

**Cantigny Fall Festival Set for October 10**

*Open-air market, scarecrow making, hayrides and other family-friendly attractions on tap*

**WHEATON, IL, October 1, 2009** — Cantigny Park's annual Fall Festival will take place Saturday, October 10, from 10 am to 4 pm.

"Our fall fest is a favorite October tradition for area families," said Laura Evans, Cantigny director of visitor services. "It's always a hit with kids and this year we have something new for visitors of all ages—an open-air market with merchants offering jewelry, apparel and home décor items as well as fresh bakery goods and produce."

The market, operated by Bensidoun, will include about 30 high-quality vendors.

Also new for 2009 is scarecrow making. Festival visitors are encouraged to bring old clothes to dress their scarecrows. Cantigny will provide straw for stuffing, and twine and burlap bags for creating faces.

Younger children will enjoy the inflatable slide and jumper, the ever popular Candy Dive, and old-fashioned games like bean bag toss and ring toss. Face painting and hayrides will be offered from noon to 4 pm, and a stilt walker will entertain throughout the day.

Kids can also decorate and take home pumpkins (nominal fee) and fall photos will be offered for \$1. Food choices at the festival will include hot dogs, popcorn, taffy apples, hot chocolate and apple cider.

Entry to the Fall Festival is free, as are most activities. Parking is \$5 per vehicle, or \$2 before 10 am.

Free hayrides at Cantigny will continue on Saturdays in October (noon to 4 pm on Oct. 17, 24 and 31). In addition, a special Halloween concert for kids ("Batsongs," performed by Musical Mark) will take place Friday, October 23, at 6:30 pm. The concert is free with paid parking (\$2 per vehicle).

Cantigny Park is open every day through October from 7 am to sunset. Hours are 9 am to sunset in November and December. More information and a complete schedule of fall events are online at [Cantigny.org](http://Cantigny.org).

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**About the McCormick Foundation**

The McCormick Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to strengthening our free, democratic society by investing in children, communities and country. Through its grantmaking programs, Cantigny Park and Golf, museums and civic outreach program the Foundation helps build a more active and engaged citizenry. It was established as a

charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. The McCormick Foundation is one of the nation's largest charities, with more than \$1 billion in assets. For more information, please visit [McCormick Foundation.org](http://McCormickFoundation.org).

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