

# 8th annual Sean's run

# 2009



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**Register-Star**

**Chatham High School • Sunday, April 26 2009**  
**Runners and walkers of all ages invited!**



O F F I C I A L P R O G R A M





*Sean Patrick French*

*11th grade • 2001*

# 8th Annual Sean's Run - April 26

*A time for remembrance, resolve, and running*

## **By Michael Rivest, Runner**

New green buds! They are a vivid reminder that what seems gone forever, often isn't. As still and final as we think things are in January, nature will always, each year at this time, prove us wrong. We may stop believing. But spring doesn't care what we think; it's never heard of us. The buds are back and things are alive once more.

So it's right that Sean's Run should happen now, in the spring, as it has for eight straight years. It's right that more than a thousand of us should come together to run and walk in memory of a very special young man who was so tragically taken from us on a cold January morning.

The 8th Annual Sean's Run will happen at Chatham High School on Sunday, April 26 and is expected to draw a record 1,200 runners and walkers. To date, thanks to generous sponsors and donors, the event has raised \$120,550, money that supports youth education and rewards high school students with scholarships.

Just as it has been since the beginning, this year's Sean's Run won't be a solemn, mournful gathering, because that wouldn't capture Sean's spirit at all. Sean wouldn't show up for that. We're going to laugh, put on our Nikes and run. Not like he did, of course. This kid ran like the wind.

From the age of 7, Sean was a champion, winning so many awards that his room at home looked more like a

hall of fame than a place to sleep. He became one of the finest local high school athletes of his generation, and one of the best high school runners New York State has ever seen.

Always an honor student, Sean was only in the 10th grade when he placed second in the New York State Public High School Cross-Country Championships. And when track season came around he ran the fastest metric mile of any sophomore in the State - 4:18. Months after his death, his Dad was still opening mail containing scholarship offers from prestigious universities.

Yes, Sean French will be with us on April 26. He wouldn't miss it because Sean's Run is so much more than a race, and because Sean was so much more than a runner. He believed in things larger than himself - like the feelings of others, and in what would make the world a better place. If you knew him, just imagine Sean now, winged feet and all, delighting in endless runs, and encouraging others by his contagious enthusiasm and bright smile.

In the world as Sean would have it, no other young person would ever again lose his life because of a bad judgment. To drink and drive, to not wear a seat belt, to take such risks with this fragile life we've been given, these things simply would not happen.

Sean would never want another Mom and Dad to endure what his parents, Mark and Cathy, have endured,

nor see another brother cope with the loss that Eric has had to endure.

Sean wasn't the only victim in the car crashed by an underage drunk driver in the early minutes of New Year's Day, 2002.

With him were two close friends, one was fortunately buckled safely in the front seat. The other, Ian Moore, permanently injured in the crash, sat unbuckled next to Sean in the rear seat. The Moore family, too, is forever scarred by the same act of foolishness. Knowing Sean, he would do whatever he could to see Ian walk, and to see no family ever goes through that again.

Once again, the First Niagara Bank will serve as Presenting Sponsor for Sean's Run, offering a small army of event volunteers and generously contributing \$10,000 so that they, too, won't ever have to read in the paper, or hear on the news, that it's happened one more time. Their sponsorship seems to shout, "No more!"

So when you lace up those Nikes on April 26, when you watch or participate in the Battle of the Belts competition or in any of the other Sean's Run events, know that together, and with Sean, you are making our communities safer places.

Then, as you head down the Sean's Run course, look up at the cloud of dust in front of the pack. Don't waste time wondering who that is. After all, it's Spring again, and what we think is gone, isn't always.

## Something for everyone at Sean's Run

### Nice Giveaways:

The first 1,200 to register for the 5K or Meghan's Mile will receive a top-quality long-sleeve event t-shirt and souvenir. The first 250 to pick up their entrant's packets on Saturday, the day before the race, will be provided an extra premium and a chance to win a random draw prize.

### Nice Amenities:

"Feel the Spirit" is the event's slogan. Music abounds during the entire event, creating a fun and spirited atmosphere enjoyed by all. When they cross the finish line, participants are invited to enjoy a spread of nutritious refreshments.

