

Final Preparations and Big Badda Boom! at Joust on Saturday

With little more than one week remaining until Opening Weekend of the 46th Annual Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, there is a general air of excitement and anticipation all across the Shire of Mt Hope. As a seasonal village of old friends and new acquaintances, I encourage each of you to give people the benefit of the doubt; to kindly and gently educate those who don't know the processes and rules, and to share your vast and deep collective experiences to keep everyone safe, healthy and happy. Allow yourself and others the grace you each deserve.

Over final week of prep, **be aware of activity around you** as you are setting up and working in your booths and tents. Please **unload your vehicle and move it** to Participant Parking. Employees who are working onsite should park in Participant Parking, Keep vehicle traffic to a minimum and lanes and roadways clear. **Stay alert and drive SLOWLY** - keeping your **speed on the grounds under 12 mph**, and avoid parking in the lanes or in the empty guest merchant spots. Just because a stopping place is convenient for you, doesn't mean it's convenient for others who must navigate around you.

Dripping oil spot or coolant? Please be aware of oil or other fluid leaks your vehicular conveyance may be experiencing. Don't just drive away and leave it for someone else to clean up. **Address your mess** by removing the spill - soak it up with sawdust or cat litter and clean it up.

The Acting Company rehearsals will be intensifying, and the cast will be conducting a technical rehearsal on Saturday August 8 at Bosworth Field. There will be **explosion and pyro testing** for the Joust between 11:00am and 6:00pm. Be forewarned that loud percussive sounds and explosions will be heard at least thrice throughout the day.

New Alert System Implementation

A new cellphone text alert system is in the final stages of development and will be implemented for the 2026 Faire season. Similar to the FEMA-managed U.S. mobile phone notification system called Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), the PRF Operations Alert System will be used to notify those enrolled in the program of important and emergent information on Faire and Festival operational days. This service, an addition to the Mazza Vineyards Inc. Emergency Action Plan, will provide alerts regarding early opening and early closing, important weather alerts and other emergency situations.

If you provided a cell phone number to the Merchant Coordinator, through the Application or Agreement process, your number is enrolled in the service. You will have the opportunity to provide the contact info for your booth managers or business partners whom you would like to add to the service, and it will also include an opt-out option for booth owners who are not present onsite for the season. This system will serve a one-way purpose, and will not receive replies to the alerts.

A number of you have expressed concern that there is no reliable, efficient procedure for reporting a health or safety incident and getting rapid response. This reporting process is also in the works, and will be detailed as soon as it is developed and in place for the 2026 Faire season.

Thank you for your patience while we work to upgrade the safety and security for the Faire and its festivals, and all Participants and Patrons of the Mount Hope.



Merchant Preview Day Returns Thursday August 13 - 9:00a-3:00p

Mock Faire Day is open to all Merchants. The Dress Rehearsal schedule will be made available in next week's Missives so you can plan to preview the Acting Company stage show offerings.

Discounts for Fellow Participants?

Are you offering a purchase discount to your fellow Merchants and/or Faire Participants in general?

Would you like to publicize that discount here in the newsletter to get the word out?

Email or text your Merchant Coordinator to be added to a list that will be included in next week's newsletter due out on Thursday, August 13.

News & Updates

Due to the continuing restoration and roofing project on the Grubb Mansion, the layout for the Front Gate security checkpoint and ticket scanning will remain the same as it was for June's Celtic Fling weekend. When the work is sufficiently completed, the entry plaza around the fountain will be adjusted to use the additional space available.

The "Camping Showers" located on the exterior of the Joust Barn are open and operational. These facilities are communal showers for Booth and Camping Participants, including those in RV spots (Independent Entertainers)

There are four showers rooms available, with a fifth one marked for Joust Company use only. Behind the 6th door (closest to the roadway) is a custodial closet stocked with cleaning supplies for the showers. Please use the provided supplies to upkeep the facility. Other than necessary functional repairs, they are not maintained by Mt. Hope Staff.

Vehicle speed on the grounds of the Faire should not exceed 12 mph, and slower is always better. When driving the 'Back 40" keep the speed to no more than 20mph and remember, if you're making a dust cloud, you're driving too fast.

The speed limit is **5 mph** on the roadway at the Joust Barn.

Is that the pace of a tortoise? Yes.

