

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

Dear Creative Carpet & Flooring Friends and Family,

If you have been reading my letters for a while, you know I use this space to talk about life and the things that matter most. And this month, there was only one thing on my heart.

Back in March, devastating storms tore through our region, and the Kankakee area was hit especially hard. Entire neighborhoods were wiped out. Families went to bed one night with a home and a sense of normalcy, and woke up the next morning facing an impossible road ahead.

I stayed close to John Coursey at Shine.FM 89.7, who was keeping me updated on everything unfolding on the ground. Shine took damage of their own, but that did not slow them down one bit. They jumped in immediately, partnering with Grace Christian School in Kankakee and a church in Roselawn, IN, to collect and distribute donations. At one point, both locations ran out of room, and by noon, they were cleaned out and asking for more. That is how much need there was, and that is how much our community showed up.

John told me about a woman whose home was destroyed in Aroma Park who, instead of focusing on her own loss, drove over to Shine.FM with her sister to drop off supplies for others. If that is not being the hands and feet of Jesus, I do not know what is. He also told me about a business partner who sent 10 guys and 3 trucks to Menards with a check, telling them to fill the trucks up. People are showing up in cars with their trunks packed with water and toilet paper. Nothing short of remarkable.

Shine is now working alongside Convoy of Hope and Samaritan's Purse, who bring the trucks, trailers, and logistical expertise to take the relief effort to the next level. As John humbly put it, they are just a bunch of knuckleheads running a radio station trying to help. I love that about him.

The need is still very real. While they are good on supplies, gift cards to Lowe's, Menards, Home Depot, Walmart, Target, and grocery stores are greatly needed as families are trying to rebuild. No amount is too small. If you are interested in volunteering hands-on, call the Kankakee County Sheriff's Department and United Way hotline at 815-932-7476.

You can drop off or mail gift cards to: ATTN: JOHN COURSEY, SHINE.FM, 450 S MAIN ST, BOURBONNAIS, IL 60914. Or drop them off at our Mokena, IL, or Highland, IN, showrooms, and I will personally make sure they get to John at Shine.FM. You can also reach Shine.FM directly at <https://www.shine.fm/contact/>.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." ~Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

Watching our community live that out has been truly beautiful. Now let's keep it going. Thank you for being the kind of people who care. You have always been more than customers to us. You are our neighbors, and we are in this together.

With a full heart,



Dawn Giganti, Marketing & Administration
Creative Carpet & Flooring

Month at a Glance:

3rd Good Friday thru Easter Sunday - We will be closed to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the greatest story ever told! "A dead Christ I must do everything for; a living Christ does everything for me." ~ Andrew Murray

15th Tax Day - The one day a year you find out how much of your own money you are allowed to keep.

19th National Garlic Day - Celebrate by adding garlic to your breakfast, lunch, and dinner, because if you're going to have dragon breath, you might as well commit.

26th Richter Scale Day - A reminder that even the earth loses its temper sometimes, and there's an entire scientific scale dedicated to measuring just how mad it gets.

Employee birthdays this month:

Birthdays are big in April! On the 11th, we celebrate Clay Bouquet, who keeps our Distribution Center running like a well-oiled machine. On the 16th, happy birthday to Director of Operations Chris Boerema, who keeps everything running smoothly so the rest of us look good. And on the 23rd, we proudly honor our Founder and President, Mark Bouquet, Sr., the visionary who built it all and whose leadership continues to inspire everything we do!



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.

Inside this issue...

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April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03 CLOSED	04 CLOSED
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MEET OUR CARPET CLEANING CIRCLE...

