



Volume 32  
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EM REACT

## Message from the Parish President. . .

### Our Commitment To Transparency

Our commitment to Jefferson Parish citizens for full transparency and strict accountability begins here within my Administration. Therefore, Administration staff has clear-cut instructions on the control, use, and accountability of parish-issued credit and debit cards. We will continue to enforce safeguards to ensure responsible, economical, and transparent purchasing processes and oversight procedures within parish departments.

Some of our service delivery models may require occasional use of a credit or debit card. If so, there clearly must be a strong justification for the purchase and no practical alternative for the card transaction. All monthly credit card charges will be posted on the website with a clear explanation of the purchase.

There are only two credit cards issued by Jefferson Parish Government: One is assigned to the Chief Operating Officer, and the other to the Director of Finance. Although the intended use of the credit cards generally requires an exigent circumstance to be in play at the time of its use, such as for the emergency purchase of supplies associated with a catastrophic event, the Finance Director's credit card has been called upon to secure from law enforcement agencies a criminal record inquiry for any time-sensitive employment background check that is required by several of the community action programs administered by Jefferson Parish.



John F. Young  
Parish President

The use of debit cards within the Department of Parks and Recreation was implemented by a prior administration to replace the practice of cash advances to staff in order to purchase team meals, lodging and related expenses, and for events and supplies for various other leisure opportunities. Although the purchases made by debit cards support athletic programs and leisure activities for citizens who may otherwise not be able to participate in such pastimes, it is our duty to ensure that public funds are expended precisely, prudently, and absent any opportunity for misuse.

Our intention is that a debit card purchase, irrespective of how legitimate and admirable it may be, is a transaction of last resort. Standard purchasing practices will always be the initial and preferred course of action. Parish government will post all monthly debit card purchases on its website, identifying the nature and reason for the purchase.

*En Realité*

**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
- Emergency Management**
- Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**
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- General Services**
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- Human Resource Management**
- Glenn Schiro
- Code Enforcement**
- Linda Roy
- JeffCAP**
- Elizabeth Cook
- Juvenile Services**
- Arlyn Smith
- Library**
- Christine Corcoran
- Parks & Recreation**
- 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*

**Spreading the Word!  
 Our Employee Newsletter**

Obviously if you are reading this article, you are aware that the Parish has an employee newsletter. But I have no idea if you are reading my words from a computer screen or holding a copy that you or someone else printed. In any event, I am glad that you have managed to find the newsletter and are taking the time to read it. I'd like to use my column this issue to spotlight *En Realité* and to ask you to help me spread the word.

You may be surprised to know that *En Realité* has been publishing since 1977. For many years it was printed and distributed to departments, but in 2004 it became a strictly on-line publication.

The name is French for "In Reality," and within its pages we like to advertise and celebrate that "in reality" the Parish is blessed to have such an outstanding workforce of men and women from a variety of backgrounds doing a multitude of jobs in service to Jefferson Parish.

Through the employee newsletter, we can spread good news: We can welcome new employees, congratulate promotions and service milestones, and bid fond farewells to retirees. We can spotlight the accomplishments of our de-



Peggy O. Barton  
 Editor

partments and show how they have contributed to the progress of Jefferson Parish. And on personal notes, we can offer condolences to fellow employees who have suffered personal losses and share the joys of weddings and births.

I'd like to ask you to take a moment to look at the left side of this page so that you can see who the reporter for your department is. Besides thanking that person for volunteering to get the word out about your department and its employees, I ask you to help him or her by passing on positive work-related news.

Some reporters represent large departments, and it can be difficult to keep track of everything that is going on. Help them out by snapping a photo from time to time that highlights the good things that are going on at your workplace.

And if you don't see your department on the list, ask your departmental office why—or better yet, volunteer to become a reporter yourself and "in reality" help us spread the word!

## Animal Shelter

By  
Danielle Williams

### New Employees:

We would like to welcome some new employees to the Animal Shelter: **Tracie Chaix** comes to us from Citizens' Affairs. Tracie is our new Administrative Assistant.

**Paul Bourg** is our new Assistant Director. **Rose Behan** joins the Shelter as an Accounting Clerk II. **Elizabeth Band** is our new Animal Care Specialist. **Patricia Tolar** is the new Clerk II at the East Bank Shelter. **Eleanor Legendre** is the new Typist Clerk II at the West Bank Shelter. **Brad Naquin** joins us as an Animal Control Officer. Our new Animal Care Attendants are **Timothy Kennedy, Kim Leboeuf,** and **Charles Riley.** Finally, Animal Control Officer **Tracy Borne** was promoted to Humane Officer.

