



Volume 33
 Number 1
 February 2012

EM Real Estate

Message from the Parish President. . .

Promoting Coastal Protection

Our work to conserve and protect lives and property in flood-prone areas throughout Jefferson Parish continues. At a recent public hearing held at UNO before the LA CPRA (Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority), I asked that the state's 50-year coastal plan's "High Level Structural" (500-year) protection project for Greater New Orleans be extended to replace the plan's "Maintain West Bank Levees" (at 100-year protection) project. This would raise the West Bank levees to provide the same level of protection as will be provided on the East Bank.

The Highway 1 Corridor

I strongly urged that the plan's proposed project to build ring levees for the Town of Jean Lafitte, Barataria, and Crown Point be moved up on the implementation schedule. If we wait for this project's proposed 2032 start date, there may not be any inhabitable area left to save. Likewise, efforts to protect the LA Highway 1 corridor north of Grand Isle from coastal flooding must be included in the initial implementation phase of the plan.

Land Bridge Projects

Grand Isle is the only inhabited barrier island in the state, and I asked that the plan recognize that its "Barrier Island Restoration" project cannot exclude Grand Isle in its scope of work. I also called upon the LA CPRA to revisit



John F. Young
 Parish President

the alignment of "land bridge" construction projects in order to maximize the creation and extension of key marsh areas throughout Southeast Louisiana.

Protecting the East Flank

I am asking the Authority to rethink its exclusion of the "Pontchartrain Barrier" project in the plan. The state's east flank needs to have a barrier structure to block storm surge from entering Lake Pontchartrain through the Chef Menteur and Rigolets passes. This measure is critical to protecting lives and property throughout the Pontchartrain Rim parishes during a severe storm event.

I will continue to monitor the progress of the plan's development and implementation and be a vocal advocate for practical, environmentally sound, and much-needed construction projects that ensure the safety of our children's and grandchildren's lives and their prosperity in coastal Louisiana.

En Realité

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

Departmental Reporters

- Alario Center**
Deirdre Cummings
- Animal Shelter**
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Sheena Quinn Bauer
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Stephanie Gaudet
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- Sewerage**
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Patricia Lyons
- Water**
Susie Cunningham
- Workforce Connection**
Frances Turner

Editor's



Notes

Electronic Locations

The Parish has been trying to make information more accessible to employees. One way is through electronic media. I'd like to help you find Parish information on your computers.

The two main electronic locations for employees are the **Internet** and the employee **Intranet Portal**. The Parish's Internet address is www.jeffparish.net. Unlike the Internet, the Intranet Portal is just for Parish employees. The address of our Intranet Portal is <http://jpnet/home/>. On the Intranet Home Page, there is a link to the Parish's Internet web site, so even if you don't have Internet access as a Parish employee, you can still view our Internet web site via the Intranet Portal.

Many commonly used forms are available on the Intranet Portal by clicking On-Line Forms and looking under the headings of various departments. Here are some examples:

Accounting:

- Employee direct deposit form
- Personal auto mileage report

Human Resources:

- 2012 Premium rates and forms
- Beneficiary form
- Request for change in benefits
- Class registration form
- Coaching/Counseling Session form
- Employee investigative report
- Grievance form
- ADA accommodation form

Parish Attorney:

- Public records request form
- Code of governmental ethics



Peggy O. Barton
Editor

Personnel:

- Classified evaluation form
- FMLA documents

Risk Management:

- Accident reporting instructions
- Incident report

These documents can be found on the Intranet > Department Pages > Human Resource Management Training:

- Monthly class announcements
- On-line training classes
- *Supervisors' Updates* back issues

And here's where you can find a few more commonly used Parish documents and policies:

Benefits Book: Intranet > Department Pages > Human Resource Management, click Go

Diversity Matters: Intranet Portal, click Announcements

En Realité: Internet, click on Employee Resources; and on the Intranet Portal, under Announcements

Personnel Rules: Internet, left-hand column of home page, go to Parish Departments, scroll to Personnel Department, click Personnel Rules

Regulations of Conduct: Intranet Portal, click on Policies

Safety Manual: Intranet > Department Pages > Human Resource Management, click Go

Substance Use Policy: Intranet > Department Pages > Human Resource Management, click Go

Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

Adam Williams, Planner II, successfully passed the exam and met all other requirements of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). The American Institute of Certified Planners is the American Planning Association's professional institute and certifies professionals in the United States in the field of Urban and Regional Planning. Congratulations to Adam.

We bid a fond farewell to **Carolyn Hidalgo**, our former secretary, who retired in December.

Congratulations to **Diana Soileau**, who has been promoted to secretary. Diana was working as the Typist Clerk III in our Design Review Section.

Welcome to **Catherine Fabacher**, who was recently hired as Planner III and supervisor of our Land Use Section.



New Planning Secretary
Diana Soileau



Planner II Adam Williams
gains American Planning Association's AICP certification

Purchasing

By
Nicole Byars

Congratulations to **Rene' Poole**, who recently became a grandmother. Her son Larry and daughter-in-law Hester were blessed with a beautiful son, Jayden Amir Jackson. He was born on December 13, weighing 6 lbs. 15 oz.

