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Jefferson

Message from the Parish President. . .

Recognizing Outstanding Contributions!

As your President, I pride myself in knowing that all of our Parish employees are dedicated and working hard to serve the citizens of this great parish.

Your commitment and dedication to public service is often acknowledged by agencies and organizations across the country. I would like to share some of the recent recognition awards that some of our co-workers and colleagues have received for their efforts.

I'd like to congratulate our **Environmental Affairs** Department and "Keep Jefferson Beautiful," the recipient of the 2015 Keep America Beautiful President's Circle Award. The award recognized exemplary performance made by certified affiliates of the national non-profit in creating clean, green and beautiful communities.

Congratulations to Ms. Terri Wilkinson, **Planning** Director and Mr. Mark Drewes, **Engineering** Director, who worked on the Parish's Master Bicycle Plan with the Regional Planning staff, its consultants and a seven-member citizen's advisory committee appointed by the Jefferson Parish Council. The Jefferson Parish Master Bicycle Plan has been selected to receive the "Excellence Award for a Plan" awarded by the American Planning Association, Louisiana Chapter. The award is given for a comprehensive plan for a specific topic such as transportation, housing, economic development, community facilities, parks and



Michael Yenni
Parish President

open space, or hazards mitigation; with an emphasis on plans that advance the science and art of planning.

Congratulations to our **Finance** Department on being the recipient of the Government Finance Officers Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Finance Reporting. This award is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

Our Finance Department is also the recipient of the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 29th consecutive year. The Certificate for Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental account and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

On behalf of all the citizen of Jefferson Parish, I congratulate you!

JeffTalk

Editor.....Peggy O. Barton
 Managing Editor.....Greg Alexander

Departmental Reporters

- Alario Center**
Deirdre Cummings
- Animal Shelter**
Danielle Williams
- Citizens' Affairs**
Brandie Lange
- Community Development**
Toya Jones
- Drainage**
Sheena Quinn Bauer
- Emergency Management**
Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**
Helen McGee
- Environmental Affairs**
Kathy Russo
- Finance Authority**
Sheila Rodrigue
- Fleet Management**
Stephanie Gaudet
- General Services**
Tessa St. Pierre
- Human Resource Management**
Glenn Schiro
- Inspection & Code Enforcement**
Amanda Wardwell
- JeffCAP**
Kim Kelly
- Juvenile Services**
Vicki Borja
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Irene Lunkin
- Parks & Recreation**
Antoinette Holmes & William Cangemi
- Parkways**
Marilyn Slutsky
- Planning**
Nedra Tate
- Purchasing**
Laniel Francis
- Sewerage**
Venice Cooper
- Streets**
Kenya Johnson
- Traffic Engineering**
Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**
Patricia Lyons
- Water**
Amy Truesdell
- Workforce Connection**
Carolyn Haynes

Editor's



Notes

Ensuring a Respectful Workplace

To ensure that Jefferson Parish promotes and preserves a respectful workplace, the Training Division of Human Resource Management has conducted mandatory workplace harassment training for all Parish supervisors every two years since 2004. This year's program, *Workplace Harassment 2016: Positive Actions to Prevent Negative Reactions*, will be conducted from April through September. It is designed to provide our supervisors with the knowledge and skills they need to develop good management practices that establish and maintain a respectful workplace.

We should all be proud that Jefferson Parish took the lead in mandating harassment and discrimination training for its supervisors and managers back in 2004 although there was no state or federal mandate that we do so. This year marks the seventh mandatory training for our supervisors, not counting the exposure to the issue of workplace harassment that all new supervisors receive in our Basic Supervision course. Besides reinforcing familiar discrimination topics with the latest court cases, the 2016 program will cover new areas, such as workplace gossip and transgender rights.

The Parish recognizes the importance of its supervisors responding properly when employees voice concerns about harassment or discrimination or when



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

supervisors witness such behavior themselves. All Parish employees can be assured that their supervisors have been trained to deal with these types of issues professionally and as confidentially as possible. In addition, all of the Parish's Human Resource Managers are professionally trained in harassment and discrimination issues and can advise employees and supervisors on the best course of action to solve workplace problems and misunderstandings before they grow into more serious issues.

In the area of harassment training for non-supervisory employees, you are all aware of the mandatory online sexual harassment program that all employees have been required to complete annually since 2013. Soon we will be adding another online program on general workplace harassment for all employees. That program will introduce everyone to the federally protected categories and their significance in the workplace. All departments will be notified when that program is online later this year.

Familiarity with the Parish's policies on harassment and discrimination will enhance employees' understanding of their rights and responsibilities. With proper training, we are all better equipped to do our part to sustain a positive environment through the respectful treatment of fellow employees.

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

We wish you the best, Aubrey

We say good bye to Benefits Administrator **Aubrey DeVillier**, who retires on April 1. Aubrey has spent nearly twelve years working hard to provide quality benefits at reasonable costs to the employees and retirees of Jefferson Parish. In reflecting about his employment, Aubrey said “I have made many friends here, and I will miss the people working for the Parish.”

Aubrey is looking forward to spending time with his family, especially his two grandsons.

Good luck, Aubrey, and thank you for a job well done.

Congratulations

We congratulate **Peggy Barton**, who has been our Human Resource Director for the past five years. Thank you, Peggy, for your excellent leadership.

