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1979 Frank Pompa

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1976 Sam Ripepi

1974 Joseph Grimaudo

Mission Statement

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan This Chamber is dedicated to the promotion of the community, which we serve. We do this while we enjoy with great pride our Italian heritage and culture and we also honor the Italian immigrants of past generations for their contributions to this great country. We are proud Americans of Italian background.



Intro For New Editor - Bob Ripullo

Hi, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Bob Ripullo and I'm your new editor for the Grapevine. I have been a member of the Chamber for five years, and also have served as Chairman of the Festa Della Lira in 2003.

I work for Bob Thibodeau Ford and have been parts manager for the past three years. I have been in the dealership business for 37 years. I have 17 years experience as a manager and I am also a member of the Ford Motor Company Medallion Elite Club. I

hope that I can carry on the job as your editor as professionally as Ron DiBartolomeo has done.

At this time I would like to thank Ron for all the hard work he has done in starting and editing the Grapevine for the past few years. He has done an outstanding job for all of us, and now I'll try and fill his shoes and keep the Grapevine going.

Ron, THANK YOU for everything and may God bless you!



Editor

Robert F. Ripullo

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Chuck Maniaci

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Agostino (Gus) Russo

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Chuck Maniaci

Administrative Asst.

Deborah Demick

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PAW Graphics

Printer

American Graphics



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THE GRAPEVINE

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Upcoming EVENTS

JUNE 1 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

- 6:00 PM Board Meeting
- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Cherry Creek Golf & Banquet Center
52003 Cherry Creek Dr., Shelby Township

JUNE 27 • WEDNESDAY • GOLF OUTING

TIME

- 11:00 AM Shotgun Start

LOCATION

- Fern Hill Country Club
17600 Clinton River Rd., Clinton Township

SEPTEMBER 7 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

- 6:00 PM Board Meeting
- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting
Scholarship Awards Night

LOCATION

- Fern Hill Country Club
17600 Clinton River Rd, Clinton Township

OCTOBER 5 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

- 6:00 PM Board Meeting
- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Mirage Banquet Center
16980 18 Mile Road, Clinton, Township

NOVEMBER 2 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

- 6:00 PM Board Meeting
- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Villa Penna
43985 Hayes Road, Clinton Township



Dear Members,

Well my fellow Italian Americans, the last few months have been very important for all of us as our "Old Country" was shown on television almost around the clock with the passing of Pope John Paul II and the election and installation of Pope Benedict XVI.

The Vatican was the scene of literally hundreds of thousands of visitors that displayed an enormous capacity for patience and respect. But, I was most impressed with Rome's ability to make room for all these unplanned visitors without a lot of riot police and without any significant incidents of misbehavior on the part of the visitors despite the great diversity of background and beliefs. Even in death, Pope John Paul II pulled together the various factions of the world and the various age groups into a single group of people that could share this experience. We should all be proud of our heritage and we can only hope that Detroit shows half as well in 2006 when the Super Bowl is here.

This year, our meetings have been filled with excellent food and drink, and it was very lively at Petruzello's when Representative Frank Accavitti was our featured speaker and our members decided to asked some very pointed and specific questions. When it was over, Rep. Accavitti commented that the group was a "little tough" but he enjoyed the exchange and thought he would like to come back again, only this time as a member. I guess we were not that tough after all.

Speaking of members, we have not received any new membership applications for several months. IF YOU KNOW ANY OF YOUR FRIENDS THAT SHOULD BELONG TO OUR GROUP, PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN. I would like each of our members to find a "replacement" for themselves.

Also, we are beginning a new rating system for each of the meeting places we attend. At each of our tables you will find a rating card for each of you. Please take a few seconds to fill out your rating card so your Executive Board knows which locations are your favorites and which ones we should stay away from.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the

Continued on page 5





CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Thoughts for the month

Dear Members,

As I sat down to write this month's article, I thought about the fact that there have been no new member applications at the last two Board Meetings. Is this just coincidence, or should I be concerned. How can the Chamber survive without new members? After all, membership retention and growth are key to the success of an organization. That's a catchy phrase isn't it? "Membership retention and growth are key to the success of an organization."

