

The CCI Corriere

CENTRO CULTURALE ITALIANO DI BUFFALO NEWSLETTER



Dick Verdi, Frederick Gazzoli, John A. Vecchio, Frank Sparacino and Dr. Francesco Giacobbe

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La Festa at Tappo, A SOLD OUT Success!

The La Festa dinner at 166 Chandler Street on June 26 was a great success for the CCI. As the first in-person event since December of 2019, the night was filled with loud chatter, delicious dinner and bright smiles. We are happy to announce that we sold all 200 tickets and profited over \$11,000 for the CCI!

Aside from the authentic Italian family-style dinner, the event featured a basket raffle and the option to purchase a paver to be placed in the CCI Community Courtyard and Walkway. We also celebrated Phil Tarantino's Birthday with dessert and a song, beautifully sung by Frederick Gazzoli.

We are very grateful to all of our sponsors and supporters who helped this event take place. We would especially like to thank Rocco Termini and Phil Lamina of Tappo Restaurants for hosting the event, Tito's Handmade Vodka for donating \$5,000 and a complimentary gift basket, Jeff Rickan of Rickan's Landscaping for his generous donation towards the dinner expense, and Russell Salvatore and Tom Lomardo for gift certificate donations to their exquisite restaurants. Lastly, a big thank you to our board of directors for donating basket raffle items and to the operations team for making the night a success!

We look forward to hosting more events for our members, friends and families in the months ahead!



Event photos captured by RCM Photography
Photos available on CCI Buffalo's Facebook



Putting CCI on the Map

From the Desk of Morgan Foss, Marketing & Promotions Director

Italian Cultural Center on Hertel Ave to open in August

What you can expect



The CCI was featured on [WKBW Buffalo](#) on May 25, 2021. Reporter Taylor Epps visited 2351 Delaware to capture the progress of our new location. Taylor also interviewed Founder, Dr. Giacobbe, Mario Giacobbe, John A. Vecchio and Lindsey Lauren Visser. The team did an excellent job conveying that the CCI is a welcoming place for everyone in the Buffalo Community!

The CCI's Operations Team was also featured in [Buffalo's Business First](#) in the first week of June. Each team member was highlighted in the 'People on the Move' page.

John A. Vecchio, Morgan Foss, Dan Vecchio and Lindsey Lauren Visser were featured as new hires of CCI Buffalo, and Toni Marie Di Leo was honored for her nine year affiliation with the organization.

NEW HIRE NONPROFIT MAY 24, 2021

John A. Vecchio, MBA
Executive Director at Centro Culturale Italiano di Buffalo

The Board of Directors of Cent announces that John A. Vecchio cultural center's new Executive work directly with the Board of

THE BUSINESS JOURNALS

BUFFALO BUSINESS FIRST

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Morgan Foss, M.S.
Centro Culturale Italiano di Buffalo

Dan Vecchio
Centro Culturale Italiano di Buffalo

Lindsey Lauren Visser, M.A.
Centro Culturale Italiano di Buffalo

Toni Marie Di Leo, M.A.Ed.
Centro Culturale Italiano di Buffalo

Other Features



The Buffalo Rocket announced CCI's Paver Project in the June 9th edition, and the publication continues to advertise the pavers weekly! (Read more about Paver Project on next page)



The Per Niente Club published an article written by Salvatore R. Martoche titled, "A Place of our Own," discussing the CCI's transition to a new location in the Summer 2021 issue.



Delaware District Newsletter
From the desk of Council Member, Joel P. Feroletto

Council Member, Joel Feroletto featured the CCI's Paver Project announcement in the July 2021 e-newsletter.

Membership & Language Lessons

From the Desk of Toni Marie Di Leo, Director of Education and Membership

Membership has Increased 20% Since the New Year!

Toni Marie reported at the beginning of July, the CCI membership count to be **470 members**, with 2-3 newly interested individuals per day.

To become a member, please visit <https://ccibuffalo.org/membership/>

CCI Now Offers Italian & Sicilian Lessons

The registration for the Fall/Winter language classes has begun. The classes will begin the week of September 20th and continue until December 15th.

The CCI will be offering two beginner Italian courses, one advanced beginner Italian course, one intermediate Italian course, one Italian conversational course and one Sicilian course. For more information on lessons visit <http://ccibuffalo.org/learn-italian/>



Introducing the CCI Paver Project!

PURCHASE A PAVER

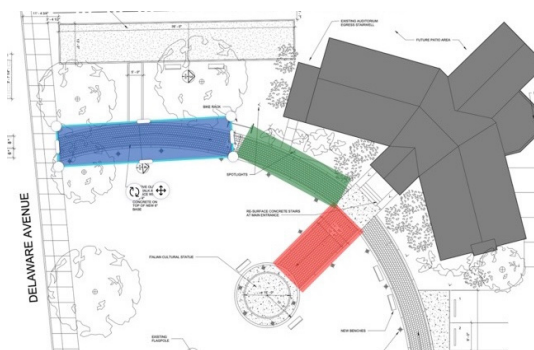
2351 DELAWARE AVENUE BUFFALO, NY 14216



The CCI Paver Project is an opportunity to honor and remember community members, supporters, friends, and family with permanently engraved pavers. CCI is selling 8 x 8-inch and 8 x 4-inch pavers to be featured in the center's upcoming Courtyard and Community Walkway near the corner of Hertel and Delaware Avenue.

