



New Fall ROOM REDO



DAILY NEWS PHOTOS
Karen Smith, right, talks with Daily News Sales Representative Shelley Kovar and Cottage Works co-owner Julie Van Dyke at her home on Virnetta Drive in Ludington. Smith was seeking to have a craft room redone through the LDN's Room Redo.



Drew Poll talks with the Room Redo team — Susan Von Pohl, Julie Van Dyke and Laura Sanders outside a play room that is attached to a nursery at his home on Illinois Road in Hamlin Township. The Poll family is expecting a child in February.



O'Nealya Gronstal points out a part of her master bedroom as she discusses the room in her Amber Township home that she asked the Room Redo team of Julie Van Dyke, Susan Von Pohl and Laura Sanders to consider as the Fall Room Redo winner.



Lynn Gilbert talks about the sun porch on the front end of the cottage she and her husband own in Summit Township as LDN Sales Representative Shelley Kovar listens as the Room Redo team considered it for a makeover.



Judy Loehr and Room Redo team member Laura Sanders talk about the room the Loehr would like to have redone in her Ludington condominium as Room Redo team member Susan Von Pohl listens recently.

Meet the Room Redo team

DANN & JULIE VAN DYKE

Dann and Julie Van Dyke are owners of Cottage Works, which they started in April 2009.

After being cottage-owners/weekenders in Mason County for five years, and living full-time on the same lake for more than a decade, they've learned a lot about lake living that they like to share with their clients.

As a graduate of Grand Valley State University and a mechanical engineer, and having worked in the technical field for 17 years as a designer, project engineer, project manager, customer support manager and engineering manager, Dann has the skills and background needed to tend to your every detail and make sure that your project requests are handled timely and professionally.

Dann also has his Builders License and has many years of building experience.

Julie has more than 25 years of experience in the corporate world and a master's degree in business administration.

She manages the retail shop, purchasing, bookkeeping and human resources, as well as all customer intake calls and scheduling for all aspects of the business.

SUSAN VON POHL

Sue brings to Cottage Works more than 10 years of experience in interior home design.

Prior to her relocation to Ludington, Sue worked as a design



Susan Von Pohl Laura Sanders

studio specialist with Pottery Barn and has brought her visual expertise to the cottage décor store.

She was recognized as one of the top-selling design consultants at Pottery Barn in Geneva, Illinois, by effectively delivering space plans, furniture selections and home accessories to her clientele.

Specialties include staging, home accessory finishing touches and blending new and existing furniture pieces and décor.

LAURA SANDERS

Laura Sanders is a Grand Rapids native who decided to make Ludington her home in 2016.

Laura joined the Cottage Works Team in 2017, helping manage the retail store and interior design portion of the business.

Laura has had a passion for home decorating and interior design her whole life.

Laura and her husband, Corey, live in Hamlin Township.

Laura enjoys the outdoors, a good happy hour and living by the lake.

This is Laura's second time serving on the LDN Room Redo Team.



Julie and Dann Van Dyke own Cottage Works and have been leading the design team for the annual Ludington Daily News for the past six projects.



Julie Van Dyke shows Dr. Michelle Kuster some of the things the Room Redo team did when Connexion Point's Boon House was chosen in spring 2020.



Dann Van Dyke installs lights during the previous Room Redo project in March 2021 at the home of Jim Ricklef on Livinia Street in Ludington.



Susan Von Pohl looks through pillows and a blanket as a part of the spring 2019 Room Redo for Kathy and Gary Andersen. The Andersens' living room was chosen.



Susan Von Pohl and Julie Van Dyke look through the living room of Melissa Slimmen, the 2018 Room Redo winner.

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Laura Smith and Susan Von Pohl look at and take photos of a crafting room at the home of Karen Smith.

Smith

Unpacking after leaving California's wild fires

Karen Smith found a new home in Ludington. Smith moved back to Michigan after being in California for a long time, but she told the Room Redo team during their tour of her proposed room that she came here after she lost everything to one of the rash of wildfires that struck California.

Smith said she looked through nearly two dozen houses during the course of the summer, and settled on her new home in Ludington. Smith found a home on Virnetta Drive in Ludington, and the room she proposed to have changed was a den/craft room.

"I spend a lot of time sew-

ing (and) crafting," Smith told the team in her application. "I need it warmer and more interesting."

