

Community Support Network News



Sports Plus Program



Summer 2006

Inside this issue:

SPORTS PLUS is a non-profit organization that offers uniquely structured co-ed sports programs for verbal children able to follow multi-step directions between the ages of 5 and 9 with mild to moderate autistic spectrum disorders, ADD/ADHD and other developmental disabilities. These children have abilities that fit between existing mainstream sports programs and adaptive sports programs.

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SPORTS PLUS was founded in the Fall of 2005 and is directed by Tom and Natalie Liniak, who are the parents of a 7-year old child on the autistic spectrum. The program is specifically designed to create opportunities and fill a void for children and their families that were previously unable to participate and enjoy soccer and other team sports. In Spring 2006, SPORTS PLUS became affiliated with the Soccer Association of Montgomery (SAM), the Discovery Sports Center and the Maryland SoccerPlex of Germantown, MD.

Every SPORTS PLUS program features unique skill development techniques, highly trained coaches, low player to coach ratios, special education professionals, typically developing participants, parent and sibling involvement, consistent encouragement and positive reinforcement. Teamwork, social skills, and sportsmanship are stressed at all classes. Each session includes a uniform and a participation award. The SPORTS PLUS model permits extra help or additional challenges to be provided as needed to players with a wide variety of skills. The end result is a successful, rewarding and exciting physical and social experience for children and their families.

Now in its fourth season, SPORTS PLUS will offer a summer program that includes an indoor gym program featuring baseball, basketball and other gym-related sports activities. Each class will have a participation segment where a parent, older sibling or caregiver will go over a set of skills with their child after each is demonstrated and broken down into easy-to-follow steps by our coaching staff. Each class finishes with a uniquely structured t-ball or basketball game.

SPORTS PLUS summer program will begin June 18 and end August 6 and will be held in the weatherproof, climate-controlled indoor facilities at the Discovery Sports Center in Germantown, Maryland (www.discoverysportscenter.org). Space is limited. SPORTS PLUS fall soccer programs will begin in early September. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact SPORTS PLUS at sportsplus@comcast.net or (301) 452-3781.



Helping
to Make Your
Community Links



JULY 2006

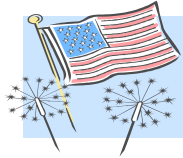
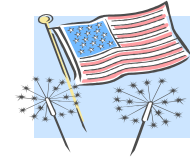
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AUGUST 2006

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**Calendar of Events****July****4 Independence Day Concert and Fireworks**

Free family concert, Little Mr. and Miss Firecracker Awards, and a spectacular fireworks display at dark. Montgomery County Agricultural Center (Fairgrounds), Gaithersburg, 6 p.m., H, 301-258-6350, www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

4 Rockville Independence Day Celebration

Free concerts, food and a spectacular fireworks display. Montgomery College - Rockville Campus, Rockville, 6:30 p.m.- 10 p.m., H, 240-314-8600, www.rockvillemd.gov.

5 - 8/13 "The Borrowers"

Young Arrietty seems to be the last of her noble race, the little people who live beneath your floorboards and "borrow" all those objects you can never find! Imagination Stage, Bethesda, \$, H, 301-280-1660, www.ImaginationStage.org.

6, 13, 20, 27 Backyard Theatre at Strathmore

Performances for children. Mansion at Strathmore, North Bethesda, 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m., \$, H, 301-581-5100, www.strathmore.org.

6, 13, 20, 27 Silver Spring Swings Summer Concert Series

Family entertainment featuring cool/hot swinging/jazzy/rhythm & blues/latin/rock 'n' rollin' sounds. Silver Plaza on Ellsworth Drive at the fountain, Silver Spring, 7-9 p.m., H, www.silversprUng.com.

6, 13, 20, 27 Summer Concert Series

Summer concerts feature local live bands performing the region's best in rock, swing, jazz, pop and international. Veterans Park (corner of Woodmont and Norfolk Aves.), Bethesda, 6-8 p.m., H, 301-215-6660, www.bethesda.org.

11, 18, 25 Bethesda Row Movies Under the Stars

A free outdoor movie series in the heart of Bethesda. Bethesda Avenue at Bethesda Row, Bethesda, 8:45 p.m., H, www.bethesarow.com.

22 & 23 2006 17th Annual Farm Tour & Harvest Sale

Agricultural activity that helps promote the importance of agriculture in Montgomery County; farm open house. Various Montgomery County farm sites, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., H*, 301-590-2823, www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agservices.