Purchasing is working on finalizing the Purchasing Manual. As soon as the manual is available, a copy will be posted on the Employee Intranet and in the Purchasing Public Folder.

**Call For Suggestions:
New Name for Employee Newsletter**

We are considering renaming the employee newsletter. Our publication has been Called *En Realité* since 1978, but we believe it's time for a change. And we need your suggestions!

If you have a suggestion for a new name, please pass it on to the reporter for your department (Reporters are listed on Page 2, left column). The reporters will pass the suggestions on to the Managing Editor.

We will keep you posted on our progress toward renaming the newsletter in future issues.

Library

By
Daniel Gitlin

Lakeshore Library Grand Opening

On January 7, 2012, the new Lakeshore Library (1000 W. Esplanade Ave., Metairie), held a grand opening celebration which attracted more than 100 guests and many local dignitaries.

Speakers at the ceremony included Parish President **John F. Young**, Councilwoman **Cynthia Lee-Sheng**, and Library Director **Lon Dickerson**. The ceremony included a ribbon-cutting ceremony plus several special events including a visit from Audubon Zoo and many local authors.

The Library invites all of our fellow Jefferson Parish employees to come visit the new building. We think you'll be very proud! (See photo on Page 17.)

The Library would like to congratulate **Shannon Kitchens** and **Zachary McGar** on their promotions to Library Associates at Lakeshore Library. Both Shan-



President Young with Library service pin award recipients

non and Zachary are incredibly valuable library team members and will make Lakeshore an even better place to visit for our customers.

Thank you to **Evelyn Relayson**, **Janis Lorio**, and **Mary Ann Anderson**, who retired from the Library in the past two months. Mary Ann worked with the Library for 32 years! Evelyn worked with the Library for

24 years, and Janis was with the Library for 13 years! All three were wonderful employees, and we wish them the best and thank them for their service!

On December 13, 2011, the following Library employees received their service pins from President Young at the Yenni Building: **Marylyn Haddican** (30 years), **Debbie Laine** (30 years), **Christine Borne** (30 years), **Kathy Miller-Moran** (25 years), **Rania Melham** (20 years), and **Lisa Ciravolo** (20 years). These employees are examples of career dedication and those of us who are passionate about giving back to the community! Thank you for your years of service and making the Library a great place to work!

Congratulations to **Jeannie Hobbie**, Clerk Typist III, whose son Joel and daughter-in-law Ashley gave birth to Collin Rickie Hobbie on December 19, 2011. Collin weighed in at 8 lbs and 10 oz. and was 20 ¼" long. This is Jeannie's fifth grandchild!



Newly promoted Library Associates Zachary McGar and Shannon Kitchens

Diversity Advisory Board

The Diversity Advisory Board congratulates our newly elected officers for 2012: Co-chairpersons **Darcell Florence** and **Alice White** and Secretary **Deirdre Cummings**. We offer our sincere thanks to **Maria Rose**, outgoing Co-chairperson. Maria is leaving the board after two years but will continue to assist us with the DAB newsletter on-line. And Deirdre has agreed to remain DAB secretary – for the third year! We are grateful for your willingness to assume a leadership role on the Diversity Advisory Board!

At our first meeting of the year on January 23, all members participated in a diversity awareness activity. Everyone was asked to share an idea on how a person can demonstrate that he/she values diversity and inclusion on the job. Here is a sampling of how members completed the following statement:

I demonstrate that I value diversity and inclusion in my workplace when...

- ... I speak to everyone, from the janitor to the CEO.
- ... I inquire about the traditions and heritage of others.
- ... I created an activity for staff meetings: Once a month, a coworker prepares a dish from the employee cookbook and explains its background.
- ... I get to know my coworkers and acknowledge them by simply saying hello.
- ... I show interest in other cultures by asking coworkers to tell me about themselves.
- ... I treat all workers with the same respect as councilmen.

... I try to break down stereotypes in the workplace and have fun by giving dance lessons to my coworkers.

... I begin the day with a “Good morning” to all and a smile on my face. Everyone may have different backgrounds and mannerisms, but a smile is universal.

... I make sure to thank people and let them know that kindness shows through in little things.

... I try to be fair to everyone and take everyone’s opinion into consideration.

... I keep coworkers updated and informed, communicating what I think they need to know and keeping them “in the loop.”

... I befriend new employees and make sure they’re included in conversations.

...I don’t feed into gossip on the job.

... I listen to solve problems and to understand and connect with others through their stories.

... I keep current on issues of diversity and inclusion and start with the premise “treat others as you would like to be treated.”

... I don’t participate in biased conversations or behaviors. I treat everyone equally by remaining open to different ideas, cultures, and beliefs.



Patsy Firmin with Drainage Director Mitch Theriot

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Welcome & Congratulations!

