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WCOSO Spotlight



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# WCOSO Spotlight

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## Washington County Special Olympics Athletes Headed to National Games



Dolly Hall, Candi Blessing, April Reed, and Margie French are headed to the National Games.

Special Olympics MD - Washington County is pleased to announce that four of our athletes have been selected to compete in the 2014 National Games. National Games will be held June

14-21, 2014 in Princeton NJ. **Dolly Hall** and **Margie French** will compete in Bocce after earning gold medals in both singles and doubles at MD Summer Games. **Candi Blessing** will compete in athletics.

She received a gold medal in both Shot Put and the 1500M run at Towson this past June. **April Reed** was selected as an alternate for 10 pin bowling after she earned a gold medal at the state competition. **John Follett** was selected to represent Washington County as Head Coach with our athletes at the National Games.

All training, transportation, uniforms and other expenses are provided at no cost to the individual athlete. However, Special Olympics MD - Washington County will need to raise \$5000 to cover the cost for travel, lodging, and meals for our athletes, and coach to in National Games in NJ. The Sports Management Team is organizing fundraisers to help obtain the needed funds. Any support would be appreciated. Let's make

### Lucky Winners!

**Jennifer Banos** and **Gary Bryan** were the lucky winners of the Thirty-One totes loaded with treats. This was one of our fund-raisers mentioned in our top article. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets!





Candi Blessing in action at the games

**“Candi Blessing, David Blitz, Lee Follett and John Gorrell showed a lot of dedication to the sport throughout the season.”**



**Special Olympics Maryland**

10 PIN BOWLING WAS CANCELLED FOR December 8<sup>th</sup>. Our 10 Pin Bowlers were looking forward to the State Event, but weather conditions made it apparent that conditions were too hazardous for the safety of our athletes, volunteers and family members.

**Candi Blessing Wins Two Gold Medals**



Candi Blessing is competing in her first National Meet after receiving a gold medal in both Shot Put and the 1500 M run at Towson this past June. This Smithsburg native has been running track for nearly twenty years. She has continually stepped up to compete in longer distances. Most recently she has earned a Gold Medal for her dedication to the sport at the Fall Sports competition, earning a Gold Medal in the 5K. During the Summer Games also won silver medals in the shot put and 4x400M relay.

When asked what she likes about running, she replied, “I like getting faster and coming in first.” She will join 13 other athletes traveling from Maryland to compete in the National Games at Princeton NJ,



**Fall Soccer**

This year’s soccer team was a joint effort between Washington County and Frederick County. Coaches, volunteers and parents had to work out the logistics of where to practice and how to get the athletes to the practices and qualifiers. It was also a collaborative effort between all the athletes who had to learn how to work together with former rivals. This effort paid off for everyone. New friendships were made and a gold medal was earned at the Soccer Tournament held in Fruitland, MD on November 2, 2013.



The winning team made up of Washington & Frederick County Athletes. Washington County Athletes **Candi Blessing, David Blitz, Lee Follett and John Gorrell** showed a lot of dedication to the sport throughout the season. They traveled across

county lines to continue to play a sport they loved when there weren’t enough athletes locally to form a team. After winning a close first game against St. Mary’s County, they had to play the same team again to secure the gold. **Congratulations to our GOLD medal traditional soccer team!**

**The Western Regional Bowling Competition** was held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at The Bowler in LaVale. We had 27 athletes go to the completion and eight of those athletes came back with gold medals, six with Silver medals and others with Bronze and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places! The gold and silver medalists were to go to the Gaithersburg competition that ended up being cancelled. Unfortunately, due to a variety of factors (availability of facility, training programs ending their seasons, etc.), there are no plans to reschedule this event.

Gold Medalists: **Michael Barnhart, Kenneth Goins, Dolly Hall, Tommy Jacobson, Martin McDaniel, David Grove, Teresa Vincent, Matt Shaffer** Silver Medalists: **Jennifer Slifer, Nathan Needy, Scott Mills, Tracey Smith, Donnie Sweigert, Michelle Talley**



**National Alternate**

**April Reed** was selected as an alternate for 10 pin bowling after she earned a gold medal at the state competition. We don’t know yet how the alternates will be scheduled since that will be a last minute decision by the National Organization. We’re very proud of **April’s** stellar performance.





**Dolly Hall** and **Margie French** will compete in Bocce after earning gold medals in both singles and

### Twins Win Double!

doubles at the Maryland Summer Games. **Dolly** and **Margie** are twins. They have played bocce and competed at state games for 5 (**Margie**) and 6 (**Dolly**) years. They have both participated in many other sports, currently bowling. They both have completed coach's training in bocce and are very helpful at practice as well as at state games. **Dolly** works at the Walmart McDonalds and **Margie** works at Marshall St School as a lunchtime asst. I was very glad they were both selected for national games.



