



## **Yard of the Month Award Program**

The Binglewood Civic Club is pleased to sponsor a “Yard of the Month” award program to recognize those homeowners who demonstrate superior effort in maintaining their property and positively contribute to the overall appearance of our neighborhood. Participation is optional but encouraged.

The program will award monthly winners each month of the year for landscaping, and a separate award for holiday decorations in the months of October (Halloween) and December (Christmas) to one Binglewood neighbor each month. All winners will receive special recognition on the Binglewood Civic Club website and social media pages and in the *Binglewords* Newsletter, as well as the honor of displaying the official “Binglewood Civic Club Yard of the Month” or “Binglewood Civic Club Holiday Decorations Winner” lawn sign in their yard that identifies their property as a winner.

### **Program Guidelines**

- Judging for the award will be provided by a committee of volunteers and officers (in an uneven number to ensure no tie votes) using the Judging Criteria on the next page.
- Landscaping awards will be presented every month except during October and December.
- Awards for best Halloween decorations will be presented in October and best Holiday decorations will be presented in December.
- The award term lasts from the first day to the last day of a calendar month.
- The same property cannot receive more than one award in the same 12-month period.
- The property of all current residents of Binglewood Sections 1 through 6, both owner-occupied and rental, are automatically eligible to participate in the program, including those homeowners involved in the governance of the Civic Club.
- The upkeep of the yard can reflect the efforts of the residents themselves or that of a professional landscaper.
- During their reign as Yard of the Month, winners are expected to maintain their yard in the same manner that allowed them to win the title.

## Judging Criteria

### Landscaping Awards:

Yard of the Month candidates for landscaping are judged solely on the exterior appearance of their property as viewed from the street. Yards will be judged on their overall appearance, landscaping, and color. Other factors include, but are not limited to, tidiness and neatness of the front and side yards, pruned and trimmed trees and shrubs, edged and defined lawns, borders and flower beds, and a visually appealing facade.

**Lawn:** Healthy grass with no bare spots or excessive weeds. Grass shall be mowed and edged, and grass around foundations and fences shall be trimmed.

**Landscape and Flower Beds:** Beds weeded, mulched and edged. Trees and shrubs pruned. Efforts made to improve upon prior landscaping, including the inclusion of color and the installation of new flowers, trees, and shrubs.

**Walkways and Driveways:** Walkways and driveways shall be clean. Walkways, driveways and curbs shall be edged and free of debris and dirt. Use of accent and safety lighting for an improved evening appearance.

**Aesthetics:** The use of originality and creativity to create an inviting front entryway and a positive overall look to the landscaping and curb appeal. Formal or informal, use of color and textures, garden art, hanging baskets, and pots.

### Holiday Decorations Award (October and December):

Holiday Decorations Award candidates are judged solely on the exterior appearance of their property as viewed from the street. Overall appearance, creativity, decorating in the “spirit of the holiday” and an overall visually appealing impression will decide the winner.



**October:** The Yard of the Month award for October will be awarded to the house with the best Halloween decorations. Ghosts, goblins, black cats, and pumpkins are all in order. Lights and animation are a plus. Judging will take place during the 3rd week of October.



**December:** The Yard of the Month award for December will be awarded to the house with the best Christmas decorations. Theme, creativity and originality in ornamental lighting and decorations will be considered, as will daylight and evening displays. Judging will take place during the 2nd week of December.