



We are proud to present these 2015

# 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.

# 2015 OLGA Winners

## Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

Stephen Michael Murray  
James Pennekamp

## Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual

City of Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department—  
Youth Enrichment Life Skills/Recreation Camp

## Exemplary Intergovernmental Collaboration

St. Louis Regional Digital Microwave Network—  
City of St. Louis, Jefferson County, Madison County, Monroe County,  
St. Charles County, St. Clair County, St. Louis County

## Exemplary Public/Private Collaboration

Scott Air Force Base & Southwestern Illinois Defense Assets Task Force—  
St. Clair County, Madison County, Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois

## Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

I-55 Development Code—  
Madison County, City of Edwardsville, Village of Glen Carbon



# Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

## Stephen Michael Murray



Mike Murray's personal mission is to make the St. Louis region a better place to live. He has lived a life of service as an active community volunteer for the causes that are closest to him. Mike is committed to protecting the environment and his tireless efforts to preserve green space, enhance water quality and see that the vision for a clean, green connected St. Louis region is realized, has made him a true regional leader.

He is a bicycle and pedestrian advocate who works to ensure that the needs of people who walk, ride bikes or use public transit are considered in regional transportation projects. Some of our region's most recognizable public and nonprofit initiatives have benefitted from Mike's time, attention and expertise. It is safe to say that his involvement has directly supported the creation of the bicycle, pedestrian, park/greenway assets boasted by the St. Louis region today.

Mike began his life of public service as a Peace Corps volunteer and staff member in South America and Washington D.C. in the 1960s and throughout his career he has always made space in his life to fulfill the Peace Corps mission to work at the grassroots level toward sustainable change that lives on long after their service.

Mike's many contributions to our region include:

- Founding member of the board of Forest Park Forever.
- Founding member and chairman of the Forest Park Advisory Board.
- Chairman of the Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission.
- Missouri representative on the governing board of the Mississippi River Trail, a national millennium trail connecting ten states from the headwaters of the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico, where he also served as chairman.
- First chairman of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee of the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council in 1995. Mike was instrumental in the creating of the region's first bike plan. He is still an active member of the committee today.
- Founding board member for the Great Rivers Greenway District, Mike was appointed by the Mayor of the City of St. Louis at its formation in 2000 to represent city taxpayers helping to set the policy direction, ensuring quality projects and accountability, a position he still holds today.
- Midwest representative on the board of USA Cycling, the Olympic governing body, for 20 years.

While this list is long and impressive, this recognition is about more than the breadth of voluntary service. It is about the quality of the effort and the measurable achievements and outcomes benefitting the region that are borne from it. Mike Murray is a shining example of the impact of a lifetime of public service.

## James Pennekamp

As executive director of the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois and as a member of the leadership team at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), from which he recently retired, James Pennekamp has spent a career supporting public-private initiatives that will benefit the region for years to come.

During his 17 year tenure at Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois Jim organized a regional coalition of government, business, industry, education and labor leaders to support and defend Scott Air Force Base against closure in 1995 and again in 2005. Today, Scott AFB remains one of the region's top employers.

Jim has also played leadership roles in major public infrastructure projects in the Metro East to support economic and population growth. His efforts helped secure funding to support Interstate 255 expansion, McKinley Bridge renovation, the America's Central Port District, the new Mississippi River Bridge and its connecting highway system.

In 2005, he was named to two posts at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, part of the SIU public university system. He became special assistant to the chancellor for regional economic development and executive director of the university's research and technology park, University Park, where he oversaw the day-to-day operations of the 330-acre technology park located on the SIUE campus as well as promoted and marketed it to future tenants. In addition, he identified emerging regional economic issues and trends and developed public-private partnerships to boost economic growth in the Metro East.

Jim was named to the Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District Council and served as its first president in 2008, taking on the repair and reaccreditation of the levees on the Illinois side of the St. Louis region. Jim's calm demeanor, excellent management skills and full understanding of the issues is credited with helping the council to start down the road of dealing with a very serious regional challenge. Jim has continued to serve in a council leadership position ever since.

Pennekamp was also appointed the director of The Gardens at SIUE in 2014. The Gardens is a 35-acre public botanical garden on campus where he worked with donors, advisors and friends of The Gardens to support fundraising and the coordination and implementation of The Gardens' master plan.

