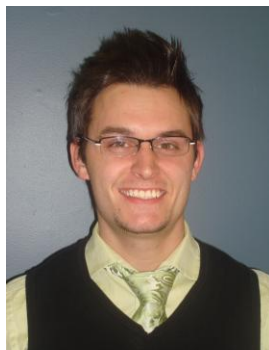


Mark Bouquet



Mark Bouquet Jr.

**"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?
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- Welcome to our new and returning clients!
- Trivia Contest

Attention *Louetta Voss!*

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 Dec 31st, 2010

CREATIVE CARPET, INC.

Home Advisor



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

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Can you believe it? The holidays are upon us. It seems that the older I get, the faster the years go by. I know it has been a difficult year for a lot of people. For me, the holidays have a way of bringing me back to what is important. I personally enjoy this time of year.

At Creative Carpet, not being your typical retailer, we get some much needed "downtime", and the difficulties we face are put on the "back burner". We get together with friends and family and re-charge ourselves, so we can give you the service you've come to expect and deserve.

On a side note, I want to thank everyone who has called, sent cards, and even stopped by to check on my progress following my double-fusion neck surgery this October.

It was wonderful to see that people do still care and that our "customers" are really our friends.

With that being said, I want to thank you for another great year that we at Creative Carpet owe to you! You truly are wonderful people, and we are proud to have been given the opportunity to be the company to serve you. With so many options out there, we are humbled that you chose us.

You truly are a blessing! God bless you all and Merry Christmas!

Mark Bouquet, Sr.

Q & A on the Shortest Day

Q. Why do the days get shorter in winter?

A. If you live in the Northern hemisphere, as most of us do on this planet, the days get longer in the summer and shorter in the winter. This is because the Earth tilts back and forth in its orbit as it orbits around the Sun.

Q. Why is it summer in Australia when it's winter here?

A. In our winter, the bottom half of the planet points toward the Sun, so it's summer in Australia. On our shortest day, which is December 22nd this year if you live in the USA, it's the longest day Down Under.

Q. How short do the days really get on the shortest day?

A. That depends on where you are on the globe. The further north you go, the shorter the days get, and at midwinter up in the polar regions, the Sun doesn't rise for weeks!

Did You Know...



We are now on Facebook!

The first 20 people to write a review on our Facebook page will go into a drawing for a \$10 Starbucks Gift Card.

Help us reach 1000 "likes" & you'll be entered into a drawing for a \$100 KOHL'S Gift Card!

www.Facebook.com/CreativeCarpetInc

HOLIDAY HOURS

Closed

Dec 24th, 25th & 26th

Dec 31st, Jan 1st & 2nd

Mega Trivia Contest!

Who Else Wants to Win a \$50 gift card towards dinner for two at TGI Fridays or Olive Garden? **Take our Trivia Challenge and you could win too!**

This month's Mega Trivia question....

Which bird was domesticated by humans first?

A) Chicken B) Duck C) Pigeon or D) Goose.

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

Answer to last months quiz: Bat

**Congratulations to last month's winner:
Linda Hnatusko**

About Staying Well: Nutrients

Our bodies run on the energy produced from nutrients. Latest research shows that although vitamins and supplements have their place, the very best kinds of nutrients come from real food... who knew?

Of course, getting these nutrients from good food can be a challenge. That's why you'll find some excellent advice - how to eat well on a small budget - on the next page.

For me, \$20 a week might be a hardship; doing without coffee would be a major drawback. Maybe \$30 a week and we'll throw in some food for the furry roommates.



Moneywise: Is this the End for the Check?

They've been used as a method of authorizing payments for over 300 years, but with the rise of the Internet, we may be seeing the fall of the check.

Direct deposits and pre-authorized payments have been around for ages. So your paycheck goes in and your auto insurance goes out, but no checks change hands.

There was a time when checks were commonly used for paying grocery bills, but most stores won't even accept them anymore.

It has taken a few years to catch on, but online bill payments have made mailing checks less popular. As people become more comfortable with doing their banking over the internet, they set up bill payment accounts.

Email transfers have even begun to replace the traditional gift-check in a wedding envelope, at least among the younger generations. If you have someone's email address, and they also bank online, you can send them money for a small fee, it's out of your account right away, and you get a confirmation email from your bank when they accept the money. England has set a target date of 2018 for the death of the check; will we be far behind?

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!

NEW FRIENDS & CLIENTS

Tracy Brown
Kirt & Devra Jenssen
James & Lauri Ryan
Kevin Greenhill
Darell Kramer
Mary Palmisano
John & Irene Schranz
Sharon Arrigoni
Nick Pagoria
Kyle Binette
Christine Taylor
Larry Gill
Gene & Annette Mikrut
Tom & Mary Jo Kuehl
Don & Marietta O'Heir
John & Harriet Scanlan
Maria Schisel
Robert Bellaci
Bob Clausing
Katherine Green
Mike & Jennifer Hudek
Mike Kelly
Sam & Becky Kooistra
Craig McNulty
Laurence & Julie Mirabella
Steve Sulikowski

Welcome back to our returning clients...

