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"Mark" My Words... *a message from* Dawn Giganti (Mark will be back to say hello next month) Happy December!

I can't believe that it is the last month of 2018. My dad always told me, "The older you get, the faster time goes by." Growing up I heard him, but I just couldn't seem to relate or apply it. Now that I'm in my late 40's... YES, that is absolutely TRUE! I can almost hear his voice say, "I told you so!" I'm sure I'll get a phone call now, so I don't have to imagine it. I love you, dad!

Looking back at the years, I'd like to think that there are a few things that I'm decent at. I'd like to think that I'm alright at being creative. I don't think I'm too bad at writing. Though it's been some time, I'm sure I can still play my flute or sing in a choir. I'd like to think that I do alright in these things. There is one thing that I completely blow at... bowling. Bowling is definitely NOT anywhere NEAR any list of mine. Bowling is not my special gift.

My husband rocks at bowling. His arthritis holds him back some now, but back in the day, he was insane! When you look up the definition of mortified in the dictionary, it would tell you the story about when I went to "roll" the ball down the alley towards the pins and how I somehow ended up tossing it the other way. The ball was seriously air born. I almost hit some senior citizens walking by. Talk about feeling inadequate, embarrassed and instant stress... but unnecessary because he thought it was cute! I don't think the seniors walking by thought it was cute, though.

As I booked our company Christmas party at the bowling alley, I had to laugh. A light-hearted game of bowling surrounded by friends. I'm so glad I don't have to be perfect. I couldn't imagine not being myself and showing my flaws. It is just way too stressful. Who needs to add unnecessary stress to their lives? I know I don't! Especially not over some good clean fun.

I challenge you this last month of the year to be yourself as you get together with family and friends. Don't stress yourself out! Let people see the authentic you with imperfections and mistakes. I know for a fact that ANYONE you are around isn't perfect. Let your whole self be seen. You might just be amazed at what happens. You might even be cute and win someone's heart (my husband, not the senior's).

Live life with God's purpose and have a joy-filled blessed Christmas and New Year!

Dawn Giganti | Marketing & Administrative Assistant Creative Carpet & Flooring

DECEMBER 2018								
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
						1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
23	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED	26	27	28	29		
30	31 CLOSED							

#### Month at a Glance:

**12th <u>Tammy Bouquet's Birthday</u>** - you only turn 29 once! Happy birthday, Tammy!

**16th National Chocolate Covered Anything Day** -Can be celebrated early on December 12th whenever DARK chocolate is involved... right Tammy?!?

**19th <u>Alexis Giganti's Birthday</u>** - The big 21 years old! You'll be 29 with Tammy, soon! Happy birthday, Alex!

**21st** <u>First day of Winter</u> - and the shortest day of the year. I don't know about you, but I think it needs to be changed to November 1st! BURRRR!</u>

24th <u>Christmas Eve</u> & 25th <u>Christmas Day</u> - Happy birthday, Jesus! We will be closed to celebrate his birth with our families. MERRY CHRISTMAS & GOD BLESS!

**31st <u>New Year's Eve</u>** - closed for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. HAPPY 2019 EVERYONE!

#### Should we still send traditional Christmas cards in the age of social media and e-cards?

Facebook posts and Instagram captions wishing goodwill and holiday cheer have begun to flood social-media feeds. But for many, Elf Yourself, JibJab and digital e-cards have nothing on the traditional ones that arrive in the mail. "Opening the inbox just isn't the same as opening the mailbox," said Kyra Blaksley of Gilbert.

While far fewer people use the U.S. Postal Service -154.3 billion pieces of mail were sent in 2016, down from 212.2 billion in 2007 – the holidays still see people buying stamps and addressing stacks of cards. In 2015, 1.6 billion Christmas holiday cards were sold, holding steady from recent years, according to the national Greeting Card Association. That's still down from 2.7 billion reported in 1995.

We asked (on social media, of course) whether we should still send Christmas cards. The response was a fierce "yes." Some say they let the tradition go to avoid the stress, but the resounding majority of more than 250 comments on Go Gilbert, Living Chandler, Love Mesa Life, and Surprise Matters Facebook groups offered clear advice to the fence-sitters: Send Christmas cards.

They're more personal.

- · It shows the sender took time, instead of just clicking a button online.
  - It beats the heck out of bills and junk mail stuffed in the mailbox.

• Cards help decorate the house.

· And it's tradition.

