

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Images available upon request

**Hancock Shaker Village to Host Marathon, Ultra-marathon,
and Berkshire-to-Boston Bicycle Tour**

As the September calendar officially turns from late summer to autumn, the museum will be hosting three major outdoor athletic events coinciding with Massachusetts Car-Free week, September 16-22, an annual event that endorses the financial, environmental, community, and health benefits of more sustainable travel options.

On Wednesday, September 18th, Hancock Shaker Village will be hosting the 240-mile Berkshires to Boston Bicycle Tour, presented by MassBike. The epic journey begins with a concert by The Boxcar Lilies on Wednesday evening at 7:30pm on the grounds of Hancock Shaker Village. The concert is free and open to the public as well as riders and their families. The ride officially begins on Thursday morning the 19th, leaving from the museum and meandering through the Connecticut River Valley and spinning through the historic communities of Lexington and Concord before arriving in Boston on Saturday, September 21st. On Sunday morning, Tour riders will join more than 5,000 cycling enthusiasts for Hub on Wheels, Boston's annual cycling festival. More information can be found at www.berkshirestoboston.com.

Back in the Berkshires on Saturday, September 21st, Hancock Shaker Village will be hosting two trail races: a marathon (26.2 miles) and a 50-mile ultra-marathon. The races will start and finish at the iconic Round Stone Barn, and will utilize multiple trails in the Pittsfield State Forest which borders the Village to the north. This is the second year that Hancock Shaker Village is serving as a venue for trail races presented by race director Michael Menard. In 2012, 17 runners participated in the 50 mile ultra marathon. Since adding a traditional 26 mile marathon,

registrations have more than doubled. According to Menard, “These races are not just a test of your physical fitness, but also a test of your mental strength and determination to finish.” Marathon entry fee is \$60. Ultra marathon fee is \$90. Registration closes on Friday, September 20th and is available through www.ultrasignup.com.

Family and crew of both runners and cyclists may take advantage of a discounted admission price and enjoy the farm and museum at Hancock Shaker Village. Camping onsite will be provided to a limited amount of registered participants for no fee on a first-come first-serve basis. Both events also seek volunteers to assist with event check-in, logistics, and staffing aid stations along the trail race routes.

About Hancock Shaker Village

Hancock Shaker Village, the Shaker “City of Peace,” brings the Shaker story to life and preserves it for future generations. It portrays principled living, as embodied in the faith based values of the Shakers equality, community, sustainability, and responsible land stewardship of their resources values that resonate today. The Village is located on Route 20 in Pittsfield, MA, just west of the junction of Routes 20 and 41. For GPS purposes, the Village is located at 34 Lebanon Mountain Rd., Hancock, Mass. 01237. Or, enter 1843 W. Housatonic St., Pittsfield, Mass. 01201 then proceed 1/2 mile further West on Rt. 20 to the parking lot. For more information, see www.hancockshakervillage.org

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