



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

James A. Garfield  
National Historic Site

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## **James A. Garfield National Historic Site News Release**

For Immediate Release – Thursday, August 14, 2008  
Carol Spears, Site Manager (440) 974-2993

### **Summer Activities in Full Swing at the James A. Garfield National Historic Site**

**Mentor, Ohio** - From Mentor Avenue, the thousands of people who pass by the home of former President James A. Garfield see an old house with its front doors closed and window shades pulled down. A closer look, however, reveals a multitude of projects and activities taking place both behind the scenes and out in the open, at the thriving James A. Garfield National Historic Site (JAGNHS).

Since visitor services operations transferred from the Western Reserve Historical Society to the National Park Service (NPS) in January, 2008, over 5,000 visitors have taken Ranger-led tours of the president's home, former farm and the carriage barn-turned-Visitor Center, and attended programs and special events both on- and off- site. "People are looking for history close to home, and with the award-winning restoration of the site marking its tenth year, we are as strong a presence in the community as ever," says Site Manager Carol J. Spears.

The drudgery of painting, window cleaning and yard cleanup work was done enthusiastically by two volunteer groups which donated over 80 hours sprucing up the grounds and buildings in June. Eaton Rev'd Up, a group of retirees from Eaton Corporation, completed light housekeeping in the Garfield Home, and repainted the front porch, site of the 1880 presidential campaign. Staff from National City Bank Plaza Boulevard branch traded in their suits and ties for rakes and shovels and in less than 3 hours filled a 30 yard dumpster with leaves, fallen branches and other yard waste that had accumulated over the past year. National City Bank adopted the Garfield site for its United Way Day of Caring project. See [www.uwlc.org](http://www.uwlc.org) for information on the Day of Caring.

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Work has been underway on the site's newest educational addition, the Junior Ranger Program. Frequent visitors to other national parks may be familiar with this national program, allowing children to explore sites, take the Junior Ranger Oath, and receive an official badge for their efforts in completing the Junior Ranger book. This program is being developed by Marissa Clutter, an intern with the Student Conservation Association (SCA), with support from the National Park Service. The SCA provides internship opportunities for students around the country, and can be accessed at [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org). The Garfield Junior Ranger Program with its book and badge is scheduled to debut next summer. Families can test-pilot activities at the Old Village Market.

To bring the summer to a close, visit the last Old Village Market of the season on Friday, August 22. This farmer's market with a festival atmosphere, co-hosted by the City of Mentor, has fresh produce, arts and crafts vendors, and entertainment. Hours are 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

To be a part of these exciting activities as an NPS volunteer, please call JAGNHS at (440) 255-8722 to become a VIP (Volunteer-In-Parks).

#### About the James A. Garfield National Historic Site and the National Park Service

James A. Garfield National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), is located at 8095 Mentor Avenue (U.S. 20) in Mentor, Ohio, approximately 25 miles east of Cleveland. The 8-acre site consists of the main house and memorial library of James A. Garfield, the twentieth president of the United States, the 1880 presidential campaign office, the 1893 carriage house, the windmill and several outbuildings associated with the Garfield farm. Most of the furnishings and personal effects in the main house are original Garfield family pieces, on loan to the NPS by the Western Reserve Historical Society. In the late 1990s the house was completely restored by the National Park Service, making it one of the most impressive presidential homes preserved for the public. House tours run regularly, please call ahead for a schedule. Tours and the Visitor Center is largely wheelchair accessible. Special community events and special education programs for the public are scheduled throughout the year.

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The Garfield site is open from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, from noon – 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday during May through October. November through April the site is open weekends only, noon – 5:00 p.m. For information call (440) 255-8722, write 8095 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, OH 44060, or [www.nps.gov/jaga](http://www.nps.gov/jaga) on the Internet.

The National Park Service, an Interior Department agency, is composed of more than 20,000 rangers, archaeologists, historians, biologists, architects, laborers, gardeners and other professionals who care for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

There are 385 national parks covering more than 84 million acres in every state (except Delaware), the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. For more information, please visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

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