Smith said she was still in the midst of moving the handful of items she did own into the home.

She wanted a table to sew on as a part of the redo, Smith said. And, she wanted to hang onto the rolltop desk she owned in one corner. She had two fold-out tables that could do the job.

Smith said she has some storage spaces within her home.

"This is kind of where everything landed when I started (moving in)," Smith said. "A lot of stuff is going to go into the basement."



Julie Van Dyke listens as Karen Smith discusses what is in a room that could Smith would like to craft in more. Smith recently moved from California where she lost her home to one of the numerous wildfires.



Susan Von Pohl and Julie Van Dyke of the Room Redo team take a measurement as Karen Smith discusses her home.

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Laura Sanders takes a photo of part of the nursery at the home of Drew Poll. The Polls would like for the nursery to be redone as the couple is expecting a baby in February.

Polls

Baby expected in February creates need for refresh

The Poll family saw and will see a share of tragedy and joy, bundled into a nursery and play space in their Hamlin Township home.

The Polls lost their young daughter earlier in the year, but learned recently they'll be expecting a boy over the winter.

Drew Poll, in his application to the team, said it has been difficult for his family as they continue to grieve for their daughter. And, they look forward to welcoming a son to the family.

"While we were in the hospital, our church came and packed her belongings and placed them in her room," he wrote. "We have not been able to go into our daughter's room since the accident.

"With the new boy arriving, we are desperate to make the room look and feel different. Nothing will change what happened and our daughter will always be an important part of our life."

The Polls have an older son, too, and Drew said the couple's son and daughter picked up quite a few toys over those handful of years. Still, much of their daughter's things in the room remained the same.

"It is extremely difficult going into her room with the same crib, same furniture, same paint, same every-

thing," Drew wrote. "Our daughter and son would always play in the play room together."

Poll said the family has friends that will assist in cleaning out the old nursery, including their daughter's old crib.

Some of their daughter's clothes will be donated. Now, they're preparing for their soon-to-be-born son.

In the play room, there is a tent for much of the room where their son, Caleb, can play.

Drew Poll described what the family has gone through, to a degree, since the death of their daughter — including selling their home.

The goal, though, is to make good memories as a family.

"We started fostering, and that's where we got Emma from," he said. "Quite honestly, if want to continue fostering, we're going to need more bedrooms. They need parents so bad."

Drew said the family is looking to get a new crib, but they're not entirely sure.

"We're over-run with toys," he said. "We're told by friends and family, we're Toys R' Us for kids."

Finding a way to keep the toys stored away better is part of the help the Polls sought.



Julie Van Dyke, Susan Von Pohl and Laura Sanders discuss some of the items they saw within the nursery at the home of the Poll family on Illinois Road in Hamlin Township.



Susan Von Pohl takes notes of some things that can be done with-in the nursery of the Poll family as fellow Room Redo team members Julie Van Dyke and Laura Sanders look around the room.

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O’Nealya Gronstal talks about a painting that is hung above a dresser in her master bedroom of the family’s home in Amber Township as Room Redo team members Julie Van Dyke, Susan Von Pohl and Laura Sanders listen recently.

Gronstals

Master bedroom provides blank canvas for decorating

The Gronstal family moved from Indianapolis to Michigan just as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold of the area, state and country.

The Gronstals moved into their home off of Jagger Road in Amber Township this past June, and O’Nealya Gronstal has worked to decorate and change many things about the home.

What she sought from the team, though, was help for the master bedroom.

“After falling in love with the beautiful view of the lake through all of the amazing windows throughout the house, one of the biggest selling points of our home was the master bedroom, especially the attached sun-room,” Gronstal wrote to the team. “But it is dated and dark.”

When the team visited recently, Gronstal said they essentially had a blank canvas to work with, and she welcomed all suggestions.

Gronstal wrote that she would like to have the vanity closed off and make it a true part to the master bathroom. And, they want the sunroom to be brighter so she and her husband can enjoy a morn-

ing cup of coffee to watch the sun rise or settle in at night with a book.

The sun room started off as a screened-in porch, Gronstal said, explaining why the siding remained.

“I’m assuming that once upon a time (a previous owner) closed it in to make it a sun room,” she said, “which would have made a tiny room an extension of the living space of the bedroom.”