While many say the number of cards they receive has dwindled, and that social media is the culprit, they agreed that nothing beats a handwritten card. You can't hold an email.

"Social media doesn't last forever," Gilbert resident Susan Vucko said. "You can't pick up an (online post) and see that handwriting." Her family treasures are pulling out handwritten cards of Christmases past from her mother-in-law, who has passed away. "It's like hearing her voice again. Social media can't do that," Vucko said.

Family photo Christmas cards are a favorite for many. And what could be more adorable than newborns and pets? For Cathleen De La Torre in Surprise, Christmas cards kick off the holiday season. As a child, Aunt Marie's card would show up like clockwork the day after Thanksgiving. "That card let me know that Santa would be here soon," she said. De La Torre now sends more than 200 Christmas cards the day before Thanksgiving. "Mine might be the first one you receive but still to this day my Aunt Marie's card is always the first one I receive."

But what type of card to send? A recent Arizona transplant found state-themed cards from Prickly Pear Paper in Gilbert to send to her Midwestern friends and family. Many of the cards feature a saguaro instead of the typical snowy scene.

While retailers offer greeting cards that sing, light up and unfold with pop-up scenes, some like to send more personalized handmade or photo cards. "The younger generation sends out all of the family photo cards, which we just love. They're into doing Christmas cards in their own, new way," Vucko said.

Chandler resident Billie Freiwald says older people sending store-bought cards with simple signatures make up the bulk of what she receives. But she values the photos and messages. "If you can't spend time together in person, this is the next best thing," she said.

You can't hang an Instagram. Artfully displaying cards is part of the tradition for many. Whether hanging cards around an entryway or using twine to string them across the room, many say they display each and every card they receive. Another saves the prettiest cards each year to cut and use as gift tags next Christmas.

So, dust off your creativity - or borrow some from Pinterest - because the cards are coming.

MOLLY & WILLIAM GAUS

Ashford, B. (2017, Dec. 8). Should we still send Christmas cards in the age of social media? Retrieved from azcentral.com: https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/gilbert/2017/12/08/should-we-still-send-traditional-christmas-cards/913242001/

#### MEET OUR CARPET CLEANING CUSTOMERS...

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KEVIN GEARY CAROL GRIFFITH BEVERLY HAMSTRA REGINA & JOHN HEROD DAVID HIGNITE TOM & DONNA JACOBS DENISE & TOM JACOBS DONNA KIESLING DIANE KISSINGER FRED LAUZON MATT MACKANIN CHARLES & DIANE MCCULLOUGH STEVE MORRIS JUDY & MITCH PALMER

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## DONNA JAGMIN

of Frankfort, IL

You are this month's MYSTERY WINNER! We have a \$50 Creative Carpet & Flooring gift card reserved just for you!

Stop in your nearest showroom to claim your prize!

NOTE: Must be picked up before 12/31/2018

### Did You Know

#### We are doing a Winter Coat Drive for the first time!

We are doing our first ever winter coat drive now through the end of the year. Please drop off any new &/or gently used, clean winter coats of any size along with children's snow pants. The following NEW items would also be appreciated: hats, scarves, gloves & mittens.

Items brought to our Mokena, IL showroom will be delivered to MorningStar Mission Ministries for families in Joliet & Will County. Items brought to our Highland, IN showroom will be provided to Grace Beyond Borders NWI for families in the Northwest Indiana area.

Please help us warm men, women, children & entire families in our area this winter! Thank you in advance, and God Bless!

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Don't visit any flooring dealer until you call us for a <u>FREE</u> Consumer Awareness Guide! You will learn...

4 predatory sales tactics

7 costly misconceptions about flooring

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#### Techy Christmas Gifts

Christmas presents used to be as easy as handmade Christmas cards, homemade cookies, home-cooked meals or a day of special service. Then it was clothing, books, board games, and toys. Nowadays, it's all digital. For those who are NOT techy and need a hand, here are some Christmas gifts ideas to help you with your techy family and friends:

One-year subscription to their favorite magazine or book club – Most of these are now available on the internet with an online subscription. For example, if they are into cooking and recipe magazines, there are a ton of internet-based subscriptions that have endless recipe possibilities. If they have an Amazon Kindle, that opens up a bunch of options. Barns and Noble

even has what is called digital Nook books.

A new Bible – You can buy one hardbound or with beautiful leather binding. However, an audio Bible is perfect for those who love to walk, jog, work where they can listen to a headset, or someone who drives for a living (or just love to drive). See "music" below or "books" above, too. The Bible is accessible in SO many different ways!

