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

Dear Creative Carpet & Flooring Friends and Family,
Have you ever had someone say, "Everything happens for a reason" when you're already going through something hard?

I know people mean well. I really do. It's just one of those things that comes out when nobody knows what else to say. But when you're in it, it doesn't always help. Sometimes it makes things feel a little further away, like someone is trying to explain your pain instead of just being there with you.

And I don't think most people in those moments are really looking for explanations anyway. They're just trying to get through the day, trying to hold things together, and truthfully hoping they're not doing it alone.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
~Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

That verse has always felt simple to me. Just be there for each other. Help carry what someone else is dealing with when it gets heavy.

And I'll be honest, I'm not always great at that. Or at knowing what to say. I used to think I needed the right words, something meaningful. But I don't think people really remember the words anyway.

When I think back on harder seasons in my life, I can't really pull up many of the conversations. It all blurs together. What I do remember are people. The ones who checked in. The quick "thinking of you" texts. People showing up when I didn't expect it. Friends still asking me to go out even when I probably wasn't the best company. And the ones who just sat with me without feeling like they had to fill my silence.

Those are the things that stick.

It really isn't about having the right words. It's more just being there. Not fixing anything. Not explaining it. Just showing up.

And if you're in one of those heavier seasons right now, I hope you're not carrying it alone. Let people in a little, even if it feels awkward. And if faith is part of your life, even in a simple way, lean on it. Sometimes prayer is just, "God, I don't know what I'm doing right now." And that's more than enough!

At the end of the day, I think it's just about slowing down long enough to notice people. Not rushing past what they're carrying. Summer moves fast, and I hope there are some easy moments in it for you, too. Good people. A little laughter, a little love... and some quiet moments when needed.

With a grateful heart,



Dawn Giganti, Marketing & Administration
Creative Carpet & Flooring

Month at a Glance:

4th Independence Day - We're celebrating the red, white, & blue with our family today. Both showrooms will be closed so our team can enjoy the fireworks, the cookouts, & maybe a little too much potato salad.

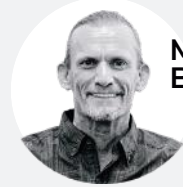
15th MLB All-Star Game - The best players in baseball are heading to Atlanta's Truist Park to put on a show. If you're watching, grab your snacks & enjoy the spectacle of America's pastime at its finest.

20th Ice Cream Soda Day - Somewhere out there, a genius decided to combine ice cream & soda, & honestly, we'd like to personally thank them. Go find your nearest ice cream shop & celebrate the way this day deserves... with whipped cream on top.

26th World Tofu Day - Tofu... the ingredient that quietly shows up in your meal, takes on whatever flavor it's told, & somehow has a whole day dedicated to it. Respect the hustle, give it a try today.

Employee birthdays this month:

We have three birthdays to celebrate this July! Happy birthday to Marketing and Administration's Dawn Giganti (July 9), Showroom Manager Michelle Sierra (July 14), and Design Consultant Gina Bonk (July 19). We are so lucky to have such an amazing team! Wishing these three ladies a fantastic birthday month!



Mark Bouquet



Mark Bouquet Jr.

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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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July 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04 CLOSED
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Vote for Us in Southland's Best 2026!

We're so proud to have won Best of the Region for our Highland, Indiana, showroom three years in a row: 2024, 2025, and 2026! Now it's our Mokena, Illinois, showroom's turn, and we need your vote to help us bring home Southland's Best 2026 for Best Carpet/Flooring Store!

Voting runs from June 25 through July 26, and you can vote twice a day!

#1 - Vote by text: Text 901 to (219) 300-8255

#2 - Vote online: Scan the QR code or go to the "Home & Garden" category and find us under "Best Carpet/Flooring."

👉 <https://thetimesofnorthwestindiana.secondstreetapp.com/2026-Southlands-Best/gallery/548056576/>

Winners are announced in September 2026. Every vote counts, so please vote now and share this with friends and family too. Thank you for your support!



Why Old Houses Had So Many Doors

Walk through an older home, and you'll notice something modern houses rarely have: doors everywhere. Between the kitchen and dining room, at the end of hallways, closing off the parlor. It might feel choppy compared to today's open-concept layouts, but there were very good reasons for all those thresholds. Older homes weren't built around flexibility. Each room had one job, and that was that. The dining room was for eating, the parlor was for company, and the study was where you went to work or read. Mixing those activities together wasn't really the point. Keeping them apart was seen as a mark of a household that had its act together, and doors made sure each space stayed in its lane.



