

Ludington Daily News

# ROOM REDO



And the winner is...

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 is an avid sailor and member of the Ludington Yacht Club.

JEFF KIESSEL | DAILY NEWS PHOTOS



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 place 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 ago.

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 him.

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 table.

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 to accommodate a request 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.



JEFF KIESSEL | DAILY NEWS  
Niki Breazeale opens the curtain as Jim Ricklef and Denise Barron-Krans 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-plus-year-themed living room into a vintage, nautical-themed room with space for Ricklef to host friends and family.



## Delivering quality you can feel.

With technology designed to maximize performance, Tempstar Heating and Cooling Products delivers home comfort you can feel. Choose one of our quiet, energy-efficient home heating systems, each backed by an outstanding limited warranty.



**TEMPSTAR**  
Heating and Cooling Products  
Quality you can feel.

© 2014 International Comfort Products

**PREMIER**  
HEATING & COOLING CO.

205 Second St., Ludington  
**231-843-3575**  
www.premier247.com

A few of the items that were placed into the room.  
JEFF KIESSEL | DAILY NEWS



COTTAGE WORKS®



Lakefront Living

WHY WORK WHEN YOU CAN RELAX? YOUR COTTAGE IS OUR BUSINESS.

www.yourcottageworks.com

2396 W. US 10  
Ludington, MI 49431  
Phone (231) 233.7010



Follow us on Facebook

Maintenance • Construction • Docks • Boat Lifts • Kayak Landings/Racks  
Seawalls • Swim Rafts • Cottage Décor • Outdoor Furniture





COURTESY PHOTO

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

## 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 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.



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

Michigan girl.

Before moving to Ludington she was out west living the life of an adventure and thrill for almost three years. She decided to make her way home because she has too much love for the four seasons and fresh water.

Liza not only has a passion 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 to make Ludington her home in 2016.

Laura joined the Cottage Works Team in 2017, helping manage the retail portion 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.



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

things vintage, or prefer a more polished contemporary look, Niki's shop has got you covered, from furniture, to accessories, to artwork, to rugs, to lighting and more.

The business is located at 119 S Hancock St. in Pentwater.

## SUSAN VON POHL

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

Ludington their home in 2015.

She joined the Cottage Works crew that same year and has been the visual and merchandising lead for six years.

With 15 years experience in design, Sue creates inviting, warm spaces by blending new and existing furniture and decor.

Sue enjoys incorporating repurposed or "upcycled" accessories whenever possible; leaving her

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

## NIKI BREAZEALE

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

*Birch Michigan*

# Furniture & Decor

*to enhance your home and lifestyle*

LundquistFurniture.com

**LUNDQUIST FURNITURE**

*The Lakeshore's Biggest & Best*

YOUR STYLE • YOUR PRICE

Downtown Scottville since 1940

**231-757-3368**

From the latest furniture trends to the perfect accent piece, find everything you need to make yourself beautifully and comfortably at home.

## Ask Sherwin-Williams

*How You Can Save Every Day!*

Join our **FREE Paint Perks Program** for exclusive sale events, great decorating tips and how-to information, plus savings on paints and stains every time you shop.

Visit [sherwin-williams.com/preferred](http://sherwin-williams.com/preferred) to sign up or see store for program details.

**5862 W. US 10, LUDINGTON**  
**231.843.2188**

Ask Sherwin-Williams.™





JEFF KIESSEL | DAILY NEWS PHOTOS

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 Wittlief 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.



## REDEEMED

Furniture, Decor and More!

5000 sq. ft. of artisan's unique decor featuring over 50+ Artisans, painters, reclaimed and vintage decor... and LOTS of gift giving ideas..... distributor of Rethunk Junk by Laura Paint and classes.

**Visit us online to see upcoming classes & new items**  
[www.redeemedmanistee.com](http://www.redeemedmanistee.com)

Tuesday-Friday: 10am-6pm  
 Saturday: 9am-6pm  
 Sunday: 12pm-4pm  
 Closed Monday

172 Memorial Drive  
 Manistee, MI  
**231-887-4222**





### Now Open At Our

# New Location in Ludington

Stop in to browse the latest and greatest flooring styles from the best names in the business.

