



Issue 45

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Special Olympics Update

Area 15 will be represented at the Tennessee Special Olympics Winter Games by Robby Ellis. Robby is an independent adult athlete and will compete in the speed skating competition during the games to be held at Ober Gatlinburg, January 26-28. We extend our best wishes and good luck to Robby in his competition.

A big THANK YOU to Maryville High School, the teams and sponsors of the Boy's Basketball Renasant Bank Tournament held in December, for conducting a benefit game between the Area 15 men's basketball team, the Blount Blazers and the team representing Area 22, Loudon County. The game which was played during half-time raised \$1000. for Area 15 Special Olympics.

In other Special Olympics basketball news, the East Tennessee Regional Tournament will be held on February 15 at Maryville College, time to be announced later. Good Luck to the Blount Blazers who will represent Area 15 in this tournament.

The Special Olympics Basketball event for Area 15 athletes only will be held on February 26 at Heritage High School. The games will begin following the 9:30 a.m. Opening Ceremonies. Thanks to both Maryville College and Heritage High for their continued support with facilities.

Soccer Registration Opens Early Next Month For Ages 4 - 16

Youth Spring Soccer registration for boys and girls ages 5 - 16 and Soccer For Fun For 4 Year Olds will open Monday, February 3 and will continue through March 7 unless filled earlier. Cost is \$55.

and includes a game jersey. Payment for optional team pictures is \$15. in advance and can also be paid at registration. The cost will increase to \$18. on photo day.



Games are tentatively scheduled to begin April 5 on a 6-week schedule. Soccer For Fun will be played at the Everett Athletic Complex and Youth Soccer games will be played at the Everett Athletic Complex (ages 5-9) and Pearson Springs Park (ages 10-16). You may register online or in person at the Parks & Recreation Office. Click here www.parksrec.com for complete details, rules and registration. Late registration when space is available will incur an extra charge of \$5.00

Youth Sports and the Tennessee Sports Concussion Law

In 2013 Tennessee became the 44th state to pass a law designed to reduce concussions in youth sports and increase awareness of traumatic brain injury. The three components of the law are:

1. To inform and educate coaches, youth athletes and parents and require them to sign a concussion information form before competing.
2. To require the removal of a youth athlete who appears to have suffered a concussion from play or practice at the time of the suspected concussion.
3. To require a youth athlete to be cleared by a licensed health care professional before returning to play or practice.

The law covers all sports for both public and private schools and recreational leagues for children under age 18 that require a fee. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention has created the "Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports" initiative for coaches, athletes and parents which includes an online training course, fact sheets, posters, etc. on preventing, recognizing and responding to a concussion. This is now a required course for all Parks & Rec sports staff and coaches.

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Pavilion Reservations Now Open

Pictured below is a sample of the several outdoor pavilions and recreation center facilities Parks & Rec has for rent by families, churches and community groups. Due to high demand for the outdoor pavilions, reservations fill quickly. If you are planning to hold an event this year at one of these facilities, we strongly encourage you to reserve now. You may check availability and complete your reservation online at www.parksrec.com. Reservations can also be made in person at the Parks & Rec Office. Reservations cannot be taken by telephone.



Springbrook Pavilion



Pearsons Springs Pavilion



Louisville Point Pavilion