\$ fee/admission H handicap accessible H* limited handicap access TBA to be announced



August



2, 9 Summer Sounds Concert Series

Free outdoor concerts. Gudelsky Gazebo Concert Pavilion at Strathmore, North Bethesda, 7 p.m., H, 301-581-5100, www.strathmore.org.

3, 10 Silver Spring Swings Summer Concert Series

Family entertainment featuring cool/hot swinging/jazzy/rhythm & blues/latin/rock 'n' rollin' sounds. Silver Plaza on Ellsworth Drive at the fountain, Silver Spring, 7-9 p.m., H, www.silversprUng.com.

3 Free Backyard Concert Series

Free outdoor concert, the Swingin' Swamis. The Kentlands Green, Gaithersburg, 7 pm.

4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 Summer Concert Series

Free outdoor concerts on patio. RIO Entertainment Center, Gaithersburg, 6-9 p.m., H, 301-921-4686, www.rioentertainmentcenter.com

5 Free Concert Series

On stage, a free concert by the NIH Community Orchestra— “A Symphonic Sampler”. The Concert Pavilion, Gaithersburg. 7 pm.

6, 13, 20, 27 Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit

“Sculpture on the Grounds” outdoor sculpture exhibit. Glenview Mansion in Rockville. 240-314-8681. 1 pm —5 pm. Free.

11 - 19 58th Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

Maryland's largest fair. Montgomery County Agricultural Center (Fairgrounds), Gaithersburg, 8/11 3 p.m.-midnight, 8/12 - 8/19 8 a.m.-midnight, \$, H, 301-926-3100, www.mcagfair.com.

24 - 26 WB 50/Silver Spring Outdoor Film Fest

Film festival on the turf for the entire family. Fenton Street & Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring, dusk, H, www.silversprUng.com.

25 - 27 August Cup

Outdoor soccer tournament. Maryland SoccerPlex, Germantown, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., H, 301-528-1480, www.marylandsoccerplex.org.





September



1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 Summer Concert Series

Free outdoor concerts on patio. RIO Entertainment Center, Gaithersburg, 6-9 p.m., H, 301-921-4686, www.rioentertainmentcenter.com

4 68th Annual Labor Day Parade

Marching bands, floats, giant balloons, dance groups, clowns, and equestrian units gather for Gaithersburg's longest-running special event. Olde Towne (Summit and Diamond Aves.), Gaithersburg, 1 p.m., H, 301-258-6350, www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

9 Silver Spring Jazz Festival

Outdoor festival starring world-class jazz artists from all genres, including latin, contemporary, and more. Fenton Street & Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring, 2-10 p.m., H, www.silversprUng.com.

9 11th Annual Friends of Brookside Gardens Plant Sale

Unique plants only offered once a year at Brookside Gardens, and other perennials, shrubs and trees sold at big discounts. Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., H, 301-962-1435, www.brooksidegardens.org.

9 Poolesville Day

5K race starts the day, with parade, vendors selling food, crafts, etc.; children's games. Poolesville, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., H, www.poolesvilleday.com.

9-10 & 16-17 Shaker Forest Festival

A shaker-themed find craft and family festival held in the scenic grounds of Seneca Creek State Park. Seneca Creek State Park, Gaithersburg, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., \$, H, 866-972-1244, www.shakerforest.org

10 Happy Birthday Montgomery County!

Celebrate Montgomery County's 230th birthday with history and fun for all ages! Beall-Dawson Historical Park, Rockville, 1-5 p.m., H, 301-762-1492, www.montgomeryhistory.org.

16 Children's Day

Learn about and experience the Native American culture, food and crafts as you wander through the beautiful gardens. Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., H, 301-962-1453, www.brooksidegardens.org.

17 "Celebrate Gaithersburg in Olde Towne" Street Festival

25th anniversary of this lively street festival featuring entertainment, children's activities, arts and crafts, and a tantalizing array of foods. Olde Towne (Summit and Diamond Aves.), Gaithersburg, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., H, 301-258-6350, www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

30 Rockville Music Festival and Hard Times Chili Cook-Off

Hard Times Chili Cook-Off, free concerts, kids activities, and much more. Rockville Town Center, Rockville, time TBA, H, 240-314-8600, www.rockvillemd.gov.

Project Lifesaver Pilot Program Underway in Montgomery County



Project Lifesaver is a reliable rapid-response partnership with law enforcement aiding individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, such as Down Syndrome and Autism, and their families. The primary mission is to locate and rescue missing persons.

Project Lifesaver relies on technology and specifically trained search and rescue team members to quickly locate and return wandering individuals to their families and caregivers. Individuals who are enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program wear a small bracelet that includes a tracking device. When caregivers notify the police that a Project Lifesaver participant is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with a mobile locator tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes.

