

A number of Italian Americans are running for municipal election on April 17. These include primary winners Anthony Calderone, Forest Park mayor and attorney Robert Fioretti, candidate for Chicago 2nd Ward alderman.

Anthony Calderone has served as Forest Park mayor since 1999. He was first elected as Forest Park Commissioner in 1995. He is a lifelong resident of Forest Park and owns and operates Illinois Alarm Service, located in Forest Park.

As mayor, Calderone has overseen the renaissance of Forest Park, including a newly vibrant downtown corridor along Madison Street, major redevelopment of the Roosevelt Road, and an enhanced residential market.

Calderone's public service achievements have been recognized by such organizations as Department of the Army, United Way, Misericordia, Save a Life Foundation, Illinois Order Sons of Italy, Illinois Main Street, Governor's Home Town Awards, the Illinois Crime Commission, and the Triton College Foundation. Calderone is married to Lois; they have 2 adult children - Augustino and Anthony Jr.

Mayor Anthony De Luca was born in Chicago Heights and is a 1988 graduate of Homewood-Flossmoor High School and a 1992 graduate of Elmhurst College, where he obtained a degree in Organizational Speech Communications. Anthony De Luca was elected Mayor of the City of Chicago Heights in 2003. De Luca's previous public service includes a distinguished eight year record as a member and then President of Bloom Township High School District 206 Board of Education. Mayor De Luca also is a recipient of the 2004 Italo-American National Union David award, the 2006 Mt. Carmel High School "Fitz Award" and a recipient of the 2006 IAET Civic Pride Award. De Luca is employed as the Chief of operations at Skyline Disposal Company in Chicago Heights, a third generation family owned business, where he is a dues-paying member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 7

De Luca is married to Sarah; they have two daughters.

Carol Stream Mayor Ross Ferraro was born in Capri, Italy and moved to the United States in 1960. Ferraro has lived in Carol Stream since 1978 where he also operates his business, Village View Barber Stylists.

Ferraro has served as Mayor in Carol Stream since 1987. He served as president of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference in 1995-96 and in fiscal year 1996-97 was conference director and chairman of the Nominating Committee. He is the past-chairman of DuPage Communications and former secretary of the Illinois Tax Increment Association. Ferraro has been appointed to the National League of Cities Steering Committee for Crime Prevention and Public Safety for since 1996 and also serves on the Small Cities Council. He serves on the United States Conference of Mayors Criminal and Social Justice Committee Drug Control Task Force member and Electric Utility Restructuring Task Force member, International Affairs Standing Committee; DuPage Water Commission Municipal Board Member. Mayor Ferraro also serves as a Republican Committeeman for the 53rd Precinct in Bloomingdale Township, Illinois.

John A. Ostenburg has served as Village President of Park Forest, Illinois since 1999. He previously served as a Village Trustee from 1985 to 1990 and from 1997 to 1999. He served as State Representatives, 80th District from 1992 - 1995. Ostenburg was the award-winning editor of the *Chicago Union Teacher*, from 1998 through 2001. Ostenburg was director of University Relations at Governors State University from 1984 to 1993, director of Communications and Executive Director of the College Foundation at Prairie State College from 1978 to 1984, and director of Alumni Affairs and Sports Information Director at Lewis University from 1973 to 1978. He also taught journalism and communications at all three institutions. He earlier taught English and Latin at Providence High School in New Lenox. He serves as a member of the Housing Committee and of the Legislative Committee of the South Suburban Mayors & Managers

Association, and as the labor representative on the Board of Directors of the South Metropolitan Regional Research Institute. He recently was appointed to the Community & Economic Development Policy Committee of the National League of Cities.

He and wife Jacqueline are parents of four children (one of whom is deceased) and grandparents of six. Mr. and Mrs. Ostenburg also are the owners and operators of Changes Coffeehouse, Bookstore & Tea Room in Park Forest, which they established in 1992.

Bob Fioretti is a life-long Chicagoan. He currently serves as a lawyer and partner in the firm of Fioretti, Lower & Carbonara and practices in the areas of governmental law, administrative law, zoning law and also handles complex litigation. Since he earned his law degree from Northern Illinois University (NIU) College of Law in 1978, he has become a seasoned civil litigator.

Fioretti has also practiced in the public sector as the former Senior Supervising Attorney of the General Litigation Division for the Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago.

Fioretti is a long-standing member of the adjunct faculty at NIU College of Law. He was President of the NIU National Alumni Association from 2000-2004 and is also Past President of the NIU College of Law Alumni Counsel.

Fioretti serves on numerous boards and committees and is an active member in several civic organizations. He is past president and volunteer of the Historic Pullman Foundation; former vice president of the 115-year-old Chicago Athletic Association in downtown Chicago; a member of the Justinian Society of (Italian) Lawyers, and a board member of the Italian-American Political Coalition (IAPC) where he serves as chair of its Endorsement Committee.

This column is written by Nina Albano Vidmer, executive director of the Italian American Political Coalition. To submit information, please fax to 708-401-0360 by the first of each month for consideration in the following month's issue.