



Volume 37
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August 2016

Jefferson

Message from the Parish President. . .

Moving Forward and a Fond Farewell

We have reached the third quarter of the year and more than 200 days of this administration.

As I mentioned in my State of the Parish Address to the Kenner Business Association, we have had so many successes so far. We have managed to balance a very difficult budget and ensure the highest level of hurricane and flood protection that the federal government can provide.

The Public Works Department has finished the last residential road projects as part of a multi-million-dollar federal grant.

We also are continuing our development of the largest park in Jefferson Parish, Parc des Familles, which will offer over 600 acres of fun for families

As we move forward, we are looking at ways to refinance bonds to repair our most traveled roads and congested traffic areas across the Parish.

There is still much work to be done, and the support of Parish employees will be a driving force for this administration.

This is only the beginning, and my goal as the leader of this Parish is to make it better than before. You all have a part to play in this goal. Together we can achieve great success for Jefferson Parish.



Michael Yenni
Parish President

Thanks and Farewell to Kazem

I also want to thank a dear friend of the Parish for his dedicated service over the last three decades. Public Works Director Kazem Alikhani announced his retirement in July after 34 years with the Parish.

Kazem's skill and knowledge have been invaluable. Some of his many accomplishments include being a part of the team that helped coordinate with the Corps of Engineers, the Parish administration and Council, and the Levee Authority to formalize a comprehensive plan to provide 100-year flood protection for Jefferson Parish.

In addition, he worked with the Administration, the Council, and state and federal agencies to significantly upgrade and modernize Jefferson's drainage system.

Kazem also worked closely with employees to promptly restore the Parish infrastructure to allow residents to return and businesses to open after Hurricane Katrina.

He will truly be missed, but we wish him all the best!

JeffTalk

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- Community Development**
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- Drainage** Sheena Quinn Bauer
- Emergency Management**
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- 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

**Benefits 2017:
Some Important Changes**

As fall approaches and Open enrollment draws near, I wanted to make all of you aware of the Parish's 2017 health plan offerings. United Healthcare will remain our insurance carrier for 2017. The table below represents the major changes to our medical plan, effective 1/1/2017. In order for the Parish to keep the plan most affordable to the employees, modifications were made to our benefit structure.

Physician visits are increasing by \$5 for a PCP, \$10 for a specialist, and \$25 for urgent care. ER visits are increasing by \$100.

The prescription drug copays will remain the same: \$10/\$50/\$75; Preventative Services are covered at 100%

For 2017, we are introducing deductibles and coinsurance.

More information, as well as informative Benefits Meetings—where new topics such as deductibles and co-insurance will be explained in detail—will be forthcoming. This year



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

Annual enrollment is mandatory; all employees will have to meet with an enroller, even if they are not making any changes.

Despite the changes, our medical benefits plan is still considered to be a rich medical plan offering. While many companies are seeing deductibles in excess of \$1,500, we were able to keep ours to a minimum level.

Here are a few definitions that you may find helpful:

Deductible: The amount you must pay for a service before the insurance pays any portion.

Coinsurance: A cost share between the insurance company and the member. It is usually assessed after a deductible

Copayment: A fixed cost per service.

Out-of-Pocket Max: The maximum amount you pay for approved, in-network medical services. It includes deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance.

Benefit Changes	Current Plan	Effective 1/1/2017
Office Visit (PCP/ Specialist)	\$20/\$35	\$25/ \$45
Inpatient Hospital Copay	\$200 per day/ 3 day max	Deductible/ Coinsurance
Outpatient Hospital Copay	\$200	Deductible/ Coinsurance
Emergency Room Copay	\$150	\$250
Urgent Care Copay	\$50	\$75
Deductible	N/A	\$250 per person/ \$500 Family
Coinsurance	100%	90%
Out-of-Pocket Max(Single/ Family)	\$1,500/ \$3,000	\$3,000/ \$6,000

Code Enforcement

By
Amanda Wardwell

Code Enforcement has a few new faces around! We would like to give a warm welcome to our new Building Plan Reviewers **Jahan Aghakasiri** and **Raymond Allen**, as well as Account Clerk II **Kevin Kinsley**. Also joining our team is Typist Clerk III **Kirsten Knott**, who will be working in our Building department. Welcome to the Inspection and Code Enforcement family. We all look forward to working with each of you!

As we are welcoming new faces, we are saying farewell to a few long-time employees with Jefferson Parish. Electrical Clerk **Jacqueline Taylor** has decided to begin a new adventure in her career. She always knew how to put a smile on our faces. Also, Building Clerk **Alberta Wright** has retired after 19 years with



Celebrating Jacqueline Taylor's years of service with Jefferson Parish: Left to Right – Dan Suchand, Theresa Tauceda, Jacqueline Taylor, Michael Hale, Doretha Parker, & Richard Sonier

Code Enforcement along with Building Inspector **David Richard**, who retired after 30 years. Enjoy retirement!! We will miss them and we wish them the very best!

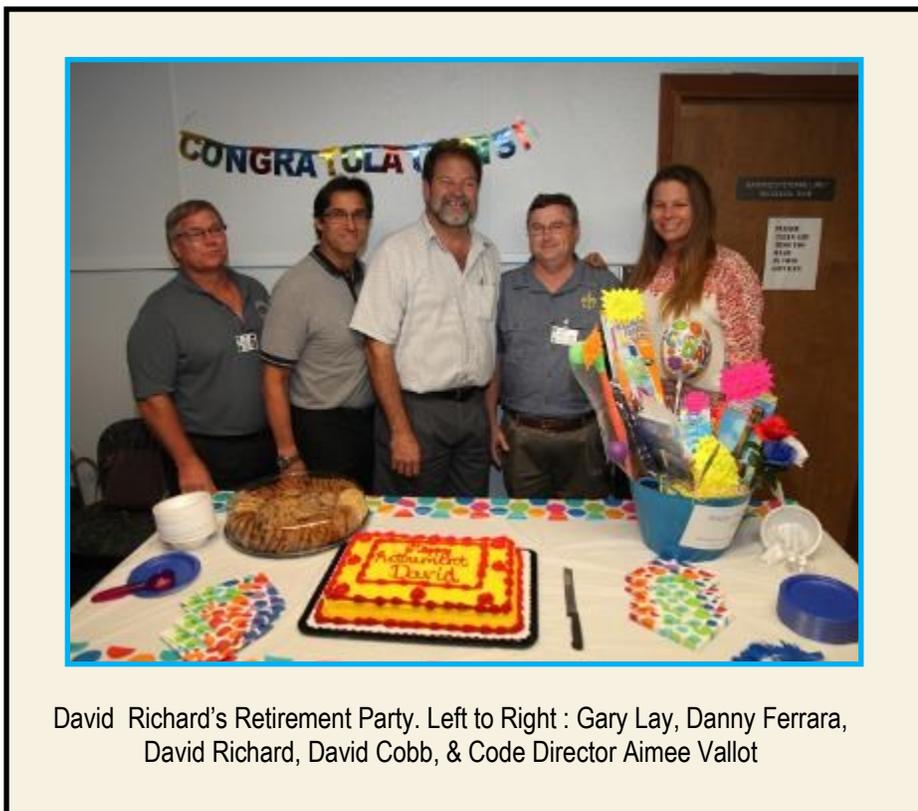
A big congratulation is in order for **Sal Puleo** as he was promoted to our new Building Permit Manager in Code Enforcement. Sal was previously Code

