



Caste Village celebration returns

by Stephanie Hacke Staff Writer
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It's a longstanding tradition in Whitehall Borough.

A Friday, about a week before the Fourth of July, always means fireworks, friends, parties, entertainment, good food and tailgating at the Caste Village Shopping Center.

About 20,000 people visit the Caste Village fireworks display each year, Whitehall officials estimate.

"It's a big event," said Sherry Frisch, president of the Caste Village Merchants Association.

This year, the event is scheduled fortomorrow, Friday, starting at 5 p.m., but tailgaters and residents are expected much earlier, organizers said.

The Fourth of July event, hosted by Caste Village Merchants Association and Caste Village Inc., has been a staple in Whitehall for more than 20 years, organizers said.

People begin to call in January, asking for the date and to plan visits from friends and family for the community party, Frisch said.

Cars – although this is not encouraged — begin lining the lot the night before.

"They stake out their spots. This is a serious event," said Bridget Little, director of design and marketing at Royal Mile Co., managers for Caste Village.

The event, which grew from a sidewalk sale, now has a lot to offer.

"There're a lot of things going on for a lot of different people," Frisch said. "It's a little bit of everything."

Food vendors will be on site with cotton candy, fudge, kettle corn, tacos, funnel cakes, Hawaiian shaved ice and deep-fried pickles.

The evening also will include face painting, airbrush tattoo artists, jugglers, a Young Marines bake sale, \$1 bowling at Princess Lanes, Wii bowling, corn hole tournament at

Prior's Tap and Tavern, live entertainment, Steel Man and Steel Dog and a book reading of "The Adventures of Steel Dog."



"It's like a community picnic in a parking lot," Little said. "I think that people really like having the sense of a community around here."

Caste Village Shopping Center is located at the intersection of Weyman, Baptist and Grove roads.

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