

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LANSING

March/April 2026



Inc. 1971

NEWSLETTER - NOTIZIE

Motto: Dio, Patria e Famiglia (God, Country & Family)

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY—MARCH 17TH!



ST. JOSEPH DAY—MARCH 19TH



Officers:

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➤ Tony De Luca

Past President

➤ Paul Orlando

Vice President

➤ Dane Dario

Orator

➤ Hon. Frank De Luca

Recording Secretary

➤ Jennifer Preslar

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➤ Vacant

Membership Coordinator

➤ Giorgio Burigana

Sergeant-At Arms

➤ Robert La Macchia

Spiritual Advisor -

➤ Fr. Enzo Addari, *Emeritus*

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Erico De Iulius

Prof. Carmen De Lorenzo

Jim Dravenstatt-Moceri

Hon. Charles Filice

Steve La Macchia

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Welcome New Members!

➤ **Greg Sinicropi**

➤ **Madelyne C. Lawry**



Thank you for helping to maintain the beautiful Italian heritage, culture, and traditions!

Grazie!



Tony De Luca, President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and/or Supporters,

As we continue through this Winter season, we look forward to the arrival of Spring. Your Club is gearing-up for some

In this newsletter you will find some information on San Francesco di Paola, St. Joseph Da in Italy, and an article "No One Covered the Fig Tree" which provides a reflection and the importance of keeping traditions and heritage alive!

Looking forward to the next couple of months several activities and events are scheduled for March and April.

Here is a partial list of events and activities: *March 7th-Italian Heritage Night—Detroit Pistons game; March Italian cooking classes at the Allen Neighborhood Center, coordinated by Giorgio Burigana and Prof. Carmen De Lorenzo with Chef Matt Jones; Arpi 12th-San Francesco di Paola mass celebration; April 24th-International Dinner.* See various flyers attached to this newsletter for details.

Also, through my service as commissioner for the Lansing Regional Sister City commission, I am coordinating a student exchange program which will have ten high school students going to Pianezza (city near Torino), a sister city to Lansing, in May. They will experience school in Italy plus visit beautiful sites in Torino, visit Florence, and touring a professional soccer stadium. What an experience that these students will have!

In 2027 there might be a request for some host families to be a sponsoring host to students from Pianezza. I hope that we all can assist in this endeavor.

There are so many exciting things that your Club is doing. We want you to be a part of it! If you are NOT a member, join today! Or, renew your membership.

Visit our website www.lansingiac.org, for a membership application or email us at iacoflansing@gamil.com.

Thank you. Grazie.

ITALIAN COOKING CLASSES (MANGIA!)

It's ravioli Night! Would you like to learn some homemade Italian recipes? Well, here is your opportunity! On **Thursday, March 26th, from 6:00 pm—9:00 pm, at Allen Neighborhood Center, located at 1629 E. Kalamazoo St.** This will be the first class of a series that will be held on a quarterly basis.

In this first class you will learn how to make homemade ravioli. The class will be conducted by Matt Jones, Chef, at the Allen Neighborhood Center and Prof. Carmen De Lorenzo, IAC board member and Italian language professor at Michigan State University.

The maximum number of students is (10) per class and you **must be preregistered**. To register simply email Giorgio Burigana at buriganagiorgio@gmail.com, the deadline for registration is **March 10th**. The cost is \$50.00 per person which includes the grocery items needed to prepare the selected class dish.

At the end of the class you will have the opportunity to enjoy your prepared dish along with those individuals that are part of the class. This class will be filling up fast, so don't delay in registering! See flyer for more details within this newsletter.

BUON APPETITO!



3RD ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DINNER!



It's back by popular demand!!!

To celebrate Spring and get a taste of international cuisines from around the world. The IAC of Lansing has once again partnered with the Allen Neighborhood Center restauraners for an international dinner event.

The event will take place on **Friday, April 24, 2026**, at the Allen Neighborhood Center, located at 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. **Doors open at 6:00pm and dinner served at 6:30pm.** There will be **(3)** delicious main courses of international dishes, dessert and coffee. Soft drinks and water will be available for a minimal cost or accepted donation. Sorry, no alcohol available at the event.

