

# 2018 GREGORY STOCKARD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

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## Laura Ward, Recipient



Laura Ward grew up knowing the importance of history and, in fact, was surrounded by history as she grew up. Her home was a German Bank House in Franklin County Missouri that was built in 1852.

She moved to Jefferson City in 1999 and immediately became active in the Historic City of Jefferson. She's been a member for over 18 years and served on their Board of Directors for eight years. She also served as its secretary, vice-president, and chaired its committees on Golden Hammer, Homes Tours, and was its webmaster and social media chair. She also served as a Historic Preservation Commissioner for the City of Jefferson.

In 2001, Laura used her interest in historical development and her experience to help design the Lower Jefferson Conservation District guidelines and ordinance. The objectives of the District is to assist with restoration and development of buildings in the district so that the character defining qualities of the district are preserved and maintained and to increase awareness of the unique historic characteristics of the area in order to accomplish that development and enhancement.

Laura put that passion to real hands-on work in December 2011. She and her family chose a house on Atchison Street. It was an American Foursquare House built in 1903. It actually took 15 months to purchase the home and get it approved for State Historic Tax Credits. But following the closing in December, the family only had two weeks to fix up the home before they moved in. According to her 12 and 16 year old children, "mom had gone crazy". But with the help of a variety of contractors and lots of family, they were able to get the home livable—no heat—but enough to move into their new home. Once in, they were able to finish the home so that it reflected its original layout and materials when it was built.

The home received the Golden Hammer Award in 2013 and the City of Jefferson Landmark Award in 2014. Laura, herself, received the Missouri Preservation Award for Local Preservationists in 2007 and the Historic City of Jefferson Volunteer of the Year Award in 2015.



Along with her local historic work, Laura has been a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation since 2012. She's also been a member of Old Munichburg Association for six years and has served on its Oktoberfest Committee.



Laura was appointed to the City of Jefferson's City Council in 2015 to complete an unfinished term and was then elected to her position in 2016. She serves as the city liaison on several commissions and committees and looks forward to further work by the city council on the redevelopment of the Capital Avenue properties and an architectural salvage program.