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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER EVENTS & CLASSES AT CANTIGNY PARK

The following activities will take place at Cantigny Park, 1s151 Winfield Road in Wheaton. Parking at Cantigny is \$5 on weekdays and \$10 on weekends (and Labor Day). The weekend rate drops to \$5 in October. Parking is free on the first Wednesday of each month. Additional details are online at Cantigny.org or call 630.668.5161.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 2

Free Concert: Chris Walker Band

Bandshell, 3 pm

Grounded in soul, the Milwaukee-based Charles Walker Band presents funk-infused rhythms with pop melodies that recall Prince, Bruno Mars and James Brown. Lawn seating; chairs and blankets welcome. Free with parking (\$10).

FEATURED EVENT!

Monday, September 3

Free Concert: Wayne Messmer Big Band

Bandshell, 3 pm

Celebrate Labor Day with a local legend! Wayne Messmer, the popular national anthem performer at Chicago Cubs games, will sing favorites from such artists as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Dean Martin. Backed by a powerhouse big band, Wayne will bring you back to a simpler time when lyrical love songs filled the radio air waves. Lawn seating; chairs and blankets welcome. Free with parking (\$10).

Tuesday, September 4

Tour: White and Pollinator Gardens

Visitors Center, 11 am

Join Jackie Kosbab and Liz Omura from Cantigny Horticulture for an up-close look at two newly designed gardens, each planted in 2018 as part of the park's Project New Leaf. Tour departs from Visitors Center at 11 a.m. Free with parking (\$5).

Thursday, September 6

Summer Evening Garden Stroll

Visitors Center, 5 pm

Experience Cantigny's newly designed gardens on this one-hour tour conducted by the park's Master Gardener docents. Free with parking (\$5).

FEATURED EVENT!

Friday, September 7

Saturday, September 8

Cool story BRO: An Unconventional Tour of Conventional Warfare

First Division Museum, 7 pm

Pick your night and experience the First Division Museum in an entirely new way! Enjoy an unconventional tour and listen to some crazy unbelievable stories as you sip a craft beer or two. Museum guides will fearlessly lead you through some of their favorite stories, artifacts, Instagram worthy spots and games with EPIC prizes. Advance registration required via fdmuseum.org or call 630.260.8183. Cost: \$15; parking free. Must be 21 to attend.

FEATURED EVENT!

Saturday, September 8

Sunday, September 9

Revolutionary War Reenactment

Parade Field/Polo Field, 10 am to 4 pm

The Revolutionary War era comes alive as hundreds of living history actors from the Northwest Territory Alliance visit the park for this fun and educational event. Witness narrated mock battles and artillery demonstrations, and sample life in the late 18th century by strolling through the encampment of soldiers and civilians. Free with parking (\$10).

Saturday, September 8

Second Saturday Family Program: Revolutionary War

Education Center, 12 to 3 pm

Families are invited to the McCormick House's monthly drop-in program with interactive themes. This month's program ties in with the park's Revolutionary War Reenactment (Sept.8-9) and includes a printing activity and a chance to sign the Declaration of Independence using a quill pen! Free program at the Education Center; parking \$10.

Sunday, September 9

ClaySpace Pottery Show

Visitors Center, 10 am to 4 pm

Artists will exhibit and offer for sale a variety of handmade and one-of-a-kind ceramic pieces such as platters, bowls, wall sculptures, vases, soap dishes and jewelry. ClaySpace is a nonprofit studio in Lisle and home to a community of resident artists. Free with parking (\$10).

Wednesday, September 12

The Spirited Botanist

Visitors Center, 6 pm

Enjoy a refreshing botanical cocktail in the park's new Rose Garden! Host Liz Omura from Cantigny Horticulture will demonstrate a cocktail (alcoholic and non-alcoholic variations) featuring a fruit, vegetable, herb and/or edible flower as the main ingredient. The cocktail this evening is The Pirate Rose, featuring rose petals, mint, vodka and other ingredients. Chef Eric will prepare a complementing light appetizer. Advance registration required: visit Cantigny.org or call 630.260.8162. \$25 per person. Parking free.

Wednesday, September 12

Date with History: Author Edwin Moise

Visitors Center, 7 pm

Edwin Moise discusses his 2017 book, "The Myths of Tet: The Most Misunderstood Event of the Vietnam War." Program and parking free. For more information, visit fdmuseum.org or call 630.260.8130.

