



Volume 32
 Number 5
 December 2011

EM Realite

Message from the Parish President. . .

Food For Thought

The cuisine in southeast Louisiana is considered part of our culture here, and dining with family and friends is one of our favorite pastimes. Many of us may have a special way of preparing our favorite dishes. And with the holidays upon us, now is the perfect time to gather your favorite family recipes to share them with your friends and co-workers.



John F. Young
 Parish President

The First Jefferson Parish Employee Cookbook

Our Diversity Advisory Board is compiling recipes for the first-ever Jefferson Parish Employee Cookbook. The Board is asking all Parish employees to contribute one or more recipes to this parish-wide project, in hopes of collecting a wide assortment of great dishes: maybe your mother's mirliton dressing, your grandmother's stuffed artichokes, your father's gumbo, or that secret family recipe for red gravy.

Wanted: Recipes with a Story

The Board is looking for recipes that have a story to tell, recipes that may have a special place in your family or holiday traditions. The story behind it is just as important as the recipe. The Board's goal is to add a personal touch to each contribution, so please share the story behind those special dishes and feel free to divulge those secret ingredients.

Spotlighting Our Diversity

The idea blossomed as an inclusive project in which every Parish employee could participate. The submissions will be as diverse as the people who make up our workforce. Each of our employees is important and has something special to contribute.

The Board plans to collect recipes and their stories through mid-December, and the finished product should be available shortly after the first of the year. Please submit your recipes in a Word document and e-mail them to any member of the Diversity Advisory Board, your Director, or Supervisor. The cookbook will be available at no charge to all of our employees through the Intranet Portal, and perhaps, ultimately, the Internet.

Thank you for your continued hard work in serving the citizens of Jefferson Parish every day. Best wishes to all of you for a safe and happy holiday!

En Réalité

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

Departmental Reporters

- Alario Center**
Deirdre Cummings
- Animal Shelter**
Danielle Williams
- Citizens' Affairs**
Ron Fuxan
- Community Development**
Sevilla White Finley
- Drainage**
Sheena Quinn Bauer
- Emergency Management**
Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**
Amanda Owens
- Environmental Affairs**
Kathy Russo
- Finance Authority**
Sheila Rodrigue
- General Services**
Jill Relick
- Human Resource Management**
Glenn Schiro
- Code Enforcement**
Linda Roy
- JeffCAP**
Elizabeth Cook
- Juvenile Services**
Arlyn Smith
- Library**
Daniel Gitlin
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Gwen Styron & Jerry Savarese
- Parkways**
Chantell Prestenbach
- Planning**
Marilyn Slutsky
- Purchasing**
Nicolle Byars
- Sewerage**
Venice Cooper
- Streets**
Debbie Tunstall
- Telecommunications**
Open
- Traffic Engineering**
Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**
Patricia Lyons
- Water**
Susie Cunningham
- Workforce Connection**
Frances Turner

Editor's



Notes

Managing Our Care

As you know, Phase 1 of Open Enrollment for our 2012 benefits was held in October and November. By now you all should have made your decisions regarding your “core benefits.” Core benefits include medical, dental, additional life, and FSAs. “Supplemental benefits” will be handled during Phase 2 of Open Enrollment. You will be informed of the dates for Phase 2 sometime in 2012.

I realize that health insurance benefits are vitally important to many Parish employees and sometimes raise contentious issues; so I'd like to briefly discuss our benefits and the concept of an HMO. Coventry will continue to be the Parish's medical carrier in 2012 with a 5.5% increase in premiums. Nobody likes to see costs go up, but we are keeping the same plan with co-pays and coverages intact, and a 5.5% premium increase is below the national average. Many employers nationwide are desperately cutting benefits, raising co-pays, and instituting high deductibles and still seeing their premiums increase.

Our Coventry plan is a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). The key word is “organization”: the participants are part of an organization designed to manage health care adequately and efficiently. The organization also includes healthcare “providers”—the doctors, hospitals, etc. that actually deliver the care.

According to one definition, an HMO “covers only care rendered by those doctors and other professionals who have agreed to treat



Peggy O. Barton
Editor

patients in accordance with the HMO's guidelines and restrictions.” That means that we cannot demand whatever treatment we want; nor can our healthcare providers order whatever they want. Sometimes tests or treatments require the HMO's prior approval. Healthcare providers may have to try simpler, less expensive treatments first. They may have to justify a treatment plan in order to get HMO approval, and it has to be done in accordance with the HMO's guidelines and restrictions.

Mistakes can be made. Treatments may be denied that may not have been if Coventry had been provided with the proper medical justification. It's important for all of us to be proactive in our healthcare so that we can intelligently participate in dialogue with our healthcare providers and Coventry.

To assist us and minimize any problems, Coventry holds meetings with our employees on both banks of the river at least once a month. Their representative is available to discuss specific problems with you. Ask your benefits coordinator for the dates and locations of upcoming meetings. Additionally, you can call Coventry's customer service number at 800-341-6613. Finally, if you have any problems with coverage, please let Aubrey DeVillier or Cathy Leaumont of Human Resource Management's Benefits Office know.

Water

By
Susie Cunningham

Newly Appointed Director

We are elated to announce that Parish President John Young appointed **Douglas Vincent**, a licensed Professional Engineer, Director of the Water Department on August 31, 2011. Congratulations, Doug!

Retirements

Water bid farewell to **Betty Durr**, Utility Billing Superintendent, on September 9, after nearly 27 years of service. Betty began her career with Jefferson Parish as a Utility Billing Clerk I with Water in 1984. Thereafter, Betty held the positions of Utility Billing Clerk II, Utility Billing Collector II, Utility Billing Collector III, Payroll Clerk, and Utility Billing Collection Supervisor. Her retirement party was held at the Yenni Building, where her subordinates, family, and friends gathered to celebrate her career and wish her a happy retirement. Thank you for your service, Betty! Enjoy your retirement!

