



The Gardiner Gazette

A call to community



Spring 2020 - Issue #46
Free! Please take one

Gardiner Responds to the Pandemic

See Articles on page 2, 8 and 9

Mountain View Floor Covering Closes After 50 Years

By L.A. McMahon

If you live within 20 miles of Gardiner, Mountain View Floor Covering was always only a short drive away. The one-story showroom, off Route 208 with a terrific view of the Gunks, had a myriad of flooring samples stored in easy-to-navigate displays and hanging on the walls.

The owner, Mario Milano, is a walking encyclopedia of floor-

ing. All you needed to do was describe your rooms, preferences, and problem areas, and he would know exactly what to suggest and how to fix the problem. Stores like that are a local treasure that are becoming harder and harder to find. For over five decades Mountain View Floor Covering has been a trusted and reliable neigh-



bor, holding local home life together with every roll of carpet, every piece of tile and plank flooring.

Mario and his team are to be congratulated for doing what

many others have not been able to: stay alive in the era of big box stores, online competition, and, dare I say it, Amazon. He, along with his daughter, Michelle

Mt. View, [continued page 14](#)

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Gardiner Gazette, Now on the Net!

by Jennifer Bruntl

Most of us realize that the internet is an amazing resource, and thanks to one family that put in a whole lot of time and effort, *The Gardiner Gazette* is now part of that resource, and is fully online and accessible to all!

The Gazette did have a website prior to this new iteration. It served us well for a number of years, but we had limited resources when we commissioned it, and the website had limited

The Net, [continued page 6](#)

And We Could Use Some Help

Some of you may recall that back in 2017, a number of retirements in our committee brought *The Gazette* to the brink of a crisis; if we had not found new members

to help carry the load, the *Gazette* would have folded.

So many of you came for-

Help! [continued page 7](#)

Our Community Cares: An update from Town Supervisor Marybeth Majestic



When the coronavirus hit the Hudson Valley, a decision was made early on to close the town hall and have employees work safely from home. This decision was not made lightly, but after considering the open floor plan and employees' ages and underlying conditions, it was the right decision to make.

However, while town employees may not physically be "at Town Hall," we are still working from our homes, which was not as easy to set up as it sounds; technical help was needed to allow employees access to email and internet servers that are based in the Town Hall. The Governor amended the Open Meetings Law which makes it possible for Gardiner's boards, committees, commissions and tasks forces to meet remotely using the various platforms available.

The Town Board has streamlined its agenda, addressing housekeeping and financial items to keep the town up and running. If town employees do need to come to Town Hall to do their work, these are carefully scheduled, after considering individual locations and social

distancing concerns.

The number of Covid-19 cases, and the time it took for Gardiner to report its first case, provide evidence that suggests that the early closure of our library and Town Hall was wise, and helped to keep our case numbers comparably lower than neighboring towns'.

Gardiner Town Hall was established as a meal distribution center for Gardiner, Shawangunk and Plattekill, through Project Resilience, a community fund and local food distribution effort set up by Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan in partnership with the United Way. It supports residents impacted by COVID-19 and simultaneously provides support to small businesses. At the time this was written we were delivering over 100 meals to Gardiner residents in need, three days a week. As we've seen the need for this service increase daily, we've also witnessed a surge in the number of people volunteering to help deliver these meals to meet the growing need.

We are tremendously grateful to these volunteers and proud to live in Gardiner. Without a doubt, our collective response to this crisis underscores what a great community Gardiner is! Our employees, residents and businesses have really stepped up with offers to volunteer and provide whatever services are needed.

We are also facilitating the New Paltz Community Foundation's program called Help Your Neighbor 2020, which provides meal vouchers to local residents in need. [See *article page 8 to find out how to get a voucher.*]

We've also received support from County and State government leaders. For example, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan and his team have been incredibly supportive in offering daily update calls, working tirelessly to provide mobile testing sites, increasing hospital capacity and securing additional supplies needed to combat the virus. Governor Andrew Cuomo provided strong leadership to municipal leaders through the PAUSE initiative, which has been used as a tool to guide decision-making.

