

Put on your red, white and green and come visit Metro East's Premiere Festival! Labeled "Best Festival"-
Riverfront Times

ITALIAN FEST

The Main Street Event
Collinsville, Illinois

September 17 & 18, 2010
11 am-10 pm Friday & Saturday

What's New:

- A Wedding to take place in the Parade
- Wine Tasting Event in Conjunction with Wine Contest
- Hospitality Tent For Sponsors
- Diaper Dash
- Kids Fun Run
- WIL's Derrick Keith Live Broadcast



Collinsville's Italian Fest



The Italian Fest includes such features as the 5K Run-Walk with a Kids Fun Run and Diaper Dash, continuous entertainment on two stages, Bocce Ball Tournament, homemade Craft Area, Grape Stomp, Parade, Wine Garden, Wine Making Contest, Little Miss/Mr. Italianfest Pageant, Hospitality Tent and Children's Area.

But the real calling card of the Italian Fest continues to be the authentic Italian fare including Fest favorites like spedini, Italian beef, spumoni, bagna cauda, and Italian ices.

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Italian Fest Parade Features A Wedding—Now That's Amore!

A real-life "That's Amore" wedding will take place at this year's Italian Fest in Collinsville, IL during the annual parade on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010 at 4 p.m.

Molly Philips, age 20, originally from Granite City, and Carl Kelly, age 28, of Belleville, will be exchanging their wedding vows in a not-so-traditional manner this year. The first-time wedding couple has chosen to be wed on a parade float that is being pulled down Main Street of Collinsville during the city's biggest party with thousands of their known and not-yet-known friends in attendance.

When "That's Amore" was announced as the theme of this year's Italian Fest, the idea was given to find one or multiple couples to be married at this event. The parade chairman, Pastor David Amsden, began putting out the word that a couple was needed.

Who did David call first? The churches, of course, and that is when Wayne Reid, Pastor of Gathering Place at 2016 Keebler Rd in Collinsville, called back and said that he had found a couple thrilled with the idea.

The couple has been engaged for a while and waited to be married until they could afford the wedding of their dreams. They felt this setting would provide the celebration they wanted as well as a reception that will be second to none. The reception will be immediately following the parade at the Venezia Stage, complete with a DJ, bubbles, photographer, cake-cutting, first dance, etc. - everything you expect to find at a traditional wedding, but in an exaggerated setting!

The couple will spend one hour at the Italian Fest reception before returning to Gathering Place Church for a smaller, private reception.

Contacts: David Amsden (Parade Chairman) 618-531-0764; Wayne Reid (Pastor performing ceremony) 618-604-7372.

Charities that Benefit

From the Italian Fest:

Boy Scout Troop 30
 Boy Scout Troop 48
 Collinsville Chamber of Commerce
 Collinsville Emergency Management Agency
 Collinsville Progress Catholic Charities
 Collinsville Explorers CHS Literacy Program
 Collinsville High School Band
 Collinsville Jaycees
 Collinsville Junior Service Club
 Collinsville Kiwanis
 Collinsville Noon Lions
 Collinsville Rotary
 Collinsville VFW 5691
 Community Character Education Task Force
 Cub Scouts Pack 48
 First Baptist Church
 Gaslight Swim Club
 Gateway FC Soccer Club
 Good Shepherd Lutheran School
 Immigrant and Refugee Women's Program
 Jefferson PTA
 Juvenile Diversion
 Kahoks Wrestling
 Knights of Columbus
 Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary
 Mission of Moms
 Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic Church
 National MS Society – Gateway Area Chapter
 Pirate's Baseball
 Raider's Wrestling
 Riverbluff Girl Scout Council
 Shriners
 Special Olympics
 United Way

Where Does the Money Go?

From local school programs to American troops serving overseas, proceeds from Collinsville's Italian Fest are directed back into the community to a variety of local charities and not-for-profits.

That still comes as a surprise to many in the community and that's what sets this annual event apart from other large-scale festivals.

"People call all the time and ask where the money goes from Italian Fest - as if it all goes to one place," said Wendi Valenti, executive director for the Chamber of Commerce.

Most vendors at the 40 booths are volunteers working on behalf of civic organizations or charities. For-profit vendors are required to donate at least 50 percent of their profits to a charity of their choice, and Italian Fest guidelines require proof after the event that the charity listed received the funds.

