



Volume 32  
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EM Realite

## Message from the Parish President. . .

### Our Core Values

Restoring the public's confidence and trust in their Parish government is one of our top priorities.

Each of you as a Parish employee has an essential role to play in demonstrating the principles of public service to which we are all committed. I ask each of you to join me and my administration in incorporating these core values into our daily lives.

These core values serve as the framework of our daily actions and decisions. Shared values are commitments that guide our professional interactions, govern the way we treat others, and inspire a dedication to superior public service, high ethical standards, and indisputable integrity.

#### Public First

We hold foremost that it is a high honor and distinct privilege to serve the citizens of Jefferson Parish, and we recognize that the respect of the public can never be anticipated if not first earned.

#### Pursuit of Excellence

Our success will be measured by our productivity. Getting the job done right the first time in as cost-effective manner as possible is our goal. Each day we strive to work smarter and more successfully.



John F. Young  
Parish President

### Positive Response to Change

An effective government organization must evolve to meet continuing economic, social, and institutional challenges. We welcome the developing demands and expectations of the public with creative thinking, innovation, and more efficient processes.

### Respect for Others

We honor the dignity, individuality, and rights of all persons. Our interaction with others is marked by honest, direct, and relevant communication; and we show respect for diversity and personal and professional differences.

### Community Mindedness

Our individual and team efforts significantly impact the vitality of the community in which we choose to work. We remain mindful that the well-being and safety of our citizens ensure that Jefferson Parish is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

*En Réalité*

Editor.....F. Mendoza, Jr.  
 Managing Editor.....Greg Alexander

**Departmental Reporters**

- Alario Center**  
Deirdre Cummings
- Animal Shelter**  
Cokeisha Washington
- Citizens' Affairs**  
Tracie Chaix
- Community Development**  
Sevilla White Finley
- Diversity Advisory Board**  
Open
- Drainage**  
Sheena Quinn
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- Environmental Affairs**  
Barbara Arcement
- Finance Authority**  
Sheila Rodrigue
- General Services**  
Jill Relick
- Human Resource Management**  
Dana LeBherz
- Code Enforcement**  
Linda Roy
- JeffCAP**  
Aretha Frison
- Juvenile Services**  
Arlyn Smith
- Library**  
Mark Deane
- Parks & Recreation**  
Gwen Styron & Jerry Savarese
- Parkways**  
Chantell Prestenbach
- Planning**  
Marilyn Slutsky
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Gail Petrie
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Venice Cooper
- Streets**  
Debbie Tunstall
- Telecommunications**  
Paul Ferrara
- Traffic Engineering**  
Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**  
Patricia Lyons
- Water**  
Susie Cunningham
- Workforce Connection**

*Editor's*



*Notes*

**New HR Manager Assignments**

Due to retirements, promotions, and other changes within the Human Resources Department, some Parish departments now have a different HR Manager assigned to them.

It is important that all employees know which Manger is assigned to their department. HR Managers can answer questions about policy, consult about grievances, and offer advice about disciplinary issues.

Here are the HR Managers and their current assigned departments:

**John Dumas (x 6173)**

- Council
- Drainage
- Drainage Pump
- Engineering
- Environmental
- Library
- Risk Management
- Sewerage
- Streets
- Transit
- Water
- Workforce Connection

**Mary Jo Arcement (6177)**

- Accounting/Payroll
- Budget
- Capital Projects
- Finance
- General Services
- Human Resource Management



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.  
Editor

- Internal Audit
- Parish Attorney
- Parish President
- Parks & Recreation
- Personnel
- Purchasing

**Nancy Rodriguez (6174)**

- Alario Center
- Animal Shelter
- EIS
- Inspection & Code
- JeffCAP
- Parkways
- Planning
- Telecommunications

**Fran Robichaux (6841)**

- Citizens' Affairs
- Community Development
- Community Justice Agency
- Emergency Management
- Fire
- Fleet Management
- Juvenile Services

Note the important difference that Fran Robichaux, the Parish's Substance Use Program Manager, now has departments assigned to her. Even if Fran is not your HR Manager, she should still be consulted about all issues related to drug testing and substance use.

**Sewerage**

By  
Venice Cooper

**WELCOME!**

We welcome **Jason Pinkowski** to the Department of Sewerage. Jason joined us in December as a Sewerage Treatment Plant Operator at the Marrero Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**GOOD BYE!**

We sadly say good bye to **Suzette Collins**, our former Receptionist. Suzette accepted a promotion in the EIS Department as a Typist Clerk III in January. We will truly miss Suzette in our administration office. She was always cheerful, helpful, and kind to everyone that she came into contact with. Best wishes to you, Suzette, in all of your future endeavors.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to **Lawrence Rusich**. Lawrence retired from our West Bank Lift Stations Division on January 16, 2011, with over 22 years of service.

**SERVICE PIN AWARDS!**

The following Sewerage employees with 20 or more years of service received their service pins from Parish President **John Young** on December 9: **Isaac Salsberry, Adolph Grimes, David Dennis, Roy Lindsey, Louis Morris, John Jessie, Morris Sapia, James Robinson, Bill Hartline, Eva "Lucie" Claverie, Alicia Harper, Kevin Adams, Mary Grace Bealer, and Duane Duhe**. Congratulations to all of you.

**UNITED WAY!**

Our 2011 United Way Campaign wrapped up at the beginning of January. Sewerage employees contributed a total of \$467. We thank all of our donors for choosing to make a difference by donating to United Way.

**SENIOR CITIZEN'S CHRISTMAS WISH PROGRAM!**

Our department once again participated in the Senior Citizen's Christmas Wish Program. Each year we participate in this event by providing baskets filled with toiletries and household and

food items for home-bound senior citizens in our parish. We contributed over \$340 worth of items (filling 14 baskets) to this cause.

