



REAL ESTATE REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

In 2004, the selling price for a two family home in Peterstown topped \$500,000. Development in the community took a dramatic upturn a year and a half ago. Over 55 new homes were constructed and countless renovations has made the Elizabeth neighborhood the hottest commodity in the real estate market.

According to Tino Rosa, of the Rosa Agency, the most real estate activity in Union County has been happening in Elizabeth, and the Peterstown section has been in the highest demand. New construction has been prevalent and is changing the image of the city.

Investment in Peterstown has improved the community on many levels. The new construction, and refurbished existing homes, have given the streetscape a fresh interesting look. New architectural design has replaced old, fading facades. The development has also attracted a new wave of people. Most home buyers are owner/occupiers. A few relocated from within the city but most are coming from out of town, many from different boroughs of New York City. The development has sparked an increase in property values that has allowed many residents to improve their quality of life.

According to Rosa, Elizabeth's rise in real estate activity is due to a very successful tax abatement program being offered by the city to encourage investment. The program, enacted in 1995, offers a 5 year tax abatement to owner/occupiers of new construction. It is a state program that only four cities have enacted. The other three being Newark, Paterson and Jersey City.

The program was introduced to encourage development in inner cities. It has been a win-win situation for all involved. There is no doubt that the city is aesthetically more attractive. It has been a boom for the realty industry and all businesses associated with construction. Including local retail supplying furnishings for the home, and personal needs for the new homeowners. The program also offers a great opportunity for first time home buyers. Together with certain lending programs, the five year tax abatement helps the new home owner to achieve a manageable mortgage.

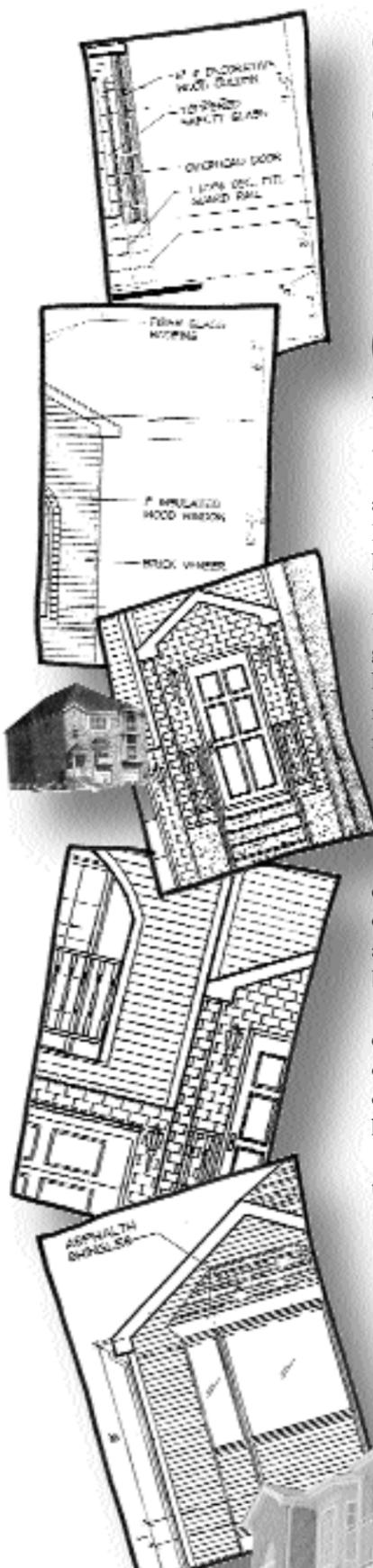
The price tags on the homes seem outrageous to those who grew up in the neighborhood, but if they take a tour of one the new homes they would find beautifully designed spacious rooms, filled with top amenities like: marble counter tops; two bathrooms per floor; off street parking in regular two car garages; and balconies. The new homes which are getting top dollar are also on 33 ft lots. So they should not be compared to the common 25 ft. lots. The old housing stock was designed and built to accommodate a fast growing population. Luxury was not the intent of the immigrants that settled the neighborhood during the great immigration a century ago. But times have changed. It is interesting that Rosa also observed that 90% of the people he has sold homes to are also immigrants.

Details of the abatement program puts some controls on how the homes are built and sold. For instance, the program only applies to first time home buyers, and they must occupy the property. It only applies to one and two family homes. This is unique to Elizabeth, the other cities allow the tax break on four families and condos. The abatement can not be passed on if the home is sold.

The criteria of the development program has, in a way, defined the type of people who are moving into the new homes. The market price is dictating a certain level of income. Since the owner must also occupy the property there won't be out of town landlords taking ownership. The high rents will not attract fly by night tenants. The size of the homes are most attractive to families with children. The people picking Peterstown to live in are not old money people. They are choosing this community because they see it as an improvement to where they came from, and as an opportunity to do better. For many new arrivals, their new home represents a dream, and they are going to work hard to make it real. Much like the new arrivals did 100 years ago. 🇺🇸



(above) A familiar scene of two, new, two family homes being build in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth. These are going up on Loomis Street.



(left, l-r) Tino Rosa, owner of Rosa Agency, and Tom Casale, a sales associate working for Rosa, discuss details of two properties which they sold for builders Al and Joe Mauti. They are standing in front of the homes, located side by side on Christine Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, which sold for \$500,000 and \$525, 000.

Around About Peterstown is published by Joe Renna. Fifteen thousand newspapers are printed and distributed bi-monthly, free throughout the County of Union and parts unknown and by subscription across the country. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, *Around About Peterstown* assumes no liability for errors or omissions. *Around About Peterstown* welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent to:

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President's Message



I would like to thank all those who came to the memorial mass held for my father. It was a touching tribute and my family could not thank everyone enough for the support they showed. He will certainly be missed but it looks like his memory will be with us for some time. I must express my condolences for the many friends and neighbors who lost loved ones over the past year. It seemed exceptional. The Sons of Peterstown lost a member, our dear friend, George Anderson. By reflecting on our losses, I hope we can gain something positive out of it. Maybe a better understanding that life is short and we should make the best of the time we have, try to put aside our differences and work together to make everyone's time here more enjoyable. I would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2005.

Thank you and God bless.

John Sacco
John Sacco, President

PRESS RELEASES

Press Releases that benefit the community of Peterstown are offered free of charge. Every effort will be made to accommodate appropriate articles when time and space allows. Send any info in early.

ADVERTISERS: CALL TINA RENNA
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www.
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com

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Leave a message
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LETTER POLICY

Around About Peterstown welcomes Letters to the Editor at our postal, fax or e-mail addresses. Letters must include sender's name, address and phone number (only name and town will be printed). Letters should be typed. Letters appear as space permits. We reserve the right not to print a letter without notifying sender.

Mr. Renna,

I just read your DEC 04 issue # 37 of *Around About Peterstown*. I was especially pleased to read about the commemorative stamp to honor Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone. As stated in the article, "A LONG TIME COMING".

The article stated that Sgt. Basilone joined the Navy, which is not accurate. Sgt. Basilone first enlisted in the Army and was discharged in 1937, he subsequently enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1940. He never left the Marine Corps, and was never in the Navy. To a marine, this is important to note.

Ray Fleming
Sr. Vice Commandant
Central Jersey Leathernecks Detachment
Marine Corps. League
Colonia, NJ

Dear *Around About Peterstown*,

Thank you for printing the story about our mother, Paola Oliver, in your October 04 issue. She was very special to us and like the story said, she suffered very much. Even before she became sick, she was always under a lot of stress doing house cleaning and snow shoveling for family members.

We wanted to thank some people who were very helpful to our mother, her dear friend Carmella Genna, the Delsol family, Lucy LoBrace, the Mortillaro family, the Reina family, the Scasso family and the Moniscalco family. The Oliver Family
Elizabeth, NJ

**"Happy 62nd birthday Momma.
Enjoy your birthday in heaven with your loved ones,
until we meet again."**

Your Loving Children

Dear Joe,

I love your paper. My family is originally from Peterstown. My Dad (Frank Spano) was born and raised there. My grandparents (Rocco and Santa Spano) lived on 1st Ave. (next to the Hibiran Club). My Grandfather was a fixture sitting on his front porch until his death in 1991. Everyone knew him!

