

TOM WILKERSON TEAMWORK AWARD

Previous Recipients

CATEGORY I

- 1999 - Facilities Maintenance
(Mark Hecker, Brent Hill, Terry Hatfield, Mark Johannes)
- 2000 - Landscape Division
(Crystal Miles and Horticulture Crew)
- 2001 - Facility Operations
(Tim Laurent, Craig Houfek, Paul Hardman, Andre Jones,
and three part-time staff)
- 2002 - Larry Colley
- 2003 - Roger Steinbrock
- 2004 - Lisa Hughes
- 2005 - Park District #3
(Frank Demby, Terry Engel, Lenny Ireby & Mitch Young)
- 2006 - Rod Hoffer

CATEGORY II

- 2004 - Wilma Elder
- 2005 - Carrie Blaisdell
- 2006 - Vicki Lysen

CATEGORY III

- 1999 - Tim Will & Crew (Utilities)
- 2000 - Bob Yoos (Solid Waste)
- 2001 - Joe Hyde (Riverfront Park Volunteer)
- 2002 - No Nominees
- 2003 - Dave Cobb (Lawrence Police Department)
- 2004 - Clenece Hills (Sesquicentennial Commission)
- 2005 - Bert Nash Center (Pat Roach-Smith & Scott McMichael)
- George Woodyard (The Lawrence Rotary Clubs)
- 2006 - Westar Energy's "Green Team"

Lawrence Parks & Recreation Department

Annual Holiday Luncheon



If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.

-Henry Ford

Friday, December 14, 2007

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

TOM WILKERSON TEAMWORK AWARD NOMINEES

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results. Simply stated—"It is less me and more WE."

The above principle is the guiding philosophy to selecting the recipient of each category. There are three divisions within this prestigious award. One award is given annually to an individual or group of full-time employees who exemplify what teamwork is. Another award is given to honor an outstanding part-time employee or group of part-time employees who achieve success through teamwork. Finally, an award is given to an outside agency or City department, individual(s) or group who has assisted the department in obtaining success.



CATEGORY I | Full-Time Nominees

Tony Barron

I would like to nominate Tony Barron for the Tom Wilkerson Teamwork Award. Tony has made a definite impact on the department in a very positive way. Besides his day-to-day demeanor - always smiling; always with a kind word, Tony has taken on the task of leading the department to find ways to better communicate up and down the organizational chart with his leadership of the satisfaction committee. Communicating with and understanding such a diverse population as the LPRD staff is challenging, and I can think of no better person to lead discussion than Tony. His dedication to the department, as well as to his job will pay dividends well into the future.

Rowan Green and crew

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Rowan Green and his crew for this year's teamwork award.

Rowan always has a positive, "I can" attitude. He works with you to find the best solution to solving your concerns. Whenever he is asked for assistance he doesn't hesitate, but completes the job in a timely manner. His crew has helped with a variety of my programs/activities. The clean up at Constant Park for the Mud Fort class is no picnic- cleaning up after the homeless, trash pick up and clearing the area, to make it safe for the class is time consuming. Not to mention hauling water to the area for Katie and the kids.

Another example that comes to mind while I am writing this nomination is a time last summer when an adult tennis student fell into one of the tennis nets and completely put it out of commission.

Jake Thibodeau

Jake Thibodeau has devoted the last 8 years to teaching the art of Tae Kwon Do to children and adults for the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department. He paves the ways for his students to develop lifetime skills through discipline and respect while building their self-esteem. Jake has demonstrated to be a dependable and responsible employee in many ways. For instance, he will always take the time to visit with participants and their parents before or after class about any questions or concern they may have.

Due to facility obstacles over the past 2 years, his classes were moved to several different locations. His classes never missed a beat due to Jake's professionalism. Jake's enthusiasm and passion for the sport reflects his dedication and loyalty that is passed onto his students. Role models are hard to come by now days but Jake welcomes the challenge.

CATEGORY III | Outside Agency/City Dept./Individual(s)

Maceli's

(Steve Maceli and Suzanne Cotrel Doyle)

I would like to nominate Maceli's Catering for the outside agency teamwork award. I have worked with Maceli's staff for the past several years with a variety of activities and programs. The staff welcomes new opportunities that are presented to them and are very open minded. Combining our resources, we strive to offer a variety of experiences to the public that otherwise may not be possible. For example, the children's cooking classes are always a big success, made possible through the effort and hard work of the chiefs at Maceli's. When we hold a wine or beer tasting event there, I never have to worry. The room is always set up and ready to go with whatever is needed. Whether we serve cheese and crackers or a buffet, the layout of the food table is always impeccable due to Suzanne and the staff at Maceli's. Our partnership benefits everyone involved by giving back to the community through an array of programs for youth and adults.

