

Linda Peterson, Manager  
[lindap@oakparkparks.com](mailto:lindap@oakparkparks.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.**

## 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).

**Find Kids Cook! on page 29 and Cheney Cooks! on page 55.**

## Special Events

### Breakfast, Lunch, & Tea with Santa

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 donation 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 donation to a local charity).

Sa, Dec 6

Fee: \$18 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

### Music at the Mansion

**F, Oct 24 at 7pm, doors open at 6:30pm**

Cheney Mansion captures the "Sounds of South America" with this duo guitar and flute performance by Michael Nigro and Lisa Schroeder, both faculty members at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California. Their program celebrates the music of South America, from folkloric dances to sophisticated impressionism. For reservations, please call the Mansion at (708) 383-2612.

F, Oct 24

7pm (Doors open at 6:30pm) \$12 in advance,  
 \$15 at the door

## Free Activities at Cheney Mansion

### **FREE Admission** Cheney Mansion Garden Days

**Wednesdays, 7am-1pm through August 13**

The mansion's award-winning gardens will be open to visitors with the mansion's gardener on hand to answer questions.

### **FREE Admission** Walk-In Wednesdays

**Wednesdays, September 10 through October 22 from 11am-4pm**

Open House! Enjoy light refreshments while exploring the mansion on a self-guided tour.

### **FREE Admission** Autumnfest Sunday at Cheney Mansion

**Sunday, October 5 from 1-4pm**

This free community open house offers a relaxing Sunday afternoon of self-guided tours of the mansion and gardens, rental event planning area, a garden scavenger hunt, cooking demonstration, light refreshments and door prizes. Everyone is welcome!

### **FREE Admission** The Artful Amaryllis

**Sunday, November 16 from 11am-4pm**

Our 7th 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

**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!

## 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.