

LITTLE ITALY NEWS JULY 2009 EDITION

www.littleitalytroy.org

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June 2009, Troy Little Italy, Flag Day Parade Float

The idea for this years float was the brainchild of Joe Mancino of Flavour Café. Jean Kreuger of Allblues Sewing and Design helped Joe make his design come to life. George Regan of USA Track and Field was a delight as Uncle Sam waving and talking to people along the parade route. Jim Martin and Marion Field rode in the truck that pulled the float and helped Joe and Jean when they were putting their creation together. **Great Job!!**

Baseball and More Camp Needs Your Help

Do you like baseball, volleyball, basketball, arts and crafts, working with youngsters? If your answer is yes, we could use your help at the camp. If you could give us a couple of hours or a full day, we would appreciate the help. We have over 25 applications and new calls are coming in every day. The camp will be held at Robison Field (Sage Colleges) at Canal and Fifth Avenue, Monday through Friday, starting at 10 am and ending at 4 pm. The targeted age group is 13 to 16 with a drop in program starting at noon for summer school students. Donations for supplies would also be appreciated. You can reach us at littleitalyvisitorcenter@gmail.com, colleen.goldston@troyny.gov, dcollington@renesco.com, aaron.collington@troyny.gov, drewsd@sage.edu or leave a message at 518 326-0415.



South Central Troy Neighborhood

Watch June Update

The last Neighborhood Watch Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 17th at the Freihofer's Race Headquarters. The South Central Troy area covers Ferry to Canal Streets (north/south) and the Hudson to Prospect Park (west/east). We are hopeful that the statistics provided in past months will be available at our July meeting.

This month's meeting was extremely productive and attended by many new and many motivated residents. A particular problem area on 4th Street was the main topic of conversation and residents mobilized to complete a letter/email campaign to address concerns. We have seen a great response and steady results from that combined effort. If you have a problem on your block that is concerning, please attend our next meeting on 7/15.

If you see any suspicious, drug related activity, it needs to be reported to the hotline at 270-5004. All calls are anonymous. If you want to receive regular updates through email and get crime alerts, please send an email to sctroywatch@gmail.com.

Officer McDonald can be reached at chris.mcdonald@trovny.gov. The next Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be on July 15th at 6:00 at the Freihofer's Race Headquarters at the corner of 4th and Washington. Bring a friend!

South Central & Little Italy in the news

The Record, June 24, 2009, "Baseball & More" camp in Troy's South Central by Tom Caprood. The Day Camp cosponsored by the city, the Tri-City Valley Cats, and Troy Little Italy will open in July at Russell Sage Colleges' Robison-Field at Fifth and Canal Avenue. The program includes free lunch and a "Drop In" program for youngsters who attend summer school.

The Record, June 14, 2009, Volunteers make it happen by Mike Esposito. Troy Treasures column regarding the long commitment of community volunteers in Little Italy.

The Record, June 1, 2009, Little Italy captured in book by Tom Caprood. A pictorial history of life in Troy's Little Italy by Michael Esposito is now available by Arcadia Publishing as part of the popular series Images of America.

Quadricentennial Plans

The most recent addition to our growing list to join in our Quadricentennial celebration of the diverse ethnic groups who made their home in Troy's southern neighborhoods is St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church. Their participation will be coordinated by Third Street resident and church parishioner Claire Davis. To date representatives from the Irish, Lebanese, Afro-American, and Italian communities as well as the Washington Park Association have responded favorably to our request to participate. We have contacted German, Polish and French groups and will also contact St. John's Episcopal Church and members of our two neighborhood synagogues.

Our overall plan is to organize a food court, an activities corner for children, an area to display historic exhibits including an oversized map of the neighborhood (circa 1909) and photos and images of prominent buildings such as churches, schools, and businesses as well as photos of families, family activities, and early twentieth century census information. We are excited that Roman Jaquez, a neighborhood resident who is an award winning producer of documentaries, has volunteered to coordinate a video on neighborhood history. A script is being prepared, still photos will be selected, and we are asking residents who have home video of family scenes to loan them to us for review so appropriate scenes can be copied for consideration in the documentary. We are also asking people from each of the ethnic and immigrant groups to volunteer to be interviewed for the oral history segment of the documentary. Questar students will construct a canoe similar to one used by early Dutch settlers and Native Americans. Other activities and events are being considered for the September 24th celebration to be held in the marketplace on Hill Street. Your suggestions are important to us!