### Employee of the Month:

Congratulations to our Employee of the Month for June,

**Tiera Jones.** Keep up the good work, Tiera!

### Staff Picnic

On July 10, we held our first annual Animal Shelter Employees Family Picnic at Lafreniere Park. Employees gathered together to have a fun day with our families. Although it rained, it was all-in-all a great day. There was a volleyball game and water balloon battle, good food and great people. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event possible. (See photo Page 14)

### Happy Ending!

We would like to take a moment to share a heartfelt story about a horse that was seized for cruelty and got the happy ending he deserved.

A beautiful Palomino horse was being kept with approximately 10 other horses in a barn that was not large enough to accommodate all of them. The property was very unsanitary and covered with flies, and not all of the horses had access to



Employee of the Month Tiera Jones with CAA Loren Marino

shelter. There was little to no water for the horses, and no hay available. The pasture consisted mainly of weeds and dirt, so the horse had a limited amount of grass to eat.

This horse was so underweight that his ribs were protruding. After he was seized, he gained about 100 pounds while in the care of the Animal Shelter. He was adopted about a month after being seized, and is now living the life every animal deserves to live. These are the stories we love to share, as we all truly care about these wonderful animals.

### Adoption Information:

Adoption Hours:  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 9am-5:30pm  
Thurs: 9am-7pm  
Sat: 10am-3:30pm

### Rabies Vaccinations:

Rabies vaccinations are available on Tuesdays at the West Bank Shelter from 10am-12pm, and Wednesdays at the East Bank Shelter from 10-11:30am. The cost is \$15 for spayed/neutered animals, and \$20 for intact animals.



With the help of the Animal Shelter, the neglected horse on the right found a happy home—and a new friend!

## Water

By  
Susie Cunningham

### New Employees

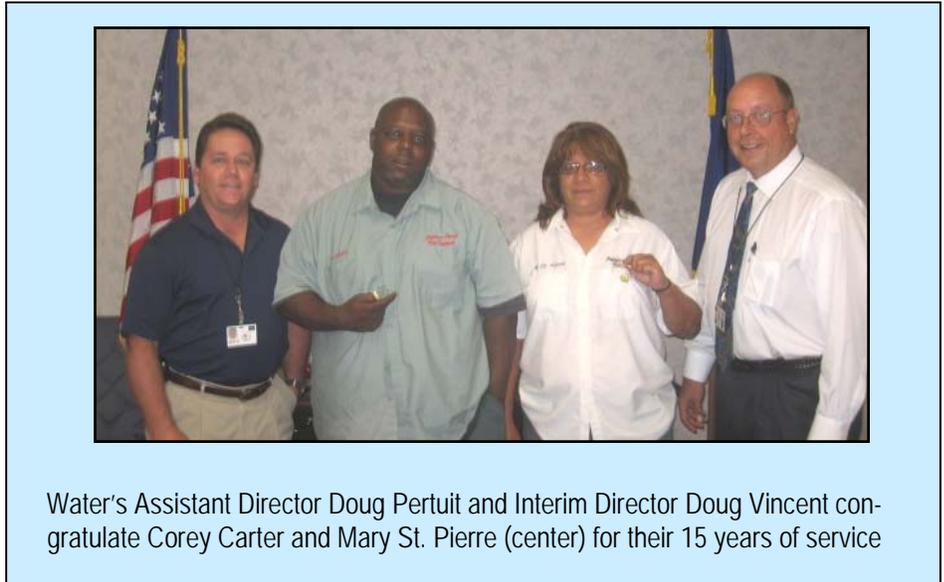
The Water Department would like to welcome our new employees: **Leslie Garder**, Utility Billing Collector I; **Derren Harris**, Water Service Inspector II; **Jessica Griffin**, Water Service Inspector I; **Lyndon Ross**, Laborer; **Lesslie Simpson**, Water Service Inspector I; **Kenneth Robinson**, Trades Helper; and **Ashley Brunner**, Water Quality Scientist II. We wish them well as they begin their Water Department careers.

### Promotions

Recent promotions went to **Charlene Singleton**, Utility Billing Clerk I, and **Wayne LaRoche**, Water Service Inspector II. Congratulations on a job well done!