We also offer kudos to HR Manager **Nancy Rodriguez**, who in March celebrated fifteen years of employment with the Parish. Prior to becoming an HR Manager, Nancy was a trainer in our department.

Very special congratulations to our Assistant Director **Nicole Thompson** and her husband Alvin on the birth of their beautiful daughter Nia on November 14.

Continuing Education

HR Manager Nancy Rodriguez and Training Specialist II **Glenn Schiro** attended the Diversity and Inclusion Seminar held on February 26 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Nancy and Training Specialist II **Yvonne Keller** learned a lot from the speaker at the March 16 NOLA SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) luncheon. The speaker’s presentation focused on the future of HR in a changing global workplace.

Congratulations and Thank You

Our Parish Nurse **Peggy Branam**, RN-BC,CHC, has recently obtained the certification of “Certified Health Coach.” The health coaching techniques that Peggy learned through this certification process will allow her to better assist our employees who are seeking to improve

their health. You are encouraged to meet with our Parish Nurse to discuss any health concerns you may have and especially if you are having difficulty developing a strategy to initiate healthy behavior changes.

Also, thank you, Peggy, for working with our Parish Administration in scheduling a successful blood donation drive for a wounded JPSO deputy.

Safety

According to Safety Officer **Wayne Jones**, several training sessions in February and March were held to assist East Bank and West Bank Sewerage maintenance crews to become familiar with Louisiana One Call’s guidelines for safe digging.

Mr. Jones successfully completed National Safety Council instructor training on February 15 and 16, which enables him to teach our Defensive Driving class.

As part of the West Bank Regional Library LED bulb replacement project, Mr. Jones conducted meetings with the General Services crew and Library staff on February 23 and 24 to make them aware of safety concerns.

Mr. Jones attended a three-day seminar from March 2 through March 4 in Baton Rouge to learn about Temporary Traffic Control for Supervisors. The training was provided by the Louisiana Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). On March 23, Fire Education Officer **Randy Cookmeyer** taught Fire Extinguisher safety training for the Central Garage staff.

Mr. Jones conducted forklift training for both West Bank and East Water Plant employees. Due to the inclement weather on February 23, the training was completed on March 23.



Retiring Benefits Administrator Aubrey DeVillier

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Traffic Engineering welcomes new Sign Technician **Hampton Robinson**. Hampton's past experience with road marking and striping has been beneficial to us all. We're happy to have Hampton with us!



Hampton Robinson

Congratulations to **Andrew Tadros** and **Terrance Hensley** on their recent reallocation to Sign Technician II. Well deserved, guys!



Sign Technician II Lafabian Fluker assisting the signal crew

Code Enforcement

By
Amanda Wardwell

Our Inspection and Code Enforcement family is growing, and we have a few new faces around! We would like to give a very warm welcome to Computer Network Specialist **Emanuel Wilkerson** and Building Plan Reviewers **Jahan Aghakasiri** and **Raymond Allen**. We are extremely excited to have new members joining our team here at Code Enforcement.

Shout out to a few of our employees who have hit Milestones with Jefferson Parish! Congratulations to Typist Clerk III **Yolanda Howard**, who has been with the Parish for 5 years. Also, Mechanical Inspector **Michael Hale** and Typist Clerk III **Susan Williams** received their 10-year service pin! Way to go! Don't blink! Before you know it, you will be at 20 years or more!

Speaking of 20 years, we said farewell to Account Clerk II



Yolanda Howard receives a 5-year pin from Gary Lay and Code Director Aimee Vallot

Bonnie Beatson in March. It's time for her to kick back and relax as she has retired after being with Jefferson Parish for 20 years. We wish her the very best and hope she enjoys retirement!



Bless you, Bonnie!
Retiring Accounting Clerk
Bonnie Beatson



10-year Code employees Susan Williams and Michael Hale (center) are congratulated by Laura Sawyer, Director Aimee Vallot, and Lloyd Juneau

Engineering

By
Helen Sharpe McGee

Spring is in the Air! Spring and "springtime" time of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection, and regrowth.

Welcome new Employees!

The Engineering Department welcomes, **Matthew Palermo**, GIS Operator I, **Reza Mowla**, SCADA, and **Celesa Bacon**, East Bank Warehouse. Welcome aboard!

Condolences

Engineering wishes to express our sincere condolences to Leo Lay and his family on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Inez Lay.

Happy Retirement Wishes!

Congratulations and Happy Retirement from all of us in the Department of Engineering to Typist Clerk III **Sheryl Khatri**. Engineering hosted a party in the Engineering conference room honoring Sheryl, who retired with 35 years of service. Enjoy your retirement, Sheryl! You will be missed.



Sheryl Khatri

General Services

By
Tessa St. Pierre

Welcomes

We would like to give a big welcome to **Phyllis Breaud** and **Lakeisha Shaw**. Phyllis is the new Administrative Assistant who transferred from Parks and Recreation. She has been with the Parish for 24 years and is a wealth of knowledge. Lakeisha is joining the team as the our Laborer and is a great help.

Goodbyes

We are sad to say goodbye to **Jonathan Frank** and **George Murray**. Jonathan has joined Emergency Management as the new Stationary Engineer II for the Emergency Operations & Communications Center, and George has joined the Sewerage Department as the new Electrician. We wish them the best of luck on their new jobs!