Michael Esposito and Lucille Salerno at the book signing held at the Italian Community Center

Troy's Little Italy books still available

A limited supply of the popular book depicting the pictorial history of Troy's Little Italy by Michael Esposito is still available for sale at the Hill Street Farmers' Market on Wednesday's and at DeFazio's Import store. Market Block Books, M.O.S.S Bookstore, Clement's Frame and Art Shop, the Rensselaer Union, Samaritan Hospital Gift Store, Borders at Crossgates, and Friar Tuck Book Store in Delmar are among the local places to obtain copies. There will be a book signing by the author on Saturday, August 8th, 1 pm at Borders at Crossgates Mall. The book is also sold on the internet. All royalties are being donated to the Troy Public Library. Friends and neighbors, who loaned photographs for the book, can pick them up at the Farmers' Market. We are always interested in photos depicting life in Little Italy to add to our scanned collection of images.

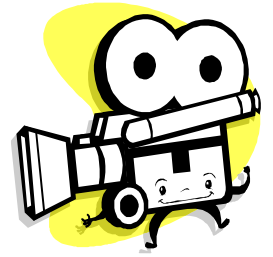
Ron Kellar our "Street Maintenance Coordinator" works Monday thru Friday from 7 until 11 am, if you are aware of an area that needs attention, you can leave a message at the Little Italy Visitor Center @ 518-326-0415.

Canal Avenue Playground

This makeover is a direct result of the Weed and Seed "Advanced Crime Prevention Program". Our site has been chosen again this year as a host and sponsor which will give us a chance to continue working on projects from last year that were not completed. The training will be offered July 28 and July 29th at the Fallon Rainbow Center (free of charge) For Reservations call Meghan at 270-4689



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,
A. DEFAZIO IMPORTS & PIZZERIA**

Starting in July, we pay tribute to Sophia Loren with three wonderful films. Before Catherine Zeta-Jones and Angelina Jolie, there was Sophia Loren, and there was only one Sophia Loren, a woman who said “Everything you see I owe to spaghetti.”

Sophia Loren, an Academy Award-winning actress, who has had an illustrious career for more than 55 years is currently working on a movie “Nine” in Rome with Academy Award winner actor Daniel Day Lewis.

Friday, July 24th

Ettore Giannini’s “Carosello Napoletano”

A young Sophia Loren makes a guest appearance, along with some of Italy’s most popular tenors of the time, in this Cannes Film Festival winner which celebrates Italian song and the city of Naples. 1954

Friday, August 21st

Christian-Jaque’s “Madame Sans-Genie”

Sophia Loren, the outspoken, rambunctious laundress of an unknown lieutenant, Napoleon, later becomes part of Emperor Napoleon’s court when she marries a soldier elevated to Duke by the Emperor. 1962

Friday, September 18th

Vittorio De Sica’s “I Girasoli (Sunflower)”

After her husband (Marcello Mastroianni) is declared MIA while fighting in Russia during World War II, his widow (Loren) searches records and cemeteries, only to learn he is alive and remarried. 1970

Films at 8:45 pm, BYO Chair

**IN CASE OF RAIN WE WILL MOVE INTO THE GASHOLDER BUILDING LOCATED
ON SHORT 5TH BETWEEN JEFFERSON AND ADAMS.**

TROY N.Y.
stickball



I WANT YOU!!! To Play Stickball!

At the Market Place in Troy's Little Italy

Sunday & Monday nights at 6:00 pm for a 8-week schedule this summer
July 19 to September 14

6 innings per game for about 1 hour & 15 minutes per game

6 to 10 players per team; Looking for 12 teams.

League will culminate with a tournament in September to crown the stickball champions of Troy. Funds raised will support local youth groups in the South Troy area.

