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EMERALD

Message from the Parish President. . .

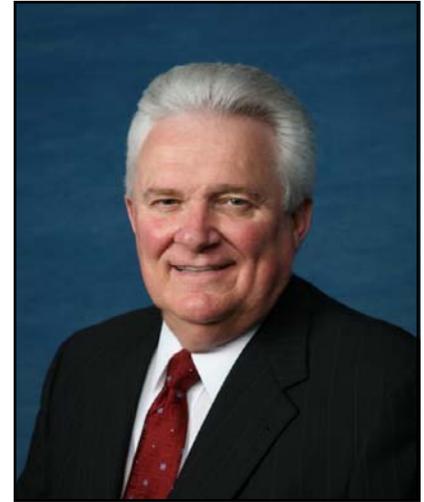
Thanks for Helping

Many of you expressed an interest in volunteering to mitigate the damage from the Deep Water Horizon oil spill. The desire to help has been great.

On July 15 British Petroleum (BP) capped the oil well, making it the first time since April 24 that oil was not gushing into the Gulf of Mexico. Before the temporary cap was installed, BP estimated the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico at 53,000 barrels per day. According to State and local officials, this oil spill may take years to clean up.

The National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), and the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana have joined forces to sign up volunteers to assist in the recovery effort as the need arises. For information on volunteering, you can visit www.btnep.org. You can also visit www.GulfResponse.org to learn about the partnership BTNEP has entered into to assist with volunteer efforts in response to the oil spill.

Despite the threat from



Steve J. Theriot

Tropical Storm Bonnie, on July 24 the Grand Isle Island Aid Concert went on as planned with the help of several government agencies.

To fulfill a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Town of Grand Isle, many Jefferson Parish employees were stationed in Grand Isle for a week to help set up, work at, and dismantle equipment for this one-day festival. They assisted in staging and cleaning the beaches. They also helped set up tents and booths for the many food, craft, and clothing vendors.

A **BIG thanks** to all Parish employees who assisted with the festival and to those who attended the Grand Isle Island Aid concert and to all who have and will volunteer in the oil cleanup effort.

En Realité

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
- Drainage**
- Sheena Quinn
- Emergency Management**
- Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**
- Amanda Owens
- Environmental Affairs**
- Barbara Arcement
- Finance Authority**
- Sheila Rodrigue
- General Services**
- Jill Relick
- Human Resource Management**
- Dana LeBherz
- Code Enforcement & Diversity Advisory**
- Linda Roy
- JeffCAP**
- Aretha Frison
- Juvenile Services**
- Arlyn Smith
- Library**
- Mark Deane
- Parks & Recreation**
- Gwen Styron & Jerry Savarese
- Parkways**
- Chantell Prestenbach
- Planning**
- Marilyn Slutsky
- Purchasing**
- Gail Petrie
- Sewerage**
- Venice Cooper
- Streets**
- Debbie Tunstall
- Telecommunications**
- Paul Ferrara
- Traffic Engineering**
- Brandy Chism
- Transit**
- Patricia Lyons
- Water**
- Susie Cunningham
- Workforce Connection**
- Frances Turner

Editor's



Notes

**Mal Morgan Training
 Coming for Supervisors**

Ask Parish supervisors, and they'll tell you that they are very familiar with the Training Division of Human Resource Management. The Training Division ensures that all Parish supervisors regularly attend training classes so that they are informed and "on the same page" when it comes to compliance with federal and state law as well as with Parish policies and procedures.

As an additional benefit of attending training classes regularly, supervisors have the opportunity to share experiences and advice with supervisors from other departments. That exchange of information often helps both the new and the seasoned supervisor to see things from a different vantage point and look at a very familiar situation with new eyes.

Helping supervisors gain new perspectives is the goal of the upcoming special training sessions in September entitled *HEART Model Booster: Jefferson Parish Works!* to be conducted by J. Mal Morgan, an international consultant and trainer. Supervisors may have attended a similar training in 2005 with Mal, and this year's sessions will provide a fresh look at the material covered in the original training.

The *HEART Model Booster* is based on the idea that a person's capacity to govern his or her own attitude and the ability to develop



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
 Editor

self-motivation are now generally accepted as important factors to success. The knowledge and skills that improve motivation can be taught and developed, helping the individual to build a personal and professional resilience that forms the foundation for developing a workplace culture of teamwork.

In these sessions, supervisors will examine habits, perceptions, learning styles, and behavior styles in order to increase self-understanding and motivation. When we recognize our own patterns of behavior and ways of thinking, we can move forward and learn skills to help us break old habits. The session will provide us an opportunity to develop specific action plans that will assist us in applying these skills in the workplace.

I encourage as many Parish supervisors as possible to register for the seminar. It will be offered twice – first on Wednesday, September 8, from 9 till noon at East Bank Regional Library, and again on Thursday, September 16, from 9 to noon at Lafreniere Park Foundation Center. It's an enlightening and high-energy program that will help you see things in a new light.

JeffCAP

By
Aretha Frison

Apply Now for Funds for Support Services

Jefferson Community Action Programs (JeffCAP) and the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) have funds available for bus service vouchers, emergency clothing, medication vouchers, utility assistance, and rental/mortgage help.

Funds are available only until September 30! Jefferson Parish citizens recently unemployed, underemployed, or attending a job-training program are encouraged to apply now by calling their community center for an appointment.

- Avondale (504) 349-5422
- Gretna (504) 376-2133
- Bridge City (504) 349-5464
- Harvey (504) 227-1221
- Dorothy Watson (Kenner/Harahan) (504) 736-6477
- Hazel Rhea Hurst (Metairie/Jefferson) (504) 838-4287
- Marrero (504) 349-5953

Need Help? LIHEP Funds Still Available

JeffCAP and the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) have funds available for energy assistance.

Jefferson Parish citizens are encouraged to apply by calling the community center in their area for an appointment. Funds are available until September 30, 2010!

Appointments can be scheduled by calling one of the JeffCAP Community Centers, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Save the Gulf Partners with JeffCAP

Save the Gulf is comprised of private citizens from the West Coast who have a genuine concern for our nation. Recently, the movement started an initial trip to southeastern Louisiana where volunteers worked very hard to collect supplies and clothing from the West Coast to give to victims of the oil spill.

Sponsorships for these trips are provided by donations through Universe Broadcasting. The movement consists of over 30,000 "patriots" assisting the victims of the oil spill.

Save the Gulf donated clothing and other supplies to the JeffCAP community centers in June and July to assist needy citizens and victims. Visit www.savethegulfcrew.com and the Save the Gulf notes section on Facebook for more info.

