



We are proud to present these 2016

Outstanding Local Government Achievement Awards

Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

Honors exemplary individuals who have given a lifetime of service to the public sector.

Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual

Honors local government jurisdictions, special purpose and school districts, public agencies and individuals for unique achievements in the creation and implementation of exemplary government programs or projects and exceptional public sector contributions.

Exemplary Public/Private or Public/Non-profit Collaboration

Honors successful joint ventures between local government jurisdictions or agencies and private or non-profit organizations.

Exemplary Intergovernmental Collaboration

Honors cooperative efforts between local government jurisdictions or agencies resulting in positive changes in the community.

Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

Honors forward-thinking planning and design efforts for public spaces or community development that challenges the way people think about their surroundings.

The OLGAs:

Each year, East-West Gateway Council of Governments presents its Outstanding Local Government Achievement Awards recognizing the extraordinary work of municipal, county, special purpose and school district officials in the St. Louis region.

It does not matter whether a jurisdiction, department or district is large or small, volunteer or professional, part-time or full-time.

We look for individuals who provide the highest level of leadership; for projects and partnerships that raise the bar; and for jurisdictions that provide a level of excellence, expertise and service in local government for all to emulate.

We challenged you to bring those who embody these qualities forward for consideration and we honor them today.

2016 OLGA Winners

Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

Donald Feher
J. Wayne Oldroyd

Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual

Dr. Scott Spurgeon
St. Charles County—Gateway Greenlight Program

Exemplary Intergovernmental Collaboration

Kaskaskia Cahokia Trail Coalition—
Monroe County
St. Clair County
Randolph County

Exemplary Public/Non-profit Collaboration

Emerald Ridge Homes—
Village of East Alton
Rise
Southwestern Illinois Development Authority
Madison County Community Development

A Visual Approach to Educating the Community on Air Quality—
City of Granite City
Six Mile Regional Library District
United Congregations of Metro-East
Madison County Green Schools Program
Saint Louis University Center for Environmental Science

Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

American Bottom Levee Project—
Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District Council
St. Louis Metro East Levee Issues Alliance

Public Media Commons—
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Nine Network of Public Media
St. Louis Public Radio



Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

Donald R. Feher

Donald Feher has committed his career to making this world and especially our region a better and safer place. He has devoted 48 years to the citizens of St. Clair County and the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. Don has spent a lifetime utilizing his experience, knowledge and passion to ensure the availability of proper training, equipment, facilities and resources for emergency responders and the public he serves.



He started his career as a volunteer fireman in 1968 with the Fairview Caseyville Township Fire Protection District where he was promoted to fire chief in 1989. He retired from firefighting in 2006 when he took on a new challenge as assistant coordinator of the St. Clair County Emergency Management Agency. He is still on the job 10 years later serving as assistant director.

In 1997, he began his tenure as chairman of the Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) Fire Service Division helping to develop the fire service training curriculum that created the foundation for the college's training program that is now nationally recognized.

As a member of the St. Clair County Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, a group that Don has chaired for the past 15 years, he helped found the St. Clair County Special Emergency Services Association that became operational in 1999. Today, the association stands as an all-volunteer, Tier-1 rated emergency response team providing hazardous materials response, technical rescue, regional medical response, water rescue/recovery, and K-9 search/rescue capabilities to all of St. Clair County, with mutual aid assistance to Madison and Monroe counties. It should be no surprise that Don serves as its chairman. This would be more than enough for most of us, but he is also an active member of the Illinois Terrorism Taskforce, the St. Clair County 911 Board and the St. Louis Area Regional Response System (STARRS).

The actual physical impact of Don's efforts can be witnessed throughout the region, including a fire service training facility in Belleville, a state-of-the-art fire facility in Fairview Heights, and the Technical Search and Rescue Training building located on Scott Airforce Base.

"You can still smell the smoke on them" is an oft-used adage spoken about those who have the fire service in their blood. And when it comes to Chief Feher, his colleagues assure us that when the Chief walks into a room the smell of smoke is unmistakable and for that they are grateful.

J. Wayne Oldroyd

Wayne Oldroyd has spent his 45-year career devoted to creating better communities that embody the vision of their citizens.

As Director of Community Development for the city of Maryland Heights for nearly two decades, Wayne has played a central role in shaping the region's development and growth. He has provided leadership on major proposals encompassing thousands of acres, including Westport Center, Lakeside Crossing, and the restructuring of Riverport. In 2002, he developed the Howard Bend Land Use Plan, resulting in the preservation of over 1,700 acres of Missouri River floodplain; the planning of 2,000 acres of parkland; and set up development policies for another approximately 2,200 acres. Before coming to St. Louis, Wayne left his footprint in coastal southern New Jersey consulting on numerous municipal planning projects.

