



September 30, 2015

## 2015 Project Front Yard Annual Awards Ceremony

As a part of their ongoing commitment to Project Front Yard's mission of improving the face of the community, IBERIABANK partnered to host the second annual Project Front Yard Awards on September 30, 2015. The awards are given annually to recognize individuals and organizations in Lafayette for their efforts in community beautification. A total of four awards were given in the categories of Best in Cleanliness, Best in Beautification, Best in Education and Best Overall Project Front Yard Effort.



## 2015 Overall Best Project Front Yard Effort - Sandra Thompson

This award is given to a community partner who goes above and beyond. Thompson, a kindergarten teacher at Episcopal School of Acadiana encouraged one of her six year old students, Amelie Gomez, to write a letter to Project Front Yard when she expressed a desire to get involved with community cleanliness. Along with the school's administrative leadership and Project Front Yard, Amelie took the lead in creating a 20 minute documentary on how trash ends up in our local waterways and affects the local ecosystem. The video will be used as an educational tool for her peers and a 5 minute version of the video is now on display at the Lafayette Science Museum for all our community to watch. Thompson is working to develop a curriculum to go along with the video for local educators' use in the classroom in teaching children about the watershed and life cycles of litter in our rivers.



## 2015 Best in Cleanliness - NeunerPate

Best in Cleanliness was presented to NeunerPate for their beautification project of the Veterans Affairs Clinic and War Memorial on July 1. The timing of the project was an excellent way to celebrate our nation's independence while also honoring veterans who have fought for our freedom.



## 2015 Best in Beautification – Pastor Ken Lazard

Pastor Ken Lazard of Destiny of Faith Church was honored for Best in Beautification for his work in revitalizing the neighborhood known as the Truman area. Pastor Ken rallied more than 100 volunteers over two weekends to spruce up a local cemetery, clean up trash and cut tall grass on otherwise blighted properties.



## 2015 Best in Education – ReCover Acadiana

ReCover Acadiana, a subset of The705, was awarded Best in Education for their partnership with Project Front Yard on the storm drain cleanliness awareness campaign, “Where the River Meets the Road.” The campaign includes dozens of decals placed near storm drains throughout the community, educating children and adults alike on the connection of storm drains to the local watershed.



All 2015 award recipients were nominated through a community-wide, open submission process.

The honorees' families, friends, colleagues and those who nominated them attended the ceremony to celebrate the recipients and their contributions to creating a cleaner, more beautiful Lafayette.

Project Front Yard is an initiative which was launched in 2014 and brings together individuals, business, government and media partners to address community beautification through education.

Taking the lead from more than forty action items in Lafayette's Comprehensive Plan, Project Front Yard's mission is to build awareness and stimulate improvement of the face of our local community. Initiatives under Project Front Yard include revitalization of gateways, improved streetscapes, litter removal and prevention, public art, river cleanup, and education.

For more information visit [www.projectfrontyard.com](http://www.projectfrontyard.com).

