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**OLD-FASHIONED FUN AT FONTHILL CASTLE'S
FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION**

DOYLESTOWN, PA (June 16, 2016) – The “good old days” are recreated for *Fonthill Castle's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration* taking place on the castle's grounds on Monday, July 4, from noon – 4 p.m.

The day's festivities kick off with the popular Children's Decorated Bike Parade at 12:30 p.m. Children are invited to participate in the traditional ride down Fonthill's tree-lined driveway (riding over bubble wrap to simulate fireworks), and can take part in the Bike Decorating Contest. Prizes are awarded in categories including Most Patriotic, Most Original, and Most Dynamic. The age groups for the contest are 2-4 yrs., 5-8 yrs., and 9-12 yrs. Henry Mercer himself will present the prizes for each category/age group at the conclusion of the Bike Parade.

After the parade, visitors can try their hand at a host of old-fashioned games like tug-o-war, watermelon eating contests, an obstacle course, town ball (19th century baseball), the cakewalk (musical chairs), sack races, stilt walking, hobby horse races, bucket brigade relays, and wheelbarrow races. Other activities include face painting, crafts, dog agility demonstrations, a hands-on music and historic toys tent and award-winning storyteller, Robin Moore, performing in front of his teepee throughout the day.

A new addition to the event this year is 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.

Performers for Old-Fashioned Fourth of July include the Del Val Saxophone Quartet, the Galena Brass and autoharp virtuoso, Marti Rogers. Barbershop quartets from the Bucks County Country Gentleman will stroll the grounds serenading guests.

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 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.

Guests are welcome to picnic on the grounds or purchase food from one of the on-site vendors. Gate admission to *Fonthill Castle's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration* is \$5 for adults, \$3 for members, and free for children (ages 15 and under).

Heavy rain cancels the event. Parking on the grounds 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 Univest, PECO, Mathnasium, Bath Fitter and Friends of the Bucks County Historical Society. Additional support for this event is 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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