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A beautiful world, underfoot: flooring
Wall hangings as art: Mef Gannon
Fall: a time to make your garden grow

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Letter from the editor

“Nothing gold can stay,” wrote Robert Frost in his poem by the same name, about summer turning into fall. I believe that most of us would love to prolong the summer and fall seasons. Maybe we can: By following the tips in “Fall: a time to make your garden grow,” you can get started planting perennial seeds and plants to make your garden burgeon next spring, and even plant some late-season vegetables you can still harvest before winter. At the same time, it’s best to prepare for the inevitable with the help of Barbara Winfield’s “21 late-summer tips for keeping your home in shape.”

As the seasons change, we’ll be spending more and more time within the walls of our own homes. Why not pepper those walls with some brightly colored artwork that reminds us of the out-of-doors? Artist Mef Gannon, makes the most unusual multi-media tapestries that would surely perk up even the most forlorn of spirits. And when it comes to setting the stage for a warm, welcoming, cozy indoors to spend the winter in, there’s probably no single element of room construction that can have more impact than the right flooring. Check out Annemarie Schuetz’s “A beautiful world,



underfoot” and “A new life for old fabric” to discover the latest in technology—and beauty—in flooring, and “Stan the Rug Man,” who weaves throw rugs to bedizen those floors.

And when it comes to creating a whole house that embraces your needs: Bethel, NY resident Lee Karasik has managed the impossible! He’s built a home from the ground up that accommodates individuals with special needs and meets new construction building guidelines put forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act. It was a daunting task, and our very own Jonathan Charles Fox followed Karasik’s journey from pouring the foundation to hanging the drapes in what may be the very first brand-new ADA-compliant home in Sullivan County. It’s golden!

— Ramona Jan
Section editor

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Cover photo: Credit Armstrong Flooring. There’s nothing like flooring to set the tone for a room’s decor—and you can even try it as a wall accent, as seen here. See story page 5.

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Mailing Address:
PO Box 150, Narrowsburg, NY 12764
Phone: 845/252-7414 • Fax: 845/252-3298

Have a comment or idea for the magazine?
Contact: Anne Willard at 845/252-7414, ext. 129
or copyeditor@riverreporter.com

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Publisher: Laurie Stuart
Section Editor: Ramona Jan
Production Manager: Amanda Reed
Acting Sales Manager:
Laurie Stuart, ext. 134, sales@riverreporter.com
Ad Sales Associates:
Eileen Hennessy, ext. 135, eileen@riverreporter.com
Barbara Winfield, ext. 121, barbara@riverreporter.com

If you would like copies for your place of business:

Contact: Amanda at 845/252-7414, ext. 123
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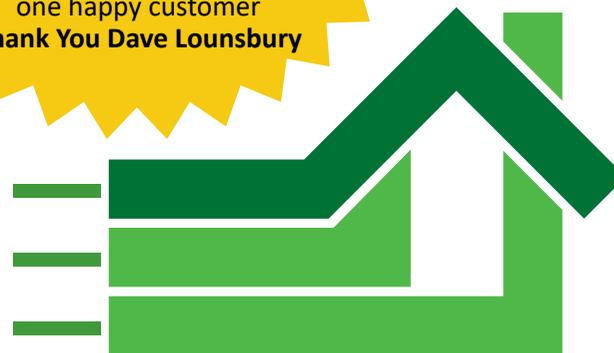
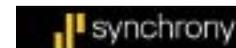
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A beautiful world, underfoot

Advances in flooring have given birth to a multitude of design options



Contributed photo from Mirage Flooring

Pure hardwood floors are exceptionally durable and can be refinished over and over. This is Mirage's White Oak Character in Bubble Bath, Sweet Memories collection.

By ANNEMARIE SCHUETZ

When people want a new look for their home, it's easy to focus on the fun stuff. Walls. Furniture. The kitchen.

Don't forget your floors. It's easy to lose respect for something that gets walked on every day, something that serves as a receptacle for dirt.

But changing your flooring can transform the look of the room, possibly for a lot less than new furniture. If you have a newly walking child or an elder, then you need to take a careful look at what they'll be walking on.

Or maybe you looked down one day and realized in horror that your beloved pets had left visible traces of their existence, and what if hyper-critical family visits? Or you're considering selling, and, well, nothing's changed floor-wise since 1975.

Where to Start

At your local flooring dealer.

Jessica Patten at Honesdale's Cover Your World Flooring suggested, "Think about colors and patterns. Look at your floor plan. Are you building a house?" Staff at local flooring stores are familiar with all the possibilities and they're happy to help. "Sometimes seeing the options changes everything."

Another question: what are you working with? How is the existing structure? "You can go down to the joists" to even things up, she said, "Or patch it to level it up. Vinyl planks are a good choice, and tile is very forgiving" for remaining unevenness.

If you want to go all-out, there is hardwood, where you pay handsomely upfront but, with care, the floor will

last forever, Patten said. It can be sanded and refinished many times. Engineered hardwood is less expensive but can be refinished fewer times.

Tile, either ceramic or porcelain, is also expensive initially but will last. Patten cautions that ceramic tile will crack if something heavy is dropped on it. Tile comes in a spectacular range of colors and patterns and luxury vinyl tiles can mimic more expensive floor choices if you want the look but don't quite have the budget.

Non-porous grout is now available, making cleaning a breeze.

Carpet, laminate, and vinyl are good choices for those watching their funds. Forget the horrors of the past: modern carpet and vinyl can be stunningly beautiful.

Continued on page 7

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UNDERFOOT

Continued from page 5

(But you can still find orange shag if you want it.)

Modern carpets like Shaw Floors' Bellera are high-performance, spill-proof and stain-resistant, so you no longer have to practice your carpet-patching skills.

Laminate, a relative newcomer, is available in a multitude of styles also, and like vinyl sheets can be self-installed if you're handy. Many flooring choices can even go on the walls for an interesting design element.

Vinyl has changed a great deal in recent years; it's no longer your grandmother's linoleum. Available in tiles or in sheets, vinyl is durable, especially when used indoors. Sheet vinyl is more water-resistant, but both kinds do well in kitchens and bathrooms, or in environments where floors need to be thoroughly cleaned.

A few things to remember

In all cases, you get what you pay for. Higher-quality products will be more expensive but will repay with excellent durability. Follow maintenance and cleaning instructions; some products require repeated sealing

Continued on page 9



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Contributed photo from Mirage Flooring

Mirage's engineered hardwood uses wood on a hardwood plywood base, glued to concrete or nailed to a wooden subfloor. This is Mirage Maple Canyon Graphite from their Herringbone Collection.



