Men’s Night returned as another successful event this year. See pages 4 and 5 for highlights from this recent fundraiser.

More highlights from Men’s Night.
I would like to start this message by thanking all our staff, volunteers and board members for their continued help and dedication. There have been many new developments and topics that I need to mention in this month’s message.

As you might be aware, we’ve had some problems in the past with vandalism at our Mercer County Italian-American Heritage Building. Our Columbus Statue was defaced last year. Over the weekend of April 9, 2016, vandals struck again, this time breaking a beautiful Roman statue. To help us resolve this situation, other organizations have graciously donated funds for restoration and repair. We now have surveillance cameras installed for added protection. It is unfortunate that we have a few individuals creating these problems, especially in view of the positive, constructive work that our festival association provides to the community. We will continue to display the symbols of our culture undaunted by the actions of those few who lack common respect for others. Through our festival activities, charitable donations and scholarship awards, our organization offers so much to the greater Mercer County area. Our relationship with Hamilton Township police, firefighters and private citizens has grown stronger over the years and will undoubtedly continue to thrive in the future.

We are in full swing for the preparations for our festival. As you may know, there has been some controversy surrounding Mercer County Park. Let me clarify; I have spent 16 years in negotiations and research with the county in the creation of a permanent festival event area. The festival association wants the public to be aware that we put our heart and energy into the development of that project. It has come a long, long way in its growth, and we are most appreciative to the county for its construction.

In our continued support of all war veterans, we are planning to have a special memorial event at the festival on Sunday, September 25. We will be presenting the county with a World War II monument depicting 2 soldiers. This will be a special ceremony after the Mass. We hope everyone will participate.

We will also be starting a different associated membership. All members will have special discounts on festival association activities and will have more opportunities to become involved and promote our Italian-American heritage.

I truly believe that 2016 is going to be a great year! God bless everyone and this great country for giving us this unique chance to enable our culture to continue to flourish for many years to come.

Cav. John Scarpati, MClAFA President

Our restored Columbus statue stands proudly in front our Italian-American Heritage Building.

The Roman status, above, was damaged recently by vandals.
Board Members and Office Assistance:
Cav. John Scarpati Sr., President
Barry Chiorello, Asst. Coord. to the President
Mike Rossetti, 2nd Vice President and Office Mgr.
Frank Cirillo, Vice President
Danielle Scarpati, Trustee
Ed DiPolvere, Trustee
Joe DiPaolo, Trustee
Thomas Frascella, Trustee
Gino Melone, Trustee
Joe Urbano, Trustee
Sally Van Fleet, Trustee and Admin. Asst.
Nina VanDeLeur, Trustee and Admin. Asst.
Treasurer: Danielle Scarpati

Committee Chairs:
Accounting/Admin. Treasurer: Danielle Scarpati
Admissions: Marilyn Hope, Chair; Bob Hope, Co-Chair
Amusement Rides: Frank Cirillo, Chair; Joe Urbano, Co-Chair
Artwork: Bill Plank
Attorneys: Thomas Frascella, Paul Donini
Auditors: Pesauro, Levy & Palumbo PA
Beer/Wine: Christine Scarpati, Chair
Bingo: Ken Rhodes, Chair; Dennis Bush, Co-Chair
Bocce: Jonah Pascucci, Chair; Joe Passalacqua, Co-Chair
Building Maintenance: Cav. John Scarpati, Sr., Chair; John Devlin, Lou Dorio
Computer Tech: Richard Tuscano Jr.
Cultural Programs: Cav. Gilda R. Baldassari, Chair; Marie Jantos, Cathy DiCostanzo, Co-Chairs
Entertainment: Carl Carabelli, Chair; Ann Lennon, Co-Chair; Nina VanDeLeur, Asst. Co-Chair; Al Hutchins, MC
Facebook: Barry Chiorello
Festival 50/50: Gino Melone, Chair; Marion Bolton, Karen Coate, Co-Chairs; Rita Capone, Mgr.
Festival Layout Plans: Cav. John Scarpati, Sr., Ted Caruso, Bill Plank, Vic Russo
Festival Photographers: Paul Donini, Bill Plank
Festival Signs: Joe Passalacqua, Ed DiPolvere, Advisors
Fireworks: Cav. John Scarpati, Sr., Chair
Food Vendors: Joe DiPaolo, Chair; Joan Burkoltz, Admin. Asst.
Grounds Maintenance - Portable Lighting, Hauling, Restrooms, Cleanup, Trash & Waste Mgmt.: John Scarpati Jr., Chair; Herman Ramos, Co-Chair
Honorary Festival Consultant: Anthony Massi
Information Tent: Sally Van Fleet, Chair; Frieda Santillo, Co-Chair
Market Tent/Pavilion: Lauren Auletta, Chair; John Prunetti, Advisor
Mass: Msgr. Innocenzi; Cathy DiCostanzo, Chair; Joe Pica, Ben Gioe, Co-Chairs
Membership: Gino Melone, Chair
Memorabilia: Rocco Riccio, Chair; Genise Riccio, Co-Chair
Merchandising – Sally Van Fleet, Chair
Military & Veterans/Special Events: Kathi Adie, Chair; John Adie, Co-Chair
Military Medal of Honor: Dennis Bush, Chair
Off Site 50/50 Business Sales: Gino Melone, Chair
Parking: Wayne DeAngelo, Chair; Joe Povio, Co-Chair
Petting Zoo: Cav. John Scarpati, Sr., Chair
Photographers - In-House: Nina VanDeLeur, Bill Plank, Barry Chiorello
Pony Rides: Cav. John Scarpati, Sr., Chair
Puppet Show: Carl Carabelli, Chair
Security: Joe Russo, Chair; John Devlin, Co-Chair; Jeff Zimmer, Lou Dorio
Site Operations: Danielle Scarpati, Chair; Melissa Scarpati, Co-Chair
Sponsorship & Marketing: Barry Chiorello, Chair
Tables, Tents & Chairs: Cav. John Scarpati Sr., Chair
Website Design: Mike Aregano; Sally Van Fleet, Nina VanDeLeur, Barry Chiorello, Editors

