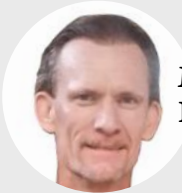


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"Mark" My Words... a message from Mark Bouquet, Sr.

Hi to All!!!,

This has been an unbelievable winter! I thought I lived through some cold ones like the "The Blizzard of '79." It was brutal cold and a lot of snow. Creative Carpet and Flooring, outside of power outages, I don't believe has ever had to close. Regardless, we're back now, and things are going quite well in the new location. We do thank you for your continued support.

Wow, it was a tough month physically. I'm not one to get sick, but I have a lot of pain issues from so many surgeries. However, this winter I came down with walking pneumonia. Man, does that ever take you down. While fighting this, I still had to drive 400 miles to Kentucky 4 days after being diagnosed, to help family members. We had to go to Kentucky to help family members. It's been quite the winter, to say the least. Next, I ended up with the flu! This IS a first.

I want to say something regarding our employees and salespeople. I know that it's not always possible to show our people how much they are appreciated, but with the 1st being "Employee Appreciation Day," and also "National Salesperson Day," I would hope that everyone knows how much they are appreciated. It would be impossible to remember to acknowledge everyone every day. But we do have a great bunch of friends. I don't think it would go as well if Mark Jr., Chris and Jake hadn't kept updating the systems required to run as smooth of an operation as possible. I believe people think, work through glitches and solve whatever needs to be resolved.

There's not been much news likely as a result of the weather, but the silver lining in this, March 20th is the first day of spring!!!!!! Lord willing, it will be here before you know it!!!

Thank you,

Mark Bouquet, Sr | Founder & President
Creative Carpet & Flooring

MARCH 2019						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Month at a Glance:

2nd Old Stuff Day - Get rid of old stuff. Clean out your house, attic and garage and get rid of the things that are no longer needed. Isn't that Spring Cleaning?

3rd If Pets Had Thumbs Day - If pets had thumbs, they would probably unplug the vacuum every time you tried to use it!

10th Daylight Savings - "Daylight saving time occurs because Chuck Norris hits snooze on his alarm clock."

14th National Pi Day - Why today? Because today is 3.14, the value of Pi.

17th Saint Patrick's Day - AKA Corned Beef and Cabbage Day!

20th First Day of Spring - When do people start using their trampoline? SPRING-TIME! Yes... we went there.

Then and Now: St. Patrick's Day Parade

Chicago is famous for its spirited celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Every March the city dyes the Chicago River green and holds not one but two parades in honor of Chicago's Irish heritage.



Photograph: Chicago Public Library

But in 1949, neither the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade nor the South Side Irish Parade had been christened, and the city's Irish community relied on smaller neighborhood gatherings to celebrate the holiday. This photo from the March 24, 1949, issue of The Garfieldian—a newspaper published in Garfield Park—shows one such celebration among workers at a Chicago Transit Authority maintenance shop. While the popular parade and large-scale festivities we know today were still years in the making, the seeds of our current citywide celebrations were already being sown at shindigs like these. As the Garfieldian noted, workers from "Poland, Italy, Scotland and Jerusalem" joined their Irish colleagues for this impromptu parade.

Now in its 69th year, the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade has become one of the city's defining traditions, accompanied by the dyeing of the river by the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Local Union 130. The downtown procession is one of Chicago's two annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Along with the South Side Irish Parade, both trace their roots back to the same place. The original South Side Irish Parade (known at the time as the Southtown Parade) was first held on March 15, 1953, along 79th Street. It lasted for seven years before Mayor Richard J. Daley combined the Southtown and West Side St. Patrick's Day parades and moved the march to the Loop. The annual parade is now held on the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day. This year it steps off the day of at noon on March 16th.



Photograph: Max Herman

S. J. (2017, March 2). *Then and Now: St. Patrick's Day Parade*. Retrieved from TimeOut Chicago: <https://www.timeout.com/chicago/blog/then-and-now-st-patricks-day-parade-030217>

(INDOOR) WINTER WONDERLAND

Area children enjoy Orland Park church's festival.

Two-year-old Isabella Boerema from Mokena slides on the sock skating area during Winter Wonderland Festival at Calvary Church in Orland Park. Behind Isabella, her friend Hunter Kozak is having fun, as well.