Enforcement's Building Plan Reviewer III. Congratulations to **Tramone Chetta**, who was promoted to Building Plan Reviewer III.

Not only are we congratulating Sal and Tramone, but Mechanical



Alberta Wright's Retirement Party: Left to Right – Amanda Wardwell, President Mike Yenni, Alberta Wright, Aimee Vallot, & John Segura



David Richard's Retirement Party. Left to Right : Gary Lay, Danny Ferrara, David Richard, David Cobb, & Code Director Aimee Vallot

Clerk (and Ace Reporter) **Amanda Wardwell** was also promoted to Administrative Assistant for the East Bank Inspection and Code Enforcement. You all will do great in your new positions!

Jefferson Parish's New Facebook Page

Last month, Jefferson Parish launched the official Parish Facebook page. Social media has proved to be very useful in furthering the goals of government, particularly regarding community interaction.

The Parish will post all parish-related events, announcements, and information on the official page which can be located at www.facebook.com/JeffersonParishGov.

Residents, employees, government agencies, and anyone interested in Jefferson Parish are encouraged to "Like" the page and interact as well as spread the word by sharing the page with their Facebook friends.

The page is moderated by the Public Information Office. The Jefferson Parish Facebook Page is intended to provide information to Jefferson Parish residents, businesses, and visitors about public issues.

The page is not a forum to discuss controversial topics or any matters political in nature. While we encourage members of our community to share thoughts and opinions on Jefferson Parish's social media pages, we expect that this will be done in a respectful manner.

Please understand the Parish reserves the right to delete comments that contain hate speech, profanity, obscenities or vulgarity, personal attacks, solicitation of any kind, or any other comments or content that Jef-

ferson Parish deems inappropriate.

We also encourage you to interact with the official Jefferson Parish Twitter page: twitter.com/jeffparishgov.

Another great resource for viewing Parish information such as departments, contact information, and press releases is via the official Jefferson Parish webpage: www.jeffparish.net.

While on the go, the Jefferson Parish mobile app is also a helpful tool for those who need fast access to information. Just search "Jefferson Parish" in your mobile app store.

While social media is a great resource provided by the Jefferson Parish Public Information Office, please keep in mind that all employees must refrain from using social media while on work time or on equipment provided by the parish, unless it is work-related as authorized by your manager or consistent with the Use of Property, Equipment, Vehicles and Information/Communication Resources Policy.

Never use your Jefferson Parish email address to register on social networks, blogs, or other online tools utilized for personal use. Please see the full listing of Social Media Policies in the Administration Management Policy (514) on the Intranet.

Transit

By
Patricia Lyons

Families Helping Families

Families Helping Families (FHF), is a family-directed resource center that serves the entire state of Louisiana since 1991. They provide peer to peer support, information, referral and training around disability issues in Jefferson (fhfjefferson.org). Jefferson Transit (JeT) was approached by FHF to help with training their members, both parents and the individuals with disabilities, to ride the bus.

Lafreniere Park's Foundation Center was used, thanks to the support of the capable staff over there, and we had information, a presentation, and an opportunity to get on a JeT bus with instructions on each step. About 15 people were in attendance, and they asked good questions and were engaged throughout.



FHF training at Lafreniere Park

Special thanks to our Transdev bus operations, who guided the discussion and educated the attendees. JeT sees this event as an opportunity to do further events with the public to educate more residents about how to use transit.

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Welcome Aboard, Tammy

HR welcomes our new Benefits Administrator **Tammy Percle**. Tammy comes to us with ten years of Benefits experience. She spent the last three years with HUB International as an Employee Benefits Account Manager. Before HUB, Tammy worked for the Benefits Administration Group for seven years.



New Benefits Administrator
Tammy Percle

This summer, Tammy will complete her Executive MBA with a specialty in Health Care from Southeastern Louisiana University. Tammy has a BA in Business from Our Lady of Holy Cross College.

Tammy looks forward “to

helping employees and retirees understand and navigate the various health-care benefits available through the Parish.” We wish Tammy the best.

Continuing Education

HR Director **Peggy Barton** recently completed the webinars *Anxiety, Workplace Stress and PTSD* and *Drug Testing and Prescription Disclosure: Walking the ADA Tightrope*.

Training Specialist II and HR Advisor for the Diversity Advisory Board **Glenn Schiro** attended an informative Diversity retreat for DAB members at the EOC Center on July 12.

On June 14, Training Specialists Glenn Schiro and **Yvonne Keller** presented *Workplace Harassment 2016* to Parish directors, executives, and HR professionals. This is the same program that Glenn and Yvonne are presenting to all Parish supervisors this summer.

Safety

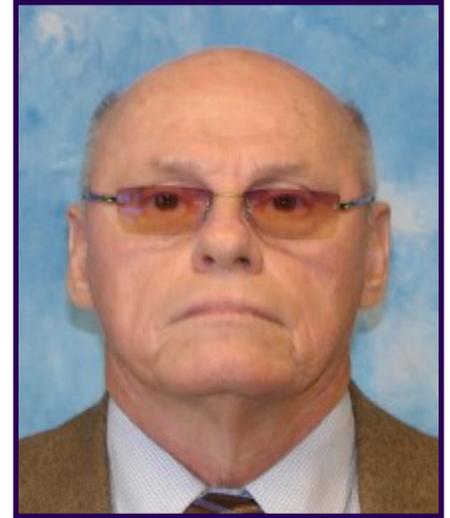
In June, Safety Office **Wayne Jones** conducted Backhoe/Medium Excavator training for Drainage and Streets employees. Assisted by instructors from Streets, Wayne concluded the training with hands-on instruction in the field on June 17 (Photo below).



