



Volume 37
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Jefferson

Message from the Parish President. . .

As your new Parish President, I would like to thank the employees of Jefferson Parish for your commitment, time, talent, and most of all working together to keep Jefferson Parish a great place to live.

My youth was deeply rooted in public service. My grandfather, Joseph S. Yenni, was the Mayor of Kenner, Jefferson Parish President, and community leader. My uncle, Michael J. Yenni, followed in his father's footsteps and served as Jefferson Parish President as well.

With such strong role models, I began a public service career at the early age of 15, volunteering to assist Mr. Henry Trapani, Director of the Jefferson Parish Citizens Affairs Office. I later became the director of that department, and then moved on to the City of Kenner. I served as Chief Administrative Officer to Mayor Ed Muniz, and became Mayor myself in 2010. I was re-elected in 2014.

Early last year, I saw an opportunity to serve Jefferson Parish as its President. I seized that opportunity, and am excited about all that we will accomplish as a team!



Michael Yenni
Parish President

As your Parish President, I will share my time on both banks of the Mississippi, and prove how one unified parish can move forward quickly and effectively.

My top priority is to speed progress across the board. Government has a responsibility to its citizens to improve the quality of life for everyone it serves.

We now have the opportunity for a new beginning in Jefferson Parish. As public servants it is our responsibility to work together and keep Jefferson Parish a great place to live and work.

As your Parish President, I am honored and grateful for this opportunity to work with the dedicated employees of Jefferson Parish.

JeffTalk

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- Parkways**
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- Streets**
Michelle Swenson
- Traffic Engineering**
Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**
Patricia Lyons
- Water**
Amy Truesdell
- Workforce Connection**
Carolyn Haynes

Editor's



Notes

Leave Donations Program

I am very glad to tell you about a new policy the Parish recently established that will help employees who are going through difficult personal circumstances. The “Voluntary Leave Transfer Program” allows employees to donate some of their accumulated Annual and Sick Leave to qualified fellow employees in need. Here are a few qualifications for Donors and Recipients:

Donors

- Can donate up to ten days of SL (Sick Leave) and ten days of AL (Annual Leave) in a 12-month period
- Must maintain 30 days of SL and 10 days of AL after donation
- Must donate at least one day
- Cannot donate to supervisor

Recipients:

- Must be employed with Parish for at least one year
- Must have a medical emergency—of self or immediate family
- Cannot be on Worker’s Comp
- Must have exhausted all appropriate paid leave
- Cannot receive more than 12 weeks of donated leave in a 12-month period
- Must use donated leave for purpose of the approved medical emergency



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

The appropriate forms for Donors and Recipients can be found on the Employee Intranet (<http://jpnet/home/>). Find the Voluntary Leave Donation Program link on the home page. Then you will see separate links for Classified (Civil Service) and Unclassified (appointed) employees.

Potential Donors should fill out the Donor Application. Potential Recipients should complete the Medical Certification and Recipient Application forms. Potential Donors and Recipients should submit their forms to their Appointing Authorities.

Since leave has monetary value, a calculation must be done to compensate for Donors and Recipients having different salaries. If the Recipient has a higher salary than the Donor, the Recipient will receive fewer hours of leave than were donated. Conversely, if the Donor has a higher salary than the Recipient, the Recipient will receive more hours than were donated.

For more details about the new Leave Transfer Program, see Rule IX, Section 18, of the Personnel Rules. Unclassified employees should consult the Executive Pay Plan.

Parkways

By
Marilyn Slutsky

A Great Loss

With deepest sympathy we sadly announce that **Thomas Dillworth**, Equipment Operator IV, passed away on December 21. Thomas had twenty-five years of service with the Drainage and Parkways Departments. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. All of us at the Parkways Department send our condolences to his family and friends.

Promotions

Congratulations to **Ronald Stackhouse**, who was promoted to Foreman II, and to **Donald Dillworth**, who was promoted to Equipment Operator III.

Christmas Tree Restoration

Parkways participated in the Christmas tree marsh restoration project this year, delivering the Christmas trees collected from



Thomas Dillworth

citizens of Jefferson Parish to the marshes, which helps restore and protect Jefferson Parish's coastal wetlands.

Projects and Improvements

For the 2016 Carnival season we have installed fences and banners along parade routes on Veterans Blvd. and Terry Parkway.

The design engineer, Linfield, Hunter & Junius, Inc., will complete the Manhattan Blvd. Landscape Beautification and Artwork/Signage Project by March 2016. (See photo Page 19)



Parkways employees who participated in the 2015 Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project: From left to right: Kevin Coleman, Travis Shipley, Jason Montagino, Herbert Gaines, and Ronald Stackhouse.

Library

By
Irene Lunkin

New to the Team

The Library Department is pleased to welcome East Bank Regional Reference Librarian II **Lita Brown**, Grand Isle Library Page **Caleb Boss**, and West Bank Regional Library Pages **Belinda Keller** and **India Noble-McKinley** to our library team.



Caleb Boss

Over 20 Years of Service

The Library is thankful for the following employees who have given us over 20 years of devoted service:

Marilyn Barbato 35 years, **Barbara Peoples Smith** 30 years, **Arleen McKay** 25 years, and **Jacques Abadie, Joseph Anzalone, Carolyn Cooley, Virgie Couret, Alton Domingue, Paula Harris, Dawn Garton, and Eileen Noullet** 20 years.

(See photo Page 5)



India Noble-McKinley and Belinda Keller

Christmas in the Park

For the past few holiday seasons, the Library partnered with the Recreation Department during the Christmas in the Park event. At the Library booth, the public was able to stop by to sign up and renew library cards, and play the “Library Trivia” game. Staff also performed Storytimes for the public on Friday and Saturday nights during the event. This year, over 4,000 people stopped by the library booth, which is higher attendance than any year previous.

