



The Grapevine

A Publication From
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan
Summer/Fall Issue • 2023
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Visit Our Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Andiamo italia
7096 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren



OCTOBER 4, 2023 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Festa Della Lira

TIME • 6:00 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Mirage Elegant Banquet Center
126980 18 Mile Road, Clinton Township

FESTA DELLA LIRA

NOVEMBER 1, 2023 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Nomination of 2024 Officers/Board of Directors

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Palazzo Grande • 54460 Van Dyke, Shelby Township

NOVEMBER 5, 2023 • SUNDAY

Holy Family All Souls Memorial Mass

TIME

- 9:30 AM Mass, pancake breakfast to follow

LOCATION

- Holy Family Church • 941 Chrysler Drive, Detroit

DECEMBER 6, 2023 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Election Results

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Petruzzello's Banquet Center
6950 Rochester Road, Troy



Notes from the PRESIDENT

I hope that our membership has enjoyed a great summer. It has been a busy one for the Chamber. The June membership meeting, held at Villa Penna, was highlighted by the presentation of our scholarship awards to 18 young deserving recipients. These scholarships will assist them with college expenses as they prepare for their future endeavors. Many thanks to the Honorable Joseph Toia for his 20 plus years of leading our Chamber scholarship program.

In late June, our Chamber hosted its annual John Agosta Memorial Golf Outing at Fern Hill. Over 140 golfers participated and enjoyed a great day of golf, fun, food, and friendship to raise funds for our student scholarships. I was pleased that Andy Agosta was given special recognition at the dinner following a day of golf, for his years of service and dedication to our Chamber, along with his efforts in the organization of this annual golf outing, in memory of his brother.

Festa Italiana 2023 was a tremendous success. I am very proud of our Chamber membership who came out in force to assist Festa Chairs (Joe Ventimiglia and Aaron Marentette), along with the Festa Committee in the promotion, set up, staffing of beer and wine booths, raffle ticket sales and breakdown. This year's Festa, once again featured outstanding local and national entertainment, delicious Italian food and a variety of cold beverages served by members of our Italian Chamber. The special events (meatball contest, cannoli eating contest, beautiful baby contest, Italian Idol, Columbus Day Queen Pageant, and the Sunday Mass with Fr. Enzo Adari) helped to make Festa weekend extra special. A big salute to Phillip Maniaci, Dan Galli, Peter Fuciarelli and their raffle ticket selling team that eclipsed the \$20,000 mark in overall ticket sales. It was also a memorable day for raffle ticket winner Karen Pappas, who was present to collect her 50 percent portion of all tickets sold. Our Italian Chamber also came out a big winner due to the tremendous success of the raffle.

As summer winds down, there is much anticipation for the Italian Heritage Night on August 30th at Comerica Park (where the Detroit Tigers will play the New York Yankees). Our Italian Chamber has partnered with the Detroit Tigers to provide Italian entertainment at the main entrance of the stadium and in the food court concourse before the game. Aaron Caruso and ten-year-old

Notes From The President

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singing sensation Lia Lucci will display their vocal talents to the fans entering Comerica Park. I am positive that Aaron and Lia will make our Italian community very proud. A special edition Italian-themed Detroit Tiger baseball cap will be given to the first 500 tickets purchased through a special app. Contact Detroit Tigers representative Noah McKeon at via email at; noah.mckeeon@tigers.com if you would like to be included in the Italian Heritage Night Celebration.

Our chamber has scheduled John Paul Rea from the Macomb County Planning Commission to speak at our September meeting to be held at Andiamo's. He will update our membership on the short- and long-term vision for Macomb County. While at Andiamo's, please take that opportunity to acknowledge and thank Joe Vicari for his role and contributions in making Festa Italiana the highlight of the year in our Italian American community for so many years.

