

Keep Richwood Beautiful Yard of the Month Standard Operating Procedure



YARD OF THE MONTH CONTEST GUIDELINES

Keep Richwood Beautiful has established a Yard of the Month Program to promote goodwill and reward exemplary lawn care in the community. The program recognizes neighbors who demonstrate above-average efforts in maintaining their property, thereby contributing to the overall appearance of the community at large. This is a great award, and the program is administered entirely by board members.

For April through September, the Keep Richwood Beautiful Committee will choose a lawn that best typifies the qualities of uniqueness, beauty, appeal, and consistency with the guidelines. The Committee will select one residential yard during each month's board meeting (April through September, October, and December. See details below). The winner of the Yard of the Month will be provided with a decorative yard sign for display indicating their winning yard, as well as a posting and photo on our Facebook page.

Contest Guidelines

All **residential** properties within the city limits are automatically eligible.

Award winners are selected based on the recommended judging criteria listed below.

Key criteria include a manicured yard, beautification, originality, and creativity.

The upkeep of the yard can reflect the residents' efforts or that of a professional landscaper or groundskeeper.

Award recipients, excluding decorative contest winners, will receive a \$25 gift card and a T-shirt. Additionally, they can display the KRB Yard of the Month sign in their yard for the entire month.

The award duration term lasts a single calendar month and runs from the first day to the last day of that month.

Recipients receiving awards in the middle of the month shall surrender them at the end of that month.

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.

RECOMMENDED JUDGING CRITERIA

Keep Richwood Beautiful takes the Yard of the Month Program seriously. Our committee ensures that 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.

Factors include the overall appearance, tidiness, and neatness of the front of the property, as evidenced by pruned, trimmed, and shaped foliage, edged and defined lawns, borders and flower beds, and a visually appealing facade.

LAWN: Grass is expected to be healthy with no bare spots or excessive weeds. Grass should be mowed, edged, and trimmed around foundations and fences. Debris (garbage, pet feces, etc.) should be removed. A unified, simple, balanced landscape design with a neat and natural appearance is preferred.

LANDSCAPE & FLOWER BEDS: Beds should be weeded and edged, flowers deadheaded, dead plants removed, trees and shrubs pruned, and natural areas cleaned. Beautification efforts should include new flowers, trees, 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 should 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 includes accent lighting, safety lighting, visible interior lighting, etc.

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

Decorative Awards

Yard of the Month candidates for decorative awards are judged solely on their property's exterior appearance as viewed from the street. General maintenance and upkeep of the yard and home are included in the judging. Overall appearance, tastefulness, creativity, decorating in the "spirit of the holiday," and a visually appealing façade are considered.

July: The July Yard of the Month award will be judged on the house with the Most Patriotic 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 1st week of July. A Facebook event will be created for the Most Patriotic Yard of the Month. In this case, first place will receive a \$250 gift card, second place will receive a \$100 gift card, and third place will receive a \$50 gift card. Residents will submit photos of their yards to the Facebook event, and whichever photo gets the most "likes" will win. The highest "likes" wins 1st, then second and third place follows in order of number of likes.

October: The Yard of the Month award for October will be judged on the house with the best Fall/Halloween decorations. Spooks, 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. A Facebook event will be created for Spookiest Yard of the Month. In this case, first place will receive a \$250 gift card, second place will receive a \$100 gift card, and third place will receive a \$50 gift card. Residents will submit photos of their yards to the Facebook event, and whichever photo gets the most "likes" will win. The highest "likes" wins 1st, then second and third place follows in order of number of likes.

December: The December Yard of the Month award will be judged on 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. A Facebook event will be created for the Best Decorated Yard of the Month. In this case, first place will receive a \$250 gift card, second place will receive a \$100 gift card, and third place will receive a \$50 gift card. Residents will submit photos of their yards to the Facebook event, and whichever photo gets the most "likes" will win. The highest "likes" wins 1st, then second and third place follows in order of number of likes.

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

While residents must submit photos of their decorated yards to KRB's Facebook event, some residents may not be aware of these contests or may not follow Richwood Beautiful's Facebook page. To increase participation in these events and raise awareness of Keep Richwood Beautiful's Facebook page, board members are encouraged to contact any resident they notice with a decorated yard, inform them about the event, and if necessary, take a photo of the yard with the resident's permission, then submit the photograph(s) along with the resident's information.

This would encourage the ongoing beautification of our neighborhoods and provide board members with direct contact with our residents. Additionally, it would offer board members a chance to introduce KRB, our events, our Facebook page, and potential volunteer opportunities.

The Keep Richwood Beautiful Committee is dedicated to improving our community's quality of life and appearance. We encourage residents to take pride in their homes and neighborhoods. In turn, we look to celebrate those who do a superior job maintaining their yards, enhancing the overall curb appeal of the entire community.

Record Keeping

The executive Director will keep a spreadsheet with Yard of the Month winners. Their names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses will be added to the document for easy access.

Judging by Board Members

Each board member will be assigned one section of the city and a month (or more) to pick Yard of the Month or Decorative Yard of the Month. The Keep Richwood Beautiful committee wants to find yards in each city subdivision.

See attached table:

Board Member	Section/Subdivision	Month	Pick no later than...
Chairman	Audubon Woods I Audubon Woods II	April/October	First week in April/Third week in October
Vice Chair/Treasurer	Glenwood Bayou	May/December	First week in May/Second week in December
Secretary	Oakwood Shores	June	First week in June
Associate Member	Davidson Slater	July	First week in July
Associate Member	Original Richwood	August	First week in August
Associate Member	Brazos Crossing	September	First week in September

Richwood Neighborhoods

ORIGINAL RICHWOOD SUBDIVISION

Legend

- Audubon 1
- Audubon 2
- Brazos Crossing
- Davidson Slater
- Glenwood Bayou
- Oakwood Shores
- Original Richwood

CRIME ACTIVITY UPDATE

The most recent reported theft in the Original Richwood subdivision was on 02/26/2018.

The most recent reported burglary in the Original Richwood subdivision was on 01/17/2019.