



City of Newton Appearance Commission

Yard of the Month Contest

Do you have an award-winning yard that you want to show off?

The City of Newton Appearance Commission invites you to take part in a monthly contest to honor the most attractive, well-maintained yard in the city.

OVERVIEW:

The purpose of the program is to recognize Newton citizens who demonstrate above-average efforts in maintaining their property, thereby contributing to the overall appearance of the community at large.

The Appearance Commission congratulates all Yard of the Month award recipients and encourages all neighbors to join the efforts of these homeowners in keeping their yards and homes beautiful.

To enter the contest, complete the entry form below and email it to Collette Touchette, Appearance Commission chair, at ctouchette@charter.net.

CONTEST RULES:

1. Nominees must live in Newton city limits.
2. All entries must be in by the third week of the month and will be considered for the following month.
3. Judging will occur no later than the last week of the month prior to the awarded month.
4. Winners will be notified either in person, by mail or by email. A photo of the yard and resident will be posted on the city website, on the Appearance Commission Facebook page, and submitted to the local newspapers.
5. An award duration term lasts a single calendar month and runs from the first day of the month to the last day of that same month.

6. While an individual's home is being recognized as a Yard of the Month they are expected to maintain their yard in the same manner that allowed them to win the title.
7. The contest will take place once a month from May to July.
8. One must notify the Appearance Commission that they would like to enter the contest or that they are nominating someone.
9. Contestants must be willing for their yard to be photographed and to be photographed themselves, and to have those photographs published.
10. Contestants can only win the contest one time per year.
11. The upkeep of the yard should be done primarily by the efforts of the residents. Submission of a yard that is maintained by a professional landscaper will be accepted on a discretionary basis.

CONTEST SUBMISSIONS:

1. Notify the Appearance Commission of your names, address, telephone number, and a photo of your yard per the entry form below. You can call the City of Newton Recreation Department at 828-695-4333 or complete the application at www.newtonnc.gov.
2. If you wish to have submitted photo(s) returned please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Otherwise, the photo(s) become the property of the Appearance Commission and will not be returned.
3. All entries will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.
4. One can nominate someone that they feel has put a lot of effort into maintaining their property and deserves recognition.

CONTEST PRIZES:

All award winners will receive:

1. An official Appearance Commission Yard of the Month lawn sign, to be placed on their property for the duration of their award month. If a sign becomes lost or damaged, please request a replacement by calling the Recreation Department at 828-695-4333. Position of the sign should be

- prominent in the yard located midway between the street and the front of the house.
2. A certificate from the Appearance Commission.
 3. Their photo published on the Appearance Commission Facebook page, on the city website and submitted to local newspapers.
 4. Additional prizes may be awarded.

The Appearance Commission will notify winners within the first week of each month to claim prizes and have photos made.

JUDGING:

1. The judges will consist of the members of the Appearance Commission.
2. The commission will review all entries for the month and may conduct a site visit of the finalists. (This can be a scheduled viewing or it may be an unannounced ride-by.)
3. Yard of the Month candidates are judged solely 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.
4. The commission will select winners based on:
 - General upkeep of the yard (well-manicured grass, trimmed hedges, etc.)
 - Beautification efforts (flowers, trees, etc.)
 - Originality/creativity (any special touches by the owner, e.g., yard art, bird feeders, etc.)
 - Winning yards will be selected based on: attractiveness, maintenance and overall aesthetics.

**ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL AND NON-NEGOTIABLE AND MADE AT THE DISCRETION
OF THE APPEARANCE COMMISSION**



Newton Yard of the Month Contest Entry Form

Nominated Yard:

Resident name: _____

Yard address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominated by:

Name _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Key elements of yard's appearance:

Judge's comments:

Photo(s) attached? _____ Date submitted: _____