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Contributed photo from Armstrong Flooring

Engineered tile is a manmade, stone composite base with a stain- and water-resistant sealant. Shown is Armstrong's Alterna North Terrace in Terra/Clay.



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UNDERFOOT

Continued from page 7

and some should not be cleaned with water. Look over your flooring once a year to catch any problems before they become significant.

So, there you are with a floor that needs replacing, and you still aren't sure what to do or how to make the dream match the money. Bottom line? Consult your local flooring dealer, says Patten. They will work with you to match your budget; they know the local climate and any problems it can cause; and they deal directly with flooring companies, so if a problem arises you have someone local to help solve it. Many, like Cover Your World, guarantee their installation.

Your house may have a number of challenges, and your aesthetic may go far beyond 1970s trends. There is a flooring answer for you, and it doesn't have to wipe out your entire home-renovation budget.



Contributed photo from Armstrong Flooring

Another affordable choice, laminate is water- and stain-resistant and offers many color and pattern choices. Shown is Armstrong Architectural Remnants Woodland Reclaim in Old Original Dark.

Where to Find Your Next Floor Pennsylvania

Cover Your World Flooring, 817 Main St.,
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Home Depot 721 Old Willow Ave., Honesdale.
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For a chart showing the pros and cons of each type of flooring, turn to the next page.



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CERAMIC TILE PORCELAIN TILE	Any	Lasts forever Easily cleaned Many colors and patterns to choose from Can be used on uneven floor	Heavy Ceramic tile can be cracked Cold underfoot Slippery	Very good	Soap and water Cleaner Steamer	Pro
ENGINEERED TILE	Any	Long lasting Easily cleaned Many colors and patterns to choose from Less expensive than natural stone	Some brands can be difficult to repair Seams may be more obvious May be less heat-resistant than stone	Very good to excellent	Soap and water Cleaner Steamer	Pro
LAMINATE	Bathroom and kitchen need special care	Many styles to choose from Easy to install Cost Good for the elderly, kids, pets Easy to clean	Water-resistant, not waterproof	Very good	Swiffer, no damp mop Spray and wipe	Pro or self
CARPET	Any	Many patterns and textures to choose from Carpet tile can be mixed for design Warm Comfortable Quiet Good for the elderly	Choose a more durable carpet if you have pets People with allergies should do their research	Depends on fiber and density	Vacuum Spot clean	Pro
VINYL, INCLUDING VINYL TILE	Any Excellent in high-traffic areas	Incredible patterns Easily installed Lower cost Good for the elderly, kids, pets Good for uneven floors Easy to clean	Colors may fade in bright sunlight Cannot always be recycled Heat-sensitive; protect from hot pans Chemically-sensitive people should research brands	Very good to excellent	Wash Can take bleach	Pro or Self



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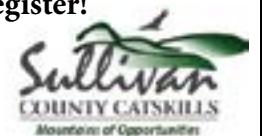
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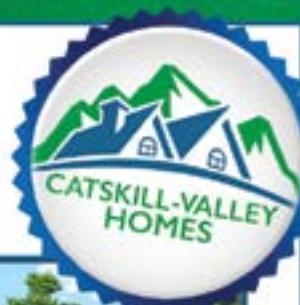
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A new life for old fabric

Local man's woven rugs revive tradition

By ANNEMARIE SCHUETZ

RILEYVILLE, PA — A rag rug is something more than a bit of cloth on a floor. Memories, clothing, shreds of tablecloth, are interwoven.

Stanley Krasovic, the man behind Stan's Rugs in Rileyville, has been weaving rugs for 15 years, using his mother's loom. His work has become sought-after; Stan has some great stories to share, and the rugs themselves can be found on Honesdale's Main Street as well as in his home.

A retired technical writer with no background in rug-making, he restored the loom over a couple of months. The first rugs were made from "barrels and barrels of rags," he said, rags that had been stored up over the years. Now he uses whatever comes to hand: jeans, sheets, people's castoff bits of fabric. You name it, almost anything cloth could be a floor covering.

The width is dictated by the width of the loom (26" to 28" in this case) and the length is as long as it needs to be.

"I have no idea what they're going to look like until they're finished," Krasovic said. There are small throw rugs and long runners, the colors ranging from bright to muted. Depends on what was available, the way rugs were made in pioneer days.

"People ask how long it takes to make one," he said. Basically, it takes as long as it takes. Preparing and finishing the rags and warping the loom occupy the most time: rags need to be sliced into two-inch strips, some are dyed, and they are all sewn together into a long strip that is wound on a drill-powered, homemade reel. Then the loom is warped, and "That takes the most time," he said. The weaving itself is comparatively quick.



Contributed photos

Continued on page 14

Stanley Krasovic's loom is well-traveled. "It went half a mile down the road and 130 miles to Jersey" with his mother, then "back to here [Rileyville, PA]" with him.