### Service Pin Awards

Congratulations to the following employees who recently received pins for their years of dedicated service to Jefferson Parish. Employees with 15 years of service were **Corey Carter** and **Mary St. Pierre**. Employees with 10 years of service were **Brian**



Water's Assistant Director Doug Pertuit and Interim Director Doug Vincent congratulate Corey Carter and Mary St. Pierre (center) for their 15 years of service

**Gray, Karl Johnson, Arthur Maillet, Rusk Marcotte, and JoAnn Williams.** Employees with 5 years of service were **Harold Blytt, Terence Broome, William Bryant, Joseph Butler, Davan Friloux, Connie Guillot, Ronald LeBlanc, Alan Lepkosky, Robert McGraw, Kristen Rivero, and Jovoid Robinson.**

Water has asked all of our Purification Plant Operators to consider taking the State of Louisiana operator certification exams. Once passing the required State exams, Water Purification

Operators become certified and licensed under State law and are considered qualified to operate Jefferson Parish Water Purification facilities.

Although Plant Superintendents must have the necessary licenses, Plant Operators are gaining certification in order to increase the numbers of qualified personnel available in the plant. Once Plant Operators are certified, they also fulfill a requirement for promotion.

We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate these employees for passing exams given on June 22: **Darren Breecher, Jr., Earvin Mallery, and Bobbie Wilson.** Since there are a number of levels of certification, some personnel will continue on the path to Class 4 certification. We wish them the best in those efforts.

Congratulations to **Kellie Faucha** from our Utility Payment Center on her upcoming marriage to **Bobby Minjarez.** We wish you many years of happiness!

Our deepest condolences to retiree **Clara Coffey**, who recently lost her son and husband. Our prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time.



Assistant Director Doug Pertuit (left) and Interim Director Doug Vincent (right) with 10-year pin recipients Arthur Maillet, JoAnn Williams, and Brian Gray

## Human Resources

By  
Glenn Schiro

### New Secretary

We welcome **LaTanya Tibbs**, who recently joined the staff of the Human Resource Management Department as a Secretary. Prior to her current job, LaTanya worked for three and half years as a Typist Clerk III with Jeff CAP. She started her employment with Jefferson Parish as Typist Clerk II at the East Bank Library.



HR's new Secretary  
LaTanya Tibbs

LaTanya enjoys working with the HR staff, which she describes as "professional, helpful, and friendly." She likes the many challenges of her new position, including communicating with Department Directors and scheduling meetings.

LaTanya is an avid Saints fan and is looking forward to the new season and exciting games. We wish LaTanya the best in her job with the HR Department.

### Farewell, Dana

We wish the best to **Dana LeBherz**, former Training Specialist II, who has assumed a new

position as Training and Development Specialist III with the Department of State Civil Service in Baton Rouge.

Among her many new responsibilities, Dana will be using her talents and skills to develop new e-classes for training state employees. Anyone who has taken a class taught by Dana knows she is an effective and engaging trainer.

### Certifications Earned

Congratulations to **Glenn Schiro**, HR's newest Training Specialist, for recently becoming certified by the NSC (National Safety Council) as a CPR instructor. Glenn presented his first CPR training to Parish employees on July 29.

Safety Manager **Nolan Guidry**, along with Safety Officer **Gregory Reynolds** and Training Specialist **Glenn Schiro**, completed the NSC's Defensive Driving certification program in July. All three received certification to teach the NSC's four-hour Defensive Driving program. Formerly, Parish employees attended a six-hour Defensive Driving class. Now the program will be just four hours.

## Engineering

By  
Amanda Owens

Hearty congratulations to **Valerie Thomassie**, who left us in June after 33 Years. Valerie started with the Parish in 1978 as a Maintenance "man" in the Department of Roads and Bridges. She transferred to Engineering as an Inspector in 1992 and was promoted to division supervisor in 2005. A lovely party was held for her on June 10. We'll all miss you Valerie, and thank you for your service to the Parish.

Two new employees have recently joined our ranks. **Matthew Zeringue** has been working with us as a college intern since 2009. He recently graduated Cum Laude from UNO and has joined us full-time as an Engineer in Training. Welcome also to **Chuong Pham**, a recent transplant from Seattle, who joins us as an Engineer in Training. We hope both stay with the Parish (and Engineering, of course!) for a very long time.

The past two months have brought sad news for two of our employees. **Rick Speeg** and **Ryan Breaux** both lost their fathers in June. Our thoughts and prayers go out to both families during these difficult times.



Valerie Thomassie with Engineering Director Mark Drewes

### JeffCAP

By  
Elizabeth Cook

#### Computers Empower!

JeffCAP's Computer Empowerment Course for seniors celebrated its 4<sup>th</sup> Promotional Exercise on July 1. Dr. Fields, who teaches the course, is a Continuing Education Instructor at Delgado and a Computer Training Specialist with JeffCAP.

