



Volume 37  
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Jefferson

## Message from the Parish President. . .

### Stressing Safety and Preparedness

As we enter this halfway mark of 2016, it is very important to remember safety and preparedness going into the start of Hurricane Season.

The time to prepare for a hurricane is before the season actually begins. Make sure you have adequate time to come up with a plan that works for yourself and the entire family.

If you wait too late you may not make the best decisions in such a stressful situation. As we know, that could lead to a catastrophic event for yourself or your family.

Take the time now to write down your hurricane plan. Know where you will ride out the storm and get your supplies. Also have a list of emergency contacts and locations that you can access in the time of need.

You don't want to stand in long lines when a hurricane warning is issued. Those supplies that you need could be sold out by the time you reach the front of the line. Make sure you put together a comprehensive list so you know what to get and what's available at your local supply store.

Being prepared before a hurricane makes you resilient to the hurricane impacts of wind and water. It will mean



Michael Yenni  
Parish President

the difference between being a hurricane victim and a hurricane survivor.

Jefferson Parish is more prepared than ever to deal with the impact of a hurricane. The Parish Emergency Plans have been reviewed and updated, and essential personnel have been assigned and trained for their emergency duties.

It is important to remember this is a "Storm Damage Risk Reduction" and not a total prevention system. The parish is high and dry due to the reduction system, however residents should still evacuate if given the order.

You can always receive alerts by signing up for our JPAAlert (Emergency Alert Notifications System). Check Parish social media (FB, Twitter, Website, JPTV) for updates directly from your phone.

Let's make this a safe and well prepared hurricane season because safety is a top priority!

*JeffTalk*

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- Drainage** Sheena Quinn Bauer
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- Streets** Kenya Johnson
- Traffic Engineering**  
Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit** Patricia Lyons
- Water** Amy Truesdell
- Workforce Connection**  
Carolyn Haynes

*Editor's*



*Notes*

**Two Important Issues**

**FLSA Overtime Changes**

I'd like to let you all know about an important issue that you may have heard mentioned in the news: the federal mandates regarding overtime pay (OT).

OT in America is governed by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938. The FLSA regulates employment issues such as the mandating a minimum wage, deciding what activities count as hours worked, and establishing guidelines regarding OT, such as how much employees must be paid for OT. Basically, the law mandates that non-exempt employees be paid "time and a half" or 1.5 times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek.

The FLSA also identifies certain classes of employees who do not have to be paid OT. Employees who do not have to be paid OT are called "exempt" employees. These employees generally fall into one of several categories identified by the FLSA. Among these categories are Executive, Administrative, and Professional employees. The FLSA also sets a minimum rate of pay that all Exempt employees must be paid.

The FLSA was recently amended, increasing that minimum rate from \$455 to \$913 per week (\$23,660 to \$47,476 per year). The new limits go into effect on December 1, 2016. This change does not affect non-exempt employees. However, employees who are currently exempt and making less than the new minimum will be affected: Either they may be reclassified as non-exempt



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

and therefore eligible for OT or their salary may be increased so that it meets or exceeds the new minimum.

The FLSA is enforced by the Wage & Hour Division of the US Department of Labor. You can get more information about the FLSA and OT by logging on to their website:

[www.dol.gov/whd](http://www.dol.gov/whd)

More information will be forthcoming from the Personnel Department and the Department of Human Resource Management.

**Nationwide Retirement Solutions**

I'd also like to let you know about an upcoming change with Nationwide Retirement Solutions. Nationwide is the Parish's deferred compensation (457(b)) provider. Employees can choose to set aside pre-tax dollars from their paychecks for their account. Nationwide's focus is on helping public sector workers prepare for retirement.

Nationwide is enhancing the pricing structure offered to Jefferson Parish employees. Currently the contract pricing is: 25/25/50 in asset fees, ProAccount at 1.00%, and the Fixed Option at 3.50% and has a 3.50% Guaranteed Minimum Interest Rate (GMIR). Effective July 18, 2016 the contract pricing will be: 00/20/35 in asset fees, ProAccount at 0.65%, and the Fixed Option to remain at 3/59% and 3.50% Guaranteed Minimum Interest Rate (GMIR).

Contact Nationwide with any questions: 1-877-677-3678.

## Water

By  
Amy Truesdell

The Water Department welcomes several new employees to our department: EB Water Service Inspector **Joanna Miller**, EB Date Entry Operator **Lakayla LaFrance**; WB Water Service Inspector **Shea Shelton**; and EB Water Service Inspector **Oscar Mendoza**, who transferred from the Drainage Department. We would like to welcome back to Water EB Mechanic **Bernard Propps**, who transferred from Drainage; and **Christopher Douse**, who filled his former position of WB Distribution Laborer.

We would like to say *Bon Voyage* to EB Water Service Inspector **James McCray**. We are also saying farewell to EB Water Service Inspector II **Ray Heffner** and EB Waterline Maintenance Foreman **David Liccardi**, both of whom retired after 31 years of ser-



Ray Heffner

vice. Thanks for your years of dedicated service!

We would like to congratulate three of our employees who were recently promoted: **Osai Bailey** is our new Waterline Maintenance Foreman for EB

Distribution; **Akeila Lockett** is our new Utility Billing Clerk III with WB Utility Billing; and **Kevin Howard** is the new Instrument Maintenance Technician for the Water Lab. Good job!

East Bank Utility Billing sponsored a weight loss competition for the month of April. Each person gave \$10 to participate and Nurse Peggy acted as the official calorie counter and referee. And the winner is.....Utility Billing Clerk II **Nuyaka Williams**, who lost 13 pounds and 6 oz. It has been suggested Nuyaka take all these hungry dieters out to lunch with her winnings!

Executive Operations Manager **Destiny Bratton** and I participated in the Personnel Department's first Job Fair at the Alario Center. We were pleasantly surprised by the number of attendees and enjoyed meeting so many potential new employees. We are looking to an even bigger and better Job Fair next year.



Ace Reporter and Administrative Assistant Amy Truesdell and Executive Operations Manager Destiny Bratton at the Alario Center for the Job Fair

## Millage & Sales Tax Renewals

### President's Office

By  
Diane Roussel, CAA

### Critical Millage and Sales Tax Renewals for Jefferson Parish on December 10, 2016 Ballot

What is a millage? A millage or mill is 1/10 of 1 cent and is collected on residential and commercial property. **If you do not own property, you do not pay this tax.**

Three extremely important millages for Drainage, Recreation, and Libraries are on the December 10, 2016 ballot. These are millage **renewals** and **not new taxes**. These renewals make up 45%-97% of the operating budgets for these three departments.