Congratulations

Chris Frazier has been promoted to Facilities Maintenance Assistant, and **Tonda White** is the new Executive Assistant. We would also like to congratulate **A'Delle Joseph** on the birth of her beautiful baby boy, Ayden Micah, born February 21, 2016.

Surplus

SALE! SALE! SALE! Surplus is having their annual Auction and this year's lineup has some amazing stuff. Items up for sale include Dump Trucks, EZ GO carts, trucks, and the rest you have to come see for yourself. So on April 16 after nine if you have nothing going on go to 920 David Dr. and come take a look and maybe even buy.

Juvenile Services

By
Vicki Borja

DEPARTURES:

We send our fond wishes to **Landon Williams** and **Brittany Stauts**, who both left us in February. Brittany is leaving to spend time with her daughter Hadley, who was born in December. Best wishes to you both!



Brittany and Hadley

PROMOTIONS:

Congratulations to **Roberta Brown** and **Danielle Phillips** on their recent promotions to Probation Officer III.

NEW EMPLOYEE: We welcome Trades Helper **Mahogany Stackhouse** to our department.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:

February 2016: **Thomas Knight**, Juvenile Detention Officer II
Matt Villio, Administrative Management Specialist III

March 2016: **Scherrie Joseph**, Juvenile Detention Officer I
Gail McWilliams, Mental Health Professional II

Workforce Connection

By
Carolyn G. Haynes

Condolences

Jefferson Workforce Connection will sadly miss Career Specialists **Ms. Paulette Victor**, and **Ms. Yolanda Hawkins**, of our East Bank Office.

Ms. Paulette passed away on March 16, 2016, and Ms. Yolanda Hawkins on February 23, 2016. Ms. Paulette had over 26½ years of service and recently received her 25-year service pin in February 2015.



RIP: Ms. Paulette Victor

Ms. Hawkins, a State Employee, had over 17 years of state service and worked in our Membership Team. Their smiles and caring personalities will be missed by everyone. (See photo Page 17)

Service Pin Recipient:

Career Specialist **Ms. Kim Wilson**, of our West Bank Office, recently received her 10-Year Service Pin. Congratulations!

Notes from JWC

JWC wishes everyone a great Spring Season!

Water

By
Amy Truesdell

The Water Department has several employees who received promotions: **Louis Lepkosky** was promoted to Water Service Inspector II in Utility Billing; **Christy Burgau** was promoted to Equipment Operator III in West Bank Distribution; and Laborer **Marc Smith** has been promoted to Water Service Inspector II. Congratulations!

We have several new hires to welcome to the Water Department: Laborers **Kameron Lee** and **Braxton Dent** in West Bank Distribution; **Jamie Byars** is our new Utility Billing Clerk I in East Bank Billing; Water Service Inspectors **Kristina Kelly** and **KaShunda Allen** in Utility Billing; and **Philip Kerlec** has returned to his former position of Laborer at the East Bank Water Plant. Welcome aboard!

We would like to thank Utility Billing Clerks **Akelia Lockett** and **Nuyaka Williams** for repre-



Forklift Safety class

senting the Water Department at the Senior Expo. Both ladies were on hand to answer any questions the attendees had about usage, billing, consumption, and water loss. Thanks for your hard work!

Our West Bank Water Treatment Plant is always concerned about safety. Recently, they invited Safety Officer **Wayne Jones** to give a lecture about Forklift Safety. Our guys are always ready to learn new procedures and put them to the test. Keep staying safe, guys!



Nuyaka Williams and Akelia Lockett at the Senior Expo

Lafreniere Park

By
William Cangemi

Spray Park

Lafreniere Park's SPRAY PARK is now open! This water attraction is for children 10 years old and younger and is open Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00pm-7:00pm. *See you there!*

Feathered Friend

Park Ranger **Elizabeth Zar** has made many friends here at the park but the most unique one is an Indian Runner duck named, well, *Runner*. Years ago he was dropped off here at the park where he got into a duck brawl over a mate.

This altercation left Runner with a broken bill, a condition that made it impossible for him to eat. Ranger Liz had a solution and it worked. She now feeds him out of a paper cup. Runner sticks his bill into the cup and sucks up the cracked corn as if drinking through a straw. Liz has been do-



A hungry Runner waiting for that Park Ranger truck

ing this now for six years. Her kindness and Runner's appetite have made this a very special friendship.

Retirement

Groundskeeper **Nikki Herkender** has left the building. She retired on March 31 after 8½ years with Lafreniere Park. *Happy Retirement Nikki!* We wish you nothing but the best!



Groundskeeper Nikki Herkender driving off into the sunset

Alario Center

By
Deirdre Cummings

Service Pins Award!

Lydia Folsie, Alario Center General Manager, presented Operations Manager **Drew Copponex** and Laborer **Ricky Epherson** with their 5-year service pins. Congratulations, guys; we appreciate all of your hard work and dedication.

Welcome Aboard!

The Alario Center Family would like to give a big welcome to **Thomas "Tom" Perlic**! Tom has joined the team as the new Marketing/Sales Associate, and he is already a great asset to our department.



Tom Perlic

UPCOMING EVENTS

Graduation Ceremonies!

Graduation season is fast approaching. Several ceremonies will be held at the Alario Center. Check with the surrounding high schools as well as our website for schedules.

Senior Luncheon!

Councilman **Mark Spears** will be hosting his Annual Senior Luncheon on May 12. Te Senior

Luncheon is a wonderful event attended by over 700 Jefferson Parish seniors annually. Great food, fun, and surprises to be had by all.