I revealed at our recent Scholarship dinner meeting that our IACCM Past-President and current Board Chair Joe Ventimiglia has been selected as the 2023 "Man of the Year by the Columbus Day Celebration Committee. I hope that our Italian Chamber will be well represented at the Awards Banquet to be held on October 8, 2023, at the IACS Banquet Center to acknowledge this "great honor "along with showing our appreciation for Joe's accomplishments and many years of service to the Italian American Community. As the summer of 2023 winds down ...I look forward to gathering together once again for food and friendship at our fall membership meetings.



Chairman's CORNER

Well, the year is moving fast as we all know. Some of our children and grandchildren will be getting ready for another school year. We will be coming back together September 6, 2023 at Andiamo Italia to enjoy the good food and conversation.

We had two great events since our last gathering. The John B. Agosta golf outing was another great day and Festa Italiana was also a big success. I personally would like to thank all of you that attended and, of course all of you that volunteered your time in making the event great.

We still have the Italian Heritage Tiger game night on August 30th. If you haven't gotten your tickets, I feel you're going to miss out on another fun night. The Detroit Lions are getting ready to give us a very exciting season that has never been a thought to any of us, but I am truly looking forward to a great year.

Thank you and I hope to see all of you soon, and that everyone is healthy and happy!

All the best
Joe Ventimiglia



Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:



September

9/4	D'Anna, Philip	9/28	Ventimiglia Standring, Jaclyn
9/6	Ventimiglia, Joseph P.	9/29	Toarmino, Edward
9/7	Saputo, Tricia A.	9/29	Terzo, Thomas
9/8	Lucido, Joseph		October
9/10	Cavaliere, Raymond	10/1	Esposito, Lisa
9/11	Piccirilli, Umberto	10/2	Tocco, Nino
9/12	Lepore, Joey	10/3	Licata, III, Anthony C.
9/14	Agosta, Andrew	10/3	Palazzolo, Jerry
9/15	Wilson, Rebecca L.	10/3	Lavinio-Mattinen, Tin
9/18	Crudo, Samuel	10/6	Gatti, John D.
9/21	Lazzara, David A.	10/11	D'Agostini, Antonio
9/22	Pianello, Vito	10/12	Meli, Paul
9/24	DeFlaviis, Alfred	10/27	Divozzo, Michael
9/25	Mercurio, Jr., Frank A		November
9/28	Promesso, Charles	11/2	DiBartolomeo, Ronald A.

11/8	Shepherd, Douglas	12/7	Gallo, Frank
11/11	Marino, Al	12/7	Cuccia, Salvatore
11/15	Koss, Ralph	12/13	DiCicco, Lucia
11/17	Milkey, James A.	12/17	Bonadeo, David C.
11/18	Galli, Daniel A.	12/27	Tenaglia, Michel
11/18	Gentilia, John	12/28	Pascarella, Joseph A.
11/18	Furest, Jeffrey C.		January
11/20	Palermينو, Leonard	1/1	Maniaci, Philip J.
11/21	Moran, Charles	1/2	Yearego, James L.
11/24	Angelo, Maryrose	1/4	Marrocco, Peter
11/25	Calcaterra, Lawrence	1/11	Bommarito, Anthony
11/25	Terzo, Leo	1/14	Coppola, Frank
	December	1/20	Cardella, Michael
12/1	Cervone, Matthew D.	1/22	Bommarito, Thomas
12/3	Torres, Dominic G.	1/26	Palomba, Anthony J.
12/5	DeCarlo, Gary A.	1/28	Torrice, Dr. Peter
		1/28	Schmelzer, James

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DUOCARE

CLEANING + RESTORATION



Duo Care has been in business since 1980 and offers honest and professional cleaning services. We offer quality and affordable carpet, upholstery, tile, leather, and wood floor cleaning services for residential and commercial properties as well as area rug cleaning in our top notch facility. When disaster strikes in the form of water damage, our restoration services include exceptional 24 hour rapid response times. We have been serving Macomb and Oakland Counties for over 40 years.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Mike Cardella



CORE
Insurance Group

MIKE CARDELLA
PRESIDENT & CEO

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Having a reliable partner to navigate the complexities of insurance is invaluable.