Thursday, September 13

Monarch Butterfly Tagging

Idea Garden, 1 pm

Learn about a beautiful and fascinating insect! This tagging event at Cantigny's Idea Garden assists the Monarch Watch organization in tracking butterflies as they migrate back to the mountains of Mexico. Highly recommended for families! Free with parking (\$5).

Saturday, September 15

Girl-Powered Intro to STEM with LEGO®

Education Center, 9 am to 12 pm

A Play-Well offering for girls who love to build! This class, using LEGO bricks, provides a supportive environment for girls to build engineer-designed projects such as trains, helicopters, treehouses and bridges. For ages 5-6. Cost \$30. Parking free. Register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162.

Saturday, September 15

Girl-Powered STEM Challenge with LEGO®

Education Center, 1 to 4 pm

A Play-Well offering for girls who love to build! This course provides a supportive environment for girls to build engineer-designed projects such as belt-drive cars, truss bridges, rail racers and pneumatic forklifts. For ages 7-12. Cost \$30. Parking free. Register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162.

FEATURED EVENT!

Sunday, September 16

13th Annual Cantigny Car Show

South parking lot, 9 am to 3 pm

Nearly 100 awards in a wide range of categories will be presented to owners of 400-plus vintage vehicles on display. The First Division Museum will exhibit historic military vehicles, too. Live entertainment by Sammy & The Knights, plus food concessions. Free with parking (\$10).

FEATURED EVENT!

Sunday, September 16

Jewelry & Accessories Show

Visitors Center, 10 am to 4 pm

Cantigny's annual Beads, Bangles & Baubles Jewelry & Accessories Show will showcase an array of handcrafted items from local artists. Free with parking (\$10).

Sunday, September 16

Garden Photo Tips

Visitors Center, 2 pm

Receive advice, share your own knowledge, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow shutterbugs in beautiful surroundings. Group size is limited to 10—register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162. Free with parking (\$10).

Thursday, September 20
Lunch & Learn: Trees of Cantigny
Visitors Center, 12 to 1 pm

This noon program on the third Thursday of the month features speakers on topics of interest. Todd Henderson and Beau Nagan, arborists at Cantigny, will discuss the trees in the park and on the golf course. Bring a lunch or reserve one. To register or order a box lunch (\$13) call 630.260.8162. Free with parking (\$5).

Thursday, September 20
Monarch Butterfly Tagging
Idea Garden, 1 pm

Learn about a beautiful and fascinating insect! This family-friendly tagging event at Cantigny's Idea Garden assists the Monarch Watch organization in tracking butterflies as they migrate back to the mountains of Mexico. Free with parking (\$5).

Thursday, September 20
Evening Garden Stroll
Visitors Center, 5 pm

Catch the last evening walk of the season and experience Cantigny's newly designed gardens on this one-hour tour conducted by the park's Master Gardener docents. Free with parking (\$5).

Friday, September 21
National POW/MIA Recognition Day
First Division Museum, 10 am to 5 pm

This observance is held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. It is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. At 11 am, Cantigny Post 556 of the American Legion will conduct a brief remembrance ceremony. Throughout the day, a missing man table will be displayed in the lobby of the First Division Museum. The table and items on it symbolize the sacrifices made by prisoners of war and those still missing in action. Free with \$5 parking.

FEATURED EVENT!

Friday, September 21
Family Night: Tank Park Fun!
Visitors Center, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Join the First Division Museum staff for classic games with a military twist in the tank park. Activities will include a scavenger hunt, BINGO, Mad Libs, Memory and other challenges. Free with \$5 parking.

Monday, September 24
Golf Course Cart Tour
Cantigny Golf, 4:45 pm

See and learn about the elaborate floral plantings on Cantigny's picturesque 27-hole golf course. Guests will travel in golf carts on this unique one-hour tour focusing on flowerbeds, restored natural areas, notable trees and more. Cantigny Horticulture staff members will guide. Group size is limited to 50; advance registration required. Cost: \$5 per person; parking free. Meet at the Cantigny Golf clubhouse at 4:45 p.m. (27w270 Mack Road, Wheaton).

Tuesday, September 25
Kid Rock's Fall Jamboree
Education Center, 10 to 10:45 am

This music and movement parent-child event is perfect for kids ages 1 to 5. Songs and musical activities will have a fun autumn theme and plenty of props! Kid Rock has been providing music, dance classes and events since 1995. Learn more at rockitkids.com. Cost: \$12 per child. Parking free. Register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162.

