

THE LAKE FOREST LEADER™

LAKE FOREST AND LAKE BLUFF'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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TOURING THE TOWN

Spirit of 67 Foundation presents 13th
annual home tour, Page 4



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class of 2015 celebrates
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ON DISPLAY

Director John Hughes's house
featured in Lake Forest
Showhouse, Page 11

SPECIAL CELEBRATION

Shaggy Dog Shop serving Lake
Foresters for 50 years, Page 12



MAIN: Angelee Boyd (left),
of Lake Bluff, and Joanne
Mawson, of Lake Forest,
visit Ragdale during
the annual Spirit of 67
Foundation Home Tour on
Thursday, May 7. INSET:
Home Tour committee co-
chairwoman (middle) Diana
Webb shares a map of the
tour with Carolyn Kinney, of
Lake Bluff (right). PHOTOS BY
HOPE HOLMBERG/22ND CENTURY
MEDIA



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Hughes home showcased for tour

DANIELLE GENSBURG
Staff Writer

For the past 16 years, members of the Lake Forest chapter of the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago have held the biennial Showhouse & Gardens in Lake Forest, an event where they transform a grand, historic home into a beautiful showhouse for local residents to tour.

The Infant Welfare Society of Chicago is an organization that provides quality medical, dental, optometry, and behavioral health services for Chicago's low-income families.

Over the past 16 years, the Lake Forest chapter of the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago has raised over \$3 million. All proceeds from the showhouse will go to the society's community health center in Logan Square in Chicago.

Anywhere between 5,000-7,000 people attend the showhouse each year.

Bringing together 32 talented interior and landscape designers, this year's showhouse is being held in a beautiful estate in historic east Lake Forest that has a very special connection to the North Shore and a particular nostalgia for anyone who loves coming-of-age films from the 1980s: it is the former home of famed director, screenwriter and producer, John W. Hughes, Jr., widely revered for movies like "The Breakfast Club," "Pretty in Pink," "Sixteen Candles," "Home Alone" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," many of which were set on the North Shore.

Originally built in 1929, the elegant home was given as a gift to Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital in 2014 by John Hughes's wife, Nancy, in honor of her husband. The estate fea-

tures seven bedrooms, six bathrooms, a library, dining room, living room, garden room, family room, media room, an interchangeable office suite and a three-car garage, as well as six fireplaces, a swimming pool, bluestone terraces and exquisitely landscaped grounds.

A group of North Shore and Chicago-based designers were invited to a walk-through of the home in early December and selected that same month by members of the Lake Forest Chapter of the Infant Welfare Society to re-imagine the empty rooms in Hughes's former home. Starting in early February, the designers worked together for months in the house, transforming each room into a creative and uniquely styled space.

"When I found out that it was John Hughes's estate, I couldn't pass it up," said Beth LaMotte, a designer for Southern Manner Antiques & Design in Winnetka. "I grew up with his movies, and it was just a dream for me to design one of the rooms. I love history, and I love the North Shore, so just to stand in the house and to be a part of it was special."

Having participated in the Showhouse & Gardens event in past years, LaMotte redesigned Hughes's west powder room for the showhouse this year. She said she likes to design smaller rooms so that she can turn them into little jewels and re-imagined the powder room with a classic nod to vintage Palm Beach.

To viewers touring the home, LaMotte's space was bright, fresh and whimsical, certainly reminiscent of the popular Florida vacation spot, and created a classic, welcoming space with antique rugs and accessories, high gloss woodwork, and vivid lacquered finishes.

"The room was dark and didn't have a lot of light, so my goal was to lighten up the space," LaMotte said. "I have a little bit of pink in the room as a nod to Hughes's film 'Pretty in Pink,' including pink flowers and artwork."

In addition to LaMotte, there were a total of 26 interior designers and five landscape designers working to transform rooms inside the home, including Walker Simmons Designs, Mikel Welch Design, Joey Leicht Design, Courage & Co., Wiley Designs, Christopher Peacock Home, Lori Lennon & Associates, Scott Arthur Yearkey Design, LRS Interiors, Schmechtig Landscape, Jackson Landscaping, and Mariani Landscape, among many others.

All of the spaces were re-imagined in clever and unique ways, from the "Teen Retreat" designed by Courage & Co., a once dark room in the house transformed into a studio-like space and teenagers paradise with high-gloss white walls, a white shag rug, ventless fireplace, custom-made game board cubes, a flat screen TV and the latest technology, to a "fashion writer's retreat" designed by Sweet Peas Design and imagined for a fictional woman of the house, who would be "a nationally known fashion blogger with impeccable taste, strong opinions and a reputation for helping launch-or-sink-Chicago-area designers," as described in the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago's 2015 Showhouse & Gardens brochure.

This unusual room was colored in black and white, including white furniture and accessories, and covered with fashion photographs and drawings on the walls, as well as custom footwear and handbag pieces created by Chicago-based fashion

designers Azeeta Kahn, Diego Rocha, and James Sommerfeldt.

There was a record amount of actual construction that took place for the showhouse this year, where certain walls were taken down and put up, and other areas gutted, to recreate rooms like the kitchen, the master bedroom, and the 'man cave' bar and bath. The ABL Group, a local remodeling company, was hired to perform construction in those spaces.

"Just to work with the other designers, it was such fun, and I was happy to be a part of it. It was a pleasure to work with the contractor on the home. I've never worked with a contractor that's had such a great attitude," LaMotte said.

The 2015 Lake Forest Showhouse & Gardens event



The 16th biennial Lake Forest Showhouse and Gardens event, which benefits the Lake Forest chapter of the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago, will take place at director John Hughes's former estate until Sunday, May 17. PERRY LENTINE/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

is being held until Sunday, May 17, week days from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on the weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free shuttle buses are provided from Christ Church in Lake Forest and the East Lake Forest train station during showhouse hours, starting 30 minutes before the opening period and ending

one hour after closing.

General admission tickets for the Lake Forest 2015 Gardens & Showhouse can be purchased before and during the showhouse until May 17 and are \$37 per person, including a \$2 service fee. Tickets purchased at the entrance to the showhouse are \$40 per person.

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