

**It "Dawned" On Me... a message from Dawn Giganti**

Dear Creative Carpet & Flooring Friends and Family,

February always brings thoughts of love and relationships to mind, and this year I felt called to share something from my heart. Whether you're married, single, or somewhere in between, relationships are one of life's greatest gifts and also one of its most challenging journeys. After more than three decades of marriage, I can honestly say the honeymoon doesn't last forever, and the daily reality of loving imperfect people can sometimes feel overwhelming.

There are moments when we all wonder if the struggles are worth it. When trust feels broken, when communication breaks down, when expectations clash with reality. When you've worked hard to rebuild something, only to face disappointment again. Maybe it's a marriage that feels stuck, a friendship that's grown distant, or a family relationship that's been strained for years. These are the seasons that test us most, and I'm learning that finding strength beyond ourselves makes all the difference in getting through them.

**"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,"** ~ Ephesians 5:25 (NIV)

This verse challenges me because it sets such a high standard... a love that's willing to sacrifice everything. But any meaningful relationship isn't just about one person giving while the other takes. Real, lasting love requires both people to be honest, to seek real change, and to choose each other daily, even when it's hard. It's a love that offers grace while also requiring truth.

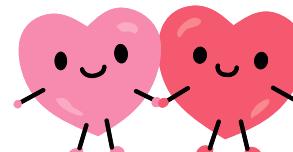
I won't pretend to have all the answers. Some days I'm just trying to take the next step forward, trusting that there's purpose in the struggle even when I can't see it. Real love takes action, requires forgiveness, demands honesty, and sometimes means holding on when everything in you wants to let go. Let me be clear... I'm not talking about staying in relationships where there's abuse or ongoing harm. Some situations require us to protect ourselves and seek safety. But for those navigating the normal struggles of imperfect people trying to love each other well, there's hope.

If any relationship in your life feels stuck or broken right now, please know you're not alone. Many of us are walking through hard seasons, clinging to hope when everything else feels uncertain. May this month remind us all that lasting love isn't found in perfection, but in imperfect people who refuse to give up on each other and on the possibility of something better ahead.

God bless,



Dawn Giganti, Marketing & Administration  
Creative Carpet & Flooring

**Month at a Glance:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Groundhog Day** - Every February 2nd, we entrust our weather forecasting to a rodent who sees his own shadow and immediately nopes back into his hole for six more weeks.

**14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day** - Valentine's Day is when couples celebrate their love with overpriced flowers and chocolates, while single people celebrate their freedom with discounted flowers and chocolates on February 15th.

**16<sup>th</sup> President's Day** - President's Day is when we honor our nation's leaders by taking advantage of mattress sales, because apparently nothing says "presidential legacy" like 40% off a memory foam topper.

**28<sup>th</sup> Public Sleeping Day** - The ancient tradition of passing out on park benches and waking up three hours later with no idea where you are, what year it is, or why there's pigeon poop on your shoe.

**Employee birthdays this month:**

Cheers to Cheryl Morinec, our Accounting Manager, on her birthday this February 1st! Hope your special day is packed with joy, celebration, and plenty of reasons to smile. We're so grateful for your hard work keeping everything on track... here's to a fantastic year ahead!



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Bouquet**



**Mark  
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\*Residential only. Within the first 30 days after installation. Does not include the cost of installation or other labor. The style must be of equal or lesser value.

