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Fonthill Castle Hosts an Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration

DOYLESTOWN, PA (June 5, 2017) – Visitors will enjoy a day of old-fashioned family fun and games at *Fonthill Castle's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration* taking place on the castle's grounds on Tuesday, July 4, from noon to 4 p.m. The festivities kick off with the Children's Decorated Bike Parade at 12:30 p.m., as kids are invited to dress themselves and their bikes (or other wheeled conveyance) up in red-white-and-blue, for the ceremonially ride down Fonthill's tree-lined driveway. Prizes will be awarded for the most spectacularly dressed up bikes.

After the parade, visitors can try their hand at games like tug-of-war, town ball (19th century baseball), the cakewalk (musical chairs), sack races, stilt walking, bucket brigade relays, wheelbarrow races and watermelon eating contests. Other featured activities include antique bicycle demonstrations by the PA Wheelmen, face painting, crafts, dog agility demonstrations by the Kruisin' Kanines and storytelling with Robin Moore, who will be performing in front of his teepee.

Performing patriotic and old-time music throughout the day are South Side Accapella, Del Val Saxophone Quartet, Galena Brass and the Bucks County Country Gentlemen.

Fonthill Castle will also be open for special self-guided tours beginning at 1 p.m., with the unique opportunity to visit the mansion's kitchen and to travel up the meandering Box Stairs. These areas are not a part of the regular tour and 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 bring their own picnic or purchase food from one of the on-site vendors which include Big Poppa's BBQ, Happy Snacks (burgers, fries, hot dogs, and funnel cakes) and Sweet Pea Ice Cream.

For the second year, Fonthill will be hosting the Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Pie Baking Contest. Pies will be judged on 75 percent taste and 25 percent appearance. First, second and third prizes will be awarded. Professional bakers may not enter. Rules and registration information are available at fonthillmuseum.org.

Gate admission to *Fonthill Castle's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration* is \$5 for adults and free for children (ages 15 and under). Heavy rain cancels the event. Parking on the grounds

is free.

Fonthill Castle's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration is generously sponsored by Bucks Mont Party Rental, PECO, Uninvest, Bill and Laurie Schutt and the Friends of the Bucks County Historical Society.

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 Castle is located at East Court Street and Route 313 in Doylestown, PA. The castle is open daily for guided tours and reservations are required. To make a tour reservation, call 215-348-9461. For more information on Fonthill's tours and programs, visit www.fonthillmuseum.org.

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