

LITTLE ITALY NEWS NOVEMBER 2009 EDITION

www.littleitalytroy.org

troylittleitaly@gmail.com

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Christmas in Little Italy

At Liberty Square (Fourth & Liberty Streets)

Saturday, December 5, 2009, 5:30 pm

**Sponsored by your neighbors
and the businesses of Little Italy**

Uncover the Ceppo (Italian Tree)

Help decorate a Christmas Tree

Join in Christmas Carols (Italian & English)

Hear the story of Befana, enjoy holiday
treats and beverages at Lisa's Gelateria



**Saturday, December 12, 2009
9 am to 1 pm**

Atrium Bingo Hall, 49 Fourth Street
Park in the garage or use the 4th
Street

Entrance (elevators available)

**\$5.00 includes a Picture with Santa
and a Treat!!**

**Eggs, Pancakes, Sausage or Bacon, Coffee,
Juice!!**

Proceeds to benefit the "Adopt a Family " Program
Sponsored by the bingo volunteers of St. Anthony's
Church and Troy Little Italy.



VICTORIAN STROLL, DECEMBER 6, 2009, 11 am to 5 pm

Visit our information table located in the Troy Atrium. Try Italian Gelato. Sign up for the Neighborhood Watch or put your name on our Newsletter list. View our neighborhood video created by Dan Lennon and Mike Esposito and our story boards assembled by Michael Esposito and Andrea Daley.

SILENT AUCTION to be held on the second level outside the Bingo Hall !!!!

Auction "to benefit the Adopt a Family Fund" starts at 11am, winners will be selected at 4 pm. You do not have to be present to win. Stroll by, have refreshments, buy tickets and come back for the auction. Sponsored by the bingo volunteers of St. Anthony's and Troy Little Italy and supported by various Troy Businesses.

Troy Little Italy will hold Bingo at 2 pm - Doors will open at 10 am



Saturday December 12, 2009
"Free" Christmas Party - 3 to 5
pm
Santa ** Ventriloquist ** Treats
Hosted by The Italian Community Center
1450 Fifth Avenue, Troy New York



Our Business Community



Two New Editions



Oliver's Naturals
located at 39 Hill Street

Prism Glass Works
Opening Soon
located at 225 Fourth Street



Looking for New Owners



If your interested in obtaining information on any building, e-mail, troylittleitaly@gmail.com and we will provide you with the name of the owner or the Realtor.



“ One Picture is Worth a Thousand Words”

Thinking of moving your home or business?

Troy Little Italy is growing at a slow pace but it is growing. There are prime spots available to open new businesses and homes for sale at a reasonable price. Call your local realtor to find out what is available in your price range.

Read what **Vic Christopher, assistant manager of the Tri-City Valleycats** has to say about Troy Little Italy on his Times Union Blog. Click on the link below:

<http://blog.timesunion.com/christopher/little-italy/3010/>

Caught in the Act

Pictured are Jody Dalton and Richard Morell showing their community spirit by raking leaves near their home on Fourth Street. They join another 4th Street resident, like Gina Corina, one among many who reports trash and debris left in the alleys. Thanks to All!



Apartments For Rent

\$700 per month for full floor + basement storage room. Includes 2 bedrooms, office, large eat in kitchen, living and dining room. over 1000 square feet in 1890s brick town house. Get a thorough look at this apartment "<http://magill-house.blogspot.com/> Call Dave or Harriet at 518 892 6767 for an appointment to see the apartment at 146 Third Street.

Liberty Square neighborhood in Little Italy, large 3 bedroom. 1st floor, appliances, w/d hookup, off street parking. No dogs. Call 518-272-6660 or 518-274-4344

245 2nd Street

(Vicinity Washington Park) Victorian brick rowhouse, convenient to Sage, library, downtown amenities. Smoke Free house. No dogs

2nd Floor - 1 br, Obl Parlors, nice kitchen, great light, work/storage space. \$650 (inc. heat) + Security.