Southern Sportsman’s Festival & Expo!

The Southern Sportsman's Festival & Expo is the Greater New Orleans premier event for outdoorsmen. With a festival atmosphere including live music, delicious drinks, and mouth-watering food, guests will enjoy three days of demonstrations, hands-on activities, and one-on-one time with hundreds of trusted outdoor experts. Come experience this year’s can’t-miss event at the Alario Center. You’ll be reminded of why Louisiana truly is a Sportsman's Paradise!

For more information on the John A. Alario, Sr., Event Center or to schedule an event, please contact the Alario Center office at (504) 349-5525. You can also visit us at www.alariocenter.com or www.facebook.com/alariocenter.



Alario Center General Manager Lydia Folse with Drew Copponex and Ricky Epherson

Library

By Irene Lunkin

Turning Pages and Refreshing Browsers

Farewell to our spring retirees. Library Associate **Marilyn Barbato** retired after 36 years of service with the Library. Marilyn worked at the Belle Terre, Terrytown, and Westwego libraries throughout her employment.



Marilyn Barbato

Library Associate **Gail Talbot** retired from the East Bank Regional Children’s department after 22 years of service. Gail always enjoyed being with the children for storytime and arts and crafts. The Library wishes them a flourishing retirement.



Gail Talbot



Michael Borne

Congratulations to **Kenneth Jamison** on his recent promotion to Building Maintenance Supervisor and to **Clifton D’Aquin** on his promotion to Computer Systems Analyst Senior.

The Library welcomes Laborer **Kevin Badon**, Rosedale Library Associate **Michael Borne**, and EBR Library Page **Kimberly Francis** to the team.

Lovely Looking Libraries!

The Live Oak library closed November 2015 for interior and exterior renovations and reopened February 10, 2016. The newly renovated library has four additional windows installed, new carpet and furniture, LED lighting, freshly painted walls, and various outdoor and hidden upgrades. Feel free to stop by the newly renovated library on your next visit to Waggaman – 125 Acadia Drive.

Lakeshore Library was featured in the March 2016 edition of *New Orleans Magazine* as being one of 10 New Orleans’ best new local architecture creative designs. (See photo Page 18)

Congratulations

Library Director **Marylyn Hadican** thanks and congratulates



The Sansepolcro Flag Wavers

the following employees for their years of service and presented them 5- and 15-year service pins: Computer Network Specialist **Asahel Barahona**, EBR Teen Librarian **Jennifer Bishop**, Maintenance Repairman **Terry Duhe**, Harahan Library Associate **Elizabeth Figures**, EBR Library Associate **Jeanne Furse**, Computer Systems Specialist **Darren Harris**, Lakeshore Library Associate **Albert Heavener**, and Lafitte Library Associate **Lucie Shilling** with 5-year service pins and WBR Teen Library Associate **Latonya Alexander**, EBR Library Associate **Joseph Anderson**, Wagner Branch Manager **Sheila Bradford**, Typist Clerk III **Keywinna James**, and EBR Library Associate **Patricia Muggivan** with

15-year service pins. Many more years of service are wished.

St Joseph’s Day Celebration

The Sansepolcro Flag-Wavers, a group of flag wavers, drummers, and trumpeters from the Tuscan region of Italy, performed outside and inside the East Bank Regional library in March. The art of flag throwing dates to medieval guilds (principally in Italy). A guild's banner or flag was considered a symbol of purity, and as such it was not allowed to touch the ground.

Class is Back in Session

Library Associate **Sal Serio**, curator of the American Italian

Research Library at the East Bank Regional Library, will lead a series of 16 genealogical seminars for beginners and intermediates during the spring of 2016.

The sessions are designed as introductions to basic genealogical research and scheduled every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the meeting rooms at East Bank Regional Library. Classes started March 16, 2016, and are scheduled to end July 6, 2016. They are open to the public and are free of charge. Interested students are asked to call Sal Serio @ 504-838-1190 ext. 2505 to register.



Sal Serio speaks at a genealogical seminar

Remember to stop by your local library to sign up for a library card. It'll allow you access to any entertaining items. The proof is on the website www.jplibrary.net



Newly renovated interior of the Live Oak Library

Emergency Management

By

Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade

We extend a very warm welcome to our new Emergency Management Director, **Joseph A. Valiente**. Joe is a former New Orleans Police Lieutenant with over 35 years serving in numerous assignments, including Commander of the Special Events Section from 1999 through 2012. He brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our department, and we are excited to have Joe as a part of our team.

A proclamation declaring the week of February 16 through February 22, 2016, as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Jefferson Parish was presented at the February 17 Council meeting. Emergency Management sent out a daily weather topic explaining types of hazardous weather and how the weather could impact our lives. An explanation on how to identify the risks, having a plan, building an emergency preparedness kit, and staying informed was presented.



Robert Greene



Parish President Mike Yenni presents Emergency Management Director Joseph Valiente and Assistant Director Tim Gautreau (center) with the Severe Weather Awareness Week proclamation

Emergency Management participated in the 2016 Senior Citizen Exposition held March 10, 2016, at the Ponchartrain Convention Center in Kenner. Citizens received our All Hazards Preparedness Guide, which includes information on preparation, evacuation routes, JP Community Alert System (JPAlert), JumpStart Jefferson re-entry plan for business owners, emergency supplies, important numbers and websites, and other helpful tips. Also, Publicly Assisted Evacuation forms were provided for citizens who may need assistance evacuating during an emergency event.

