

Tourism News



For Immediate Release, June 9, 2015

Contact: Elizabeth Waldstein-Hart, Executive Director, 845-454-9649

Steve Densmore, Media Relations Director, 845-234-8713

Walkway Marathon Expo Welcomes 65 Vendors *Ribbon Cutting on Friday, June 12th kicks off inaugural race*

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY—Walkway Marathon organizers invite the public to attend the Walkway Marathon Health & Wellness Expo on Friday, June 12 from 2-8pm at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center. Dutchess Tourism, Inc., hosts of the Expo, expect over 60 vendors and will hold a ribbon cutting on Friday, June 12th at 1:45 PM at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center (14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, 12601) in Poughkeepsie, NY to mark the beginning of the inaugural races.

Walkway Marathon participants must pick up their numbered race bibs and t-shirts at the Expo which is open to the public. Booth exhibitors range from area fitness businesses—such as Planet Fitness, Hike New York, and the Mid-Hudson Rowing Association—to regional and state groups like the National Running Center and Bike New York. The Todd Hill Taste NY Store with its locally grown products, Bonura Hospitality Group, Topricin Topical BioMedics, Orthopedic Associates of Dutchess County, Dutchess County Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene, as well as numerous charities and other businesses will also be in attendance. A full listing of vendors can be found in the Walkway Marathon Digital Race Packet at WalkwayMarathon.org. “We are very pleased at the turnout for the Walkway Marathon. Over 5,000 people will be coming to Dutchess and Ulster counties over the June 13 weekend and are grateful for the remarkable show of support from our stakeholders,” said Walkway Executive Director Elizabeth Waldstein-Hart. “We are thankful for the efforts of Mary Kay Vrba and the Dutchess Tourism, Inc. team who’ve been able to pull together many wonderful vendors for the Walkway Marathon Expo on June 12.”

Mary Kay Vrba, Dutchess Tourism President & CEO said, “If you’re wondering how to fit fitness into your life (and budget), come to the free Health & Wellness Expo and talk to representatives from more than 60 area businesses and groups. Ask questions about a sport you’ve always wanted to try. We want everyone to be as fit and healthy as they can be,” continued Mary Kay. “We’re hoping the Expo makes it easy for some people to get started, and for others to learn about new products and services!”

Parking for the Walkway Marathon Health & Wellness Expo will be limited; charges vary and can be found at the following locations:

- **Financial Plaza (Parking Garage)**—One Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
- **Dutchess County Department of Motor Vehicles**—22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
- **Municipal Parking lot on the corner of:** Main Street and Rt. 44/Columbus Dr., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (South of Saint Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, Lafayette Place, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601)
- **Municipal Parking at Intersection of:** Catharine Street, Crannell Street and Rt. 55 Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (In front of the Chance Theater, 6 Crannell Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601)

- **City Hall**—62 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
- **Main Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601** (metered parking required)
- **Off-Street Parking** (metered parking required)

Along with the long established Treetops to Rooftops 5K race, the Walkway Marathon will feature marathon and half-marathon routes that begin at the Marist College riverfront, include a significant stretch of the William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail in Dutchess County, and cross over the Walkway Over the Hudson, with a turnaround on the Hudson Valley Rail Trail in Ulster County. Radio personalities Skeery Jones from the Elvis Duran and the Morning Show, and J Will from KissFM HV will be on-site to emcee the races. Registration for the event has closed at 2,500 runners who hail from 31 states and 6 countries, including the US, Canada, South Africa, Italy, Brazil and Israel. Organizers—including the Walkway Over the Hudson organization, the Walkway State Historic Park, Dutchess County Government, Dutchess Tourism, Inc., Marist College and the Mid-Hudson Road Runners Club—expect more than 5,000 racers, spectators, supporters and volunteers to attend the event. -

Please be advised of some of the closures and traffic changes that will occur during the event on Saturday, June 13 include:

- *From 6:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Walkway State Historic Park will be open to pedestrians and spectators, but please note that pets, bikes, strollers, roller skates, skateboards, and scooters will be restricted from accessing the park.*
- *From 6:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the William R. Steinhaus Dutchess County Rail Trail will be closed to the general public for the Walkway Half and Full Marathon. No unauthorized users will be allowed on the Rail Trails during the time of the race. Designated spectator viewing areas and race route maps can be found at: walkwaymarathon.org.*
- *From 6:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the Hudson Valley Rail Trail will be closed from the Walkway's West Approach to 9W for the Walkway Half and Full Marathon. No unauthorized users will be allowed on the Rail Trails during the time of the race. Designated spectator viewing areas and race route maps can be found at: walkwaymarathon.org.*
- Motorists should expect delays in the Fairview Avenue area from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Town of Poughkeepsie roads which will be affected are:
Fulton St.
Fairview Ave.
West Cedar St.
- From 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. there will be a designated 10 ft running lane on the eastbound side of Fairview Avenue that will be marked with cones as a Designated Running Lane Only. No cars will be permitted to park in this area during this time.
- The Half and Full Marathon race route is as follows:
Runners will start and finish the race at the Marist College waterfront. Runners proceed up through Marist College campus and under the Rte. 9 tunnel to Fulton Street turning Right onto Fairview Ave. then onto the Dutchess Rail Trail (DRT) heading East. The Half Marathon turns around between Love Rd. and Overrocker Road trailheads, while the Full Marathon turns around past the Diddell Road trailhead. Runners will then proceed back, heading West on the DRT to Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park. Runners continue to proceed west over the Walkway then onto the Hudson Valley Rail Trail in Ulster County with the turn around near the Rt 9W underpass. Runners head east over the Walkway back to the DRT to Fairview Ave. then Fulton Street. to Marist College back down to the Marist waterfront finish line.

- Treetops to Rooftops 5K race route is as follows:

Runners will start on the Highland, NY West Approach of the Walkway and head East towards Poughkeepsie. Runners will proceed to Fairview Ave. then to West Cedar Street, then onto the Marist College Campus near the tennis courts. Participants will then run through Marist College Campus to the waterfront finish line.

For more information visit walkwaymarathon.org or call the Walkway office at 845-454-9649.

The Walkway Marathon created in partnership with Dutchess County Government, is sponsored by: iHeartMedia, Health Quest, Dutchess Tourism, Inc., Marist College, Mid-Hudson Road Runners Club, Royal Carting, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Pepsi Cola of the Hudson Valley, TEG Federal Credit Union, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, M&T Bank, Orthopedic Associates of Dutchess County, Planet Fitness, Safeguard Business Systems, Arnoff Moving & Storage, Poughkeepsie Journal, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, Feldman Physical Therapy, Moriarty Physical Therapy, Dr. Erik Sims, Podiatrist, Hudson Whiskey, Town of Poughkeepsie, City of Poughkeepsie, Vassar College, Ulster County Government, Town of Lloyd, SUNY New Paltz, NUUN Electrolyte Drink Tabs, Dutchess Community College, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Bonura Hospitality Group, Hudson Valley Rail Trail, The Bagel Shoppe—Fishkill, M&O Sanitation, Hudson Valley News Network, Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, My Brother Bobby's Salsa, Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Mid-Hudson Civic Center