

## Sharon

## It was a perfect spring day for the annual Sharon Classic

By Sam Rathbun

SHARON — It was a near perfect spring morning for the running of the 30th annual Sharon Classic Road Race on Saturday, May 2.

Under partly cloudy skies, visitors from around the region gathered on the Green for the annual event, which benefits the Sharon Day Care Center.

Numerous vendor tents and activities had been set up for a silent auction, a bounce house and a barbecue with hot dogs and hamburgers.

The Sharon Audubon also presented a birds of prey exhibit.

Proceeds from the booths were partially donated to benefit the day care center.

The morning started with the children's Fun Run and Not-Quite-a-Mile Run.

Following the children's events, the "main event" began: the 5-mile race/walk. Participants followed a route that traveled through what is sometimes



PHOTOS BY SAM RATHBUN

Audubon of Sharon intern JC Renteria, above, presented a Birds of Prey exhibit including an American kestrel during the 30th annual Sharon Classic Road Race on Saturday, May 2. Jennie Barillaro of Falls Village, right, was the top female runner, finishing the 5-mile race in 36:15. A plant sale was one of many vendor booths set up on the Green, far right.

called Sharon's Mansion Row on Main Street, before traversing surrounding farmland and fields,

finishing up back at the Green.

For race results and more photos, turn to Page A11.



## New course record set for Sharon Classic Road Race

SHARON — Amos Sang of Chicopee, Mass., set a new course record at the Sharon Classic Road Race on Saturday, May 2. The Kenya native finished the 5-mile race in 24:38, a pace of 4:56 per mile and 7:44 ahead of the second-place finisher.

In total, 160 runners and walkers turned out for the race, which was held under blue skies with temperatures hovering around the 70s. The turnout was the second best since 2009, just slightly behind last year's 166 participants.

It was Sang's first time running the race. He averages roughly three races per month throughout the United States.

"The fourth mile was the toughest," he said. "I started out right at my goal of 4:50

miles in the beginning but around the fourth mile I began to slow down and was closer to a 5:10 pace.

"It was tough not having any other runners nearby because I couldn't gauge as well if my pace was slowing, but I'm very proud to have won the race and set the course record."

Jennie Barillaro of Falls Village was the top female runner with a final time of 36:15.

Eight-year-old Andrew Medeiros of Longmeadow, Mass., was the youngest participant, walking the course in 1:14:17.

Eighty-two-year-old Bob Corrao was the oldest racer, finishing the walk in 1:34:32.

For more photos and a story about the other activities at the Sharon Classic, turn to Page A5.

— Sam Rathbun



LEFT PHOTO BY LAZLO GYORSOK, RIGHT PHOTO BY JOANNA GEIGER

Left, Amos Sang of Chicopee, Mass., finished the Sharon Classic Road Race nearly 8 minutes faster than any other runner. Right, the fastest female finisher in the race was Jennie Barillaro of Falls Village.