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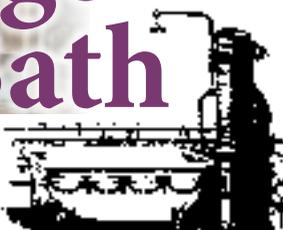
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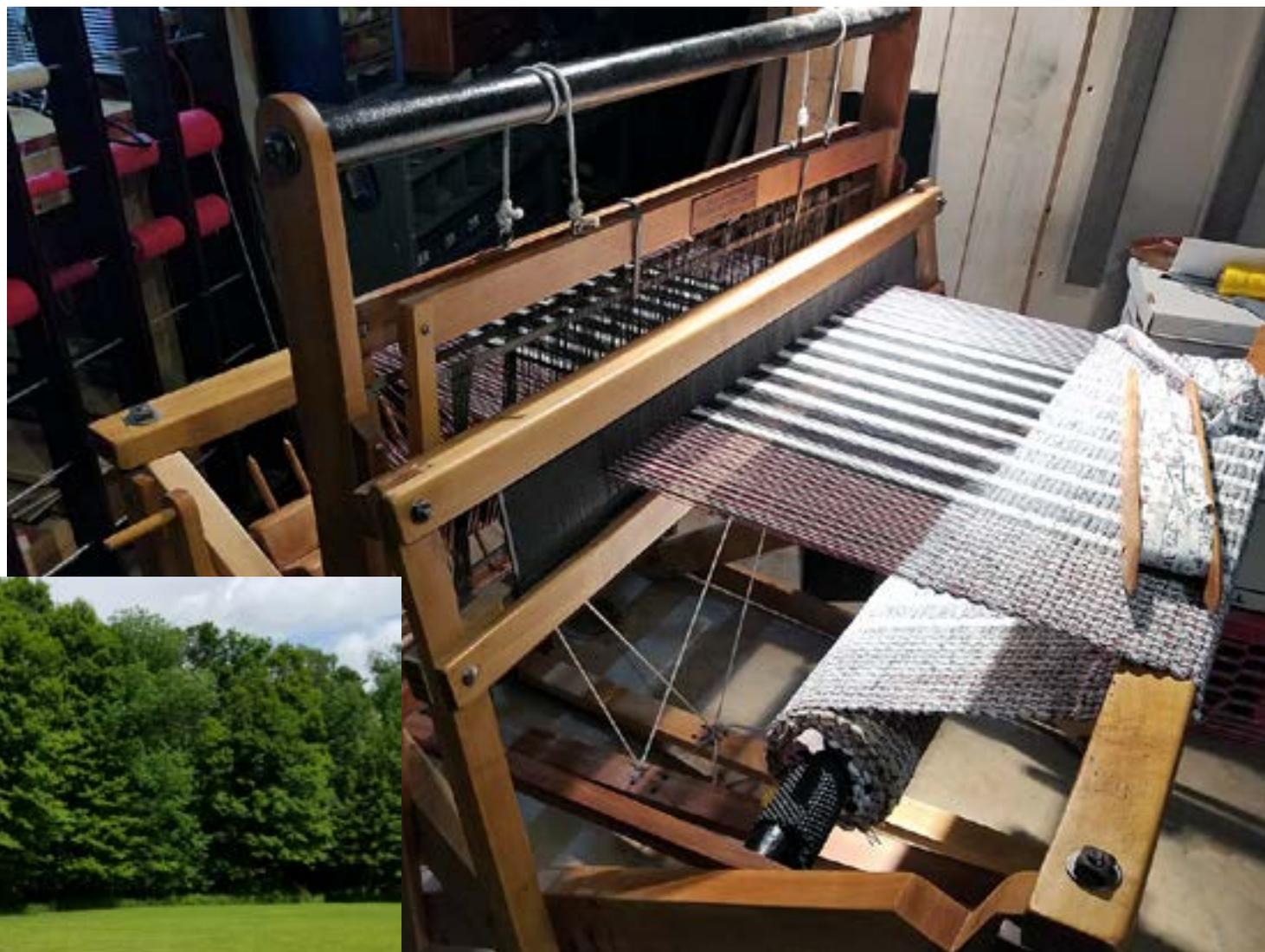
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The final product is easy to care for, said Krasovic's wife Eileen. "You can machine wash them." And they last practically forever.

Milkweed, on Honesdale's Main Street, sells Krasovic's work, and other rugs are available at his house.

"I sell them to make," he says with a smile, "because I enjoy the process."

Stan's Rugs can be found at Milkweed, 1019 Main St., Honesdale, or contact Stanley Krasovic at rugmanstan@gmail.com or 570/251-7887.



The 1929 Maytag wringer washer, restored by the artist, will be used to dye rugs.



Rileyville resident Stanley Krasovic with a few of his rugs.



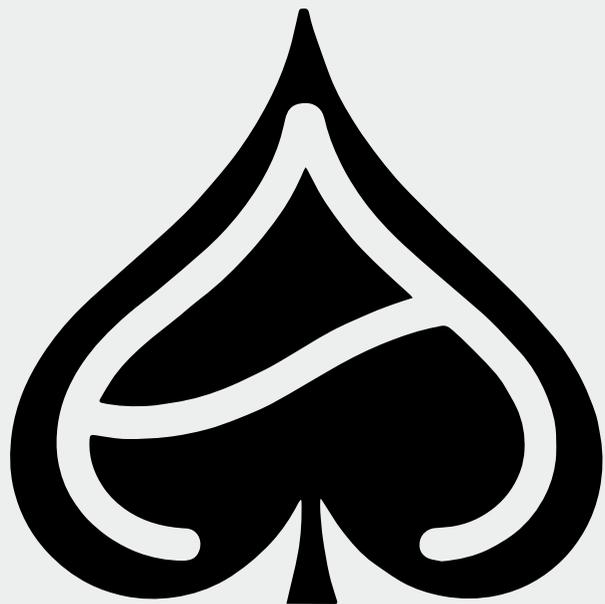
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The house that Lee built

By JONATHAN CHARLES FOX

It's been said that moving from one house to another is one of the most stressful things an adult will experience in their lifetime. Imagine, then, the stress level of building a home from the ground up that is designed for someone with unique needs and has to meet the stringent requirements and regulations set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This is the project that Bethel, NY resident Lee Karasik has been working on for the past two years, and I sat down with Lee to discuss his journey toward independent living.

"As far as we know, this is the first private, ADA-compliant home to ever be built in Sullivan County" Lee said during an interview last month. "I can't tell you how exciting it is and how I hope that this experience building my dream house might serve as an inspiration for others with varying abilities." Lee, who was born with cerebral palsy, has used a walker and wheelchair his entire life. "We all start out crawling around the house," Lee said, "but I've been doing it my whole life. On top of that, I've been crawling around my parents' house, and while they have been amazing and incredibly supportive, I'm ready to live on my own."

Continued on page 18



Karasik's three-bedroom, three-bathroom ranch-style home overlooks a lake and is a sprawling 1,987 square feet.

TRR photos by Jonathan Charles Fox



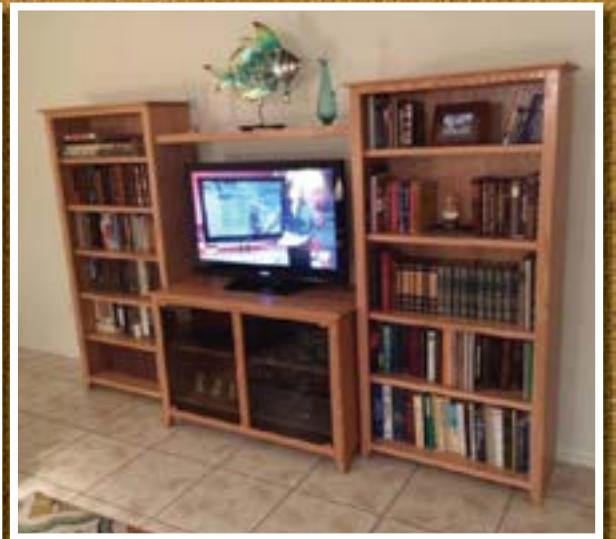
Smart-house technology like this video system allows Lee to virtually see what's going on outside the house and greet guests at his door without having to leave the room.