Getting from one end of the house to the other used to mean walking straight through whatever room happened to be in your way. Hallways solved that problem. As they became standard features in the 1700s and 1800s, rooms no longer had to share traffic with one another. Each space got its own door, its own entrance, and a lot more independence from whatever was happening on the other side of the wall.

Before central heating, warmth came from fireplaces, wood stoves, and radiators that only heated the room they were in. Keeping doors closed meant keeping that heat contained. Families often spent cold months gathered in just a few rooms while the rest of the house sat cold and closed off. A door was basically the original thermostat.

Cooking was hot, smoky, loud, and fragrant work. It wasn't something you put on display. Kitchens were tucked away and separated from formal living areas, often with one door to the dining room for serving and another to the outside for deliveries and garden access.

Older construction relied on load-bearing walls to support the structure, which naturally divided homes into smaller rooms. Big open spaces were expensive and structurally difficult to pull off. Once steel beams and engineered lumber came along, knocking out walls became practical, and the open floor plan took over. What feels like a quirky old-house feature was really just smart design for its time.

Slang From the Past That Deserves a Second Chance

Every generation gets its own language. Right now, Gen Z is out here talking about rizz, spilling tea, and calling everything sus. But look back a few decades, and older generations had their own colorful code words. Most of those phrases faded out, but a handful are too good to stay gone. Take "gas," for example. If someone was a real gas, they were the life of the room, wildly fun and totally magnetic. The term appeared in James Baldwin's writing and in a Rolling Stones song before it disappeared from everyday conversation. We say bring it back. "Wallflower" showed up in 1820 for a reason. Party, no dance partner, wall. That was the whole situation. Today we'd probably give that title to whoever snuck off to hang out with the family dog instead. "Beat feet" meant you were moving fast, somewhere, right now. "Made in the shade" was for the person who had it all figured out and lived like it. "Pad" just meant your place, and it's still hanging around in "bachelor pad" if you think about it. "Peepers" goes all the way back to 1691 as a word for eyes. "Square" came out of jazz culture in the 1940s to describe someone old-fashioned or just a little too by-the-book. And a "shindig" started as a country dance term in the 1870s before it became the word for any loud, fun, music-filled party. Honestly? That party sounds like a real gas.

Roll Out the Welcome Mat for Our Newest Friends!

Alex Findlay
Ariyan Javadi
Ashley Hartman
Claire Williams
David Braglia
Dennis & Paula Kilhafner
Don (Mac) MacCartney

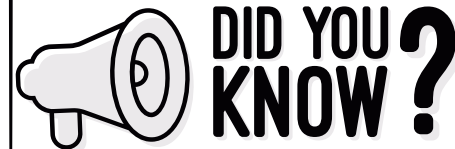
Donna Vallee
Eric Krzesinski
Frank Cherney
Gabriel Wong
Georgia Les
Greg & Laura Starceвич
Joe & Dee Molinare

Kathy Selcke
Louisa Jurich
Lynnae Dieck
Megan Matson
Meredith Marran
Michael Kennedy
Michelle Nunez

Nancy Schaub
Patricia Lee
Paul Jankuloski
Rich & Brogan Farias
Robert & Corky Duffy
Robert & Jeanine Peters
Rosemary Hirsch

Sally Caromano
Scott & Mandi Rehder
Scott Updegraff
Sharon Vanderveen
Sherri Spasske
Sue & Bob Besenhofer
Suzanne Ward

Tim & Diane Adkins
Todd & Susan Cosenza
Veronica Amponsah
Victoria Smith



You Can Shop Home Decor Online with Us!

Did you know we have an online home decor shop? Browse accent pieces, area rugs, wall decor, and outdoor accessories whenever it's convenient for you. Whether you're looking to anchor a room with a cozy rug or add a little personality with wall art and patio pieces, it's all right there waiting for you. Take a look around and see what catches your eye!

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Arlo & Rena Compaan	Madeleine Moya Mary Bresnahan
Bob Henrickson	Nick & Antigone Moore
Cathy Hambric	Pearl Zuidema
Cindy Gaydos	Petar & Nina
Dan McNulty	Ogrizovich
Frank Panuicka	Robert Wilcox
Greg & Marleen Kraai	Sally Weishaar
John Keane	Terry Obele
Karla Vanwinkle	

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MEGA Trivia Contest

Win \$100 off our online store
Shop.CreativeCarpetInc.com or a
\$50 restaurant gift card to



This month's Mega Trivia question:

Which Indiana college or university campus partially inspired the fictional campus in the 2013 Disney/Pixar film "Monsters University"?

- (A) DePaw University
- (B) Purdue University
- (C) Indiana University
- (D) University of Notre Dame

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:

Which Illinois city has the only river in the world that flows backward?

