

Fall ROOM REDO



JEFF KIESSEL | DAILY NEWS PHOTOS
Julie Van Dyke, co-owner of Cottage Works, and Shelley Kovar, Ludington Daily News Marketing consultant look over the space at Amanda Nasor is looking to have renovated by the Room Redo team during an on location visit on Oct. 17.



Michelle Bunce talks with Cottage Works owner Julie Van Dyke about what she would like to see in the living room if they are chosen to receive a \$2,500 Room Redo.



Julie Van Dyke talks with Scott Farley during her visit to his home on Oct. 17.



Tia Wells shares a laugh with Shelley Kovar while discussing her living room.



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Julie Van Dyke and Michelle Bunce share a laugh as they discuss the Bunces’ living room at their home on First Street in Custer.

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Bunce

Michelle Bunce entered her Custer home on First Street. Bunce wanted her living room that measures 20 feet by 12 feet redone by the Room Redo crew. Bunce, in her nominating her living room, said her family has lived at the residence for 13 years. “I would like to elevate this space to feature the TV, electric fireplace with a mantle and some shelves,” Bunce wrote to the team to consider. Bunce, if not chosen, wants suggestions from the Room Redo team on what she can do to spruce up the space.



Michelle Bunce talks with Julie Van Dyke about what she would like to see in the living room if they are chosen to receive a \$2,500 Room Redo.



Julie Van Dyke takes a measurement of a piece of furniture in the living room as Michelle Bunce looks on Oct. 17.

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Julie Van Dyke, Shelley Kovar, Scott Farley and his mom talk about the room and what they are looking for in the Room Redo if they are chosen.

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Farley

Scott Farley in the 800 block of West Court Street in Ludington entered the family carriage house that was built in 1872. Farley recently moved back to the area, and he was seeking the Room Redo crew to assist in creating a pool room and a recreation room. The family is looking ahead to a renovated rec room.



Julie Van Dyke, co-owner of Cottage Works, writes down some notes as she talks with home owner Scott Farley on Oct. 17.



Julie Van Dyke and Scott Farley discuss the possibilities of the room.



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Julie Van Dyke, Shelley Kovar and a representative for Amanda Nasor look on during the visit of the home near Free Soil.

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Nasor

Amanda Nasor entered her home in the 8000 block on North Custer Road, and she was looking for the Room Redo crew to consider her 15-foot by 18-foot dining room. The room, though is serving as a room for her baby. The team, though, asked Nasor to consider having the team judge a different space that is currently serving as the family's dining room space.



The Nasor home is located on North Custer Road near Free Soil.



The room currently serves many purposes for the family.



The extra room at the Nasor house serves many roles for the family including housing this sign.



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Julie Van Dyke and Tia Wells talk while the Room Redo team visits her house on Oct. 17.

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Wells

Tia Wells sought the assistance for her home in the 500 block of Adams Street in Ludington. Wells sought the assistance of the Room Redo team to help with her living room with new paint and flooring. She is seeking a new sectional, too, for her family of five. She asked the Room Redo to consider the living room because that is the space where she and her family spend time relaxing, watching movies and talking.



Tia Wells shows the team some of the family pictures she would like to hang on the living room walls.



Tia Wells talks with Julie Van Dyke about what she would like to see in her living room.



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Meet the Room Redo team

DANN AND JULIE VAN DYKE

Dann and Julie Van Dyke live on Lost Lake (Pleiness Lake), just south of Scottville, and have two grown daughters who graduated from Mason County Central High School, Emily and Grace.

Emily is a nurse at Corewell Health Ludington Hospital, and is working toward a nurse practitioner degree. Grace is currently a senior at Grand Valley State University studying marketing and communication just like her mother.

The family loves their labs and have a chocolate named Mocha, and a new rescue fox red lab named Bugs who joined the Van Dykes five months ago. You may find both dogs at the shop welcoming customers.

Dann and Julie started and have owned Cottage Works since 2009. The goal of Cottage Works is to provide property care, maintenance and construction work, giving the ultimate peace of mind to homeowners that want to maximize their time spent relaxing “up north.”

Cottage Works has more than 1,000 active service customers, made up of both second home cottage owners and local community members that they help on a recurring basis. The Van Dykes like to call Cottage Works the “one stop shop” for their customers, if they cannot fit in their customers projects, they will help find someone who can.

Dann and Julie both man-

age the business full-time, along with 15 other employees, and are blessed by a wonderful collection of customers in the communities along the shorelines of Lake Michigan, all contributing to their success of 13 years in business.

Dann’s mechanical engineering experience and builders license, along with Julie’s master’s degree in business administration and background in corporate management, marketing and entrepreneurship have enabled she and Dann to be successful business leaders of Mason County.

Julie is also busy with her part-time philanthropic work with the Community Foundation for Mason County, as the KickStart to Career Program Coordinator, a board member and long-term member of the Scottville Optimist Club, and she is also the Eden Township clerk. Both Dann and Julie serve on the Suds on the Shore committee benefiting the work of the United Way of Mason County.

The Van Dyke family are avid fishermen with a big lake boat slipped at the Ludington Municipal Marina. Julie and Dann also love to take boat trips to other ports along the West Michigan shoreline. Julie refers to their boat her little condo downtown, as she likes to stay the night there occasionally acting as a tourist in her own town.



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

How each Room Redo winner chosen

What goes into the decision of the Room Redo team as they review applicants for the top prize of \$2,500 refurbishing a room?

Members of the Cottage Works team and from the Daily News evaluate entries as they come into the competition. The teams then select a handful of places they think could have an impact on.

On a ranking system of 1 for the most challenging and 5 for the least, the ratings include the name of the people requesting the Room Redo, what kind of room it is such as a living room or a dining room, where the property is located, if they’re a previous customer of Cottage Works, if there is construction that needs to take place, if there is painting involved, if the flooring needs to be changed, if the project can fit within the inventory of Cottage Works, and the general feel.

It’s important to remem-

ber that Cottage Works is the primary sponsor of this project in partnership with the Daily News.

“The more construction work, painting and flooring that must be completed takes away from the actual staging of the room, so the application is discounted based on the more challenging our workload becomes,” said Cottage Works co-owner Julie Van Dyke. “If a customer is willing to kick in his/her own sweat equity to the project and pay for the labor and materials that must be invested beyond the \$2,500, it makes the application more appealing.”

The Room Redo is completed in partnership with the homeowners.

In a few short weeks, the Daily News will reveal which of this year’s homes won the 2023 Room Redo, and there will be notes, too, on what the remaining three finalists could do to help brighten up their respective rooms.



Around Cottage Works

Julie Van Dyke does a little shopping for a few items at Cottage Works on Oct. 17.

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