

4173 Home Front

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Home-buying seminar

Would-be homeowners interested in learning more about financial opportunities may want to attend a free seminar presented by the National Opportunities for Affordable Housing Foundation from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando.

The seminar will cover how to qualify for and take advantage of grant funds, below-market interest rates and down-payment-assistance programs. Included in the seminar will be real estate tips for buyers and sellers.

Reservations are required.

Details: 407-518-9347 or noah-dpa.org.

Mold control

Not all hurricane damage is obvious: Mold — which can thrive in humid, moist conditions — could form behind walls or in out-of-the-way places where water damage and flooding may have been missed.

The American Industrial Hygiene Association's free brochure, "The Facts About Mold," discusses ways to stop mold growth, the health effects of mold and when to consult a professional.

The first step in controlling mold is keeping the moisture level down with ventilation fans, air conditioning and dehumidifiers. Small mold problems can be cleaned up with detergent and water, though absorbent materials such as carpeting should be replaced.

For a copy of the AIHA brochure, visit aiha.org or call 703-849-8888.

Cool candles

Funky chic store Angela Moore adds Florida flavor to its collection with new candles and ornaments.

The pillar candles (\$18) feature hand-painted embossed designs with pink flamingos, palms and pineapples. One has a pink background with brightly colored palms and lime-green pineapples; the other, a



ANGELA MOORE

Funky hand-painted candles from Angela Moore have a delightful Florida flavor, including palms.

blue background and shell pink flamingos. Ornaments (\$35 for a box of three) with pink and green folk-art-style, hand-painted whales put a tropical twist on Christmas.

There are also new ball candles (\$12) and ceramic candleholders that double as candy dishes (\$20).

There is an Angela Moore boutique at 88 Via Mizner Worth Ave. in Palm Beach (561-833-1288), or visit angela.moore.com. For a catalog, call 1-800-927-5470.

Water-test kits

You can get a better idea of the local water quality with a do-it-yourself water-screening kit.

The Watersafe All-In-One Testing Kit screens for eight contaminants including bacteria, lead and nitrates, plus pH balance and chlorine content. Test results are available in about 10 minutes. The kit is \$16.99.

Smaller, single-contaminant screening kits are also available for lead, bacteria, water hardness, pH balance and more (\$5.99 to \$9.99).

Details: watersafetestkits.com or 1-888-438-1942.

Book report

Tasteful beige walls. Classic furniture. Carefully appointed accessories.

Where's the fun in that? There are Pez dispensers and snow-globe collections just waiting to be discovered.

Decorating With Funky Shui by Jennifer O'Neil and Kitty O'Neil (Andrews McMeel Publishing, \$14.95, paperback) is a look at the lighter side of decorating with a takeoff on feng shui.

Funky Shui is more knicknacks and kitsch than clean lines and harmonious décor, but it isn't about chaos either. The key is sticking to a theme, whether it's a neat collection of colorful candy dispensers lined up on a shelf or an eclectic grouping of fire-engine-red objects gathered on a nearby table.

The authors also find fun uses for everyday objects and collectibles. In the office, a martini glass becomes a classy paperclip holder while a recycled Spam can holds pens and pencils. Retro postcards or children's art creations can double as inexpensive wall art.

It may be too off the wall for some tastes, but for incurable collectors looking for a way to display favorite finds, Funky Shui is a fun alternative.

Compiled by Rebecca Swain Vadnie. Questions can be addressed to Home Front, Orlando Sentinel Homes section, P.O. Box 2833, Orlando, FL 32802 or e-mail Vadnie at rswain@orlandosentinel.com.