We also said, "Good-bye" to **Murphy Hayes** on October 21, after 33 years of service. A party

was held at our West Bank office, not only in celebration of his retirement, but also to honor his many years with Jefferson Parish. We wish you the very best, Murphy! Congratulations!

New Employees

We extend a warm welcome to the following new employees: **David Bourgeois**, **Clinton Smith**, **Marc Smith**, and **James Wilcox**, Laborers; and **Danielle Stemley**, Water Service Inspector I. We wish them well as they begin their careers.

We also welcome **Lisa Cole**, Utility Billing Clerk I, who transferred from the Workforce Investment Board. Also transferring to us from JeffCAP is **Carolyn Silas**, Dispatcher; and transferring from the Sewerage Department is **Lorraine Jackson**, Typist Clerk III.

Welcome back to **Eric Thompson**, Laborer; **Terrance Johnson**, Equipment Operator III; and **Brandy Maillet**, Water Service Inspector I. They left us briefly but have returned to work with their friends in the Water Department once again.

Promotions

Recent promotions were as



Murphy Hayes with Water Assistant Director Doug Pertuit and Director Vincent

follows: **Jesse Rosenfeld II**, Administrative Assistant; **Allen Wells**, Utility Billing Clerk III; **Joseph Butler**, Waterline Maintenance Foreman; **Lawrence Ayami**, Pump Equipment Mechanic; and **Harold Williams** and **Araven Jones**, Water Service Inspector II's. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

Military

East Bank Utility Billing employee **Roosevelt Newsom** is currently serving in Kuwait and Iraq with the US Army. We hope he is doing well and wish him a safe return.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to **Sharyn Mayo** on her recent marriage to Charlie Voisin. The ceremony was held at the Kenner Pavillion with about 100 guests in attendance. We wish you many years filled with lasting joy!

Baby news

Congratulations to **Betty Turner** on the birth of her daughter, Symone Renae Evans, born on June 30. We also congratulate **Roslyn Gatlin** on the birth of her daughter, KeMaria Lee Stovall, who was born on August 3. And congratulations to **Jennifer Martin** on the birth of her son, Clay Michael Martin Jr. on July 22.



Betty Durr is congratulated by Public Works Director Kazem Alikhani and Water Director Doug Vincent

Diversity Advisory Board

The Diversity Advisory Board would like say thank you and farewell to members who recently left our ranks. The DAB said goodbye to Co-chairperson **Francois Ancar** in October when he left the Planning Department for a position with the Planning Advisory Board. **Billy "LSU" Sanders**, of Environmental Affairs, and **Keith Thornton**, of Drainage, left DAB in September 2011. We are fortunate to have these dedicated Parish employees who were willing to take on the extra responsibility of serving on the DAB.

The Diversity Advisory Board has the privilege of welcoming three new members: **Randy Majoria**, of Environmental Affairs; **Shawn Pearson**, of CJA; and **Raynell Stevenson**, of Water. We appreciate your willingness to work with us on the DAB.

The first meeting that Randy and Raynell attended was on November 14, our "traditional" holiday pot-luck luncheon. To make this meeting extra special, it was held at the new EOC building in Gretna with a tour of the facility given by DAB member **Karen Daviss**, Emergency Management

Coordinator. There was so much food left over, we even shared our lunch with some of the staff of the EOC.

One of the functions of the Diversity Advisory Board is to raise awareness of diversity issues. In October, the DAB distributed to Parish departments a beautiful poster, created by DAB member **Alice White**, of the Workforce Investment Board, that commemorated October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. An electronic version of the poster may be found on our Internet website in Employee Resources at the bottom of the left column.

November is American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. American Indians and Alaska Natives are one of the six major race categories. In the latest census of 2010, the population of American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States was 5.2 million, so this race category makes up 1.7 percent of the total population.

By 2050 the population of American Indians and Alaska Natives is projected to be 8.6 million or about 2 percent of the total population.

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

It's hard to believe 2011 is almost over! I hope everyone experiences a blessed holiday!

Welcome: **Geraldiah Green**, Juvenile Probation Officer I; **Alisha Hunter**, Cook I; **Lorna Lilly**, Vocational Counselor II; and **Anthony Sparks, Jr.**, Juvenile Detention Officer I.

Resignations: **Eric Calhoun** and **Tracye Casteel**, Juvenile Detention Officers; **Phil Hinton** and **Troy Phares**, Juvenile Probation Officers; **Shanell Williams**, Vocational Counselor; and **Elaine Steib**, Cook. We wish them all the best.

Promotions: **Terence Dixon** was promoted to Juvenile Detention Home Supervisor, Assistant; and **Tion McGhee** to Juvenile Probation Officer III.

Births: **Ronjela Clay** welcomed baby girl Naomi Elon on September 14, and **Shawnta Gardner** also welcomed a baby girl Trinity Morgan on October 29. Congratulations to all!

Sympathy: We express our sincere sympathies to the families of **Nancy Arceneaux**, whose mother died; **Gerald Daniels**, whose father died; and **Herlin Riley**, whose grandfather died.

Employees of the Month:

AUGUST: Calvin Thompson and Roberta Brown

SEPTEMBER: Marshall Jackson and Nelda Breaux

OCTOBER: Mose Sam and Toyane Faulkner

NOVEMBER: Michelle Allen and Matthew Villio



The Diversity Advisory Board's post-meeting holiday luncheon

Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

We are happy to announce our newest staff member, **Liane Trick**, Planner II, working in our Land Use Section. **Evelyn Cade** and **Nicolette Jones**, Graduate Student Interns majoring in Urban and Regional Planning from UNO, also have joined our department.

Some members of our staff wore a colorful and interesting menagerie of hats for Where Y'at Hat Day held in October. Everyone enjoyed Hat Day and we look forward to the next one.