3rd Floor - 1 br, lr, k, lg bath, great light, good closet space. \$625 (inc heat) + Security. Call 518/273-1692

101 Hill Street

2nd Floor, , spacious 2 br, good closet space, no pets. \$550 plus utilities. Call Marion @ 518-266-1406 or 518-961-0590

Little Italy Real Estate For Sale

1 FAMILY

191 Second St. \$499,900 Karen
892-1326
261 Liberty St. \$59,900 Harvey
466-1303
164 Second St. \$269,000 Michael
813-6049
504 Washington St. \$105,000 Willie
348-2060
1033 Sixth Ave. \$67,500 Yvonne
788-6381

2 FAMIY

190 Third St. \$99,000 James
588-6755
121 Adams St. \$109,000 Thomas
618-8249
310 Second St. \$99,900 Yvonne
788-6381
42 Ida St. \$64,500 Patricia
885-9121
56 Ida St. \$84,999 Richard
852-1365
164 Third St. \$44,900 Todd
369-7247

MULTI UNITS

263 Fourth St. \$79,900 Leon
727-7493
1465 Fifth Ave. \$171,900 Elise
339-7932
1 Irving Place \$215,500 Richard
852-1365
191-193 Second St. \$849,000 Karen
892-1326
199 Fourth St. \$119,900 Jay
961-3313

COMMERCIAL

275 Fourth St. \$129,900 Suzanne
859-9255

Advertise your Real Estate Here

To place an ad for an apartment e-mail troylittleitaly@gmail.com Please remember to notify us when your space is rented.

October Meetings

11/18 Neighborhood Watch 6 pm
Troy Little Italy 7 pm
(233 Fourth Street)

11/19 Weed & Seed 5:30 pm
Rourke Center (corner of State & 4th)

South Central Troy Neighborhood Watch Meeting Minutes

Our regularly scheduled Neighborhood Watch Meeting was held on October 21st at the Freihofer's Race Headquarters. Officer McDonald, Sergeant Colaneri and Jeff Pirro were available to answer questions.

The crime statistics for the South Central Troy area as compared to the rest of the city are as follows:

	South Central Troy	Entire City of Troy	Percentage
Calls for Service	399	4227	9.34%
Arrests	33	257	12.8%

Most of the meeting was spent discussing the recent robberies and murder in the South Central and South Troy areas. Detective Colaneri and Officer McDonald shared the efforts that are being made to apprehend the criminals. The description of the suspects (while it is most likely that there are multiple groups) remains 2-3 black males, 18-mid 20's, wearing hoodies. *(Specifics of the efforts are not being published in this update due to the sensitive nature of that information. A recent arrest has been made in the South Troy murder See www.troyrecord.com for details.)*

Additionally, the TPD has provided us with some safety precautions we can all follow to reduce our chances of becoming a victim. These tips are below. Our next meeting will be held on November 18th at 6:00 at the Freihofer's race headquarters. Please plan on attending and bring a neighbor.

TIPS TO REDUCE YOUR CHANCES OF BECOMING A CRIME VICTIM:

Learn to be observant

Know your surroundings-Location, street name, surrounding buildings

Listen to your instincts; if you feel uncomfortable or in danger in any given situation, leave immediately

Look at the people around you; Eye color, kind of clothes, tattoos, build, hairstyle

PROTECTING YOURSELF ON CITY STREETS:

Watch for loiterers and do not carry large sums of money

If possible travel with another person, especially after dark

When carrying a purse, women should have only 3 or 4 one dollar bills placed inside. Credit cards, currency, driver's license, keys and jewelry should be carried in a coat, sweater, pocket or concealed on your person to reduce the opportunity of large losses. If you do carry a purse, don't wrap the strap around your shoulder, neck, or wrist. If your purse is grabbed, a strong strap will not yield easily and you may be injured. Some victims have been thrown off balance and injured. Don't carry anything more valuable than you can afford to lose. Leave unnecessary credit cards at home. When shopping; put your purse in the shopping bag.

At night, travel in well lit and traveled streets

Walk in middle of sidewalk.

