



The dining room table (top) was declared a zero-clutter zone to be reclaimed. Above, the dining area was revamped with orange placemats, coordinating cloth napkins, and a centerpiece with fresh citrus.

Before and after photos of the decluttering and other decorating measures taken in the master bedroom.

MARNI

FROM PAGE 2H

the home had gone from looking like “a frat house,” to use Tara’s description, to a model of tidy living. The photographer came. The listing went up. The house sold the same day for full price to the first buyer who walked in.

“Presentation is everything,” said their pleased listing agent, Matt Bruno, from Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, of Trinity, Florida, who called the transformation “amazing.”

While that was rewarding, far more gratifying were the texts and comments from the kids.

“I could not envision our home ever looking the way we got it to look,” Tara told me. “I thought it would be impossible. We had so much stuff. I didn’t know where to start. But now that it’s clean and nice, I can’t imagine liv-

ing any other way. It feels really nice to make beds every day and have no clutter. Now when I see dishes in the sink at night, I know they need to get done before I go to bed. You made a world of difference.”

And this from Brett: “We haven’t touched any of the stuff we have in the garage since we moved it out there. We can let go of it. We just don’t need as much as we thought.”

“Phew,” I said to D.C. “This could have gone so much worse.”

“You helped them sell their house,” he said, “and maybe change their lifestyle.”

Maybe I did.

Folks, I’ve said before, if you want to have a beautiful, orderly home that lifts your mood and doesn’t add to your stress, live like you’re selling. Once you get your home show ready, it’s easier than you think to keep it there. The advice is the same: declut-

ter, deep clean, decorate.

Here’s what we did in few rooms.

- In the master bedroom, we decluttered, styled the bed with two large décor pillows, lowered art, added bedside lamps, opened blinds, removed tired drapery, and got all cords out of sight. (No phone-chargers.)

- In the kitchen, we took all items off the refrigerator, cleared counters of clutter, put appliances out of sight, and added fresh, yellow dishtowels.

- In the dining area, we declared the table a zero-clutter zone, set it with orange placemats and coordinating cloth napkins, and added a centerpiece with fresh citrus.

- In the kids’ rooms, we removed bulky dressers and stored all clothes neatly in the closets. We moved any furniture blocking a window, thinned toys, and corralled stuffed ones to the head of the bed.

Syndicated columnist Marni Jameson is the author of five home and lifestyle books, including “Downsizing the Family Home – What to Save,

What to Let Go” and “Downsizing the Blended Home – When Two Households Become One.” You may reach her at www.marnijameson.com.

Gazette-Mail
Re REAL ESTATE



Selling your

HOME?

ADVERTISE HERE AND

Stand Out!



I CAN HELP • ASHLEY MANN • 304-348-4852