

# The Winner

March 2013

Volume 14, Issue 1

**Special  
Olympics  
Maryland**  
St. Mary's County



## Winter Games is Exciting Event

Hundreds of Special Olympics Maryland athletes, coaches and volunteers took part in the 2013 Winter Games, held at Whitetail Resort in Mercersburg, PA, on February 25-26, 2013. The two days of competition included events for alpine skiers and snowshoe athletes and the results are in.

Alpine skiing included events for novice, intermediate and advanced levels across twelve different events. Snowshoeing included thirteen different events, between both individual races and relays.

Special Olympics athletes from St. Mary's County competed in Alpine Skiing and Snowshoe at SOMD's 2013 Winter Games. Skier Kayla Woolridge competed in the novice category on a monoski. She skied independently through the gates. Thirteen counties competed in addition to ours: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Lower Shore, Montgomery, and Washington.



*The St. Mary's County Delegation to the 2013 Winter Games poses just prior to the two days of competition.*

### HIGHLIGHTS

- > **Basketball season off to a great start**
- > **Spring Sports training schedules are set**
- > **Upcoming Fundraisers**
- > **Skiing and Snowshoeing ends in style**
- > **Fall sports were amazing**

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## **SPRING GAMES is Tuesday April 30**

**Rain date: Wednesday May 1**

***Please make sure we have a current medical.  
If not, schedule a doctor's appointment now!***

### **Mark Your Calendar:** (more details inside)

**Score Day - April 10 - Volunteers needed**

**Cash Bash 2013 - a fun day of friends, food and games of chance**

**Summer Games - June 7, 8 and 9th - Towson University**

**Sports Banquet - July 21**

### **Visit our Web Site**

[www.StMarysSO.org](http://www.StMarysSO.org)

### **Need more info?**

[somdsmc@md.metrocast.net](mailto:somdsmc@md.metrocast.net)

Phone: 301-481-7049

# 2013 Spring Sports Training

## SWIMMING



Starts: Sunday, March 3 6pm—Beginners; 7pm—Advanced at Great Mills Pool  
Local Tournament: May 5 for at Great Mills Pool  
State Tournament: June 8 and 9  
Coach: Lynne Baker, 240-925-3720

## TRACK and FIELD



Starts: Saturday, March 30 9 to 10 am Group 1 \* 10 to 11:30 am Group 2 \*  
Where: Great Mills High School  
Local Tournament: Spring Games April 30  
State Tournament: June 7, 8, 9 at Towson Univ.  
\*Contact Mary Lu Bucci for more information: 301-373-3469

## SOFTBALL



Starts: Saturday, April 6  
Local Competitions to be announced. Spring Games Competition: April 30  
State Tournament: June 7, 8, 9 at Towson University  
Coach: Jim Hawkins, 301-472-1908

## BOCCE



Starts: Thursday, April 4 6:00 pm—7:30 pm  
Location: Chancellors Run Regional Park  
Spring Games Competition: April 30 Charles County tournament: TBD  
State Tournament: June 7, 8, 9 at Towson University  
Contact Connie Thompson for more information: 301-481-7049

## EQUESTRIAN



Starts: March  
Where: Greenwell State Park, Hollywood  
State Competition will be in June at Prince George's Equestrian Center  
Contact Connie NOW if you are interested

## FALL SPORTS

Looking ahead to fall sports training and competition schedules.

### Kayaking, Golf, Cycling, Soccer, Flag Football & Bowling

Kayaking and golf will begin practices in late July with State competitions tentatively set for the end of September. There was some talk of moving kayaking back to a summer sport, but as of right now it is scheduled for the fall. If this changes we will let you know!

Cycling, Soccer, and Flag Football will begin in August with State competition in mid-October. Watch for the next newsletter for registration forms.

Bowling will begin in late August or early September with Regional competition in early November and State competition late November or early December.

# Cycling is a Moving Sport!!



*Kennedy McReynolds competed in the 2K and 5K races.*



*Ashley Stein motors down the scenic course during her 1K race.*



*Joshua Fondren used his skills while competing in the 2K and 5K races.*

Cycling is a skill of strength, endurance, and lots of peddling. This summer and fall, over 30 athletes trained at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. To demonstrate their skills, they participated in two qualifiers — one in Sykesville and one locally. Our local event attracted athletes from Anne Arundel, Lower Shore, Howard, and Montgomery counties. With the diligent help and support of the Pax River Police Department, St. Mary's held a quality event.

This year's state tournament was held at the Fall Sports Festival in Emmitsburg, MD, specifically at the Federal Emergency Management Association facility.