**Hardwood Laminate Carpet Graber Window Treatments**

**Vinyl Planking Ceramic Tile Quartz Counter Tops**

- Full Service from Start to Finish
- Free Measures
- Custom Ceramic Showers
- Sand & Finish Hardwood Floors
- Ceramic Tile, Carpet, Vinyl Planking, Vinyl & Window Treatment
- Installation



**Over 40 Years Experience**



3473 W. US 10 (Formerly Marek Auto Parts)  
 Ludington • 231.845.7149  
 Open Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM; Sat. 9 AM-1 PM





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.



# AMAZING KITCHENS

*Start Here!*

Kitchen Updates & Remodeling

Nobody does kitchens better than The Home Depot. We offer the top brands and home services in the industry, and we'll help you get the kitchen you've been dreaming of. Choose us for your next remodeling project you'll also enjoy some unique advantages:

- FREE kitchen design services
- Experienced, expert kitchen designers
- Licensed, insured, background-checked installers
- Flexible financing options



Kelsey Schoenlein  
Home Depot  
Kitchen Specialist



www.homedepot.com  
3865 W. US 10 | Ludington  
231-843-9108  
Open Mon.-Sat. 6 AM-9 PM; Sun. 8 AM-7 PM

*A Professional Clean*  
For your home or office

Eliminate more than 99% of the germs living in your carpet with our professional cleaning services.

SERVING MASON, MANISTEE AND OCEANA COUNTIES  
UPHOLSTERY • TILE • JANITORIAL  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE • FREE ESTIMATES

**Pro-Master  
CARPET CLEANING**

Jason Muralt – Owner/Operator

**231-757-9061**





# 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 nautical," he said.

He remembers one comment he heard during the finalist walk-through is 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 done 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 provided Jim with a focal wall dressed with a look of shiplap from floor to ceiling.

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



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.

JEFF KIESSEL | DAILY NEWS PHOTOS



Breazeale and Ricklef share a moment and discuss the art piece that was gifted to him during the Room Redo reveal. Ricklef was happy the Room Redo team kept the nautical theme to his 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.



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



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.

**EASY LIVING FLOORING**

*"We Make Flooring Easy"*

**LARGE SELECTION OF:**  
 CARPET • VINYL  
 CERAMIC TILE  
 HARDWOOD FLOORING  
 AREA RUGS • REMNANTS

5405 W. Wallace Ln  
 Ludington  
 (behind McDonald's)

**MOHAWK COLORCENTER**  
 Flooring • More • Simpler

1-877-440-6400 or 843-1826

**Now in Ludington!**

**POSITIVE CHIMNEY & FIRE PLACE**

Positive Chimney & Fire Place has been at the forefront in the hearth products industry for over 30 years.

We are dedicated to providing an expert resource for fireplaces, wood stoves, fireplace inserts, hearths and more.

Located At  
**COTTAGE WORKS**

**positive**  
 CHIMNEY & FIRE PLACE

2396 W. US 10 • LUDINGTON • 231-936-1111 • www.positivechimney.com

**Your Building Supply Specialists**

Trusted and reliable source for quality products

- Roofing
- Siding
- Windows
- Doors

Building Relationship, Building Trust, a Tradition Since 1905

925 N. Washington Ave., Ludington  
**231-843-3235**  
 www.gulfeaglesupply.com

**GULFEAGLE SUPPLY**





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 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.



**Benjamin Moore**  
Paint like no other.®



THE VOICE OF COLOR



PPG Color Work Station

*We are here to help you through your project*







**LP&G LUDINGTON PAINT & GLASS**

Mixing Paint & Service Since 1948

213 S. JAMES, LUDINGTON  
843-8250  
www.ludingtonpaint.com

BIG TO-DO? BRING IT ON!







# CARTER

Lumber

**Fix it. Paint it. Remodel it. Landscape it.**  
**We have your spring improvement needs covered with expert advice and everyday low prices!**

2323 West US Hwy. 10, Ludington, MI **231-757-9000** [carterlumber.com](http://carterlumber.com)





JEFF KISSEL | DAILY NEWS PHOTOS

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.

Ricklef takes a moment to look at his sailboat which was painted 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.



# Birch Michigan

## PENTWATER CANDLE COMPANY

119 S Hancock St, Pentwater MI  
 birchmichigan@gmail.com

Does your space need a design reboot?  
 Whether it's one room or the entire house, we'll help you update your look.

*I'm going to make everything around me beautiful. That will be my life.*  
 - Elsie de Wolfe

