

## **City of Oxford Yard of the Month May – October**

**Oxford is a beautiful community and we need to do all we can to keep it “Clean and Green”!**

All residents are invited to participate in the Yard of the Month program. The City of Oxford’s “Yard of the Month” program is designed to foster this reputation, encourage beautification, and to recognize residents who take great pride in managing their yards. (manage their yards in an exemplary fashion.)

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

- Property must be within the City limits.
- Resident must be willing to have photos taken and published on-line and in the paper.
- Resident must not have received a YOM award during the previous one-year period.

### **Guidelines for Administering:**

- Program begins April and extends through October of each year. (Ballot boxes begin March and run through September)
- Recognition award is presented monthly at the Board of Commissioners meeting held the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the board room, City Hall, 3rd Floor.
- Nominations will be collected by the 20th of each month; reviewed, and scored by a designated staff committee. The top 5 scores from each month will be automatically re-entered for the next month’s review excluding the winner.
- Winner must be in good financial standings with the City
- Photos will be taken and published of the winning yard with the owners. A sign will be placed in the yard and will remain at that location for one month.
- Partnerships may be developed with local businesses to provide gift cards to monthly winners that can be spent in those stores. No monetary awards are to be provided by the town. In the event there are no sponsors, gift cards will not be provided.

### **How to Nominate:**

Nominations may be made by anyone! Residents may self-nominate. To nominate a yard for an award, nomination cards and collection boxes can be found at the following locations FY 2014:

- City of Oxford Water Department/Finance Office
- Ace Hardware, Oxford
- Southern States, Oxford
- Steve’s Lawn and Garden, Oxford

### **Areas included in judging:**

Only the front yard area in between the property lines and from the front elevation of the residence to the curb will be judged (The area visible from the street). The backyards on corner lots will not be included in judging.

### **Judging Criteria:**

The following area(s) will be judged.

1. Front turf area(s) for aesthetic appearance. Color and uniformity of the turf, weed control, edging of turf along curbs, walkways and driveways.
2. Bed and any island areas in front of the residence: neatness and appearance of ground cover, coordination of shrubs, flowers and ornamentals. The appearance of trees.
3. Mailbox area: appearance of the ground cover, plant selection and any unique features that stand out.
4. New beautification efforts visible (planting of flowers, trees, grasses etc.)
5. Porch/stoop area: cleanliness, aesthetic appearance of potted plants, ornaments.
6. Any miscellaneous items added that makes a unique statement to the landscape.