

# Italian Festival set to begin fifth year of celebration

In less than three weeks the fifth Italian American Festival opens on Friday, July 24 at 5 p.m. The festival is averaging 16,000 people for its three-day schedule and is sponsored by our friends at Stop & Stop.

The grocery chain has been the major sponsor since the festival's inception. In addition to the monetary donation it provides, Stop & Stop uses its vendor tent to pass out complimentary loaves of Italian bread along with showcasing many of its store products.

The festival is the result of three major non-profit organizations joining forces to create three days of outstanding food, entertainment and social gathering as well as to promote the Italian heritage in Southington.

In 2004, The Chamber of Commerce had just ended its sponsorship of the Apple Harvest Festival and agreed to join with the Sons of Italy and UNICO in forming this new venture. Representatives of the three groups knew immediately that it would take a lot of money along with logistical problems like a location.

The Italian Festival has been a success because the three organizations used



## Art Secondo Second Look

### If you go...

Friday, July 24 5 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, July 25 noon to 11 p.m.

Sunday, July 26 Outdoor Mass 10:30 a.m.

Festival opens noon to 6 p.m.

all their networking, contacts and members to find ways to make the event successful and place itself among the most popular area events.

All three groups are known for promoting the town and contributing to its resources. Besides the Chamber, the Sons of Italy awards five high school scholarships and gives donations to the town's community services. The 99-year old Italian club has had many of its members

serve on town boards and commissions. The 65-year old UNICO Club has been in town for more than 60 years and honors the top 20 students at the high school and has donated thousands of dollars to local charities.

The lower Center Street location was chosen because of its proximity to downtown and the fact that many immigrant Italians lived in the section of town in the early 1900s. Factory Square Realty, owners of the former Southington Hardware, agreed to donate its parking lot for the children's carnival and most importantly, Meridian Development of New York donated its parking area next to the Sons of Italy, for the bandstand and major gathering area.

Other organizations have joined in to assist with the Sunday outdoor Italian Mass and two-block procession. Patrick Baker & Sons is a major player in setting up the Mass and volunteer ushers collect donations for the local churches. The Southington Police, Park Department, Health Department and Fire Department are extremely helpful.

The Italian Festival is the result of many individual

donators. The festival has become well known among all nationalities and has been praised for the entertainment, the outstanding food vendors, the cleanliness and the quaint carnival for children. The location is easy to

access and the decorated gives it a feel of 'Little Italy' and Mulberry Street in New York.

So, here we go again – July 24, 25 and July 26. Thanks to Stop & Shop and major contributors

Mancini Peppers, Apple Valley Bank, Calvanese Foundation, Northeast Produce, Southington Police Union and to all the vendors.

It's a great three days. Come and enjoy.



SUBMITTED

Connecticut author, Dan DeLuca, speaks to an audience of approximately 60 attendees about his book, "The Old Leatherman, Historical Accounts of a Connecticut and New York Legend."

The talk and book signing was held at The Orchards at Southington on Saturday, May 16 for Orchards' residents and the outside community.



**Southington HS**  
**Christen Orticari**

Congratulations on all your accomplishments Christen! We're proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad, and Michael



**Southington HS**  
**Bridget Sheehan**

Hope all your dreams come true! Good luck at Roger Williams U. Love, Dad and Mom



**Stevens Institute of Technology**  
**Michael Gendreau**

Sigma Nu Fraternity  
Pi Tau Sigma Honors  
Tau Beta Pi Honors  
Mechanical Engineering 2009  
Best of Luck in the future.  
Love, Mom, Dad, Kate, & Emily



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