



Volume 36  
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Jefferson

## Message from the Parish President. . .

### Remembering Our Core Values

I would like to take this opportunity to express to all of you my sincerest appreciation for your hard work during this Administration, 2010 - 2015.

I am particularly grateful to all Jefferson Parish employees who continue to selflessly serve the citizens of our great parish. Together we have worked diligently to regain the public's trust in their government, strive to provide transparency and accountability every day, uncover fraud, waste, and abuse, and tirelessly work to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens.

During the first days of this Administration, we established CORE VALUES for all Parish employees, and I am hopeful that we will stay the course and try to exemplify each of these values every day:

#### **PUBLIC FIRST**

We hold foremost that it is a high honor and privilege to serve the citizens, and we recognize that the respect of the public can never be anticipated if not first earned.

#### **PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE**

Our success will be measured by our productivity, and getting the job done right the first time as cost-effectively as possible is our goal. Each day we strive to work smarter and more successfully.

#### **POSITIVE RESPONSE TO CHANGE**

An effective government organization must evolve to meet continuing economic, social and institutional challenges. We welcome the developing demands and expectations of the public with creative



John F. Young  
Parish President

thinking, innovation, and more efficient processes.

#### **RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

We honor the dignity, individuality, and rights of all persons. Our interaction with others is marked by honest, direct, and relevant communication, and we show respect for diversity and personal and professional differences.

#### **COMMUNITY MINDEDNESS**

Our individual and team efforts significantly impact the vitality of the community in which we choose to work. We remain mindful that the well-being and safety of our citizens ensure that Jefferson Parish is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

I believe our best days are ahead of us, and that Jefferson Parish will continue to grow and achieve great things.

I wish all of you and your families a safe and joyous holiday season, good health, and a prosperous new year ahead.

Thank you, again, for your continued dedication to serving the citizens of Jefferson Parish.

*JeffTalk*

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Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**  
Patricia Lyons
- Water**  
Amy Truesdell
- Workforce Connection**  
Carolyn Haynes

*Editor's*



*Notes*

**Advocate4Me: UHC Enhances Customer Service**

As we prepare for a new year with UHC (UnitedHealthcare) as our healthcare provider, I am pleased to make you all aware of United's new service model, *Advocate4Me*—an improved customer service approach designed to simplify the healthcare experience for members and their families.

*Advocate4Me* provides a simple, reliable, and personalized way for members to get the end-to-end health, wellness, and benefits support and information they need. This integrated approach utilizes data and intelligent technology to connect members with Advocates (UnitedHealthcare team representatives) who are available to help resolve inquires and proactively engage on topics.

Advocates support and build trusting relationships with members through a broad range of needs, including:

- Benefits and claims questions
- Prescription drug issues
- Finding the right doctor
- Health education
- Clinical and wellness program enrollment
- And more.

Several tools have been developed to allow Advocates to provide a personal consumer



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

experience to each caller. One tool, the consumer dashboard, displays who is calling and why, as well as the caller's profile, on the Advocate's screen. This allows Advocates ready access to data about a member's recent medical or pharmacy claims, health expenditures, and much more.

Advocates are responsible for following through to personally see that each inquiry is resolved. The Advocates are accountable even if they need to bring in a specialist from UHC or an outside resource, such as a provider's office, to help resolve an inquiry not within their area of expertise.

Parish employees who are UHC members will begin experiencing the benefits of *Advocate4Me* on their first call to UnitedHealthcare after December 16, 2015.

In order to access the *Advocate4Me* program, call UHC's customer service number: 800-357-0958.

Finally, I wish you and your families a happy and healthy new year!

**Water**

By  
Amy Truesdell

There has been a lot of hustle and bustle in the Water Department since the last edition of *Jeff-Talk*. Here are the highlights of the last several months:

**Administration Department-**

**Destiny Bratton** was promoted from Executive Superintendent to Executive Operation Manager.

**West Bank Treatment Plant-**

**Brandon Theriot** received his Water Treatment I License; Water Plant Maintenance Superintendent I **Christopher Y. Smith** retired; **Darren Hernandez** was promoted into the position.

**East Bank Utility Billing-**

Service Inspector III **Randy Arnold** retired; **Joshua Chiasson** was promoted into the position.

**West Bank Distribution-**

**Lance Price** and **Kendrick Stack** were both promoted into Water Service Inspector II positions;



Randy Arnold with Water Director Sal Maffei and Superintendent Rennice Young

Waterline Maintenance Superintendent II **Kevin Sampey** requested pink shirts for Breast Cancer Awareness Month for his entire division. They proudly wore their shirts throughout the month of October! (See photo below.)

**East Bank Distribution-**

Waterline Maintenance Foreman **Cory Junior** married La-Shondra Washington on August 22, 2015, with a ceremony at Chateau Estates-Many consider it **THE** event of the season!

**Water Quality Lab-**

Water Quality Scientist II **Dr. Dong Kim** left us for a position in Delaware; and Water Quality Scientist I **Ykeshia Blount** had a bouncing baby boy named Emery Mackenzie on May 14, weighing in at 8 lbs. and 2 oz.

**West Bank Utility Billing-**

Assistant Director **Doug Pertuit** and the supervisors of Billing sponsored a school fund to help the employees' children start the new school year with ample supplies.



## Human Resources

By  
Glenn Schiro

### Milestone Achieved

According to Training Specialist III **Greg Alexander**, in August, the **800<sup>th</sup>** supervisor completed the ten-class Basic Supervision series. Greg has been keeping records of participation in the Basic Supervision program since 1999.

### Welcome, Karen!

We welcome Typist Clerk II **Karen Matthews**, who joined our HR staff on October 19. Before working for the parish, Karen was employed by the Orleans Juvenile Court for six years.

When asked about what she thought about her job in HR, Karen responded that she felt “welcomed with open arms.” We wish you the best, Karen, as you greet and assist visitors to the HR Department.



Karen Matthews

### Continuing Education

In September, Director **Peggy Barton** completed an online class “The Ins and Outs of Drug and Alcohol Testing” offered by the Drug and Alcohol Testing Industry (DATIA).

