

**From the Albany Business Review****:<http://www.bizjournals.com/albany/stories/2010/08/30/smallb4.html>**

SUBSCRIBER CONTENT: Aug 30, 2010, 12:00am EDT Updated: Aug 26, 2010, 12:46pm EDT

# 10 minutes with Victor Macri Jr.

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Vic Macri, CEO of VMJR Cos. doesn't mince words. He loves music and wine, hates Apple, and can't help but say yes when a local nonprofit needs help.

**You were born and raised in Albany. What did your dad do for a living?** He owned a bar called the Gaetty. It was down on Green Street. After that he became a professional bookmaker. He owned a restaurant with my uncle for a while.

**At what point in your life did you realize your dad was a bookie?**

Early teens.

**What did you think about it?**

It didn't really bother me. At that time there wasn't any OTB. He was a numbers guy. He was good with numbers. That's what he did.

**What did you do after graduating from Cardinal McCloskey High School in 1969?**

I didn't have the best grades in the world. In fact, my guidance counselor—who was also recently my parish priest—basically told me I wouldn't be able to make it in college so I should get a job. I went to Hudson Valley. I had a little bit of a passion for drafting, architecture.

**He didn't think you were cut out for a four-year college?**

He didn't think I was cut out for school.

**And yet you said, 'I can go to Hudson Valley.'**

Right, so that's what I did.

**You wound up getting a job doing field inspections on construction sites.**

I remember back when I first started I would sometimes be on buildings 60 to 70 feet in the air checking anchor bolts, testing concrete. Through transitioning I wound up being the branch manager and running the local Albany office. Through that occupation I became acquainted

with Sweet Associates.

**You were hired by Sweet and rose through the ranks, eventually becoming president at age 32. What did you like about the construction industry?**

I don't know. The diversity of it. The fact that it's never the same thing although it is the same thing. It's always different. The people you meet, the people you work with. In my early years my success was because of my hard work. But when I look back it was because the people who I worked with that were good.

**You describe yourself as an A-type personality.**

I was very controlling but also was always on top of things. As a project manager, you have to make sure everything is done and available. You always have to be thinking outside of the box. I always had those abilities, and you had to think in three dimensions too.

**You're a big music fan. Your daughter Beth said you knew about Nirvana before she did.**

I have very eclectic taste in music. In the Albany area you had the Top 40 stations and WRPI. I used to listen to WRPI. I guess I pick up on what I think is good and sometimes it becomes popular.

**Who are your favorite performers?**

I just went on a cruise [called Cayamo] with Lyle Lovett, John Hiatt, Randy Carlyle and Steve Earle

**What was that like?**

It's a five-day cruise. Went down to Costa Maya and to Belize. You didn't want to get off the boat. There's so much going on.

**Did you meet any of the performers?**

The first day there, everybody has to go to life-vest safety training. We get into the room and Lyle Lovett is sitting in front of us.

I had an opportunity to talk to a lot of musicians.

**You have been involved in many non-profits over the years, including the Lake George Opera Festival. Why?**

It's always been my thing to give back to the community.

When I got involved with the opera festival, opera was the furthest thing from my mind. It was

a struggling operation and needed some help.

I try to get them to a certain point and move on to something else. Right now my passions are with the Boy Scouts.

### **Were you a Boy Scout?**

No. I got involved with them because I knew they needed some help. They're struggling.

What I try to do is take my knowledge and talents and try to make it work for them.

### **I understand you love gadgets but you're not an Apple person?**

I hate Apple. I got an iPod for my car because BMWs require iPods but I'm a PC guy. I've been a PC guy forever.

### **But, isn't Apple on the cutting edge of design?**

They're too controlling.

### **This coming from a guy who admits to being Type A?**

That's right, I'm a control freak. I can move music files a lot easier with an MP3 player than I can with an iPod.

I guess for people who aren't technically oriented they're great because all they have to do is press a button, but if I want certain music on my iPod, I can't do it. You have to make up a play list. Why?

### **You have a large wine cellar at home.**

I used to make more withdrawals than deposits. I haven't been doing that lately.

### **Is there are a bottle of a certain age you haven't cracked open?**

I've got a lot of those. You look at some of the bottles [and think] 'This is an '83 I ought to be drinking it. Well, this one is an '82 I should be drinking it.'"

#### **Quick info**

#### **Victor Macri Jr.**

**Title:** President and CEO of the VMJR Cos. in Glens Falls

**Industry:** Construction

**Age:** 59

**Family:** Wife (Tess) and two daughters

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