The event serves as a great outreach to the community and

allows library staff to interact with the public in a fun and informative way.

The “Library Trivia” game was used as a way to educate the public on the services that the library provides, and in turn, the public asked questions that they may not normally ask when they come to the library.

The library staff really promoted digital content services this year such as Freegal, Hoopla, Zinio, 3M/Overdrive, and the other content. Lots of eyes lit up when the staff mentioned streaming movies for free at home and downloading free music.

For the Storytimes, a group of youth services staff started preparing in September by selecting the stories, adapting scripts, gathering props, and making costumes. The Storytime Troupe coordinated four stories that were done on different nights to keep things



EBR Reference Librarian Lita Brown assists a patron

fresh. The troupe performed *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Don’t Let the Pigeon Decorate the Christmas Tree*, *Santa Duck and His Merry Helpers*, and *Interrupting Chicken*.

Almost 1,000 people attended the Storytimes throughout the month and the staff received many compliments from the public who enjoyed the performances.

Tax Season

Administrative Assistant **Irene Lunkin** will coordinate and distribute IRS tax forms to Library facilities. It’s a tradition for the public to come to the library to get tax forms. Last year, the Louisiana Department of Revenue stopped printing and distributing LA Resident and Non-Resident tax booklets, and the IRS cut back on printing schedules and some IRS tax forms. This year, the library will only distribute the various IRS 1040 (1040, A, and EZ) tax forms. Although we won’t have as many paper IRS tax forms to distribute, we have links on our website to assist the public with obtaining the tax forms they need. Visit us at www.jplibrary.net, but I warn you, there are other things on the site that will perk your interest.



Christmas in the Park: Jennifer Bishop, Shannon Kitchens, Daisy Griffin, Danielle Joachim, Frank Cuadrado, Jennifer LaBurre, and Erin Korosi

Transit

By
Patricia Lyons

The Department of Transit Administration would like to welcome our new Director, **Sharon Leader**. Sharon has been in the transit industry for 30 years, first with the Regional Transit Authority and then as a transportation consultant with transit systems, the State DOTD, the Regional Planning Commission, the City of Kenner, and others. She is very happy to be working with Jefferson Parish at this exciting time in the Parish's history.



Library Director **Marylyn Haddican**
with Friends' Treasurer Peg Phelps and President Sandra Blount



New Transit Director Sharon Leader

Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library will have their **BIG BOOK SALE** benefiting the Jefferson Parish Library on Thursday, March 31 through Saturday, April 2, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and

Sunday, April 3, 2016, from noon till 5:00 p.m. at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. Over 60,000 used books, CDs, DVDs, videos, and records will be sold. Because of the Friends' book sales last year, they were able to donate \$100,000 to the library last December.



Library's 20+ year employees with their certificates:
Joseph Anzalone (20 yrs), Anna LeBlanc, Jacques Abadie (20 yrs), Paula Harris (20 yrs), Alton Domingue (20 yrs), Marilyn Barbato (35 yrs), Director Marylyn Haddican, Eileen Noullet (20 yrs), Verdie Richburg, and Alice Hubbard

There are many challenges ahead for mass transit in the region, and she is looking forward to working with the Council and the Administration to make the lives of our citizens as good as possible. Sharon is also happy to have come into a department with staff who know the job and want to make things better as well.

The Transit Administration office is located under the Westbank Expressway in Gretna at 21 Westbank Expressway on the east side of the Wilty Terminal. There are two transit facilities where the bus operations are located: 118 David Drive in Metairie, and 90 First Street in Gretna. There is another bus terminal, Walkertown, in Marrero.

Lafreniere Park

By
William Cangemi

Christmas in the Park

Parks and Recreation and Lafreniere Park outdid themselves with CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK 2015. Nearly *a thousand more cars* drove through the magical light display than did the year before. The folks inside those vehicles were treated to many brilliantly lit sculptures: a *spinning ferris wheel*, a *sea serpent*, and an *awesome pirate ship*. We salute the many employees who made this year's holiday festival such a success. They are surely already planning how they are going to make next year's celebration bigger and better.



The pirate ship at Christmas in the Park

Employee of the Year. Ronnie started work at the park 13 years ago as a Park Ranger before becoming a Groundskeeper picking up trash. He then moved up to Operator I, driving a mower instead of a gator. Then with some hard work, Ronnie landed the position of Operator III and can now be seen operating a backhoe throughout the park. He is a good guy and a great worker. The words "That's not my job" are not in Ronnie's vocabulary. He has certainly earned this award. *Way to go, Big Guy!*

Snow Day

Another holiday attraction here at the park is our annual SNOW DAY. On this past December 12, *6000 kids!* went wild in the nearly *48 tons* of snow pumped out on the grounds by the Pelican Ice company. Now that was a sight!

Employee of the Year

Operator III **Ronnie Tew** has been named Lafreniere Park's



Lafreniere Park's Employee of the Year Ronnie Tew with Park Manager Barry McGuinness

General Services

By
Tessa St. Pierre

Welcome

The General Services Family would like to give a big welcome to **Christy Calmette** and **Raymond Fernandez!** Christy has joined the team as the new Secretary, and she is already a great asset to our department. Raymond will be joining the jail as a Stationary Engineer II.

Retirement

After 13 years of dedication and outstanding work, **Mr. George Edgerson** has retired. We are sad to see him leave, but we know he is living it up sleeping in and playing his guitar.