#### DRAINAGE

Drainage has 6.0 mills of ad valorem property taxes that fund **45%** of the Drainage Department's operations: **287 employees**, pump stations, open canals, ditches, subsurface drainage pipe, culvert boxes, catch basins, inlets, manholes, canal outfall pipes. The drainage department would **be cut almost in half without these funds**. The average cost to a homeowner of a \$100,000 home is \$1.25 per month; for a \$150,000 home is \$3.75 per month. Businesses pay more.

#### RECREATION

Recreation has 10.0 mills of ad valorem property taxes that

fund **93%** of Recreation Department's operations: **329 employees**, maintenance, and upgrades to 2,500 acres, all JPRD facilities, parks, subsidy of youth sports programs, leisure services, Golden Age Clubs, community enrichment, special population activities, classes. Thousands of volunteers, coaches, children and parents would also be affected. **The Recreation Department cannot exist** without the renewal of this millage. The average cost to a homeowner for a \$100,000 home is \$2.01 per month; for a \$150,000 home is \$6.25 per month. Businesses pay more.



#### LIBRARIES

Libraries have 6.5 mills of ad valorem property taxes that fund **96.8%** of the libraries operations: **200 employees**, new construction, repairs and maintenance, utilities a multitude of in-person and on-line classes, books, DVDs, performances, services. The Libraries **cannot survive** without the millages. The average cost to a homeowner of a

\$100,000 home is \$1.35 per month; for a \$150,000 home is \$4.02 per month. Businesses pay more.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES AND HOMEOWNER COSTS, GO TO THE WEBSITE:**

<https://vimeo.com/165366624>

#### 7/8 SALES TAX RENEWAL

Jefferson Parish collects 7/8 of 1 percent in sales tax on a **limited number of items**, and the Sheriff's Office collects the other 1/8 of 1 percent on a limited number of items. The taxes are levied on tangible property (like a car) and on services (like a manicure). It is **not collected on items like groceries, bakery goods, restaurant food, medical services, and prescriptions**. This tax was first dedicated to sewerage. It can **now be used for sewerage, roadwork, and drainage**.

Future use of these funds also include capital projects which can be matched with Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development funds. All projects will be legislated by the Council. Also, refinancing the renewal of this tax will provide savings, insure fund for capital projects and raise approximately **\$85 million** for new projects in 2017 and approximately **\$235 million** in 2019.

## Human Resources

By  
Glenn Schiro

### Congratulations, Nancy

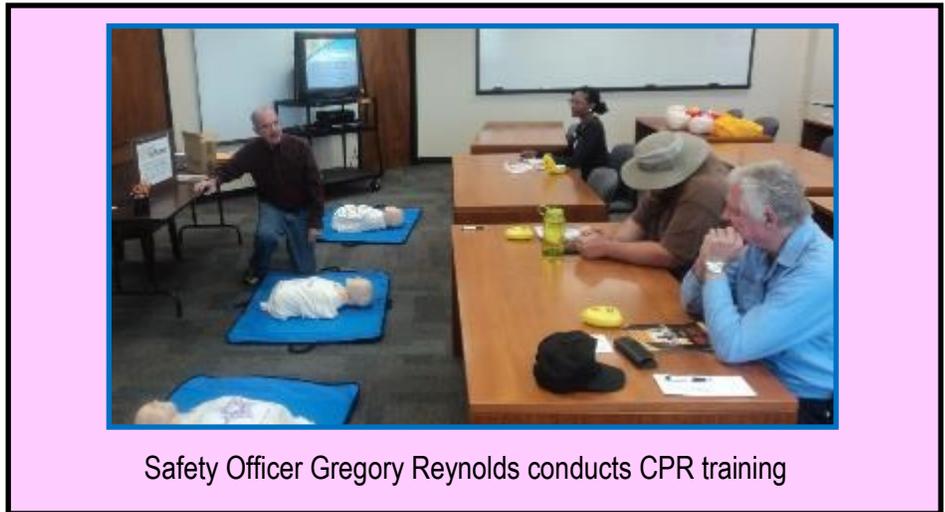
Congratulations to HR Manager **Nancy Rodriguez**, HR's Employee of the Year. This is the second time Nancy has received this award – her first was in 2005.

Nancy started with the Parish in 2001 as a trainer and was promoted to Training Specialist III in 2004. In 2010, she became an HR Manager. According to HR Assistant Director **Nicole Thompson**, "Nancy is truly a team player. She makes herself readily available to assist anyone in our department as well as the departments she serves. While some may step away from difficult assignments, not Nancy. She is ready to step up to the plate and go to bat for HR."

Nancy truly deserves this recognition for her outstanding and dedicated service to and to the many departments and employees she assists throughout the year.

### Further Congratulations

In addition to HR's Employee of the Year, Nancy was also recognized for her fifteen years of



Safety Officer Gregory Reynolds conducts CPR training

employment with the Parish. Training Specialist II **Glenn Schiro** received a pin for his five years of employment.

### Continuing Education

On April 12, HR Director **Peggy Barton**, Assistant HR Director **Nicole Thompson**, HR Managers **Fran Robichaux**, **Nancy Rodriguez**, **Jonas Perriott**, and Training Specialists **Greg Alexander** and **Yvonne Keller** attended the *Current Trends in Labor and Employment Law Seminar* at the Arbor Room in City Park. Staff members from Adams and Reese conducted the daylong seminar.

On May 13, Director **Peggy**

**Barton** and Manager **Nancy Rodriguez** attended an Employment Law Seminar titled *From Start to Finish: Managing Employees without Finishing at the Courthouse* at the Hyatt Regency.

On May 18, **Nicole Thompson**, **Fran Robichaux**, and **Nancy Rodriguez** attended a NOLA-SHRM presentation *Performance Review: Should I stay or Should I Go?*

### Safety

According to Safety Officer **Wayne Jones**, Recreation Area Coordinator **Scott Muhoberac** recently coordinated a safety training for his Eastbank Maintenance staff. Congrats to Scott and his staff for a job well done.

Wayne also reported that a Parkways crew supervised by **Daryll Johnson Sr.** did a great job for the Zurich Golf Tournament. The crew set up the neutral ground for parking and created a good appearance to welcome the tournament's many visitors.

