

# Office of Neighborhood Vitality wins 2023 Excalibur Award

*By Scott LeMay*

The Excalibur Award is given to one person or group each year for exemplary civic duty and community involvement on behalf of the citizens of Garland and Camelot. Winners of this prestigious award have been many of the people who founded this association and members who sustained it over its many years. There have also been recipients who have supported CNA, like Concordia Lutheran Church, Garland Fire Department, as well as our former NPO, John Capers.

When Tiffany and I first got involved with CNA, one of the first City of Garland staff members I met was Felisa Conner, who at the time was the sole employee with the Office of Neighborhood Vitality (ONV). She helped not only grow the department but also its positive impact on the city. ONV has not just assisted our neighborhood, but they have also helped and influenced neighborhoods across the city. They now partner with the cities of Rowlett and Plano each year to jointly host the Annual Neighborhood Summit. They also head up our “Where The Heart Is” program where residents, city staff, and our partners work together for improvements in the selected neighborhood.

So I think it’s long overdue that we recognize their efforts on our behalf as a neighborhood and a city with this award. I want to thank Scott Bollinger, who leads the department, along with Laura De La Vega, Katharine Gulyamova, and Alejandro Cardoso for making Garland a better place.



SCOTT LEMAY, SCOTT BOLLINGER AND JOE THOMAS