George Edgerson with GS Director Anthony Francis

Congratulations

Stephanie Bush has been promoted to Administrative Assistant, **Michelle Dufrene** is the new Executive Superintendent, **Eric Lotz** and **Brian Williams** are now Stationary Engineers' I, and **Richard Peart** has been promoted to Stationary Engineer III. We are extremely proud of them and all of their accomplishments.

Juvenile Services

By
Vicki Borja

DEPARTURES:

The Department of Juvenile Services would like to send our best wishes to **David Vicari**, who is leaving to work for Juvenile Court. Good luck, David!

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:

Everyone at Juvenile Services would also like to congratulate the following employees for being Employee of the Month:

December 2015

Detention: **John Shepherd**, Juvenile Detention Officer II
Probation: **Pierre Hollins**, Probation Officer II

January 2016

Detention: **Gerald Daniels**, Juvenile Detention Officer II

Probation: **Phyllis Jefferson**, Probation Officer II
Keep up the great work!

PIN CEREMONY:

We would like to congratulate the following recipients on receiving their service pins:

- Joan Ruiz**, 30 years
- Lori Winters**, 25 years
- Christi Lacombe**, 25 years
- Linda Bostick**, 20 years
- Lisa Cole**, 20 years
- Violet Troulliet**, 20 years

BLOOD DRIVE:

Thanks to everyone who donated during the December 2015 blood drive. We met our goal of 15 donations and recaptured the Bloodhound trophy.

Emergency Management

By
Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade

Emergency Management congratulates Williesteen Burroughs, Typist Clerk III, on her 20 years of service to Jefferson Parish obtained during the service pin ceremony held on December 4, 2015. Williesteen is an important component of our department and we look forward to her continued service.



Williesteen Burroughs is congratulated by Andrew Maestri

Early Hurricane

The 2016 hurricane season got a very early start with Hurricane Alex on January 13 with no threat to the U.S. The last tropical storm to form in January was in 1978. In 2015, Tropical Storm Ana formed in early May.

Emergency Management will be conducting several training classes, exercises, and a Hurricane Preparedness Day in anticipation of the 2016 hurricane season. The 2016 hurricane and storm activity predictions will come out in April. It is never too early to begin preparedness activities ahead of the season.



Juvenile Services Director Roy Juncker presents Lori Winters, Linda Bostick, Lisa Cole, Christi Lacombe, and Joan Ruiz with their service pins

Water

By
Amy Truesdell

The New Year has started out with a bang, and thanks to EB Utility Billing Clerk III **Brigid Smith-Johnson** we are all trying to work off an extra five pounds of Holiday Cheer. Brigid hosted a Cookie Swap for Christmas. There were dozens of cookies to sample, and the eggnog was flowing....Thanks to Brigid for bringing in some delicious holiday joy.

Kevin Sampey, Zachary North, Charlene Singleton, and Willie Jordan of the WB Distribution division hosted a Toys for Tots drive and accepted donations on behalf of the entire Water Department. They loved playing Santa for kids in need.

The EB Water Plant bid Adieu to **Lawrence Aymami**, who retired in December; **Bruce Tumblin** was promoted to Waterline Maintenance Superintendent I; **Gary Centanni** retired after 33 year of service to the Water Department as a Water Service Inspector Supervisor; and **Mary St. Pierre** is



Brigid Smith-Johnson (with arrow) hosted the Christmas "Cookie Swap"

taking over as the new Water Service Inspector Supervisor.



Gary Centanni

Zelda Laiieke transferred to EB Distribution as a Clerk III; **Patrick Sumler** was promoted to Water Service Inspector III in EB Utility Billing; **Darren Her-ring** was promoted to Data

Entry Operator III in EB Utility Billing; Congratulations to All!

Service pins were distributed to the following employees: 5 Years: Typist Clerk III **Mary Heirsch**; Laborer **Christopher Kinzey**; and Water Service Inspector II **Christopher Toppins**; 10 Years: Grand Isle Waterline Maintenance Superintendent II **Robert Armand**; and 15 Years: Water Quality Scientist I **Heather Davis**. Keep up the good work!

Several of our employees were invited to attend the Pin Ceremony in the Council Chambers for 20 years or more of service for Jefferson Parish. Among the recipients were Director **Salvador Maffei, Jr.**; Dispatcher **Carolyn Silas**; Water Service Inspector I **Ralph Andrews**; Utility Billing Clerk II **Diana Evans**; Utility Billing Superintendent **Rennice Young**; Waterline Maintenance Foreman **David Licciardi**; Water Service Inspector II **Ray Heffner**; Equipment Operator III **Eugene Joseph**; Utility Billing Supervisor **Lillian Nelson**; Water General Superintendent **Tyrell Chatman**; Water Purification Superintendent I **Daniel Barilleaux**; and Water Purification Operator IV **Troy Tranchant**. Thanks for all your dedication and hard work!



At the recent Pin Ceremony: Diana Evans, Carolyn Silas, Ray Heffner, Director Salvador Maffei, Jr., Public Works Director Kazem Alikhani, Rennice Young, Lillian Nelson, Tyrell Chatman, and David Liccardi.

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Continuing Education

On January 20, HR Managers **Nancy Rodriguez** and **Fran Robichaux**, along with Training Specialist II **Yvonne Keller**, attended Strategic Leadership Solutions: Building Vision, Alignment, and Execution. The presentation on building, navigating, and reinforcing a company's mission, vision, and values was part of the NOLA-SHRM January luncheon meeting series.

Nancy also attended a webinar, Bipolar Disorders- HR's roadmap for ADA Accommodations and Practical Issues. From the webinar, Nancy learned that 1 in 4 adults in the workplace has a mental disorder of some kind and that 2.6 % of the adult population is bipolar.