Of course, we all know why we need new members, but where are they? Well, the answer may be closer than you think. Do you remember who invited you to your first Chamber meeting? Remember what they said that inspired you to attend. Remember how they spoke about the great meal, their friends and the relationships they developed or nurtured over the years. Remember the pride in their eyes when they introduced you to their fellow Chamber members.

Do you remember?

Of course you do. We all remember our first meeting at the Chamber. We all remember the reasons why we came back and why we keep coming back month after month, event after event.

I urge all of you to invite a guest to our next monthly meeting or event, such as the golf outing. Who knows, it may be just the inspiration they need to join the Chamber...

After all, it worked for us.

Ciao,

Joseph Toia, Chairman



IACCM Business Feature

Bank of Bloomfield Hills

The Bank Of Bloomfield Hills

38505 Woodward Ave.,

www.privatebank.com

Pianello Joins The Bank of Bloomfield Hills

Bloomfield Hills, Mich. - Vito Pianello has joined **The Bank of Bloomfield Hills** as a Vice President. The announcement was made by David T. Provost, Chairman of **The Bank of Bloomfield Hills**.

Pianello will be primarily responsible for new business development and relationship management. "Vito's extensive experience with lending and the banking industry will be a definite asset to our team," Provost said.

Pianello has over 20 years experience in banking in the Metro Detroit Area. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oakland University and a Master of Arts in Business Administration from Central Michigan University. He resides in Shelby Township with his family.

The Bank of Bloomfield Hills is a division of **The Private Bank**, whose other bank divisions and subsidiaries include The Bank of Grosse Pointe, The Bank of Rochester and The Private Bank Mortgage Company. They have operated as a Michigan-based private bank since 1989 and provide highly personalized service with an emphasis on meeting the unique financial needs of successful individuals. The office is located at **38505 Woodward Avenue in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. www.privatebank.com.** Member FDIC

Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for

June

6/1 Viviano, Anthony J.	6/3 LaRosa, Dominic J.	6/16 Notte, Richard	6/24 Rubino, Frank
6/2 Catenacci Jr., Onorio	6/7 Benenati, Dr. Anthony V.	6/16 Severini III, Fred	6/26 Bonaldi, Ezio
6/2 Locricchio, Michael	6/12 Donofrio, Hon. Pat M.	6/17 Nalli, Dario	6/26 DiGiuseppe, Jr., John
6/2 Nagy, Charles	6/15 Cocco, Luigi	6/22 Provenzano, Nunzio	6/29 Ruggeri, Philip

July

8/1 Ternullo, Stephen	8/6 Guerrieri, Robert	8/14 Paluzzi, III, Joseph	8/25 Salerno, Sr., Ramo A.
8/1 Cuglietta, Luigi	8/9 DiPiazza, John A.	8/15 Lacommare, James	8/26 Petruzzello, Frank
8/1 Garagiola, Reno	8/9 Bellanca, Joseph	8/19 Militello, Stefano	8/27 Mattera, Mike P
8/2 Seleno, Andrew A	8/10 Piccinini, Dr. Robert	8/19 Gambino, Russell	8/29 Ventimiglia, Sam P.
8/3 Toia, Joseph	8/11 Maceroni, Hon. Peter	8/23 Catenacci, Onorio J.	8/30 Pizzo, John
8/4 Biondo, Ignatius D.	8/12 Bossio, Alan J.	8/24 Agosta, Russell	8/30 DiGiuseppe, Christopher

August

7/1 Pompa, Frank	7/11 Rondina, Edward	7/15 Fontana, Carl	7/25 Caramengo, Thomas A.
7/2 Morelli Sr., William A	7/12 Lentine, Joseph S.	7/18 Galli, David	7/29 Bugli, Leonardo
7/2 Bernabei, Frank A.	7/14 DeCarolis, John	7/18 Timpa, James	7/30 Grimaudo, Joseph
7/4 Scaglione, Albert P.	7/15 Varano, Sal Mario	7/19 Ficano, Robert	7/31 Lucido, Peter J.
7/7 Navaroli, Joseph	7/15 DeAgostino, Thomas M.	7/21 Sanborn, Alan Bruce	



Grapevine Membership Business Directory

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Metzler Locricchio Serra Co
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Troy, MI 48084
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ATTORNEY

Law Offices of Joseph Toia, PC

Joseph Toia
47678 Van Dyke Ave.
Shelby Twp., MI 48317
(586) 254-1300

Attorney & Counselor at Law

Armand Velardo, ESQ
65 Southbound Gratiot
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
(586) 469-8660

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Past Five Months Were Busy Months For The IACC.