FEATURED EVENT!

Friday, September 28
Silent Night: A WWI Memorial in Song
Wentz Concert Hall, Naperville, 7:30 pm

Presented by the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, this acclaimed program commemorates the centennial anniversary of World War I. Baritone John Brancy and pianist Peter Dugan pay homage to composers and poets who lived through, fought and died in the Great War. For tickets (\$25/\$28), call the Wentz box office at 630.637.7469.

Saturday, September 29
Sunday, September 30
Dahlia Exhibition
Visitors Center, 10 am to 4 pm

Members of Chicago-area Central States Dahlia Society and Southtown Dahlia Club will display their beautiful blooms at this two-day show. Experienced growers will be on hand to provide cultural information and provide advice for growing dahlias in our region. Free with parking (\$10).

Saturday, September 29
Civic Awareness Series: Climate Change
McCormick House, 1 pm

WGN meteorologist Tom Skilling will discuss the reality of climate change followed by Q&A. This continues a series presented by the League of Women Voters of Wheaton in partnership with Cantigny. Program is free but advance registration is required due to limited seating. Parking \$10. Register online at wheatonlwv.org.

OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 2
Hayride Tour
Visitors Center, 10 am to noon

Savor the wonderful colors of early autumn from a tractor-pulled haywagon. Rides will start and end at the Cantigny Visitors Center. Groups of 10 or more are asked to register in advance by calling 630.260.8162. Rides are complimentary on a first-come, first-serve basis. Free with parking (\$5).

Wednesday, October 10
Floral Design Techniques
Cantigny Greenhouse, 6:30 pm

New for 2018! This class, instructed by Janet Gallagher from Kishwaukee College, will focus on basic techniques. Learn about taping and wiring; working with fresh, dried and silk plant material; using foam and chicken wire; and designing vase arrangements. Students will put their new skills to work by creating a Halloween-themed arrangement. Bring a wire cutter and hand pruner if possible, plus a tray to transport your creation home. All other materials provided. Cost: \$50; parking free. Register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162.

Wednesday, October 10

Date with History: “Just Like Me”

Visitors Center, 7 pm

Indiana University Media School professor emeritus and Vietnam veteran Ron Osgood will screen his 2017 documentary, “Just Like Me: Vietnam War Stories from All Sides.” Discussion will follow the film. Program and parking free. For more information, visit fdmuseum.org or call 630.260.8130.

FEATURED EVENT!

Saturday, October 13

Cantigny Fall Festival

Parade Field, 10 am to 4 pm

Celebrate autumn with family fun at Cantigny Park! Activities for all ages includes pumpkin decorating, hay rides, petting zoo, inflatables and facepainting, craft fair, children’s book sale, food trucks and live entertainment by The Riverside Ramblers, Banjo Buddies Dixieland Band and ScribbleMonster. Free with parking (\$5); nominal fee for some activities.

Saturday, October 13

Usborne Children’s Book Fair

Visitors Center, 10 am to 4 pm

Browse a wide selection of books for young readers before and during the Cantigny Fall Festival. Usborne Books offers some of the most exciting, engaging and educational children’s books on the market today. Free event; parking \$5.

Saturday, October 13

Second Saturday Family Program: Fall Fest

Education Center, 12 to 3 pm

Families are invited to the McCormick House’s monthly drop-in program with interactive themes. This month the museum ties in with the Cantigny Fall Festival by recalling Robert McCormick’s love of trees. Visitors can make leaf rubbings and enjoy two other fall-theme activities. Crafts are “while supplies last.” Free with parking (\$5).

Sunday, October 14

Garden Photo Tips

Visitors Center, 2 pm

Receive advice, share your own knowledge, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow shutterbugs in beautiful surroundings. Group size is limited to 10—register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162. Free with parking (\$5).

Thursday, October 18

Lunch & Learn: Salvation Army

Visitors Center, 12 to 1 pm

This noon program on the third Thursday of the month features speakers on topics of interest. Nanci Gasi, Salvation Army Museum director, will discuss what the Salvation Army was doing “over there” during the Great War. Bring a lunch or reserve one. To register or order a box lunch (\$13) call 630.260.8162. Free with parking (\$5).

FEATURED EVENT!

