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For the Week of January 21, 2024

- 3** OPEN HOUSES
- 4** PROPERTIES FOR SALE
- 5** RENTALS

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# Bestselling novelist's homes are the stuff of fiction



AT HOME WITH  
Marni Jameson

place to put my finds," she said.

It's not far from true. When she and her husband (of 47 years) bought their first beach cottage 17 years ago, he didn't know she already had enough furniture stashed in their basement to completely furnish it. "I had been hoarding for years. Not being a designer, I didn't know that you should never buy furniture before you have a place."

Just as her books infuse her homes, her penchant for junking and remodeling filter into her books. "My protagonist is always a woman who while fixing up her own life is fixing up her surroundings."

Her characters are often antique pickers, interior designers, real estate agents, location scouts, house flippers, and those who go on junking trips.

"Early on, an editor told me people love decorating porn. They eat it up. I wasn't writing it on purpose. It just so happened to be what I do."

In "The Homewreckers," for instance, her protagonist goes to work for a company that restores old houses and marries the boss' son, who dies in an accident. Determined to pursue their dream of restoring homes, she takes the

life insurance money, buys a small house, flips it, and eventually lands herself a role in a reality TV show with a handsome but shady leading man. You get the idea.

I could have talked to this woman all day, but she had books to write. Here are some more outtakes from our inspiring conversation:

SEE **MARNI, 3H**

Walking into Breeze Inn or Ebdtide, two vacation rental cottages on Georgia's Tybee Island, is like stepping into one of Mary Kay Andrews' popular beach reads.

And that is exactly what the New York Times-bestselling author of 32 books intends.

Literally the stuff of fiction, Breeze Inn is named after a hotel in her book, "Savannah Breeze." The two-story getaway channels coastal Florida in the '40s, with a palette of turquoise and hot pink and paintings of herons and flamingos.

Ebdtide, which features lots of rattan and wicker, is the name of a beach house where the action happens in her book, "Summer Rental."

An intrepid junker, Andrews found all the décor, as well as the furnishings for Squirrel Hollow, her primary home in Savannah, while combing estate and yard sales, and, more recently, Facebook Marketplace.

"It's a passion project for me," Andrews said when I called to talk about her enviable life as a writer and remodeler. (Seriously, a bestselling novelist who restores old beach houses and shops for reusable furniture in her spare time?)

"My family accuses me of buying beach houses just so I have a

**REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
COURT ORDERED CONSERVATORSHIP AUCTION

**Monday, February 12, 2023 @ 4pm**  
**1727 Pennsylvania Ave, Charleston, WV 25302**

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-77 to Westmoreland Exit #102 take Westmoreland Road toward river to Left on Pennsylvania Ave. #1727 on left. Signs posted.

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# MARNI

FROM PAGE 2H

• *On how she got started junking.* “I grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida, where antiques go to die. A lot of folks retire in Florida and bring their nice things that they no longer need. My mom used to take me with her to estate and yard sales.

“When I got married at age 22, we had no money, so I furnished our one-bedroom apartment with yard-sale finds. I love the treasure hunt and the aspect that old things have a story. I look for things that reflect me and make me smile. Nothing we have could be called a fine antique.”

• *On decorating with pets.* “We have three English setters who get

on everything, including my bed. Slipcovers help, but they have been washed to the nub. I plan to have all my furniture recovered in Sunbrella fabric.

“Another secret. I love old dark, oriental rugs. You can’t ruin them. I know because my dogs have tried.”

• *On getting design help.* “I have no formal design training, just a passion,” she said.

To keep her on track, she consults with a designer friend she met years ago at a designer yard sale. She hired him to help her redo her kitchen, and he has continued to hold her hand and occasionally say, “No, don’t even think about it.”

• *On her writing space.* At

SEE **HOMES, 4H**



Though bestselling author Mary Kay Andrews has a “great home office,” she prefers to write in this sunroom, “a cozy nest” she furnished with flea market finds. *Photos courtesy Mary Kay Andrews*

# RE Open HOUSES

Open Houses Sunday, January 21, 2024

**1531 Lewis St, Charleston**  
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# HOMES

FROM PAGE 3H

Squirrel Hollow, she has a “great home office,” but prefers to write in her sunroom, “a cozy nest” she and her husband added onto their 100-year-old home.

Her second favorite place to write is in the adjacent carriage house, an apartment over a garage that she calls Squirrel’s Nest. “I sit in a slip-covered chair, light an aromatherapy candle, pour some tea, and scribble away.”