The deadline to make your reservations for the dinner is **Tuesday, March 31st**, by emailing Giorgio Burigana, at **buriganagiorgio@gmail.com**. Seating is limited, so make your dinner reservations, today! Please note that there are NO refunds, on any confirmed reservations. The cost is **\$40.00 per person** (cash, check, or Square). See you at the dinner! Thank you for supporting this event and the IAC of Lansing! (See attached flyer for details)

SAN FRANCESCO DI PAOLA—MASS CELEBRATION



San Francesco di Paola, was born on March 27, 1416, in Calabria, Italy, was a Roman Catholic friar who founded the Order of Minims, known for its strict asceticism. He is celebrated for his miracles and is the patron saint of sailors, with his feast day observed on April 2.

The IAC of Lansing will be having a mass celebration on **Sunday, April 12th, at 10:30 am, at St. Therese Church, 102 W. Randolph St, Lansing.** This will part of the regular scheduled Sunday mass celebration, at St. Therese. Fr. John Fain will be the mass celebrant and has kindly provided the opportunity to bring the statue of San Francesco and in celebration of the feast day.

After the mass there will be a social hour inviting the congregation and all that attend the mass for some coffee, donuts, and cookies. If you would like to bring a dessert to share that will be greatly appreciated.

Join us for this wonderful mass celebration and to help maintain this fest day, the beautiful Italian culture, traditions, and heritage. Feel free to invite family and friends! Everyone is welcome! (See attached flyer for details.)

Thank you. Grazie.

2026 ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL - USA

2026
italian
film
festival_{usa}
Twenty Second Edition

**FOR MORE
INFORMATIO**



The Italian Film Festival USA is the largest festival dedicated exclusively to Italian film in the USA, present in 13 cities from coast to coast. This in collocations with Italian Consulate of Detroit, MSU, WSU, and UM.

The 2026 edition brings you the best line-up of recent Italian cinema with films from award-winning directors, as well as debut films from exciting new talent. This is your chance to see the latest and best in Italian film.

The films are in original language with English subtitles and movie showtimes are Friday, April 10th, at 7:00pm (movie #1—in German), and Saturday, April 11th, 5:00 pm (movie #2—Italian), and Saturday, April 11th, 7:30pm (movie #3—Italian). Admission is **FREE**.

Come and support this cultural event. It only comes around once a year! For more information see the attached flyer to this newsletter or visit: <https://italianfilmfests.org/detroit.html>

Friday, April 10th and Saturday, April 11th - Movie times: 7:00pm, 5:00pm, and 7:30pm
Wells Hall B122, Michigan State University, East Lansing

HAPPY EASTER! BUONA PASQUA A TUTTI!





2026 Merit Scholarships

The IAC of Lansing is presently accepting applications for the awarding of up to two merit-based scholarships in the amount of \$500.00, to high school seniors of IAC members. The scholarships are to be used for educational expenses incurred at an accredited college or university. The following are the eligibility requirements:

Applicants must be a child of IAC member, in good standing, for at least two years, (the year of application and the preceding year.)

Scholarships are available to qualified high school seniors who have applied and/or been accepted in an undergraduate program in an accredited college or university for the fall academic term of the year of application. The application deadline is ***midnight, March 31, 2026 (post marked)***.

Any applications received after the midnight deadline will be considered ineligible.

The winners will be notified prior to May, and scholarships are awarded at the *IAC General Meeting*. The winners must be present at the General Meeting to receive the awarded check which will be issued in the Individuals name along with the name of the university that will be attended.

For more information on the IAC Merit Scholarship, please send an email to.

Hon. Charles Filice: iacoflansing@gmail.com

To download the Merit Scholarship Application, visit <https://www.lansingiac.org/>.

Please mail your scholarship application to:

IAC of Lansing

Attn: Scholarship Committee

P.O. Box 27456

Lansing, MI 48901





“NO ONE COVERED THE FIG TREE”

Author: Anonymous

I am sure for most second-generation Italian American children who grew up in the '40s and '50s there was a definite distinction between us and them. We were Italians, everybody else, the Irish the Germans, the Poles, they were Americans.