Among the many members at the January meeting were



(standing L-R) Joe Navaroli and Chuck Promesso; and (seated L-R) Ed Rondina, Mario Monti and Sam Promesso.

Attending the February meeting were



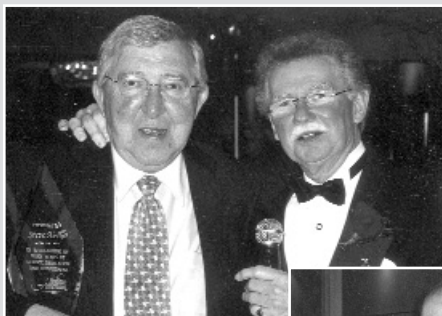
(standing L-R) Charles Palumbo and Michael Catenacci; and (seated L-R) Floyd Beaudette, Judge William Giovan and Tom Catenacci.

At the March meeting were



(l-r) Nunzio Provenzano, Matt Cervone and Joe Toia IACC Chairman of the Board at March IAAC Meeting

IACC Member Steve Aiello receives award at January Festa Del Vino



Outgoing IACC President Paul Calcaterra (r) presents a beautiful plaque to long time member Steve Aiello (l) for his many years of service, dedication and commitment to the Italian American Chamber of Commerce at the January Festa Del Vino held at Fern Hill Country Club in Clinton Twp.



Sam Ripepi enjoying the desserts table at the Festa Del Vino in January



(l-r) Judge William Giovan, Domenic Ferranti at the February Meeting at Eastpointe Manor

Andiamo's owner Joseph Vicari, at March Meeting.. "Food must be good if the owner eats there"

IACC Meeting In May

The May Italian American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) meeting was held at Piccirilli's Restaurant on Van Dyke and 24 Mile Road in Shelby Township. Mr. Piccirilli and his family come from Pacentro, in the Abruzzo Region of Italy, and have been long time supporters of the local Italian American community.



(l-r) State Representative Frank Accavitti and IACC President Bill Morelli at the April membership meeting.

IACC meeting in April

Michigan State Representative Frank Accavitti was the guest speaker at the April membership meeting at Petruzzello's Banquet Center in Troy. When Mr. Accavitti asked for questions, the membership responded with many concerns about the increases in fees affecting small business owners.



(L-R) Restaurant owner Umberto Piccirilli and IACC President Bill Morelli.

New IACC Members Sworn in at the April Meeting

Doinic LaRosa, Agostino Montalto, Michael Polsinelli and Tom Caramagno, new members of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce, were sworn-in at the April meeting at Petruzzello's Banquet and Conference Center in Rochester.



(l-r) Dominic LaRosa, Agostino Montalto, Michael Polsinelli and Tom Caramagno.

Mr. LaRosa, a retired school teacher, is an Account Executive and photographer for the Italian Tribune newspaper.

Mr. Montalto, is President of Ram's Horn of Shelby Township.

Mr. Polsinelli, is Chief Legal & Operating Officer of St. James Capital Corporation in Birmingham.

Mr. Caramagno, is President of T&J Landscaping Company in Clinton Twp.



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September 29-30

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Elvis to the Max

with Special Guest Paul Locrichio

October 20-21

25 Years ago Elvis left the building. Now he returns, or so you will think, to play for you at Andiamo. It’s Elvis to the Max with Max Pellicano and his Las Vegas Dancers.



Joan Rivers

November 11

It’s no gamble; the laughs are guaranteed. You won’t want to miss Joan live on stage—uninhibited, uncensored, and hilariously unequaled in her best show ever. For a great time, this is a sure bet!



The Scintas

December 15, 16 & 17

The Scintas leave “standing room only” shows in Las Vegas every Christmas to play for you at Andiamo. One of the most talented musical comedy acts in the world they sell out every show. Get your tickets early to guarantee great seats.

