



CLICK HERE TO SHOP

Charleston, WV - November 1, 2009 at 12:15 pm - Login/Register | Subscriptions

JOB'S PRINT ADS CLASSIFIEDS HOMES CARS CELEBRATIONS COUPONS TV WEEKLY



Home News Police Briefs Sports Opinion Business Food and Living Arts and Entertainment
Obituaries My Turn On Retirement Ask the Vet Country Living The Food Guy Dining Out Carolyn Hax Recipes On The Trail

Weather sponsored by
Gazette-Mail
JOB'S



Mon Tue Wed
55° 62° 54° 55°
Complete Forecast

ShareThis print | email | comments | letters to the editor | size

FOOD AND LIVING

Tuesday May 19, 2009

Woman helps others get organized

by Monica Orosz
Daily Mail staff

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Rita McGhee's best advertisement for her professional organizing business is a visit to her tidy home in Charleston's Weberwood neighborhood.

She and her family - her husband, Mark, and daughters, Lilith and Maura, along with a cat - live quite comfortably in 900 square feet of space. That's 900 tidy and organized square feet.

McGhee says she is not a compulsive neatnik - she cheerfully accepts that children are untidy and that toys will end up on the living room floor. But when you live in a fairly small home, you have to be organized, she said.

If you're looking for her family's paperwork, you need go no further than one small filing cabinet with the computer desk.

All other important documents have been scanned onto the computer, with backups stored through the online computer backup system Carbonite (www.carbonite.com). She relies on the advice of well-known financial expert Suzy Orman to determine what documents to save and for how long.

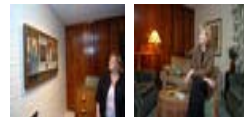
Her house may have small closets, but each is used to its best advantage by McGhee, who is handy with tools and a whiz at reconfiguring shelf and hanging space to get the most out of it.

As her daughters, 9 and 11, outgrow clothes and toys, McGhee promptly donates them to charity.

A native of Michigan, McGhee has worked as a firefighter and a medical transcriptionist. She inherited



Tom Hindman
Rita Wiley McGhee keeps the cozy 900-square-foot home she shares with her husband and two daughters tidy and organized, a skill she also offers to clients through her Sort My Space business.



her mother's hair salon when she was just 22 and ran the business end of it long enough to know she needed to sell it.

When McGhee moved to Charleston in 2002, she wanted work that was challenging while still allowing her to be home with her daughters when they weren't in school.

After helping a friend with an organizational project, McGhee got the idea that her skills might be useful to paying customers. She took classes and earned professional organizing certifications and started Sort My Space.

She's not quite sure where she got her organizational bent, but she credits her dad, Rick Wiley, for her handiness - the two of

Advertiser

Ads by Google

[Long Term Senior Living](#)
Independent Living Apartments, Assisted Living & Alzheimer's Care
kiscoseniorkiving.com

[Living with Parkinson's?](#)
Restore Your Mobility & Freedom! Get Our Free Mobility Guide Book.
TheScooterStore.com

[Living in Charleston SC](#)
Active Adult Retirement Community Luxury Waterfront Condominiums
ReverieOnTheAshley.com

[Home Remodeling Estimates](#)
Top Home Designers & Contractors. Get Free Remodeling Estimates Today
www.ServiceMagic.com

MORE FOOD AND LIVING

- Driver safety course being sponsored by AARP
- Master distillers take star turn in bourbon world
- Professional organizer looking for city's messiest office
- Ghouls and goblins gather for treats in the streets
- Homer Laughlin posts 1930s video online
- United Way officials optimistic
- Benefit at Scarlet Oaks to help homeless
- Band member marches despite blindness
- Trout fishing rodeo coming up for Cato Park
- Send us photos of your pets!

We Buy WV Houses

We Buy Houses in the Greater Huntington and

From our pages to your wall.



Visit www.cnphotostore.com today!

them built a large deck onto her house.

She likes projects and she likes to get them finished.

"It does disappoint me if a project's not done," she said.

Hire her to organize - she'll do everything from getting paperwork in order to helping sort things for a yard sale to redoing closets to simply restoring order - and McGhee said she begins with a gentle conversation.

More Articles in Food and Living

1 | 2 | Next Page »

« Previous Article in Food and Living

COMMENTS (2) ON "WOMAN HELPS OTHERS GET ORGANIZED"

POST COMMENT

Posted By: breagha1 (7:32am 05-19-2009)

Report Abuse

"Sort My Space"... Very cool. Wish I had her when I had my family's estate sale.

Posted By: dobi (5:39am 05-19-2009)

Report Abuse

That is such a great idea and very helpful especially to people who got a lot of jobs. Just a friendly advice, make sure you have a backup of your work. I use Safecopy backup, www.safecopybackup.com, to back up all files.

For me SafeCopy is a perfect fit. I can backup USB drives, share files and backup both my Mac and PC with one account. I'm very happy with it and it may be worth checking out. Good Luck!!