JeffCAP Oil Spill Assistance

In June, JeffCAP sent staff members to the Grand Isle Community Center and the Jean La-

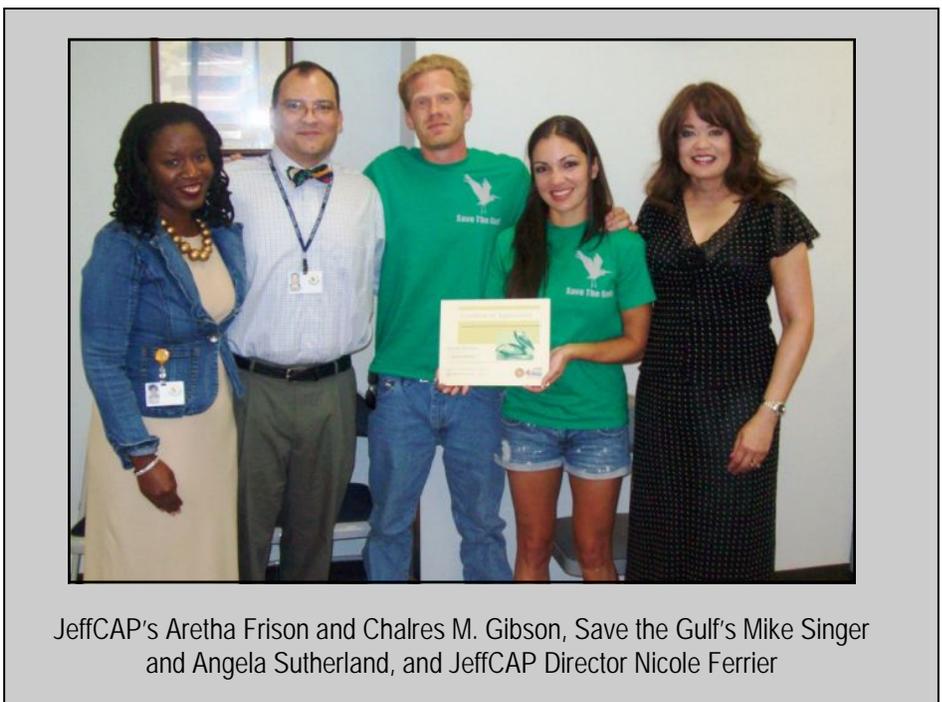
fitte Council Chambers to collect applications for supportive services to victims of the recent oil spill. Funds and employment opportunities are available for citizens in these areas. For more information, call 504-736-6167.

JeffCAP RSVP, Our Home Louisiana Coalition Partner for Coastal Care Fairs

Several JeffCAP RSVP volunteers served citizens during the Coastal Care Fairs hosted by the Our Home, Louisiana Coalition. Volunteers worked the fair at the Jefferson Parish Library Lafitte Branch and the Jefferson West Bank Regional Library.

The explosion of the BP oil rig has radically affected the environment and the physical and economic health of our friends and neighbors in south Louisiana.

Founded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, the coalition provided health information and resources as well as other services related to the well-being of the affected communities. The activities of the coalition included:



JeffCAP's Aretha Frison and Chalres M. Gibson, Save the Gulf's Mike Singer and Angela Sutherland, and JeffCAP Director Nicole Ferrier

- Health screenings
- Children’s programming
- Job opportunity information
- Social service programs
- Public health information
- Wellness information and stress management workshops

Recently, Our Home, Louisiana Coalition teamed with Magellan Behavioral Health to launch a toll-free information resource line that provides assistance with the management of stress and anxiety related to the Gulf oil spill.

Call 1-800-424-1856 to learn more about the mental health support available to you. For more information, visit ourhomelouisiana.org.

State, Parish Officials Toured Oil Spill in Jefferson Parish

Representatives of the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) and Louisiana Community Action Partnership (LACAP) toured Jefferson Parish communities affected by the oil spill.

In addition, Mayor Tim Kerner of Lafitte and Jefferson Parish officials attended the tour to Lafitte and Grand Isle.

“We want to see first hand how the community action agencies we work with through Community

Services Block Grant funding are helping those most affected by the continuing disaster in the Gulf,” said Johnny Riley, director of LWC Workforce Development. “These agencies help to provide front-line assistance where it is needed most.”

The tour started at the Lafitte Town Hall and included a boat tour of the area impacted by the oil spill around Grand Isle. A meeting was held to discuss plans by LWC and LACAP to provide support services in the area. Participating with Riley was Jane Killen, executive director of LACAP; Tamarlion Carter, special project manager and coordinator of community action agency activities for LWC; **Anatola Thompson**, executive director of Jefferson Parish Community Development; **Sharon Wegner**, local area coordinator for the Jefferson Parish Department of Workforce Connection; Save the Gulf representatives; **Aretha Frison**, JeffCAP information specialist; **Elaine O’Conner**, of JeffCAP; and **Nicole Ferrier**, Executive Director of JeffCAP.

The group continued its tour of the affected area following the

meeting and returned to Lafitte.

“JeffCAP provides assistance to the citizens of Jefferson Parish every day,” said Director Ferrier. “During state emergencies, we strive to provide even more supportive services to help people in need. Our goal is to help people who need temporary assistance become self-sufficient.”

For more information related to the oil spill, visit <http://www.emergency.louisiana.gov>. Connect with us on <http://www.facebook.com/GOHSEP> and on Twitter @GOHSEP. View photos from the state’s response efforts at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lagohsep>.

Irvin Mayfield “Playhour” Event

JeffCAP had the privilege of accepting an invitation from the Irvin Mayfield Jazz Playhouse to be one of its spotlighted agencies during its weekly event in June.

The Playhouse in the Royal Sonesta Hotel has launched “Playhour: Networking with Jazz,” a business networking happy hour every Thursday. JeffCAP staff and partners attended the event alongside Each One, Save One and The Phoenix of New Orleans, two local non-profit organizations.

Aimed at emerging entrepreneurs, successful business leaders, non-profits, local companies, and social networking organizations, “Playhour” is the crossroads where professionals are able to mingle, share ideas, and socialize, all in the speakeasy setting of the Playhouse. Special thanks to the staff members and partners who attended this special event that consisted of hors d’oeuvres, drink specials, and music!



RSVP Coordinator Elizabeth Cook with volunteer in Lafitte

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Chrystal Clofer** on the birth of her beautiful daughter, **Kirsten Kalea**, born on July 14, 2010.

Also, congratulations to our C.O.E. student workers **Baley Bayham, Willie Parker, and Arisha Campbell**, as they have graduated from high school and will attend college in the fall. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.