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**February 2026**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

## Welcome Back Valued Friends!

Ana Corona  
Angelo Carrillo  
Anthony Andello  
Antonia & Nikolaos Pappas  
Barbara & Joseph Bonanno  
Bill & Tina Wall  
Cathy Dee  
Cathy Scanlan

Colleen Wyatt  
Debi Giese  
Diane Boss  
Diane O'Brien  
Don Dumont  
Doug Batchelder  
Jeff & Rocio White  
Jim & Susan Dienes

Jodi Billig  
Joe Myers  
John Brennan  
Judy Orban  
Karen Kaz  
Kate Shenberger  
Kim Majchrzak  
Michael Cimarolli

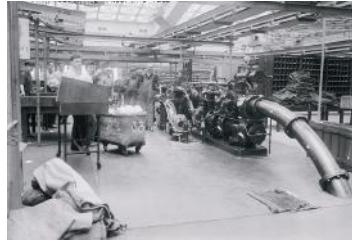
Michael Gregor  
Mike & Darlene Parker  
Rena & Arlo Compaan  
Teresa Kawakami  
Tom Kujawski

WELCOME  
BACK!



### The Hidden Mail System Under NYC

In the late 1800s, New York City used underground tubes to move mail fast across Manhattan. Air-powered equipment sent steel canisters through buried pipes, linking dozens of post offices and even running along the Brooklyn Bridge. The system worked well enough to influence similar projects in Boston, Chicago, and St. Louis. Over time, jams and high costs became a problem, and the system could not keep up with the city's growth. In 1953, it was shut down after officials decided trucks were cheaper and just as effective, leaving the tubes as a forgotten piece of city history.



Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division  
(loc.gov/pictures/item/2014697406)

### Cousin Confusion: Solved!

You know your parents, grandparents, siblings, and the usual suspects. But the second someone mentions "second cousins" or "once removed," things get weird fast. The pattern is actually super logical once you know it. Every cousin label tells you exactly how you're connected on the family tree and which ancestor you both share.

- The Regular Cousins - First cousins are easy. They're your aunts' and uncles' kids. You share grandparents with them. These are usually the cousins you actually know, the ones who showed up to family gatherings and might feel almost like siblings. Second cousins are one step further out. They're the kids of your parents' first cousins. So instead of sharing grandparents, you share great-grandparents. Think of it this way. If your grandma's sister has grandkids, those are your second cousins. The number before "cousin" tells you which grandparent level you connect to. First cousins connect through grandparents. Second cousins connect at great-grandparents.
- Going Deeper - Third cousins share great-great-grandparents. Fourth cousins share great-great-great-grandparents. Just keep adding "greats" as you go back. By the time you hit fourth or fifth cousins, you could have hundreds or even thousands of them scattered everywhere. Your family tree explodes as you go back, because each generation doubles your number of ancestors. You've got 16 great-great-grandparents, 32 great-great-great-grandparents, and so on. That's a lot of branches.
- The "Once Removed" Thing - This is where people's brains melt, but it's actually simple. "Removed" just means there's a generation gap between you. Your mom's cousin is your first cousin once removed. Your cousin's kid is also your first cousin once removed. One's older than you, one's younger, but both are one generation away from being your regular cousin. A two-generation gap means twice removed. Your grandma's cousin is your first cousin twice removed. The pattern keeps going as far as you need it to.
- The DNA Reality - Technically, you can be cousins with someone no matter how distantly you're related, as long as you share some ancestor way back when. Genealogy websites can track relationships out to 10th, 12th, or even 19th cousins. But the DNA connection gets thinner fast. Siblings share 50% of their DNA. First cousins share about 14%. Second cousins share only 3%. Third cousins share less than 1% of their DNA. By fifth cousins, the genetic overlap is so tiny it might not even show up on a DNA test.



Cousin labels seem complicated when you're talking about people separated by multiple "greats" and generations. But these terms have helped families figure out inheritance, marriage rules, and family history for ages. More importantly, it's about staying connected. Second cousins and first cousins once removed can still share family stories and give you glimpses into relatives you never got to meet. Even those super distant cousins you only know from old records remind us that families stretch across time and space, linking us all together.



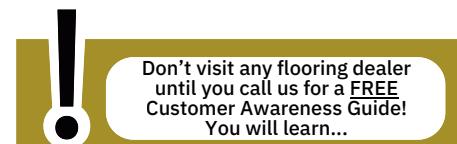
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### Why Do We Have Weekends?

