

# Fremont Yard of the Month Award Guidelines

## **What is the Fremont Yard of the Month award?**

The Fremont Yard of the Month award recognizes the hard work and pride exhibited by Fremont residents who beautify their yard.

## **Why was the Fremont Yard of the Month award established?**

The Fremont Yard of the Month award was established to recognize Fremont City residents who have improved or maintained their yard and whose yard has a positive aesthetic appeal. The award is intended to inspire others to take pride in their yard and to improve the overall quality of life in Fremont.

## **What are the evaluation criteria?**

Judges will use the general criteria outlined below when choosing the "Yard of the Month". These are only guidelines. The final decision is based on evidence of the homeowner's pride and the contribution the yard makes to the Fremont community's appeal.

## **Criteria for Yard of the Month – July, August and September**

- Yard is well-groomed and maintained.
- Tasteful landscaping - Yard is attractive and pleasing to the eye (e.g., green lawn, a variety of plants such as trees, shrubs, ground cover, flowers, wildflowers, plants with a variety of heights, textures and colors; landscape features such as fountains, large rocks in beds, etc.).
- Buildings, fences, porches, and patios on the property are in good repair (i.e., minimal distraction from the landscape due to deterioration, damage or construction).
- Some consideration may be given to properties that have invested extra effort through the use of attractive art pieces (e.g., pottery, ironwork), potted plants, birdhouses, patio or lawn furniture, decorative mailboxes, etc.
- Yard is free of litter, junk and debris (no appliances or indoor furniture on porches or patios).
- Yard is free of junked or inoperable vehicles, and there are no vehicles parked on grass areas.
- House numbers are displayed attractively.
- Only the portion of the yard viewed from the street will be judged.
- Good use of seasonal color
- Overall appearance is pleasing.

## **Criteria for Holiday Yard of the Month – December**

- Yard is maintained.
- Festive yards created through decorative lighting and seasonal decorations
- Only the portion of the yard viewed from the street will be judged.
- Good use of seasonal color
- Overall appearance is pleasing.

## **What are the rules that Impact the Yard of the Month Award Program?**

- Only residential properties (including mobile homes), either owner-occupied or leased, are eligible.
- The upkeep of the yard can reflect the efforts of the residents themselves or that of a professional landscaper.
- The judges do not have to give an award each month.
- The judges may also nominate yards.
- Each yard is limited to winning the award only once in any three consecutive calendar years.

## **How do I nominate a yard?**

You may nominate your own yard or someone else's yard by filling out a Yard of the Month award application, which can be found on the City's website at [www.cityoffremont.net](http://www.cityoffremont.net), or it may be picked up at the Fremont Municipal Building located at 101 E. Main Street, Fremont, MI. Awards are given out for recognition during the following months:

- July – For Yard Beauty (Nominations must be submitted by June 23.)
- August - For Yard Beauty (Nominations must be submitted by July 15.)
- September – For Yard Beauty (Nominations must be submitted by August 15)
- December – For Holiday Yard Decorating (Nominations must be submitted by December 8)

Separate criteria as outlined above will be used to judge the Holiday Yard decorating in December.

Anyone may nominate a yard, whether they live in the City or outside the City, but the yard needs to be located within the City limits.

Nominations may be e-mailed to Michele Ribant, the City's Neighborhood & Economic Development Director, at [mribant@cityoffremont.net](mailto:mribant@cityoffremont.net) or they may be mailed or dropped off at the Fremont Municipal Building located at 101 E. Main Street, Fremont, MI 49412.

### **Who are the judges?**

Judging is completed by the City's Deadhead Committee. Judges decisions are final.

### **What happens if I win?**

Winners are honored as follows:

- A "Proclamation of Achievement" will be bestowed upon the award recipient at a Fremont City Council meeting.
- A "Yard of the Month" award sign will be provided by the City to the award recipient for the duration of the award period, which will be placed between the sidewalk and the front of the house or in the side yard. It may not be placed in the right-of-way.
- The award duration is as follows:
  - July: Entire month
  - August: Entire month
  - September: Entire month
  - December – Holiday Decorating: Entire month
- A picture of the yard with the award recipient's permission will be placed on the City's Facebook page and in the City's Newsletter. It will also be sent with a request for publication to the *Times Indicator*. The Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce will also be notified.

**Thank you for your interest in the Fremont Yard of the Month Award Program.**