

**ABLE Award
Brian Gatzke
Sixth Street Centre & Condominiums**



Brian Gatzke's work on the Sixth Street Centre & Condominiums has been chosen as a recipient of the A.B.L.E. (Ability, Belief, Leadership and Effort to Achieve Access For All) Award for 2017, presented by the Brookings Committee for People who have Disabilities.

The A.B.L.E. Award (Ability, Belief, Leadership and Effort to Achieve Access For All) is presented annually to recognize the outstanding commitment of a business, public entity or individual in fulfilling the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



The Committee is recognizing Brian Gatzke for taking the initiative to build the fully accessible Sixth Street Centre & Condominiums. Gatzke requested the Committee visit his new accessible Centre & Condominiums and give him feedback. It was wonderfully refreshing to have a builder reach out, ask for input, and be receptive to the Committee's feedback. Gatzke has spoken publicly about the need for more accessible housing in the City of Brookings, and he has shown that his sincerity in helping make that happen. The Committee wants to recognize Gatzke for this and hold him up as an example for how others can proactively think and act.



In addition to building the Centre & Condominiums, Gatzke moved a mailbox on the property to be more accessible. The benefit of moving the mailbox was for the safety of people who live in the condominiums, especially anyone who uses a wheelchair because they are harder for motorists to see. The original location dictated by the Postal

Service would require the residents cross in front of the bank drive-through traffic to receive their mail. Gatzke worked with the Postal Service to move the mailboxes, and the Committee supported his advocacy.

Gatzke's actions represent the forward thinking the City of Brookings strives to convey, by ensuring that accessibility and safety are essential for the inclusion of any and everyone, including persons with disabilities.

It is the Committee's intention to highlight the efforts of an outstanding business or entity, which in turn may motivate others to provide improved accessibility to goods, services and recreational opportunities. Since 1996, there have been 77 nominees for the A.B.L.E. Award.