Dr. Fields described the forty-nine promotions: "We graduated 18 from our Advanced Level and promoted 15 from Basic to Beginners and 16 from Beginners to Intermediate. We also promoted 16 from Intermediate to Advanced."

Ms. Estelle Gooden, one of the seniors promoted, said this about the class: "In the first course we were taught the basics. In intermediate we learned to use the internet, make files, and use Microsoft Word. For the advanced class we're going to learn how to make business cards and how to use

PowerPoint. Many of us looked at computers like they were monsters. But they are not monsters."



JeffCAP's Assistant Director Charlie Gibson with his beautiful new bride Kelly Sayle Davis

JeffCap congratulates our Assistant Director Charlie Gibson upon his wedding to Kelly Sayle Davis. The two were wed on June 25 in Memphis and will reside in New Orleans with their three children.

### Planning

By  
Marilyn Slutsky

We are pleased to announce the birth of **Kivana Cole's** son, Kevin, on Saturday, June 4. Kevin weighed 7 lb., 10 oz. and was 20 ¾ inches tall at birth.

Welcome back to **Alex Carter**, who will be working in the Comprehensive Planning and Research Section as a Planner II. Alex had been working with us previously as a Graduate Student Intern.

**Tanisha Johnson**, Planner II in our Design Review Section, is leaving after working here for almost three years. We will miss her but are happy for her since she can enjoy spending time with her beautiful baby girl.

We bid farewell to **Devon McGuinness**, Graduate Student Intern in the Comprehensive Planning and Research Section, who is graduating from UNO with a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Congratulations!



JeffCAP's Computer Empowerment Course for seniors

**Citizens' Affairs**

By  
Ron Fuxan Jr.

The Second Annual Jefferson Parish Senior Citizen Dance Gala will be held on August 19, 2011, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Alario Center. This year's theme is "Celebrating the best of the 40's, 50's, & 60's." Admission is free with awards for best dressed. On August 22 there will be the Third Annual Senior Citizen Bean Bag Baseball tournament. It will take place at Harvey Playground and will include 160 participants.

Also, the Community Committee BOD MSC gave a surprise birthday party at the Metairie Senior Center recently for our Senior Services Coordinator, **Wayne Ory**. Happy Birthday Mr. Ory!

**A Fond Farewell**

Ms. **Dorothia Halligan**, Executive Superintendent, with our Carnival Section, retired on July 15 with 25 years of service. Ms. Halligan, known to many as "Ms. Dorothia," helped to make our Jefferson Parish Carnival parades the success that they are today. We will miss her smiling face and warm personality, and we wish her the best in her retirement.



President Young personally congratulates Dorothia Halligan

**Streets**

By  
Debbie Tunstall

**Retirement**

Congratulations to **John Glen**, of East Bank Maintenance, who retired with 33 years of service. Good luck to you, John. Enjoy your retirement.

**Promotions**

Promotions were recently awarded to **Bruce Tuckson** (Laborer Semiskilled), **Ryan Pike** (Equipment Operator III), **Gregory Hunter** (Truck Driver II), **Henry Breaux** (Equip. Operator III), and **Terry Fontenberry** (Laborer Semi-Skilled). Congratulations to everyone: Your hard work and dedication have been rewarded.

**New Employees**

We extend a big welcome to new employees **Janice Adams** (West Bank Administration); **Robert Hudson** (West Bank Maintenance); **Jeremiah Willis**, **Muree Lane**, **Lorenzo Williams**, and **Joshua Martin** (East Bank Maintenance).

We also welcome **Rosa Campos**, our new Administrative As-

sistant, who transferred from the Purchasing Department. We're glad to have you with us, **Rosa**.

We wish you all many happy years with the Streets Department.

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to **Sarah Ruttle** on the recent arrival of her darling new granddaughter. **Sarah's** daughter **Brooke** and son-in-law **Nick** have a new daughter. **Karlie Ann Campagne** was born on July 1, 2011, weighed in at 8 lbs. 3 oz., and was 21 inches long. We're very happy for you and your family, **Sarah**.



Sarah Ruttle's granddaughter  
Karlie Ann

**Fundraiser**

**Sarah Ruttle** recently led our "March of Dimes" fundraiser. A total of \$289 was raised through our Parade of Prizes Raffle" and "Walk-a-thon." Sarah would like to thank everyone who participated in the raffle and the walk.