As 2011 begins, The Department of Drainage has had lots of exciting and memorable moments since our last article. Among the most noticeable changes are the newest additions to the department and recent promotions. **Binh Ly** has begun his career as a laborer with Department of Drainage. Also, we would like to congratulate the following for their recent promotions: **Gregory Foster, James Williams** and **Roy Brown**. And a big warm welcome to **Ronnie Fuxan**, our new secretary. Good luck and congratulations, everyone!

Award Pins

The department awarded service pins to employees that have been with us for 5, 10 and 15 years. The following dedicated employees received service pins for 5 years: **Hoang Pham, Rosavelt Price, Jr., Yvette Hurst, Errol Moliere, Micah Polius, Sterling Jackson, and Dong Pham**; 10 years: **Troy Alexander, John Chagnard, Earl Peters, Phillip Hollard, and Dominick Ditcharo.**; and 15 years: **Sandra Brooks, Patricia Firmin, Ernest Harris, and Angela Price**. We would like to thank you for your hard work thus far and look forward to seeing what you all will accomplish in the future.

Fond Farewells

While new faces were being introduced to our Department of Drainage family, we said good-

bye to six amazingly hard-working people that retired after countless years of dedication and hard work. **Joseph Tran** and **Al Garnett Sr.**, both West Bank Drainage Equipment Operator IIIs, retired January 6 after 30 years of service to the department.

Also from our West Bank Pump Station division, **Jeffrey Walker**, Pump Station Operator II, retired in October. Drainage Pump Station Operator II **Brian Propps** and Secretary **Claire De-lyea** both are set to retire on February 14, Brian with 33 years and Claire with 20 years. Engineering Inspector II **Eugene Pereira** has also retired on January 31 with 12 years. We appreciate everything that they have done for the department and wish them all the best on the beginning of their retirement!

Unfortunate Losses

We're sad to report that Professional Engineer I **Clinton Hottard** lost his grandmother Inez



Angela Price with Drainage Superintendent Larry Palmisano and Director Mitch Theriot

Couture, on January 17, 2012. We would like to extend our sincerest condolences to him and his family during this time.

Also, we are sad to report that our very own East Bank Pump Station Superintendent II **George Dunn** passed away on December 24, 2011. He graced us with his presence for 28 wonderful years, and he will greatly be missed.

Hope everyone has a safe and happy Mardi Gras!!!



Drainage Superintendent Frank Maness (center) congratulates Al Garnett and Joseph Tran upon their retirements

Animal Shelter

By
Danielle Williams

New Employees:

We would like to welcome **Brooke Bourgeois** to the Animal Shelter. Brooke is the new shelter manager for the West Bank Shelter.

Adoption Special:

On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve we offered adoptions at \$12. We also sold gift certificates for families who did not find anything they wanted on those particular days. In all there were 43 adoptions between both shelters on Christmas Eve. On New Year's Eve there were 61 adoptions between both shelters. We are extremely pleased with the turnout and the response we got from the community!

\$12 Cats:

For the month of January, cats were available for \$12. We are hoping for more low-cost specials in the near future in an effort to get these animals loving homes.

Rabies Vaccinations:

Rabies Vaccinations are offered at the West Bank Shelter every Tuesday from 10am-12pm and at the East Bank Shelter every Wednesday from 10am-11:30am. The cost is \$15 for spayed/neutered animals and \$20 for unaltered animals.

Adoption Hours:

Animals are available for adoption Monday through Wednesday and Friday 9am-5:30pm, Thurs. 9am-7:00pm, Sat. 10am-3:30pm

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

**600th Employee Completes
Basic Supervision**

In November, the 600th employee completed the Basic Supervision series. The Basic Supervision series consists of 10 courses that the Human Resource Management Department offers twice a year. The series is designed to help supervisors effectively meet the many challenges they face in their jobs.

Congratulations

On December 13, the 2011 Service Award Pin Ceremony was held in the Council Chambers. Congratulations to the following HR employees who received awards: **Vivian Lasseigne** (30 years of service), **Mary Jo Arcement** (25 years of service) and **Kathy Bourg** (25 years of service). Vivian, Mary Jo, and Kathy have given the Parish a total of 80 years of service. We appreciate and applaud the commitment, service, and accomplishments of these dedicated employees

Retirement Seminar on January 31 Booked Up – Another is planned

Due to a very large response, the January 31 Retirement Seminar was filled to capacity. Another seminar is being planned for the summer to enable more employees to attend this important program on Parochial Retirement, Social Security, Deferred Compensation and real estate. The Retirement Seminars will be held in the Foundation Center at Lafreniere Park.

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

Welcome: **Phyllis Jefferson** and **Tammy Eursin**, Juvenile Probation Officers.

Transfer: **Lorna Lilly** transferred from Workforce Connection to Juvenile Probation Officer.

Resignations: **Bonnie Jones**, Juvenile Probation Officer, resigned on January 3 to pursue other opportunities. We wish her all the best.