Security

By
A'dele Joseph

General Services would like to gladly announce our new Security Director **Gary Hargroder**.



New Security Director
Gary Hargroder

As you all may or may not know, the Security Department is in charge of various things throughout Jefferson Parish such as printing ID cards, installing security equipment, and cameras.

If any employee is having issues with an ID card, such as access or damage, please go about the proper way of putting your request in through the intranet online security form. This will let us know immediately that you are having issues with your card, and the same form and procedure also works for security equipment, such as swipes, cameras, gates etc. Keep in mind that when you put your request in through the intranet, all security employees will receive it and it can be handled as soon as possible.

Water

By
Amy Truesdell

The Water Department has a lot of announcements for the summer. We welcomed several new employees: Laborer **Alex Green** transferred from Drainage to EB Distribution; Utility Billing Clerk **Nikita Graham**; Water Service Inspectors **Tiffany Bennett** and **Nanita Bailey**; and Laborers **Joseph Bradberry** and **David Laieke**.

We also said goodbye to a few employees: Laborers **Jason Holmes**, **Todd Doucet**, and **Shannon Taylor**; and Utility Billing Clerk II **Monica Cenance** transferred to JeffCAP.



Sal Maffei with Kristen Ragan

We have something to celebrate as well. Several employees were promoted into new positions: **Michael Kelly** of EB Utility Billing was promoted to Water Service Inspector II; **Devan Nelson** was promoted from Laborer to Water Purification Operator in the EB Plant; and **Ramonte Pinkins** is our new Water Quality Scientist II in the Lab.

June was Service Pin month and the following employees were congratulated for their years



Water Director Sal Maffei and Superintendent Mark Martin congratulate Herbert Bryant (center)

of service with Jefferson Parish: Five Years of Service Pins were awarded to Water Purification Operators **Darren Brecher**, **Larry Cambrice**, and **Eugene Stanson**; Laborers **Denver Brown**, **Herbert Bryant**, and **Lyndon Ross**; Equipment Operator III **Chris Burgau**; and Water Service Inspector II **Eugenia Francois**. Ten-year pins were awarded to Water Quality Scientist IV **Kristen Ragan**;

Equipment Operator III **Joseph Burse**; Waterline Maintenance Foremen **Joseph Butler** and **William Bryant**, Water Quality Scientist **Harold Blytt**; and Water Service Inspectors **Alan Lepkosky**, **Robert McGraw**, and **Karl Johnson**. Fifteen Years of Service Pins were awarded to Laborer **Brian Gray**; Water Purification Operators **Arthur Maillet** and **Rusk Marcotte**; and Pump Equipment Mechanic **Rene Poole**.

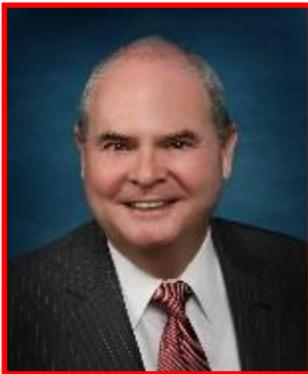


Engineering Director Mark Drewes and Superintendent David Stout present Traffic Engineering's Scott Bairnsfather with a 15-year service pin

Finance Authority

By
Sheila Rodrigue

We are delighted to announce that on July 15 **Terry McCarthy**, our Executive Director, was elected to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Local Housing Finance Agency. Since there are only fourteen persons from across the United States on their Board of Directors, this is quite an honor and the first time the JPFA (Jefferson Parish Finance Authority) has had someone on the National Board of Directors. Mr. McCarthy is looking forward to serving on the board of this organization, which provides technical assistance and educational opportunities to its members and the public and which is an advocate before Congress and federal agencies on issues affecting affordable housing.



Terry McCarthy

Mortgage Assistance Program

We are still looking for people purchasing a home in the parishes of Jefferson, St. Charles, St. Tammany, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, or Jefferson Davis who need down payment or closing cost assistance. The home purchased must be the primary residence of the person buying it. Our Southern Mortgage

Assistance Program offers either a 3% or 4% down payment assistance grant for an FHA, VA, or RHS loan and a 3% down payment assistance grant for a Freddie Mac HFA Advantage loan.

This down payment assistance is a grant and does not have to be repaid. There is no first time home buyer requirement for this program and the home buyer can currently own or have previously owned a home. If you or someone you know could use our down payment assistance, please contact our office at 736-6311 or visit www.southernmortgageap.org to find out more information about our the program. A list of lenders that participate in the program can also be found on this website. The lender will handle all loan qualification and paperwork involved with the loan and obtaining our assistance.

Community Development First Time Home Buyer Program

The JPFA is now partnering with Community Development to distribute the funds for their First-Time Home Buyer Program. For this program the borrower or borrowers do have to be first-time homebuyers and must have taken two classes (First-Time Home Buyer Training and Financial Fitness Class) within the last two years. More information about the requirements for this First-Time Home Buyer Program can be found on Community Development’s website at www.jeffparish.net. If you are interested, please ask your lender about this program or go on line to use our list of lenders at www.southernmortgageap.org to select a lender.

Purchasing

By
Misty Camardelle

The Purchasing Department would like to give a big welcome to **Jeramie Pichon**. Jeramie is our new summer intern who joins us from the University of Louisiana Lafayette where he is a sophomore majoring in Architecture. He is unsure his future plans once he obtains his degree, since he loves all aspects of the creative design process in architecture. Welcome again, Jeramie!

Congratulations to **Misty Camardelle** for receiving her 5-year service pin.



Misty Camardelle with Jennifer Lotz and Purchasing Director Brenda Campos

Purchasing would like to say farewell to **Laniel Frances**. Laniel leaves us after 5 years of service with the Purchasing Department. She will truly be missed.

Congratulations to **Pam Bailey**! Pam became a first-time grandmother on April 13, 2016, to Luke Daniel Bailey. Congrats on this little cutie pie!



Recycling Coordinators Needed! Calling for Volunteers

The Department of Environmental Affairs is seeking to partner with employees who work in the Yenni Building, are interested in recycling, and are willing to educate their coworkers to improve waste management practices in the office.

won a grant from Keep Louisiana Beautiful to provide blue recycling bins deskside and in kitchens, conference rooms, and copy rooms throughout the Yenni Building. The bins are expected to arrive this November during a week

their floor or department to attend informational sessions that will educate attendants on why and how to recycle.

- Collect pledge cards which document coworkers' commitment to recycling for a Keep

Interested employees are encouraged to volunteer to become Yenni Building Recycling Coordinators.

