

2019 Coronet Award winners

Each year the Fairfield County Heritage Association honors successful renovation, restoration, preservation, beautification, landscaping and new building projects.

Honorees have included home owners, business owners, industry, schools, churches and public property.

An award-winning project may be large or small, but it must be visible to passers-by. The work should have been done in the last three years or near completion.

This year's honorees are two private homes, two businesses and two projects that have created a special sense of place.



824 N. Broad St, Lancaster

Owners: Wilbur & Diane Rice

This is a delightful story-and-a-half, German-style home. The exterior has been freshly painted with historic colors and landscaped, and the property also features a new driveway and garage.

The owners added the driveway and garage to make their home more accessible, mixing practicality with beauty. Small details all around show both an eye for design and the perfect finishing touches.

Wilbur and Diane Rice purchased this property in 2016 and have turned it into a cozy oasis. It is a perfect fit in the neighborhood and an eye-catcher for those driving past.

5705 Lithopolis Road, Rockmill Brewery

Owners: Matt Barbee & Judy Barbee

In 2019, the owners of Rockmill Brewery celebrated their success of the Ohio farmhouse ale business by expanding the production facility, adding on to the tasting room and improving the grounds of the former horse farm. They used paint colors and architecture that blend into the natural setting and have incorporated a design that is both functional and appealing to guests.



1375 & 1377 Old Logan Road

Owner: Shared Option 3

The Route 33 entrance to Lancaster from the Hocking Hills looks brighter and more inviting thanks to the renovation of the former Lancaster Sales and GI Depot buildings. The bold red and gray colors stand out against the new blacktop, but the changes are more than skin deep. Many other updates make the buildings more functional and energy efficient.

Pete Swartz, general manager of Shared Option 3 and the general contractor for project, was able to use many local companies and individuals to contribute to the success of the makeover.

The buildings are leased to Peddler's Junction.





**148 Union St, Lancaster
Business: Green Machine**

The Green Machine gardeners transformed a vacant lot at 148 Union St. into a working garden. It's also the new home of the program managed by Learning Never Ends for the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Project manager Jessica Dent and three master gardeners work with 12-15 adults to raise food and flowers, learn new skills and become more self-sufficient. Special thanks go to property owner Tom Fernow for the use of the land.

In a town with too many vacant lots, the Green Machine is showing us how they can be turned into community assets.

312 Garfield Ave, Lancaster

Owner: Ron Smith

This house on the city's west side was given new life by its new owner. Ron Smith has lived across the street for many years and witnessed this property's continual neglect, until it became a blight to his neighborhood. When it was available through a repossession in 2018, Ron was willing to step in and do something about it.

He purchased the property and after many months and much work, the home has now been completely renovated both inside and out. The exterior stone adds a vintage charm and new landscaping enhances the beauty of this Cape Cod.

The home is now a showcase and its former problems long gone. We hope this restoration will inspire people in other areas who see a property that needs attention to follow Ron's example.



**Center Alley and Bankers Alleys
Sherman Rotary & Lancaster Rotary**

Sherman Rotary and Lancaster Rotary organizations have rigorously backed downtown revitalization in Lancaster for many years. Part of that support was investing in tangible features that create a sense of place and evoke pride, even in unlikely spaces.

Sherman Rotary adopted Center Alley early with the installation of a metal archway and repurposed planters in 2010. Sherman Rotarians then lighted the way with an ongoing outdoor lighting and umbrella project.

Lancaster Rotary adopted Bankers Alley and mobilized resources to expand the exterior lighting program for an entire city block. Ghost signs, murals, and plantings were added in various nooks by community contributors along the way.

In 2019 Center and Bankers Alleys were the venue for a Community Dinner and countless photo opportunities for locals and visitors alike under the lighted and umbrella canopies.

Other contributors helping to sustain these projects are DDL, Mithoff Companies, Lancaster Alive, and the City of Lancaster.



Photos from Destination Downtown Lancaster