

Wild & Wooly Weather and Continuing Preparations

Four weeks remain until the opening day of the 46th Annual Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire and the faire grounds are shaping up nicely with minor projects and grounds maintenance continuing as we approach August 15.

We're fully into Mother Nature's mood swings of summertime weather in Central PA. Following several wild and wooly rainstorms over the past few weekends, it was surprising to find so little damage to trees and buildings shirewide. Owners who experienced noticeable damage were notified in order to preserve their property and allow for timely action and repairs.

Here is a hearty thank you to those of you who have already gotten your Participant and Parking Pass requests in via the request forms in the Merchant Portal, and to those of you who signed your Merchant Handbook Acknowledgement Forms.

Guest Merchants, your Handbook is now also available on the Merchant Portal, and you'll receive a copy of the handbook in your packet when you arrive for set-up. For those of you who are needing to make trailer parking arrangements, please see the Trailer Parking article later in this newsletter for information on that process.



MERCHANT PORTAL

Find a myriad of information on the day-to-day business of being a Mt. Hope Merchant by visiting:

parenfaire.com/merchantportal

The portal includes forms for Participant Pass Requests and Parking Passes, Trailer Parking info and Agreement Paperwork, as well as the updated Merchant Handbook, Guest Merchant Handbook and Handbook Acknowledgement forms.

By the Numbers

CELTIC FLING:

- # Tickets Scanned on Saturday: 4511 + 73 comps
- # Tickets Scanned on Sunday: 3631 + 119 comps
- # Full-time Merchants open for business: 82
- # Guest Merchants set up for the weekend: 42

FAIRE:

- # 2026 Faire & Festival Season applications: 375
- # Merchants applied for 2026 Faire: 250
- # Guest Merchants accepted for Faire: 90
- # New Full-time Permanent Booths: 11
- # Full-Time Merchants (Booths) of the Shire: 114

Coin of the Realm Updates

Please be reminded that ALL Merchants, including Guest Merchants, must accept Coin of the Realm for purchases. CoR holds equivalent value to US Currency (\$5/ coin). For those who are new to this monetary system, the Coin redemption process will be detailed in your Merchant packet.

Guests wishing to purchase CoR, will find two new Kings Mint locations will open for Faire this season, with hours to accommodate the busier times of the day. Please direct guests to the main location at the Main Gate, and to the Mausoleum (at the Abbey) and behind the Chess Stage for additional Mint services throughout the Faire day.

Temporary Booth Set-up Begins August 8

Schedule your Check-in and Set-up Date and Time

MERCHANTS OF THE SHIRE utilizing TEMPORARY STRUCTURES and ALL GUEST MERCHANTS who are participating in Opening Weekend may begin Set-up Saturday, August 8.

Without exception, ALL MERCHANTS setting up a TEMPORARY structure, ABSOLUTELY MUST Check-In with the Merchant Coordinator to be shown to your spot and receive your Merchant Packet. This means you also Absolutely MUST make an appointment with your Merchant Coordinator IN ADVANCE of your arrival on site for set-up. If you are found to have set-up without checking in, you could be asked to strike your set-up and begin again, if you aren't in the correct location or within boundaries of your assigned spot.

Please use the QR CODE to schedule your set-up date and time.

Please Be Advised:

There will be NO SATURDAY SET-UPS as of Opening Day, Saturday, August 15.

Do Not Ask for an Exception.

NO EXCEPTIONS for Saturday Set up.
Period.



MERCHANTS OF THE SHIRE with PERMANENT STRUCTURES

Merchant Packets will be available as of August 1.
Contact your Merchant Coordinator by text 813.760.1469 or email
r.harrison@parenfaire.com
to make arrangements to receive your Packet.



2026 Coin Designs

Complimentary Tickets

The Complimentary Ticket Policy has been updated as of June 15, 2026.

- Full-time Merchants will receive four (4) comp tickets per booth for the Faire.
- Guest Merchants who participate in four (4) or more weekends of the Faire will receive four (4) comp tickets to the Faire.
- Guest Merchants who participate in fewer than four weekends will receive two (2) comp tickets to the Faire.

A link to claim Comp Tickets, and to purchase a limited number of additional tickets at a discounted rate, will soon be provided for all Faire Merchants.

Weekend Themes

Weekend One - August 15-16
Fairies and Fantasy

Weekend Two - August 22-23
Legends of the Seas

Weekend Three - August 29-30
Heroes & Villains

Weekend Four - September 5-6
Viking Weekend

Weekend Five - September 12-13
Wizarding Weekend

Weekend Six - September 19-22
Shamrocks & Shenanigans

School Days at the Faire
September 30 & October 1

Weekend Seven - September 26-27
OktoberFest

Weekend Eight - October 3-4
Time Travellers

Weekend Nine - October 10-11
Hallowe'en Days & Spooky Knights: The conjuring of Scratchy

Weekend Ten - October 17-18
Hallowe'en Days & Spooky Knights: The Silence of Mt. Hope

Weekend Eleven - October 24-25
Hallowe'en Days & Spooky Knights: 28 Days Thither

Passes and Permissions!

