

Mark Bouquet



Mark Bouquet Jr.

**CREATIVE CARPET, INC.**

# Home Advisor™

Reliable news for healthy living, saving money, and having fun! June 2010

## SUMMER IS HERE!

Hello Everybody,

As I write this month's newsletter (which I hope you enjoy), I am happy to say that SUMMER IS HERE! I don't know about you, but I have been waiting for this for some time. To me, summer is a time for family and friends, cookouts, and pools. We are so blessed to live in this great nation. Thank God we live in the U.S.A.

I know it will be June when you receive this, but as I write this letter, Memorial Day is only a couple of days away and I would feel terrible if I did not thank every single person who is in our military, in addition to all of our Veterans – some of which gave their lives for the freedoms that we sometimes take for granted.

As our way of saying thanks, this month we have a special bonus for military personnel and for veterans. We haven't forgotten about you! We have decided to sacrifice some of our profit to honor the sacrifices that you have made. I would *never* put our "sacrifice" at the level of yours, but it is the least we could do, so this month, in addition to our regular special, we will discount our military personnel and veteran purchases an addition \$1 per yard.

Also, stop in and tell us your stories. We love to hear from our vets and could listen to your stories for hours.

Thanks again and God bless you all!

Sincerely,

Mark Bouquet Sr.

### **About Staying Well: Summer Food Safety**



Barbecue season is in full swing. We're enjoying those long days outdoors, eating on the patio or going on a picnic.

Make sure your fun is bellyache-free by following these simple rules:

- If you're backpacking or on a long road trip, choose non-perishable snacks like nuts, dried fruit, fresh fruit and crackers.
- For your portable beverages, avoid anything fizzy that might explode! Take water, fruit juice, or other non-carbonated drinks.
- If it's a longer trip or a very hot day, think about freezing your drinks the night before (again, no soda).

**"We promise that you'll love your new floors, or we'll replace them FREE! Call today for a complimentary Design Audit®!"  
(708) 479-8600**

### **Inside this Issue...**

- Are you this month's Mystery Winner?
- Top 10 Board Games
- About Staying Well
- Work Tips: You're Never Too Old to Learn
- Moneywise: Paying More to Pay Less
- Meet Hercules
- Welcome to our new and returning clients!
- Trivia Contest



### **Attention Pat McAllister!**

You are this month's Mystery Winner!  
We have a \$10.00 gift certificate to Starbucks reserved just for you! Come by our store to claim your prize!  
Creative Carpet, Inc.  
19420 S. LaGrange Road  
Mokena, IL 60448  
**NOTE: Must be picked up by June 30, 2010**

# Did You Know...

**Rumor has it that Blockbuster is closing many (or all??) of their stores.**

We have a supply of gift cards still on hand. While supplies last, we will come out and give you a free Blockbuster card just for stopping in and setting up a measure today! You can make a purchase before the store near you closes, or you can still order from them online.

Hurry in! This offer is limited to the supply that we have on hand. When they are gone - they're gone!

-Mark Bouquet

- For perishable foods of all kinds, use coolers and keep the ice fresh.
- Dairy foods, eggs and cold cuts are most likely to spoil quickly. If you do take them along on your picnic, eat the dishes while they're cold and throw out the leftovers in an hour.
- Better yet, plan your meals so there are no non-perishable leftovers.
- Always remember to take out what you brought in.

Enjoy your summer!

## ***Work Tips: You're Never Too Old to Learn***

If you think your job has turned into a dead end, and are rightly cautious about jumping into the job market, consider upgrading your skills at home.

More and more schools are offering free audit courses online; there are many free types of software (freeware), that you can download and teach yourself.

This is increasingly a knowledge-based economy – even if you don't have the letters after your name, the boss won't care if you produce quality work. Make yourself indispensable in a new role, save the company some money, and you'll justify that raise!

## ***Top 10 Board Games of All Time***

How many of these have you played?

1. Chess
2. Checkers
3. Monopoly
4. Scrabble
5. Clue
6. Risk
7. Life
8. Chutes (Snakes) & Ladders
9. Othello
10. Axis & Allies



## ***Moneywise***

### ***Paying more to pay less***

It doesn't seem that long ago that the world wasn't disposable. Perhaps it's true that it takes more time and trouble to buy lighter fuel and flints than to pick up a new disposable lighter every month.

But if the current economic downturn has taught us anything, it's a new respect for the old values. That old-style lighter will cost you more, but it may outlast you. Our grandparents' frugality is blending with modern conservationism to produce a new take on the old clichés, like "You get what you pay for" and "A stitch in time saves nine".

