

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

This year, the Beautification Awards Committee will recognize three properties to be designated as a Judges Choice as these reflect the best examples of visual appeal and meticulous care of all Beautification Award

winners. The Judges Choice winners will each receive a unique yard sign with the Judges Choice designation. This is a once per property 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 April thru August 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.

Note: At this time, the Beautification Awards Committee is accepting volunteer judges only.

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

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



## **BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS COMMITTEE**



### **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 51st 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?**

Residents enter properties that they deem worthy of judging by the Committee. Entering one's own property is strongly encouraged. Entry forms will be available online and at Village Hall beginning June 1, 2024.

Single and multi residences as well as businesses and public buildings are all eligible to be entered. Committee members and volunteer judges then survey and judge all entered properties.

Note: Only those properties that have been entered will be considered for an award.



### **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 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 on the home or 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.