Coordinator II **Robert Green** attended an All-Hazards Incident Management course in College Station, Texas. One of the aspects of the course was to role-play during an all-hazards incident. Robert was the Public Information Officer (PIO) during one of the exercises and gained valuable “on-hands” experience

dealing with the media in the dispensing of information.

Congratulations to Coordinator II **Christopher Cambre** on receiving the Louisiana Emergency Manager (LEM) certification. This certification is indicative of Christopher’s experience, continuing education, and dedication in the field of emergency management.



Christopher Cambre

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

Environmental Affairs would like to say goodbye to **Simone Cifuentes**, Environmental Quality Specialist, and **Dianne Claffey**, Typist Clerk III. Both left the Parish to pursue other endeavors. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

We wish our condolences to **Kathy Russo**, Industrial Development and Research Coordinator, on the loss of her mother. Our prayers are with you!

Congratulations to **Barbara Kollin**, Typist Clerk III, on achieving ten years employment with the Parish. Barbara has been a valuable member of our team.



Barbara Kollin with Environmental Director Mike Lockwood

Congratulations also to **Diane Coughlin**, Environmental Quality Technician, on obtaining her Class IV Wastewater Collection Operator certification; and to **Tracey Patainia**, Environmental Quality Technician, on obtaining her Wastewater Collection I Operator certification.

Environmental Quality Technicians **Tom Cooper** and **Tracey Patania** staffed our booth at the Senior Citizens' Exposition on March 10, answering questions and passing out literature.

On March 14, **Kathy Russo**, Industrial Development and Research Coordinator, and **Sami Khalil**, Stormwater Supervisor, represented the department at the New Orleans Enterprise Week Water Challenge at Manning's restaurant. Informative panel discussions were held on a variety of topics, including the seafood industry and the port.

In March, **Sami Khalil** led a Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations Training for the Streets Department. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operation is an important component in our EPA/LDEQ-mandated MS4 permit, including the development and implementation of an operation and maintenance program. The training component has the ultimate goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. Classes are held annually.

The winners of the "Non-point Source Storm Water Pollution and Solutions" poster and essay contest were announced at the 16th Annual Storm Water Poster and Essay Awards Ceremony on March 24. Trophies were presented in the poster and essay categories, and certificates of honorable mention were also awarded in each category. Winning posters are currently displayed at the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 West Napoleon Ave., Metairie and, on June 6, 2016, will move to the Jefferson Parish West Bank Regional Library, located at 2751 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey where they will be on display through August 8, 2016.

Enthusiastic volunteers, including **Seamus Riley**, Environmental Quality Specialist, and **Jason Smith**, Coastal Programs Supervisor, helped plant 750 bald cypress saplings along the eastern bank of the Bayou Segnette Waterway, inside the Jean Lafitte National Park.

Seamus and Jason loaded and transported Bald cypress trees to designated sites along the eastern bank of the Bayou Segnette Waterway and helped plant saplings and install tree guards against nutria predation. The goal is to improve habitat quality by combating the spread of Chinese tallow, an invasive tree, by planting native trees during the early spring in the Jean Lafitte National Park. Bald cypress provides much needed storm protection and adds valuable habitat for migratory birds.

Environmental Affairs would like to congratulate Lafitte resident Edward "Ed" G. Perrin, Sr. on being selected as a recipient of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's 2016 Coastal Stewardship Award, which honors individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the restoration and conservation of Louisiana's coastal wetlands. Mr. Perrin was nominated for this award by the Department of Environmental Affairs. Ed has been a long-time,



At the SW Banquet



Seamus Riley and Jason Smith planting and protecting a cypress tree

active member of the Jefferson Parish Coastal Stakeholder Group. He will be honored as a coastal champion at the 21st Annual Stewardship Awards Banquet on Friday, May 6, 2016, at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center.

In February, **Kathleen Collins**, Solid Waste Supervisor, attended the National Mosquito Control Association conference in Savannah, Georgia. The conference was extremely informative and very important this year with the concerns over the Zika virus.

In March, **Rick Buller**, Landfill Engineer, and **Laura Becker**, Environmental Quality Specialist, attended the LDEQ annual Solid Waste conference in Lafayette. A variety of topics regarding landfills and solid waste issues were covered at the conference.

Also in March, **Christina Duggar**, Environmental Quality Specialist, attended the Louisiana Conference on Water Supply and Wastewater, which was held in Shreveport. Christina was an at large representative of the organization and was elected treasurer elect at the meeting. Congratulations, Christina!

On Friday, March 18, Environ-

mental Affairs staff **Katherine Costanza**, Solid Waste Management Specialist, **Sami Khalil**, Sotormwater Program Supervisor, **Barbara Arcement**, Inspector, and **Sarah Larock**, Intern, participated in Keep Louisiana Beautiful's annual "Leaders Against Litter" campaign. "Leaders Against Litter" is an annual state-wide event that invites community leaders to lead the way against litter. The event is designed to encourage community, business, and political leaders to cultivate pride in cleaning up their communities and inspire others to volunteer.

Jefferson Parish was one of several Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) affiliate communities selected to participate in the statewide event. This year's event was held in Lafreniere Park. Participants were asked to sign pledge cards to speak up and spread the word that litter is not acceptable, to pick-up litter whenever they see it, and to stand up and lead the way for a litter-free Louisiana.