Core Insurance Group is your neighborhood's trusted source for comprehensive coverage and personalized service. At Core, the mission is clear: to protect individuals, families and businesses from life's unforeseen challenges.

What sets Core apart from the competition is their commitment to understanding their clients on a personal level. They don't just sell policies; they build relationships. Core's skilled advisors take the time to listen, assess your needs, and recommend solutions that make sense for your circumstances and budget. It's this personalized approach that has helped them earn the loyalty and trust of countless satisfied clients.

Core's President & CEO, Mike Cardella, has been a member of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce for over a decade. He has a profound appreciation for the relationships the Chamber has allowed him to cultivate, both personally and professionally. Mike integrates his Italian heritage, love of local community and insurance expertise each day at Core to provide an excellent experience for his clients and employees alike.

To learn more about how Core can provide you with tailored insurance solutions, visit their website at **www.coreinsured.com** or give them a call at **(248) 847 - CORE**.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Christy Jakubec

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HOMESERVICES

KEE REALTY



I have over 25 years experience negotiating sales transactions. I'm passionate about helping people. I love playing an active role in finding the perfect home for my clients. My experience ensures you receive top dollar for your house. I pride myself on providing superior service to my customers.

I'm offering a free home market analysis to all chamber members which allows you to know the current value of your home. I also offer free consultations. If you are considering making home improvements, I can help you decide which projects will add the most value to your home.

Please contact me at 586-872-5751 if you have any questions or want to talk real estate!

Festa Italiana 2023 – Gara: Dei Bambini

Cutest Baby Contest Winners



L to R: Jack Dunakiss, 2 year old age group, with mom Rosalie Dunakiss
 Graziella Balsamo, 13 to 18 month age group, with mom Jennifer Balsamo
 Joey Serra, 9 to 12 month age group, with dad Michael Serra • Sponsors Dr. Trina Russo and Dr. Anthony Giordano, Shelby Foot & Ankle
 Adaline Meldrum, 4 year old age group, with mom Cristina Meldrum • Leo Rossi, 3 year old age group, with dad Paolo Rossi
 Elliana Dyjewski, 19-23 month age group, with mom Rachel Dyjewski
 Antonia Tocco, 5 year old age group, with mom Margaret Tocco

Meatball Winners 2023

**The Frank J. Palazzolo Memorial Judges Meatball Contest
 has 2 categories: individual and restaurant.**



L to R: Meatball Contest sponsor Paul Calcaterra, Individual Category winner Kristin Giacchina, Macomb County Circuit Judge Richard Caretti.
 Back Row 16th Circuit Court Judge James Biernat.
 Macomb County Circuit Judge Joseph Toia.



L to R: Restaurant category winner Marie Guerra- Easterby from Cloverleaf Restaurant & Bar, Macomb County Circuit Judge Joseph Toia, Macomb County Circuit Judge Richard Caretti.
 Back row: Contest sponsor Paul Calcaterra, 16th Circuit Court Judge James Biernat.

Italian American Idol

2023 Festa Italiana Italian American Idol Singing Contest Winners



Aaron Caruso, 5 to 8 Year Old Category winner Nola Dance



L to R: Aaron Caruso, Giavanna Coffman, winner of 13 to 17 year old category, Contest sponsor Joe Cuccinello of Giuseppe's International Oils & Vinegars.



Aaron, 18 and Over Category Winner Carmine Perri, Sponsor Joe Cuccinello of Giuseppe's Olive Oil & Vinegars

Cannoli Contest

sponsored by Fern Hill.



Aaron, 9 to 12 Year Old Category Winner Lia Lucci, Joe Cuccinello.



L to R John DiPiazza, Cannoli Contest winner and defending champion Matt Gino, Aaron Marentette, Steve Militello

Festa Italiana 2022 • Freedom Hill County Park.





Grapevine Membership Business Directory



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will be here Tomorrow"*

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