Human Resource Manager **Nancy Rodriguez** attended the



Safety Program Manager Nolan Guidry marks 15 years with the Parish, congratulated by HR Assistant Director Nicole Thompson and Director Peggy Barton

NOLA-SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) Conference and Exposition on October 14 at the Hilton Airport Hotel.

### Safety Training

On September 24, Safety Officer **Wayne Jones** attended fire extinguisher training conducted by Fire Prevention Chief **Dennis Guidry** and Fire Inspector **Monica D’Antoni** for employees from EB Streets.

Fire extinguisher training was also provided on October 19 by Fire Prevention Chief Guidry and Fire Inspector **Kim Melancon** for Water’s East Bank maintenance, lab, and plant workers. Safety staff members **Nolan Guidry** and Wayne Jones attended the training which included hands-on instruction regarding the safe usage of fire extinguishers.

According to Mr. Jones, in October, Backhoe/Medium Excavator instruction was provided by trainers from Westbank Water and Westbank Drainage to trainees from both depart-

ments. Mr. Jones conducted classroom training on October 9 and 23, and the department trainers provided hands-on instruction in the field on October 29. (See photo page 18)

### Congratulations

In August, Safety Program Manager **Nolan Guidry** celebrated his fifteen years of employment with the parish. Nolan, we appreciate your dedication to helping make our parish a safe workplace for our employees and the citizens we serve.

We also congratulate Assistant Director **Nicole Thompson** on the birth of her daughter Nia Alise on November 14. We wish mother and daughter the best.



Nicole Thompson

## Juvenile Services

By  
Vicki Borja

### RETIREMENTS:

The Department of Juvenile Services wishes a fond farewell to Maintenance Repairman **Herman Price**, who retired on July 27, 2015, after 33 years with Jefferson Parish.

### DEPARTURES:

Juvenile Services would like to send our best wishes to Probation Officers **Patricia Green-Metz** and **Reianda Rousseau**, who both left in August, and to Detention Officer **Kimberly Weber**, who left us in November. We will miss all of you!

### PROMOTIONS:

All of us at DJS would like to congratulate **Landon Williams**, who was promoted to Probation Officer II; **Stanley LeBlanc**, who was promoted to Juvenile Detention Home Supervisor; and **Malcolm Fredericks**, who was promoted to Maintenance Repairman.

### NEW HIRES:

We are very pleased to welcome new employees **Travis Turnage**, **Roy Shoemaker**, **Percy Hollins**, **Antonio Condley**, **Matt Dorsett**, and **Carlus Lemon**, who are all probation officers; **Kristen Clark**, Administrative Management Specialist; **Eric Vicks**, Juvenile Detention Home Security Guard; **Gail McWilliams**, Mental Health Professional II, and **Ronald Walker**, Detention Officer I. We are pleased to have you.

### EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:

We would also like to congrat-



Luis Campos (left) and Christopher Trosclair (right) presented Herman Price with the Certificate of Merit

ulate the following employees for being Employee of the Month:

#### August 2015

Detention: **Deanna Boysen**, Juvenile Detention Officer II  
 Probation: **Stephanie Lester**, Mental Health Professional

#### September 2015

Detention: **Gerald Daniels**, Detention Officer II  
 Probation: **Erin Ronquille**, Probation Officer II

#### October 2015

Detention: **William Corkern**,

Detention Officer II  
 Probation: **Tammy Eursin**, Probation Officer II  
November 2015  
 Detention: **Travis Turnage**, Detention Officer I  
 Probation: **Colleen George**, Probation Supervisor  
 Keep up the great work!

### BLOOD DRIVE:

Thanks to everyone who donated during the August 2015 blood drive. We had our largest amount of donors yet, with 33 donors. The District Attorney's Office received the JJC Bloodhound trophy.



JS Director Roy Juncker presents Amanda Calogero from the District Attorney's Office with the JJC Bloodhound Award

## General Services

By  
Tessa St. Pierre

### Welcomes

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new employees. **Stephanie Bush**, Typist Clerk III, recently returned to General Services after 17 years and it couldn't be better. **A'Delle Joseph**, Clerk III, comes from Recreation. You can see her assisting **Revy Antoine**.

**Kevin Duhe**, Tradeshelper, is a hard worker and we can't wait to see what he accomplishes. **Robert Stiles**, Plumber, will be working with **Wayne Guillot**, and they already make a great team.

### In Memory Of Jan

On September 27 General services lost a dear friend and co-worker. **Jan Marie LaGrange Gray**, was called home to Heaven from complications related to leukemia.



Jan was always willing to jump into any project to make

this department better. She was a mentor to many, showing co-workers how to do things the right way.

Jan was responsible for developing many procedures and policies. Her absence will always be felt as we will miss her beautiful contagious smile, wit, charm, and can-do attitude. Jan was a dedicated part of General Services for over 31 years. We will miss you, our friend. May you rest in peace in Heaven.

## Environmental

By  
Kathy Russo

Environmental Affairs would like to say goodbye to **Nancy Woodlock**, Environmental Quality Specialist in our Stormwater Program, and wish her the best of luck in future endeavors.

We would like to welcome our new employees:

**Seamus Riley**, Environmental Quality Specialist with our Coastal Programs. Seamus has a B.A in Biology and a S.M. in Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University. Prior to joining our staff, he held internships with Entergy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Simone Cifuentes**, Environmental Quality Specialist with our Stormwater Program. Simone has a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, in Environmental Economics and Policy and a J.D. from LSU. Prior to joining our staff, she worked as a Community Outreach Spe-

cialist and Environmental Educator in New Orleans and San Francisco.

**Robert Powers**, E.I.T. with our Landfill Division. Robert has a B.S. in Biological Engineering and is a recent graduate of LSU.

### Recycling Awareness

The Department of Environmental Affairs was awarded an \$8,700 grant from Keep Louisiana Beautiful to fund a recycling program at one of the Parish's largest schools, Grace King High School. As part of the program's educational component, the Parish organized an exciting field trip for participating students. On October 13, 2015, **Kathleen Collins**, Solid Waste Supervisor, **Barbara Arcement**, Inspector, and **Sarah LaRock**, Student Intern, joined 18 Grace King students in a visit to the regional recycling facility in Baton Rouge. Run by Progressive Waste Solutions, the facility accepts and sorts a wide variety of materials through a complex system of machinery.