More than \$1,000,000 has been raised over the years by these vendors. Those funds help bolster the projects of area organizations and charities. This year, signs at booths will let fair-goers know exactly where the proceeds are directed, Ms. Valenti said.

Italian Fest itself is funded primarily through sponsorships, beer sales and nominal booth fees. This income is required to cover major operational expenses including entertainment, portable restrooms, trash removal, security, rentals, in addition to advertising and marketing the Fest.

"Most major festivals have for-profit vendors that pay thousands in booth fees,"

Valenti said. "But it's written into Italian Fest bylaws that the purpose of the Fest is to assist social and civic organizations raise money that helps all aspects of the Collinsville community, which is why our vendor fees are nominal."

In addition to vendor booths, several civic groups are also paid to perform some operational chores at the fest such as clean-up so that "even a portion of the operational costs go back to the community organizations," she added.

Joe Hutton, 2010 Italian Fest general chairman, said what sets the Collinsville Italian Fest apart from other grand-scale community events is both the revenue that returns to local civic and charitable organizations as well as the tremendous number of volunteer hours that makes it all possible.

"There's no way an event of this magnitude of the Italian Fest would exist without countless hours from volunteers," he said. "Italian Fest is a unique conduit to channel financial resources back into the community with help from volunteers. In these difficult times, that is even more valuable."

One rough estimate calculates it takes 6,000 volunteer hours to plan and deliver the Italian Fest each year. That's equivalent to three people working full-time on an annual basis!

Ginger Trucano, a board member of the Collinsville Kiwanis and chairman of the Kiwanis Italian Fest booth, said the sale of bagna cauda in their booth helps the organization fund an important project providing children of

underprivileged families with a shopping trip for clothing at Christmas.

"We don't exclude any of the children from a family," she said. "It's a great program."

The Collinsville Character Education Community Task Force, a group of business and community representatives and educators, volunteers to sell spaghetti to help promote the Character Education program in the community and help get the message out," said Chairman Steve McArthur.

Mission of Moms uses proceeds from selling Papa John's Pizza and Florentine sarsaparillas to fund postage costs for supply packages to troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We use proceeds to pay for postage – which was \$1,094 last month – or for whatever supplies are needed to send to our troops," said Marcia Fish, of Metro Glass Service and Mission of Moms. "Several of them are local and I really enjoy it when they are from the area because I have a chance to meet them. But I send to others too."

Volunteers work hard two days setting up for Italian Fest and then staffing the booth to be able to raise money for their organizations and charities. A partial list of beneficiaries is on the left.

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Little Miss & Mr. Italian Fest Pageant

Little Miss and Mister Italian Fest pageant is open to children in the metro-east area who will be 4-years old and not older than 8 on the pageant date, Sept. 11. Five finalists will be selected in each division (5 girls, 5 boys) and each finalist will receive a participation medal. One girl will win the title of Little Miss Italian Fest, while one boy will be named Little Mister Italian Fest. Winners receive a trophy, crown, sash and other prizes and ride in the Italian Fest pa-

rade. All pageant participants receive a gift bag.

Because of renovation at Miner's Theatre where the pageant has historically been held, this year's pageant will be held in the Mississippian Room at the Gateway Center. Registration packets can be downloaded at www.italianfest.info or on the Miner's Institute website, before the Sept. 1 deadline. Or, packets can be picked up at the Chamber office at 221 West Main or the CARD office, 10 Gateway Drive. Pre-

sented by the Miner's Institute Foundation and CARD.



Annual Exhibition and Italian Film

This year's exhibit, "**Men of the Mines**," begins Sept. 1 and runs through the entire month at the Collinsville Memorial Library, located at 408 West Main St. With memorabilia donated by area families, the retrospective chronicles the life of area coal miners with items such as mining tools, photos and other remnants of life pertaining to miners who belonged to United Mine Workers Unions 848, 264, and 685.

"**Men of the Mines**' is a unique exhibit," said Annette Graebe, a Collinsville resident who organized the film and exhibit who is also active with the Italian Film Festival of St. Louis. "It lets us take a step back in time to the days when coal was King. We see the miners, learn a little about their lives at home and beneath the ground, and walk away respecting their courage and dedication. After all, at one time coal mining was the very heart of our communities."

