

Jos Bell earns commendation for GIS management leadership

Jos Bell had a vision when he assumed management of Central Arkansas Water's (CAW) GIS Team and the Pulaski Area Geographic Information System (PAGis).

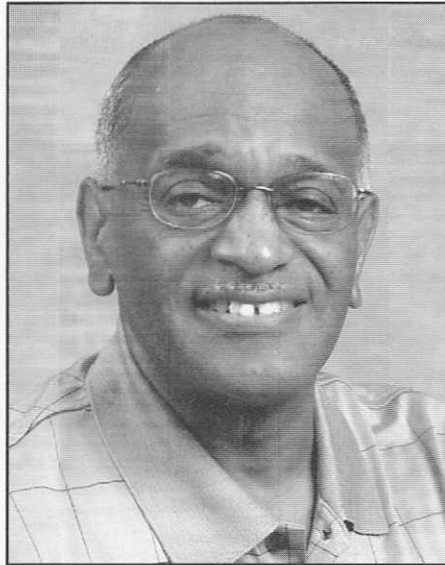
And, his vision was to the point: Developing the programs to maximum capability, stepping up the quality of data and the programs' products, and ensuring that updated data was at the fingertips of the programs' users in as close to real time as possible.

"Today, the CAW GIS Program and PAGis are nationally-recognized for our quality of programming, application capabilities, and utilization of advanced technology," says **Jim Harvey**, Chief Executive Officer. "When I think about where we were without GIS or even where we were seven years ago, I look to Jos with tremendous admiration and appreciation. His leadership has made the world of difference."

A highlight of our local GIS Day 2006 observance was the honoring of Jos for his dedication and accomplishments with the programs. During a surprise presentation November 8 at ALLTEL Arena in North Little Rock, CAW and PAGis staff, as well as colleagues from throughout Central Arkansas and the GIS field, took a journey back through the years of pre-GIS and today.

As a part of that journey back, **Dale Russom**, P.E., of Russom Technical Services, L.L.C., and former Chief Operating Officer for CAW, presented Jos with a leadership award symbolic of the hand that Jos has had in making "a world of difference" with GIS technology and the benefits that CAW and other governmental entities reap today.

This award is "in appreciation for your dedication and contributions to GIS," Dale said in sharing the inscription on the award.



Jos Bell
GIS and PAGis Manager


Dale then recited the words of a **Harold R. McAlindon** adage that accompanied the inscription: "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

In talking about the CAW and PAGis programs from incubation to now, Jos emphasizes just how important the programs have become to the planning, extension, and maintenance of public facility systems in Pulaski County.

"In the old days of facilities management, we had paper sheets and more paper sheets," he explained. "Today, if you take all of the sheets of paper and feed them into our data base and tie



them to facilities, you will have a visual computer-screen image of the geographical features of the above and underground landscape that make up the service areas of the GIS partners (street centerlines and edges, water facilities, sewer facilities, stormwater culverts, streams, building outlines and addresses, etc.)

"I extend my appreciation and humble thanks for this precious award you bestowed on me," Jos said in accepting the award. "It was totally a surprise and I'm totally honored. Again, many thanks to those responsible for making this happen and for thinking that I was worthy of receiving this wonderful trophy. Thanks to Dale Russom for such a warm-hearted presentation speech," Jos added. 

"If a developer were to ask, 'Show me all of the buildings greater than 2,000 square feet and located between Markham Street, Sixth Street, Interstate 30, and the State Capitol,' we could do it. We could bring up a visual image of the geographical area (with the building details) on the computer screen. If a vendor were to ask, 'Show me how many American brand fire hydrants are within that same area,' we could do it."

JOS BELL, GIS AND PAGIS MANAGER