I was well into adulthood before I realized I was an American. I had been born American and lived here all my life, but Americans were people who ate peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on mushy white bread. I had no animosity toward them, it's just I thought ours was the better way with our bread man, egg man, javelle man, vegetable man, the chicken man, to name a few of the peddlers who came to our neighborhoods. We knew them, they knew us.

Americans went to the A&P. It amazed me that some friends and classmates on Thanksgiving and Christmas ate only turkey with stuffing, potatoes, and cranberry sauce. We had turkey, but after antipasto, soup, lasagna, meatballs and salad. In case someone came in who didn't like turkey, we also had a roast of beef. Soon after we were eating fruits, nuts, pastries and homemade cookies sprinkled with little colored things. This is where you learned to eat a seven course meal between noon and 4 p.m., how to handle hot chestnuts and put peaches in wine.

Italians live a romance with food. Sundays we would wake up to the smell of garlic and onions frying in olive oil. We always had macaroni and sauce. Sunday would not be Sunday without going to mass. Of course you couldn't eat before mass because you had to fast before receiving communion. We knew when we got home we'd find meatballs frying, and nothing tasted better than newly cooked meatballs with crisp bread dipped into a pot of hot sauce.

Another difference between them and us was we had gardens. Not just with flowers, but tomatoes, peppers, basil, lettuce and chicoria. Everybody had a grapevine and fig tree. In the fall we drank homemade wine arguing over who made the best. Those gardens thrived because we had something our American friends didn't seem to have.

We had grandparents. It's not that they didn't have grandparents. It's just they didn't live in the same house or street. We ate with our grandparents and God forbid we didn't visit them 5 times a week. I can still remember my grandmother telling us how she came to America when she was young, on the "boat."

I'll never forget the holidays when the relatives would gather at my grandparents house, the women in the kitchen, the men in the living room, the kids everywhere. I must have a hundred cousins. My grandfather sat in the middle of it all smoking his DiNobili cigar, so proud of his family and how well they had done.

When my grandparents died, things began to change. Family gatherings were fewer and something seemed to be missing. Although we did get together, usually at my mother's house, I always had the feeling grandmom and grandpop were there. It's understandable things change. We all have families of our own and grandchildren of our own. Today we visit once in a while or meet at wakes or weddings.

Other things have also changed. The old house my grandparents bought is now covered with aluminum siding. A green lawn covers the soil that grew the tomatoes. THERE WAS NO ONE TO COVER THE FIG TREE SO IT DIED.

The holidays have changed. We still make family "rounds" but somehow things have become more formal. The great quantities of food we consumed, without any ill effects, is not good for us anymore. Too much starch, too much cholesterol, too many calories in the pastries.

The difference between "us" and "them" isn't so easily defined anymore, and I guess that's good. My grandparents were Italian/Italians, my parents were Italian/Americans. I'm an American and proud of it, just as my grandparents would want me to be.

We are all Americans now ... the Irish, Germans, Poles, all US citizens. But somehow I still feel a little bit Italian. Call it culture, call it roots ... I'm not sure what it is. All I do know is that my children, my nieces and nephews, have been cheated out of a wonderful piece of our heritage. They never knew my grandparents.

ITALIAN HERITAGE NIGHT—DETROIT PISTONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 | 6:00PM

Please join us for a second Italian Heritage Night at Little Caesars Arena as the Detroit Pistons take on the Brooklyn Nets! This event is organized under the Auspices of the Consulate of Italy in Detroit and COM.IT.ES Detroit. With the purchase of ticket through this link, you will receive a Pistons Gift Item that you can redeem at the Pistons game.

Please place orders quickly because spots are limited! www.pistons.com/Italian

Ticket prices:

- Lower Level Semi-Corner—\$160.00
- Lower Level Endzone—\$74.00
- Mezzanine Level Endzone \$52.00



VS.



Deadline to purchase tickets is: March 6th.

****When you are at the ticket purchase check-out, please select the IAC of Lansing in the drop down menu, so that our Club will receive credit for the ticket purchase.****

Come and meet other individuals from the various Italian organizations from around the state. But, most importantly, celebrate Italian heritage!