Retirement: **Stephen J. Cabal**, Juvenile Probation Officer IV, retired December 30, 2011, after 31 years of service to this department. Steve spent his entire career serving the public, and we are proud of him and wish him happiness as he pursues a retirement filled with travel, leisure, and new adventures.

Births: **Luis Campos**, Proper-

ty Manager Assistant, became the proud abuelo (grandfather) to a beautiful baby girl, Aleina Sophia, born January 16, weighing in at 9 lbs., 14 ounces.

Employees of the Month:

DECEMBER: **Allan Kagan**, Juvenile Probation Officer II
Herlin Riley, Detention Officer II

JANUARY: **John Ryals**, Ph.D., Evaluation and Treatment Mgr.
Herlin Riley, Juvenile Detention Officer

It is my pleasure to recognize and congratulate the following employees who were presented with service awards for their years of dedicated service to the Parish:

20 YEARS: **Patricia Barry**, Typist Clerk III; **Eugene Thomas**, Juvenile Probation Officer II

25 YEARS: **Terri LeBlanc**, Registered Nurse; **Harry McGuire**, Juvenile Detention Officer II

30 YEARS: **Nathaniel Williams**, Juvenile Detention Home Supervisor Assistant



HR Director Peggy Barton with Mary Jo Arcement, Kathy Bourg, and Vivian Lasseigne

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

Get Well

Get well wishes go to **Richard Lamoureux**, our Executive Assistant. Richard is a very important member of our staff. We miss you, Richard, and hope you're feeling better.

New Employees

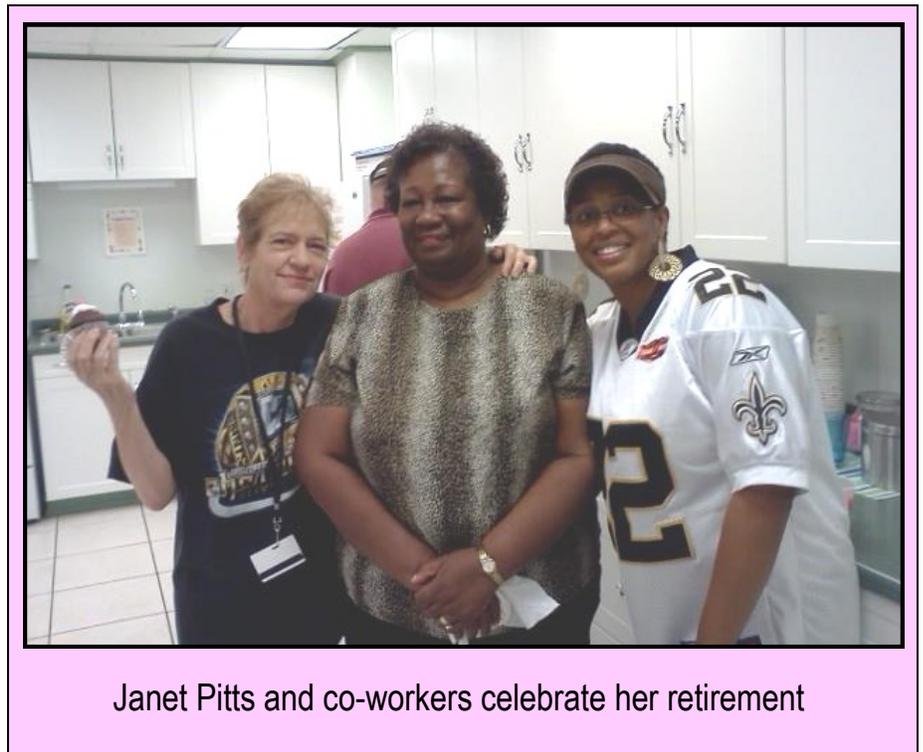
We welcome **Nicholas Thibodaux**, who was recently promoted to Equipment Operator IV in the Heavy Equipment section. Nicholas comes to us from the Water Department. We also welcome **Steve Arseneaux**, our new Plant Maintenance Electrician. We hope you both have many happy years with our department.

Service Pins

Congratulations to the following employees who have received service pins for their years of service with the Parish. **Sarah Ruttley**, 15 years;



Streets Superintendent
Durell Jones reaches
20 years of service



Janet Pitts and co-workers celebrate her retirement

Durell Jones, 20 years; **Clement Jasmin**, 25 years; and **Joanne Pollet** with 25 years of service.

2011 with 15 years of service. We miss you, Janet, and really hope you're enjoying your retirement.

Promotions

Congratulations to **Cedric James**, who was promoted to Road Maintenance Foreman in our Asphalt Section.

Congratulations also to **Richard Williams**, our Road Maintenance Foreman, who retired on December 30 after 26 years of service. He will also be greatly missed.

Also, congratulations to **Arthur Moran**, who was promoted to Road Maintenance Superintendent II.