The baskets were delivered just in time for Christmas. Thanks to all who contributed for making the Christmas season a little brighter for our seniors. Thanks also to our basket delivery persons – **Ronald Williams, Keithen Kelly, Phillip Wright, Rochelle Ellis, George Gandy, Kendall Jones, and Linwood Simien**.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SEWER OVERFLOWS! (PART 3, FINAL)**

Did you know that sewer overflows are usually the result of inappropriate materials flowing into the sewer system? To help prevent sewer backups, the following items should not be disposed of in the sanitary sewer system:

- Diapers
- Cooking grease
- Paper towels
- Food (do not use the disposal for all food items)
- Feminine products
- Contraceptives

These items should be disposed of in your trash can, NOT in the sanitary sewer system. Improper disposal of these items can cause potential sewer backups within your residence and problems in the parish's sewer system.

Most basic homeowner's insurance policies do not cover sewer or drain backups. In most cases, additional coverage needs to be added to the policy to protect homeowners from backups.

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance, repair, and cleaning of the sewer line from the house up to and including the sewer clean-out.



George Gandy delivers a Christmas basket to a happy Jefferson senior

## Community Development

By  
Marilyn Slutsky

Community Development staff combined imagination and generosity to fill four senior Christmas baskets for shut-ins that included items on the list, and then some. **Director Anatola Thompson** and **Connie Preston** donned their Santa caps to deliver them. **Jody Moreau**, **Betty Overton**, **Patricia Beebe**, and **Sevilla Finley** were on the basket committee.

Congratulations to **Christina Benfield** on her recent promotion to Secretary from Typist Clerk III. Christina replaces **Darnell Muhoberac**, who retired last year.

First-time Homebuyer Assistance update: Project Coordinator **“Jim” Bush Jr.** notes five new houses are now available for purchase in the Beechgrove subdivision in Westwego. These new units qualify for HUD grants of up to \$50,000 for closing costs and down payment for eligible low- and moderate- income participants. The new homes, which sell for \$139,000, have three bedrooms, two baths, an open floor plan, and a one-car garage. Call Information Specialist **Sevilla Finley** for more information about the program at 504-736-6282 or Housing Improvement Counselor II **“Liz” Ruth** at 736-6267.

**Director Anatola Thompson**, **Faye Galland**, **Jody Moreau**, **Liz Ruth**, and **Sevilla Finley** recently attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair Housing Summit sponsored by the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center.

## Citizens’ Affairs

By  
Tracie Chaix

Citizens’ With Disabilities is partnering with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in an emergency preparedness for seniors and People with Disabilities Outreach and Training Project. We will update you as the project rolls out. The first part of the project will be a pilot of a proposal **Katherine Hoover** and **Elizabeth Cook** are making to address the FEMA Challenge noted below. Although the challenge does not require implementation, we want to at least run this pilot to effect a greater outreach to the seniors and individuals with disabilities within Jefferson Parish.

*FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate Challenges YOU: Submit your ideas on how to prepare communities before disaster strikes*

Do you have a great idea on preparedness to share? FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate challenges you to come up with crea-

tive ideas on how we can prepare communities before disaster strikes. Submit your own ideas by January 31. Read and comment on some of the great ideas here: <http://challenge.gov/FEMA/87-preparing-our-communities-before-a-disaster-strikes>

On December 15, **Katherine Hoover** received a letter of recognition from Governor Jindal on her nomination for the Governor’s Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities 2010 Patsy Barrett Memorial Award.

On another note, **Wayne Ory**, Coordinator of Senior Services, was awarded a certificate of achievement and medal for loyalty, devotion, and patriotism from the Louisiana Department of the US Marine Corp League for being the state judge advocate. This was presented at the annual Christmas function.

Finally, congratulations to our Administrative Assistant **Brandie Lange**, who gave birth to her second baby girl, Chloe, on November 19. I bet Shea Lange is being a very helpful “big sis”!



CD staff proudly display their Christmas gift baskets

## Environmental

By  
Barbara Arcement

We at the Department of Environmental Affairs hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season topped off by placing their Christmas tree curbside for our marsh restoration project.

The Department of Environmental Affairs would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project a huge success in spite of the fact that, for the first time in 20 years, due to budget constraints, the state did not provide grant funding to parishes for this program. The Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project, now in its 21st year, uses recycled Christmas trees to build sediment-trapping shoreline fences that protect and restore fragile wetlands near Lafitte. This award-winning project could not take place without a tremendous volunteer effort, strong inter-governmental support, and generous corporate donations.

On January 8 and 15, a large number of volunteers, including court-appointed community service workers, worked alongside several Jefferson Parish departments and agencies to place approximately 12,000 Christmas trees in pre-constructed shoreline fences along Goose Bayou. We could not have accomplished this without the strong support of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and many local Fire Departments, along with the Louisiana National Guard, all of which provided boats and volunteers for the project. Those Fire Departments that helped make the project a success are East Bank Consolidated Fire

Department, Kenner FD, Bridge City FD, Avondale FD, Westwego FD, Third District FD, Terrytown FD, Marrero-Harvey FD, and the Marrero-Ragusa FD.

We also had a great volunteer response including volunteers from Jefferson Parish's Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) and a group of 20 students from Arizona! Last, but not least, we'd like to thank our new Chief Administrative Assistant, **Heather Hilliard**, for jumping into this project full throttle, after being on the job for only a few days, and doing a great job of bringing in other Parish departments and agencies, making this year's project a true community effort!