Cheryl Anderson
Colleen Plude
David Shewmake
Debbie Dumakowski
Debra Arkin-Jones
Dianne Mohan
Ed Barnes

Eric Rex
Jean Bingham
Kimberely Hinkel-King
Linda Hawkins
Mike & Marylou Rusco
Nora Aurelio
Norma Reitz

Paula & Thomas Longawa
Rich Fudacz
Rudy & Peggy Skorupa
Sandra Garcia
Tom Dornan
Willie & Donna Calvin



**CALL FOR MORE INFO ON OUR CARPET CLEANING SERVICES!
888.910.6585 EXT. 100**

*April showers are on the way, Muddy boots at the door each day.
Puddles, pollen, and April breeze, Tracking spring in if you please.
But whether it's rain or a sunny day, Your floors are ready for come what may.
Hardwood, carpet, tile, and more, There's nothing quite like a beautiful floor.
So welcome spring with an open door, Just maybe wipe your feet before.*



Does the Five-Second Rule Actually Hold Up?

You've probably heard of the five-second rule. You know the one. That sacred, unwritten law of the kitchen that somehow justifies picking a French fry up off the floor and popping it straight into your mouth. Nobody knows who invented it, nobody can prove it works, and yet here we all are, diving for dropped Oreos like we're playing the world's least glamorous sport. But here's the thing. Actual scientists, with actual degrees, decided this was worth investigating. And honestly, good for them. Someone had to do it. Researchers at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign strapped on their lab coats and got to work testing whether the five-second rule has any basis in reality. The verdict? It's not total nonsense. Food snagged within five seconds did show surprisingly low levels of bacteria. Before you start celebrating and throwing snacks on the ground on purpose, though, there are a few catches. The floors in the experiment were sanitized beforehand, which means the real variable here isn't what's under your feet but how often you're cleaning them. A well-maintained floor of any kind is going to be a whole lot friendlier to your dropped snacks than a neglected one. So really, the five-second rule is less about your flooring and more about your cleaning habits. No pressure. Here's another fun wrinkle. Dry foods like chips and crackers tend to pick up fewer germs than moist ones like fruit. Bacteria love moisture, so your dropped strawberry is basically sending out engraved invitations to every pathogen in the vicinity. The bottom line? The five-second rule is less a scientific law and more a coping mechanism. Keep your floors clean, make your own judgment call, and when in serious doubt, just throw it out. Your stomach will thank you.



DID YOU KNOW?

We Handle Insurance Claims!

When unexpected damage strikes your home, whether from water, fire, or other covered disasters, the last thing you want to worry about is your floors. Our own Dave Coulam specializes in working directly with insurance companies to guide you through the entire claims process, from documentation to product selection and professional installation, making sure you get the quality replacement flooring you deserve without the stress.

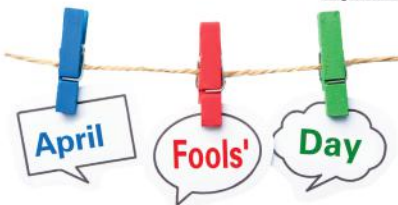
**Reach out to Dave
directly at
(708) 995-5835
or fill out our online
form at**



**[www.creativecarpetinc.com/
insurance-claims](http://www.creativecarpetinc.com/insurance-claims)**



April Fools Day: The Holiday Nobody Can Explain, But Everyone Enjoys



April Fools' Day is one of those rare holidays that requires no gifts, no cooking, no travel, and no awkward family seating arrangements. Just a willingness to make someone feel silly for a few seconds and a quick getaway plan. And yet somehow, nobody can agree on where it actually came from. The most popular origin theory points to France in the 1560s, when King Charles IX switched to the Gregorian calendar and moved New Year's Day from late March to January 1st. People who were slow to hear the news kept celebrating in April and were mocked, pranked, and sent on pointless errands by those who knew better.