Mountain Bike Club and Patrol

The Mountain Bike Club/Patrol has been assisting the department since 1995. With 75 club members, these individuals took the initiative to assist the department with the development of mountain bike trails in Riverfront Park. They have developed the trail, which extends for 9.8 miles, and patrol the trails and assist the public when in need of assistance, i.e. flat tires, etc. They have become a 501-C3 organization and recently were awarded a \$95,000 grant to assist them in their efforts.

They logged more than 800 hours during 2007 due to the flooding that occurred. For providing an invaluable service to those who frequent community trails, the Mountain Bike Club/Patrol is deserving of recognition and the teamwork award.

Tennis camp started the next morning at 8 a.m. so I called Rowan the next morning early and explained the situation. It was fixed before the instructors arrived for camp.

I know Rowan and his crew have a lot of duties to accomplish in their daily routine but they will take the time and energy necessary to help out a fellow employee. To me, this shows their dedication and commitment to this department. Rowan is a diligent, responsible and loyal employee that manages his crew in an efficient manner. He is not an individual who needs constant reminders of what he means to this department, but I feel Rowan and his crew deserve this recognition. They are a valuable asset to this organization.

Karen Risner

I nominate Karen Risner for the Teamwork Award. Karen is always helpful, willing to go above and beyond to make sure we are all successful in our jobs. She arrives early and stays late when work piles up for her. She always makes sure there is coverage in our office and has been of great assistance to me in keeping my schedule straight. Thanks Karen! I really appreciate the help you provide.

Karen is a hard worker and very knowledgeable about her job and parks and recreation. She is always willing to answer questions or assist other staff members or the public in any way she can, no matter what the issue is. Karen always seems to have a positive attitude and a great sense of humor.

I think Karen is a very important part of Lawrence Parks and Recreation and deserves to be recognized for everything she does for the department.

Webster's Dictionary describes a clerk as "one employed to keep records or accounts or to perform general office work." This accurately describes what Karen Risner does on a daily basis but it doesn't begin to describe what Karen means to our organization.

Supervisors on both sides of our department contact Karen when they need help with a budget question, can't remember there AS400 sign in, want to find out if Ernie or Mark are in the office (more likely if they are OUT of the office), need someone to bounce an idea off, need someone to vent to or just need to hear a friendly voice on the other end of the phone. If Karen can't answer our questions she doesn't pass us on to someone else, she takes it upon herself to find the answer.

People walk in and out of the Admin office everyday. Karen knows all of our names and takes time to speak and make each one of us feel important. This isn't in her job description and this isn't something that Karen was trained to do.

Every year we all hear this while sitting at our nicely decorated tables in a very dreary Community Building basement. Sorry, but the basement is dreary, maybe it's the tile, maybe the paint, who knows but it doesn't

exactly get you in the holiday mood. Anyway, every year someone says, "He/She/They were just doing their job- that doesn't deserve an award." Well in some cases they may be right, who knows. We would all agree however, that doing your job and finding time to help everyone else do their jobs is what this award is all about. Taking the time to make people feel good about themselves is what this award is all about. Never making people feel unimportant is what this award is all about. Karen Risner exemplifies all these things. Karen Risner is what this award is all about!

Parks and Recreation Satisfaction Improvement Committee
(Brent Hill, Brian Sharp, Danny Moore, Duane Peterson, Ernie Shaw, Fred DeVictor, Jai Hoyer, Lynn Applegate, Mark Hecker, Mitch Young, Paul Baumchan, Rod Hoffer, Tim Laurent)

These individuals have expressed a concern for the overall well being of the department and volunteered their time to serve on a new committee formed in March of 2006. Since that time, there has been numerous discussions, concerns, ideas, etc., about ways to improve the department, particularly, the working relationships among the employees. They have sacrificed their personal and division objectives to improve the overall quality of the department and have shown their leadership through their vision of "It is less me and More We" attitude. Through their open minded attitudes, they have been able to understand one another's concerns and, more importantly, have been able to perceive one another's job's and responsibilities from different perspectives.

CATEGORY II | **Part-Time Nominees**

Levi Donals and Laurel Kupka

I would like to nominate Levi Donals and Laurel Kupka for the Teamwork Award, Category 2, for their extra efforts in assisting with the marketing efforts of the department. While I was relocated to the City Manager's Office to assist with communication duties, I relied on Levi to maintain the effectiveness of the marketing division for the department. Besides the day-to-day operations, Levi was able to assist in creating several new brochures to highlight and market our department and the City services we provide. Laurel began her duties while I was still relocated, and although she received a quick orientation and training she was able to hit the ground running and performed to my expectations. When a family emergency became my only concern, I relied heavily on the two of them to continue the work of the division. During this time, we were finalizing the Fall 2006 Activities Guide and readying it for press. They did their work with professionalism and put the exclamation on my belief in them and why they were hired. I am very proud to have them as staff members. Thanks Laurel and Levi for going above and beyond, ensuring the quality of the division was maintained when I wasn't 100 percent in the game. I greatly appreciate it.