Safety Officer **Greg Reynolds** conducts CPR/AED training twice a month. This hands-on training program provides participants with the knowledge and skills to save a life. For more details, contact Greg at 736-6421.



HR Director **Peggy Barton** and Assistant Director **Nicole Thompson** congratulate HR Manager **Nancy Rodriguez** and Training Specialist II **Glenn Schiro**

**PMZ**

By  
Kirstin Conchetta Knott

**GOODBYES!**

Congratulations to **Gary Hebert** as he has taken a position with Environmental Affairs as an Environmental Quality Technician II. We wish you well in your new position.

**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

Our department would like to give a big congratulations to **Anthony Dabdoub** for receiving the Employee of the Year Award. Way to go, Tony!!



Anthony Dabdoub

**HAPPY RETIREMENT!**

Congratulations and Happy retirement to **Lorraine Sanders**. Lorraine dedicated 28 years to Jefferson Parish.



Lorraine Sanders

**Library**

By  
Irene Lunkin

**Relaxing on the Side Lines**

Assistant Library Director **Deborah “Debbie” Troxclair** retired after 38 years of service. Debbie began her career right out of Library School as a Librarian I (MLIS). She worked as a Branch Manager at a few branches before being promoted to a Cataloging Librarian II, then to Branch Supervision, and then to Librarian V in charge of the Library’s Technical Services division. Her final position was Assistant Director.



Debbie Troxclair (center) is presented with her retirement certificate by Library Director Marylyn Haddican and Verdie Richburg

Debbie was a genuine asset to the Library and will be missed by many. Reference Librarian II **Debra Laine** retired after 34

years of service. During Debra’s tenure, she has worked as a Library Associate and after completing Library School she worked as Branch Manager at the North Kenner, Rosedale, and Lakeshore libraries before ending her career in the East Bank Regional Library Reference department.



Reference Librarian II Debra Laine (center) is presented with her retirement certificate by Verdie Richburg and Director Marylyn Haddican

Lafitte Librarian I-Senior Associate **Janice Favaloro** retired with 33 years. Janice is looking forward to having an awesomely blessed and joyful retirement. The Library says farewell to these ladies and wishes them a happy retirement life.



Lafitte Library’s Dynamic Duo – Library Associate Lucie Shilling (right) wishes happy retirement to Librarian I Janice Favaloro

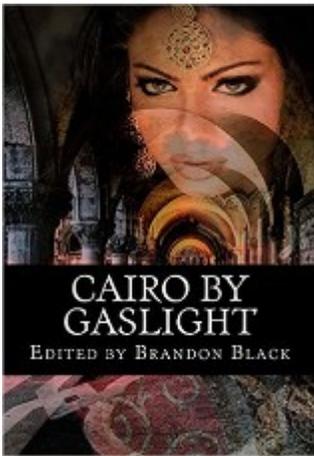
**New Team Players**

This quarter the Library welcomed new team players! Added to the roster are EBR Reference Librarian II **Rachel Price**, Belle Terre Associate **Chandra Taylor**, EBR Children’s Associate **Lau-**

**ren Fontana**, Rosedale Associate  
**Alicia McCallum**, Grand Isle  
 Associate **Taylor Jambon**, Maintenance  
 Repairmen **Elden Russ** and  
**Thomas Rhody, Jr.**, and Laborer  
**Anthony Jones**.

**Writer @ the Library**

Congratulations to Westwego  
 Library Associate **Gary Bourgeois**  
 on having a story he wrote published  
 in “Cairo by Gaslight,” an anthology.  
 At the launch for the anthology held  
 at the East Bank Regional, **Gary** was  
 assisted by Belle Terre Library Manager  
**Tom Giroir** in conducting a reading  
 from Gary’s short story.



Another story Gary wrote was  
 published earlier in “New Orleans



Volunteers of the Friends of JPL at the *Thank You Coffee* hosted by Friends

by Gaslight” (2013). Gary won  
 third place in the Adult Short  
 Story category in the Hammond  
 Arts Festival writing contest last  
 March and from time to time he  
 has been a featured in the Li-  
 brary’s Author Event pro-  
 gram. Congratulations **Gary**;  
 keep up the good writing!

**Friends of Jefferson Public  
 Library Big Book Sale**

The Friends of the Jefferson  
 Public Library held a “*Thank  
 You Coffee*” for their volunteers  
 that helped with their Spring Big

Book Sale. A total of 106 volun-  
 teers participated in the book sale.

**Summer Reading 2016**

Youth Services Coordinator  
**Erin Korosi** and staff are  
 geared up for this year’s Summer  
 Reading Program (SRP) and Li-  
 brarypalooza. The SRP started  
 May 31 and ends July 31. All  
 library branches are hosting a va-  
 riety of storytime programs,  
 crafts, and special performers in-  
 cluding the Zoomobile, magi-  
 cians, musical performers, draw-  
 ing instructors and much more!  
 The SRP is open to the whole  
 family with special reading pro-  
 grams for babies/toddlers, chil-  
 dren, teens and adults.

**Babies/Toddlers program**

(newborn – 36 months) parents  
 can complete the program by per-  
 forming early literacy activities  
 with their child. Ten early litera-  
 cy activities will earn a comple-  
 tion certificate, an “I ♥ Books”  
 bumper sticker, a free meal from  
 Raising Cane’s, a free meal from  
 Chipotle, a certificate for a free  
 Zephyrs game, a voucher to the  
 Spray Park at Lafreniere Park and  
 a spin on the Prize Wheel for a



Gary Bourgeois and Tom Giroir reading Gary’s story featured in the book  
 “Cairo by Gaslight” at a Library Author Event program.

small sports themed prize. Completion of 20 and 30 activities will earn additional spins on the Prize Wheel. Reading a book to the child can substitute for any of the early literacy activities.

**Children** (preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade) - read 10 books or for 10 hours to complete the program and win the prizes mentioned above. Completion of 20 and 30 books or hours will earn additional spins on the Prize Wheel.



**Teens** (grades 6-12) - complete 5 tasks (ranging from reading books to attending programs to exploring digital resources) to earn an 8GB Memory Band, an "I ♥ Books" bumper sticker, a free meal from Chipotle, a certificate for a free Zephyrs game, a grand prize raffle ticket and a spin on the Prize Wheel for a bonus prize. Bonus prizes will consist of teen books and candy. Grand prizes will be a choice of \$50 gift cards for Amazon, iTunes, AMC, or Barnes & Noble.

