



## BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS COMMITTEE

(Rev. 5.13.21)

### **What are the Beautification Awards?**

Award certificates are presented annually to residents and commercial operators whose properties are judged to be excellent examples of good maintenance and visual appeal.

### **Who gives the awards?**

The Beautification Awards Committee, now in its 48<sup>th</sup> year, oversees the annual surveying and judging of properties. On hiatus from 2014-2018, the Committee was restored and streamlined in 2019.

### **How are the award-winning properties identified?**

Properties are nominated by the public; self-nominations are strongly encouraged. Committee members and volunteer judges then survey and judge the nominated properties.

### **What are the requirements to win a Beautification Award?**

Surveyors and judges look for properties that show continuing maintenance, reflect care and enhance the neighborhood.

Properties do not need to be expensively landscaped but the existing landscaping should be in well maintained and in good health. Flowers are desirable but not essential. Lawns must show care although they do not need to be weed free or look green during drought. Shrubs must be trimmed or pruned. Flowerbeds and planters should be weed free. Dead trees, unless improved to enhance the property or trees with sucker growth will disqualify a property. Weeds in gutters, cracks or driveways, sidewalks or along curbs will also result in a disqualification.

Homes and structures on the property must be in good repair. House numbers must be present and unobstructed. Structural or landscaping projects underway during the judging do not disqualify any property if other evidence indicates award-winning qualifications.

Ordinance violations will result in disqualification. Some common violations that disqualify a property are peeling paint, hanging gutters, damaged siding, broken windows, fences in need of repair and illegally parked trailers, boats and RVs. Please contact the Building Department at Village Hall for more information regarding the Village Code of Municipal Ordinances.

### **What are special recognition awards?**

New in 2021, the Beautification Awards Committee voted to recognize two new categories of excellence. First, the Judges Choice designation will be awarded to the one property that the Committee has determined to have the best curb appeal and most meticulous care of all Beautification Award winners. The Judges Choice winner will receive a unique yard sign with the Judges Choice designation. This is a once per property award.

Second, the Committee will designate one block as the Beauty Block. All Beautification Award winners on that block will have receive a yard sign with the Beauty Block designation. Small roads may be considered in their entirety; for larger thoroughfares, a specific block will be recognized. This is a once per block award.

### **Who qualifies to volunteer?**

Any Park Forest resident can volunteer. The Committee is always looking for new members and volunteers. The Committee is active from March thru October and is a perfect fit for anyone interested in home improvements, gardening or even fitness buffs who would like a reason to walk the Village.

### **Interested in volunteering for the Beautification Awards?**

Please contact Carolyn Hoff in the Department of Recreation, Parks & Community Health at (708)748-2005 or email Carolyn at [choff@vopf.com](mailto:choff@vopf.com).