

# Cut the clutter



DOROTHY EDWARDS | THE FLINT JOURNAL

Monique Michaud of Fenton Township organizes her kitchen with the help of Deerfield Township's Judy Lubowicki, president of Clutter Free Organizing Inc. "I thought I would beat the new year rush and start getting organized," Michaud said.

## Professional organizers know how to make sense of it all

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FENTON — Is the new year bringing with it a goal to become more organized?

Two area businesses are ready to help. Their job is to help people set priorities and organize their stuff.

Judy Lubowicki of Livingston County's Deerfield Township is president of Clutter Free Organizing Inc.

Lubowicki visits people's homes or small businesses and helps them organize such things as pantries, closets, garages and paperwork. She also teaches clients how to stay organized.

Clients include people facing divorce, who've had a death in the family or who just need to spring clean their home.

"Sometimes people call us after years of being in crisis and they reach the last straw," Lubowicki said.

The start of the new year is a busy time for organizers.

Betty Huotari, of Logical Placement in nearby Tyrone Township, said people want to start 2012 on

### Expert advice

Professional organizers Judy Lubowicki and Betty Huotari offer these tips to get organized:

- Create a list of goals, then organize and prioritize the list.
- Focus on indoor items when the weather is cold and outside projects when the weather is warm.
- Set deadlines and schedule projects on the calendar to dedicate time to accomplish the tasks.
- Divide household paperwork into categories. Make sure the system is understood and followed by everyone in the home.

the right foot, and for many that means resolving to get organized.

"Many people have mentioned when things are in order and items have a home, they feel better about themselves and more in control of their surroundings. They can sleep better at night,"

Huotari said.

But getting and staying organized takes effort.

Huotari said it takes discipline and having realistic expectations. She stresses the importance of keeping a calendar to set deadlines and to schedule rewards for jobs well done.

People often have a lot of ideas, but have problems implementing plans, Lubowicki said. That's because they have a hard time breaking things down into manageable tasks, so they get overwhelmed, she said.

"Not everybody has that organizing knack. We're not all wired the same way," Lubowicki said.

When it comes to having an organized home, Lubowicki and Huotari said, most people have trouble with household paperwork.

Incoming mail, bank statements, bills, product manuals and school work can create a lot of clutter, especially when it is placed in different places or handled by multiple people in the home, Lubowicki said.

See ORGANIZERS, D2



## From D1 — **ORGANIZERS** *Get it together*

"Bills get lost and/or paid late and people feel a lot of stress when they can't find the correct paperwork. They feel like life is tumbling out of control," Huotari said.

Keeping a tidy garage also is hard, Lubowicki said, because many families have limited space and have large items to store in that space, such as vehicles, bicycles, gardening items, sports equipment or holiday decorations.

"We tend to have so much these days, especially large toys," Lubowicki said.

Huotari said she helps people who are moving and don't want to take everything with them. They want to purge, she said, but don't know how to or are afraid of making a mistake.

Clutter Free Organizing can be reached at 810-577-2687 or [clutterfreeorganizing.com](http://clutterfreeorganizing.com). Logical Placement can be reached at 810-348-1772 or [logicalplacement.com](http://logicalplacement.com).