

Celebrate Independence Day at Cantigny Park!

Patriotic activities, music and family fun, plus free parking all day on July 4th

WHEATON, IL, June 25, 2013 – Cantigny Park will be alive with patriotic sights, sounds and activities for the whole family on Independence Day. Continuing an annual tradition, events and parking will be free at Cantigny on Thursday, July 4th.

The park will open at 7 am; special holiday programming is from noon until 4 pm.

Independence Day at Cantigny is always fun and exciting for kids. The Robert R. McCormick Museum will host arts and crafts on the mansion's south porch starting at noon. On the Cantigny Parade Field, Revolutionary War reenactors will fire a real cannon and supervise 18th-century games. Kids can also celebrate freedom by adding their "John Hancocks" to a replica Declaration of Independence.

Inflatables will be set up for sliding and jumping, and John Measner will perform 30-minute magic shows starting at 12:30 and 2:15 pm. Aspiring young artists can help paint a 20-foot Cantigny mural and also color a pair of festive July 4th sunglasses to take home.

At 3 pm, Cantigny's 2013 Outdoor Concert Series continues with a special performance by the United States Navy Band Great Lakes Wind Ensemble. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating, and picnics are welcome. The concert will take place in front of the First Division Museum.

In special celebration of Independence Day, the Freedom Express will be open all day outside the Cantigny Visitors Center. The 400-square-foot mobile museum tells the story of our First Amendment freedoms through compelling interactive exhibits.

The First Division Museum will be open on July 4th from 10 am to 5 pm for self-guided tours. Visitors are encouraged to visit the museum's fascinating new summer exhibit, "Faces of the 1st." Guests may also wish to purchase a personalized WWII-era "dog tag" and watch it being created on a vintage machine.

The Robert R. McCormick Museum will offer guided tours from 10 am to 6 pm. The museum was once the home of Cantigny's benefactor.

As always, admission to each of Cantigny's history-rich museums is free, and likewise there is no charge to stroll through the park's 30 acres of colorful and serene gardens. Another favorite attraction is the large picnic area and playground with plenty of shade.

Inside the Visitors Center, Le Jardin will serve lunch from 11 am to 3 pm, and Bertie's (for ice cream, snacks and coffee drinks) will operate from 9 am to 4:30 pm. Outdoor concessions will also be available.

Cantigny Park is open every day during summer from 7 am to dusk. A complete schedule of concerts, workshops and special events is posted online at Cantigny.org.

Key upcoming events include:

July 6	Infinity in Concert
July 13	Northern Illinois Vintage Base Ball Tournament
July 13	West Suburban Symphony Orchestra
July 20	Rockin' for the Troops Concert
July 21	Shakespeare in the Park
July 27	DuPage Symphony Orchestra
July 30	McCormick Day

###

About Cantigny Park

Cantigny Park, part of the Chicago-based nonprofit Robert R. McCormick Foundations, is the 500-acre Wheaton (Illinois) estate of Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955), longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. It is home to 30 acres of spectacular gardens, the Robert R. McCormick Museum, the First Division Museum and a 27-hole championship golf course. All are open to the public. Cantigny also is a favorite destination for special events, weddings, concerts, lectures, workshops and other recreation and learning opportunities for all ages. Full-service banquet and dining facilities are on site. More information, including hours, directions and a calendar of upcoming events is online at Cantigny.org. For details about Cantigny Golf, including the Cantigny Golf Academy and 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links, please visit CantignyGolf.com.

Media Contact:

Jeff Reiter
Cantigny Park/Robert R. McCormick Foundations
630.260.8218
JReiter@McCormickFoundation.org