

Russell GALE

Class of 1974

Russell Gale has earned the unofficial title of “Mr. Versatility” during his 41-years-and-counting career with the City of Broken Arrow. It is well deserved recognition for the number and diversity of special projects this year’s Great Graduate from the Class of 1974 continues to take on.

After earning a political science degree from Oklahoma State University in 1978, Gale was selected by then City Manager, Jim Whitlock to fill an open administrative assistant position. Three years later, he became the city’s first Human Resources Director, responsible for employee recruitment and certification, administration of city-wide training programs, collective bargaining and payroll administration.

Twice, Gale demonstrated his versatility by stepping in as Acting City Manager to give search committees the time they needed to fill this position. Far from being simply a figurehead, he played a key role in initiating the city’s present ambulance subscription service, the LifeRide program and in developing a comprehensive plan to use retiring Vision 2015 sales tax funds to bolster operational and capital projects.

In 2016, Gale’s career took another leap forward when City Manager Michael Spurgeon selected him to serve as

Assistant City Manager Administration with oversight responsibility for the Finance Department, General Services, Human Resources, City Clerk and Information Technology.

Even though colleagues note he often goes well beyond the call of duty while doing everything possible to avoid the spotlight, his contributions of the people of Broken Arrow certainly have not gone unnoticed. During both stints as Acting City Manager, for example, he drew praise from the City Council, Chamber of Commerce and the Build A Better Broken Arrow Committee. In 1993, he was named Professional of the Year by the Oklahoma Public Personnel Association and in 2015 he received the BA Chamber of Commerce Chairman’s Award.

Away from the office, Gale delights in attending OSU alumni and athletic events, and keeping his yard in showcase condition. He has also been spotted on area golf courses banging around a little white ball.

City Manager Spurgeon summed up the impact Gale continues to make when he said, “His commitment to excellence represents a service to the community that has earned us numerous awards as a safe city and a great place to live.

