



Game On!

SOVA-Loudoun Co.
Newsletter



Special
Olympics
Virginia
Loudoun County

Winter 2016

TOP STORIES:

Basketball Championships a Success!

by Dan Dillon

Our Special Olympics-Loudoun Basketball program sent four teams to the State Championships held March 18-19th this year. The Top Guns represented the half court program, and three full court teams consisting of the Thunder, Wizards, and Lancers.



Day One started with lunch at the Subway in Bealeton and featured not only a warm welcome but a visit with Russell

Turner, who moved from Loudoun in 2015, and former coach Bill Brichoux. We were all very glad to see them. Teams then spent an enjoyable hour and a half at Aquia Landing State Park, before heading to our destination. Afterwards, all the team attended scrimmages and the Opening Ceremonies. Everyone had lots of fun.



Saturday was game day for all of our teams. The Top Guns were at the "top" of their games winning both games on the way to Gold Medals, led by first year coach Eric Novotny.



The Wizards led by Coach "Big" Dave Hersey got the Bronze medal in their bracket. The competition was very tough but the Wizards really battled in this their first trip to States. These Wizards play hard!

The Thunder, under the guidance of longtime Coach Jeff Erikson, won the Silver



medal in their bracket. The Thunder played some of their best basketball in game one, to earn a shot at the gold medal, but could not overcome a bigger and more aggressive opponent in the second game.

Article Continues on Page 2...

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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Calendar

March 12	Spring Season Starts
April 16 th	Casino Night
June 10-12 th	Summer Games- Richmond
July 18 th	Annual Golf Fundraiser
August	Flag Football Season Starts

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REVEALING THE CHAMPION
IN ALL OF US!

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The Lancers, led by Coach Dan Dillon, brought home another Silver medal for Loudoun playing their hearts out in the second toughest division in the State. The Lancers are a guard oriented team and could not overcome the size advantage of their bigger opponent in the first game, but came back with an overtime victory in the second game for Silver. Thanks to our Head of Delegation, Caitlin Marcotte, and our amazing chaperones who made the trip fun and memorable for all concerned.



Loudoun County Basketball Tournament

By Lori Benish

On January 9th, Loudoun held the 1st official Basketball Tournament of the season at several high schools around Leesburg, VA. A success as usual, we had a total of 61 teams play from all around the area, including Fairfax and other Potomac Region teams. Thank you to all the volunteers that came out to help put on this event. What a great start to the season!



Meet Our New Global Messenger! Christa Bleull

Years Involved with Special Olympics: 10 years

Hometown: Leesburg

Sports: Basketball, Bowling, Equestrian, Softball, Tennis and Volleyball. Attended many state and national tournaments.

Educational History: Loudoun County HS, Class of 2006, Every Citizen has Opportunities (ECHO) since 2013

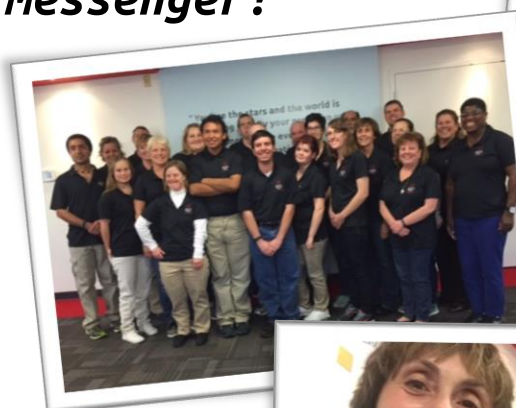
Employment History: Target since 2006

Career Goals: "I would like to help people and make them happy. I worked as a candy striper in a hospital; I think I could be a good caregiver to older people or children with special needs."

People Admired: Parents

Why is it important to build a more unified generation?

"Once people get to know me they don't see my disability. A unified generation would help people not be afraid to be friends and teammates."



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!



Casino Night -April 16th, 2016

Where: [Stone House Community Center](#)

See details in the article on Page #5



Annual Golf Fundraiser- July 18th, 2016.

Where: Raspberry Falls Golf Club

See details in the article on Page #5



Wine County Half Marathon

June 3-4th2016. We will need volunteers to sign up for the Destinations Races, Wine County Half Marathon. For each volunteer we provide, Destinations Races will donate \$50 to SOVA- Loudoun! See details in the article on Page #5

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.



Polar Plunge 2016

by Jeff Erikson

The Northern Virginia Polar Plunge fundraiser, a Special Olympics Virginia Fundraising Event, was held on February 27, 2016. I don't know about the rest of you that attended, but I had a blast! It was great seeing so many of us in red shirts supporting our awesome Loudoun County Special Olympics Virginia programs.

I am very proud to say that our final fundraising tally as of March 1st was \$13,040. 75% of that goes directly to Loudoun County Special Olympics, and the rest goes to the state organization. We far exceeded our initial (and I thought aggressive) goal of \$10,000. A special shout out to those plungers who joined me in raising more than \$1000 each - Thomas and Vern Conaway, Dan Dillon, Maureen Buckley, and Joy Cavagnaro. Until next year, stay warm!





