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\_514 Craig Street, Mutter Gottes Neighborhood, Covington, KY 41011.
2. Name(s) of property owner or tenant(s) who are responsible for the property\_Jayme Porkolab.
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 – Nominated by Dan Burr – [burrda@ucmail.uc.edu](about:blank) Home Owner – [Jayme.Porkolab@gmail.com](about:blank) 914-519-8071.
4. If possible, some information about the person or persons who might be an award recipient. (For example: Mom, dad, two kids and a pooch. Mom teaches school, dad is a firefighter, Bill’s in the fifth grade..., etc.)
   1. Jayme grew up in the Greater Cincinnati Area (Norwood) and as a young adult lived in Clifton where she and her ex-husband started Bogart’s Concert Club. She moved away from the area in 1995 and has lived in multiple cities with a penchant for finding residence in an older or historic home in the city she was calling home at the time. With the COVID pandemic she had the opportunity to work remote and decided to escape Dallas, TX and move back to the area of her roots. Some may find it unbelievable, but she bought her house online and did not see it in person until close. She was not disappointed; the previous owners had taken great care of the home built in 1862 by John Hartke. And as she looked at the house, she saw ‘what it could be’ and made a commitment to make the house shine and to be a good steward of her forever home.
   2. Jayme shares her home with her two sheepadoodles, Newton & Steiner, her cat Cooper. Her children Courtney (Miami, FL) and Zachary (San Francisco, CA) come to visit.
5. Length of time that the owner or tenant has lived at the address\_\_Just under 2 years\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. If possible, information about the architectural style of the home or commercial structure\_\_\_\_\_\_The house was built in 1862 for carriage maker, John Hartke. It is a typical german brick home in the Mutter Gottes neighborhood\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. If possible, information about the age of the building\_ The home was built in 1862 for John Hartke who was a carriage maker. The original home had no indoor plumbing and access to the 2nd floor was via exterior stairs. The home was rescued in the 1980’s and remodeled. At that time they added Colonial style molding to exterior door and ill-fitting shutters that did not do the home any justice.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
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 purchasing\_\_\_ the home, Ms Porkolab has replaced the windows with historic reproductions and had a custom door crafted that was representative of the homes of that time (replacing an ugly 1980’s fan window door). The trim and clapboard on the rear of the home was painted. In addition, she has landscaped the front and backyard extensively and added an outdoor fountain to create a restful place in the backyard. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
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?\_ Privacy fence stained to match house, landscaping in the front and backyard, small stone retaining wall to define borders in the backyard and front. Window boxes added to 2nd story windows in front. A fountain was added to the backyard to create a tranquil retreat. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. Is there any information available about previous owners who might have been noteworthy or prominent in the city or the state?\_\_Yes, John Hartke has a carriage company in Covington. Ms Porkolab has a photo of him in front of one of his carriages hanging in her home.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. Are there any anecdotal stories about the property that might distinguish it in any way from other properties in the city?\_ I believe it was one of the first homes on Craig Street but have not been able to verify yet.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
12. Very broadly, is there anything that might make the property “special” in any way?\_\_\_The transformation in just 1 year has been amazing. From the moment Ms. Porkolab saw the home, she envisioned the possibilities of what the home could be.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. Question for the prospective award winner: Why is it important to take care of the exterior of your property? Ms Porkolab recognizes that this home will outlast her and she views herself as the fortunate person who gets to be its steward while in her forever home. Mutter Gottes Neighborhood is a special place and its important that these homes are well loved and taken care of to maintain that. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
14. Is there any evidence that taking care of your property influences others to do the same?\_\_Yes. People go by the home all the time and say how it has given them ideas on how to work on their house.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
15. What are the advantages of living in the City of Covington?\_\_The walkability; wonderful neighbors, great location.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
16. What are the disadvantages of living in the City of Covington?\_ No disadvantages to thing of.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.