Recycling Coordinators will be invited to attend a Parish-organized field trip to the regional recycling facility in Baton Rouge so they may



America Beautiful recycling pledge drive.

- Remind coworkers about proper recycling habits as the program begins and throughout the year.

If you are interested in participating as a Yenni

learn about advancements in and challenges to responsible waste management and witness the recycling process in action! Field trips will be offered in September and October of 2016.

The Department of Environmental Affairs has

surrounding America Recycles Day (November 15).

Recycling Coordinators will be responsible for the following duties when the new bins are introduced:

- Recruit members of

Building Recycling Coordinator or are interested in becoming a Recycling Coordinator for another Parish office, please contact:

Sarah LaRock, Administrative Management Specialist III, Department of Environmental Affairs—slarock@jeffparish.net

Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

The Regional Teen ‘CERT’ (Community Emergency Response Team) Camp was a free, five-day event held on July 11 – 15, 2016, hosted by the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness at Tulane University. Fifty-six Jefferson Parish teens participated along with teens from Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes. The teens received specialized training from local first responders about potential disasters that could affect their community and how to safely and responsibly respond to them.

The 2016 Hurricane Season is entering its peak activity season of August and September. We have experienced reduced activity for the last three years, 2013 – 2015. The 2016 season has already produced Hurricane Alex in January

as well as Tropical Storms Bonnie, Colin, and Danielle. The remaining names are Earl, Fiona, Gaston, Hermine, Igor, Julia, Karl, Lisa, Matthew, Nicole, Otto, Paula, Richard, Shary, Tobias, Virginie, and Walter. Hurricane disasters can occur whether the season is active or quiet. It only takes one hurricane or tropical storm to cause a disaster; therefore, we strongly urge you and your family to prepare for every hurricane season regardless of its seasonal outlook. Be Prepared!

Assistant Director **Timothy S. Gautreaux, Jr.** attended WWL-TV Channel 4 Weather Department’s “Eye on Hurricanes” meeting held June 6, 2016. The meeting included a panel discussion on the 2016 hurricane season with Channel 4’s weather team, local emergency managers, law enforcement, and Parish agencies and forecasters.

Planning

By
Nedra Tate

Kamaria Taiwo-Coates, joined our team on June 27. She is our *JeffCAP* Summer Employee. Kamaria is a student at UNO where she is majoring in Accounting and Finance. Kamaria enjoys working in Planning because she loves learning new things in a new environment. When she graduates college she hopes to one day become an Accountant with the Parish or Federal Government.



Michele Enright, Alena Anderson, and Kamaria Taiwo-Coates

Alena Anderson, joined our team in May as a Planner II. Alena Graduated from the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning program in 2012 at UNO. She is a Southern California native but has lived in the New Orleans area for 10 years and has previous experience working in local government. Alena enjoys her free time exploring the area with her family.

Michele Enright, joined our team in July as a Planner II. Michele received a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from LSU and a Master in Urban and Regional Planning from UNO. She offers our department experience in a wide variety of planning issues such as Land Use, Environmental Affairs, Solid Waste Planning, and Coastal Zone Management.

Congratulations and Welcome!



Tim Gautreaux (2nd from left) with Channel 4’s Weather Team

Juvenile Services

By
Vicki Borja

NEW EMPLOYEES:

We would like to welcome the following new employees to the Department of Juvenile Services: **Kisha Calix, Brittney Grice, Alexandria Marshall, Chezara Taylor, and A'Tisha Robinson**, who were all hired in May as Probation Officers.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:

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

June 2016

Detention: **Donald Joseph**, Detention Officer

Probation: **Krista Jerome-Tobin**, Probation Officer

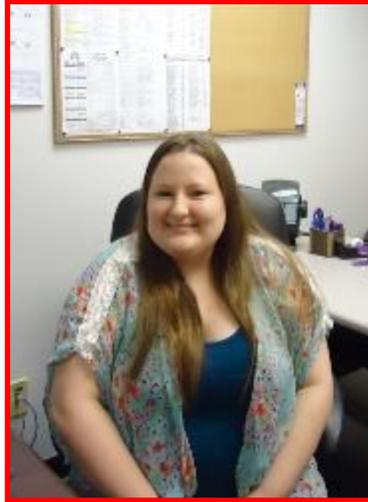
July 2016

Detention: **Stanley Leblanc**, Detention Officer

Probation: **Lori Winters**, Typist III

DEPARTURES:

We would like to send our best wishes to **Scherrie Joseph**, Detention Officer, who left in June, and **Gerald Sweeney**, who left in July to pursue other career opportunities.



Brittney Grice

BLOOD DRIVE:

The Department of Juvenile Services surpassed our goal of fifteen units by collecting twenty-three units! Thanks to everyone who participated.

General Services

By
Tessa St. Pierre

Welcome and Congratulations

Welcome, to our newest employee, **Randy Braniff!** Randy has been with the Parish for 17 years. He coordinated sporting events and coached kids at Belle Terre Playground for Recreation. Congratulations are in order for **Gregory Jeffrey** on being promoted to Stationary Engineer I, **Eric Lotz** on being promoted to Stationary Engineer II, and **Timothy Smith** on being promoted to Trades Helper.

