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Make your next move a successful one with these tips!

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Get details about upcoming events.

**Remember to refer a friend to the Village Cooperative!*

Featured Floor Plan of the Month —“Fairfield” Page 4

Check out this spacious and unique two-bedroom home available now!

Downsizing?

How to ditch what you don't need

In our previous issue, we offered some great tips on how to tackle the job of downsizing in terms of planning, sorting and dealing with challenging items like collectible keepsake items. In this issue, we'll give you some expert tips on how to get rid of what you and your family decide not to keep.

Downsizing Tips: How to Sell

1. Think twice before selling items on your own.

Craigslist, eBay, and other self-selling options are time-consuming when you're trying to process a houseful of goods. Be realistic: “The value of an item isn't what you paid for it or how well made or special it is—it is literally what someone is willing to pay for it,” warns Margit Novack of Moving Solutions and founder of the National Association of Senior Move Managers.



2. If there are several items of high value, consider an appraisal and estate sale.

Go through the entire house; the appraiser will only come out once and is more interested in relatively large lots. Auction houses, whose goal is to sell items at the best price, are better

(“Downsizing”—continued on Page 2)



Don't Get “Boxed In” This Time!

When space is at a premium, every box matters.

Take some time to go through each area in your home, from your attic and closets to your garage and cabinets. There's so much stuff that gets tucked away in storage just because it “might be useful someday.” If you haven't used it in over a year, or if you see no immediate use for it in the next six months, purge it from your life and give it away, sell it, or toss it in the trash. You'll finally be rid of things you'll never miss and probably forgot you had.

Events & Happenings

Member Social/Dinner
Tues., Feb. 6th – 6:00pm
Jess and Jim’s Steakhouse
517 E. 135th Street
Kansas City, MO 64145
Appetizers will be served
compliments of REE
Development. Get to know
fellow members! [RSVP Doris](#)

Member Meeting
Tues., Feb. 20th – 4:00pm
St. Thomas More (More Hall)
11822 Holmes Road
Kansas City, MO 64131
[Get the latest updates!](#)

Informational Seminar
(Sales Presentation)
Wed., Feb. 21st – 10:00am
Village Cooperative Office
12132 State Line Road
Leawood, KS 66209
[Tell a friend or neighbor
to join us to learn more!](#)

Member Coffee
Tues., Feb. 27th – 9:00am
Village Cooperative Office
12132 State Line Road
Leawood, KS 66209
Larry Dean & Judy Mericle
from *1-2 Another* will present
info on estate sales. Plus, a
Center School Dist. volunteer
opportunity presentation.

Downsizing (from page 1)

options than antique dealers, whose goal is to get items for the lowest price, Novack says. Consignment shops will also sell items, but they tend to cherry-pick (they take fewer items) and often charge to pick items up.

Downsizing Tips: How to Donate

3. Understand how charities work.

Sometimes it feels better to donate items to people in need through a charity than deal with the “tire kicker” who is just trying to knock down your prices. Try credible donation outlets such as Goodwill, the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity’s Restore and Arc’s Thrift Stores. Depending on your area, popular alternatives may include other charities or a local hospital or community thrift shop. Most of them have websites that list which items they accept. These charities work by selling castoffs. They don’t want and often won’t take dregs that are better left to the trash. Some take only furniture; some won’t take clothing or electronics. Larger charities tend to accept a wider variety of items. Just remember to get a receipt for a tax deduction. Also, clarify whether they offer free pickup, which is a huge time-saver. Some charities will remove items from the ground floor only.

4. Target recipients for specialty items.

It’s time-consuming to find willing recipients for everything, but it may be worth the effort for items that you would be relieved to see in a good home. Examples: Schools may welcome musical instruments, old costumes, tools or supplies. Auto repair shops and community maintenance departments may take hand tools and yard tools.

5. Try the “free books” tactic.

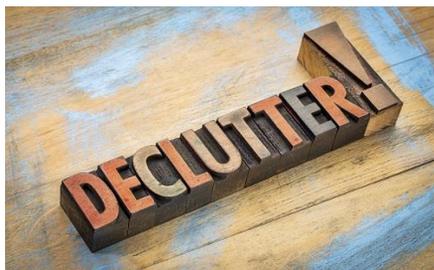
In some communities, setting items on the curb with a sign that says “Free! Help yourself!” will make items miraculously disappear. This works great for books, Novack says, and many other items. Libraries don’t normally take books; some charities or schools may. Finding a willing recipient and transporting the books—or any other piecemeal donation items—can take time you’d rather not invest in the small stuff.



(More Great Tips—continued on page 3)

Downsizing (from page 2)

In some areas, free recycling or “freecycling” is an option. You post an item available for pickup to a membership list, and anyone who wants it can come pick it up from you or from your curb. There are now thousands of groups that make up the Freecycle Network. Like selling items on Craigslist, however, the communications involved can be time-consuming and tedious if your goal is fast disposal of a large number of items.



