

## Greenwich's Ciccone named Special Olympics Sports person of the Year

Greenwich resident Gary J. Ciccone will receive the Special Olympics Sports Person of the Year award at the Fairfield County Sports Commission's 4th Annual Sports Night awards dinner on Monday, October 20th at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich at 6 pm.

This award, created jointly by the Commission and Patriot National Bank, goes to the person who consistently works to further the mission of Special Olympics in Fairfield County. It's presentation coincides with the Commission's 15 Sports Person of the Year awards that are handed out at Sports Night each year to recognize one person in each of the communities the Commission oversees for having a positive impact on that town's sport activities.

"The Special Olympics Sports Person of the Year Award is a natural fit for the Commission's role in supporting and honoring outstanding and dedicated work in our sports communities," said Tom Chiappetta, Executive Director of the Commission. "Having Patriot National Bank sponsor this award each year ensures that a very special effort for Special Olympics will be properly recognized."

Ciccone has been a volunteer for Special Olympics for the past eighteen years. He began his in-

volvement in the program, first as a supporter of his daughter Kimberly who is an athlete and then, following in the footsteps of his other children Brian and Dayna, as a coach. For the past 10 years he has served as the Head Coordinator for Greenwich Special Olympics.

His team is comprised of 75 athletes who range in age from 8 to 54 with intellectual and/or physical challenges.

The Greenwich program offers swimming, track and field, figure and speed skating and golf and is founded on the belief that people who are challenged, can with proper instruction and encouragement, learn, enjoy and benefit from participation in individual, unified and team sports.

Run strictly on a volunteer basis and fully supported by donations and fund-raisers, the program is open to its athletes year round.

Ciccone is also a Board Member of the "Off-Beat Players," a theatre troupe of teens and young adults of differing backgrounds and abilities, that together with young people with developmental disabilities, organize, adapt, produce and present theatre.

He is also a former Board Member of the Greenwich Association of Retarded Citizens.