### 5K Run/Community Walk:

A well-organized 3.1-mile race for runners of all ages and abilities and a community walk of the same distance. The 5K traverses a scenic course through historic Chatham village.

### Meghan's Mile:

in memory of Meghan Nicole Kraham, a friend of Sean's who at age 16 was a founding member of the Sean's Run Organizing Committee. In 2007 she succumbed to a rare form of cancer at the age of 21. This is a one-mile race for boys and girls age 12 years-and-under and a non-competitive walk for people of all ages.

### World Championship Battle of the Belts:

An exciting and fun seatbelt buckling competition for middle school and high school students to increase awareness and use of seat belts.

### Prevention Education Expo:

Information booths and exhibits from local and regional youth development groups to educate young people and parents about the dangers of drinking and driving, to encourage seat belt use, and to present positive alternatives to using alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

### Tribute to Victims and Survivors of Drunk Driving:

A show of empathy and support for local and regional residents who have been harmed or lost a loved one because of a drunk driver. It coincides with the annual observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

### Scholarships and Grant Awards:

Scholarships are presented each year in three different categories to benefit college-bound high school seniors, both runners and non-runners. Grants are given to fund school and youth group programs aimed at increasing teens' use of seatbelts and reducing underage drinking and driving.

## Sean's Run Schedule

Chatham High School

### SATURDAY, APRIL 25

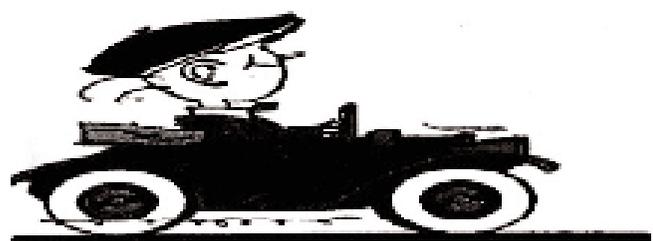
**2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Early Packet Pick Up and Walk-In Registration  
Chatham High School gym  
First 250 to arrive will receive special gift

### SUNDAY, APRIL 26

**10:00 a.m.** Prevention Education Expo Opens - gym  
**10:00 - 11:00 a.m.** Meghan's Mile Registration and Packet Pick Up - gym  
**11:00 a.m.** Battle of the Belts Teams sign in  
**11:00 a.m. - Noon** 5K Run/Walk Registration, Packet Pick Up - gym  
**11:15 a.m.** Presentation of Scholarships and Grants auditorium  
**Noon** World Championship Battle of the Belts  
**12:30 p.m.** Meghan's Mile - Youth Race and 1-Mile Walk  
**1:00 p.m.** 5K Run and Community Walk  
**2:00 p.m.** Running Awards Presentation  
**7:00 p.m.** Results posted at [www.SeansRun.com](http://www.SeansRun.com)

### TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Results and new coverage published in the *Register-Star*



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# Course and Age Group Records



Contributed photo  
Two finishers smile at their accomplishment.

## Sean's Run 5K Course Records

**Male Course Record:** 15:18 (2008) - *Matthew Forsy* (Sean's Cousin), 22, Howell, NJ  
**Female Course Record:** 17:42 (2005) - *Lilly Becker*, 20, Pittsfield, MA

