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## Cheney Mansion History

In 2007, Cheney Mansion was renovated in cooperation with the Infant Welfare Society Designer Showcase. 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 resident 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](http://www.cheneymansion.com).

**The Park District of Oak Park’s Cheney Mansion provides a unique venue for recreation programs, special activities and community events for the enjoyment of Oak Park residents and is a distinctive locale for private meetings and celebrations.**

## Free Events

**FREE Admission** **Walk-In Wednesdays**  
**Select Wednesdays, 11am-4pm**  
 Open House. Enjoy light refreshments while exploring the mansion on a self-guided tour. No admission fee, but please bring a food item for donating to the Oak Park Food Pantry.  
 Wednesdays, May 6-20\*, June 3-24\*, July 8-29, and August 5-26, 11am-4pm  
 \*No Walk-in Wednesday on May 27 or July 1

**FREE Admission** **Cheney Mansion Garden Days**  
**Wednesdays only, May 20 - August 26 from 7am-1pm**  
 The mansion’s award-winning gardens will be open to visitors with the mansion’s gardener on hand to answer questions.

**FREE Admission** **12th Annual Spring Plant Sale**  
**Su, May 17, 10am-3pm**  
 Cheney’s annual sale features a wide selection of perennials, hand-raised heirloom tomatoes, peppers, and unusual flowering vines.  
**PLUS!** If you want to grow tomatoes, don’t miss the “Tomato Talk” by Cheney’s gardener, Charlie Ruedebusch, who has grown many dozens of varieties of tomatoes over the last 9 years. Held in the gardens at 2pm. No fee.

**Friends of Cheney**  
 Get involved! Interested in sharing your time and talent with a supportive group of Cheney Mansion enthusiasts? Call the mansion at (708)383-2612 for further information.

## Special Events - Sign Up Today !

**Teddy Bear Picnic & Parade**  
 Children ages 3-6 are invited to bring their favorite stuffed bear and a lunch for a fun time on the Cheney Mansion grounds. Juice boxes & cookies will be provided for the children, and we’ll have lemonade for adults. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Held inside if raining. Must register to attend.  
 F, Jun 19 \$10/\$12 per child  
 (no charge for adults, but they must register to attend)  
 11am-12:30pm  
 Min 8/Max 20 #304175-01

**Garden Hat Party at Cheney Mansion**  
 Children, ages 5 to 10 (along with one parent), are invited to a fun patio party at the mansion. Bring a hat to decorate, or choose one from our selection. Flowers and other decorations will be provided. Then don your newly embellished creation, and enjoy cupcakes and “tea”. Yes, bring your cameras! Held inside if raining.  
 W, Aug 5 \$10/\$12 per child  
 (no charge for adults, but they must register to attend)  
 2-4 pm #314175-01  
 Min 10/Max 20

**Find Kids Cook! on page 40 and Cheney Cooks! on page 67.**

**NEW ECO-FRIENDLY CLASSES FOR YOUTH ON PAGE 40 AND FOR ADULTS ON PAGE 64.**