

# IRVINGDALE

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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*Thank  
you!*

A HUGE thank you to Eric and Emily, owners of The Normandy Restaurant, 2785 S. 17th Street, for their generous contribution of a \$50 gift certificate for the INA Membership Drive Drawing! The lucky winner of the certificate was Richard Neurnberger.

## IRVINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION Annual Meeting

**DATE:** Tuesday, October 27th, 2020

**TIME:** 7:00 PM

**PLACE:** Online at Zoom.com. If interested in attending, please e-mail [INA@neb.rr.com](mailto:INA@neb.rr.com) to receive the meeting ID #.

**PROGRAM:** Interim Fire Chief Micheal Despain will share important information regarding impending changes to Fire Station 8. He will also inform us about the breadth and depth of the services provided by Fire Station 8 to the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

**ELECTIONS:** Current paid members will vote to fill one and two-year positions on the Board. (Nominations presently being accepted. Nominate yourself or a friend.)

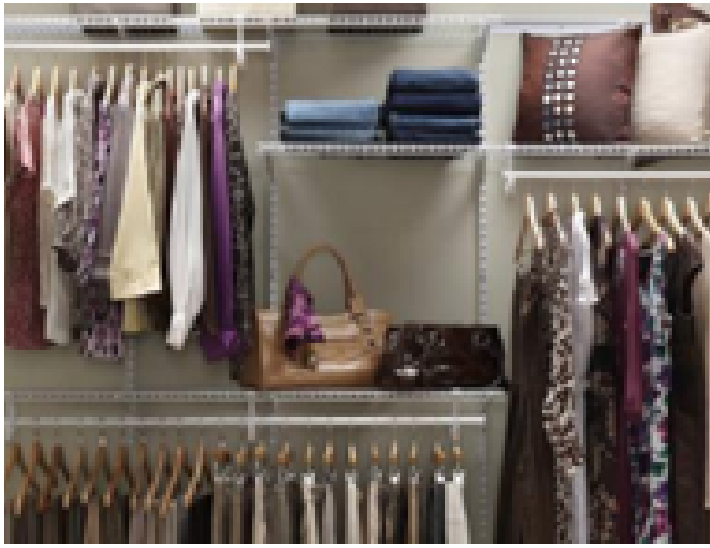


PHOTO CREDIT: CLOSETMAID

## Organizing Your Old Closet

*Jim Edgar, NKBA*

I have always wondered about those wonderful closets we see pictured in designer and home magazines -- expansive rooms filled with shelves, drawers, trays, and baskets on all sides, but containing exactly 6 suits, 12 shirts and one drawer of socks -- all in white.

If all you own is 6 suits, 12 shirts and one drawer of socks, why do you need a closet the size of an auditorium?

These pictures are all fantasy, of course. We don't have giant, garage-size walk-in closets; we have small walk-in closets if we're lucky and tiny reach-in closets if we're not.

If any of us actually did have a closet the size of a gymnasium, we would already have it filled to the rafters with stuff. We all collect stuff. Lots of stuff. And, it all has to be put somewhere. It resides mostly in our closets.

The closet keeps us from constantly tripping over stuff. It is some of your home's most valuable real estate. But it is also the most under-utilized, under-appreciated and least respected part of your house.

### Closet Clutter

The biggest problem with our closets is clutter -- and the fact that most closets have a door. By shutting the closet door, the catastrophe that lies within is out of sight and out of mind, so we can ignore the clutter problem -- until we have to actually find something, that is. Then it's hard to ignore.

There are three basic reasons why our closets suffer from clutter:

- We have very distinct seasons in Nebraska. They all require different wardrobes: winter, summer and football. Everybody knows that bulky winter wear takes up many times the space of summer wear. Plus, we need a whole third wardrobe of red clothing just to watch Husker football -- something that utterly mystifies folks who aren't from around here.
- We live in an age when fashions change rapidly by design. We like to hold on to the clothing that is so out of fashion that we don't really wear it anymore -- just in case it ever comes back into style -- it won't, but hope springs eternal.
- But the third and most dreaded reason for closet clutter is that a lot of our clothes just don't fit anymore. But we keep them around anyway -- because they will fit again as soon as the ol' diet kicks in, Right?

### **Getting Organized**

There is only one way out of the closet catastrophe: Organize your Closet. That's it. We wish there were another way. Unfortunately, there isn't. But, before we get to actual organizing, there are some preliminary steps.

Go ahead and very carefully open the closet door and stand well back until everything stops quaking. This may take a few moments. Just be patient.