Before weekends were official, workers in Europe had a habit of skipping Mondays. After a long Sunday of rest and not-so-restful activities, many people simply didn't show up to work. This unofficial day off became known as "Saint Monday," and it was basically a socially accepted recovery day. As factories and strict schedules became the norm in the 1800s, Saint Monday became a problem for employers. Their solution wasn't punishment but compromise. They shortened Saturdays, hoping workers would enjoy their time off and reliably return on Monday. People embraced their new leisure time with sports, music, travel, and social events. Gradually, half-day Saturdays turned into full days off. By the early 1900s in the U.K. and the 1920s in the U.S., the five-day workweek became standard. By the 1940s, the weekend as we know it was here to stay.



- △ 4 predatory sales tactics
- △ 7 costly misconceptions about flooring
- △ 5 questions to ask a dealer before buying

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### Roll Out the Welcome Mat for Our Newest Friends!

Ashley Good  
Bev & John Hmurovic  
Bill & Grace Scheeringa  
Brandon OBrien  
Brian Coleman  
Brian Nichols  
Chris & Lauren Capoyianes  
Cody Graf  
Dave & Rita Saunders

Denise & Romeo Delaurentis  
Diane Ipema  
Ed Velazquez  
Frank Gabrielow  
George & Kelly Robinson  
Georgilee Allen  
Holly Kennedy  
Justin Weldon  
Kami Kisala

Kari Dillner  
Kelly Glass  
Kevin Barrett  
Kevin McClain  
Kim Harmon  
Krista Kelly  
Lauren Garza  
Lisa Paciga  
Lisa Schneiter

LoreenAnn Giniat  
Mary Golas  
Mary Kruzel  
Mary Skubisz  
Michelle Jackowski  
Mike & Kelly Turner  
Mitchell Andrzejak  
Nick & Dana Durand  
Nick Catuara

Paula Campbell  
Rachel Tutko  
Rolland Cagwin  
Sandra Garcia  
Sarah Bandstra  
Scott & Karen McGinnis  
Stephanie Flanery  
Sue Sini  
Terrance Wright

Tim Griffin  
Toni Schavocky  
Trina & Doug Brucato  
Vicky Lilly  
Virginia Allen  
Warren Stidolph  
Zain Shammam



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yards or  
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yards or  
more

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# MEGA Trivia Contest?

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 \$50 restaurant gift card to



## This month's Mega Trivia question:

What major annual event takes place in Chicago every February, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors to McCormick Place?

- (A) The Chicago Air & Water Show
- (B) The Chicago Auto Show
- (C) Taste of Chicago
- (D) Lollapalooza

Join the fun at creativecarpetinc.com! Hit the 'MEGA Trivia' tab under 'Specials,' and take your guess on our monthly question between the 1st and the 20th. The drawing will take place on the 21st for all who answered correctly. The winner will be announced in next month's newsletter. Don't forget, entries close on the 20th. Best of luck!

## Last month's question:

What unusual natural phenomenon can occur along Northwest Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline during extremely cold January weather?

### (C) Ice volcanoes

Ice volcanoes form when waves from Lake Michigan crash against ice shelves along the shoreline. Water jets up through openings in the ice, and as it sprays into the frigid air, it freezes on contact, building up cone-shaped mounds that resemble miniature volcanoes. These formations can grow several feet tall and are most commonly seen at Indiana Dunes National Park, particularly along beaches like Mount Baldy and West Beach. The phenomenon has gained attention on social media and even made national news when dramatic examples appear. They're most likely to form when temperatures drop well below freezing, and Lake Michigan remains active with wave action.

## Congratulations to last month's winner:

**BETTY RUETH**

OF MUNSTER, IN

Claim your prize by visiting your nearest Creative Carpet & Flooring showroom from February 1 - 28, 2026. Thanks for taking part in our contest! Enjoy your prize!