**Condolences**

Our deepest sympathy goes to **Melvin Taylor**, who lost his father, and **Jerry Berry**, who lost his sister. We're very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

**Sewerage**

By  
Venice Cooper

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **Ryan Boudreaux**, Operator IV at the Bridge City Wastewater Treatment Plant. **Ryan** recently received his Class IV Wastewater Treatment Operator's License from the State Department of Health and Hospitals. He has been employed with Sewerage for six years. **Ryan's** supervisor states that he has become an integral part of the Bridge City Plant's operations staff since transferring to the plant 2008.

More congratulations to **Herbert Moore** and **Charles Mushatt** on their promotions. **Herbert** was promoted to Truck Driver II at our West Bank Lines Division, and **Charles** was promoted to Truck Driver II at our East Bank Lines Division.

**WELCOME**

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:  
**Elton Garrett**, Laborer, Line Rehab Division



Ryan Boudreaux

**Aaron Foster**, Laborer, Line Rehab Division

**Lawrence Bates**, Lift Station Inspector, East Bank Lift Stations

**Darrius Lazard**, Laborer, West Bank Lines

**Carlos E. Guevara Ruperti**, Laborer, Marrero Wastewater Treatment Plant

**Aaron Whitney**, Truck Driver II, East Bank Lines

We also welcome **Pamela Lapping**, our new Secretary. Pam has been employed with Jefferson Parish for 29 years. She recently transferred from the Jefferson Community Action Programs.

**Environmental**

By  
Kathy Russo

**Professional Development**

**James Schultz**, **Sami Khalil** and **Nancy Woodlock** attended a workshop in Mandeville on open burning sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. They became familiar with the state's open burning regulations and what types of open burning are allowed. This knowledge will allow them to more effectively respond to residents' complaints of open burning.

**Lauren Barton**, Stormwater Specialist, attended the EPA Region VI MS4 conference in San Antonio in July. Ms. Barton gained valuable information from this conference as well as making contacts with employees from other cities and counties in the region. She is also organizing a statewide stormwater training seminar scheduled for August.

**Keep Those Drains Clean!**

The Department of Environmental Affairs would like to remind everyone that, as we are now finally getting our much needed rainfall, it is important that all of us check the storm drains around our neighborhoods and clean out any debris, leaves, etc. that could impede the flow of rainwater and lead to localized flooding.

Leaves, grass, and mud not only contribute to pollution in receiving water bodies like Lakes Pontchartrain, Salvador, and Cataouatche and numerous bayous, but they also block storm drains and may cause street flooding. We also want to remind eve-



Veteran Parish employee Pamela Lapping transfers from JeffCAP to Sewerage

ryone that it is illegal to put anything other than rainwater in the storm drains. If you observe anyone pouring liquids down storm drains or blowing grass and leaves into the drains, please report it to the Department of Environmental Affairs at 731-4612.

### Debris Pickup Tips

Also, please remember that we are now in peak hurricane season. Hopefully, we will be spared from storms this season, but in case we aren't, we would like to inform everyone how to place your debris at the curb for pickup. Properly placing the debris at the curb allows for quicker and more efficient pickup.

All vegetative debris must be kept separate as state laws require that this type of debris be reduced in volume and weight to keep it out of landfills. Construction and demolition materials (fencing, siding, roof slates, sheetrock, etc.) should be separated from home furnishings and contents.

All white goods (large appliances) and electronic wastes such as TVs and computers should also be separated at the curb. White goods, as well as electronics, are recycled. Unfortunately, all food must be removed from refrigerators/freezers and placed containerized at the curb along with other household garbage.

Regular household garbage should be properly containerized and separated from the debris. Household chemicals should also be placed in a separate pile. The garbage contractor, IESI, will collect the household garbage, and separate contractors will collect all other storm debris.

## Diversity Advisory Board

The Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) elected new officers for 2011. Our new Chairpersons are **Francois Ancar** (Planning) and **Maria Rose** (EIS). **Deirdre Cummings** (Alario Center) was re-elected as Secretary, since we just couldn't bear to part with her and the great job she's done in that position. Congratulations to our leadership team and thanks for your generosity to Jefferson Parish for accepting these positions!

In our June article, we welcomed three new members: **Maria Cervini**, **Darcell Florence**, and **Alice White**. Since then, we have two more new members: **Catherine Bennett**, (Code Enforcement) and **Nichole Gaubert** (Finance). We're glad to have you join us!