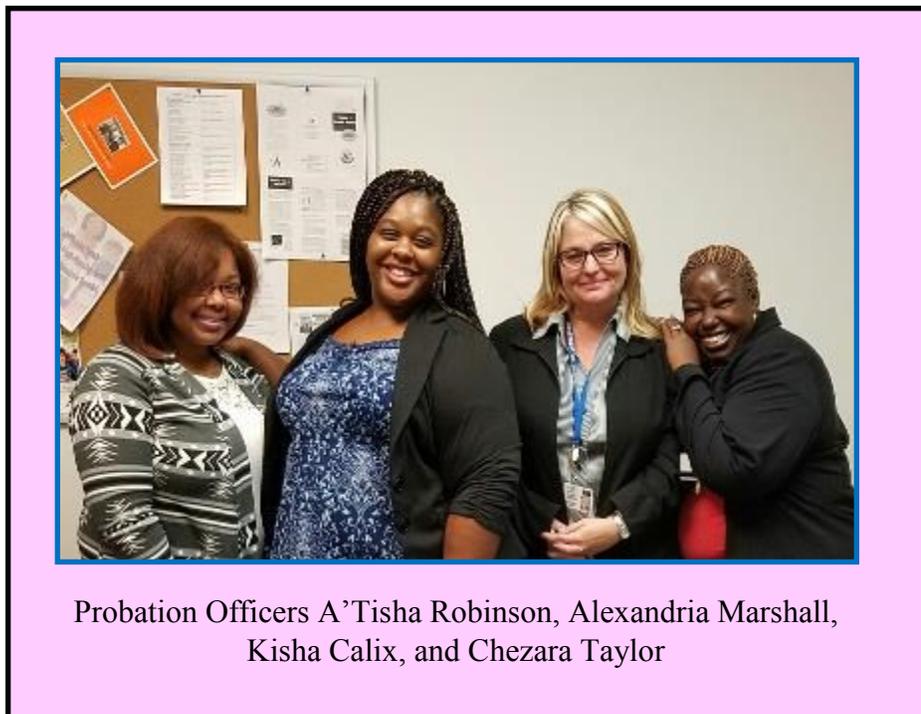
The Queen Has Left the Building

In 1982 a matriarch joined the Parish, and her name is **Ms. Muriel Osborne**. Ms. Muriel has been with us for thirty plus years. Every day she has waved and said hello to all who passed and put a smile on their face. She will be greatly missed for the hard work and dedication she brought to the job, but we know she is probably having the time of her life now that she is retired. We wish her the best and hope she visits us from time to time.

(See photo Page 12)

Collections for Mardi Gras Beads

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 for recycling to give to the Arc of Greater New Orleans. The amount of donations we received was great and we just wanted to thank all who donated and urge them to keep it up!



Probation Officers A'Tisha Robinson, Alexandria Marshall, Kisha Calix, and Chezara Taylor

Engineering

By
Helen McGee

School Bells will be ringing. Hope all the Kids enjoyed their summer and are ready for the new school year.

The Westbank Warehouse extends its best wishes for a full and speedy recovery to **Mark McDonald**. Get well soon Mark, as Curtis McFarland continues to keep the ball rolling.



Mark McDonald

The Department of Engineering welcomes **Nolan Carreras**. Nolan will be working in Engineering as our New Engineer-In-Training. Welcome Nolan, who is a graduate of the University of New Orleans.

Congratulations to all that recently received Service Pins, Presented by Director **Mark Drewes**, as well as Director Mark Drewes receiving his 15 year pin.

5 Years: **George Brown, Helen S. McGee, Chuong H. Pham, and Mark S. Buttery**

10 Years: **Pamela Bibbins, Hunley Dufour Jr., Christopher Garton, Curtis McFarland and Elvin Villaronga**

15 Years: **Shelly White Bordelon, Ryan Breaux, Ricardo DeLosReyes, Mark Drewes, Charles Schmuck, Craig Bruce, and Lucian Cascio Jr.**

JeffCAP Receives HHS Grant



Great News!

JeffCAP (Jefferson Community Action Programs) was notified by the Department of Health and Human Services that they will receive a \$34.5 million grant to continue providing Head Start services and begin providing Early Head Start services and services to eligible pregnant mothers.

We would like to thank the following staff members for their hard work, dedication, support, and guidance that made this submission possible:

Chief Administrative Assistant, **Darryl Ward**, JeffCAP Director, **Jedidiah Jackson**, former JeffCAP Assistant Director, **Carol Patrick, Rochelle Rabbathly** (Head Start Administrator), **Michele Luke** (Assistant Administrator), **Lisa Harrington** (Accountant), **Juli Barthelemy** (Education Coordinator), **Sandra Hill** (Social Service Coordinator), **Helen Woo** (Dietician), **Darlene Leonard** (Health Coordinator), **Yvonne Dumas** (Clerk III), and **Ann Bridges** (Clerk III), as well as other JeffCAP staff that assisted in a variety of other ways to ensure the grant submission was a successful one.



Engineering's Service Pin Award recipients: Front: Mark Buttery, Helen McGee, Chuong H. Pham, Rear: Ricardo DeLos Reyes, Charles Schmuck, Ryan Breaux, Curtis McFarland, Pamela Bibbins, Hunley Dufour, Mark Drewes, and Elvin Villaronga

Lafreniere Park

By
William Cangemi

What A Summer!

It's been another great summer here at Lafreniere Park with picnics, field trips, and pokemonners walking into each other. The highlight of the season was, of course, our July *Uncle Sam Jam*. A crowd of 25,000 folks must have parked on top of each other but they did manage to find a spot and proceed to eat, dance, and enjoy an awesome fireworks display.

Farewell Friend

Our office/shop cat **Jupiter** recently passed away. This beautiful grey and white tomcat was cruelly dumped off at the park several years ago; and he was, as the saying goes, nothing but skin and bones. After weeks of hissing and frightened looks, JUPITER warmed up to the staff, and we adopted each other. We'll miss seeing him curled up in his favorite chair or strutting around the parking lot. JUPITER was more than a pet; he was a friend. *Farewell, Friend!*



General Services' Muriel Osborne's farewell party

Parkways

By
Marilyn Slutsky

Welcome to our two new employees—**Denny Rapp**, Equipment Operator I, and **Mark Maunoir**, Superintendent II.

Congrats to **Kevin Coleman**, Equipment Operator III, who retired with 28 years of service. (See retirement party pic below)

Parkways staff have been working in Grand Isle cutting grass, trimming trees, landscaping and preparing the Pavillion area for the Tarpon Rodeo in July. (Photo to right)



Library

By
Irene Lunkin

New Assistant Director

In July our Patron Services Supervisor/Librarian VI **Verdie Richburg** was promoted to Assistant Library Director. Verdie has years of experience and excellent credentials dealing with Patron Services and the Library in general.

Verdie worked briefly as a high school librarian in her hometown in North Carolina, the Washington D.C. Public Library, and later the Library of Congress prior to employment with Jefferson Parish Library. When she first started with Jefferson Parish Library, she began training on the bookmobile. Within her second week on the job, the skills she displayed landed her a position at the Westwego library. She was later promoted to West Bank Branch Supervisor, transferred to the East Bank Branch Supervisor position, and later the Patron Services Supervisor.

In addition to continuing to supervise Patron Services, she has gained three additional library divisions which she is ready to embrace. Last year, Verdie Richburg was an honorable mention for the Charles Dunbar award, an award recognizing dedication to the Civil Service system and outside organizations that assist others in educational and other needs. Verdie's excellent people person skills and goal to please the patrons will allow her to do well in her new position. Cheers to Verdie, our new Assistant Library Director!



Verdie Richburg

Inside Pages

Congratulations to Library Associates **Carolyn Cooley** and **Charles McChesney** on their recent promotions to Librarian I/ Senior Associate position. Carolyn will remain at Belle Terre Library while Charles will take his new position at Lafitte Library.



