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Chaos To Order gets customers out of messy situations

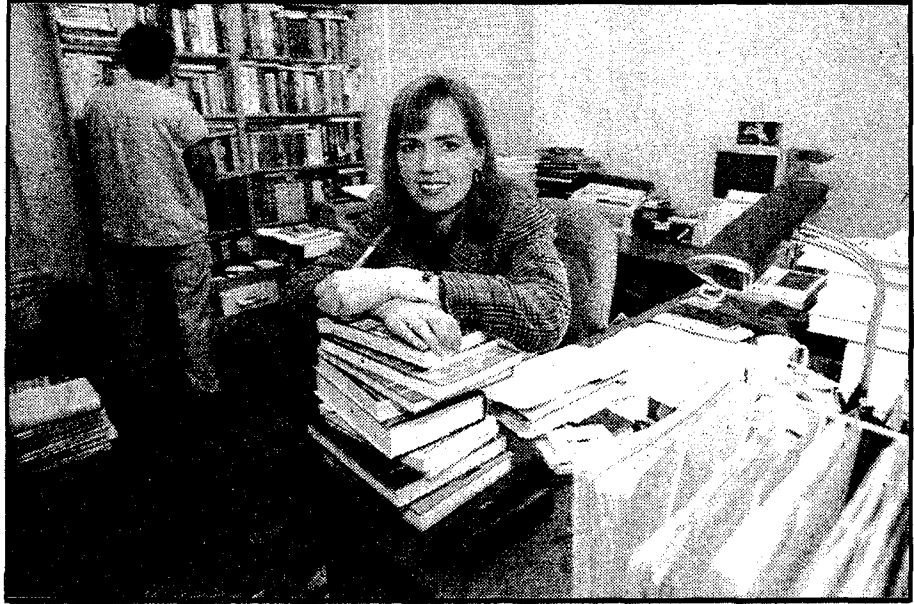


Photo by Tim Boyle

Monica Friel works on organizing the desk of Leon Gussow (in background).

By Helen J. Anderson
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

“A place for everything and everything in its place.”

If you believe it but can't achieve it, call Chaos To Order, a Park Ridge-based business started in 1990.

“I've been organizing since birth,” says owner Monica Friel. “I organized papers, closets and work spaces for years as a favor to my family and friends; it's something that just came naturally.”

After earning a degree from Northern Illinois University, Friel worked for a meeting and event planning company in Chicago. When the firm folded, she decided to see if there was a market for her unique ability to bring order to people's lives.

She researched the topic for six months, talking to accountants and lawyers about new tax laws that might affect record-keeping space needs. She also studied trends in organizing before concluding the business she had in mind could succeed.

“Most of my clients aren't disorganized; they're

just busy people, doing what they do best,” says Friel. “My job is to make it easier for them to find things so they don't waste valuable time.”

Refrigerators, photos, files, closets, new homes -- whatever, Friel is there to get things ship-shape.

“Moving from one location to another is difficult for most people. The thought of having to unpack and arrange can be overwhelming. I follow a logical pattern from beginning to end when I unpack for them; my clients can get on with their lives right away,” says Friel, who orchestrates entire moves, or works for just a few hours, according to her clients' wishes.

She points out that seniors who are downsizing, trading big places they've lived in for years for retirement home space, are especially in need of assistance. Working with staff members of these facilities, Friel helps owners decide what to keep and what to discard. She is able to recommend reliable movers, antique buyers and house sale organizers.

The price for organizing is \$60 per hour, with a three-hour minimum. Chaos To Order may be reached at (847) 825-8400.