

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

Dear Creative Carpet & Flooring Friends and Family,

Some of the best moments start with something small and a little silly, and this one started with National Candied Orange Peel Day.

Last month, I mentioned that May 4th is National Candied Orange Peel Day, and I may have jokingly put out the call for chocolate-covered orange peel donations at our Mokena showroom. If you have never tried chocolate-covered orange peel, first of all, you are missing out, and second of all, just trust me on this one. Pat K. from Joliet called my bluff and actually showed up with some! I was joking, Pat! But also... thank you so much. On May 12th, I had a spot biopsied that was looking a little questionable, and I stayed home the next day in pain and honestly feeling a little frightened. That is the day Pat came by the showroom. My daughter Alex, who works here with me, brought those orange peels home, and I had no idea how much I needed that little gesture right then. On May 15th, I got the results back, and thank God, it is completely benign.

Pat had no idea what I was going through on May 13th. There was no way to know that what started as a lighthearted joke in a newsletter would turn into exactly the kind of bright spot I needed on one of my harder days. And yet there it was, a small and silly kindness that somehow said "you are not alone" louder than any card ever could have. It is one of those moments that reminds you how good people really are, and how God has a way of placing the right thing in your path at exactly the right time. He really does work in the best ways. This was the first verse that came to mind...

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." ~Romans 8:28 (NIV)

I think sometimes we picture that verse playing out in big, dramatic moments. The miracles. The mountaintop stuff. But sometimes it looks like chocolate-covered orange peels arriving at exactly the right time, through a kind stranger from Joliet, on a day you really needed a reminder that you are loved and not alone. It does not have to be grand to be meaningful. Sometimes the smallest gestures carry the most grace.

To Pat, thank you more than you know. They were absolutely delicious! You probably did not think twice about it, but I will not forget it.

With a grateful heart,



Dawn Giganti, Marketing & Administration
Creative Carpet & Flooring

Month at a Glance:

7th VCR Day - Somewhere in a basement, a VCR is still blinking 12:00, and honestly, we respect the commitment. Be kind, rewind... if you can find the tape.

14th Flag Day - It's Flag Day, the one holiday where it's totally acceptable to be that neighbor with the giant flagpole in the front yard. Wave it proudly!

21st Father's Day - Happy Father's Day to all the dads who have strong opinions about the thermostat, the lawn, and apparently, the flooring choices. We see you, and we salute you.

21st First Day of Summer - Summer is officially here, which means it's time to track sand, sunscreen, and mystery wet footprints across every floor in the house. We're not judging... much.

Employee birthdays this month:

27th Autumn Sibö, Flooring Consultant - Happy Birthday to Autumn Sibö, the Flooring Consultant who could make picking between two shades of beige feel like the most exciting decision of your life! The Highland showroom just wouldn't be the same without her, and frankly, we'd rather not find out.



**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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June 2026

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



We are so thankful to share that our Highland showroom has once again been voted the #1 Best Carpet and Flooring Store in the region for 2026 in The Times of Northwest Indiana's Best of the Region Readers' Choice awards. This marks our third year in a row receiving this honor, and it truly means the world to us. Being chosen by our community year after year is something we never take for granted.

To everyone who voted for us, visited our showroom, or trusted us with your home, thank you. Whether you came in for a small update or a full renovation, we are grateful to have been part of your project. Your support, referrals, and repeat business are the reason we are here today. We look forward to continuing to serve you and helping bring your next flooring project to life.

Tiptoeing T. Rex

Tyrannosaurus rex probably looked way less like a stomping, scary movie monster and way more like a giant bird late for brunch. A 2026 study says T. rex likely ran around on its tiptoes, zipping along with quick, bouncy strides, not the slow, thundering walk you see in movies like Jurassic Park.

Paleontologist Steve Brusatte even compared the movement to "an 8-ton chicken clucking about in the barnyard," which is honestly hilarious and also kind of nightmare fuel. And since today's birds are basically dinosaurs in disguise, this birdy strut actually makes perfect sense. To crack the mystery, researchers checked out fossil footprints and sized up T. rex's legs. Adrian Boeye and crew figured out that these dinos took short, speedy steps, and could book it at up to 37 feet per second! So instead of lumbering after prey, the T. rex might have been dashing around on its toes like the world's most terrifying, turbo-charged rooster.