Best wishes and a fond farewell to **Francois Ancar**, who transferred in October to the Research Analyst position with the Planning Advisory Board. Francoise worked in the Planning Department for over 25 years.

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Benefits

Open Enrollment for Core Benefits (health insurance, dental, FSA's and additional life) ended on Thursday, November 10. Six hundred and thirty employees went through the process to make changes in their benefits coverage. Phase 2 of Open Enrollment will be announced in 2012.

The Benefits Staff extends a special thanks to the following Coordinators who gave their time and energy to help with open enrollment: **Robin Angelica**, **Brandy Chism**, **Lucie Claverie**, **Kathy Donovan**, **Ranie Lefort**, **Linda Roy**, and **Arlyn Smith**. Thanks for your help!

Welcome

Welcome to **Yvonne Keller**, who has joined the Human Resource Management Department as a Training Specialist II. Yvonne obtained her Business degree from UNO, then returned to UNO to complete her Alternative Certification Program in Science. She has taught at St.

Charles High and Haynes Academy.

One of Yvonne's many responsibilities with HR is teaching computer classes, including Excel, Outlook, and Word. She also works weekly with several Bonabel High School students who are involved in the Employment Exploration Program.

Yvonne has a Black Belt in Karate, and she and her husband Ken are kept busy with their Labrador retriever, Scout.

Welcome aboard, Yvonne.



New Training Specialist Yvonne Keller

Employment Law Seminar

Nancy Rodriguez, **Fran Robichaux**, **John Dumas**, and **Greg Alexander** attended an Employment Law Seminar by Phelps Dunbar on November 2 in downtown New Orleans. The seminar, entitled *Navigating the Sea Changes in Labor, Employment, and Employee Benefits*, provided lots of useful information and insights to our HR professionals in attendance.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Peggy Barton**, who was approved by the Jefferson Parish Council on August 31 as Director of Human Resource Management.



Francois Ancar (third from right) with his staff: Sue Durabb, Bess Renfrow, Kivana Cole, Phil Tiller, and Esbii Ogholoh

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

Fundraiser

A correction needs to be made concerning the chair of our “**March of Dimes**” fundraiser. **Rose Lanansa** of West Bank Maintenance did a great job collecting a total of \$289 through the “**Parade of Prizes Raffle**” and “**Walk-a-thon.**” Thank you very much, Rose, for all of your time and hard work for this charity.

Sharon Cline held a “**Halloween Hot Dog Luncheon**” for the American Heart Association. A “**2011 Heart Walk**” was also held on November 19. The total amount raised for both events was \$492. Sharon would like to thank everyone who helped. Thank you, Sharon, for your contributions.

The Senior Expo was held on October 19 at the Pontchartrain Center. **Marie Ricks** and **Denise Chavers** worked the event, taking complaints and answering questions from Senior Citizens. Approximately 40 complaints were taken. Community resources, health information, lunch, and entertainment were also provided.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Marie Ricks**, who recently became a



Marie Ricks's new grandson
Frank Joseph



Henry Austin (Second from left) with Streets Superintendents
Rodney Lyons, Kenneth Lemieux, and Donald Boudreaux

grandmother. Her son Frank and daughter-in-law Jennifer were blessed with a beautiful son, Frank Joseph Ricks III. He was born on October 14, weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz.

Promotions

We want to congratulate **Troy Gilmore**, who was promoted to Equipment Operator IV; **Dustin Rojas** to Truck Driver II; **John Jackson** to Truck Driver II; and **Terrence Thompson**, who is now a Semi-Skilled Laborer.

New Hires

We welcome **Heta Babin**, our new Receptionist. We hope your future is bright with the Streets Department, Heta.

Retirements

Shari Orgeron, our Inspector, retired on October 21 after 34 years of service. We'll miss **Shari**. Through the years she brought us plenty of joy.

Henry Austin of West Bank Maintenance also retired on October 21, 2011, after 30 years of service. He will also be greatly missed by all.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy goes to **Shari Orgeron**. Shari lost her son Henry Lee Orgeron on October 28, 2011 at the age of 43. Our thoughts and prayers are with **Shari** during this difficult time.

Also, our heartfelt sympathy to **Durell Jones**. His mother Alberta Williams passed away October 7, 2011. Our thoughts and prayers are also with you, Durell.



Shari Orgeron with Mitch
Demuth and Don Hogan

Engineering

By
Amanda Owens

There are scores of congratulations to be heard throughout the Engineering Department this time out.

Dalhoss Falghou, a member of the Traffic Engineering division, recently received a Veterans Honor Medal from Governor Bobby Jindal as part of a recent program established to honor Louisiana veterans.

Dalhoss, who served in the Army from 1968-1970 as a 16E fire control operator for Air Defense Artillery, was stationed in Okinawa, Vietnam, and Korea, and received his medal in a ceremony held at First Baptist Church in Jefferson. Congratulations, and thank you for your service to our country.



Governor Bobby Jindal with
Dalhoss Falghou

After 33 years of service, we said goodbye to **Terry Betts**, one of our Inspectors. Terry started out as a sewerage plant operator, later be-



Terry Betts is congratulated by Engineering Director Mark Drewes

coming a sewerage lift operator, a position he held for several years. In 2006 he joined the Engineering Department as an Engineering Inspector III. To quote Terry himself, "They were the best five years in all my time at the Parish." I think I can speak for your coworkers when I say we can agree with that statement.

Matt Zeringue, one of our Engineers in Training and a student at UNO, received the Shell Exploration Award for outstanding performance. A nice cash prize was credited to his UNO

account, much to Matt's pleasant surprise (or so he says!)

