III. A.

Memorandum Department of Planning & Public Works

To:

Planning and Public Works Committee

From:

Aimee Nassif, Planning and Development Services Director

Date:

May 16, 2010

RE:

Nomination of Stan Dampier for the Leonard Blake-Chesterfield Ancient

History Award

Summary

At the March 11, 2010 meeting of Landmarks Preservation Committee, the Committee voted unanimously to nominate Stan Dampier for the Leonard Blake Chesterfield Ancient History Award.

Alice Fugate of the Landmarks Preservation Commission will be attending the meeting of Planning and Public Works Committee to provide further information on this nomination. Attached please find a copy of the Award Nomination Form submitted by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee E. Nassif, AICP

Planning and Development Services Director

Cc:

Michael G. Herring, City Administrator

Rob Heggie, City Attorney

Michael O. Geisel, Director of Planning and Public Works



ANCIENT HISTORY AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Date: 02/04/2010

Name of Nominee: Stan Dampier

Address: 2167 Cedar Forest CT.

Chesterfield, MO 63017

Phone #: 636-532-5291

Submitted By: Mark W. Leach

Address: 1608 Ansonborough Dr.

Chesterfield, MO 63017

Phone #: 314-313-5715

Description of accomplishment or action and why you believe this individual merits this award.

Stan Dampier, a long standing member of the Chesterfield Historical Commission, alerted archaeologists that significant prehistoric Native American artifacts and village features were being uncovered during a levee improvement project in the Chesterfield Valley. His actions led to the excavation of a major prehistoric village site by Archaeological Research Center of St. Louis. According to the site's principal investigator, Joe Harl, "Stan absolutely did the right thing. His efforts allowed us to obtain a fairly detailed glimpse into the lives of people who lived in what is now Chesterfield, about 800 years ago. This is one of the most important village sites from that time period ever documented in eastern-central Missouri."

Stan assisted in the study of the site, pointing out areas where artifacts and features had been discovered. Furthermore, he monitored excavations at the site, as well as helping out with many media inquiries. The site, which was named The Dampier Site in his honor, was featured in stories carried by the Associated Press, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and other print media outlets. It also was covered via local TV and radio stations, further helping to educate the public of Chesterfield's rich ancient past. The Dampier Site is the subject of a series of public presentations across Missouri, such as a talk recently given by Joe Harl at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park. Lastly, it is the subject of professional archaeological study, adding to our understanding of prehistoric Native Americans.

Stan is truly deserving of this award. He could have kept the site's existence a secret, finding and keeping its artifacts for himself. Instead, he made a selfless decision. His decision allowed scientists and the public at large to learn more about Chesterfield's ancient past.