A music CD – If they love to listen to a particular artist or music genre, a music cd would be a hit. However, most have "moved on" from CDs to the digital age. A prepaid year to Spotify, Pandora or an iTunes gift card would be the way to go.

DVD's for the movie buff – Just like music CD's, if DVD's are a thing of the past for this hip and trendy recipient. A prepaid year to Netflix or Hulu would do the trick.

Fun and games – Board games have morphed into a digital phenomenon. If they are into playing a specific game, then video games will be appreciated. More than likely, you won't know what video games they already have? Find out what game systems they use and see if there are any subscriptions or gift cards they can use to purchase and play their favorite games. Some of the primary systems are Nintendo Switch, Xbox One, PlayStation 4... or for that computer geek, you might want to look into Steam.

#### What exactly are "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?

Many people are familiar with the term "The Twelve Days of Christmas," but not everyone knows where it originated. Can you pick out the right explanation?

- A. The Twelve Days of Christmas represents the number of days Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.
- B. The Twelve Days of Christmas represents the length of time that the three wise men from the East traveled to reach Baby Jesus after his birth.
- C. The Twelve Days of Christmas represents the number of reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh.
- D. The Twelve Days of Christmas represents the length of time required to celebrate Good King Wenceslas' birthday.
- E. A song sang by Bing Crosby, Bob and Doug McKenzie or John Denver and the Muppets.

If you said, B, you were correct! The Twelve Days of Christmas represents the length of time that the three wise men from the East traveled to reach Baby Jesus after his birth.

Between the favorite stories like A Christmas Carol from Charles Dickens, Santa Claus, Christmas shopping and some of the Christmas music of today, the real meaning behind Christmas can easily slip away and be forgotten. While all of these things are not necessarily "bad," just don't get caught up in the commercial marketing of Christmas. Remember, HE is the reason for the season... Merry Christmas!



MEET OUR NEW FRIENDS AND CLIENTS...



Who wants to WIN a \$50 Gift Card towards dinner at TGI Friday's, Olive Garden or Beggars Pizza?

#### Take our Trivia Challenge!

This month's Mega Trivia question:

## Christ was laid in a manger. A manger is a...

- (A) cave
- (B) barn
- (C) feeding trough
- (D) type of inn
- (E) crib

To enter, visit our website at www.creativecarpetinc.com, click on "*MEGA Trivia*" under *Specials* and take your best guess. Your chances of winning are better than you think! Winner will be announced in the following month's newsletter. Entry deadline, December 20th, 2018. Good luck!!!

Answer to November's quiz: B) 5,500 Congratulations to last month's winner:

Marilyn Underkofler

of Highland, IN Stop by Creative Carpet & Flooring to claim your prize by December 31, 2018!

BIFF AIKEN SCOTT ANDERSON DYAN AUBERT RUTH BAKER BILL & DENISE BALSIS KATHLEEN BANDERA PAT BARR CHRIS & JEFF BERTA PJ BICKETT JOHN BISBIKIS KRISTY & NICK BLAKEMORE LINDA & JOHN BONDI JACKIE BOX MARY BREWTON ROSEMARY BRODEUR NANCY COCHRAN JOHANNA & JOE COOLEY DORRIS CURLEY DOUG DAVIS REV DAVIS JOHN & ALVA DEVRIES JANET DONNAN THOMAS & LAURA DONNELLY RHEA DORSAM BRAD DUNLAP CAROL FITZGERALD SANDRA GARRISON PAUL GNAP

MARGARET GOMBAS DAWN & TIM GUENETTE KATIE HARRIS BILL HASENJAEGER LORI HERMANSON DAVID & LAURA HIGNITE SHERRY HUIZENGA BILL JANCAUKAS TRACEY JONUSAS SCOTT & SUSAN JUISTER NICOLE & CHRIS KALVIG PEGGY KIERNAN VALERIE & DAVID KOCH JANA LACERA DAVID & SUSAN LENNON JOYCE LEON DEBBIE LHOTKA LYNN & BRUCE LODE JACKIE & MIKE LUMBRAZO RONALD MARCUM JIM & SUSAN MARINO TERESA MASLANKA ROBERT MCNICHOLAS GLORIA MILLER KAREN MOECKER DANA NAGEL VIRGINIA NOMMENSEN CINDY NUGENT SEYMOUR OBERLANDER BILL PALKA MARILEE PAVICH DONNA PHALEN JC PHELAN JIM & CARA PORTER PAM & ED RAMSEY KATHY & TIM RATHBURN NICK & SUSAN RIZZO ABBEY SADECKI MICHELLE & ERIC SCHILF TED SCHWANDT ADAM & JAMIE SHEFCIK TOM & JULIE SICINSKI SHARON SIMONS JOESPH SIWINSKI ANDY SOPCICH SCOTT SPENCER DONALD & RITA STOPPER GARY & ANDREA SWINDLE CARI THURSTON JOHN UTTERBACK MICHAEL WALSH DIANE WEBB JIM WHITE NANCY WOLNIAK-COOK JOHN WOODIDE LIZ ZUKE

