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Cheney Mansion History

In 2007, Cheney Mansion has a fresh look on the horizon. The list of updates to the Mansion in the past year is extensive, including a newly restored fence, refinished quarter-sawn oak flooring, a copper roof drainage system and more. This fall and summer will see even more updates as Cheney Mansion serves as the 2007 Infant Welfare Showcase House for the second time since its inception (see the article on the next page for more details).

A 1970 Survey of Historic Buildings in Oak Park describes Cheney Mansion as a "simplified rectilinear design of first rank in architectural quality, significance, and originality." The architect, Charles E. White, Jr., a graduate of MIT, came to Oak Park after marrying local Alice Roberts. For two years, beginning in 1903, White worked in Frank Lloyd Wright's studio, and was strongly influenced by Wright's credo that a building should express the spirit of its natural surroundings. White also designed a number of Oak Park residences and the Oak Park Post Office. Jens Jensen, a well-known landscape architect, worked with White on several projects.

One of White's most important works, the 12,000-square-foot Cheney Mansion, designed in 1913 boasts many handsome reception rooms, six bedrooms, seven bathrooms, and separate servants' quarters. The two acres of beautifully-landscaped grounds also include a coach house and a greenhouse. Located in the Historic District of Oak Park, the home was built for the Sharpe family. In 1922, it was purchased by Andrew and Mary Dole. Their niece, Elizabeth Cheney, inherited the mansion in the late 1940s. Though she deeded it to the Park District of Oak Park in 1975, no funding was designated for its support.

A Perfect Setting

The Mansion, with its spacious rooms and landscaped grounds, is available for your most special occasions: weddings, private parties, recitals, memorial services, luncheons and tours. It provides the perfect setting for corporate seminars, meetings and receptions. For more information, please visit our website: www.cheneymansion.com.

Important Information About Cheney Mansion

From July 12 - September 9, Cheney Mansion will be closed to the public for remodeling as the 2007 Designer Showcase House (see article on next page). The Mansion will be open only for paid entries into the Showcase House from September 9 - 30. Cheney Mansion will re-open to the public on Sunday, October 14, with a kickoff event titled "Sunday Social: Welcome Back to Cheney Mansion" (see below).

Special Events

FREE Admission **Sunday Social: "Welcome Back" to Cheney Mansion**

Sunday, October 14, from 1-4pm

The Park District of Oak Park welcomes the community to Cheney Mansion's re-opening celebration. Following the Infant Welfare Society's "Designer Showcase House," the mansion once again will open for classes, programs and special event rentals. This free community open house offers a Sunday afternoon of live music, lawn games, garden talks, scavenger hunt, cooking demonstrations, light refreshments, prizes and lots of fun.

Interested in taking a Cheney cooking class? Come check out the new kitchen—a total remodel. Classes for adults and for young chefs, ages 8-12, will resume in January '08, all taught by professional chefs.

Planning a home improvement project? Come meet the trades' people who have transformed the mansion into gleaming wood floors, smooth plastered walls, and polished stone. They'll be here to show off their work and answer your questions.

And if you are thinking of saying "I do", or planning a private party or corporate event, come explore the mansion—all 12,000 square feet will be open for self-guided tours. You won't want to miss the special wedding planning area!

Everyone's invited—come enjoy your friendly neighborhood mansion! The first 200 families to visit will receive a trio of tulip bulbs as a remembrance of their visit.

FREE Admission **The Artful Amaryllis**

Sunday, November 4, 11am-4pm

Our 6th annual sale features an abundant variety of amaryllis bulbs, including hybrids, miniatures and novelties, plus traditional holiday favorites. Depending on the variety, bulbs are timed for blooming from December through March. Creatively gift packaged, they make a great hostess gift or holiday present. The mansion will be open for viewing during the show. Light refreshments provided.

FREE Admission **Holiday Open House**

December 3-6 and December 10-14

The mansion will be beautifully decorated for the holidays! Light refreshments will be served. Please bring a food item to donate to the OPRF Food Pantry. No admission fee!

M-Th, Dec 3-6, 11am-7pm

M-F, Dec 10-14, 11am-5pm: To view the holiday decorations, you may call the mansion for a self-guided tour appointment. (708) 383-2612

Breakfast, Lunch, & Tea with Santa (All Ages)

Join Santa and his elves for this wonderful family tradition. Live music, a model train layout, a photo with Santa and a gift bag are all included. New toys will be collected for donating to local charities. Maximum of one family per registration. Tickets are not refundable, or exchangeable for different seatings (unusable tickets may be returned to the Park District for donating to a local charity).

Sa, Dec 1

Fee: \$15 per person (adult or any age child)

Number of guests per seating: 115

Breakfast at 9am Code: #461155-01

Lunch at 11:30am Code: #461155-02

Tea at 2:30pm Code: #461155-03

Cheney Mansion: The 2007 Showcase House

Cheney Mansion, one of three historical properties of the Park District of Oak Park, will be the site of the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society's Designer Showcase House. Conceived back in 1972 as a means to raise funds for the Infant Welfare Clinic, the popularity of the Showcase House has increased a thousand fold through the years.

The longest running designer showhouse program in Chicagoland, this unique and inspiring event attracts the talents of some of the region's finest, most prestigious professional interior designers. Rooms throughout the 12,000 square foot residence, located at 220 N. Euclid Avenue in Oak Park, will become a palette on which the creative genius of more than 25 gifted designers will be displayed.

Open to the public September 9 through 30, the Showcase House represents the culmination of a year-long celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society. Tickets may be purchased online at www.infantwelfareoakpark.org after June 1. Admission is \$25 if tickets are purchased before September 1 and \$30 thereafter. Proceeds benefit the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Clinic, 320 Lake Street, which provides medical, dental and social services support for children from birth through 19 years of age whose families cannot afford private medical care. For further information and ticket reservations, please phone the Infant Welfare Society at (708) 848-0528, ext. 300.

Cooking Classes

Cheney Cooks and Kids Cook Back in January

Scheduled to resume in January 2008, "Cheney Cooks!" and "Kids Cook!" will stir up some culinary good times in the mansion's beautifully-remodeled kitchen—everything's new and luxurious, from the refrigerator, sinks and stove to the lighting, cabinets and floor. Taught by professional chefs, classes for adults and children aged 8-12 cover everything from basic techniques to intriguing ethnic cuisine.

ELIZABETH F. CHENEY MANSION

A HISTORIC PROPERTY OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK



THE *Perfect Setting*

Cheney Mansion, the 2007 Infant Welfare Society's Showcase House, is located in the Historic District of Oak Park. The Mansion is reminiscent of a gracious English country home and is sited on 2½ acres of landscaped grounds, making it the perfect setting for your special occasion.

Cheney Mansion features large, airy rooms, newly refinished floors, a redesigned kitchen and newly decorated rooms throughout. It is an elegant setting for weddings and receptions, and the beautifully landscaped grounds provide a wonderful backdrop for wedding photographs.

The Mansion will be available for rentals starting in October. Contact us today at (708) 383-2612 to schedule your event at Historic Cheney Mansion!

WWW.CHENEYMANSION.COM

Friends of Cheney

Get involved! Are you interested in sharing your time, talent and treasures with a group of Cheney Mansion enthusiasts? Call the mansion at (708)383-2612 for further information.