Columbus Day Parade/Ball Committee:
Cav. John Scarpati, Sr., President; Frank Bruno, Chair; Gino Melone, MC; Pat Colavita, MC Backup; Thomas Frascella, Treasurer, Pat Bruno, Office Assistant

Newsletter Staff:
Cav. John Scarpati, Sr., Managing Editor
Helene Plank, Graphic Designer
Bill Plank, Copy Editor
Sally Van Fleet, Assistant Copy Editor
Printed by Hermitage Press, Inc., Trenton, NJ

General Contacts:
E-mail: buongiorno2000@optonline.net
Website: www.italianamericanfestival.com
Office Mail: MCIAFA, 2421 Liberty St., Hamilton, NJ 08629
Phone: 609-631-7544; Fax: 609-631-9116

We thank all our volunteers

Thank you to the dedicated server ladies at our monthly Pasta Night. They are, from left to right: Mary Jo Leonardo, Dawn Bergner, and Marion Bolton.
Men’s Night A Great Success!
Pasta Dinner Fundraiser Highlights —
Bring the Family to Dinner Every Last Thursday of Each Month

5:00 pm to 7:30 pm
All you can eat
Donation: $9.99
Students Receive MCIAFA Scholarships

The Mercer County Italian-American Festival Association has recently announced the recipients of seven scholarship awards to high school students from the Mercer County area. Congratulations to the following students: Kevin Bussi, Carleigh Belardo and Cameron Cardinale from Steinert High School; Giovanna Paccillo from Nottingham High School; Taylor Skwara, Concetta Scordato and Victoria Bezek from Hamilton High School West; Valerie Perna from Robbinsville High School; and Sierra Hnatiuk and Nicole Csorgo from Notre Dame High School.

The Mercer County Italian-American Festival Association is now making plans to donate a bocce court to Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville.

Mercer County Italian-American Festival Association

Volunteer Form

Date __________

Come join one of the largest and fastest-growing associations in Mercer County! As a volunteer, you will be put on our mailing list automatically. We just ask that you help promote our heritage. If you would like to be active, here are some of the activities you may want to participate in:

Please check box/boxes if interested:

- Office Work
- Help with On-Site Operations at Festival
- Join a Committee
- Help at Monthly Dinners
- Help at Other Events at MCIAF Center
- Vendor
- 50/50 On-site sales
- Columbus Day Parade
- Maintenance Help at MCIAF Center

Name: __________________________________________ Address: __________________________________________

Occupation: __________________________ City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: __________

Telephone: (home) ______________________ (work) ______________________ (cell) ______________________ E-mail ______________________

FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE OR CALL: Cav. John Scarpati, President
We are a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Italian-American Heritage and Culture.
Donations are tax deductible (501c3) and are appreciated.
Website: www.italianamericanfestival.com Email: buongiorno2000@optonline.net
M.C. Italian-American Festival Association

Pasta Fundraiser
The last Thursday of each month
5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

ALL YOU CAN EAT

Come join us!

Italian-American Heritage Center
2421 Liberty Street
Hamilton, NJ 08629
609-631-7544

DONATION
$9.99

BYOB
Valet parking available