# Ludington Daily News



EFF KIESSEL | DAILY NEWS PHOTO:

Denise Berron-Kraus and home owner Jim Ricklef walk into to the living room for the first time after being picked as the winner of the 2021 Ludington Daily News Room Redo. Ricklef was happy with what he saw and was very grateful the team incorporated a nautical theme throughout the room. Ricklef is an avid sailor and member of the Ludington Yacht Club.



Room Redo team members Laura Sanders, Liza McCloskey and Niki Breazeale add brass decorative pieces to the vintage shiplap focal wall as the team assembles the room for Jim Ricklef on Tuesday, March 9.

Julie Van Dyke, owner of Cottage Works and Foam Works, talks with Jim Ricklef as he sees the room for the first time during the reveal.





Jim Ricklef and Denise Berron-Kraus share a toast to the room after everyone has left for the evening. Berron-Kraus was the one who applied to the Ludington Daily News Room Redo for Ricklef's living room to get a \$2,500 make-over. The two only removed their masks when toasting.

# **Room Redo**

# Team created vintage nautical themed space with modern twist for Ricklef

BY JEFF KIESSEL ASST. MANAGING EDITOR

The Ludington Daily News Room Redo team found out quickly that Jim Ricklef was a sailor and loved the water and all things associated with a nautical theme.

He had large gatherings of friends, before COVID-19 hit, and tried to accommodate his needs in providing the area with more seating.

This year the team decided between three finalists with the team choosing the request from Denise Barron-Krans. She submitted an application for her friend, Ricklef. He wanted to have his living room redone and updated. Ricklef lives at 820 N. Lavinia Street in Ludington.

'Because it is **his home** and he has lived with these things. little nautical-themed knickknacks, we did not want to take them all away.'

Niki Breazeale

The Ludington Daily News Room Redo team of Cottage Works and Foam Works owners Dann and Julie Van Dyke; Sue Von Pohl; Niki Breazeale, co-proprietor of Birch Michigan and Pentwater Candle Company; Liza McCloskey; and, Laura Sanders completed the 2021 Ludington Daily News' Room Redo.

The team updated his room with a vintage, nautical theme throughout. The living room saw many changes, yet kept some of his most treasured possessions like the bar his nephew built for him.

"We wanted to keep his vintage, nautical style,' Breazeale said.

McCloskey said the team wanted the room to feel masculine, fresh and comfortable. They turned it into a Ricklef and his friends would enjoy spending time during their get-togethers.

'Because it is his home and he has lived with these things, little nautical themed knickknacks, we did not want to take them all away," Breazeale said. "We wanted his home to be very familiar still. That is why we put in little hints of him, items he already had, but make it more modern."

Some of those items that were Jim's were the brass figures that were placed onto the new fireplace wall.

The Cottage Works crew built the fireplace wall out of shiplap of barn wood. At 8 feet tall, it is one of the focal points of the room.

The ships Jim kept on the wall behind his bar were moved and hung on the opposite wall from where they were originally hung years

The team framed and matted a picture of his sailboat the was painted by a friend.

Jim has many wooden carved sailors and seagulls that the team continued to use throughout out the room.

Breazeale said pretty much everything else in the room was brought in for The team used a vintage

table base and bought a new table top. A crew at Cottage Works refinished and polyurethaned it for use. The Team also recovered the chairs that go along with the

Breazeale said the fabric for the chairs came from Birch Michigan.

The team purchased a coffee table from Lundquist Furniture in Scottville.

"We all got together and decided on the chairs, the rugs and the curtains," said Breazeale. "It was a joint effort between us all.'

The glass opens in the room were split between Cottage Works and Birch Michigan.

A sign with his sailboat name was hung behind the bar, and it was made for him. The wood came from Cottage Works and was painted by Barb Erwin. Erwin, in the past, has been a Room Redo team member. The cleats were added for nautical flare, according to Breazeale, and the coordinates are the to the Yacht Club in Ludington which he

is a member. The bar was refaced by the crew at Cottage Works and the bar top was not touched ommodate a reques from Jim. His nephew made the bar, and he wanted to

keep the top original. Breazeale also gifted Jim with an art piece she designed and was hung on the wall.

Cottage Works provided al. of the construction in the room and the carpets were cleaned by Pro-Master Carpet Cleaning.

A few of the items that were placed into the room. JEFF KIES SEL | DAILY





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Niki Breazeale opens the curtain as Jim Ricklef and Denise Berron-Kraus look over a room in Ricklef's home at 820 N. Lavinia St. in Ludington. Ricklef's home was chosen as the 2021 Ludington Daily News Room Redo. The room redo team transformed his 20-plusyear-themed living room into a vintage, nautical-themed room with space for Ricklef to host friends and family.