NOI FOUNDATION—LEGGEREZZA FUNDRAISER

The N.O.I. (Nuovi Orizzonti Italiani or New Italian Horizons) is a Michigan non-profit educational corporation with tax-exempt status under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code devoted to promoting the teaching of the Italian Language and Culture through the Consulate of Italy in Detroit.

The objective of the N.O.I. Foundation is to allow as many students as possible to study and learn the Italian language and Culture. To achieve this goal, the N.O.I. Foundation is prepared to assist public and private schools interested in our program by providing educational materials, books, videos, manipulatives, and, if necessary, some financial support.

Fundraising Event Particulars:

When: Thursday, April 23, 2026

Where: Italian American Cultural Center, 43843 Romeo Plank Rd., Clinton Twp.

Time: 5:00 pm

Cost: \$100.00 (includes appetizers, buffet style dinner & dessert.)

Scan QR Code to purchase tickets, by April 15th..

Silent Auction



Leggerezza
Shedding Light on Italian Culture

PRESENTED BY
THE NOI FOUNDATION

ITALIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL SOCIETY
43843 Romeo Plank Rd., Clinton Twp
Sterling Heights, MI 48038
Fun's dead in the evening
Formal Attire

THE NOI FOUNDATION
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO
A NIGHT OF SHEDDING LIGHT
ON ITALIAN CULTURE

PART

\$100 per person
Includes appetizers,
buffet style dinner & dessert

LIVE Auction

Entertainment by the talented
Sofia Roselli

Presentations featuring
XXXXXXXXXXXX

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LANSING

Our Mission is to foster and maintain our proud Italian heritage, culture, and traditions for the next generations.

We offer a variety of activities, from cultural, sporting heritage events, concerts, dinner, events. We love to gather for festivals celebrating our common heritage. From here to Detroit we are all one group united in a common cause: community and the love for God, Country and Family.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Calendar of events for 2026, feast days or happenings. We look forward to your support and attendance. Here is a short list of some upcoming scheduled Club events, meetings or around the state Italian community events:

- **IAC Board Meeting—March 5th, 6:30 pm**
- **Italian Heritage Game—Detroit Pistons—March 7th**
- **St. Patrick's Day—March 17th**
- **St. Joseph Feast Day—March 19th**
- **Italian Cooking Class—March 26th**
- **Merit Scholarship Applications Deadline—March 31st**
- **IAC Board Meeting, April 2nd, 6:30 pm**
- **Easter—April 5th**
- **Italian Film Festival—April 10th and April 11th**
- **San Francesco di Paola—Mass Celebration - April 12th, 10:30 am, St. Therese Church**
- **NOI Foundation Fundraising Event—April 23rd—Clinton Twp.**
- **International Dinne Event—April 24th**

*Please note that dates and times of any events, are subject to changes.**

If you have a recipe(s) or a newsworthy item to share for an upcoming newsletter editions, send information to:

iacoflansing@gmail.com



ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LANSING

P.O Box 27456
Lansing, MI 48901

E-mail: iacoflansing@gmail.com



Join the IAC of Lansing today!



Consider becoming a sponsor supporter!

Visit: <https://www.lansingiac.org/>

Like us on Facebook!



**Thank you sponsors for your
support! Grazie!**

**If NOT a current sponsor
become a sponsor today!**

(Additional details attached)

The Italian American Club of Lansing

Inc. 1971



Founded in 1935, by a group of Italians who were very grateful to their adopted country for the opportunities given them and fiercely proud of their heritage.



Sponsorship Opportunities

Option 1- Platinum Package \$500 per year

- Full Page Advertisement in the Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Verbal Thank You at Annual Events, on Facebook, and logo at events.
- Opportunity to offer 10% discount on food or services to IACL members, listing on the website.

Option 2- Gold Package \$250 per year

- Half Page Advertisement in the Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Verbal Thank You at Annual Events, and on Facebook
- Opportunity to offer 10% discount on food or services to IACL members, listing on the website.

Option 3- Silver Package \$100 per year

- Quarter Page Advertisement in the Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Verbal Thank You at Annual Events
- Opportunity to offer 10% discount on food or services to IACL members, listing on the website.

Option 4 - Individual sponsorship \$50 – recognition in November/December newsletter.

Interested in being a Sponsor? Please email: iacoflansing@gmail.com.

Thank you. Grazie.