There is a picture of my parents in your December 04 edition. We're trying to get our hands on a copy. My mother is very ill in the hospital and I'd like to bring her a copy, and hopefully cheer her up.

My father really enjoys reading your paper and hearing about his "old friends"!

Thanks!

Nancy Spano Yurek

Hi Joe,

Okay, here's a blast from the past...one of the twins - Tommy Pantaleo.

We met new friends who live in Union and they brought me a copy of your paper a few months back, and there we were, the article about all the twins raised in Peterstown.

I've been telling my girlfriend for the longest time that I wanted to take her to where I grew up and to dinner at Spirito's. Well, last week, we did just that. I picked up the December 04 issue of the paper and there we were again. This time, it was my brother's and mine kindergarten graduation picture.

We had a great dinner at Spirito's - the food is exactly as I remember it. The pictures on the walls brought back so many memories. Every bite of food was a flashback to years ago.

My whole family and I enjoy reading your paper so much. It brings us back to a wonderful place and time.

Everyone is great! Life is good!
Always a Burg Boy in my heart! No matter where I go!
Tommy Pantaleo
Monmouth Beach, NJ

To whom it may concern,

I was born and lived on Amity Street in Peterstown for 22 years and then moved away when I got married. I have many fond memories of those good old days in Peterstown.

Mrs. Carmen (Evangelista) Fetterman
Middlesex, NJ

OPEN INVITATION TO CRESTLIN BOY'S CLUB ATLANTIC CITY TRIPS

The Crestlin Club has six bus trips to Atlantic City, one every other month, all Sundays. the remaining trips for 2005 are:

APRIL 3,

MAY 22

(weekend before Memorial Day),

JULY 31,

September 18,

and around the middle of November

(date is not yet established).

These trips are open to everyone, not just club members.

Call the club at 908-355-4652 for more information.

Leave a message and someone will get back to you.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE STAFF OF THE PETERSTOWN NEWSPAPER



(Above, l-r) Photographer, Mia Renna; Chief, Perry White; Assistant Editor George Reeves; Editor, Tina Renna; Reporter, Jimmy Olson; Astrologist, Angela Renna and copy boy, Joe Renna.

Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

I must congratulate my wife, Tina, for receiving a honorable mention from the Star-Ledger. Every year the Ledger honors readers who have submitted letters to the editor. The newspaper's editors present ten writers with the Silver Pen Award and lists another 65 on a honor roll. Tina was listed in the 2004 honor roll of letter writers which was published in the January 30, 2005 edition of the Sunday Star-Ledger.

The selections were made from over 25,000 letters submitted by readers. This is quite a distinction. It was also quite surprising for Tina, who couldn't imagine herself ever writing a letter to the press, let alone doing so on a regular basis. Tina grew up on Mott Street, in the Little Italy section of Manhattan, and thinks her involvement in Jersey politics is light-years away from her earlier interests.

Tina first got involved when I ran for the office of Union County Freeholder as an Independent in 2003. I was the candidate and she was my campaign manager. It was a first time experience for the both of us. Little did we know it would be so inspirational.

Tina mainly writes about corruption in government. Her motivation is the effect it has on the lives of people with financial struggles. She told me, "Once my eyes were opened to what was going on I couldn't ignore it." Tina believes the most effective way that she could combat the corruption is by exposing it.

Tina admits that she is far from diplomatic, it's not in her nature. Though there is sometimes humor in her letters, they are always hard hitting and to the point. Her criticism is tough, and at times, directed at the media, whom she must rely on to get her message out. The argument Tina tries to make is that the media is the best hope for justice. She puts the responsibility of government accountability on their shoulders. Only the media has the power to inform people and she believes that the media is the only resource that people with no means have to fight for their rights.

She uses the recently enacted Open Public Records Act (OPRA) to obtain information, but access is either denied, delayed or discouraged by the county. On several occasions she was actually lied to, an indication to Tina that she is being effective.

Tina is amazed at how much attention she is receiving and would rather the attention be focused on the issues. Although, the stories about the county trying to silence her, and thwart her inquires, are hard to ignore. For instance, Tina was addressing the freeholder board during the public comment portion of their December 16 meeting and was removed from the podium and escorted out of the building by two sheriff's officers, who pinned her arms behind her back. Her crime was that she went 1 minute and 6 seconds over the allotted 5 minute time limit, which the government of Union County affords to a citizen to address them.

Tina was standing up for a woman whose 17 year old son died in the Union County Detention Center. The State's Office of the Child Advocate investigated and released a report which blamed the county for setting the

stage for the boys death. The Advocate cited deplorable and dangerous conditions and stated that the county had a fundamental disregard for basic human rights.

My daughters and I are extremely proud of Tina, and admire her for what she has been doing. She hopes to be a role model for our daughters, and wants to raise strong, community conscious women. When Tina told the girls, ages 12 and 13, she was removed from the county administration building by not one, but two sheriff's officers, who acted like she was a desperado, they weren't upset or frightened. Instead, they high-fived their mother, commended her and begged to be allowed to attend the next meeting.

The county has a million dollar public information department which strives to suppress and control information. Two years ago, Tina became this huge concern for the all Democrat party in power because she asked for a public document. She has been locked in numerous battles for information with them ever since.

Tina respects that everyone has a right to their own opinion, and is not afraid to state hers. I commend her for that, and I commend everyone who expresses their opinion in a public forum and has the courage to sign their name to it, or be tossed out of a public meeting because of it. 🐾



Not for Nothing But...

speaking the truth
raises the ire of
those living a lie.



(above) Tina being removed from the building by two Union County Sheriff Officers after going a minute over the 5 minute limit the public gets to speak at a Freeholder meeting.

CITY BLOWS ³ FRESH AIR INTO SENIOR CENTER



The long wait of the senior citizens at the Peterstown Community Center for a quality director has ended. Tom Amato has been assigned the position, and began January 10th. He will be in place until 2007, that is when the renovations at the City's Racket Club on Firwood Terrace, in the Elmora section of Elizabeth, are projected to be finished.

Tom has been director at the club but is now enjoying his new assignment. He said, "The people have been great. They welcomed me in a wonderful way, and they are always feeding me."

Another program that is temporarily relocated is the Elizabeth Recreation Dance Program. The program has 110 children between the ages of 3 and 12 getting dance instruction from a pair of sisters, Michelle and Melissa Rodrigues. Michelle has run the program for 5 years, her sister has assisted her for the past two. The program runs Monday through Saturday from registration in September to a recital in June.

The Peterstown community wishes them all a warm welcome. 🐾



(left, l-r) Lillian Binger, a daily regular at the Community Center with new Director, Tom Amato.



(below, l-r) Dance instructors Miss Michelle and Miss Melissa.

LOCAL TALENT ON COURT FOR KEAN COUGERS

When the College of New Jersey Lions came to the D'Angola Gym on the campus of Kean University in Union, to play the Cougars about three dozen fans from Cranford came out to see Mike Snyder who started for the college. All of them were his family.

Snyder had a stellar career playing for Cranford High School. Also playing for the Lions were Dan DeSerio of Westfield, and Derek Brown of Scotch Plains. Both played for their city school teams. On the opposite end of the court, playing for the cougars were two Linden High School grads, Danny Del Valle and Ariel Garcia. These guys supplied excitement for Union County high school hoop fans. It is good to see them playing in New Jersey.

The Lady Cougars went to the court following the the boys match up. The fans were treated to more

Peterstown talent as they watched freshman, Geanna Bonavitacola, play under the tutelage of her father, assistant coach, Tony.

Geanna, who played her high school ball at Roselle Catholic plays along side fellow freshman, Mother Seton High School graduate, Nina Oshiokpekhai of Hillside. Across the court for the Lions was another Union County player, Latissa Watson of Union. 🏀

(right) The brilliant play of College of New Jersey's starting guard, Mike Snyder led to a win over Kean University.



(left, l-r) Starting Cougar guard, junior Danny Del Valle, pictured with high school team mate, freshman Ariel Garcia, started his basketball carrier in Peterstown where he played for the Fighting Angels of St. Anthony's Grammar School.



(Left, l-r) Geanna, Biotechnology major at Kean University and her father, assistant coach, Tony Bonavitacola, another St. Anthony's alum.