Special thanks go to our own **Jason Smith**, Coastal Program Supervisor, and all of our own staff as well as our partners from the Departments of Parkways, Streets, Emergency Management, and Fleet Management.

These employees worked behind the scenes, in advance of the volunteer events, building and repairing the shoreline cribs, and then again during the volunteer events, by moving trees, driving boats, monitoring volunteer efforts, and making sure all equipment was operational. We share the success of this year's project with all of these departments!

We also want to thank everyone who participated in the Recycling Drop-off Event held on January 22, 2011.

Lastly, we sadly bid adieu to **Scott Finney**, Storm Water Program Supervisor, who has moved on to the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board's Storm Water Department. We wish him the best of luck and know he'll do a great job for the city.

Finally, the staff of Environmental Affairs would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Mardi Gras. Until next time, have a lovely spring.



Firemen in a search & rescue boat assist in the Christmas Tree marsh restoration project

**Finance Authority**

By  
Sheila Rodrigue

**Board Member Changes**

In November, we said good bye to Jeffrey Bennett, one of the members of our Board of Trustees, who served since April 2010. Mr. Bennett was replaced by Gregory Faia. Welcome to our Board, Mr. Faia.

**New Interest Rate for Finance Authority Bond Program**

The Jefferson Parish Finance Authority's bond program has a new interest rate of 4.95%. Our program still has a grant of 4% assistance to pay down payment and closing costs. All mortgage loans must be originated on or before October 31, 2011.

**Other Bond Program Changes**

There are several changes to the Jefferson Parish Finance Authority's bond program effective January 1, 2011, which are due to the expiration of certain provisions of Federal law. These changes are: 1) Jefferson Parish has both non-targeted and targeted areas, 2) borrowers must be first-time home buyers unless purchasing in a targeted area, and 3) there are maximum incomes and maximum purchase prices for both non-targeted and targeted areas.

A first-time homebuyer is defined as never having had an ownership interest in a home or not having had an ownership interest in a home within the last three years. Borrowers **must** meet this requirement to qualify to purchase a home in the non-targeted areas of Jefferson Parish. If the first-time homebuyer requirement is not met, borrowers can only use

the bond money to purchase a home in designated targeted areas. Currently there are fifteen targeted areas located throughout Jefferson Parish. Targeted area maps are available from our office.

Effective January 1, 2011, borrowers must qualify under the income and purchase price restrictions listed below when purchasing in either a non-targeted area or targeted area.

**Maximum Gross Income – Non-Targeted Areas**

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

**Maximum Purchase Price – Non-Targeted Areas**

:\$258,690 maximum for either a new or previous occupied home

**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

**Maximum Purchase Price – Targeted Areas:**

\$361,117 maximum for either a new or previous occupied home

If you are considering purchasing a home in Jefferson Parish, please contact our office at 736-6311 for additional information about qualifying for our bond program, including a list of the participating lenders. This information can also be obtained from our website at [www.jpfinanceauthority.com](http://www.jpfinanceauthority.com). Targeted area maps are only available from our office.

**Purchasing**

By  
Gail Petrie

Congratulations to **Carol Gasper** and **Rene T. Poole** on receiving their awards for long terms of service. Carol, one of our most experienced Buyers, has achieved 25 years; and Chief Buyer René has 30 years.

It is the start of a new year. **Patti Lasalle**, Purchasing Director, and all of us are busy with implementing many changes due to new requirements in the bidding process. We are all available for help, and Patti has continued to do much training.

To all of you, a happy, fun, productive, and blessed New Year.

**Planning**

By  
Marilyn Slutsky

Planning offers its congratulations to **Planner III Francois Ancar** and **Planner II Phil Tiller**. Both recently received their service pin awards for 25 years of service.

**Francois** is supervisor of our Land Use Section, and **Phil** is a Planner in the Land Use section. Congratulations to both.



Planning Director Ed Durabb (center) with Francois Ancar and Phil Tiller

## Emergency Management

By  
Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade

Are you Storm Ready? Jefferson Parish is! We were officially recognized as a StormReady Parish by the National Weather Service at the December 8, 2010, Council Meeting. Only 11 parishes have this recognition.

Emergency Management staff achieved this recognition by meeting these requirements: Establishment of a 24-hour warning point and an emergency operations center; having multiple communication abilities to receive severe weather warning/forecasts and to alert the public; creation of a system that monitors weather conditions locally; promotion of public readiness through community seminars; and development of a formal hazardous weather plan. As a StormReady Parish, we are better prepared to save lives from severe weather events.

**Thomas J. Rodrigue, Jr.**, received a Certificate of Merit at the December 8, 2010, Council Meeting for his outstanding service to Jefferson Parish and retired on December 31, 2010. Great work, Tommy! Your knowledge, expertise, and words of wisdom will be truly missed.



Tom Rodrigue with daughter Tara and wife Cheryl

## Recreation

By  
Gwen Styron

Our 2011 Spring Activity Guide, which includes activities and programs for January through April (also includes Camp information), is available on our website at [www.jeffparish.net](http://www.jeffparish.net) – Parks & Recreation page, or can be obtained at all local playgrounds and libraries. For information about any of our programs, call the respective office (East Bank – 736-6999 or West Bank 349-5000) or e-mail [jprecreation@jeffparish.net](mailto:jprecreation@jeffparish.net)

Track and soccer registration is underway. Please be sure to register your child. Baseball registration will begin in March.

On Monday, April 11, volunteers from Direct TV will join our employees and Oakdale Booster Club to build another KaBOOM playground at Oakdale. It will be the largest KaBOOM built to date – 10,000 square feet of play area – along with many side projects to enhance the playground. It is a day of work and fun for all. Anyone

interested in assisting, please call our office.