Thursday, October 18

Hardy Harvest Dinner

Gardens, 6:30 pm

New for 2018! Cantigny’s Red Oaks Farm Table series of monthly open-air dining events in the gardens began in July. These premium culinary experiences are inspired by the foods grown or raised on site when Cantigny was known as Red Oaks Farm. Each

dinner has a theme. Cost of \$95 per person includes parking. For details, including dinner location and menu, and to RSVP, visit Cantigny.org.

FEATURED EVENT!

Thursday, October 18

French Red, German White and a Blank Canvas

First Division Museum, 7 pm

Experience an evening of wine and painting as we discuss the “battlefield arts and leisure” of World War I. Glass in hand, participants will enjoy a guided exploration of the First Division Museum, see examples of WWI art, and create an original painting with guidance from a local artist. Cost: \$30; parking free. Advance registration required via fdmuseum.org or call 630.260.8183.

Thursday, October 18

Civic Awareness Series: The Youth Vote

McCormick House, 7 pm

Shawn Healy, director of the Democracy Program at the Robert R. McCormick Foundation and Adjunct Professor at the University of Illinois, addresses the impact and importance of young voters. Q&A and discussion will follow his presentation. This continues a series presented by the League of Women Voters of Wheaton in partnership with Cantigny. Program and parking are free but advance registration is required due to limited seating. Register online at wheatonlwvil.org.

FEATURED EVENT!

Friday, October 19

Family Fun Night: Pumpkins & Treats

Visitors Center, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

The park’s monthly Family Night series continues with a Halloween theme. Costumes encouraged! Enjoy a fun craft, pumpkin decorating, trick-or-treating and more. Free with \$5 parking.

Saturday, October 20

Super Hero Engineering with LEGO®

Education Center, 9 am to 12 pm

Using LEGOs, build the hideouts and vehicles of your favorite caped crusaders and learn what makes them not only Super Heroes, but super hero engineers! An experienced Play-Well instructor guides young heroes as they design, build and save a city where ingenuity and imagination can solve any conflict. For ages 5-6. Cost \$30. Parking free. Register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162.

Saturday, October 20

Super Hero Master Engineering with LEGO®

Education Center, 1 to 4 pm

Using LEGOs, explore the tools and techniques of your favorite caped crusaders and learn what makes them not only Super Heroes, but super hero engineers. An engineering curriculum designed by Play-Well challenges heroes to design, build and save a city where ingenuity and imagination can solve any conflict. For ages 7-12. Cost \$30. Parking free. Register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162.

Tuesday, October 23

Kid Rock’s Boo-rific Music & Dance Party

Visitors Center, 6 to 6:45 pm

This music and movement parent-child event is perfect for kids ages 1 to 5. Songs and musical activities will have a fun Halloween theme and plenty of props! Costumes

encouraged! Kid Rock has been providing music, dance classes and events since 1995. Learn more at rockitkids.com. Cost: \$12 per child. Parking free. Register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162.

FEATURED EVENT!

Friday, October 26

Saturday, October 27

Murder Mystery Dinner-Theater

Robert R. McCormick House, 6 to 9:30 pm

Pick your night and enjoy cocktails, a delicious meal and the fun of solving a good mystery—all in an unforgettable, historic setting! The evening's theme centers on the murder of an infamous pirate captain in the 1740s. Full details about this professionally produced interactive dinner/theater event are online at Cantigny.org. Registration begins August 8 and closes October 15. Register via the website or call 630.260.8162. Must be 21 to attend and participation limited to 50 guests per event date. Cost of \$110 per person includes parking.

Tuesday, October 30

Boo Bash!

Education Center, 10 to 11 am

Children are invited to preview their Halloween costumes to this fun hour of not-too-spooky activities and stories, ending with a yummy treat! For ages 3 to 5 with adult. Cost: \$10 per child. Parking free. Register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162.

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About Cantigny Park

Cantigny Park, part of the Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundations, is the 500-acre Wheaton (IL) estate of Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955). It is home to the McCormick House, the newly renovated First Division Museum, newly designed gardens, picnic grounds, walking trails and a remodeled Visitors Center with banquet and dining facilities. More information, including hours, directions and upcoming events is online at Cantigny.org. Cantigny Golf, adjacent to the park, features a 27-hole championship golf course, full-service clubhouse, Cantigny Golf Academy and the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links. For more information, visit CantignyGolf.com.