Streets' scholarly COE workers

Service Pins

We're sorry to have omitted service pin recognition from our last article. The Service Pins were awarded to the following employees at our picnic, which was held in April. *15 years of service:* **Amber C. Breaux**; *10 years of service:* **Leroy Smith, Denise D. Chavers, Lionel J. Florence,** and **Troy C. Gilmore**; *5 years of service:* **Maria G. Cooper, Brandon R. Calmette**. Congratulations to everyone on their years of service.

Fundraiser

On Friday, July 23, our Department held a *Brown Bag Lunch Day* for the Jefferson Children's

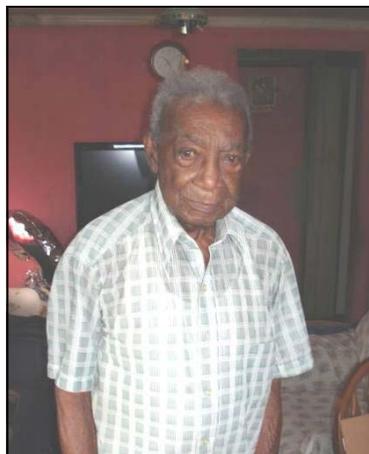
Advocacy Center. We collected \$165.00, which surpasses last year's collection of \$113.00. Hot dogs, chili, and dessert were served. Thanks to everyone who participated, as we must do all we can to fight child abuse.

Condolences

Our condolences go to **Curtis Grimes** on the passing of his mother, and to **John Jackson** on the passing of his grandmother. Also, condolences go to **Roslyn Knox** for the passing of her mother-in-law. We're very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Retiree News

I've been informed that **Mr. Jordan Scott** is Jefferson Parish's longest living retiree. He's 99 years old, and it has been 37 years since he retired. Mr. Scott was hired by the Department of Roads and Bridges on September 9, 1957, and worked for 16 years before retiring on October 15, 1973. He was born on May 15, 1911, and is still going strong today, as he still walks to the grocery store and says he feels great. What an achievement!



1973 retiree Mr. Jordan Scott

Engineering

By
Amanda Owens

This year, for the annual Jefferson Child Advocacy Center Brown Bag Lunch Campaign, the Engineering Department raised a total of \$335.00, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of **Suzanne Lollis**, who brought in baskets of delicious fresh-baked muffins, candies, and treats. Street Lighting, Capital Projects, SCADA, and Traffic Engineering also pitched in to help out. Thank you to everyone who pitched in, and Suzanne and **Rick Speeg** for providing the goodies.

Congratulations to **Cindy Dominique** on the birth of her second grandchild, Charles Mahner, who graced us with his presence on May 11. Big brother Jackson is quite happy with the new addition to his family, or so Grandma says!

Welcome back to **Peggy McMurray**, Division Manager of Street Lighting. It just wasn't the same without you around.

Holocaust Survivor Passes

We extend our condolences to **Jeff Wasserman**, one of our Draftsmen, who lost his father recently. Martin Wasserman was a Holocaust Survivor, who spent time in the Radom Ghetto in Poland, as well as in Auschwitz, before being liberated from Dachau. He has been interviewed by both Tulane University and Steven Spielberg's Shoah Visual History Foundation about his experiences during World War II. Our thoughts go to the Wasserman family during this difficult time.

Citizens' Affairs

By
Tracie Chaix

Employee of the Year

Congratulations are in order for our Executive Superintendent, **Dorothia Halligan**, who is Citizens' Affairs "Employee of the Year." Dorothia has worked in the department for the past 24 years, and she has helped make Jefferson Parish Carnival and Special Events what it has become for the past two decades! The Parade season wouldn't "ROLL" smoothly without her. Keep up the great work, Dorothia!



CA's Employee of the Year
Dorothia Halligan

15 year service award

We would also like to congratulate **Brandie Lange** on her 15 years of service with Jefferson Parish. Brandie's Parish career includes working in various Parish departments, which include Parish Photographer, Library Administration, Environmental Affairs, Inspection and Code Enforcement, and Citizens' Affairs. We are grateful to have Brandie for her upbeat personality and her vast knowledge!



Brandie Lange has achieved 15 years of Parish service

Senior Citizens' Gala

The first annual Jefferson Parish Senior Citizens' Gala was held June 25, 2010, at Angel Square in Bridge City. **Wayne Ory**, Coordinator of Senior Citizens' Services, along with **Mary Nelson**, organized the function, which had an attendance of more than 650 seniors.

Music was provided by DJ Rockin Ron, and entertainers included the Dance Quarter Professional Dancers, Darling Beginners Line Dancers from Metairie Senior Center, and Seniors Toe The Line from the Gretna Golden Ages. Everyone enjoyed dancing, hot dogs, and hamburg-

ers. All of the seniors expressed their gratitude to have the opportunity for such a wonderful day together and that a great time was had by all!



Congressman Cao was a surprise guest at the Senior Gala



Costume Contest winners at the Senior Citizens' Gala

Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

Forecast, Prepare, Act.

The 2010 hurricane season is gearing up for the “peak” months of August, September, and October. We have already experienced one hurricane, Alex, and one tropical storm, Bonnie.

The greatest dangers posed by hurricanes are storm surge, flooding, and extended power outages. The following guidelines are to help you protect your family: Document your personal property by videotape; create a portable file of all your financial documents; develop a family readiness plan and discuss each family member’s role; prepare for family members with special needs; keep your vehicle(s) in good running condition with a full tank of gas; plan where your family will go during an emergency in advance; determine how you will fund your evacuation; make sure your property is secured; and listen to local officials and news broadcasts.

Since April 21, 2010, the Emergency Management Department has supplemented federal, state, and local officials in regards to the Deepwater Horizon incident on a 7-day and sometimes 24-hour schedule. We would like to thank the following for their dedication: **Kenneth Padgett, Charles Hudson, Thomas Rodrigue, Paula Blackwell, Timmy Gautreau, Karen Daviss, Gerard Doris, Brian Duplaisir, Melissa Helmers, Ben Williams, and Williesteen Burroughs** as well as **Dave Saunders** with the E/B Consolidated Fire Department.

Congratulations to **Thomas J. Rodrigue, Jr.**, Flood Plain Manager and Community Rating System Coordinator, in upgrading the parish’s Community Rating System (CRS) classification from a Class “7” to a Class “6.” This upgrade resulted in an additional 5% community discount on all flood insurance policies renewed after May 1, 2010.