Charles McChesney

This past July Library staff wished farewell to EBR Circulation Librarian II **Jude Morrissey**, who moved to Tennessee to pursue other opportunities, and Park Landscape Supervisor **Mark Maunoir** and Maintenance Repairman **Nolty Kiff**, who both transferred to other departments for promotional opportunities. We wish them the best of luck in their new endeavors.

The Library welcomes Rosedale Branch Manager **Nancy Burvant**, EBR Reference Librarian II **Antonio Castro**, Park Landscape Supervisor **Jennifer Maunoir**, Maintenance Repairman **Carl Monceaux**, and Library Business Manager **Antoinette Scott** to the department.



Nancy Burvant



Antonio Castro

Kudos to the Library Maintenance crew for their hard work and long hours in assisting with the installation of new carpet tiles at the East Bank Regional library. We thank you for a job well done!

Retirements

Library will miss the fun-filled East Bank Regional Reference Librarian II **Irving "T" Diemer**. At East Bank Regional he is known for his Christmas costume and attending the Greek festival. We will certainly miss the 8.5" x 14" collage he distributes at Christmas time of the various events and cultural festivals he



Library Maintenance Crew: (l to r) Tom Barbier, Offord Langston, Sam Hankins, Morris Brooks, Tieu Phat, Sung Yi, Kenneth Jamison, Carl Monceaux, Anthony Jones, and Thomas Rhody (in front).

attended. After 28 years of working in various departments at the Library over the years, T is retiring. T mentioned he worked with a lot of wonderful people whom he will greatly miss and served a lot of wonderful patrons whom he will also miss. He said moving to New Orleans gave him an opportunity to see, do, and experience a lot of things that he would not have otherwise been able to do.

Belle Terre Librarian I/Senior Associate **Alton “Al” Domingue** retired after 21 years of service. Al stated he made a complete circle starting at Belle Terre for training as a new employee over 21 years ago, working at branches on the East and West Banks, and then back to Belle Terre for retirement. Al left us with these words on his last day of work: “There are so many people I

worked with who I would not have made it this far without them. You would be kidding no one if you think you can do all of this alone. I can thank all the younger people I have worked with who showed me how to make use of the new innovations with the computers. I was lucky to be able to provide live music to all the children I have come across for story times and guitar sing-a-longs. I was so lucky that they sang my songs so my real voice was hidden by their young strong voices.”

Rosedale Library Associate **Luticha Perkins** retired after 13 years of service with the Library. Prior to working with the Library, Luticha was retired as a twenty year federal civilian employee of the United States Department of Defense (U.S. Naval Reserve).



Luticha Perkins

Luticha stated the following, “I have had many interesting experiences and met many wonderful people from diverse cultures and backgrounds at the library. I wish to thank everyone for all kindnesses and considerations given me during my employment.” Luticha’s jazz themed storytimes will be missed.

The Library wishes them all a happy and fun filled retirement.



EBR Children’s Librarian Andrea Heingarten, Lakeshore’s Daisy Griffin, and EBR’s Catherine Laguaitte wishing T Diemer a happy retirement!



Belle Terre Manager Tom Giroir, Verdie Richburg, and Assistant Patron Services Supervisor Alice Hubbard congratulate Al Domingue

with online educational materials during the day.

Genealogy/Family Research classes are scheduled to begin at the West Bank Regional library September 7, 1:00 p.m. Classes are scheduled on Wednesdays and Saturdays with rotating times of 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visit our website for a complete schedule of the Genealogy/Family Research classes at West Bank Regional. A total of 1,432 people attended the classes held at the East Bank Regional library this past spring/summer.

Remember to stop by your local library to sign up for a library card. It'll allow you access to endless possibilities, the proof is on the website www.jplibrary.net

Summer Reading Wrap-Up

This year's program included 3,567 children, 632 teens, and 313 adults that participated in the Summer Reading Program (SRP). Youth Services Coordinator **Erin Korosi** reported over 2,000 prizes were distributed. All library branches hosted a variety of storytime programs, crafts, and special performers including visits from the Zoomobile, magicians, musical performers, drawing instructors and much more. Special thanks to the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library for their support and prize donations. Many thanks to the branch managers, children's, and teens librarians for making this year's program an educational and fun-filled event!

Back to School Time

Looking for employment, home schooling, or need help with homework? The library has resources you can use. Visit our website at www.jplibrary.net to explore resources such as Brainfuse Job Now to help with your employment search; Brainfuse

Help Now, Homework Louisiana, and LEAP Practice Test Questions to help with school; or Tumble and *Scholastic Go!* to entertain the younger kids

Summer Reading Scenes



Kids!



Snakes!



Rabbits!

Parks & Recreation

By
Antoinette Holmes

This year Parks and Recreation hosted the *2016 Babe Ruth Southwest Regionals Tournament!* Leagues from all over Louisiana came to ‘PLAY BALL.’

Eastbank 12-year Girls won the Southwest Regionals division of Babe Ruth and are headed to the World Series in Florida! Westbank 14-year Girls won the Southwest Regionals division of Babe Ruth and are headed to the World Series in Florida!



WESTBANK UPDATES:

Glisson Park Boat Launch – Renovations for Glisson Park Boat Launch and Fishing Pier are complete! The local residents are using the Boat Launch for water sports. Take a moment to visit; the area has beautiful trees

with picnic shelters and bar-b-pic pits.

EASTBANK UPDATES:

Bright Playground: The Johnny Bright Playground Gym received a new heating and air-conditioning system, and the playground’s entrance was upgraded to ADA compliance with a new door and hardware. As an added convenience, the entrance pick-up location was redesigned with new steps and ramp leading down to a circled driveway.

Cleary Playground – The Cleary Playground Gym received a new heating and air-conditioning system, in addition to two new exhaust fans with dampers. A new roof was added over the meeting room, the gym floor was raised, and the entrance to Cleary’s gym received new door and hardware upgrades. North and south sidewalks leading to the gym were demolished and replaced.

Lakeshore Playground – The Lakeshore Playground Gym received a new roof, heating and air-conditioning system, new exhaust fans, and upgrades to the electric service system. New Grand wood floors were installed inside the gym with playground logos. An ADA-compliant entrance was added with new door and hardware upgrades.

Pontiff Playground – Concession stands are fully operational with stainless steel equipment. The new buildings are handicap accessible, complete with sound systems and hurricane force roll-up shutters. Drainage improvements were completed in addition to installation of new sidewalks and drinking fountains.