Several Engineering employees were rewarded with Service Pins: For 15 years: **Glen Hebert**, Instrumentman and Party Chief. With 10 years: **Robert Arseneaux**, Inspector III; **Rick Speeg**, Engineer II; **Shelly Bordelon**, Senior Instrumentman; and **Ryan Breaux**, Engineer III. And with 5 years: **Hunley Dufour**, Inspector III. A huge round of applause for the Engineering Department and the accolades we've received!



Engineering's Glen Hebert (center) with Alfred Tonguis and Director Mark Drewes

Animal Shelter

By
Danielle Williams

New Employees:

We would like to welcome some new employees to the Animal Shelter. First, we welcome **Ms. Robin Beaulieu**, Shelter Director. **Britney Davis** is our new dispatcher. **Linda Girard** is our new Administrative Assistant. **Brian Murry** is our new Animal Control Officer. **Kathryn Zapf** is our new Animal Care Specialist. We would also like to welcome our new Animal Care Attendants: **Dejuan Henderson**, **David Jackson**, and **Maurice Moss**.

Retirements:

We would like to wish Kennelmaster **Clayton Rayfield** a happy retirement. We will miss you Clayton, and thank you for your many years of dedicated service to the animals.



Clayton Rayfield

Condolences:

We would like to express our sincere condolences to the families of two employees who passed away suddenly. Animal Control Officer **Jarvis Patrick** passed away on August 29 at the age of

29. Animal Care Attendant **Kylie Dupaquier** passed away on September 7 at the age of 20. You both are very loved and missed every day.

Pet Fest:

On Sunday November 13 we held our annual Pet Fest in Lafreniere Park. Many animal shelters and rescue groups gathered at the park. There were food, games, and lots of animals to be adopted. Our shelter adopted about 15 animals that day. Thanks to all who participated and made this event so great.

As always, remember to have your pets spayed/neutered, and kept up to date with their rabies vaccinations. The shelter offers rabies vaccinations every Tuesday from 10am-12pm at the West Bank Shelter, and every Wednesday from 10am-11:30am at the East Bank Shelter. Adoption fees are \$67 and includes spay/neuter, microchip, and a rabies shot.

Citizens' Affairs

By
Ron Fuxan

Senior Citizens' Services

Jefferson Parish President **John Young** recently presented a "Certificate of Merit" to Ms. Gladys Bertoneau Jee (my grandmother) who celebrated her 100th birthday! Pictured left to right: Mrs. Shirley Jee Fuxan, Sr. (her daughter); Parish President **John Young**; **Ron Fuxan, Jr.** (grandson); and **Wayne Ory**, Senior Citizens' Coordinator.

Stork News

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Director **Sean Burke** and his wife on the recent arrival of their daughter Macie Elizabeth Burke. Macie was born on November 2, 2011, weighed eight pounds, and measured twenty inches. This is now Sean's third daughter, all under four years of age. Congratulations, Sean, and good luck!!



President Young recognizes Gladys Bertoneau Jee's 100th birthday

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Congratulations abound this month for the Traffic Engineering Division. Our family has recently increased with two new additions. Congratulations go out to our Sign Designer **James Vasquez** and his wife Tracy on the birth of their daughter Adriana Serenity. Little Adriana was born 8/26/11 and at 21 ¾ inches, weighed 10 lbs - 12oz.

Congratulations also go out to Signal Technician **Scott Bairnsfather** and his wife Rebecca on the birth of their daughter Mia Randi. Little Mia was born 10/14/11 and at 18 inches, weighed 5 lbs - 11oz. We all wish both families years of joy with their new additions.

Congratulations are also in order for one of our Engineers, **Mrs. Susan Treadway**. Mrs. Treadway was this year's recipient of the Institute of Transportation Engineers' "John F. Exnicios Award" for outstanding service to the Deep South Section of I.T.E. and to the Traffic Engineering community. Congratulations, Susan, and keep up the good work!

Congratulations are also in order to the following employees for their years of service:

Chris Garton, Sign Technician II - 5 years

Scott Bairnsfather, Signal Technician II - 10 years (photo P. 17)

Dawn Daleo, Traffic Engineer, N.P. - 15 years

Alfred Maggio, Sign Technician II - 15 years

We would like to say farewell to **Peter Williams**, Sign Technician I. Peter has taken a promo-



Dawn Deleo and Alfred Maggio receive 15-year pins from Engineering Director Mark Drewes

tional position with the Pump Stations Department. Congratulations on your promotion, Peter! We will certainly miss you here with us.

Lastly, we want to welcome our Sign Superintendent I, **Larry Soileau**, back to work. Congratulations on your return! We missed you while you were gone, but we're glad to have you back at work!

Responding to Congestion

In other news, our Division has been working with the Regional Planning Commission to provide a "Traffic Responsive" congestion mitigation corridor designed to quickly respond to congestion issues on I-10. The first segment of that system will finally be realized when construction begins with the upgrade of five signal systems on Veterans Boulevard near the Orleans Parish line.

Eventually, we hope to continue this system from the Orleans Parish line to the Kenner City line and will provide an alternate, traffic-responsive route

for motorists exiting I-10 during any closure due to crash, construction, etc. This will be the first main-frame-driven signal system in the area and will have the ability to identify additional volume either east- or westbound, and respond by adjusting the signal timing to favor movement in the heavier direction. Construction should begin within the next two months.



Code Enforcement's Edmond St. Romain on Halloween as Dr. Jekyll or Mr. Hyde!

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Michael Stamps** (Assistant Director) and **Sylvester Brown** (Superintendent I), who both retired in September. **Mike** retired from our Administration Office with 22 years of service. **Sylvester** retired from our East Bank Lines Division with 30 years of service. We wish both gentlemen the very best and hope that they enjoy many years of retirement happiness.

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

Jason Johnson was promoted to Equipment Operator IV at our East Bank Lines Division. **Jason** has been employed with the Parish for 12 years.

Keith Jones was promoted to Superintendent I at our East Bank Lines Division. **Keith** has been employed with the Parish for 15 years.



