

## Association Info

### Management Company

Horizon Management  
2356 Hassell Rd.  
Suite I  
Hoffman Estates, IL. 60195  
847-310-8080

### Property Manager

Valerie Hodge

### Board of Directors

President ..... Tom Schaefer  
Secretary/Vice-President .... Denise Mays  
Treasurer ..... Larry M. Adrian

### Committee Heads

Architecture ..... to be appointed  
Document Restoration .. Larry M. Adrian  
Landlord Relations ..... Larry M. Adrian  
Landscape ..... to be appointed  
Neighborhood Watch ..... Troy Farmer  
Newsletter..... Larry M. Adrian  
Rules ..... to be appointed  
Social ..... to be appointed  
Trash ..... to be appointed  
Web Site Development .... Tom Schaefer

### Web Site

[www.hanoversquare.org](http://www.hanoversquare.org)

### Towing Company

Car Search ..... 847-608-8120

## Organizing Our Stuff

Well spring is finally here and our thoughts may turn to spring cleaning and organizing. Having trouble finding a place for all your stuff? Do you have stacks of books, magazines or papers all around the place? Do you have trouble finding things you are looking for? It sure sounds like it's time for a little organizing.

A guy I worked with used to say "you are naturally as organized as you need to be". If you have trouble finding things you will automatically organize a little until you can find them. If you organize more than this, you may be over doing it, wasting time and money because the organization is not necessary for you to find things. In reality we could all stand to do a little organizing.

Our homes don't help much either as there is not much storage space in them. I've looked through books of house plans and my informal survey seemed to indicate that homes under 1500 sq. ft. have little storage. The bigger and consequently more expensive homes have more storage, maybe because the more money you have the more things you have and the bigger problem storage becomes. The problem is, in our affluent society even less affluent households have lots of things to store.

Where are we to keep all those seasonal items, Christmas decorations, winter cloths, summer cloths, bicycles, wading pools, hoses, etc? More expensive homes have special storage rooms for seasonal items and bigger garages too with room for bicycles, jet-skis and other toys.

It's important to know the real cost of owning something, the cost of buying it is just the start. If we assume our homes cost around \$100 a square foot for living space and you need a space 2' x 6' to store holiday decorations you are looking at a \$1200 investment just to store the decorations. At these kind of prices we want to make sure we get as much "storage for the buck" as we can.

Julie Morgenstern's book "Organizing from the Inside Out" could help. She presents a method to get the stuff in your life under control. A lot of the information may seem like common sense but often we never put this type of information to use. Sometimes it takes someone to organize all this common sense for the rest of us to make it valuable information. Her approach isn't to provide a one size fits all, cookie-cutter approach by suggesting a set method and tools to get organized, rather she has you start with you. You analyze why and how you conduct your life and then you build an organization system around your findings.

She says most people organize backwards, we realize we need to organize and then in a knee-jerk reaction, we go out and get storage containers and then try to start organizing. We really need to determine what we have, why we have it and how we use it then decide how much of this stuff we really need and how we want to organize it before we set up a storage solution.

For instance, you get a file cabinet to store your important papers. You find a nice place to put the cabinet in a nook in the hallway. You get your papers all stored in the cabinet. Two weeks later, your desk is already beginning to get covered with papers. Julie's remark, if the item's storage is not within arms-length from where you will use it, your desk will start to accumulate those papers. You need to find a way to get the file cabinet near your desk so it is convenient and you will use it.

A friend of Julie's showed Julie her packed attic. Why did she have all this stuff? Most of it was from raising the kids, games, toys, etc. and rummaging through it brought back old memories. Julie's suggestion, pick out several (2 or 3) items and get rid of the rest. If you want to experience the old memories, pull out the 2 or 3 items. The reason for keeping the items was to relive the old memories and you don't need a whole attic of items to get the feelings, just 2 or 3 will do.

Getting organized can make you feel good because you get a sense of power and control by having a place for everything and everything in it's place. Good luck organizing.

*Larry M. Adrian*