

Law Enforcement Supports Bocce Invitational



**SHERIFF
FRANK PROVENZANO**



**SERGEANT
MARK SZCZECINA**

SOMERSET, NJ - Hundreds of amateur and professional bocce players are expected to compete in the 3rd Annual Bocce Invitational Tournament at Colonial Park, Mettlers Road, in Somerset, NJ, on Saturday, June 20 from 8 am to 6 pm.

The New Jersey Bocce Invitational is an Italian-American cultural event designed to allow people of all backgrounds to compete for the benefit of local New Jersey charities. Beneficiaries of the event are Operation Shoebox New Jersey, an organization that collects items and ships care packages to combat troops overseas and the Boys and Girls Clubs of New Jersey. Participating sponsors include the Italian Tribune, Order Sons of Italy NJ Foundation & CSJ, the Italian American Police Society of New Jersey and VP

Builders.

Among the co-sponsors is The Italian American Police Society of New Jersey, a social, fraternal organization of more than 4,000 Italian American Law Enforcement Officers in the state. They are also a charter member for the National Coalition of Italian American Law Enforcement Organizations. Each year they host a number of social and charitable events benefiting a wide variety of organizations. The president, Bill Schievella and his board have endorsed the event in support of Operation Shoebox since the first Bocce Tournament in 2007. In addition, the police society bocce teams typically finish in the top categories of the tournament.

"The Italian American Police Society of New Jersey and its

membership are proud to support such a worthwhile cause. Our members and their families enjoy coming out and supporting the troops by packaging 'care packages' and raising money for such a worthy cause," says Vincent Nardone, Director of the Italian American Police Society. He also states "This is law Enforcement giving back to the community."

Somerset County Sheriff Frank Provenzano, a founding committee member, has been instrumental in helping the event become recognized among many of our police officers who many consider our soldiers on the home front. He recently commented, "In all my years of being associated with fund raising, this is one of the best benefits where we are raising money for children and supporting our brave men and women serving in the Middle East protecting our freedom." Somerset County Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Mark Szczecina has also been a key player in reaching out to the community for their participation and support.

Guests include Will Jimeno, retired Port Authority Police Officer of NY/NJ and inspirational speaker will assist in the festivities and throw out the ceremonial first ball on behalf of Operation Shoebox New Jersey. Will is one of only two people to survive under the rubble on 9/11 and his story

was told in the Oliver Stone motion picture World Trade Center.

Giada Valenti, singer and songwriter will perform selections from her recent CD And I Love You So. Giada is from Venice, Italy and has performed throughout the United States and most recently at Feinstein's at the Regency Hotel in New York City. Moreno Fruzzetti, from the Tuscany region of Italy, will be performing Pop to Classical to the American Classics. He has been awarded with the prestigious honor of "Ambassador of Italian Music to America." Moreno will also perform for attendees. He receives rave reviews at concerts throughout

the world.

Comedian and "Saturday Night" alum Joe Piscopo, vocalist Bobby Valli and Rutgers University football players are expected as repeat guests.

Funds raised from entry fees and sponsorships will be donated to each of the non-profit organizations, according to Frank Valanzola, founder and director of the Bocce Invitational. "The continued success of these organizations is important because their efforts make a difference in the lives of many New Jersey residents and their families," Valanzola explained.

Visit www.newjerseybocceinvitational.com to register.



ITALIAN AMERICAN POLICE SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY BOCCE TEAMS

THE ITALIAN TRIBUNE

**ORDER SONS OF ITALY
NJ FOUNDATION & CSJ**

PRESENTS

NEW JERSEY

BOCCCE

INVITATIONAL

June 20, 2009

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Our 3rd annual event will benefit Operation Shoebox: New Jersey and The Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey!

*Colonial Park
Franklin Township
in Somerset County*

For more information contact Frank Valanzola at 908.400.0851 or visit www.newjerseybocceinvitational.com