The track at Johnny Jacobs and Kings Grant will soon be resurfaced and may be temporarily closed while the work is being done.

Parc des Families will soon be getting four (4) ball fields (ages 12 & under) which are to be located near the new Estelle Playground. While speaking of ball fields, Mike Miley Stadium and Segnette Field will soon have turf applied.

For the tennis players – Jefferson, Little Farms, and Waggaman tennis courts will soon be resurfaced.

Lafreniere Park's "Holiday in the Park" was once again a success. Thanks to the many who made this possible! Children and adults enjoyed touring the lighting display.

Congratulations to **Mary Puderer**, Administrative Assistant in the EB Main Office and **Gerri Williams**, WB Warehouse Supervisor upon their retirement.

Get well wishes to **Earl Incardona**, WB Zone Manager, and **Thomas Hunt** – Lafreniere Park Amusement Ride Operator.

Congratulation to **Rebecca Corpora**, who graduated December 4, 2010 from Concordia Lutheran University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and Communications.

Condolences to **Earl Incardona** and family upon the loss of his father-in-law.

## Juvenile Services

By  
Arlyn Snith

Congratulations to Director **Roy L. Juncker, Jr.**, who was presented a proclamation from Parish President **John Young** at the December 8 Council Meeting for receiving the “Champions for Change” Award on behalf of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and Louisiana Models for Change.

**Mr. Juncker** was presented with the award at the national conference in Washington, DC on December 7. He was recognized for his work to transform the Department of Juvenile Services into a model system offering progressive and effective probation and treatment programs. Mr. Juncker has been the foundation for Models for Change efforts in Jefferson Parish. The juvenile justice reform movement aims to improve the lives of young people in trouble with the law, while enhancing public safety and holding offenders accountable for their actions.

Juvenile Services has been successful not only in tripling funding for evidence-based practices, but also in establishing the use of standardized objective screening and assessment instruments. Mr. Juncker has implemented these changes not with new resources, but by making more cost-effective use of his agency’s existing funds.

DJS employees were recognized at the Parish President’s 2010 Service Award Pin Ceremony on December 9.

**20 Years:** **Lori Winters**

**25 Years:** **James Bright,**



JS Director Roy Juncker accepts his “Champions or Change” award

**Joan Ruiz-Sturcke,** and **Willie Walker III.**

**30 Years:** **Stephen J. Cabal,** Probation Officer IV; **Mose Sam,** Detention Officer II; and **Ramon Solares,** Probation Officer II

Congratulations on their years of dedicated service.

Welcome new employees **Kathleen DeV Vaughn,** EB Receptionist, and **Stacy St. Pierre,** who was reinstated to Juvenile Probation Officer II. We are glad to have them aboard.

Retirements: **Thomas Adoue,** Juvenile Probation Officer III, and **Patricia Kulakowski,** Juvenile Probation Officer II.

It is with great sadness that the department, along with his family, mourn the sudden and unexpected death of **Ernest Hunter,** Cook II. He will be missed.

**WEDDING BELLS:** Assistant Director **Christopher Troclair** wed **Monica Castellvi** in No-

vember. Along with his new bride, Chris also welcomes her two children Pau and Marina, along with his son Camden. We wish them years of happiness.

### Alario Center

By  
Deirdre Cummings

The Alario Center is excited to be hosting Bayou Brawl 2: MMA Cage Fights presented by Prestige Fights.com on February 19 at 8pm. This will be the second mixed martial arts competition at the center in the past few months and comes off the huge success of the first Bayou Brawl in November of last year. The event will feature 12 fights in an elevated caged octagon in the center of the Alario Center’s 2500 seat Main Arena.



The Alario Center hopes to see you at Bayou Brawl 2

## Animal Shelter

By  
Cokeisha Washington

The Animal Shelter would like to welcome our new Assistant Director **Brooke Bourgeois** along with our new Kennel worker **Irielle Jackson**. We would also like to congratulate our Typist Clerk II **Lakeisha Ellis** on the birth of her baby boy, Kendall.



Baby Kendall (b. December 15)

There's not always good talk about the Animal Shelter, but we want you all to know that we are still dedicated to great public service and the health of the animals in the shelter and those that will arrive.

The Shelter continues to reunite lost pets with their owners and find homes for strays. We

offer microchips at the low cost of \$25.00 during regular business hours at both shelters. Rabies shots are given every Tuesday at the West Bank shelter from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on the East Bank from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The costs of the shots are: \$15 for a pet that is spayed / neutered and \$20 for a pet that is not spayed / neutered.

Due to the overwhelming response at the last vaccination clinic, there were 2,000 dogs and cats vaccinated, 500 chips implanted, and 4,000 lbs of food given away. The Animal Shelter will be hosting another "Free Vaccination Clinic" on Saturday, February 12, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Belle Terre Playground, located at 5600 Belle Terre Road, Marrero.

If you know anyone looking for a pet, invite them to visit one of our shelters. Our adoption fee for a dog or cat is \$67 which includes adoption, spay / neuter, first set of shots, and a rabies shot. There are plenty of animals to choose from. So come see us or encourage a friend to "Save a life and adopt a pet."

## Parkways

By  
Chantell Prestenbach

Parkways would like to start by welcoming back **Wayne Nocito**. Wayne was appointed Parkway Director on January 5, 2011.

We'd also like to congratulate **Patsy Blackman**, who made 30 years with Parkways in August. Patsy started as a laborer and worked her way up to Superintendent. She is the first female maintenance worker to reach 30 years with Parkways and earned employee of the year during her first year of service.

Welcome to the newest member of the Parkways family, **Julie Valance**. Julie joined us in November of 2010.

