



Contact: Tina Augustus
Telephone: (773) 931-2145 cell
Email: tinaaugustus@elevateservices.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2017

George Lawson, Past Austin Green Team President Receives 2018 Torch-Bearer Award from Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run!

(Chicago, Illinois) – George Lawson, long time resident of the Austin community, and past president of the Austin Green Team, has been nominated to receive the 2018 Torch-Bearer Award from Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run. On Thursday, July 12, 2018, the community and the Austin Green Team will gather at the “Edward Bailey & Leola Spann” community garden on Chicago Ave. and Mayfield Ave., to celebrate this special occasion.



This photo is
by the Austin
Green Team

The Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run is a global torch relay that embodies humanity's universal aspiration for peace. Since its inception in 1987 the Run has traversed over 150 nations and territories and touched the lives of millions of people. We estimate since 1987 the torch has been carried over 395,000 miles (632,000 km). The Peace Run does not seek to raise money or highlight any political cause, but simply strives to create goodwill among peoples of all nations.

George Lawson has been a community servant for most of his life. For more than 50 years, he has lived and served on the west side of Chicago, and has been happily married for almost 60 years. He and his wife, Eloise, raised four children and they all are doing well. They have five grandchildren and one great grandson.

In his local church, Mr. Lawson has served as Sunday school superintendent, and for six months, he has conducted church services while the church board searched for a new Pastor. George Lawson was also a church

deacon, and he now serves as a Sunday religious advisor at St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

In 1970, Mr. Lawson became a Boy Scout Leader of Troup 4358, with four den mothers and 38 cub scouts. One of his boy scouts became a well-known magician named, “Spellbinder.” A summer baseball team was also organized for young boys to join. The team brought pride and dignity to the young boys.

In 1972, George became the South Austin Coalition Community Council’s (SACCC) housing chairman. His duties consisted of placing tenants in vacant apartments and keeping the lawn and the outside building clean. Working as the housing chairman, this made it possible for George to travel to Washington, DC, as he worked closely with Ms. Patricia Harris (HUD). This position also led him to work with banks, by helping secure loans for home improvements and by helping potential homebuyers secure loans with decent interest rates.



With George's assistant, the SACCC was able to influence First Star Bank to change their ratings from unsatisfactory to satisfactory. George also worked with the housing committee to create the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), so that everybody who needed loans was able to see where the banks were getting their monies, and to successfully secure loans themselves where this opportunity was not available. More than 30 years ago, through SACCC and the North Austin Council (NAC), the Austin Green Team was formed, which resulted in beautiful community gardens throughout the community.

George Lawson was part of "The Friends of the Park," and together they established organized activities in the parks to keep a friendly place for young people. They also were responsible for major upgrades and repairs to Park District buildings in Austin. The Austin Green Team (AGT), which George is still a member, was able to encourage the community to improve the appearance of their neighborhoods through gardening. The Austin Green Team organizes and honors the heroes who work fiercely in the Austin community with a special service held annually in the Memorial garden.

The Austin Green Team is a volunteer organization that builds, maintains, and supports community gardens and community beautification in the Austin neighborhood. For almost thirty years, the Austin Green Team has also managed two green houses located in the Austin Career & Educational Academy High School, propagating and growing plants that help maintain the community gardens that the Austin Green Team oversees. The purpose of the Austin Green Team is to enhance the quality of life issues by working collaboratively with other community stakeholders in beautifying the Austin Community.

The Austin Green Team meets every third Thursday evening, at the City of Chicago 15th District Police Department community room. If you would like to volunteer with the Austin Green Team, please contact Tina Augustus, vice president, at (773) 931-2145 or via email at tinaaugustus@elevateservices.net. Visit the Austin Green Team at www.austingreenteam.org or follow up on Facebook.

#####