Downsizing Tips: What to Discard

6. If it's chipped, broken or stained, just toss it.

Charities don't want non-working lights or gadgets, snagged or stained clothes, lidless plastic Tupperware, or any items that they can't easily sell. Period.

7. Weigh your loyalty to recycling against your available time.

Avoiding waste is noble, but finding a home for every thing can be incredibly time consuming. “If you recycle the other 364 days of the year, tossing a few things in the interests of time is fine. You have to be pragmatic,” Novack says.

8. Don't be shy about tossing replaceable items without consultation.

Not worth moving, donating, or even conferring about: old spices, junk mail, old magazines (yes, even all those yellow-spined National Geographic issues), outdated medications, unused toiletries, cheap plastic food containers, candles, stuffed toys (most charities won't accept them), and the contents of the junk drawer—just make sure grab the change and spare keys.

9. For a price, you don't have to haul it away yourself.

The local garbage company may have limits on how many large trash bags it will take, and not all local dumps take unsorted trash either. Waste Management's “Bagster” is a smaller-scale alternative to a dumpster, and it doesn't harm your driveway. Buy one of its large bags at a home-improvement retailer (typically about \$30), fill with up to 3,300 pounds of trash, and call to schedule a pickup (costs range from about \$120 to \$200). Services like 1-800-Got-Junk and College Hunks Hauling Junk remove appliances and furniture as well as smaller items. Smaller local junk dealers may haul things away for free if they see items that they'll be able to sell.

Downsizing Tip: Get Help

10. Consider bringing in the pros.

A fast-growing specialty is a move manager who specializes in helping older adults and is skilled at both the emotional and practical dimensions of later-life transitions. These experts can defuse a parent-adult child emotional clash while handling everything from sorting and packing to hiring movers and unpacking in the new place. They usually charge an hourly fee that varies by locale.

Deciding whether to sell, donate, give away, or throw away is stressful and takes time. Getting a jump by following these sensible tips will keep you on track!



Birthdays This Month

Bob B. – Feb. 2nd

Bill W. – Feb. 2nd

Stephanie H. – Feb. 11th

Joan R. – Feb. 17th

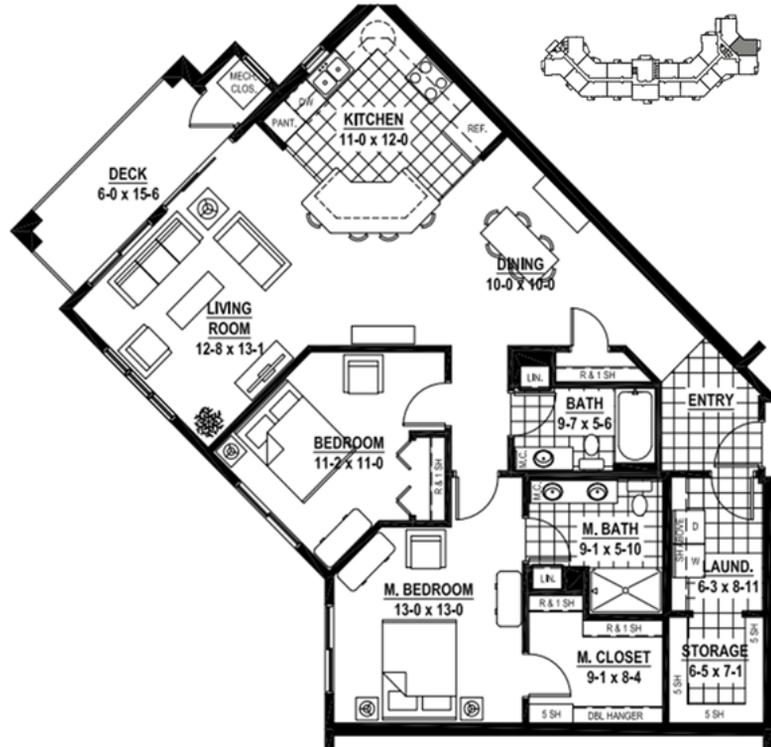
Paul P. – Feb. 23rd



Anniversaries This Month

Larry & Kip D. – Feb. 10th

Featured Floor Plan of the Month



“Fairfield” Home

2 Bedroom, 2 Bath – 1,434 sq. ft.

This unique plan offers an open and spacious layout with a kitchen/living room/dining room combo that opens to a large deck. This home also includes a reserved space in the heated underground parking garage as well as your own private laundry room with side by side washer and dryer, plus lots of storage! **You can't find a better maintenance-free value in this KC, MO location!**



Doris Sarver

Sales Manager

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OPPORTUNITY



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Facebook

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Village Cooperative is a community of active adults, so stay active with us—online! We'll keep you informed about upcoming events as well as share photos from past ones!