Contact Rocco DeFazio at 271-1111 or rdefazio@nycap.rr.com



Proud Dads

Representing two long time Fourth Street families, Rocco DeFazio and Charles Carletta Sr., stand between sons, Cadet Captain John DeFazio, and Brigade Commander Cadet Colonel Charles Carletta, Jr. at the 2009 LaSalle Institute Cadet Officer Promotion and Commissioning Ceremony. Both National Honor Society cadets will be entering their senior year at LaSalle in the fall. John, who plans to attend Siena College, is a member of the football team and indoor and outdoor track teams. Charles Jr. plans to attend RPI and is on the soccer and lacrosse teams. The families were separated by several blocks – the Carletta’s at number 174, the DeFazio’s at number 264.

LaSalle Institute on Fourth

Troy’s Little Italy has always been proud of LaSalle Institute. The school was organized by the Christian Brothers called to service in Troy by Rev. Peter Havermans. Five brothers arrived in Troy in 1850 to educate young men of the working class and care for male orphans. By 1880, the Christian Brothers chartered the corporation—LaSalle Institute of Troy and acquired the property from St. Mary’s parish. From the earliest days of Italian migration to our Little Italy, families have made the financial sacrifice to invest in the special education they knew their sons would receive at LaSalle. LaSalle alumnus and local author Jack Casey, wrote an interesting history, **LaSalle Institute: The First 150 Years**, which we recommend.

Included among the many names from the Italian neighborhood, which was home base to the school until the new suburban campus was opened in 1966, were Albarelli, Bizzarro, Casale, Cioffi, DeMaria, Farina, Magnatto, Mariano, Merola, Renna, and Testo. Neighborhood residents and students alike recall early fall football exercise sessions which included the team run from its Fourth Street site through Prospect Park to the practice field near St. Francis Church, the weekly parade drills in the old public market on

Hill Street, the solemn, daily raising of the American flag in front of the school, the cheerful greetings of crossing guards Theresa Bruno and Philomena Donato on duty at the corner of Fourth and Washington, the three neighborhood barbershops (including “two-minute Charlie’s”) on the school’s block, kept busy on cadet inspection day, the long lines at Tony Testo’s Luncheonette or Stewarts Ice Cream Shop (the students were good business for the neighborhood), the coaching skills and pep talks of Dom Denio, the sight and sounds of the student body and marching band during Troy parades, and the endless antics and horsing around of boy’s being boy’s (out of view of “the good brothers”). A longtime school tradition included assisting St. Mary’s parish with toy drives, donations of food and money, and volunteering at the food pantry, soup kitchen, spaghetti suppers and other parish-related activities. We all continue to be immensely proud of LaSalle Institute and the young men educated at the school. Many have served and continue to serve our community. We miss their lively presence in the neighborhood!



The Bocce Club

Every 3rd Thursday of the month you can find Frank Merola, Tom Testo, Paul Montarello, Paul Santandrea, Tony Magnetto and Kevin Gebert at the Bocce Courts in Little Italy enjoying a game which was played by their fathers and grandfathers. Bocce Courts are open to all to enjoy!!!



A Day to Celebrate

Members of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus and Father Mario Julian after a special Mass for the Feast of St. Anthony.

**Little Italy
Farmer’s Market
Every Wednesday
3 to 7 pm**

Mark your Calendars!

City-Wide Garage Sale

**August 15th,
9 am to 3 pm**



**To be held in the
Troy Public Market**

**Reserve your space now (12 x 12)
\$20.00**

**Contact Andrea at 470-7369 or
Email: bdaley5@nycap.rr.com**

AT LIBERTY

The Saga of an Italo-American Family in South Troy

By Frank LaPosta Visco

Part 9: The Elopement

Eddie Case had saved enough money from his job at Cluett, Peabody and Company. He bought his first car, an overused Ford Model A, and had enough left over for the trip he had secretly planned with Esther. Ironically, she had saved the same amount from her job at Frear's, so that when they met that warm Friday evening in July of 1934, and pooled their money, it was as if they were fulfilling the ancient, equalizing Italian dowry custom called *venti e venti* (twenty and twenty) that their older siblings couldn't manage when they were married.

The plan was simple. Now that they were both of legal age, they could get a marriage license without parental consent. Since they couldn't risk discovery, they decided to meet in the Williams Street Alley, where Eddie had left the car earlier that day.

After dinner, Esther excused herself and announced that she was going to meet some girlfriends for their Friday night social. At the same time, a few blocks away, Eddie kissed his mother and told her he was going to work on the car.

