

Sheldon, Gallagher Prevail In Shepaug Valley Class of 2017 Charity Run

ROXBURY – On a day when the senior Republican in the state House of Representatives showed up, runners from towns in his rural district were the overall male and female champions, respectively, in the second annual Shepaug Valley Class of 2017 charity run at the Roxbury Road Race Series.

Jeff Sheldon, 34, of Southbury, was the overall winner with a time of 24-minutes, 47-seconds on the 4.2-mile loop – a 5:57-per-mile pace – during the Saturday, May 9, event.

The former season champion outran the defending season champion, Ken Merrick, 45, of New Fairfield, who took second overall in 25:56 on the layout, which included a trip down the steep incline on Ranney Hill Road and up the long hill on Hemlock Road.

Theresa Gallagher, 46, of Roxbury captured the women's division and placed 10th overall in 30:13. It was her second triumph this year in the weekly races. She was the female champion for three consecutive years from 2011 through 2013.

There also was a 1.8-mile benefit walk that started simultaneously with the run.

State Rep. Art O'Neill (R-69) of Southbury, who was initially elected in February 1988 to the seat, attended the race, which raised money for the Shepaug Valley High School Class of 2017, and spoke briefly during the post-race ceremony. His district includes his hometown and the three towns in the Region 12 school district – Roxbury, Washington and Bridgewater.

The sophomores will use the money from the \$5 per runner entry fees for their class activities and additional contributions made by the runners and walkers will be utilized to promote Lyme Disease Awareness.

The weekly series will resume Saturday, May 16, at 8:30 a.m. with a 3.7-mile run that will include a trip up and down part of South Street and up the long incline on Ranney Hill Road. There will be no entry fee.

The next special event will be the Roxbury Mile, which is slated for Saturday, May 30, at 8:30 a.m. There will be no entry fee.

The races, which are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission, start and finish near the Everett Hurlburt Community Park at 18 Apple Lane.

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