Newly renovated Glisson Park Boat Launch & Fishing Pier

Workforce Connection

By
Carolyn Haynes

Accomplishments/Awards

Jefferson Workforce Connection (JWC) is proud to announce receiving the Level 2 2015 Award from the Louisiana Quality Foundation. JWC Director, **Ms. Sharon Wegner**, received the award on June 7, 2016. Level 2 award recipients have performed more in depth criteria to enhance work performance with a better understanding of how processes and systems work together.



Sharon Wegner receives
LA Quality Foundation Award

Employee of the Year:

Congratulations to **Ms. Cheryl Morgan**, Typist Clerk II, Youth Department West Bank, JWC's



President Yenni congratulates Cheryl Morgan

Employee of the Year! Ms. Morgan is a valuable asset to JWC. She is instrumental in the daily operations of the center in addition to our Youth Department. She exhibits leadership abilities and is an excellent team player in accomplishing goals of JWC.

New Employee/Welcome

JWC wishes a warm welcome and return to **Ms. Laurie Cancienne**, Career Specialist, West Bank. Ms. Cancienne is a former state employee that worked at our center and has now come aboard as a Jefferson Parish Employee. Welcome back, Laurie!

Youth Department

JWC welcomes our Summer Youth Workers who have been extremely beneficial to the operations of our centers while simultaneously learning valuable work skills. Summer Workers are the following: **Ms. Jada Brown**, **Ms. Mattiquka Kelly** and **Mr. Benjamin Rhone**. Thank you, summer youth workers, for all your hard work. You are truly appreciated at JWC.

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

On July 11, **Sami Khalil**, Storm Water Program supervisor, led a Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations Training to the Sewerage Department's Marro Treatment Plant 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. The training classes are held for our municipal facilities annually.



Pollution prevention training at the
Marrero Wastewater Treatment Plant

Kathy Russo, Environmental Quality Supervisor, was a participant in a panel discussion on Odor Control Regulations and Legislation at the annual Air & Waste Management Association conference, which was held in New Orleans in June. The panel discussed various sources of odors in a community and their detection methods and discussed the various regulations used at the local, state, and federal levels.

Marnie Winter, Assistant Director, attended the National Association of Counties (NaCo) in

July in Long Beach, California. NaCo is an organization comprised of counties and Parishes from all over the country. Marnie has been a committee member on a NaCo committee for several years. Her participation has allowed the Parish to keep up with potential pending regulations and to interact with representatives from around the country to discuss a number of issues facing county and parish governments.

The Department of Environmental Affairs partnered with Progressive Waste Solutions and Patrons of Lafreniere Park to bring recycling to Uncle Sam Jam, the first event at Lafreniere Park to offer recycling. Thirteen event recycling receptacles were set up around the event grounds, and recycling outreach and education was offered to the public.

Participants engaged in "Recycle Bowling," rolling a ball to knock over recyclable materials, and children were invited to color in pictures of recycling symbols and recycling trucks while their guardians received information about Jefferson Parish recycling services. The Department of Environmental Affairs hopes that this will be the first of many events to come that will offer recycling services to the public.

We receive many calls each year about the brown staining that residents find in their driveways and sidewalks and believe it to be hazardous waste. This staining is actually caused by the decay of the organic matter fill material that much of Jefferson Parish is built on. It is a result of the



Environmental's Christina Duggar and Tracey Patania inspect the tannin and lignin staining in a resident's driveway.

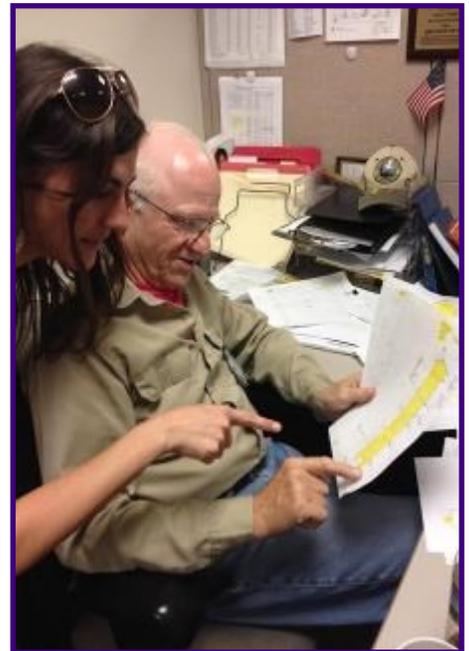
water table being high and groundwater oozing out.

Our shallow groundwater is the color of iced tea. In order to address residents' concerns and to demonstrate that the discoloration is harmless, we have purchased a test kit. Our employees can go to a property and take a sample and demonstrate to the residents that the discoloration is caused by tannins and lignins, the same materials that color tea, and are found as part of decaying plant materials: thereby, easing their concerns.

As you may know, the department is responsible for the oversight of the trash drop-off sites that are used by Parish residents. One of the main issues that has been occurring over the years is the handling and storage of the automotive lead acid batteries that are collected for recycling.

Every container that we have tried to purchase has only lasted a year or less. Sarah

LaRock, Administrative Management Specialist, has been in contact with a local vendor to have some new fiberglass battery boxes fabricated. **James Schultz**, Environmental Quality Specialist, has been helping Sarah develop design specifications for these new containers.



Sarah LaRock and James Schultz design battery boxes for the trash drop-off sites

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

LIFE SAVERS!!!!

Two employees at the Department of Sewerage Bridge City Wastewater Treatment Plant saved the life of a man in distress on Thursday, July 7. Employees **Kailumnn Reynolds** and **Carl Brignac** noticed that a young man changing a tire on the highway near the plant had collapsed. They drove out to the man's car to see if he was okay.



Lifesavers Carl Brignac and Kailumnn Reynolds

The man's friends were trying to get him to respond, when he began foaming at the mouth. He was brought inside of the plant while paramedics were called. His friends wiped him down with cool rags to bring his body temperature down. When the ambulance arrived and the gentleman woke up, the policeman at the site told everyone that if it had not been for **Kailumnn** and **Carl**, the situation could have ended very badly.

GREAT JOB!!!!

A resident on Cottonwood Drive in Gretna recently wrote in to express his appreciation for the great job that Department of Sewerage employees performed on the repair of a broken sewer line near his home. He took pictures of crew members **Clarence**



Wilbert Joseph, Bryan Davis, Clarence Brown, and Kendall Boudreaux

Brown, Wilbert Joseph, Bryan Davis, and Kendall Boudreaux at the jobsite.