I've found that during difficult times like these, it is im-

portant to look for the silver lining, to rearrange the priorities in life. Some positive changes I'm hearing about that are a common theme in our community are parents spending more time with their children, neighbors checking up on one another, and businesses offering services and providing valuable supplies for distribution in our community.

When I was contacting folks personally to see how they were doing, one gentleman responded by saying, "If you have to quarantine, there is no better place to quarantine than Gardiner in springtime." So, yes, we have been forced to slow down, but in today's fast-moving times, I think there is something to be said for slowing down to evaluate all that life has given us. Stay strong, be safe and together we will get through this. □

The advertisement for Stone Wave Yoga features a logo with the text "stone wave yoga" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. Below the logo is the website "WWW.STONEWAVEYOGA.COM". To the right of the text is a detailed illustration of a butterfly with black and white striped wings, perched on a flower. The background is a light gray.

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Photo L.A. McMahon.

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Hearts on Fire



Gardiner Fire Chief Matthew Goodnow and his daughter Madison accept a check, presented to the fire department by long-time Gardiner business, Lucky C Stables. For the past few years, around Valentine's Day, Lucky C has hosted a campaign to support local first responders. They call it "Hearts on Fire." Lucky C clients show love and support for their favorite horses by purchasing different sized hearts. These translate into points, which later translate into dollars. One hundred percent of the proceeds go directly to Gardiner Fire and Rescue. This year they raised over \$1,600. In the picture above, the 2020 "Valentine's Horse" winner, the beloved "Texas Tea," owned by Lucky C and leased by Farrah Sherwood, is on the right. Runner up, "Arrow," with owner Noelle Parsons, is on the left.

Gary and Susan Clark, owners of Lucky C Stables, want to express their gratitude to those who joined in the fun and helped support their local first responders. *Submitted by Susan Clark.* □

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The Cicada Killer Wars: We Won (And then Lost...) (And We'll Win Again)

by Carol O'Biso

That's a cicada killer over there on the right. They are ground-digging wasps that feed on cicadas and they're approximately the size of full-grown cattle. Well, maybe they only seem to be when they fly in your face. They are, you see, "harmless," (they only sting if you step on them) but aggressive (that flying-in-your-face thing).

We saw the first cicada killer on our property in Gardiner about ten years ago. Piles of freshly-dug soil began to turn up at the far end of the back lawn. The wasps flew low over the ground and then

swooped off with vigor into the surrounding tall trees. Each returned, heavy as a B-52 bomber, with a sedated cicada in their claws and dropped expertly into their burrows. Research told us that the sedated (not dead) cicadas were being placed next to the wasp eggs so the larvae would have something to eat when they hatched.

Live and let live was obviously the correct approach—"harmless," after all—and only around from mid-July until late August, when the adults had laid their eggs and died. Plus, scary as



these huge wasps were, there were only a few.

By the second year, there were more than a few. By the third year, there were hundreds. Family parties became scream-fests, with children, and more than one adult, running in terror. The crew that mows the lawn

came to our door with fear in their eyes to tell us about the wasps. I started tucking my shirt in when walking outside (just imagine the possibilities). I even read about a woman in Pennsylvania whose mail the post office refused to deliver until she did something about the swarm of cicada kill-

Cicada Killers, [continued page 12](#)



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The Net, from page 1

capabilities. Now, thanks to Gardiner resident Marty Brutvan and his twin teens, Lydia and Riley Brutvan, you can access every article since *The Gazette's* 2009 inception.

Most importantly, the articles are now searchable, and we can link directly to individual articles instead of just to a pdf of the whole issue. Some of you, especially advertisers who pay with paypal, will have already seen the new site; it has been quietly live for a while now since some of the work could only be done once it was launched.

As a member of the *Gazette* Editorial Committee, I had known for a while that we wanted to get a fully functional online version of the quarterly up and running. However, I also knew that it was going to be a ton of work and no one really knew enough about the technical aspects to take

that on. So, when I heard that we were going online, I was excited and wanted to know who had stepped forward and how it all started.

Gazette General Manager Carol O'Biso explained that web designer and Gardiner resident Marty Brutvan of Bigfish Design was suggested to us by late, former Gazette member Barbara Sides. It was the Gazette's intention to pay him, but he was adamant; he did not want any money to redesign the site.