MAUTI MEDICAL & SPORTS MEDICINE ASSOCIATES

Dr. James Mauti has recently opened the doors to his new offices in Springfield, NJ. Mauti has had extensive experience in sports medicine tending to student athletes for area schools. His new office will also offer a comprehensive medical practice for the entire family, including a complete urgent care facility.

Mauti's practice encompasses a full service of sports medicine, internal medicine and occupational medical care.

Dr. Maui received his undergraduate degree from St. Peter's College at Jersey City, NJ. He continued his education with a Medical Degree at St. George's University School of Medicine in 1995. After five years

of post graduate education, Dr. Mauti continued his academic affiliations with his Internal Medicine Residency and Sports Medicine Fellowship at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center.

Being originally from the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, Dr. Mauti treats many familiar faces as the current Medical Inspector for the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Dr. Mauti is also the Athletic Team and School Physician for various schools throughout Passaic, Union, and Morris Counties. He works closely with the athletic directors and trainers on school physicals to ensure the well being of the student athletes.

(left) Jim Mauti, MD, is currently the Medical Inspector for the Board of Education for both Paterson and Elizabeth Public Schools. He just recently opened Mauti Medical & Sports Medicine Associates in Springfield, NJ.

MT. OLIVET VETERAN FOOTSTONE PROJECT BAYWAY POST 260 AMERICAN LEGION

"Our deceased veterans must not be forgotten."

Submitted by Tony Grace

Post 260 needs your financial help.

Bayway Post 260 American Legion is pleased to report that to date, we have received donations to raise 25 footstones at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Mt. Olivet is owned by St. Patrick's Church of Elizabeth.

The goal is to restore footstones of deceased veterans

who served their country in all wars. Each restoration has a cost of \$50.00 to elevate the footstone, fill with crushed stone and replace the footstone to ground level.

A special "Thank You" to the following organizations and persons who have contributed to this worthy endeavor:

Military Order of The Purple Heart Post 28, Korean War Veterans Chapter 53, Leonard Funeral Home, Frank Izzo, Pete Danscuk, Carl Buli, Bill Barry, Mike Ribnicki, Assemblyman Joseph Cryan, Rep. Robert Menedez.

To make a donation to aid our project please make check payable to "American Legion Post 260" and mail to: Commander Pete Beal, 519 Spruce St. Garwood, NJ 07027 or to Vice Commander Tony Grace, 1070 Dewey Place, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



(above) Commander Pete Beal and Vice Commander Tony Grace giving checks to Director of Mt. Olivet, Kathy to restore eleven more veterans footstones. Also in picture is past Commander Bill Barry.



(above) Getting the job done of restoring veterans footstones (l-r) supervisors, Ben, Victor, Director Kathy and Sulton.

ROSELLE PLANS VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

Roselle Councilman Joseph O'Halloran announced the appointment of a permanent steering to the Veterans Appreciation Day Committee.

Veterans Appreciation Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the Roselle Borough Hall, was created to thank the veterans who served in World War II.

The date, May 7, was chosen to coincide with the surrender of Nazi Germany, exactly 60 years ago. There will be no awards, no medals, no description of heroic deeds, just a "Thank You", for all who served are heroes.

The Steering Committee members are:

MARITA PARHAM: Extensive background in civic activities such as Girl Scouts, fund raising for various charities. As an employee of the American Broadcasting Company was involved in public relations for that company.

HARRY THOMPSON: Retired executive from Exxon, long time member of Roselle Planning Board. Served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War.

ROBERT "RED" MIGLORIE: Extensive activities with various veterans groups, full-time ex-employee with the city of Elizabeth's recreation department, athletic director for St. Patrick's High School, Elizabeth. Served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War.

MAJOR GREGORY PENZAK: served 2 years on active duty with the Marine Corps, spent much time in Viet Nam. Presently assigned to Abraham Clark High School supervising a young military program.

SIDNEY STONE: Chairman, Veterans Day Committee. Served in the Army during World War II. Active in civic affairs, having served in the Roselle and the Elizabeth municipal councils.

If you are a World War II veteran give us a call: Roselle Borough Hall (908) 259-3010 ask for Reyna, or Sidney Stone (908) 241-8252. 🇺🇸

READERS WRITE THE BEST STUFF . . .

The next four pages contain letters and photos submitted by readers who were inspired by other people who submitted stories. The mention of a name, place or event sometimes spurs a reader to add their own remembrances and photos. Some submissions can be tracked through several issues.

.....

Not for Nothing But...

I can't keep my own
kid's names straight.

.....

Dear Joe Renna:

I want to express how grateful I am for the wonderful publication of "Around About Peterstown".

I was born on High Street right across from the Vallatese Club in 1931, and remember so well how Peterstown was back in those days. I even started Kindergarten at School #3 and was a student there when Miss O'Brien was Principal and I had Ms. Holmes when I was in 2nd grade, way back when. So it is great to see how cherished the memories of this lady are. Naturally I am Vallatese with my father Luigi being one of the founders of the Vallatese Club. My mother was Calabrese and born in Elizabeth. This is the reason for my letter.

My mom, Mary Siano Monaco, original last name being Cianni, was born in Elizabeth on Rector Street (same street as the brewery) in 1905. Later she moved to John Street with my grandparents and me my father around 1917. My mother who died March 18, 1960 was one of the founders of the Vallatese Ladies Auxiliary in 1940, and remained the 1st Recording and Corresponding Secretary until her death. At the time of the founding of the club we lived on High Street.

I am attaching a picture of what is called the "Cianni" family with variations of last names...Siano, Siana, Ciano. Most would know the "Siano boys" Joe, Dominic, Tom, Gus, Frank, Tony and the girls...Josephine, Brigit, Angelina, Francis, Mary, Ann and Rose. This picture was taken around late 1905 or early 1906 because the baby sitting on my grandmothers, Maria Giovanni's, lap is my mom, Mary Siano Monaco.

What also is unique about the Cianni family is that the family consisted of "his kids, her kid and their kids". Coming from Citrata, Province Cosenza, Region Calabria my grandmother, Maria Giovanni Cosentino, married a gentleman with the last name of Occhuizzo and they had one child Angelina. After he died she married a widower Angelo Cianni, and he had Dominic, Joseph, Josephine, Brigit and Frances. This couple with children (except Frances) headed to Marselles France to work in 1900. Thomas was the first born to them...in France and in 1920 they proceeded to the United States and lived on Rector Street where a child Mary was born and lived a short time and then a year later Mary (my mother) was born...then came the rest of the kids, being born on Rector Street and Pearl Street. After her husband Angelo died in 1920, a few years later, she married Ignazio Russo. To say the least her name to this day is know as Maria Giovanni Cosentino Occhuizzo Cianni Russo.

Several years ago I wrote about the family in a booklet listing the generation of children and includes many wonderful memories of the Lady Maria Giovanni who picked dandelions (do not know how to spell giggodia)...and carried them from Pearl Street to Fourth Avenue in a bed sheet.

Love the paper and look forward to reading it each and every time.

Brigadier General
Joe Monaco
Scotch Plains, NJ



. . . AND INSPIRE OTHER READERS TO WRITE

Dear Joe,

My comara Lucille Disano was kind and thoughtful to send me the October 04 and December 04 issues. The October issue is where I read my cousin Carmen (Albano) Barboai's beautiful letter that brought back such wonderful memories.

I lived on Amity Street from 1938-1959. I was born in the house I grew up in with my parents Otto and Lilly (Albano) Evangelista and my two sisters Candy (Candida) and Carmen.

My grandfather, Rocco Albano, owned a saloon on Amity St. and 4th Ave. The "Creslin Boys" years and years later had their club there.

My Uncle Arlo and Aunt Katie (Albano) DiGiorgio owned the Silver Moon. We would often watch my uncle make the pizzas and he taught my cousins Mike, Rocky and Mimmie how to make the pizzas so they could continue with the business when he retired.

St. Rocco's feast was an event we looked forward to with religious and festive excitement.

There was always summer activities to look forward to such as the ladies Valletese Club's yearly bus trip to Atlantic City. We had a lot of fun on the bus, as well as on the beach. My mom was one of the original members

for 20 + years and the corresponding secretary.