(B) Chicago

The Chicago River, known mainly for the various colors it is dyed to celebrate events and holidays, has been a hallmark of Chicago since the city's earliest days. Most people don't know that the river flows backward. A reversal technique, using a system of locks and canals, was introduced to divert sewage away from Lake Michigan's water supply. In 1999, the American Society of Civil Engineers named the Chicago River flow reversal the "Civil Engineering Monument of the Millennium".

Congratulations to last month's winner:

LARRY HUNDLEY

OF NEW LENOX, IL

Claim your prize by visiting your nearest Creative Carpet & Flooring showroom from July 1 - 31, 2026. Thanks for taking part in our contest! Enjoy your prize!

Have a night out with dinner on us through Creative Carpet's Referral Rewards Program

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:

creativecarpetinc.com/referral-rewards

A Gift for You

Creative Carpet & Flooring

Welcome Back Valued Friends!

Andrew & Robin Stephens
Andrew Kovacs
Barb Newman
Bill & Barb OBrien
Cynthia Retel
Daniel & Norma Mitchell
Denise Maravilla
Fred & Sandy Hardy
Gary & Gretchen Smith
Greg & Karen Zivich
Jimmy Clousing
John Slack

WELCOME BACK!

Justin Gaeta
Karen Cozen
Kathleen Puchkors
Kelly Kretzer
Laura & Colin Noone
Laura Anicich
Laverne & Cathy Klemm
Megan Puntillo
Michael & Deborah Pluard
Michael Hvizd
Michelle & Jim Huddlestun
Nicole Senkpeil



Phil Mendez
Rachel & Mary Iverson
Rich & Sheryl Georgas
Scott Mitchell
Sharon OMalley
Stephanie & Nick Kozlowski
Stephanie Ramirez
Steve Niemczak Jr
Sue Patzke
Tim & Colleen Greenfield
Tim Griffin
Tom Wisch

The Man Behind the Mix

Most people assume Betty Crocker was a real person and Duncan Hines was made up. It's actually the other way around. Betty Crocker is a fictional character created by a flour company, while Duncan Hines was a flesh-and-blood human being who spent decades eating his way across America.

Born in Kentucky in 1880, Hines worked as a traveling salesman, logging up to 60,000 miles a year and eating almost every meal on the road. He kept detailed notes on every restaurant he visited, and because food safety inspections weren't yet a thing, he didn't just evaluate the food. He went into the kitchens himself and checked for cleanliness, sometimes even digging through the trash. The man was thorough.

In 1935, he typed up a list of 167 recommended restaurants and tucked it into his Christmas cards. The response was so overwhelming that he self-published a full restaurant guide the following year. He refused to accept payment for positive reviews, which is a big part of why people trusted him. By 1949, his name had made the jump from guidebooks to grocery store shelves, and by 1951, the iconic boxed cake mixes were born in vanilla and devil's food.

What most people don't realize is that boxed cake mixes were already a thing long before Duncan Hines came along. A Pittsburgh molasses company, P. Duff and Sons, beat him to it by nearly 20 years. Back in 1930, they found themselves sitting on a molasses surplus and needed a way to move it. Their solution was to combine molasses with flour, powdered eggs, and spices to create ready-to-make cake blends in flavors such as devil's food and spice cake, sold for just 21 cents per tin. The timing looked risky given the Depression, but the low price point made them a favorable choice for home cooks watching every penny. Still, it took until after World War II for boxed mixes to really catch on, once the GIs came home and the market for convenient home baking took off.



<https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/1970s-vintage-duncan-hines-banana-nut-1944956695>

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Thank you to...

Brittany Knapp
George & Irene Detella
Joan Frye
Julie Kagy
Kathleen Cline
Kristin & Jonathan Freel
Mark & Jenny Gorka
Maryann Heniff
Paul & Michelle Migawa
Ted & Sue Sulkowski

Deeply appreciate you!

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MON 10am 6pm
TUE 10am 8pm
WED 10am 6pm
THR 10am 8pm
FRI 10am 6pm
SAT 10am 4pm
SUN closed

Nobody submitted a photo review this month, so the \$25 gift card is still up for grabs. If you've had a recent install, head to our website link below, write a review & enter. New drawings every month, & someone's going to win. Why not you?


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

 **SHARE** → Review ✓
Share a project photo with your review on our site within 30 days of installation for a chance to win a \$25 gift card!

THANKS FOR THE REVIEW 

CreativeCarpetInc.com/share-your-review

No winner this month!

The material contained in this newsletter is for informational purposes only and is based upon sources believed to be reliable and authoritative; however, it has not been independently verified by us. This newsletter should not be construed as offering professional advice.