In addition to state-of-the-art technology, Karasik's dream house has beautiful design touches, like the entry hall doors pictured here.



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LEE BUILT

Continued from page 16

Making that idea a reality has not been easy. “At 25, I knew that I wanted to do this, but I’ve never actually built anything—not even a birdhouse,” Karasik said with a laugh. “Fortunately, I work at a place that specializes in caring for people with varying abilities, and am surrounded by knowledgeable people who have a very special skill set. Without my incredible team, I doubt I’d have been able to achieve my goals.” Lee works full time as a training support specialist at the Center for Discovery, which supports individuals with varying special needs, and it is there that Karasik forged a bond with David Fanslau, who has been instrumental in making Lee’s dream a reality.

“David helped me with every facet of the project, including putting together my dream team. Of course, I had to find a piece of property first.” Knowing that he wanted to stay near his family, and that

Continued on page 1



Compliant counters, self closing cupboards, magnetic cook tops and a waist-high microwave “drawer” are just some of the features that Lee Karasik’s dream team made possible in his brand new state-of-the-art home in Bethel, NY.



“We are in awe of what Lee has accomplished and would love to see more ADA-compliant homes like his built in the Bethel,” said Town Supervisor Dan Sturm, right, seen here with Karasik, seated, and cabinetmaker Mike Scardino.

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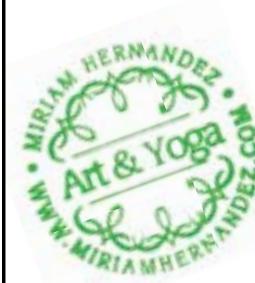


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LEE BUILT

Continued from page 18

a house on the same block was in foreclosure, Lee managed to purchase that property, tear down the existing dwelling and start fresh with architect Peter Cirillo and contractor Dan Brown, who worked in tandem to meet ADA compliance.

“Everything is accessible” Lee said, pointing out the cabinetry installed by Mike Scardino. “I have counters that I can work with, self-closing cupboards that can be reached from my chair, and even a cool microwave that has a drawer that slides out with the push of a button. Check out the stove” he said. “It’s called an induction cook top and is paired with magnetic pots and pans that tell the stove what to do.”

The kitchen is also outfitted with ADA-compliant counters and two sinks. “Yes, there are a lot of rules that have to be followed” Karasik said, pointing to the 30-inch-high work stations. “But I’d rather everything was too low instead of too high.”

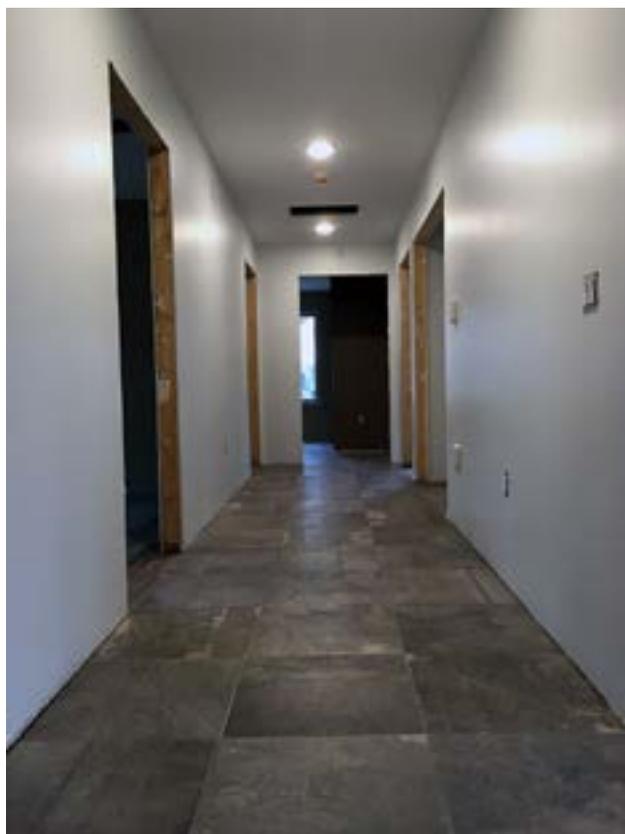
All in all, Lee’s ranch-style home is 1,987 square feet, and has three bedrooms and three baths. “It’s kind of a ‘smart home’” Lee said, pointing out the electronics of

Continued on page 21



Contributed photos

Once the foundation had been poured, Lee Karasik knew that his dream of building the first ADA-compliant home in Sullivan County was about to become a reality (contributed photo)



“Minimum clear width for a wheelchair is 36 inches for a hall and 32 inches for a door. Minimum clear space for a T-shaped turn of 180 degrees is 36 inches in all directions. The minimum passage width for one wheelchair and one ambulatory person is 48 inches.” These are some of the stringent building requirements with which Lee and architect Peter Cirillo dealt in order to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.



The sprawling 1987 sq. foot ranch-style home is ready and waiting for moving day. “‘Excited’ doesn’t even begin to describe my mood” Karasik said, eyeing the interior and ordering furniture. This place signifies independence, and you can’t put a price on that.”

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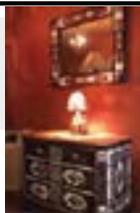
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LEE BUILT

Continued from page 19

the house, which include a sophisticated voice-recognition security system and video screens that allow Lee to see who's at the door from every room of the house. "This was a great project for us to collaborate on" said P&N Alarm systems' Jared Kaufman. "Everything we have installed for Lee's new home is state of the art."

While the heat radiates from the floor, Lee's sound system emanates from the ceilings, even in the bathrooms, which are designed for his unique needs. "All of the areas were designed with an ADA aspect," Karasik informed. "That's why I needed an amazing architect like Peter. We had to meet certain radius requirements that allow for five-foot turnaround in the hallways, too." He noted that there are no sills anywhere. "It's called 'zero threshold' and the tiled floors in the showers are specifically designed on a grade, with bathroom bars, and emergency call buttons in each."

Light switches, outlets and door jambs aside, no stone was left unturned in Lee's quest to create this beautiful, highly functional home with a view of the lake and room for the family he hopes to share it with. I spoke with Town of Bethel Supervisor Dan Sturm. "He pretty much did it all himself," Sturm said. "Our building department worked hand-in-hand with Fanslau and his support team, but it's all Lee... [W]e are in awe of what Lee has accomplished... we would love to see more construction like this happen down the road. Lee has pretty much set the gold standard for others to follow."