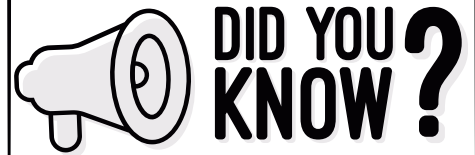
Drive-In Theaters and American Nostalgia

In the summer of 1933, movie lovers in Camden, New Jersey, discovered a brand new way to see films: from their cars, outside, under the stars. This was the world's first drive-in theater, the creation of inventor and salesman Richard Hollingshead Jr. He came up with the idea by experimenting in his own driveway, using a projector, a car hood, and a bedsheet. The first official "park-in," as it was first called, opened on June 6 and showed the movie *Wives Beware*. Tickets were only 25 cents per car, plus a little more for each person. Hollingshead promoted it as a spot where families could unwind without worrying if their kids got loud. That was a pretty new idea back then. At first, drive-ins didn't catch on right away. But after World War II, they became hugely popular. Families wanted something easy and fun to do together, and watching a movie from your own car seemed perfect. People could show up in pajamas, bring their own snacks, and let the kids fall asleep in the back seat. By the late 1950s, drive-ins were all over the country, with more than 4,000 across the U.S. Some were pretty basic, but others went all out. The huge Johnny All-Weather Drive-In could fit 2,500 cars and had its own restaurant, playground, and even a shuttle train. Other classics, like the 99W Drive-In and Bengies Drive-In Theatre, became local legends. Some of them are still around today. Drive-ins were more than just places to watch movies. They became hangout spots, date-night favorites, and where people made memories. For plenty of teenagers, it's where first dates and first kisses happened, right under the stars. But things started to change in the 1970s. Gas prices rose, TVs improved, and it became much easier to just watch movies at home. The big pieces of land that drive-ins needed were sold off for malls and new houses. Little by little, the screens went dark. Still, drive-ins never totally disappeared. Today, there are fewer than 300 left in the U.S., kept alive by tradition, nostalgia, and folks who still love a movie night in their car.



Roll Out the Welcome Mat for Our Newest Friends!

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Alan Podowski | Deb & Paul Lindemulder | John & Lorrie Ozinga | Mary & Mark Dietrich | Neil Pellmann | Susan Phelan |
| Anthony Portone | Diane Dati | John Burkard | MaryAnn Wagener | Pat OBrien | Tiffany Bandstra |
| Barb Lidster | Gail Thyer | Jon-Paul McCool | Michael & Victoria Cortina | Patrica Lee | Tim Griffin |
| Barbara Sharo | Jake & Kim Viravec | Karla VanWinkle | Michael Paulson | PJ Lucido | Tony Avila |
| Christina Natelborg | James Lundquist | Lauren Catinella | Michael Smith | Quinn & Patrick Milligan | Vicky Stinar |
| Craig Cavanaugh | Jan Ingram | Lindsie Fransen | Mike Schelinski | Randall Mckenzie | |
| Daniel Corner | Jazmine Hasty | Maria Brach | Monica Meghani | Ray & Jane Arthurs | |
| David & Jenny Darling | Jenny & Adam Wilson | Mark & Cynthia Dudek | Nancy Ensing | Sam Lucas | |
| Dawn Hecimovich | John & Kristen Billings | Marsha Simpson | Natalie Cowan | Steve & Sarah Goodnight | |