Special thanks to Councilman Ben Zahn, Councilman Paul Johnston, Mayor John Shaddinger, Jr, City of Westwego, and Acting Mayor Michael D. Sigur, City of Kenner, Parkways Director **Brook Burmaster**, and the staff from Parkways for attending the clean-up event and signing the pledge cards. It is critical for our leaders to understand the direct and indirect cost that litter has on Louisiana and Jefferson Parish.

Jefferson Parish is again competing in the Louisiana Garden Club Federation's "Cleanest Cities Contest." The Metairie area

is competing with other communities throughout the state. District judging took place on March 28. We are anxiously awaiting the results. Metairie won first place in the District competition in 2014 and 2015. We hope we can do it again in 2016!

The Departments of Environmental Affairs and General Services have partnered with Progressive Waste Solutions to help Keep Jefferson Parish Clean and Green by collecting Mardi Gras beads and throws for recycling by the Arc of Greater New Orleans.

Containers for recycled throws will be available on a year-round basis in the lobby at the following locations:

- Yenni Building, Elmwood
- General Gov Building, Gretna
- First Parish Court, Metairie
- Second Parish Court, Gretna

The Arc is a non-profit organization which assists individuals with intellectual disabilities by providing employment opportunities and job training.

The beads, trinkets, and stuffed animals are bundled and resold at discounted prices directly through the organization. This helps to keep them out of landfills and ecosystems while generating jobs and resources.

On May 7, the department will host a Household Hazardous Waste collection event for the residents of Jefferson Parish. The event will be held in the Yenni Bldg. parking lot. Everyone is encouraged to bring their HHW to this event so it can be recycled or properly disposed of. More information on this event will follow in press releases.

Planning

By
Nedra Tate

WELCOME

The Planning Department welcomes **Monica Kelley**, our newest Planner III for the Westbank Division. Monica started with us in February 2016.

Monica has a master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of New Orleans. She is a professional planner with eight years of experience working for agencies such as the New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce, the City of New Orleans City Planning Commission, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA.



New Planner III Monica Kelley

Monica also worked as a planning consultant in the private sector for over ten years. She is excited to return to local government where she can help contribute to the growth and development of her home parish. We are happy to have you aboard, Monica!!

FAREWELL

Farewell and Best Wishes to **Elizabeth “Liz” Pfafflin**!

Liz started with the Planning Department in January 2014 as a Planner II. During her time here



Elizabeth “Liz” Pfafflin

she enjoyed learning about Planning at the government level and actively doing Long Range and Current Planning. Although she is moving on to her new career, she stated that she enjoyed working with such an “Awesome” staff.

Liz will be the new Assistant Director of Sustainability at Tulane University, where she will assist in making the campus a more environmentally friendly place. We’ll miss you Liz!

Parks & Recreation

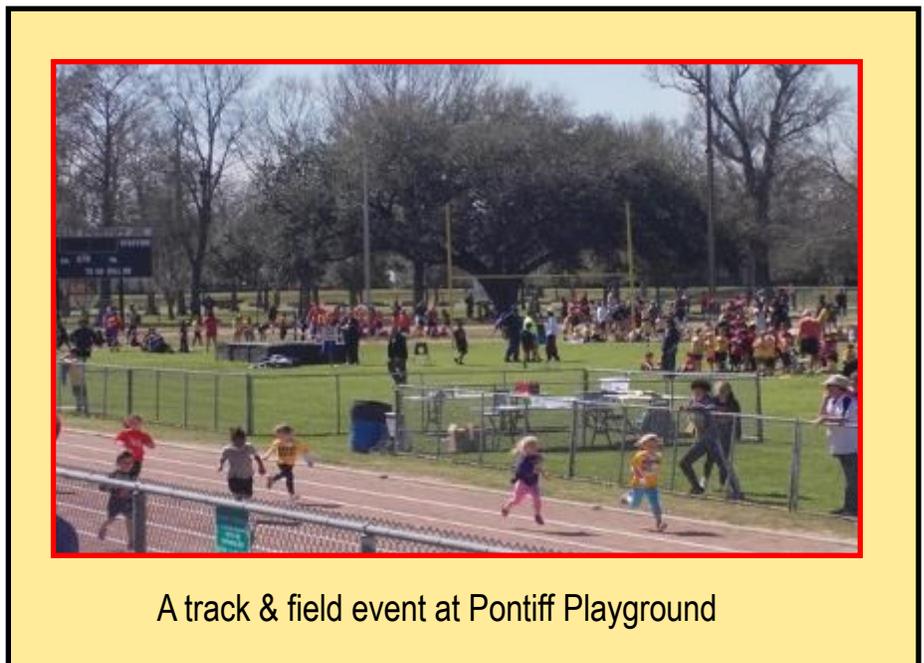
By
Antoinette Holmes

EASTBANK UPDATES:

LaSalle Park: We will be celebrating “Earth Day”. A special day celebrated all over the world to support environmental protection. Miley Multi-Purpose Building – 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 this spring. Pontiff Playground is finalizing the concession stand project, we are expecting to open this spring.