### 12 and Under

**Male:** 21:01 - *Ross Wightman*, 12, Chatham, NY  
**Female:** 24:22 - *Abigail Wheeler*, 12, Chatham, NY

### 13 to 15

**Male:** 17:56 - *Patrick Murray*, 15, Rotterdam, NY  
**Female:** 21:15 - *Haley Madsen*, 15, Ghent, NY

### 16 to 18

**Male:** 16:00 - *Matthew Flint*, 18, Queensbury, NY  
**Female:** 18:18 - *Brina Seguine*, 18, Rensselaer, NY

### 19 to 29

**Male:** 16:26 - *Darren Legere*, 20 Ghent, NY  
**Female:** 18:16 - *Kara-Lynne Kerr*, 26, Albany, NY

### 30 to 39

**Male:** 17:06 - *Tucker Chrapowitsky*, 30, Feura Bush, NY  
**Female:** 19:50 - *Kim Miseno-Bowles*, 35 Amsterdam, NY

### 40 to 49

**Male:** 16:44 - *Derrick Staley*, 47, Ballston Lake, NY  
**Female:** 21:26 - *Lisa Mattilla*, 45, Pittsfield, MA

### 50 to 59

**Male:** 18:36 - *Rick Munson*, 51, Prattsville, NY  
**Female:** 23:38 - *Linda Reed*, 50, Ghent, NY

### 60 to 69

**Male:** 21:15 - *Tom Adams*, 62, Rotterdam, NY  
**Female:** 24:37 - *Jayne Zinke*, 61, Valatie, NY

### 70 and Over

**Male:** 23:36 - *Richard Shook*, 70, Pittsfield, MA  
**Female:** 27:56 - *Anne Stockman*, 73, Rensselaer, NY

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# Course and Age Group Records

## Past 5K Champions - The Jack McGrath Award

- 2004** Male: *Darren Legere*, 18, Ghent, NY, 17:02  
 Female: *Molly Montegami*, 20, Pittsfield, MA, 20:59
- 2005** Male: *Robert Irwin*, 32, Guilderland, NY, 16:26  
 Female: *Kara-Lynn Kerr*, 26, Albany, NY, 18:16
- 2006** Male: *Craig Forys* (Sean's Cousin), 16, Howell, NY, 15:56  
 Female: *Libby Gamache*, 23, Rensselaer, NY, 19:36
- 2007** Male: *MacKy Lloyd*, 17, Voorhesville, NY, 16:20  
 Female: *Samantha Legere*, Scotia, NY, 20:13
- 2008** Male: *Matthew Forys*, 22, Howell, NY, 15:18  
 Female: *Brina Seguine*, 18, Rensselaer, NY, 18:18



Contributed photos  
 2008 Sean's Run 5K Champions,  
 Matthew Forys, left, and Brina Seguine, right

## Meghan's Mile - Course Records

- Male Course Record:** 6:03 (2008) - *Ross Wightman*, 12, Chatham, NY  
**Female Course Record:** 6:53 (2008) - *Raelyn Beaucage*, 12, Valatie, NY

## Past Meghan's Mile Champions - The Newkirk Award

- 2004** Male: *Ian Rasweiler*, 10, Hudson, NY, 7:33  
 Female: *Wren Hoy*, 11, Hudson, NY, 8:45
- 2005** Male: *Henry Taylor*, 11, Delmar, NY, 6:44  
 Female: *Kelly Forys* (Sean's Cousin), 11, Absecon, NJ, 8:33
- 2006** Male: *Richard Cummings*, 12, Stuyvesant, NY, 6:46  
 Female: *Hannah Riordan*, 11, Nassau, NY, 8:07
- 2007** Male: *Ross Wightman*, 11, Chatham, NY, 6:33  
 Female: *Hannah Riordan*, 12, Nassau, NY, 7:36
- 2008** Male: *Ross Wightman*, 12, Chatham, NY, 6:03  
 Female: *Raelyn Beaucage*, 12, Valatie, NY, 6:53



Contributed photo  
 Raelyn Beaucage,  
 2008 Meghan's Mile Medal Winner



Contributed photo  
 Griffen Leggieri races to the finish  
 line in last year's Meghan's Mile

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# Sean's Run Participant — Tom Amell

By Jim Gilmer, Runner  
and Sean's Run Sponsor

First Niagara Bank's Regional President, Tom Amell, is a business leader whose business is to be concerned about the financial well-being of our community's families, their homes and commercial endeavors. With an eye towards the Capital Region's future prosperity, he serves on the board of the Center for Economic Growth and The 50 Group, an association of executives working behind the scenes to better the region.

## Leader

A Delmar native and Siena grad ('89) with a UAlbany MBA, Tom is that brand of community leader who also makes it his business to care about the social and physical well-being of his beloved Capital Region.

"Sean's Run is an important event for the Bank and for the Capital Region in encouraging teenagers to make safe choices when they get into a car with their peers. It makes good sense for our bank to invest in a quality event like this, because we care about the youth of our region," noted Mr. Amell in discussing some of the charity work he supports in our area.