We would like to welcome **Paula Blackwell** to our Emergency Management family as our new Flood Plain Manager and Community Rating System Coordinator. She is working alongside **Tom Rodrigue** until his departure in December. She comes to us from Lafreniere Park after receiving her BA, Cum Laude, in Homeland Security from Tulane University in December 2009.

Sorry we missed recognizing Lance Corporal Jordan Encalade in the military issue. Lance is the son of **Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade** and is serving as a K-9 specialist with the Marine military police in Afghanistan.



Jordan M. Encalade with K-9 partner Sarah in Afghanistan

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

Welcome to new employee **Elkedria “Kedria” Richardson**, Administrative Assistant in the Director’s Office. Kedria comes to us after prior employment with Code Enforcement, Human Resource Management, and most recently with the Purchasing Department. We are excited to have her aboard. She will be a great addition to our department.



Kedria Richardson

We also welcome **Charles Ward**, who is a transient appointment to Maintenance Repairman while Mr. **Ron Ellison** is serving with the National Guard working with the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response.

Farewell to **Lorna Dart**, Workforce Connection Vocational Counselor, and **Gaynell Dumas**, Juvenile Detention Officer, who recently resigned. We wish them all the best.

Retirement - Mr. **Joseph Marshall**, Juvenile Detention Officer, retired June 18, 2010, after more

than 25 years of employment with Jefferson Parish. We wish him much happiness in his retirement.

The week of July 19-23 was "Probation Officer Appreciation Week." In appreciation for their hard work, dedication, and commitment, they were treated to breakfast by Director **Roy Juncker**, and an afternoon ice cream social by the probation supervisors. We just want to thank them and show appreciation for all they do for the Department of Juvenile Services and the clients we serve.

The Jefferson Parish Children and Youth Planning Board (CYPB), chaired by department director Roy L. Juncker, Jr., were presented with the 2010 Award for Leadership in Juvenile Justice Reform by the National Juvenile Justice Network (NJNJ). This is the inaugural year for the award, which is given to individuals and organizations that have engaged in exceptional advocacy and serve as visionary leaders for juvenile justice system reform in their state or region.

Director Juncker said, "The goal of Jefferson Parish is to be a model site for juvenile justice reform, and this recognition is taking us one step closer to becoming a model site in Louisiana and the rest of the country."

The Department of Juvenile Services was also presented with an award by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Action Network for our commitment to eliminating the disparate treatment of youth of color in the juvenile justice system.

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

Congratulations to **Donald "Don" Murray**. Don has been promoted to the position of General Superintendent, West Bank Sewer Treatment Plants. He replaces **Pedro Rivera**, who retired in May.

Don was previously Plant Superintendent for the Harvey Sewer Treatment Plant. He has worked in the Sewerage Department for over 20 years. Don began employment with Jefferson Parish in May of 1988 as a Laborer in the Water Department and worked his way up into various positions over the years: Trades Helper in the Department of Sewerage in May of 1989; Pump Equipment Mechanic in February of 1991; and then to Harvey Treatment Plant Superintendent in August 2005, just before Hurricane Katrina made landfall.



Don Murray

Don holds four Louisiana class IV operator certifications in both Water and Sewerage. In regard to his new General Superintendent position Don says, "While some of the responsibili-

ties and challenges before me appear monumental, I will stand before them and believe my 100% effort will conquer them. Being a man of faith, I am confident that even the seemingly impossible is possible. My desire is to be proactive regarding the needs of the five West Bank plants to ensure they are compliant according to state and federal parameters. It's also my goal that they are operated and maintained efficiently so as to provide an effective, essential service to the public we are employed to serve."

Good Bye, Congratulations, and Hello!

Congratulations to our retiree – **Al Breaux**. Al retired from the East Bank Lift Stations Division on June 25 with 25 years of service. Best wishes to Al.

Welcome to our new hires: **Fitzgerald Fredericks**, who has been promoted from General Services to Trades Helper with East Bank Lift Stations. Congratulations, Fitzgerald!

Corey Miller joins us as a Laborer with Line Rehab, **Rickey Banks** joins us as a Laborer with East Bank Lines, **Mark Sicuro** joins us as a Laborer with the Harvey Plant, **George Jackson** joins us as a Laborer with West Bank Lift Stations, and **Mary Heirsch** joins us as a Lift Station Inspector with West Bank Lift Stations. We welcome all of you to the Department of Sewerage!

Summer Workers!

When this issue prints, the time will be approaching for students to go **Back to School**. We'll be losing our Summer Workers – **Kirsty Allison** and **Kelly Blakesley**. These young ladies have been a tremendous help to our Admini-

stration office staff this summer. They've assisted with filing, copying, sorting documents, organizing files, shredding, etc. We offer our sincere thanks to Kirsty and Kelly. We'll miss both of you!

Happy 105th Birthday!

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Irma Bower Trigo, who celebrated her 105th birthday on July 8, 2010. Mrs. Trigo is the grandmother of Sewerage Superintendent **Nathan Allison**. She has resided in Old Jefferson for the past 57 years. Again, Happy Birthday Mrs. Irma Bower Trigo. God Bless You with many more happy years!

Children's Advocacy Center Fundraiser!

Department of Sewerage employees sponsored fundraisers and a Brown Bag Lunch in support of the Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center, donating a total of \$151.00. We thank **Cindy Gallo** (chairperson) and **Jane Lennie** (co-chairperson) for their efforts in coordinating this project to help abused children. We also thank all of our donors and those who supported our fundraisers.



10 Year Service Pins – Seated: Raymond Champagne and Stuart Lane; Standing David Toups (2nd from left), Jane Lennie (center). Pictured with Superintendent Luis Vergara, Administrative Assistant Venice Cooper, Director Brett P. Todd, Acting Superintendent Morris Sapia, and Rehab Manager Pablo San Martin. Not pictured – Kristopher O'Neal

What You Need To Know About Sewer Overflows (Part 1)

Did you know that sewer overflows are usually the result of inappropriate materials flowing into the sewer system? Sewer backups and overflows are frequently caused by improper materials entering the sewer system.

When grease from meat fats, lard, oil shortening, butter/margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces, and dairy products are washed down sinks, grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (in both private property pipes and public sewer pipes). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

The buildup of fats, oils, and grease in the sewer system causes sewer blockages, which eventually result in sewer backups that can overflow into streets and into homes, damaging property and the environment. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. Detergent products, intended to dissolve grease, may pass it down the line and cause problems elsewhere.

Look for more information about sewer backups and overflows in the next *En Realite* edition.



Rodney Blanchard (center) receives his 15-year pin from Superintendent Luis Vergara and Sewerage Director Brett Todd

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Summer has begun and the Department of Drainage continues to grow with the addition of a new employee and a few well-deserved promotions.

