

facilities, landscaping, garages, safety and security, lighting, and trash and recycling and provides creative solutions to help restore Troy's alleys as well as highlighting Up Your Alley an event organized by students in the Community Planning course at RPI's School of Architecture.

The publication was dedicated to the memory of Jim Bevevino longtime resident of Second Street and alley major-domo.

Plans are being developed for a wide distribution of the informative and attractive publication. All of the many project participants and contributors deserve the thanks and praise of the community for their vision, their commitment and their efforts to spotlight another Troy asset.

#### COMMENTARY

#### Welcome to the Boomtown!

That phrase and a terrific photo of the Rice Building by Joe Puttrock graces the cover of the June 22, 2006 issue of *Metroland: the alternative newsweekly of New York's Capital Region*. The feature story of the issue, [Can it happen here?](#) by Chet Hardin may be one of the best articles ever written about Troy and I urge those who have their doubts about Troy's comeback to give us a break and at least read the story. Those who love the city will be pretty puffed up and those who contribute to its vitality by their volunteer efforts will say "I told you so!" Chet Hardin put together one fine piece of writing.

#### Quote of the month:

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."**

Margaret Mead, US Anthropologist (1901-1978)

#### Mission Statement

The Friends of Little Italy (FOLI) is a volunteer grass roots non-profits organization whose purpose is to develop and maintain a healthy and vibrant community in the south side of Troy, New York. As residents and business-people we believe that the strength of our past and our diversity in people, cultures and businesses will enable us to make Little Italy a destination point to which people will come to live, work and visit.

#### Goals

- To establish Little Italy as an ethnic tourism destination in Troy's Little Italy neighborhood.
- To restore Troy's historic Marketplace as a commercial and neighborhood attraction as it was in the past.
- To insure that our community is a safe place to work, visit and live.
- To keep our neighborhood clean and attractive.
- To recognize our individual needs and difference to work together for the common good.
- To increase the number of businesses, homeowners and customers and to promote a sense of pride of ownership of our valuable properties.
- To educate and communicate to others about the wonderful attributes of our community
- To advocate for public services for our community and seek funding for enhancements. To reduce the number of vacant and substandard buildings in the community.
- To work with landlords to attain responsible tenant quality-housing stock.

#### Proposed Strategies

- Educate the public through the media, advertisements, public meetings, newsletter, etc.
- Maintain upgrade and keep our neighborhood clean and safe.
- Increase homeownership in the neighborhood.
- Work with other neighborhood associations on common goals and to lobby our public officials for more public services.
- Report crime and unsafe conditions and insist on reasonable response.
- Lobby for more police protection and code enforcement.



#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

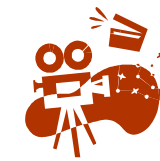
July 15, 1951

When you see this boy in the neighborhood, wish him a HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Here he is standing in front of his family's grocery store. Even then he was looking out for the neighborhood!



#### Little Italy News • July 2006

[www.littleitalytroy.org](http://www.littleitalytroy.org)



## Cinema Under the Stars (Il cinema Sotto le Stelle) at The Marketplace on Hill St. in Troy's LITTLE ITALY

SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF LITTLE ITALY

Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>

Stanley Tucci's "BIG NIGHT"

Starring Stanley Tucci and Tony "Monk" Shaloub. A failing Italian restaurant run by two brothers gambles on one special night to try to save the business. This film won the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award at the Sundance Film Festival. This film also boasts a terrific soundtrack, with music by Louie Prima and Rosemary Clooney.

Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Fellini's "AMACORD"

In this movie Fellini portrays his home town of Rimini as he remembered it in '30s, during his young days. The film won the Academy Award for best Foreign Language film in 1975. "A totally accessible film. It deals directly, hilariously, and sometimes poignantly with the good people of this small town." said Robert Ebert of the Chicago Sun times.

Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>

Frank Capra's

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"

Filmmaker Frank Capra based Jimmy Stewart's character of George Bailey in It's a Wonderful Life on Sicilian immigrant A.P. Giannini, the founder of Bank of America. Capra said about Giannini, "He was bigger than life".

Films at 8:45 pm, BYO Chair

**RAIN DATES, SUNDAY, JULY 16, 23, 30**

FREE ADMISSION - Donations of a non-perishable food item accepted for area food pantries each night.



Simon @ 272-5408 or [simon@webriver.net](mailto:simon@webriver.net). Simon holds a second-degree black belt & is a certified instructor of Berkshire Hills-ryu Aikido.