Condolences

Our condolences go to **Cedric James** on the recent loss of his father, Mr. Ralph James. We're very sorry for your loss, Cedric. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Streets Administrative Assistant
Joanne Pollet celebrates 25 years
with the Parish

Retirements

Congrats to **Janet Pitts** with Employee Services, who retired on September 9,

Engineering

By Amanda Owens

A Happy New Year to all from the Engineering Department! I must start out by correcting an oopsie from the last issue. I misspelled the name of **Daloss Falghou**, our Traffic Engineering employee who received his Veteran's Medal from Governor Jindal. Sorry about the snafu!

There's been a lot of moving up, out, and over since the year began. **Suzanne Lollis** has been promoted to Typist Clerk III and accepted a new position in the Citizens' Affairs Department. We were all extremely sad to see her go, but we also know that Citizens' Affairs has gained a wonderful new employee in the process. We wish her the best of luck!

Also leaving us is **Stephanie Gaudet**, who has accepted a position with Fleet Management as their Executive Assistant, another loss for Engineering, but another gain for a different Parish department. Again, we'll miss you, Stephanie, and good luck!

Karen Gilley, already a busy bee handling our departmental requisitioning, has been promoted to Administrative Assistant in our department, now in charge of payroll. She's taken to her new position with the aplomb we expected from her.

Some great expectations were met when our Executive Superintendent **Jane Guimbellot** became a first-time great grandmother (And that's GiGi! Not Maw Maw, not Mi Maw, and DEFINITELY not Granny!) with the birth of Ryleigh Lauryn on January 3.



Jane Guimbellot

Jane is currently reveling in spoiling the newest addition to her family rotten.

More congratulations to **Joe St. Cyr**, our Public Works Field Operations Coordinator, who received his 15-year service pin in November. Here's to many more years with the Parish!

In January work was completed on Phase I of Engineering's Bucktown Harbor project, which was begun in October 2010. According to Director **Mark**

Drewes, "Completion of the first two piers of the Marina along with associated parking, lighting, and landscaping provides a state-of-the-art facility which will become a new recreation destination site for the residents of Jefferson Parish and will serve as an impetus for future expansion."

Retiring this month after 7 years with the Parish is Engineering Inspector III **Mike Scardino**. He began working for the Parish in the General Services department as Assistant Property Manager before moving to Engineering as an Inspector III. We'll miss you, Mike. Enjoy your retirement!

Unfortunately, the worst news must always coincide with the best, as two of our employees suffered personal losses over the past few months. Our deepest sympathies are extended to the families of **Juan Gutierrez**, who lost his brother in November, and **Cindy Dominique**, whose husband passed in early January. Our hearts are with both of you.



Public Works Director Kazem Alikhani with Joe St. Cyr

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Denis Mire** (Maintenance Superintendent), who retired on February 3. Denis retired from our East Bank Lift Stations Division with 16 ½ years of service. We wish him the very best and hope that he enjoys many years of happiness.



Denis Mire

Congratulations to the following employees who received their Service Pin Awards from Parish President Young on December 13, 2011:

25 Years

Cynthia Gallo
Robert Lutz

30 Years

Sylvester Brown (retired)
David Mahner
Pamela Lapping
Luis Vergara

35 Years

Willie Detiege, Jr.

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

Darrin Champagne was promoted from Water to Treatment Plant Operator at our Marrero Plant. Darrin has been employed with the Parish for two years.

Corey Westley was promoted

from laborer to Lift Station Inspector at our East Bank Division. Corey has been employed with the Parish for five years.

Erron Robinson was promoted from Public Works Investigative Rehab Section to an East Bank Lift Station Inspector. Erron has been employed with the Parish for three3 years.

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

Elbert Brisco, Laborer, Harvey Wastewater Treatment Plant

Torrance Hartman, Operator, Harvey Wastewater Treatment Plant

Travis St. Junior, Laborer, East Bank Lines Division

DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

Construction of a sewer lift station and 1,400 linear feet of

force main are under way at Fairfield & Wildwood, in Gretna. This \$1.02 million project includes relocation of the old lift station. The new station will handle 600 gallons of waste per minute, which will route the flow to the downstream Lapalco lift station. The new lift station, in combination with the new force main, is expected to better handle peak sewer flows from the Fairfield and Wildwood sub-basin.

Installation of a new 7,300 linear feet, 30 inch diameter sewer force main is under way on West Napoleon Avenue, in Metairie. The force main is designed to increase the flow capacity, thereby relieving the bottleneck currently experienced in routing sewer flow from upstream lift stations to downstream lift stations. Construction cost is expected to be \$2.58 million.



Sewerage Administration Office employees on Fleur De Lis Day:
(seated l-r) Diane Landry, Director Linda Daly, Venice Cooper, Alicia Harper. (standing l-r) Jane Lennie, Rose Martin, Lucie Claverie, Cindy Gallo, Pam Lapping, Donna Guidroz, Yvette Russo.

Alario Center

By
Deidre Cummings

Great News!

The Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District Board recently authorized the appropriation of 1 million dollars from its Capital Reserve Account for remedial work at the Alario Center. This appropriation will allow us to address roof deficiencies and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance in Hall B seating.

Welcome Aboard!