The exhibit will be available during library hours:

Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

This year's film, "**Pane e Tulipani**" (**Bread and Tulips**), an award-winning romantic comedy film that swept the 2000 Donatello Awards (the Italian equivalent of the Academy Awards), will be shown Thursday, Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Collinsville Public Library.

"**Pane e Tulipani**" portrays a disillusioned and unappreciated housewife, Rosalba, who is left behind at a rest stop on a family vacation. Unnoticed for hours, she decides to hitchhike toward home by way of Venice. She is entranced by the city and begins to see her own life a little differently. The movie allows movie goers to experience the uniqueness of Venice in a story of love, disappointment, and laughter.

The movie is shown with English subtitles and admission is free. The film is rated

PG-13 with a parental caution -- and not recommended for young children

For more information, or to contribute items to the exhibition, contact Graebe at 344 -7143 or e-mail her at gin-dustirs@aol.com.



The Men of the Mines exhibit "lets us take a step back in time to the days when coal was King."



Tony Viviano

Since 1971, Tony and his band have performed at the most elegant and prestigious hotels, country clubs, restaurants, and night clubs in St. Louis, Las Vegas, Chicago, Kansas City, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and at numerous Italian Fests around the country.

Join Tony at the Italian Fest on Saturday afternoon, where he'll be performing Tony Bennett, Bobby Darin and Louis Prima songs during two performances: 12 – 1:30pm at the Venezia Stage, and 2 – 4pm in the Hospitality Tent.



2010 Entertainment Schedule

Friday September 17, 2010

10:45am	Opening Ceremonies	Venezia Stage
11am	Tony Mirabelli	Milano Stage
NOON	Grape Stomp	Venezia Stage
1 – 4pm	Sky Slave	Venezia Stage
4 – 5pm	Rena's Dance Studio	Milano Stage
6 – 10pm	Spaghetti Western	Milano Stage
6:30 – 10pm	Coldshot	Venezia Stage
7–10pm	Derrick Keith Broadcast	Center Street
9am–5pm	Men of the Mines	Public Library

Saturday, September 18, 2010

8am	5K Run/Walk	Main Street
9am	Kids Fun Run	Main Street
9:45am	Diaper Dash	Main Street
10am	Bocce Ball Tournament	Glidden Park
Noon –1:30pm	Tony Viviano	Venezia Stage
1 – 4pm	Avery Hill	Milano Stage
2 – 4pm	Wine Contest and Tasting with Tony Viviano	Hospitality Tent
2 – 2:30 pm	McArthur's Tae Kwon Do	Venezia Stage
3 – 4 pm	Gracefully Yours Dance Studio	Venezia Stage
4pm	Parade	
	Witness the Wedding at the Parade	
5 – 6pm	Wedding Reception	Venezia S
6 – 10pm	Exposed	Venezia St
6 – 10pm	Steve Ewing	Milano Stage
9am – 5pm	Men of the Mines Exhibit	Public Library

Wine Garden

This year, the Italian Fest Wine Garden will expand its offerings to include a selection of Italian red and white wines for a true vetro di vino! In addition to wine, the Wine Garden offers a selection of domestic and imported beers. Located in the heart of fest grounds, the Wine Garden is centrally located to all the fest attractions.

Spaghetti Western

Making its seventh Italian Fest appearance this year, **Spaghetti Western** has become nearly as much of a festival tradition as spedini and bocce ball. The five-piece band plays a tight, sweaty mix of high-energy rock and blues, covering bands ranging from Led Zepelin, Janis Joplin, Pearl Jam, the White Stripes, and Jet; to Etta James, Johnny Cash, Elvis, and the Stones.

The band regularly appears at charity shows as Pro Bono & the Non-

Billables, and has helped raise more than \$50,000 for such worthwhile causes as the United Way, Our Little Haven, Challenger Baseball ... even a coming home party for a military unit returning from Iraq.