Jim is known as a gregarious person, who believes in and sees the best in individuals and institutions. He is a highly skilled and effective leader whose commitment to public service and the St. Louis region has been evident throughout his career.



## Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual

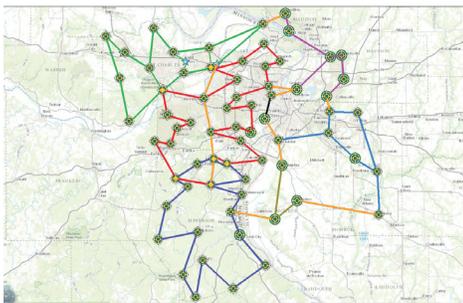
### City of Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department– Youth Enrichment Life Skills/Recreation Camp



Due to the many adult and youth misconceptions regarding the police in north St. Louis County, the Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department designed and introduced the Youth Enrichment Life Skills/Recreation Camp. This camp was created, designed and implemented by the police department's school resource officers for the Riverview Gardens School District, Sergeant Peggy Vassallo, who was recently, tragically killed in a car crash while on-duty and Police Officer Dave Owens. The primary objective of the life skills courses and camp is to encourage, inspire, motivate, and challenge youth to excel on all levels of social and personal growth while having fun, being part of a community and building relationships with police officers. Additional objectives of this camp are to build and develop youth self-confidence as well as teach respect for themselves and others. Participating youth gain a better understanding and awareness of the core function of policing and police practices as it concerns protecting and serving the community. Kids learn to make excellent choices regarding bullying, gangs and drugs and learn conflict resolution, anger management and peer collaboration. Offered annually at no charge, the camp curriculum benefits from the support of numerous community and municipal organizations. This exemplary program was a statewide honoree at the Missouri Municipal League Innovation Awards this September.

## Exemplary Intergovernmental Collaboration

### St. Louis Regional Digital Microwave Network– City of St. Louis, Jefferson County, Madison County, Monroe County, St. Charles County, St. Clair County, St. Louis County



The St. Louis Regional Digital Microwave Network supports a critical communications network that allows the land mobile radio P25 systems in the city of St. Louis, Jefferson County, Madison County, Monroe County, St. Charles County, St. Clair County, and St. Louis County to serve first responders across jurisdictional boundaries. This complex \$9.7 million system is composed of 76 microwave tower sites across the region that allow the area's existing independent communications systems to be linked together so that police, fire and emergency medical agencies can seamlessly communicate when faced with a natural or manmade disaster. This system creates true regional interoperability, with almost 100 percent reliability. The network finally eliminates many radio "dead spots" and allows system users to travel miles outside of their jurisdictions and still have interoperability with their dispatchers. From the initial adoption of the P25 radio system plan over seven years ago to the recent final operational rollout, this exemplary intergovernmental collaboration, consisting of intergovernmental agreements on multiple levels supporting shared use and responsibility for the network, has resulted in huge public benefits for the citizens of the region. The project has resulted in a modern state-of-the-art first responder communication system that drastically improves public safety communications and allows for future expansion and enhancement.

# Exemplary Public/Private Collaboration

## Scott Air Force Base & Southwestern Illinois Defense Assets Task Force— St. Clair County, Madison County, Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois

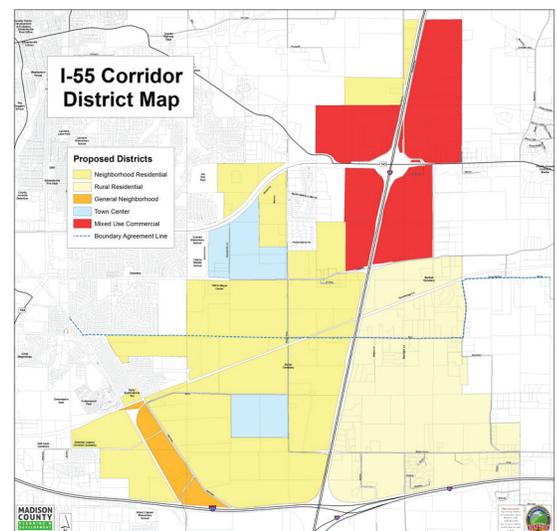
The Scott Air Force Base and Southwestern Illinois Defense Assets Task Force is a partnership between St. Clair County, Madison County, and the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois. The task force was formed in 2013, as a united effort to protect, grow and expand Scott Air Force Base in the face of declining defense budgets and another potential Base Realignment and Closure Commission effort. Many of those involved come with experience related to priority activities from the last round of BRAC closures. According to a recent economic impact analysis, Scott Air Force Base has a \$3.3 billion impact on the metropolitan region and is a top regional employer. In addition, there are other defense related facilities located at America's Central Port as well as major military contractors in Madison and St. Clair counties that are linked to the work at the base. Retaining and growing this vital economic engine for our region is the mission of this public/private collaboration. The task force has developed and begun implementing a work plan that addresses infrastructure needs, tax issues related to base housing, lobbying Congress and the state legislature, creating partnerships to reduce Air Force operating and service costs, and spearheading a local investment campaign supporting efforts related to the future of the base.



## Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

### I-55 Development Code— Madison County, City of Edwardsville, Village of Glen Carbon

The I-55 Development Code is a form-based code that was developed through an ongoing partnership between Madison County, the city of Edwardsville and the village of Glen Carbon. Form-based codes are uncommon in the region and are typically used on single projects or smaller areas. The I-55 code covers a 12-square mile area and applies to all undeveloped properties in a corridor that is expected to capture more than half the growth in Madison County over the next 30 years. The code is an outgrowth of the I-55 Corridor Growth Management and Transportation Plan that was adopted in 2006 by the three communities. The main objective of this collaboration is a coordinated approach to land use planning and development and the elimination of competition for growth among the three jurisdictions by creating a consistent regulatory environment. In addition, the form-based code inserts consideration of sustainable practices and cohesive development patterns into planning decisions for the area. Each future project proposed will be required to fit into a form-based fabric and cannot be built as a one-off island. Instead of minimum subdivision and zoning requirements, these jurisdictions will now require the best practice from the outset.



# We recognize the great work that local governments and local government officials are doing across the region.

*Please join us as we applaud all of our 2015 OLGA nominees.*

**Alderwoman Donna Baringer**, 16th Ward City of St. Louis  
Francis Park Strategic Plan

**Belle Valley School District #119**—Student Learning STEM Enhancement Programs

**Building a Healthy Neighborhood**,  
City of St. John, Rebuilding Together—St. Louis

**Eagle Scout Shane Douglas**—Honoring our Civil War Veterans, Waterloo, IL

**Tim Fischesser**, St. Louis County

**Gibault Catholic High School Historic Building Project**,  
City of Waterloo Gibault Catholic H.S., Monroe County, Morrison-Talbot Library, Republic-Times

**Greater St. Louis Region Critical Incident Stress Management Association (CISM)**

**Patrick Gunn**—City of Manchester

**Michael Herring**—City of Chesterfield

**Dennis Korte**—Belleville, St. Clair County

**Manchester Arts Council**  
City of Manchester, Manchester Arts Council

**Manchester Road Great Streets Project**  
Cities of Ballwin, Ellisville, Wildwood, West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce,

**Normandy Police Department**

**North County Police Cooperative**

**Ruth Porter Mall Park**—St. Vincent's Greenway  
City of St. Louis, Great Rivers Greenway

**Shiloh**—3 Springs Park

**Dr. Kenneth Spells**, Superintendent, Alton School District

**St. Charles Countywide Pavement Condition Inventory and Rating Project**  
Cities of St. Charles, St. Peters, O'Fallon, Wentzville, Lake St. Louis, & the St. Charles County Road Board

**St. Louis Regional Home Fire Preparedness Campaign**  
Belleville Fire Dept., St. Louis Fire Dept., Florissant Valley FPD, Godfrey FPD, Riverview FPD, Rock Community FPD

**St. Vincent Greenway Alignment Study**  
Cities of Wellston & Pagedale, Great Rivers Greenway, Beyond Housing,  
AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, Forum Studio

**Valley Park Economic Development/Business Roundtable**  
City of Valley Park, Valley Park Business Association

**Webster Groves**—Public Green Spaces Initiatives

**Wentzville Fire**—Tap Waiver Program

**West Florissant Business Association**  
City of Dellwood, City of Ferguson, West Florissant Business Association