#### DECEMBER

#### THANK YOU FOR THE KIND WORDS!

"We are so pleased with our new carpet; from the beginning to the installation, our experience with Creative Carpets has been excellent. Courteous and well-informed staff and installers. Thank you."

#### Karen of Flossmoor, IL

"My new flooring looks awesome! My kitchen looks bigger and brighter. My friends and family thought it looked awesome, too. Installers were professional and cleaned up well. They showed up on time and worked hard. Steve Williams was very professional and very informative. Very attentive to our needs. So

very happy!" MaryAnn Senese of Tinley Park, IL

#### A gigantic THANK YOU to all who

#### referred us last month ...

SUSAN BIRD DEBBIE BLODE **RON & ROBIN CABAY** JOAN & JOHN D'ADAM JOHN & MARY DUCKWORTH

**ELAINE & PAUL HORAN CHARLES & DIANE** MCCULLOUGH KAREN & JIM ROSE TERRI SPENCE

TIM & SUE ERIKS

#### Get A Night Out At One Of Your **Favorite Restaurants Through Creative Carpet's**

#### **Referral Rewards Program**

As you probably know, advertising is very expensive. Instead of paying the newspaper or other place to advertise, we'd rather reward you. So I've assembled my Referral Rewards Program. Every time you refer someone who becomes a client and purchases, we will send you a \$25 gift card to one of the following: Olive Garden, TGI Friday's or Beggars Pizza.



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#### 19845 S La Grange Road Mokena IL 60448 (708) 479-8600

10am - 6pm Mon, Wed, Fri 10am - 8nm Tue Thu 10am - 4pm Sat



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.

#### <u>"WELCOME BACK" TO OUR RETURNING CLIENTS...</u> SALWA DILLARD

ROSE BARRE	
BRIAN & KRISTI BETTS	
CARLA BOUCHER	
JOEL & DEE	
CARRANZA	
SUE & CHUCK	
CHRISTENSEN	
MAURA & TERRY	
CISZEK ROSEMARY	
COLLINS	
ALBERTO DAVILA	
LINDA DESIMONE	

#### GREG ISER KATHY DOBOSZ KELLY DROBA DAVIS & MIKAYLA JASPERS DEANNA KINSELLA ROB KOLE CHERYL FARRELL CARMEL FINNEGAN SUE KROEN JOHN & LELA LAHA BRIDGET FOODY LINDA & CHRIS KEN & MITZI FRAGALE RAYMOND & TAMMY LEVANDER RAY & KAREN LOFFREDI ED & NANCY HAYES JACKIE HOFFMAN WILLIAM 8 MARCELLA MARK

OWEN HULSE

WILLIAM & JEAN MARTIN GARY & SHAR MILLER GEORGE MURPHY SANDY NEWELL LINDA OLSON TRACY PAHIOS **GREG & ROCHELLE** PUPCHIK TES REARDON & MARITES GONZAGA ALAN & KATHERINE STOJAK

HEATHER STONE RITA & MICHAEL SWEENEY DIANE & WILLIAM TAMBORSKI CHARLES & CHRISTINE TERUMOTO ANGELO & KRISTY VELISSARIS TOM & DAWN WOOLWORTH

#### **Fascinating Poinsettia Facts**

Impress your friends and family this Christmas when you share these poinsettia facts:

TOM & GAIL

DUROCHER

FREDERICI

+How big do Poinsettias get? - In its native habitat of Mexico and Central America, the poinsettia can grow as large as a small tree, up to 16 feet tall.

\*Butterflies Love Them. - Butterflies love the flowers of poinsettia. If you live in a warmer climate (no frosts or freezes at all), plant your poinsettias outside to draw butterflies to your garden.

