



**CLOSING THE DOORS**  
Bill Oliver Jr. and his wife, Holly, said they appreciate their loyal customers who have supported them over the last 37 years. Oliver, who started managing the family store right out of high school, said they will

not be retiring as they have a few more working years left to go. The store will be open Memorial Day weekend for a four-day sale.

(CHP)

## Oliver's House of Carpets and Furniture going out of business after 37 years

**By Cheryl Holladay**  
A landmark business "just one mile west of the light in Prudenville," as the radio spots said, will be going out of business the first week of June.  
Oliver's House of Carpets and Furniture, M-55, owned by the Oliver family, was established 37 years ago.  
Bill Oliver said his father, Bill and his two brothers, Terry and Tom, known legally as WWTT Interiors, Inc., built the original 5,000 square-foot store in 1975 and have added to it over the years.  
Originally, the Olivers sold carpeting, after the elder Bill traveled to mills in Georgia to find a carpeting source. In 1979, they began selling furniture and they made additions in 1980 and 1985. The current building is 15,000 square feet.  
The younger Bill Oliver said he graduated from Houghton Lake High School in 1976 and became store manager that same summer. He and his wife, Holly, a graduate of Livonia schools, were married in 1980. Their son, Bill Oliver III, graduated from HLHS in 1999.  
Oliver said he appreciates "all the loyal customers who have supported us over the last 37 years." He and Holly both mentioned their certified floor installers, Clant Chenette and his brother, Jack Chenette.  
"They've been great," Holly Oliver said.

Bill Oliver said he has given back to the Houghton Lake community in various ways. He has been a Houghton Lake Rotary member since 1991 and has served on the Denton Township Planning Commission since the early 1990s. He served as Tip-up Town mayor in 1997, along with his Marshal Jim Bowman. He has also volunteered with the UPS Ed Charities for many years.  
"I'm not retiring," Oliver said, adding that he and Holly will need to keep working about six more years.  
He said that big box stores and liqui-

dators have changed the flooring industry and that the cost of furniture has gone up, but not his profit margins.  
"I'm disappointed," Oliver said. "Flooring and furniture's been my life for all my life."  
The building is paid for and he is looking for a buyer, he said.  
Oliver's House of Carpets and Furniture will be holding a four-day Memorial Day weekend tent sale May 24-27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prices will be reduced by at least 40% and and high as 70% in some cases.



**ONCE NEW**  
This is how the original Oliver's House of Carpets looked in the 1970s when the Oliver family built it. Since then, they have added on to it and the expanded the name to Oliver's House of Carpets and Furniture. No longer able to stay profitable after 37 years, the Oliver family will be closing the doors the first part of June. (Courtesy photo)

## Comfort Suites Lakeside finishing \$250,000 in water park upgrades

Houghton Lake's Comfort Suites Lakeside hotel expects to complete nearly \$250,000 in upgrades to its enclosed water park and spa area before Memorial Day to make sure patrons have a fun water experience even when the weather isn't cooperating. The facility will be back in operation on May 24.  
"As the largest inland lake in Michigan, Houghton Lake has always been a huge draw for vacationers who love the water," said Brooklynn Benson, manager of Comfort Suites Lakeside. "But we all know how quickly the weather can change, on some days by hour. So we invested in our facilities so patrons can use their swimsuits even when we get socked with temporary chilly weather."  
The full-service resort hotel is restoring the water park that includes a lazy river for tubing and a three-story-high slide. An 18-foot-diameter ceiling fan has been installed to keep air circulating and humidity low.  
"We're restoring the entire park, from the top ceiling lighting to the bottom of the pools," Benson said.  
In keeping with its family-oriented range of services, the park has a shallow pool and hot tub designed for children in addition to its pool and hot tub for adults.

With 70 rooms and meeting and banquet facilities that can accommodate up to 550 people, the Comfort Suites full-service resort hotel has been a prime location in the Houghton Lake area for lakeside weddings, golf outings, business gatherings and special events. The Comfort Suites Lakeside is affiliated with the Comfort Inn, a nearby hotel with 69 rooms that serves value-oriented travelers and vacationers who want close access to Houghton Lake.  
The renovation was expected to be complete tomorrow (Friday), just in time for the Memorial Day Weekend. Call 422-4000.



**TOTALLY REDONE**  
The indoor water park at Comfort Suites Lakeside Hotel at Houghton Lake has been totally redone and will be ready for action by May 24, according to General Manager Brooklynn Benson. Every part of the park has been completely restored, and a new air system and fiber-optic lighting have been added to enhance the experience. General Contractor Richard Assaly said K. Straub Builders, Steve Balyo Electric,

Royal Painting and Pools, all of Houghton Lake along with Pennington Brothers Painters of Twin Lakes and Earl's Building Supply of Gladwin took part in the project. Pictured in the lazy river portion of the water park on May 21 are (left to right) Jennifer Jar-rad, front desk manager and Benson.

(Photo by Thomas Reznick)

## 'Get Pumped Up for Relay' today at Shell Station

The fundraiser, "Get Pumped Up for Relay For Life," is planned today (Thursday, May 23) at the Houghton Lake Shell Gas Station.  
Employees from North Central Area Credit Union's Houghton Lake Branch will be at the station asking customers to donate to Relay For Life and have their gas pumped by a NCACU employee. The event begins at 5:30 p.m.



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ON M-55

Mail To: PARADE ENTRY  
C/O Kim Van Duinen  
270 N. Michelson Rd.  
Houghton Lake, MI 48629  
(989) 422-7817

Check in and line up will be in the Glen's Parking Lot from **8:00am to 9:30am. The parade will start promptly at 10am !!**  
Picnic to follow the parade at the EAGLES LODGE at 101 Crestview. The lodge will be open to the public.

(Please print or type)  
Name of Organization, Business, Individual, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Float \_\_\_\_\_ Queen \_\_\_\_\_ Marching Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Bicycle \_\_\_\_\_ Equestrian \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

If under 18 Signature of \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
(For safety reasons, children under 12 participating in parade must have adult supervision)