Gronstal said she was open to any and all changes.

“Nothing in this room is sacred,” she said. “I’m attached to nothing because we have been so hodge-podgy in trying to make it ours but try to make it a lake-y feel.”

Gronstal talked about the heating and cooling within the area with the team.

Overall, Gronstal and her family are thrilled with their home.

“We gave (our real estate agent) our price point and gave him everything we wanted. Honestly, the bedroom, I have always, always wanted a sun room off of my bedroom because that’s my reading area, that’s my morning coffee area,” she said.



Room Redo team member Susan Von Pohl listens as O’Nealya Gronstal talks about the master bedroom’s walkout sun deck. Gronstal decorated much of her family’s home, but believed the master bedroom had much that could be done with the team’s help.

O’Nealya Gronstal talks with the Room Redo team — Julie Van Dyke, Susan Von Pohl and Laura Sanders — about her master bedroom.



Julie Van Dyke talks about some of the options that could take place in the master bedroom of O’Nealya Gronstal’s Amber Township home as fellow Room Redo team members Susan Von Pohl and Laura Sanders listen.

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Susan Von Pohl and Laura Sanders measure the length of the sun porch at the cabin of the Gilbert family on Lakeshore Drive in Summit Township. The cabin has been in the Gilbert family for generations, and in the sun porch is where the family continues to gather.

Gilberts

Long-time family-owned cabin looking for some guidance

Lynn and Michael Gilbert have seen their own generations enjoy their cabin near Bass Lake in Summit Township. They sought the help from the Room Redo team to assist with the sun porch. “This room is a gathering room of four generations of families,” Lynn Gilbert wrote in her application to the team. “My husband’s great-grandmother built the original cottage in 1904 and it is rich in history. “We feel it is our honor to continue her legacy and share her stories with family, friends and future generations on Bass Lake.” Mike Gilbert explained during the team’s visit that the family received the land after it was logged off to help rebuild Chicago after its infamous fire in the early 20th century. Many of the cabins nearby were also part of the property owned by the family. The porch is wide open with windows facing out on three sides. “This sun porch, with its wooden floors, views of sailors on the lake or of colorful fall leaves is the perfect

place to relax and share these stories from long ago,” Lynn Gilbert wrote. Mike Gilbert said the room has several items of furniture that’s a bit of a mish-mash of what he inherited from his family and things the couple owns. “We just love being up here,” Lynn said. “We love the town, Pentwater and Ludington, the people are so friendly.” The couple felt that anything was a possibility as they’ve worked to remodel the cabin. They already completed some work on kitchen and dining area in the back of the cabin as well as the bathroom. Lynn said their family is expanding, so having the extra space for them when they visit is key. “They come from all over and stay for two or three weeks. They come up and go on the boats out on Bass Lake,” Lynn said. “It’s been a treasure for us in the past 60 years or more as far as sailing but for 100 years or more in the family. “It’s a treasure to have and to share.”

Lynn Gilbert discusses the summer cottage she her husband, Mike, own on Lakeshore Drive as LDN Sales Representative Shelley Kovar listens. Room Redo team members Susan Von Pohl and Laura Sanders take a measurement of the room.



Laura Sanders listens as Mike Gilbert talks about the history of the cabin his family built in the early 1900s along Lakeshore Drive in Summit Township.



