

TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE

Raynham on path of the daffodils brightening the Boston Marathon

By Wayne Braverman

Posted Apr 4, 2019 at 11:47 AM

For the sixth year in a row, the route of the Boston Marathon will look a lot more colorful and joyful, thanks to thousands of Marathon Daffodils.

These colorful Marathon Daffodils start their annual journey to hundreds of locations across Boston and along the Boston Marathon route on April 12.

This program started with thousands of daffodils being delivered throughout Boston and along the marathon route as a tribute to Boston Strong.

Marathon Daffodils was envisioned six years ago by Boston resident, Boston Portfolio Properties President and urban horticulturist Diane Valle to “remember those who lost their lives, acknowledge those who suffered injuries, those who rushed to their aid, and to signify the resilience and strength of the entire Boston Strong community” after the 2013 Marathon bombing.

On April 12, 20,000 Dutch Master daffodil bulbs imported from Holland and warehoused in a massive cooler at Olson’s Greenhouses in Raynham will end their winter-long hibernation. They will be loaded onto trucks while teams of volunteers gather at dozens of stores, restaurants, businesses, green spaces and doorsteps along the Boston Marathon route to receive more than 5,000 pots of Marathon Daffodils to supplement the existing plantings of five years ago.

Now a new documentary chronicles the “Path of the Daff” as it follows the journey of one daffodil bulb from the fields and grower in Holland to its home in front of Marathon Sports on Boylston Street near the finish line.

Along the way, the film celebrates Boston Strong with profiles of runners, survivors, volunteers and charities who continue to represent a living symbol of hope, spring and rebirth - much like the daffodils that greet the path of the Boston Marathon runners and visitors alike as they run and celebrate this iconic road race.

The film was directed and produced by Michael Piscitelli, whose brother Matthew Piscitelli and Clive Olson are partners in Olson’s Greenhouses and wanted to make this documentary as a gift to the city.

"Path of the Daff' is our way of showing the resilience and strength the marathon has played in the hearts and minds of our city. What better symbol of life and rebirth than the daffodil," said Matthew Piscitelli, whose 2,700-foot facility houses the daffodils bulbs throughout the winter months.

"We also want to thank and acknowledge the wonderful effort by the Seaport for joining in the daffodil and community spirit by commissioning a public art installation entitled '20 Knots: Daffodils for Boston'," said Valle.

The installation will feature 20 large 20-foot-tall nylon daffodils and will be on display on the Seaport Common from April 8 through 29.

"The energy and spirit are all around us on Marathon Monday, so come watch the remarkable runners; see the beautiful, cheerful, yellow Marathon Daffodils; enjoy our great City of Boston and celebrate this spring tradition," said Valle.

Sponsors and participants

Marathon Daffodils collaborates with the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, Back Bay Association, Parks Realty Company, New Balance, Beacon Hill Garden Club, Beacon Hill Civic Association, Massachusetts Master Gardeners, TDL Landscaping, Walnut Hill Landscaping, Flower Hutch, Quinlan Wasserman, Olson's Greenhouses, USS Constitution Navy volunteers, Kenmore Square, Cornwall's, WS Development in the Seaport, Samantha's Gardens, Olivia Organics, Farm Credit East, Middleboro Greenspace, Commodore Builders, Christopher Columbus Park, Rock Meadow Films, New Boston Communications and is supported by the generosity of numerous garden clubs, businesses and individual donors.

Donations of any amount are welcome.

To participate in Marathon Daffodils 2019, send donations to: Marathon Daffodils, The Cooperative Bank, 201 Main St., Charlestown, MA 02129.

People are also invited to volunteer to distribute the daffodil plants on the morning of Friday, April 12. On that morning, the daffodils will be distributed to hundreds of locations across the Boston area from Olson's Greenhouse, 1079 S St. in Raynham. Among the places are Back Bay, Charles Street, Cambridge Street, Boylston Street, Kenmore Square, Seaport, Christopher Columbus Park and other locations.

The premier screening of "Path of the Daff" takes place on April 13 at the ShowPlace ICON, 60 Seaport Blvd. in the Seaport District. The trailer is available to view at www.pathofthedaff.com.

Marathon Daffodils is a registered 501C3 charity.