

The Shillelagh Shuffle 3-Miler - is a Terrific Community Event

For the past nine years, Paddy's Pub owners Karl and John O'Hara have been waking up at 4 a.m. to make food for the village of West Newton.

Elm Street in West Newton, Massachusetts is the place to be for this 11th edition of the Paddy's Road Race, named for the host Irish Pub just off Washington Street with all the atmosphere and amenities you can ask for at an Irish-themed race. Music (including bagpipes), food and fun far exceed expectations at this annual celebration to benefit Newton's Special Athletes. Be sure to get there for this enjoyable clockwise loop through the neighborhoods of West Newton followed by a great post-race celebration.

If you have never been to the Paddy's Road Race in West Newton then it is time you enjoy this three-mile pub race. If you are familiar with the area, all the more reason to enjoy this clockwise certified loop through town for a wonderful cause, the Newton Special Athletes. As always, this community event will be a treat for runners and walkers of all abilities, and the organization is top notch. This year it is once again the final event in the New England Runner Pub Series. It is also becoming famous for its post race celebration and excellent food.

<http://www.paddysroadrace.com/>

This event is very well organized, and after 11 years they really have it down—lots of parking, smooth registration process, the closed course monitoring, and of course the post race fun. It is chip timed and they offer 10-year age group awards three deep through 70+. Shillelagh's go to the winners, and one of the great things about this Irish Pub is that it truly reflects its Irish heritage—this is not just a few decorations, this one is genuinely Irish. Paddy's sits at 95 Elm Street, West Newton, MA 02465. <http://www.paddys.us/>

And the race is genuinely a terrific Eastern Massachusetts Road Race with all the amenities. And it is truly a community happening, with an excellent array of sponsorship. Check the fine race Website at <http://www.paddysroadrace.com/> for race details, course map and description, directions, volunteer needs, contacts, charities, past results, photos, and much more.

Skip Cleaver