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ACCENT

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SECTION **C**



Janet Hommel Mangas

Wondering what they're thinking? Join the club

I decided this year to start writing a "thankful journal." It's one of those personal diaries (not the online, show-it-to-the-world exhibition blogs) to thank God for the things I appreciate day to day.

It was going great until I realized on Jan. 11 that I wanted to start another journal, a "what are they thinking?" journal. Yes, I know the Bible verse: Do everything without arguing and complaining.

So instead of tainting my beautiful new, blue and brown geometrically squared thankful journal, I will just write my "what are they thinking" thoughts (WATTs) in today's column, and then I won't have to ugly-up my pretty thankful journal.

WATT No. 1: To avoid being on the phone for 40 minutes of elevator music, I recently sent an e-mail to one of our energy suppliers explaining a problem that needed to be repaired. The reply was from a customer-service specialist.

That means they send the customer a gobbledygook letter but never address the one problem the customer wrote about. After each e-mail, an instant response came back that they did indeed receive my e-mail and they would "work quickly to resolve this issue so you can get on with your life."

Against my better judgment I sent a third e-mail requesting that this problem be repaired, only this time I started the e-mail: "My dearest customer-service specialist" and ended with "I anticipate with great joy a quick resolve. Thanks again."

The adage you can get more flies with honey than vinegar seemed to work, kind of.

The third e-mail response informed me that for them to proceed in fixing the problem, they must receive my request in writing, and they gave me the mailing address.

Hmm. I guess the same words in the previous three e-mails don't count as a request in writing.

WATT No. 2: Many Johnson County residents experience WATTs on a regular basis but only roll their eyes in response. Others like to laugh and share their WATTs.

Writer friend Judy Coleman recently sent me an Associated Press article that said the Food and Drug Administration approved Slenrol, the first drug for obese dogs.

The article noted: "Is your hound round? Too much flab on your Lab? Is your husky, well, husky? A new drug may provide some help. The government approved the first drug for obese canines on Friday. Called Slenrol, the Pfizer Inc. drug is aimed at helping fat Fidos shed extra pounds."

As Judy so aptly wrote: "I have

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Old doorknob faceplates become eclectic candle holders in the hands of recycling gurus Ki Nassauer and Sue Whitney of Junkmarket. The women have made a business of collecting discarded items and turning them into home-decorating masterpieces. See their work at the Indianapolis Home Show.

Recycling shakes up home decor

Get tips for decorating on the cheap or puttin' on the ritz at home show

By ANNETTE JONES
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Ki Nassauer and Sue Whitney have a penchant for junk. The friends, hockey moms and business partners scavenge salvage yards, garage sales, thrift shops and curbsides on heavy-trash pickup days looking for stuff to turn into household treasures.

The owners of Junkmarket, based in Long Lake, Minn., will share their secrets to decorating on the cheap at the Indianapolis Home Show from Feb. 1 to 4.

The home show runs from Friday to Feb. 4 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis.

Scavenging for junk has always been a hobby of Nassauer's.

"I'm attracted to it in a weird sort of

way," she said in a telephone interview. She has been collecting junk since she was young, but seven years ago she started doing something with it.

Nassauer and Whitney call it repurposing.

Sometimes Nassauer will look at an object and think it would be a great lamp or bookshelf. Other times she will see something that attracts her but has no idea what to use it for. Eventually, she'll find a use for it.

Audience members at their shows who say they can't come up with ideas are often surprised when Nassauer and Whitney began bouncing ideas around with them.

INSIDE

Get some decorating sense from an HGTV pro.

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You might see an old bird cage, but Ki Nassauer and Sue Whitney, proprietors of Minnesota-based Junkmarket, see a funky light fixture. Learn their tricks and other ideas at the Indianapolis Home Show.

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IF YOU GO

Indianapolis Home Show

Features more than 800 exhibitors with products and ideas for home decorating, construction and remodeling

When: Friday to Feb. 4

Where: Indiana State Fairgrounds, West Pavilion and Exposition Hall, 1202 E. 38th St., Indianapolis

Hours: 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday

and Feb. 2; 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Jan. 27 and Feb. 3; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 28 and Feb. 4; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 29 to Feb. 1

Tickets: \$9 for adults, \$4 for children 7 to 12; free for children 6 and younger

Discount: \$2-off coupons on adult admission at Marsh Supermarkets

Information: 705-8719 or IndianapolisHomeshow.com

Show within a show

Home Décor and Interior Design Show, South Pavilion, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Jan. 27, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 28; admission included with home-show ticket

• Vern Yip, formerly of "Trading

Spaces" and now owner of an Atlanta design firm, Jan. 27 and 28

• Joan Steffend, host of HGTV's "Decorating Cents," Jan. 27 and 28

• Designer rooms and decorating trends from pros with the Indiana chapter of American Society of Interior Design, Friday to Jan. 28

• Herron School of Art displays

In its 50th year, community caters to new generation of seniors

By ANNETTE JONES
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Last week, residents of the Franklin United Methodist Community pulled their poodle skirts and letter jackets out of mothballs as they celebrated the 50th anniversary of the facility.

They feasted on burgers, fries, root beer, ice cream and cake, enjoyed '50s music and danced the bunny hop.

As part of the year-long activities, the community will host the Franklin Chamber of Commerce at a dinner and invite Grace United Methodist Church members to an ice cream social in July. The Chamber and Grace church raised the money to buy initial the property for the retirement facility.

In June, the Johnson County Museum of History will open an exhibit of the community's history with a public reception. The exhibit



Franklin United Methodist Community resident Carol Lear works out in the wellness center on the campus. A new dining hall and other additions are planned.

will run through October.

In November, Indiana-area Bishop Michael Coyner will perform a rededication service.

As residents of the community celebrate the past, the staff is envisioning the future, says Keith Van Deman, chief advancement officer.

A groundbreaking is planned in July for a new dining facility with more food-service options for residents. The present dining room will become a lounge and meeting area with a fireplace.

Also this summer, groundbreaking will take place for a new health-care unit, increasing the accommodations for the Alzheimer's and dementia unit. Nearly 80 people are on a waiting list for the Alzheimer's unit, Van Deman said.

In addition, during the next few years, the original apartment buildings on the grounds will be remodeled. An additional 20 housing units, consisting of single-family homes and duplexes, are planned for the northwest corner of the property.

In December, a state-of-the-art wellness center and coffee and juice bar, called Community Perk, opened on the ground floor of the compound's

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FAST FACTS

About Franklin United Methodist Community

- The community opened on 40 acres in 1957 with the financial backing of Grace United Methodist Church and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce.
- More than 300 people applied for 100 spaces when it opened.
- The facility expanded in 1960, 1962, 1980, 1992 and 2000.
- At least 150 residents volunteer.
- The campus includes 186 independent homes, 150 apartments and accommodations for health and dementia care.
- The campus serves 600 resident from throughout the United States.
- The community employs more than 300 people.