KRISTY BEECHY
BOB & KRIS CARIDI
LORI DALY
JEAN HOBBS
KAREN JOHNSON
DOREEN KIEFFER
STANLEY & DIANE KOZACEK
HEATHER LAMONTO
TONY & WENDY LIBERATORE
MARK & KIM OPALACZ
CRAIG VINKE
JIM & CAROL STREIT
BILL & KATHLEEN GALLEGOS

A gigantic THANK YOU to all who referred us last month...

DOLORES HAMMERMEISTER
DON GREENHILL
EILLEN PALISARD BRANAN
JANET BENSON
LEE FULLER
PATTI VANDENBERG
PAUL PETERSON
RAY TAMAYO
RICK MIKRUT

Enjoy your \$25 gift card to Marcus Theater for the referral!



What do Submarines, Bowling Balls and Computers have in Common?

No, this isn't the Home Advisor Trivia Question, that's in the other column! But this weird-looking device is an ancestor of your computer mouse, and it was invented to chase submarines.

Back in 1952, a secret military project was conducted on the Great Lakes, as Cold War concerns spurred research into submarine detection. The aim was to track and combine radar and sonar data between ships.

This first model of the "trackball", which predates the first mouse by eleven years, incorporates a bowling ball. If it looks weird, it's from 5-pin bowling.

Budget Meal Plan: How to eat well on \$20 a week by Doug X Smith

When people ask me how I save so much money, they never believe how simple the answer is. Simply cooking your meals at home has such a profound impact on your budget; it has got to be the number one way to cut costs without sacrificing anything. By simply cooking more meals you will absolutely save hundreds of dollars per month. Depending on your habit, you may even save more than hundreds of dollars per week. You don't even realize that on an average day, where all you get is a fast food meal and Starbucks in the morning, you've already dropped 10 dollars on horrible food. That's already 300 dollars per month - Do you get where I'm going with this?

Here are some things you NEED to pick up and start working with in your kitchen. These are basic staples that can be used to create thousands of different recipe ideas, and help you learn how to be a better cook:

Eggs, bread, oil (sunflower, vegetable), rice, pasta, canned beans, various spices (salt, pepper, a few others), tomato/pasta sauce, meat that's ON SALE, vegetables that are ON SALE.

For breakfast (god forbid you wake up 5-10 minutes earlier) you can make dozens of things with eggs. Over-easies, scrambled eggs, poached eggs, 500 different omelets, on bread, by themselves, etc. For lunch you can make pasta, rice, chicken/turkey sandwiches, anything - And you can bring it with you to work. For dinner, pasta and rice combined with various meats, vegetables, and spices can be combined into thousands of dinner ideas. For specific recipes simply google: "chicken dish", or "cooking with rice". It isn't complicated - there are hundreds of recipes that are nearly impossible to screw up, even for virgin cooks.

Some of these meals will only cost you 50 cents when you look at the ingredients. Rice is dirty cheap and a staple around the world, yet neglected in the west. The possibilities are endless - believe it or not you can eat well for less than 3 dollars per day. If you get a drink from Starbucks in the morning, eat lunch out somewhere, then pick something up for dinner (or make a frozen meal), you're spending close to 15-20 dollars without realizing it. That's 600 dollars a month. How much can you save? You do the math. I just recently got a good friend and my sister on this plan, and they're paying their rent with the difference.

Gift Ideas Under \$5

Magnets
Box of Tea with Mug
Chocolate
Bath Salts
Pen and Magnetic Note Pad
Sample Size Bags of Coffee
Candle
Nail Polish & Emery Board
Hot Chocolate Mix & mug
Gift card to Dunkin or Starbucks
*Banana Bread in a Jar

Remember, it's the small details such as packaging and a little note that will make your inexpensive gift shine.



Thanks for the kind words!

I loved that when I walked in the door to Creative Carpet he (the salesman) knew exactly what I was looking for.

I have three small kids and a dog...and I needed a carpet that would stand up with all of that.

I also had to bring two kids in the showroom so he also knew he needed to be quick! He met all my expectations!

*Thank you!
Sam Bettenhausen Family*

Recipe Corner

Banana Bread in a Jar

By: Linda Jean

"This makes a great gift for friends and neighbors. Decorate with pretty label and a circle of Christmas fabric under the jar ring. Using the same basic recipe you can substitute different fruits and vegetables to make other varieties."

Prep Time:10 Min **Cook Time:**45 Min **Ready In:** 1 Hr 5 Min

Ingredients

- 2/3 cup shortening
- 2 2/3 cups white sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups mashed bananas
- 2/3 cup water
- 3 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2/3 cup chopped pecans



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Grease insides of 8 (1 pint) straight sided, wide mouth canning jars.
2. In a large bowl, cream shortening and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, bananas, and water. Sift together flour, baking powder, soda, salt, cinnamon, and cloves. Add to banana mixture. Stir in nuts.
3. Pour mixture into greased WIDE MOUTH pint jars, filling 1/2 full of batter. Do NOT put lids on jars for baking. Be careful to keep the rims clean, wiping off any batter that gets on the rims.
4. Bake at 325 degrees F (165 degrees C) for 45 minutes. Meanwhile, sterilize the lids and rings in boiling water.
5. As soon as cake is done, remove from oven one at a time, wipe rims of jars and put on lid and ring. Jars will seal as cakes cool. Place the jars on the counter and listen for them to "ping" as they seal. If you miss the "ping", wait until they are completely cool and press on the top of the lid. If it doesn't move at all, it's sealed.
6. Jars should be eaten immediately or kept sealed in refrigerator for up to a week.

