



BASS FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC

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ABOUT DR. BASS

If one word were used to describe Dr. Wayne J. Bass, it would be "community." As one who has served on the Maplewood Chamber of Commerce for a number of years, Dr. Bass understands the needs of the community and strives to achieve excellence with every appointment. In fact, his business was founded on the principle of excellence in the community in 2006. While there are many chiropractors out there, Dr. Bass is one who truly cares about the well-being of his patients.

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ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

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SOMA HOOPS

The SOMA Hoops League is March's Athlete of the Month, celebrated for its significant impact on youth sports. Known as the "Hoopsters," this recreational basketball league provides a nurturing environment for students from 1st to 8th grade.



Launched in 2023, SOMA Hoops has seen remarkable growth, expanding from 320 players in its first year to 692 in the second. The league's games are hosted at The Baird and South Orange Middle School, with teams creatively named after colleges such as Ole Miss and Vanderbilt. This setup fosters a sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship within the community while building familiarity and aspirations to attend college.

Supported by over 240 volunteers, SOMA Hoops emphasizes leadership and collaboration, with volunteer roles ranging from coaching to photography. The SOMA Basketball Boosters, a 501(c)(3) organization, strengthens community ties by organizing Spirit Nights with Seton Hall and Columbia High School, enhancing the Hoopsters' engagement with local institutions.

Community service is integral to SOMA Hoops, with players participating in activities like cleaning Memorial Park and packing food bags through SOMA Kids Feed Kids. The league also fundraised for a scholarship for a graduating senior referee, underscoring its commitment to educational support.

Taylor Valentine, the league's Commissioner, is the driving force behind SOMA Hoops. "We've worked hard to create not just great athletes, but great community members," says Valentine. His positive influence extends beyond the court, inspiring players to excel in all areas of life. "Seeing the kids grow as teammates and individuals is the best part of this adventure," he adds.

SOMA Hoops exemplifies the power of sports in nurturing youth and building community spirit.

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