Touring the plant, Parish employees learned of the technical



Barbara Arcement, Sarah LaRock, and Kathleen Collins visit the Progressive Waste Recycling Center.

difficulties presented by contamination in the recycling stream. Garden hoses and plastic bags clog up the machinery and need to be removed by hand. Despite these obstacles, the facility separates several tons of materials per day into neatly packed bails of paper, metal, and numerous different types of plastic. Experiencing the process that transforms waste into reusable material prepared the group to educate their peers in an event that coincided with a national awareness event: America Recycles Day, which took place on November 15, 2015.

Environmental Affairs wishes to encourage all Parish employees to build upon the momentum of this national day of awareness by continuing to improve their personal recycling habits and to promote the value of reducing the impact of waste throughout the community.

On September 28 and during the Water Environment Federation's (WEF) Stormwater Congress luncheon in Chicago, IL; WEF presented it's first-ever National Municipal Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Awards. The program, housed within the WEF Stormwater Institute, recognizes high-performing, regulated Phase I and Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) communities that meet and exceed regulatory requirements in innovative ways that are effective and cost efficient. Jefferson Parish MS4 has been chosen to be a "Silver Level" in Innovation and "Silver Level" in Program Management". Since 1928, WEF is a global not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 34,000 individual members and 75 affili-

ated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world to protect public health and the environment.

On August 30 and September 12, **Sami Khalil**, Storm Water Supervisor, and **Diane Coughlin**, Environmental Quality Technician, participated, along with volunteers from Boy Scout Troop #378, in a litter clean-up and storm drain marking event in Terrytown. Educational markers were placed on storm drains to remind residents not to dump anything into the storm drains, as storm water is untreated and is discharged into receiving water bodies, in this instance, coastal wetlands. Safety vests, gloves, trash bags, and storm drain markers were provided by the Department of Environmental Affairs. On November 15 Sami and Diane also worked with volunteers from Boy Scout Troop #100 in a litter clean-up and storm drain marking event in Bucktown. Both scout troop leaders earned their Eagle Rank for implementing the project.

On September 19, 2015, Sami Khalil and Diane Coughlin participated, along with **Maggie Olivier**, Floodplain Specialist, in The Lake Pontchartrain Beach Sweep. Partnering with LPBF and almost 1,890 volunteers resulted in picking up 895 bags of trash, approximately 15,215 pounds of trash that will not wash into our beautiful Lake Pontchartrain. 320 storm drain educational markers were placed on our storm drains to remind residents not to dump anything into the storm drains.

On October 13, **Sami Khalil**, **Diane Coughlin**, **Katherine Costanza**, Assistant Director, and **Sarah LaRock**, Student Intern, all with the Department of Environmental Affairs, participated in the Jefferson Parish Night Out Against Crime at the Bonnabel Boat Launch. They handed out educational material about mosquito control, storm water management, recycling and pocket ashtrays to the residents who smoke. Participants also talked with the residents about various environmental issues that they had.



Diane Coughlin, Sami Khalil, Katherine Costanza, and Sarah LaRock  
at the Night Out Against Crime

**Code Enforcement**

By  
Amanda Wardwell

We welcome our new employees, Mechanical Inspector **Chris Lacoste**, Public Records Clerk **Jasmine Lawrence**, and Building Inspector **Glynn Chevalier**. We are excited to have you all on our team! On July 11, we welcomed a new Chief Mechanical Inspector to our Westbank Office, **Lloyd Juneau**. In recent months, he was transferred to our Eastbank Office and we would like to welcome him as the new Eastbank Chief Mechanical Inspector! We are very glad to have you! We would like to say farewell to our former Mechanical Inspector II **Timothy Pierre**, as he retired in October. We hope you enjoy your retirement and we will miss you.

After an extended absence, Departmental Secretary **Charlene Jones** is back in the Director's office. Other employees pitched in to help while she was out, but of course, the office wasn't the same without her. Welcome back, we missed you!

October was Breast Cancer and

Diversity Awareness month. On October 12, our employees got together and dedicated the day to honor those fighting and those who have fought this terrible disease by wearing pink. Also, on October 21, the department wore orange in support of Diversity. C'est génial! ("That is awesome!" in French)

Online Permitting is now available! Gone are the days of lugging plans and paperwork into our office! Stay in your PJ's and do it from home! Getting a permit online is as easy as 1, 2, 3! We even have instructions on the step-by-step process of applying for permits, along with an informational video, on the Parish's website.

In baby news, we would like to congratulate Mechanical Department Clerk **Amanda Wardwell** on her new baby girl, Karsyn, weighing in at 6lbs. 11oz. Also, Chief Plumbing Inspector **Don Landrieu** welcomed his first grandchild into the world, a little baby boy, Luke. We are so excited for you both and the new additions to your families!

**Moments of Magic**

By  
Glenn Schiro

We recognize Drainage Pump Station Operation and Maintenance Program Manager **Manny Aspuria** for his special efforts in serving the public. On November 5, Manny conducted a tour of one of the East Bank Pump Stations for the Senior Citizen Volunteers of Metairie.



Manny Aspuria

Manny, who is well known around the parish for his extensive knowledge of the daily operations of pump stations, answered questions regarding the important role of pump stations in the protection of parish residents.



West Bank Waste Water Maintenance Crew's Safety Work Zone

## Drainage

By  
Sheena Quinn Bauer

### Welcome & Congratulations!

As 2015 begins to wind down, The Department of Drainage has had lots of exciting and memorable moments since our last article. Among the most noticeable changes are the newest additions to the department and recent promotions.

**Jonah Williams, Albert Palestina, Danielle Keller, Hoai Luong, Kendell Adams, Corey Cage, Edwin McGee, Roland Boudoin III, Henry Jackson III, Savon Brown, Tromone Puckett, Damon Walker, Catrell Robair, Melvin Armand, Brittny Cargo, Andre Moran, and Jarrett Clofer** have begun their careers with Department of Drainage.