First, we'd like to extend a warm welcome to **Charles Rivet**, who will be assigned to the West Bank Pump Station.

A special "job well done" goes out to employees that received promotions these past few months. They include **Latrenda McGhee**, **Ronard Frank**, **Brenda Bush**, and **Duane Martinez**. Congratulations to you all.

We've also enjoyed the company of our summer worker, **Stephen Stuart**. Although he will soon be leaving us after such a short visit, his presence will surely be missed in the Administrative office.

Our heartfelt condolences go to **Diane Sumler** and her family for the loss of Diane's sister, Brenda Percy Smith, on June 23, 2010. Services were held on July 3 and were filled with friends and family that truly loved and cared about Brenda.

Alario Center

By
Deidre Cummings

Basketball on the Bayou

The Alario Center hosted Basketball on the Bayou in July, the largest tournament of the season. This season 162 of the most elite teams from around the country came to the Alario Center. The tournament is held during one of the few weeks that an NCAA coach can observe a player and travel teams.

This year nearly 400 NCAA colleges & universities converged on the Alario Center to observe the women's college basketball stars of tomorrow. Basketball on the Bayou is a premier event for girls teams. Next summer we have a similar boys event to join the girls for the summer college observation season.

Exotic Pet Expo

October 9 & 10 will bring back the Louisiana Exotic Pet Expo & Sale as well as the Louisiana Bird Show. This is a great event for exotic pet owners ranging from reptiles to ferrets to birds of all types. Not only exotic pets but everything you need

to care for them is sold. Live shows are also offered every hour from Larry the Birdman and Croc Encounters. Even if you aren't in the market for a new pet, there will be lots to see and do!

Volleyball Tourney for Breast Cancer

October 22-24 will bring a new event to the Alario Center, the DIG PINK Breast Cancer Awareness Volleyball Tournament. The Side-Out Foundation is fighting breast cancer through the sport of volleyball and encourages teams to wear special pink uniforms. The tournament is played entirely with pink volleyballs. The DIG PINK will feature high school & middle school teams from around the area and is being spearheaded by Lagniappe Volleyball.

USA Gymnastics

Looking ahead to 2011, we are excited to be again hosting some large-scale events. Last March we were lucky to host the USA Gymnastics State Meet. After the success of that meet, the Alario Center was chosen to host the 2011 USA Gymnastics Level 9 & 10 Regional Championships, April 15-17, 2011.

The Regional Championships will bring the two highest levels of competition from an eight-state region to the Alario Center to decide who moves on to the National Championships. Through a very competitive bid process, the Alario Center was also chosen to again host the USA Gymnastics State Meet in March 2011. Also in large-scale events, the FIRST Robotics Bayou Regional will return to the Alario Center in March 2011 for their second year at the center.

For additional information on upcoming events, please visit www.alariocenter.com



A Drainage crew hard at work

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Traffic Engineering would like to congratulate the following employees on their recent promotion to Sign Technician II. **Roosevelt Baggett, Allen Flettrich, Christopher Garton, Dwight Lewis, and Ray Leblanc.** Well deserved by each of you. Keep up the good work, guys!

Welcome aboard to new Sign Technician I **Stephen Clesi.** Stephen is doing a fantastic job learning the ropes here. We're happy to have you with us.

A fond farewell to **Bruce Froelich,** Sign Designer, who retired on June 18, 2010, with 31 years of service. Bruce can be credited with maintaining our sign shop with the latest up-to-date technology, equipment, and machinery, essentially enabling our Division to double the capacity for sign designing and fabrication. Most notable are the Mardi Gras, St Patrick, and Irish Italian Parade



Sign Tech Stephen Clesi

signs that Bruce truly enjoyed designing. We wish you a happy retirement, Bruce!

Last but not least, we would like to congratulate **Joseph R. Parker, Jr.,** on the birth of his first granddaughter. Serenity Lauryn Lovely was born on June 10, 2010, weighing in at a whopping 5 pounds 15 ounces. Proud parents Loren and Jacyntha Lovely could not be happier.



Bruce Froelich (Center) is congratulated upon his retirement by Traffic Engineering Superintendents Larry Soileau and Armand Kerlec

Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

We are pleased to announce our new staff member, **Katrina Van Every,** Planner II.

Congratulations to **Jessica Duet,** Planner II, who received her 5-year service award pin, and **Carolyn Hidalgo,** Secretary, who received her ten-year service award pin.

Tanisha Johnson and **Diana Soileau** were delighted to wear the Saints' Super Bowl 2010 ring, which belongs to an employee of Jefferson Parish.



Darlene Duet was coordinator of the Brown Bag Lunch for Children's Advocacy Center on July 23. A delicious lunch of hot dogs and homemade chili was served. Thanks to all who participated in this successful event.

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

We are sad to say goodbye to Storm Water Division Environmental Quality Technician II **Jenna Dorwood**. Jenna is leaving us to study Dosimetry at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas. A dosimetrist is part of the radiation oncology team, which helps to treat cancer patients via radiation therapy. We wish Jenna the best of luck!

Congratulations to Landfill Engineer **Rick Buller**, who received the American Society of Civil Engineers New Orleans Branch's Award for Outstanding Government Civil Engineer for 2010. The award was presented at a luncheon held at Ralph's on the Park in New Orleans on July 21. Way to go, Rick!

Congratulations are also in order to our Coastal Programs Division Environmental Quality Supervisor **Jason Smith** for his 15 years of service to Jefferson Parish and to Industrial Pretreatment Program Environmental Quality Specialist **James Schultz** for 10 years of service!

Environmental would like to thank our two summer workers for all of their help. **Buck Adams** and **Daniel Mire** have been with us for the last couple of summers and both have been a great asset to our department.

Environmental Affairs hopes everyone is enjoying the summer and reminds everyone to "Fight the Bite," taking proactive steps to prevent mosquito bites.

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Community Development celebrated National Homeownership Week in June with a proclamation stressing its importance. Homeownership strengthens families and provides citizens with an opportunity to accumulate wealth through self-sufficiency.