During January, HR Director **Peggy Barton** participated in a webinar titled 2016 Government Affairs Update.

Safety Training

On January 20, Safety Program Manager **Nolan Guidry** and Safety Officer **Wayne Jones** attended fire extinguisher safety training conducted by Fire Prevention Chief **Dennis Guidry** and Fire Education Officer **Randy Cookmeyer**.

Two training sessions were conducted in the rear of the Rheem Building for employees from the East Bank Warehouse and the Environmental Affairs Department. After the instruction was provided, participants were provided the opportunity to fight a fire under the supervision of firefighters.

Code Enforcement

By
Amanda Wardwell

Previously as Kenner's Code Enforcement Director, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Inspection and Code Enforcement Director **Aimee Vallot**. We are excited to have you as part of our team and can't wait to see what's in store for the future!



New Code Director
Aimee Vallot

Look who got promoted!! Congratulations to **Danny Ferrara**, who was promoted to Inspection & Code Enforcement's new Regulatory Manager. Previously working in Inspection and Code Enforcement as Permit Manager, we are very excited to announce Danny's well-deserved promotion and wish him the very best success. We know he will accomplish great things!



New Regulatory Manager
Danny Ferrara



Fire Extinguisher training at the Rheem Building



20+ Year Service Recognition Award: Assistant Regulatory Manager **David Cobb**, Former Regulatory Manager **David Williams**, Regulatory Manager **Danny Ferrara**, Building Insp III **John Segura**, Former Director **Tiffany Wilken**, Assistant Director **John Piglia**

A few fond farewells are in order. We said goodbye to former clerical staff member in the Electrical department, **Melissa Lirette**, who transferred to Community Development, as well as, front desk receptionist **Alecia Washington**, who went to our Engineering Department.

Additionally, we would like to congratulate Building Plan Reviewer III **Paul Pham** & Building Inspector III **John Segura** on 20+ years of service with Jefferson Parish. We appreciate your dedication and hard work.

Our previous Director **Tiffany Wilken** is now with our Parish Attorney's office. We wish

them all the best as they take on new endeavors. In retirement news, after 33 years with Jefferson Parish, Inspection and Code Enforcement Regulatory Manager **David Williams** retired in January 2016. We would like to congratulate him for his years of service with Jefferson Parish! We hope you enjoy retirement to the fullest!

We would like to welcome our new employees, Public Records Clerk **Jasmine Williams**, Front Desk Clerk **Jarlyn Johnson**, and Electrical Clerk **Morgan White**. Thank you for joining our team, and we look forward to having you as part of the Inspection and Code Enforcement family.



Christmas Party Fun: Jacqueline Taylor, Mariea Lucas, David Williams, Doretha Parker, and Amanda Wardwell.

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sterling Lane**, who retired on January 15, 2016, with over 33 years of service. Sterling was General Superintendent of our Lines Division. Although he will be missed, we wish Sterling the best as he begins a new chapter of life.

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

Adolph Grimes was promoted to General Superintendent of Lines.

Alexander Arnaud was promoted to Trades Helper at Eastbank Lift Stations.

Patrick Barrios was promoted to Lift Station Inspector at Westbank Lift Stations.

Leo Williams was promoted to Superintendent I at Eastbank Lines.

Darrin Champagne was promoted to Operator II at the Marroero Plant.

Godfrey Rixner was promoted to Operator III at the Eastbank Plant.

Congratulations to the following employees who were recently recognized for 20 or more years of service to Jefferson Parish:

20 Years

Mary Kropog
Rodney Blanchard
Russell Norris

25 Years

Mary Grace Bealer
Eva "Lucie" Claverie
Alicia Harper
John Jessie

Louis Morris
Morris Sapia



Morris Sapia

30 Years

Kevin Adams
James Robinson
Adolph Grimes
Isaac Salsberry
Duane Duhe

Congratulations to the employees at the Eastbank Wastewater Treatment Plant who recently received their 5-Year Service Pin Awards: **Royal Terrell, Robert Heckler, John LeBlanc, Vernon James, and Brad McAdam.**

WELCOME

Welcome new employees:
Glenn Abadie – Operator
Anthony Dillard – Laborer
Joe Johnson – Truck Driver II
Marcus Jones – Lift Station Inspector
Gregory Marshall – Equipment Operator I
Raymond Plaisance – Trades Helper
Jackqueline Reynolds – Lift Station Inspector
Angelo SamMartino – Lift Station Inspector
Joseph Weadd – Truck Driver II

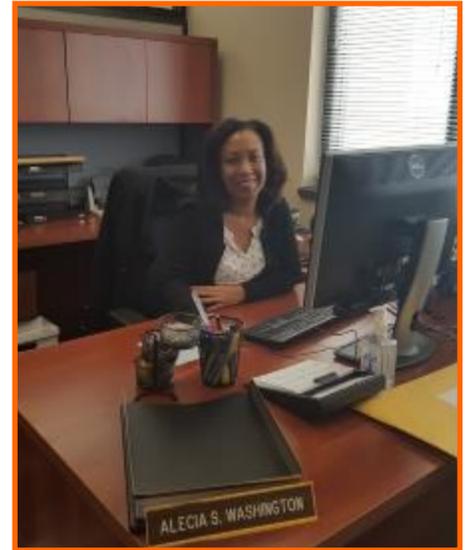


30-year Sewerage foreman Kevin Adams in action

Engineering

By
Helen McGee

Engineering welcomes, **Alecia Washington.** Alecia came by way Code Enforcement! Welcome to Engineering ,Alecia!