The Montgomery County Police Department has begun a pilot program in the 3rd and 4th Districts of the County. These include only the Wheaton and Silver Spring districts at this time. The target population for the pilot program are individuals with Alzheimer's disease, Autism, Down's Syndrome, Mental Retardation, and/or Dementia who have a tendency to wander off. Individuals must be willing/able to wear the transmitter, either on the wrist or ankle, 24 hours per day. A caregiver will need to check the battery daily to make sure it is operating properly and will need to meet with a Project Lifesaver staff member once a month to install a fresh battery. Caregivers will also need to provide medical updates to the program.

For more information on Project Lifesaver International, go to their website at www.projectlifesaver.org. If you or someone you know may be an appropriate referral for participation in this program and meet the following criteria:

- Live within the District 3 or District 4 boundaries (Wheaton and Silver Spring districts)
- Have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, Down Syndrome, Mental Retardation, Autism or Dementia
- Have a tendency to elope or wander
- Are able to wear (and keep on) the transmitter 24 hours/day
- Have a family member or caregiver willing to check the transmitter daily, meet with Project Lifesaver staff monthly and provide medical documentation as necessary

please call Officer Laurie Reyes or Officer Darryl Marshall of the Community Outreach Section of the Montgomery County Police Department at 301-840-2788. The pilot program has limited space for participants.



Application for DDA services now available in Spanish

Applications for services from the State of Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Administration are now available in Spanish. To obtain an application, call DDA's regional office number at 301-362-5100, or visit their website at www.ddamaryland.org.

The State of Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Administration provides a coordinated service delivery system so that individuals with developmental disabilities receive appropriate services oriented to the goal of integration into the community. These services are provided through a combination of four state residential centers (providing services to individuals with mental retardation) and a wide array of community based services delivered primarily through a network of nonprofit providers.

- www.ddamaryland.org information

Summary of Legislation passed in 2006 Session of the General Assembly

Listed below are legislative bills that were passed in the 2006 Maryland General Assembly:

SB 126 - Department of Housing and Community Development- Partnership Rental Housing Program - Individuals with Disabilities - - Altering resident eligibility requirements under the Partnership Rental Housing Program; authorizing the secretary of Housing and Community Development to establish specified income levels; altering the requirements to approve an application for a proposed partnership project; authorizing the Department of Housing and Community Development to approve the use of partnership rental housing funds under specified circumstances; etc. **Effective: 10/1/2006**

SB 294 - Children, Youth, and Family Services- Local Management Boards, State Coordinating Council, and Local Coordinating Councils - Services for Children with Special Needs - - Establishing a local management board and local coordinating council in each county; establishing the State Coordinating Council for children; establishing the duties and composition of the local management board, State Coordinating Council, and local coordinating council; requiring a public agency to disclose specified information and records to another public agency or the Office for Children; requiring the Maryland Association of Local Management Board Directors to submit a report to committees of the General Assembly; etc. **Effective: 10/1/2006**

SB 447 - DHMH - Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health Services- Cost-of-Living Adjustment - - Requiring that, subject to specified limitations, beginning in fiscal year 2008 the fees paid by the DHMH to a community developmental disabilities services provider or a community mental health services provider for providing developmental disabilities services or mental health services to eligible individuals be adjusted annually for inflation using the update factor recommended by the Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission; etc. **Effective: 7/1/2006**

SB 810 - Residential Child Care Programs- Corporate Responsibility and Governance - - Requiring corporations to meet specified requirements as a condition of licensure to operate a residential child care program; requiring specified corporations to adopt written bylaws that require the corporation's board of directors to be legally responsible for specified actions; authorizing specified licensing agencies to deny a residential child care program license under specified circumstances; requiring specified inspections; prohibiting a person from operating a residential child care program in the state without a license; etc. **Effective: 7/1/2006**

HB 770 - Emergency Management- Emergency Plans for Human Service Facilities - - Requiring specified human service facilities to develop an emergency plan; specifying the required contents of the plan; requiring specified state agencies, in consultation with specified human service facilities and specified state and local emergency management agencies, to adopt specified regulations; requiring the Governor's Office of Homeland Security to report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by January 31, 2007; etc. **Effective: 6/1/2006**

HB 795 - Criminal Procedure - Criminal Defendants - Incompetency and Criminal Responsibility - - Requiring a court, under specified circumstances, to determine, on evidence presented on the record, whether a defendant is incompetent to stand trial for a violation of probation proceeding; authorizing a court to reconsider the question of whether a defendant is incompetent to stand trial at any time before final judgment; etc. **Effective: 10/1/2006**

