

This professional will help organize your life

By **KATHY KAHN**

WARWICK – Lisa Montanaro knows how to clear clutter. And she's credentialed: She's a registered member of NAPO, the National Association of Professional Organizers.

But she doesn't just sit back and gloat over her orderly life. She's opened a business so she can take this skill to new heights in service of the clutter-challenged. Montanaro, who is also a lawyer, opened LM Organizing Solutions, a year ago this month.

Clutter begone.
Lisa Montanaro says she
can make short work
of the messes
that beset so many of us.
Now she's made a business
of doing what comes
natural to her.

Montanaro presents an impressive resume. She graduated Pace University magna cum laude in 1995, and for the past three years has worked full time for her alma mater, focusing on employ-

ment law. Earlier this year, she cut down her hours to devote more time to her new business venture-making other peoples' lives livable. This entrepreneur is currently juggling three jobs-part-time attorney at Pace, associate broker for Coldwell Banker and principal of her own business. "It's a 60-hour week," says Montanaro, "but I hope eventually to devote my full attention towards my organizing talents."

Why did she decide to try her hand in organizing people's lives? "So many of my friends encouraged me to try to be financially successful helping others put their 'files' in order...and it's really what I love doing best." Montanaro's the only registered personal organizer the Orange County Chamber of Commerce and credits Chamber membership in helping her network and meet more people who are also seeking to establish their own businesses.

"I don't just help people who want to organize their files or clean out their closets. As an attorney, I can advise them at various stages-from selling their home and making it as physically and financially attractive as possible, to getting their new home in order before they even officially move in."

Christine Hatsko, who runs Cozy Kittens Daycare in Warwick, says hir-

ing Montanaro to help her organize her home office in January 2004 was one of the best investments she's made. "She's been invaluable," says the registered day-care provider. "We work to-



Lisa Montanaro

gether on an ongoing basis, and Lisa is available by phone if I have a question."

Montanaro offers a free half-hour consultation to prospective clients who are within one hour's driving distance of her southern Orange County location. "After our initial consultation, I prepare an action plan for the client;

charges range anywhere from a \$75 flat fee for a specified assignment-one or two hours--to working out a payment schedule that's mutually agreeable for me and my client if it turns out to be a long-term project." Montanaro is licensed to practice law in New York, Connecticut and Michigan.

Her Web site is located at www.LMorganizingsolutions.com.

Calling all artists

NEWBURGH – Artists are invited to participate in the 29th Annual Artists on the Campus fine arts show and sale at Mount Saint Mary College. The event is held June 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artists can enter their work in judged and/or open categories.

A variety of ribbons will be awarded and all exhibitors are eligible for a free raffle of a \$25 gift certificate for custom framing at Clearwater's Gallery & Gifts.

Registration deadline is May 23. For registration forms and information call Joan Kupiec at 569-3337, e-mail artistsoncampus@msmc.edu.