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The Home

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Paint & Read with Me!



Discover fun ways to read with your first or second grade child and help them to become a better reader. Then extend the reading activity into a creative experience as each parent/child pair will have a chance to create a painted canvas project. Mary Kay Emmrich, Director of the Newton County Public Libraries, will demonstrate Dialogic Reading, a type of reading that focuses on having a conversation about a book. Jessica Zamora, South Newton Elementary Art teacher, will lead the painting experience.

This program is geared toward parents/grandparents and their first or second grade child. Mark Saturday, April 2 from 10 am – Noon on your calendar. The program will be held the Morocco Community Library, 205 S West Street, Morocco. The \$5.00 charge is payable to Newton County Extension Education Fund. The program is sponsored by Purdue Extension with funding from a Step Ahead grant from the Newton County Community Foundation. To register or for more information call 219.285.8620 ext 2800 or email arseneau@purdue.edu. The program is limited to the first 20 pairs. Please register by March 28, 2016.



Be Well Seminar - Tuesday, April 26

Mark your calendar to attend the "Be Well" seminar on Tuesday, April 26 at the Jasper County Fairgrounds. We will begin with a general session, lessons 3 & 4 from the "Be Heart Smart" curriculum at 1:00 p.m. and will then break into individual sessions including:

- **Code Red**
- **Cooking for One or Two**
- **Medical Records**

To register, please call 219.285.8620 ext 2800 by April 21.

Organizing Important Papers

Home Work Space

Many people do not have the luxury of a separate room to serve as a home office. So, determine a location in your home that works for you and your household. Some people want their home work space to be in the mainstream of family activity, such as a family room or kitchen. Others prefer a quiet place, like a corner in a bedroom. Parents of young children sometimes set up their home office where they can keep an eye on the youngsters.



Whichever location you choose, make sure it includes a table, desk, or other flat work space as well as good lighting and a comfortable chair. A telephone and wastebasket should be nearby, as should a file box, drawer, or cabinet. Keep pencils, pens, paper, paper clips, tape, envelopes, stamps, and file folders handy.

Paper Handling & Filing

Whether you have a home office or a kitchen table for paying bills and keeping records, your job will be more difficult if you accumulate stacks of papers. As you open your bills or deal with important papers, it's best to handle each one only a few times and to file it immediately. If that's not possible, use a box, basket, or envelope to temporarily hold mail you don't yet have time to open or papers you've gathered but haven't yet sorted or processed.

If you can delegate some record-keeping tasks to someone else, you may want to provide them with a second box, basket or envelope for the items they will process. Some people like to use a third container simply for papers that have already been handled and that need to be filed.

Filing papers in labeled folders works best for most people. For ease of access, many people prefer the hanging style of file folder that can be suspended in file drawers or in any of the various plastic or cardboard boxes available at office supply stores. As you file each item, date it. If you decide to discard it instead, be sure to shred it or safely burn it if it includes sensitive information that could be misused by an identity thief.

Plan a system that will work for you—one that will help you make decisions easily.



Reduce Junk Mail

Most of us get a lot of junk mail. Don't stack it or store it; pitch it into a conveniently located wastebasket or a paper-recycling container. To avoid identity theft, shred credit card offers and other papers that include personal information before you discard them.

To reduce the amount of junk mail you get, contact the Direct Marketing Association's (DMA) Mail Preference Service and ask that your name be removed from mailing lists. The fee for this service is \$1.00. To register by Internet, fill out an online form at <https://www.dmachoice.org>.

Alternatively, print the mail-in form from the website, fill it out, and send it in. Or send the following information, with your \$1.00 check payable to DMA, to Mail Preference Service, PO Box 282, Carmel, NY, 10512: First name, middle name, last name/Address (including apartment number, if appropriate)/City, state, zip code/Email address.

Because some mailings are prepared far in advance, allow 30-90 days for your registration to become fully effective. Although the typical consumer will see a great reduction in the unsolicited mail he or she receives, not all commercial mail will stop. Consumers will still get mail from companies with which they already do business, from non-DMA member companies, and from local merchants, professional and alumni association, political candidate and office holders, and mail addressed to "resident/occupant."

