

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

Dear Creative Carpet & Flooring Friends and Family,

Last month's Pay It Forward response has been something special. We've received two \$50 Home Depot gift cards, a \$50 Lowe's card, a \$200 Target card, and three more \$50 Target cards. Shine.FM has been incredible about making sure every single one reaches someone who truly needs it. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Moments like this are a powerful reminder that we are not meant to go through life alone. When people step in for each other, when they give without expecting anything in return, it matters more than we probably realize. And that is worth pausing on for a minute.

We all hit a wall sometimes. A moment when the strength just isn't there, the clarity feels thin, and pushing forward seems harder than it should. It happens to everyone, no matter how capable or put together they appear on the outside. Life has a way of humbling us. One season, everything feels manageable, and the next, you are carrying more than you ever expected and wondering how you got there.

But maybe those moments are not just about struggle. Maybe they are reminders. Reminders that we were never meant to carry everything on our own.

We live in a world that celebrates independence and constant motion, where asking for help can feel like falling short. But in reality, the willingness to say "I cannot do this alone" is often where something meaningful begins. It opens the door for connection, for support, and for others to step in when it matters most.

That is exactly what we are seeing through this Pay It Forward effort. People choosing to step in. People choosing to help carry the weight for someone else. There is a simple truth that captures this better than anything I could say:

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up." ~Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NKJV)

So instead of pushing harder today, maybe the better move is to pause for a moment. Take a breath. Look around at the people in your corner. Where are you feeling stretched thin right now? And what would it look like to reach out instead of trying to power through on your own?

Sometimes the strongest thing we can do is let someone walk alongside us. And more often than not, that support is closer than we think.

With love and gratitude,



Dawn Giganti, Marketing & Administration
Creative Carpet & Flooring

Month at a Glance:

4th National Candied Orange Peel Day. - I had NO idea my favorite candy ever has its own day! Chocolate-covered orange peel donations will be GLADLY accepted at the Mokena showroom. Just ask for Dawn... she will not be mad about it.

10th Mother's Day. - To all the moms who do everything, remember everything, and somehow still keep it all together... we see you, and we love you! Happy Mother's Day from our family to yours!

23rd World Turtle Day. - Celebrated to help raise awareness and protection for turtles and tortoises everywhere! My oldest son, Josh, has the nickname "Turtle" thanks to his Grandpa Skip, so I may be a little biased about this one.

23rd thru 25th Memorial Weekend - Our showrooms will be closed in honor of Memorial Day weekend. We'll be back and ready to roll on Tuesday, May 26th. Wishing everyone a safe and fun holiday weekend!

Employee birthdays this month:

Shout out to our amazing birthday crew this month! We're celebrating Brad Pertchi (3rd), Gary Onate (17th), Dana Krizmanic (19th), Clinton Hubbs (23rd), Colleen Patrick-Lenart, and Glenn Kraemer, who share the 29th (how cool is that!), and Fernando Reyes on the 30th! May is clearly the best month to be born if you work at Creative Carpet and Flooring. Hope everyone has an awesome birthday this month!



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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May 2026

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23 CLOSED
24	25 CLOSED	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Modern Words With Seriously Old Roots

Think words like 'virus,' 'swipe,' and 'gamer' are brand-new? Not even close. A lot of them have been around way longer than you'd expect. When you see dates like the 1200s or 1300s, that's just the first time those words showed up in writing. People were probably saying them even earlier; we just don't have proof of it.



- Take **virus**. Today it's all about computers and getting sick, but it started in ancient Latin, meaning poison or slime. So yeah, it's always been a little sketchy.
- **Twitter** might feel like a tech word, but back in the 1300s, it was just about birds chirping. Same sound, way less drama.
- **Crash** has been making noise since the 1300s, too. It originally meant a loud smash, and honestly, that definition still holds up.
- **Swipe** didn't start with dating apps. In the 1800s, it meant swinging your arm or taking a hit. Now it's just a lot less aggressive.
- **Gamer** used to mean someone who gambled, not someone grinding through levels late at night.
- **Browse** originally described animals eating leaves. Now it's you opening a bunch of tabs and forgetting why you did.
- **Sick** meant being ill for centuries, until the 1980s flipped it into something awesome.
- And **unfriend**? That one goes back to the 1200s. Turns out people have been cutting each other off for a very long time.

So while these words feel modern, they've actually been around for ages. They just picked up new meanings along the way.

Why Can't We Naturally Have Blue Hair?