The scenic tree-lined driveways became the venue for intense cycling competition. Each athlete participated in two events. The athletes made their coaches proud.

A special thanks to Coaches Jim Russell and Jeff Hagen and to all of the parents, friends and families who traveled with our athletes.

We would also like to acknowledge the athletes who trained at the local level. Great Job Everyone!



*Corey Woodland joined cycling for the first time. He enjoyed the 2K and 5K races.*



*Joe Quade races against an Anne Arundel athlete during the 2K race.*



*Coach Jim Russell thanks representatives from the NAWCAD Coast Guard detachment who helped with the local competition.*

*Michael Vannoordt and Andy Thompson pedal their 3-wheel bikes in the 1K race.*





## Fundraisers Pay Off in 2012

*Thanks to the Sponsors of  
The 21st Annual Golf Tournament*

*Advantica / Cigna  
RJ Princinsky,  
Curtis Tire Center,  
Knights of Columbus #1470,  
and PNC Bank*



*to Benefit The Center for Life Enrichment and  
Special Olympics St. Mary's County*

With over 120 golfers, many hole sponsors, 12 major sponsors and over 100 door prizes and auction items, this year's Golf Tournament was once again a huge success. The weather cooperated, the food was fabulous and the golfers enjoyed the course at Wicomico Country Club.

Special Olympics St. Mary's County received over \$8,000 from the proceeds. A special thanks to Debbie Hammann who donated the entire cost of foot.

Special thanks to Patty and everyone at Wicomico, the Staff at the Center for Life, all the volunteers who brought in sponsors and prizes and especially to all the golfers who came out to support this worthwhile endeavor.

This first time event which took place in late September brought in over two hundred dollars for St. Mary's County athletes! In addition to raising money, everyone who supported the event got to enjoy a delicious dinner (and no dishes to clean!). And it made for an extra special birthday for athlete Andy Thompson!! Thanks to everyone who was there!

### ***What does it mean to be a***



### ***Member Agency?***

Well, for starters, about \$7500! That is the amount of money that was donated to Special Olympics St. Mary's County through the United Way of St. Mary's County.

By being a Member Agency, we enjoy the recognition of the respected United Way program, plus they handle all of the promotions and paperwork for the United Way Campaign. Then they send us the check!

It is also a forum for us to get to know other non-profit organizations, share information and ideas and receive valuable information about what is going on in our county in terms of fundraising and support for citizens in need.

We proudly display the United Way logo on all of our promotional pieces.

## Prediction Race 2012 Results

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the Annual Chesapeake Bay Running Club's Thanksgiving Prediction Run/Walk and 5K Race on November 17th!

Over \$2000 was raised for Special Olympics St. Mary's County. The event featured a traditional 5k run, a 3.1 mile fun walk/run and the Prediction Race, which is won by the runner who comes closest to finishing their race in the time that they predict before the race.

A special thanks goes to event sponsor Spaulding Consulting in Lexington Park.

This year several of our athletes and families participated. Start planning now for next year. We want to improve our athlete participation.

## Golf Athletes Excel at State Tournament

Blue Mash Golf Course in Olney hosted the Special Olympics State Golf Skills Competition on September 29.

"The athletes all played at the top of their game, showing off some of their best shots of the year," remarked Coach Joe Feehan. Along with Cabott Cashwell and Butch Kiou, Feehan trained the golfers in skills at Wicomico Shores Golf Course. April Towler and Keith Stamp received gold medals and Charles Windsor, as a first year golfer, placed fourth.



"Throughout the competition they cheered each other on and at the end of the day, they all celebrated each other's accomplishments," noted Feehan. Also training all season at

Wicomico were level 2 and 3 athletes. They competed in the State Competition on September 30 at the Chesapeake Bay Golf Club North East. Level 2 play consists of nine hole rounds with alternating shots by a Special Olympics athlete and a partner. Competing in level 2 were Joey Owens and Brian Tierney (Silver Medal), Russell Bucci and Paul Guy (Bronze Medal) and Andrew Gill and Paul Rambish (4<sup>th</sup>). Eighteen holes of golf with alternate shots by athlete and partner were played by level 3 team Jimmy Hawkins and Bill Lowe placing them in first with a score of 97. With that effort they achieved their personal best score at the state competitions.