In addition to serving on the Executive Board of the Northeast Parent & Child Society, he also is the Society's Treasurer. What's more, he's on the board of several other community organizations, including the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast NY and 15-Love, which promotes healthy living, education, multi-cultural relationships, and the importance of family through the sport of tennis. Tom was also the 2008 chairman of the American Heart Association's Start! Heart Walk.

## Runner

An accomplished high school athlete in baseball, Tom turned to running as a way to stay fit and



*Contributed photo*  
Tom Amell, President of First Niagara Bank Eastern Region (L) and Mark French, Sean's Run Committee, (R) look over a framed participant's shirt from 2007 Sean's Run that is displayed in Mr. Amell's office.

maintain a healthy lifestyle. Despite his busy schedule, he makes time to fit in three to four runs a week. He proudly claims 11 consecutive Turkey Trot finishes, whether in Buffalo, where he previously resided or, more recently, in Troy. Each Thanksgiving Tom and his father-in-law, Stan Westhoff – himself a talented senior athlete in the region – race each other at the Troy Turkey Trot for family "bragging rights." Since 2002,

Tom has lowered his 5K time from 25:04 to a respectable 21:02 last year. Respectable enough, Tom says with a smile, that he was finally able to cross the finish line first!

## Executive

A socially conscious business leader, Tom cares deeply about the fitness and health of his First Niagara employees. Road races and other healthful, recreational pursuits, he believes,

can help achieve that goal.

In March, Tom joined members of the First Niagara team in the Cystic Fibrosis Stair Climb up the Corning Tower. Promoting corporate participation in events like Sean's Run, Tom says, engages people who work together in an atmosphere of friendly competition for a good cause. He knows in turn that this camaraderie helps build relationships that value teamwork and a sense of community in the workplace.

## Sponsor

This is the fourth year that First Niagara Bank has been the Presenting Sponsor of Sean's Run. Tom also supported and encouraged his company's sponsorship and participation in the GHI Workforce Team Challenge. In 2008, Team First Niagara boasted 150 members at the GHIWTC.

Tom Amell and his wife, Chris, have a son and live in Clifton Park.

# Sean's Run Participant — Marty Ryan

Marty Ryan, 47, loves three things: fatherhood, wheelchair racing and computer programming. He came to these activities after an injury from a serious fall nearly 23 years ago that severed his spinal cord and changed the course of his life. In 2003 and 2004, Marty participated in Sean's Run and regrets not being able to attend this year's race. However, he is joining in the spirit of the event from his home in Schenectady where he is battling cancer. Marty's message to the 2009 Sean's Run participants is, very simply, "Do not quit!"

## Father

In 1998, Marty and Ann, his wife at the time, traveled to Russia to complete an adoption process. But Marty's physical impairment was a problem for the Russian adoption agency. After nearly two weeks of bureaucratic red-tape that ended favorably in a court hearing, the elated couple flew back to New York with their new ten-month old son Nikolai. Marty and Nick, who is now 11, recently returned from a family excursion to Disney World. Whenever he can, Marty enjoys playing tennis with Nick and attending his little league practices and games.

## Racer

Marty's many athletic accomplishments as a quad (quadriplegic) wheelchair racer came with a lot of ups and downs. Like many racers, the track was a gateway to the roads. After rehabbing at Sunnyview, in the late 1980s Marty would "push" his everyday wheelchair around the track at Schenectady County Community College where he was a student. As he puts it, this helped him work off the "hate" he felt over what had happened to his body. In the early 1990s at UAlbany, where he took a bachelors degree in mathematics, former Chatham-area resident and local elite runner Lori Hewig



*Contributed photo*  
Marty Ryan competed at Sean's Run in 2003 and 2004

encouraged Marty to try road races. Soon, he began attending races with colleagues, working out regularly at the gym, and eventually acquired his own racing chair.

