
Not recommended for those on a diet!

1 lge can (20 oz) crushed pineapple in juice
3 eggs beaten
1/2 c. sugar
2 t. flour
1 stick melted butter
5-6 slices of white bread decrusted and cubed

Mix flour and sugar. Add beaten eggs to pineapple. Mix wet and dry ingredients except the bread and butter. Layer pineapple and bread cubes, pour butter over the top. Bake uncovered at 350° for 45 minutes. Can be made a day ahead and refrigerated overnight before baking.

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A Few Fun Things...

Parade of Trees

11/29/2003 to 12/14/2003 -Wednesday through Sunday

10 a.m.-Noon and 1-4 p.m. at the Old Market House State Historic Site in Galena. Display of decorated and lighted trees by various non-profit organizations. Silent auction. Free admission. (815) 777-1594.

Fantastic Fridays

1/2/2004 to 2/27/2004 -Friday

4 p.m.-Midnight at Chestnut Mountain Resort near Galena. Ski slopes remain open until midnight every Friday during January and February. Reduced rates. (800) 397-1320. www.chestnutmtn.com

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Photography - Linda Yutmeyer Dupasquier & Jerry Dupasquier

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