The conspirators, unseen by their neighbors, met in the alley, and after a furtive glance or two, embraced and kissed. As fear, passion and anticipation mingled, they reassured each other, and, after a few hard turns on the old Ford's crank, the jalopy chugged to life.

The drive east was mostly accomplished in silence, with a few nervous attempts at small talk. Eddie almost missed the Justice of the Peace sign in front of the neat white clapboard home after they crossed the state border into Vermont. Esther spied it first and announced it excitedly.

They rang the bell and waited nervously. Finally, the porch light went on and Norman Rockwell's idea of a Vermont Justice of the Peace came to the door, complete with pipe, evening newspaper and slippers. One look at the eager couple and he knew what was up.

He ushered them in to the parlor, sat them down and began the interrogation. When the JP was satisfied that all was in order, he called for his wife, who had been in the kitchen, cleaning up after dinner and pouring lemonade for the lovebirds.

They stood and repeated the words, Eddie slipped the thin, plain gold ring on Esther's finger, and the JP pronounced them man and wife.

The JP and his wife witnessed the first kiss, the license was signed, and as Eddie and the JP concluded the monetary transaction, the matronly woman of the house whispered in Esther's ear. Esther nodded. As they left the home, beaming, the newly married couple barely heard the directions to the nearest roadside inn.

The innkeeper, having been forewarned of the newlyweds' imminent appearance by a phone call from his cousin, the Justice of the Peace, made up the bed in the bridal suite and hung fresh towels in the private bath.

Ten minutes later, when the Model A sputtered to a stop in the courtyard of the inn, the young couple found a host with an understanding smirk waiting for them. Even so, he dryly inquired as to their wishes.

"Two single rooms for the night, I presume?"

"Um, well, no," Eddie said. "We just.. we're..."

"Do you have a bridal suite?" Esther interrupted.

"Oh, yes, of course," said the innkeeper. "Congratulations. Here's the key – and pleasant dreams."

"Thank you."

"One more thing," said the innkeeper mysteriously, stopping them in their tracks. With his wry smile slowly warming his lined face, he inquired, "Will you be wanting a wake-up call?"

They giggled no and tried to appear as if they weren't rushing to the room. They entered a plain room filled with soft light from a kerosene lamp, and furnished with old but comfortable rustic furniture, dominated by a handsome four-poster bed with a plush feather mattress.

Esther took her cardboard valise into the bathroom, and in a few moments emerged, wearing a nightgown that was just like the one that her famous customer, Mame Fay, had especially liked. Esther blew out the light, joined Eddie under the covers, and they celebrated their union as man and wife.

The next afternoon, when they returned home, hoping for the congratulations of their families and friends, what they found instead was a bitter, cold reception in the middle of a summer heat wave.

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Next: In Part Ten, the punishment.

Little Italy Real Estate For Sale

1 FAMILY

191 Second St \$549,000 Karen
892-1326

261 Liberty St. \$69,900 Harvey
466-1303

1033 6th Ave. \$67,500 James
724-2478

56 Havermans Ave. \$155,900 Willie
348-2060

2 FAMILY

190 Third Street \$99,000 James
588-6755

191 Third Street \$179,900 James
588-6755

121 Adams Street \$109,900 Thomas
618-8249

1045 Sixth Avenue \$59,900 William
331-4755

190 First Street \$279,900 Elizabeth
396-8544

MULTI UNITS

78 Hill Street \$99,900 William
331-4755

401 Washington St \$164,900 Al
441-4353

263 Fourth Street \$89,900 Leon
727-7493

1465 Fifth Avenue \$171,900 Elise
339-7932

1 Irving Place \$215,500 Richard
852-1365

227 Second Street \$99,000 William
331-4755

COMMERCIAL

37 Ida Street \$109,000 Paul
369-1912

275 Fourth St. \$179,900 Suzanne
859-9255

National Night Out

"National Night Out Against Crime".

August 4, 2009 at the Troy Public Market Refreshments will be served and attendance is **free**. Mobile Command Unit, Bouncy Bounce, Face Painting, DJ, Meatball Eating Contest, Chalk Drawing Contest, ID for Kids and more. Look for an update in our next issue.

June Meetings

7/15 Neighborhood Watch 6 pm

Troy Little Italy 7 pm

7/20 TNAC 5:30 pm

Oneil Apartments