

Special Olympics Seminole County

Seminole Spirit

February 2007

407-263-8043

www.SpecialOlympicsSeminoleCounty.org

.....**UPCOMING DATES**.....

February 1: Management Team Meeting
February 9-10: Basketball Sectionals: Patrick Air Force Base

March 1: Management Team Meeting
March 3: Summer Sports- County Games
March 9-10: Basketball States
March 24: Summer Sports- Area Games
March 25: Sparklers perform at the Morning Star Bazaar
March 30-31: Sparklers compete in JamFest Nationals

.....**SPORTS TALK**.....

HIGHLIGHTS

County Games (Jan.7th) - Basketball

Seminole County hosted the first competition of the season at Lake Brantley South. Orange and Volusia County teams also participated. CONGRATULATIONS to all the teams! Special Thanks to Mindy, Nin and all those who helped make this tournament a success.

Area Games (Jan. 20th) – Basketball

Held at Southwest Middle School, all of the teams played great! Up next the Sectional Tournament in Brevard County / Patrick Air Force Base...CONGRATULATIONS to the Hawks and Raptors who will be representing Seminole County.

WINDING DOWN

Basketball

Practice will continue at LMHS for the advancing teams - Hawks and Raptors. Practice times will be moved to 1pm-3pm. Sectionals will be held at Patrick Air Force Base on February 9-10. State Games will be held on March 9-10 in Orlando. Good Luck Hawks and Raptors - Bring Home the GOLD!!

STARTING UP

Bocce

Practice: Sundays 1:00 – 3:00pm Westmonte

Coached by Dani Lundy and Ben Lupo.

Athletes: **Mike Badders, Debbie Bechtold, Ken Davis, John Harrington, Nathan Maldon McCrumb, Jeff Sabon, Matt Young, Valorie Sutton**

Cycling

Practice: Saturdays 9:00 – 11:00am (starting Feb. 17th) Lake Mary High School

Coached by Angel Hernandez and Assistant Robert Caldwell

Athletes: **Sammie Sheldon, Monica Hernandez, Eden Fulmer and Nealesh Manapragada**

Tennis *New!*

Practice: Westmonte Park Saturdays 1:00 – 3:00pm

Coached by Moses Manjenqua

Athletes: **Courtney Bredahl, Kristin Costanzo, George Gibson, Hope Lloyd, Michael Martin**

Track n Field

Practice: Saturdays 9:00 – 11:00am Lake Mary High School

Coached by Wayne Tarkenton and Mindy Setzer

Athletes: **Danny Braun, Joanne Counselis, Trenton Cox, Samantha Diaz, Dominique Diehl, Charbel “Bubba” El-Khoury, Chris Friedman, David Gebera, Jason Green, Ashley Haward, Sam Haward, Richard Hearn, Aaron Hudson, Jessica Lomba, Terry Juhl, Richard Mendala, Stephen Miller, Mark Preston, Clayton Ruffing, Mike Scrimenti, Graham Sumner, Lori Tarkenton, David Wright**

Volleyball

Practice: Saturdays 9:00 - 11:00am Lake Mary High School

Coached by Brian Nyberg and Assistant Coaches Iris Nyberg and Mike Badders

Unified Partners: **Joey Badders, Billy Dahlstrom, Nin El Khoury, Juan Saavera, Andrea Nyberg**

Athletes: **Rosalie Allen, James Jamrock, Brett Jones, Tammi Schlier, Shiela Lehew, Jackie Nyberg, Victoria Ordonez, Dustin Parramore, Eduardo Penedo, Eric Taylor, Danielle Batchler, Wayne Field**

YEAR ROUND

Cheerleading

Morning Star Bazaar

Sparklers will be performing on March 25, 2007. This event will take place at Morning Star School from noon-4pm. There will be games, entertainment, silent auction, raffle prizes, plant sale, “trash & treasure”, and more!

JamFest Nationals

Sparklers will be competing in the JamFest Nationals in Ft. Lauderdale on March 30-31. They will be bringing two squads, totaling over 30 athletes!! Good Luck Sparklers!!

**If you would like more information about an individual sport please call 407-263-8043
or email info@SpecialOlympicsSeminoleCounty.org**

For updated times and practice info, please visit our website

www.specialolympicsseminole.org/calendar

UPCOMING COMPETITION

SUMMER GAMES:

COUNTY GAMES: 3-3-07

Orange County – Lake Highland

9:00am – 3:00pm

AREA GAMES: 3-24-07

Orange County – Freedom High School

9:00am – 3:00pm

For Updates and More Information Please Visit the Website

www.specialolympicsseminolecounty.org/calendar

.....ATHLETES IN ACTION.....

