

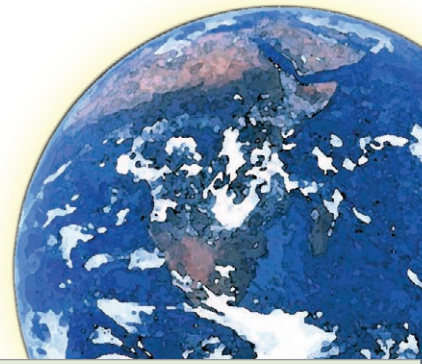
familymatters

A Greener Earth:

The average school-age child who packs a lunch for school generates 67 pounds of waste per school year. That works out to 18,760 pounds of lunch waste for just one average-size elementary school. Families can help reduce waste with these tips:

- Replace paper napkins with cloth versions.
- Pack stainless-steel utensils instead of using disposable plastics.
- Use reusable drink containers instead of disposable juice boxes, juice pouches, cans and plastic bottles.
- Avoid using plastic wraps, plastic bags, wax-paper bags and aluminum foil — opt for reusable.
- Cut down on packaging waste by purchasing foods in larger containers that you can recycle at home rather than buying many smaller packaged products.
- Choose lunch boxes or insulated bags over paper or plastic bags.

— Greenopia (Greenopia.com)



Charlotte Girl Honored for Service

Molly Warner, 11, of Pineville, has been honored as a regional winner by Kohl's. The Kohl's Kids Who Care® Scholarship Program recognizes and rewards young people who make a difference in their communities through volunteerism. Regional winners receive \$1,000 scholarships. Molly helped classmates with disabilities through the Adapted Physical Education Buddies program at Beverly Woods Elementary school. Through this program, Molly helps her buddy each class period practice dribbling, passing and shooting. Molly is also involved with the Allegro program. She became interested in helping students with special needs at school after she had a neighbor with cerebral palsy.

America's youth contribute more than 1.3 billion hours of community service each year, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service. Kohl's Department Stores awarded nearly 200 young volunteers nationwide with the scholarships.

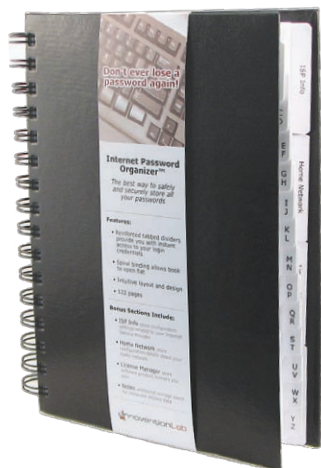
Two N.C. Entrepreneurs Help Parents Get Organized, Too

Internet Password Organizer

Innovation Lab, \$19.95

Mark and Elena Barros of Cary, N.C., created a solution to the most common problem affecting all computer users — how to manage your ever-growing number of passwords. The Internet Password Organizer is an address book-like product that provides you with a single centralized location in which to store all your online account login information. Keep it

near your computer and you'll never find yourself wondering, "Hmmm, did I use my nickname or my birthdate for that Web site?" Skeptical? Visit www.InternetPasswordOrganizer.com for a discussion of why this is the safest place to store your passwords. Available online or at Amazon, Borders or Target.



Alpha-Omega Organizer™

KC Streamline Concepts - \$68.95-\$148.95

Kathleen Cowley, a Denver, N.C., professional organizer, invented this complete desktop organizing system that keeps individuals and their papers organized by day, week, month and year.

The system consists of: a custom-made file box, which is available in solid cherry or oak hardwood, or a durable and lightweight plastic in black, brown or dark blue; easy-to-follow instructions on putting the system together; 12 Monthly Folders; 31 Daily Folders; customizable Action Folders; and Capture Cards for to-do lists or other reminders. All components of the system are made in the United States. Buy online at www.kcstreamlineconcepts.com.



Winners Corner

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Congratulations to Randy and Tonya Mullins of Indian Trail **Winners of the iMonitor Digital Baby Monitor featured in our 2008 Baby Guide.**

Cell Phone Update

Charlotte's No. 1!

A recent study among Verizon Wireless customers showed Charlotte as the "textiest city" in N.C., with customers sending and receiving more than 103 million text messages in April 2008 (compared to just 15 million texts sent and received in April of 2006). A separate study recently revealed the increase of parent-to-child text messages as a form of communication.

Preteens and Cell Phones

In a recent poll by HighlightsParents.com, parents responded to the site's poll on how and when they and their kids use mobile phones. An overwhelming majority (97 percent) reported owning a cell phone themselves, but less than a third (31 percent) had given a phone to their child. Most (62 percent) had a mixed response to its overall presence in their daily life, calling it "useful, but annoying."

Seventy-three percent of respondents selected 13 or older as the appropriate age to give a child a cell phone. Only a quarter (24 percent) thought it was "OK" for 9- to 12-year-olds to have cell phones, and a meager number (3 percent) were comfortable with children between 5 and 8 years of age carrying mobile technology. Regardless of age, a minority (23 percent) reported being comfortable with cell phones being allowed in schools.