

# news

Fall 2011



Special Olympics  
Michigan  
Area 34

## Monroe County Special Olympics

### 180

Runners and walkers participated in this year's Monroe County Special Olympics Festivus 5K Run/Walk & Walk-a-thon

### 230

Special Olympics bowlers "bellied the ball" at our Annual Monroe County Special Olympics Bowling Tournament held at Nortel Lanes in November

### 2

Number of new representatives for Area 34. Ryan DeHaene is the new athlete representative and Pam Ray is the new parent representative!

Find us on Facebook:

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Monroe34](http://www.facebook.com/Monroe34)

facebook

Did you know that you can visit our Facebook page without being a Facebook user? Try it!



Pat Gilbreath, Diane Gilbertson, Dr. Don Spencer, and Michelle Brahaney accepted awards on November 5, 2011 at the annual Special Olympics Michigan banquet in Mt. Pleasant. Congratulations to these people who make our local program a success!

## Monroe County Special Olympics Receives Awards

Pat Gilbreath, Diane Gilbertson, and the Monroe County ISD accepted awards at the annual Special Olympics Michigan banquet in Mt. Pleasant. The Monroe County Intermediate School district was recognized as the School of the Year. A special honor was given to Pat Gilbreath who was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Special Olympics Michigan. Finally, Diane Gilbertson was named Outstanding Athlete of the Year. Diane, along with Craig Lamb, raised over \$5000 for this year's Monroe County Festivus 5K Run/Walk & Walk-a-thon. Congratulations to these fine folks!



# spotlight



**Special Olympics**  
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## What is Speed Skating?

Speed Skating today is a lifetime fitness sport for individuals of all ages. Speed Skating provides both cardiovascular and aerobic benefits as well as improving muscle strength, balance, and coordination.

Today, the sport can be enjoyed year round with indoor skating facilities found throughout the world. Probably the BEST type of Speed Skating is that which is done outdoors, challenging the skater against the elements of nature that try to test the skater's skill, fatigue and desire to race the wind. As a recreational and competition sport, Ice Speed Skating offers the potential



for social integration for both training and competition experiences within multi-level Special Olympics competition experiences as well as training and competition experiences through this sport's National Governing Body. If you are interested in trying Speed Skating please fill out the Special Olympics Sports Registration Form at

<http://tinyurl.com/Area34register2011> or contact Laurel Rosen-Weatherford at

## Bowling Fundraiser December 18



On Sunday December 18, 2011 Monroe County Special Olympics will be holding its **Annual Bowling Fundraiser** at the Monroe Sports Center. Registration begins at 1pm and bowling starts at 1:30pm. The cost is \$20 per bowler. That includes 3 games (9 Pin No Tap Bowling), shoes, and pizza & pop. You can print the registration form online at

<http://tinyurl.com/MonroeBowling2011>

Please contact Megan Rabideau 242-5799 x4161 for any questions.

**Door Prizes, Mystery Drawings, Silent Auction, Mini Games, & Much More!**



**Be sure to visit our official webpage for updates:**

<http://somi.org/Monroe34> and [www.facebook.com/Monroe34](http://www.facebook.com/Monroe34)

# on the lookout



**Special Olympics**  
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## Photos from Fall Sports



**Pictured Left:** Monroe County Eagles soccer Team. The team finished their season with a fourth place finish at the state tournament. The Monroe Hawks soccer team tied for second place at the tournament as well!

**Pictured Below:** Monroe County Falcons poly hockey team. The team finished the season with a third place finish at the state Poly Hockey Tournament on November 19, 2011. The Monroe Hawks finished in third place as well!



Monroe Hawks Poly Hockey Player Mark Harrigan



## Winter Sports to Begin December 15

Let it snow! Winter Sports will begin after December 15th depending on the sport. Snowshoe practice will begin on Thursday December 15th from 4-5pm at the Monroe County ISD campus. The team will be coached by Kerry Simmons. Alpine Skiing & Snowboarding will begin after the Winter Recess. The first practice will be held at Mt. Brighton on Thursday January, 5th. Skiers and snowboarders should be ready to leave the Educational Center by 3:45pm. The team is coached by Lisa LaLande and Ryan Knoblauch. Speed Skating and Figure Skating began on Saturday December 3rd, at 5:00pm at the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex. The team is coached by Laurel Rosen-Weatherford. The Cross Country team is excited to have a new coach this year, Mr. John Giarmo. Cross country skiing practices are yet to be determined. Coach Giarmo will contact the cross country skiers with more information by December 15th. If you would like to sign up for a winter sport. Please fill out the 2011-2012 Special Olympics Sports Registration Form at our website (see below).

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## **Polar Plunge Sunday January 22, 2012**

Please join us and support Monroe County Special Olympics by participating in our very first Polar Plunge for Area 34 (Monroe). We will jump into the harbor water near the Clamdigger Restaurant on East Elm Ave at 2pm on January 22nd. This event is open to the public! Plungers will raise \$75 for the program. Please visit [www.somi.org](http://www.somi.org), click on Polar Plunge and then choose "MONROE" to register online and start collecting! The 2012 Monroe Polar Plunge will take place at Clamdigger Restaurant.



Registration will start at 1:00pm. The parade of costumes and plunge will start at 2:00pm. The post plunge party and awards ceremony will begin after the last plunge at 3pm. Free admission to the Post Plunge Party for plungers. Party includes warm food and non-alcoholic beverages.

Guests will pay \$5 at the door for the Post Plunge Party. Don't forget—even if you don't jump, you can still donate to someone's page.

**Questions?** Please contact Area Director Stacie Ourlan at 734-242-5799 x4227 or Area Management Team Member Jennifer Musulin at [Jennifer.musulin@monroisd.us](mailto:Jennifer.musulin@monroisd.us)

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# what's to come



**Special Olympics**  
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## Calendar of Events

- ◆ **December 15** Winter Sports Begin
- ◆ **January 22** Monroe County Special Olympics Polar Plunge **Monroe, Michigan**
- ◆ **February 7-10** State Winter Games **Traverse City, Michigan**

All events will be posted on our website and Facebook page.  
Please visit for more details!

**[www.somi.org/area34](http://www.somi.org/area34) and**  
**[www.facebook.com/Monroe34](http://www.facebook.com/Monroe34)**

Check out our new videos page too:

**[www.vimeo.com/Monroe34](http://www.vimeo.com/Monroe34)**



**Special Olympics**  
*Michigan*



**vimeo**

## 2012 State Winter Games

Approximately 1,700 athletes, coaches, chaperones, area management team members and volunteers will attend the 2012 State Winter Games! During competition athletes showcase the skills they've learned from months of intense training.

The Special Olympics Michigan 2012 State Winter Games are fast approaching! This exciting event will take place **February 7-10** at Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, Schuss Mountain at Shanty Creek Resort and Howe Ice Arena at the Grand Traverse Civic Center.



Events Include:

- **Alpine Skiing** (slalom, giant slalom and downhill) at Schuss Village
- **Snowboarding** (slalom, giant slalom and super giant slalom) at Schuss Village
- **Cross-Country Skiing** (50M, 100M, 250M, 500M, 1K, 3K and 5K) at Schuss Village
- **Snowshoeing** (30M, 50M, 75M, 100M, 200M and 400M) at Grand Traverse Resort & Spa
- **Figure Skating** (compulsory and freestyle) at Howe Arena
- **Speed Skating** (25M, 30M, 50M, 100M, 300M, 500M and 800M) at Howe Arena Howe Ice Arena at the Grand Traverse Civic Center.