

Finding strength for the Strongman Challenge

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OF NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS

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It can often be difficult to remain strong in the face of adversity and tragedy, but the Old Tappan community will be able to show its strength – literally – dur-

ation was founded after the organization's namesake passed away in 2008. LaViola had a rare and difficult-to-treat form of cancer known as synovial sarcoma. Despite his diagnosis, he exuded a positive attitude through the end – a feat of strength the likes of which most of us will never know.

the charity's founders say.

Local residents will have a chance to live up to LaViola's notions of optimism and courage during the seventh annual Varsity House Strongman Challenge, which will be held on Saturday, June 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Varsity House Gym, 337 Blaisdell Road, Orangeburg, N.Y.

"This is going to be a great event, for an even better cause," says Varsity House, who has already raised over \$50,000 through the Strongman Challenge over the years.

The Strongman Challenge consists of three groups: eighth and ninth graders, high schoolers and college/professional athletes. There will be three events for each age group.

There will be prizes and giveaways for all contestants, as well as a 50/5- raffle for all spectators.

All proceeds from the event will go to the Michael LaViola Foundation, which helps fund cancer research. The foundation also uses some of the money to award two scholarships for graduating seniors from Northern Valley High School at Old Tappan: one for a student entering the medical field and another for a football player (LaViola played for the Golden Knights for all four years of his high school career).

The cost for entry is \$25 per contestant and \$5 per spectator. Additional donations, of course, are always welcome. Checks and money orders should be made

payable to the Michael LaViola Foundation. To register, visit www.varsityhousegym.com or call at (201) 767-1305. Walk-ins are welcome at the day of the event.



▲The seventh annual Strongman Challenge is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 20.

ing a charity event that will raise funds for cancer research.

The Michael LaViola Foun-

"He never stopped hoping and living, and in his own words, he 'never, never, never' gave up,"

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