**Adults** - read 5 books to earn an "I ♥ Books" bumper sticker and entry into a raffle for a \$10

gift certificate to the Friends' of the Library store and book sale.

### **Librarpalooza**

To start the summer off with a bang, the East and West Bank Regional libraries will hold their annual Librarpalooza kick-off parties on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers will serve iced tea and lemonade at the events. Pelican Publishing will provide copies of *Rooster Roux*, *The Basketball Playing Rooster*, to participants while supplies last.

Librarpalooza at East Bank Regional Library will run from 10 AM – 3PM and feature fun and games for the whole family including, life-sized Candy Land, Angry Birds, and Checkers games, Minute to Win it Challenges, sports themed carnival games, and even special games for toddlers.

Librarpalooza at West Bank Regional Library will run from 10AM – 2 PM. It involves a medieval festival created by the Barony of Axemoor, part of the Society for Creative Anachronism, a non-profit society dedicated to the preservation of the Middle Ages. Special demonstrations include sword fighting and archery, plus medieval crafts and clothing will be on display. Face painting for kids and special crafts will be available for children and teens.

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.jpilibrary.net](http://www.jpilibrary.net)

## **Engineering**

By  
Helen McGee

Happy summer y'all! Hope everyone is keeping cool out there in Parish Land.

Engineering welcomes to Drafting, **Matthew Palermo**, and **Destin Ryals**, who comes to us by way of the Recreation Department. Welcome aboard.

Warehouse welcomes **William Klevorn**, **Ceese Bacon** and **Jerry Cook**. We are happy to have you all a part of the team.

Engineering also welcomes **Reza Mowla** to SCADA.

Congratulation to **Cindy Gallo**, Engineering's Executive Superintendent. Cindy has 30 years with the Parish. Congrats, Cindy.



Cindy Gallo celebrates  
30 years of service

## Emergency Management

By  
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

The 2016 hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30. The time to prepare is **now**, when you have the time and are not under pressure. Preparation includes developing an evacuation plan, securing an insurance check-up, assembling disaster supplies, strengthening your home, and staying informed via the media and your local emergency management office. Additionally, identifying your risks, taking action and being an example to your family and neighbors are what you need to become weather-ready. The names for the 2016 hurricane season are: Alex, Bonnie, Colin, Danielle, Earl, Fiona, Gaston, Hermine, Ian, Julia, Karl, Lisa, Matthew, Nicole, Otto, Paula, Richard, Shary, Tobias, Virginie and Walter. The 2016 Atlantic hurricane forecast released by Colorado State calls for a total of 12 named storms, five hurricanes and two major hurricanes, a Cate-



Charles Hudson, Timmy Gautreau, Jr., Claire Ward, and Joe Valiente at the NWS Hurricane Awareness Tour

gory 3 or stronger. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will issue its 2016 hurricane outlook on May 27, 2016.

On May 18, 2016 NOAA and Nation Weather Service (NWS) Hurricane Awareness Tour was held at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport. Emergency Management staff members had the

opportunity to tour the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron Airforce C-130J Hurricane Hunter Aircraft. This Squadron is better known as the “Hurricane Hunters” of the Air Force Reserve. The primary mission of the Hurricane Hunters is to conduct tropical storm reconnaissance. They are aircrews that fly over and through a storm to find out the wind speeds, temperatures and other factors used by forecasters. The flights can last anywhere from six to 12 hours depending on where the storm is located and carry a five-person crew.

On May 23, 2016, Jefferson Parish hosted a Hurricane Preparedness Day news conference at the Emergency Operations Center. This event was an opportunity for all Jefferson Parish leaders to encourage citizens to begin preparation for the upcoming hurricane season. After the news conference, media and visitors were invited to tour the EOC 2<sup>nd</sup> floor as well as safe rooms on the Eastbank and Westbank of Jefferson Parish.



Emergency Management Director Joe Valiente speaks at the Hurricane Preparedness Day news conference

**Juvenile Services**

By  
Vicki Borja

**Tion McGhee** made her debut secondline with Divine Ladies Social and Pleasure Club on Sunday, May 15. **Colleen George**, Probation Supervisor, **Leslie Gerstung**, Detention Probation Officer, **Shernell Shepherd**, Probation Officer, and **Nelda Breaux**, Receptionist, all turned out to support her! Those ladies know how to have fun!



Tion McGhee showing off her secondline

**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:**

The Employee of the Year award for 2015 went to **Reginald White!** Way to go, Reggie!

**EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:**

We would also like to congratulate the following employees for being Employee of the Month:

April 2016

Detention: **Eric Vicks**, Juvenile Detention Officer II  
Probation: **Lashaunda Thomas**, Probation Officer III

May 2016

Detention: **Ted Wilson**, Juvenile Detention Officer I  
Probation: **Tammy Eursin**, Probation Officer II

**SERVICE PINS:**

The following individuals received their service pins:

**5 years:**

Gwendolyn Brown  
Alicia Hunter  
Joan Miller  
Cassandra Cutno  
Mark Duplessis  
Kathleen DeVaughn  
Stacy St. Pierre

**10 years:**

Stanley LeBlanc  
Brett Jackson  
Denita Hunter  
Gerald Daniels  
Chantrell Cook  
Kelly Keller

**15 years:**

Roy L. Juncker, Jr.  
Tiyeshe Washington  
Gay Hymel

Thanks to everyone for their hard work!

**DEPARTURES:**

We would like to send our wishes to **Ianisha Chairs**, who left to work with Drug Court and **Cindy McGee**, who left to spend time with her daughter, Carmen. Best wishes to you both!

**CONDOLENCES:**

We offer our deepest sympathy to **Donya Snowton** on the loss of her daughter, Danae, who passed on March 27, 2016; **Denise Gilson**, who lost her mother, Lorraine Scott Walker, on May 4, 2016; and **Elydia Ketchens**, who lost her grandmother Julia Ella Joseph Jackson-Roy on April 28, 2016. Donya, Denise, and Elydia, you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

**BLOOD DRIVE:**

The Department of Juvenile Services held on to the Bloodhound award when we collected 15 units, which saved 45 lives! Thanks to everyone who participated.



