



PROCLAMATION HONORING LAUREL AND DENNIS MCMAHON AS 2026 HEART OF OUR VILLAGES AWARD RECIPIENTS

WHEREAS, Laurel and Dennis McMahon were longtime residents of River Forest who not only lived at and beautifully restored the William H. Hatch House at 306 Keystone in River Forest, such that it was named “Chicago’s Finest Painted Lady” and listed on the National Register of Historic Places but also owned and operated McMahon’s Refreshments, a popular local gathering spot at 7985 Lake St., from 1993 to 1996; and

WHEREAS, Laurel McMahon lobbied for the first comprehensive architectural and historical survey and significance rating of every property in River Forest, in addition to leading the four-year campaign to pass River Forest’s first-ever Historic Preservation Ordinance, and was then appointed the first chair of the village’s Historic Preservation Commission; and

WHEREAS, Laurel McMahon not only chaired the planning committee for the 125th anniversary celebration of the incorporation of River Forest, but also served as president of the Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest for two terms, where she played a key role in elevating the organization's annual Tale of the Tombstones walking tour into an institution which will celebrate its 35th anniversary in 2026; and

WHEREAS, Laurel McMahon was the driving force behind the South of the Tracks Society, a light-hearted group that brought neighbors together in activities such as marching in the annual Memorial Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, Dennis McMahon served ten years (1995-2005) on the River Forest Plan Commission, and became the longest serving member of the River Forest Development Review Board (1997-2015), including one term as chairman; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CATHERINE ADDUCI, on behalf of the Village of River Forest, we express our sincere appreciation to Laurel and Dennis McMahon for their many years of community-oriented service and congratulate them on their selection by The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest as 2026 recipients of the “Heart of Our Villages” award; and

IN WITNESS, THEREOF, I have hereto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of River Forest, this 23rd day of February 2026.

Catherine Adduci, Village President