Council Corner

by Karin Aaron, Fundraising Chair

Hello everyone, my name is Karin Aaron and I am your Fundraising Chair for Area 14-Special Olympics Loudoun. I have been on the council since May, 2014 and I am excited to be working with this team to raise some much needed funds for our athletes and families of Loudoun County, Virginia! Originally from New Jersey, I've been a Loudoun resident since 1996. I've worked the last 27 years in the hospitality industry, spending the last nine years in sports tourism at Visit Loudoun and Visit Montgomery, MD. In addition, I serve on the board for WISE-DC (Women in Sports & Events), a professional organization that supports the growth and success of women in the sports industry.

Raising money is a tough job but is the ultimate reward when it is going to a great cause. Our Loudoun athletes deserve the BEST and my goal is to produce fun, quality, revenue generating events for everyone in the county to enjoy. A list of all of our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities can be found under the "calendar of events" section of our website.

If you have any questions or a fundraising idea, please send me an email at fundraising@sovaloudoun.org.

Don't forget to join us on April 16th at our 2nd Annual Casino Night Fundraiser.

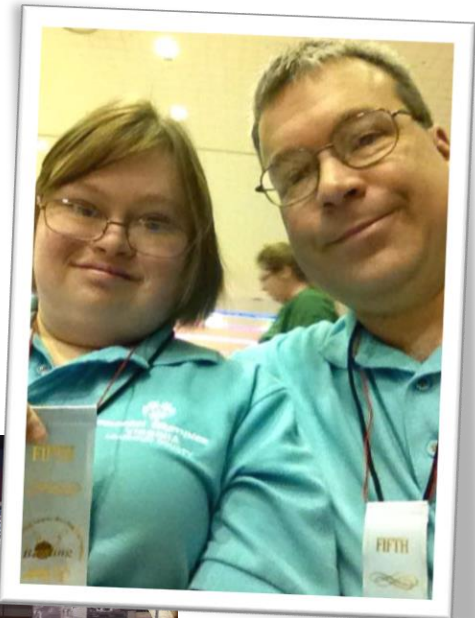
Tickets can be found on <https://www.eventbrite.com>. Sponsorship opportunities are available.



Bowling Goes to Nationals

by Lori Benish

March was an eventful month for two of our Area 14 bowlers, who got to go to a NIT (National Invitational Tournament) in Reno, Nevada. On March 2nd, Carissa and TJ Delitta (team of athlete & partner) competed in pairs and singles bowling. Unfortunately, another team was set to go as well, but was unable to attend last minute. Carissa and TJ powered on, and were able to come away with a 5th place showings and some great memories. They represented our area well- Congratulations!!!



OPEN POSITIONS ON COUNCIL:

***OFFICE-AT-LARGE (BOTH SEATS)**

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

UPCOMING SOVAL EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS:

Special Olympics Virginia - Loudoun County



Cordially invites you to join us for the

2nd Annual Casino Night Fundraiser

Saturday, April 16, 2016

6:00 pm-10:00 pm

The Stone House Community Center

20670 Fernbank Court

Sterling, VA 20165

Package A: \$50 per person Includes \$10,000 in "casino fun money, "unlimited soft drinks, hot & cold hors d'oeuvres

Package B: \$75.00 per person

Includes \$20,000 in "casino fun money, open beer and wine, hot & cold hors d'oeuvres

See Celebrity Dealer

Logan Paulsen of the Washington Redskins

Enjoy Classic Casino games:

Black Jack * Poker * Craps * Roulette

Silent Auction Items, DJ Entertainment, Good food and Great fun! Adults Only Event, must be 18 years or older to attend.

To purchase tickets, visit our website at:

www.sovaloudoun.org

Proceeds benefit the Special Olympic Athletes of Loudoun County

For more information, contact Karin Aaron

fundraising@sovaloudoun.org

Sponsorship Opportunities are available



Volunteer Fundraising Opportunity!

Virginia Wine Country Half Marathon

We are partnering with Destination Races again this year and volunteering for their Virginia Wine Country 1/2 Marathon. We will receive \$50 for every volunteer. You can register to handout water, fill goody bags, be a course marshal, assist with registration, and many other things. Supervised children age 10 and over qualify. We have 150 positions to fill and you may register for more than one position so long as they do not overlap. Athletes are encouraged to volunteer for this event as well.

Dates: Friday June 3 & Saturday June 4, 2016

Times: varies depending on shift

Location: varies depending on shift

TO SIGN UP:

Follow the link:

<http://www.imathlete.com/events/EventOverview.aspx?fEID=35988&fQuery=&z=1457636156825>

It will give you a list of positions, check the ones you are interested.

When registering you must notate **Special Olympics** in the box that asks:

"What group/organization (if any) are you affiliated with?"