The Alario Center welcomes two new employees into the fold: **Drew Copponex**, Operations Manager; and **Montgomery Creamer**, Marketing/Sales Associate.

Promotions!

Congratulations go out to **Michael Samardzija**, General Manager Assistant; **Dana Cook**, Marketing Manager; and **Deirdre Cummings**, Executive Assistant.

Rock N Bowl Night!

Several Alario Center employees enjoyed a staff night out at Rock N Bowl. The music and atmosphere were fantastic, and who would have thought our CAA **Royce Blanchard** could bowl a mean SSSTRIKE!

Marine Corps Band at Alario

The US Marine Corps Band New Orleans performed in concert at The Alario Center December 9 as part of its 2011 Toys for Tots Tour. The performance was free and open to the public.

The 90-minute holiday spectacular featured the concert band, in addition to nearly every small



Alario Center staff
at Rock N Bowl

ensemble within the unit. Suitable for all ages and musical tastes, the 51-piece band performed traditional and contemporary holiday music.

Nearly 1200 donations of a new, unwrapped toy for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation were collected.

The United States Marine Corps Band New Orleans was established in 1978 and operates under the control of the Marine Forces Reserve. The unit is comprised of active-duty Marines stationed at the Naval Support Activity Base in New Orleans. Each year, the band travels throughout the United States, performing more than 250 concerts, parades, and ceremonies, entertaining more than 6 million people.

The Alario Center will be accepting Toys For Tots donations throughout the year. Let's make 2012 a greater success by hopefully doubling the amount of donations received in 2011.

Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

New Director

We welcome Director **David B. Dysart** to our department. David recently served as St. Bernard Parish's Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Homeland Security. He is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and holds the rank of Colonel.

David has completed three tours serving in Iraq and is the recipient of numerous awards and outstanding recognition for his meritorious service in support of Operations *Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and Iraqi Freedom II*. He is married to Nicole and has three children, Stephen, Cheri, and Elyce Claire.

Congratulations to **Ben Williams**, Building Maintenance Supervisor, who recently received his 30-year service pin.



New Emergency Management
Director David B. Dysart

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

As we rounded the corner into the New Year, Community Development consolidated its offices onto one floor in Suite 605. Formerly the Housing Assistant Programs funded by CDBG were located in Suite 405. However, with several retirements, office space became available and Housing Rehab Programs Manager **Helen White** and her staff, Housing Counselor II **Emann Batiste**, Typist Clerk III **Patricia Beebe**, Housing Counselor III **Toya Jones**, Building Maintenance Supervisor **Sam Oliver**, and Housing Improvement Counselor III **Dianne Washington** moved upstairs. They received a big welcome from **Director Anatola Thompson** and the rest of CD staff.

Director **Anatola Thompson**, Parish Planner III **Faye Galland** and Planner II **Jody Moreau** held two successful Public Hearings on November 30 and December 1, 2011, on each bank that provided citizens with an opportunity to

comment on their community's needs and priorities before planning programs and services for Fiscal Year 2012. The proposed programs and activities are federally funded by HUD's CDBG, HOME, and Emergency Solutions Grant.

The 2012 First-Time Homebuyer Assistance Program (FTHB) opened on January 10. Project Coordinator **James "Jim" Bush Jr.**, Housing Counselor III **Toya Jones**, and Housing Improvement Counselor II **Liz Ruth** are handling the applications.

The program is being funded in conjunction with the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development (OCD) and will assist income qualified first-time home buyers with the purchase of a home within Jefferson. Preliminary applications will be accepted while funding is available. Eligible participants must not have owned a home in the past three years.

Program information and Preliminary Applications are available on the Parish Website at www.jeffparish.net.

Finance Authority

By
Sheila Rodrigue

Low Interest Rate With Assistance Available

The Jefferson Parish Finance Authority's bond program currently has an interest rate of 3.50% along with a grant of 3.5% for down payment and closing costs assistance. Currently, mortgage loans will be available through March 1, 2012, although it may be extended past that date if money is still available.

A home purchased through our program must be located in Jefferson Parish 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).

If you are a first-time homebuyer (defined as someone who has never owned a home or has not owned a home within the last three years) who meets our income restrictions listed below, you can purchase anywhere within Jefferson Parish.

Maximum Gross Income – First Time Homebuyer:

- \$61,200 maximum for a family of one or two
- \$70,380 maximum for a family of three or more

If you are a current home owner or someone who has



Community Development staff poses with President John Young on "Hat Day"

owned a home within the last three years, you can use our program to buy a home but would be restricted to the Targeted Areas of Jefferson Parish. Maps showing the location of the Targeted Areas are available from our office. The income restrictions for the Targeted Areas are:

Maximum Gross Income

– Targeted Areas:

\$73,440 maximum for a family of one or two

\$85,680 maximum for a family of three or more

If you are interested in using our program to buy a home, please contact our office at 736-6311 for additional information, including a list of the participating lenders. This information can also be obtained from our website at www.jpfinanceauthority.com. Maps showing the location of the Targeted Areas are only available from our office.