Summer evenings you could find us either at Mantano Park and/or School #3 playground rooting for Peterstown's softball team.

Joe Nufrio had a bakery next door to us. We would salivate when smelling the bread baking. The bread was delicious.

Who could ever forget going to the open produce market on Saturday mornings which was at 1st and 2nd Avenues between High and Center Streets?

Then there was Melchione's grocery store located on 4th Ave. between Amity and Palmer Streets. The Melchione brothers always greeted everyone with a big smile and friendly conversation.

Peterstown was one big family. There are so many beautiful and heartfelt memories. I can go on and on.

I felt warm, fuzzy and melancholy reading both issues and that prompted me to subscribe to "Around About Peterstown". I look forward to reading the newspaper here in Spring Hill, Florida, our new home.

Thank your for the memories.
Flo Evengelista Fabogloce
Spring Hill, Florida



(top, l-r) My mom and dad, Otto and Lilly Evangelista.

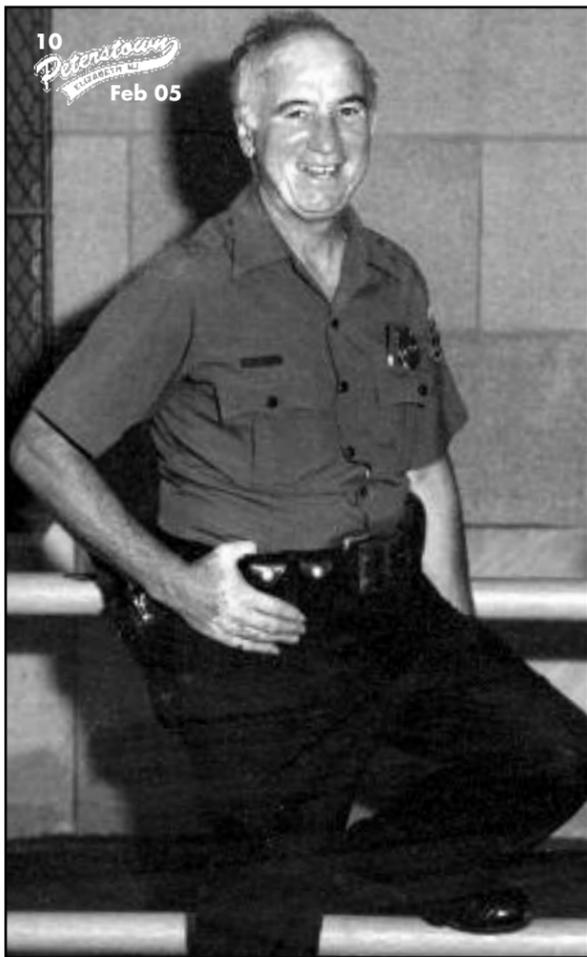
(above) My sisters and me:
Carmen, Flo and Candy Evangelista

(far left, back row, l-r) Anthony "Skinny" Albano,
Carlo DiGiorgio, Otto Evangelista (my father)
(front row) Steve Manfredi, Rocky Albano
(center) Grandmom Carmen Albano.

(left) Photo from March 14, 1942 of my aunts and my
mother, on the day of my grandmother, Carmen
Albano's, birthday.

(standing l-r) Annie Manfredi, Katie DiGiorgio, Ann
Netta, and Lilly Evangelista.

Hey Flo, What was the dog's name?



(above) Tony DiMaggio on the job as a corrections officer for the County of Union before retiring in 1986.

(right, l-r) Gasper "Red" Cascio meets childhood pal Tony DiMaggio by happenchance on a deserted street in Germany in 1945 during WWII.

MORE THAN JUST COINCIDENCE

The December 04 issue of Around About Peterstown contained a story about Gasper "Red" Cascio. While delivering the paper to Michelino's Pizzeria I took time to sit down with owner Mike Lobracc to shoot the breeze. We flipped through the paper and when he came upon the page with Red's story he pointed and told me to look at his wall. He was pointing to an 8x10 photo of his uncle. But what he wanted me to see was an old photo tucked in the corner of the frame.



Mike's Uncle was Tony DiMaggio, his mother's brother. Mike had the photo of his uncle on his wall since he passed away on July 4, 1999. In the larger photo, Uncle Tony is wearing his uniform and standing outside the Union County Court House. Tony was a corrections officer for 13 years until his retirement in 1986.

Mike pulled the old picture from its perch and handed it to me. He said, "That's Red Cascio in that picture". The coincidence that the picture was sitting there was eerily coincidental, since there would be no reason for Mike to have a picture of Red except that in the picture Red is shaking hands with his Uncle Tony. The story turned real interesting when Mike explained how the picture came to be.

The photo was taken in Germany, on Palm Sunday, 1945, during WWII. Red was a medical and surgical technician in the Army and Tony was in the infantry. Tony was in the Searchlight Battalion, which shined spotlights on airplanes so gunners could see them. The meeting of the two in Germany was just a coincidence.

Both men knew each other from Peterstown. Red grew up on South Seventh Street and Tony grew up two blocks away on John Street. The two did not know where the other was dispatched so it was a shocking surprise to meet a friend in those circumstances. The odds were slim to none. As Tony described it to his nephew Mike, he was just walking down the street and when he looked up he was face to face with Red.

Another strange coincidence in all of this is that there was a photographer there available to snap the picture. I can't even think about the trip that that photo has been through over the past sixty years, only to end up on the wall of Michelino's Pizzeria, and to now be reproduced in this newspaper. 📷

Recipes

Submitted by Gran Centurions Club and banquet Facilities

Tuscan Roasted Petite Chicken With Roasted Peppers

INGREDIENTS:

2 cornish hens, halved
Kosher salt to taste
Pepper to taste
Rosemary Glaze (recipe below)
Polenta Rounds
1c Roasted vegetables
1c Sundried tomatoes
1c Roasted red peppers
Parmesan cheese

PREPARATION:

- 1) Salt and pepper halved cornish hens to taste. Place in roasting pan and cook in a pre-heated 400° oven for 30 minutes.
- 2) Remove pan from oven and cool cornish hens in pan to room temperature.
- 3) Preheat your oven to 500°. Apply 2-4 tablespoons of glaze on each cooled half of the cornish hen. Add Polenta rounds, roasted vegetables, sundried tomatoes and roasted red peppers to the pan. Sprinkle with as much Parmesan cheese to suit your taste.
- 4) Return pan to 500° oven for 15 minutes.
- 5) Remove pan from oven and drizzle remaining glaze over pan contents.
- 6) Serve and enjoy. Recipe serves: 2 people.

Rosemary Glaze:

INGREDIENTS:

1c Balsamic vinegar
1c Fresh rosemary, chopped
1/2c Brown sugar
1c Extra virgin olive oil

PREPARATION:

- 1) Mix all ingredients in saucepan.
- 2) Heat on low flame to blend. Do not boil.
- 3) Once it is heated, remove and allow to cool.

Chilean Sea Bass With Zucchini

INGREDIENTS:

1-1/2 lbs. Chilean sea bass filets
3 Cloves garlic, minced
2 Tbs Cilantro, finely chopped
2 Tbs Olive oil
2 Chopped tomatoes
2 Green onions, chopped
Dash of white wine
3 Small zucchini, sliced
Salt and pepper to taste
1 Lime
Paprika for color

PREPARATION:

- 1) Pre-heat oven to 450°. Place sea bass in a single layer in roasting pan, skin side down.
- 2) Mix all ingredients together, except for the lime and paprika, and arrange around Sea Bass in pan. Squeeze lime over all ingredients. Sprinkle paprika over the sea bass for color.
- 3) Cover pan with foil, and cook at 450° for 20 minutes.
- 4) Serve over rice. Recipe Serves: 2-3 people.

WHO ARE THE GRAN CENTURIONS

The Gran Centurions was founded in 1966 by a group of Italian-Americans to form an Italian-American social, cultural and charitable club for the growing population in the Clark area. After many meetings in various public places for several years, their present facility was built in 1972.

They are located at 440 Madison Hill Road in Clark on over four acres. The Club features:

- A main clubhouse
- Large outdoor swimming pool and picnic area
- (3) Banquet rooms, with the largest seating up to 400 guests.

