

Milford Athletic Club Hosts Downtown Bike Race

There's an exciting new cycling event coming to Milford that you won't want to miss! On Saturday, Aug. 22, elite racers from across the region will compete in the Milford Athletic Club's (MAC) inaugural Milford Criterium for cash and prizes. The MAC is a non-profit organization consisting of area athletes of all abilities with a passion for their sport. They are involved in a variety of sports such as swimming, running and cycling to name a few. Part of their mission is to promote events and activities that will increase awareness, entice participation, and improve the overall quality of life for our community.

A criterium, or often called "crit", is a short, multi-lap, closed circuit competitive road cycling race. The Milford Crit will start and finish on Main Street in downtown Milford. A typical crit course is usually less than a mile in length with durations of 45-60 minutes plus two laps and, by nature, is very spectator friendly. "The tight turns and unique hairpin turn leading out of Central Park towards downtown will provide a competitive and challenging course for racers," added Craig Rohrer, the Course Engineer. A highlight of the race is that the primary announcer is Frankie Andreu – nine time Tour de France competitor and teammate of Lance Armstrong and two time Olympian. Another celebrity, Lila Lazarus will participate as a racer in the women's field. For aspiring racers, a separate kid's race will also be held.

"We're very excited to bring this event to Milford," said Vikki Rohrer, Marketing Director for the race. "Milford is a hub for outdoor recreation and we're proud to promote it and be a part of its growth. We couldn't have done this without the generosity of our local sponsors, DMC Huron Valley Sinai Hospital, Specialists in Orthopedic Surgery, Smith and Nephew and the Downtown Development Authority along with Plymouth Physical Therapy Specialists and Triumph Home Health Care"

To protect cyclist and spectator safety, this event will require that streets and roads that make up the course be closed

to all traffic. We are asking that residents along the route make arrangements to

park their vehicles on adjacent streets and lots for the duration of the event, should you need to leave during the race. Any pets should be restrained during the race hours, i.e. in a secure fenced in area or on a leash while walking. This is for your pet's safety and the rider's safety. The course was selected to maximize safety and minimize inconvenience to our community. We hope and encourage residents on the course to take advantage of the fact that you are right on the course and invite friends and family over to make a day of it and watch the 'NASCAR' type racing in your front yard without all the exhaust!

"We are thrilled to be a part of this event," said Ann Barnette, executive director for the Milford Downtown Development Authority. "We encourage people, young and old, to come out to enjoy the races and a day in the Village of Milford."

For more information, please see our website at www.milfordcrit.org for more information.