Will the Joust horses and knights appreciate your care for their well-being if you drive sooo slowly along the barnway? Yes!

Merchant Check-list

Important Items To Do Before Opening Weekend...



- ☐ Pay Invoice for Booth Fees
- ☐ Request Participant Passes
- ☐ Request Parking Passes
- ☐ Send updated COI (if expires in August) to Merchant Coordinator
- ☐ Sign up for Set-up Date & Time (if Guest or Temp Structure)
- ☐ Check-in with Merchant Coordinator for Merchant Packet Pick-up
- ☐ Review Merchant Handbook
- ☐ Sign Handbook Acknowledgement
- ☐ Arrange Trailer Parking - Weekend or Seasonal Storage



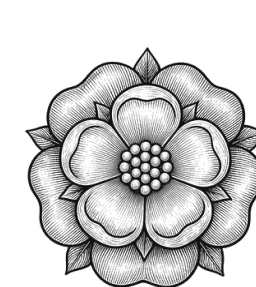
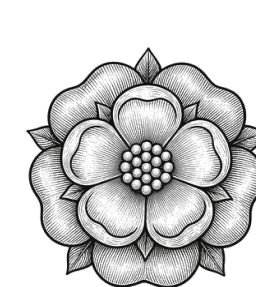
Sign Up for Tent Setup Check-in
Schedule Set-up Date and Check-inTime

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 **TENT**, absolutely must
Check-In with **Merchant Coordinator**
to be shown to your spot and receive
your Merchant Packet. This means you
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.



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 are now available
Contact your Merchant Coordinator
by text 813.760.1469 or email
r.harrison@parenfaire.com to arrange
to receive your Packet.

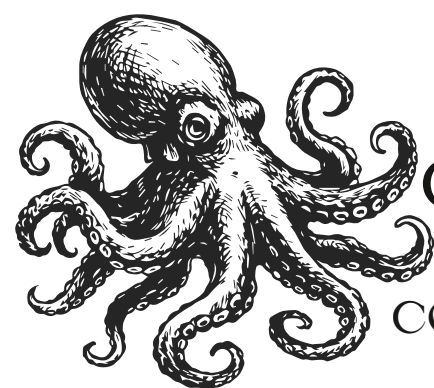
WHEN SETTING UP YOUR BOOTH PRE-OPENING:

UNLOAD THEN MOVE VEHICLES TO PARTICIPANT PARKING

YOUR EMPLOYEES PARK IN PARTICIPANT PARKING, NOT AT THE BOOTH

FOLLOW SPEED LIMITS

CLEAN UP YOUR OIL & FLUID DRIPS



MERCHANT COORDINATOR

CONTACT INFO & HOURS

Rachel "Raye" Harrison
email: r.harrison@parenfaire.com
cell: 813.760.1469

August 8-9 9:30a-6:00p
Weds-Friday 9:00a-5:00p
Faire Days 8:00a-9:00p
Mon-Tues OFF

Please respect Merchant Coordinator
Days Off and End of Day times.
Prithree, do not use social media messaging
platforms to conduct PRF Merchant Business

MERCHANT PORTAL

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

Forms & Information
available in the Portal :

Links to Merchant Missives
Link to The Daily Writ (weekly schedule)
Participant Pass Request Form
Parking Pass Request Form
Discount Ticket Info and Request
Construction & Remodelling Forms
OSHA & Covid Safety Information
Weekend Trailer Parking Request Form
Trailer Storage Info & Agreement

Join the CoRES List

Full time, permanent Merchants of the
Shire - Are you willing to exchange Coin
of the Realm for US Currency as a
service to our Guest Merchants?

If so, please confirm your participation
in what will be, from hereonward,
lovingly referred to as "CoRES" or Coin
of the Realm Exchange Services, an
unofficial, yet highly helpful service.
Email or text your Merchant
Coordinator to be added to the list.

By the Numbers

of individual napkins
ordered for the
2026 Faire season:
900,000



Red Cross Blood Drive FULL

The American Red Cross will be present
in the Wine Shop Parking Lot for three
days later this month - August 21-23.
Appointments to give blood were being
scheduled at the Red Cross Website.
However, the Blood Drive at PRF is
currently listed as **FULL** for all three
dates.



Weekend Theme



Weekend One
August 15-16
Fairies and Fantasy