But Wayne's priorities go far beyond comprehensive land-use plans and development projects. He has spent countless hours designing programs, developing and writing resource materials and teaching citizens how to understand and consider the effect of land-use decisions on the character of their communities. He has chaired the Missouri Chapter of the American Planning Association and was instrumental in rebuilding the St. Louis Metro Section. Wayne has played an integral role in the Chancellor's Certificate Program in Planning and Zoning at UMSL that has educated hundreds of officials and staff from cities and villages large and small.

For Wayne, it's always been about the people. In 2006, the city of Greendale, in north St. Louis County, wanted to develop and approve their first comprehensive plan but didn't have the in-house expertise or the budget to hire a consultant.

Wayne volunteered many evenings to help them and served as a teacher, coach and cheerleader through every step in the comprehensive planning process. The seeds he planted in 2006 took root and in 2014 Greendale officials completed the first update to the city's comprehensive plan. His work developing a public engagement plan and innovative Interpretive Zoning Code for the city of Maryland Heights also illustrates his passion for making planning and zoning accessible to everyone. The plan ensures the public provides input at all stages of the planning process while the code lays out the city's zoning regulations in easy-to-understand language.

Throughout his career, Wayne has been guided by the belief that good planning advances the character and value of the community. His commitment and passion for the profession has elevated the standard for planning and development for the greater St. Louis area and we are the beneficiaries of his lifetime of public service.



Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual

Dr. Scott Spurgeon— Riverview Gardens School District



In 2013, Dr. Scott Spurgeon accepted the job as Superintendent of the Riverview Gardens School District with a mission to make a difference in the lives of children and to help turn a struggling district around. From the beginning of his tenure, he has created a positive climate and culture of professionalism among staff and teachers. He and his administrators do walk-throughs to observe classroom practices at least twice a month and he runs student town hall meetings. Dr. Spurgeon's commitment to "being present" helps students know that their leaders are looking out for them. With a student body comprised of largely at-risk students, Dr. Spurgeon has chosen to concentrate on their talent and potential while recognizing the realities of the world in which they live. Dr. Spurgeon has helped his students remain focused on their future as exemplified by a collaboration with Shalom Church-City of Peace. Now, instead of Wednesday night Bible study, the church's 2,500 young parishioners, many of whom attend Riverview and Normandy schools, get help with their homework. The district now partners with the community to provide dependable resources, food banks, support services and transportation. And what do the numbers say? Attendance is up, disciplinary problems are down, graduation rates are up, college scholarships are up and the list goes on.

St. Charles County— Gateway Green Light Program

Gateway Green Light initiated and led by St. Charles County engaged the cities of Cottleville, Dardenne Prairie, Lake Saint Louis, O'Fallon, St. Charles, St. Peters, Weldon Spring and Wentzville as well as the Missouri Department of Transportation in an effort to improve the coordination of traffic signals throughout the county. Notably, the program synchronizes traffic signals on streets that cross jurisdictional boundaries. The local governments that own traffic signals in the area are working together to ensure that the signal timing plans for the intersections on major routes are coordinated for more efficient flow of traffic. The Gateway Green Light program

utilizes existing signalization equipment along with new communications equipment, software, and signal controllers, to allow the current traffic signals on the system to communicate with each other and with a central operations center. The program also uses dynamic message boards

and travel time detectors to provide real-time information on roadway conditions and travel times. For the motorist, this generates noticeable improved traffic flow, reduces unnecessary delays and cuts emissions that contribute to ozone pollution.

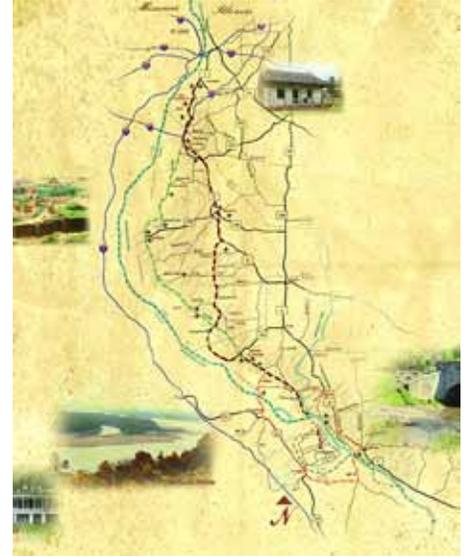
As the Gateway Green Light initiative continues to expand, drivers can anticipate an even smoother and less congested commute in their future travels.



Exemplary Intergovernmental Collaboration

Kaskaskia-Cahokia Trail Coalition— Monroe, St. Clair and Randolph Counties

The Kaskaskia-Cahokia Trail is located within the St. Louis metropolitan area in St. Clair, Monroe and Randolph counties in southwestern Illinois. The 60-mile-long KCT corridor connects visitors with an opportunity to discover the region's native Indian history, French colonial roots, Revolutionary War-era settlers, early Illinois statehood and westward expansion, 18th and 19th century European immigration influences, and prominent agricultural economy. Community leaders in the three counties formed the Kaskaskia-Cahokia Trail Coalition in 2011 with the intention of working together to identify and promote Illinois' First Road. The coalition installed route signage across jurisdictions, jointly developed and paid for an award-winning promotional brochure, built a website and social media presence, and organized a media tour that resulted in the trail being featured in several newspapers and travel magazines, including National Geographic. At every step along the way, the coalition exhibited a willingness to dedicate time and resources toward an intergovernmental collaborative that benefits the region as a whole. As a result, the KCT has gone from one of the most endangered historic places in Illinois to a historic, scenic corridor that the world can explore, appreciate and enjoy.