Presentation of Service Pin Awards to Keith Jones (15 years) and Morris Clark (5 years); (l-r) Superintendent Roy Lindsey, Director Linda Daly, Jones, Clark, Superintendent David Dennis

Corey Miller was promoted to Equipment Operator IV at our Line Rehab Division. **Corey** has been employed with the Parish for one year.

Brett Ramsak was promoted to Lift Station Inspector at our East Bank Lift Stations Division. **Brett** has been em-

ployed with the Parish for 4 years.



Brett Todd on
Where Y'at Hat Day!

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

Thaddeus Johnson, Laborer, East Bank Lift Stations

Matthew Solares, Treatment Plant Operator, Marrero Wastewater Treatment Plant

James Wing, Laborer, West Bank Lines



Retiring Superintendent Sylvester Brown is congratulated by Sewerage Director Linda Daly and General Superintendent Roy Lindsey

Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

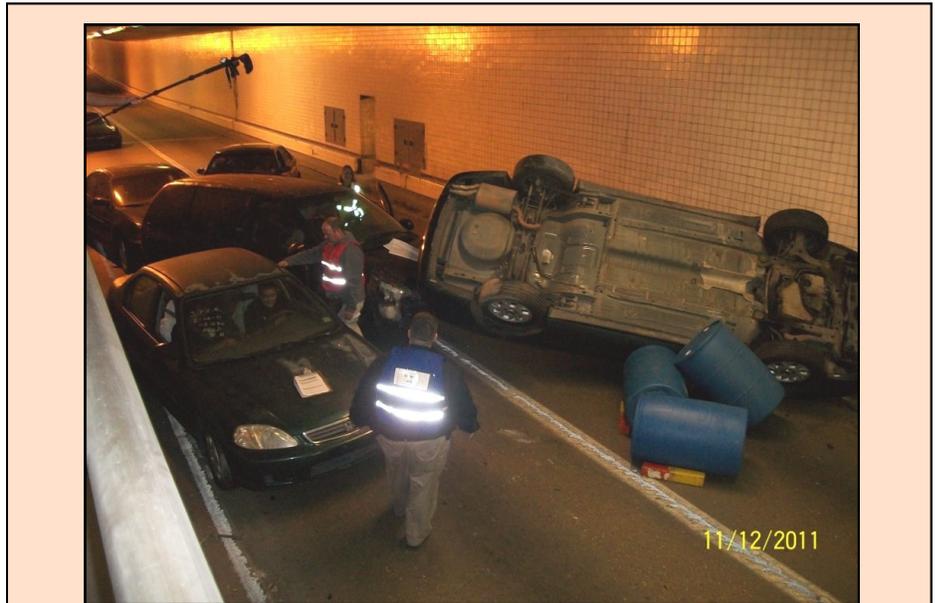
The 2011 hurricane season began with Tropical Storm Arlene and it appears the season will end with Tropical Storm Sean. During this hurricane season, we have gone through most of the alphabet with only Tammy, Vince, and Whitney left until hurricane season ends on November 30.

Work Continues

As this season comes to a close, work continues throughout the year within this department to make the citizens of Jefferson Parish safer with forecasting and alerting tools, community awareness programs, grant administration, and the rehearsing of our emergency response plans. We must not let our guard down as heavy rains, hard freezes, and hazardous materials incidents can happen at any time. Preparedness helps to protect your family and possessions.

Mass Casualty Exercise

On Saturday, November 12, Emergency Management conducted



Mass Casualty Exercise in the Harvey Tunnel

a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) exercise in the Harvey tunnel. The exercise simulated a major automobile accident in the Harvey tunnel involving hazardous materials. This exercise tested the response and coordination of the first responders and public safety agencies. Staff members who participated included **Raphael Meyers, Charles Hudson, Timmy Gautreau, Karen Da-**

viss, Brian Duplaisir and Ben Williams.

Senior Center Visits

The Marrero/Harvey Senior Center visited our facility on October 17, 2011, for a tour and a brief presentation on emergency preparedness. They were a very inquisitive group and thoroughly enjoyed knowing that this first-class facility is located in Jefferson Parish.

Congratulations to **Ben M. Williams**, Building Maintenance Supervisor, for 30 years of service to Jefferson Parish. He will be recognized along with other Parish employees at a service pin award presentation on December 13.

As the excitement and magic of the holiday season and the New Year approaches, please take a moment to thank and remember those servicemen and women who are away from family and friends defending our freedom. We wish each and every one a safe return home.



Senior Center visits EOC

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn Bauer

Welcome & Congratulations!

As hurricane season ends, the Department of Drainage has added a few faces to both East Bank and West Bank locations. The new hires are **Erroll Deggs**, **Steven Simmons**, **Brandon Simmons**, **Elaine Washington**, **Milton Betton**, **Bryan Carriere**, **Dimitrius Spencer**, **Ryland Burghardt**, and **John Braswell**. As they start their careers with us as laborers, we'd like to wish them the best of luck!