She writes her first drafts in longhand.

• *On furnishing her rentals.*  
“Dumb it down. Make sure your basic pieces are super sturdy and neutral. Add color and interest

with art, pillows and bedding. Don’t put in anything you would cry over losing.

“I’ve made mistakes. I bought some adorable antique chairs that, in a year, were broken. Then I got commercial-strength chairs from a restaurant that was remodeling. They are still going strong.

“On walls, I like to use vintage signs that reflect the area.” One reads: “No fishing, swimming or crabbing from any part of the bridge.”

A property rental company manages and markets the cottages as Mary Kay Andrews properties. “So I want them to reflect my aesthetic,” she said. That includes lots of red, white and blue, gingham check, Florida coastal colors, seascapes, and paintings

with boats or birds.

• *On making fictional worlds come alive.* “A little goes a long way,” she cautions.

The goal is to capture the essence. She once saw a home where the owner loved “Gone with the Wind” and wallpapered a room with pages from the book.

“Know the difference between inspiration and obsession.” Don’t take a good thing too far.

*Marni Jameson is the author of seven books, including the newly released “Rightsize Today to Create Your Best Life Tomorrow: A Motivational Guide for Those Seeking Their Ideal Home Later in Life” and “What to Do With Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want.” She can be contacted at [www.marnijameson.com](http://www.marnijameson.com).*



“I look for things that reflect me and make me smile,” said Mary Kay Andrews, pictured here in her home office.

# R&G Properties for SALE *Call for your appointment!*




**1425 Quarrier St, Charleston**  
**\$489,000**

Immaculate Historic East End home offers exquisite woodwork, 6 bedrooms (1 on main) and 4 full bath. Beautifully updated kitchen with second kitchen on the third floor, 2 laundry areas, ample storage, updated electrical, plumbing, windows, gutters all according to comply with historical society. Third floor is a 2 bedroom apt. that is a rental. 1390 Sq Ft in unfinished basement.

**Mara Ellis**  
304-541-7336  
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**1103 Edgewood Drive, Charleston**  
**\$220,000**

Charming Cape Cod located in Historic area of town with a mid century flair. Beautiful 6 panel wood doors and built ins throughout, 2 fireplaces, chairlift takes you from garage to main floor. Offering main level living including primary bedroom, kitchen with stainless counters, breakfast room, spacious living, dining, family room with wet bar and laundry. Newer \$50k roof and hvac and whole house generator. Unfinished lower level needs new owners cosmetic touch.

**Mara Ellis**  
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# Garage storage solutions: Cut the clutter and get organized

Who doesn't have a space at home that serves as a catch-all for items that seemingly have no other home? For many, this storage wasteland where items go to be forgotten tends to be the garage. Before long, clutter can overwhelm the space and create an eyesore. Garage clutter also makes the space less functional by making it harder to park a vehicle or store equipment.

Organizing a garage takes work, but the end result can improve the appearance, free up space, make work more efficient, and make it easier to find and use tools more readily. Here

are some ways to get started on organizing your garage.

## Start with cleaning and culling

One of the first steps when organizing a garage is to thoroughly analyze what is needed and what can be removed from the garage. If items belong elsewhere, such as in a shed or the basement, move these items first. Discard damaged or broken items. Next, move on to tools or gear that hasn't been used in some time. Will you use it again? If the item has been collecting dust for years, you likely already know the answer to that question.

Pile all items in the driveway so

you have a clean slate with which to start. Measure the room to figure out the dimensions so you'll know how much wall space is available for storage.

## Free up floor space

The ultimate goal of a garage storage renovation is to make floor space available, according to Stacey Schweiger of Sunshine Organizing. Lifting items off the floor makes access easier, and protects items should there be a flood or leaks.

A combination of wall shelves, overhead shelves, cabinets, and wall hooks can help homeowners create more floor area. Organiza-

tion becomes easier when everything has a designated space where it can be easily returned to.

## Consider weight

When investing in shelving and racks, remember that many of the items stored in garages tend to be heavy. It's important to ensure that shelves and hooks are heavy-duty and able to withstand the weight of pressure put on them. Verify the maximum weight so that racks will not buckle or tip over and cause issues.

## Utilize overhead space

Overhead storage can be reserved for items that aren't used

frequently, such as seasonal decorations or luggage.

## Out of sight

Some items should be stored out of sight and beyond the reach of children and pets. Cabinets and containers can be used and locked to secure materials, such as fertilizers, paints and solvents.