The success of Marty's wheelchair racing career is not measured merely in finishing times, but in finishing races — with a preference for distances from 15K to the marathon... and most with hills. He relishes the challenge of a good hill because, he says, as a wheelchair racer, you either make it over the top or it's a quick trip back to the bottom. But the downhill are also the most perilous part of a course. For wheelchair racers, like cyclists, the risk of a crash is ever present. And Marty has had his fair share.

In 2001, wheeling on a rain-slick course toward a goal of qualifying for Boston at the Mohawk Hudson River Marathon, Marty lost control on a sharp turn at the bottom of a hill just after Mile 17. After the crash, Marty urged volunteers to assist him back into his chair. With a bent rim and two broken legs, Marty persevered; powering his wobbly

chariot the remaining 9 miles to a 4:20 finish for the 26.2-mile course. In the 2004 NYC Marathon, a spectator pushing a tandem baby carriage stepped out directly into Marty's path on a blind turn forcing a collision. Though having lost several minutes getting back into his chair and onto the course, he still managed a respectable 3:14 finish — and even got to the Giants game later that day.

## Programmer

After graduating college, Marty took a job at Fleet Norstar Bank before accepting a state civil service position in 1992 at the Department of Correctional Services as a computer programmer. Over his five years in State service he developed an expertise in mainframe programming and became friends with several runners who supported his racing. Most recently, he worked for Keane Consulting before having to leave his job in 2006 for health reasons.



*Contributed photo*  
Thomas Amell, President of First Niagara Bank Eastern Region (left), and Jeff French, chairman of the Sean's Run Organizing Committee (right), with the 2008 recipients of Sean's Run Grants.

## \$120,550 DONATED BY SEAN'S RUN

For eight years, the Organizing Committee has given the money raised at Sean's Run to support two areas of interest. Thanks to generous sponsors and donors, \$120,550 has been raised - and given away. The funds from the inaugural Sean's Run helped to establish a Scholarship Fund and money raised at subsequent Sean's Runs has been contributed to support educational programs implemented by school groups and community organizations.

### THE SEAN'S RUN GRANTS PROGRAM

Cash grants are given to school groups and community-based organizations to support programs across the region designed to combat underage drinking, impaired driving and teens' lax use of seatbelts. The Sean's Run Organizing Committee, using a Request for Proposals, invites schools and groups to apply for funding. This year Sean's Run is presenting \$500 grants to 14 schools and youth groups to plan and produce their own Battle of the Belts and compete in the World Championship Battle of Belts. Also, three regional organizations whose missions are to combat underage drinking and impaired driving will be presented grants to support their work.

GRANT WINNER	COUNTY
Amsterdam HS SADD	Fulton County
Berlin Jr/Sr HS SADD	Rensselaer County
Berne-Knox-Westerlo HS SADD	Albany County
Chatham HS SADD	Columbia County
Chatham MS SADD	Columbia County
Council on Addition Prevention and Education	Dutchess County
Fonda-Fultonville HS Student Government	Fulton County
Hoosick Falls HS Youth Summit Team	Rensselaer County
Hudson Dept. of Youth	Columbia County
Lynch Literacy Academy	Fulton County
Peer Leadership Club	
Mohonasen HS SADD	Schenectady County
Pine Plains HS SADD	Dutchess County
Reality Check	Columbia & Greene
Taconic Hills HS SADD	Columbia County
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)	Albany County
Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID)	Schenectady County
Choices 301	Albany County

# The Sean Patrick French Memorial Scholarships Fund

The Sean Patrick French Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2002 to recognize the positive achievements and good character of deserving high school seniors. To-date, 58 deserving seniors have been awarded scholarships in three categories. The scholarships must be used towards the costs of tuition for post-secondary education. The fund was created using a portion of the proceeds from the inaugural Sean's Run and from ongoing contributions by individuals, businesses and community organizations. The Scholarship Fund is administered by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Great Barrington, Mass., and all contributions to the fund are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

## Scholarship Category #1

*The Sean Patrick French Community Service Scholarship*

### Who is eligible?

Chatham High School Seniors

### How to Apply:

Applications, available at [www.SeansRun.com](http://www.SeansRun.com), are due by March 1st.

