

TOM WILKERSON TEAMWORK AWARD

Previous Recipients

CATEGORY I

- 1999 - Facilities Maintenance
(Mark Hecker, Brent Hill, Terry Hatfield, Mark Johannes)
- 2000 - Landscape Division (Crystal Miles & Horticulture Crew)
- 2001 - Facility Operations
(Tim Laurent, Craig Houfek, Paul Hardman, Andre Jones,
& three part-time staff)
- 2002 - Larry Colley
- 2003 - Roger Steinbrock
- 2004 - Lisa Hughes
- 2005 - Park District #3
(Frank Demby, Terry Engel, Lenny Irey & Mitch Young)
- 2006 - Rod Hoffer
- 2007 - Karen Risner
- 2008 - IPM Committee
(Aaron Bertels, John McDonald, Crystal Miles & Curt Talken)
- 2009 - Bobby Wilson
- 2010 - Paul Baumchem & Rodney Croucher; Brent Hill & Lenny Irey;
Lee Ice & Jamie Reed

CATEGORY II

- 2004 - Wilma Elder
- 2005 - Carrie Blaisdell
- 2006 - Vicki Lysen
- 2007 - Levi Donals/Laurel Kupka
- 2008 - Sharon Leggott
- 2009 - Jeff Curtis
- 2010 - Fran Hopkins; Carolyn McGruder & Beverly Mumford

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"
- 2007 - Lawrence Mountain Bike Patrol & Club
- 2008 - Public Works Street Division
(Tom Orzulak, Bryce Campbell, Dave Krause, Bill Nye)
- 2009 - Phil Wentz
- 2010 - Black & Vetch & Westar Energy Volunteers; Fred DeVictor &
Lawrence Breakfast Optimist Club; Lawrence Rotary Clubs;
Pelathe Scouts of Lawrence and the Utilities Department,
Distribution Crews

LPRD HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

2011



Friday, December 16
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Carnegie Building



City of Lawrence
PARKS AND RECREATION

TOM WILKERSON TEAMWORK AWARD RECIPIENTS

Teamwork is the ability of individuals to work together cooperatively toward a common goal. It is the ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives, creating an environment promoting communication, trust, cooperation and mutual respect. Teamwork places team goals above one's personal goals.

Each of the following recipients have been nominated by a member or members of the Parks and Recreation Department for assisting them in meeting goals and finding a successful outcome from teaming together. A review panel selected by the LPRD Satisfaction Committee determined which individual/group of individuals/business/organization received the Tom Wilkerson Teamwork Award this year.

The Teamwork Awards were renamed in 2002 for Tom Wilkerson upon his retirement. Wilkerson served as the assistant director of the department. The awards embody the spirit of cooperation and respect Tom showed throughout his tenure, bridging gaps in communication and defining realistic goals and objectives within the department.

Category 1 | FULL-TIME RECIPIENTS

LYNN APPLGATE, STEVE JACOB, BILL ROGERS & JOHN SHRUM

During our recent "Hasty Departure" from the office at South Park, things became very hectic.....

We knew that the move was inevitable, but we had lots of time, it wasn't going to take place until the end of the year. Thinking ahead, we started slowly clearing out this and that. Then mysteriously, the date was moved up by a few weeks. So while trying to take care of customers, and start up fall classes, we decided to get a little more serious about clearing things out. For those of you that don't know, we had a small middle office where just about everything we had, was stored. It was amazing what all we were able to "stuff" in that small room. Box after box, tub after tub was packed up as the room was cleared. I have to admit, it was so nice, as containers were filled, labeled and stacked, they would be moved out by Lynn, Bill, John or Steve.

Then came that dreadful Tuesday in September. The "other shoe" dropped with a horrendous explosion! Moving day was that Friday! What?? We had to be out, lock, stock and barrel. Needless to say that was not what I wanted to hear. But the building was literally being ripped apart around us!!! As we packed, they moved things out and made room downstairs at the Community Building for all of our belonging.

Lynn in the mean time measured our desks to see how they could possibly fit us both into the Conference Room and leave enough room to walk. When we left South Park on Thursday afternoon, we had just a few boxes, our office furniture and computers left. When we arrived at the Community Building on Monday, our work area's awaited us, everything in its place! That was so wonderful. Of course after we arrived here, we have had to "find" a few things, but the guys knew just where to go for it.