The club participates in charitable activities and a scholarship fund to assist deserving high school graduates wishing to further their education.

The Gran Centurian's membership, mostly of Italian decent, now consists of over 300 members.

Anyone who would like more information about the Club or pool membership or anyone planning a special affair, can call 732-382-1664 for more information. 📞

THE ANGELO VILLA IN THE DISTRICT OF SAN MARCO

Submitted by Sal Angelo

This is a land area east of the town of Monte San Giuliano (present day Erice.) Its importance is that my fathers ancestors from 1831 to 1904 all were born, married and died in a farm villa recorded on the vital records as "Campagna di San Marco" or "Quartiere di San Marco", which means the Countryside of San Marco or District of San Marco.

In the earliest document I obtained, the Notarial Register of Giovanni Maiorana dated 1297 – 1300, the area was not called San Marco. However more than forty different sections in this area were named, each usually carry the name of a person or saint. In reviewing these names and comparing them to the 1879 map of the Monte San Giuliano area from the Library of Congress, some names do repeat themselves. The Notary Register listed the names in Latin and the 1879 map listed them in Italian. The common names seem to be: Faldiseeni (Falluca) west of the city, Rocca Rossa (Rocca Rumessa) northwest of the city and Tonnari Bonachia (Ton Bonaggia (north of the city.)

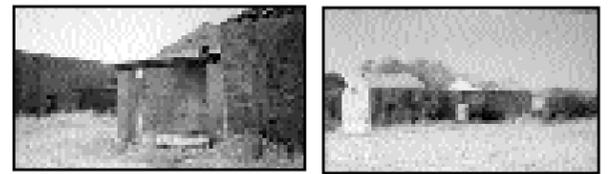
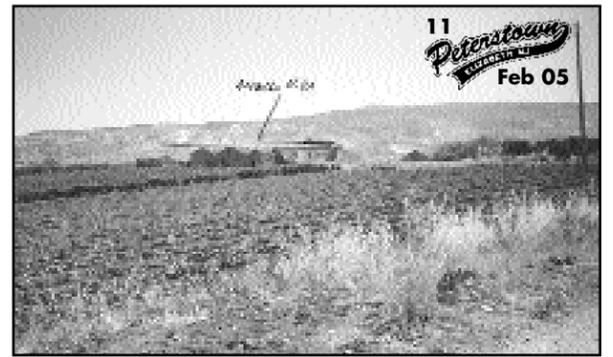
What we know from the Giovanni Maiorana Notary Register is that the boundaries of Erice as a Territory started with the reign of the Norman King William 11 (1166 – 1189) and continued through to the reign of Markwald of Anweiler. Also from the generosity of the Emperor Frederick 11 who in May 1241 gave other land concessions to the town of Monte San Giuliano. The territorial government stated their case that the existing land boundaries were insufficient for growth and its resident's needs. This land became available since the expulsion of the Arab Saracens from the Island in the 12th century. The territory had an abundance of woodland and water sources that clearly marked its boundaries. This resulted in cultivation of vineyards and farms, which allowed the territory to grow in all directions.

The area was essentially a rural land of Eden and from this, the district of San Marco was created. Many of the farm villas and estates of the Barons followed a similar construction pattern. The main villa was usually on the highest elevation for defensive and observation of land purposes. Also several buildings were constructed with accommodations for farm workers and their families and barns for equipment and live stock. The villa usually had a wall surrounding it because this was a land area (western Sicily) characterized by bandit raids. The roofs

were usually red clay tile and the rooms inside had wooden beams. The Angelo farm villa's construction followed this pattern.

I was fortunate to have communicated with a resident in the San Marco district who updated me on the "Angelo" farm villa, shown on the 1879 Library of Congress map. His name is Bartolo Cusenza the manager and owner of the Hotel Santa Croce located about 6 miles west of the Angelo farm villa. Information about his hotel can be obtained at the website www.bagliosantacroce.com. He was kind enough, in September 2002 to send me photographs of the villa as it exists today and also a 1950 map of the area showing the property's location. The topography of this map compares favorably with the 1879 Library of Congress map. The property is now abandoned and the name "Angelo" has been replaced with the name "Staz Ippica Lentina", translated as the "The Station of the Small Horse" on the current 1950 map sent to me. The District San Marco and its surrounding area are now called the town of Valderice (Valley of Erice) and it was incorporated as such in the early 1950's.

Viewing the photos' of the now abandoned Angelo villa, some conclusions can be drawn about it. The entire complex has a look of a 1600 A.D. building effort, although the actual date it was built is unknown at this time. Looking westward you can see the ancient historic town of Erice (formerly Monte San Giuliano) situated on the highest elevation of 2,450 feet above sea level in western Sicily. As of September 2002 there is a working farm being cultivated in its fields. There are multiple buildings in the complex; some appear to be resident areas with doors and windows and others to hold equipment. All the buildings appear to be enclosed by adjoining walls around the villa. The walls of the complex appear to be brick and stone of local origins because it is similar to the construction of the Hotel Santa Croce. The roofs of all the buildings have red clay tile. Some photographs show an inside courtyard that the previously mentioned wall surrounds, parts of this wall have door openings. Interestingly enough there is a dirt road south of the villa, which may have existed for centuries. This is the road my father occasionally would tell me stories about, how all the past invaders attempting to capture the town of Monte San Giuliano used it. 🐾



(above) Various views of Angelo Farm Villa owned by the Angelo family from 1831 – 1904.

Sal Angelo traced his family tree back 5 generations to the 1700's. This is the fifth report on his developments. Genealogy information appeared in the October 00, June 03, December 03, April 04 and December 04 issues of Around About Peterstown.



Peterstown's Louie Fellipe on congas, harp and vocals.

LOCAL ROCKERS "JOBONANNO & THE GODSONS OF SOUL" WILL OPEN FOR HALL OF FAMERS "FELIX CAVALIERE & THE RASCALS" @ UCAC

Jobonanno & The Godsons of Soul have just been added to the Felix Cavaliere Rascal's concert on Feb. 26th. The show will take place at the Union County Arts Center, Main St., Rahway, N.J. at 8pm.



Tickets are \$30.00 and as a special promotion for supporting JB & The Godsons, buy your tickets at "Beenas Mexican Cafe" and receive a \$5.00 gift certificate per ticket. "Beenas" is located at 988 St. Georges Ave., Rahway, N.J. Phone 1-732-381-3233.

Tickets are also available by e-mailing the band at godsonsofsoul@aol.com. Check out their website at www.jobonanno.com. 🐾

(left, l-r) Dino Danelli, Felix Cavaliere, Eddie Brigati and Gene Cornish. The blue-eyed soul music of the Rascals made them one of the biggest groups of the last '60s with hits Good Lovin, Groovin, A Girl Like You, A Beautiful Morning, and People Got to Be Free.

FROM ELMORA HILLS TO CAPITAL HILL

Elizabeth, NJ native, Federal Appeals Court Judge Michael Chertoff, 51, was selected by President Bush to become the next Chief of the Department of Homeland Security. Chertoff, the son of a rabbi, grew up in the Elmora section of Elizabeth attending the Pingry School on North Avenue.

He continued his education at Harvard University, where he received a B.A. degree in 1975, and went on to Harvard Law School, earning a J.D. degree in 1978, magna cum laude.

In his stellar career, he's been a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit, he's been an assistant attorney general of the United States, he's been the U.S. Attorney for New Jersey, a federal prosecutor in New York City and a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice William Brennan.

In his nomination speech, President Bush said "In all of his roles, Mike has shown a deep commitment to the cause of justice, and an unwavering determination to protect the American people. Mike has also been a key leader in the war on terror. On September the 11th, 2001, he was managing the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, an 800-person operation devoted to enforcing our nation's criminal laws. In the days after September the 11th, Mike helped trace the terrorist attacks to the al Qaeda network. He understood immediately that the strategy on the war on terror is to prevent attacks before they occur. His energy and intellect put him at the center of many vital Homeland Security improvements, especially increased information sharing within the FBI and with state and local officials."