President Yenni with DJS Employee of the Year Reginald White

### Lafreniere Park

By  
William Cangemi

#### Woman's Best Friend

When she's not on the job here at the park, On-Call Amusement Ride Operator **Gail Bearden** is a professional dog trainer. Over a span of 30 years, Gail has trained many breeds, from Chihuahuas to Mastiffs. She has also shown her own Mastiffs at dog shows throughout the country. Moving these gentle giants from city to city has resulted in Gail and her pack winning countless awards. We love listening to her canine stories, and we're happy to have Gail here!



Gail Bearden

#### Summer in the Park

There will be more than the heat and humidity this summer at Lafreniere Park. Our Spray Park and Carousel will be open seven days a week until August 5. Yellow buses filled with summer campers will flow through the Park every weekday. On weekends, barbeque grills and ice chests will be the order of the day. Halfway through the season Lafreniere presents its annual *Uncle Sam Jam* on Sunday, July 3. As usual, this patriotic celebration



will be filled with music, food, and of course, a beautiful fireworks display.

#### Picture Perfect

Horticulture Supervisor **Johnny Hayes** has taken many beautiful pictures of this park that he and his crew maintain. We especially like this photograph (above) of two pelicans taking a leisurely swim by Mall Island.

### Parkways

By  
Marilyn Slutsky

Welcome to our new employees, **Armand Bellanger, Anthony Giglio, Jaye-Don Hobson, Martin Gallot, Jarmard Dorsey** and **Ivy Loup**. Parkways staff worked many hours for the annual TPC Zurich Classic held in April. Congratulations for a job well done!



Parkways works on Zurich Classic flower bed

The Manhattan Beautification Project was completed in March 2016 by Hard Rock Construction. See photo Page 22.



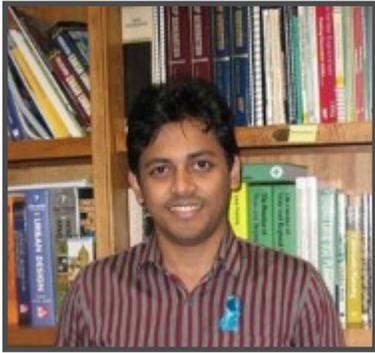
Parkways West Bank staff wearing blue ribbons for National Women's Lung Health Week

### Planning

By  
Nedra Tate

#### FAREWELL

Farewell and best wishes to **Syed Islam**, who was our University of New Orleans Intern from August 2015 till May 2016. Syed is working on his Master's in Urban and Regional Planning, also known as the MURP Program. On his last day he wanted to express his thanks to everyone in Planning and a special thanks to **Terri Wilkinson**, Planning Director, and **Juliette Cassagne**, Assistant Director, for giving him such a wonderful opportunity.



Syed Islam

#### EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

We would like to congratulate **Liane Trick** and **Dorina Gauthreaux** for completing 5



Liane Trick and Dorina Gauthreaux

years of service and receiving their 5-year service pins. We thank you both for all of your hard work and dedication, and we're looking forward to many more years of service. Congratulations on a job well done!

#### EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

A big round of applause goes to our Assistant Director, **Juliette Cassagne**, who is our Employee of the Year! Juliette has always gone above and beyond the call of duty. She is helpful in *EVERY* aspect of our department. We can tell just by looking at her that she loves her job and is always trying to find room for improvement. We can truly say this is a well-deserved honor. Congratulations, Juliette!



President Yenni with Planning's Employee of the Year Juliette Cassagne

### Traffic Engineering

By  
Brandy Chism

Working with the Engineering, Streets, and Parkways Departments, the Signal Division of Traffic Engineering assisted with the installation of a new decorative clock as part of the Veterans Beautification project at Lake and Veterans Boulevard recently.



Keeping Time at the Veterans Beautification Project



Gerald Gusman assembles hardware for traffic sign installation

## General Services

By  
Tessa St. Pierre

### Welcomes and Goodbyes

General Services welcomes **Stanford Young**, who is our new Stationary Engineer I. Sadly we have to say goodbye to **Antonio Dyson**, **Karin Fourcade**, and **John Lewis**. They have been a great service to us and we wish them the best of luck .

### Congratulations

A big congratulations are in order for **William Hamm** on being promoted to Stationary Engineer II, and **Timothy Hoskins** on being promoted to Stationary Engineer III.

This year we had a good amount of employees that received Service Pins. Starting with the five years are **Fred Carreras, Jr.**, **John Davis**, **Linda Fountain**, **Christopher Frazier**, and **Troy Sanchez**. Our ten years go to **Timothy Anderson**, **Dale Esteves**, **Muriel Osborne**, **Richard Peart**, and **David Segura**. The big fifteen years recipients are **Michael Fonseca**, **Michael Lemoine**, **Shayne Perez**, and **Jill Relick**. These employees show us what hard work and dedication is all about.

Now start your drumroll for the one the only Employee of the Year **Mr. Wayne Guillot!** Wayne has been with us for almost 19 years and he has never backed down from a challenge dealing with plumbing. He is always around to give a helping hand and is a great asset to the Parish.

### Surplus

This year's Surplus Auction was a complete success. It grossed



GS Director Anthony Francis with Employee of the Year Wayne Guillot

over \$499K. We would like to thank our auctioneer company, ServCorp International, Inc., for helping make this a success. Special thanks to the many employees who helped make this auction operate so smoothly. **Revy Antoine, Paul Wattigney, Troy Sanchez, Neal Lavin, Christy Calmette, John Davis, Dale Esteves, Mike Lemoine, Tonda White, Fred Carreras, Alex Thompson, Timothy Hoskins, Tessa St. Pierre, Stephanie Bush, Jerry Durant,** and **Director Anthony Francis.**

Every year we can't give enough thanks to the hard working Fleet Management staff for making the auction successful. Diane Spencer, Bruce Vosbein,

Bob Morgan, Benjamin Bourg, Kathy Millican and Director Nick Digerolamo deserve accolades for their participation.

### Buddy Break

On April 7 the Animal Shelter put on an amazing event where Parish workers could walk shelter dogs for a lunchtime stroll. It was huge success, but General Services would like to give a big thanks to the Grounds Crew for helping set up. From putting up fences to just walking around willing to give a helping hand. The Grounds Crew consist of **Karin Fourcade, Donovan Allen, Alex Thompson,** and **Michael Landry.** We cannot thank you guys enough. (Photo below)



## Finance Authority

By  
Sheila Rodrigue

The Jefferson Parish Finance Authority is very proud to have had our Southern Mortgage Assistance Program recognized during one of the seminars at the National Association of Local Housing Finance Agency conference in April as a program that could be used as a model by other finance authorities across the nation.