WESTBANK UPDATES:

Avondale Playground – We are in the beginning stages of renovating the Avondale playground. Avondale will receive batting cage repairs, new press box, surveillance cameras, and scoreboards. Kennedy Heights Playground will receive upgrades on electrical system, new press box, field lighting, gym concessions, and field / gym score-



A track & field event at Pontiff Playground

boards. Waggaman Playground upgrades consist of a new walking trail, parking lot, lighting and overall general improvements.

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.



Work underway at the Bonnabel Boat Launch

BUCKTOWN HARBOR:

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

LAFRENIERE PARK:

Lafreniere Park's Spray Pad, adjacent to the Carousel, will open Saturday, April 2 from 12:00pm to 7:00pm. It will remain open during these hours on Saturdays and Sundays through May 22, 2016. The cost is \$5.00 per person per 90-minute session.

PARC DES FAMILLES: The next phase for Parc Des Familles is a Disc Golf Course. LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism will provide an appropriation to construct a Disc Golf Course.

We are currently accepting online registrations for Summer Camp and Leisure Service classes. Log on to JPRD.org.

Sewerage

By Venice Cooper

SENIOR CITIZEN EXPO

The Senior Citizen Expo was held at the Pontchartrain Center on March 10. **Jane Lennie** and **Michele Wilson** manned the Department of Sewerage booth at the expo. It was Michele's first time attending. Following is what she shared about their experiences at the expo:

"This was my first time participating in the Senior Expo. I was a little nervous at first, because I didn't know what to expect. It was a very positive experience to see all the seniors come out. They seemed to really enjoy all of the giveaway items the booths were offering. A few seniors inquired about problems they were experiencing at their homes. Jane and I were very happy to answer their questions, or direct them

to other departments.

"The food, entertainment, and set up were done very well. The Senior Expo was an effort to help enlighten the seniors with more knowledge than when they arrived. Most of all, it felt nice to help the seniors to enjoy their day."

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Michael Rogers** on his recent promotion to Maintenance Superintendent at Eastbank Lift Stations.

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

Terry Hill – Pump Equipment Mechanic, Eastbank Lift Stations

Deondrea Kent - Laborer, Eastbank Lines

George Murray - Electrician, Westbank Lift Stations

Torrence Williams – Laborer, Eastbank Lines

Scott Wisser – Pump Equipment Mechanic, Eastbank Lift Stations



Jane Lennie and Michele Wilson at the Senior Citizen Expo

Ask Personnel

By
Staff of Personnel

The Personnel Department receives various questions from employees, Directors, and Administrators. For each upcoming issue, we will highlight a few of these questions and answers. The answers to these questions can be beneficial to all involved with Parish Government and, in particular, the Civil Service system. Please feel free to submit questions to LCALL@jeffparish.net. All submitted questions will be answered and some may be chosen to appear in future issues. To view our frequently asked questions, go to our website at www.jeffparish.net/jppd and click on [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

I share an email account with my significant other; will this cause a problem when applying for Jefferson Parish jobs online?

Yes, each applicant must have their own individual email ac-

count when applying for jobs online with Jefferson Parish. The reason is user accounts are for one person only and should NOT be shared with another person. Multiple applications with multiple users jeopardize the status on any positions you apply for. Additionally, it could cause information to be deleted from your user account when the Personnel Department tries separating the account. Thus, before applying for jobs with Jefferson Parish create a new individual email account. There are multiple free email services out there; i.e. yahoo, google, Hotmail.

I did not receive a copy of my performance evaluation. Can the Personnel Department provide me with a copy?

No. The Personnel Department does not retain copies of employees' evaluations. Once an evaluation is processed by Personnel, it is returned to the employee's department. A copy

of each performance evaluation should be kept by your department in your departmental employee file. If you did not receive a finalized copy of your evaluation, please contact the evaluation coordinator in your department.

How does Personnel determine my rank on an Eligibility List?

Your rank is mostly based on three factors:

1: Promotional permanent Jefferson Parish Classified Service employees **OR** Entrance Candidates Promotional = employees that have attained permanent status in the Jefferson Parish Classified Service and for whom the position would be a higher pay grade.

Entrance = candidates that are not employed in the Jefferson Parish Classified Service, along with Current Jefferson Parish Classified Service employees that would be making a lateral move or voluntary demotion.

2: Residency (Jefferson Parish residents **OR** residents of a Parish or County other than Jefferson)

3: Test Score and/or Rating of Training & Experience

Candidates are ranked as follows:

1st: Promotional permanent Jefferson Parish Classified Service employees who reside in Jefferson Parish and ranked by score

2nd: Promotional permanent Jefferson Parish Classified Service employees who reside in a Parish or County other than Jefferson and ranked by score

3rd: Entrance candidates who reside in Jefferson Parish and ranked by score

4th: Entrance candidates who reside in a Parish or County other than Jefferson and ranked by score



Personnel Department Service Pin Recipients: Ashley Jambon, Suzette Jung, Margo French, Todd McDowell, Lauren Call, and Sheree Carrier with Director John Dumas.

Does the Personnel Department give any civil service tests via computer?

Yes! While the majority of our civil service tests are given via paper-and-pencil, we're very pleased to implement computer-based testing into the examination process for six job classifications: Drainage Pump Station Operator I, Maintenance Repairman, Trades Helper, Water Service Inspector I, and our newest two... Administrative Assistant and Executive Assistant.

In the computer-based testing platform, applicants sit at individual computer terminals, while a proctor guides them through instructions and demonstrates to them how the program works. Questions and answer choices are displayed sequentially, and applicants respond in a point-and-click format.

