

## 2016 Gregory Stockard Distinguished Service Award

**Jenny Mihalevich Smith, Recipient**

Inspired by the preservation of Jefferson Landing in 1976 by her friend and neighbor, Elizabeth Rozier, Jenny became passionate about historic preservation. The 1970s was otherwise a frustrating decade for preservationists as a wave of demolitions swept through the city; blocks of old stately mansions on the 200-300 block of E. McCarty, the old federal post office at 100 E. High, and finally the destruction of the Old City Jail at the corner of Monroe and E. McCarty. Witnessing loss after loss of Jefferson City's charming old architecture she became more involved with the historic preservation movement. In 1998, at Gregory Stockard's urging, she became a member of The Historic City of Jefferson. She served 8 years on the Board of directors, then in 2008 became the editor of their quarterly newsletter, a role she still has. From 2007 to 2013 she served on the Jefferson City Historic Preservation Commission. During that time, she was heavily involved in the effort to preserve the 100 block of W. McCarty, where the Bassman Mansion and Kolkmeier houses once stood.



Her current efforts are joined with others in the preservation of The Capitol Mile, the stretch of E. Capitol Avenue from Adams street to Lafayette. As Editor of the HCJ newsletter she has played a large role in providing a forum for this effort. "I prefer to consider myself a 'behind-the-scenes' activist", she admits. "Our old cut stone and brick structures in Jefferson City are a testament to the superior craftsmanship of our German ancestors. It is part of our history, our identity and city pride. It is important to preserve, not just for aesthetic purposes but because it is an important economic development tool in terms of historic tourism". Jenny is also a member of Cole County Historical Society; an organization she praises as tremendous resource for area historians.

Jenny and her husband Tony have recently renovated two old houses in Jefferson City's Old Town. They raised their two daughters, Laura and Anna in the historic east end neighborhood of Elmerine Avenue. She worked 14 years in the Capitol Region Medical Center laboratory as a chemist followed by 26 years as a forensic chemist with the Missouri Highway Patrol Crime laboratory.