The French still call unsuspecting victims "April fish" to this day, and schoolchildren tape paper fish to each other's backs every year. Whether this is actually where the holiday started or just a really convincing story that spread is honestly still up for debate. Other historians point to ancient spring festivals celebrating the end of winter, when nature itself seemed to be playing tricks with unpredictable weather. Some connect it to the Roman festival of Hilaria. Nobody has landed on a definitive answer, and at this point, the mystery feels like part of the charm. As for legendary pranks, the BBC set the gold standard in 1957 when it aired a completely straight-faced news segment about the Swiss spaghetti harvest, showing farmers pulling strands of pasta off trees. Thousands of viewers called in asking how to grow their own spaghetti plant. Sports Illustrated pulled off a masterpiece in 1985 with a fictional story about a pitcher named Sidd Finch who could throw a 168 mph fastball and had learned the skill through Tibetan yoga. Readers lost their minds. So why do we still celebrate a holiday with no clear origin, no official recognition, and no candy involved? Probably because the world could always use a good laugh, and there is something deeply human about a day that gives everyone permission to be a little ridiculous. Just maybe double-check your chair before you sit down on April 1st.

Roll Out the Welcome Mat for Our Newest Friends!

Bridget Truesdale
Cesar & Heather Calderon
Christen Linders
Elaine & Matthew Morley
George & Debbie Tolsky

Heather Kijewski
Jeff & Brooke Scibior
Jerry Gianfrancisco
Jodi & John Groen
Judy Crowhurst

Leslie & Tom Rinaudo
Linda Devito
Lois McCann
Lori DeJulius
Louise Cohn

Mark DeSanto
Mark Miller
Maureen Brossard
Michael & Cynthia
Morgenthaler

Mike & Kim Crisanti
Nick & Katie Zywicka
Ricky Baldner &
Tammy Slathar
Ruth Coyne

Steve Dik
Trent Jenkins
Yousef Haswah



A Bouquet of Spring Sales!



FABRICA

March 16 - April 30, 2026

Save \$2 to \$7 per square yard on select Fabrica styles

April 3 - May 18, 2026

up to \$500 rebate on select Anderson Tuftex, COREtec, & Shaw Floors products plus special financing*



Shaw Floors®



mirage™

April 16 - May 30, 2026

\$0.50 sq. ft. rebate on all 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.

Spring into Style Flooring Sale



April 3 -
May 18

SAVE up to \$500

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

PLUS **SPECIAL FINANCING** AVAILABLE*

*Subject to credit approval. Ask store associate for complete rebate and financing details.



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Tuftex



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

- (A) Steel
- (B) Stone
- (C) Coal
- (D) Rails

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 is the name of the famous popcorn company headquartered in Valparaiso?

(A) Orville Redenbacher's

Orville Redenbacher's popcorn company was founded in Valparaiso, Indiana. Orville Redenbacher himself was a Purdue University graduate who spent decades developing his signature hybrid popcorn that was fluffier and more tender than regular popcorn. He partnered with Charlie Bowman, and together they grew their popcorn business in Valparaiso starting in the 1950s. In 1970, they began selling their gourmet popcorn nationally under the Orville Redenbacher brand, which became one of the most recognizable popcorn brands in America. Orville became famous for appearing in his own TV commercials wearing his signature bow tie and glasses. While the company has since been sold to larger corporations, Valparaiso remains proud of its connection to this popcorn pioneer.

Congratulations to last month's winner:

**DONNA
KIESLING**

OF MUNSTER, IN

Claim your prize by visiting your nearest Creative Carpet & Flooring showroom from April 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


A Gift for You

*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:

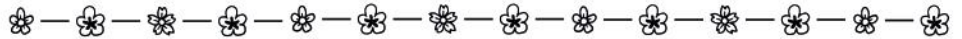
creativecarpetinc.com/referral-rewards

Welcome Back Valued Friends!