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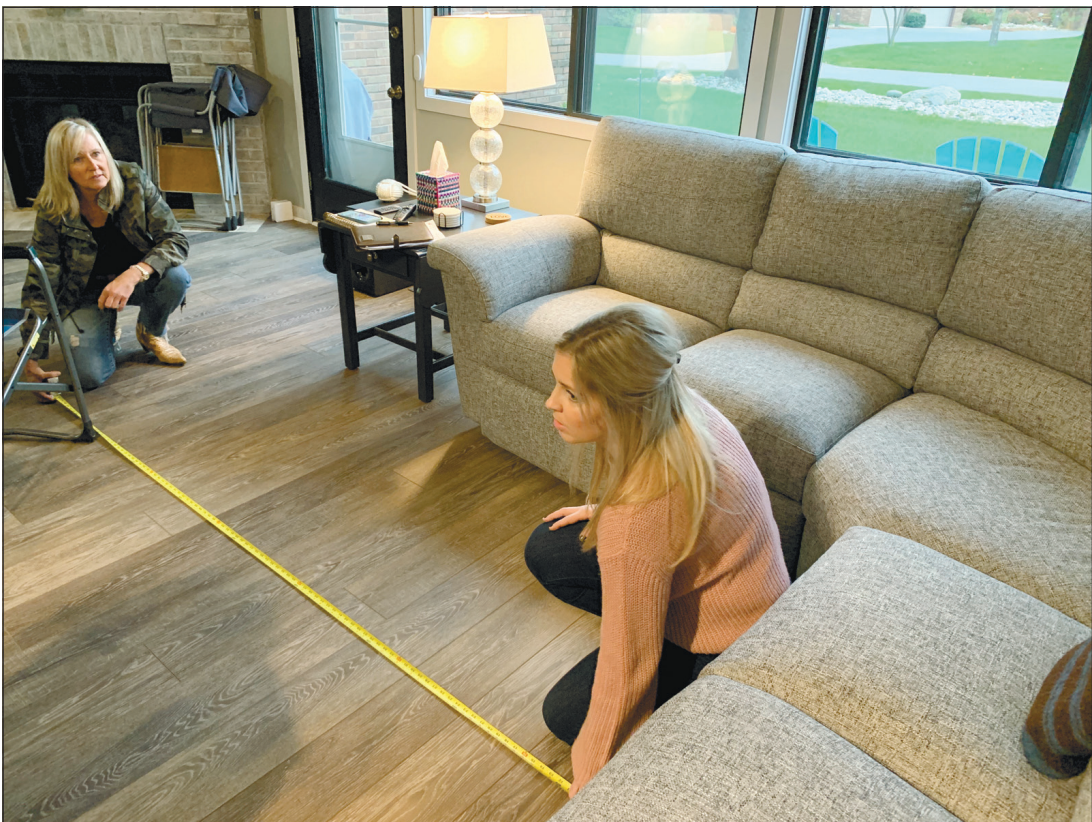
Daily News Sales Representative Shelley Kovar along with Susan Von Pohl and Laura Sanders of the Room Redo team look through a photo book of many of the changes that already took place at the condominium of Judy Loehr.

Loehr

Seeking cozy setting for looking out onto harbor

Judy Loehr is in the midst of converting her living room at her condominium on Harbor Drive in Ludington into something a bit more cozy. Loehr stated in her application to the Daily News Room Redo team that she wanted to make her living room “cozy and beachy as this is our beach condo.” Loehr showed off much of the work that was already completed to the team when they visited recently. The shelving below a bannister that leads to the second floor was painted. Plus, all new flooring was installed within the living room and into the dining room/kitchen. Loehr showed the crew a book of images that showed much of what was changed, including changing the counter to allow for traffic to flow

in and out in two directions, not one. She bought a sectional couch and expected to have a swivel chair soon for the condominium. The space has a walkout onto a patio with a fireplace beside the door. Above the fireplace is where the flat-screen TV is located. After showing the Room Redo team into the room, Loehr said she really wanted help with the room. The room is used for entertaining people, and the plan is to have chairs in front of the fireplace and near the book shelves below the bannister. Loehr, in the book of what was done, said she white-washed the brick work surrounding the fireplace.



Susan Von Pohl and Laura Sanders measure floor space in front of a sectional couch as they look into considering the living room area for Judy Loehr.



Laura Sanders and Susan Von Pohl measure a space near a sectional couch during their tour of Judy Loehr's condominium recently.



Judy Loehr and Laura Sanders talk about the living room that Loehr wanted to make a bit more cozy at her condominium in Ludington.

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Mike Gilbert talks with Room Redo team members Susan Von Pohl and Laura Sanders about his family's cottage in Summit Township.



Susan Von Pohl, Laura Sanders and Julie Van Dyke look at the nursery that the Poll family would like to have redone.



Susan Von Pohl, Laura Sanders and Shelley Kovar look over the master bedroom of O'Nealya Gronstal.



Judy Loehr shows Shelley Kovar the work that she put into making changes at her condominium on Harbor Drive in Ludington.



Laura Sanders, Susan Von Pohl and Julie Van Dyke look through the crafting room/den at the home of Karen Smith off of Virnetta Drive in Ludington.

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