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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY AT CANTIGNY PARK**

*July 4 celebration includes patriotic activities, music and even some magic*

**WHEATON, IL, June 19, 2014** – Cantigny Park will be alive with patriotic sights, sounds and activities for the whole family on Independence Day.

The park will open at 7 am on Friday, July 4; special holiday programming is from noon until 4 pm. Events are free with paid parking (\$5 per car).

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 living history actors will fire a real cannon and supervise 18<sup>th</sup>-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 magic shows starting at 12:30 and 2:15 pm. Aspiring young artists can help paint a 20-foot Cantigny mural or assemble a Statue of Liberty hat (one per child, while supplies last).

At 3 pm, Cantigny's 2014 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.

The First Division Museum will be open on July 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 5 pm for self-guided tours. Visitors are encouraged to visit the museum's fascinating new exhibit, "WE NEED YOU! Propaganda of the Great War." Outside, the museum's fleet of historic military vehicles will be on display all afternoon.

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 Shop hours are 9 am to 5:30 pm.

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](http://Cantigny.org).

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### **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](http://Cantigny.org). For details about Cantigny Golf, including the Cantigny Golf Academy and 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links, please visit [CantignyGolf.com](http://CantignyGolf.com).