### Call for Recipes!

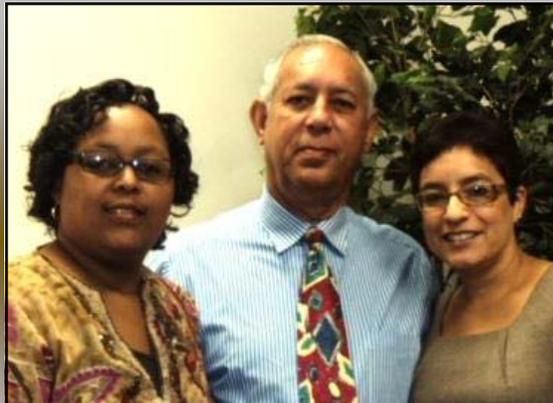
In case you haven't heard, one of the projects that the DAB has undertaken this year is to compile a cookbook of recipes submitted by Jefferson Parish employees. Yes, we're looking for a *diverse* assortment of recipes, but more importantly, we're looking for recipes that have a story to tell.

We're asking employees to submit one or more recipes that have a special place in their family or holiday traditions. Each recipe should be accompanied by a story or a short explanation that describes what makes this recipe special. When you're asked to submit a recipe and its special story for our Parish cookbook, please submit yours. And you don't have to be a cook to contribute – although we're sure there are lots of chefs in our midst!

### Did you know...?

Did you know that twenty-one years ago on July 26, the Americans with Disabilities Act became law? This civil rights law prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Over the years, the ADA and the recently passed Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act has helped people with disabilities fulfill the American vision of equal opportunity for all.

Did you know that August 26 is Women's Equality Day in the U.S.? Congress selected August 26 in 1971 to commemorate the passage in 1920 of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.



New DAB Officers Deirdre Cummings, Francois Ancar, and Maria Rose

**Purchasing**

By  
Nicolle Byars

The Purchasing Department would like to welcome our newest Buyer I's: **Misty Camardelle** and **Laniel Francis**. Misty joins us from the City of Kenner, and Laniel joins us from West Jefferson Medical Center. Welcome aboard, ladies!



Misty Camardelle

Purchasing recently held a training class on "How to Order Online from Grainger." The class was a success and we thank everyone who attended. For those that were not able to attend, the handouts have been placed in the Purchasing Public Folder.



Laniel Francis

We are in the process of scheduling a Purchasing Training Class. The class will cover different types of requisitions and how to process them. Date, time, and location of the Purchasing Training Class will be forthcoming.

**Library**

By  
Christine Corcoran

**The Most Important School Supply Of All!**

As Jefferson Parish students head back to school this September, the Jefferson Parish Library wants to make sure that all children have the most important school supply of all – a library card.

Owning a library card provides students the resources they need to compete academically. The Jefferson Parish Library provides students free access to databases of news articles, encyclopedias, and test preparation materials, as well as homework help and resources. In addition, the Library is the number one access point for free Internet access, an important resource for families without access at home when many schools require students to use the Internet to complete their homework.

"Today's libraries provide all types of students with the tools they need to succeed," says Library Director **Lon Dickerson**. "Libraries provide young readers with exciting and engaging programs that make learning fun. It is for these reasons that now more than ever a library card is the most important school supply of all."

Getting a library card is easier than ever. Just visit your nearest Jefferson Library location or visit the Library online at [www.jefferson.lib.la.us](http://www.jefferson.lib.la.us).

**In Memoriam**

We extend our condolences to Esther Gutierrez, whose mother passed away peacefully on Thursday 6/9/11.

**Retirements**

**Dennis Wall** in Technical Services retired on June 17 after 38 years of service with Jefferson Parish Library.

**Esther Gutierrez**, 11 years of service with Jefferson Parish Library, retired on July 29.

**Promotions and New Hires**

The Library welcomes **Daniel Gitlin**, who joined the Marketing and Development Department on August 1 as the new Information Specialist. Dan is a transfer from the Alario Center.



Daniel Gitlin

**Kristen Kennedy** has been hired as Branch Manager of Rose-dale, and **Jennifer Bishop** has been hired as Cluster Children's Librarian for Belle Terre/Grand Isle/Live Oak/Westwego.

**Danny Cangelosi** has been promoted to Manager of West Bank Regional Library as well as Cluster Librarian for Terrytown,

Gretna, and Lafitte.

**Tom Giroir** has been promoted to Manager of Belle Terre and Cluster Librarian for Westwego and Live Oak.

**Christine Borne** was announced as the new East Bank Regional Assistant Manager Librarian. She has been with the Library since 1981.

**Elizabeth Reso** has been appointed Cluster Librarian for Lakeshore/Old Metairie/Rosedale as well as Lakeshore Manager.