Now that the hard part is done, Lee is busy decorating his new home and preparing to move in and host his first housewarming party. "I just got my COA (certificate of occupancy) and the new kitchen table has arrived," he enthused. "It's all coming together and I couldn't be happier, or more excited. Even the dog approves of the floor plan!"

Pausing to reflect, Lee's demeanor grew more serious. "I wish I could put you in a wheelchair for a week," he said thoughtfully, "so that you could really grasp what it's like to live in my shoes. Simple things you might take for granted, like changing a light bulb or taking a shower, can be a real challenge for those of us with what I like to call 'varying needs' but that many consider a disability."

"I prefer to think of it as a challenge," he said with a smile. "I was lucky, though. I did this all with no financial assistance, but others might not have that privilege. I hope to be able to advocate for others who are looking to create their own barrier-free totally accessible homes, so that they, too can follow their dream of independent living. If I can do it, you can too."

This is the house that Lee built.

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21 Late summer tips for keeping your home in shape

By BARBARA WINFIELD

Now is the time to start preparing your home for the colder months ahead. Here are some tips to help get you ready for fall. Many of the tasks can be do-it yourself projects, but keep in mind that hiring professionals can help move things along, get the job done right and safely, and save time and money.

1. Touch up exterior paint. Do this now before fall sets in.



2. Clean your dehumidifier.

This should be done at least twice during the summer season.

3. Replace broken outdoor solar lights.

4. Look for bargains at garden centers. This is a great time to find buys on plants (see page 23 for fall planting tips) and summer items.

5. Repair broken or cracked window glass.

6. Clean the barbeque grill.

7. Order bulbs for planting.

8. Wash outdoor furniture.

9. Have your furnace heating system cleaned and evaluated.

10. Get your woodstove or fireplace chimney cleaned by a professional.

11. Order and stack firewood.

12. Have your chimney checked for cracks or damage.

13. Repave your driveway and repair steps before the temperature drops.

14. Set up some deer-proofing.

15. Weather strip doors and windows, inside and out.

16. Check your home and garage roof for any missing or curling shingles. Call in a roofing expert to replace or repair.

17. Look for any rodent entry points, indoor and out.

18. Clean out, repair or replace your gutters.



19. Shop for storm doors and windows before cold sets in and prices go up.

20. Clean your garbage and recycling containers to prevent insects, mold and bacteria from festering in the late-summer humidity.

21. Get ready for the cold with an outdoor fireplace, patio heater or fire pit.



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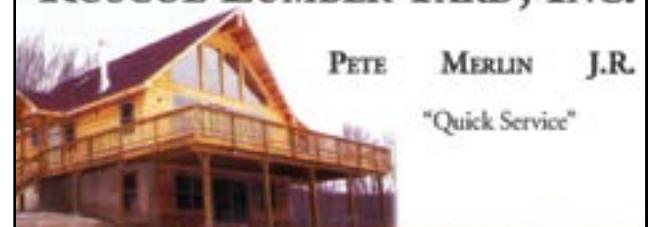
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Fall: a time to make your garden grow

By ANNE WILLARD

With summer starting to wind down and September on the horizon, the thoughts of many gardeners may turn to winding down their gardens as well. Not so fast. Late summer and early fall are not only times for harvest and garden cleanup; they are times to plant. And no, it's not just about bulbs. Fall is a great time to plant perennial flowers, either in plant or seed form, to be ready to grow and flower the following year. There's even still time to plant vegetables, and harvest them, before the year is over.

Hardiness zones

The first thing to do is find out your USDA hardiness zone, as when to plant will depend to some extent on your first frost date. Our own area is divided between two zones: 5 and 6. Visit planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb to pinpoint which zone you live in. The first frost date for 5 is considered to be October 1 through 15, and for 6 is considered to be October 16-31; there's also a great tool at <https://garden.org/apps/frost-dates> that will give you your average first frost date by zipcode.

Continued on page 26



File photos

Rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susan)



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1. Email a sharply contrasted color photo of your pet to amanda@riverreporter.com with Pet Contest in the subject line. Photos in landscape orientation work best! (If you can't email a photo, a large, high quality print can be mailed to "Pet Calendar: c/o The River Reporter PO Box 150 Narrowsburg, NY 12764")
2. The deadline to enter a photo is **AUGUST 31 at 12PM.**
3. Please provide your name, address, day phone number AND YOUR PET'S NAME, breed and anything unusual about your pet.
4. The photos of the finalist will be published in the September 6 edition.
5. Readers will cast dime votes for their favorite pet. Voting will be available by paper ballots and online at riverreporter.com.
6. The pet with the most votes by noon, Wednesday, October 31, 2018 will be declared "Pet of the Year." The other 12 finalists will be Pets of the Month. In case of a tie, a coin toss will decide the winner.
7. Printed photos will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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GARDEN GROW

Continued from page 24

Planting perennials

You can fall plant perennials purchased in pots (on which you should be able to get great deals at this time of year); dig up and, for clumping plants, divide your own perennials when they have spread naturally, or plant seeds.

- For perennial plants (as opposed to seeds), leave about six weeks between planting and your first frost date to allow them to settle in.
- Don't skimp on soil preparation. Soil should be dug the depth of at least a shovel's head. Add a three-inch or so layer of compost and mix it in with the dirt.
- For potted plants, loosen the potting soil and the roots of the plants, which, especially late in the season when you purchase them for fall planting, may have become pot bound.
- Water the plants before they are planted, and also water the hole into which you will put them before the planting (also known as "puddling in.")
- To divide established perennials, dig around entire clumps with a garden fork, lift up a clump and then divide it into smaller ones with a sharp implement. Be careful to preserve roots on each portion divided as much as possible.
- The hole you dig for the plant should be about 1.5 times as deep and wide as its roots.
- Place the plant in the hole, making sure the roots are spread out and downwards over the dirt. Fill the hole with more dirt and firm.
- Cover the planting area with mulch, which will provide good winter protection as well as keeping the soil moist for as long as the roots are still active. Water after planting for several weeks, but not after frost.
- You can also plant perennial and biennial seeds in fall; indeed, there are some seeds that will not grow without a cold season, and therefore should not be planted in spring (e.g. false indigo, catmint, evening primrose). Plant the seeds as you would in spring, but wait until after first frost (though obviously on a day and time that you can still work the soil)—you do not want them to soften or germinate before winter sets in.