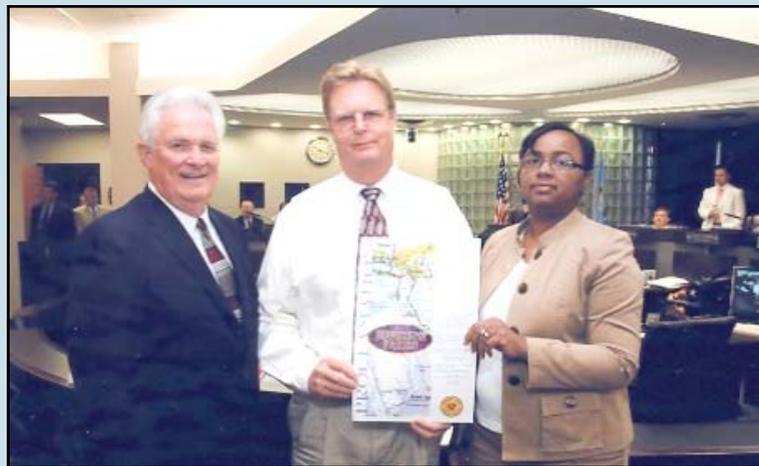
CD's First-time Homebuyer Assistance Program helps low- and moderate-income citizens achieve the "American dream" of affordable homeownership with financial assistance through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). In this era of post-recovery, CD's housing program is even more crucial for our citizens to have an opportunity for affordable homeownership.

HOME Program Manager **Kim Thompson** reports the First-Time Homebuyer Assistance Program that opened with a lottery in February is wrapping up. Housing Counselor II

Emann Batiste scheduled appointments and interviewed the last of the 251 lottery participants. Housing Improvement Counselor II **Liz Ruth** has been processing papers for the eligible participants. The program's guidelines are posted on CD's webpage.

Project Coordinator **Jim Bush** reports the Beechgrove Housing Project has moved to Phase 2 with the construction of 10 new homes well under way. The Westwego homes are available to eligible low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers. In addition, Community Development will assist eligible purchasers with a grant of up to \$50,000 towards the down payment and closing costs required to purchase the homes.

All homes have three bedrooms, two baths, a single car garage, and an open floor plan. Tonda Adolph of RE/MAX, the contact person marketing the homes, can be reached at 504-430-1170 or 504-328-2926. At the completion of the project, a total of 32 beautiful new homes will have been built in the Beechgrove Subdivision.



Parish President Steve Theriot presents CD's Kim Thompson and Director Anatola Thompson a proclamation of National Home Ownership Month

Director **Anatola Thompson** and Parish Planner III **Faye Gal-land** guided the completion of Community Development's Five-Year Consolidated Plan for 2010-2014. The plan has been delivered to HUD and is awaiting approval.

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the Jefferson HOME Consortium is required by Title I of the National Affordable Housing Act and includes the 2010 Action Plan (budget). The Consortium encompasses Jefferson Parish, the City of Kenner, and St. Charles Parish and addresses home ownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons, as well as housing and supportive services for homeless and special needs populations.

An estimated 1600 households are expected to be assisted in the 2010 Action Plan. More than \$1.3 million has been allocated for public facilities and infrastructure improvements. Moreover, CDBG funds will be used to address public services, such as counseling and homeownership training, supportive housing, homeless outreach, and more. A community needs survey was widely distributed to citizens to solicit their concerns as part of the citizen participation component of the Consolidated Plan. A copy of the Plan is available for review in Suite 605.

Executive Assistant **Marilyn Beucler** has a new twinkle in her eye with the arrival of her newest great grandchild, a beautiful, precious baby girl. Baby Claire is the daughter of Hillary and Andrew "Drew" Burmaster of Metairie.

CD's staff participated in the Brown Bag Lunch in July and raised \$92 to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center. Thanks all.

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Our 2010 Fall Activity Guide will be available in mid-August on our website at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page, or can be obtained at all local playgrounds and libraries. For information about our programs, call the respective office (East Bank – 736-6999 or West Bank 349-5000) or e-mail jprecreation@jeffparish.net

Football, volleyball, and cheerleading registration begin in early August. Be sure to register your child. Basketball registration begins in late October.

Summer is a very active time for our department as it is baseball/softball season – the largest of all seasons. Add to that the use of our facilities for picnics, parties, reunions, etc., not to mention the upkeep of the grounds. Sincerest thanks and congratulations to all of our employees for a job well done! We could not do it without you.

On September 30 volunteers will join our employees to build another KaBOOM playground at Delta. Starbucks is the funding partner. It is a day of work and fun for all. Anyone interested in assisting, please call our East Bank office.

Employee News:

Congratulations to Gina and **Barry McGuinness!** They welcomed their second daughter, Emma Grace, on June 9. Barry is Manager of Lafreniere Park.

Congratulations to Jessica and **Gary Schmidt!** They welcomed their first child. Cole Joseph, on June 1. Gary is the Center Supervisor at Little Farms Playground.

Dawn Caple, EB Leisure Services, welcomed her first grandchild on May 16. Ashlynn Rose was born to Wayne and Jessica Andras.

Get well wishes to **Sana Winck**, Harvey Playground Supervisor.

Jacob Krummel, West Bank Maintenance, has a new grandson, Vincent Jayden Martinez, born on July 15.

Welcome to our new employee, **Daniel Johnson**, Operator I, West Bank Maintenance.

Parks and Recreation employees were recently honored at a brunch in recognition for their years of service:

35 years – **Gerri Williams, Anna "Bidde" Winfield**

30 years – **Anthony Guidry, Ivory Arbuthnot, Elaine Hart, Mary Puderer**



Code Enforcement Director Loren Marino presents Plumbing Inspector Al Chauvin his 15 year pin

Water

By
Susie Cunningham

New Assistant Director

Congratulations to our new Assistant Director, **Doug Pertuit**. Doug began his employment with Jefferson Parish, and more specifically, with Water, in 1986. He held various positions through the years, most recently Water Purification Superintendent II in our West Bank Water Treatment Plant. We know Doug will be missed in the plant, but we are happy to have him as our new Assistant Director!



Doug Pertuit

Farewell to Summer Worker

It's time to say good-bye to one of our three summer workers, **Michelle Adams**, of our Water Lab. We wish her the best as she goes back to school. Our remaining summer workers, **Carla Joseph** and **Javalyn Session**, will be with us until September.

Service Pin Awards

The following employees recently received pins for their years of dedicated service to Jefferson Parish. Five-year pins were awarded to **Edward Huntsberry**, **David Mahner**, and **Masashi Takekawa**. Ten-year pins were awarded to **Trudell Edgerson**, **George Roth**, **Patrick Smith**, and **Gwendolyn Sanders**. And

Ralph Andrews of East Bank Utility Billing received his fifteen year pin.

New Employees, Transfers, and Promotions

Welcome aboard to our new employee, **Edward Mains** – Pump Equipment Mechanic. We've also had two employees transfer to us. Coming to us from the Animal Shelter is **Michelle Rahm**, a Water Service Inspector; and transferring from West Bank Outside Maintenance and joining East Bank Utility Billing is **Eric Thompson**, Water Service Inspector II.