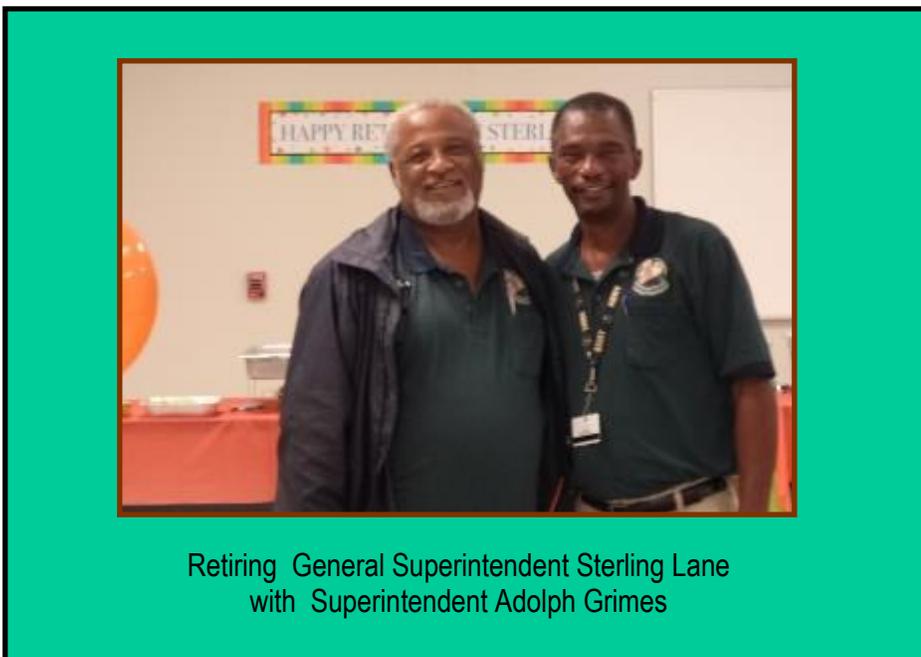
Alecia Washington

Engineering also welcomes **Glenn Hutchinson, Robert Ola, and Garrick Huhner** to SCADA.

Well wishes to **Jeremy Horowitz,** Drafting, and **Ming Nguyen,** SCADA. Both have left Engineering to pursue other employment opportunities.

It was great seeing **Tim Guidry,** Engineering Inspector, who retired on August 1, 2014. Mr. Guidry came in and finally received his retirement certificate.

The Westbank Warehouse bid a fond farewell to **Ronald Boudreaux,** who retired after 7 years of Service following 39 years at his previous employment. A tribute luncheon and presentation was held in his honor at the Westbank Warehouse. Congratulations and Happy Retirement! .



Retiring General Superintendent Sterling Lane with Superintendent Adolph Grimes

Engineering is sending a big congratulations and farewell wishes to **Dianna Dutreix**, Secretary to the Director, with 29 plus years of service with Jefferson Parish. Dianna is being celebrated at the end of this month. Picture will be forthcoming. Dianna surely will be missed.



Dianna Dutreix

Engineering employees received Service Pins. 30 years of Service: **Mark McDonald** and **Barbara Gilbert**, 20 years. Congratulations!

Diversity Advisory Board

By
Melissa Muhoberac

On January 21, 2016, the Jefferson Parish Employee Diversity Advisory Board (JPEDAB) met at the West Bank Regional Library. Since the recording secretary position is vacant, Co-chair **Ingrid Johnson** took minutes for this meeting and recommended Board members rotate taking minutes until the position is filled. Also, the *Diversity Matters* newsletter was brought up by **Glenn Schiro** as a means to increase visibility of the JPEDAB. Co-chair **Emann Batiste** intends to speak with **Sean Hurley** about the next deadline and production dates to explore this option.

Royce Blanchard announced that he has spoken with new COO **Keith Conley** about the purpose of the JPEDAB, and it is likely some Directors will fill vacancies on the Board. Parish attorney **Mike Power** has assigned **Brad Richard** as the legal

advisor to the JPEDAB. Also, Glenn Schiro met with new CAA **Diane Roussel** about the Board and will arrange a meeting with the co-chairs.

The Board was eager to discuss new ideas for 2016. **Brigid Johnson** suggested the Board take a more active role and increase events. **Yvette Russo** stressed board member attendance and increased membership. Royce Blanchard believes the Board was productive in its goal to “Increase Public Awareness” for 2015. Emann Batiste and Royce Blanchard also discussed the benefits of recruiting Directors of larger departments as new members of the Board. **Geraldine Jackson** would like field employees to be included, and Yvette Russo recommended Field Supervisors be considered as board members.

Yvette Russo also suggested that the Board incorporate a regular activity such as Quarterly Diversity Day where an activity is performed within departments to continue the spirit of diversity all year long. Everyone was in favor of this idea. Geraldine Jackson would like to see more department interaction. Royce Blanchard encouraged continued Board progression. Ingrid Johnson, Co-chair recommended a Diversity Pamphlet to educate new members.

Co-chair Emann Batiste requested each board member to be honest with him/herself and consider our own personal biases. She suggested that when we consider that which we do not understand or fear we open a door for knowledge. She asked that we think on this and discuss these biases at the next meeting.

The next Jefferson Parish Employee DAB meeting will be announced at a later date.



Warehouse Superintendent Jerry Zeringue, Mark McDonald, Barbara Gilbert, and Director Mark Drewes

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Welcome & Congratulations!

