FJR & ASSOCIATES

MONTHLY UPDATE

Mapping the Mess: Where Clutter Collects

Clutter rarely appears overnight. It builds slowly...an overstuffed closet, a crowded kitchen drawer, or a garage shelf filled with things we're sure we'll use "someday."

The problem is, all that extra stuff can make our homes feel less functional and more stressful. This month, I'm highlighting some of the most common clutter hot spots and offering simple ways to start getting them under control.

The key is not tackling everything at once. Start small: one drawer, one closet or one troublesome corner. Keep what you use, what you love and what truly belongs in your space. Then donate the things that no longer serve you. What feels like excess in your home may be genuinely useful to someone else. Giving it a second life can make letting go a little easier.

And if the project feels bigger than a weekend cleanout, I'm always happy to connect you with a trusted organizer, haul-away service or other home professional from my network.

Oh by the way...

We're Never too Busy

for you or your referrals.



Listed



Offered at $925,000

In Escrow



Offered at $1,400,000

In Escrow



Offered at $1,450,000

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No-Bake Caramel Apple Icebox Cake



For the Apple Filling

- 3 medium apples, peeled and diced
- 2 tbsp butter
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp cornstarch mixed with 1 tbsp water

(You can substitute about 2 cups of store-bought apple pie filling, roughly chopped, for the homemade apple filling.)

For the Crust

- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 5 tbsp melted butter

For the Cream Filling

- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/3 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- For Assembly
- 8–10 whole graham crackers
- Caramel sauce, for drizzling
- Chopped pecans, optional

In a skillet over medium heat, cook the apples, butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, salt and lemon juice for 6–8 minutes, until tender but still holding their shape. Stir in the cornstarch mixture and cook for another minute, until slightly thickened. Remove from heat and cool completely.

Combine the graham cracker crumbs and melted butter. Press firmly into the bottom of an 8-inch square dish. Refrigerate while preparing the filling.

Beat the cream cheese, powdered sugar, vanilla and cinnamon until smooth. In a separate bowl, whip the heavy cream until stiff peaks form. Gently fold the whipped cream into the cream cheese mixture.

Spread about one-third of the cream mixture over the crust. Spoon half of the cooled apples over the cream.

Add a single layer of whole graham crackers, breaking them as needed to fit. Top with another third of the cream mixture and the remaining apples.

Add another layer of graham crackers and finish with the remaining cream mixture.

Cover and refrigerate for at least 6 hours, preferably overnight, allowing the graham crackers to soften into cake-like layers.

Before serving, drizzle with caramel sauce and sprinkle with chopped pecans.

Serves: 8–10

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Mapping the Mess: Where Clutter Collects

Clutter has a way of migrating and accumulating throughout your home.
Fall is the perfect time to tackle those long-ignored hot spots.



1. **Bedrooms** (out-of-season clothes)
2. **Living Room** (knickknacks)
3. **Kitchen** (duplicate gadgets)
4. **Entryway** (mail)
5. **Basement** (storage boxes)
6. **Dining Room** (unused serveware)
7. **Bathrooms** (toiletries)
8. **Garage** (duplicate tools)
9. **Yard** (broken planters)

70%
say clutter creates anxiety, frustration, or guilt.

60%
of us have repurchased items we own but can't find.

1 out of 3
Americans rent a storage space.

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Become a Decluttering Pro

Follow these simple tips and you'll be living clutter-free before you know it!

- **Determine your needs/wants** (more organized, items disposed of, minimalist design, etc.).
- **Get trusted feedback** from a friend or family member.
- **Be honest with yourself** — why are you keeping something?
- **Let AI inspire you** with possible outcomes.
- **Start small** (a closet, one room, etc.).
- **Call in the pros** (organizers, haul-away services) to help.



Having trouble letting go of certain items? Here are five great reasons to donate them:

1. Help someone in need
2. Possible tax deductions
3. Reduces stress/anxiety
4. Encourages others to donate as well
5. Keep items out of landfills

If you need a referral for any type of professional, let me know and I can connect you to one in my trusted network. And, oh by the way... I'm never too busy for any of your referrals!

SOURCES: 1. moving.selfstorage.com/organization-habits/ 2. sparefoot.com/blog/self-storage-industry-statistics

10 Easy Cleaning Hacks

Use these tips to help simplify your home cleaning chores!

1. Use a toothbrush to clean the threads of jar lids.
2. Use canned air to clean exhaust fans.
3. Cut a lemon in half and rub on chrome taps and fixtures.
4. Clean built-up grime inside a microwave by heating a cup of water, lemon juice, and baking soda for a few minutes, then wipe down.
5. Cut through aluminum foil to sharpen dull scissors.
6. Swirl ice cubes and coarse salt to remove residue in narrow containers.
7. Use a lint roller on fabric lampshades, throw pillows, or curtains to lift dust and pet hair.
8. Use a stiff paintbrush to clean window tracks.
9. Wrap a dryer sheet around a flat sweeper head to dust baseboards, door frames, and window tops.
10. Use a coffee filter to dust electronics and TV screens.

I hope you found these tips helpful! If there's anything I can do for you this month, or if you need a referral to a service professional of any type, just let me know. Oh, by the way...I'm never too busy for you or any of your referrals!

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