## Kayaking Moves to a Fall Season Sport

After ten weeks of training at Greenwell State Park and regional qualifiers in Chestertown, the kayak team finished the season with an abbreviated State Competition in Sykesville on October 6th. With the exception of Kyle Russell's gold medal performance in the top division of the 500 meter race and Rebecca Elwell's silver medal 500 meter race, windy weather limited the competition to 100 meter races. New athlete Kennedy McReynolds and returning kayaker Isaac Weiser won gold medals in their races. The duo of athlete Brady Carrigan and partner Brian Hartz won gold in their unified race. Receiving silver medals were Joshua Fondren, Michelle Johnson, Karla Kless and Jeremy Degler. Visually impaired athlete April Mielcarek came home with a gold medal, racing solo in a traditional kayak with a "shadow" kayak next to her giving her instructions to stay on course.

A special thanks to Greenwell State Park for the use of their facilities and to the volunteers from Patuxent River Medical Clinic who helped our athletes prepare for this event.



*The 2012 Kayak Team. From left to right, first two rows: Rebecca Elwell; volunteer Christopher Johnson; Isaac Weiser; coach in training, Austin Russell; Michelle Johnson, April Mielcarek (front); Karla Kless, Wanda Morgan; Kennedy McReynolds; volunteer Nina Merrill, volunteer Erica Toussant.*

*Back row: volunteer Colleen Buckles, Victoria Guthrie, Coach TJ Parkes, volunteer Matt Davis, Kyle Russell, coach Mark Fondren, Jeremy Degler, coach Zech Weaver, volunteer Brock Booth, coach Paul Thurman and Coach Cheryl Carson. Not pictured: Patrick Boyle, Brady Carrigan and Unified Partner Brian Hartz, and coach in training Kayla Woolridge.*

## Knights Support Local Program



*Knights of Columbus Council 1470 of Leonardtown presents Director Connie Thompson with a donation to support the local program. We also received donations from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Council. The Knights work tirelessly every year with their Tootsie Roll campaign to help our program.*



# Flag Football has Extraordinary Season

The St. Mary's flag football team played two great games against the very skilled Emerge Team from Baltimore County. In the first game St. Mary's was down double digits and scored two touchdowns in the final minutes for the 2-point victory. Thomas Smith had a big 4th down stop and Avery Long scored the winning touchdown with a pass from Anthony Cyrus with under a minute to go.

The second game was tight, until Avery fired a long-touchdown pass to Shaun Ridley. After a quick defensive stop, the game was broken open by another long touchdown pass -- this time Anthony Cyrus to Larry Mills. Larry also had two key interceptions. St. Mary's went on to a double-digit victory. The athletes were very happy to receive the gold medal.



*Top Row, left to right: Coach Don Bewick, Sam Huffman, Wil Ridley. Middle row: Brandon Chan, Larry Mills, Avery Long. Front row: Anthony Cyrus, Kegan Zimmerman and Thomas Smith.*

## St. Mary's Flag Football Team Wins the NIRSA



*Left to right: Avery Long, Thomas Smith, Brandon Chan, Larry Mills, Anthony Cyrus, Sam Huffman, Kegan Zimmerman and Shaun Ridley at the NIRSA.*

This was the second year in a row Special Olympic teams competed in the NIRSA (National Intramural Recreational Sports Association) flag football regional championships. The NIRSA event was primarily organized and executed by college students, and the officials were college students -- which qualified it as a NIRSA event.

Special Olympics teams competed at University of Maryland and Southern Illinois University. Two teams from Maryland, and one team each from Cape Code, Mass, and Charlotte, NC completed. Saturday events were played to qualify for Sunday.

Several good plays were made by our athletes. Kegan Zimmerman and Sam Huffman scored multiple touchdowns and Brandon Chan played well at his first time playing QB. Saturday was capped off in an all-star game in which Avery Long and Larry Mills played with and against other Special Olympic athletes and University of Maryland students on the turf fields

under the lights. Both Avery and Larry scored and threw for touchdowns.

On Sunday St. Mary's played the college students. After taking a two touchdown lead including a long pass by Avery to Thomas Smith, the Maryland students fought back and took a 1-point lead. Larry scored the go-ahead touchdown on a long run from a reverse in the final two minutes. Shaun Ridley made the final defensive play to secure the win.

Overall, a great game! Special Olympic athletes and the college students all had a great time. Thanks to Special Olympics Maryland's Sam Hodapp and Melissa Kelly; SO International and the U of Maryland Intramural Sport Department staff and students for a great experience.

The athletes picked up the game really well, and for the most part called their own plays and took charge.

Thanks to Wil Ridley and Marc Rinaldo for helping out at the games and at practices.

