

# Greenfield Criterium bike race taking off on town streets Sunday

Recorder Staff

GREENFIELD — The Greenfield Criterium will return for a second year in a row Sunday.

Riding on last year's success, the bicycle race will kick off an "omnium" competition of five events over the course of eight days, known collectively as New England Crit Week. With the first stop of New England Crit Week taking place in Greenfield, the day will culminate in the crowning of the series' individual and team leaders for elite men and women.

The Criterium is hosted by B2C2 Cycling, a Boston-based team, in collaboration with the Greenfield Recreation Department. The race begins at 9 a.m. with the amateur

event and concludes with the elite women's and elite men's races at 1:45 and 3 p.m., respectively. Course closures will begin at 8 a.m. and roads will re-open to traffic at 4 p.m. No parking will be allowed on those roads during the race.

Criterium racing is an all-American style of bicycle racing involving laps of a short, technical course. The Greenfield Criterium will travel clockwise around Church, High and Main streets before making the final turn for the finish line on Franklin Street. At just about one kilometer and with four 90-degree turns, the race represents a classic criterium course set against the backdrop of downtown Greenfield.

Police and course marshals will



RECORDER FILE PHOTO

A scene from the last year's Greenfield Criterium, June 19, 2016.

be stationed around the course and at all intersections throughout the race day to help direct vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Vehicles will be allowed onto the course on a limited

basis for residents during the race.

A temporary parking ban will be in effect for the entire course, including portions of Main Street, Franklin Street, Church Street and High

Street. The course will remain open for pedestrians and spectators who should use caution when entering the roadway and follow the instructions of police and course marshals throughout the day.

The Greenfield Criterium hopes to build on last year's momentum. With the support of local businesses, including Greenfield Coffee, race staff are hoping the event will become a staple of the summer event schedule in town. With a free, introductory racing clinic for newcomers to the sport in addition to high-caliber, competitive racing later in the day, the race seeks to promote athletic development, good sportsmanship and camaraderie for bike racers of all levels.