HB 813 - Contracts for Residential Child Care Programs - - Requiring the Governor's Office for Children to develop the State Resource Plan for Residential Child Care Programs in consultation with specified agencies, providers, counties, child advocates, and consumers; establishing the content of the Plan; establishing specified requirements for contracts between specified agencies and providers for residential child care programs; requiring the members of the Children's Cabinet to adopt specified regulations; etc. **Effective: 7/1/2006**

(Continued on page 7)

Summary of Legislation passed in 2006 Session of the General Assembly (continued)

HB 1257 - Juvenile Law - Competency - Services - - Authorizing the juvenile court to order DHMH or a qualified expert to conduct an evaluation of a child's competency to proceed in specified juvenile delinquency hearings; repealing provisions relating to a finding of incompetency to proceed; specifying the procedures for a finding of incompetency to proceed; etc. **Effective: 10/1/2006**

HB 1318 - Health Occupations - State Board of Nursing - Criminal History Records Checks - - Requiring specified applicants for licensure or certification by the State Board of Nursing to submit to a criminal history records check as a condition of licensure or certification; requiring the applicants to submit fingerprints and specified fees to the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; requiring the board to begin a specified process of requiring criminal history records checks as a condition of license or certificate renewal; etc. **Effective: 10/1/2006**

HB 1405 - Health Insurance - Coverage for Part-Time Students With Disabilities - - Providing that specified insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations that provide health benefits to specified full-time students may not exclude benefits for students over a specified age who do not attend an institution of higher education on a full-time basis as a result of a specified disability under specified circumstances; authorizing specified entities to require specified individuals to provide specified verification; etc. **Effective: 10/1/2006**

HB 1625 - State Government - Public Records - Personal Information About Individuals with Disabilities - - Requiring custodians of public records to deny inspection of the part of a public record that contains personal information about individuals with disabilities or individuals perceived to have a disability under specified circumstances; defining "disability"; requiring custodians of public records to permit the inspection of a specified part of a public record after the custodian redacts specified information under specified circumstances; etc. **Effective: 10/1/2006**

HB 1681 - Community Colleges - Supplemental Services and Supports for Students with Disabilities- Grant Program - - Requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to establish and administer a grant program for supplemental services and supports for students with disabilities in community colleges; requiring the commission, in cooperation with the Department of Disabilities, to establish a competitive review process and adopt guidelines or regulations for the administration of the grant program; etc. **Effective: 7/1/2006**

SB 811 - Residential Child Care Capital Grant Program - - Establishing the Residential Child Care Capital Grant Program; authorizing the Board of Public Works, on the recommendation of the Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children, to provide grants under the program to counties, municipal corporations, and nonprofit corporations for residential child care programs; authorizing specified residential child care programs to amend a specified plan; authorizing the Governor to include funding in the capital budget for the grant program; etc. **Effective: 10/1/2006**

HB 123 Real Property - Condominiums - Conversion of Rental Facilities - Extended Leases - - Altering the households to which a developer converting a rental facility to a condominium is required to offer a three year lease extension to include specified individuals with disabilities; altering the allocation of specified units to specified households; defining the term "disability"; repealing the definition of the term "handicapped citizen"; providing for the application of the Act; etc. **Emergency Bill**

Further information is available on the Legislative Services Web site - www.mlis.state.md.us

-from Developments, DDA's newsletter, Spring 2006 edition

Montgomery County
Department of Health & Human Services
Aging and Disability Services
Community Support Network
11 N. Washington Street
Suite 450
Rockville, Maryland 20850



Free Educational Seminars For Parents And Caregivers Of Individuals With Developmental Disabilities

The Educational Seminar Series has ended for the 2005-2006 school year. The Community Support Network would like to thank all the participants who helped to make the Educational Seminar Series a success. Special thanks goes to Jamell White and Ruth Berger from the Jewish Social Services Agency, along with CSN staff Alexis Volpe, Lori Potoka-Smith, and Laurreta Reffell for their planning, preparation, and facilitation of the seminars this year.

The Collaborative Outreach and Training Committee would also like to thank all the parents, caregivers, and providers who attended the Educational Seminar Series this year. We hope the series has been beneficial for you and for the individuals with disabilities in your lives.

The series would not be possible without the support of the professional speakers who willingly participate in the series. The Committee would like to thank these speakers for their time and education on issues related to individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Committee is now meeting to prepare seminars for the 2006-2007 school year. Our next seminar series will begin October 2006. Please watch your mail for a brochure in late August 2006.
