



For Immediate Release:

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Sunset Chase 5k a Glowing Success!

On the evening of Saturday, September 13, over one hundred individuals met at the Elkins Depot & Town Square to participate in the Sunset Chase 5k & Chamber Challenge. The event was presented by the Elkins-Randolph County Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by eight local businesses including corporate sponsors, Citizens Investment Services and The Inter-Mountain, and supporting sponsor Carte Hall CPAs. During registration, participants were entertained by music provided by WDNE radio. Those in attendance also participated in a pre-run warm-up in the Town Square, led by Training Sponsor SEVENPerformance.

Twenty teams of four turned out for the team-based Chamber Challenge division, designed to promote community wellness through friendly competition between businesses. The 5k began at 7:00 PM, just before sunset. Participants wore glow accessories, glow-in-the-dark shirts, and many incorporated other fun accessories into their outfits, such as tutus, colorful socks, and balloons. Throughout the course they could collect more glow accessories from our Glow Station sponsors, Heritage Hearing Aid Center and Colonial Place – Meridian Senior Living. Motivational signs were placed at each mile, provided by Davis Health System, to encourage participants along the course. Allegheny Insurance Services provided water mid-way and at the start/finish line for each participant and Walmart of Elkins provided a variety of fruits as a post-run treat for our participants.

Following the run, an awards ceremony took place to honor the “Fastest Individual”, “Fastest Community Team”, “Team Spirit”, and the coveted “Chamber Challenge Champion”. The “Fastest Individual” was Thomas Valentine, finishing first overall, and the “Fastest Community Team” was Glow Big or Glow Home, led by team captain Tracy Gooden. The “Team Spirit” award was voted on by all of the participants, they were asked to nominate a fellow team that showed support and encouragement during the run. Citizens Bank of WV took home this award. They had five teams participate in the 5k, but no one team was singled out for this award, all of the Citizens employees deserved this award on Saturday night. After finishing the race, Citizens employees gathered at the finish line to cheer on fellow runners and remained there until the very end of the run.

The inaugural “Chamber Challenge Champion” was Team Elkins YMCA, led by Sid Gillispie, with four finishers in the top 10. The Sunset Chase trophy will find its home in the Elkins YMCA until next year’s race.

A wonderful group of volunteers allowed the Sunset Chase 5k to run smoothly and a great time was had by all. This event is poised to become an annual occurrence in the community, with excitement already generated for next year’s race.

For additional details please contact the Elkins Randolph County Chamber of Commerce at (304) 636-2717 or chamber@erccc.com.

The mission of the Elkins-Randolph County Chamber of Commerce is to support the development of business opportunities, represent the common interests of business, and preserve a quality of life for businesses, employees, and citizens that fosters the local traditions of a friendly, progressive and volunteering community.

Mayor Van Broughton participated in the event and had this to say afterward, “Of all the runs/walks I’ve participated in, this was the most unique and I’m looking forward to seeing how this event grows from year to year. The name says it all; this was a fun community event that offered a friendly challenge, and many teams brought their own flare by wearing unique outfits. There was a great event with a great turn out of walkers and runners of all ages.”

“I was very pleased with the turn out for this event, but what I liked most was the comradery between the participants. It was such a positive atmosphere to be in. It was very uplifting to see parents encouraging their children during the run, watching as an entire team started and finished the run together, and seeing the sidelines fill up with supporters. It was a celebration of community success. “ – Jess Arbogast

Delegate Denise Campbell:

“Very Fun Event! So nice to see such a large turn out!! Fun doing a run/walk event in the evening!!

“It was so nice to see participants of all ages at the event. Exercise and healthily habits are important at all stages of life!”

Kathy Leombruno – Citizens Bank of WV

“For several members of the Citizens team, it was our first 5K and participation was a lot of fun. Everyone walked or ran at their own pace and made it to the finish line. The glow stations and night atmosphere made it an overall entertaining event. We’ll definitely sign up again for next year’s Sunset Chase! “