

Media Contact: Gayle Shupack
215-345-0210, ext. 131
gshupack@mercermuseum.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**FONTHILL CASTLE RINGS IN THE HOLIDAY WITH ITS
OLD-FASHIONED FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION**

DOYLESTOWN, PA (June 12, 2015) – The community will gather on the grounds of Fonthill on Saturday, July 4 from noon – 4 p.m., for Fonthill Castle’s Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration. The museum’s most popular event of the year features a colorful bike parade contest, old-fashioned games, patriotic music, crafts, food and activities for the whole family.

The Children’s Decorated Bike Parade Contest kicks off Fonthill’s Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration at 12:30 p.m. Children are invited to participate in this traditional ride down Fonthill’s tree-lined driveway (riding over bubble wrap to simulate fireworks). Prizes are awarded for the most creatively dressed-up bikes in the categories of “most patriotic,” “most original” and “most dynamic.” The age groups for the contest are 2-4, 5-8 and 9-12. “Henry Mercer” himself will hand out the awards at the conclusion of the Bike Parade.

After the parade, guests can try their hand at a slew of old-fashioned games like tug-of-war, watermelon eating, an obstacle course, the cakewalk (musical chairs with the winner receiving a cake), sack races, stilt walking, bucket brigade relays, and wheelbarrow races. Other activities include Kruisin’ Kanines Dog Agility demonstrations, award-winning storyteller, Robin Moore, performing in front of his teepee, face painting, crafts, and a hands-on music and historic toys tent.

Musical entertainers performing patriotic music and old-time classics are the Del Val Saxophone Quartet, Galena Brass and autoharp virtuoso, Marti Rogers. Barbershop quartets from the Bucks County Country Gentleman stroll the grounds serenading visitors.

Fonthill will also be open for special self-guided castle tours beginning at 1 p.m. Rooms like the Wine Cellar and Crypt provide a unique view into Henry Mercer's magnificent castle. The separate admission fee to tour the castle is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors, \$1 for children, and is free for members presenting a valid membership card.

Visitors are welcome to picnic on the grounds or purchase food from one of the

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Fonthill Castle's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July/ 2

participating vendors, Happy Snacks and Sweet Pea Ice Cream.

Gate admission to Fonthill Castle's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration is \$4 for adults, \$2 for members, \$1 for children (ages 5 to 17) and free for children 4 and under and members. Visitors are not allowed to bring dogs onto the grounds. Heavy rain cancels the event. Parking is free.

Proceeds from Fonthill Castle's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration benefit educational programs at Fonthill Castle and the Mercer Museum. Fonthill is located at East Court Street & Route 313 in Doylestown. For more information on the event, call 215-348-9461 or visit fonthillmuseum.org.

Fonthill Castle's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration is generously sponsored by Matcor Inc., PECO, Fig Doylestown, and the Friends of the Bucks County Historical Society. Additional support has been provided by Proline Screen Printing, Elbow Lane Day Camp, Memorable Affairs Catering and Bucks-Mont Party Rental.

About Fonthill Castle

Fonthill Castle, Henry Mercer's amazing concrete castle home, boasts 44 rooms and 18 fireplaces. The interior walls, floors and ceilings are elaborately adorned with an incredible array of Mercer's original handcrafted tiles. The National Historic Landmark has been featured on A&E's "America's Castles," and in *Martha Stewart Living* Magazine. Fonthill is open daily for guided tours. For hours and pricing, visit fonthillmuseum.org.

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