

Madison County Special Olympics hosts annual Duck Drop

Register Staff Report

The Madison County Special Olympics (MCSO) held its annual Duck Drop on Saturday at Paradise Cove in Richmond.

Supporters could “adopt” a rubber duck for \$5. The first three ducks to cross the finish line in the pool after coming down the park’s slide won prizes, including a \$500 gift card.

It is a yearly event for the MCSO. Duck “adop-

tion” times were extended to 1:00 p.m. on the day of the race. With the drop officially happening nearly an hour later at 1:50 p.m. Several Special Olympics athletes participated in the Duck Drop on Saturday. Officials with the organization say that several hundred people adopted ducks for the race.

The winning duck belonged to Russ Grigsby. He took home that first place prize for a \$500 gift card.

With Phyllis Adams landing in second place with a \$150 gift card. Leslie Reising earned third place and a \$50 gift card.

Several other prizes were also drawn through the day. They included passes for Kentucky Kingdom and SOAKY Mountain Water Park, a 2027 season pass for Paradise Cove, and a gift card for Jackson’s.

MCSO has over 100 athletes that compete across 11 sports.



NATHAN HUTCHINSON — RR

Hundreds of ducks were dropped for the Madison County Special Olympics annual Duck Drop event.



BLAKE VICKERS — RR

Liberty Place alumna Julie H. shares her story of recovery.

RECOVER

Continued from A1

collaboration among local organizations, health care providers, employers, schools, law enforcement, and community leaders to fighting the condition.

That designation is one that both nonprofits and public entities have been working to earn in Madison County for some time. The folks at the Dry Dock — a storied recovery community center and meeting place in Richmond — think it shows that some things are improving in the county.

“I don’t want to say ‘about time.’ But it’s right on time. We’ll say right on time,” said Dry Dock President Ray Hunter. “It just shows how dedicated Madison County and Richmond is to supporting people on the continuum of care... There’s definitely been some improvement for people in recovery. But it’s still an issue. and we still need to provide people in recovery with acceptance and connection.”

The decision to hold the event at Liberty Place — a long term recovery center for women in the county — was a meaningful one for organizers. It falls under the Kentucky River Foothills umbrella of services. Atkins said watching Liberty Place grow over the years has

been inspiring.

“I’ve seen it grow and evolve. I’ve met many women who have gone through the program. They are a product of Liberty Place and they have regained control of their lives. They’ve restored relationships,” Atkins said. “For us to have the event here, the largest residential recovery program in Madison County, it just made sense... They didn’t just put it on for the community. They put this event on for the residents that live here.”

The grounds outside Liberty Place were lively with celebration. Games were played. Residents

danced to the music provided by DJ’s Todd and Kayla. Attendees wrote inspiring messages on the ground with chalk. Most importantly, a wide variety of community and recovery services were available on the ground for whoever needed them.

Several speakers were lined up to share their stories with the people attending the celebration — which included State Representative Deanna Gordon and several members of the Richmond City Commission. Richmond Chamber of Commerce President Colleen Spencer served as their emcee.

Those speakers included notable recovery advocates Tara Hyde and Gene Deathridge.

Perhaps the most personal speaker of the event was Julie H., a recent alumna of Liberty Place. She shared her story —

noting that recovery isn’t just beautiful, but anyone can do it.

“Hello. I’m Julie. I’m an alcoholic. My recovery date is March 22, 2025. Today, I make a deep commitment to stay clean and sober,” Julie H.

said. “This house (Liberty Place) built me to who I am today. I learned accountability... I finished out the program. and I went home to my kids. I went home to my husband. and I love them today. I love them.”

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NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Madison County EMS is accepting sealed proposals from qualified commercial HVAC contractors for the evaluation, repair, or replacement of the HVAC system serving the Berea EMS Station located on Rash Road in Berea, Kentucky.

The complete Request for Proposals (RFP) will be available beginning **July 10, 2026**, through the Madison County EMS Administrative Office.

Sealed proposals will be accepted until **2:00 PM (ET) on Friday, August 14, 2026, at: Madison County EMS**
Attn: Tonya Donselman, Director
558 South Keeneland Drive
Richmond, KY 40475
859-623-5121

Madison County EMS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive informalities as permitted by law.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9-9:45 AM, IN-PERSON WORSHIP 10:00-10:45 AM AND 11:00-11:45 AM

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CASA FIESTA MEXICAN GRILL LLC hereby declares its intentions to apply for an NQ2 Retail Drink license and Special Sunday Retail Drink license no later than August 15, 2026.

The licensed premises will be located at 240 Eastern Bypass, Richmond, Kentucky, 40475 doing business as

CASA FIESTA MEXICAN GRILL.

The owners and members are Enrique Campos, 302 Falls St, London, Kentucky, 40741 and Brenda Aguire, 5635 Romeyn St, Detroit, Michigan, 48209. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the licenses by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero St 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.

NOTICE OF VACANT BEREA INDEPENDENT BOARD OF EDUCATION SEAT

The Berea Independent Board of Education is seeking applications for appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board representing the District at large. This appointment will be effective until the November 2026 regular election. Responsibilities include: setting policy to govern the District; hiring/evaluating the Superintendent; and levying taxes and adopting the District budget. Board members must: Be at least 24 years old and a Kentucky citizen for the last three years; Be a registered voter in the Berea District; Have completed the 12th grade or have a GED certificate; Meet all other legal qualifications (KRS 160.180); and Complete required annual in-service training.

Applications are available at the Berea Board of Education (3 Pirate Parkway, Berea, KY) or online at <https://www.berea.kyschools.us>.

Mail applications to: Superintendent, ATTN: Board Vacancy, 3 Pirate Parkway, Berea, KY 40403.

Applications are due no later than July 24, 2026.

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