The CCI Courtyard and Community Walkway will provide a welcoming space for social gatherings, and will feature a handcrafted Italian fountain, sculptures, benches, herb garden and full-size bocce court!

Purchase online at <https://ccipaver.givesmart.com>

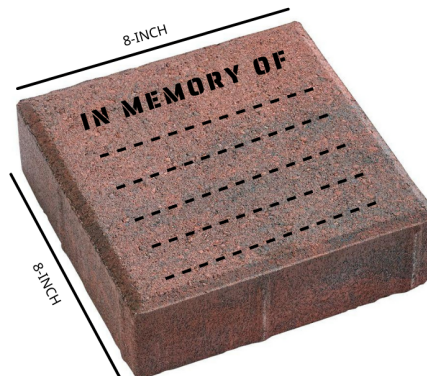


Paver Placement Zones

Zone 1: Piazza della Fontana | Pavers placed on the centered walkway between the front steps of the building to the fountain (View placement above in **RED**)

Zone 2: Piazza dell'edificio | Pavers placed on the walkway from the left side of the front steps leading to the bocce court (View placement above in **GREEN**)

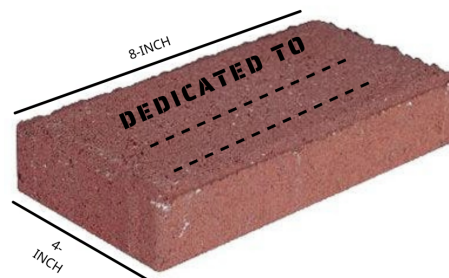
Zone 3: Piazza della Pedonale | Pavers placed on the walkway near the bocce court leading to Delaware Avenue (View placement above in **BLUE**)



Large Paver

(8" X 8")
Up to 6 lines

Zone 1: **\$325**
Zone 2: **\$300**
Zone 3: **\$275**



Small Paver

(8" X 4")
Up to 3 lines

Zone 1: **\$200**
Zone 2: **\$175**
Zone 3: **\$150**

Place your order by **August 31st** to have your paver processed and installed with the first batch! Visit <https://ccipaver.givesmart.com> to view paver options.

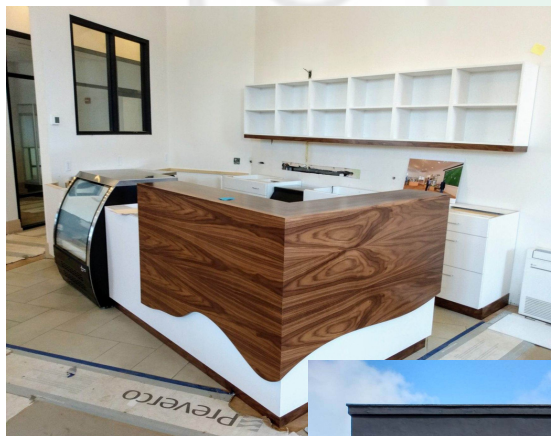


2351 Delaware Avenue Renovations

From the Desk of Dan Vecchio, Facility and Grounds Manager

Inside the Site

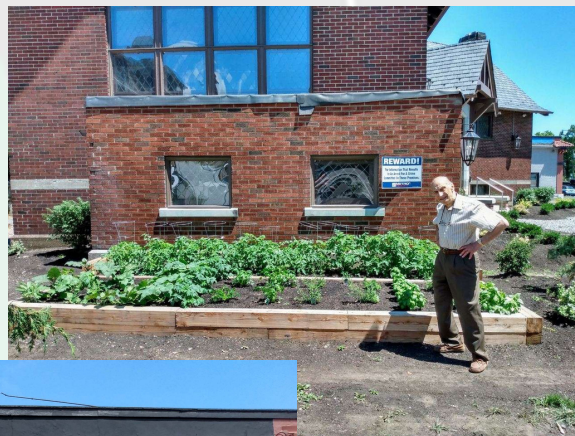
- The espresso bar shelving and cabinet framework with walnut trim has been installed. The back bar refrigerator, ice machine, sinks, and display case are also on site. The countertop and backsplash tiles will be installed in the upcoming weeks!
- The kitchen appliances are in place, and minor plumbing, electrical and gas hook-up connections will be completed soon. The programming team is working to schedule celebrity chef nights and routine cooking classes.
- The team is working to have sound dampening and acoustical treatment installed in the large auditorium downstairs.
- The gift shop committee continues to meet to discuss items to sell and current inventory of CCI merchandise. Dierdre Reynolds has been contracted to serve as the gift shop set up consultant.