Continued on page 28



Astilbe



Bleeding heart



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GARDEN GROW

Continued from page 26

Late vegetable crops

There are a number of fast-growing vegetables that can be harvested before winter in our hardiness zones even if they are planted as late as early September. Some of them grow fast enough that they will be ready to harvest before the first frost date; others are actually improved by frost.

There are no special rules for how you plant vegetables for a late crop other than when. If the vegetable will be killed by frost, just find your first frost date and subtract the days to maturity listed on the seed package from that date; unless that plant is cold tolerant (see below), that will be the last date appropriate for planting. There are many lettuces and other tender greens, such as arugula, that mature in 40-55 days; in zone 5 those could still be planted into mid August and in zone 6 into early September. And of course with tender greens, if you want to get some of those “baby” ones that are so expensive in the supermarket, you can even plant them later in the season and harvest them well before maturity for an epicurian delight. In fact, somewhat counterintuitively, young lettuce is more resistant to frost than mature lettuce, so late plantings could yield you crops even after frost hits.

Tougher greens like kale and collards will not only survive frost but improve after a freeze, so they can be planted closer to the first frost date. And some of the root crops are also good for fall planting: radishes mature extremely rapidly—as little as three weeks, and will survive quite heavy frosts to boot; turnips mature almost as fast, though they are not as cold-hardy; and carrot roots will survive heavy frosts and sweeten even after their tops have died off.



Photo from sixburnersue.com

If you frequent local farmers' markets, you've probably seen (and maybe eaten) some lovely white Japanese turnips called “hakurei.” They're considered a delicacy; days to maturity is listed as 40 to 50 days and you might consider this fall an opportunity to have them in your own backyard—if you get out there and plant them fairly soon.

Perennials/biennials to plant in fall

There are many perennials that can successfully be planted from pots or divided and transplanted in the fall, but in general, it is not a good idea to plant anything that is in flower, as it stresses the roots. So varieties of perennial that flower late are not ideal to transplant—but because their seeds drop naturally in the fall, this is a good time to plant their seeds. As you can see from the below, however, there are also earlier-blooming plants whose seeds can be planted in autumn. The list below is just a tiny sample of what's possible.

Plants	Seeds
False goat's beard (<i>Astilbe</i>)	Catmint (<i>Nepeta</i>)
Daylilies (<i>Hemerocalis</i>)	Black-eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia</i>)
Bleeding heart (<i>Dicentris</i>)	Columbine (<i>Aquilegia</i>)
Plantain lilies (<i>Hostas</i>)	Hardy geranium (Cranesbill geranium)
Speedwell (<i>Veronica</i>)	False indigo (<i>Baptisia</i>)
Peony (<i>Paeonia</i>)	Beardstongue (<i>Penstemon</i>)
Yarrow (<i>Achillea</i>)	Tickseed (<i>Coreopsis</i>)
Balloon flower (<i>Platycodon</i>)	Foxglove (<i>Digitalis</i> , biennial)



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Mef Gannon

A journey in mixed media

In meeting an artist named Mef Gannon, the very first question that comes to mind is: What kind of name is Mef?

“Nothing mystical,” she says. “But I do get that question a lot. When I was a little kid, a dear friend made up whimsical names for her sisters and me. Mine was Mef, and it just stuck all these years. My real name is Mary, but Mef works because it has that certain uniqueness.” As a truly individual mixed-media artist whose art quilts and wall hangings can include beads, fabric, paint, thread, needle-felting, hand-embroidery, machine stitching and, according to Gannon, “so much more,” an exclusive nomenclature seems a must.

As a youngster growing up in Morris County, NJ, Gannon always had her hands in “some form of art or music” until the 1990s, when she discovered beading and fiber arts. “It was a whole new adventure,” says Gannon. “My heart was so excited by the range of colors in beads and textural possibilities of fabric and thread.” It was during that time she started to ramp up her knowledge of the beading and textile world and in particular improve her skills and technique.

Gannon describes herself as “mostly



Mef Gannon

self-taught,” although she does have a few years of “college courses” under her belt. “I love taking workshops and I’ve signed up for a few online courses,” she explains, “but much of what I know, I taught myself. Sometimes you find great tutorials on YouTube. There’s always something to learn.” To further her craft, she’s participated in workshops at Peter’s Valley in Layton, NJ where she has experimented extensively with textiles, freeform crochet and wet felting, to name just a few. “I get very inspired working in different mediums,” states Gannon.

Continued on page 32

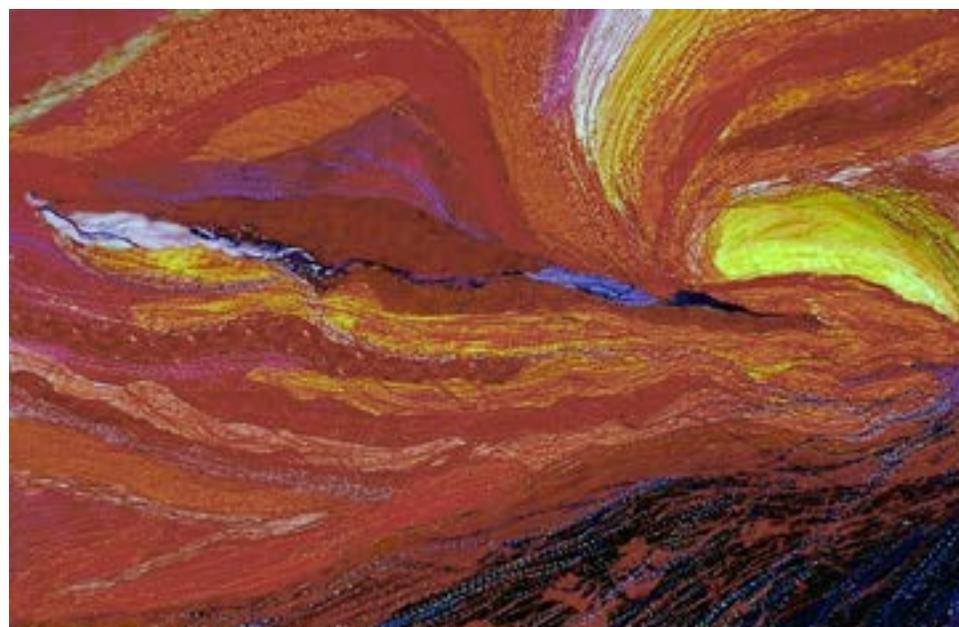


“Sunflower,” art quilt



“Supermoon,” beaded work

Contributed photos



“Sunset,” art quilt

The River Reporter's 23rd Annual 2018 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

THE BEST BALLOT IS ALL NEW!

