

12<sup>th</sup> Annual Somers Great Escape Road Race  
a record smashing event.

As incredible as the weather was on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, the results of the Somers Great Escape Road Race were even more so. Records fell like leaves off the trees. 301 runners participated under absolutely perfect weather conditions. The race kicked off promptly at 8am. A blistering pace was set right from the start resulting in new course records for the 5k men's and women's and the 5 mile men's races. A quartet of runners from Ethiopia via The Bronx, NY won all four races. Local runners certainly gave them a run for their money though.

In the men's 5 mile race, Derese Rashaw shaved 1:02 off the course record set just last year by fellow Ethiopian Abiyot Worku. Derese's winning time was 23:43 for a 4:45 minute/mile pace. Scott Mindel of New London came in second with a time of 25:43 followed by **Brian Nelson of Ellington** at 26:30. In the women's 5 mile, Muliye Gurmu won with a time of 29:53 followed by Suffield's Beth Kraseman at 30:45 and **Somers' Donna Kaye-Ness** at 31:27. The course record set by Claudia Camargo in 2007 still stands at 26:39. An up and coming star proved to be 10 year old Shadow Pereira from Monson, MA who set a new under-12 record of 33:12. Tim Mahoney of Holyoke set a new 30-39 age division record at 26:35. Christine Hoyt set a new 13-19 age division at 41:53 besting the record held by Veronica Anderson since 2005. Lastly, **Anne Marie Ryan of Somers** set a new 50-59 age division at 37:24 breaking Linda Kiendzior's record set in 2003.

Running in the men's 5k this year, Abiyot Worku lowered the course record by 32 seconds to 14:50, followed Jacob Gurzler of Bolton, CT who finished in 15:44 with third place going to Dan Fields of Lebanon, CT with a time of 17:33. **Mark Erwin of Somers** set a new 13-19 age division record with a time of 18:45.

The women's 5K was impressive on several counts. A new course record was set and three women finished in the top ten overall for the first time. Alemtsehay Misganaw finished third overall and set a women's course record of 16:47. Melissa Stellato of Windsor finished second at 18:35, sixth overall. Christine Dzialo of Belchertown, MA took third place, eighth overall, with a time of 19:28. Meredith McGowan of East Longmeadow, MA set a new 13-19 age division record at 21:11 and Jean Moadlo of Broad Brook set a new 50-59 age division with a time of 23:26.

38 of a possible 44 prizes for a total of \$3220 were handed out. Every year the Somers Great Escape becomes more competitive, drawing runners from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and New York this year. The organizers will continue to tweak the courses to make them even straighter and faster for next year.

The Somers Rotary Club wants to thank everyone involved from the sponsors to the runners and the over thirty people who worked at the race for another successful

Great Escape. We look forward to an even better race next year on Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Full results are posted on [SomersNow.com/race](http://SomersNow.com/race) and [Coolrunning.com](http://Coolrunning.com).