SEPTEMBER 2025

CREATIVE CARPET & FLOORING'S CREATIVE THINKING

EDITION #199

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

Dear Creative Carpet & Flooring Friends and Family,

Can you believe it's September already? Back-to-school season is here, with homework battles at the kitchen table, after-school activities, and the usual scramble to get everyone back on track. It's tiring, but it's the best kind of tired there is.

As I watch families rushing around, I can't help but get nostalgic. My oldest turns 35 this month, and I also have a 30-year-old, a 29-year-old, and my youngest turns 28 in December. Where did all those years go? It honestly feels like yesterday that I was packing their lunch boxes and worrying about whether they had turned in their homework or were going to pass their spelling test.

Here's what I wish I could tell every parent in the thick of it: SHOW UP. Work is important, don't get me wrong, but do whatever you can to always be there. Go to the plays, even if your little actor only has two lines. Attend those band concerts where half the instruments sound questionable at best. Cheer at the games, science fairs, and dance recitals. Yes, you'll be running around like a chicken with your head cut off, but those memories are worth every single frantic moment.

I miss every second of it all. The sticky hugs after school, the homework struggles that somehow turned into bonding moments, the endless "guess what happened today" stories that went on forever, even the chaos of eating dinner in the car between activities. Looking back now, I wouldn't trade a single moment... not even the times we were late to everything and I showed up looking like I'd been through a tornado.

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward." ~ 1 Psalm 127:3 (NKJV)

Time has this sneaky way of slipping through our fingers when we're not paying attention. One day, you're teaching them to tie their shoes and helping with spelling words, and the next, they're teaching their own children those same lessons. The laundry will always be there waiting for you. The emails can sit in your inbox. But that moment when your child spots you in the audience and their whole face lights up with pure joy? That's irreplaceable magic you'll never get back.

So embrace this beautiful chaos with open arms. Take pictures of everything, even the disasters. Soak up those bedtime stories and car ride conversations. Remember... you're not just keeping busy, you're building the foundation of memories they'll carry forever and pass down to their own children someday.

Here's to making memories that matter!

With love & gratitude,

Dawn Y Diganti

Dawn Giganti, Marketing & Administration Creative Carpet & Flooring

Month at a Glance:

1st <u>Labor Day</u> - We will be closed on Labor Day to allow our team to enjoy the holiday with their families and friends. We'll be back Tuesday, September 2nd, ready to help with all your flooring needs!

7th <u>Grandparents' Day</u> - Happy Grandparents' Day to all the cookie-baking, story-telling, rule-bending superheroes we're lucky enough to call Grandma and Grandpa!

11th 911 Remembrance - We pause today to remember and honor the lives lost on September 11th, and to pay tribute to the heroes who responded with courage and compassion in our nation's darkest hour.

22nd 1st Day of Fall - Fall has officially arrived... time to swap flip-flops for boots, start hoarding cozy sweaters like a squirrel with acorns, and officially declare that everything must now be pumpkin spice flavored!

Employee birthdays this month:

Happy birthday to General Manager Mark Bouquet, Jr. (9/15) and Flooring Consultant Brittany Jonaitis (9/18) - and a special shout-out to her son, Crew, who made sure his mom finally gets her newsletter mention this month! (He threatened to change all our WiFi passwords to 'MomDeservesBetter123'.)



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

*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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September 2025

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Antonia & Nikolaos **Pappas** Barbara Berzinis Barbara LeVin Barbara Weber Beth Witek Butch & Karen Diewald Chelsie Moe Christy Yates Chuck & Kathy Thomas Dan Gregory Debrah & Dan Hawtree Ed & Sue Punjak Fileen Mattson Eileen Meingasner

George & Sue Oostman

Welcome Back Valued Friends!

