

## Nominating information for Covington beautification awards:

The Covington Neighborhood Collaborative, the Old Seminary Square Neighborhood Association and some former members of the now defunct Friends of Covington are reviving the annual Covington Beautification Awards program that was launched by the Friends group more than 30 years ago. The following information is being gathered in an effort to recognize some 20 property owners – residential or commercial -- in the city in 2023. It would be helpful if people who make nominations would provide answers to all or at least most of the following questions:

1. Location of property: street number and, if possible, neighborhood  
[408 Wallace Avenue, Covington, KY 41014](#)
2. Name(s) of property owner or tenant(s) who are responsible for the property  
[Jay and Kate Smith](#)
3. Contact information for the person who has nominated the property as well as for the person or persons who would be a recipient of the award: [Ryan Christen Oliphant, \[wna.president@gmail.com\]\(mailto:wna.president@gmail.com\)](#) – [Jay Smith 727-510-4903, \[jaylsmith@msn.com\]\(mailto:jaylsmith@msn.com\)](#)
4. If possible, some information about the person or persons who might be an award recipient. [Jay and Kate located to Covington for Jay's work as President of Fischer Homes in Northern Kentucky. Working for a builder, they could have picked any place to go but preferred a historic home, with some space, in Covington. They have done extensive work on an already stunning home.](#)
5. Length of time that the owner or tenant has lived at the address [they have owned the home for 2 years but only just moved in at the end of 2022.](#)
6. If possible, information about the architectural style of the home or commercial structure: [The house was built in 1915 and like most Wallace Woods homes, is in between styles. It is striking in that it has distinctive front bays, deep eaves and an elevated, large front porch. The home was modified into a multi-family at one point when a second front door was added. This home, and several others, was saved from demolition in the 1970's when St. Elizabeth's attempted to raise a section of Wallace Avenue to make access from Wallace with expanded parking. The reason it sits on a half-acre lot is because the house next door was raised by St Elizabeth and a few neighbors fought to keep the ground and expand their property.](#)
7. If possible, information about the age of the building [built in 1915.](#)
8. What sort of work has been done on the exterior of the building in recent years that makes it worthy of a beautification award? [Since Jay and Kate's ownership they have done remarkable work to preserve the work done by the previous owners, Sally and David Davidson. The entire time the home was under construction, the exterior landscaping was maintained, and the pots were filled with seasonal plants.](#)
9. What sort of work has been completed in the yard or garden or in the overall landscaping treatment that makes it a good candidate for an award? [They have reworked the front landscaping of the house and raised up 2 beds on either side of the front walk. They have fed the Magnolia tree so that it remains standing strong. All the](#)

beds that grace the sides and front of the house have been planted with new plants and they recently reseeded the front yard following a plumbing line replacement. Most striking is the addition of exterior lighting in the eaves around the house. It's quite dramatic in the evening when visiting Wallace Avenue.

10. Is there any information available about previous owners who might have been noteworthy or prominent in the city or the state? The house was owned by Barb and Van Sondergrath who saved this home from destruction and was sold to Sally and David Davidson. Dave Davidson is currently the City Solicitor for the City of Covington.
11. Are there any anecdotal stories about the property that might distinguish it in any way from other properties in the city? Other than its placement on Wallace Avenue and it's unique ½ acre lot... this home is a natural host site for neighborhood gatherings such as the Progressive Dinner. During Covid, The Davidson's hosted the neighbors over to gather safely outside on Friday evenings given the fact they have a large flat outdoor space. This home also shares an electric dog fence between them and the neighbors, the Snows, so that all the dogs can run free on more than an acre of land.
12. Very broadly, is there anything that might make the property "special" in any way? Aside from it's stature on Wallace Avenue I would say the addition of the exterior lighting is very dramatic.
13. Question for the prospective award winner: Why is it important to take care of the exterior of your property? \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Is there any evidence that taking care of your property influences others to do the same? \_\_\_\_\_.
15. What are the advantages of living in the City of Covington? \_\_\_\_\_.
16. What are the disadvantages of living in the City of Covington? \_\_\_\_\_.