Parish President Yenni spoke at a recent Lender and Realtors Meeting that we sponsored in April. He spoke about how the Jefferson Parish Finance Authority has helped many residents to be able to afford a home by giving them assistance with their down payment and closing costs.

### Southern Mortgage Assistance Program

If you or a family member or friend is buying or thinking about buying a home but needs help with the down payment or closing costs, contact our office at 736-6311 or you can visit our website at [www.southernmortgageap.org](http://www.southernmortgageap.org) to find out more information about our Southern Mortgage Assistance Program. Our program provides a grant that does not have to be repaid which assists with paying down payment and closing costs for qualified home buyers. There are two down payment assistance options from which to choose for an FHA, VA, or RHS (Rural Development) loan – 3% or 4% of the loan amount. For a Freddie Mac HFA Advantage loan only a 3% down payment assistance is available. For example, if your home loan is \$100,000 and you choose the 3%

assistance, the grant would be \$3,000 or if you choose the 4% assistance the grant would be \$4,000 which would go towards paying your down payment and closing costs.

For our Southern Mortgage Assistance Program, you do not have to be a first time home buyer, have a credit score of 640 or higher, and meet our income restriction. Only the income of the borrower or borrowers (not household income) is used to determine if our income restriction is met. Recently the Southern Mortgage Assistance Program expanded to include some neighboring parishes in addition to Jefferson Parish. The current maximum income allowed for Jefferson Parish, St. Charles Parish, and St. Tammany Parish is \$69,000 for an FHA, VA or RHS loan and \$99,000 for a Freddie Mac.

If you have family or friends in the western part of Louisiana in the parishes of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis, our Southern Mortgage Assistance Program's down payment assistance grant can also be used in those parishes. The maximum incomes allowed for an FHA, VA, or RHS loan are as follows: \$57,040 for Allen Parish, \$70,035 for Beauregard Parish, \$62,790 for both Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes, and \$61,065 for Jefferson Davis Parish. The maximum for a Freddie Mac loan in any of these parishes is also \$99,000.

A home purchased using our Southern Mortgage Assistance Program must be located in one

of the areas where our assistance can be used and must be a single family home which includes condos and townhouses. Multi-family housing such as a duplex is not allowed. The home must also be owner occupied and must be your primary residence (i.e., cannot be used for rental or investment purposes). The maximum acquisition cost of the house cannot exceed the following: \$271,050 for FHA, \$417,000 for VA, no limit for RHS, and \$417,000 for a Freddie Mac HFA Advantage loan.

A list of lenders participating in our program as well as more information about our program can be found on our website at [www.southernmortgageap.org](http://www.southernmortgageap.org).

You do have to use one of these lenders for your home loan in order to obtain our down payment assistance grant. Our lenders will assist you with qualifying for a home loan and handle all of the paperwork, including the paperwork for obtaining our down payment assistance. If you have any questions about our Southern Mortgage Assistance Program, you can always call our office at 736-6311.



Chief Buyer Jenifer Lotz and Purchasing Director Brenda Campos congratulate Shanna Folse (center) for 15 years with the Parish.

## Environmental

By  
Kathy Russo

Environmental Affairs would like to welcome our new employees, Typist Clerk III **Troy Brown** and Environmental Quality Technician II **Gary Hebert**. Both Troy and Gary come to us from the Property Management Zoning Department.

We would like to congratulate our intern, **Sarah Larock**, on receiving her Masters degree in Public Administration from UNO.

Congratulations to Environmental Quality Specialist **Seamus Riley** on being selected as departmental Employee of the Year. Seamus was presented his plaque by President Yenni at the May 11 Council meeting. Thank you for your efforts and keep up the good work.



Seamus Riley with Environmental Director Mike Lockwood

On Tuesday, May 6, 2016, the Department of Environmental Affairs participated in the Jefferson Beautification Inc. Earth Day at LaSalle Park in Metairie. Storm-water Program Specialist **Diane Coughlin** and Industrial Pre-treatment Program Technician



Earth Day at LaSalle Park

**Tracey Patania** set up a display with educational material and spoke to the visiting 5<sup>th</sup> grade students about various programs and services that our department provides to the public. Enviroscape presentations were also provided to demonstrate different sources of Non-Point Source Pollution in our community.

Environmental Quality Specialist **Christina Duggar** has been elected the Treasurer of the Louisiana Conference on Water, Wastewater, and Industrial Wastes, Inc. and was also elected Chair of the Southeast Section, a branch of the conference that provides training hours to water and wastewater operators throughout Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes.

Our Department participated in the 2016 Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation's *Spring Sweep* in Metairie on Saturday April 2, 2016. Our employees worked alongside 300 volunteers picking up trash around the lake and marking storm drains with our bilingual, educational markers.

On April 7, 2016, approximately 100 Patrick F. Taylor Science Academy students and their teachers worked with Environmental Affairs staff to place 100 storm drain markers and collect litter in the Jamie Dr. area of Avondale. Area residents were happy with the beautification activity in their neighborhood. A similar event was done on May 26, 2016 with the Jefferson Chambers Foundation School students and staff in Fat City.

In April, Storm Water Program Supervisor **Sami Khalil** led a Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations Training to the Drainage Department staff members. 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. Another training was done in May for our EB/WB Solid Waste Drop-off Sites employees. The training component has the ultimate goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The training classes are held annually.

Environmental Affairs has received a sub-grant from the UNO Technology Foundation, Inc. to help educate construction contractors on methods to reduce storm water pollution from construction site activities. The prime-grant was awarded to UNO from the United States EPA Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program. The first workshop was held Tuesday, May 3, at 8:00am, at the Mel Ott Recreation Center in Gretna. The second workshop was held on May 24, at 8:00am at the Yenni Building in Elmwood. More workshop dates will be announced at a later time.

**Sami Khalil** and **Diane Coughlin** attended a one-day workshop on Wednesday, April 27 in New Orleans City Park, focusing on flow measurement, water quality, and data collection "best practices" as it relates to river, stream, and canal sampling operations.

On May 7, the Department of Environmental Affairs held a Parish-wide Household Hazardous Materials Collection Event at the Joseph S. Yenni Building. Over 10,000 pounds of household haz-

ardous material including electronics, pesticides, mercury and paint were collected for re-use, recycling, and/or proper disposal. Two area-wide nonprofit organizations donated their time and resources to assist us with the project. The Green Project and the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC) were on hand to collect paint and used electronics, respectively. This parish-wide collection event, was part of the Parish's participation in the Great American Clean-up -- a nationwide event required of all Keep America Beautiful Affiliates. Our goal is to make this an annual service for Parish residents.

