

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

Dear Creative Carpet & Flooring Friends and Family,

As we step into 2026, I've been thinking a lot about how quickly life moves and how full our plates seem to stay. You know I'm not big on New Year's resolutions. I've said before that most of them are abandoned by February anyway, and I'd rather be honest about life than set myself up for disappointment.

But this year, something different has been on my mind. Instead of thinking about what I should add to my life, I'm asking myself what I need to let go of. What commitments are draining my time and energy without really giving much back?

Last month, my husband and I took our two corgis, Layla and Q'ira, to Harbor Inn at Heritage Harbor in Ottawa, IL, for the week before Christmas. Our plans were simple: watch movies, play games, make yummy dinners, and cuddle with our pups by the fireplace. I had every intention of working a little each day, even though I was on vacation.

We arrived on a Monday, and that night I tried to hook up my laptop to the Wi-Fi, only to realize I'd forgotten my charger at home. My first instinct? Drive all the way back home to grab it. I knew it was going to be a little hectic to get everything done when I returned the following Monday if I didn't go back for the charger, but you know what? I decided NOT to do it. I prayed for help with the workload when I got home and just let it go. And I have not unplugged like that in a long time. It was AMAZING! I really needed that.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" ~ John 15:5 (NIV)

Branches don't work themselves to exhaustion trying to produce fruit. They just stay connected to the vine and let the nourishment flow through them. I think that's what a lot of us are missing. We're running on our own steam, trying to power through everything, and wondering why we're so tired all the time. Sometimes God gives us exactly what we need, even if it comes in the form of a forgotten laptop charger.

What if this year could be different? What if instead of white-knuckling our way through another packed calendar, we learned to let go a little? I don't have this figured out, not by a long shot. But as I look at 2026, I'm asking myself some honest questions. Where do I need to say no? What can I surrender? Where have I been trying to control everything instead of leaning on God?

Maybe you're thinking about similar things as you start this new year. Whatever lies ahead for you, I hope you'll find some moments to breathe, to rest, and to focus on what really matters. That's where the good stuff happens.

Wishing you a blessed 2026,



Dawn Giganti, Marketing & Administration
Creative Carpet & Flooring

Month at a Glance:

1st New Year's Day - We'll be closed so our team can celebrate the holiday with their loved ones. We look forward to serving you when we reopen on Thursday, January 2nd!

12th National Hot Tea Day - We're totally on board with any holiday that celebrates cozy sips and good vibes. Cheers to all the tea lovers out there steeping it up today!

19th Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday - Today, we honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his enduring legacy of courage, compassion, and unwavering commitment to justice and equality for all.

28th Fun at Work Day - Here at Creative Carpet, we celebrate this every day! We believe work should come with plenty of laughter, way too many inside jokes, and a team that makes showing up each day genuinely enjoyable.

Employee birthdays this month:

Happy Birthday to Tim Churchill, our Distribution Center Associate! Wishing you a fabulous day on January 27th filled with cake, laughs, and all the good vibes. Thanks for everything you do to keep things running smoothly, and hope this year is one for the books!



Mark Bouquet



Mark Bouquet Jr.

We promise that you'll love your new floors, or we'll replace them for **FREE!***

*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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January 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				01 CLOSED	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	29	30	31

Welcome Back Valued Friends!

Adrian Pogoda
Angela Burman
Autumn & Jonathan Sibo
Carol Rausch
Christine Purbaugh
Colin & Vicki Lackey
Daryl Delancey
Eugene Bolzan
George & Irene Detella
Georgianna Grinis

Jan Rizzuto
Jill Ditommaso
Karen Cook
Karen Vogel
Kathie & Kevin Kahle
Kathy Dobosz
Ken VanEvery
Kenneth & Jen Mulheran
Latanya Patton
Leisa Pasco

Louise Riley
Mark & Angie Robinson
Mark Toth
Megan Kazmer
Michael Cimarolli
Mike & Mary Smith
Mike Madura
Norma Vilutis
Oliver Williams
Onarena Speranza

Pat Egan
Paul Valente
Ray & Venita Westbrook
Shaynee & Jon Pierce
Sheila Murphy
Sheryl Stubitz
Taliaha Koutz



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Highland Showroom Temporarily Closed for Remodeling

Our Highland, Indiana, showroom will be closed for exciting renovations from Monday, December 22, 2025, and will reopen on Saturday, January 3, 2026. Our Mokena, Illinois, showroom will remain open during this time with regular hours. Our Highland sales team will continue working remotely and remains available to assist you by phone at (888) 910-6585. We're here to help with all your needs throughout the holidays. We look forward to welcoming you to our refreshed Highland space in the new year!