Walk on side of street nearest to oncoming traffic

Be polite but keep a safe distance from anyone asking for directions

A good suggestion for men is to carry a second wallet containing a few one dollar bills and an expired credit card. If confronted at knife or gunpoint, give the suspect the second wallet and concentrate on the physical description

When returning home do not linger in your car or in front of your residence

If someone is following you, go to the nearest occupied building and ask for assistance.

If in a dangerous situation cry out for assistance with "FIRE" not "HELP" you will get attention faster.

Avoid taking shortcuts at night when parks are closed and usually not lit.

IF YOU ARE CONFRONTED:

DO NOT RESIST! COOPERATE! Give the criminal whatever he asks for – wallet, keys, jewelry, credit cards, etc.

Don't make any sudden, unexpected moves. A nervous criminal may think you are reaching for a concealed weapon.

If the suspect claims he has a weapon never try to force his bluff.

NEVER TRY TO BE A HERO.

Notify police ASAP

MAKING YOUR HOME SAFE:

Avoid sleeping with your windows open

Have peep holes on your doors and use them. If you do not recognize who is at your door, do not open it, even with the chain on. Most chain lock can be easily kicked in.

Do not open door to service people unless you are expecting them. Call their employer and verify their identity and the reason they need to enter your home.

If a stranger asks to use your phone do not let the person enter. Offer to make the call for them.

Have the number to 911 programmed into your telephone.

Be mentally prepared of the possibility of being attacked and what possible actions you would take if confronted (self-defense).

Install safety approved gates or bars on windows that can be reached from fire escapes to the ground floor.

Make sure your entrance is well lit.

Do not have your full name available in the phonebook, or on the mailbox, and shred any paperwork with personal information on it.

AT LIBERTY

The Saga of an Italo-American Family in South Troy

By Frank LaPosta Visco

Book Two, Chapter 1: *November Surprises*

Anna Caserta, matriarch of the Case family, was dead. Her youngest son, Eddie (Egidio) had committed adultery, and was found out. His strong-willed wife Esther, about to give birth, considered moving back with the Campobasso clan, but was rebuffed by her equally stubborn father.

So she locked the door on Eddie and forced him to find solace elsewhere. Fortunately for me, he moved in with his widowed oldest sister, Aunt Giovi (Giovanna), who lived upstairs with her 3 sons and one daughter, and not with Yolanda, the town “flirt” (to use a gentle euphemism), who it was said had seduced him. To tell the truth, my father was easily seduced.

It's time I introduced myself, because this is just before I appear in the saga of the Cases and the Campobassos. I'm Eddie Case Junior, or “Little Eddie” as I was called as soon as I was born to Esther and Eddie, on the last day of December, 1939. I'm the one who's been telling the story, and you'll learn more about me later.

But right now it's late November of 1939, Europe's in a mess, America's having a very slow recovery from the Great Depression, and things aren't much better at 13 Liberty Street, home of the Caserta/Case clan.

Eddie slept uncomfortably upstairs on his sister Aunt Giovi's living room sofa. She already had three mischievous teenage sons, her lovely introspective daughter Michelina and the lifelong bachelor brother Vincenzo living with her, and

Aunt Giovi tried in her quiet way to effect a reconciliation between her youngest brother and his very pregnant wife downstairs. Esther's sister Rose and her husband, Eddie's brother Joe, who lived next door, downstairs, tried to help the estranged couple, as did Michele, the head of the fourth Case family in the other upstairs flat, next to Aunt Giovi's clan.

Esther, the wronged wife, visited St. Joseph's Convent House and had a serious discussion with her piano teacher, the wise Sister Mary Magdalene. A very talented musician who was born Margaret Mary Bonaccio, she had left Little Italy after high school for New York City, studied with world class musicians, sampled the favors of rich and powerful men and women, then renounced it all and returned to take her vows and devote her talents to her religious community.

She and Esther had a rapport, and while they had chosen different paths, were more spiritually attuned than Esther had ever been with her quiet, reclusive sister Rose.