On May 10, Industrial Development and Research Coordinator **Kathy Russo** and Stormwater Supervisor **Sami Khalil** attended a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) workshop sponsored by EPA and GOHSEP in Madisonville. This was a regional workshop attended by municipal and industrial personnel from all over the SE Louisiana region. Lots of useful information was provided.

## Diversity Advisory Board

By  
Selena Muhoberac

On April 12, 2016, members of the Jefferson Parish Employee Diversity Advisory Board (JPEDAB) met at the East Bank Regional Library. The minutes from the January 21 meeting were accepted. **Emann Batiste** asked for everyone to submit articles for the next *Diversity Matters* newsletter.

**Sean Hurley** indicated the best type of articles to submit would be member reactions to current diversity topics. **Cheryl Legohn-Tubbs** encouraged by asking fellow employees and co-workers to submit articles as well. **Ingrid Johnson** called for a vote to change the newsletter frequency to semi-annual, which passed unanimously.

Emann Batiste called for the Recording Secretary vacancy to be filled. **Catherine Toppel** volunteered and was granted the position.

Ingrid Johnson updated the Board on new members that have filled some vacancies. **Hector Pineda, Brad Richard,** and **Darryl Ward** have all filled vacancies. Kriss Fortunato's spot still needs to be filled.

**Glenn Schiro** advised the Board that at the council meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, **Royce Blanchard** and **Darryl Ward** would receive a Proclamation and certificates for Employee Recognition Week. Certificates were printed and sent out at the end of April.



Sami Khalil at the Household Hazardous Materials Collection Event

Emann Batiste advised the Board that a new budget of \$5,000 has been adopted. Ingrid Johnson conveyed that the Board will now need a Treasurer. Cheryl Legohn-Tubbs volunteered. Ingrid Johnson asked Darryl Ward for budget guidelines. Darryl Ward told the Board to bring any ideas they have forward for consideration. Ingrid Johnson asked members to come up with ideas and present them to the Board advisors who will then present them to administration.

During the ice-breaker, members took an opportunity to discuss a well-known Robert F. Kennedy quote. Members gave their interpretations on the quote and relayed stories of past experiences related to diversity.

Ingrid Johnson asked for volunteers for the following committees: DAB July Retreat – Royce Blanchard, Cheryl Legohn-Tubbs, **Pay Palafox**, and Catherine Toppel volunteered. And Diversity Month Activities – Royce Blanchard, Cheryl Legohn-Tubbs, **Yvette Russo**, and **Shane Yokum** volunteered. Sean Hurley also gave some background on the facility where the July retreat will be held. The retreat will be a day-long event on July 12.

Emann Batiste thanked everyone on the Board for filling out the surveys and conveyed that they were very helpful and enlightening.

The next Jefferson Parish Employee Diversity Advisory Board meeting will be announced at a later date.

## Sewerage

By  
Venice Cooper

### JEFFERSON PARISH JOB FAIR

The Parish held a Job Fair on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at the Alario Center. **Yvette Russo** and **Brett Todd** manned the Department of Sewerage booth at the Job Fair, providing information about job openings in our department to the hundreds of people in attendance. Following is what Yvette shared about their experiences at the Job Fair:

“I really enjoyed working the Parish Job Fair. It was incredible to see how many people showed up. Over 1300 people were looking for jobs - from young people looking for entry level positions, to older people who have worked in the oil business for many years, and have lost their jobs.”

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **James**

**Robinson** on his recent retirement. James retired on May 2, 2016, with over 30 years of service. He was a Trades Helper in our Eastbank Lift Stations Division.

We wish James the best as he begins a new chapter of life

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

**Donald Jackson** was promoted to Superintendent II at Westbank Lines

**Paul Williams** was promoted to Laborer Semi-Skilled at Westbank Lines

### WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

**Kendal Boudreaux** – Laborer, Westbank Lines

**Elwinetta Dauphin** – Lift Station Inspector, Eastbank Lift Stations

**Aaron Lewis** – Equipment Operator I, Westbank Lift Stations

**Darren Monnerjahn** – Electrician, Eastbank Lift Stations

**Joshua Payne** – Lift Station Inspector, Westbank Lift Stations

**Nicolas Pina** – Pump Equipment Mechanic, Westbank Lift Stations



Brett Todd and Yvette Russo at the Jefferson Parish Job Fair

## Drainage

By  
Sheena Quinn

### Welcome & Congratulations!

As spring begins, the Department of Drainage continues to blossom and expand with new employees. We'd like to extend welcome to **Kelly Blakesly, Todd Calegan, Paul Eymard, Chad Mangosing, Jerome Davis, Michael Kraemer, Billy Bryant Jr., Lance Broussard, Gadge Wilson, Keith Hill, and Sean Kinzey** to our family.

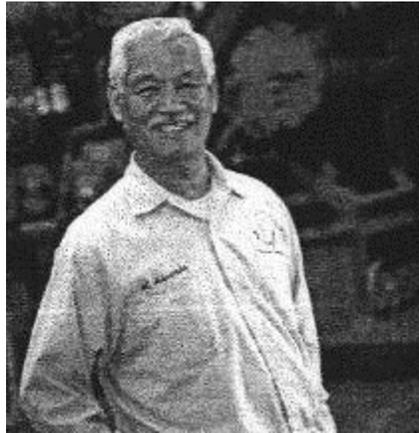
Also, a special "job well done" to those commendable Drainage employees that received recent promotions. They include: **Michael Zielinski, Dimitrius Spencer, Timothy Gaubert, Joseph Santini, Jonathan Rivet, Adrian Haynes, Tromone Puckett, Joshua Cortez, Henry Jackson III, Jonathan Clark, Quincy Sanders, John Braswell, and Alfred Chan.**

### Award Pins

Drainage awarded service pins to employees that have been with us for 5, 10, and 15 years. The following dedicated employees received pins for 15 years: **Dominick Ditcharo and Earl Peters.** We thank you for your hard work and look forward to seeing what you all will accomplish in the future.