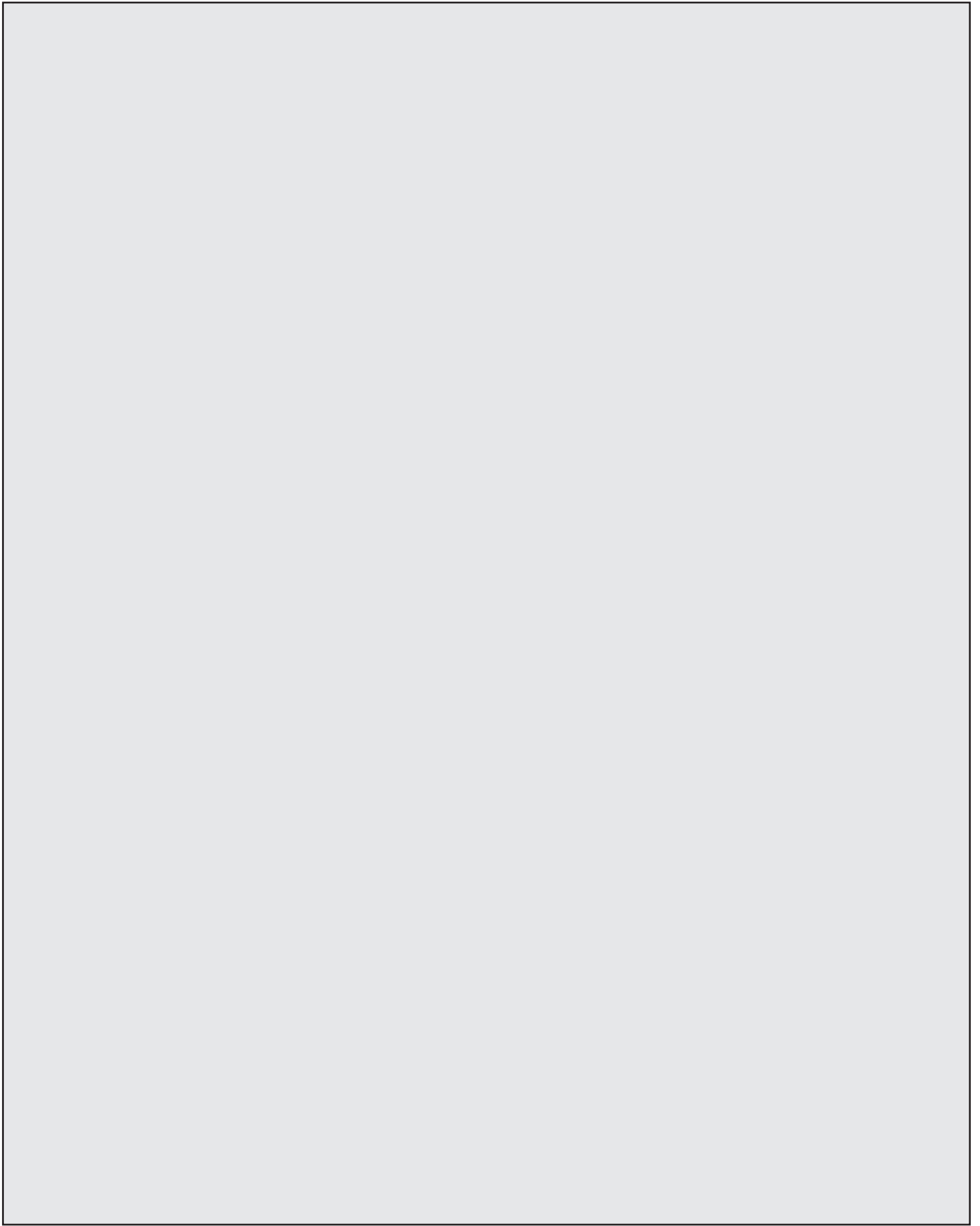


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President's Column Continues . . .

opportunity to be your President and I will listen to any suggestions you may have that would serve to better our organization. Our web site should now be back up and functioning and you can send your recommendation through it or just call me.

Thanks for your help and have a great summer.

Oh yes, and don't forget to smile, give hugs, and tell someone that you love them!

Respectfully,
Bill Morelli

The Grapevine is now giving all IACCM members an opportunity to advertise your business or profession in the newly created "Grapevine Membership Business Directory." For \$60.00 a year, you will have five lines to list your business.

The Grapevine will still offer business card, quarter, half and full page advertisements.

For further information, call Debbie at 586-493-4034.

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