**Grand Opening:**

**Teen Center Gallery Wall**

The West Bank Regional Library is now home to a series of paintings by West Bank high school art students. Responding to a request from Director Lon Dickerson, the West Bank Art Guild decorated the walls in the Teen Center at West Bank Regional with art from area students.

Emmy Murawski, a past president of the Art Guild and chairperson of the Guild's Scholarship Committee, met with several members of the Library staff in February to discuss and come up with ideas for the wall. Thirteen students from four West Bank high schools participated in the project.

**Drainage**

By  
Sheena Quinn

**Welcome & Congratulations!**

As hurricane season starts, the Department of Drainage has added a few new faces to both East Bank and West Bank locations. The new hires consist of **Reginald Roberts, Chad Westley, Ryan Sims, Van Hughes** and **Aaron Lewis**. As they start their careers with the department as laborers, we'd like to wish them the best of luck!

**Well Deserved Promotions**

Congratulations go out to the following deserving Department of Drainage employees who received promotions: **Davelynn James, Brice Parker,** and **Daniel Johnson**. Ms. James is the newly appointed Executive Superintendent for the Drainage Department. We are incredibly proud of her and couldn't think of a more deserving person.

We would also like to welcome **Daniel Johnson** to the Drainage family. He has been

promoted to Drainage from the Parks and Recreation Department to continue his journey of success with Jefferson Parish. **Brice Parker** is our new Pump Station Operator I for Hero Pump Station. Thank you for your dedication and hard work!

**Award Recipients**

The following dedicated employees received service pins for 5 years: **Quincy Sanders, Joseph Burse III, Charles Singleton, Stephanie Wade, Gregory Foster, Thelbert McGee, Christopher Thomas,** and **Emanuel LeBlanc**.



Superintendent Michael Picou reaches 10 years of Parish service

Our ten-year award recipients are **Michael Picou, Collins Duet,** and **Rene Poole**.

And extra special congratulations and appreciation for our 15-year employees: **Corasandria Baker, Latrenda McGhee, Sean Hymel, Alan Brock, James Green, Jessie Peavy, Bernard Propps III,** and **Kellup Sullivan**.

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.



Drainage Superintendent Latrenda McGhee is congratulated by Director Mitch Theriot for achieving 15 years with the Parish

*(Drainage continued)***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. **Yvette Hurst**, Typist Clerk III for East Bank Drainage, experienced the loss of her father on July 6, 2011. **Elizabeth Scioneaux**, Laborer for East Bank Drainage, lost her sister as well two weeks ago. Sadly, two of our very own employees also recently passed away. Retired Drainage Superintendent **Morris Bouvier** passed away on June 7, 2011. Also, **Kirk Craig**, Truck Driver I for East Bank Drainage, passed away on June 25. 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.

With the hurricane season now in full swing, we would like to take time out to remind everyone again to pay special attention to your catch basins and make sure they are clear of any debris. The smallest things will make the biggest impact!

**Juvenile Services**

By  
Arlyn Smith

**WELCOME:** **Justin Ramogasse**, Juvenile Detention Home Security Guard, and **Bonnie Jones**, Juvenile Probation Officer I.

**FAREWELL:** **Tara Williams**, Juvenile Detention Officer II, and **Ashley DeMouy**, Administrative Management Specialist II in the DMC Grant Program, resigned to pursue other adventures.

**RETIREMENT:** **Karen Robinson**, Juvenile Detention Home Supervisor Assistant, retired June 29 after many years of dedicated service to the Parish of Jefferson. We wish her much happiness! ENJOY!

**EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH**

*June 2011:* **Stanley LeBlanc**, Detention Officer II; **Gloria Meiskey**, Probation Officer II

*July 2011:* **Charles Ward**, Maintenance Repairman; **Joan Ruiz-Sturcke**, Juvenile Probation Officer III

**CORRECTION:** **Mr. Brett Jackson, Sr.**, received the "Employee of the Month" for Detention in May 2011.

Thanks to teachers Beverly Davis, Bernadine LaMothe, Marble Pierre, and Betsy Rapps, who worked with the Rivarde Detention Center residents in their educational summer program.

**SYMPATHY:** Sadly, we must report that former Juvenile Probation Officer **Patricia "Patty" Kulakowski** lost her courageous battle with cancer on June 24. **Patty** worked for Juvenile Services 22+ years and will surely be missed. Probation Officer **Monique Willis** and Cook II **Julia Roy** recently lost their mothers. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families.