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Philip Aho, Mike Badders, Kay Evans, Matt Young, Michael Gard, Elizabeth Johnson,
Donna Sorrentino, David Wright, Janna Maresco

ATHLETE INPUT COUNCIL

Special Olympics Seminole County has started an Athlete Input Council. They met for the first time in early January and presented many great concerns to our Management Team. This council will meet monthly to discuss many important issues and help improve the quality of training and competition to our athletes in Seminole County.

Congratulations to our new leaders!

**Wayne Field, Eric Taylor, Monica Hernandez, Aaron Hudson,
Mike Badders, Chris Friedman, Richard Mendola, and Meggan Van Loon**

Athletes interested in becoming a member should contact:

Debbie Taylor at 407-699-4776 or DTaylor@SpecialOlympicsSeminoleCounty.org

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

BRETT JONES

Brett Jones considers himself to be a rapper and a star. Others have referred to him as a storyteller, an event coordinator, and the PR person for Walt Disney World. If possible, Brett would be at Walt Disney World every day. He has to be reminded that his dad only works there and does not own the company.

He is very active, sociable, talkative, and enjoys being the center of attention. With these characteristics, he does well with the various activities offered by Special Olympics. He has participated in basketball, golf, swimming, volleyball, powerlifting, bowling, and much to his dad's dismay, cheerleading and bellydancing.

Brett is also involved in the *Angels Among Us* program offered at St. Mary Magdalen Church. Aside from the physical aspects of Special Olympics, Brett is learning to build and grow relationships, and the importance of teamwork. We are thankful for each coach, volunteer, parent, and athlete that give of their time, and have shown kindness, patience and proper guidance. God Bless You All!

.....COACHES CORNER.....

Coaches Meeting

Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at the Altamonte Mall Cops Center at 6:30pm. It is located just inside the mall entrance between Penney's and Macy's on the Central Parkway side of the mall. If you can not attend, need directions or have any other concerns,

Contact: Dani Lundy at 407-571-8813 or DKLundy@altamonte.org

.....VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN.....

VOLUNTEER VOICES

Wayne Tarkenton

Lori and I entered the Special Olympics in 1987 and she has done about everything that there is as far as sports go. Lori won several State gold medals in gymnastics until she had to have spinal fusion. Lori and I have been involved in basketball, track and

field, and swimming as well. A typical week for Lori is: Monday – bowling, Thursday - square dancing, Saturday – basketball, track and swimming

Lori and I have a custom made wooden cabinet in the living room with all her medals and ribbons from over the years and there are a lot of them!!!

Special Olympics has been a God-Send for Lori, she loves the activities so much, but mostly she loves the athletes and the time she spends with them. Lori and Mark Preston have been in the Special Olympics from the beginning and have been best friends since they were five years old.

I started out as a helper, then started coaching the basketball events. Five years ago I took over the track team and moved up to head coach when my dear friend Bill Bonnett stepped down after a battle with cancer. The Bonnetts never had a child in Special Olympics. They were out there for the love of the kids, and what a devotion it was and still is. I sometimes have a sad moment when I think about the GREAT coaches and people who I have worked with in the Seminole County Special Olympics that are no longer with us in body. They will always be here in spirit however and their contributions to our beloved county will NOT be forgotten. I think of Mrs. Helms who helped me chaperone and coach. What a great lady. I think of Mrs. Levine who was so good and who fought so hard for so long. May God bless these two wonderful ladies. I thank God for healing Bill Bonnett from cancer, and I especially thank God for healing me from cancer. I was diagnosed on October 30th, and it has been the longest fall season of my life. I started the day either crying or praying and just hoping for more time to spend with my four kids and three grandchildren. I really missed being out there for basketball season! I spent many moments thinking about all the different setbacks that our athletes have had and yet when we are together you would never know the challenges they face each day. These wonderful kids have fun, are happy and enjoy everything that God gives them. I have often thought that not only are these kids special, but their parents are as well. I believe God gives special kids to special parents.

When I started out in Special Olympics everything was for the love of the kids, however Special Olympics is big business now with rules and regulations that would rival the Marines. I just hope the people in charge never forget what Special Olympics is really all about.

Debbie Taylor is one heck of a county coordinator as well as a great person .and we're lucky to have her.

Wayne Tarkenton and his daughter Lori

.....FUNDRAISERS.....

THANK YOU to all the families, athletes and coaches who helped raise money during the Annual Publix Torch Run!

