

HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF WEST FORK YARD OF THE MONTH RECOGNITION GUIDELINES

The “Yard of the Month” recognition has been established by the Board of Directors of the Home Owners Association of West Fork (HOAWF) to promote goodwill and to reward exemplary lawn care and landscaping in the community. The purpose of the program is to recognize residents who demonstrate above-average efforts in maintaining their property, thereby contributing to the overall curb appeal of West Fork. The program is administered entirely by volunteers on the Grounds Committee with support from the Board of Directors.

For the months of March through October, the Grounds Committee will choose a front yard that typifies the qualities of uniqueness, beauty, and visual appeal that comply with the program guidelines. Since the purpose of the award is to promote curb appeal, consideration only will be given to front yards and their integration with the front elevation of the houses. When readily visible from the street (e.g., corner lots), side yards also will be included in the evaluation. The Grounds Committee will select a winning residential yard immediately prior the first of each month. The recipient of the “Yard of the Month” award will be notified and provided with a decorative sign for display in the winning yard. The selected yard will be recognized in the HOAWF newsletter and on the HOAWF Website, and the winning resident will receive a \$25 gift certificate.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- All residential properties within Sections 1 and 2 are automatically eligible except those of the members of the Grounds Committee..
- Award winners are selected based on the judging criteria shown below.
- The upkeep of the yard can reflect the efforts of the residents themselves or those of a professional landscaper or groundskeeper.
- The term of the award is only for a single calendar month, and runs from the first day to the last day of that same month, inclusive.
- A property can receive only one award in a twelve-month calendar period.
- Recipients receiving recognition at the start of a calendar month shall surrender the yard sign to the Grounds Committee at the end of that same month to be presented to the next winner. At the end of October, the Grounds Committee will collect the yard sign for safe storage and reuse.
- When a yard has been recognized as a “Yard of the Month”, the resident is encouraged to maintain the yard in the same manner that resulted in the “Yard of the Month” designation.

JUDGING CRITERIA: “Yard of the Month” properties will be judged solely on the exterior appearance of the front yard of the property and, if applicable, the side yard (e.g., a corner lot) as can be viewed from the street.

LAWN: Grass should be healthy with no bare spots, discoloration or excessive weeds. Grass should be mowed to an appropriate height for Bermuda or St. Augustine. Lawns should be edged and trimmed around foundations, flower beds, mail boxes and fences. Debris (garbage, leaves, limbs, pet feces, etc.) should be removed.

LANDSCAPE & FLOWER BEDS: A unified, simple and balanced landscape design with a neat and natural appearance is preferred. Ornamental vegetation can include annual and perennial flowers, trees, shrubs, etc., with plantings to scale with the surroundings and each other. Landscapes should be limited to a few types of plants rather than so many plants as to confuse the eye. Beds should be weeded and edged, Flowers should be deadheaded and dead plants removed. Trees and shrubs should be pruned and “natural” areas cleaned.

WALKWAYS & DRIVEWAYS: Walkways and driveways should be clean. Trash containers and/or yard maintenance equipment and products should be removed from view. The street and curb area in front of the property must be free from debris and dirt.

LIGHTING: Because the monthly judging will be conducted during daylight hours, the appearance of the yard after dusk including accent lighting, safety lighting, visible interior lighting, etc. will not be considered.

AESTHETICS: The overall look of landscaping (formal versus informal, use of color and textures, garden art) is important but not limited to any particular style provided that there is no conflict with Architectural Control Committee requirements. The front entryway to the house should be inviting with original and creative touches to show personality (hanging baskets, pots, yard art, bird feeders, etc.)

SUMMARY NOTE: *These principles offer general guidelines that will be used by the Grounds Committee in deciding on the winning “Yard of the Month”. There always is the possibility that some unusual landscape design or feature not included herein will impress the judges. The Board of Directors and the Grounds Committee are dedicated to improving the quality and appearance of our community. We encourage residents to take pride in their homes and neighborhood. In turn, we look to celebrate those who do a superior job in maintaining their yards in such a way that they enhance the overall curb appeal of the entire community.*