

# 3 tips for keeping kids' closets clean

By Paula Sirois  
McClatchy Newspapers

I'm sure your kids are just as clean, neat and organized as mine are, right?

Ha! Just like everyone else, I suffer from non-stop annoyance over all my kids' stuff. They have so much.

Is it a kid conspiracy? Are they collectively trying to drive us parents crazy? Not sure I really want to know the answer to that, but in the meantime, I had to find some solutions.

**1. Swap closets:** I made the big step of taking all the clothes out of my kids' closets. With those nice bars and little shelves and taller shelves up top, it seemed wasteful to hang shirts and slacks there when I could be shoving away Legos, blocks and every "Star Wars" film ever made, along with billions of Matchbox cars and 17 light sabers. After an honest assessment of what my children actually wear, I donated more than half to Goodwill and put the remainder into a shared

hall closet — half for her and half for him — and all was well with the universe. (Helps for laundry day, too.)

**2. Think like a kid:** Mid-size bins or baskets are ideal for blocks, Legos and Matchbox cars. Line them up along the bottom of the closet, one for blocks, one for games and so on. Anticipate that it won't stay neat forever (or even for a day), but accept it, know they are stored away from view and move on.

**3. Out and in:** Make a hard and fast rule that anytime something new comes into the house, two things must leave the closet. Yes, it's two-for-one time. This simple rule solves so many problems. First, when strolling the aisles at Target and your kids start the "but all my friends have it" begging ritual, you can remind them of the rule and they'll usually stop. Second, when they do get something, it's so interesting to watch them pick the two items from their closet that they have now deemed unworthy. Happy closeting!

# Celebrations

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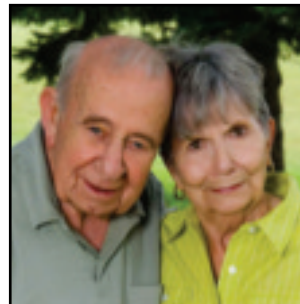
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## Anniversary



### RON & JAN BARNETT 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Ronald and Janice (Lewber) Barnett of Bellbrook celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on April 8th, 2011. They have 2 children; Rhonda (Jeff) Rosenlieb and Jason Barnett, 4 grandchildren; Briana, Conor, Dillon and Darian Rosenlieb. CONGRATULATIONS!



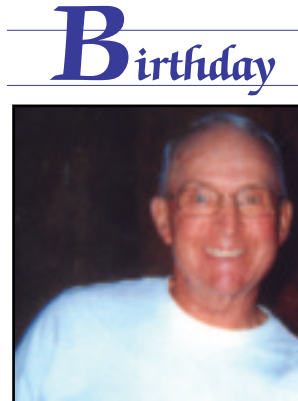
### DOMINIC & COLLETTA PETROFES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Coletta and Dominic Petrofes of Tipp City, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 7, 2011. They were married at St. Coleman's Church in Cleveland, Ohio on April 7, 1951. Mr. P retired from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and Duff Truck Lines where he was a Regional Sales Manager. Coletta was a cherished preschool teacher at the Tipp City Church of the Nazarene. They are the parents of seven lucky offspring: Candy Neumeier of Lima, OH; Michelle of Reedsport, OR; Renée of New York, NY; Matthew of Simpsonville, SC; Martin of Arvada, CO; James of Tipp City, OH; and Cori of Pine Planes, NY. They have ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The family recently surprised the couple with an anniversary celebration at the Tween Waters Inn on Captiva Island, FL, leaving Dominic and Coletta temporarily speechless at the love and honor bestowed on them!



### BUNN/BENJAMIN ENGAGEMENT

Jim and Judy Bunn of Dayton, Ohio are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Kathleen Diane Bunn, of Dayton, Ohio, to William Roy Benjamin of Collingwood, Ontario, Canada. Kathleen is a 1994 graduate of Chaminade Julianne High School and a 1998 graduate of Wittenberg University. William is a 1990 graduate of Jean Vanier High School in Collingwood, Ontario. Kathleen is employed by Lallemand Ethanol Technology and William is employed by Sara Lee in Dayton. The couple will wed at the Church of the Transfiguration in West Milton, Ohio on September 3, 2011.



### CHARLES R. DORAN HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY

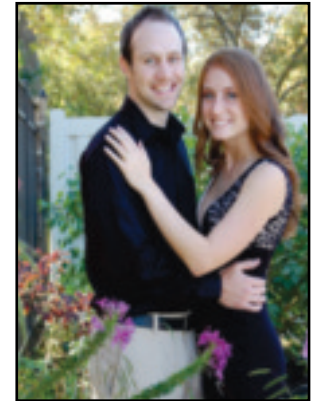
Enjoy your day on April 14th. Wishing you many more years of great health and happiness. Love, your children and grandchildren.



### CHESTER SMILEY 90TH BIRTHDAY

A celebration was held at Twin Towers on April 9, 2011. We Love you, Dad, Grandpa, and Great Grandpa

## Engagement



### WILEY/GRUBENHOFF ENGAGEMENT

Mark and Ruth Wiley of Beavercreek announce the engagement of their son, Ben Wiley, to Elizabeth Grubenhoff, daughter of Mike and Terri Grubenhoff of Delphos, Ohio. The couple will exchange vows on Sept. 24 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Ben is a 2000 graduate of Beavercreek High School and holds a degree in business administration from Ohio University. He is a manager with Accenture Consulting. Elizabeth is a 2004 graduate of Delphos St. John's High School and holds an MBA from Wright State University. She is employed by the College of Medicine at The Ohio State University Medical Center.

## Retirement



1974



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