

Word on the Street

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When it comes to celebrating the 2,500th anniversary of Greece's epic Battle of Marathon, Hopkinton and its residents remain front and center.

The latest connection comes courtesy of Steve Lewis, a new partner at the Hopkinton firm Gorman Richardson Lewis Architects.

Lewis recently received word that his design will be used as the official logo for the worldwide celebration of the pivotal clash, one that has ties to modern marathon races and democratic forms of government.

In 490 B.C., Athenian troops defeated Persian forces near Marathon, leading to a legend that the messenger Pheidippides ran 26 miles to deliver the news, thereby becoming the inspiration for the modern marathon and the annual Hopkinton-to-Boston race.

Given its place in marathon history and a sister-city relationship, Hopkinton has been asked by the mayor of Marathon, Greece, to host and develop North American programs for the remembrance.

The mayor has also asked Hopkinton Athletic Association President Tim Kilduff to serve as his representative.

Lewis' logo depicts stylized silhouettes of runners, as well as an Athenian warrior clad in battle gear and laurel branches. It has already been used at marathons in Shanghai and Xiamen, China.

In addition to inspiring marathon races, historians say the battle preserved and invigorated Athens' democracy. A Web site to mark the anniversary can be found at www.marathon2010.org.