## **TRIVIA CONTEST**

### **WHO ELSE WANTS...**

**to Win Dinner for 2 at TGI Fridays or Olive Garden? Take our Trivia Challenge and you could win too!**

Every person who e-mails in the correct answer by the 15th of the month will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 gift certificate to TGI Fridays or Olive Garden!

#### **This month's MegaTrivia question....**

In what decade was the hit TV show M\*A\*S\*H set?

A) 1940's, B) 1950's, C) 1960's, D) 1970's

Take your best guess, then e-mail your answer to MarkJr@CreativeCarpetInc.com. Or call Mark Jr. at (708) 479-8600. Remember, your chances of winning are better than you think!

**Answer to last months quiz: Poppin' Fresh  
Congratulations to last month's winner:**

**Bill and Kathy Clausing**

## Welcome back to our returning clients...

JESSICA ALTERSON  
AMY ANDRICOPULOS  
LEE BUCKLEY  
JERRY AND STEPHANIE DAUPARAS  
GEORGE ERICKSON  
MICHAEL ERNEST  
MARTY HAND  
LUANN HUMBERT  
DONNA KENNADY  
LEON AND EVELYN KETZEBACK  
JIM AND DENISE KOZMA  
PETE MACLEAN  
LAURA NOONE  
JOE AND ANGIE POMILIA  
HOWIE AND MICHELLE RYNBERK  
JOAN SARATORE  
TIM VEERINK  
KRISTIN & DAN WALLACE  
BARBARA YOUNGLOVE

## Thanks to those who referred us this month

JOE KOWALSKI  
KAREN REZAK  
KATE DALY  
KEN MULHERAN  
PETE MARK  
STEVE VINKE  
TOM VOSS

## New Friends And Clients! Meet our new clients...

TOMMY AND CHERYL GELDMYER  
KEVIN AND JO ANN COUGHLIN  
MARY AND MIKE SMITH  
JANET BOKUNIEWICZ  
BOB GULLETT  
KELLY KORDAS  
DARREN LODA  
RAY LOFFREDI  
KIM OMALLEY  
KEN AND LISA PARCHEM  
MATT AND DONNA MAJOR  
BARB AUGUSTINE  
TAMMY DEACON  
GRAINNE MCCRICARD  
BOB AND JERRI KUCHARSKI  
TERRY SUNKE  
BILL RUANNE

So you buy one really good pair of leather shoes for what three or four lower-grade pumps would cost you. Which ones will be in your closet five years from now? Disposable goods seem like a bargain when you buy them, but which purchase looks cheaper in the end?

Purchasing one quality product instead of several of its less well-made cousins will save you time and money in the long run. This seems to be a lesson we're re-learning. Maybe we should have listened to Grandma in the first place!



## Meet Hercules - the World's Biggest Cat!

Hercules is a liger, a rare crossbreed, who lives at Jungle Island in Florida. His father Arthur is a lion, his mum Ayla a tigress. And no, this is not an urban legend, it's entirely the truth! Hercules has made many appearances on network television, including Today, ABC Nightline and 360 with Anderson Cooper.

He has a page all his own in The Guinness Book of World Records and it's well deserved. Hercules weighs over 1200 pounds and stands a storey tall on his back legs. He eats 25 pounds of meat a day and drinks gallons of water. He's very friendly, and loves to swim.

There are other ligers; in fact their existence has been recorded since the 1800's. There are even tigons – tiger father and lion mother – they are much smaller than ligers, with tiger markings. These sorts of pairings don't often occur in the wild, they're usually the result of deliberate crossbreeding. But Hercules is a different story altogether!

His parents lived at The Institute of Greatly Endangered and Rare Species (TIGERS) in Miami. The owner, Dr. Bhagavan Antle, tells the story like this:

"Ligers are not something we planned on having. We have lions and tigers living together in large enclosures and at first we had no idea how well one of the lion boys was getting along with a tiger girl, then lo and behold we had a liger."

## Einsteins Secret to Amazing Problem Solving

### And Ten Specific Ways You Can Use It

Einstein is quoted as having said that if he had one hour to save the world he would spend *fifty-five minutes defining the problem and only five minutes finding the solution.*

This quote does illustrate an important point: before jumping right into solving a problem, we should step back and invest time and effort to improve our understanding of it. Here is one of 10 strategies you can use to see problems from many different perspectives and master what is the most important step in problem solving: **clearly defining the problem in the first place!** Check upcoming newsletters for more . . .

## The Problem Is To Know What the Problem Is

The definition of the problem will be the focal point of all your problem-solving efforts. As such, it makes sense to devote as much attention and dedication to problem definition as possible. What usually happens is that as soon as we have a problem to work on we're so eager to get to solutions that we neglect spending any time refining it.