Retirement

We would like to wish a “Happy Retirement” to **Rae Ann Borne**, who retired on December 30, 2011, with 24 years of service to Jefferson Parish. Rae Ann worked in various departments and clerical positions during her time with Jefferson Parish. Thank you, Rae Ann, for your dedicated service to our department.

New Employee

Welcome to **Jillian Campbell**, our new Administrative Assistant. She is coming to our office from Citizen’s Affairs. We are looking



Rae Ann Borne retires
with 24 years of service

forward to working with Jillian for many years to come.

Board Member Changes

With the election of new council members also comes change to our Board of Trustees. We had to say goodbye in January to three of our Board members: Forrest H. “Bucky” Laning, Ricky Templet, and Anthony Cash. Mr. Laning served on our Board since 2009 and for the last two years was our Chairman. Mr. Laning is being replaced by Dennis DiMarco. Jackie Berthelot replaces Ricky Templet, who was elected to the Jefferson Parish Council and was a member of our Board since 2007. Mr. Cash had been a Board member since 2010 and is being replaced by James Lawson. Welcome to all of our new Board members.

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

The Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs would like to congratulate **Tom Cooper** on his 20 years of service to the Parish. Tom received his 20-year pin at a ceremony in December.

We would also like to congratulate **Lauren Barton**, Stormwater Supervisor, on her new job in California. We wish her well and she will be greatly missed.

We recently completed the 22nd Annual Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project by placing recycled Christmas trees in pre-constructed shoreline fences to trap sediment to restore and protect fragile wetlands near Lafitte.

We want to thank Judge John Molaison for assigning court-appointed community service workers to assist with the labor-intensive tasks. We also want to thank the Jefferson Parish Sheriff’s Office LASER Division, the Harahan Police Department, New Orleans Emergency Management Services, and the many Fire Departments, including East Bank Consolidated, Avondale, Bridge City, Davey Crockett, Kenner, Harvey Number 2, Herbert Wallace, Terrytown, Third District, Westwego, and New Orleans, all of whom provided boats and labor. A big thank you goes out to the Department of Juvenile Services’ Food Services Division’s Rivarde staff for providing delicious lunches for our many workers.

Our Chief Administrative As-

sistant, **Heather Hilliard**, did an incredible job coordinating the many court-appointed service workers, the volunteer assistance from all of the fire, police, and other first responders, arranging for the hot lunches provided by the Department of Juvenile Services, and arriving bright and early each morning with hot coffee and donuts – our favorite!

We also want to recognize our own **Jason Smith**, Coastal Program Supervisor, who coordinated the efforts of our department and our project partners, the Departments of Parkways, Streets, and Fleet Management. Personnel from these departments worked tirelessly before the project, repairing and constructing the wooden shoreline cribs. Without the support of all the above, this project would not be such a success, and we want to give a hearty thanks to all involved for a job well done.

Last, but not least, we were delighted that Parish President **John Young** dropped in, took a boat tour of the project sites, and even tossed a few Christmas trees into the crib fences.



President Young assisting at the Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project

Water,

By
Susie Cunningham

Retirements

Beverly Traub, Water Quality Technician II, retired from our water lab on December 2, 2011, after over 33 years of service. A retirement party was held at our Water Lab to celebrate her career with Jefferson Parish. Congratulations!

Kent Hoadley, Warehouse Superintendent, retired from our warehouse on January 27, with 25 years and 3 months of service. Enjoy, Kent!

Thank you both for your many years of service and Happy Retirement!

New Employees

Welcome to the following employees: **Chad Gleason**, Water Quality Technician II; **Russell Grabert**, Water Service Inspector I; **Wendell Johnson**, Laborer; **Sylvester Myles**, Equipment Operator III; **Robert Spahn**, Computer Network Administrator; and **Chris Landry**, Water Service Inspector II.



Willie Jordan and Harrison Cornish (in uniform) are congratulated by Water Assistant Director Doug Pertuit and Director Doug Vincent

Promotions

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions: **Rennice Young**, Utility Billing Superintendent; **Monica Stanton**, Utility Billing Superintendent, Assistant; **Cynetra Smith**, Payroll Clerk; **Tiffany Wilson**, Utility Billing Clerk III; **Denver Brown**, **George Brown**, **Christopher Descant**, and **Shannon Taylor**, Laborers, Semi-Skilled.

Service Pins – 25 and 30 Years

Congratulations to the following employees who received service award pins on December 13, 2011, from Parish President, **John Young**, for their years of service to Jefferson Parish. Thirty-year recipients were **Wineva Carson** and **David North**. Twenty-five year recipients were **Darren Hernandez**, **Kent Hoadley**, **Glen Ledet**, **Alton Loupe**, and **Douglas Pertuit, Jr.**

Service Pins– 5-15 Years

We wish to congratulate the following employees for receiving service pin awards on December 20, 2011, from Director **Doug Vincent** for their years of service to Jefferson Parish. Fifteen-year recipient: **John Ross**. Ten-year recipients: **Lucian Cascio, Jr.**,

Harrison Cornish, and Willie Jordan. Five-year recipients: **Kathryn Ashley, Rudolph Augustine, Jason Barriere, Gregory Bates, Pamela Bibbins, Corey Collins, Alphonse Cressey, Shirley Guidry, Sacara Kelly, Sheryl Kelly, Curtis McFarland, Eva Turner, and Elvin Villaronga.**



Water's John Ross celebrates 15 years with the Parish

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branan, RN



Water Administration's beautiful Christmas tree

Thanks to all of you for your hard work.