Carol says, "I also assumed that we would upload only current and future issues, but Marty was enthused about getting every single article up there. When I gasped and asked who would do all that work, he thought for a minute and said, 'It's not that hard. My kids could do it.' I said, 'OK,



Lydia, Marty and Riley Brutvan. Photo courtesy the Brutvan family.

they could, but will they?' And so they did."

Over the next year Carol uploaded every image and every original Adobe InDesign document to a shared Dropbox folder and, little by little, Lydia and Riley got every article on the site individually. "It was a huge body of work," she says, "and we decided to give them a small stipend for each issue."

The task took a lot of technical knowledge and Marty explained that he is a web developer (programmer and designer). He said, "My online roots date back to the dawn of the internet age. Over the years, I have assisted a number of local businesses and organizations with their websites, including the Phillies Bridge Farm Project, Taliaferro Farm, and the Gardiner Democratic Party. I currently work for Kaplan Education as a UI/UX specialist."

Clearly Marty had a lot of technical ability and appar-

ently the apple didn't fall far from the tree. Marty explained that as a result of working on the project, his kids learned how to use Adobe InDesign and Photoshop in order to prep the articles and images for the web.

Through trial and error they also learned the ins and outs of WordPress, the content management system that powers *The Gazette* website." When asked how much time it took, he said that to input one article ranged from anywhere from 10 minutes to 45 minutes.

Hmmm...46 issues, about 15 articles per issue. So, when it comes down to it, if each one was an average of 30 minutes, Lydia and Rylie spent 345 hours of their time learning a bunch of new skills and figuring out different computer systems in order to get the entire *Gazette* online for a very small stipend. I thought to myself, "Wow! These are some kids! They really exemplify what the next generation is capable of." To see all the issues Lydia

The Net, [continued page 7](#)

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The Net, from page 6

and Riley have uploaded, go to gardinergazette.com or do a web search for "Gardiner Gazette." Once you are on the home page, it is easy to access anything that was ever published in the Gazette. The search tab can be used to look for old articles by title, author, key word, or issue, and another nice feature of viewing the paper online is that everything is in color!

You can also still download a pdf file of an issue. Those can be found by clicking on Past Issues and clicking Download PDF.

We hope you'll check out the digital version of the Gazette! A big shout out to Marty, Lydia, and Riley Brutvan for giving us that option! The next step in the makeover is that the printed Gazette will be redesigned to be more in keeping with the new site. As soon as we work out all the

kinks, there will also be a new opportunity for advertisers; web-only ads will be

very affordable, in full color, and can include links to advertisers' own websites. □



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Help! from page 1

ward! We were thrilled, and the Gazette has been stronger ever since.

However, we are, once again, a little thin on editorial staff, and we need your help. Specifically, we need some new writers whose responsibilities would include attending four meetings per year (currently via Zoom) and writing

three or four articles per year. If you are interested in events in town, can write even marginally well, and have a modest amount of time to spare, please get in touch!

It's a low-stress way to be involved with the community, and it's fun, to boot. Contact us at gardinergazette@earthlink.net or 845-235-2327 and we'll talk! □



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Gardiner Responds to the Pandemic

by The Gazette Editorial Committee

While many Gardiner businesses have shuttered, there are still local places available to us. A full list of these is available on the GAB (Gardiner Association of Businesses) website at www.gabny.com/blog. It's helpfully categorized into Health & Well-being; Money Savers and Financial Support; Local Grocers; Food Services, Takeout, and Curbside Pick Up; Drinks and Things; Business Resources; and Marketing & Advertising.

The obvious places are still physically open; essential businesses like Majestic's Hardware and the Mobil Station Chestnut Mart. Others are a pleasant surprise. For example, Lightsey Cycles is open, and so is The Natural Pet Center! The Pet Center does not allow customers into the store, but you can place an order by email or phone, then go to the store where they will place it in your vehicle.

You'll also find that most of our local restaurants are still open for take-out, and some have specials which, though they have a "recommended price," also have a "pay-what-you-can offering." Hopefully, those of us who have more will pay enough to make up for those of us who

have less. It's yet another way to take care of each other right now.

