

Family Fun at Roseto Big Time 131st Year

By Michael Ortoski

ROSETO - The third week of July marks the high point of the year for Native Rosetans and outsiders alike, as revelers gather to celebrate The Roseto Big Time.

People gather from far & wide for the celebration of community, family, friends, food, fun, Crowning of the Queen and of course - fireworks! **This Year's Celebration Queen was Alexandra Martocci who was crowned Big Time Queen 2024 by last year's queen, Sophia Albanese.**

The Annual "Big Time" celebration as it's known, dates back to 1883. The term was given by Fr. Denisco who started the civic-religious celebration because he felt the need for camaraderie. The initial celebration was patterned after the festival that took place in Roseto, Italy. Festival days were set aside to honor Mary, the Mother of Jesus and was always held on the last weekend in July. On Saturday night, a fireworks display takes place and then on Sunday the procession down Garibaldi Avenue to Honor Mary.

As the years went on, the celebration program grew. It included a variety of Amusements, circus-type shows, band concerts and finally the Fireworks display on Saturday night. A vast assortment of food items complimented the entertainment including Italian delicacies such as Sausage and Peppers, Pizza Fritta, Italian candy and cookies. Lehigh Valley Italian American Band who were sponsored by Isidore and Yvonne DeThomas ended the ceremony with music as the Queen and her court descends steps to the float and the girls descend to their convertibles for a parade thru the streets of Roseto.

Family reunions often go hand-in-hand with the Big Time. Out of town relatives come to visit as well as those who have moved out of the area, come back to visit friends and family. During Fr. Montiani's pastorate, two fund-raising ideas took form. A program booklet for the celebration and a contest for selection of a festival queen. Each queen contestant is to sell tickets, the girl who sells the most tickets is crowned "Queen of the Celebration".

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Plainfield Farmers Fair 75th Anniversary

By Rep. Ann Flood

PLAINFIELD TWSP. - My district staff and I had a fantastic time at the Plainfield Farmers Fair last week. It was an honor to present an official citation on behalf of the House of Representatives in recognition of the fair's 75th anniversary during the opening ceremony. Throughout the fair, we had an information table set up to inform residents about the various services my office provides.

On Tuesday afternoon, I had the privilege of being a judge for the Great American Apple Pie and Chocolate Cake contest, which also featured other homemade baked goods and local produce. Local amateur bakers crafted their best recipes from scratch for the contest, and everything was

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