



GameOn!

SOVA-Loudoun Co. Newsletter



Special Olympics Virginia Loudoun County

Spring 2016

TOP STORIES:

Casino Night Hits It Big in Loudoun!

by Michele Kasen



Special Olympics Virginia, Loudoun County celebrated their second annual Casino Night Fundraiser on April 16 at The Stone House Community Center in Sterling, VA. Board of supervisors Kristen Umstadd and Washington Redskin Logan Paulsen were guest dealers. All guests were greeted at the door by Adam Bell, the Area athlete representative.

Donations for our silent auction were received from numerous local



businesses as well as restaurants and private individuals. Global messengers Crista Bleull and Anna Yanc addressed the many guests as they took a break from their gambling adventures. Music was provided by DJ

Shawn. Other guests included county and town representatives, athletes, families and friends.

A good time was had by all!! The event raised approximately \$5200 and it will be put towards continual enhancement of the Special Olympics program in Loudoun County. We wish to thank everyone who contributed their time, donations, or gambling expertise to this fun, community building event!! We hope to see many of you join us next year as well.



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR AMAZING SPONSORS!

Volunteer Today!

Special Olympics Virginia- Loudoun is on the fast track and we need your help. Even if you are unable to make a long-term commitment, but can manage to volunteer for an hour or two, or make a financial donation of any amount, let us know by contacting Caitlin Marcotte, our Area Coordinator, at (703) 777-04380.

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REVEALING THE CHAMPION IN ALL OF US!

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:

Variety of Up Coming Events:

We are looking forward to several upcoming yearly fundraisers- Casino Night, Wine County Half Marathon, and the Annual Golf Tournament. These help to raise money to keep Special Olympics completely free to all our athletes. Each Area is responsible for raising its own funds to keep their programs running, so please volunteer or donate!



Annual Golf Fundraiser- July 18th, 2016. Where: Raspberry Falls Golf Club



Dulles Plane Pull Fundraiser- September 17th, 2016. Where: Dulles Airport



Destination Races Fundraiser

We had a good turnout this year for volunteers at the 2016 Destination Race's Wine Country Half Marathon. Each volunteer raised \$50/position filled for Special Olympics-VA Loudoun County. Over 130 people signed up, and even though we had a few no-shows, this was a great fundraising opportunity for our Area -thank you to all the volunteers, coaches, athletes, and others for spending your time for a good cause.



Recognizing our Volunteers!

Pictures from a few high school volunteers that we honored for their amazing service to our athletes!!



Global Messenger Corner:

Area 14 has some busy Global Messengers in Loudoun County! From our 2014-2016 Messenger, Anna Yach, visting the Loudoun Sherrifs Office. To our newest Messenger Crista Bleull, 2015-2017 class, speaking at the Loudoun County Swim Time trails, they both have been very busy. Both ladies spoke at our casino night and helped raise awareness for our area and program. Congrats to them for doing a great job-and keep up the good work!



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on donating or how to help out with one of our fundraisers, please email our fundraising chair Karin Aaron at fundraising@sovaloudoun.org.

UPCOMING SOVAL EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS:



Pearson Smith Realty
Cordially invites you to join us for the

6th Annual Golf Tournament
Benefitting

Special Olympics Virginia- Loudoun County
Monday July 18th, 2016
8am-3pm

Raspberry Falls Golf & Hunt Club
41601 Raspberry Drive, Leesburg VA 20176

Enter today: \$150 per golfer / \$580 per foursome *
Format: Four-member Scramble Tournament
Includes:

- Continental Breakfast at 8 am
- Shotgun Start at 9 am
- Award Ceremonies with Prizes
- Buffet BBQ Lunch after Award Ceremony
- Greens Fees, Riding Cart,
- Refreshments, Bag Handling
- Prizes Awarded For:

Longest Drive Men and Women Closest to the Pin
Men and Women Top Three Foursomes Win
\$10,000 by Sinking a Hole-In-One on a Par 3
or other great prizes on Par 3's Mulligans are \$5
each, max of 2 Tickets for drawings for great
prizes

To register contact Pearson Smith Realty
via email at eric@e4realty.com
or at (571) 386-1075

Purchase tickets at:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/o/area-14-special-olympics-loudoun-9782149050>



Dulles Day Plane Pull Fundraiser
September 17th, 2016
Dulles Airport, Dulles VA
9am-3pm

“SOVA-Loudoun Area 14”
is our Team Name.

