

'Tour de Milford' to hit village streets next year

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Downtown Milford will be transformed into a competitive cycling race track for one day next summer.

The Milford Village Council on Monday gave the nod to the Milford Athletic Club of Huron Valley to move ahead with its plans for a .92 mile, multi-lap criterium — or crit, as it's commonly referred to among cycling enthusiasts. The course will run along Main Street to W. Commerce, south on Cabinet to W. Liberty, through Central Park and back to Main Street. The event will be divided into several categories, such as age,

gender and ability, with each race lasting about an hour. There will be a race especially for kids, too.

The crit will entail closing off the affected streets for 8 to 10 hours, and barricades and hay bales will be placed along the route for safety.

The expected date of the race is Saturday, Aug. 22.

Joe Dolan, race director, envisions crowds lining the streets to watch the crit and cheer on some 150 to 200-cyclists traveling "at break-neck speed."

"This brings the event downtown to the people. It's very spectator-friendly," Dolan said.

Dolan said the crit will

spread awareness for cycling and promote Milford as a hub for outdoor activity.

"(The road closures are) a temporary inconvenience, but will bring the event right to people's doorsteps," he said.

Residents living along the course will be given parking alternatives for the duration of the street closure.

The crit is sanctioned by the Michigan Bicycle Racing Association and the United States Cycling Federation, which will provide liability insurance. Racers will be required to possess a valid USCF racing license and sign liability waivers to participate.

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