Exemplary Public/Non-profit Collaboration

Emerald Ridge Homes— Village of East Alton, Rise, Southwestern Illinois Development Authority (SWIDA), Madison County Community Development

Emerald Ridge Homes transformed a six-block area of substandard housing in center of the Village of East Alton into 46 affordable single-family homes with access to a large park, a recreation center, schools, a public library and public transit. This public/non-profit collaboration is a result of the Southwestern Illinois Development Authority introducing the Village of East Alton to Rise, a non-profit community developer. The development professionals at Rise, along with SWIDA, worked with the Village to recognize their vision for the area and come up with a redevelopment plan. Madison County Community Development provided loan funding through the Community Development Block Grant program and Rise secured private financing. The 46 homes were 100 percent occupied before the ribbon cutting with 150 applications for housing. The success of the partnership was due, in large part, to the Village's willingness to cast aside misconceptions about what low-to-moderate income housing looks like and assist in problem solving, connecting with residents and stretching their limited resources to make this development happen. The homes are sustainable and energy-efficient. They incorporate universal design making them work for seniors and those living with disabilities with no retrofit needed while a long-term lease-to-purchase option allows renters to one day become homeowners.



A Visual Approach to Educating the Community on Air Quality— City of Granite City, Six Mile Regional Library District, the United Congregations of Metro-East, the Madison County Green Schools program and the Saint Louis University Center for Environmental Science

A Visual Approach to Educating the Community on Air Quality engaged students, senior citizens and residents in learning about air pollution, climate change and the importance of air quality to public health. The project's diverse group of knowledgeable and committed partners created educational programming and



community science projects while highlighting ways to improve air quality and prepare for a changing climate. The project began with resident and master gardener, Jeff Rains' desire for an ozone garden and grew into an exemplary public/non-profit community collaboration involving city and county officials, a library district, and local and regional educational institutions. The project's objectives included creating an Ozone Garden in Granite City, developing a citizen monitoring network with ozone and particulate monitors, distributing air quality flags to six educational sites and 11 schools, maintaining educational bulletin boards with information on air pollution sources and health impacts, and giving educational presentations. The project's objectives have been incorporated into the new Sustainability Plan for Granite City to

ensure that they are supported even after their environmental justice grant from the EPA ends. By working together, the project's partners are taking meaningful steps to improve public health and make Granite City a greener, cleaner community.

Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

American Bottom Levee Project— Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District Council and St. Louis Metro East Levee Issues Alliance



The American Bottom Levee Project has been a long-term planning and design project whose completion has been a top priority for Metro-East and the region as a whole. The project's scope and design requirements were immense and the years of work, now nearing completion, will finally result in full accreditation of the levees of the American Bottom. This planning and design effort serves as a testament to the importance of regional collaboration. With strong support from St. Louis Metro East Levee Issues Alliance, the Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District Council brought together businesses, civic organizations, community leaders and citizens in Monroe, Madison and St. Clair counties to

carry out much-needed upgrades to the 75.8-mile American Bottom levee system. The organizations have been methodically working to bring the levees up to federal standards by improving the stability, reliability and performance of the system and saving the community \$50 million annually from possible increased flood insurance premiums. In addition, it has sent a strong signal to business and home owners that the region will be protected against flooding long into the future. The work on the \$110 million levee system will be completed in 2017, 30 years ahead of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers original schedule.

Public Media Commons—

University of Missouri–St. Louis, Nine Network of Public Media, St. Louis Public Radio

Located in heart of the Grand Center district in the city of St. Louis, the Public Media Commons transformed a gated parking lot between the Nine Network and UMSL-Grand Center buildings into a space that brings people together for experiences that stimulate democratic engagement. The project began in 2010 when the Nine Network, UMSL, and St. Louis Public Radio imagined a communal incubator where arts, creative ideas, and technology would intersect. This unique local example of planning and design innovation is an open-air plaza, flanked on two sides by two-story video walls and featuring four interactive LCD displays, a performance stage, and a giant viewing window into one of the Nine Network studios. It regularly features the work of local artists, musicians and filmmakers. There are smaller scale examples of the public multi-media concept in places like City Garden but this space is the first of its kind. The Public Media Commons provides a platform to amplify the voices of those striving to reach the public with a positive message. The space has also received national recognition in the American Society of Landscape Architects' national landscape architecture design competition.