As 2016 begins, 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. **Amy Hellmers, LaMeka Harris, Chad Mangosing, Jerome Davis Jr., Billy Bryant Jr., Michael Kramer, Keith Hill, and Sean Kinzey** have all begun their careers with Drainage. Also, we would like to congratulate the following for their recent promotions: **Brady Reed and Reginald Matthews.**

Award Pins

The Department of Drainage awarded service pins to employees that have been with us for 20, 25, 30, and 35 years. The following dedicated employees received service pins for 20 years: **Travis Ardoin, Robert Federico, Elizabeth Scioneaux, Pierre Smith,**

Debbie Brignac, and Thomas Robinson; 25 years: **Brion Adams, Linita Bonvillian, Derrin Robinson, and Jerome Seymour Sr.;** 30 years: **Kenneth Babin, Keith Carriere, Bradley Dunn, Jalthus Mannery, David Monaco, and Keith Price;** and lastly 35 years: **Larry Palmisano.** We would like to thank you for your hard work thus far and look forward to seeing what you all will accomplish in the future.

Fond Farewells

While new faces were being introduced to our Drainage family, we said good-bye to one amazing hard-working person that retired after countless years of dedication and hard work. Drainage Maintenance Superintendent **Kenneth Babin** retired on January 15. Kenny was an asset to the Drainage Department for over 30 years. We appreciate everything that he has done for the department and wish him all the best on the beginning of his retirement!

Have a safe, happy Mardi Gras!

Parks & Recreation

By
Antoinette Holmes

We want to give a special congratulations to our retirees **Tim O'Quinn (33 years), Earl Incardona (28 years), Dwight Galiano (27 years), and Robert Ragland (13 years).**



Earl Incardona

Congratulations to **Daisey & Darrell Acosta** on their double blessing with new twin grandbabies Ethan & Finley Colletti.

WESTBANK UPDATES: **Avondale Playground** – We are in the beginning stages of renovating the Avondale playground. Once the contractor is selected, we will begin a major over haul. **Glisson Park Boat Launch** – We are in the final stages of renovating the Glisson Park Boat Launch and Fishing Pier.

EASTBANK UPDATES: **LaSalle Park:** We will be celebrating “National Arbor Day” on Thursday, January 28, 2016. A special



Keith Price, Keith Carriere, Larry Palmisano, Kazem Alikhani, Derrin Robinson, and Dominick Ditcharo

day set aside to plant trees and honor the importance of wise stewardship and the contribution made by trees. **Miley Playground** – we are adding the finishing touches to the new Multi-Purpose Building located at 6900 Saints Drive, Metairie. We are expecting to open our new building in February/March.



Dwight Galiano

BONNABEL BOAT LAUNCH: We are renovating the Backdown 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: We are beautifying Lafreniere Park! We renovated the Boardwalk and Pavilion. There is also going to be an addition of a new Ornate Clock.



Golden Agers West Bank Royalty

PARC DES FAMILLES UPDATE: We are adding the finishing touches to Parc Des Familles Video Marquee.

Our 58th Annual Golden Agers Ball was a huge success. Parks and Recreation utilized this moment to celebrate our Senior Community. Congratulations to the East Bank Golden Age 2016 King and Queen (**Ray Eiffert** and **Lorraine Royes**). Congratulations to the West Bank Golden Age 2016 King and Queen (**Arthur Schloegel**



East Bank Golden Agers Royalty

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

Environmental Affairs would like to welcome our new director, **Mike Lockwood**. Mike holds a Master of Science in Public Health from Tulane and a Class IV Wastewater Treatment Operator certification. Mike previously was the Plant Manager for the East Bank Wastewater Treatment Plant, followed by several years at private engineering firms.

Welcome to the team!

Congratulations to **Inga Dupre**, Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator, and **Evaline Armstrong**, Administrative Assistant, on receiving their 25-year service pins in December. Congratulations also to **Jason Smith**, Coastal Programs Coordinator, on receiving his 20-year service pin in December.

In late November 2015, **Tom Cooper**, Environmental Quality Technician, traveled to Australia to attend his son's wedding. His son is a mining engineer working in Australia.

Sami Khalil, Stormwater Management Supervisor, was nominated for the GNO Water Collaborative's Steering Committee, a collaborative of more than 200 architects, engineers, business-people, and community leaders working together to improve water management in Southeast Louisiana. Guided by the vision and principles of the Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan, the collaborative facilitates the flow of information on emerging technology, public policy and funding opportunities while fostering effecting partnerships with focus on demonstra-

tion projects, policy research, advocacy, education, and outreach.

In January, **Sami Khalil** led Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) training classes to approximately 100 General Services staff members. Presentations were done on both the East Bank and West Bank to update employees regarding federal, state, and local SPCC regulations and available Best Management Practices to control pollutants in stormwater runoff. The training classes are held annually.

On January 4, 2016, our Storm Water Division staff began working with high school students from Metairie Park Country Day School and their science teacher on a Sewer Science Project, wherein students learn about municipal wastewater treatment via a hands-on laboratory, using specially designed tanks, analytical equipment, and a student workbook. The project will be followed with a classroom visit to our East Bank Treatment Plant.



Barbara Arcement at Fire Extinguisher training

On January 20, 2016, Environmental Affairs employees, along with employees from the East Bank Public Works Warehouse, participated in Fire Extinguisher Training conducted by the Safety Division and the East Bank Fire Department at the Rheem Building yard. The Fire Department lit fires and each employee got to use the fire extinguisher to put the fire out. It was a valuable learning experience for all.

All departments would benefit from this training.

Environmental Affairs completed its 26th annual Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration project on January 9, 2016, when pre-constructed shoreline fences in Goose Bayou, near the Town of Jean Laffite, became home for 10,000 recycled trees. Thanks to the large number of volunteers and those from the New Orleans Organ Grinders dance troupe, the project was able to be completed in just one day.