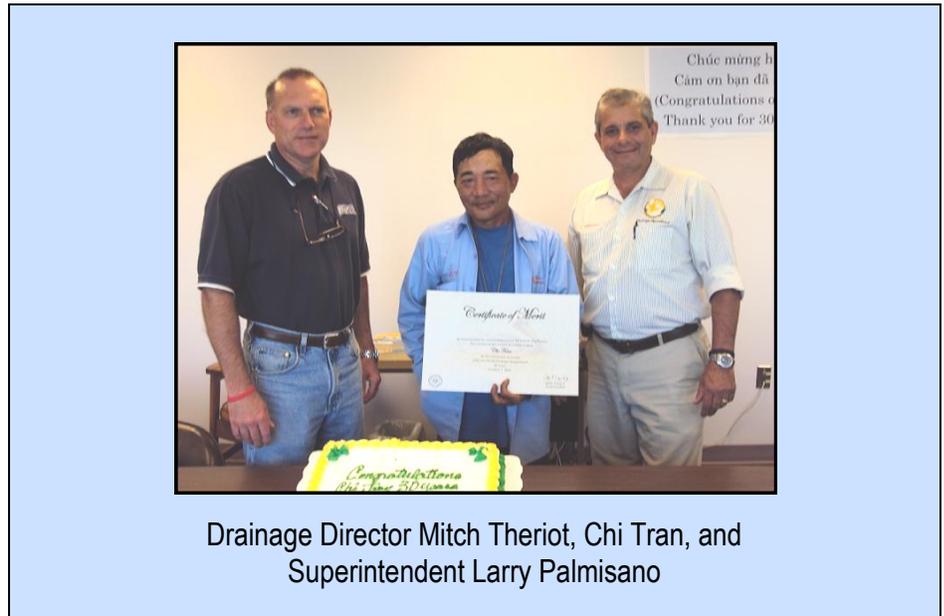
Congratulations to the following deserving Drainage employees who received promotions: **Larry Smith**, **Tyrone Granger**, **Cedrick Frank**, **Herman Hartman**, **Michael Richoux**, **John Chagnard**, **Peter Williams** and **Brian Lemieux**. We'd like to welcome **Peter Williams** to the Drainage family. He has been promoted to Drainage from Engineering to continue his journey of success with Jefferson Parish.

A Great Celebration!

On September 10, 2011, **Sheena Quinn**, Administrative Assistant, said "I Do" to long-



Newlyweds Sheena Quinn and Jason Bauer



Drainage Director Mitch Theriot, Chi Tran, and Superintendent Larry Palmisano

time boyfriend, Jason Bauer, at the Four Columns. She was able to share in the special day with her supervisor, **Davelynn James**, Executive Superintendent, and former Drainage Department Assistant Director, **William Duplaisir**. Great food, lots of smiles, and a good time was had by all from beginning to end with a surprise performance by a local brass band to end the night for this traditional New Orleans-style wedding!

With Great Sadness

We would like to take the time to extend our sincere condolences to those that have lost someone near and dear to their heart. **Patricia Rambeau**, Typist Clerk III, experienced the loss of her mother on November 1, 2011.

Also, **Terry Tanzey**, Drainage Pump Station Operator I for West Bank Pump Stations, passed away on June 28. Services were held for both that were filled with people whose lives had been touched by their sincerity and caring nature. They will be missed greatly.

A Fond Farewell

While new faces were being introduced to our Department of Drainage family, we said goodbye to a few very dedicated Drainage employees that retired after countless years of dedication and hard work. **Clifford Richard**, Welder for West Bank Pump Stations, retired on September 24; **Chi Tran**, Semi-Skilled Lead Worker for West Bank Drainage, retired on October 7; and **Patrick Curtis**, Drainage Maintenance Forman also for West Bank Drainage, retired on November 4. These men were not only great employees and teachers, but overall great people. They will surely be missed.



Patrick Curtis with Mitch Theriot

General Services

By
Jill Relick

Our department welcomes the following employees:

Don Banks, Stationary Engineer; **Pat Bode**, Assistant Property Manager; **Barry Schexneidre**, Shop Carpenter; **John Lewis, Jr.**, Stationary Carpenter. Congratulations to **Alex Thompson and Kenny White**, who became permanent employees. Remember, the worst question is the one you don't ask. Welcome!

Stanford Young has been promoted to Truck Driver I. Beware, Anthony Francis, of his next promotion!

FYI: **Revy Antione** now has the position of ID Security System Coordinator. She is now the contact for all Jefferson Parish security access, ID, and equipment matters.

STAFF RECOGNITION

The following employees recently received years of service pins:

Angela Cotham-25 years
Charlene Painter-15 years

Shanna Folsie-10 years
William Hamm-10 years
Debbie Henry-5 years

General Services' staff has participated in many training classes in the last few months:

LockOut/TagOut class allowed GS and Library staff to review the safety procedures. Ask **Tommy O'Neil** if you have any questions about the importance of locking systems to ensure equipment does not engage when anyone is working on machinery, gas, or electrical lines. He also wants to advise all of us that office people are not exempt from lock out-tag out, so unplug your paper shredders, paper cutters, copiers, etc., before you stick your hands in them.

The forklift was fueled and checked by Human Resources for General Services and the WB Library Maintenance shop training class. Certificates were issued to all participants. Good gumbo, good friends, family, and good love made for a beautiful wedding for **George and Shanna Folsie**. The big

event was on August 21, 2011. Can't wait for your anniversary event.



George and Shanna Folsie

Have you noticed the new SE Entrance Sign to the Yenni Building? Compliments to our Landscaping Crew and **George Folsie** for a professional addition to the facility (See photo back page). We're having a contest to see how we should decorate for the holiday. Contact anyone in the East Bank office with suggestions.

Kudos to **Dale Esteves** and **Stanford Young** for their exemplary efforts organizing the successful Surplus 2011 Auction. When **Mike Lemoine** said this will be a "good one this year," he meant it. He and our Parish Attorney's Office made the event a success story from beginning to end. We had Transit Buses, Fire Trucks, and many file cabinets, just to mention a few items, and every item sold. A special thank you from **Anthony Frances** to all who participated. Ask **Lionel Harris** about his years of devotion to this annual October event. The Auction "Dream Team" was better than ever!

Darren Cheramie's father passed. His mass was on September 23, 2011. We are all here to comfort you.



General Services attends Lock-Out/Tag-Out class

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

Environmental Affairs is partnering with three non-profit organizations in an electronics, latex paint, and used cooking oil drop-off event to be held in the parking lot of the Yenni Building on Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 am until noon. The event is made possible with funds provided by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and provides parish residents an environmentally safe means of disposing of obsolete electronics, unwanted latex paint, and used cooking oil.