Many businesses have also modified their usual practices to be more helpful in these unusual times. Jenkins-Leukens Orchards at 299 and Yankee Folly Road has increased their hours and are now open seven days. They have also increased their offerings based on customer requests, and offer curbside pick-up.

Wright's Farm on Route 208 is also open seven days and now has curbside pickup available. These and other markets limit in-store customers to 10 at a time. While Tantillo's Farm was closed for the season at the time of this writing, they will reopen in May.

The Gardiner business community is also offering an array of free services. While the Gardiner Library is now closed until June 1, you can check the website for online offerings including Rosetta Stone language courses, and KANOPY free films to stream. (The library asks that you do not return books



A recent photo outside the Mobil Station. Photo: Carrie Wasser

in the bookdrop. Just hold on to whatever books you have until they reopen. There is no need to renew.)

On a larger scale, in addition to government initiatives like Ulster County's Project Resilience, local not-for-profits and private entities are also stepping in to help during the crisis.

You may remember the New Paltz Community Foundation, Inc. (NPCF) from the complete renovation that was done to the two buildings that house Family of New Paltz. Their newest project, Help Your Neighbors 2020, involves providing meal vouchers which are redeemable at over 30 participating local restaurants and delis.

These free vouchers, worth \$20 for an individual or \$50 for a family, are available for community members in need and can be used to pay for a meal at participating restaurants. To obtain a voucher, get in touch with one of the NPCF's referring partners. A list of these can be found at www.newpaltzfoundation.org.

org/projects/#getavoucher. For those who do not have the Internet, get in touch with St. Charles Catholic Church (Father Matthew 845-255-1374, borromeogardiner@aol.com); Gardiner Reformed Church (Rev. Gary Sissel 845-255-0190, sisselgary@gmail.com or Town of Gardiner (Marybeth Majestic, Supervisor, 845-255-9675, supervisor.tog@gmail.com).

You will be advised as to where you can pick up your voucher and will be given a list of the participating restaurants. These include restaurants in New Paltz, as well as Pasquales, Mountain Brauhaus, and Lombardi's in Gardiner. If you have a question call or email Eileen GulbrandsenGlenn (845-256-1945 or sande2930@aol.com).

While everyone hopes that the Covid-19 crisis will be over soon, we also hope that the kind of caring for each other that local residents and businesses have demonstrated in the past weeks is with us to stay. □

Pete Patel

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The Gazette's Own Covid Story

by Carol O'Biso

On Friday, April 10th I woke up, uncharacteristically full of aches and pains, planning to start work on this spring issue of the *Gazette*. "Wow, I said to my husband. We really have to do something about this mattress."

By 11:00 I started to notice that I wasn't actually feeling that well. I rolled my eyes when he insisted that I take my temperature. "I do *not* have a fever," I said. Except I did have a fever. Just a tiny one at that point—99.1—but something. Most telling was the fact that though typically known as the human hummingbird, I was happy to spend the rest of the day in bed. I also had a cough, but I'd been flirting with the cough for two weeks, so obviously that was unrelated.

By that night the fever was 100.4. Hmm...that, I seem to recall, is the magic number for Covid-19. "I do *not* have Covid-19," I said. He moved to another room in the house.

By Saturday morning the fever was down, then up, then down, and the cough was way worse. A dry cough. Hmm... A persistent dry cough, I believe, is one of the symptoms.

On Saturday afternoon I called my GP and was told by the answering service that anyone with Covid-19 concerns was to call back during business hours or call the hospital. I asked which hospital and he said he wasn't from the area. Seriously? Even he sounded embarrassed.

My husband was now leaving beautifully prepared meals outside the bedroom door and we were having video calls

between the upstairs bedroom and the guest room. On Monday morning when "business hours" began, I was on the phone to my GP. A telemedicine visit was set up for later that morning and three minutes into it, he said, "Got a pen? Write down this number." I was getting Covid tested.

The testing sites were closed that day due to 50-mile-per-hour winds, so on Tuesday, my husband drove me to Kingston. He could have driven 100 miles an hour and no cop was going to stop *that* car. (Let's see, two people, one in the front seat, one in the back, both wearing masks and gloves. I wonder where *they're* going?) And a nurse friend had told me, "Don't talk. It helps spread the germs." It was a fun drive.