The Homeland Security Department was set up after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. The department consolidates 22 existing agencies and offices with the intent of protecting the United States against future terrorist threats. 🇺🇸



Michael Chertoff accepting the nomination for Secretary of Homeland Security from President Bush.

PROSPERITY IS HOME GROWN

In the last year and a half, property values for Peterstown have skyrocketed. The amount of new construction has increased, and home owners are renovating the old housing stock. Elizabeth has been a boom town, and Peterstown has been in the forefront.

The market took a turn upward almost overnight. There is one transaction that seemed to be the start of the trend. Tino Rosa, of Rosa Agency, saw the sale of 414 Niles Street as the turning point. The property had a one family home on it that was owned by the Londino family for three generations.

In 2003 the house was sold for \$135,000. The new owners demolished the existing house in order to build a new luxury two family. Cost for demolition can run from \$8,000 to \$15,000. This means that the new developer was willing to spend well over \$150,000 for the lot alone.

The value of homes are increasing because the value of land is increasing. Since the Peterstown neighborhood is very desirable, and buildable lots are limited, people are willing to pay a premium to buy there. It has proven to be a good investment. In 1999 a lot was valued at about \$30,000. Today, that same lot would be worth \$170,000. Most lots have become available because the owner may have passed away and the estate sold the property, or it may have been a lot that has been dormant for a long time, or a property which is subdivided.

The tax abatement program that the city offers first time home buyers for their newly constructed houses does not apply to the value of the lot. The program holds the homeowners tax at 2% for the value of the cost of construction. This program runs for five years where then the house would be assessed and a full tax applied.

The average value for a lot is around \$130,000, so the average tax that the new home owners are paying, for the first five years, is about \$2,600.

Besides the tax abatement, another key ingredient to giving people the opportunity to afford their new homes are special mortgage programs being offered by lenders that require no money down. Virtually all the programs are being offered by Washington Mutual, Green Point and Wells Fargo. The fact that the interest rates have lingered at approximately 5³/₄% is also key. The numbers work out when the income from the rental of the second apartment is figured in. The risk of the situation may be heightened when factors beyond the owners control change, but that hasn't seemed to scare the buyers.

Kudos must go out to the local businesses that invested and developed in their own neighborhood. A majority of the construction done in the neighborhood has been done by those who grew up there. Starting with the general contractors and all the tradesmen they used. It seems that the realtors used to sell the properties and the attorneys and finance people have all been home grown. This shows a commitment to the community. 🇺🇸



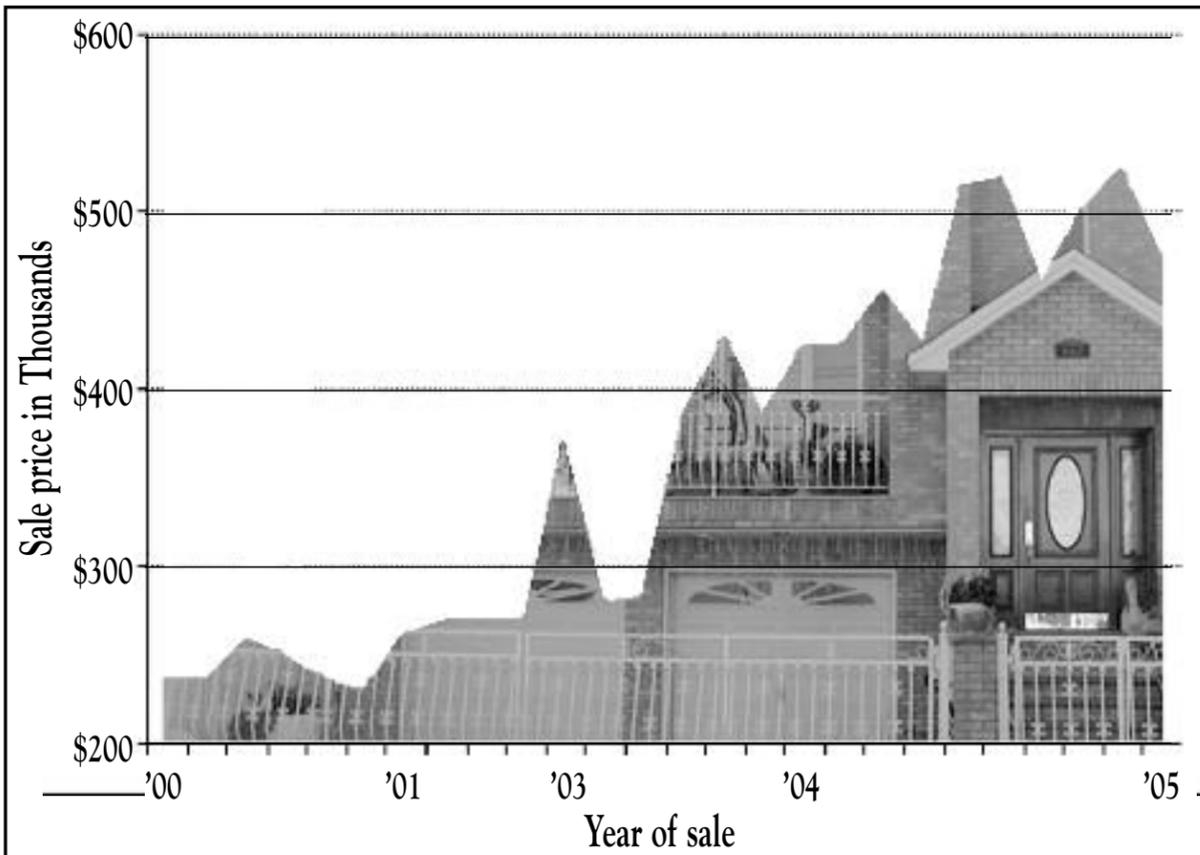
THE RISING SELLING PRICES OF NEW HOMES BUILT AND SOLD IN PETERSTOWN

The following is a list of new two family homes in Peterstown that were sold by the Rosa Agency. The homes are listed from the most recent sold (top) to the oldest sale. Included in the list is the sale price and the builder.

Though most builders use realty agencies to handle the sales of their properties, some do not. In some cases, new homes being built in Peterstown were sold before the builder broke ground for construction.

This list is a good indication of how the trend in sales progressed recently. The sale price of the other two dozen new homes that were built in Peterstown and sold during this time, and are not list, were priced similarly. 🏠

PROPERTY	SALES PRICE	BUILDER	SALES YEAR
2005	329 JOHN ST	\$475,000	JOHN VALENTI
2004	224 CHRISTINE	\$525,000	AL MAUTI
2004	228 CHRISTINE	\$500,000	AL MAUTI
2004	462 FOURTH AVE	\$460,000	JOHN VALENTI
2004	412 AMITY	\$519,000	AL MAUTI
2004	408 AMITY	\$515,000	AL MAUTI
2004	14 HIGH ST	\$425,000	AL MAUTI
2004	404 AMITY ST	\$455,000	AL MAUTI
2004	16 HIGH ST	\$425,000	AL MAUTI
2004	20 HIGH ST	\$425,000	AL MAUTI
2003	#A S 7TH ST	\$385,000	AL MAUTI
2003	22 HIGH ST	\$430,000	AL MAUTI
2003	#B S 7TH ST	\$385,000	AL MAUTI
2003	313 S 7TH ST	\$282,500	DI MAEO
2003	311 S 7TH ST	\$280,000	DI MAEO
2003	445 THIRD AVE	\$370,000	JOHN VALENTI
2001	317 NILES ST	\$270,000	PETER MORIELLO
2001	321 NILES ST	\$270,000	PETER MORIELLO
2001	19 CHRISTINE ST	\$270,000	AL MAUTI
2001	216 HIGH ST	\$262,000	OMAR RODRIGUEZ
2000	21 S 7TH ST	\$229,900	JOHN VALENTI
2000	19 S 7TH ST	\$235,900	JOHN VALENTI
2000	300 SPENCER ST	\$249,900	VITO GIANETTA
2000	302 SPENCER ST	\$260,000	VITO GIANETTA
2000	404 THIRD AVE	\$236,900	VINNIE FIRETTO/AL MAUTI
2000	402 THIRD AVE	\$236,500	VINNIE FIRETTO/AL MAUTI





St. John Bosco
 (1815-1888)

DEVOTED TO YOUTH

St. John Bosco was born to poor parents in the Piedmont area of Northern Italy. His interest in the priesthood began at an early age, and he received encouragement for this because of his interest in helping poor and needy boys. John was ordained in 1841 at Turin, and immediately gave himself to that work, finding shelter for neglected youth and instructing them in religion.