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Keith Mahlfeldt

Kim Rogers

Kim & Scott Ziarko

Kristine Campbell

Latoya & Kameron Jackson Laura Chatzivasiliadis Linda & Bob Copp Linda Vanprooyen Lisa Sweeney Loretta & Wayne Kwiatkowski Mark & Dawn Malley Mark & Tina Hines Matt & Alina Cervak Mike Madura

Pete & Meghan Williams

Ray & Jill Piccione

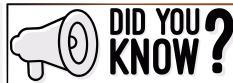
Robert & Jan Blair

Robert Klinger Ron & Paula Paymaster Rose Lucas Star Ontiveros Stephanie Ramirez Steve & Doreen Lisewski Steve Smith Tim Laheu Tina Flynn Tony Ruggiero Valerie Costa Vlad & Antoniana

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Kabanov

William Franko



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▲ 4 predatory sales tactics

▲ 7 costly misconceptions about flooring

▲ 5 quesitons to ask a dealer before buying

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The tiny word "a" might seem harmless enough, but it's at the heart of one of the most persistent spelling mistakes in English. You've probably seen it countless times: people writing "alot" when they mean "a lot." It's such a common error that you might wonder if there's some logic behind it.

The confusion likely stems from how we naturally group certain words together in our minds. We're used to seeing words like "apart" and "awhile" written as single units, so it feels natural to do the same with "a lot." But here's the thing... "alot" simply isn't a word in English. When you want to say there's a large quantity of something, you need those two separate words working together.

What makes this even trickier is that there actually is a real word that sounds similar - "allot." But this verb has nothing to do with quantity. Instead, it means to distribute or assign something, like when a teacher allots time for each student presentation.

"anapple," you shouldn't smush "a lot" together either. When in doubt, you can always substitute "many" or "lots" to see if your sentence still makes sense. Your writing will thank you for keeping these two little words properly spaced apart.

Quirky Laws from the Land of Lincoln and the Hoosier State

Nancy Smith

Pat LaFond

The Midwest may be known for its practicality, but Illinois and Indiana have some surprisingly eccentric laws on their books that would make even the most creative lawmakers scratch their heads.

In Illinois, pet owners must think twice before sharing their smoking habits: it's illegal to give a lit cigar to dogs or cats. Meanwhile, Chicago opera goers should leave their French poodles at home, as bringing them to performances is prohibited. The Prairie State also takes animal protection seriously with a ban on killing or trapping albino gray squirrels, and some sources even claim there's a prohibition on "fancy bike riding," though the specifics of what constitutes "fancy" remain mysteriously undefined. Perhaps most peculiar is an alleged law requiring women to address unmarried men as "master" rather than "mister," though this statute's authenticity is questionable.

Indiana brings its own brand of legislative oddity to the table. Fishing enthusiasts must use proper equipment because catching fish with their bare hands is strictly forbidden. Liquor store customers might be puzzled to find only warm sodas and water for sale, as these establishments are required by law to keep their nonalcoholic beverages unrefrigerated. The Hoosier State also made mathematical history when its House of Representatives once attempted to legislatively declare the value of pi to be exactly 3, proving that sometimes lawmakers try to regulate even the laws of mathematics. Other notable Indiana regulations include prohibitions on couch throwing in Warsaw and forcing monkeys to smoke cigarettes in South Bend.

While many of these laws may seem absurd today, they often reflect the specific concerns and circumstances of their times, creating an amusing legal legacy that continues to entertain residents and visitors alike.

The Stubborn Space That Grammar Police Love

The key is remembering that "a lot" functions just like other article and noun combinations. Just as you wouldn't write "adog" or

<u>Roll Out the Welcome Mat for Our Newest Friends!</u>

Abby Rue Alex Pileggi Ana Corona Anne & Michael Morley Audrey May Barb Foster Becky Tucker Brian Dreher Brian Sabal Carmen Arvia

Carol Nayder Chae Torres Chris Borden Curt Magurean Daniel Owczarzak Dean Melia Donna & Jeff Waldier Donna & Thomas Kalwat Dorothy Zapata Edmund Conroy

Erin Hibbler Francie & Thomas Boss Fred Krooswyk Gina & Alex Gill Jamiesha Windom Jennine Sidler Jessica Lang Jim & Carolyn Martin Joe & Christy Marks John & Laura Sikora

John Utesch Karly Tinervia Kathy Bundy Kris & Vicki Sallas Lesley Churchill Linda Kraiko Linda Reuther Linda Streeter Luis Gutierrez Mark Weeditz

Mike & Nancy Roy Mike Harris Millie Sasaki Monica Liliac Regina & Reggie Ngorima Robert Freiberg Ruth Gonzalez Sergio Cappello Shannon Grimmer

Sharon Peoples Sheila Koval Solomon Jones Steve Smith Susan Grelak William Henderso



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MEGATrivia

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This month's Mega Trivia question:

How many pounds of gummy bears does Albanese Candy Factory in Merrillville, Indiana, sell every day?