The GPS first deposited us in a derelict industrial site that looked like Chernobyl after the accident. We finally found the testing site nearby: huge white tents set up like a drive-through car wash. Having read about New Jersey's long lines, we were relieved to see only four cars ahead of us. Fifteen minutes later, I'd been instructed to press my driver's license and insurance card against the closed window so they could be photographed, been asked to open the window just a crack so they could pass in a paper with my testing number on it, and been directed to a second tent where someone took an eight inch swab and made half of it disappear up my nose.



"QuaranDean" photo by Joe Ferrara, Blueball Graphics, courtesy Allyson Ferrara, Dean's mom.

Whatever I had was mild enough that I knew I was not going to die, even if it was Covid-19, and it was getting better as days went by. On the Gazette committee, we all agreed I'd done it for the

story. Such a great story!

By Thursday I had been in our bedroom for seven days when the call came. "Your test was negative." An even better story. □

From the Office of Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan

Project Resilience has provided over 50,000 meals.

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Former Town Supervisor Related to Addison Gardiner

by Alan Rothman



There is an old Yiddish expression: "Man plans and God laughs." The coronavirus pandemic changed the world almost overnight, and the first Addison Gardiner birthday celebration, which was to have taken place on March 19th of this year, had to be postponed.

More later on the celebration for Addison Gardiner, but while researching and planning for the birthday, I discovered a very interesting piece of local information: former Town Supervisor Leroy Carlson is actually a distant relative of Addison Gardiner's!

This is, therefore, a story of two men: Leroy Carlson, a longtime, very involved resident of Gardiner, and Addison Gardin-

er, that prominent New Yorker who lived most of his life in the city of Rochester and never visited our town even though it is named for him.

Leroy arrived in Gardiner in 1963 after graduating from Cornell University. He worked as a SUNY New Paltz administrator and was a volunteer member of the Gardiner Parks and Recreation Committee, which leased the swimming pool at the old summer "Wallkill Camp" on Albany Post Road. When the pool closed, the Town, then led by Supervisor George Majestic, created Majestic Park.

Leroy retired from SUNY in 1995 and soon after, was elected Gardiner Town Supervisor. He was later re-elected for a second term but stepped down; in his view, the town was changing as many new people moved in. He also served our town as an EMT in the Gardiner Fire Department and as the last president of the Rescue Squad, which was then absorbed into the fire department.

In retirement, Leroy has



A recent photo of Leroy Carlson. Photo courtesy Leroy Carlson

become a genealogist. He traced his mother's family roots back as far as the 7th century, to a Viking, found about 20,000 relatives, and has done much research into the Gardiner family (at times spelled "Gardner"). Specifically, he researched Thomas Gardner (b.1618 in

England), his common ancestor with Addison Gardiner, and discovered that he is Addison Gardiner's 4th cousin, six times removed.

Leroy explained, "Thomas Gardner had several sons.

Two Men, [continued page 11](#)

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Two Men, from page 10

One began a line which led to Addison, and another line led to me. My family goes through Grace Gardner (b. 1707). She married into the Towne family, a very early family in Massachusetts involved with, among other things, the witch trials of Salem."

Grace's son Archelaus and his son, Archelaus Jr., fought at the battles of Bunker Hill, Bennington, and Saratoga. As a scout, Archelaus Sr. was instrumental in defeating the British by monitoring their movement from Canada down to Saratoga. He is buried across the river in Fishkill on the historic grounds near the intersection of I-84 and Route 9 which is, according to many, the largest Revolutionary War burial ground in New York State.

Sometime after the American Revolution, Addison and his family moved from New England to Rochester, New York. Addison's grandfather, Issac Gardner of Brookline, MA, "was one of His Majesty's justices of the peace in colonial times" according to a genealogical text "who was killed at the beginning of the Revolution."

Addison clearly had law in his genetic past. He himself had a prominent career in New York

where he began practicing law in Rochester in 1822. He was the city's first justice of the peace. In 1825 he was appointed the first district attorney for Monroe County, and he did this job so well that he was then appointed circuit judge of five counties by then-Governor Throop.