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

Creative Carpet, Inc.

19420 S LaGrange Rd

Mokena, IL 60448

708-479-8600

www.creativecarpetinc.com

Hours: M-W-F 10a – 6p

Tue & Thurs 10a – 8p

Sat 10a – 4p

www.facebook.com/creativecarpetinc

Take a peek at these great deals!



Wrapping up the year with...
“4 Great Reasons to Sprint to Creative Carpet and Book your Floor Covering Right Now!”

#1 **WARNING!**
December is booking up fast!!

Dear Friend & Client,

We want to make sure that you and all the rest of my previous clients have the chance to get the **few remaining openings** I have in my schedule before Christmas. As I write this letter, *my December schedule is over half full* and filling up quickly!! So if you absolutely have to get new flooring before Christmas, call or visit my store **RIGHT NOW!**

#2

Take 25% off select Carpets or **50% off** Installation and Upgraded Pad... (see reverse side for details)

#3

Gift Card to Marcus Theater (**\$25 value**) for every person you *refer* who purchases flooring from Creative Carpet.



#4

Previous client special...Save ADDITIONAL \$100!
Just bring this letter with you when you visit Creative Carpet!
This offer is good for any purchase over \$2,500.

You don't have to have the flooring installed before Christmas to save **\$100**. (Frankly, we're in such high demand that by the time you get this letter it might not be possible.) Just purchase your flooring in December, and, even if I can't install it until January, I'll still honor this special offer. **I'm NOT making this offer available to the general public. It's for previous clients of Creative Carpet only (or for someone you refer—just give them this letter.)**

Bring them in and receive your \$25 gift card while they take advantage of the **\$100 savings!!**



***SHAW Anso Nylon
Colorwall
And
*MOHAWK
Smart Strand Smart
Living Wall
All Styles All Colors**



Take 25% off *Select Carpets

OR

**Purchase any other Carpet
take 50% off Upgraded Pad & Installation**

May not be combined with any other offer

REAL CLIENTS!

"When we first went to Creative Carpet we told Mark to treat us like we knew nothing about carpet. When Mark finished we felt we could sell carpet. He explained everything from the material cost, to the installation, and how to keep the carpet looking new by setting a maintenance schedule. The day of installation went smoothly. Three great guys started at 10am and never stopped until 5 pm. We are very happy." Don & Marietta O'Heir - November 2010

"Again, splendid work and very courteous people. Very helpful staff and prompt service and efficiency. I thank my friends for the referral to you! Keep up the great work."
Pam McGregor
October 2010

*"When we came into the store we felt quite welcome. They explained things to us and gave suggestions, but let us shop. Also, if we wanted samples, it was no problem and they came directly to our home large enough to get a great idea on how it would look. The installers were very neat and always had shoe covers on when walking on our new carpet. We had done a sun-room so they went the long way around outside so as not to come through the house. Very Courteous!! Thanks again for another job well done."
Brenda Verzak - September 2010*

"The new flooring in our home makes everything bigger and more beautiful. Everyone who has seen it for the first time remarks on how beautiful it is. Your workers were above and beyond with being courteous and in cleaning up after themselves. We would recommend your store to our friends and relatives."
John & Harriet Scanlan-
October 2010

Limited
Time Offer



Ooops! It looks like Santa overstocked *Toylets* this year!

Yep, Santa stocked too many toilets this year and we have negotiated an incredible deal for you on American Standard *Champion 4* toilets! The *Champion 4* flushing system is virtually clog-free. No other manufacturer's flushing system can match the capabilities of this one. With the industry's largest 4" Accelerator flush valve and 2-3/8" trapway, you will never have to use the plunger again! A clean, reliable flush every time!

\$58.00 to \$150.00 off while supplies last!

Many styles and colors to choose from.

Backed by a 10-year Worry-Free Warranty



Call by Jan. 15th and receive a **FREE** American Standard slow close toilet seat with tool-less lift off design for easy cleaning. A \$39.00 value **FREE!**



American Standard Champion 4 The industry's best flushing system

Call: (815) 722-3663



ADVANCED PLUMBING AND SEWER, INC.

**\$35.00 Off any
Plumbing Service**

ADVANCED PLUMBING & SEWER, INC.

Phone: (815) 722-3663

One coupon per service call. Not valid with any other coupon or offer. Expires 6/1/2010

American Standard Champion 4 Toilet

\$58.00 off installation of one toilet
or

\$150.00 off installation of two toilets

ADVANCED PLUMBING & SEWER, INC.

Offer valid while supplies last.

Phone: (815) 722-3663

**Don't delay,
an offer this
good won't
last long!**