Also, we would like to congratulate the following for their recent promotions: **Armand Bellanger Jr., Armand Bellanger III, Cornelius Hurst, Daniel Allen, Roy Brown, Raymond Coster, Chris Bourgeois, Shawn Casbon, Johnny Krummel, Joshua Cortez, Monday Coleman, Landis Woodruff, Robert Federico, and Adam Mataya.**



Patricia Rambeau



Drainage Assistant Director Bob Dale congratulates Keith Thornton

And a very special congratulations to **Jamal Singleton** on his appointment to the position of Drainage Pump Station Superintendent III! Good luck and congratulations everyone!

### Fond Farewells

While new faces were being introduced to our Department of Drainage family, we said goodbye to four amazingly hard working people that retired after countless years of dedication and hard work. **Phan Tran** (8 years), Trades Helper for our WB Drainage office, **Michael Blanchard** (10 years), Welder for WB Drainage. **Patricia Rambeau** (15 years), Typist Clerk III for our Drainage Administration Office, and **Keith Thornton** (30 years), Drainage Pump Station Superintendent III for our WB Pump Station division. We appreciate everything that they have done for the Department and wish them all the best on the beginning of their retirement!

### With Great Sadness

Lastly, but definitely not least, we are sad to say that our beloved former coworker, **Jo-**

**seph “Joe” Rivere**, recently passed away. On Sunday, October 18, he went into his eternal resting place at the age of 67. With 27 years of service with Jefferson Parish, he has touched many lives in ways that can’t be explained. Joe was a constant source of wisdom and love who will be sorely missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him. We are honored to have known him and will greatly miss him.

Have a safe and happy holiday from the Drainage Department!!!



Joe Rivere

## Engineering

By  
Helen McGee

Happy Holidays!

Welcome to SCADA **Glenn Hutchinson** and **Minh Nguyen**. We are happy to have you on board.

Welcome back, **Sandra Vap-pie!!!** Sandra couldn't stay away too long, she is back with the Engineering Bunch!

Congratulations to all that received their service Pins.

I would like to remember someone that was a Gentle Giant in the Engineering Department. Mr. **Raymond D. "Rick" Speeg**. Rick, an Engineering II Professional, worked in the Engineering Department for 14 years. Rick courageously lost his battle with cancer on July 13, 2015, a few months shy of his 50<sup>th</sup> Graduation Anniversary from Jesuit High School in New Orleans. He is truly, truly, missed by us all!!!



Rick Speeg

Again as I close my Holiday article, I encourage you all to remember the less fortunate and those in need. Take some time to feed the hungry, donate a toy, visit a nursing home. It is such a gratifying feeling that you and your family will enjoy.

Happy Holidays to all from our **Mark Drewes** and the Engineering Department!

## Workforce Connection

By  
Carolyn Haynes

### Accomplishments

Jefferson Workforce Connection (*JWC*) is proud to announce that this department exceeded all nine performance measures for the final program year in 2014 for the Louisiana Workforce Commission indicators!

Performance measures are an indication of the number of individuals employed, their average wages, and their job retention. This is a unique and awesome accomplishment for our department!

*JWC*'s Recruitment & Placement Teams held several job fairs for employers at the East and West Bank Centers with several jobseekers obtaining employment. Congratulations, Team!

### Notes

*JWC* wishes everyone Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year!

## Traffic Engineering

By  
Brandy Chism

Service pins were recently awarded to Sign Designer **Michael Ricks**, 15 years of service, and Sign Technician II **Stephen Clesi** and **Edgar Allen** with 5 years of service. Sign Technician II **Roosevelt Baggett** has recently retired with more than 28 years of service.



Roosevelt Baggett

Roosevelt was a dedicated employee who worked with both sign and roadway marking sections of the shop. His presence will be missed by all those who worked with him daily.



Engineering Director Mark Drewes (far right) presents Service Pins to Norman "Tony" Ronquille, Varice Webber, and Suzanne Lollis

Traffic Engineering welcomes new Sign Technicians **Andrew Tadros** and **Terrance Hensley**. Andrew and Terrance are a great addition to the crew, and we're happy to have them with us! Congratulations to **Robert Hymel** on his promotion to Sign & Marking Foreman for striping. Rob is a great leader and well respected by his peers. Also celebrating promotions are **Michael Dillon** and **Albert Jones**, both jumping to Sign Technician II; and **Christine Ford** to Signal Technician II. We appreciate the hard work and dedication from everyone!

Signal Technician II **Christine Ford** works along with Signal Supervisor **David Stout** to mount a communication antenna on the tower atop the Yenni Building.



Christine Ford and David Stout mount a communications antenna

The installation was part of an experimental upgrade project for communication from the traffic signals on Veterans Boulevard to the master communication software installed on a server in the Yenni Building. As signal equipment be-



Supervisor Jody Savoie, Edgar Allen, Carl Holmes, Stephen Clesi, Michael Ricks, James Vasquez, and Engineering Director Mark Drewes

comes more intricate, our signal division is doing its best to keep up with the technology. Though we currently have the capability to remotely monitor and change timing at our signalized intersections, the upgrade in communication equipment is an attempt to provide more bandwidth and eventually real-time video

from the detection cameras. This is all part of our move toward Intelligent Transportation Systems technology. Way to go, guys, and HOLD ON TIGHT!!

Traffic Engineering is wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!!



New Sign Technicians Terrance Hensley and Andrew Tadros; newly promoted Foreman Robert Hymel; Sign Technician II Michael Dillon; Signal Technician II Christine Ford; and Sign Technician II Albert Jones

## Lafreniere Park

By  
William Cangemi

### A Fun Fall For All

Fall was a busy time for us here at Lafreniere Park. Autumn kicked off with the Fall Concert Series and continued on through the season with other events such as Pet Fest when the Park went to the dogs (*sorry; I couldn't help it*). This canine carnival included dog shows, a costume contest, and pet adoptions. PARK-A-BOO followed with Halloween tricks and treats for the kids. This season ended with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society holding its annual fund raiser, Light the Night, where a thousand participants remembered the victims, recognized the survivors and with their lanterns held high, walked through the park celebrating the hope that these cancers can and will be beaten.