MARY COMPTON/22ND CENTURY MEDIA



References: Mary Compton | 22nd Century Media. (2019, January). (Indoor) Winter Wonderland. *The Mokena Messenger*. www.mokenamessenger.com

PJ
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of Frankfort, IL
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Chris Boerema, Director of Operations here at Creative Carpet & Flooring, had his daughter featured in "The Mokena Messenger" back in January! You're a star, Isabella! Overwhelmed with stardom, all autograph request will now need to be made through Isabella's manager & extremely proud father, Mr. Christopher Boerema.



American Red Cross

March is Red Cross Month

Help Support Your Local Red Cross Organization

Red Cross is a non-profit organization that steps in to help those in need during and after some type of crisis. However, they also work hard to provide individuals with information for them to prepare themselves for a disaster. Educating the public about storing emergency survival kits is an essential part of their work. It isn't always possible for emergency assistance to respond immediately.

The Red Cross is continually in need of funding and supplies to keep their operations going. They often need assistance to replenish the items they give out to people during their time of need. You can make a cash donation to your local Red Cross organization that is tax deductible. It can be any amount you are able to assist them with based on your own budget. You can also donate supplies they may need including clothing, toys, radios, flashlights, phone cards, and vehicles.

Household goods and items are often needed at your local Red Cross as well. Furniture including items for babies, tables and chairs, and beds are all frequently asked for by those in need. Anything that falls into this category that is in good condition can be donated and is also usable as an income tax write off.

You can volunteer your time to your local Red Cross as well. More than 95% of their help is on a volunteer basis. You won't be under any obligation to give any specific amount of time. They often have various activities they need assistance with including food and clothing drives. More volunteers are needed during crisis situations, but there are always plenty of ongoing activities to help with regularly if you are available.

Donating blood is a great way to help your local Red Cross. They generally have blood drives on certain days of the month so contact them to find out the schedule. Blood is often in need during a crisis, and the Red Cross works hard to keep a good supply of it rather than just collecting it at the time of desperate need.

During natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, the local Red Cross organizations helped get families reunited with each other. Not knowing where their loved ones were located was a considerable burden to many families. Having a centralized system where people can register to be found or to find others is very important.

Being a local advocate for the Red Cross is essential because people are more willing to donate their time, money, and goods to an organization if they are aware of what services they provide. You can also advocate for those in need to contact the Red Cross to see if they can assist them with some of their basic needs.

Another great way to help your local Red Cross organization is to pay attention to those that may be frauding the system. During times of need, there will be scammers that try to get a piece of the assistance being offered. This takes away valuable resources from those that really need it to be available to them. Report any suspicions to your local Red Cross or to local law enforcement agencies.

MAKE THOSE CRAFTS!

Crafts are a fun and relaxing pass time. Not to mention children always have fun making crafts, especially holiday-themed crafts. There are many ideas for making crafts – ceramics and glass crafts, fiber and textile crafts, flower crafts, leatherwork, needlework, paper crafts, wood and furniture crafts, stone crafts, meal crafts, etc. There are many ways to come up with craft ideas. The internet is a great place to start. You can also get inspiration using everyday products and recycled materials from around the house.

Stamping and needlework are easy to learn, and there are many ideas for patterns. These handmade crafts along with scrapbooking are a pleasant and favorite pastime for adults and children. There are loads of scrapbooking layout ideas for you to try out. Scrapbooking, cross stitch, patchwork and needlework kits are easy to find the stores or on the internet. Origami crafts are also fun to make and play with. There are just so many ideas that it is impossible to mention all of them.

Both children and adults can have fun making crafts and exploring their creative side. You could have a lot of fun making crafts out of the things you throw away every day. Include the whole family and enjoy the fun. March is National Craft Month. What a wonderful way to celebrate and bring the family together!



MEGA Trivia Contest

Who wants to WIN a \$50 Gift Card towards dinner at TGI Friday's, Olive Garden or Beggars Pizza?

Take our Trivia Challenge!

This month's Mega Trivia question:

What is the 1st day of spring called?

- (A) Easter Solstice
- (B) Spring Solstice
- (C) Earth Equinox
- (D) Spring Equinox

To enter, visit our website at www.creativecarpetinc.com, click on "MEGA Trivia" under *Specials* and take your best guess. Your chances of winning are better than you think! Winner will be announced in the following month's newsletter. Entry deadline, March 20th, 2019. Good luck!!!