They've also developed a reputation for over-the-top showmanship -- you never know when a trio of giant Easter bunnies, a dancing gorilla in a T-shirt, a pack of Elvis impersonators with a

motor scooter, a kilt-clad bagpipe player, or a foaming -at-the-mouth singer in a straitjacket and Hannibal Lecter mask might appear at the front of the stage ... Check 'em out – they rock like a raging herd of electric porcupines! More information is available at www.myspace.com/probonos

Meet This Year's Headliners

Exposed

Exposed is the premiere rock n' roll band party band in the St. Louis/SEMO area playing all your favorite popular, party rock n' roll from the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and 00's with a kick!

Every EXPOSED show has tons of props, surprises and gimmicks that make each show a onetime event that you won't want to miss! Check EXPOSED out online at www.myspace.com/exposedrocks, www.exposedrocks.com



WIL's Derrick Keith Live Broadcast 7-10 pm Friday, Sept. 17 at Center Street next to Tellers.

Cold Shot

The 80s - what a great decade for music. Bands like Bon Jovi, Def Leppard, Whitesnake, AC/DC and Journey were selling out arenas all over the world and dominating the airwaves. It was more than just the music however. It was about the whole show - lights, lasers, fog, strobes and a high energy show and that is what local rockers Coldshot delivers. Coldshot is one of St. Louis's premiere 80s party

band that lets you re-live those great memories. Coldshot is a 5-piece band from the Collinsville/Fairview / St. Louis area. Band members include: Rod Whitton (vocals, guitar, keys), Jeff Shanks (drums & vocals), Bill Boyd (guitar, vocals, keys), Brian Shiffer-decker (bass guitar) and newest member David King Scott (guitar, vocals). Coldshot delivers a high energy rock and roll show



that will leave you dancing and rocking all night long. Check them out at the following websites: www.coldshotrocks.com or www.myspace.com/coldshotrocks

Steve Ewing Band

St. Louis based musician Steve Ewing is best known as the golden voice behind the seven piece powerhouse The Urge. Formed in high school back in late 80s, The Urge took their eclectic mix of punk, reggae, hip hop, ska, and sent a sonic shock-wave from the Midwest that can still be felt to this day. After 4 independent label releases they were picked

up by the Immortal/Epic label, home to such artists as Korn and Incubus, and released 3 albums of their own. Alternative radio stations everywhere were spinning All Washed Up, Brainless, Its Gettin Hectic, Straight to Hell, Four Letters and Two Words, Too Much Stereo, and the top ten Jump Right In featuring Nick Hexum of 311 fame. Many

St. Louis natives fondly remember The Urge from their intense, face-melting shows at venues such as Mississippi Nights and local festivals like PointFest. The Urge spent much of their time touring alongside aforementioned artists Korn, Incubus and 311. In 2001, the band amicably parted ways and have performed a few reunion shows since.



Children's Area

The Italian Fest provides fun for all ages including a Children's Area from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days!



Climbing Wall **
Bounce House
Extreme Web **
Partners 4 Pets

*****Fee charged for Extreme Web and Climbing wall activities*****



Grape Stomp

It is believed that grape stomping goes back as far as Rome in 200 BC. For centuries, grapes were picked by hand and stomping was the method used to extract juice from the grapes. The delicious juice was then used to make wine in every country that made wine. Eventually, concern for public health outweighed the grape stomping tradition. In most countries, grape stomping has been replaced with mechanical processing. Italy is one of the few countries where grape stomping still takes place. Collinsville has revived the practice as a fun way for local businesses to challenge their competitors. At the 2010 Italian Fest, the annual Grape Stomp begins at noon Friday at the Venezia Stage.



Watch local rivals stomp for bragging rights!

Wine Contest and Wine Tasting



This year's annual Wine Contest has been reworked and expanded to include a new addition - the Wine Tasting event. In the Hospitality Tent on Saturday, Sept. 18, judges will determine winning entries from local wine makers beginning at 3 p.m. For a \$5 entry fee, visitors at the tent can watch the judges at work, sample and purchase Italian wines with a souvenir wine tasting cup while enjoying St. Louis' own Tony Viviano. Preliminary wine judging will be Sunday, Aug. 29 at Ravanelli's Restaurant, located at 26 Collinsport.

History of Bocce Ball

Bocce Ball seasoned veterans and amateurs alike are invited to participate in the annual Italian Fest Bocce Ball Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. at Glidden Park in Collinsville. Prizes will be awarded to First, Second and Third place winners. Food and refreshments will be available.