The Christmas Holidays have brought us to a very important event, the "Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project." Since 1991 Parkways has been part of this project, which takes un-flocked Christmas trees donated by citizens to help in the fight against erosion in the Barataria Basin. This area of wetlands helps protect against hurricane surges, provides natural treatment for storm water, and provides a rich nursery ground for fisheries.

For more information or to volunteer; call the Department of Environmental Affairs.

As always in Jefferson, when one event ends another begins: Mardi Gras is right around the corner and Parkways has already begun getting parade routes ready for the floats that will be rolling down the streets of Jefferson.



The "Pooch Group" from Kehoe France raised \$200 for the Animal Shelter

## Traffic Engineering

By  
David Stout

As many of you have noticed, Traffic Engineering has been quite busy with all of the construction projects that are under way. The Causeway Blvd improvements have been our biggest hurdle this year. We are working on a couple of projects simultaneously.

The Corps of Engineers, along with the Causeway Commission and LADOTD, is working on improving our flood protection at Lake Pontchartrain by raising the levee at the southshore foot of the Causeway Bridge. This project along with the Causeway @ I-10 and Veterans exchanges has had traffic snarled for us for quite some time on Causeway Blvd. The end result, which is scheduled to come in 2013, will be a huge improvement. Please be patient with our progress as we make our roadways and community safer.

In addition, Jefferson Parish has been working with The Regional Planning Commission to institute a "Traffic Responsive" signal system along Veterans Boulevard. This system will have the capability to "respond" to higher traffic demands in the event of an incident on I-10. This will be a unique system, one of the first responsive traffic systems in the country, and it will take some time to complete. However, the first phases are planning to be bid sometime in April.

Please pass on this safety note to all Jefferson drivers: The speed limit on Causeway Blvd northbound from the Airline Dr interchange to I-10 has been reduced to 35 MPH. The ten mile

per hour reduction was implemented in January and will soon be enforced.

We are looking toward another safe and prosperous Mardi Gras season. Both the Sign and Signal Crews have been busy with the preparations for Family Gras and the entire parade season. The biggest noticeable change this year is the lack of "Mardi Gras Signs." With the recent budget crunches we are facing, it was decided to nix the labor-intensive signs this year to save money.

Congratulations to Sign Designer **Michael Ricks** and Sign Tech I **Peter Williams** on their permanent status allocations. Both are assets to our Division.

Our warmest sympathy goes out to Mr. John B. Dupuy and family upon the passing of John's wife Patricia. Mr. Dupuy was our Signal Supervisor until the mid-1990s. We have stayed in close contact with him over the years and value his occasional input on the job as well as the friendship that developed.

## Library

By  
Mark Deane

For the 2010 holidays, the Library gave out holiday baskets to people and families in our community. Library staff donated enough gifts, food, and household items to make 20 baskets, which members of the maintenance staff delivered to residents on the East and West Banks. Helping prepare the baskets were Administrative Assistant **Irene Lunkin**, Typist Clerk III **Jeannie Hobbie**, Account Clerk II **Tanisha Love**, and Typist Clerk III **Tammy Arceneaux**. Maintenance Repairman **August Bracewell**, Laborer **Samuel Hankins**, Maintenance Repairman **David Marchand**, and Laborer **Ryan Matherne** delivered the baskets.

Congratulations to Librarian IV **Erin Korosi**, who was promoted to Youth Services Coordinator at the Library. Erin started working for the Library in 2005 and has been the Children's Collection Development Librarian since 2009. Recently, she coordinated the Library's successful Prime Time Family Reading pro-



Tanisha Love, Irene Lunkin, Tammy Arceneaux, and Jeannie Hobbie helped arrange the Library's Holiday Baskets



Youth Services Coordinator  
Erin Korosi

gram and served on the 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Louisiana Young Reader's Choice Committee.

Librarian II **T. Diemer** organized the United Way campaign for the Library. His hard work resulted in positive numbers: Library staff collected or pledged almost two thousand dollars. Thanks go to T. and all who gave or pledged money.

In December, President John Young recognized three Library employees for their service to the Parish. Librarian IV **Thomas Huston** received an award for 20 years of service, and Library Associate **Charlotte Lewis** and recently-retired Librarian II **Bill Romig** received awards for 25 years of service.

Big news for Grand Isle Library users: A new Grand Lisle branch is under construction. Parish and Library officials broke ground on the new library in December. Grand Isle Library has been operating out of a temporary facility since Hurricane Katrina. The new Grand Isle Library will be high-tech, with eight public access computers, Metro Ethernet for high-speed internet, free wireless internet, and laptops for use in the library.

## Water

By  
Susie Cunningham

### Retirements

A fond farewell goes out to **Leonardo Tapia**, Water Quality Scientist II, after twenty-five years of service to Jefferson Parish and also to **Terry Hull**, Shipping & Receiving Stock Clerk, after ten years of service to Jefferson Parish. We wish you both the very best.

### New Employees

The Water Department would like to welcome the following new employees: **Christopher Kinzey**, Laborer; **Joseph Caulfield**, Laborer; and **Bryson Smith**, Laborer. We wish them well as they begin their Water Department careers.

### Promotions

Recent promotions were as follows: **David Mahner**, Water Purification Superintendent I; **Louis Jackson**, Water Purification Superintendent I; **Winchell Turner**, Water Service Inspector II; and **Alton Loupe**, Water Service Inspector II. Congratulations on a job well done!



President John Young congratulates Charlotte Lewis for 25 years of service

Welcome back to **Cherell Gardere!** She left us briefly but has returned to work with her friends once again, and we are glad to have her back.