Charleston WV Areas
www.wvbuyshouses.com

Accepting New Patients

Charleston Pediatric Dentistry Children, Adolescents, Young Adults
charlestonpediatricdentistry.com

Carbonite Online Backup

Free Trial! Easy & Secure PC Backup Unlimited Storage Only \$55/year.
www.carbonite.com/OnlineBackup

Ads by Google

New, Used and Certified Vehicles

Visit bertwolfe.com TODAY!



FULL THE DOLLAR

Stretch Your Dollar
WITH OUR ONLINE GROCERY COUPONS

Click Here

TO PRINT GROCERY COUPONS

Home

- News Contacts
- Polls
- Lottery Numbers
- Website Feedback
- Gazette-Mail Pets
- School Closings
- Webcam Weather
- Archives

RSS Feeds

- News
- Kanawha County
- Putnam County
- State News
- Statehouse News
- Nation and World
- Technology News
- Oddities
- Police Briefs

Sports

- Prep Sports
- WVIAC Sports
- Local Sports
- WVU Sports
- Marshall Sports
- West Virginia Power
- Jack Bogaczyk
- Rich Stevens
- Mike Casazza

Opinion

- Editorials
- Commentary
- Chuck McGill
- Derek Taylor
- Frank Giardina
- Mickey Furfari
- Bill Smith
- College Sports
- Professional Sports

Daily Mail Columnists

- Blogs
- Syndicated Columnists
- Letters to the Editor
- Vent Line

Business

- George Hohmann
- Food and Living
- My Turn
- On Retirement

Ask the Vet

- Country Living
- The Food Guy
- Dining Out
- Carolyn Hax
- Recipes
- On The Trail
- Arts and Entertainment
- Rick Justice Reviews
- Games

Sponsored Links

- Online Sports Betting
- Bankruptcy - Attorney
- Social Security Disability
- Keen Shoes
- Troop Soup
- C and O Motors
- Vitamins Health Nutrition
- Probate Attorneys
- Moving Company
- Cell phone deals
- Free cell phones
- Credit Card Applications
- Online Dating - Are You Interested
- EMPIRESTYLE Fashion Store
- Design
- carpet cleaning Virginia beach
- return address labels online.
- Bankruptcy Court
- Lead Generation
- Search Engine Optimization
- Free Diabetic Supplies
- Mortgage Refinance
- Car Accident Lawyer
- Laser Hair Removal
- Lasik Eye Surgery
- DUI Lawyer
- Divorce Lawyer
- Credit Card Consolidation
- Chicago Cubs Tickets
- Reglan
- Free Cell Phones Deals Reviewed
- prom dresses 2010
- prom dresses and gowns
- prom dresses advice

Charleston Daily Mail
daily@mail.com

Supported Browsers: Internet Explorer 7+, Firefox 3+, Safari 3+

© Copyright 2009 Charleston Daily Mail
Privacy policy • Site Map
Send Web site feedback or a Letter to the Editor



ShareThis print | email | comments | letters to the editor | size

FOOD AND LIVING

Tuesday May 19, 2009

Woman helps others get organized

by Monica Orosz
Daily Mail staff

Page 2 of 2

People have emotional attachments to their things. Sometimes they're overwhelmed with the sheer volume of their stuff. And sometimes they're just a bit embarrassed.

"Sometimes my organizing stops with the initial phone call," she said. "Then I may hear from them six months later.

"I've had to e-mail a client later and say, 'You're not mad at me anymore, are you?'"

McGhee was asked by one client to sort through a couple of boxes of paperwork, a relatively quick and easy task.

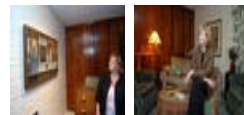
"After we finished, she said, 'Can I show you another problem I have?' " And McGhee learned every closet in the woman's house was filled with papers the woman had tucked away, including six years worth of mail that needed to be sorted and shredded.

Helping another couple to clean their basement, McGhee found more than \$1,500 worth of savings bonds that had been missing for 30 years and wills that listed stocks valued at more than \$25,000 - more than enough to pay her \$30-an-hour fee, fund their home repairs and sock away money for their children's college funds.

Services are wide ranging and now include "staging" a home to look its best before it goes on the real estate market and offering virtual organization (for self-starter types!) through her Web site, www.sortmyspace.com. McGhee, who said she grew up recycling, has even written a book, "Organize Advertiser



Tom Hindman
Rita Wiley McGhee keeps the cozy 900-square-foot home she shares with her husband and two daughters tidy and organized, a skill she also offers to clients through her Sort My Space business.



Your Home The Green Way: A Step-by-Step Approach to a Greener Home."

Her former Realtor, Genny Martin, has turned into both a client and a personal referral agency. Martin has hired McGhee to help her sell some fine artwork as she downsizes. And Martin said McGhee was instrumental in helping one of Martin's homeowners prepare to sell her longtime home.