Players enjoy participating in a game that dates back to 5000 B.C. when the Egyptians played a form of bocce with polished rocks. While bocce today looks quite different from its early predecessors, the unbroken thread of bocce's lineage is the consistently common objective of trying to come as close to a fixed target as possible.

The early Romans were among the first to play a game resembling what we know as bocce today. In early times they used coconuts brought back from Africa and later used hard olive wood to carve out bocce balls. Beginning with Emperor Augustus, bocce became the sport of statesman and rulers.

As the game enjoyed rapid growth throughout Europe, being the sport of nobility and peasants alike, it began to threaten with the health of nations. The popularity of the game was said to interfere with the security of the state because it took too much time away from archery practice and other military exercises. Consequently, Kings Carlos IV and V prohibited the playing of bocce. In 1576, the Republic of Venice publicly condemned the sport, punishing those who played with fines and imprisonment. And perhaps most grave was the condemnation by the Catholic Church which deterred the laity and officially prohibited clergyman from playing the game by proclaiming bocce a means of gambling.

In modern times, the first bocce clubs were organized in Italy. Notably the first Italian League was formed in 1947 by fifteen teams in and around the town of Rivoli (Torino). 1947 also marks the beginning of the yearly Bocce World Championships.

Thanks to many Italian immigrants at the turn of the century, bocce has come to flourish in the United States. During its beginnings in the U.S. there were as many versions of the game as there were towns the immigrants had left. Bringing some order to the game is the Collegium Cosmicum ad Buxear, the preeminent bocce organization headquartered in Rome, Italy.

Italy stages a number of regional competitions, reinforcing the country's strong regional rivalries. International play is largely limited to Italy and France, which occasionally compete at adult and juvenile levels in grandly titled tournaments. There is a cup provided by the prince of Monaco, whose territory lies between the two main contenders, and the results have long been dominated by Italy. Although it now has the superstructures of a modern sport, bocce is still largely local and recreational in its appeal. Given its peasant origins, it is hardly surprising that it remains male-dominated, although a small number of women play. Despite its growing complexity, its appeal lies in its being a "*sport simpatico e popolare*" in the words of a recent enthusiast --something essentially part of an Italian summer.



Italian Fest September 17-18, 2010

5K Run/Walk Starts at 8:00am on Saturday

ITALIAN FEST MEDA KIT

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info@discovercollinsville.com

Visit us on the Web:
www.italianfest.info



Area residents will once again be able to participate in one of the most popular events at the Italian Fest. The annual 5K run/walk draws hundreds of contestants each year. The run will start on Clay Street and finish on Main Street at the Venezia Stage on Seminary. For those interested in participating, there will be 13 divisions. Those include wheelchair, 14 and under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45, 49 50-54, 55-59, 60-69, and 70 and over. Trophies will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers in each division, along with the top three finishers overall.

Registration applications are available at www.italianfest.info or at the Collinsville Chamber of Commerce Office. Light-weight commemorative sweatshirts will be given to the first 400 individuals who register. Packets are distributed on race day. Late registration and packet pick-up will be held from 6:30-7:45 a.m. at the race site.

New This Year:

Kids Fun Run- Half-mile run where all participants will receive an award and can visit with Izzy the Grizzly! This is a non-competitive event that recognizes everyone who finishes the walk. Kids Fun Run is on September 18 at 9 a.m.



Diaper Dash- A 10-foot crawl on carpet for the diaper crowd 12-months and under with prizes to all entrants and grand prize – a \$100 Savings bond from GCS - to the winner! This event is on September 18 at 9:45 a.m.

Fest History

The first Italian Fest was organized as a Columbus Day promotion for uptown merchants in 1984. Social, church and civic organizations from the area set up booths on Main Street to serve a variety of authentic Italian foods. Early fests featured bed races, bocce ball tournaments, pizza and spaghetti eating competitions.

In 1986, a citizen group replaced the uptown merchants as festival organizers and added other events including the city's largest parade.

Since 1987, the Fest has come under the auspices of Collinsville Progress Incorporated, a civic organization and arm of the Collinsville Chamber of Commerce. In 1988, the fest was moved to mid-September to take advantage of the generally better weather conditions.