### Holiday in the Park

Of course Autumn leads to Winter, and that means it's time for Lafreniere Park's annual holiday light display. This year's festivities run from December 4-January 1; and once again, there is a new attraction. Thanks to the creativity and craftsmanship of Horticulture Supervisor **Johnny Hayes** and Park Electrician **Paul Clark**, a giant *Pirate Ship* will be floating in the lagoon, its brilliantly lit masts rising up into the sky and its reflection sparkling on much of the surface below. This beautiful light structure promises to be worth the price of admission so come on out to *Holiday in the Park!*

See photo Page 20

## Parks & Recreation

By  
Antoinette Holmes

We have a new East Bank Administrator, **Brad Roth**, promoted from Zone Manager. Congratulations, Mr. Roth! We also have a new Administrative Assistant, **Amy Bourg**, added to the Recreation Team. Ms. Bourg was promoted from our Leisure Services Department.



Amy Bourg

WESTBANK UPDATES: **Johnny Jacobs Playground** – We are building a large Tot Lot with all the bells and whistles. Special thanks to Councilman Spears.

EASTBANK UPDATES: **LaSalle Park**: We have a beautiful garden located at LaSalle, maintained by the LSU AgCenter. Take a moment to stop by on any Wednesday to visit with Master Gardeners and receive how-to gardening tips. **Miley Playground** – we are adding the finishing touches to the Multi-Purpose Building, corner of Saints & Eisenhower.

### **BONNABEL BOAT LAUNCH:**

We are renovating the Back-down Ramps with a grant awarded to Jefferson Parish by the U.S. Wildlife & Fisheries. We are also installing a mobile handicap accessible restroom.

### **BUCKTOWN HARBOR:**

Monthly slip rentals are \$240 (40' slip). Call our office for details. The new shelter and several picnic tables have been placed at the site.

### **LAFRENIERE PARK**

December 4 opens the Christmas lights. We're looking forward to everyone joining us!

### **PARC DES FAMILLES:**

We are adding the finishing touches to Parc Des Familles Video Marquee.



LaSalle Garden

### Planning

By  
Nedra Tate

The Jefferson Parish Planning Department sends special congratulations to **Evelyn Cade Campo!** Evelyn is a Planner II in our Long Range Division and just gave birth to a healthy baby boy on November 15, 2015!



Evelyn Cade Campo

Congratulations again Evelyn and best wishes to you and your family!

### WELCOME ABOARD!

The Jefferson Parish Planning Department welcomes 3 new employees:

**Yvette Brandt**, joined the Planning Department in July as a Planner III for the Long Range Division. She holds a Master of Science in Planning from Florida State University and recently worked for a local government in Florida. Yvette is happy to return to her home state of Louisiana!

**Nandini Seth**, joined the Planning Department in August as a Planner II for our Long Range Division. She recently graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning.

**Syed Islam**, joined the Planning Department in August 2015 as an Intern with the Long Range Division. He is working towards his Masters in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of New Orleans.

### BEST WISHES

Congratulations and best wishes to **Robin Jones**, has left Jefferson Parish for a new job!

### Emergency Management

By  
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

### Hurricane Season Ends!

The 2015 hurricane season, June 1 – November 30, was predicted as a below-normal season. The season began in early pre-season May with Tropical Storm Ana. We had four named hurricanes this season, beginning with Danny in August and ending with Kate in November.

There were no hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico or the Caribbean Sea for the second year in a row. The United States did not have a major hurricane landfall, Category 3 or stronger, this season.

### Staff Notes

Congratulations to **Robert Greene**, Coordinator II, who has received certification as a Louisiana Emergency Manager (LEM). This certification is indicative of Robert’s experience, hard work, continuing education, and dedication in the field of emergency management.

Our heartfelt condolences to Director **Charles M. Hudson** on the recent passing of his mother. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and the Hudson family.

We would like to extend warm and friendly wishes during this holiday season and the coming year. Please remember the men and women of our U.S. Armed Forces, near and far, for their sacrifice, dedication, and service to our country.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



New members of the Planning family:  
Nandini Seth, Yvette Brandt, and Syed Islam

**Sewerage**

By  
Venice Cooper

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent retirements:

**Bill Hartline** retired on October 20, 2015 with over 30 years of service. He was a Superintendent I in our Eastbank Lift Stations Division.



Billy Hartline with Sewerage Assistant Director Brett Todd

**Linwood Simien** retired on October 23, 2015 with over 20 years of service. He was a Truck Driver II in our Westbank Lines Division.

We wish Bill and Linwood the best as they each begin a new chapter of life. Combined, they are taking a total of over 50 years of experience with them into retirement.

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

**Craig Bradley** was promoted to Superintendent II at Eastbank Lines.

**Joseph Brisco** was promoted to Equipment Operator III at Eastbank Lines.

**Venice Cooper** was promoted to Executive Superintendent in Administration.

**Wendell Davis** was promoted to Lift Station Inspector at Eastbank Lift Stations.

**Devence Hampton** was promoted to Equipment Operator III at Eastbank Lines.

**Thomas Hoyt** was promoted to Superintendent II at Eastbank Lift Stations.

**Ronald Johnson III** was promoted to Equipment Operator III at Eastbank Lines.

**Thaddeus Johnson** was promoted to Pump Equipment Mechanic at Eastbank Lift Stations.

**Brandon Owens** was promoted to Lift Station Inspector at Eastbank Lift Stations.

**Horace Porter** was promoted to Equipment Operator I at Eastbank Lift Stations.

**Dylan Ramsak** was promoted to Lift Station Inspector at Westbank Lift Stations.

**Fran Trapani** was promoted to Typist Clerk III at Eastbank Sewerage.

Congratulations to the employees at the Eastbank Wastewater Treatment Plant who recently received their 5 Year Service Pin Awards: **Godfrey Rixner, Kurt LeGlue, Craig Saragusa, Kevin Woods, Mark Gardner, Eddie Mar-**

**bury, and Bob Benoit.**

**WELCOME**

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

**Alexander Arnaud** – Equipment Operator I, Eastbank Lift Stations

**Jesse Aull** – Lift Station Inspector, Eastbank Lift Stations

**Jonathan Britton** – Truck Driver II, Westbank Lines

**Clarence Brown** – Laborer, Westbank Lines

**Javon Coler** – Equipment Operator I, Eastbank Lift Stations

**John Francois** – Trades Helper, Westbank Lift Stations

**Jeremy Henry** – Equipment Operator I, Westbank Lift Stations

**Thaddeus Hooper** – Trades Helper, Bridge City Plant

**Shedrick Minor** – Trades Helper, Westbank Lift Stations

**Lance Orgeron** – Trades Helper, Westbank Lift Stations

**Jackie Payne, Jr.** – Welder, Westbank Lift Stations

**Anthony Reid** - Operator, Eastbank Plant

**Royal Terrell, Jr.** – Laborer, Eastbank Lines

**Paul Williams** – Laborer, Westbank Lines

**Michele Wilson** – Receptionist, Administration



Superintendent George Gandy, Retiree Linwood Simien, Assistant Director Brett P. Todd, and Superintendent Adolph Grimes.