In a short time, other priests joined him in his work and by 1852 they were caring for over 600 boys. John dealt with them by using a minimum of restraint and discipline, lots of love, keeping careful watch over their development and encouraging them personally and through religion.

John's preaching and writing, as well as the charitable support of wealthy and powerful patrons, allowed for expansion of his work. The need for dependable assistants led to the founding of the Society of St. Francis de Sales, known as Salesians, in 1859, and it continues his work.

To provide similar care for poor and neglected girls, John Bosco founded, in 1872, the Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians, known as the Salesian Sisters. 🏛️

SALESIANS TODAY

St. John Bosco was a genius with young people, especially with those who were poor, or in trouble. His one great desire was to spend his whole life working with the young, and he achieved this with amazing generosity, great daring, and inventiveness.

Today's Salesians try to continue his work - in schools, youth clubs, parishes, homes for young people in need, and a great variety of activities, all geared towards helping the young to achieve happiness in this life and the next.

Salesian lifestyle is both practical and academic, with great emphasis on experience of living in community and working with young people. 🏛️

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOHN BOSCO

The January 31st, feast day of St. John (Don) Bosco is celebrated by the parish of St. Anthony's through a series of special events and remembrances. The date marks the anniversary of the priest's death in 1888. It was his Order of priests and nuns that were entrusted to run the school and church of St. Anthony's in 1923. The church sits at the north end of the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ.

The Order known as Salesians was named after St. Francis de Sales. The Order of John Bosco started in service of girls is called Daughters of Our Lady Help of

Christians.

The feast day fell at the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing a values-added education for America's young people. Catholic schools are proud of their educational network that emphasizes intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical and social values in their students. Catholic Schools Week is a key part of the year long national marketing campaign for Catholic schools.

St. Anthony's Pastor, Father Pat Diver, coupled the celebration of Don Bosco's life with a gesture of appreciation for the many individuals and organizations who generously give their time to operating the church and programs through the year. 🏛️



(above, sitting, l-r) Salesian Brothers and Priests, Bro. Charles Mayer, Fr. Pat Diver, and Fr. Mike Cherberko. (standing, l-r) Bro. Diego Borges, Fr. Vince Paczkowski, and Fr. Gennaro Sesto.



(above, sitting, l-r) Salesian Cooperatives, Sally Vaccaro, Mary Wilk, and Dotty Nascondiglio. (standing, l-r) Joe Caporaso, Rose Parone, and Mike Faccione. (left, l-r) The staff of St. Anthony's rectory, Mike Faccione, Teresa Marin, Al Rugani, Brigida Muscaritolo, Mary Wilk, and Benjamino Farina.



CHURCH GROUPS REPRESENTED

Sharing in the celebration of the Feast of Don Bosco were members of the various church groups at St. Anthony's including; St. Ann's Society, Martha and Mary Society, the Alter Guild, the Choir, CCD, Salesian cooperatives, the rectory staff, Sisters of Charity, and trustees of the church. 🇺🇸



(above, l-r) Sr. Chartina, Fr. Gennaro Sesto, Sr. Irene, Sr. Teresa, and Sr. James.



(right, l-r) Bishop Marconi and Deacon Joe Caporaso.



(above, l-r) Kay Scaturo, Bob Belmont, Marie Belmont, Al Rugani and Joe Caporaso.



(above, l-r) Rose Perone, Dotty Nascondiglio, Theresa Diamonti, and Sally Vaccaro.



(above, l-r) Sr. Carol, Anjanette Valente, Dolores Aprigliano, Mike Faccione, and Rita Faccione.



Not for Nothing But...

I picture Don Bosco
 raking the little league
 field with Benny Ciaccio.

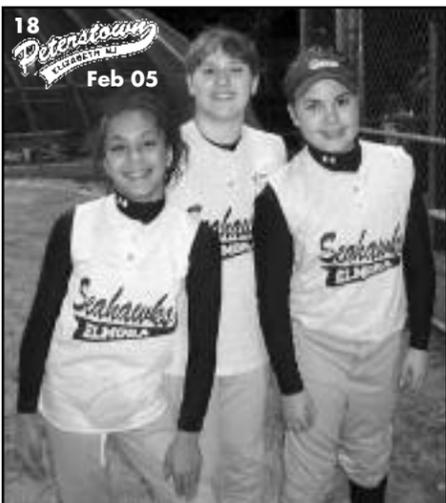


AT HOME AT BELLA GINA'S

The setting for this Don Bosco Feast is Bella Gina's in Linden. Though the name is not familiar the Deli/Restaurant is well known. Bella Gina's is the new name of DiCosmo's located in Blockbuster Plaza on the corner of St. Georges Avenue and Styles Street.

The Deli/Restaurant is aptly named for the owner Gina Miranda. Gina, her husband Jim Miranda and brother Anthony Garofalo purchased DiCosmo's in 2003.

Name recognition is important in business but more important is taste recognition. Bella Gina's is still recognized for their delicious Italian delicacies and dinners. 🇺🇸



(above) The Sons of Peterstown sponsored the EYL Seahawks last season. Pictured above are the Seahawks catcher Taylor Calixto along with pitchers Danielle Nozza and Cristina Caravano.



(left, l-r) Starzz pitchers Jackie LaSpata and Caitlin Abbate. Caitlin and her brother Michael share a unique honor as both had the opportunity to participate in a league "first game under the lights". In 2001, the City installed lights on the baseball field. Michael Abbate pitched for the Orioles in that "first game under the lights." Caitlin was one of the pitchers on the "first game under the lights" on the softball field.

PETERSTOWN CLUBS SUPPORTING ELMORA LITTLE LEAGUE

The Sons of Peterstown and the St. Benedict Society clubs, both based in Elizabeth, are team sponsors of the Elmora Youth Little League. During the 2004 season, the clubs sponsored the softball Seahawks and Starzz. The teams are made up of girls aged 9 to 12.

The teams were coached by active members of their respective clubs. The Seahawks were managed by Manny Caravano, a member of the Sons of Peterstown club and a current resident of the neighborhood. The team featured his daughters Cristina and Francesca along with Danielle Nozza, Taylor Calixto, Gina Gallo and Amanda DiGiorgio. Manny has been coaching in the EYL for 3 years. "I am very grateful to The Sons for sponsoring the Seahawks, their generous donation helped pay for our team uniforms" stated Coach Manny. The Seahawks were Ponytails Division champions in 2002 and 2003.

The St. Benedict Society sponsored the Starzz who competed against the Seahawks in the Ponytails division. The Starzz were managed by Ralph Abbate. The team featured Coach Ralph's daughter Caitlin

along with Jackie LaSpata and Danielle Capetola. The Starzz were the 2004 Season Champions in the Youth League. Ralph Abbate has been a coach in the league for the past 14 years. Since 1999, Abbate has also served as League President. "A major reason we can keep our league affordable are the generous donations we receive from local business and societies", stated Abbate.

St. Benedict Society was founded in 1916 by immigrants from Cetraro, Italy. Cetraro is a city in the province of Calabria. The club has been sponsoring Elmora Youth League teams for the past 10 years.

Elmora Youth League is organizing their 34th consecutive season of baseball and softball. The league is open to baseball players aged 5 to 15. There are 6 separate levels of baseball to accommodate the players. The league offers girls only softball league for players aged 6 to 18. The softball divisions are formed in 4 separate levels. The team plays most of their games at the Hanratty Fields on Westfield Avenue in Elizabeth.