**TRIP Homeownership Events - 690-0020** Orientation from 6-7 pm, July 11 Rainbow Center. Homebuyer Education: July 12,19,26 5:30-8:30.  
**Summer Farmers Market** Every Sat from 9-1, Troy Marina - 433 River St. [www.troymarket.org](http://www.troymarket.org)

**Collar City Live! Concerts** Riverfront Park, Sun @ 7pm - July 9 Jay Ungar & Molly Mason; July 16 Bluz House Rockers; July 23 Mambo Kikongo; July 30 Patti-o & the Hip Hooligans.

**Collar City Live for the Kids** Wednesdays @ Noon - July 12 Peter, Paul & George; July 19 John Kirk & Trish Miller; July 26 Andy the Music Man.

**Upcoming Events - TRIP** will be recognizing the recipient of its second annual Troy Treasure Award (the first was Washington Park Association in case you had forgotten) in the fall. Washington Park will be presenting the award. Nominating forms will be available soon.

## LITTLE ITALY NEWS INFORMATION

### Flag Day Parade Float

The Friends of Little Italy entered a colorful float in Troy's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Flag Day Parade on Sunday, June 11. Many thanks to the nineteen neighborhood businesses that sponsored signs for the float: Allblues Furnishings and Sewing & Alterations, Caprara's Auto Body Shop, Carmen's Café, DeFazio Imports, DeFazio Pizzeria, Flavour Café, Freihofer's Run for Women, Gifts, Gadgets & More, Jessica's Dream, Kennedy's Garage, Lusco Paper

Co., Mangione Locksmith, Margie's Tavern, Northeast Pest Control, Patricell's Deli, Rod's Upholstery, Spirits of Troy Wine & Liquor, Troy Pork Store and Vanilla Bean Bakery. A big "thank you" also to those involved in the various "float participation" tasks. Wendy Costa and Rod Rojas provided the utility trailer for the float. Joe Mancino and Charlie Staats (Flavour Café), Jean Krueger (Allblues), Marion Field, Agnes Zink, Tom Cipriani and Mike Esposito decorated the float. Joe, Charlie, Jean, Marion and Mike purchased decorations and supplied items for the float. The large American and Italian flags and the Little Italy banner were on loan from the DeFazio's. Sam Judge provided his Church Street alley garage as the site for decorating and storing the float. Claire Regan and Joan and Elizabeth Hayner carried the Friends of Little Italy banner. Rich Regan donated and drove his truck to pull the float. Kelly McGuire (guitarist/singer) entertained from the float. George Regan accompanied Kelly on the float and donated cookies to give to onlookers. Vanilla Bean provided cookies for those who decorated the float.

**Special thanks** to Ron Levesque and Mike Matthews for donating the large "Friends of Little Italy" sign for the float and for their design and workmanship on the colorful individual business signs for the float. The Sign Studio is presently located at 3001 Sixth Avenue, Troy but will be moving shortly to 1 Ingalls Avenue soon. Ron and Mike are not only businessmen with strong loyalties to Troy but are active in cleaning and maintaining their section of the North Central neighborhood.

Incidentally, the huge American flag which draped the south side of Flavour Café and made the front

page of The Record's Flag Day Parade coverage was supplied by George and Rich Regan. The flag was quite a conversation piece among neighbors and parade goers!

### ICC Flag Day Festival

The first time effort of the Italian Community Center's Flag Day Festival was a success according to festival goers and volunteers. The event provided food and entertainment and enabled hundreds of people to remain in our neighborhood once the parade ended. The continued hospitality of the ICC is much appreciated! Marion Field organized a Friends of Little Italy information table at the festival and was assisted at the table by Gina Corina, Jean Krueger and Agnes Zink. They spoke to a number of people, heard stories about days gone by in the neighborhood, showed visitors old photographs of the neighborhood, passed along information brochures, signed up people who wanted to receive our newsletter by email each month and even talked about the future of the neighborhood. Joe Mancino, manager of Flavour Café sold a variety of delicious flavored coffees as well as terrific desserts.

This experience reinforced what we expected, namely the interest people have in Troy's Little Italy. We hope to continue to represent our neighborhood at future community events by sponsoring information tables when we can. Many thanks to Marion, Gina, Jean and Agnes for their efforts.

### Little Italy in the News

*Compiled by Mike Esposito*

### It's all in the family

By Michael DeMasi  
*The Business Review*, May 19-26, p7. The next generation of DeFazio's are joining their father Rocco in a new venture: bottling

organic marinara sauce to be called "Organic Joe" in honor of their great grandfather.