Recently promoted were **Myron Romero**, Water Purification Superintendent II; **David Bailey**, Waterline Maintenance Foreman; **Anthony Peters**, Equipment Operator III; and **Davan Friloux**, Water Service Inspector II. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

Certification Exams

The Water Department has asked all Water Purification Plant Operators to consider taking the State of Louisiana opera-

tor certification exams. Once passing the required state exams, Water Purification Operators become certified and licensed under state law. Although Plant Superintendents are required to have the necessary licenses, Plant Operators are gaining the certifications 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. Also taking exams were some Outside Maintenance personnel. The Water Department would like to congratulate the following employees on passing exams given on 11/16/2009: **Robert Armand**, **Keisha Barnes**, **Daniel Barrilleaux**, **David Bertucci**, **James Boulware**, **William Bryant**, **Jonathan Frank**, **Mervin Graves**, **Willie Jordan**, **Sal Maffei**, **David Mahner**, **Arthur Maillet**, **Rusk Marcotte**, and **Bobbie Wilson**. Since there are a number of levels of certification, some personnel will continue on the path to Class 4 certification. We would like to wish them the best in those efforts.



Water's Assistant Director Doug Pertuit (left) and Director Mitch Theriot (right) present service pins to Patrick T. Smith, George Roth, Trudell Edgerson, and Gwendolyn Sanders

Transit

By
Patricia Lyons

New Jefferson Transit Buses

Jefferson Parish Department of Transit Administration has placed eighteen new public transportation buses on the streets of Jefferson Parish, both East Bank and West Bank. "We are very excited, as are our riders and the public, about our new sleek style Jefferson Transit buses," says Mr. **Ryan D. Brown**, Director of Transit Administration.

Seventeen buses are 40 feet long and accommodate 39 passengers. The other bus is 29 feet long and holds 26 passengers. The buses operate on biodiesel fuel and accommodate wheelchairs with a ramp rather than a lift gate. All buses are low-floor loading, which makes it easier and faster for riders to board. The buses have special features which include Bus Rapid Transit front and rear cap styling, digital radios, cameras, and upgraded destination signs. Jefferson Transit purchased the new vehicles with funds from the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Outreach Days

As Jefferson Transit Security outreach days continue, another outreach was held on July 22 at the Wilty Terminal. Information was given on how to remain safe in the event there is a transit emergency. Also during the outreach, riders were informed on what to do and report when witnessing suspicious activity. Jefferson Transit provided scheduled booklets and security brochures.

Health Issues

By
Peggy Brannan, RN



Just imagine, you reflect back on how good your life has been. Be it school, work, or your personal life, you have always been at the top of your game. No troublesome issues in your life as everything you ever touched seemed to turn to gold.

Then, out of nowhere, you are involved in an auto accident. What should be a routine course of treatment for a broken leg quickly begins to take on a life of its own. But who could have predicted where this would lead?

You have just woken up after surgery to unbearable pain. You've never experienced pain beyond what an over-the-counter analgesic could fix. You ask the nurse for relief. The nurse promptly returns with a pain shot, RELIEF...!

As the recovery process

moves forward, pain is unavoidable. But a funny thing has started to happen. Instead of a gradual tapering off of the pain and pain killers, a craving for the next dose of the pain killer is starting to take hold.

More and more now, the desire for the narcotic seems to be the most important driving force. What once was a desire to relieve pain, has become a desire to feel normal. Life has changed dramatically! The drug is in control.

Could it be that this person has become addicted to their pain killer? For a percentage of people, their body chemistry may react in such a way that places them at risk for addiction to narcotics. Unfortunately, it is not until after the narcotic is taken that the addiction is manifest. Many will not recognize what is happening and may be in denial that they even have an addiction.

So, what is one to do? If you believe that you or a loved one may have an addiction, contact your doctor at once. Participation in an addiction treatment program may be just what is needed to get your life back!



One of the fleet of new Jefferson Transit buses cruising our streets

Library

By
Mark Deane

The Library is wrapping up another busy Summer Reading Program that had more than 7,500 people signed up to participate. The staff at all of our branches has worked extremely hard putting together successful programs for patrons of all ages. In fact, over the two months of Summer Reading we had more than 400 events.

Some of the more noteworthy events:

- Japanamanga was a creative and popular program organized by Librarian II **Andrea Heingarten** at Wagner and North Kenner Libraries. It combined several Japan-related favorites into a fun activity, including manga (Japanese-style comic books), Wii games, and Candy Sushi.
- East Bank Regional had its own version of MTV's game show *Silent Library*, hosted by Librarian II **Selena Muhoberac** in the Teen Center. Enough teens showed up to play three rounds of the game which requires the contestants to do crazy things while not laughing to win the prize.
- Teens at West Bank Regional got a chance to learn how to knit at a weekly knitting club. Librarian II **Natalie Miller** also says teens enjoyed the new movie screen in the West Bank Regional meeting room.
- Librarian II **Eric Krieger** at Live Oak Library says he saw an increase in young readers and praised one thoughtful program

that prepared children for disasters by having them pack a pillow case with emergency items.

- At Old Metairie Library, a pirate-themed story time and craft entertained children. Librarian II **Suzanne Upshaw** and Librarian I **Verna Geihlsler** put together the event, reading a pirate story, then showing the kids how to make pirate eye patches and treasure maps.
- Librarian II **Erin Korosi** held a *Magic Tree House* Read-In, where children brought their pillows and sleeping bags to the East Bank Regional Children's Department and read books from the *Magic Tree House* series.
- Children at Belle Terre Library got to see two fire trucks up close and learn about fire safety from the Marrero Ragusa Fire Department.
- At Gretna Library, Librarian II **Gwen Kelly** says more

than 100 people showed up to see the Zoomobile, including the Boys and Girls Club, who were invited by staff at the library.

We said goodbye to some long-time employees this summer. Library Associate **Mary Ellis Hasseltine** retired after 13 years at East Bank Regional Library. Librarian I **Daisy Griffin** says Mary Ellis was a dedicated worker during her years here. Also retiring is Typist Clerk III **Emilie Nagele**. Emilie says she enjoyed her 14 years in Technical Services and plans to be a frequent patron of the Library.

The Library also helped bring three Coastal Care Fairs to parish communities affected by the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The fairs provided story times, children's activities with Radio Disney, and health and job services. Lafitte Library and West Bank Regional Library hosted two of the events, while the fair in Grand Isle was held at Grand Isle School.