The *Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council* (CACRC) will be on hand to accept used electronics. Reusing and recycling electronics avoids the need for plastic production and precious metal mining for circuit boards.

Items to be accepted: computers, monitors, & printers; radios; CD, DVD & MP3 players; telephones; stereos; Xboxes, Playstations & Wii; digital cameras, digital video cameras & camcorders; VCRs; digital picture frames; portable navigation and GPS devices (Garmin, Magellan, Tom-Tom); fax machines; circuit boards of any type; processors; uninterruptible power supplies (UPS); toner cartridges; ink jet cartridges. Television sets and large copy machines will not be accepted.

The *Green Project* will be on hand to accept used latex paint. Paint collected at the event will be recycled and offered to the public at the Green Project's warehouse located at 2831 Marais Street New Orleans. *Only* latex paint, in the original container, will be accepted. Oil based paints and varnishes will

not be accepted. Dried or spoiled paint will not be accepted.

Operation Reach will be accepting used cooking oil from households frying turkeys over the Thanksgiving holiday. Oil collected at the event will be used in their Gulfsouth Youth Biodiesel Project, which converts used cooking oil into eco-friendly biodiesel fuel. *The Gulfsouth Youth Biodiesel Project* focuses on the production of biodiesel fuel as a means of educating and developing leadership and social entrepreneurship in young people, ages 16-24. Through a program that combines classroom instruction with hands-on work, young people receive training that enables them to connect to job opportunities in the green economy.

Margaret (Environmental Affairs) and **Mike** (General Services) **Fonseca's** grandson Coedy has been chosen to represent JPRD in the annual Thanksgiving football tournament in Gatlinburg, TN. We wish Coedy and all the JPRD participants well and hope the FONSECAS have a great trip!

Our department participated in the American Lung Association's Lung Walk in October. **Sami Khalil**, Environmental Quality Specialist, raised over \$300 for the American Lung Association with a delicious Greek feast enjoyed by all. Thanks, Sami!

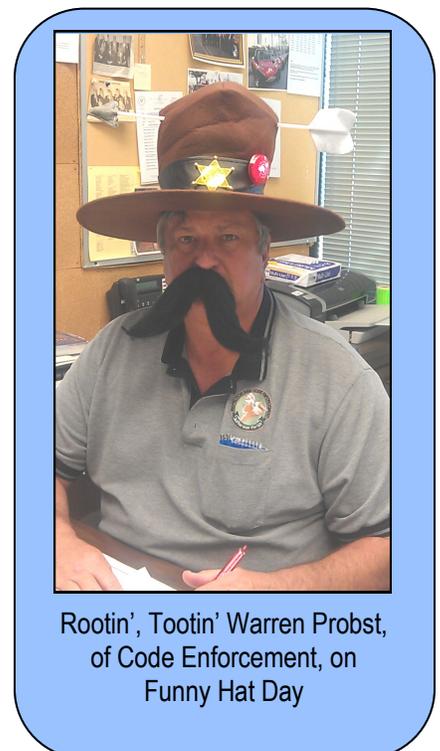
Environmental Quality Specialist **Randy Majoria** is our new appointee to the Jefferson Parish Diversity Advisory Board. Randy is very excited about serving to promote the acceptance and celebration of Jefferson Parish's diverse work force. Thanks, Randy!

diverse work force. Thanks, Randy!

Environmental Quality Supervisor **Lauren Barton**, Environmental Quality Specialist **James Schultz**, and Environmental Quality Technician **Nancy Woodlock** attended the Louisiana Pest Control Operators conference in Pineville to renew their certifications. These certifications are a necessary part of the Parish's Stormwater Management Program.

Environmental Quality Specialists **Randy Majoria**, **James Schultz** and **Sami Khalil** attended Whitlock Smoke School to learn to determine smoke and haze levels, a skill often used in our response to complaints regarding open burning.

Environmental Affairs personnel, especially **Jason Smith**, continue to participate in the oversight of the BP oil spill cleanup and monitoring activities on Grand Isle, Grand Terre, and Elmer's Island.



Rootin', Tootin' Warren Probst,
of Code Enforcement, on
Funny Hat Day

Library

By
Daniel Gitlin

After years of planning and construction, the new Lakeshore Library will open to the public on December 27. The state-of-the-art library will house over 28,000 new items – including the latest DVDs and reference materials.

The new library, which is completely surrounded in floor-to-ceiling glass, is specially designed with areas for adults, teens, and children. It features a library commons, filled with movable chairs that can be used for teen study groups, group gatherings, or small meetings.

The children’s department features an area specially designed for children – the Lakeshore Cove. This area will have a replica 6’ alligator that children can sit in and play learning-style video games via the built-in screen.

The Grand Opening will be on January 7 and will include special guests from the community, entertainment, and food.

The Library would like to congratulate **Shannon Kitchens**, who married Kirk Stonicher on October 31, 2011. Shannon’s wedding, held on Halloween



Newlyweds Shannon Kitchens and Kirk Stonicher

night, had an *Alice in Wonderland* theme. Everyone at the Library appreciates Shannon and the creativity she brings to the Library on a daily basis!

New Hires! The Library is excited to announce the addition of the following Library team members: **Victoria Austin**, Associate, Live Oak Library; **Tracy Boudin**, Associate; **Elizabeth Figures**, Page, East Bank Regional; **Jeanne Furse**, Page, East Bank Regional; **Asahel Barahona**, Computer Systems Coordinator, IT; and **Albert Heavener**, Associate, Lakeshore Library.

Thank you to **Sandra LaRue**, Library Associate, who retired from the Parish on November 13, 2011. Sandra worked with the Library for over 20 years. Also, best of luck to **Janis Lorio**, who will be retiring in December after an outstanding career with the Library!