We have revamped our ballot and it's easier than ever to find your favorite categories! Since the themed groups we're confusing, we've alphabetized the list! We ask that you simply vote for the people, places or businesses that you think are the BEST.

We will publish our 2018 WINNERS in our annual Readers' Choice Awards "BEST" supplement in January 2019. Remember, you can always vote online at riverreporter.com/best-vote

- 55+ Active Adult Community _____
- Accountant _____
- Ambulance Squad _____
- Amusement/ Fun Park _____
- Animal Shelter _____
- Antiques/Collectibles _____
- Appetizers _____
- Appliance Dealer _____
- Architect _____
- Art Gallery _____
- Artist _____
- Assisted Living Facility _____
- Atmosphere _____
- Attorney _____
- Auction House/Service _____
- Author _____
- Auto Dealer _____
- Auto Dealer Pre-owned _____
- Auto Mechanic _____
- Auto Painting/Collision Repair _____
- Auto Parts _____
- Baby/Kids Store _____
- Bagels _____
- Baker _____
- Bakery _____
- Bank _____
- Bank Teller _____
- Bar _____
- Barbecue _____
- Barber Shop _____
- Bartender _____
- Bathroom Remodeler _____
- Bed & Breakfast _____
- Beer Distributor _____
- Beer Selection _____
- Best Place to Work _____
- Boat/Marine Service _____
- Bookstore _____
- Boutique _____
- Breakfast Buffet _____
- Breakfast Menu _____
- Bridal Shop _____
- Brunch _____
- Budget-friendly _____
- Buffet _____
- Builder/Developer _____
- Burger Place _____
- Burrito _____
- Butcher _____
- Campground _____
- Cancer Center _____
- Candy Shop _____
- Canoe Livery _____
- Car Salesman _____
- Car Wash _____
- Career Training Facility _____
- Carpenter _____
- Carpet Cleaning _____
- Catering _____
- Celebrity _____
- Chamber of Commerce _____
- Cheese Steaks _____
- Chef _____
- Chicken BBQ (Volunteer) _____
- Chicken Wings _____
- Child Care Provider _____
- Chinese Restaurant _____
- Chiropractor _____
- Chocolates _____
- Christmas Tree Farm _____
- Cider Mill _____
- Civic Club or Organization _____
- Clergy _____
- Clothing Store Men _____
- Clothing Store Women _____
- Cocktail _____
- Coffee Shop _____
- Collectibles Store _____
- College _____
- Community Festival or Street Fair _____
- Computer Repair _____
- Conference Center _____
- Consignment Shop _____
- Contractor _____
- Craft Beer Selection _____
- Custom Cabinetry _____
- Customer Service _____
- Dance School _____
- Dance Studio _____
- Day Care Center _____
- Day Spa _____
- Day Trip _____
- Deli _____
- Dentist _____
- Dermatologist _____
- Desserts _____
- Diner _____
- Dinner _____
- Dinner Specials _____
- Doctor _____
- Drug/Alcohol Treatment Center _____
- Dry Cleaner _____
- Early Bird Specials _____
- Electrician _____
- Electronics _____
- Emergency Room _____
- Emergency Services _____
- Engaging Facebook Page _____
- Ethnic Cuisine _____
- Excavator _____
- Eye Care Center _____
- Fair _____
- Family Night Out _____
- Family Practice _____
- Family Restaurant _____
- Farm _____
- Farm Equipment Retailer _____
- Farmers Market _____
- Fastest Take Out Service _____
- Financial Planner _____
- Fine Dining Restaurant _____
- Fire Department _____
- Fitness Center _____
- Flea Market _____
- Flooring/Carpet Store _____
- Florist _____
- Food Truck _____
- Formal Wear _____
- French Fries _____
- Fried Chicken _____
- Friendliest Service _____
- Friendly Staff _____
- Funeral Home _____
- Furniture Store _____
- Garbage & Junk Removal _____
- Garden Center/Nursery _____
- General Store _____
- Getaway _____
- Gift Shop _____
- Golf Course _____
- Gourmet Restaurant _____
- Green Builder _____
- Green Business _____
- Grocery Store _____
- Gym _____
- Hair Salon _____
- Happy Hour _____
- Hardware Store _____
- Health Food Store _____
- Heating & Air Conditioning _____
- Heating Fuel Company _____
- Historic Site _____
- Hoagie _____
- Holistic Practitioner _____
- Home & Garden Store _____
- Home Builder _____
- Home Cooking Restaurant _____
- Home Décor _____
- Home Health Care _____
- Home Renovation _____
- Horseback Riding _____
- Hospital/ Medical Facility _____
- Hot Dog _____
- Hotel _____
- House Cleaning Service _____
- HVAC _____
- Ice Cream Shop _____
- Insurance Agency _____
- Interior Decorator _____
- Italian Restaurant _____
- Jewelry Store _____
- Jewelry Watch/Clock Repair _____