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The 2021 Room Redo design team includes, from left, Susan Von Pohl, Laura Sanders, Niki Breazeale, Liza McCloskey and Julie Van Dyke.

### **COURTESY PHOTO**

# 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 the past 13 years, they've learned a lot about lake living that they like to share with their cli-

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 ness 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.

# NIKI **BREAZEALE**

Niki Breazeale has spent a lifetime curating amazing treasures and makspaces comfortably beautiful. Niki is also the



Julie and Dann Van Dyke sit for a picture at Cottage Works, the couple has owned the business since 2009.

things vintage, or prefer a

more polished contempo-

rary look, Niki's shop has

got you covered, from fur-

niture, to accessories, to

artwork, to rugs, to light-

The business is locat-



coproprietor of Birch Michigan & Pentwater Candle Company. Birch

Michigan Pentwater Candle Company is a one-stop-shop for home decor, hand-poured candles and specialty gifts, as well as offering interior

design services. Whether you love all

# ed at 119 S Hancock St. in Pentwater. **SUSAN**

ing and more.

Having resided in the Chicagoland area for more than 17 years, Sue and her family decided to make

**VON POHL** 

Ludington their home in

She joined the Cottage

Works crew that same year and has been the visual and merchandising lead for years.

With 15 years experience in design, Sue creates inviting, warm spaces by

six

furniture and decor. Sue enjoys incorporating repurposed or "upcycled" accessories whenever possible; leaving her

blending new and existing

one-of-a-kind touch on every home she styles.

With Julie Van Dyke, owner of Cottage Works, Sue is proud to serve on the LDN Room Redo Team for the fifth year.

# LIZA **MCCLOSKEY**

Liza McCloskey has been with Cottage Works for a year as the full-time retail

associate. She is newer to the Ludington area but a Traverse

City native and all around

Before moving to Lud-

Michigan girl.

ington she was out west living the life

adventure and thrill for almost three years. She de-

cided to

make her way home because she has too much love for the four seasons and fresh water. Liza not only has a pas-

sion for the outdoors, but

she also loves to decorate and try new DIY projects to add to a home design. In her free time she spends quality time with

her loving family and new daughter. Liza hopes to bring

spunk and craftiness to the 2021 room redo.

# LAURA **SANDERS**

Laura Sanders is a Grand Rapids native who decided



home in 2016. Laura joined the Cott a g e 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

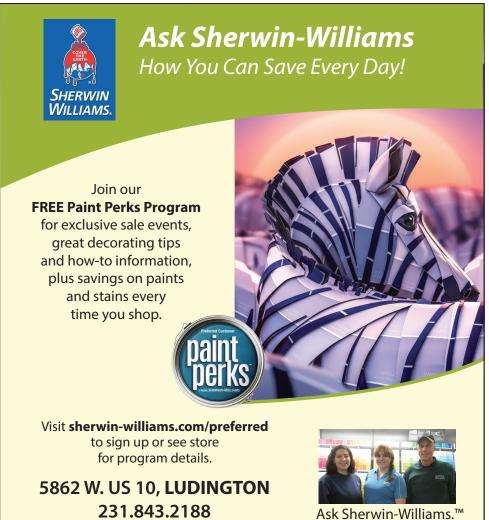
life. Laura and her husband, Corey, were recently married last fall and live in

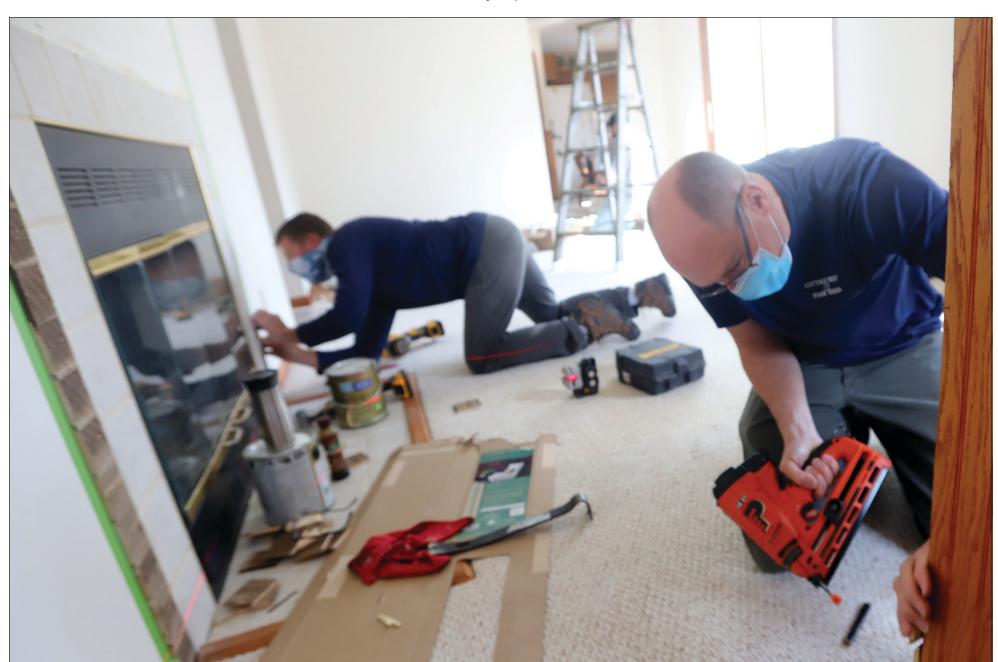
Hamlin Township. Laura enjoys the outdoors, a good happy hour and living by the lake.

