

Memories of the 2025



2025 Cannoli Contest Winners

By Sandra Tornberg

Twelve contestants competed to see who could eat the most cannoli from Vito's Bakery in five minutes. They were cheered on by a large, enthusiastic crowd. The contest resulted in a tie between six-time previous winner Matt Gino and newcomer Shy Khan, with each consuming 13 cannoli in the five-minute period. One minute was added to the clock to break the tie, with Gino consuming another 4 and Khan consuming 2.5. Gino was declared the winner, having consumed 17 in six minutes. Gino declared this to be his last year, and Khan has vowed to return next year. The contest is sponsored by Fern Hill Golf Club.

Shown at right (from left) are Winner Matt Gino, Runner-up Shy Khan with Festa emcee Ron DiBartolomeo, and cannoli runner Vincenzo Marentette.



2025 "Judges Judging Meatballs" Contest Winners Selected

By Sandra Tornberg

The Frank J. Palazzolo Memorial "Judges Judging Meatballs" Contest never fails to draw a crowd. This year's distinguished judges included 16th Judicial Court Judges Honorable Joseph Toia, Julie Gatti, Kathryn Viviano, Rachel Rancilio, Chief Judge James M. Biernat, Jr., and Probate Judge Aaron Hall. The winner of the individual category was first-time entrant Aleesha Giorlando. Cloverleaf Restaurant and Bar, represented by Marie Guerra, won the restaurant category for the fifth consecutive year. The contest is sponsored by Bagnasco & Calcaterra Funeral Homes and Summit Plastic Molding, Inc. Paul Calcaterra was on hand to facilitate the contest and congratulate the winners.



From left, Marie Guerra of Cloverleaf Bar & Restaurant, Judge Rachel Rancilio, and Judge Joe Toia

Shown above are (from left) Judge Aaron Hall, Judge James Biernat, Jr., Individual Winner Aleesha Giorlando, Judge Rachel Rancilio, Judge Joseph Toia, Judge Julie Gatti and Paul Calcaterra.

2025 Italian Baby Contest Winners

By Sandra Tornberg

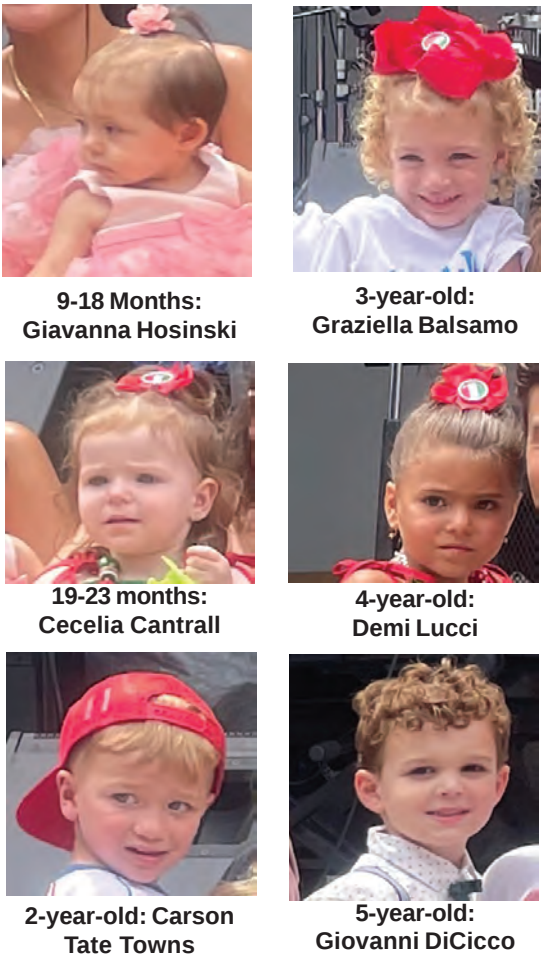
Some of the cutest Italian American babies in town took part in the Beautiful Baby Contest on Sunday, July 20 at Freedom Hill.

There were six age groups, with seven contestants in each group: 9-18 months, 19-23 months, 2-year-old, 3-year-old, 4-year-old, and 5-year-old.

The smiles, winks, and waves by these well-dressed babes were not lost on the judges or the crowd.

The contest is sponsored by Shelby Foot and Ankle.

The winners in each age category are shown at right



2025 Italian American Idol Contest Winners

By Sandra Tornberg

The Italian American Idol Singing Contest has been a popular addition to Festa Italiana since it was introduced in 2017. Past winners have been exposed to opportunities for coaching and participation in workshops and other performances to help further their development.

This year's judges were Arthur White, Director of Community and Audience Engagement at Detroit Opera, Richard Fracker, Area Chair of Vocal Arts at Michigan State University, and David Troiano, Adjunct Professor of Voice at Wayne State University.

This year's talented winners were: Lia Lucci, in the 9- to 12-year-old category, Silvia Trivelloni in the 13- to 17-year-old category, and Giavanna Coffman in the 18 and over category. The sponsors of the contest are Giuseppe's International Oils & Vinegars and Shelving.com



Shown are (from left) Sandra Tornberg, Lia Lucci, Silvia Trivelloni, Giavanna Coffman and Aaron Caruso

Shown above are (from left) Idol judges Arthur White, Richard Fracker and David Troiano.