*For Year-Round Fundraising Programs and Special Events Please Visit:
www.specialolympicsflorida.org*

....EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Shriner's Circus

Tickets have been ordered for the Shriner's Circus!

Tickets Available for Sunday Only!

Please contact Debbie Taylor for tickets at 407-699-4776 or DTaylor@SpecialOlympicsSeminoleCounty.org

Saturday April 21 @ 10:00am – **Sold Out** Sunday April 22 @ 10:00am Sunday April 22 @ 7:00pm

Morning Star School's 17th Annual Bazaar

March 24th 7am – 2pm -----“Trash n Treasure” and Plant Sale
March 25th 10am – 4pm - Plant Sale, Craft Items, Country Store,
“Trash n Treasure” Entertainment and Food!
Silent Auction and Raffle too!

Morning Star School is a not-for-profit organization that has touched the lives of more than 1,500 special needs children, including many of our own athletes living in Central Florida since 1960!

For more information or to purchase Raffle Tickets, please contact

Kevin Lajeunesse, 407-257-7730 or email KLajeunesse@SpecialOlympicsSeminoleCounty.org or

Nin El-Khoury, 407-929-7254 or email to Rel-khoury@SpecialOlympicsSeminoleCounty.org

“Angels Among Us”

Father Tom Smith, Elsie Doughty, Lisa Cioffi-Adler, Frank Corso and Diane Della Piazza, along with 23 wonderful “Angels” from St. Mary Magdalen and neighboring churches, are currently practicing for their next performance at Annunciation Catholic Church in April. Many of our talented athletes take to the stage in this wonderful experience of song dance and comedy.

Victoria Aldred, Katie Byrnes, Alicia Cepero, Courtney Coil, Kristin Costanzo, Adriana Kenny, Katie Morrica, Eduardo Penedo, Lisa Ramos, Mathew Roszak

And new participants for ‘07’: **Charbel “Bubba” El-Khoury, Mark Preston Ashley Magill Brett Jones and Michael Martin**

For tickets to the performance at Annunciation, please contact

Barb Costanzo at 407-578-6405 or email: barbc@cfl.rr.com

.....COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS.....

This section of our newsletter will help others connect with all of the happenings within our community. Have something you want to share with everyone? Let us know and we will add it to our Community Section!

Special Needs Swim Lessons offered at RDV SPORTSPLEX

Great training for athletes who wish to participate in Special Olympics Swim Season but can't swim yet.

<u>Learn to Swim-Levels 1-6 ages 5 to 12</u>					
Session Dates	Session Days	Times	Frequency	RDV member fees	Non-member fees
March 3- April 21	Saturday only	8:30-9am or 9-9:30am or 9:30-10am	1 day/wk	\$70	\$95
<u>Learn to Swim-Levels 1-6 ages 13 through adult</u>					
Session Dates	Session Days	Times	Frequency	RDV Member fees	Non-member fees
March 3- April 21	Saturday only	8:30-9am	1 day/wk	\$70	\$95
Lessons taught by RDV Swim Instructor and Special Olympics Swim Coach - Debbie Harger Sign Up with Ruthanne Dornon, RDV Aquatics Team Leader, 407-916-2506					

City Of Altamonte Special Community Services

Provides many social outlets for individuals with physical and mental disabilities!

Upcoming Events:

Special Needs Bowling on Mondays

Specials NightBird Dance at Westmonte Park

STOP Field Trip to the Strawberry Festival

Square Dancing on Thursdays

Friday March 16, 2007 at 7pm (St. Patty's Day)

Saturday March 3, 2007 at 9am-4pm

For More Information contact Nin El-khoury, 407-571-8814 or Rrel-khoury@altamonte.org

Dance –Abilities

Turning Pointe – A Dance Studio offers a class entitled Dance Abilities for children with special needs. This class focuses on coordination, balance, and creative movement. The children have so much fun and they meet many other dancers just like them. The dancers range in age from 4-12 years old. Classes have started, so please stop by to check it out and register! There is only a \$20 registration fee for the year because the class is FREE!

If you have any further questions call Heather Meyer at 407-862-5500 or email Turningpte@aol.com

Nathaniel's Hope

Sharing "The Hope" with Special Needs Kids and Their Families

"Buddy Breaks" Helping Parents Take a Time Out!

Many dates available for you to take a break!