## Additional ideas

Magnets, pegboards, organization bins and systems, and similar products can be used to corral small or errant items like hand tools, fasteners and more. For homeowners, garage organization is worth the planning and time.

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# A guide to various types of home awnings

Homeowners recognize that upgrades can improve the functionality and comfort of their homes. Improving outdoor spaces has proven particularly popular of late.

The National Association of Home Builders reports that outdoor living has been propelled to the top of homeowner wish lists. Plus, a recent survey conducted by the New Home Trends Institute found connection to the outdoors/nature and outdoor entertaining ranked high among desired home designs.

One way to make outdoor spaces more accommodating is through the installation of awnings. Many homeowners would like to enhance their homes with awnings but do not know where to begin. Learning about the various types of awnings can help homeowners determine which option best suits their needs.

## Fixed awnings

Fixed awnings are stationary on a building's exterior. While the awnings are generally stable, they can be damaged by snow or wind. It's key to find an installation expert to make sure the awning is installed correctly so that it can withstand weather and other issues.

It's also important to know that fixed awnings remain in the same position and orientation, so it's best to know exactly where to place it beforehand.

## Retractable awning

Retractable awnings are the most popular type of awnings because they can be extended when necessary to keep a space cool or protected, then rolled or folded

up when not in use. These awnings are advantageous because they can be retracted when bad weather hits to prevent damage.

## Motorized retractable awning

Motorized retractable awnings offer the utmost convenience. Standard retractable offerings require a handle or hand crank to manually extend or fold up the awning. Motorized awnings can be operated with a sensor, remote or even motion trigger. Even

though they cost more, they're a favorite among homeowners.

## Areas of use

Awnings can be installed in various locations. Patio awnings are much preferred because of their large coverage area, which typically spans entire patios.

Door awnings are installed above the exterior door of an entryway to protect visitors and occupants from precipitation and to improve the home's look.

Window awnings can add additional shade and privacy. There also are side awnings, which are essentially wall-like structures that run across a patio, garden or balcony for wind or sun protection. They're also utilized to improve privacy.

While not technically an awning, a patio canopy is a free-standing unit that can be installed over a patio or a deck. Like awnings, they can help with shade and heat. Some people prefer to

bolt it down so it will not be knocked over in windy conditions. The fabric on the canopy can be removed during the off-season.

Homeowners can choose from various types of awning materials, including fabric, metal, glass, and others.

Working with a reputable awning company is the best way for homeowners to peruse possible products and find awnings that will suit their needs.



**8 KIT ROAD**  
CHARLESTON, WV 25304

\$1,750,000

This custom-built home boasts thoughtful design and numerous enhancements, featuring six bedrooms, five full baths, and two half baths. 360 degree views of the Valley on this gated 17+ acre getaway. Offering an expansive backyard and over 7,500 square feet of living space. Impressive indoor and outdoor amenities cater to both group gatherings and family enjoyment. The generous living areas exude elegance, complemented by a well-lit, professionally equipped kitchen and a magnificent dining room. Additional highlights include 2 owners suites, an elevator, and a vast upper level recreation room that could easily accommodate a home theater or gym if desired.



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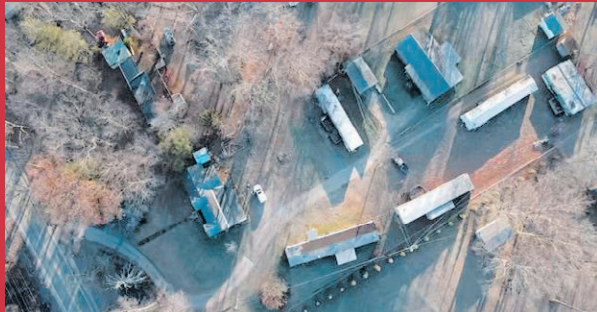
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**144 VALLEY DRIVE, NITRO, WV**  
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**3 Bedroom in a Great Cross Lanes Location**



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST @ NOON**

**11 STOWERS LANE, CROSS LANES, WV**  
 Mobile Home Park with NINE Hookups,  
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 Apartment in GREAT Location  
 1.39+/- Acres Total, As Assessed  
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**Mobile Home Park and Two Residential Homes in Cross Lanes**



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH @ 2PM**

**5201-5211 MacCORKLE AVE SE,  
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 Auction Held at the Kanawha Co. Courthouse  
 Currently an Operating Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
 0.67+/- Acre Corner Lot  
 Call Debbie Flanigan (304) 841-6020

**Commercial Building on a Corner Lot in Kanawha City**

- Tue. January 23rd – Huntington – Commercial Building with Apartments and Garage in Huntington
- Wed. January 24th – Charleston – Two Move-in Ready Homes in Charleston
- Thu. February 1st – Cross Lanes – Mobile Home Park and Two Residential Homes in Cross Lanes
- Tue. February 6th – Huntington – 4 Bedroom Huntington Home
- Thu. February 15th – Flatwoods, KY – Move-in Ready 3 Bedroom Brick Ranch
- Thu. February 22nd – Charmco – Mixed-Use Building with Additional Lot in Greenbrier Co.