The beautiful nun, the daughter of an Italian fruit peddler and a South Troy girl of Irish descent, advised Esther to let Eddie back in, make him promise to atone for his faithlessness, and rebuild their marriage. “Deal with the devil you know – it's better than with the devil you don't know,” Sister Maggie said, as a look of wistfulness appeared in her blue eyes.

Although all the relatives took credit for facilitating the reunion, it was really the nun who convinced Esther to forgive. But, ingrained in the steel-spined daughter of a long line of blacksmiths and forgers of scissors and revenge daggers was a reluctance to bend and forget.

Although Esther took the nun's advice, she would never completely trust her husband again. Eddie moved back in from his

sofa upstairs, and life resumed, with more of an edge to it. Esther continued to take solace in playing Chopin's etudes on the piano next door, waiting for me to leave the comfort of the womb.

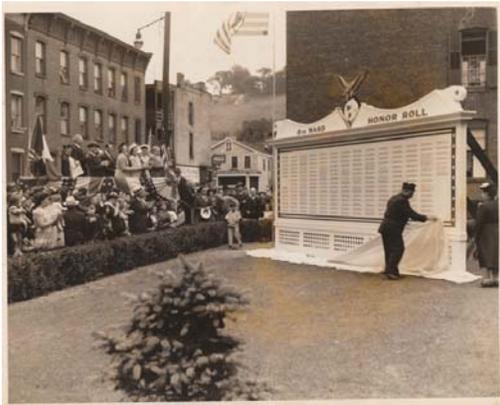
But my scheduled appearance was still a month away. Whenever Maria Campobasso, Esther's mother, could leave the confectionery store, my tiny and spry maternal grandmother would walk the few blocks to Liberty Street and visit her two daughters who were now part of the Case family. But never on weekends when the men of the family were there – only during the week when the husbands were at work. Perhaps that was because the same characteristic unwillingness to forget was engrained in her, too, having been so long a part of the Campobasso tradition.

She was generous with food from the store, even if it was day old bread and produce, or a dented can of imported plum tomatoes that wouldn't sell. But Maria Campobasso never told her husband Francesco, because he refused to forget the sins of his daughters, Esther and Rose. One had defied him and kept him from her wedding, the other was complicit in a secret that no one dared to discuss aloud.

Of course, later in life, when the old ones would be only faded photos and half-remembered stories, I would discover the family secrets, and, as writers do, use them to tell my stories. And use them I will, when the time is right in the saga I'm relating to you.

Meanwhile, I hope you'll continue to follow the ups, downs, laughter and tears of what may or may not be a typical family with its roots in Troy's Little Italy.

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In Book 2, Chapter 2: *A child is born.*



Officials and neighbors gather at The dedication ceremony for the Eight Ward Honor Roll listing people from the ward serving in the armed forces during World War II. The memorial was in a small pocket park at the corner of Washington and Church Streets. Permanent stone memorials to neighborhood veterans are located at the corner of Third and Division Street, along fencing at Washington Park, and on Third Street below Adams Street.
Photo is courtesy of Mickey Visk.

Honor Our Veterans Veterans Day November 11

Landlord Training

TRIP is co-sponsoring a Troy Landlord Training program on Thursday, November 12, 2009 from 5:30 – 9:30 PM. Anyone with rental properties in Troy – or those considering purchasing a building with rental units -- is invited to attend this informative, free, interactive session designed to assist them in managing their property. Topics include landlord/tenant responsibilities, tenant screening, the eviction process, Section 8, code enforcement, and more.

Seating is limited so please reserve by contacting TRIP's HomeOwnership Center at rose@trionline.org or 690-0020. A light meal will be provided. The Troy Landlord Training Program is co-sponsored by Troy Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (TRIP), Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the City of Troy.

AIHA Museum & Cultural Center Opens

The local Italian-American community has reason to be justly proud of the recently opened National Italian-American Museum & Cultural Center located at 1227 Central Avenue in Colonie. Truly a labor of love, the center, which is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from 11:00am- 2:00pm and on weekends from noon - 4:00 pm, contains exhibits on Italian Immigrants, Famous Italian Americans, Italian Americans in the Military, the Faith of Our Ancestors and an Old Photo Exhibit as well as a gallery of Italian Folk Art, and a Library, Archives and Video Library.