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

How America Invented the Chinese Takeout Box

The iconic folded carton associated with Chinese restaurants is purely an American creation. While actual Chinese eateries use plastic containers, U.S. diners recognize the distinctive six-sided paper box with its metal handle.

Frederick Weeks Wilcox, a Chicago inventor, patented this "paper pail" in November 1894. Drawing inspiration from Japanese paper-folding techniques, he designed each container from a single sheet, reducing leakage and allowing steam to vent through the top. The concept likely borrowed from 19th-century oyster pails, wooden buckets with locking lids used for transporting shellfish. Bloomer Brothers began manufacturing Wilcox's design for oysters shortly after 1900.

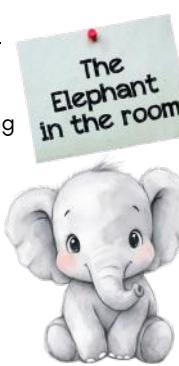
Following World War II, as suburban lifestyles and convenience culture expanded, Chinese food delivery grew popular. These containers became refrigerator staples for storing leftovers. During the 1970s, a designer at the Riegel Paper Corporation (Bloomer Brothers' successor) added decorative touches, including a pagoda illustration and "Thank You" and "Enjoy" printed in red, which symbolizes fortune in Chinese culture.

Today, Fold-Pak (formerly Riegel Paper Corporation) manufactures millions of these cartons annually, making it the leading producer worldwide. Made from solid-bleached-sulfate paperboard with a polycoated interior, each container transforms into a plate when you detach the wire handle.



Why We Talk About Elephants in Rooms They'd Never Fit In

Picture an elephant squeezed into your living room. Ridiculous, right? Yet we constantly reference this impossible scenario when avoiding awkward conversations. But why an elephant specifically? Why not a massive whale flopping around or a groundhog tunneling through your carpet? The Oxford English Dictionary traces the phrase to 1935, originally meaning something glaringly out of place. The modern version refers to major problems everyone pretends not to notice because acknowledging them feels uncomfortable. The saying likely originated in a 19th-century Russian fable that mocked someone who overlooked a giant elephant in a museum. As Earth's largest land creatures, elephants became the perfect symbol for huge issues people ignore when skirting touchy subjects. Thankfully, the phrase almost never applies to actual elephant sightings, which would require very different problem-solving skills.



Don't visit any flooring dealer until you call us for a FREE Customer Awareness Guide! You will learn...

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

Visit our website to obtain your copy! www.CreativeCarpetInc.com

Roll Out the Welcome Mat for Our Newest Friends!

Alec McCarthy
Barbara Anason
Becky Slansky
Bernard Hightower
Bob Ballard
Brandon Gurtatowski
Brooke & Kyle Knabenhans
Camille Caldwell
Chris Mara

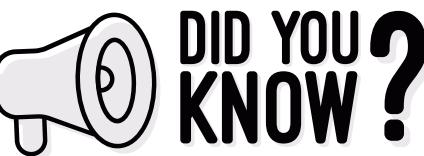
Christina Rodriguez-Hernandez
Cyndi Kiest
David Noble
Donna Mann
Eileen & Mike Hurley
Elaine MacKenzie
Erica & Eric Butler
Falesha Cochran
George Asya-Broughton &

Valerie Campeau
Jack & Toni Schimanski
Jacqueline Stevens
James Mandra
Jeanne Dykstra
Jeanne Losurdo
Jen Driscoll
Jenny Sejda
Jill Newsom

Joe Myers
John & Denise McKevitt
Kathryn Estabrook
Ken VanHaitma
Lauren & Jason Blauw
Linda King
Lori Willmer
Mark Canzona
Michael Kelnosky

Michael Loiseau
Norma Barnes
Paul & Mary Whitener
Paula Jimenez
Pete & Cheryl Pervan
Peter Manyek
Peter Yackanich
Ralph Moore
Renee Baillie

Shannon Crowley
Steve Kijowski
Ted & Amy Noonan
Tim & Wendy White
Tim Krzeminski
Wanda Beninato



We reward referrals with dinner on us!

