

TEAMWORK AWARDS PRESENTED AT ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

LAWRENCE –Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department held its annual Holiday Luncheon and Teamwork Recognition Friday, Dec. 17. During the luncheon, the Tom Wilkerson Teamwork Awards were also presented.

The Tom Wilkerson Teamwork Award, established in 1999, has three categories: category I and II are for an individual or group of employees who exemplify teamwork in both full-time and part-time capacities; the third is given to an outside agency or city department, individual or group who has assisted the department in obtaining success. The category II award was added in 2004 to recognize part-time employees.

Nominations are taken from employees and then reviewed by a sub-committee of the Employee Satisfaction Committee. Those nominees meeting the criteria of the award are then presented awards at the department's annual holiday luncheon.



Receiving this year's teamwork award for category I (full-time employees) included: Paul Baumchen, horticulturist II, and Rodney Croucher, horticulture field supervisor, for their work on the Citizen Scientist event at the city employee picnic; Brent Hill, park district #3 field supervisor, and Lenny Irely, senior park and facility maintenance,

for their work in constructing the shade structure and rose arbor at the Eleanor and George Woodyard Anniversary Garden in the Lawrence Rotary Arboretum; Lee Ice, youth sports supervisor, and Jamie Reed, recreation center programmer, for assisting the Special Events Division with the transition of the coordination of programs from the Youth Sports Division to the Special Events Division.



Receiving teamwork awards for category II (part-time employees) included: Fran Hopkins, part-time aerobics instructor, for taking another instructor's class while they were out due to medical reasons during the classes session and for always willing to substitute for other

instructors and Carolyn McGruder and Beverly Mumford, recreation center leaders, for their willingness to assist patrons at East Lawrence Recreation Center, always taking shifts at the Union Pacific Depot when it is rented and an attendant is needed, and for always willing to fill in on shifts that are having trouble being covered.

Receiving teamwork awards for category III (other groups or individuals) included: Black & Veatch and Westar Energy volunteers for their work on the Burroughs Creek Trail planting trees and shrubs, as well as painting a storage facility that is near part of the trail; Fred DeVictor for his work on behalf of the Breakfast Optimist Club, organizing the painting of the locomotive in Buford Watson Park with other members of the club; David Ambler for his work on behalf of the Lawrence Rotary Clubs in assisting with the further development of the Lawrence Rotary Arboretum; Tom Sheely for his organization of the Pelathe Scouts of Lawrence's Good Turn project, which involved more than 180 volunteer Boy Scouts planting trees along Burroughs Creek Trail and the City of Lawrence Utilities Department for their assistance, professional advice and manpower throughout the year on projects like downtown snow removal to a water meter installation along Burroughs Creek Trail.



Service Award winners were also presented certificates. Ten year service awards were presented to: Jimmy Gibbs, aquatics manager; Lisa Hughes, administrative support III; John Morris, golf operations supervisor; Joan Phelan, naturalist part-time regular and Bill Rogers, park and facilities maintenance II.

Fifteen year service awards went to: Ken Johnston, horticulturist II; Craig Houfek, recreation center programmer.

Twenty year service awards went to: Lee Ice, youth sports supervisor; John Gress, facilities maintenance supervisor and Paul Craig, administrative support III.

Twenty-five year service awards were presented to John McDonald, horticulture field supervisor. Thirty-five year service awards were presented to Ernie Shaw, interim Parks and Recreation Department director.

The Teamwork Award was renamed in 2002 to honor Tom Wilkerson who served as assistant director of the department until his retirement in October 2002.