Additionally, a number of boats were provided by volunteers and the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and local Fire Departments including East Bank Consolidated, Kenner, Lafitte Barataria Crown Point, and Avondale. Several Parish departments contributed to the project, including Parkways, Streets, Recreation, Engineering, Fleet Management, Emergency Management, and Juvenile Services.

Although the state no longer provides funding for the tree marsh restoration projects, Jefferson Parish has been able to continue this successful program thanks to a generous donation of \$25,000 from DynoNobel and thanks to the cooperative effort of Wood Materials, LLC in accepting some of the trees to be beneficially used at their local composting facility, and to Cochira's Marina where the event is held. We would like to thank all individual volunteers and organizations for helping with the huge success of this year's project.



Sami Khalil conducts SPCC training for General Services employees

Over here at Jefferson Community Action
 We Keep Our Smiles Because of our Employees & Director Jedidiah Jackson
 Our Community Centers And Head Start Centers
 Are Better Than the Rest
 Our Central Office and LIHEAP Team
 Has Got to be the Best
 So If You're Ever Feeling Down And Out
 You Don't have to walk a Mile
 Just Come On Up to Suite 402
 "JEFF CAP" WILL MAKE YOU SMILE"
 Kim "Phlowatres" Kelly

Planning

By
Nedra Tate

PLANNING DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT SEGMENT



Richard "Rich" Gillen is our Jefferson Parish Landscape Architect. Rich started with the Planning Department in June of 2014.

When we asked Rich what made him decide to become a Landscape Architect, it was so easy to see that he is a person who really enjoys what he does. He says his field of choice was easy because of his love for plants, gardening, and finding ways to help create a beautiful city.

Rich was born and raised in New Orleans and graduated from LSU. After college he moved to Baltimore, MD, for 8 years before moving again to Memphis, TN, for 25 years.

After Hurricane Katrina, Rich moved to Jefferson Parish, where he currently resides in River Ridge. He also teaches Horticulture at Delgado Community College in the evenings.

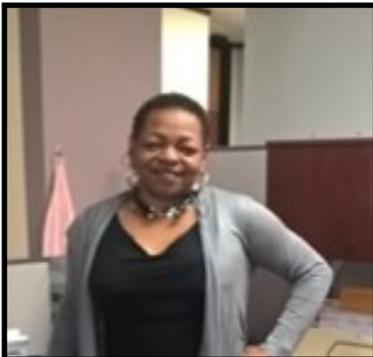
With more than 26 years in the Landscape Contracting Industry, we are happy to have him working with us in the Jefferson Parish Planning Department.

JeffCAP

By
Kim Kelly

Welcome Aboard

JeffCAPap would Like to Welcome Aboard Typist Clerk III **Kim Kelly**, transferred from the Drainage Dept./Laborer.



Kim Kelly

HEAD START

Welcome & Congratulations!

As we step into the New Year, JeffCAP Head Start has a lot of new faces and we would like to welcome them all aboard. Also, congratulations to Ms. **Juli Barthelemy**, promoted to Education Coordinator and Ms. **Sandra Hill**, promoted to Social Service Coordinator. While we are introducing our new hires and congratulating our promotions, we are sad to have lost one of our angels, Ms. **Rosie Hampton Mabry**. Ms. Rosie worked at Causeway Head Start as a teacher; she was a diligent, reliable, hard worker. We will truly miss her.



Timothea Green



Coming Soon

Jeff Caps 2016 Summer Employment Program Is On The Way, Ages 18-21, Jefferson Parish Residents Only

Purchasing

By
Laniel Francis

Purchasing Director Brenda Campos presented Ms. Carol Grasper her certificate for 30 years with Jefferson Parish. She began her journey with the parish at the Environmental Department as a Typist Clerk. She also worked with JeffCap and Juvenile Services. She is finishing her years with the Purchasing Department. We truly want to thank her for all her dedication and service with Jefferson Parish!



Purchasing would like to Welcome Shana Folse to our team. Thank you for joining our team. The Purchasing Department would like to Congratulate: Donna Reamy, Melissa Ovalle, and Donna Evans on their promotion from Buyer 1 to Buyer 2. All these ladies are truly an asset, and key components to ensuring that our department is successful! Thank you again, Ladies!

Ask Personnel

By
Lauren Call

Pay Plan Study Under Way

Jefferson Parish has begun the process of updating the Pay Plan for the Classified Service, the Executive Pay Plan, and the Judicial Pay Plan. The Departments of Human Resource Management and Personnel are diligently working with the consultant, The Archer Company, to update each pay plan.

This process is scheduled for completion this summer. Following the final presentation from the consultant, public hearings will be scheduled. These public hearings will allow employees the opportunity to comment on the findings. Following the hearings, the Personnel Board will vote on the Pay Plan for the Classified Service. If approved, the Pay Plans will be included on the Parish Council's agenda for a vote. The last study took place in 2005 and 2006; the new Pay Plans became effective in January 2007.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact the Personnel Department (504-364-2730).