When you refer someone who becomes a client, we'll treat you to dinner as our way of saying thank you. We know the real reason you refer people isn't the reward. It's because you trust us to deliver the same exceptional service you've experienced. That trust means everything to us. When someone comes through your recommendation, we're committed to exceeding their expectations so you'll be proud you sent them our way. Learn more at:

[creativecarpletinc.com/
referral-rewards](http://creativecarpletinc.com/referral-rewards)

A Gift for You

*Creative
Carpet & Flooring*

The more
you spend...



the more you
SAVE!

January 1 through January 31, 2026

Purchase carpet
priced from:

Price per sq yd \$ off per sq yd

\$20 to \$29.99 = \$2 off

\$30 to \$39.99 = \$3 off

\$40 to \$49.99 = \$4 off

\$50 to \$59.99 = \$5 off



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GIVING THE GIFT OF WARMTH



Help homeless families get through this winter season by giving the gift of warmth. We are collecting the following items:

- **WINTER COATS** – All sizes from infant to adult and extended sizes are needed.
- **WINTER ACCESSORIES** – Snow pants, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and boots.
- **BLANKETS & SLEEPING BAGS** – gently used or new blankets and sleeping bags.
- **SOCKS** – These are the most needed and least donated items.

Please note we can only accept donations of items that are new or gently used, without broken zippers, rips, or tears.

Thank you for helping keep those less fortunate warm this winter!

ILLINOIS

There are an estimated **25,832** people experience homelessness **20** people homeless per 10,000*

Items brought to our Mokena, IL showroom will benefit:



morningstarmission.org
(815)722-5780

info@morningstarmission.org

*<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness/>

INDIANA

There are an estimated **6,285** people experiencing homelessness **9** people homeless per 10,000*

Items brought to our Highland, IN showroom will benefit:



gracebeyondborders.org
(219)712-5192
marcusm@gracebeyondborders.org

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:

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

- (A) Ice tsunamis
- (B) Ice geysers
- (C) Ice volcanoes
- (D) Ice bridges

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:

Since 2015, where has Chicago's official city Christmas tree been displayed each holiday season?

(B) Millennium Park

Chicago's official downtown Christmas tree has a long history dating back to 1913, when a 35-foot spruce was first lit in Grant Park by Mayor Carter Harrison. Over the years, the ceremony moved around the city, eventually settling at Daley Plaza in 1966. Since 2015, the tree has been displayed in Millennium Park near the ice rink and Cloud Gate, adorned with thousands of lights and ornaments and often donated by a local family. It draws visitors for photos, caroling, and festive events, celebrating over a century of Chicago's holiday tradition.

Congratulations to last month's winner:

DORY GROSCHÉ

OF MANHATTAN, IL

Claim your prize by visiting your nearest Creative Carpet & Flooring showroom from January 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

MEET OUR CARPET CLEANING CIRCLE...

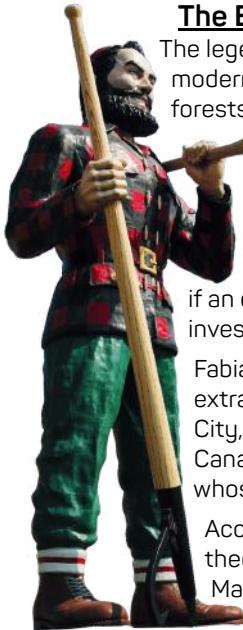
Anas Zeidieh	Gary Hansen	Mary Ann &
Beth Bogan	James Gutierrez	Matt Gorsich
Bob & Cathy Velcich	Joe & Nancy Keim	Mary Woltkamp
Brian & Cindy Wright	John & Lynn Pasierb	Mike Ninkovich
Bruce Peterson	John Paskey &	Pam Taylor
Caroll Christensen	Mary Lombardo	Patrick & Monica Glynn
Chandra Ware	June Desimone	Randy Gordon
Charles Obrzut	Ken & Linda Weidenhaar	Ray & Diane Kolodziej
Chris & Tina Bayless	Larry & Gladys Hindson	Ruth Bos &
Dave & Carrie Stapleton	Linda Struzik	Karen Schmidt
Dave & Gloria Dolak	Lori Hermanson	Stacey Bilsland
Debbie Johnson	Lorraine Evenhouse	Terry Connelly
Debbie Little	Maria Baierle	Tina Flynn
Diane Boss	Maribel Salgado	Tom Grabowski
Ed Dineen	Marilyn Lehnerer	William Eubank
Elsie Singleton	Mary & Ervin Zaikis	