**ONLINE ONLY**

- Mon. January 22nd – Madison – 17 Wooded Acres in Madison Selling to the Highest Bidder
- Mon. January 22nd – Scarbro – 1994 Double Wide 3BR Mobile Home – Sells to the Highest Bidder
- Tue. January 23rd – Branchland – Investment Property in Branchland Selling to the Highest Bidder
- Thu. January 25th – Roane Co. – 2 Properties in Roane Co. Selling to the Highest Bidders
- Tue. January 30th – Charleston – 3 Bedroom Ranch Overlooking the Kanawha Valley
- Tue. January 30th – Bradley – Antiques, Collectibles, Coal Script, Coins and More!
- Wed. January 31st – Nitro – 3 Bedroom in a Great Cross Lanes Location
- Thu. February 1st – Huntington – 3 Bedroom and Additional Lot in Huntington
- Thu. February 1st – South Point, OH – 3-Unit Apartment Building in South Point
- Wed. February 7th – Parkersburg – Two Parkersburg Homes Selling to the Highest Bidder
- Mon. February 12th – Cross Lanes – Two Cross Lanes Homes Sold for One Bid
- Mon. February 12th – St. Albans – Day 1 of 6! West Virginia Marine Supply Co. Liquidation Auction!
- Tue. February 13th – Beckley – Large Lot in a Great Beckley Neighborhood Selling to the Highest Bidder
- Tue. February 13th – St. Albans – Day 2 of 6! West Virginia Marine Supply Co. Liquidation Auction!
- Wed. February 14th – Hurricane – Mobile Home on Lot in Hurricane Selling to the Highest Bidder
- Wed. February 14th – St. Albans – Day 3 of 6! West Virginia Marine Supply Co. Liquidation Auction!
- Thu. February 15th – Kanawha Co. – 4 Kanawha Co. Properties Selling to the Highest Bidders
- Thu. February 15th – St. Albans - Day 4 of 6! West Virginia Marine Supply Co. Liquidation Auction!
- Mon. February 19th – St. Albans – 3 Bedroom in St. Albans Selling to the Highest Bidder
- Mon. February 19th – Oceana – 121 Acres in Wyoming Co. Selling to the Highest Bidder
- Mon. February 19th – Milton – Golf Cart, Equipment, Tools, Antiques, Furniture, Coins, Knives, and More!
- Tue. February 20th – Ona – 5.6+/- Acres with 3 Bedroom Brick Home
- Tue. February 20th – Milton – Paint Sprayer, Tools, Antiques, Coins, Knives, and More!
- Wed. February 21st – St. Albans – Day 5 of 6! West Virginia Marine Supply Co. Liquidation Auction!
- Wed. February 21st – Van – Move-in Ready 4 Bedroom plus Additional 3 Bedroom
- Thu. February 22nd – Van – Tools, Furniture, Toys, Vintage Items, Collectables, Artwork, and More!
- Thu. February 22nd – St. Albans – Day 6 of 6! West Virginia Marine Supply Co. Liquidation Auction!
- Wed. February 28th – St. Albans – Jewelry, Coins, Knives, and More!



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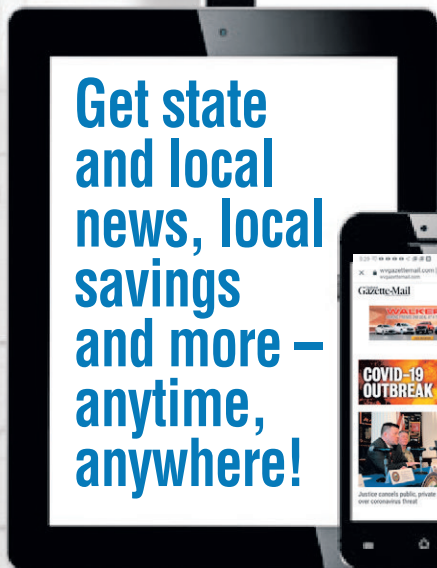
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