Ever wonder why peacocks get to strut around in iridescent glory while humans are stuck choosing between brunette, blonde, red, or "distinguished silver"? Turns out, our hair color is basically held hostage by a pigment called melanin. Melanin is produced by cells called melanocytes, and it comes in two flavors: eumelanin (the dark one, responsible for brown and black hair) and pheomelanin (the lighter one, responsible for red and yellow tones). Your personal hair color is just whatever ratio your body decided to cook up. Low on both? Congratulations, you're blonde. Heavy on the dark stuff? Hello, brunette. And as we get older, those melanocytes slowly quit their jobs, which is why gray hair eventually shows up uninvited. The whole operation is controlled by your genes, including something called the MC1R gene. When it's active, you get darker hair. When it's not, red tones take over. It's less of a simple switch and more of a complicated family recipe passed down from your parents and grandparents. So why no naturally blue or green hair? Melanin absorbs most wavelengths of light except the ones we actually see in hair. Changing that would require a complete molecular overhaul of melanin itself, plus mutations in at least 11 genes simultaneously. Not exactly something evolution is rushing to pull off. Could it ever happen? Technically, if wild hair colors gave humans some serious survival advantage, nature might eventually oblige. But for now, melanin's main job is to protect against the sun. Darker hair, skin, and eyes absorb UV rays better, which is why fair-haired folks tend to feel the sun's wrath a little more. So for blue hair, we'll just have to keep visiting the salon.

Fizz, Facts, and a Few Surprises

Joseph Priestley carbonated water in the 1700s, and the world never looked back. Here's the weird history hiding in your favorite fizzy drink.

- **Dr Pepper Had a Hot Era** - In 1958, a company president got snowed in and had an idea: heat Dr Pepper to 180 degrees, add a lemon slice, call it a winter drink. Ads followed, a rum version developed a cult following, and the trend lasted into the '70s. Devoted fans still make it today.
- **Pepsi Invented the 2-Liter Bottle** - Marketing exec John Sculley (yes, the future Apple CEO) figured the easiest way to outsell Coke in 1970 was to offer more soda at once. He even landed a Walmart deal by casually dropping the bottle in front of Sam Walton to prove it wouldn't shatter.
- **7Up Was Basically Medication** - At launch in 1929, 7Up contained lithium citrate, the same compound used today to treat bipolar disorder. The FDA banned it from drinks in 1948, and the recipe was quietly revised.
- **Your Hometown Betrays You** - Coasts say "soda." The Midwest says "pop." The South calls everything "Coke" regardless of brand. Louisianans and Carolinians say "soft drink." Older Bostonians ask for a "tonic."
- **The Yellow Coke Cap Is a Signal** - Those yellow-capped Coke bottles that appear every spring? They contain cane sugar instead of high-fructose corn syrup, making them kosher for Passover. Coke has quietly produced them every year since switching sweeteners in 1980.
- **Coca-Cola Gave Us the Santa We Know** - Before 1931, Santa looked different depending on who was drawing him. That year, Coke hired illustrator Haddon Sundblom, and the warm, rosy-cheeked, larger-than-life version he created became the one everybody pictures today.



Roll Out the Welcome Mat for Our Newest Friends!

Allison Brett	Don Walden	Jeanne Dohm	Marilyn Turner	Robert & Jennifer Dryja	Tony & Mary Garcia
Andrea Bippus	Doreen Peterson	Jennifer Kapteyn	Marissa Khoury	Robin Dreyfuss	Zac & Ellie Bianucci
Bonnie & Deeks Carroll	Ed Stanuch	John & Donna Darcy	Mary Joyce	Ron Angone	
Carol Long	Grethel VanDeursen	Joyce Borhauer	Nick & Diane Stepnoski	Scott Mitchell	
Debbie Colella	Harold workman	Laura Tomei	Paula Jacobson	Skip & Ann Pastore	



Creative Carpet & Flooring Offers Every Day Military Savings

To all of our military members, active duty, veterans, and spouses, we want you to know how much we appreciate your service and sacrifice. That's why we offer an everyday discount of \$1.00 per yard, no special promotions needed, no expiration date. Just our small way of saying thank you for everything you do for our country. Come see us and let us take care of you.

MEET OUR CARPET CLEANING CIRCLE...

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Chandra Ware
John Bodoki
Jonnelle Sweetner
Laramie LLC
Linda Chenore
Patrick & Sally Hennessey
Peggy Kiernan
Ruth Sinks



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& Shaw Floors products plus
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Mirage Hardwood
flooring

April 17 - June 1, 2026
up to \$1,000 rebate on
select Karastan styles

Karastan®



* See flooring consultant for details. Note sale dates. Applicable to qualifying styles. Not to be combined with each other or with any other offer or discount.

