

## Professional organizer can help you reach resolution goals

By JANE PETERSON

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Being organized was something that always came naturally to Betty Huotari.

With everything in place, the Fenton resident found she could function better and experienced less stress and anxiety. In 2001, she turned organization into a career by launching Logical Placement LLC. As a professional organizer, her mission is to help others get their offices, closets, basements, kitchens, paperwork and other areas of their home in order.

Based on the fact that many believe "getting organized" comes in only behind "losing weight" on the list of top new year's resolutions, this area is obviously a struggle for many.

There are many reasons clutter can build up and people can spend time searching for misplaced keys and sorting through mounds of laundry for one matching sock.

For starters, culture has

### If you go

In addition to helping clients get organized, Huotari speaks at organizing workshops and events, and also teaches community education classes. She will teach a class offered through Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation, 7-9 p.m. Jan. 31. For more information or to register, call 810-591-0080. For details about other events, visit [www.logicalplacement.com](http://www.logicalplacement.com). For more information about professional organizers, visit [www.napo.net](http://www.napo.net) or [www.napomichigan.com](http://www.napomichigan.com).

changed, Huotari says.

She cites paper and junk mail as one example. The amount people today receive in just one day can be compared to what their parents received in a week and their grandparents got in a month, she said. It can be hard to stay on top of all that information.

Others, Huotari said, can become "situationally disor-

ganized."

This happens when circumstances in a person's life temporarily interrupt their daily routines.

Perhaps they have been dealing with an illness and needed to make that their first priority, letting some of the home organization chores wait for a while, she said. Once clutter has piled up, it can be overwhelming to face alone.

Huotari, immediate past president of the National Association of Professional Organizers-Southeast Michigan Chapter, said areas people tend to have the most trouble with are the kitchen counter, bedroom and basement/garage. Paperwork and filing can also present a challenge.



Huotari

A professional organizer can help people through the process. Huotari works with her clients to find solutions that meet their lifestyles and budgets. She works with what they have, and then fills in the blanks by offering guidance on what types of products would be beneficial to achieve their goals. Throughout the process, she offers encouragement, support and education on the basic tenants of organizing and staying organized.

Common mistakes include underestimating the time the organizing process takes and not having a plan, she said. Her home organization tips include:

- Breaking a project down into manageable pieces.

- Making sure every item has a home.

- Rewarding yourself as projects are completed.

- Scheduling the time to work on the project.

"People think that time will magically appear for them to

organize the basement," she said.

To tackle an organizing project, start with either an area that has been bothering you the most or begin with a small project that can be completed in a timely manner. Once one project is finished, a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment can inspire future efforts.

When the basics of home organization are in place, it is easier to move on to other projects in the house, like organizing photos, Huotari added.

"There's always a project lingering. You're never done organizing. Our lives are not static," she said.

Back in 2001 when she started her business, Huotari said she was one of six professional organizers in the state. Over the years, she has been featured in many publications and on television. Last year she was asked to participate in a project that aired on "Hoarders," a popular A&E TV production.