

## Riverwalk Garden Club, Yard of the Month Program

The Riverwalk Garden Club encourages all residents to maintain their lawns to assure property value is maintained, thereby contributing to the overall appearance and beauty of our community. The goal of the Yard of the Month is to recognize Riverwalk residents who make a special effort to enhance their property, taking pride in their home and landscape while inspiring others to do the same. The overall design does not have to be an elaborate and a landscape designer is NOT needed. Landscape planting with an eye for color, texture, contrast, and beauty can enable each of us to create a pleasant setting. Each yard is judged on the merit of its landscaping.

**All Riverwalk residents are eligible and encouraged to participate in the Yard of the Month Program.**

Yard of the Month will be awarded for the months April, May, June, July, August, and September. Special awards will be given for October for Halloween decorating/spirit and for Christmas for the holiday season/spirit.

Each yard is limited to winning the award only once in a calendar year.

Only the portion of the yard viewable from the street will be judged.

Residents are free to self-nominate their property or a neighbor's property for viewing by the Garden Club Yard of the Month Committee/Members. Nominations may be forwarded using the email on the Riverwalk POA website. Please include the following information: The name of the person nominating, the date you are making the nomination, your phone number. The address of the property you are nominating, the homeowner name and phone number if known.

Nominations should be submitted no later than the 10 days before the end of the month. Nominations close on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month and will not be accepted after that date. This is subject to change.

### **Criteria for consideration:**

1. A creative, unique, and balanced landscape appropriate to the house and lot size that captures interest and presents outstanding curb appeal.
2. An attractive and pleasing uniformity of a green lawn with a variety of plants including trees, shrubs, ground cover, flowers, wildflowers and the use of plants with a variety of heights, textures, and color. It may feature other items such as fountains, large rocks in the beds, and/or other ornamental features.
3. A well-groomed property can have a natural wildscape appearance, but must be mowed and the perimeter of the property must be neatly edged.
4. Shrubs must be neatly trimmed and maintained. Flowerbeds must be neat and grass/weed free as visible from the street.
5. Planting must be healthy with a minimum amount of weeds in lawn.
6. The external structure of the property must be neat with lawn free of trash and debris.

### **Disqualifications include:**

1. A neglected lawn appearance with overgrown grass and shrubs.
2. Dead plant material such as shrubs and trees on property and/or excessive weeds in flower beds or shrubby beds.
3. Trash cans and recycling bins in view from the street or visible on property beyond trash pick-up date.
4. Un-bagged yard or construction debris in view from the street of the property.
5. Anything on property not allowed by the Neighborhood Association covenants.

### **Winners**

- Winners receive a specially designed "Yard of the Month" sign place in their front yard for the month in which they won.
- A certificate of recognition and appreciation
- Acknowledgment and recognition posted on the Riverwalk community website and electronic signage board.