Two \$1,000 scholarships, one to a boy and one to a girl, are awarded each year to recipients selected by a five-person Selection Committee convened by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Winners best exemplify the same personal

characteristics for which Sean is remembered:

- Expresses and demonstrates compassion and sensitivity to all
- Includes all in his/her circle of friends
- Has an ever-present smile and positive attitude
- Provides volunteer service to his/her community
- Demonstrates good sportsmanship

The 2008 winners of the Sean Patrick French Community Service Scholarships were **Lindsay Kulzer** and **Christian Leahy**.

## Scholarship Category #2

*The Sean Patrick French Good Sport Scholarships*

### Who is eligible?

Cross Country runners from NYSPHSAA Section II who have qualified to compete at the NYSPHSAA State Cross Country Championship.

### How to Apply:

There is no application process. Winners are selected by the Section II Cross Country Coaches.

Two \$500 scholarships, one to a boy and one to a girl, are presented to selected Section II runners who participated in the State Championship meet.

The 2009 winners of the Sean Patrick French Good Sport Scholarships are **Sam Roecker** of



Contributed photo  
2008 Sean French Memorial Scholarship Winners with Mark French

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School, and **Craig Weiss** of Shaker High School.

## Scholarship Category #3

*The Sean Patrick French "Love of Running" Scholarships*

### Who is eligible?

High School Seniors who reside in Columbia County and have participated in at least two seasons of varsity level Track & Field or Cross Country.

### How to Apply:

The Application is available at [www.SeansRun.com](http://www.SeansRun.com) and must be submitted by February 15th.

At least two \$500 scholarships, one to a boy and one to a girl, selected by a 5-person selection committee, are awarded each year to the applicants who best describe how their love of running has prepared them for the challenges of college.

The winners of the Sean Patrick French "Love of Running" Scholarships are:

**Tom Accuosti** of Ichabod Crane High School; **Chelsea Rose Bell**, also of Ichabod Crane High School; **Martin Holdrege**, of Hawthorne Valley High School, **Hayley Madsen** of Chatham High School, **Imelda Muller** of Taconic Hills High School and **Ryan Nightingale**, also of Chatham High School.

# Columbia County Stop DWI

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Jessica Nabozny - Coordinator



## The NYS "Get Kids to Ride Safe" Contest

The participants of Sean's Run will have the opportunity to help New York State select the winner of a statewide contest to create the best message or slogan to encourage eight to 12 year-old children to consistently buckle up and sit in the back seat when riding in the car.

The winning message will be used in materials published by the NYS Department of Health to promote seatbelt use by young people. Research shows that safety messages developed and delivered by young people are more likely to positively impact the attitudes and behaviors of Tweens and Teens.

The New York State Department of Health Bureau of Injury Prevention (BIP) and the New York State Association of Traffic Safety Boards (NYSATSB) invited students and youth groups across the state to participate in this contest.

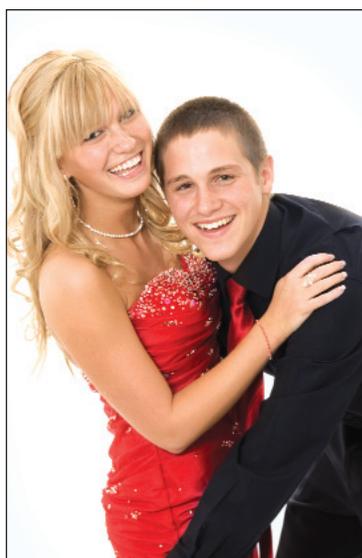
State officials and local Traffic Safety Boards report that motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injuries among eight to 12 year-olds in New York. Children are 40 percent more likely to be injured when riding in the front seat of a vehicle. Unrestrained children are also more likely to be seriously or fatally injured in a crash compared to children who buckle up.

According to the State Department of Health, approximately forty percent of Tweens report they do not always buckle up and they typically sit in the front seat when riding in the car. The percentage is higher for ten to 12-year-olds. Approximately 2/3 of teens killed in car crashes were not buckled.

Slogans submitted to the Department of Health as part of the contest will be displayed at Sean's Run and participants will be invited to vote for a favorite. The school/group with the most votes will be notified by the Department of Health.