Through the Fair Credit Reporting Act, you can opt out of receiving unsolicited offers of "pre-approved" and "prescreened" credit cards and insurance policies by visiting the official Consumer Credit Reporting Industry website at <http://www.OptOutPrescreen.com> or by calling 1-888-5optout. Using this website, you can tell the credit-reporting companies Equifax, Experian, Innovis and TransUnion not to provide your credit file to companies that want to offer you credit or insurance you didn't request. That will keep your name off the lists these credit-reporting companies supply to creditors and insurers.

Source: <http://articles.extension.org/pages/11023/organize-your-important-household-papers>



Extension Homemaker Notes

provided by Nancy Jo Prue



At the January council meeting, club presidents were reminded that a report on donations to community groups and the hours spent on Extension Homemaker events and activities are due March 1. If your club needs more time to gather the information, I will still take the report up until March 10. Do not send them to the Extension Office. Each club is to discuss if county dues should stay the same at \$4 or be increased to \$5 and report at the April council meeting. Also there were two bylaw changes presented that will be voted on in April.

There are lots of changes in the structure of the council. County secretary, Joy Edwards, has had to step down due to illness. Jeanette Marter will fill in for Joy as secretary until her health improves. Martha White announced that Nancy Moore has resigned from the Volunteer Community Support committee, but Mary Hanley has volunteered to take her place. Deb Messer is moving out of the county and Rose Dawson and Lee Haste volunteered to be Membership/Logo co-chairs for Deb and Joy.

Cultural Arts Chair, Helen Treado, announced that judging of the Cultural Arts entries will be at the April 28 council meeting. Each member can enter a quilt, needlework, miscellaneous craft, and this year's special project--a 16" pillow. Newton County is allowed one creative art and one pillow for judging at Home and Family Conference.

Pat Boldman, Wanda Monjon and I were royally entertained by the Host-a-Hoosier program in Boone County November 4-5. Three of their members are coming to Newton County for the June 28 Achievement Night.

Jeanette Marter announced that their club, Lincoln Liberty Bells, have made plans to host Achievement Night Tuesday, June 28 at the Lake Township Fire Department on 300 West in Lake Village. The Hoosier Grandpas will provide entertainment and the theme will be the Indiana Bicentennial. Each club is asked to bring a \$5 item for a door prize. Registration begins at 5:30 with the event at 6:00. The cost for the evening will be \$5. Food for the event has not been decided yet but will likely be a meal rather than just snacks.

The deadline to send your \$10 reservation for the Lafayette Spring District Meeting to Carol Light is March 1. White County is hosting at the 4-H Exhibit Building in Reynolds Wed, March 23 with registration starting at 8 am CT. Anyone who has knitted or crocheted a shawl for the Indiana Donor Network should take them to the District Meeting or send them with someone who is attending.

The program book committee (secretaries from each club) will meet on March 30 at 10:00 am at the Extension Office. The budget committee (treasurers) will meet on April 14 at 1:30 pm at the Extension Office. Please have these club officers or a representative from your club attend.

March is when each club elects new officers for 2016-2017. Please send a list of your officers to the Extension Office by April 1. At the Thursday, April 28 council meeting new county officers will be slated and elected.

For anyone interested in attending Home and Family Conference June 13-15, even if for only one day, look at the website ieha-families.org to find the registration form. NVON Conference is being hosted by Illinois only two hours away in the city of Bloomington/Normal July 19-21. Go to the IEHA website and click on Affiliations, NVON, CONFERENCE INFO to get registration forms. There are tours to the Abraham Lincoln Museum in Springfield and Route 66 and the Beer Nut manufacturer plus many craft and educational sessions. Eight states are members of NVON.

Pat Boldman and I have been busy selling leftover nuts. They are not in the Extension Office, but in our homes. Contact one of us if you need: 1 Mammoth Pecan Halves; 1 Roasted & Salted Pecan Halves; 13 Pecan Halves & Pieces; 10 Pecan Pieces; or 7 Honey Roasted Peanuts.



