

Hall County to Host Special Olympics Georgia Fall Games

November 21, 2013

Representatives from Hall County Government and the Lake Lanier Convention and Visitors' Bureau will be on hand for a press conference next month, as Hall County is named as the new home for the Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) Fall Games.

The press conference will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at North Hall Park, located at 4175 Nopone Road in Gainesville.

The announcement means a boost in the area's economy as more than 1,400 athletes and coaches are expected to travel across the state to attend next year's games. The Special Olympics Fall Games will be held Oct. 10-12, 2014. Hall County will also host Special Olympics Georgia's State Horse Show for the second consecutive year at Chicopee Agriculture Center that weekend. Both events are expected to benefit the area's economic development; with a boost for retailers and hoteliers.

Georgia Milton-Sheats, Special Olympics Georgia CEO, Stacey Dickson, President of Lake Lanier Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Hall County District 3 Commissioner Scott Gibbs are all expected to speak at the Dec. 4 event.

"Hall County is honored to host these games, and we looking forward to working with Special Olympics Georgia in the years to come as we work together to provide an opportunity for these athletes to compete and thrive," said Gibbs.

Dickson echoed those sentiments.

"We are honored to have been selected as the new home of the Special Olympic Fall Games. The Lake Lanier Convention & Visitors Bureau works with many sporting groups through the year, but this event is very near and dear to our hearts. It's a wonderful opportunity to show off our community resources while bringing together our local citizens with the Special Olympics family who exemplify good sportsmanship and the very best in human spirit," she said.

SOGA provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for 25,878 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympic athletes and the community. For more information, visit www.specialolympicsga.org.