Mary Ellis Hasseltine (second from left) is congratulated by Daisy Griffin, Marilyn Haddican, and Verdie Richburg

We also say farewell and good luck to our summer workers **Michah Jones, Haven Crappel, Taylor Barnett, Charles Wilson, Michelle Umbach, and Hollie Holmes**. Their helpful hands were welcome during this busy summer, and we are grateful.

New faces at the library include: Lafitte Branch Manager **Steve Hammel** and Library Pages **Raquel Pena, Jennifer LaBurre, Elisa Huber, Shiquita Brooks, Zachary McGar, and Keron Mustafa**.

The library is proud to have this year's Parish Employee of the year. Librarian II **Tom Giroir** is this year's recipient of the Joseph S. Yenni Award. Tom received the award for his dedication and hard work, including his overseeing of two libraries – Belle Terre and Grand Isle. Congratulations, Tom.

Congratulations are also in order for Meeting Room Coordinator **Stephanie Williams**. She married Corey Brumfield this summer. When she returns from her honeymoon in Jamaica, she will be Stephanie Brumfield.



Yenni Award Winner Tom Giroir got his hands on the Saints' Championship trophy

Human Resources

By
Dana Lebherz

Phil Rupp Retires: A career of service spanning almost three decades!

When **Phil Rupp** visited New Orleans for the first time in the '70s for Jazz Fest, he found a place that was "unique, laid back, and just wonderful." He wanted to "live easy" in the Big Easy and relocated immediately after completing his MS in Social Welfare at the University of Michigan. In 1980, Phil began a career with the Parish that spanned almost 29 years, witnessing and facilitating many changes in both the Parish and the field of HR.

Phil began his career with the Department of Juvenile Services in 1981. He chose Jefferson Parish as an employer because it offered "stability with opportunities for career growth." A major opportunity arose in 1986 when then-Parish President Joe Yenni instituted a Human Resource Management Department to consolidate and standardize HR practices in the Parish.

Things were very different then. Phil remembers a time when "a drink and a cigarette at my desk were options." Policies we now consider fundamental, such as Transitional Duty and Substance Use were only visions. Throughout the next two decades, Phil was instrumental in designing and implementing many of these policies. "We crafted something that didn't exist prior to 1987," Phil recalls, "a system that communicates

performance expectations and articulates visions into working products."

In the late 90s, Phil was appointed as an HR Administrator, leading a crew of HR managers in the quest to standardize processes among departments and to provide excellence in knowledge and service to management and employees alike. "My position has always been focused on labor relations and cultivating a culture of professionalism while both adhering to law and recognizing the needs of the employees."

Now, after almost thirty years of service, Phil intends to take it easy and do some of the things he hasn't had much time for. Traveling, visiting the family, working on his old cars and taking care of the house are on his to-do list. "I will miss the wonderful relationships I've established," Phil says. HR will miss you too, Phil! In fact, the entire Parish will.

HRM hosts Phil Rupp's Retirement Party

When an HR Administrator with 25+ years of working across departments retires, you know it will be a big deal and a good party! The entire HRM team was up to the challenge of sending Phil Rupp off in style! Director **Feleciano "Junior" Mendoza** and Executive Assistant **Nicole Thompson** were the organizers and facilitators. Many others provided delicious dishes and drinks to feed the hungry crowds. Others helped decorate and set up.

To a background of some of Phil's favorite music and a slideshow featuring photos of Phil

through the years, guests from many departments helped celebrate a great career and a new beginning in retirement. Deputy Chief Operating Officer **Bert Smith** and Director Junior Mendoza presented Phil with his service certificate and other gifts. Finally, Phil cut his custom cake, and we all shared the sweet success of 29 years in public service.

Safety Leads Day of Giving

Once again, Safety Manager **Nolan Guidry** led the charge for the Annual Brown Bag Lunch Campaign Day on July 23. Participating colleagues brought their lunch and contributed what they saved to the Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center. Nolan stated that HR exceeded its donation from last year.

Training Division News

The training division wrapped up the delivery of Workplace Harassment 2010. Over 400 Parish supervisors attended the three-hour course between May 4 and the end of July. Thanks to all supervisors who attended!

Beginning on August 9, Training will present the brand new *End of Probation* program for employees who have recently completed their probationary period. This three-hour session is designed as a follow-up and extension of the *New Employee Orientation* program. It will include discrimination and harassment training for employees, along with customer service and telephone skills to help employees better understand their roles and responsibilities on the job. Directors and Departmental contacts for new hires will be notified by HR regarding which employees will attend.

Free Bio-screenings in August

The 2010 Wellness series continues in August with the long-awaited health screenings. In cooperation with United Health Care, the Benefits Section of HRM has arranged seven different dates and locations on both banks of the river where insured employees can be screened for cholesterol, glucose, and body mass (BMI).

Your department's benefits coordinator will be distributing a list of dates, times, and locations. To take advantage of these free screenings, you need only bring your UHC insurance card. No fasting is required prior to the screening. We hope you take advantage of this chance to learn more about your health.

New Human Resources Administrator Announced

Congratulations to **John Dumas**, who has been promoted from Human Resources Manager to Human Resources Administrator! We wish you the best of luck in your new position!

Parkways

By
Chantell Prestenbach

Parkways would like to take this opportunity to thank the following Parkways employees for an outstanding job for the preparation work for the Island Aid Concert held in Grand Isle: **Kai Adams, Raymond Adras, Don Cole, Kevin Coleman, James Crockett, Brian Grillett, Mike Loup, Jason Montagnino, Mike Muller, Kevin Price, Ronald Stackhouse, Lance Stansberry, and Timothy Whately,**

Congratulations to Farhnam Place for winning the first place award in the Adoption of the Year Award for the Adopt A Parkway Program.

Not only was Parkways giving out awards, but we won one, along with Public Works for Vegetative Management. Congratulations Public Works and Parkways!



HR Director Junior Mendoza and Deputy COO Bert Smith congratulate HR Administrator Phil Rupp (Center) upon his retirement

Retirements

Cynthia Roth
President's Office
32 years

Jacqueline Booker
Animal Shelter
31 years

Bruce Froelich
Traffic Engineering
31 years

Philip Rupp
28 years
Human Resources

Joseph Marshall
Juvenile Services
25 years

Al J. Breaux
Sewerage
25 years

Andrea Melendez
JeffCAP
20 years

Alice Melancon
Code Enforcement
15 years

Emilie Nagele
Library
13 years

Mary Hasseltine
Library
12 years



The staff of Human Resources at Phil Rupp's retirement party on June 17, 2010