

## Highlands North Homeowners Association

### 'Yard of the Month' Program Guidelines

The Highlands North Homeowners Association (HNHA) Yard of the Month program has been established to encourage homeowners to improve the overall appearance of their lawn and landscapes. The purpose of the program is to recognize neighbors who demonstrate above-average efforts in maintaining their property, thereby contributing to the overall appearance of the community at large. This is a great award and the program is administered entirely by volunteers.

On (or about) the first of every month, from May through October, the HNHA Beautification Committee will choose 2 homes (one on each side of Eldorado) whose lawn and landscape best exhibits uniqueness, beauty, appeal, and consistency with the guidelines.

Each Yard of the Month winner will be provided with a decorative yard sign for display indicating their winning yard, a posting and photo on our community website ([highlandsnorth.org](http://highlandsnorth.org)). The yard sign must be displayed prominently in the yard for the entire award month.

#### Contest Guidelines

- All homes within HNHA are eligible (HNHA Board members excluded).
- Award winners will be selected based on the criteria listed below.
- Landscaping can be done by the residents or professional landscaper.
- A property cannot receive more than one award in a 12-month calendar period.
- Each winner is expected to maintain their yard (during the award month) in the same manner that allowed them to win the title.

#### Judging Criteria

Yard of the Month candidates are judged solely on the total exterior appearance of their lawn and landscape as viewed from the street. General upkeep of the yard and property is paramount. Factors considered include the overall appearance, tidiness and neatness of the front of the property as evidenced by pruned, trimmed and shaped foliage, edged and defined lawns, borders & flower beds, and a visually appealing facade.

**Lawn:** Grass should be healthy with no bare spots or excessive weeds. Grass shall be mowed and edged, and trimmed around foundations and fences. Debris (garbage, pet feces, etc.) shall be picked up and removed. A unified, simple and balanced landscape design with a neat and natural appearance is preferred.

### **Landscape and Flower Beds:**

Beds shall be weeded and edged, flowers must be deadheaded and dead plants removed, trees and shrubs pruned, natural areas cleaned. Beautification efforts should include flowers, trees, shrubs, etc., with plantings in scale with the surroundings and a balance between seasonal color and evergreen planting. Shade yards – primarily homes facing north – are definite contenders!

### **Walkways and Driveways:**

Walkways and driveways, if visible from the front, shall be clean (including trash containers or yard products removed from view). The area in front of the curb must be free from debris and dirt.

### **Aesthetics:**

The overall look of landscaping (formal versus informal, use of color and textures, garden art) is important. The front entryway should be inviting, with original and creative touches to show personality (hanging baskets, pots, yard art, bird feeders, etc.).

The HNHA Beautification Committee is dedicated to improving the appearance of our community. We encourage residents to take pride in their homes and neighborhood. In turn, we look to recognize 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.

### **Holiday Decoration Award:**

In addition to the Yard of the Month program, HNHA also awards 3 homes for best holiday decorations. The 3 categories are Religious Theme, Whimsical, and Best Overall. Winners will be chosen in early December. Sorry, no gift cards for this one.