## Library

By  
Daniel Gitlin

### Storytimes & More @ Holiday in the Park

This December the Library will once again be partnering with the Parks and Recreation Department by hosting a booth and doing on stage story performances at Holiday in the Park. Library employees will be in attendance every Friday and Saturday night in December and live shows will take place at 8 p.m. The annual event held at Lafreniere Park has proven to be a terrific opportunity for the Library to distribute literature, talk with parish residents and entertain large groups with great performances. Live stage performances will include Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Interrupting Chicken* by David E. Stein and *Don't Let the Pigeon Decorate the Christmas Tree* based off the books by Mo Willems.

### Verdie Richburg Receives Honorable Mention

Branch Supervisor Librarian VI **Verdie Richburg** was recently recognized by the Civil Service League of Louisiana as an honorable mention winner for the 2015 Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Civil Service Award. The award focuses on local, state and municipal civil service employees who distinguish themselves through unselfish service to citizens – including contributions toward workplace improvement, personal initiative and volunteer community service. The award is the highest honor civil service employees can receive for their service to citizens of Louisiana. Ms. Richburg's dedication to her



career at the Library and giving back to the community is both equally impressive. During her thirty plus years working at the library, she has devoted her time to the growth of the library and to the building and maintenance of a top level public library staff. Her interaction begins as she oversees the hiring of anyone who will work directly with the public. After they are brought aboard, Ms. Richburg spends time with employees focusing on communicating the importance of providing an outstanding patron experience each and every time – stressing that positive interaction in the library can not only brighten someone's day, but change their feel for the importance of libraries in a general sense.

After work hours, Ms. Richburg dedicates much of her free time to understanding the needs of people in the community and finding ways to improve their lives. She volunteers for non-profit organizations – including being an instrumental part of the New Orleans Spelling Bee and others that focus on education and helping children become successful by

learning life skills. She also spends time working for organizations who feed those who are hungry and help clothe those who don't have the means to attain needed items for their families.

She insists that "needs" vary from person to person and that many times providing something as simple as a piece of clothing, an educational book or groceries to fill a pantry can lift someone's spirits.



Verdie Richburg

Library Director **Marylyn P. Haddican**, when announcing the award, mentioned that Ms. Richburg's dedication to giving back originated from lessons taught by her parents. They stressed the importance of assisting those in the community in any

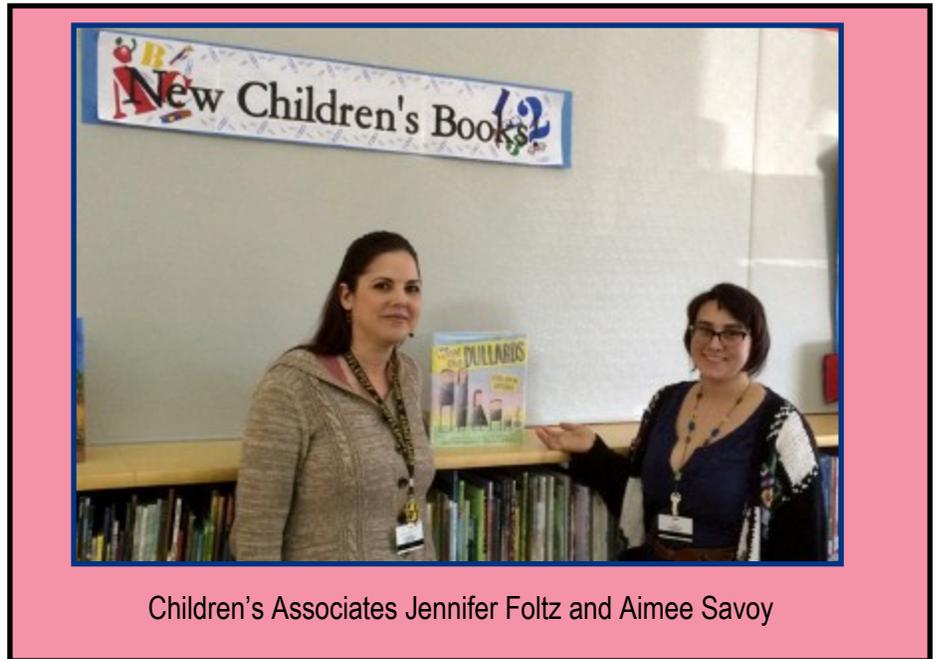
way possible. Ms. Richburg explained that her father, who was a small business owner in North Carolina, felt a connection with the community and instilled in all of his children to be mindful that people looking out for one another creates resilient strength in the community.

It is with these lessons as a base that Ms. Richburg has proven to be a consistent leader and mentor in the work environment and in the community. During work hours she can be found building up and teaching those around her to understand the importance of civil service work. And when the day is done she focuses her attention on those who need a little support making it through the day.

The Jefferson Parish Library and the surrounding community both have benefited from the work and dedication of Verdie Richburg. We congratulate her on this exceptional honor – it is more than deserved.

