**Wilmington Homeowners Association**

**Yard of the Month Program**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Yard of the Month (YOM) Program is to promote and improve the quality of living and appearance of our community. The program will recognize and support Wilmington neighbors who display exceptional efforts to maintain and improve their property in a manner that contributes t the overall appearance of the community at large.

**General Criteria**

Yard of the Month candidates will be judged exclusively on the total exterior appearance of their property and front yard as viewed from the street. General upkeep of the yard and property is paramount. Emphasis will be given to use of plants and unique landscaping efforts. Key criteria include; manicured yard, beautification, originality and creativity.

**Guidelines**

1. The program will be managed by a Yard of the Month Committee of volunteers chaired by a Director who will chair the committee and oversee the program.
2. The upkeep of the yard can reflect the efforts of the residents themselves or that of a professional landscaper.
3. As award duration is approximately a single calendar month and runs until the following month.
4. The property cannot receive more than two awards in the same twelve-month calendar period.
5. Yard of the Month must be current with their Association fees and have no outstanding With maintenance issues on their lot.

**General Judging Factors**

With the exception of October (Halloween) and December (Christmas), factors 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 and manicured flowerbeds.

1. Yard Maintenance
2. Healthy lawn, neatly mowed and edged
3. Pruned and trimmed shrubs and trees
4. Minimum weeds in flowerbeds
5. Yard free of debris and clutter
6. House numbers displayed attractively
7. Design and Landscaping
8. Use of color and texture
9. Creative, unique curb appeal
10. Appearance that makes the property an asset to the community
11. October and December – includes the overall appearance of decoration on the front of the property, overall level of holiday enthusiasm, aesthetic layout and balance as evidenced by:
12. Use of materials, lights, and sounds, inflatable’s, figures, etc.
13. Creative use of holiday imagery and symbols

**Award Schedule**

All award winners will be selected as close to the beginning of the month as possible. The exceptions to this will be September – January t accommodate the Halloween and Christmas holidays. October Yard of the Month will be awarded approximately seven days before the Halloween holiday. This will allow time for all neighbors to have decorations in place before the Yard of the Month candidates are selected.

**Awards**

All award winners will receive and official “Yard of the Month” lawn-sign to be placed on their property for the duration of their award as well as a gift card of Home Depot, or Lowes. In addition, each winner will be placed on the community’s web site in recognition of their being awarded the Yard of the Month.

**Summary**

The Wilmington HOA is dedicated to improving the quality of living 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 neighborhood.