Alison & John Gargas	Eric Rex	Liberty Stouffer	 WELCOME BACK! Rayna Coleman Rebecca Tucker Rocky & Laticia Harbert Sharon Wojtycki Sherita Wright Tom Kujawski Trish & Larry Farkos
Autumn & Jonathan Sibo	Gary Onate Jr	Lynn Rossi	
Bridgett Galtney	Greg Selin	Lynn Trochuck	
Dawn Giganti	Jane Spangler	Marilyn Paez	
Dennis & Anna Moynihan	Janet Booth	Mary Condes	
Edina Rubino	Jay Garrett	Mike Kowalczyk	
Elizabeth Fetsch	Joe Hsieh	Mike Wojcik	
Eric & Maura Seper	June DeSimone	Paul & Karen Stachowicz	

Why Do April Showers Bring May Flowers?

The saying has been around since at least the 1500s, which means people have been tolerating soggy weather with forced optimism for a very long time. A poet named Thomas Tusser gets credit for an early version of the phrase, though the sentiment has been passed around so many times that nobody really owns it anymore. The science actually backs it up, though. Spring rain soaks deep into the soil that spent all winter frozen, compacted, and completely drained of moisture. That slow, steady saturation is exactly what seeds need to wake up and get moving. By the time May rolls around, all that dreary April weather has quietly done its job, and the flowers show up right on schedule. So the next time you're caught in a cold drizzle without an umbrella, just know the tulips appreciate it even if you don't.




PEZ Started as a Quit-Smoking Aid

It might be the last thing you'd expect to learn about a candy beloved by children, but PEZ was never meant for kids. The whole thing started in 1927 when an Austrian businessman named Eduard Haas III decided he was going to help Europeans quit smoking one mint at a time. Haas was a vocal anti-smoking advocate who believed that a compressed peppermint tablet could give smokers something else to reach for when the cravings hit. He named his product by squishing down the German word for peppermint, pfefferminz, into three tidy letters and called it a day. For the first couple of decades, PEZ came in tins and rolls, nothing fancy. Then in 1949, Haas and his business partner showed up to a trade show with something new. A dispenser designed to look exactly like a cigarette lighter. The irony of using a cigarette-shaped device to help people quit smoking apparently did not slow anyone down. The problem was that Americans were not interested in swapping their cigarettes for peppermint gadgets. Sales flopped. So the company did what any scrappy business does and completely reinvented itself. Fruity flavors replaced the mint, and the dispensers got a serious personality upgrade. By the mid 1950s, Santa Claus and Popeye versions were flying off shelves, and Mickey Mouse and Bozo the Clown quickly followed. And just like that, a smoking cessation tool for grown-ups became one of the most recognizable children's candy brands in the world. Eduard Haas probably did not see that one coming.



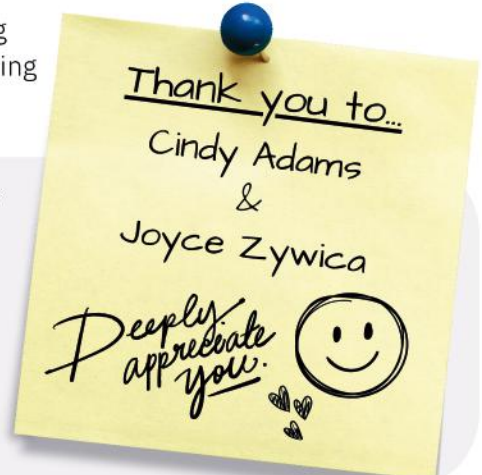
<https://us.pez.com/pages/history>



Don't visit any flooring dealer until you call us for a FREE Customer Awareness Guide! You will learn...

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

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

The contest is still going! If you've had work done recently, we'd love to see how it turned out. Submit a photo along with your review on our site within 30 days of installation, and you'll be entered for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to Target, Pottery Barn, Best Buy, or Build-A-Bear. It only takes a few minutes, and we genuinely enjoy hearing from our customers.



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

SHARE → Review
 Share a project photo with your review on our site within 30 days of installation for a chance to win a \$25 gift card!

THANKS FOR THE REVIEW

CreativeCarpetInc.com/share-your-review

No entries were received for this month's Share Your Review drawing, so there was no winner this time around.

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.