Answer to February's quiz:
C) Academy Awards

Congratulations to last month's winner:

Jan O'Brien
of Mokena, IL

Stop by Creative Carpet & Flooring to claim your prize by March 31, 2019!

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"I first did business with this company many years ago when they were in Lockport. So, when I was looking for a family owned business to help with my father's house, I was glad I found them again in Mokena. I never visited their showroom or met anyone in person (except for the installers today who stayed longer to help me with dry wall repair). This was all done long distance from Phoenix. My contact person was Cody and he was great. A very trustworthy and honest business. Highly recommended!"

~ **Caroline F., Lockport, IL**

Meet Our New Friends & Clients, "Welcome Back" to Our Returning Clients and A Gigantic THANK YOU to all who referred us this month

We are in the midst of switching software. We promise to return these to you soon!

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PEANUT BUTTER: THINK OUTSIDE THE SANDWICH



Peanut butter has been a pantry and sandwich staple in households for generations. However, this beloved American icon is more than a spread destined to partner with jelly. Peanut butter is also a nutrient dense food that is sometimes overlooked as part of a healthy lifestyle. Incorporating peanut butter into a variety of dishes and snacks can help add essential nutrients to one's diet.

One serving of peanut butter (just two tablespoons) provides eight grams of protein, two grams of fiber, 10 percent of the Reference Daily Intake (RDI) of vitamin E and 12 percent of the RDI of magnesium. Additionally, the USDA's MyPyramid recognizes the importance of varying dietary protein sources and suggests that peanut butter, along with nuts and other nut butters, may be substituted for meat or poultry in meals. Additionally, peanut butter is cholesterol free and contains zero grams of trans-fats per serving.

A walk down the grocery store aisle reveals a wide selection of peanut butters to meet different tastes and dietary needs. Creamy, crunchy or with a touch of honey, Smucker's Natural Peanut Butter and Jif Peanut Butter brands offer an assortment of choices, including lower salt and reduced fat varieties.

Think outside the sandwich and spread peanut butter on apple slices for a delicious snack. Put a dollop in yogurt or even stir into hot oatmeal. Peanut butter can also be the basis of sauces that can turn plain noodles or chicken into a delightfully exotic dish as in this recipe for Asian Noodles with Chili-Nut Sauce.

ASIAN NOODLES WITH CHILI-NUT SAUCE

- ▶ 3 tablespoons Smucker's Natural Chunky Peanut Butter, Jif Extra Crunchy or Simply Jif Peanut Butter
- ▶ 1/4 cup reduced-sodium soy sauce
- ▶ 1-2 tablespoons Chinese chili oil
- ▶ 1/4 cup rice vinegar
- ▶ 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
- ▶ 1 (10 ounce) package Chinese wheat noodles or 1/2-pound package whole wheat spaghetti, cooked according to package directions
- ▶ 4 green onions, sliced diagonally into 1/4-inch slices
- ▶ 1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper
- ▶ Toasted sesame seeds for garnish



Combine peanut butter, soy sauce, chili oil, rice vinegar and brown sugar in a large bowl. Stir to blend well. Toss drained noodles with chili-nut sauce, onions, and peppers. Cool noodles to room temperature. To serve, place noodles on a serving platter, garnish with sesame seeds. For a variation, add 2 cups chopped cooked chicken.

Streetdirectory & Foodeditorials. (n.d.). *Peanut Butter: Think Out Of The Sandwich*. Retrieved from FoodEditorials.com: https://www.streetdirectory.com/food_editorials/pastry/bread/peanut_butter_think_out_of_the_sandwich.html

Kids say the funniest things

We were at a restaurant eating dinner and Clay, then about 4 or 5 years old, was eating some BBQ ribs. As he's munching away with BBQ sauce from ear to ear, I asked him if he knew where those ribs came from. Without missing a beat, he said, "Yes!" Taking another mouthful, he then matter of factly said, "People!" as he continued to chomp away. ~Mark Bouquet, Sr.

What is the funniest thing a child has ever said to YOU? Please email dawn.g@creativecarpetinc.com & share your story that we can feature in a future Creative Carpet & Flooring Creative Thinking newsletter!

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