### **The Finalists - Top 10 Slogans** *NYS "Get Kids to Ride Safe" Contest*

1. Sit, Click, Drive
2. 1-2-3 Buckle With Me
3. Do What's Right - Buckle Up Tight
4. Get on Track - Buckle in the Back
5. Buckle Up and Save a Life
6. Cool! Follow the Rule - Buckle Up
7. Be Safe - Buckle Up
8. Be Safe - Buckle Up - Be Cool
9. Buckle Up For Your Future
10. Click the Seat Belts and Win



## Prom season:

### *Dangerous Time for Teen Drivers*

It's no coincidence that Sean's Run occurs each year on the last Sunday of April, in the middle of Prom Season.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that Prom Season is a period when the number of car crashes involving teenagers increases dramatically. The statistics are startling: Car crashes are the number one cause of death for teens. Over half of all car crashes by teenagers involve alcohol. And nearly two thirds of all teens killed in car crashes were not using seat belts.

In Columbia County during the year that Sean was killed, 2002, under-21 drunk drivers accounted for fatal and personal injury car wrecks at nearly twice the state average for minors.

## Prevention Education Expo

The Prevention Education Expo includes informational booths and exhibits by a variety of community and government agencies, prevention education organizations, youth development programs and wellness providers. These groups are set up inside the gymnasium, and from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM they will distribute materials to:

- Educate young people and their parents about the potentially fatal consequences of underage drinking and impaired driving,
- Encourage young people to try positive alternatives and refrain from the use of alcohol, other drugs and tobacco,
- Underscore the importance of wearing seat belts, and
- Raise awareness about the valuable services and programs their organizations provide.

### **2009 Expo Exhibitors include:**

Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties

Chatham High School SADD

Chatham Middle School SADD

Columbia County Sheriff's Department

Columbia County Stop DWI

Columbia Greene Community College

Cornell Cooperative Extension

KB Chiropractic

LEADD (Law Enforcement Against Drunk Driving) from Suffolk County, NY

MADD, Capital Region

New York State Department of Health

NYS Association of Traffic Safety Boards

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Contributed photo

Mohonasen High School students get buckled up for last year's Battle of the Belts



Contributed photo

Members of Chatham High School's SADD chapter start to rotate at the Battle of the Belts.

# The World Championship Battle of the Belts

The World Championship Battle of the Belts at Sean's Run helps reinforce to young people that it's not "uncool" to be safe and to make smart choices about always using seatbelts.

"We designed the Battle of the Belts as a fast-moving, fun competition where teams of four teenagers see who can buckle-up the fastest. The kids love it!" said Sean's Run Chairman Jeff French, an uncle of Sean's.

To start, the team, starting from a line 15 feet behind the rear bumper, run up to a 4-door car. Team members get in, buckle up, and throw their hands in the air until a referee shouts, "ROTATE!" Then they unbuckle, get out, rotate clockwise around the car to the next seat and buckle-up again. They rotate twice more until they have been buckled in all four seats. The team with the fastest time after four "buckle-ups" will be declared World Champions!

## Past Winners - World Championship Battle of the Belts

### SR. HIGH DIVISION

2008 • Mohonasen High School SADD  
Equipo de Colombia - 32.44 seconds

2007 • Taconic Hills High School  
Click It or Tickets - 31.00 seconds, World Record!

2006 • Berne-Knox Westerlo High School  
Little Walnuts - 37.18 seconds

### 2008 SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

Best Team Name:

Hoosick Falls High School SADD - Clickets

Loudest Cheering Section:

Chatham High School: Team Chatham

Best Team T-shirts

Guilderland High School - The Buckleneers

### JR. HIGH DIVISION

2008 • BSA Troop 42, Red Hook  
The Nice Guys - 37.87

2007 • Chatham Middle School  
The Buckle Up Bettys

2006 • Chatham Middle School  
The Click-its - 44.50 seconds

### 2008 SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

Best Team Name:

Stissing Middle School, Pine Plains - Bomber Bucklers

Loudest Cheering Section:

Berlin Middle School SADD - The Clickets

Best Team T-shirts:

Chatham Middle School - the Eagle Girls

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# Sean's Law

On April 18, 2002, after Mark and Cathy French spent several months lobbying elected officials at the State Capital, both houses of the New York State Legislature unanimously passed "Sean's Law," a bill introduced by Senator Steven Saland. Then, on September 27, 2002, at public ceremony conducted at Chatham High School, Governor George Pataki signed the measure into law.

