

LPRD, STAFF RECEIVE AWARDS

Lawrence Parks and Recreation staff were recognized at the Kansas Recreation and Park Association's annual state conference and tradeshow in late January.

For the second time in three years, the City of Lawrence was recognized and awarded the BlueCHIP Award from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas and the KRPA. The BlueCHIP Award's mission is to recognize and reward Kansas communities who encourage and support healthy lifestyles through programs, initiatives, policies and/or community-wide events.

Lawrence was recognized for its continued leadership in providing access to programs and activities promoting healthy, active lifestyle choices to its citizens and for implementing policy and supported initiatives to ensure the success of programs. Lawrence was noted for its heavily-used walking and biking trails and programs aimed to get people active. In its application, LPRD highlighted its nutrition education program, which the department began last May with the support of a grant from the National Recreation and Park Association and funded through the Kansas Health Foundation. Besides the award the department received \$2,500 to help sustain the nutrition education program in LPRD's summer programming.

LPRD received the Outstanding New or Innovative Program Award from the KRPA Recreation Branch for its program *Fit-trition Fun with the OrganWise Guys*, which was organized by Jessie Danon, nutrition education program assistant. Danon is working with the department as part of the Serving Communities grant from the National Recreation and Park Association the department was awarded last May. The Organwise Guys program was introduced June 2012 in the Lawrence Parks and Recreation youth and special populations summer camps. The program has recently been extended toward preschool-aged children. The Organwise Guys teaches nutrition, fitness and health concepts through interactive activities and characterizations of the body's organs to children. The goal of the program is to educate Lawrence youth on health and nutrition and empower them to make healthy decisions throughout their lives.



Ernie Shaw, director of Parks and Recreation, was awarded the Distinguished Fellow Award for his long-time support of parks and recreation at the local, state and national level. Shaw has worked in the parks and recreation field more than 37 years. Shaw also served as president of the KRPA for 2012 and oversaw the planning of the state conference. Shaw is one of four individuals who have served two terms as president of the association.