Employee Health

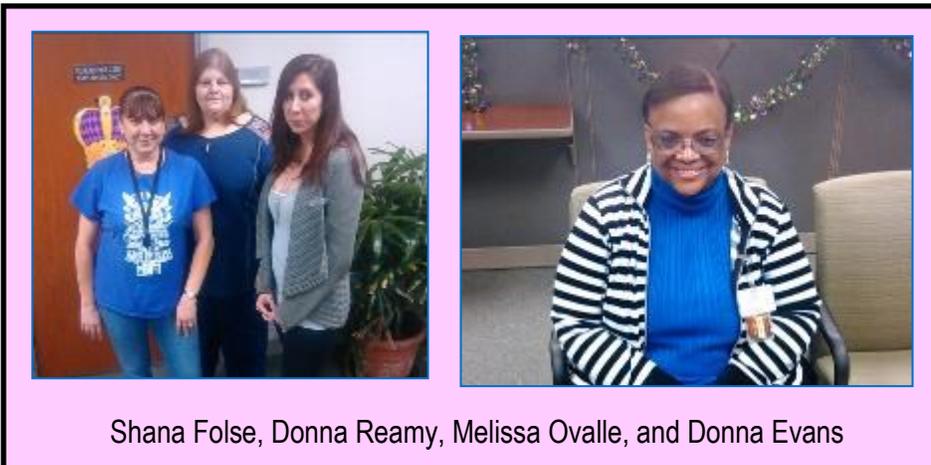
By
Peggy Branan, RN



A Happy New Year to all! If you made any resolutions, you are not alone. Countless numbers of people use this time of year to implement their changes. Unfortunately, for most, the changes are short-lived. However, statistics have shown that people can increase their chances for success if they have a support system to encourage them along the way. My office is always open to any employee who would like to meet with me to discuss any concerns they may have as well as to work on developing healthy goals to improve one's quality of life!

Now, we will continue where we left off in our last *JefTalk* article, describing how the human body's natural defenses fight off microorganisms.

To understand the chemical defenses within the body, it is important to start with discussing how cells work. Cells are constantly in a state of growing, reproducing, or dying. In order for these processes to occur, chemical reactions within the cell, under the direction of enzymes, are continually taking place. An enzyme is made from amino acids. Amino acids are made from proteins. Proteins are obtained from our diet. NOTE: This is why it is so important to eat a well-balanced diet to ensure you obtain the proper balance of protein in your diet to



Shana Folse, Donna Reamy, Melissa Ovalle, and Donna Evans

allow your body to be able to function properly.

There are numerous enzymes specifically designed to protect the body against microorganisms by: preventing bacterial growth, stimulating the immune response, raising the body temperature, blocking healthy cells from becoming infected, creating hostile acidic environments, breaking down bacterial cells, etc. Enzyme activity can be found on the surface of the skin, within the body, and in body fluids, such as tears, saliva, sweat, urine, mucus, ear wax, and nasal secretions.

Likewise, the body also has specialty cells that are designed to keep the body healthy. For example, cells communicate with the immune system to break down microorganisms and foreign substances, scoop up the debris, and coordinate the removal of the debris from the body.

Another aspect of being healthy is the presence of the body's "normal microflora." Normal microflora refers to various types of microorganisms that, *within a balance*, live on or within the human body. These normal floras can assist the body by fighting off other organisms trying to invade "their" space. Also, they may be needed for normal bodily functions to take place, as with *E. coli* in the intestinal tract. Unfortunately, if these microbes travel to places where they don't belong or if there is an overgrowth, they can become problematic!

Microorganisms that enter the body trigger the inflammation process. During this process, the body will go through a series of steps to: prevent the further spread of infection, destroy the offending germs, and begin the rebuilding process to repair the damaged

body tissues.

Next, the body's antibody immune response is a critical function. Molecules called antigens are located on the surface of body cells and in bodily fluids. Antigens are also part of the structure of all microorganisms. The healthy body's immune system is able to recognize the difference between its own and any foreign antigen sources. However, if the body loses the ability to differentiate between the two, the person may develop an autoimmune disease whereby the body starts to attack itself.

Once body cells detect an unknown foreign antigen, the immune response begins. The body will respond by producing antibodies to attack the offending agent. The body also produces "B memory cells" that do not produce antibodies, but they do keep a memory of the genetic makeup of that offending antigen which it stores to use at a later date if it is re-infected.

Finally, the body develops immunity in two ways: naturally or artificially. Natural immunity occurs when the individual is

exposed to an antigen within one's natural environment. The immune response, noted above, then takes place. Some examples of how to acquire natural immunity include: children getting dirty while playing outdoors and catching colds. Artificial immunity occurs when antigens are introduced into the body in an artificial manner, a vaccine. Then, the body responds by producing antibodies to the antigens found in the vaccine.

To think that anti-microbial drugs have only been used for approximately one-hundred years says a lot about the ability of the body to fight off and survive microbial attacks! However, while the body may be an effective germ-killing machine, there are times when prescriptions would be appropriate. Always consult with your doctor if you think you have a condition that may require a prescription. NOTE: Antibiotics should only be taken when a bacterial infection exists. Also, they should be taken as prescribed to ensure that all of the bacteria are killed so as to prevent any surviving bacteria from becoming resistant to the antibiotic.



Planning Director Terri Wilkinson and Assistant Director Juliette Cassagne congratulate Planner II Esbii Ogholoh for 30 years of service

Retirements

David Williams
Code Enforcement
33 years

Gary Centanni
Water
32 years

Kenneth Babin
Drainage
30 years

Clyde Batiste
Streets
28 years

Elizabeth Ruth
Community Development
28 years

Christopher Smith
Water
27 years

Darlene Fleetwood
General Services
26 years

Helen White
Community Development
26 years

Gary Aragon
Streets
25 years

Mary Johnson
Library
24 years

Linwood Simien
Sewerage
20 years

Barbara Gilbert
Engineering
19 years

Jacalyn Casey
Citizens' Affairs
18 years

Dennis LeBlanc
Streets
17 years

Lois Lartigue
Human Resources
17 years



The Manhattan Blvd. Landscape Beautification and Artwork/Signage Project. — *Read Parkways article on Page 3.*