In addition to making a lot of great memories on the field, the Flag Football team traveled to the University of Delaware for the Seventh Annual Pig Skin Pass -- a fifty-eight mile relay run on November 3rd.



### Special Thanks to Coach Don Bewick!

Even with a full time job, Don gave 110% to these athletes to give them some fun experiences in 2012!

## Bowling Season is a Success

This year's bowling season was record-setting — it attracted 98 weekly bowlers, 42 regional bowlers, and 21 bowlers who competed at the state level.

Esperanza Bowling Lanes opened its doors weekly from August through October to 98 local bowlers. This is a very popular sport in St. Mary's and often attracts new athletes to Special Olympics. This year, several athletes were new to Bowling and to Special Olympics.

Forty-two local bowlers traveled to Glen Burnie to compete in Maryland's Southern Regional tournament. Our athletes participated in singles and doubles, as well as a few unified double partners. The facility was huge, containing 46 lanes and each were filled with athletes from St. Mary's, Charles, Calvert, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel counties. All athletes who achieved a first or second in this competition were invited to the State Bowling Tournament.

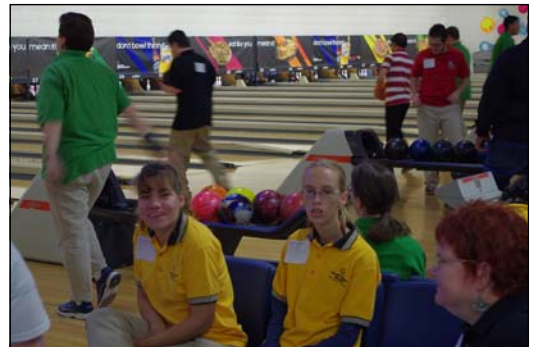
Twenty-one St. Mary's athletes attended the state event on December 3 at Bowl America in Gaithersburg. Again, the facility was huge and filled with competitors from the entire state. St. Mary's representatives did well.



Unified Partner Annette Hartz and Coach Kathie Wright discuss the results at the regional tournament.



Athletes Terri Insley and Trisha Baynard enjoyed the Regional Competition.



Athletes Christy Brinkley and Krissy Flagg wait their turn during the regional bowling event.

## There's still time - Sign up TODAY



McKay's **\$60,000 Community Rewards Giveaway** allows local non-profit groups the opportunity to earn a share of **\$60,000** based on your Gold Card purchases. Simply sign up for the program - then use your Gold Card every time you shop! Last year Special Olympics received over \$900 - we'd like to go for over \$1,000 this year -- but we need your help!

At the end of the program, McKay's will donate **\$60,000** to registered groups based on the percentage of Gold Card purchases credited to them.

Once you register your purchases will be credited to Special Olympics St. Mary's County beginning October 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013. Watch for ways to earn **DOUBLE CONTRIBUTIONS** throughout the year!

### Not Registered Yet?

Go to [www.mycommunityrewards.com](http://www.mycommunityrewards.com) and select **McKAYS** to register your Gold Card with Special Olympics St. Mary's County.





## St. Mary's County 50/50 Lottery Tickets are NOW AVAILABLE!

You have to play to win! To find out how to buy tickets, contact Mary Lu Bucci, 301-373-3469.  
Daily Drawings will begin June 1 and cash prizes will be awarded throughout the month of June.

REGISTRATION FORM

# 2013 BOCCCE

Special Olympics St. Mary's County

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Date of Birth:</b>	
Address: (Street)			
City:		Zip:	
Home Phone: _____		Work Phone: _____	
Cell Phone: _____		E-mail: _____	
<b>**Current School/Agency:</b>		<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Teacher:</b>
List any special needs:		Shoe Size:	Shirt Size:    Pant/Short Size:
<b>Parent/Guardian Signature:</b>			

### PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION IMMEDIATELY TO:

Terrie Carter at The Center for Life Enrichment  
Connie Thompson, 22170 Chesapeake Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Your Classroom Teacher  
Special Olympics - Metro - Green Holly

REGISTRATION FORM

# VOLUNTEER

Special Olympics St. Mary's County

<b>Name:</b>	
Address: (Street)	
City:	Zip:
Phone: Home _____	Phone: Work _____
Cell Phone _____	E-mail _____
<b>Business/Organization:</b>	
<b>Circle the Sport or Event you wish to help with:</b>	

**SPORTS**

Bowling  
Golf

Basketball  
Sailing  
Softball

Skiing  
Kayaking  
Track and Field

Snowshoeing  
Cycling  
Bocce

Aquatics  
Equestrian

**FUNDRAISING & SUPPORT**

Water Sale (Sept)  
Food Committee

Fundraising  
Publicity

Golf Tournament (Sept)  
Cash Bash (May)

Spring Games  
Local Tournaments

Unified Partner in  
\_\_\_\_\_ (sport)  
ALL ages needed!

### PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION IMMEDIATELY TO:

Terrie Carter at The Center for Life Enrichment  
Connie Thompson, 22170 Chesapeake Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Your Classroom Teacher  
Special Olympics - Metro - Green Holly

RETURN REGISTRATION as soon as possible



## Through Your Generosity, Our Athletes Succeed!!

Serving over 300 athletes in St. Mary's County, your local Special Olympics program provides training, equipment, uniforms, transportation, housing and meals at competitions throughout the year - at no cost to our athletes or their families. This is all achieved through the generous donation of time and money by local businesses, charitable organizations, families and individuals. Next time you see one of these folks, be sure to say "Thank You" on behalf of everyone at Special Olympics St. Mary's County.

### **DONATIONS:**

Mary Ellen Elwell  
Price and Rayelene Goldston  
St. Mary's Youth Soccer Shoe Sales  
Kyle Rambo  
Brian Lederhouse  
Eileen Hislop  
in memory of Laurette Bald  
International Association of  
Machinists and Aerospace Workers  
Patuxent River LL 4  
Vilma Grams

Darwin and Barbara Engle  
Knights of Columbus Council #10957  
ZENETEX, LLC on behalf of  
Benny Perez  
Prediction Race Participants and  
sponsor Spaulding Consulting  
Lynne Baker  
United Way of St. Mary's County  
Bennett Building Poker  
**Chesapeake Bay Running Club**

### **FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT & SERVICES**

Greenwell State Park  
for Equestrian & Kayaking  
St. Mary's College of Maryland  
Aquatics and Sailing  
St. Mary's Recreation & Parks—  
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ExpressionsCater@aol.com




All of the St. Mary's County  
Councils who support SOSMC!

# Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24	25 WINTER GAMES	26 WINTER GAMES	27 School Day for Basketball	28	MARCH 1	2
3 Swimming Starts	4	5	6 Local Management Meeting	7	8	9 BB 3v3 Reqd in <u>Howard County</u> Young Adult 5v5 to Carroll County
10 Swimming BB – HS – Reqd in Frederick	11	12	13 Track Coach Meeting 7pm, Center for Life	14	15	16 LOCAL BB Skills Competition
17 Swimming	18	19	20	21	22	23 STATE Basketball 3v3 & Player Dev. Tournament
24 STATE <u>Basketball 5v5</u> Swimming	25	26	27	28	29	30 Track Starts at Great Mills High School
31 EASTER	APRIL 1	2	3 AREA MEETING	4 Bocce Starts	5	6 Track Practice Softball Starts  COACH TRAINING
7 Swimming Field Day at St. Mary's College	8	9	10 School Day for Track and Field	11 Bocce	12	13 Track and Softball Practice
14 Swimming	15	16	17 Rain date for school day	18 Bocce	19	20 Track and Softball Practice
21 Swimming	22	23	24	25 Bocce	26	27 Track and Softball Practice
28 Swimming	29	30 SPRING GAMES	MAY 1 Raindate Spring Games	2	3	4 Track and <u>Softball Practice</u> Swimming Charles Co.
5	6	7	8 AREA MEETING	9	10	11 Track and Softball Practice
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Track & Softball Swimming – PG Cty
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Track and Softball Practice CASH BASH
26	27	28	29	30	31	JUNE 1 Track and Softball Practice
2	3 Memorial Day	4 Sailing Starts	5 SUMMER GAMES COACHES MEETING	6	7	8 SUMMER GAMES
9 SUMMER GAMES	10	11 Sailing	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Sailing	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Sailing	26	27	28	29



Special Olympics St. Mary's County  
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Leonardtown, MD  
20650



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 **APRIL 7th**   
**SPORTS FUN DAY** at St. Mary's College  
**FREE** for Special Olympics athletes  
Look for a flyer coming soon

**Coaches Training for Spring Sports!**  
Saturday, April 6, 2013  
Towson University  
Registration Materials forthcoming

**WINTER GAMES PICTURES**  
Visit Facebook for SOMD.org and see pictures from this year's Winter Games and watch Kayla Woolridge navigate the alpine ski course on a monoski on her own. It is Great Stuff!  
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.4331114157346.2145751.1272019815>



**SAVE THE DATE—MAY 18**  
For the Annual  
**CASH BASH**



the chance to  
win  
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