

For Immediate Release

Contact: Scott Benjamin

ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com

(v/m) (860) 354-3521

Saturday, August 1, 2026

Abrahams Go 1-2 On Leslie's Course, Which Honors Vietnam War Hero

ROXBURY – Steve Leslie has blazed a trail by designing and marking trails.

The 61-year-old Brookfield resident has not only frequently earned a plaque for finishing in the top six in the Roxbury Road Runners Club season standings. In 2024, for example, he took fifth place for the campaign.

But Leslie, who has been competing in the weekly series for about 15 years, has utilized some of the Roxbury Land Trust's 32 preserves.

He took about a seven-tenths-of-mile slice from the 1.8-mile loop at the Brian E. Tierney preserve near Squire Road to produce a 4.7-mile route for the Saturday, August 1, race.

Tierney, a Roxbury resident, was killed in 1968, at age 19, while fighting the Vietnam War. The donation of the preserve by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Sherman in 1974 in his honor was the first parcel gifted to the Roxbury Land Trust.

Perhaps appropriately two Roxbury residents – a father and son – were the top finishers in the race.

Wylden Abraham, 17, who will soon matriculate at Gettysburg College, placed first and his father, Mike Abraham, 67, was about a minute behind as the runner-up on the loop, which also included a trip up and then down the steep hill on Apple Lane leading to Squire Road.

Wylden has now won the last five races at the series. He was clocked in 36-minutes, 41.58-seconds – a 7:48-per-mile pace over a layout that included stones, pebbles and tree stumps.

Mike finished in 37:43.

Ashley Levy, 41, of Richmond, CA, tallied her second consecutive win in the female division at the Roxbury series, where her in-laws have run regularly for about 25 years. She placed seventh in 42:36. She was placed behind Leslie, who took sixth place in 41:18.

The series will continue on Saturday, August 8, 8:30 a.m., with a 6.4-mile event, which will include a trip along Minors Bridge Road and Falls Road.

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

Registration is available through [Roxbury Road Runners Club](#).

Runners should arrive early and check in so that they are logged into the computer system.

Current and former military personnel, current and former first responders and youth entrants should inquire about discount fees. The general charge is \$45 for a season pass and \$10 for the weekly waiver.

The ninth annual Roxbury Thanksgiving Day Charity Race is slated for Thursday, November 26, 9 a.m., over a 3.1-mile route.

Registration can be accessed via <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Roxbury/RoxburyThanksgivingDayCharityRace>.

The fee is \$10 plus a \$1.60 handling charge – for a grand total of \$11.60. Race-day registration of \$15 per runner – plus a \$1.90 handling fee for a grand total of \$16.90 – will be available November 26 at the pavilion to the community park from 7:30 to 8:50 a.m.

For more information, contact Scott Benjamin, the race director, at ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com, (v/m) (860) 354-3521 or access the Roxbury Races Facebook page, www.roxburyraces.net or [Roxbury Road Runners Club](#).