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| Bobbie Fiedler | Lois Jancich |
| Brenda Kizzee | Nancy Pufahl |
| Chandra Ware | Patty & Jim Elkow |
| Diane Andrus | Paul Milgutin |
| Ethel Young | Pauline Bergman |
| Fred & Bonnie Minsky | Robert Jensen |
| Glenn Bushey | Theresa Lozano |
| Hal Gurgone | Tom & Cheri Gozdecki |
| James Gutierrez | Tom & Sarah Mittler |
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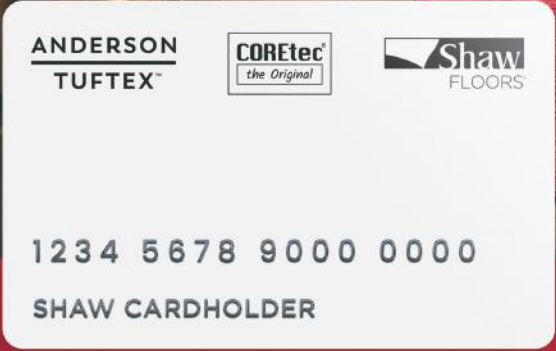
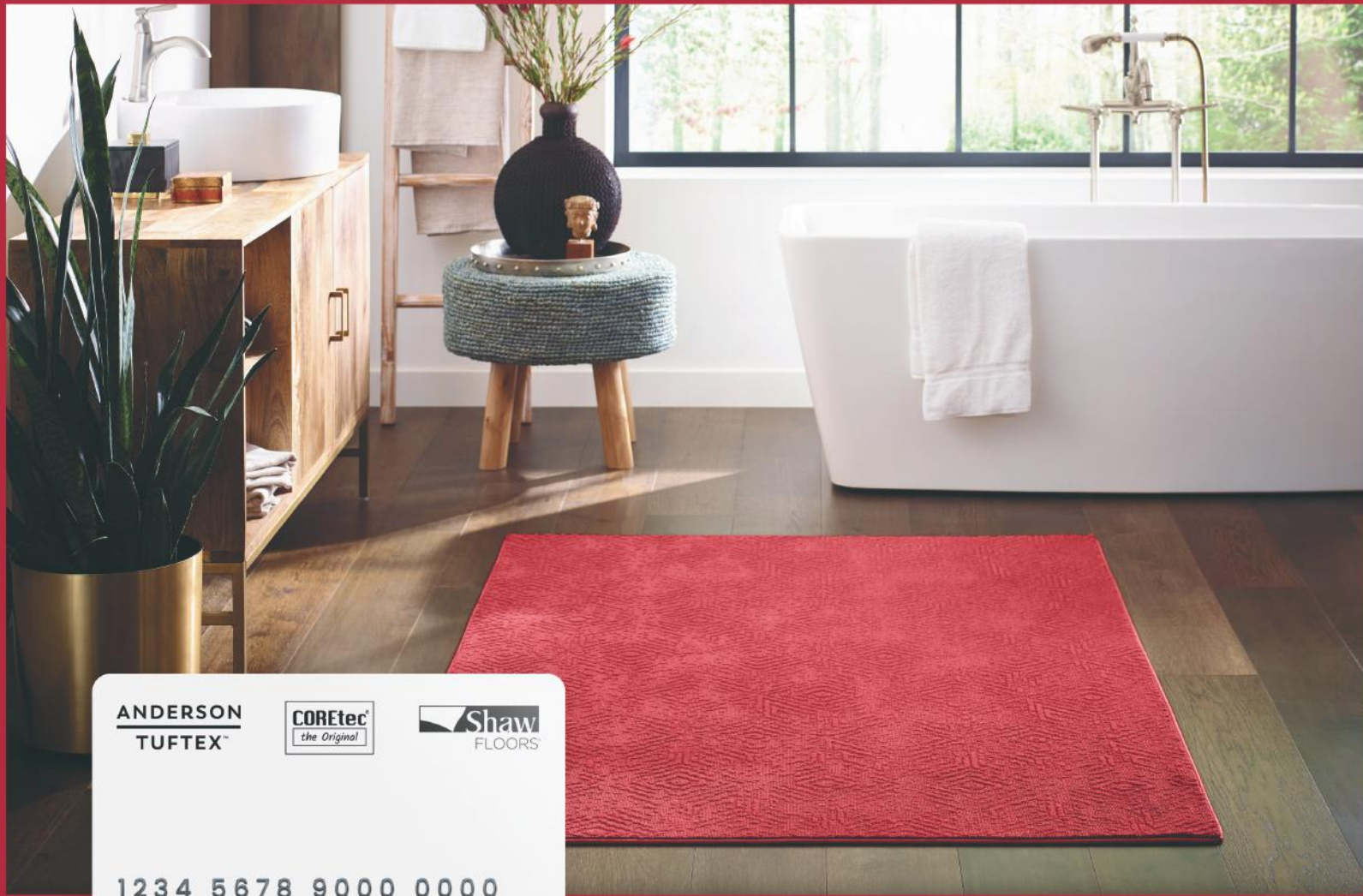


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MEGA Trivia Contest

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\$50 restaurant gift card to



This month's Mega Trivia question:
Which Illinois city has the only river in the world that flows backward?

- (A) Rockford
- (B) Chicago
- (C) Peoria
- (D) Joliet

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:

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

(C) 31

Parke County, Indiana holds the title of Covered Bridge Capital of the World, and it earns that crown with 31 covered bridges! Each one is tucked along winding rural roads and scenic creek crossings, and every single bridge has its own unique story rooted in history and craftsmanship. Every fall, thousands of visitors make the trip out to Parke County for the famous Covered Bridge Festival, a beloved celebration of the region's rich heritage. It's a great reminder that some of the most charming destinations in the world are right in our own backyard here in the Midwest!

Congratulations to last month's winner:

**ANNA
PETERSON**

OF LEMONT, IL

Claim your prize by visiting your nearest Creative Carpet & Flooring showroom from June 1 - 30, 2026. Thanks for taking part in our contest! Enjoy your prize!

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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!