What most of us don't realize — and what supposedly Einstein might have been alluding to — is that **the quality of the solutions we come up with will be in direct proportion to the quality of the description of the problem we're trying to solve.** Not only will your solutions be more abundant and of higher quality, but they'll be achieved much, much more easily. Most importantly, you'll have the confidence to be tackling a worthwhile problem.

## Problem Definition Tools and Strategies

The good news is that getting different perspectives and angles in order to clearly define a problem is a **skill that can be learned and developed.** As such, there are many strategies you can use to perfect it. Here are the 10 most effective ones I know.

### 1. Rephrase the Problem

When a Toyota executive asked employees to brainstorm "ways to increase their productivity", all he got back were blank stares. When he rephrased his request as "ways to make their jobs easier", he could barely keep up with the amount of suggestions.

Words carry strong implicit meaning and, as such, play a major role in how we perceive a problem. In the example above, 'be productive' might seem like a sacrifice you're doing for the company, while 'make your job easier' may be more like something you're doing for your own benefit, but from which the company also benefits. In the end, the problem is still the same, but the feelings — and the points of view — associated with each of them are vastly different.

Play freely with the problem statement, rewording it several times. For a methodic approach, take single words and substitute variations. 'Increase sales'? Try replacing 'increase' with 'attract', 'develop', 'extend', 'repeat' and see how your perception of the problem changes. A rich vocabulary plays an important role here, so you may want to use a thesaurus or [develop your vocabulary](#).

---

**WARNING!**

**Don't visit any flooring dealer until you call us for a FREE Consumer Awareness Guide!**

**You will learn...**

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

**Call Today – (708) 479-8600**

## New Friends And Clients! (con't) Meet our new clients...

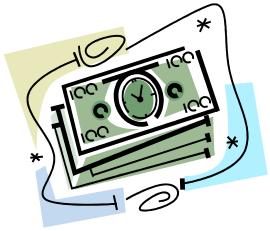
WILLIAM AND MARCELLA  
MARK  
BUD AND PHYLLIS WOLFF  
TIM VEERINK  
KATIE HARABURDA  
JASON ERICK  
MARTIN CROFTON  
KIM DEGRADO  
NICOLE DUDAK  
SUSAN GLOW WEYHE  
RONALD GREENSPAN  
MIKE KOWALCZYK  
LIZ ODEEN  
JOHN AND LYNN THOMAS  
LARRY AND PAMELA VAIL  
LEE WALLACE  
TOM WIESE

### Get A Night Out At The Movies For 2 With My Referral Rewards Program

As you probably know, advertising is very expensive. Instead of paying the newspaper or other place to advertise, I'd rather reward you. So I've assembled my **Referral Rewards Program**. Every time you refer someone who becomes a client, I will send you a gift certificate for two passes to the Marcus Theater. And Hey! What's a movie without popcorn? The gift certificate will also cover a big box of hot, buttered popcorn and sodas!

**Creative Carpet, Inc.**  
19420 S. LaGrange Road  
Mokena, IL 60448  
Phone: (708) 479-8600  
[www.CreativeCarpetInc.com](http://www.CreativeCarpetInc.com)

HOURS:  
Mon Tue Wed 10:00 – 6:00  
Tue Thur 10:00 – 8:00  
Sat 10:00 – 4:00  
Sun Closed



# CASH FOR TRASH



Most of you have heard of the “Cash for Clunkers” program. Well . . . . . here is Creative Carpet’s version. During the month of June, you do your own take-up and disposal of your old carpet and **WE WILL PAY YOU!** Our regular charge for taking up your old carpet is \$1.50 per yard. Multiply that by however many yards you purchase and VOILA – you get *instant extra CA\$H.*

**JUST THINK OF ALL THE THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH THE *EXTRA CA\$H.***

- Ⓢ New Window Treatments
- Ⓢ New Decorations
- Ⓢ New Clothes
- Ⓢ A Trip to the Amusement Park with the Kids
- Ⓢ Concert Tickets
- Ⓢ A Day at the Spa
- Ⓢ Date Night with your Wonderfully Awesome Spouse

**In addition to all of that, if you buy a Shaw product made with ANSO yarn, there is yet *another bonus.***

Buy 50 yards or more, and get your choice of a \$50 gift card to Marcus Theater, TGI Fridays, Olive Garden, Chili’s or Texas Roadhouse – OR – buy 100 yards or more, and get \$100 in any combination of the above named gift cards.



How cool is that? You get paid to do something that had to be done anyway. And don’t forget, if you make your purchase of 50 yards or more of a Shaw product before June 7<sup>th</sup>, there is still the \$200 Coupon.