

# The Italian Tribune

La Tribuna del Popolo

99 YEARS YOUNG AND STILL GOING STRONG! For hourly news updates from Italy visit us online: [www.italian-tribune.com](http://www.italian-tribune.com)

VOL. 99 NO.11 Friday, May 30 - June 12, 2008 • P.O. Box 380407 • Clinton Twp., MI 48038 • E-mail: [italiantribune@yahoo.com](mailto:italiantribune@yahoo.com) • (586) 783-3260



**Health Choice**  
**CHIROPRACTIC**  
43297 Garfield • Clinton Twp. • 586-286-1100  
10575 Morang • Detroit • 313-884-5477

**FREE**  
Exam & 2 X-Rays  
1st visit, Cond. Apply

## Italian Community Calendar

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2008

### Bill Hoehn Bike Rodeo

Dominic Maratta, chairman of the Utica-Shelby Kiwanis Bike Rodeo, invites the community to Whispering Woods Park located on 21 Mile Road between Van Dyke and Schoenherr from noon to 4 p.m. In its 17<sup>th</sup> year, the rodeo changed its name to the Bill Hoehn Bike Rodeo to honor the club's sole charter member, Bill Hoehn, who is 80. For information call (586) 731-0300.

### Festa della Repubblica

The 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Festa della Repubblica will be celebrated from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Italian American Cultural Center at Partridge Creek (Romeo Plank between 19 Mile and M-59). The principal speaker will be James C. Epolito, President and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. After the formal program, a food tasting event sponsored by over 22 Italian clubs and organizations will be open for all to enjoy. Tables will also display objects and information regarding the various regions of Italy. Entertainment is provided by the Coro Italiano. Dancing with music by Sarina will run from 6 to 9 p.m. For information call the Italian American Cultural Center at (586) 226-1582.

### Holy Family Church

The Societa' SS. Crocesfisso di Montelepre's Latin Mass will be held at 11 a.m. with a fellowship to follow at Holy Family Church (641 Chrysler Drive, Detroit).

### Santa Maria Lodge No. 220

A Memorial Mass will be held at San Francesco Church at noon. A dinner will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the Santa Maria Lodge following the Mass. Cost is \$12 per person. Catering by Soprano's. For information call Angie Morabito at (586) 772-7101.

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008

### Philip F. Greco Memorial Golf Outing

The fourth annual event will be held at Gowanie Golf Club in Harrison Township and promises competition and fellowship for a good cause. The outing honors the late Philip F. Greco. The funds raised from this event will assist Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals. Registration is at 10:30 a.m. and lunch in the clubhouse is at 11:30 a.m. A shotgun start will take place at 1 p.m., with dinner to follow golfing. Cost is \$225 for golf, lunch and dinner. Dinner only is \$100. Prizes will be awarded for longest drive, hole-in-one and closest to the pin. For information call Henry Ford Macomb Hospital at (586) 263-2968.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008

### Galicia Caravan No. 77

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Alhambra Charity Outing will honor Vincent (Jim) Vitale this year at Devil's Ridge Golf Club. Cost is \$100 per person. Registration and lunch is at 11 a.m. A shotgun start is at 12:30 p.m. There will be a best ball scramble and a banquet at the 19<sup>th</sup> hole. Proceeds will go to developmentally disabled children. For information call Anthony Marchiori at (586) 771-8600.

### IACS Senior Meeting

The Italian American Cultural Society will hold their monthly Senior Meeting at the Italian American Cultural Center from 10 to 11:30 a.m. For details, call (586) 228-3030.

(Continued on page 7)

## Trafeli Earns Spot in Italian American Hall of Fame, and in Family's Heart

Mario Trafeli Jr., who grew up a local Italian boy, is celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with his family on Saturday, June 7, a day after his birthday. After a lifetime of achievements, Trafeli will be recognized this summer in the Italian American Hall of Fame's Pioneers of Sports exhibit.

Trafeli was born in Detroit in 1928 to Mario Trafeli Sr. who hails from Volterra, a town in Tuscany, Italy, and to Louise Iacovacci, born in Marble, Colorado, to Italian emigrants from Vallecorsa, Province Frosinono, Italy (near Rome). Louise's parents, Silvio and Angelina came to the United States through Ellis Island in 1898 and 1901. They first settled in Marble, Colorado, then moved to Detroit in 1914 to take advantage of the emerging automobile industry.

While Mario Trafeli Jr. excels in several sports, he is best known as one of America's great short track speed skaters during the 1940s and '50s. Trafeli fell in love with speed skating at age 15. He practiced outside in frigid weather at Palmer Park and other community rinks. He was self-trained and practiced early in the morning and among the "pleasure" skaters at the park.

He was ranked #2 in the country as an intermediate boys skater and then in 1947, at the age of 18, he burst onto the national scene by winning the most prestigious major speedskating race in the country, The North American Outdoor Speedskating Championship. He was the youngest skater, first



**TOP DAD AND ATHLETE:** Mario Trafeli is not only a hero to his family, but also to his community. Shown are (from left) Marjorie Trafeli, Robert Trafeli, Scott Fenton, Brett Fenton, Barbara Trafeli Fenton and Mario Trafeli on a recent family outing.

Detroiter and first Italian to win this race and continued to win tournaments across the country and to set numerous records in speed skating. He was a six-time State of Michigan champion and was inducted into the Michigan Amateur Sports Hall of Fame in 1982.

Trafeli was an alternate to the 1948 Olympic Skate Team. He declined the international races in Europe as he was at Wayne State University studying for his Bachelor of Science and the University of Detroit Dental School for his Doctor of Dental Surgery. Nonetheless, he skated in competitions all over

the United States and won. Many of the races were skated against future Olympian medalists including Bill Disney, Don McDermott and Ray Blum.

At 80, Trafeli Jr. continues to be an active athlete. "I believe he symbolizes an Italian American Dream success story," says daughter Barbara Trafeli Fenton, "I credit he and my mother for instilling in all of their children a passion for excellence, leadership and pushing ourselves to our personal best."

Barbara has spent the last nine months preparing a nomination submittal on

behalf of her father, to the Italian American Hall of Fame located in downtown Chicago, Illinois. Last week George Randazzo, chairman and founder of the Italian American Hall of Fame, called Barbara to tell her they were excited to receive Mario's sport and life resume and want to include him in their Pioneers of the Sport exhibit this summer honoring the Italian American Pioneers of 30 sports.

While honing his world-class skating skills, Trafeli was also an outstanding football player and quarterback in both high (Continued on Page 16)

See More Dads and Grads Coverage on pages 14-16



**LIFE IS SHORT. EAT BETTER PIZZA.**  
*Pizza in the finest Italian tradition*