The Water Department donated nine Christmas baskets to our senior citizens of Jefferson Parish who are in need. Thanks to all of our employees who have contributed to make this possible.



The Water Department's Christmas baskets

### Service Pin Awards – 20, 25, and 30 Years

Congratulations to the following employees who recently received pins for their many years of dedicated service to Jefferson Parish.

Employees with 30 years of service were: **Richard Braud, Jr.**, **Michael Johnson**, **Eugene Joseph**, **Lillian Nelson**, and **Gloria Stewart**. Employees with 25 years of service were: **Ray Heffner**, **Sal Maffei, Jr.**, **Mark McDonald**, **David Licciardi**, and **Leonardo Tapia**. Employees with 20 years of service were: **Daniel Barrilleaux**, **Tyrell Chatman**, **Troy Tranchant**, and **Rennice Young**.

## 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. **Joel Dyer, Daniel P. Mahner, Tra-maine Sevalia, Derek Parker, Kevin Badon and Ivory Sanders** have all begun their careers with Jefferson Parish as laborers for the Department of Drainage. Good luck, you guys! Also, we would like to congratulate the following for their recent promotions: **Jer-one Justin, Cedrick Frank, and John Nguyen.**

### Fond Farewells

While new faces were being introduced to our Department of Drainage family, we said good-bye to three hard-working men who retired after countless years of dedication and hard work. **Al-fred Stamps**, East Bank Drainage Equipment Operator IV, retired December 30 after 26 years of service to the department. Also from our East Bank Drainage division, **Henry Brown**, Trades Helper, retired after 22 years on November 1. Drainage Pump Station Operator I, **Mitchael "Mitch" Sintes**, retired from our East Bank Pump Station division after 22 years with our department on December 17. They all will be truly missed.

### Sweet Smiling Faces and Unfortunate Losses

We are very proud to announce the newest additions to two of our Drainage employees' families.



Superintendent Manny Aspuria congratulates "Mitch" Sintes upon his retirement

Professional Engineer I **Clinton Hotard** and his wife welcomed their first child on December 30, 2010. Little Cole Hotard came in at a healthy 8lbs 8oz. He and mom are doing just great. Also, we'd like to congratulate West Bank Pump Station Superintendent II, **Duane Martinez**, on the birth of his granddaughter, Madison Marie, on January 14. This gorgeous little lady and her mom, Duane's daugh-

ter Jessica, are home and doing well.

We're sad to report that West Bank Drainage Laborer **Willie Theodore** lost his son, London Joseph Emmett Gilbert, on November 24, 2010. We would like to extend our sincerest condolences to him and his family during this time.

Hope everyone has a safe and happy Mardi Gras!



The GIWW-West Closure Complex. See next page for story

## **GIWW-West Closure Complex**

On January 13, 2011, several elected officials, along with some of our Public Works technical staff, attended a tour of the GIWW-West Closure Complex located on the West Bank of the Mississippi River approximately one half mile south of the confluence of the Harvey and Algiers Canals on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

### **Fight Against Storm Surge**

The purpose of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) West Closure Complex is to reduce the risk of storm surge entering the Harvey and Algiers Canals thus affecting residences and businesses in three parishes on the West Bank of the Mississippi River: Orleans, Jefferson, and Plaquemines.

### **Sparing No Expense**

The GIWW-West Closure Complex will cost nearly \$1billion and consist of the nation's largest sector gate (225-ft.), floodwalls and levees, a sluice gate, foreshore protection, and the world's largest drainage pump station.

When the gate is closed during a storm event, 19,140 cubic feet per second (cfs) pump station is required to evacuate the rainwater pumped into the Harvey and Algiers Canals by 9 pump stations along the canals.

The drainage pump station will be the largest of its type in the world.



Above: An aerial view of the GIWW West Closure Complex on the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway;  
Below: Inside the billion-dollar complex



## Human Resources

By  
Dana LeBherz

### Congratulations!

More congratulations abound in the HR department! First up, congratulations to **Greg Alexander** on his promotion to Training Specialist III! Greg joined the Parish in 1999 as a Training Specialist I and became a Training Specialist II shortly afterward. We wish you all the best for your well-earned promotion, Greg!



Greg Alexander

We'd also like to congratulate our Director **Junior Mendoza** for ten years with the Parish!

The department also wishes to congratulate **Nolan Guidry**, Safety Manager, on receiving his 10-year pin; **Ann Woods**, Typist Clerk III, on reaching 15 years with the Parish; and Benefits Coordinator **Cathy Leumont** on 20 years of service to the Parish!

### Provider Verification

The change in our health care provider to Coventry Healthcare



Junior Mendoza with Safety's Ann Woods and Nolan Guidry



Safety Manager Nolan Guidry and Safety Officer Larry Guchereau (front) lead a chainsaw safety class at West Bank Regional Library

means we have access to the exclusive Jefferson Parish Government Network of health care providers for Jefferson and Orleans Parish. The exclusive network includes East Jefferson General Hospital, West Jefferson General Hospital, and all locations of Ochsner Hospital. Care provided in Orleans or Jefferson Parish at any other hospital is **not covered**. This situation could potentially cause delay in treatment and/or extra cost.

For Parishes other than Orleans and Jefferson, network hospitals are listed in the provider directory.

Keep in mind that some doctors in Jefferson or Orleans Parish may not be in the Jefferson Parish Government exclusive network if they don't have admitting privileges in East Jefferson, West Jefferson, or Ochsner hospitals.

How can you be sure your doctor has admitting privileges to the JP Government exclusive network? There are several options:

Check the Coventry booklet. Keep in mind the booklet is as up to date as the day it was printed. Call and speak to a Coventry customer service representative at (800) 341-6613.