Special Olympics Virginia- Loudoun County

6th Annual Golf Tournament



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



Monday July 18th, 2016

8am-3pm

Raspberry Falls Golf & Hunt Club

41601 Raspberry Drive, Leesburg VA 20176

Tickets and Pricing Info Coming Soon

Pearson Smith Realty
Cordially invites you to join us for the

6th Annual Golf Tournament Benefitting Special Olympics Virginia- Loudoun County

Check SOVALOUDOUN.org and Our Facebook for more details, coming soon!

For more information, contact Eric Pearson Eric@e4realty.com

Sponsorship Opportunities are available!

WINTER SPORTS UPDATES:



Basketball (Dan Dillon):

What a year for the Basketball Program. With 116 participants we were busy every week during the season from December to March. There was tremendous growth in the program especially in the Skills Development group where we had a total of 24 athletes participate in weekly skill development training learning the basics of running, catching, dribbling and shooting the basketball. Katie Balanc, a teacher, led this part of the program and did a tremendous job. The Cool Spring Elementary School gym was electric with energy and happy faces every Saturday morning at 8:30 and we were all sad when it was the last practice. The Gophers represent the first level of team competition with facilitated games being played by athletes who are ready to learn game skills. The Gophers have 14 athletes who played in the Loudoun tournament and also had two great unified scrimmages with boys' basketball teams who came to our practice and had a great time with our gang. It was a great year for the Gophers who showed phenomenal improvement in game skills this season. The half court program was solid with two teams, the Top Guns and the Gentle Giants. These teams competed in all tournaments and did very well. The half court part of the program is well suited to athletes with less mobility and is competitive but very friendly at the same time. Our teams exhibited outstanding sportsmanship and effort over the course of the year. The traditional full court program is where we have the largest participation overall. The seven full court teams cover a broad range of skills and abilities but they all share a common love for the game and competitive spirit. Don't make the mistake of taking it easy against any of them, they

will steal the ball or make the shot before you know what happened. The exuberant youth of the program is represented by the Wizards and Blazes who have been playing together for the past 4-5 years. They are a cohesive and friendly group that comes into the gym with a smile and leaves the same way at the end of practice. These athletes are all in the 14-17-year-old age range. The more experienced teams include the Fun Bunch, Thunder, Mavericks and Lancers. Each of these teams is very competitive in their divisions with the Lancers competing at the highest levels in the State. We are fortunate that each team has great leadership among the players and also among the coaching staff, most of whom are current or former competitive basketball players themselves. We could not have a program like this without amazing volunteers. I would estimate that over the course of the season we had over seventy-five different volunteers supporting our program with a minimum of 50 participating on any given weekend. It is especially gratifying to see many young people under the age of 18 really get involved and make a difference. It was another great season, one that we hope we can top next year!

Bowling:

Bowling was on a roll in 2016! We had a total of 59 registered bowlers, and everyone that came out had a great time honing their skills on the lanes. In January, we sent 12 bowlers to Fanquest- the Winter Championships for Bowling, on the 16th and 17th. Fanquest is held each year in Northern Virginia and is a fun event for everyone. This year it took place in our backyard, the Bowl America in Sterling, VA. SOVAL was also lucky enough to be selected to send a team to NITs this year (see the article for more information on page 4). Looking forward to the spring season that will be starting again at Village Lanes, in Leesburg, on April 3rd between 1-4pm. We hope to see many of the same faces and hopefully a few new ones as well. Until then, happy bowling!



Spring Sports Have Started -Register Now!

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

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

Sport	Practice Day	Practice Time(s)	Location
 Swimming Activity # 341723-01	Tuesday & Saturday Practice begins March 12	Tuesday 7:30-8:30 PM Saturday 3-4:30 PM	Claude Moore 46105 Loudoun Park Lane Sterling, VA 20164
 Cardinals Unified Softball Activity # 341723-02	Monday & Saturday Practice begins April 11	Monday 6-7:30 PM Saturday Games vary. Most fields are in Fairfax	Francis Hazel Reid 800 N King St Leesburg VA 20176
 Rangers Softball Activity # 341723-03	Monday & Saturday Practice begins April 11	Monday 6-7:30 PM Saturday Games vary. Most fields are in Fairfax	Potomac Falls HS Field 3 46400 Algonkian Parkway Potomac Falls, VA 20165





 Golf Skills Activity # 341723-04	Thursday Practice: May 5- June 23	6:30-7:30 PM	Brambleton Golf Course 42180 Ryan Road Ashburn, VA 20148
 Bocce Activity # 341723-05	Monday Practice begins April 11	6:30-8 PM	Shoes Cup & Cork 17 N King St, Leesburg, VA 20176
 Track & Field Activity # 341723-06	Saturday Practice begins April 2	9-10:15 AM	Heritage HS 520 Evergreen Mills Rd, Leesburg, VA 20175
 Bowling Activity # 341723-08	Sunday Practice begins April 3	1-4 PM	Village Lanes 49 Catocin Circle SE Leesburg, VA 20175

PHOTO MEMORIES AND HIGHLIGHTS:



GO AREA 14!



Winter Sports may be over, but Spring Sports are around the corner!



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
OPEN*, Member at Large
*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 friend-ship 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.