Now, carefully remove everything from the closet. This requires the utmost dedication and concentration. You are inevitably going to find things you have not seen for years, if not decades: your high school yearbook, that souvenir kayak paddle you thought was lost, and so on. These archaeological treasures tend to bring on bouts of nostalgia and day-dreaming. Resist these temptations and stay focused. Otherwise we'll be here all day.

Organize your wardrobe into piles. If you are like most people, you only wear 20% of your clothes and shoes on a regular basis. Sort them into seasonal groups and then further separate them into the "keeper" group, the "may come back into style" group and the "may wear sometime" group. Then, donate all but the "keeper" group to the Salvation Army or Disabled American Veterans. They will thank you warmly and make very good use of them. And, you get a nice tax deduction for your generosity.

Take out-of-season items, pack them into containers and store them in the attic or basement so that they are out of your closet but accessible when needed as the seasons change.

Now you are ready to organize your closet.

### **Making Better Use of Closet Space**

Our closets are typically pretty small. We are lucky if we have closets along one wall of our bedroom -- those rows of unsightly bi-fold doors. If we're not lucky, our closets are suitcase-size stuck in one corner as an afterthought by the builder.

When our old houses were built we simply did not have so much stuff, so not much thought was given to where to put it all.

Still, there is much that can be done to relieve the situation. Even a small closet can hold lots of stuff. Organize it and make it more accessible. Most closets just do not make efficient use of space. There is more wasted space in American closets than there is in all of Arizona. (The guy who figured that out obviously had too much time on his hands.) Making more efficient use of that space is the art and science of closet organizing.

There are two main plans of attack. Hire a professional, or do-it-yourself. If your organizational problems are more than a few shelves and drawers are going to cure, a closet professional may be in your future. But, for most of us a little do-it-yourselfing can work wonders.

### **Doing It Yourself**

The sources of supply for closet organizers are almost endless. Wire shelving from Rubbermaid and Closetmaid is almost universally available. All of the large home centers: Menards, Home Depot and Lowe's carry lines of DIY-ready wire shelving and accessories, as do most hardware stores and even Wal-Mart. These are wire grids coated with an epoxy or vinyl finish that is almost indestructible.

There are literally dozens and dozens of accessories available to make the most of the smallest closet space: drawers, baskets, belt and tie hangers - you name it.

These are very easy to install. The only tools you are likely to need are a hammer, flatbar (for extracting the wood shelf now in the closet), screwdriver, 2-foot level, a hacksaw, sandpaper, and possibly a cordless drill.

The first step is to remove the closet shelf and hanging rod. Spackle and sand any nail or screw holes left in the plaster and apply a fresh coat of paint. (Once you add shelving and brackets, painting gets much more difficult.) Then measure the space carefully to see how much area you have to work with as you plan storage groupings.

Now a visit to your home center is in order to buy all the shelves, brackets and accessories. While you are there, pick up one of the free brochures that show how to install the closet system you just bought.

Cut the new shelves to length (follow the manufacturer's instructions), screw the mounting brackets to the wall at the recommended height, and snap the shelves into place. If you have bought drawers, sliding trays or other accessories, they usually mount right to the shelves.

There, wasn't that easy? Now put all of your clothes and shoes back into the closet and admire how neatly they are organized.

You might want to leave the doors open for a few days to receive justly deserved accolades from your spouse, children, friends, the pizza guy, etc.



**Jim Edgar is the managing partner of StarCraft Custom Builders, a design/build remodeling firm specializing in the creative renovation of homes built before 1960.**

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## Fall Clean Up Report

After passing on a Spring Clean Up due to the early stages of the pandemic, Irvingdale, Everett and South Salt Creek neighborhood associations held a joint Fall Clean Up on Saturday, September 26. Seventeen volunteers, wearing masks and practicing social distancing, worked the recycle, reduce and re-use event.

- Star City Recycling was onsite and collected 1,300 lbs. of recyclable materials.
- Lincoln Goodwill collected 500 lbs. of reusable items for their stores.
- Uribe Scrape Tire hauled away 168 tires.
- Capital City Refuse transported two 30 ft. roll-offs to the landfill with 8,700 lbs. of non-useable and non-recyclable items along with another 30 ft. roll-off container packed with brush.



### Thank you to our volunteers!

*INA is 29 memberships from its goal.*

*There is still time to join the July 1, 2020*

*to June 30, 2021 Membership Year. E-mail*

*ina@neb.rr.com if you are not certain whether your membership is current.*

*<https://www.irvingdale.org/membership/>*