The league has an active web site named ElmoraYouth.com. The site contains information on the league and photos of players at various events like opening day. The league is also looking for any history related to the organization from the 70s and 80s. Any person who may have old newspaper clippings and photos are encouraged to contact Elmora Youth League at their phone number, 908 353-EYL2 (908 353-3952). The league will make copies for their archives and return the originals to the owners. 📷



The Starzz and Seahawks were the first two teams to play under the lights on Field A. The league ran fundraisers that were used to purchase the lights, which they donated to the City of Elizabeth. Standing behind the team members are Councilman Bob Jaspan, Recreation Director Paul Addressa, Mayor Chris Bollwage, Starzz Coach Ralph Abbate, Seahawks Coach Mike Gallo, Seahawks Coach Dr. Dan Nozza, EYL Staff Member Frances Caravano, Seashawks Coach Ed Kijewski and Manager Manny Caravano.

WEICHERT REALTORS SPONSOR EYL RANGERS

Weichert Realtors of Union, NJ are regular sponsors of an Elmora Youth League Team (EYL). The office is managed by Elizabeth native Robert Spillane, Jr. Besides supporting the youth league, Spillane is a former Cub Master for Pack 23 of St. Genevieve's Parish in the Elmora section of Elizabeth.

(below) The Rangers, Weichert Realtors's 2004 EYL team.



Weichert's Union office, which also services the City of Elizabeth, and their national relocation company, the 3rd largest in the world, helps buyers and sellers globally.

Spillane has been with Weichert 8 years, 4 in Union and 4 in their Westfield office. Since Elizabeth is his old stomping ground, he knows the marketplace very well. 🏠

(below) Weichert Realtors Union office manager Bob Spillane is related to Mickey Spillane, which may explain why he refers to money as spinach.



(above) Sign post (in need of repair) designates the section of South Broad Street, between Myrtle Street and Bayway Avenue, Mickey Spillane Way, in honor of the famous mystery writer who grew up in Elizabeth. Mickey is most famous for his mystery novels featuring detective Mike Hammer. At age 85, he published his 53rd book, Somethings Down There, in December 2003. Over his career, he has sold more than 180 million books.

REAL ESTATE CORNER

TINO & HOWARD'S

Happy New Year!! 2004 is behind us, time sure does fly. It appears to me, as I get older, the day's get shorter and the year's fly by. This is the reality of life.

The past year we have seen the world change. Tragedy striking South East Asia with the tsunami. Hundreds of thousand of people dying and millions of people without shelter, their homes washed away by a tidal wave. An election was held and President Bush was re-elected, and we saw a nation divided. We also saw weather conditions change throughout our country with flooding, torrential rains, mud slides, blizzards, avalanches and so many other things. It's

amazing that we are all still here. Fortunately, the one stable factor that's still in place is the real estate market. People continue to buy homes in record numbers. Prices of homes have stabilized and we have not seen dramatic increases in prices, but both buyers and sellers seem to be content with values.

For the last year and half, economical forecasts have predicted, a real estate bubble. As of now this has not happened. The real estate industry continues to see growth, and we predict that 2005 will be another boomer year.

Conventional mortgages or long term mortgages are still quite inexpensive. Today's rate is approximately 5-3/4 % for a 30 year fixed mortgage. In 1975, when I started in the real estate business, interest rates were approximately 8%. 30 years later rates are much cheaper than when I first got my real estate license.

Interest rates have a direct effect on the value of real estate. If interest rates should rise substantially then we may see a drop in sale prices. If interest

rates remain reasonable then housing prices will remain stable and may increase moderately.

We do not anticipate dramatic increases in real estate values in 2005. Over the last four years in our immediate area we have seen values in some cases double. Reality dictates that buyers cannot afford another doubling in values.

In Elizabeth an RFP for the midtown development was sent out to bid. There were thirteen companies that accepted a package. An RFP is a proposal by the City of Elizabeth to redevelop the midtown area of the city adjacent to the train station, were the city proposes a set of guidelines as to how midtown should be developed. The city then chooses a designated developer who has all the financial ability and the construction expertise to do the project. Midtown redevelopment will consist of town homes, condos, apartments, retail offices, and parking. This area will become a city within a city and drastically change the downtown area for the better.

In our column for the last couple of years we have talked about new construction throughout the city and it has become my custom to praise local Elizabethans who have contributed to the renaissance of the city. However, we must also thank all the new buyers who have decided to make Elizabeth their home. They have made a financial commitment to the city. These buyers will raise their children and educate them in the City of Elizabeth. Many of them will shop, buy lunch and dinner so the merchants can benefit. All of this is a positive step to make our great city even greater. 🏠

Submitted by Justino Rosa



BEN CIACCIO WAS IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN

Pellegrino (Benny) Ciaccio passed away on January 31, 2005 at the age of 83. Benny will be remembered by every kid in Peterstown who played little league baseball. Benny was one of the founders of the St. Anthony's Little League and volunteered and kept it running smoothly for years.

Mr. Ciaccio was a devoted parishioner of St. Anthony's Church. He was an Army veteran of World War II. He retired as a purchasing agent after working 45 years for Simmons & Co. in Linden. He was a member of the Retired Ladies and Men's Club of Elizabeth and the Senior Citizens at Saint Anthony's Church. Both groups meet at the Peterstown Community Center. Benny lived his final years in Point Pleasant, NJ.

Benny is survived by his wife Rita; daughters, Kathryn Campo and Rita LaBrutto; and five grandchildren. 🇺🇸

(above) Father Louis throws the first pitch of another season with Ciaccio along side, in white hat.



(above) Two of the founding fathers of the little league. Dutch Patraca and Benny Ciaccio. Benny volunteered over a dozen years, gave hundreds of boys a place to play and didn't even have sons of his own.

(right, Standing, l-r) St. Anthony's Boy's League 1960ish All Star Team. Coach Tony Picaro, Anthony Siravo, Joe DeCesare, ___?, Robert Piccolella, Steve Campo, Anthony Cappola, Joe Addressa, Coach ___?. (kneeling, l-r) Jim Milano, Joe Rusciano, Carmine Iazetta, Doug Borella, ___?, Gary DiGirolomo.



JAMES CARLO SACCO
Dec. 27, 1918 - Dec. 28, 2004

HUNDREDS PAY RESPECTS TO JIM SACCO

Over the years, Jim Sacco has been the focus of several articles in this newspaper. Mr. Jim was a good example to use when the subject of family, community, friendship, generosity, religious devotion, patriotism, Well, you get the picture. Jim's character had all the positive virtues that society values.

On Friday, January 14, 2005, over 500 of Jim Sacco's family and friends filled St. Anthony's Church for a memorial mass in his honor. Jim's funeral was previously held in Hollywood, Florida, where he lived after retiring in 1975. Jim was 87.

His butcher shop, Sacco's Meat Market, has continued to run under his son, John's ownership. Jim was the past president of the Calabrian Association of Roselle Park and past vice president of the Italian-American Club of Hollywood.

Mr. Sacco was born in Calabria, Italy, and settled in Elizabeth in 1947. Surviving are sons, Frank, John and Joseph; a daughter, Maria Vivier; a sister, Giovita Arcuri; 10 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. 🇺🇸

(right) Jim Sacco's granddaughter Carla penned this heartfelt tribute to her grandfather and read it at his memorial service.

OUR GRANDFATHER- By: Carla Jane Sacco

Loving hugs and kisses were what we looked for
As soon as Pop Pop walked through the door.
A great big hug and off he went
Put on his white coat and a helping hand he lent.
Working side by side in the store
Is what my father always looked for.
Seeing old friends made Pop smile
Because he hasn't seen them in a while.
Great big lunches with wine and friends
Making memories that can never end.
Laughter and love filled our house
As pop told us stories about the Chester house.
He was a strong and generous man
Always helping anyone that needed a hand.
Whether it was giving them money or a place to stay
Pop could never turn anyone away.
But the greatest thing he loved most of all
Was watching his children grow, as he stood proud and tall.
Giving him grandchildren was something he adored
We wouldn't let him sit still, or even get bored.
From playing with the little bit of hair he had
To putting hats on him and singing songs that made him mad.
We cherished every moment he was around
Listening to his stories without making a sound.
I knew he was an angel in disguise
Because I could see it in his eyes.
Now our angel can watch us from above
Sending us pieces of heavens love.
In loving memory of
Our Pop Pop



(above, l-r) The grandchildren of Jim Sacco, John, Richard, Alessandra, Velvet, Joey, Carla, Vanessa, Valerie (holding Sammy) and James. Sammy is one of four great grandchildren.