Asahel Barahona

Additionally, congratulations to **Brigid Laborie**, Librarian II, who was recently promoted to Westwego Branch Manager.

Congratulations to **Alison Williams**, Librarian III, who was recently promoted to be the North Kenner Cluster Librarian. As a cluster librarian, Alison will oversee the North Kenner, Harahan, and Wagner libraries.



The Lakeshore Library will reopen in December

Community Development

By
Sevilla White Finley

March of Dimes Award

Community Development had the winning team that raised \$1,000 for the March of Dimes 2011 Campaign with a combination of bake sales and a basket raffle. Housing Improvement Counselor **Dianne Washington** coordinated the event. **Liz Ruth** and **Connie Preston** baked the cakes, and all hands pitched in to make for a successful event.

Thanksgiving Observation

Community Development staff celebrated Thanksgiving with a home-cooked luncheon prepared by Housing Improvement Counselor II **Liz Ruth**, a devotee of renowned chef John Folse. Lunch began with seafood gumbo at a table set with fall colors and delicious casseroles, roasted turkey, and ham and ended with bananas Foster, heavenly

hash cake, fruit compote, and more. Talk about good!

Marilyn Beucler Retires

CD staff planned a retirement luncheon on November 30 at Smiley's for Executive Assistant **Marilyn Beucler**, a 35-year employee. Secretary **Christina Benfield** and Typist Clerk III **Betty Overton** coordinated the event.

Home Consortium

Director **Anatola Thompson**, Parish Planner III **Faye Galland** and Planner II **Jody Moreau** scheduled a Public Hearing on each bank of the river for the Home Consortium to gather citizens' comments on their community's needs and priorities to plan next year's programs and services. The proposed programs and activities for Fiscal Year 2012 will be funded by HUD's CDBG, HOME and Emergency Solutions Grant.

First-Time Homebuyers

Project Coordinator **James "Jim" Bush Jr.** reported that out of 65 applicants for the 2011 First-Time Homebuyer Assistant Program, 25 were assisted in purchasing a home. The program opened July 20, 2011, and the funding was expended by October 12.

Jody Moreau, **Dianne Washington**, Administrative Management Specialist III **June Durnin**, and **Liz Ruth** handled CD's Senior Expo booth at the Pontchartrain Center. Typist Clerk III **Patricia Beebe** had the lucky raffle ticket and won the Halloween Basket sponsored by General Services. Director **Anatola Thompson** and Info Specialist **Sevilla Finley** manned a booth on November 19 at the Vietnamese Health Fair at St. Agnes Church in Marrero.



Community Development receives its March of Dimes Award as Top Jefferson Parish Team

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branan, RN



Taking Small Steps for Safety & Health

Coulda, woulda, shoulda! At some point in our lives, we have all said or at least felt those very sentiments following some unfortunate event in our lives. Many ills that befall us could be avoided if we were to pay heed to the saying, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” So, just



Code Enforcement's
Kim "Spongebob" Tarleton



Scott Baimsfather receives his 10-year pin from Traffic Engineering Supervisor David Stout

what can we do to avoid those unfortunate events in our lives?

Perhaps the most important thing we can do is to try to be alert and aware of our surroundings at all times. This is especially true when driving! Resolve to put away the cell phone while driving! Take a moment to analyze your home environment for any possible health or safety hazards and correct any problem as soon as possible.

Do you have rugs that are a trip hazard? Do you require more lighting to be able to see better? Would a safety grab bar allow you to get into or out of the tub more safely? Are there any uneven areas where you walk? Always pay attention to the way you feel. When something is not quite right, it will usually result in some kind of complaint.

Next, develop good health and safety habits. For example, whenever possible, avoid walking across the lawn

when a sidewalk is available. Lawns are notorious for uneven spots and holes that can easily cause us to twist an ankle, lose our balance, or fall down. Keep a supply of anti-bacterial hand wipes close by. Cleaning your hands after using a shopping basket is always a good thing! Now, many grocery stores are even placing hand wipes by the basket storage area! Also, it is always good to wash your hands once you return home from an outing to minimize the spread of germs throughout your house. Schedule your routine doctor/dental appointments at the same time every year so it is easy to remember when you need to go.

Perhaps what can be most frustrating is when that little voice is trying to tell us something, we don't pay attention to it, and it ends up becoming serious. So, let us resolve to remain alert to that little voice that can help us to avoid those most unfortunate events in life!

Retirements

Barbara Chaisson
President's Office
36 years

Gwen Bolotte
Finance
34 years

Collis Linson
Parkways
30 years

Sylvester Brown
Sewerage
30 years

Murphy Hayes
Water
29 years

Louis Gruntz
Parish Attorney
29 years

Michael Bracey
Planning Advisory Board
28 years

Betty Durr
Water
26 years

Clayton Rayfield
Animal Shelter
25 years

Michael Stamps
Sewerage
22 years

Elaine O'Conner
JefCAP
18 years

Marilyn Beucler
Community Development
35 years

Beverly Traub
Water
33 years

Rinald Robinson
Parkways
30 years

Chi Tran
Drainage
30 years

Karen Espenan
Parish Attorney
29 years

Keith Hubbard
Fleet Management
29 years

Harvey Seymore
JefCAP
27 years

Terrance Betts
Engineering
26 years

Clifford Richard
Drainage
24 years

Steven Sander
Code Enforcement
21 years

Shari Orgeron
Streets
34 years

Jeanette Lebioda
Library
32 years

Kevin O'Quinn
Recreation
30 years

Henry Austin
Streets
30 years

Florence Durel
Fleet Management
29 years

Maurice Charles
Personnel
28 years

Patrick Curtis
Drainage
27 years

Beverly Harper
Recreation
26 years

Wayne Grisbaum
Recreation
24 years

Sandra Larue
Library
20 years

Janet Pitts
Streets
15 years