This is Laura's first year serving on the LDN Room Redo Team.

# Birch Michigan







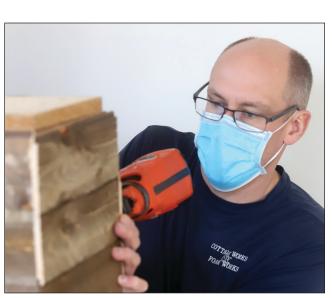
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Dann Van Dyke, owner of Cottage Works and Foam Works, along with Chris Dudle work on the focal wall around the fire place and the bar that will help to transform the space. The two added vintage shiplap to the wall and bar area to help achieve the vintage nautical theme to Jim Ricklef's living room.



Jon Wittlieff installs a ceiling fan that was purchased by home owner Jim Ricklef prior to the start of the construction of the living room.

Chris Dudle adds pieces of vintage shiplap around the bar to give the base of the bar a specific look. The home owner's nephew made the bar and Ricklef did not want change the look to much, so the design team used to the original top to complete the bar.





The focal wall was created by running vintage shiplap from the floor to ceiling and removing the original mantle from the fire place to create a more modern look.

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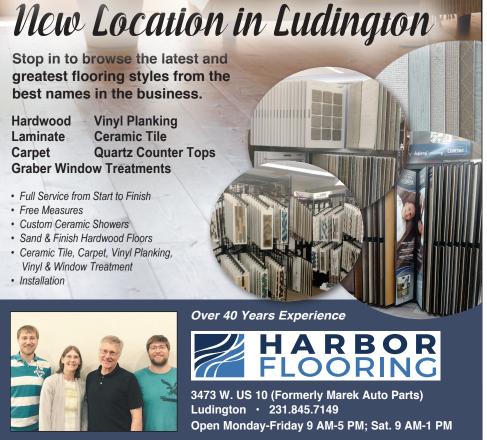


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Chris **Dudle and** Jon Wittlieff, employees at Cottage Works, move the bar top into place and attach it during the room redo.



Dann Van Dyke works on the vintage shiplap focal wall at Jim Ricklef's home.



Dann Van Dyke changes out the lights above the fireplace.

**Chris Dudle** uses the saw to complete the trim around the bar. The projects all came down to the little details that finished off the projects.





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# Jim Ricklef pleased with Room Redo

BY JEFF KIESSEL ASST. .MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Ricklef took his time walking through his new, updated, nautical-themed living room. He was taking in every detail as he and his friend Denise Berron-Krans were wide-eyed and clapping as if to say they were pleased with the outcome of the makeover.

## 'I love it. It doesn't look crowded at all and it

## feels so cozy.'

Jim Ricklef

"I was glad it was so nauti-

cal," he said. He remembers one comment he heard during the walk-though someone thought it was too

nautical. Ricklef said that while laughing but he did say that the items appeared to be so much more spread out and updated.

The room for the past 20 years has had a nautical theme," he said. "I have been sailing for probably 40 years. I taught school for 32 years. I have doing sailing charters for the past 10."

Jim was pleased and could not have imagined what the Room Redo team did with the space.

He said there is so much more seating now.

"It doesn't look crowded at all and it feels so cozy," he said. "I love it."

Jim said one of his favorite spaces is the fire place and how it looks now. The Room Redo team removed the old, outdated mantle and profrom floor to ceiling.

Jim's friend Denise was ing room. the catalyst in getting the room redo and was excited for Jim and what the room looked like during the re-



Jim Ricklef looks over the room during the reveal on Tuesday, March 9.



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Niki Breazeale, co-owner of Birch Michigan, designed, created and gifted an art piece to Jim Ricklef for his living room during the annual Room Redo project.



dressed with a look of shiplap that was gifted to him during the Room Redo reveal. Ricklef was happy the Room Redo team kept the nautical theme to his liv-



The brass art decorations were mounted on the focal wall just above the fireplace. The art pieces were owned by Ricklef and incorporated into the vintage, nautical-themed living room.