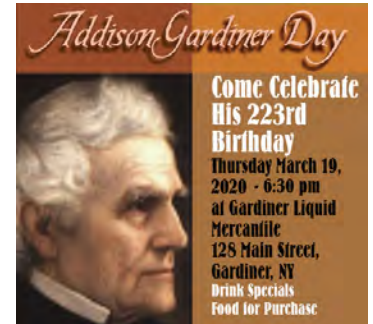
In November 1844, he was elected lieutenant governor on the Democratic line, alongside Whig Party candidate Governor Silas Wright. Later, he became a judge on the newly revised NYS Court of Appeals where he served from 1847 to 1855. Prior to his 60th birthday, he retired from the judgeship and returned to his farm and law practice in Rochester.

When asked why the town of Gardiner was created, Leroy explained that, "In 1853, the area was growing, and it was a busy place, one of the fastest growing areas. They decided it was so large that they needed to split it off. Gardiner was created from the towns of Plattekill, New Paltz, and Rochester." You are probably also wondering why this new town was named after Addison Gardiner. According to Leroy, "It was political payback, probably for a favor."

The celebration for Leroy's 4th cousin, six times removed has not been forgotten. Planning for Addison Gardiner Day began in December, 2019, when it became clear that almost nobody knew anything about who our town was named for. A number of folks offered their help, including Town Supervisor Marybeth Majestic, Town Historian A.J. Schenkman, and Gardiner Day Committee chairperson, Suger Rowinski.

Gardiner Liquid Mercantile seemed to be the ideal location for this first event. It is in the hamlet, is a decent size, has a good menu and wonderful staff, and Gable Erenzo, its owner, was incredibly helpful in planning the event. I recruited an actor friend, borrowed a period costume for him (he was going to "be"

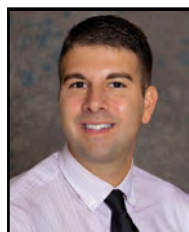
Addison) and everything was falling into place for an evening of good cheer and community spirit. I even recruited a graphic artist, Joe Tantillo, to create a graphic for the event.



And then God laughed. When the pandemic is past and things return to some semblance of normal, we will probably all need a celebration. I'm sure Addison Gardiner would be quite happy to have a belated birthday this year. □



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Cicada Killer, from page 5

ers around her mailbox. (Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night ...but cicada killer wasps? Nope.)

I called an exterminator, but of course they wanted to do what exterminators do, and we have a dog, so pumping powdered insecticide into each burrow didn't sound like the answer. Clearly it was up to us to figure it out.

To the ramparts! To the internet! Apparently, you can stick white plastic knives in the burrows as markers during the day, go out with a flashlight after dark, find your white knives, and pour boiling water down the holes. Never mind that you are eaten alive by mosquitoes and gnats, that you must ferry kettle after kettle of boiling water out to the lawn without scalding yourself. Never mind that we're talking 50 or 60 burrows. We did it.

Or, you can mix up a sprayer full of water and fabric softener and spray it all over the lawn. They don't like fabric softener. We did this, too.

Or, you can pour bleach down the holes. Yup. Tried that.

We resorted to savagery: long-handled butterfly nets—swoop, stomp, swoop, stomp. We took turns. "I got 26 today." "Only 10

today." "31 today!" My husband tried a squash racket. The neighbors thought we were mad crazy, out there in our bathrobes, coffee in hand, swinging like mad. It became a leisure activity.

Need I say that not a single one of these methods made the slightest dent in the cicada killer population? By the fourth year the cicada killers had colonized the entire back lawn, right up to the deck. They flew in our faces while we were sitting quietly with a book or a drink of wine. Some burrows were starting to turn up on the front lawn.

And then, a brilliant idea; I had about 15 yards of mosquito netting. We spread it over the lawn after dusk, weighting the edges with rocks and boards. When they emerged from their burrows in the morning, those little suckers would all be trapped under the net and we could stomp or spray them with ease, then move the net to a new location the next night!

Need I say that not a single one was caught in the net? There is no logical explanation, but the net was empty, and so were the burrows.