**Promotions and New Faces**

Congratulations to Librarian II **Anamaria Brandon** and Librarian II **Albert Lusnia** who are the

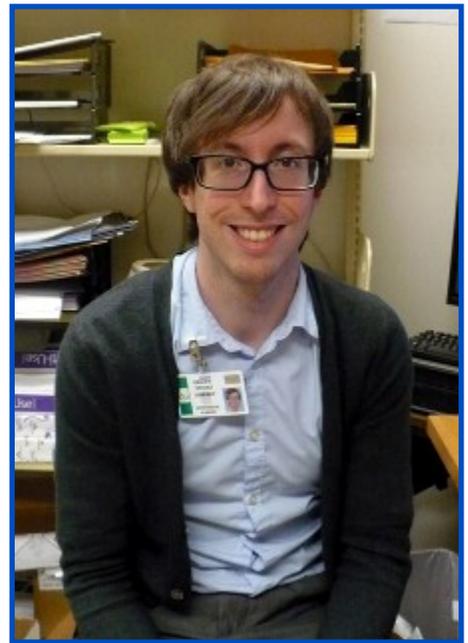


Children's Associates Jennifer Foltz and Aimee Savoy

two newest branch managers at the Library. Anamaria now heads up the staff at the Westwego Library and Albert oversees the terrific staff at the Lafitte Library. Good luck to both of you!

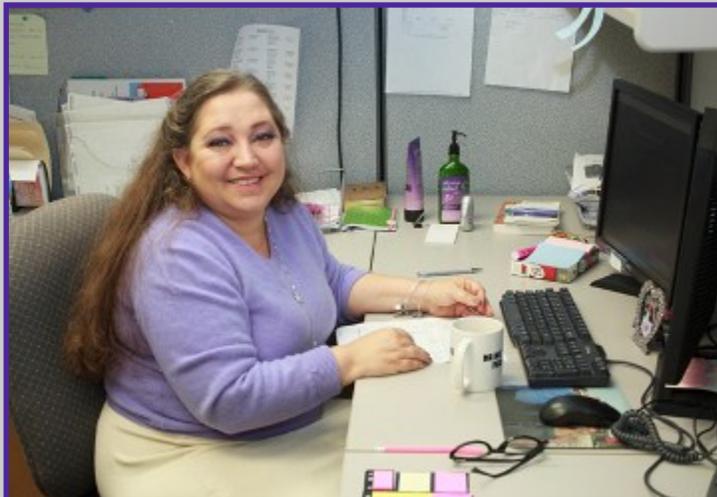
The Library has added many new employees to our team over the past several months. Additions to our team include Account Clerk II **Tyra Allen**, Belle Terre Associate **Jamie Brown**, EBR Reference Librarian II **Lita Brown**, East Bank Associate

**Tara Cole**, Gretna Associate **Alison Dillmann**, Rosedale Associate **Shawn Dugas**, WBR Children's Associate **Jennifer Foltz**, EBR Associate **Michelle Levine**, Typist Clerk III **Betina Noveh**, WBR Children's Associate **Aimee Savoy**, and WBR Reference Librarian II **Rachael Schultz**.



Shawn Dugas

And special congratulations to EBR Associate **Laura Pagoaga**, who welcomed her daughter Eliza into the world in September.



Betina Noveh

## Ask Personnel

By  
Lauren Call

### Leave Donation Program!

The Departments of Human Resource Management and Personnel are happy to announce a new "Voluntary Leave Transfer Program". Under this program, employees can donate leave to another employee who is experiencing a medical emergency (his own or his immediate family's). By visiting the Intranet homepage and clicking on Voluntary Leave Transfer Program, employees can view the list of those approved as leave recipients and employees can access (and print) the required forms necessary to become a leave donor or a leave recipient.

Leave recipients may receive and use donated leave under the following conditions:

- You must have been employed with the Parish for at least one (1) year at the time of application.
- You cannot be on Worker's Comp.
- You must be entitled to accrue leave.
- You must complete and submit all prescribed application forms to the Personnel Department for classified employees or the Human Resource Management Department for unclassified employees. All forms must be submitted and approved by the designated Administrators.
- You will be notified of the decision to approve or disapprove the application, in writing, within ten (10) working days of receipt.
- You must have exhausted all appropriate paid leave (Sick, Annual, and/or Compensatory leave) prior to the receipt of donated leave.
- You are not eligible to accrue leave time while using donated leave.
- You shall be paid at your designated hourly rate of pay.
- You cannot receive more than twelve (12) workweeks of donated leave in a twelve-month period.
- You may use donated leave only for purposes related to the medical

emergency that was approved. Receipt and usage of donated leave shall be considered terminated on the date by which:

you notify your Appointing Authority, in writing, that the medical emergency no longer exists; the appropriate Administrator determines, after written notification and opportunity for you to respond, that the medical emergency no longer exists; or termination of your employment with the Parish.

Any unused donated leave on termination of the medical emergency must be returned to the leave accounts of the donors under conditions as outlined in the appropriate Parish Ordinance.

Leave donors may donate leave under the following conditions:

- (1) You must complete and submit all forms prescribed by the Personnel Department for classified employees or the Human Resource Management Department for unclassified employees. All forms must be submitted to your Appointing Authority. An appropriate Administrator shall review all forms in advance to confirm your eligibility to donate.
- (2) You must maintain a leave balance of at least thirty (30) days of sick leave and ten (10) days of annual leave after donation.
- (3) You may donate up to ten (10) days of sick leave and ten (10) days of annual leave in a period of twelve (12) months. However,

if you have a current balance of forty (40) or more days of annual leave, you may donate up to the amount of annual leave you accrue in the leave year.

- (4) The minimum amount of leave that can be donated is one (1) day.
- (5) Donation is irrevocable once made, regardless of the medical condition of you or the recipient.
- (6) You cannot donate leave to your direct or indirect supervisor.

For both leave recipients and leave donors, it must be noted that leave donated by the leave donor shall be distributed to the leave recipient based on the monetary value of the leave. The conversion method (rounded to the nearest two (2) decimal places) takes the value of leave determined at the current hourly wage of the leave donor multiplied by hours donated then divided by the current hourly wage of the leave recipient.

Ex.: Donor's hourly wage: \$10.  
He donates 10 hours of leave  
Recipient's hourly wage: \$15

$$10 \times 10 = 100 / 15 = 6.67 \text{ hours}$$

Please refer to the Personnel Rules for the Classified Service (Classified Employees) or the Executive Pay Plan (Unclassified Employees for further guidance. If you have any questions, please contact the Personnel Department (504-364-2730) or the Human Resource Management Department (504-736-6180).