The Cultural Center will feature Italian language classes, cooking classes, opera workshops, music programs, cultural programs, genealogy classes, feast and holiday programs, Italian Easter and Christmas bake sales and food festivals. The Italian-American gift shop will sell books and maps as well as mugs, t-shirts and other items.

The sponsoring organization, The American Italian Heritage Association, was founded in 1979 by Prof./Cav. Philip J. DiNovo, the groups guiding force. Its mission is to record and preserve the contributions of our Italian heritage and culture to our society and seeks through its newsletter, cultural programs, activities, projects, outreach, etc. to enhance, highlight, and extend Italian heritage, history and culture to the public. For additional information contact the AIHA at P.O. Box 3136, Albany, NY 12203-3136. Their website is: www.AIHA-Albany.org

Holiday Decorations

Due to the slowing economy we will only have two winners this year. One for houses and one for businesses. Judging will take place mid- December.



South Central & Little Italy in the news

The Record

October 5, 2009, p1, 3. Empty bowls fill pantries by Dave Canfield, photos by J.S. Carras. Sixteen local food pantries will divide \$26,500 raised from the proceeds of the fifth consecutive Empty Bowls event held at Troy's Italian Community Center as local potters, chefs, and teams of volunteers gathered along with several thousand area residents to support this great effort.

Daily Historian, October 10, 2009, pB8. 1943, Jerry Christiano with his grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Crola. Photo submitted by cousin Guido.

Daily Historian, October 14, 2009, p8. 1949-1953, three Comitale brothers from Korean War. From left are John in Germany, Joe in Korea and Lou (deceased) in Korea. Photo submitted by Joe Comitale.

Times Union, Nov. 2, 2009. Is it the last pasta supper for Troy politicians? by Kenneth C. Crowe II. St. Mary's Church closing threatens a long-time election eve tradition - a great spaghetti supper (and lunch) that attracted pasta lovers and dozens of political candidates. The event was started over sixty years ago by parishioners Eva and Frank Lamiano and continued by countless volunteers.

Holiday Book Sale at The BookCellar

The Friends of the Troy Public Library will hold a Holiday Book Sale at The BookCellar, located in the basement of the Troy Public Library at 100 Second Street. All items - books, videos, CD's, DVD's, cassettes, audio books and records will be on sale at \$2 a bag. The book sale will be held on Wednesdays, December 2nd, 9th and 16th and Saturday, December 5th from 10 am to 2 pm, as well as on Sunday, December 6th, the day of the Victorian Stroll, from 1 to 4 pm. Also available for sale is our Friends T-shirts, sweat shirts, note cards and mugs as well as past years copies of the popular Troy History calendar. This year end sale is a great time to stock up on reading, viewing and listening materials for the winter months – and also for buying some interesting “stocking stuffers” for the holidays.

BUY A

HOMEMADE APPLE PIE



\$15 per pie



Help the RPI Circle K and Troy's Little Italy support the **"Adopt-A-Family"** project to give a family in need a memorable holiday season!

Contact: jl.martinolich@gmail.com to pre-order or send order form to the address given



Just in time for Thanksgiving!!

RPI Circle K's HOMEMADE APPLE PIES



Help the RPI Circle K and Troy's Little Italy Organization support the **"Adopt A Family"** project to give families in need a memorable holiday season!

Circle K's are making their mouthwatering apple pies just in time for Thanksgiving. They are \$15 a piece, and worth every cent. The apples are handpicked and the pies are baked with love!

Send order form to: 2151 14th St Apt 1, Troy, NY 12180
All checks can be made out to: RPI Circle K

Name	Phone Number	# of Pies	Total	Cash/ Check	Pick up Option
			15 x		
			15 x		

Pick Up Option 1: November 23rd and 24th in the Rensselaer Union 10am-4pm
Pick Up Option 2: November 22nd and 23rd at 39 Hill Street, Troy, NY from 5pm-8pm

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