Adrienne & Robert Piane
Antonia & Nikolaos Pappas
Barb Diehl
Carmen Arvia
Cathy Rehm
Christie McCarron
Colleen & Mike Cieslak
Darren Deboer
Debra Clements
Diane Poncer

WELCOME BACK!

Fred Krooswyk
Jay Garrett
Jen Curtis & Mitch Barloga
Joe & Nancy Keim
Jonnelle Sweetner
Joyce & Brian Mulheran
Julie Buffington
Karen Heuer
Laura Rogers
Mark & Aida Dahlkamp

Mike & Kristen Dibenedetto
Robin Muller
Ronald Koblick
Rose Lucas
Scott & Beth Voorhis
Sheri & Chris Lask
Tina Flynn
Tom Hoekstra
Tony & Kim DelRicco



Hand Signals Uncovered!

We talk all the time, but a lot of what we say doesn't use words. Gestures feel natural, but most have surprising backstories that go way back. Here are five gestures you probably use and how they became part of our lives.

- **Thumbs-Up:** When someone gives a thumbs-up, it usually means everything's okay. Some folks link it to Roman gladiators, but historians say that's probably just a myth. The gesture actually got popular in the early 1900s, especially with pilots in the World Wars, who used it for "ready to go." Thanks to movies, TV, and now social media, everyone knows what it means.
- **Peace Sign:** The "V" sign started out as a way to say victory in World War II, mostly because of Winston Churchill. A few decades later, people protesting the Vietnam War started using it to mean peace instead. It just shows how the same gesture can mean different things, depending on what's happening in the world.
- **Waving Hello:** Waving seems simple, but it probably started as a way to show you didn't have anything in your hand. That made it easier for people to trust each other. Now, waving is just an easy way to say hi or bye.
- **Handshakes:** People have been shaking hands forever. Ancient Greeks even showed handshakes in their art to mean trust and respect. Over the years, handshakes turned into a formal greeting across Europe and became the usual way to say hello. These days, handshakes can be strong or soft, and sometimes they come with a bow.
- **Shrugging:** If you shrug, you're basically saying, "I have no idea." People have used this gesture to show they're unsure or don't care for a long time, and folks all over the world get what it means. Sometimes a shrug gets the point across better than anything you could say.

Standing Tall

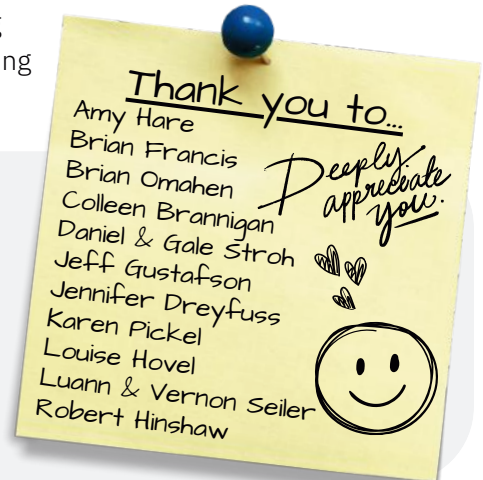
Most people assume Lady Liberty herself dominates the skyline, but her pedestal actually edges her out in height. The full structure reaches 305 feet, yet the statue alone measures 151 feet while the base beneath her comes in at 154 feet, lifting her high enough to be spotted by ships making their way into New York Harbor from a considerable distance. Step inside the lower portion of that pedestal and you'll find a bronze plaque bearing "The New Colossus," a sonnet penned by Emma Lazarus whose most recognized lines invite the world's weary and struggling to seek refuge on American shores. The monument carries the formal title "Liberty Enlightening the World" and arrived as a gift from France in 1884, sculpted by Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi. Tipping the scales at 440,000 pounds, roughly 176,000 of which is copper, she originally had a warm reddish tone before decades of weathering slowly transformed her into the iconic green figure we recognize today. The driving force behind the concept was Édouard René de Laboulaye, a historian and abolitionist who envisioned the statue as a tribute to the abolition of slavery, with the idea

first taking shape in his mind in 1865. The road from vision to reality stretched over 20 years of fundraising, construction, and transatlantic shipping, and Laboulaye passed away in 1883, just before seeing his dream fully realized.

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

Creative Carpet & Flooring was so easy. Autumn was so great at helping us select our flooring. The process was easy and pressure-free. They really understand what their customers want and need. The flooring installation was done in a timely manner. There were no hidden fees; everything was laid out in the contract, and I really appreciated that. I would definitely use them again and recommend them to others.



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

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 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

Marissa Khoury of Dyer, IN
This month's \$25 Build-a-Bear gift card winner!

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