\*Not So Toxic. - Despite the widespread myth, poinsettias are not extremely poisonous. Though the sap is mildly toxic and causes stomach distress, no deaths of people or animals have been reported from eating poinsettia. In fact, studies say that a 50-pound child would need to eat 500 leaves before being in grave danger. Given that poinsettia is very bitter, it's unlikely a child or pet would take more than one bite.

- What are some other uses for poinsettias? Poinsettia is a flowering plant. The whole plant and its sap (latex) are used to make medicine. ... Some people apply poinsettia latex directly to the skin (use topically) to remove hair, treat warts, and heal other skin disorders. It also used topically for toothaches.
- Why do we have poinsettias at Christmas? The bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena,' or 'Flowers of the Holy Night.' The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ.

## **Figemmunity Events**

#### SAT Dec 1st at 11:45a **Tinley Toyland Parade**

by the Village of Tinley Park Oak Park Avenue train station 175th Street to Zabrocki Plaza, Tinley Park IL Celebrate the official arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Bring an unwrapped gift for any age for a local charity. A collection center will be located near the Holiday Market. COST: FRFF INFO: call 708-444-5000 or visit www.tinleypark.org

#### SAT & SUN Dec 23rd & 24th from 5p to 7p **THE GIFT- A Christmas Multimedia** Musical

by the Ashburn Baptist Church Ashburn Baptist Church 15401 Wolf Road, Orland Park IL A moving story of a young family in need of a miracle. It is a Christmas story you will never forget. Powerful music, a message of hope, and will conclude with carols by candlelight. COST: FREE INFO: contact Josh Burks at 708-403-1363 or

email joshua.burks@ashburnbaptist.com

#### COST: FREE (freewill offering for NICK) INFO: call 219-351-5129, email info@nwicancerkids.org or visit nwicancerkids.org

5201 West 109th Avenue, Crown Point IN

Benefit for NICK Foundation (NWI Cancer Kids)

Christmas music for ALL! A fundraiser for local

the NOTEABLES & Eisenhower Elementary

children fighting cancer. Guest appearances by

SAT Dec 8th from 6:30p to 9:30p

Carol of the Bells 2018

Hillside Community Church

School Handbell choir.

#### TUE-FRI Dec 26th - 29th from 12p to 1p 4th Annual Holiday Outdoor Lunch Service

by Grace Beyond Borders NWI, Inc. Parking lot on east side of Salvation Army 513 West Chicago Avenue, East Chicago IN Help those in need have a delicious lunch VOLUNTEER INFO: call Marcus Martin at 219-712-5192 or mmminc53@gmail.com. You can also visit www.gracebeyondborders.org for more

information on what they do and more ways you can help.

If you have a community event or fundraiser that you would like us to feature in the January 2019 Creative Carpet & Flooring Creative Thinking, please email marketing@creativecarpetinc.com by December 19th, 2018





**\$150 off** purchases over \$1000

ØK

**\$600 off** purchases over \$4000

December 1<sup>st</sup> thru 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Too busy with the holiday hustle and bustle to even THINK about flooring installation? BUY NOW TO LOCK IN 2018 PRICES & postpone install until <u>AFTER</u> the holidays!

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## Winter Coat Drive

We are doing our 1st ever winter coat drive now through the end of the year. Please drop off any new and/or gently used, clean winter coats of any size. Children's snow pants can also be dropped off. Also, we are accepting the items: following NEW hats. scarves. gloves, and mittens. Thanks so much for helping keep those less fortunate warm this winter!





### Receive a \$25 Creative Carpet & Flooring Gift Card



### Just for stopping in & donating A small thanks for helping. Give as a gift or

keep for yourself. So many uses -

- ✓ Complement any hard surface floor with a pre-made or custom area rug!
- ✓ How about Carpet cleaning after the winter season is over?
- ✓ Cleaning products (like our Karndean hard surface cleaner or our very own Spot Remover for Carpets & Upholstery).
- ✓ Gift cards never expire!

December 1st thru December 31, 2018 - one gift card per household



**Coats brought to Highland, IN showroom will benefit** Grace Beyond Borders NWI, Inc.





Your donation allows Grace Beyond Borders to serve the most vulnerable in our Northwest Indiana community.



## Coats brought to Mokena, IL showroom will benefit **MorningStar Mission Ministries**



Since 1909, MorningStar Mission has served men, women, children and entire families in Joliet and Will County.

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Merry Christmas Creative Carpet & Flooring

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