- (A) 100,000 lbs.
- (B) 200,000 lbs.
- (C) 300,000 lbs.
- (D) Over 300,000 lbs.

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:

Where does the legendary Route 66 officially begin?

Answer: (B) Chicago, IL

The legendary Route 66 officially begins in Chicago, Illinois, right at the corner of Adams Street and Michigan Avenue. Dubbed the "Mother Road," this historic highway was established in 1926 and became one of the most famous roads in the United States. Stretching over 2,400 miles, Route 66 starts in the bustling heart of the Midwest and travels through eight states, eventually ending at the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica, California. Its starting point in Chicago marks the beginning of countless road trips, symbolizing freedom, exploration, and the classic American adventure.

Congratulations to last month's winner:

HEATHER SEGER

OF TINLEY PARK, IL

Claim your prize by visiting your nearest Creative Carpet & Flooring showroom from September 1 - 30, 2025. Thanks for taking part in our contest! Enjoy your prize!

MEET OUR CARPET CLEANING CIRCLE

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Jan Podrebarac Jason Bullaro Jim Mchale Kathy & Jimmy Holloway Lee & Diane Sheets Linda Fissel

Hal Guraone

Manny Buck

Marsha Nelson Richard Gow Robert & Diane Helstern Sandra & Anthony Rosati Sharon Schober Thomas Lane Tom & Sarah Mittler Vic & Jeanne Montoya



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The Egg-cellent Truth About Jumbo Eggs



Ever wondered why some eggs are called "jumbo" while others are just "large"? It's not just marketing fluff... there's actually a whole egg hierarchy going on! From tiny "peewee" eggs (yes, that's really what they're called) all the way up to massive "jumbo" specimens, egg sizes are determined by the age and maturity of the chicken doing the laying. Think of it like this: young chickens

are basically teenagers still figuring things out, so they produce smaller eggs. But those seasoned, experienced hens? They're the ones cranking out those hefty jumbo eggs that weigh in at 2.5 ounces or more. That's like the bodybuilder of the egg world! And here's the kicker: if you're baking and decide to swap out large eggs for jumbo ones, you're not just changing size, you're actually adding more liquid to your recipe. We're talking about an extra tablespoon per eqq! So next time you're at the grocery store debating between egg sizes, remember you're not just picking breakfast, you're choosing between chicken generations!

Your Dog's Real Age Will Shock You! (No, Really!)

Your "puppy" might actually be old enough to drive! That ancient "multiply by seven" rule? Total myth. Here's the real scoop from the dog experts at the American Kennel Club: your pup's first birthday is basically their Sweet 15, and by year two, they're already 24 and probably judging your life choices. After that, they're cruising through life at about 5 human years per dog year.

But wait, there's more! Size totally matters in this age game. Your tiny Pomeranian? Still spry at 56 (human years) after a decade of zoomies. Meanwhile, that gentle giant Great Dane is feeling every one of their 79 human years and probably wondering when you're finally going to get them that orthopedic dog bed they've been dropping hints about. Who knew your four-legged family member was keeping such secrets about their actual age?



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We are extremely pleased with the installation of our new carpet. Autumn Sibo did a great job showing us the various carpet types and colors. She is quite knowledgeable about the product lines. Hector did an excellent job with the installation. He was able to install a 22' x 12' carpet in the main room and closet (7' x 7') all in one piece, with no seams anywhere. The closet also included carpeting around and under four permanent corner shelves.

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<u>CreativeCarpetInc.com/share-your-review</u>

John McEvoy of Mokena, IL This month's \$25 Target gift card winner!

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