Public Works gets into the diversity spirit!

## Employee Health

By  
Peggy Branran, RN



### Fighting Infections

What do bacteria, yeast, viruses, and fungi all have in common? We are surrounded by them, both in our environment, as well as on and in our bodies. Prior to the modern advancements we have made in hygienic practices and pharmacology, it was not unheard of for minor skin infections or a bout of diarrhea to overwhelm the body and end in death. Scary thought!

But, putting aside practicing good hygiene and imploring the help of modern medicine, the human body is amazingly designed in such a way to fight off these would-be attackers on various levels.

Just like any brilliant military strategic mastermind, the body has three lines of defense against the would-be attackers: the non-specific defenses, which act as a physical barrier to limit or prevent infection; the humoral defenses (body fluid), which actually attack the infectious agents; and the cell-mediated defenses, which are responsible for coordinating a total body immune response.

The non-specific defense barrier is crucial as it is that first line of defense. Its purpose is to keep the infectious agent from entering the body or to minimize its time on the surface of the body. This

may be in the form of a physical barrier or a chemical barrier that is antagonistic to a microbe. The skin is made up of various layers. The Stratum Corneum, found on the surface, is made up of 15 to 20 layers of dead skin cells. Other various layers of living skin cells grow below. As these cells die, they make their way into the Stratum Corneum, where they are sloughed off. As these dead skin cells are removed from the body, it also brings with it any microbes, literally hanging around. Eyelashes and hair found in the nostrils and ears act as a barrier to aid in keeping foreign particles out. Sebaceous (oil) glands secrete sebum, creating a hostile environment for bacteria. Ceruminous (wax) glands create ear wax which helps to inhibit the growth of bacteria, as well as slowing down its movement deep into the ear canal. The elements found in sweat inhibit the growth of “non-normal” microflora, the germs that should not be living there. However, the “normal” microflora will multiply quite rapidly under sweaty

conditions! Yuk!

The mucus membranes of the respiratory tract produce mucus that dust and microbes stick to. This mucus will then make its way out of the lungs, where it is then swallowed. Chemicals in the urinary or gastrointestinal tracts can be lethal to these microbes. Or, it may take another line of defense, cellular or humoral, to kill them off.

*(To be continued next issue)*

With the New Year around the corner, now is a great time to take a mental inventory of how your health has been over the last year. What goals were you able to achieve? If any were not reached, think about what may have prevented you from doing so. Sometimes we just need to change the way we look at solving a problem to be successful. By developing another strategy and, most importantly, being ready to make that change, we can increase our chances for success. If you would like assistance in developing a plan for change to improve your health, don't hesitate to contact me at 736-6558.



West Bank Water and Drainage employees at Backhoe/Medium Excavator training

## Diversity Advisory Board

By  
Selena Muhoberac

On September 8, 2015, members of the JPEDAB (Jefferson Parish Employee Diversity Advisory Board) met at the West Bank Regional Library. **Sean Hurley** requested all articles for the next issue of *Diversity Matters* newsletter be submitted by September 11, 2015. **Cheryl Legohn-Tubbs** suggested allowing all Jefferson Parish Employees to submit articles for inclusion in the newsletter as well. Since a motion was not needed, this new policy was adopted.

HR Advisor **Glenn Schiro** thanked the members for performing the Workplace Inspections, and procedures were revisited for documenting any problems.

Diversity Advisory Board shirts were finalized and members confirmed their sizes. This was encouraged so Parish employees can easily recognize board members in their official orange shirts.

On October 27, 2015, members of the (JPEDAB) met at the Alario Center. **Ingrid Johnson** asked members to submit articles for the next *Diversity Matters* newsletter. Positive feedback was given concerning participation in Diversity Week activities. To more effectively get diversity ribbons to departments, methods were discussed. **Nichole Gaubert** will update the representatives list for a more streamlined delivery process.

Workplace Inspections were discussed and the board suggested that departmental Direc-

tors head up the inspections for next year. **Ingrid Johnson** also informed the board that she does not have enough information to complete the Diversity Directory by the end of the year. Members were asked for ideas on how to proceed that will be discussed at the next meeting.

Member attendance was discussed and an expectation of attendance was reiterated. The decision was made to give more advance notice for future meetings.

A vote was called, and the decision was unanimous, to issue certificates to outgoing and previous board members. After Administration approval, certificates will be given out at the November potluck.

**Ingrid Johnson** notified the board that she will reduce her co-chair responsibilities to allow **Emann Batiste** to take the lead as co-chair for 2016. **Nichole Gaubert** will also be stepping down as Recording Secretary due to an increased workload. Board members were asked to start thinking about whom they want to nominate for that position, and a vote will be called at the January meeting.

Members also discussed a fundraiser to support and assist previous board member **Nick Marzoni**. Members are encouraged to attend.

The next Jefferson Parish Employee DAB meeting will be held in January. The date is to be determined.

## Parkways

By  
Marilyn Slutsky

**Laura Camper**, Superintendent I, and **Brian Grillot**, Equipment Operator IV, received their 5-year service pins; and **Jason Montagnino**, Superintendent II, and **Thomas Dillworth**, Equipment Operator IV received their 20 year service pins. **Kevin Price**, Superintendent II, retired after 31 years of service.



West Bank Parkways observes Diversity Awareness Week

# Retirements

**Terry Vaughn**  
**JeffCAP**  
**33 years**

**Rox Anne Sclafani**  
**Recreation**  
**33 years**

**Randy Arnold**  
**Water**  
**33 years**

**Herman Price**  
**Juvenile Services**  
**33 years**

**Scott Walker**  
**Streets**  
**33 years**

**Marlon Harding**  
**Streets**  
**33 years**

**Christian Luthjens**  
**Fleet Management**  
**32 years**

**Phan Tran**  
**Drainage**  
**31 years**

**Kevin Price**  
**Parkways**  
**31 years**

**Billie Hartline**  
**Sewerage**  
**30 years**

**Keith Thornton**  
**Drainage**  
**30 years**

**Roosevelt Baggett**  
**Traffic Engineering**  
**28 years**

## There She Blows!



**A floating pirate ship is the latest attraction at Holiday in the Park.  
—See Lafreniere Park’s article Page 12**