No, it's not the Lincoln Tunnel. A cicada killer burrow. Photo: the internet

So, here's how we initially won the war; we stopped mowing the lawn. Let me repeat: we stopped mowing the lawn. I had read that

they burrow in short, manicured grass. Could it be that simple? Not a single suggestion on the

Cicada Killers, [continued page 13](#)



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Cicada Killer, from page 12

internet had hinted at this as a solution, but about four years ago, after the 4th of July weekend, we told our mowers to stop mowing until further notice.

The wasps hatched out about July 12th, as usual, but this time into a messy lawn, which got increasingly inhospitable as the weeks went by.

When it was time for the wasps to mate and lay their eggs, they hovered, looking for burrowing locations. They need an unimpeded flight path as they approach with a cicada, and by this time we had shin high grass and thick clumps of dandelion. Many of the wasps seemed to land and fly away, land and fly away.

Fingers crossed, we resumed mowing in the third week of August, when the nesting activity was over and that year's adult

wasps had disappeared.

The next summer, they were much reduced in number. We repeated the process four years in a row, and they were gone. After a ten-year struggle, we had NO cicada killer wasps. Sadly, our neighbors to the east had hundreds.

So here's how we lost the war; we told our neighbors to stop mowing their lawn, which they did, and we got complacent. We didn't stop mowing early enough in July and once we did stop, there was a drought so the grass hardly grew. So once the neighbor's lawn became inhospitable, our started looking mighty good again.

Last summer we had so many I caught five with one swoop of the butterfly net. We're on it. This year we and our neighbors to the east



A cicada killer and a sedated cicada. Photo: the internet

will present a united front and the problem will move to the next neighbor. And there was one *more* idea on the internet; we now have a hundred small, clear plastic drink cups to put over the burrows in the evening.

So, here's an idea; if all of Gardiner stops mowing for

six weeks after the 4th of July each year, Pine Bush may suddenly have a cicada killer problem.

Shall we give it a try? We're sorry Pine Bush, but all's fair in love and the cicada killer wars. □



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Mt. View, from page 1

Nielson (who is no longer with the company), his wife, Patty, who manages the financial and business aspects, and Office Manager and Sales Associate, Liz Doering, who has been with Mountain View for 18 years, not only survived, but thrived.

I caught up with Mario, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery--which is probably why I was able to catch him--and asked him how he successfully competed with these giant competitors. He said, "Most common-sense people know they don't get good, personalized service from them. I have second and third generation customers, meaning that I installed flooring for their parents and grandparents. I want to express my extreme gratitude to my loyal

customers, neighbors and friends, and say how much I've enjoyed their company."

When asked if there were any stand-out projects over the 50-plus years he's been in business, you know, ones that stood out in his memory, he was very modest. All his projects were good, he said. but when I insisted that there must have been some stand-outs, he went on to tell me that he put floor coverings in over 30 Catholic churches.

Then he dropped the bomb: "Jackie Gleason and James Cagney were also my customers." WHAT?!! I've been watching a ton of old movies lately, and I blurted, "Mario! Really? Just last night I watched James Cagney in the 1935 film, 'The Irish in Us' and was thinking how great he was in it.



Mario Milano and Liz Doering a few years ago. Photo: Carol O'Biso

He lived around here?" Mario replied, "Yes, he did, and he was a great guy who told me to stop by for coffee anytime as long as I never asked him about his movies." Mario then went on to say that, "I've met people from all walks of life in my work and really enjoyed them all." It's clear that Mario remained in business for so long because he was a good businessman, selling terrific products with unparalleled customer service, but also because he's a good man, neighbor and friend to all. When asked why he was shutting down his successful business, he said simply, "It's time."