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The Elusive Truth Behind Paul Bunyan's Legend

The legendary lumberjack Paul Bunyan stays famous despite countless modern distractions. His reputation comes from supposedly clearing forests in one ax swing, forming landmarks like the Grand Canyon through raw power, and befriending Babe the Blue Ox. Multiple towns claim him as their native son, while others celebrate him with statues and festivals.



While tall tales clearly involve exaggeration (no baby really needed five storks to carry him or left lakes in his footprints), some wonder if an exceptionally strong logger sparked the legend. Historians have investigated two possible origins.

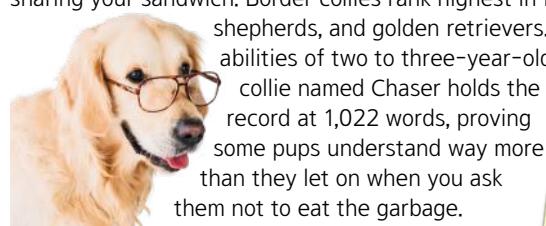
Fabian "Saginaw Joe" Fournier, a French Canadian logger with extraordinary strength and reportedly two sets of teeth, died in Bay City, Michigan, in 1875. Another theory points to Bon Jean, a French-Canadian woodsman said to have fought in the 1837 Papineau Rebellion, whose name may have been anglicized over time.

According to Michael Edmonds, who wrote about Bunyan's origins, both theories have flaws. The Fournier connection came from James MacGillivray, an early Bunyan chronicler, whose account of how he learned about Fournier did not add up. The Bon Jean theory dates to a 1925 book by James Stevens, but rebellion records contain no mention of anyone by that name or a similar one.

Perhaps a powerfully built logger inspired early stories through impressive feats, but if such a person existed, their true identity has long since disappeared.

Your Dog Understands You Better Than You Think

Dogs earn their best-friend status partly through impressive vocabulary, though let's be honest, they mostly care about "walk," "treat," and "who's a good boy?" According to the American Psychological Association, typical dogs grasp around 165 words, while "super dogs" in the top 20% can understand roughly 250 words. That's 249 more than they need to guilt you into sharing your sandwich. Border collies rank highest in intelligence, followed by poodles, German shepherds, and golden retrievers. These brainiacs match the cognitive abilities of two to three-year-old children, minus the tantrums. But a border



collie named Chaser holds the record at 1,022 words, proving some pups understand way more than they let on when you ask them not to eat the garbage.

Thank you to...

Audra Rowe
 Christine McCarthy
 Harry & Cheryl Baker
 Janice Koehler
 Josette & Craig Clark
 Kim Wegmann
 Lori & Ken Vetroczky
 Marge Corin
 Steven & Janet Wagner
 Sue & Dan Danaher
 Sue Cepela





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MEGA Trivia Contest
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MON 10am 6pm
TUE 10am 8pm
WED 10am 6pm
THR 10am 8pm
FRI 10am 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!

CreativeCarpetInc.com/share-your-review

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Carpet & Flooring

www.creativecarpetinc.com

888.910.6585

I can't stop smiling. I give this company a 5-star rating. I have used them before and am completely satisfied. My floors are beautiful. The gentleman who came to do the install was polite, professional, and considerate. During this time of economic hardship, I received a discount, and the office was always accommodating. The entire process was seamless. Thank you so much, Creative Carpet. You are A#1.

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219.595.5561



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

THANKS FOR THE REVIEW



Venita Williams-Westbrook of Hammond, IN
This month's \$25 Target gift card winner!