Check Coventry's website at [www.chcla.com](http://www.chcla.com).

Call and ask your doctor's office if the doctor is part of the Jefferson Parish Government exclusive network.

Another important change for 2011 is that Quest has replaced Lab Corp as the primary laboratory in the Jefferson Parish Government exclusive network. Check the provider directory for additional listings.



HR Director Junior Mendoza is congratulated for ten years with the Parish by new CAA Jennifer Van Vrancken

## General Services

By  
Jill Relick

Welcome to **Darren Chara-mie**, our new AC & Heat Mechanic. We are very happy to have his expertise and to have him on our team.

**Frederick Carreras**, our new Shop Carpenter, is quite the outdoorsman and loves to hunt. We're lucky to have him as an indoors man as he is a public first employee.

Congratulations to **Mr Wayne Kleinpeter** on his retirement this year. He started with the Parish on in 1995. He was always very courteous and had a good thing to say to everyone. We all miss him, as he was a true pleasure to work with. Wayne, **Angela Cotham** is still waiting for her entertainment center. You can see his handi-work in the Council Offices, the Parish President's Office, some elevator lobbies in the GGB and many, many other offices. He never saw a piece of wood he couldn't make functional and beautiful.



Wayne Kleinpeter (center) is congratulated by retirees Vincent Albarado and Kurt Chiasson

In loving memory of George Folsie, Jr. father of **George Folsie III**, Assistant Director for General Services. Mr Folsie, Jr was employed with JP as a WB Sewerage Treatment plant operator @ Marrero treatment plant from 1967-1985. He passed on Oct 1, 2010.

Also **Don Barrios**, our plumber, lost his father, Lloyd Barrios, in December. Don is proud to tell of his father's 37 years with the JP Sewerage and Water Board as a Heavy Equipment Operator.

**Anthony Francis** gave a presentation to the General Services staff on the Values of Jefferson Parish Government Employees. His topics included Public First, Pursuit of Excellence, Positive Response to Change, Respect for Others, and Community Mindedness. Anthony's creative skills made the presentation very interactive. The program did not end with a test, but Anthony provided a laminated card to wear with our Photo IDs to include these tips for our review at will. We've had many requests for these cards. Contact **Reve Antoine** to place your order in the WB office.

Little did we know we had some great coaches on our staff: **Claude Davis, Van Taylor, Mike Fonseca** and **Ryan Babcock**. These great guys volunteer their time to coach young athletes in basketball, football, baseball, soccer, and track at various recreation playgrounds. Great Victory for all! Keep up the great mentoring.

**George Folsie** and **Tommy O'Neill** will be working along with Citizen Affairs with Carnival and Family Gras in late February, early March. "Throw us something"



General Services Director Anthony Francis (center) and Assistant Director George Folsie (right) with Service Pin recipients Shayne Perez (10 yrs), Mike Fonseca (10 yrs), and Joseph Castjohn (15 yrs)

## Diversity Advisory Board

By  
Linda Roy

Our first bi-monthly meeting of the Jefferson Parish Diversity Advisory Board for 2011 was held January 24. **Ms. Jennifer Van Vrancken** joined our board as an Executive Advocate. We look forward to having her at our meetings and to her guidance and advice. Welcome, Jennifer!

At our January meeting we had the pleasure of having **Gary Bourgeois**, Library Associate, speak to us about the resources and services the Library has to offer.

Did you know that at the library you can ... find DVDs and CDs? take computer classes? text-a-librarian? download e-books, audio books, and videos? You can also learn how to write a resume and how to master the interview. There are homework sites offering tutoring in various subjects. And there are book clubs that meet monthly. To learn more about what is available, visit [www.jefferson.lib.la.us](http://www.jefferson.lib.la.us). or contact any of the library branches.

Gary's presentation was very informative and enlightening. Thank you!

### **Diversity Matters – a new publication of the Diversity Advisory Board**

Coming soon! *Diversity Matters*, a new quarterly publication of the Diversity Advisory Board, will be distributed to employees through Department Directors, Executive Staff, Departmental contacts, and DAB members. The publication will keep you abreast of upcoming events sponsored by the board and will feature articles written by our members on diversity topics. Anyone who has a story to share, please feel free to contact any one of our members: **Karen Daviss, Francios Ancar, Deborah Bourgeois, Jim Bush, Deidre Cummings, Jelena Franklin, Gloria Smith, Henry King, Maria Rose, Linda Roy, Billy Sanders, Keith Thornton, Gerrie Garvey** or one of the Executive Advocates, **Darryl Ward, Jennifer Van Vrancken, and Kazem Alikhani**, or the HR Advisor **Nancy Rodriguez**.



Library Associate Gary Bourgeois with DAB members Jelena Franklin and Keith Thornton

Also, look for a Diversity Advisory Board flyer to be distributed with pay checks. The mission of the DAB is to promote an environment that fosters deliberate focus on acceptance, fairness, education, and inclusion of diversity within the Jefferson Parish workforce.

### **Blood Drive Challenge**

The Jefferson Parish Diversity Advisory Board is challenging all employees in donating blood in the upcoming blood drives. The first one is February 14, 2011, in the Yenni Bldg. and at various locations throughout the parish. Last year, with a workforce of 3,300 employees, only 141 donated, less than five percent of the entire employee population.

As we are creatures of habit, some of us may have been told in the past we cannot donate because of a condition or a particular medicine we were on. Today, that may not be the case. Taking a little bit of your time by giving blood is a universal opportunity that benefits everyone. It may be you, a family member, or close friend that one day may need these services. Please join us on February 14, 2011.