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As you probably know, advertising is costly. Instead of paying the newspaper or other places to advertise, we'd rather reward you. Every time you refer someone who becomes a client and makes a purchase, we will send you a \$25 restaurant gift card to have dinner on us! For details, visit:

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## MEET OUR CARPET CLEANING CIRCLE...

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Carrie Zimmerman	Irene Chloros	Ray Sparks
Cheryl Dittmer	Jan Podrebarac	Rich Stob
Christine & Kenny Youngren	Jan Stoller	Robert Whooley
Corryn Greenwood	John & Priscilla McDonnell	Sandra Davis
Craig Lyman	Judy Bogdan	Scott Sobol
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## Common Words With Secret Double Lives

English words love plot twists. Some everyday terms are hiding old meanings that are weird, dramatic, or, honestly, kind of funny. Here are a few that decided one definition just wasn't enough.



- **Rhubarb** - You know it as the pink stuff in pies. Turns out it can also mean a loud argument. Baseball announcers started using it when players got into fights, probably because a brawl looks about as tangled as cooked rhubarb. Bonus fun fact. In British theater, actors mutter "rhubarb" to fake background chatter.
- **Cataract** - Today, it usually comes up at the eye doctor. Originally, it meant a powerful waterfall or a heavy rush of water. The eye meaning came later, likely because a cataract blocks vision the same way a gate blocks a doorway. Nature was here first.
- **Constitutional** - Not just about laws and government. A constitutional is also a walk taken for your health. Basically, people used to say they were going for a stroll and felt very official about it.
- **Smart** - Being smart can mean clever, but it can also mean ouch. A bee sting can smart, and that painful version of the word is actually older than the intelligence one. Turns out words that sting can describe both insults and insect attacks.
- **Husband** - Yes, a husband is a spouse. But to husband something also means to save it carefully. So if someone husbands their energy, they are pacing themselves, not getting married to a treadmill.
- **Mean** - Besides being unkind or an average in math, mean can also describe something shabby or low quality. Think run-down motel with flickering lights. Not evil, just sad.
- **Tattoo** - Before ink and needles, a tattoo was a drum or horn signal telling soldiers to head back for the night. The body art meaning came from a completely different word borrowed from Pacific Island languages. Same spelling, totally different story.

Next time someone says English is boring, feel free to start a rhubarb about it.



## Thank you to...

- Ally Vacha
- Crystal DiGiulio
- Jacob Stefans
- Jeanette Larson
- Jennifer & Chris Bianucci
- Joanna Williams
- John Nykiel
- Kurt & De Bonomo
- Loretta & Wayne Kwiatkowski
- Melanie Ehrhart
- Nina King
- Robert & Sue Park
- Robert Kelly
- Sandy & James Catuara

Deeply appreciate you!



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Dave Coulam from Creative Carpet called us after water-damage and restoration crews worked to restore our home theater. We were not sure how we could get the results we wanted to restore our damaged home theater, but Dave made the process very easy. As an expert in carpets, he made suggestions that made sense to us, then brought us samples & drawings we felt were perfect. He worked with the insurance company, with us, & with the installation crew, & thrilled us with service & quality. All went well until we needed to reinstall a guard rope as the finishing touches to our theater. I called Dave & told him the sound & video crew said the carpet company needed to do that job. Dave personally finished that part of the installation with effort & determination that I will not forget. He worked on this portion with customer satisfaction as his top priority. I want to personally thank Dave Coulam for his excellent service & skill. I would recommend Creative Carpet to anyone looking for great customer service & top-quality products. I am one very satisfied customer.

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Highland IN 46322  
219.595.5561



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TUE 9am 6pm  
WED 10am 6pm  
THR 9am 6pm  
FRI 9am 6pm  
SAT 10am 4pm  
SUN closed



**Don F. of Hinsdale, IL**  
This month's \$25 Best Buy gift card winner!