Some of the items that were placed into the room including a vintage table and chairs that has ties to both Birch Michigan and Cottage Works.



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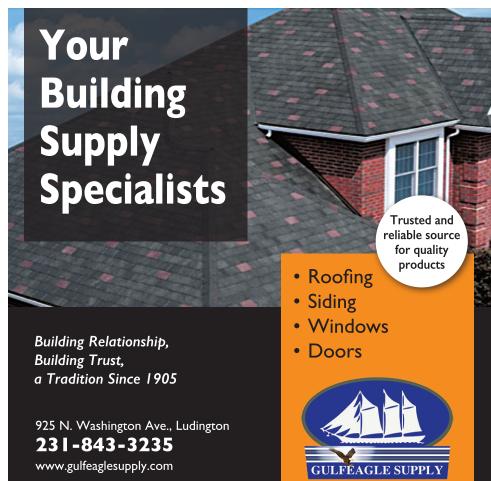
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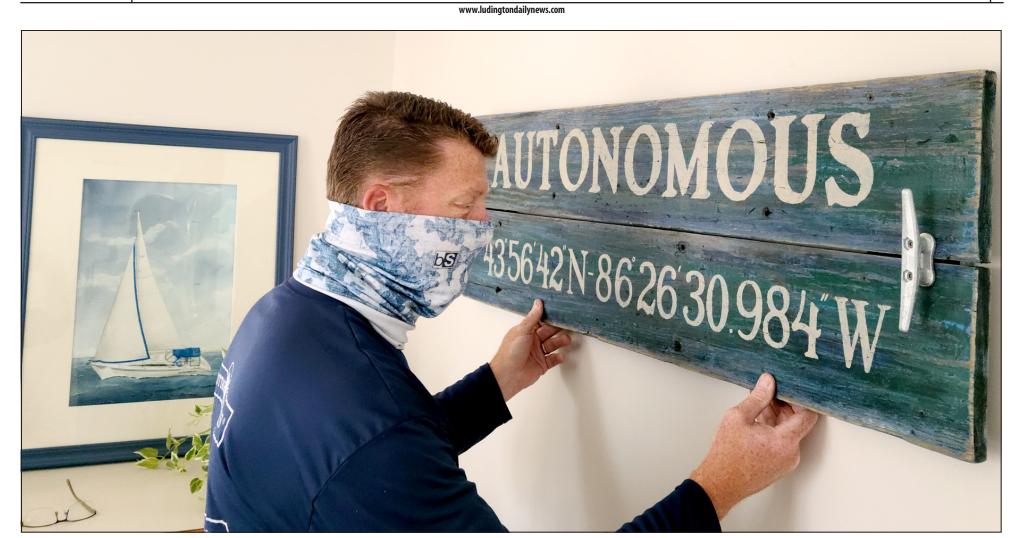
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Dann Van Dyke hangs a wooden sign that was painted by Barb Erwin. Erwin was on several Room Redo teams in the past. The sign hangs behind the bar, and the name on the sign is the name of Ricklef's sailboat. The coordinates are to the Ludington Yacht Club where Ricklef is a member.

# Five tips for finalists

# **The Gorzynskis**

- 1. Relocate TV to another wall in the living space, creating an area away from the entry of the home.
- 2. Paint stairs deep espresso color tread, espresso rail, white balusters and white sair back.
- 3. Add locking casters to stainless island to float in the kitchen for added prep and entertaining space.
- 4. Purchase a new sectional, two sitting chairs and a coffee table to gather around.
- 5. Create a gallery of family photos in frames on the existing blue wall or behind the new sectional.

## The Kelley's

- 1. Consolidate furniture; purchase a smaller sectional that provides more seating and takes up less room in the space.
- 2. Remove the shelving units from the walls.
- 3. Remove blinds and replace with floor length drapes.4. Add built-in bench seating under the fireplace, that would
- double as a place for additional storage.

  5. Make the back room (where the diving table is) the living
- 5. Make the back room (where the dining table is) the living room, and convert the existing living room into the dining room.



The glass decorative balls were purchased at both Cottage Works and Birch Michigan.





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Jim Ricklef, Julie Van Dyke, Liza McCloskey, Niki Breazeale, Shelley Kovar, Laura Sanders and Denise Berron-Kraus share a toast in Ricklef's newly designed living room following the Ludington Daily News Room Redo reveal.



A shelf with several of Ricklef's nautical knickknacks and some new items are placed on a shelf in the room.

by a friend. The painting was matted and framed for the reveal.





Jim Ricklef gets choked up as he takes in the room during the reveal. Ricklef said he loved it and was happy it had enough seating for all of his friends and family when they visit.



# I'm going to make everything around me beautiful.

That will be my life.

- Elsie de Wolfe

# Birch Michigan

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