Only 4 women from MD are going in bocce. What are the chances they'd both be selected?



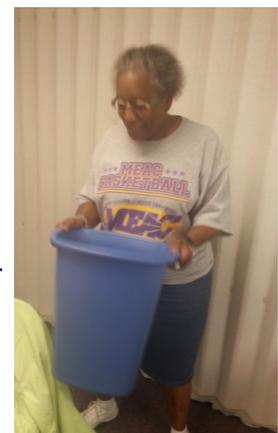
**Cheryl Morgan** joined the Sports Management Group to set up our Celebrating Home Fundraiser. This is another way we were able to raise funds for our athletes heading to the Nationals.

### Finish Line Promotes Special Olympics



Finish Line contacted Washington County's Special Olympics Coach John Follett asking him to select 2 of our athletes who played basketball or ran track to be fitted for shoes and receive them FREE of charge. John decided it was best to pick athletes who did both. So Michael Barnhart and Lee Follett were treated to tours of the facility by Dylan and Darryl. Shelby, the manager joined them and all were awed by the wonderful treatment.

*"...all the athletes had to learn how to work together with former rivals."*



**Marva Davis** shakes up all the raffle tickets for the two large Thirty-On filled totes. That tub was pretty full, but of course, we could only have two winners! Those two lucky people are mentioned on page one.



### Long Distance Running, Coached by John Follett

Long Distance Running (LDR) had another successful season. There were four athletes new to the sport, and one that was new to Special Olympics. Practices were held at the Leitersburg Ruritan Community Park in Leitersburg, MD. Athletes attended qualifiers in Montgomery County and here in Washington County. Congratulations to all the athletes that came out week

after week and tried to do their best.

**Results of the State tournament held at Mount St. Mary's on October 19, 2013:**

- Candi Blessing** Gold 5K
- Bobby Strothers** Gold 3K
- Brandon Groomes** Gold 3K
- Sean Thompson** Gold 800M
- Tori Nails** Silver 800M
- Tiffany Moore** Gold 800M

## Our Coaches for Last Qtr



**Long Distance Running**  
August - October  
**SNOWSHOEING**  
December - February  
Coach John Follett  
240-675-2932



**FLOOR HOCKEY**  
November - February  
**BASKETBALL**  
January - March  
5v5  
Coach Jay Seipler  
301-791-0400



**BASKETBALL**  
January - March  
3v3  
**Duck Pin Bowling**  
October - April  
Coach Toni Nelson  
301-766-8221



**10 PIN BOWLING LEAGUE**  
September - April  
Pat Boward  
301-582-1384

### Upcoming Events:

**January 5:** Snowshoeing starts  
**January 6:** Basketball starts at

Salvation Army Gym

**January 20:** Skills starts

**February 1:** Bowl-A-Thon

**February 23:** State Duckpin Bowling Winter Games at South

Side

**February 24-25:** Winter

Games

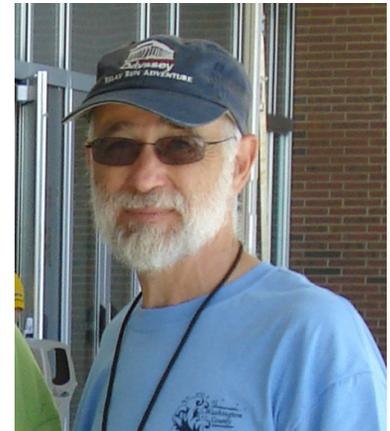
**March 8:** Basketball Qualifier at

St James

The Mission of Special Olympics in Washington County is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for citizens with mental and physical 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.

## National Games Athletics Coach – John Follett

John Follett has been involved with Special Olympics athletics for many years. He was recently selected from others across the state to head up coaching the National Games Athletics athletes who will be traveling to New Jersey in June 2014. He is an active runner himself having just completed his 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Corps Marathon. Locally he coaches Long Distance Running in the fall, Snowshoeing in the winter and Athletics in the spring. Congratulations in being selected and Good Luck at Nationals!



## First Annual Fall Frolic Exceeds Expectations!



The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fall Frolic was held at Wilson Ruritan on November 19, 2013. A fun time was had by all while dancing to some old favorites as well as some new tunes. Tunes were played throughout the night by DJ Bob Hayes. Over fifty people attended from across the county from our fall sports (10 and duck pin bowlers, Long Distance Running, Soccer). Our winter and spring sports athletes are not to feel left out. They will be having their

Frolic or  
Fling in the  
spring.



Meanwhile enjoy the photos from the Fun Fall