Italian American Club of Lansing

SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

Sponsorship Level: *(circle applicable level)*

\$500.00 - Platinum

\$250.00 - Gold

\$100.00 - Silver

\$50.00 - Individual

Sponsorship Category: *(check applicable category)*

General Sponsorship *(One year – May 1st to April 30th, newsletters, website)*

Event Sponsorship *(Recognition at event)*

Mail Application and Payment: Italian American Club of Lansing
P.O. Box 27456
Lansing, MI 48909

If you have questions, please email jacoflansing@gmail.com

Maintain the Italian heritage, culture, and traditions by supporting the IAC of Lansing!

Thank you. Grazie!



Italian American Club of Lansing

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

(Membership year is May 1st to April 30th)

Member(s) Name: _____

Italian Family Name Affiliation (if applicable) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

Family Membership: *(names of children)*

Membership Fee: *(check applicable category):*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00/Family (children up to 18 years of age) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00/Individual (18 years or older) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00/Senior/Retiree (70 years & older) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00/Student (ages 18 to 25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00/Associate/Supporter (referred by 2 active members) | |

Referred by: _____

Mail Application and Payment: Italian American Club of Lansing
P.O. Box 27456
Lansing, MI 48909

If you have questions, please email iacoflansing@gmail.com

Maintain the Italian heritage, culture, and traditions by supporting the IAC of Lansing!

ITALIAN HERITAGE GAME

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 | 6:00PM



vs.



Please join us for a second Italian Heritage Night at Little Caesars Arena as the Detroit Pistons take on the Brooklyn Nets! This event is organized under the Auspices of the Consulate of Italy in Detroit and COM.IT.ES Detroit. With the purchase of a ticket through this link, you will receive a Pistons Gift Item that you can redeem at the Pistons game.

Please place orders quickly because spots are limited!

LOWER LEVEL SEMI-CORNER: \$160

LOWER LEVEL ENDZONE: \$74

MEZZANINE LEVEL ENDZONE: \$52

Ticket Includes: Pistons Gift Item

(Must purchase your tickets through this link to get these add-ons and be part of the group)



Consulate of Italy
Detroit



TO GET YOUR TICKETS, VISIT:
WWW.PISTONS.COM/ITALIAN

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

THOMAS HART | 313-771-5532 | THART@PISTONS.COM

DEADLINE TO PURCHASE: FRIDAY, MARCH 6th

Italian-American Club of Lansing Italian Cooking Classes

Allen Neighborhood Center
1629 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing
Thursday, March 26 | 6pm – 9pm

Mamma Mia!
It's Ravioli Night!

Ever wondered how to get that perfect, pillowy texture in your pasta? Skip the grocery aisle and join us for a hands-on journey into the heart of Italian tradition. We're rolling out the dough and sharing the secrets to authentic Homemade Ravioli, and the effortless, vibrant condiments that make them shine.

Maximum of 10 people per class

\$50 per person, classes will be held quarterly



Register by emailing Giorgio at
buriganagiorgio@gmail.com

Deadline for booking: March 10

Meet the Chef: Matt Jones

Matt Jones is the Kitchen & Facility Manager at Allen Neighborhood Center which focuses on business development for the many food businesses that use the Shared-Use Kitchens. The expertise he brings to the team comes from 12 years in the Culinary industry, training over 200 chefs across Michigan in food safety and culinary technique. Now he is teaching food entrepreneurs about the intersection of food, people, and business.



A
CELEBRATION
OF
Saints



San Francesco di Paola - Mass Celebration

In honor of the feast day (April 2nd) of San Francesco di Paola, (patron saint of southern Italy)

Sunday, April 12, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

This mass is part of the weekend scheduled mass at.

St. Therese Catholic Church

102 W. Randolph Street, Lansing

With celebrant: Fr. John Fain

Social hour with desserts to follow the mass.

****Kindly bring a dessert dish to share.****

Please help support this special celebration day and maintain this wonderful tradition.

For more information,

Email: Tony De Luca, iacoflansing@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome!