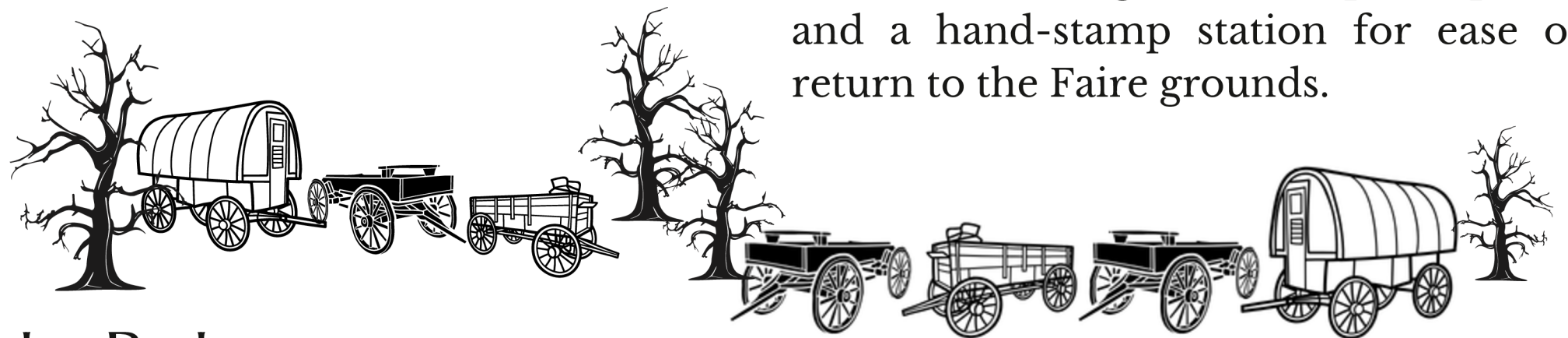
All Faire Participants entering from Participant/Employee Parking located in the "Back 40" must access the Faire grounds through the Participant Access Gate at the Joust. This gate will be staffed by PRF Security prior to and during operational hours.

- ALL Participants MUST show their Participant Pass for entry onto the Faire grounds and should carry their Pass at all times while working onsite.
- ALL vehicles parking in Participant Parking MUST display a Parking Pass.

The Merchant Business Owner MUST secure Participant Passes and Parking Passes for their employees.

Overnight Parking is not available to employees of merchants unless booth camping has been approved for the merchant's booth.

Booth Camping must be registered with the Merchant Coordinator, and is available only to permanent structures with appropriate facilities.



Trailer Parking

A parking/storage area for trailers and oversized vehicles has been created at The Farm opposite the exit onto Mountain Rd. All trailers must be parked in this area, rather than in the "Back 40" lots during the Faire season. There are three (3) options for Trailer Parking available to all Participants.

1. FAIRE WEEKENDS ONLY = \$25/weekend

Trailers may only park Friday - Monday and must leave the lot on Mondays to be considered Weekend Parking

2. SEASONAL (July 1-December 31) = \$750

Trailer is parked at The Farm through the Seasonal period. No proration is provided for this option. Parking must be paid in full in advance, and insurance as noted on the agreement is required to be on file before the agreement is completed.

3. ANNUAL (January 1-December 31) = \$1200

Trailer Parking and Storage can be arranged on an annual basis for the period beginning January 1, 2027.

Visit the Merchant Portal for the MVI Farm Trailer Parking Agreement and insurance requirements. Download and complete the Agreement, provide the insurance certificate required, and deliver to the Merchant Coordinator. An invoice will be generated and must be paid in full before trailer parking is permitted.

Please Note: Unauthorized trailer parking onsite will be fined \$150 for each instance and subject to towing at the vehicle owner's expense.

Shirewide Updates

The Mansion restoration project continues and progress is most evident with the current demolition of the enclosure of the wrap-around porch. New roofing across the entire structure is in full progress as well.

The courtyard approach to the Shire continues to be developed to improve patron flow and security. Two new sets of Open Gates security scanning devices have been added to speed up the security process outside the main entrance to the Faire grounds. New stanchions and ropes, as well as wine barrel umbrella stands for ticket scanning lanes, and hard barrier fencing improve foot-traffic patterns to ease congestion at the Main Gate.

The newly created EXIT GATE between Peasant Bread and the Vault was a great success for guest flow and re-entry protocol during the Celtic Fling weekend. This new egress allows for EXIT ONLY foot-traffic on operational days. And, the Exit Gate now offers more direct access to the Victorian Privies for our guests and participants, and a hand-stamp station for ease of return to the Faire grounds.