Diversity Advisory Board members studying Library resource accessibility

## Health Issues

By

Peggy Brannan, RN



Chances are that we will never find our names in the headlines for being a super hero or for being recognized for any incredible accomplishment. But, be that as it may, MOST people have the ability to actually save a life! And, how might that be? By giving 30 minutes of your time, experiencing a little pain, and letting go of a pint of your blood!

Chances are that we will never find ourselves in a traumatic accident or suffering from a critical illness that critically depletes our body's blood supply. But we could easily find ourselves having to undergo a surgical procedure, which always results in some degree of blood loss. Unfortunately, we don't always know in advance when we are going to find ourselves needing a lifesaving blood transfusion. Then the critical concern will be if a compatible blood type and enough units will be available. If the blood is there, your life will be saved because an otherwise ordinary person one day decided to be a blood donor!

Unfortunately, a very small percentage of the population donates blood. This is a sad fact because very few people would actually not qualify to donate. Some reasons people may voice for not being a donor may include: simply not considering the incredible value of their blood, fear of pain, a prior bad experience,

too busy, low iron, or having a medical condition.

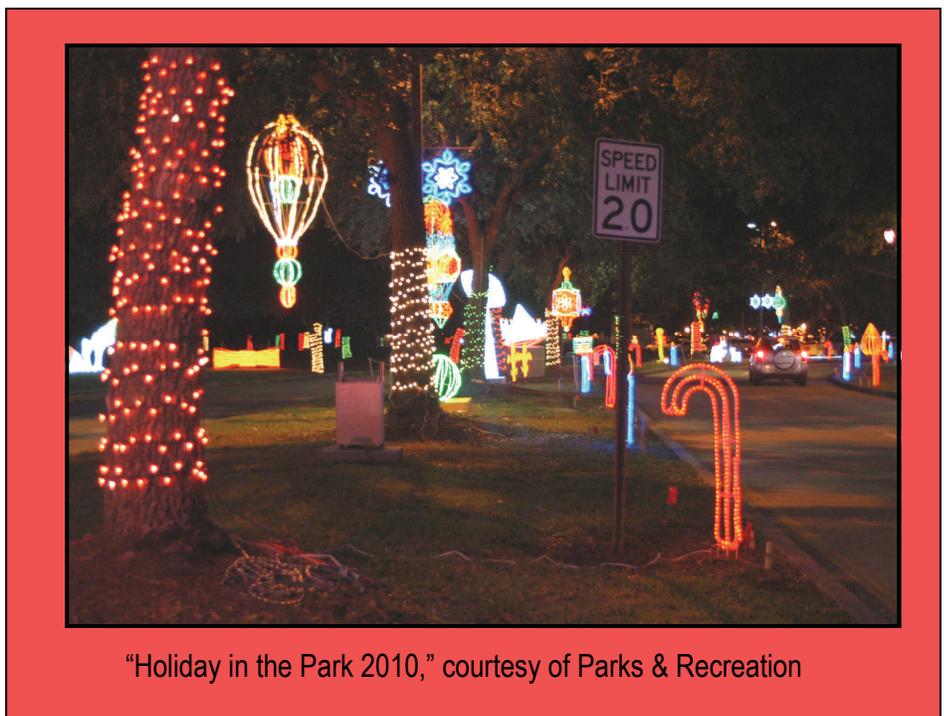
If you would like to donate and have been advised not to in the past, contact The Blood Center, at 592-4881 and explain your situation to them. Over the years the guidelines have changed regarding when one cannot donate blood. It could be that now you would be eligible to donate. Some examples of why you may be declined include: currently ill, weigh less than 110 pounds, blood conditions/infections, or chronic lung, liver, or kidney disease. Individuals who take high blood pressure and diabetic medications are no longer automatically refused.

The Blood Center comes to various sites within the parish throughout the year, giving our employees multiple opportunities to donate blood. Perhaps the most important thing to consider if you donate is that you can enroll in the blood assurance pro-

gram. In this program, you have unlimited reimbursement for all blood components for up to one year. This is a wonderful proactive form of insurance that costs you nothing!

Please consider donating blood. Don't wait until you or a loved one has an emergency and then find yourself in a frenzy begging people to donate blood to replace what was used and then try to explain why you did not donate before so you could have coverage. Throughout the year, if we could have enough blood donations to equal 25% of our total workforce, we could have 100% blood replacement coverage for our employees. Many do have legitimate reasons why they cannot donate. If you can't, I'd encourage you to get a relative or friend to donate for you.

Decide today to become a superhero and give the gift of life to those who are counting on you. Who knows, the next life saved may be your own!



"Holiday in the Park 2010," courtesy of Parks & Recreation

# Retirements

**Geraldine Williams**  
Recreation  
36 years

**Mary Puderer**  
Recreation  
33 years

**Melvin Boudreaux**  
Streets  
32 years

**Thomas Adoue**  
Juvenile Services  
31 years

**John Harper**  
Streets  
30 years

**Lawrence Rusich**  
Sewerage  
26 years

**Alfred Stamps**  
Drainage  
26 years

**Leonardo Tapia**  
Water  
25 years

**Rae Perkins**  
EIS  
24 years

**Patricia Kulakowski**  
Juvenile Services  
22 years

**Mitchael Sintes**  
Drainage  
21 years

**Henry Brown**  
Drainage  
21 years

**Wayne Kleinpeter**  
General Services  
15 years

**Michael Armstrong**  
EIS  
12 years

**Terry Hull**  
Water  
10 years

## We're "Storm-Ready"!



Emergency Management staff receives "Storm-Ready" recognition at the December Council Meeting. Read story in Emergency Management's article on Page 7.