2026

TWENTY-SECOND EDITION

The local premieres of award-winning Italian film

italian film festival usa

FREE admission Italian films in the original Language with **ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

<https://italianfilmfests.org/detroit.html>

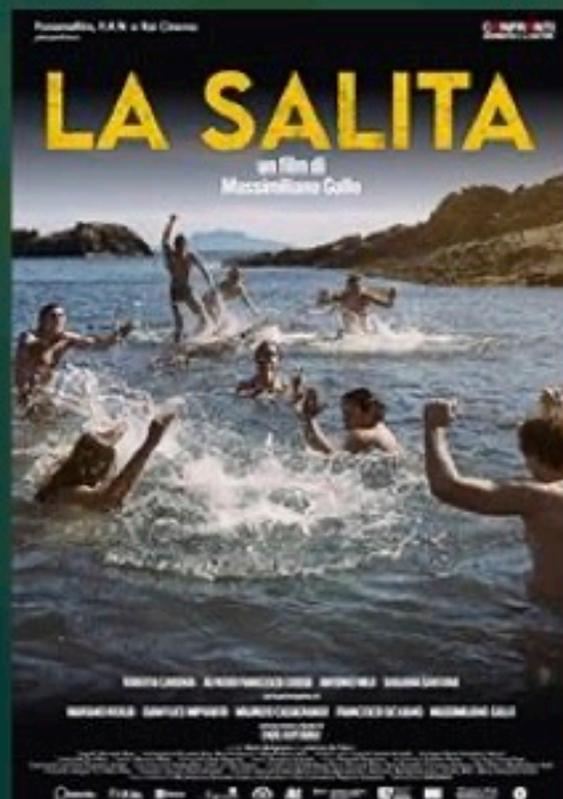
★ **This movie is in German!**



April 10 7:00 PM
Wells Hall B122



April 11 5:00 PM
Wells Hall B122



April 11 7:00 PM
Wells Hall B122

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Carmen De Lorenzo
deloren5@msu.edu

3RD ANNUAL

INTERNATIONAL DINNER

Presented By:

Inspired Dishes:

- Indian
- South East – Asian
- TBD
- Dessert & coffee
- Soft drinks and water for purchase.



Friday April 24th, 2026

6:00PM -Doors Open

6:30PM- First Course

Allen Neighborhood
Center

1611 E. Kalamazoo
St. Lansing, MI
48912

*Tickets: \$40.00/person
(Payment options: Cash,
Check, or Square).*

Limited Seating Available!

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

Reach out for more info!

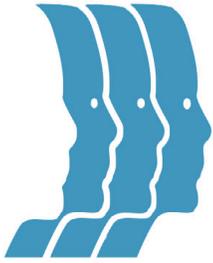
The evening will wrap up with an Authentic Italian Dessert!

RSVP no later than March 31st!

Please RSVP via email to buriganagiorgio@gmail.com

Donations to Allen Neighborhood Center and IACL not required but
APPRECIATED!

GOLD



ORAL SURGERY ASSOCIATES OF LANSING

Okemos Office: 349-8383 ▪ Lansing Office: 323-1000

Jeffrey E. Persico, D.M.D., *Parishioner* - John S. Faber, D.D.S.

Ezio F. Novelli, D.D.S., M.D. - Igor Makovey, D.D.S., M.D., F.A.C.S.

Andrew M. Baker, D.D.S., M.D.

WISDOM TEETH ▪ CORRECTIVE JAW SURGERY ▪ DENTAL IMPLANTS

SILVER SPONSORS



801 N Cedar St. Mason, MI

Ph:(517)-244-1090 – citylimitasmason@gmail.com



SILVER SPONSORS



Joe and Julie DeRose

Smith and DeRose Insurance, LLC

Your licensed Agents

216 W. Grand River Ave.
Williamston, MI 48895

Ph: 517-655-2812

jsmithderoseins@gmail.com

www.smithderoseinsurance.com

DPI HOME LOANS NMLS #2030267

NEW LOANS REFINANCE VA LOANS

JOSEPH T. DeROSE, BROKER

NMLS #2032209

216 WEST GRAND RIVER AVE
WILLIAMSTON, MI 48895

Ph: 517 881-0222

jderoes81@aol.com

NEW LOANS REFINANCE VA LOANS



This sponsorship is available.
Email: iacoflansing@gmail.com,
for more information.