WALT WARD

We would like to nominate Walt Ward from Public Works Engineering division. Walt does all the surveying for the City of Lawrence.

Walt has been a great resource person on many occasions throughout the years and especially during 2011 to help the transitional forestry division. Some of the issues he has helped solve include property line questions, such as if a tree is on the right of way within in an easement or on private property. Walt helped us learn property rules, such as what is the difference between Right of Way and Easement, and what are the cities/ homeowners responsibilities in each area.

His work is very precise, often using complex instruments in the field, which helps get factual information for the city workers and residents. Walt engages us in the process to learn to use the equipment as well as understand the issues. This is above and beyond just looking up an aerial map on the city GIS system. He does this as well, but often will verify in the field. Walt is a trusted colleague and his knowledgeable results save the city time and money.

Walt is the only city surveyor on staff and is quite busy with his own daily agenda. However, when asked, he does not hesitate to assist forestry division and work our questions/answers into his schedule. He is always methodical and polite, no matter how hot the weather or the issue.

Thank you Walt for your greatly appreciated assistance.

I know that this was a last minute work assignment for them also. Throughout the whole move, they never grumbled or complained, they adjusted to our needs and concerns without as much as a peep. Their good natured attitude and actions helped make a hectic move much easier! Thanks so much guys for your hard work and excellent attitude, you are greatly appreciated.

BILL ROGERS

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Bill Rogers for the teamwork award.

Bill is one of those silent employees that takes the initiative on his own to get things done. Without being asked he organized the fitness equipment room downstairs at the Community Building by rearranging and finding a specific place for all of the equipment, which included putting up a net to keep the additional stability balls in order and a cabinet for the boom boxes. You can actually walk into the room without tripping over something.

He leaves me notes when supplies are low and if items are broken and need to be replaced. This is not part of his regular duties but he helps assist me in keeping my programs and activities running efficiently.

I know that Bill has a lot of duties to accomplish in his daily routine but he will take the time and energy necessary to help out a fellow employee. To me, this shows his dedication and commitment to this department.

Bill is a diligent, responsible and loyal employee that goes above and beyond his duties. He is not an individual that needs consistent reminders of what he means tortment but I feel Bill is very deserving of this award. He is a valuable asset to this organization.

Category 2 | PART-TIME RECIPIENTS NO RECIPIENTS

Category 3 | OTHER GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS RECIPIENTS JESSIE KWATAMDIA

I would like to nominate Jessie Kwatamdia from the Douglas County Senior Services for the outside agency teamwork award. I have worked with Jessie for the past nine years providing a variety of activities, programs and workshops for seniors.

By combining our resources, we strive to offer a variety of experiences to our senior population that otherwise may not be possible. We utilize each other's facilities for various activities. The key component to making our relationship workable is coordination, flexibility and a positive attitude. We are always brainstorming about new programs ranging from educational workshops, fitness programs, trips and special events. We are constantly in communication about enrollment numbers, facilities and any concerns going on with the programs that need to be addressed.

For the past several years we have worked around the tax schedule at the Senior Center from January – April. This took some coordination on both of our ends on moving classes to different locations for that period of time.

Without Jessie's positive attitude and flexibility, our co-sponsored programs would not be as successful as they are today. She is a strong advocate for our department and is passionate about her job.

Our partnership benefits everyone involved by giving back to the community through an array of programs for seniors.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

This year, the City of Lawrence Public Works Department once again was a great help to us. The Public Works staff arrived at Broken Arrow Park in the early Autumn and resurfaced the main road as well as the large parking lot to the north. This was not just a patch job but rather a complete resurface of the drive way and parking lot and in addition, they added surface to the shoulder area along the exit drive. This is helpful during the larger events when there is a need for extra parking spots. The staff that performs this type of work has been extremely busy as street repairs have been a very high priority in recent years and we very much appreciate them working this in to their schedule. This was a major improvement to Broken Arrow Park.

MICAH SEYBOLD

I would like to recognize Micah for working with District 3 on the GIS maps for our Lawrence cemeteries. We approached Micah with the idea of creating interactive maps of all three cemeteries that would benefit not only our staff but also those who are researching their genealogy. Micah was up for the challenge and has since created a site on our City website for those who are looking for the location of where their loved ones are buried at.