We have already held computerized testing for the first four abovementioned classifications. Regarding the latter two, our first groups of eager Administrative Assistant applicants will test this

April, while we plan to open Executive Assistant for application, and to schedule EA applicants for testing, in subsequent weeks.

Our process for deciding which classifications to test via computer has included consideration of the work performed in a given classification and how that work is performed. For example, we consider the amount of reading and verbal versus written communication exchange that occurs in a given classification. Audio clips have been included in computer-based tests for classifications (such as the first three mentioned above) requiring less reading and written communication exchange on-the-job. Alternatively, we consider the extent to which computer technology is used in a given classification and the importance of clerical and administrative competence needed at-entry to that classification.

We hope applicants look forward to the future of testing just as much as we do!

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branan, RN



Read Those Instructions!

We've all heard, if not stated ourselves, the expression, "When all else fails, read the instructions." This cliché is often said in a humorous fashion, especially when referring to putting together a structure. However, when it comes to health-related situations, it is not so humorous and can actually result in a serious health condition or death. So, what is one to do?

In the past, important details that needed to be given to the patient would be provided by the medical person (nurse/doctor/pharmacist/etc.). However, in this high-tech world we live in now, documents abound detailing everything one needs to know prior to or after a diagnostic test, procedure or operation, what one needs to be aware of regarding taking medications, and everything one would need to know regarding a medical condition. Due to time constraints, important details are often provided to the patient by way of such a document. But, with so much information to read, many often suffer from sensory overload and do not bother with reading the important information. As a result, many put themselves at risk for bodily harm by missing important details.



Public Works employees Aaron Foster and Reginald Roberts receive their 5-year pins from Pablo San Martin and Nathan Allison Jr.

For example, prescription medication errors result in countless numbers of deaths and bodily harm every year. The prescription information sheet, a document that includes various details regarding the prescribed drug, is given to the consumer with every prescription they obtain. If the consumers would take the time to read over their prescription information sheet, they would learn what the proper dosage is, what reactions can occur, special instructions, and when they need to seek medical attention.

Unfortunately, serious reactions that may go unaddressed until hospitalization results may include: drugs that can cause addiction, confusion, impaired cardiac function, weakness, depression, suicidal thoughts, etc. Specific instructions on how to take the medications may require one to take it before or after eating a meal or may not allow one to take it with milk, certain cheeses, or alcohol. Also, contraindications may exist to not take the prescription with another prescribed medication, herb, or supplement.

When it comes to preparing for diagnostic and surgical proce-

dures, it is critical to understand what dietary restrictions to follow, the protocol for taking medications, and the protocol to properly wash with antimicrobial antiseptic skin cleansers. Improper preparations can result in poor test results or the test or surgery needing to be rescheduled. Dietary restrictions may include specific changes beginning days prior to the event.

Of special concern is if one does not follow their instructions when to stop eating or drinking prior to surgery, they place themselves at risk for vomiting and then choking while under anesthesia. Procedure specific medications may need to be taken. Certain routine prescribed medications may be allowed the day of the event. Some medications, herbs, or supplements may need to be stopped days prior to the scheduled event.

One **MUST** obtain the specific instructions on what medications to take and how to take them. If washing the body/hair with an antimicrobial antiseptic cleanser is ordered, then be sure to follow the specific instructions. Inadequate cleaning can introduce germs into surgical and procedure rooms, placing the patient at a greater risk for infection.

As important as it is to know what to do prior to procedures, it is critical to know what to do afterwards. Typical instructions would include post-operation/procedure care, complications that could occur, and when to contact the doctor or report to the emergency room. It is not uncommon for there to be a scheduled follow-up appointment, which, unfortunately,



RIP: Workforce Connection's Yolanda Hawkins

many do not keep. It is a good practice to always have someone check on you to determine how you are doing until you are back on your feet!

So, remember to always read the instructions you receive from your healthcare provider. It could mean the difference between a positive or negative outcome!



Denise Williams is congratulated upon her retirement by Fleet Management Director Nick Digerolamo

Streets

By Kenya Johnson

The Streets Department congratulates these recent service pin recipients:

15 years of Service

Ava G. Bougere, John L. Jackson

10 years of Service

Donald J. Hogan Jr., James Crockett, Randolph W. Green, Ernest Williams, Melvin Adams, James C. LeBlanc, Nicholas A Thibodeaux

5 years of Service

Qunise D. Howard, Joshua P. Martin, Lorenzo S. Williams, Jeremiah J. Willis

Retirements

Cynthia Schouest
HazMat
36 years

Sheryl Khatri
Engineering
34 years

Timothy O'Quinn
Recreation
33 years

Marilyn Barbato
Library
33 years

Denise Williams
Fleet Management
27 years

Earl Incardona
Recreation
26 years

Sidney Gonzales
Engineering
26 years

Gail Talbot
Library
21 years

Bonnie Beatson
Code Enforcement
19 years

John Maxwell
PMZ
16 years

Patricia Rambeau
Drainage
15 years

William Rowell
Recreation
13 years

George Edgeron
General Services
13 years

Aubrey Devillier
Human Resources
11 years

Michael Blanchard
Drainage
11 years



Lakeshore Library: Voted 1 of 10 best creative architectural designs in the area by *New Orleans Magazine*

— See Library's article Page 8