

# Out with the old

## Lynnfield organizer: Everything has its place

By Jeff Shmase

**LYNNFIELD** – Raise your hands if you keep a catalog of your shoes, complete with pictures of the footwear and a numbers to identify each pair.

The guess here is not many hands went up, unless your name is Susan Parziale. A certified professional organizer, Parziale, of Lynnfield Street, knows where to find each of her 62 pairs of shoes – that doesn't include flip flops.

A coupon clipper, Parziale writes items that she needs at the grocery store on a magnetic pad that sits on the refrigerator. While that is not unusual, she puts the aisle number next to the item to help her when she visits Market Basket.

"I don't want to spend any more time food shopping than I have to," she said.

For Parziale, everything has its place and that includes shoes.



Photo by Jeff Shmase

Lynnfield organizer Susan Parziale points to some of her files in her home office.

A recent trip to her home indicates she practices what she preaches. Not only does Parziale help clients organize their busy lives, she has her items in her house labeled, often in clear bins and in places where she always knows where to find them. Odds are, she doesn't lose her keys.

"It's the only way I know how to live," said Parziale, who is small in stature but big on personality.

Not only does the home look organized, it is immaculate as well.

"I'm always ready for company," Parziale said.

Parziale's husband, Jonathan, pay the bills and always on time. Even his shoes are neatly placed in an organizer on his closet door. Daughter Jenna's toys are neatly tucked in bins, while her bedroom is spotless.

To become a certified organizer, individuals must have completed five years in the business. Parziale works on behalf of her clients three days a week, at times that allow her to take Jenna to and from school in Bedford. She occasionally gives talks on the subject of organization, including a recent visit to Lynnfield's Centre Club. Parziale said she plans on joining that organization.

Many of her clients use Parziale's services once, but like the yo-yo dieter, clients often revert to their bad habits and need to call on her again.

There are some clients who call on Parziale once a month to help them go through their paperwork related to a business they run. Another client hired Parziale to run a yard sale.

When she is not helping people with organization, Parziale helps other people through the website craigslist.org sell their items. Typically, she helps facilitate the sale of furniture by tracking down legitimate buyers from those looking for a deal too good to be true.

"There are a lot of scams out there so you need to be careful," she said.

A Medford native, Parziale said she has always been organized, a trait passed down to her from her father.

"I love this job," she said.

For more information on Susan Parziale, visit her website [www.susanparziale.com](http://www.susanparziale.com).

### LHS grad McNamara wins Spotlighters scholarship

Paige McNamara, a 2011 graduate of Lynnfield High, was named the recipient of the Spotlighters Scholarship in memory of Catherine Ruby McGrath. She received this scholarship due to her passion, commitment and involvement in the theatrical arts and her choice to pursue theater in college.

McNamara has been participating in the arts and outside of Lynnfield for the past 10 years. She began in Lynnfield Community Theater and continued her interest at Lynnfield Middle School and Lynnfield High School, where she participated in both the middle and high school levels of the annual Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival. Her more recent performances in Lynnfield include Main, Starmites!, Grease and MacBeth.

McNamara was also heavily

involved in the choral department at Lynnfield High School. Throughout her high school career she was an officer of the Tri-M Musical Honor Society, as well as a member of Chamber Singers and the Acabellas. She was also the female recipient of the National School Choral Award this past May. McNamara was a student of Noel Smith, under whom she has participated in multiple NATS Musical Theater festivals where she received accolades for her performances. In addition, she has performed outside of Lynnfield at events like Standing Room Only series in Wakefield.

Outside of Lynnfield, McNamara has been able to continue her studies in theater with programs like the Young Co. at Stoneham Theater, Young Artists Association and the Walnut Hill School Sum-

mer Theater Program in 2009, where she not only performed, but also was able to experience conservatory-style learning in classes and rehearsals with college theater professors. At Walnut Hill, she performed in Footloose!, The Boyfriend and The Miracle. Most recently, she was in the ensemble of Cinderella with Cellar Door Stage with other college theater students from the area.

McNamara will be attending Wagner College in New York City in the fall to further her studies in musical theater. She would like to thank her parents and all the people who have helped her reach this point in her life and she is very grateful to the McGrath family and the Spotlighters of Lynnfield for their generosity and their continuation of the legacy of Catherine Ruby McGrath.

### Susan Parziale's top 10 organizing tips

1. Go through the mail when you get it out of the mailbox – bills in pay basket, magazines in rack, recycle junk mail.
2. Keep a calendar – whether paper or electronic, use one.
3. Prepare lunches (whether for work or school) the night before.
4. Lay out clothes the night before for the next day.
5. Have children empty out their own backpack – put folder from school in the same place each day, put lunch box on the counter (empty contents into the sink), hang backpack up.
6. Keep a bag in your closet or bedroom for clothing that is to be donated. Live by the rule of if you have not worn in a year, donate it.
7. Label all storage bins.
8. Check medicines for expiration dates every January 1.
9. Keep a magnetic pad on the refrigerator for when you run out of food shopping items.
10. Give it a home and you will always find it.

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