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By Scott Benjamin

## 2025 Roxbury Road Runners Club Civic Projects Report

The Roxbury Road Runners Club sponsored 42 events in 2025 and donated money to a variety of organizations.

The club sponsors more races than any series in Connecticut and, after the Fresh Pond Series in Cambridge, MA. the most of any series on the East Coast.

From the initial fun run on February 22 through the unofficial 2.4-mile race on December 6 – in 2025 the series was active every Saturday morning over that span, except for July 26 – the day of the New Milford Parks & Recreation races.

Among those Roxbury races was the Larry Kershner MidSpring Challenge on May 3, which honored a former Roxbury resident who was the second race director for the series. On July 12, the runners held the Bill Burley Founders Race at the Roxbury Land Trust preserve on River Road. The race is named after the first race director of the series. That day the runners donated \$500 to the land trust, marking the 16<sup>th</sup> time that they have made a contribution to that organization.

On October 4, the 2.4-mile annual staggered start race was run to honor Ed Sandifer, who was the series season champion 12 times.

The series began sponsoring the Roxbury Marathon in 2004. In 2025 it continued its recent format by holding the Roxbury Fall Classic on November 8 – a half-marathon, marathon and 50-kilometer run.

On November 27, the runners generated more than \$1,800 from the eighth annual Roxbury Thanksgiving Day Charitable Race. Along with funds from the club's checking account, it donated \$1,000 to the Roxbury Ambulance Association and another \$1,000 to the Roxbury Scholarship Foundation.

From October 25 through December 6 the runners collected non-perishable goods for the Roxbury Food Pantry at the Roxbury Church of Christ.

From November 22 through December 6 it collected unwrapped toys for the collection box at the Troop A state police barracks in Southbury.

At the season finale on December 6, plaques were presented to the top six female and top six runners in the season standings, as well as a service award to Russ Pribanic, the president of the club's Executive Committee.

The series also sponsored a winter party for the runners in January in the Ed Went Room at the Roxbury Town Hall. It included a meal, a recognition ceremony and dancing to the music played by a disc jockey.