- Kid's Camp _____
- Kitchen & Bath Store _____
- Kitchen Designer/Remodeler _____
- Knit Shop _____
- Landscaper _____
- Latin Restaurant _____
- Law Enforcement Officer _____
- Law Firm _____
- Lawn & Garden Equipment _____
- Library _____
- Liquor Store _____
- Live Music Venue _____
- Local Produce _____
- Local Winery _____
- Locally Produced Beer / Spirits _____
- Locally Produced Cheese _____
- Locally Produced Maple Syrup _____
- Locally-made products _____
- Locally-Sourced Menu _____
- Lumberyard _____
- Lunch _____
- Martini _____
- Massage Therapist _____
- Maternity Unit _____
- Mattress Store _____
- Medical Equipment _____
- Meditation Center _____
- Mexican Food _____
- Microbrewery _____
- Modular Homes _____
- Mortgage Company _____
- Motorcycle Shop _____
- Movie Theatre _____
- Museum _____
- Music Store _____
- Musical Instrument Store _____
- Musician/Band _____
- Nail Salon _____
- New Business of the Year _____
- New Restaurant _____
- Non-Profit Organization _____
- Novelty Shop _____
- Off The Beaten Path _____
- Outdoor Dining _____
- Outdoor Recreational Vehicles _____
- Painter _____
- Pancake Breakfast _____
- Parade _____
- Party Supply Store _____
- Pasta Dish _____
- Pediatrician _____
- Penny Social _____
- Pest Control _____
- Pet Boarding Kennel _____
- Pet Day Care _____
- Pet Grooming _____
- Pet Store _____
- Pet Supplies _____
- Pet Trainer _____
- Pharmacy _____
- Photographer _____
- Pizza _____
- Place to Buy Art _____
- Place to Have First Date _____
- Place to Have a Cocktail _____
- Place to Hold a Prom _____
- Place to Take out of town guests _____
- Place to Take the kids _____
- Playhouse Theatre _____
- Plumber _____
- Plumbing & Heating Supply _____
- Politician _____
- Pool Builder/Contractor _____
- Post Office _____
- Postmaster _____
- Potter _____
- Pottery Studio _____
- Pre-school _____
- Prime Rib _____
- Private School _____
- Radio Personality _____
- Radio Station _____
- Real Estate Agent _____
- Real Estate Company _____
- Real Estate Website _____
- Recycle & Transfer Station _____
- Rental Center _____
- Resort _____
- Restaurant - Pike County _____
- Restaurant - Sullivan County _____
- Restaurant - Wayne _____
- Ribs _____
- Romantic Restaurant _____
- Roofer _____
- RV Sales/Service _____
- Salad _____
- Salad Bar _____
- Salvage Company _____
- Sandwiches _____
- Seafood _____
- Septic Service _____
- Shoe Store Local _____
- Ski Lodge _____
- Ski Shop _____
- Soup _____
- Spa or Personal Pampering _____
- Special Area Attraction _____
- Specialty Store _____
- Sporting Goods _____
- Sports Bar _____
- Steakhouse _____
- Storage Center _____
- Sullivan Renaissance Project _____
- Sunday Brunch _____
- Tattoo Parlor _____
- Tax Preparation _____
- Teacher _____
- Tire Sales/Service _____
- Towing Service _____
- Truck Center _____
- Tuxedo Rentals _____
- Veterinarian _____
- Veterinarian Clinic _____
- Vintage Shop _____
- Vocational Technical School _____
- Wedding Cakes _____
- Wedding Reception Location _____
- Well Driller _____
- Wine Selection _____
- Winery/Vineyard _____
- Wings _____
- Women's Health Center _____
- Yoga Studio _____
- Yoga Teacher _____
- Youth Center _____

HOW TO VOTE: Please print clearly your choices for "THE BEST" from the categories listed. Best choices are limited to Delaware, Orange, Pike, Sullivan and Wayne counties. You may also VOTE ONLINE: <http://riverreporter.com/best-vote> **HOW TO ENTER:** NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Additional ballots are available at The River Reporter office at 93 Erie Ave, Narrowsburg, NY. Ballots MUST be complete and include full name, address and phone number of voter. All ballots must be received by December 15, 2018. Employees of The River Reporter and Stuart Communications are permitted to vote but not eligible to win prizes in the random drawing. Entries that are late, damaged, illegible or missing voter's name will not be eligible. One entry per person. Mechanically reproduced or Photocopied entries are not eligible. A business, organization or person may win no more than three (3) categories. Winners will be chosen based on the number of votes received by December 15th, 2018. **HOW TO WIN PRIZES:** All ballots will be included in a random drawing for prizes. Drawing will be held in January 2019. No duplicate winners. BEST Winners will be notified in January 2019.

OFFICIAL "BEST" BALLOT ENTRY FORM

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GANNON

Continued from page 29

“There’s so much to choose from. I get bored easily, so I’m always experimenting.” For Gannon, the successful unification of different art mediums into one piece through an entirely intuitive path is what gives her the most satisfaction.

“I very rarely plan or draw out a design unless it’s for a special piece and needs to be precise,” explains Gannon of her process. “I work more on gut instinct. I’m currently working on an art quilt that pays homage to the color turquoise and all its related shades. First I make a quilt sandwich, which is a top piece of fabric with batting in-between and a backing fabric. I machine stitch the layers together. Now I have what I like to call my canvas to start creating on. Then I go back to my fabric stash and rip and cut up a bunch of strips—I like raw edges—and then I just start sewing them down in no particular order or pattern. Then I might dye some old lace and cheesecloth with ink and paint and add that. Next I’ll add beads, cords, crystals, maybe some buttons, words or a whole poem. I add elements as needed. I usually get a feel if something isn’t working or when the project is done.”

Price depends on the size of the work and the time it takes to incorporate the various mediums. The beading alone can sometimes take weeks to complete, and an entire art piece might take a couple of months to complete. Smaller stitched pieces can take a few days and some finished works start at as low as \$40 per. When people view her work she just loves overhearing, “I would never have thought to do that!”



“Tidal,” beadwork and mixed media

According to Gannon, it was friends, family members and the Beatles who encouraged her to follow her heart in the world of art. “I’ve been pretty lucky to have encouraging friends and family along the way. I’ve been inspired by so many musicians and artists over the years. There wasn’t one incident or person that made me leap up and claim my artistic place in the world, but I will say that seeing the Beatles on The Ed Sullivan Show was pretty impactful on my young

mind. I knew deep down inside that I was going to listen and look at the world differently from then on.”

For the past six years, Gannon has resided in Shohola, PA, where she draws inspiration from the Delaware River Valley. “I am truly blessed,” she states. “I get to wake up every morning in an area known for its lush landscape and nature. The Delaware Valley is amazing and so are the people. There is a very welcoming artist community here.” Her cats Kitty Boy and Muffin, whom she refers to as “real trouble makers and yarn stealers,” keep company with Gannon as she creates. Her future plans include expanding into mosaics and enameling though, according to her, “Some people don’t like the idea of me with a blowtorch.” And yet, with her diverse background, drive and resourcefulness, she is sure to succeed.

“I’ve always had a job, usually in retail,” Gannon says of the many ways in which she has supported herself along the way. “I’ve also done waitressing, pet sitting, craft fairs, and secretarial. I’m also a musician and have played in bands, trios, duos and solos since I was in my teens. But when you get older, you want different things. I can see me living an art-centered life from now on. I have been given opportunity now to make that happen. It’s a new journey I’m happy to be on.”

To view Gannon’s work visit The Artist Market Community Center, 114 Richardson Ave., Shohola, PA, or online visit www.artistsmarketcc.com or www.barryvilleareaarts.org. Her own website is www.mefgannon.com.



“Into The Meadow,” hand stitching



“Long Road Home,” thread-painted art quilt



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