"In this community we are blessed with ordinary people who do extraordinary things," Pataki told the packed gymnasium that day. "This is a tribute to the spirit of ordinary New Yorkers who reach inside themselves and use their tragedy to make a better future for others. Mark and Cathy, you didn't have to do this... you didn't have to re-live this tragedy... we are grateful for your courage."

Sean's Law fixed a flaw in motor vehicle law that was poignantly revealed following the fatal crash that claimed Sean's life. Just 18 days before Sean's death, his intoxicated 17-year old driver had been arrested on drunk driving charges. Prior to the enactment of Sean's Law, there were no provisions that required the immediate suspension of the teenager's license following their arrest for drunk driving. These youngsters could keep driving after having been arrested for drunk driving. Sean's Law now provides the mechanism for Judges to immediately suspend the licenses of youths charged with alcohol-related driving offenses.

## *Sean's Run pays tribute to those impacted by drunk driving*

Each and everyday in America, 46 people are killed and hundreds more suffer physical and emotional injury because of drunk drivers, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. And the anguish caused by this trauma never fully dissipates.

This is why Sean's Run recognizes all victims and survivors of drunk driving. The volunteers who produce Sean's Run care about these individuals and wish to provide some consolation.

The Organizers of Sean's Run extend a warm welcome to the hundreds of people in our region who have been impacted by an impaired driver. These people have been forced to endure the pain of suddenly losing a loved one or they have personally suffered physical injury.

Victims and survivors who participate in Sean's Run will be provided complimentary entry and will be invited to wear a small placard with the name of the individual they wish to remember or honor as they walk or run. The placards will give faces to the impact of drunk driving and will put names to those who have suffered.

The Tribute to Victims and Survivors of Drunk Driving coincides with the annual observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Beginning in 1981, events have been produced around the nation each April to recognize the devastating impact of crime on individuals and to offer support to those impacted.

# *Sean's Run Organizing Committee*

## *Officers*

**Jeff French**, Chairman

**Carol Goold**, Vice Chairman

**Katherine Behrens**, Student Liaison, CHS Class of 2009

**Joanne Doyle and Tammi Menegio**, Co-Treasurers

**Mark D. French**, Secretary

## *Honorary Board of Directors*

**The Honorable Stephen Saland**, Senator, New York State Senate

**Kevin Boehme**, Chief of Police, Chatham Village Police Department

**Jay Cahalan**, Chief Operating Officer, Columbia Memorial Hospital

**Shari Franks**, Recreation Director, Town of Chatham

**Jenna Frederick**, CHS Class of 2010

**Jay Moore**, Ian's Dad

**Dan Tuczinski**, Attorney at Law

**Michele Kraham**, Founders Group, Sean's Run

**Nancy Zygmon**, Business Manager Emeritus

## *Organizing Committee*

**Phillip Abitabile**

**Stacey & Jean Dunbar**

**Camille & Jerry Freedner**

**Lee French**

**Beth Hover**

**Jim & Judy Matthews**

**Steve Nieto**

**Julie & Vern Oehlke**

**Pam Lappies**

**Debbie Layton**

**Kim Seabury**

**Tammy Shaw**

**Annie Trowbridge**

**Mary West**

**TJ Winters**

## SEATBELTS AND TEENS

*The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says: **Seat Belts Save Lives***

Teens have the highest fatality rate in motor vehicle crashes than any other age group. One key reason for high traffic fatalities among this age group is that they have lower safety belt use rates than adults.

Safety belts saved more than 12,000 American lives in 2001. Yet, during that same year, nearly two-thirds (60 percent) of passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes were unrestrained.

Research has shown that lap/shoulder belts, when used properly, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50 percent.

# 8th annual Sean's run

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