"She had raised her family in the home. Everything was laden with meaning," Martin said. McGhee helped the woman sort, prioritize and even get money from scrap metal stored in the garage.

Advertiser

SEARCHING
for a
NEW or
USED car?
CLICK HERE



MORE FOOD AND LIVING

- Driver safety course being sponsored by AARP
- Master distillers take star turn in bourbon world
- Professional organizer looking for city's messiest office
- Ghouls and goblins gather for treats in the streets
- Homer Laughlin posts 1930s video online
- United Way officials optimistic
- Benefit at Scarlet Oaks to help homeless
- Band member marches despite blindness
- Trout fishing rodeo coming up for Cato Park
- Send us photos of your pets!

[WV Used Auto Sale](#)
Hurry and see what your local WV dealers have



"The house sold, and a wonderful family lives there now," Martin said. "And she could not have done it without Rita's help."

McGhee will participate in the 2009 Kanawha Valley Sustainability Fair, scheduled for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 30 at the ReStore, 815 Young St. She'll be available to talk about her business and green living and will give away gift certificates for an hour of free service.

For more information, call McGhee at 304-206-8144.

Contact writer Monica Orosz at mon...@dailymail.com or 304-348-4830.

More Articles in Food and Living

« Previous Page 1 | 2 |

« Previous Article in Food and Living

for you!
www.BuyAToyota.com

[West Virginia Lemon Law](#)
Free WV lemon law help. Submit online or call 866-86-LEMON.
AutoLemonLaws.com/WestVirginia

[West Virginia Skydiving](#)
1 Day first jumps go 2-1/2 miles up Skydiving Gift Certificates
www.SkydiveOrange.com



Ads by Google

COMMENTS (2) ON "WOMAN HELPS OTHERS GET ORGANIZED"

POST COMMENT

Posted By: breagha1 (7:32am 05-19-2009)

Report Abuse

"Sort My Space"... Very cool. Wish I had her when I had my family's estate sale.

Posted By: dobi (5:39am 05-19-2009)

Report Abuse

That is such a great idea and very helpful especially to people who got a lot of jobs. Just a friendly advice, make sure you have a backup of your work. I use Safecopy backup, www.safecopybackup.com, to back up all files.

For me SafeCopy is a perfect fit. I can backup USB drives, share files and backup both my Mac and PC with one account. I'm very happy with it and it may be worth checking out. Good Luck!!

Buy.com

HUGE PRICE DROPS!
SHOP NOW at Buy.com
\$199.99 \$299.99 \$399.99



PULL THE DOLLAR

Stretch Your Dollar
WITH OUR ONLINE GROCERY COUPONS

Click Here

TO PRINT GROCERY COUPONS

Home

- News Contacts
- Polls
- Lottery Numbers
- Website Feedback
- Gazette-Mail Pets
- School Closings
- Webcam Weather
- Archives

RSS Feeds

News

- Kanawha County
- Putnam County
- State News
- Statehouse News
- Nation and World
- Technology News
- Oddities
- Police Briefs

Sports

- Prep Sports
- WVIAC Sports
- Local Sports
- WVU Sports
- Marshall Sports
- West Virginia Power
- Jack Bogaczyk
- Rich Stevens
- Mike Casazza

- Chuck McGill
- Derek Taylor
- Frank Giardina
- Mickey Furfari
- Bill Smith
- College Sports
- Professional Sports

Opinion

- Editorials
- Commentary

- Daily Mail Columnists
- Blogs
- Syndicated Columnists
- Letters to the Editor
- Vent Line

Business

- George Hohmann

Food and Living

- My Turn
- On Retirement

- Ask the Vet
- Country Living
- The Food Guy
- Dining Out
- Carolyn Hax
- Recipes
- On The Trail

Arts and Entertainment

- Rick Justice Reviews
- Games

Sponsored Links

- Online Sports Betting
- Bankruptcy - Attorney
- Social Security Disability
- Keen Shoes
- Troop Soup
- C and O Motors
- Vitamins Heath Nutrition
- Probate Attorneys Design
- Moving Company
- Cell phone deals
- Free cell phones
- Credit Card Applications
- Online Dating - Are You Interested
- EMPIRESTYLE Fashion Store
- carpet cleaning Virginia beach
- return address labels online.
- Bankruptcy Court
- Lead Generation
- Search Engine Optimization
- Free Diabetic Supplies
- Mortgage Refinance
- Car Accident Lawyer
- Laser Hair Removal
- Lasik Eye Surgery
- DUI Lawyer
- Divorce Lawyer
- Credit Card Consolidation
- Chicago Cubs Tickets
- Reglan
- Free Cell Phones Deals Reviewed
- prom dresses 2010
- prom dresses and gowns
- prom dresses advice

Charleston Daily Mail
dailymail.com

Supported Browsers: Internet Explorer 7+, Firefox 3+, Safari 3+

© Copyright 2009 Charleston Daily Mail
Privacy policy • Site Map
Send Web site feedback or a Letter to the Editor