



**58th Annual Meeting and
Awards Luncheon Program**

**Wednesday November 15, 2023
America's Center**



**EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments**

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

2023 OLGA Winners

Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

Captain Chuck Boschert
Joann Leykam

Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual

City of Crystal City
Jefferson County

Exemplary Collaboration, Partnership or Regional Initiative

Dutchtown Opportunity Coalition for Youth
Employment Connection
Gene Slay's Girls and Boys Club
Incarnate Word Foundation
Thomas Dunn Learning Center

Public Safety Center at Emerson Park Transit Center
Bi-State Development - Metro Transit
St. Clair County 9-1-1 ETSB
St. Clair County Transit District

Saint Louis Fusion Center

Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

City of Brentwood – Brentwood Bound Plan



Program

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| Welcome and Introductions | Mark Kern County Board Chairman St. Clair County, IL |
| Invocation, In Memoriam | Marcie Meystrik Director of Transportation Planning |
| Luncheon | |
| Business Meeting | Mark Kern |
| Awards Presentation | Jim Wild Executive Director, East-West Gateway |
| Closing Remarks | Mark Kern |
| Adjourn | |



EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

In Memoriam

Each year, East-West Gateway Council of Governments honors those elected officials and public servants who we have lost since last November. Please join us in remembering the following individuals.

Earl Robert Dick, Former Chief, Black Jack Fire Protection District
Debra Salvo, St. Charles County
Lloyd M. Ruediger, former member, Berger/New Haven Fire Department
Michael T. Costello, Recorder of Deeds, St. Clair County
Mark Eckert, former Mayor, City of Belleville
Roy Mosley, Regional Citizen, East-West Gateway Council of Governments Board Member
David Grider, volunteer, St. Clair County, 2022 OLGA winner
James Brooks, Missouri Department of Transportation
Todd Waelterman, former Director of Operations, City of St. Louis
Paul Beckerle, former alderman and former director of Business Assistance, City of St. Louis
Norbert A. Groppe, PE, retired, past president of the Board of Public Service, City of St. Louis
Don Maue, former Mayor, City of Breese, IL
Jeremy Newton, Police Officer, City of Frontenac
Thomas L. Sedlacek, former Public Works Director, Village of Glen Carbon
Robert H. Neimeyer, Fire Chief, City of Brentwood
William G. Karabas, Police Chief, City of Brentwood
Balko, K-9, City of St. Louis Fire Department
Nitro, Narcotics K-9, City of St. Charles Police Department, retired
James Musgrove, former Alderman, City of Belleville
Paulette Carr, former Councilmember, City of University City
David Shorr, retired Director, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Harold Parker, Public Works Department, City of Normandy
Robert Woods, Police Officer, St. Louis County Police Department
William S. "Bill" Meyer, Board Member, Madison County
Thomas A. "Tom" Villa, former Alderman, City of St. Louis
Alfred "Alfie" LaPointe, Battalion Chief, Rock Community Fire Protection District
Joyce Wesley, Sergeant, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department
Bethany Bohn, Village Clerk, Village of Godfrey
James K. Heitman, - Assistant Circuit Attorney, St. Louis City Circuit Attorney's Office
Florene "Flo" Levy, retired, Receptionist, East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Steven Tucker, former Police Chief, City of Berger
Fred Heitert, former Alderman, City of St. Louis
Dwight Duke, Village Trustee, Village of South Roxana
Chadd Hackl, Department of Transportation and Public Works St. Louis County
Robert "Bob" Moeller, former Mayor, City of St. Charles
David "Dave" Crismon, retired, Assistant Chief, City of University City Fire Department
Jack Burns, City Council Alderman, City of Edwardsville
Victor P. Canty, former Board Chairman, St. Clair County
Bryce Gambin, Attorney, Missouri Department of Transportation
Roy Shoemaker, Local Public Agency Program Manager, Missouri Department of Transportation



We are proud to present these 2023

Outstanding Local Government Achievement Awards

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.

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 Collaboration, Partnership or Regional Initiative

Honors cooperative efforts or joint ventures
among local government jurisdictions, nonprofit
organizations, and/or the private sector that
result in high impact, positive change.

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.

Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

Captain Chuck Boschert



Captain Chuck Boschert serves as the Commander of the St. Louis County Police Department's Intelligence Operations Bureau. Over his 40-year career, he has always demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the entire St. Louis region. Captain Boschert has always been an active participant in collaborations, regardless of jurisdictional lines. The personnel under his command have embraced the culture he has created by engaging with national experts, bringing home best practices, and forming relationships across professional networks. His approach to collaboration has led the St. Louis region to be nationally known for innovation and cooperation.

The St. Louis County Police Department's Intelligence Operations Bureau is home to three units that serve the region: the Regional Information and Intelligence Center (RIIC), the Criminal Intelligence Unit, and the Saint Louis Fusion Center (STLFC). In the early 2000's, Captain Boschert was one of the members of the elite Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group (ITAC-G), the first national effort to share terrorism information with federal, state, and local law enforcement. His insight into the need for information sharing among local, state and federal agencies lead to the creation of the STLFC. The STLFC houses personnel from 15 different organizations and is successful because of the collaboration across jurisdictional and disciplinary lines.

In each of his assignments, Captain Boschert helped create regional assets including the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), the St. Louis County Police Department's Crime Laboratory, and the St. Louis Bomb and Arson Unit. Each team under his command has been built on a foundation of regional service. He is leading the planning effort for a future facility to be the home for the Intelligence Operations Bureau located on a campus with the Central County Precinct and Property Control. This facility will be transformational for the region and a model for the rest of the country. It will house a variety of intelligence professionals from throughout the region under one roof and will effectively leverage talent and resources to serve the region. This capacity building investment is critically important since law enforcement and government leaders are having to do more with less amidst a threat environment and challenges that are more complex than ever.

Captain Boschert has been active on working groups with the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the US Attorney's Office and Anti-Defamation League led Hate Crimes Task Force, the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), the Law Enforcement Intelligence Units (LEIU), the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts (IALEIA), the National Fusion Center Association (NFCA), and the National Real Time Crime Center Association (NRTCCA). The impact of Captain Boschert's dedicated leadership over four decades is difficult to measure; however, many law enforcement professionals throughout the region can attest to the success and regional benefits realized by his efforts.

Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

Joann Leykam

Joann Leykam has devoted her professional career to public service. She currently serves as the Director of Administration for St. Charles County. Joann transcends traditional jurisdictional and disciplinary lines, contributing to the betterment of local governments, first responders, health care professionals, critical infrastructure partners, and other private sector businesses. Even though she tries to stay behind the scenes, her accomplishments are far reaching and her positive influence on public policy continues to make the St. Louis region a better place.



Joann earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy in 1977 from Northwestern University, and obtained her Juris Doctor degree from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law in 1980. She served as law clerk to the Missouri Supreme Court and the Missouri Court of Appeals and then moved to the Attorney General's office in 1982. In 1986, she became the Deputy Director and General Counsel for the Missouri Department of Mental Health (MDMH), then became the head of the Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities within MDMH in 1990. In 1994, she was appointed the Acting Director of the MDMH, a position that required a deep understanding of complex healthcare issues and a commitment to improving mental health services in the state. In November of 1994, Joann returned to the region to serve as the St. Charles County Counselor and was appointed to be the county's Director of Administration in 2013.

In this role, Joann has played a pivotal role in multiple collaborative and innovative efforts such as the establishment of the St. Charles County Police Department, the Metro Air Support Unit, the St. Charles County Regional SWAT Team, the St. Charles County Drug Task Force, St. Charles County Regional Emergency Management, and the Regional Information and Intelligence Center. Joann is a long time Board member of the St. Louis Area Regional Response System (STARRS) and is the Co-Chair for the Regional Communications Core Group. The Core Group oversees the use of the Regional Microwave System, which is a platform giving law enforcement in the region interoperability within radio systems, enabling first responders from different departments and jurisdictions to communicate effectively and seamlessly. Joann is known for being a strong advocate for building and sustaining regional response capabilities and for being a voice of reason in times of disagreement and keeping the best interests of the region's residents a top priority.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Joann has also served as Chair of the Missouri Mental Health Commission, on the Board of Directors for the St. Patrick Center and as a Trustee of the St. Charles City – County Library Board. Joann has been involved in the Life Skills Foundation and the Development Disabilities Board of St. Charles. Joann's demonstrated ability to lead and her strategic perspective has made her a respected and influential figure in the St. Louis region. She leads with skill, compassion, dignity, and understanding. Her work continues to leave a lasting and positive impact on the community, and she remains a driving force for progress in the region.

Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual Partnership to Secure New Manufacturing Facility - James Hardie Industries



In October of 2022, James Hardie Industries, maker of fiber cement home siding and flooring products, announced plans to build a 1.25 million square foot manufacturing facility in the city of Crystal City, MO. The announcement capped off two years of work by government entities to attract and retain the largest corporate investment ever in Jefferson County, MO. The project harkens back to the city's manufacturing roots and its founding in 1871 for the production of glass. The city and Jefferson County worked with economic development entities at the local, regional and state level to coordinate efforts,

including the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation, Jefferson College, the Jefferson County Port Authority, Greater St. Louis Inc., the Missouri Department of Economic Development and Governor Parson's office.

The James Hardie Industries manufacturing facility will capitalize on the skilled labor force present in Jefferson County and the surrounding region. Once the facility is up and running, it is expected to employ 230 people at a pay rate on average of \$35 per hour. There will also be a significant number of construction jobs needed for infrastructure improvements and construction of the facility itself. A significant amount of coordination had to happen for James Hardie to locate in Crystal City. This project is a prime example of the city, county and state working together to bring a project of this magnitude to the St. Louis region.

Exemplary Collaboration, Partnership or Regional Initiative

Dutchtown Opportunity Coalition for Youth

The Dutchtown Opportunity Coalition for Youth (DOCY) is a network of social service providers, employment resources, government stakeholders and case managers that identify disconnected youth and then connect them with the appropriate support services. DOCY engages youth between the ages of 10 and 17 years old in the city of St. Louis neighborhoods of Dutchtown, Gravois Park, and Mount Pleasant. Initiated by the Incarnate Word Foundation, Gene Slay Girls and Boys Club and the Thomas Dunn Learning Center, DOCY's focus is to provide a path for youth that keeps them busy and engaged.



Employment Connection of St. Louis provides management for the program, and their consistent presence in the community promotes trust and participation. DOCY provides wrap around services for youth and family members by providing connections to resources for health care, employment assistance, food insecurity, or whatever struggles they might be facing. Activities such as family game nights, movie nights, youth town halls, college readiness workshops are leading to great successes. In the first year of the program, over 1,000 youth have been engaged, 111 were enrolled in the DOCY program, 250 youth referrals were made to partner agencies and 23 referrals were made for household adults. The program has led to increased high school graduation rates, job skills acquisition and meaningful career paths, making it a model initiative for other communities in the region to emulate.

Public Safety Center at Emerson Park Transit Center

A new, state of the art, public safety center is currently under construction at the Emerson Park MetroLink Station in East St. Louis, Illinois. The facility will house the St. Clair County CENCOM West 9-1-1 Emergency Dispatch Center, contain office space for the St. Clair County Transit District and St. Clair County Sheriff deputies as well as serve as a backup Metro Transit Operations Control Center. The center will help bolster communications and security collaboration among public safety partners. Owned and operated by St. Clair County Transit District, the new center enables the District to provide better service to transit riders through safety improvements and enhanced amenities that include public restrooms for both transit users and transit operators.



The Public Safety Center is funded by both the St. Clair County Transit District and Bi-State Development as well as a \$9.9 million "Rebuild Illinois" grant. The center will have nearly 100 transit accessible jobs and enhance the economic potential of the area around the Emerson Park station. The new center will benefit the whole MetroLink alignment by providing a central dispatch center for security. The center also enhances the Emerson Park station as a destination for travelers and complements the existing residential and commercial areas surrounding the station. The public safety center benefits not just one city or county, but benefits the whole MetroLink alignment and the whole region.

Saint Louis Fusion Center

The Saint Louis Fusion Center: Terrorism Early Warning Group (STLFC) was created in 2006 as an initiative to serve the entire St. Louis region. It is part of a nationwide network of fusion centers. The primary purpose of the STLFC is to serve as a conduit for the dissemination of information among law enforcement and first responders on issues related to natural disasters, criminal and terrorists' threats, and damage to critical infrastructure. The STLFC provides a communications pathway among local, state and federal agencies.