For More Information Call 407-857-8224 or email info@nathanielshope.org

Illiad

Independent Living Initiative Assisting the Disabled

This program assists students in Central Florida in developing the skills that will promote a positive transition from high school into the adult world. *"Building the Future With the Success For Today!"*

For More Information Call: 407-320-0016 or email Shari_Gray@scps.k12.fl.us

SEPTA

Special Education Parent Teacher Association in Seminole County Public Schools

"Dedicated as a resource for parents and teachers committed to the education and optimal development of children of every exceptionality"

For More Information Call the SEPTA Resource Room: 407-320-7871 or scpssepta@excite.com

The Autism Society of Greater Orlando

Provides a lifetime network of opportunities to become fully accepted, included and actively participating members of our community, through family support, education, advocacy and public awareness.

Autism Every Day is a new film produced by Lauren Thierry and Jim Watkins of October Group and Eric Solomon of Milestone Video. The film was screened at *A New Decade for Autism: Changing the Future Together* a fundraising event held May 9, 2006 in New York City, and subsequently broadcast by Don Imus on his show on MSNBC.

For More Information Please Call 407-855-0235 or visit www.asgo.org

Devereux Florida Center for Child Development

The DCCD is a new program with Devereux Florida that provides Applied Behavior Analysis services to children ages birth-22 years that are diagnosed with developmental disabilities, learning, and/or behavioral challenges.

For More Information Please Call: 407-855-0235 or Visit www.devereux.org

UCP of Central Florida

Serving kids with all types of special needs, including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, speech and developmental delays and vision and hearing impairments. Their unique programs provide an exceptional environment for children and families to learn and more importantly grow. Their holistic approach to support, education, and therapy provides "one stop shopping" to over 2,300 children who receive all the services they need in one place

For More Information Regarding Their Services Call 407-889-4530 or www.ucpcdc.org

Advisory Board for the Disabled

A very important spoke in the total wheel that assists the disabled population of Central Florida is that of the Advisory Board for the Disabled, Inc. This non profit organization has been around for over 25 years and plans on working for the community for at least another 25 years.

Programs such as S.T.O.P. (Saturday Time Out for Parents), Nightbird dances, Therapeutic Pool and Financial Assistance to those in the Central Florida area that are disabled are the major programs of this organization. Fund raisers throughout the year including the very popular Spaghetti dinner being held at Eastmonte Park on Friday, February 16, 2007 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM help raise the necessary money to allow this organization (which is totally made up of volunteers) to continue the above programs and others throughout our local communities. If you are interested in any of the above programs or would like to offer assistance, please contact Vinnie Coon at 407-575-8812.

Quest, Inc

Quest inspires and empowers Central Floridians with disabilities by offering choices and opportunities to learn, live, work and play. Quest is the largest non-profit organization of its kind in Central Florida, assisting over 1,000 people with disabilities in Orange, Seminole, Osceola and Hillsborough counties. Through Quest's comprehensive family of services, children, and adults imagine and achieve their full capabilities.

For More Information Regarding Their Services Call 407-889-4530 or visit, www.questinc.org

.....SPONSOR OF THE MONTH.....

RDV SPORTSPLEX

The RDV Sportsplex has been "home" to our aquatics program for 6 years.

This partnership has not gone unrecognized, as we are proud to say that our aquatics program has been featured in the recent issue of the *Sportsplex Illustrated!*

We appreciate their continual support of SOSOC!

If you are interested in getting a copy please send email request to

newsletter@specialolympicsseminolecounty.org

.....MANAGEMENT TEAM.....

Meetings are on the first Thursday of the month at 6pm at:

Parkside Fellowship Church of Nazarene, 200 North Wayman Street, Longwood FL 32750

From Casselberry/Altamonte take 17-92 and make a LEFT onto 434. Make a RIGHT at the first light, Wayman.

Go through the first stop sign, you will see the church on your left. Pass the church and turn LEFT down the next street (by the Fire Station). You want to enter the last doorway of the church.

.....COMMUNICATION.....

Has your Contact Information Changed? If you are an athlete, coach, volunteer, sponsor, or a community partner, please let us know if your information needs to be updated. Please send all changes to 407-263-8043 or info@SpecialOlympicsSeminoleCounty.org or visit: <http://specialolympicsseminolecounty.org/UpdateInfo>

.....CONTROL "YOUR" NEWS.....

Newsletters are published on the 10th of every month. To add content for the E-newsletter, please submit information by the 5th of every month. Information on upcoming events, jokes, quotes, anecdotes, or any other related information is welcome! Contact Kevin Lajeunesse for any newsletter related questions: 407-257-7730 KLajeunesse@SpecialOlympicsSeminoleCounty.org or visit the website to submit your information electronically: <http://www.specialolympicsseminolecounty.org/MonthlyENewsletter.html> (Scroll to the bottom of the page)



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