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**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.**

## 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).

**Sign up for a cooking class (see page 55) or come by for one of our special events ... Cheney Mansion is a community treasure not to be missed!**



**H**oliday **O**pen **H**ouse  
**Monday, December 8 through Thursday, December 11 from 11am-7pm**

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!



## Other Special Events

**FREE Admission** **Walk-In Wednesdays**  
**Wednesdays, 11am-4pm**  
**January 7 - March 25**

Explore the mansion on a self-guided tour. Light refreshments.

**FREE Admission** **Special Sunday Tours**  
**Various Dates, 1-4pm**

Hoping to book an event at Cheney Mansion, but having a tough time finding a way to visit during the week? Call (708) 383-2612 to schedule an appointment for your event rental tour on January 11, February 15 or March 15 between 1-4 p.m.

## 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.

**Find Kids Cook! on page 25 and Cheney Cooks! on page 55.**