We will miss Mountain View Floor Covering, and especially the chance to do business

with our good neighbor, Mario Milano. □

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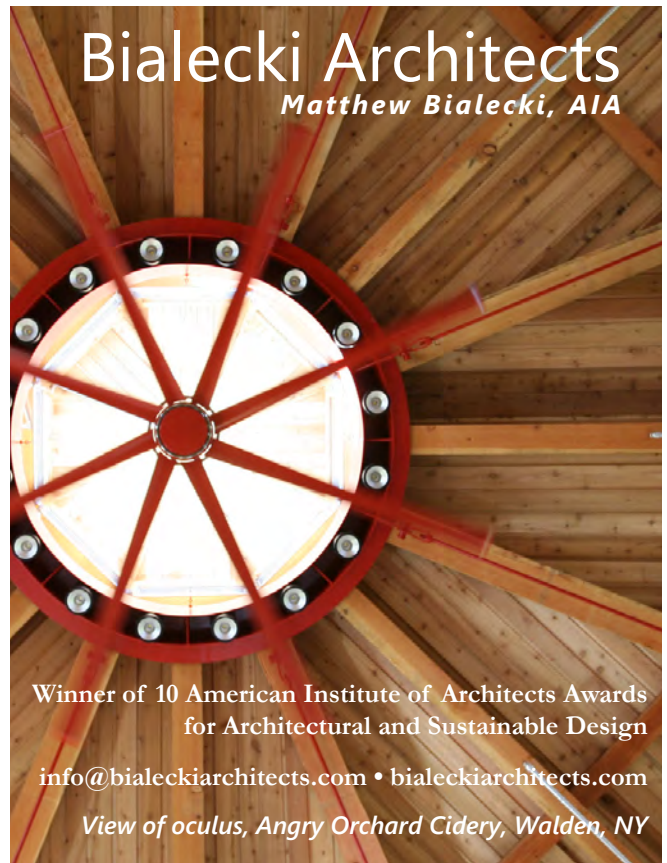


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A promise of new things to come...spring lambs at Willow Pond Sheep Farm. Photo: Carrie Wasser

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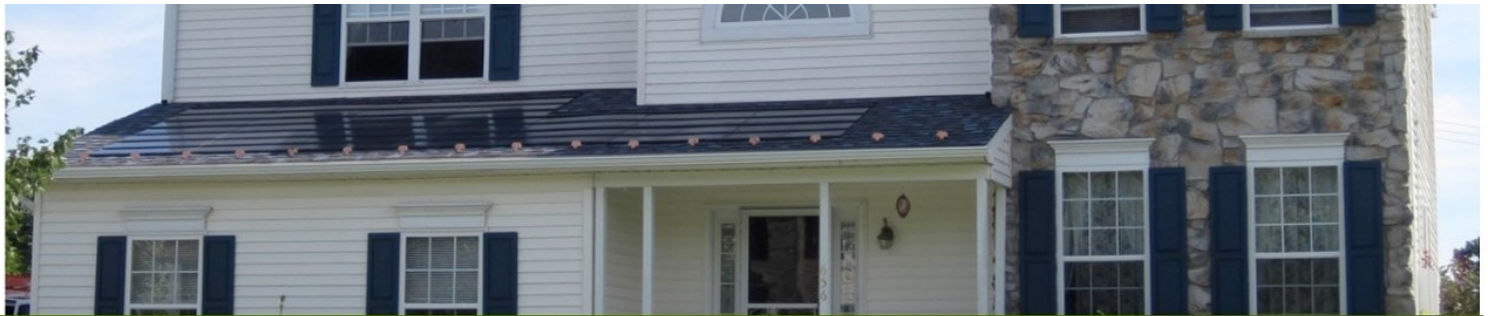
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**During these uncertain times one thing is certain:
People are spending more time at home.**

Some homeowners are taking this stay-at-home opportunity to start DIY projects they may have been planning for a long time, perhaps using Youtube tutorials. Youtube is a great resource but sometimes videos just don't answer the specific question we have. I thought, "Wouldn't it be great if our neighbors had a local resource to address their specific, home project questions directly during this lock-down?" Granted, we may not have all the answers, but McMahon's Contracting & our design partner, Vivid Design Studio, have more than enough combined experience to offer free, technical assistance to our neighbors who want to jumpstart their projects, problem solve technical/product issues or get design support at the time they need it, in real time... Let's do it!" So, for the months of May-June, 2020, please feel free to contact us for free technical & design support for your DIY projects through the following portals: **facebook @McMahon's Home Improvement Forum, twitter/McMahonsForum, Instagram: hudson_valley_contractor, email info@mcmahonscontracting.com, call us (845) 255-2881.**



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