Go to <http://www.planepull.com> to search for our
team, then register to join or donate!

First 25 people to register
(and raise at least \$100) will pull.

If we raise \$2000 by July 31st, we will get
customized T-shirts for the pull,
with our team name!

75% of the funds raised by our area goes directly
back to the Loudoun Program. The other 25%
goes to the State program -Special Olympics
Virginia.

See Team Captain Lori Benish for questions!!



OPEN POSITIONS ON COUNCIL:

***OFFICE-AT-LARGE**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR ONE OF THESE POSITIONS, OR WANT TO KNOW MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE POSITION, PLEASE CONTACT CAITLIN MARCOTTE VIA EMAIL AT

Caitlin.Marcotte@Loudoun.gov

Softball Goes to Bedford

by **Emily Nalls**

This year the Cardinals softball team went to the Bedford tournament sponsored by the Virginia Moose Lodge. Even though the second day was rained out, it was still a great experience! Bill Mahood has played softball for 10 years and this season fulfilled his dream of carrying the torch for opening ceremonies! He ran the torch from third base to home plate to light the official torch for Special Olympic competition!



Picture caption: Bill is rehearsing his role for lighting the torch.



Council Corner

By **Emily Nalls**

Hey Everyone! I'm entering my second year as a council member and completing my third season as the Cardinals Softball Coach. I coached soccer for one season and played as a unified partner for Area 14's first unified soccer program. We played at states and won first place in our inaugural season. I am looking forward to what unified sports opportunities can bring to our program and look forward to next season! Playing with the Loudoun Lightening unified soccer team was an amazing experience. Other volunteers came out to play with us, and it brought everyone's skill level and knowledge of the game to a whole new dynamic. Having extra volunteers as players is never a bad thing!



I have recently become more aware of "developmental unified" programs, specializing in team play integrating athletes who are on the skills level. I am excited to work with everyone and create such awesome programs for the community! Next year the softball program will include a developmental unified team in its first season ever! We need to think of a new team name! With that being said, and knowing we are growing our program by nearly 50 athletes annually, I have had numerous parents of first year athletes surprised by the extent of our program and how the services are all free of charge. I like to remind everyone that while our sports programs don't come with a fee we always welcome new volunteers and support with fundraisers!

I look forward to growing with my current council position as the new Travel Coordinator for the area. We recently lost the access to the County buses, so finding transportation to our far away games have become a new venture and expense for our area. Thank you to all the coaches and volunteers that help to transport our athletes, and everyone's patience while we work out a new system of renting and securing vehicles. Hope to seeing you in the field, or cheering us on in the stands, soon!

Flag Football-Summer Sports Start Soon- Register Now!

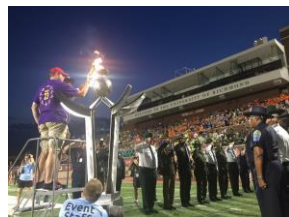
Register online at www.loudoun.gov/webtrac to sign up for each sport.

See instructions online at our website, www.sovaloudoun.org

Loudoun Valley High School hosted Field Day for Track and Field Team

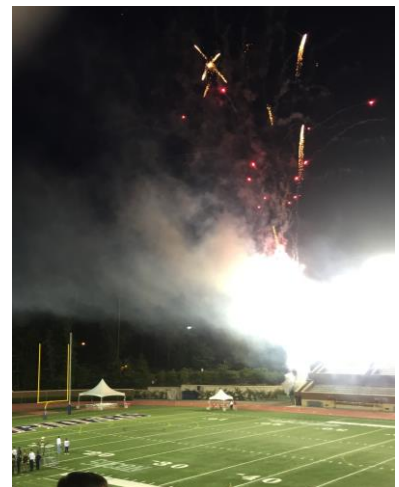
by Lori Benish

Loudoun Valley High School was so kind to host a Unified Track and Field Day for our area athletes. Thank you to all the student athletes that volunteered and help put on this great event!



Summer Games 2016 Heated Up Richmond!