**STORK NEWS:** Congratulations to Assistant Director **Christopher Trosclair** and his wife Monica, on the birth of their daughter Monica Joan on June 24.

Probation Officer **Erin Ronquille** gave birth to baby boy Connor on July 23, weighing 9 lbs.

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY**

On July 8, after the monthly staff meeting, Juvenile Services held a probation officer "Swearing in Ceremony" at the Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court. Opening remarks were heard from the Honorable Nancy Amato Konrad, Juvenile Court Judge, Section C, and the Keynote Speaker was Parish President **John F. Young, Jr.** Newly hired and veteran officers took the "Oath of Office" from Honorable Andrea Price Janzen, Chief Judge Juvenile Court, Section B.



Karen Robinson, of Juvenile Services, retires after 33 years with the Parish

## Community Development

By  
Sevilla Finley

### Community Development Brings Home the Prize – Again!

**Director Anatola Thompson** recently attended the Annual National Community Development Association Conference (NCDCA) in Cincinnati, where she received the prestigious **John A. Sasso National Community Development Award**. The department received the Award in 2009 as well.

The Sasso Award, named for NCDCA's founder, recognizes communities that exemplify the spirit of the federal CD Block Grant Program. Award winners must showcase their accomplishments funded by CDBG during National Community Development Week. C. D. staff showcased the Marrero Community Senior Center's second anniversary during National CDBG Week. The Center was built with CDBG funds and is located at 1861 Ames Blvd. in Councilman Byron Lee's District 3.

### 1st-Time Homebuyers!

Director **Anatola Thompson** is pleased to announce the 2011 First-time Homebuyer Assistance

Program is currently being offered to low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers (per HUD guidelines) to assist in the purchase of a home with grants of up to \$50,000. Eligible participants must not have owned a home in the past three years. Applications will be taken subject to available funding. For eligibility, visit the Community Development website at [www.jeffparish.net](http://www.jeffparish.net).

Update: Project Coordinator **“Jim” Bush Jr.** notes three new houses are available for purchase in the Beechgrove subdivision in Westwego. These new units qualify for HUD grants of up to \$50,000 for closing cost and down payment for eligible participants. These new 3-bedroom, 2-bath brick homes sell for \$139,000. For more info call 736-6282 or 736-6267.

Congratulations to **“Jim” Bush Jr.** on the birth of his new granddaughter, **Sydney Marie Hull**. Jim and his wife spent a week in Tampa visiting the new parents, **Courtney** and **Bryan Hull**, and their new baby girl.

## Health Issues

By  
Peggy Branan, RN

Perhaps due to all of the free information available over the internet, many people are now rethinking how they obtain various household and personal hygiene products. In our high-tech world, we forget that less than 100 years ago, our not too distant ancestors were self-sufficient in many ways. Many products that we run to the store to buy, they made themselves! Whether for economic reasons, creativity, the desire to control ingredients, or all of the above, many people are now reconnecting with the past.

Perhaps one group of people who may benefit by making their own skin care products are individuals with allergies and sensitive skin. Some causes of skin reactions may include a release of histamine to counteract the effects of a chemical or toxin coming in contact with the skin, a genetic predisposition resulting in an abnormal skin structure, inadequate hydration, or trauma to the tissues. They know all too well how distressing their condition can be. Not only can it be painful physically, but also to the wallet as they purchase many products trying to find one that they won't react to!

Recipes abound for making your own soaps, baby/hand wipes, and laundry detergent, but always obtain your information from a reputable source. And, like anything new, practice makes perfect!

If you are not up to making your own, many skin care products are available on the market. Sometimes you may need a prescription. To purchase the product that is most appropriate for your condition, consult with your doctor or a pharmacist.



Councilman Bryan Lee, CD's Jim Bush, Director Anatola Thompson, and President John F. Young, Jr. commemorate National Homeownership Month

# Retirements

**Dennis Wall**  
**Library**  
**38 years**

**Karen Robinson**  
**Juvenile Services**  
**33 years**

**John Glenn**  
**Streets**  
**33 years**

**Valerie Thomassie**  
**Engineering**  
**33 years**

**Patsy Blackman**  
**Parkways**  
**30 years**

**Melvin Chaix**  
**Code Enforcement**  
**26 years**

**Dorothisa Halligan**  
**Citizens' Affairs**  
**25 years**

**Esther Gutierrez**  
**Library**  
**10 years**

## Animal Shelter Picnic



**Staff, management, and families of the Animal Shelter enjoyed their first picnic at Lafreniere Park on July 10. (See story Page 3)**