### Rubber duckie derby

photo by J. J. Carras, *The Record*, June 6, 2006, p10.

Photograph of Flag Day committee members at work at the parade fundraiser at The Irish Mist.

### Flag Day Parade Route

*The Record*, June 9, p22  
Friends of Little Italy float (entry number 85) in Troy's Flag Day Parade, Sunday, June 11, 2006.

### Flag Day Festival

*The Record*, June 10, 2006, p5.  
Quarter page ad for Italian Community Center Flag Day Festival with mention of Friends of Little Italy information booth.

### Reunion a night to remember

By John Ostwald, *The Record*, June 11, 2006, p11.

A review of this special occasion written by "one of the gang" captures all the warmth, camaraderie and joy of the evening.

### Grand Ole Flag

Photo by Tom Killips,  
*The Record*, June 12, 2006, p1,3.  
Fourth Street photos including huge American flag along side of Flavour Café and people interviewed in front of Margie's Tavern.

### This day in 1906 in The Record,

*The Record*, June 13, 2006, p10  
A reprint of an interesting article on downtown Troy's celebration of the Feast of St. Anthony held on June 13, 1906. The event included a several mile parade from Fourth Street north to Hoosick and then south to Adams and again up Fourth to St. Anthony's Church, a fireworks display at 8 pm on the hill overlooking Liberty Square and finally a candlelight procession to St. Anthony's Church. Joseph Panza a local shoemaker served as grand marshal for the parade.

**The Record's Historian & Daily Historian Photos** included the following:

**1933 Sal Montanino with daughters Anna (Jean) & Dolores**, submitted by Donna Darwak, June 8, 2006, p14

**1926 Wedding of Dominic Marro & Frances Nusco**, submitted by Francie Horton, June 11, 2006, p14

**1945 Eighth grade graduating class of St. Anthony's School**, submitted by Leonard DeMeo, June 16, 2006, p18

**1926 Tony & Helen Milanese on their honeymoon**, submitted by Gene Burns, June 21, 2006, p27

**1992 ICC members march with banner in Flag Day Parade**, submitted by Joe Killeen, June 21, 2006, p28

### Café in the Courtyard

Flavour Café our "good neighbor café" at 228-230 Fourth Street will once again provide their delicious luncheon menu for the Troy Public Library's Café in the Courtyard located between the Library and the Rensselaer County Courthouse, 100 Second Street. The Café is a project of the Friends of the Troy Public Library. This year the Friends' replaced tables, umbrellas and chairs and once again filled the planters with flowers to brighten up the attractive space nestled between two historic downtown buildings. The Café will be open weekdays, Tuesday to Friday, from June to early September (weather permitting) from 11 am to 2 pm. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be available at 11 am before lunch is served.

### Notable Books

*By Mike Esposito*

Historically our neighborhood has the distinction of being home to two major ethnic groups – the Irish who arrived in the 1840's and the Italians who came in increasing

numbers in the early 1900's. Two reference books published in a well documented series called *The Immigrant Experience* by Hugh Lauter Levin Associates summarize the story of these groups, with beautiful photographs, illustrations and drawings. *Irish Americans* by William D. Griffin (2001) and *Italian Americans* by Ben Morreale and Robert Carola (2000) referred to in the book publishing trade as "coffee table" books are both substantial works covering their topics very well and are highly recommended for your personal home library. Both are also available in the Reference Collection at the Troy Public Library.

### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Third & Washington Sts.  
Troy, NY 12180 518-272-5820

### Weekend Masses:

Sat., 4 pm, Sun., 10am

### Weekday Masses:

Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9am

**Soup Kitchen:** Wed. & Thurs., 4-5 pm, ongoing, volunteers needed

### Up Your Alley!

**Alley Improvement Project, 2006, Troy, N.Y.**, a 36 page publication funded by the Ruben Community Fellows Program, has been issued by Troy Alley Improvement Project, a grass roots alley project of Troy residents who wanted to focus attention on the often neglected, misused and abused alley system (some 43 miles of secondary roadways) of our city.

The publication was conceived, designed and developed by Sid Fleisher and Pleasant DeSpain (Osgood Neighbors), Dorcas and Ken Rose (South Central Neighborhood Association), Barbara Nelson, Architect, and Sharon Bates and Paul Miyamoto, Designers.

It addresses parking and parking