Summer Games are the largest Special Olympic sporting events in Virginia each year, and this year was no exception. With an amazing opening ceremony including a concert by American Idol contestant Rayvon Owen, a grand entrance by the Torch Run team, and fireworks to cap the night, it was going to be hard to top the excitement of opening night. Saturday, which was brutal warm, was still a success for our athletes, with many medals brought home and lots of good times. The 80's themed dance was a hit, and many of our athletes enjoyed the parlor games setup around the stadium. Healthy Athletes and the Olympics town were bigger and better than ever. All in All -Summer Games were a blast!! Teams were sent from Track & Field, Bocce, Bowling, Swimming, Softball, and Tennis.



SPORTS UPDATES:



Softball-Rangers/Cardinal Update: -See article on page 4 about the Bedford Tournament. Both teams had a great year, and we look forward to next season!!!



Swim Team Update (Coach Wilson): Loudoun Dolphins swim team had an amazing year. We participated in 3 meets: Claude Moore Time Trial, Potomac Regional Meet at George Mason, and Potomac Invitation at Madeira School. We also hosted our very own Inter-squad (athlete/sibling/parent meet). Our team was fortunate enough to receive about \$1,200 of donated equipment (swim bags, goggles, caps, fins, and paddles) from an independent donor. We sent 12 swimmers to the State Games (most ever by Loudoun Dolphins), all doing great and everyone brought home at least one medal. Our extended season will begin in the summer (June 30th - August 18th), and we are looking into potentially extending our practice to have a year-round swimming program. We will be having an end of season celebration with athletes/parents/volunteers, and summer cookout at Joy's Ranch (who was also so kind to donate a storage cage to keep at our practice site for all the other donated equipment. Thanks to all the great volunteers that came out through the season- we couldn't do it without you.



Bowling Update: Bowling had another great year, with tons of bowlers. We look forward to hitting the lanes again in the fall.

NO UPDATE SENT FROM: Golf or Equestrian



Bocce Update (Coach Dan):

Another great season of bocce was hosted by the fine folks at Shoes Coffee and Cork in Leesburg. We had 26 players through the course of the season, our biggest group yet. As you can see

from the pictures our team is very social and we have lots of fun competing, cheering on our team mates and occasionally having a sandwich, smoothie or some other treat from the restaurant. Families really got into the act making dinner at Shoes a weekly event. We participated in an invitational tournament in Gainesville and in States at the University of Richmond. We found that despite not having regulation size facilities we were able to hold our own against the best competition around. The athletes adjusted and competed effectively. Assistant coaches Lexi Pemberton and Colin Dillon were tremendous additions to the coaching staff this season and I give them my thanks. Despite the seemingly endless threat of rain we did not cancel a single practice! Go Bocce!!!

Track & Field Update (Coach Mark):

A rain drenched spring could not put a damper on the success of the 2016 Track & Field team. We had a roster filled



with returning veterans and bolstered by an infusion of new talent. The season kicked off at the Flint Hill Time Trials in Fairfax as ten intrepid athletes were eager to compete despite ominous grey skies. Unfortunately, a bizarre April snow storm forced a very early cancellation of the meet, but not before Team Loudoun's new distance running sensation, T.J. Thomas, posted an amazing sub 24 minute 5K in very harsh conditions. The team's perseverance was richly awarded by a picturesque day in Alexandria for the Episcopal High Championships. Seventeen athletes competed at Episcopal with many winning gold medals and shattering previous personal records!! The highlight of the regular season was the wildly successful Loudoun Valley High School unified meet in Purcellville (see pictures on page 5). Many thanks and gratitude to the dedicated volunteers whose efforts made it possible for all of our Track & Field heroes to shine their lights and grow together as teammates and individual athletes. Until next year- keep on running!

Tennis Update (Coach Dorothy):

The state games turned out to be such an amazing experience, for Nicole and Amy Jo as well as for myself and my assistant coach Jessica Franck. The summer games were such a blast and I cannot say enough about all of the SO staff, volunteers, coaches, athletes and the University of Richmond for making this event a truly memorable experience for all.



PHOTO MEMORIES AND HIGHLIGHTS:



GO AREA 14!



SOVA-Loudoun Co. Newsletter



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www.facebook.com/specialolympicsloudouncounty

or

On the Web At:

www.sovaloudoun.org

About Us

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Adam Bell, Athlete Representative
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*Apply for Open Positions with Caitlin!

Game On!

Our Game On! Newsletter is published three
Times a year by SOVA Loudoun.

Our Mission

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic -type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

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Go Green!

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To receive your
newsletter by email instead
of through the mail.