On May 12 our very own **Mmanuel Aspuria**, Drainage Operations and Maintenance Manager Pump Stations, received the BGC Excellence in Government Lifetime Achievement Award for 2016. Over the past 32 years, Manny has worked his way up from a Pump Station Operator to his current position. Along the

way, he has shown true dedication and extensive knowledge that make the parish a safer place!



Manny Aspuria

### Great Accomplishments

During the Council meeting on May 11, the Employee of the Year was recognized for the Department of Drainage. We would like to announce that this honor was presented to **Doris Short**, a Drainage Administration employee since 1992. Doris, an Administrative Assistant, has shown exemplary dedication to all that she does. We are very happy to have her as part of our team. Congrats, Doris!

## Purchasing

By  
Laniel Francis

Purchasing congratulates Mrs. **Shanna Folsie** with a pin symbolizing 15 Years of Service with Jefferson Parish. She began her career path with the Parish with the Parish Attorney's office as a Typist Clerk. She has also worked with Inspection and Code Enforcement and General Services. She is now a Buyer 1 with the Purchasing Department. We are truly thankful for her many years of Service with Jefferson Parish! (See photo Page 14)

Ms. **Daphne Nelson** is what purchasing refers to as "A Veteran Buyer." Ms. Nelson's vast knowledge and acute skill set keeps the Purchasing Department running smoothly. She has been with the Purchasing department for 19 years. It has been truly an Honor and privilege to work alongside her. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You for all your many years of dedication, Ms. Daphne Nelson!!



Finance Director Timothy Palmatier, Maxine Charles, Daphne Nelson, and Purchasing Director Brenda Campos

## Health Issues

By  
Peggy Branan, RN



### The Zika Virus

It seems like every time you turn on the television the threat of some new disease is being reported. Hitting the headlines now is the Zika Virus with the alarming news that it can cause babies growing in the womb of infected mothers to have abnormally small heads. And, WOW, that has sure gotten the attention of Americans!

While Americans are not at the stage of panicking over the Zika Virus, there is a growing concern and curiosity regarding what this foreign invader is all about. Where did it originate? How is it spread? How can you avoid catching it? How do you know if you have it? When should you be concerned and seek medical attention? And, how do you treat it? Hopefully, this information will help ease some concerns as you take a pro-active approach towards the Zika Virus.

**So, what is the history of this virus?** The first known case was in 1947. It was named after the Zika Forest in Uganda, on the African continent. Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands have also been known historically to harbor this virus. Last year, documented cases of the Zika Virus were found in the Americas and the Caribbean, which is not a comforting bit of information. It is believed that these individuals had

become infected while they were in Africa.

**How is it spread?** The Zika Virus resides in the blood and body fluids of infected individuals. Exposure to this infected blood or body fluid can result in infection for the other individual. After one becomes infected, the virus remains in the blood for up to one week. It is during this first week that their blood is contaminated and mosquito bites can pick up the virus and spread it. Sexual transmission of the virus in semen occurs before, during, and after the man's symptoms resolve, which can last longer than the blood being detected in the blood. At this time in our country, our blood supply for blood transfusions is considered to be safe.

**How can you avoid catching it?** The number one way to avoid catching the virus is avoid mosquito bites. Unfortunately, with all the species of mosquitoes you may encounter them throughout the day and night. Mosquito control measures by municipalities and eliminating sources of standing water by home owners can be effective in minimizing the next generation of mosquitoes. Try to avoid going outdoors especially at dusk when mosquitoes are at their worst. If you must go out, try to wear loose fitting clothing. Keep in mind that a mosquito bite can penetrate clothing. If you must go out when the mosquitoes are biting, use a mosquito repellent. Be sure to always read the can instructions prior to using mosquito repellents. At this time, there is no vaccine for the Zika Virus.

**How do you know if you have it?** For the most part,

people do not exhibit any symptoms of the Zika Virus infection. For those who may have symptoms, the most common would include: headache, muscle/joint pain, fever, rash, and possibly red eyes (conjunctivitis), which can last from several days to a week. The symptoms are usually so mild that one would not even go to the doctor or the hospital.

**When should you be concerned** and seek medical attention? If you have travelled to an area known as a source of Zika infection and are experiencing the symptoms noted above; you have been exposed to the blood or body fluids of an infected person; while being outdoors with a known infected person you are having mosquito bites. Of particular concern are women who develop the Zika Virus infection while pregnant. Microcephaly, a birth defect that results in the infant having an abnormally small head, and other problems may occur. If you are not sure about your particular situation, don't hesitate to contact a doctor. Your doctor will need to know the travel history of yourself and those you've associated with.

**How do you treat it?** At this time there is no particular medication to treat to kill the virus. Treatment consists of managing symptoms. The CDC and various government agencies are continuing to monitor this virus and coordinating with local and state governments to address the needs of its citizens. So, if and when it is necessary, we can feel safe that we will be informed of what we need to do or not to do. So, in the meantime, avoid those pesky mosquitoes and enjoy your summer!

# Service Pin Awards:

1



4



7



2



5



8



3



6



9



**President Yenni presents service pins to several Parish employees:**

- 1. Reda Youseff (15 years) with Public Works Director Kazem Alikhani**
- 2. Reed Smith (5 years) with Parish Attorney Mike Power**
- 3. Linda Daly (5 years)**
- 4. Zeldia Gillen (5 years)**
- 5. Jedidiah Jackson (5 years) with CAA Darryl Ward**
- 6. Barbara Namer (5 years)**
- 7. Justin Castile (5 years)**
- 8. Jennifer Malone (5 years)**
- 9. Jacques Molaison (5 years)**

# Retirements

**Deborah Troxclair**  
**Library**  
**38 years**

**Debra Laine**  
**Library**  
**34 years**

**Janice Favaloro**  
**Library**  
**33 years**

**Myron Romero**  
**Water**  
**32 years**

**Stanley Walker**  
**Streets**  
**31 years**

**David Licciardi**  
**Water**  
**31 years**

**Ray Heffner**  
**Water**  
**30 years**

**James Robinson**  
**Sewerage**  
**30 years**

**Giselle Lewis**  
**Streets**  
**30 years**

**Dianna Dutreix**  
**Engineering**  
**29 years**

**Howard Lange**  
**Sewerage**  
**28 years**

**Lorraine Sanders**  
**PMZ**  
**28 years**

**Dwight Galiano**  
**Parks & Recreation**  
**26 years**

**Alton Domingue**  
**Library**  
**21 years**

**Sharon Donato**  
**Parish Attorney**  
**18 years**

## Manhattan Beautification Project