The CCI espresso bar

Building & Grounds

- The bocce court installation has begun in the CCI Community Courtyard and Walkway. Jeff Rikan and his team will continue to place sod and additional plants once the concrete is in place.
- The herb garden continues to flourish, and the sprinkler system was recently installed.
- A 4-foot black aluminum fence will eventually border the front of the property, and a 6-foot vinyl fence will extend along the Delaware Ave. side of the property.
- Other Exciting News |
 - A mural has been painted on the side of 1096 Hertel Ave. as a part of the Hertel Walls project started by Council Member Joel P. Ferroletto. The muralist, Nicole Cherry, has painted a colorful piece welcoming all to Hertel Avenue. She also painted a Little Italy graphic next to the large mural!
 - The Paver Project began on June 16th, and CCI members and the entire community are encouraged to purchase a paver to be featured in the walkway at our new location!



Dr. Giacobbe and his thriving Herb Garden.



Mural next door to the CCI painted by Nicole Cherry.



Featuring Council Member, Joel P. Feroletto

Council Member Joel P. Feroletto represents the Delaware District in the City of Buffalo, and he and his family are proud members of the CCI. We are happy to celebrate the donation from Feroletto's office of \$5,000 towards the CCI's mission! Joel's dedication to the community continues to be recognized through awards, such as the Spark Award for Supporters of Cultural Sector.

Joel and his senior legislative assistant, Logan Marquardt, visited the facility in early June to check out the progress, chat about our Italian roots, and discuss the goals for the CCI as a cultural in the Delaware District.

Joel's Italian heritage originates from the Abruzzo and the Cortale - Calabria regions. The Feroletto family donated a chef's table to be included in the newly renovated kitchen at the CCI. Cooking and sharing a meal continues to be a staple in his family's life, and the Feroletto's hope to encourage that tradition at the CCI.

"It's going to be a center for the entire community. It's not just geared towards Italian-Americans, it's for people of all races and ethnic backgrounds. That is a great message to spread," said Council Member Joel P. Feroletto.

Joel also expressed his excitement for the bocce court and pavers to be installed in the CCI Community Courtyard and Walkway. He believes the CCI will serve as an anchor for the Italian-American community as a place for Italians to have pride and celebrate the culture.

Joel launched the Hertel Walls project about four years ago. He collaborates with the Albright Knox and several local and International artists to enhance Hertel Avenue. Just last week, muralist Nicole Cherry was contracted to paint a "Greetings from Hertel Avenue" on the side of the building next to the CCI.

The CCI is very thankful for the contribution Joel's office has made, and we are honored to feature Joel as a dedicated member of our organization!



Logan Marquardt, Joel P. Feroletto, Lindsey Lauren Visser, John A. Vecchio



From the Desk of John A. Vecchio, Executive Director

Cari Amici,

The past couple of months has witnessed an outpouring of interest, generosity, building construction, and excitement for our Italian Cultural Center Project.

Our recent "La Festa" fundraiser was a huge success. The reason is simple **YOU!** It is because of your unwavering support, commitment, time, and love for our mission. That combination is a sure winner every time!

I would like to express my gratitude to Rocco Termini and John Philip Tarantino as well as our CCI Board of Directors, volunteers and my enthusiastic CCI Team for going above and beyond to ensure our very first post-Covid fundraiser was a great time had by all.

Friends like Carol Lamoriello Dambmann, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Joni Williams, Maria Foss, Russ Salvatore, Tom Lombardo, Jeff Rickan, the Lalli Family as well as the cheerful staff at Tappo put a smile on my face at every turn.

Special mention to local artist Melina Scime, who has graciously donated her time and talent to bringing the plaster relief book atop the CCI Fireplace mantle to life! Melina has worked countless hours in creating a lasting tribute honoring the memory of the late Donna Fiorella. Mille Grazie Melina!

Lastly, we have been blessed with important and caring visitors who want, in Tony Masiello's words, "To Be Part of It!" Our newsletter features those special guests, and we appreciate and cherish every single one who has made the trip to 2351 Delaware Avenue.

Interested in receiving a tour of our future home? Email me at john.vecchio@ccibuffalo.org and we'd be delighted to host you!

Ciao!

John

John A. Vecchio, MBA



Di. Giacobbe and John A. Vecchio at La Festa at Tappo June 26, 2021



Visitor Spotlight



Michael P. Carroll, owner of MP Carol Hardwood, donated the beautiful CCI medallion placed in the Donna Fiorella Fireplace Room. MP Carol Hardwood installed the floors on the first floor of the center.



Tom Lombardo, owner of Ristorante Lombardo, visited the center and expressed his interest in hosting a fundraising event in memory of the late Anthony Diina.



Michael Di Camillo, owner of Di Camillo Bakery, visited the center and expressed a desire to partner with our gift shop.



Francis Letro Esq., & Esther Anann from Oishei Children's Hospital stopped by on July 9 to discuss the John R. Foundation grant proposal and CCI's mission for community involvement and inclusion.



Michael Bonitatibus, former CEO of Millington Lockwood, stopped in to check out the site and assess CCI's furniture needs.



Dennis Gallagher, owner of Gallagher Printing and The Buffalo Rocket, visited the site to discuss advertising options for CCI's Paver Project.

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