Our ultimate goal is having all three cemeteries on the City website as interactive maps so that when someone types in a name it will actually pin point on the map where they are located at, this is a 'work in progress' and soon to come. Thank you Micah for working with us to make one of our goals become a reality.

MR. & MRS. JOHNSON SHOCKLEY

Johnson has been involved with the Special Populations Division for over 21 years and I know that because he and his band, "Borderline Country" were performing at the coffeehouse dances before I started working here and I'm going on my 21st year. Back in 1991, when I started, coffeehouse was held the first Mon. of every month, and it still remains on that same day.

Until 2009, Johnson and his band performed at almost every coffeehouse dance and were compensated a very minimal amount every month. It was at that time when the alcohol tax funding was in jeopardy of being cut and I was trying to come up with creative ways to cut my expenses within my budget. When I discussed this with Johnson, he said the other guys in the band really didn't want to continue playing, but that he and his wife, along with some other volunteers would keep a live band at coffeehouse dances every other month...for free! He recently informed me that this Dec., 2011 coffeehouse would be his last performance, because he's officially retiring from coffeehouse.

I can't begin to explain how many lives have been touched by Johnson, and his band. Of course, they all have enjoyed the music and the dancing they get to do...but through the years, Johnson has become their friend and has taken the extra time to get to know many of them.

For many years, one of our regular coffeehouse participants, Wade, was invited and allowed to play the drums with the band on a few songs every month and he was very good and could play well. He always had the cutest smile when he was playing those drums and loved the attention he received when he did it. Unfortunately, Wade now has dementia and rarely gets out to programs and coffeehouse...but I know those memories of playing the drums with the band are still with him.

Another individual, Danny, came to coffeehouse with his own guitar and always dreamed of playing with a band some day. Again, Johnson always invited him to come up and stand with the band and "play" along with his guitar. So what if Danny really couldn't strum a chord, Johnson always made him feel like he was one of the guys. Danny passed away in 2010 and at his funeral the family talked to me about how much he loved the coffeehouse dances...but it really wasn't the dancing, it was getting that chance to play his guitar.

These are just two examples of the lives he touched while performing at coffeehouse. He is a huge team player with the Special Populations Division and I greatly appreciate his teamwork and dedication he has given us throughout all of these years. We will all miss his performances at our dances and are very grateful for everything he has done!

WESTAR | BLACK & VEATCH | KISSICK CONSTRUCTION | ELECTRICAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA | HAMMEL SCALE OF KANSAS CITY, INC. | WOLF CONSTRUCTION | MIDWEST CONCRETE MATERIALS | ATLAS SURVEYORS

March First of this year, Mark Hecker was contacted by Bill Castrop. Bill indicated that the Westar/B&V Team would like to meet with us as they were beginning to plan their project for this year and they wanted to do a playground near the Burroughs Creek Trail. This group met with us in our offices a number of times in order to discuss the scope of the project and what they had in mind in terms of materials and labor that they would be in a position to donate. We considered-varying playground designs and styles with the group and when we came to a consensus, we then ordered the new playground equipment from Miracle recreation. This group donated funds in the amount of \$28,655.00 to pay for this equipment. We then began to coordinate with the group as to the installation of this new equipment and they worked with our staff to sort through the equipment when it arrived at our shop at 1900 Moodie Road. We agreed on the date of Saturday September 24th for the group to gather on site at 900 East 15th for construction. The group arrived on that Saturday with about thirty five volunteers as well as food and beverage for all of us who were present. Work commenced shortly after 8:00 AM and by about 12:00 noon the new playground was standing. In subsequent weeks we worked to install drainage, complete finish grade work, and apply a twelve inch layer of hard wood chips along with other finishing touches. During this time the side walk was installed around the outside of the area, using concrete which was donated by Midwest Concrete Materials. As work on the project came close to completion, lots of folks began to stop by and show interest and enthusiasm about what was being done. On Friday November Fourth, we had our dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting on what has proved to be a very popular playground and successful project. During these times of limited resources and stretched budget dollars, it is especially meaningful, through the willingness and generosity of these folks to be able to move forward with projects like the Burroughs Creek Playground. Many thanks go to all of those whose efforts made this possible.