Here's what the resident wrote – *"The men that came out to survey and then repair my broken sewer line deserve some recognition. The first team came one day with highly sophisticated equipment and found the problem. A couple of weeks later the repair crew arrived and fixed the broken sewer line. There were only four men present when I took the photograph. I wish I would have taken it when all were there as they were all very professional in performing their jobs. They should*

be recognized for a job well done. Maybe you can see that the photos are used in a parish publication of some kind. Thanks."

Thanks to those crew members and all Department of Sewerage employees for their hard work and dedication to the job.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Damien DeSalvo** on his recent retirement. Damien retired on July 9, 2016 with over 32 years of service. He was a Treatment Plant Operator at our Harvey Wastewater Treatment Plant. We wish Damien the best as he begins a new chapter of life.



10-Year Service Pin Award to Clarence Jackson: Supt. Ryan Boudreaux, Jackson, Director Linda Daly, Supt. Don Murray

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

Torrance Hartman was promoted to Treatment Plant Operator I at the Harvey Plant.

Javon Coler was promoted to Trades Helper at Eastbank Lift Stations.

Davante Adams was promoted to Laborer Semi-Skilled at Westbank Lines.

Shedrick Minor was promoted to Pump Equipment Mechanic at Westbank Lift Stations.

Jackquiline Reynolds was promoted to Pump Equipment Mechanic at Eastbank Lift Stations.

Brian Davis was promoted to Foreman at Westbank Lines.

Congratulations to the following employees who recently received their service pin awards:

15 YEARS: **Carl Brignac**

10 YEARS: **Clarence Jackson**

5 YEARS: **Carlos Ruperti, Darious Lazard, and Jeremy Henry**



Carl Brignac with Sewerage Director Linda Daly

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

Michael Lajaunie – Electrician, Marrero Plant

Cindy Joyner – Administrative Assistant, Administration

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branan, RN



Opioid Dangers?

Over the last few years, numerous articles have reported on what has become referred to as an epidemic of white American men, between the ages of 45 to 54, dying in unprecedented numbers. Additional studies into this phenomenon found that white women are also experiencing an increase in their death rates as well. But, in this age of advanced medical technology and access to medical information, how could this happen in America? And, is there any way to stop this trend?

What could be causing these deaths? Research into how various socio-economic factors may have been the culprit was conducted. However, these possible factors were quickly eliminated due to the fact that other groups within our society experienced the same, if not worse, socio-economic conditions and were actually seeing a reduction in their number of deaths.

The only other known time throughout history in the world that a similar trend took place was in the post-Soviet Union when the life expectancy for men dropped from 65 to 57. The nature of their tragic deaths pointed to suicide and alcohol abuse. Unlike their American

counterparts, it is believed that Russia's poor economic conditions triggered these men to drink, resulting in liver disease, alcohol poisoning, and fatal accidents.

In America, further studies revealed that at the same time the life expectancy for whites was going down, the number of prescriptions for opioids was going up. So, what is an opioid? It is a synthetic pain killer that has properties that mimic opium. Opioids work by blocking pain receptors in the brain, thereby producing an increased tolerance for pain and a euphoric state. As a result, one can develop a tolerance to the drug, resulting in the need to take progressively higher doses to achieve the same effect. Plus, the drug can stimulate a craving, resulting in opioids being highly addictive. The most commonly used and abused opioids include Vicodin, Oxycontin, Percocet, and Percodan.

What caused the increase in the number of opioid prescriptions? Prior to the 1990s, opioids were almost exclusively the drug of choice for cancer patients. In the late 1990s, laws were passed to allow the opioids to be used for a broader range of patients experiencing pain, such as migraines, sport-related injuries, and after surgery. As a result, multiple patients began taking opioid drugs. So, one may say that the first piece to solving this puzzle of the increase in deaths could possibly be associated with the increase in opioid prescriptions being written.

Unfortunately, the problem with addictions is that we don't always know how a particular behavior or substance is going to affect us until after the fact. For

example, there is the true story of a lady who never gambled. One day she won a jackpot! WOW! The endorphins began flowing and she was hooked! She then began a lifestyle with a serious gambling addiction and ended up losing everything.

There are numerous cases of individuals who never considered breaking the slightest law, who after taking a legal opioid prescription, ultimately became addicts. And, so it is with mind altering medications, be it legal or illegal. We don't know how our body chemistry will react to it until we take it.

So, the second piece to this puzzle can occur when the individual taking a "legal" opioid prescription develops a tolerance and craving for the drug. They have become addicted. Many begin to take the opioids for the way the drug makes them "feel," as opposed to easing their "pain." In order to "feed" their addiction, once their prescription isn't enough to sustain them, many seek "illegal" pills from drug dealers. Chances are that you have seen news reports of "pain clinics"



Public Works Executives Pablo San Martin, Kazem Alikhani, and Nathan Allison congratulate Employee of the Year Corey Miller (second from right)

being raided and shut down for the illegal prescribing and dispensing of these opioids.

The third piece to this puzzle can occur when buying the illegal pills becomes too pricey. In order to satisfy their craving to become high, many are now turning to a cheaper "high" by shooting up heroine, crystal meth, or any other drug of choice. For many addicts, this

lifestyle ultimately leads to life-threatening diseases and an early death.

The last piece of this puzzle that could possibly explain why whites were and are seeing an increase in number of deaths at an earlier age is that whites were prescribed opioid prescriptions more often than other ethnic groups.

So, to conclude, let it be a warning to ALL people that you too can become a statistic. The bottom line is, if you are prescribed a drug with addictive properties, it is critical for you to work closely with your doctor to monitor your progress, obtain the appropriate treatment for pain management, identify any early warning signs for potential abuse in a timely manner, and make any necessary interventions/referrals as may be needed.

If you believe that you may have an addiction, don't hesitate to reach out to your doctor, the Jefferson Parish Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at 1-888-887-4114, or various crisis/support groups at 504-269-2673.



Engineering Director Mark Drewes and Traffic Engineering's Carl Holmes congratulate Christopher Garton for ten years of service

Retirements

Charles Abbott
Streets
38 years

Katherin Milican
Fleet Management
33 years

Henry Wiggins
Engineering
33 years

Damian De Salvo
Sewerage
32 years

David Richard
Code Enforcement
29 years

Kevin Coleman
Parkways
28 years

Muriel Osborne
General Services
19 years

Alberta Wright
Code Enforcement
19 years

Reid Macaluso
Streets
16 years

Frank Maness
Drainage
14 years

Victor Rodriguez
Fleet Management
14 years

Luticha Perkins
Library
13 years

Lawrence Aymami
Water
10 years

Eugene Zeno
Streets
10 years

Michael Bedford
Fleet Management
9 years

River Ridge Meditation Park—dedicated June 2, 2016

