

On June 8, 2019, the 9<sup>th</sup> running of the Run for Rice's 5k Road Race will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Wilbraham. Winding through neighboring streets, the race ends across the street in the field area of the Rice Fruit Farm, where runners will enjoy a complimentary ice cream sundae. Since our inaugural race in 2011, we have grown to be the biggest road race in the local area, now averaging 200 runners. Walk around town on any fair weather day and you are bound to see people proudly sporting their Run for Rice's 5k t-shirts from prior years. We take exceptional pride in having created a family-friendly event that is both well attended and a rite of spring for many in Wilbraham and the surrounding communities.

We could not have become this successful without our dedicated sponsors. We thank you for your past support and hope you can continue to support us in 2019. We are excited to be partnering with Fleet Feet Longmeadow, who will advertise our race on their website, send a blast e-mail featuring our race to all their subscribers, and coordinate timing and on-line registrations for us as well.

We've made sponsoring our race even easier this year. Please visit [RunSignUp.com](http://RunSignUp.com) and locate our race by searching Run for Rice's in the "find a race" search box. You now have the option to sponsor us on-line through their "DONATE" program. This might be an easier alternative than mailing us a check (which we will gladly accept with sincere thanks!). We will also have published a "Thank You Sponsors" letter in the H-W Times.

All sponsorship donations are tax-deductable and placed in a dedicated Minnechaug Land Trust account for the Rice Nature Preserve Stewardship. Where does your money go? We constructed bog bridging this year to build bridging over the wet areas near the beginning of the trails, and anticipate further bridging or other means to cover wet areas further up the trail. We constructed and put in place two granite benches honoring members of the Rice family, which afford awesome views of the Pioneer Valley and distant hills. We continue with invasive species and poison ivy removal, and we keep a nest egg for future emergencies (remember June 1, 2011?).

In conclusion, please consider sponsoring the Run for Rice's 5k Road Race this year and come out on race day for a great, family-friendly experience. I've attached sponsorship and registration forms for your consideration. We continue to be the lowest cost race in the area, only \$15 right up until the day before the race, thanks to your generous sponsorships!

Bobby Olsen

Race Director