

Independence Day at Cantigny Promises Lots of Red, White and Blue!

WHEATON, IL, June 22, 2011 – Cantigny Park, part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, 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 July 4th.

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

Kids love Cantigny every day, but Independence Day seems to raise their excitement to a higher level. The park's Parade Field will feature inflatables for sliding and jumping, plus a magic show at 1 pm. Children can also participate in a giant tessellation mural project, ring the Liberty Bell and sign the Declaration of Independence. In addition, the Robert R. McCormick Museum will host children's activities on the building's south porch.

Visitors of all ages will get a bang out of cannon demonstrations conducted by Revolutionary War reenactors throughout the afternoon.

At 3 pm, the Illinois Brass Band will perform patriotic music in front of the First Division Museum. Guests should bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating, and picnic baskets are welcome.

The First Division Museum and Robert R. McCormick Museum will each be open on July 4th from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission to both museums is free, and likewise for Cantigny's 30 acres of spectacular gardens. The park also features a large public picnic area with a playground.

Inside the Cantigny 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.

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.

###

About Cantigny Park

Cantigny Park, part of the Chicago-based McCormick R. McCormick Foundation, 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 highly rated 27-hole golf course. All are open to the public. Cantigny also is a favorite destination for special events, 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/McCormick Foundation

630.260.8218

JReiter@McCormickFoundation.org