We hope everyone had a wonderful and enjoyable holiday sea-

son. Utility Billing Superintendent **Rennice Young** and Utility Billing Superintendent Assistant **Monica Stanton** donated gifts for East Bank Utility Billing's "Santa's Lottery."

Congratulations to the following East Bank Utility Billing winners: **Elizabeth Bourgeois, Leslie Gardner, Juanika LaSalle, Cynetra Smith, and Tiffany Wilson** - McDonald's gift cards; **Diana Evans** and **Dorina Gauthreaux** - pre-paid cell phone cards; **Patricia Boudreaux** and **Lisa Cole** - DVDs; **Precious Nelson** and **Carolyn Silas**— comfy throws.

Amazing Co-Q10

The human body is like the ultimate Swiss watch with numerous parts interacting like a fine-tuned symphony, under the direction of the ultimate chemist.

The body is programmed to achieve and maintain a state of health. Any alteration in the function of the various body systems can result in a movement away from this state of health.

In order to correct the ill effects that can occur, the pharmacological industry has become paramount in providing that "magic pill" to make us healthy once more. Unfortunately, if you have ever read the drug insert that is issued to you when a prescription is obtained, you may be very alarmed to read of the various ill effects that may result by taking that medication.

Educate Yourself!

But what is the consumer to do? It is critical that the consumer be well educated on what medical conditions they have and what the treatment involves, be it diet, activity, prescriptions, and/or over-the-counter medications or supplements.



Beverly Traub with Assistant Director Pertuit, supervisor Steve Brodie, and Chief Chemist Sal Maffei

When walking down the vitamin/supplement aisles, it can be MOST confusing to the consumer. What do the products do? Are they necessary? Can I benefit from them? Can they be harmful?

One such product that I have seen advertised is Co-Q10 or Co-enzyme Q 10. It is only recently that I have learned more about this critical, amazing substance found in every cell of the body. Its presence is critical for energy production to take place.

Co-Q10 keeps the cell walls strong to allow normal nerve conduction and muscle integrity. It is needed to promote elastin and collagen growth. They are antioxidants, which destroy harmful molecules. They assist enzymes in the digestive process and are necessary for other bodily processes.

But, just what could happen to the body if this enzyme were not present in the proper quantity? Of course, the body parts that require the greatest amounts of “energy” would be most at risk. Since Co-Q10 is the primary player in ener-



Troy Alexander receives his 10-year pin from Drainage Director Mitch Theriot

gy production for the cell, the muscles tend to be at most risk.

The breakdown of muscles can cause weakness, back pain, and heart failure. The inability to maintain healthy nerve integrity can lead to neuropathy and other neurological impairments. The inability to promote the integrity and growth of elastin and collagen can result in inflamed tendons and ligaments, which can even rupture.

The cholesterol reducing

drugs are perhaps the most notorious for interfering with the production of the Co-Q10 enzyme.

Cholesterol production starts with 2-carbon molecules called acetyl-CoA. Three of these acetyl-CoA molecules combine and form 6-carbon hydroxymethylglutaric acid (HMG). Next, the enzyme HMG-CoA reductase allows for the HMG to create mevalonate. The end products in the mevalonate chain are comprised of **cholesterol, ubiquinone (Co-Q10)** and diolchol.

Cholesterol-reducing drugs do their work by inhibiting HMG-CoA reductase to allow the HMG to create mevalonate. Unfortunately, not only does it interfere with cholesterol production, but it interferes with the production of Co-Q10. Therein lie the multiple side effects associated with the cholesterol-lowering drugs.

Space does not allow for me to expand any further. But I suggest that you check with your doctor for advice regarding the Co-Q10 supplement. Always read your drug inserts and notify your doctor if you are having any complaints, especially if they may be associated with a medication.



10-year Drainage employee John Chagnard with Director Theriot

Retirements

Stephen Cabal
Juvenile Services
33 years

Brian Propps
Drainage
33 years

Mary Anderson
Library
32 years

Aloysius Garnett, Sr
Drainage
31 years

Joseph Tran
Drainage
30 years

Larry Portier
Drainage
26 years

Richard Williams
Streets
26 years

Kenton Hoadley
Water
25 years

Rae Borne
Finance Authority
24 years

Evelyn Relayson
Library
24 years

Sabrina Minor
JeffCAP
21 years

Jeffrey Walker
Drainage
18 years

New Lakeshore Library Opens



President Young and Councilwoman Lee-Sheng preside over the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Lakeshore Library.

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