

Dresden Yard of the Month Program Guidelines

The Dresden Yard of the Month program has been organized to promote and reward outstanding care of residential and commercial properties within our community. The purpose of the program is to recognize citizens who demonstrate above-average efforts in maintaining their property, thereby contributing to the overall appearance of our community at large.

For each month of the year, the Dresden Beautification Committee will choose a residential and a business property that best exemplify the qualities of: uniqueness, beauty, appeal, and consistency with the guidelines. Since the Dresden Beautification Committee will mainly deal with “curb appeal,” nominations will be for front and side yards jointly, as well as the exterior of the house or business.

The Committee will select one residential property and one business property during the first few days of each month. The winners of the Yard of the Month will be provided with a decorative yard sign for display indicating their winning properties. Additionally, a photo of the winners will be shared with our local newspapers, City of Dresden website, and Facebook page.

Contest Guidelines

- All residential and business properties within the city limits are automatically eligible.
- Program winners are selected based on the recommended judging criteria listed below.
- Key criteria include manicured yard, beautification, originality, and creativity.
- The upkeep of the property can reflect the efforts of the residents themselves or that of a professional landscaper or groundskeeper.
- An award duration term lasts a single calendar month, and runs from the first day to the last day of that same month.
- The same property cannot receive more than one award in a 12-month calendar period. At least 12 months must elapse between awards for the same property.
- Recipients receiving awards shall surrender their award once it is time to award the next winners.
- While an individual’s home or business is being recognized as a “Yard of the Month,” they are expected to maintain their property in the same manner that allowed them to win the title.
- All winners will be eligible for a \$50 Weakley County Chamber of Commerce gift card which will be awarded once a year to the best yard of the month from those individuals honored during the calendar year.
- In the event that a winner chosen for Yard of the Month does not wish to participate, the individual must contact a member of the Dresden Beautification Committee as soon as possible. The Dresden Beautification Committee will then choose another property.

RECOMMENDED JUDGING CRITERIA: The Dresden Yard of the Month candidates are judged solely upon the total exterior appearance of their properties and front yards when viewed from the street. General upkeep of the yard/business and property is vital. During the colder months, tidiness and tasteful holiday decorations will be the focus of judging criteria for participating properties. Themes for those particular months will be announced according.

Factors include the overall appearance and tidiness 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. **Each property will be chosen from the nominations submitted to the Dresden Beautification Committee.**

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 & 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 new flowers, new trees, and new shrubs, etc., with plantings in scale with the surroundings and limited to a few types of plants rather than enough to confuse the eye.

WALKWAYS & DRIVEWAYS: Walkways and driveways 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. The appearance after dusk needs to include accent lighting, safety lighting, visible interior lighting, etc.

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

Summary note: While lack of strict adherence to the criteria above does not necessarily disqualify, these principles offer general guidelines that should be recognized by the Dresden Yard of the Month program.

The Dresden Beautification Committee is dedicated to improving the quality of living and appearance of our community. We encourage locals to take pride in their homes, neighborhoods, and businesses. In turn, we look to celebrate those who do an excellent job in maintaining their properties in such a way that they enhance the overall curb appeal of our entire community.

Nominations can be made by emailing: dukeshome@outlook.com