The personnel that serve as STLFC liaisons come from various local law enforcement agencies, fire/emergency medical departments, public health agencies and emergency management agencies. They form and maintain collaborative partnerships and bring their specialized knowledge to address present day challenges. The STLFC provides a place where this multi-disciplinary group of people can interact. Familiarity speeds up communication, which is important in times of crisis.



Because of the STLFC, local police officers now have a communication pathway with state and federal agencies that didn't exist before. The STLFC's recently expanded cyber program is capable of stopping cyber-crimes and disrupting large scale criminal actors while taking care to follow established policies and procedures designed to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of residents. The STLFC also coordinates with private partners that could be targets of cyber and terrorism threats. Thanks to the STLFC and the coordination and collaboration it promotes, the safety and security of the residents of the region is enhanced and protected.

Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

City of Brentwood – Brentwood Bound Plan

The Mayor and the Board of Aldermen in the city of Brentwood, MO, an inner ring suburb in St. Louis County, spearheaded a plan intended to address multiple community needs in the Manchester Road corridor. During the planning effort that began in 2015, a recurring concern was expressed – flooding from Deer Creek is hurting the city and something needs to be done. The area south of Manchester Road between Brentwood Boulevard and Hanley Road is a low spot in this watershed where, nearly thirty times in the past fifty years, the creek has overflowed its banks and damaged homes, businesses, roadways and infrastructure. The flooding would threaten the safety of people caught in the flood waters.

The resulting Brentwood Bound Plan identified three primary needs – mitigate Deer Creek flooding, incorporate walkability into the reconstruction of Manchester Road and construct a trail network that connects to the regional trail system. The city partnered with MoDOT on revising engineering plans to accommodate pedestrian facilities and streetscape amenities, with Great Rivers Greenway on connecting to the trail system, and with the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and numerous other partners to enhance stormwater management. The city now has a flood control measure that serves as a new park and recreation area, a section of Manchester Road with a more walkable environment and streetscape amenities, and a trail system that connects the area to the Deer Creek Greenway. Through planning and partnerships, Brentwood demonstrated an approach that other local governments can take to address stormwater and infrastructure issues in their communities.



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 2023 OLGA nominees.

St. Louis County Municipal Court Bail and Bond Project

Caran Hanks, St. Louis Development Corporation Neighborhood Manager

City of O'Fallon, IL All Abilities Playground

City of Wentzville Business Development Grant Program

David Campbell, City of St. John, MO

Johnny King, St. Louis County

Kathy Clark, Washington University

Kyle Foerst, St. Louis County Department of Public Health Regional Response Planner

Mayor Sean Flower, City of Eureka Legion and Lions Park Improvement Project

St. Louis County Open Government Initiative

Suson Farm Staff, St. Louis County

Sylvester Taylor, Hazelwood School District Board of Education Vice President,

Terri Johnson, Municipal Partners for Inclusive Recreation

Tim Baker, Franklin County Government Education Program

Mayor Tom Stalcup, City of Wood River, IL

City of Maplewood and City of Richmond Heights Shared Social Services Coordinator position

City of O'Fallon, MO Route DD Land Development LLC, St. Charles County

City of Sunset Hills

Cities of Sunset Hills, Kirkwood and Fenton

Derek Rieger and Michael Clinton, Cyber Task Force

Dr. Kelly West, St. Clair County Regional Office of Education

Earn While You Learn/Win From Within – A Healthcare Workforce Pipeline

Meramec Greenway Walking and Biking Path on Highway 44 Bridge Partners

St. Charles County and the Cities of Lake St. Louis, O'Fallon, St. Charles, St. Peters and

Wentzville NG911

Damon Broadus, St. Louis County Department of Public Health

St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds Community Engagement

Red Tail Cadet Program

St. Charles County Parks Department

GATEWAY LIFETIME PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD NOMINEES

Susan Friese, St. Louis County, 35-year career in public health

Tom Heinze, St. Louis County, 37-year career in civil and structural engineering

Debra Salvo, St. Charles County, 47-year career in public finance

P. Michael Schuette, Our Brothers' Keepers of Southern Illinois, 40-years of prison literacy ministry

Lenore Toser-Aldaz, City of O'Fallon, 35-year career in city management



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East-West Gateway Council of Governments
1 Memorial Dr., Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102-2451
314-421-4220 or 618-274-2750
fax 314-231-6120 or www.ewgateway.org