⁺ Subject to credit approval. Ask Flooring Consultant for complete rebate and financing details.

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SAVE up to \$500

On select Anderson Tuftex®, COREtec® & Shaw Floors® products.

PLUS **SPECIAL FINANCING** AVAILABLE*

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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:

How many covered bridges are in Parke County, Indiana, the Covered Bridge Capital of the World?

- (A) 36
- (B) 28
- (C) 31
- (D) 29

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:

What nickname did Joliet earn, known as "The City of _____," due to a natural resource that was heavily quarried there in the 1800s?

- (B) Stone

Joliet, Illinois earned the nickname "The City of Stone" thanks to the vast deposits of dolomite limestone found beneath the city. In the 1800s, quarrying became one of Joliet's biggest industries, and the distinctive blue-gray Joliet limestone was shipped across the region. It was used to construct buildings, sidewalks, and infrastructure throughout northern Illinois, including many structures in early Chicago. The stone was so prized that it became a defining part of Joliet's identity and history.

Congratulations to last month's winner:

LINDA DRYFHOUT
OF MOKENA, IL

Claim your prize by visiting your nearest Creative Carpet & Flooring showroom from May 1 - 30, 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

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Creative Carpet & Flooring

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

Welcome Back Valued Friends!

Amy Kiernan
Andrea Guidry-Chester
Andrew Kovarik & Lauren Rigg
Ben & Brittany VanderVeer
Betty Cunningham
Brian Jordan
Chandra Ware
Christina Battain
Cody Karanowsky
Colleen & Mike Cieslak
Danielle Zsuppon
Deanne & Richard Pearce
Debbie McClellan
Denise Maravilla

Draper Fair
Jan Moeller
Jay Garrett
Jennifer & Greg Keating
Jeremy Richardson
Jim & Barb LaBanco
Joan Whitmore
Joe & Nancy Biggio
Joe Prieboy
John & Chris McEvoy
Kathryn Ferrell
Louise Riley
MaryAnn Shacklett

Michael & Diane Lavery
Mike & Dawn Cizmar
Palmer & Barbara Radbel-Myers
Philip & Dana Krizmanic
Ray & Venita Williams-Westbrook
Reggie & Amy Treadwell
Sharla Slings
Stephanie Ramirez
Tammy Lord
Terry Obele
Thomas & Jan Danca
Valery Ridgway



WELCOME BACK!

Two Hidden Architectural Gems Worth the Trip

Pullman Historic District, Chicago, Illinois



George Pullman had a bold idea in the 1880s. The industrialist decided to build an entire neighborhood from scratch on Chicago's South Side for workers at his Pullman Palace Car Company. The result was block after block of Queen Anne and Victorian row houses that were practically luxurious by the era's standards, complete with indoor plumbing at a time when that was genuinely impressive. The experiment didn't exactly go as planned though.

Greyhound Bus Terminal, Evansville, Indiana



[<https://historicevansville.com/>]

When Pullman decided to cut wages while keeping rents high, his workforce had some thoughts about that, and a historic strike followed. The company town era ended, the neighborhood carried on, and today the whole fascinating story lives on at Pullman National Historical Park, where you can walk the same streets those workers once called home.

Art deco's cooler younger sibling, streamline moderne, had a serious moment in the 1930s, and Evansville's old Greyhound depot is one of its finest survivors. The style was all about making buildings feel like they were already moving, borrowing the swooping curves and bold horizontal lines of ocean liners and aircraft. It gave even a bus station a sense of glamour. This one got a spectacular second life thanks to Indiana Landmarks and a \$2.3 million restoration effort, where craftspeople carefully brought the metal exterior back to life and recreated the original stained glass window complete with the greyhound silhouette. Workers also uncovered some wonderful time capsule finds during the project, including ledger books from the early 1940s and a traveler's sketchbook. Today it serves as home to local burger spot BRU Burger Bar, meaning you can grab a great meal inside a genuine piece of American architectural history.

Your Own Species Is Out to Get You

Turns out the human mouth is one of the dirtiest places on earth, packing around 700 types of bacteria and fungi, which is exactly why a bite from another person is actually more likely to get infected than a bite from most animals. Doctors treat roughly 250,000 human bites every year, mostly involving kids who apparently settle arguments differently than adults. Dogs still dominate

the emergency room bite stats at a wide margin, but the rule is simple: teeth broke skin, go see a doctor.

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&
Jan Butler

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



CreativeCarpetInc.com/share-your-review

Love the floor. Exactly what I wanted! Dana was excellent - would recommend! Installers were quick and easy to work with!

Diane Lavery of Dyer, IN
This month's \$25 Target gift card winner!



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



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