



Volume 31
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EM Ready

Message from the Parish President. . .

Time To Prepare

HAVE YOU PREPARED YOUR FAMILY FOR THIS HURRICANE SEASON?

Even with the focus on the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, we need to take time to prepare our homes and families for this hurricane season.

With the Gulf waters already warming up and the predication of an active hurricane season for this year, you can get help in making evacuation plans, tips on protecting property, check-lists for disaster supplies, pet disaster plans, and more by logging onto our website www.jeffparish.net.

An Active Storm Season Is Forecast

According to the NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), 2010 will be a very active hurricane season. NOAA has made the following predictions:

- 14 – 23 named storms (top winds of 39 mph or higher), including:
- 8 – 14 Hurricanes (top winds of 74 mph or higher), of which:
- 3-7 could be Major Hurricanes (Category 3, 4, or 5; winds of at least 111 mph)

Make Use Of JPAlert!

Citizens are encouraged to register with the JPAlert System,



Steve J. Theriot
Parish President

a notification system that allows officials to immediately contact citizens during a major crisis or emergency. These alerts can deliver important emergency messages to an e-mail account (work, home, other), cell phone, pager, and other handheld devices.

The Parish Depends On Us!

When disaster hits our parish, our employees provide the first level of support to our citizens. In past years, I have witnessed Parish employees exhibit professionalism and expertise as they handle enormous amounts of work during and after a storm. For this, I commend all of you.

I hope the conditions in the Gulf of Mexico improve and that we are spared this hurricane season. But if a hurricane comes, we must be ready.

En Realité

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

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Editor's



Notes

**Wellness Program
for Parish Employees**

Statistics show that killers lurk among the employees of Jefferson Parish. These killers are diabetes and hypertension, the two most frequently reported health conditions among our employees. Diabetes alone kills over 70,000 people a year in the U.S., with hypertension killing over 20,000. All of us need to take action to protect ourselves from these crippling and deadly diseases.

One way the Parish is assisting employees to combat diabetes, hypertension, and other health risks is the wellness series of events facilitated by HR's Benefits division; namely Benefits Manager Aubrey DeVillier and Benefits Specialist Cathy Leumont. This program, which began in January, continues throughout the year. Each month highlights a different health topic and provides resources and information specific to that topic.

June's topic is *Taking Charge of Your Health Care*. All employees will receive a number of information sheets, tips, and resources to take the best advantage of the health resources available to them. Information will cover the use of Care 24 (our Employee Assistance Program), the benefits of urgent care facilities, and suggestions on what questions to ask your physi-



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

cian to gain the most knowledge about your health.

July's topic will be *cholesterol*. July will bring lecturers to both banks of the river to discuss cholesterol risks, management, and techniques for lowering your cholesterol. Exact dates, times, and locations will be announced through your department's benefits coordinator.

Bioscreenings Postponed

We mentioned the Bioscreenings planned in concert with United Health Care in our April issue. The event would screen insured employees for cholesterol, body mass, and blood pressure. Unfortunately, the screenings planned for May had to be postponed, and we are now hoping for the event to take place in August. Your benefits coordinator will keep you updated with dates and times as soon as they are available.

We invite all employees to take advantage of the Wellness program and the health resources it provides. If we all become more proactive about our health, we can oust diabetes and hypertension from among us.

Engineering

By
Amanda Owens

Greetings from the Engineering Department! I am honored and thrilled that I was chosen to be the representative spreading the word about what's going on in our wonderful workplace, and I hope to make everyone I'm representing proud!

Welcome Aboard!

Anyone visiting our department will most likely be greeted at the front desk by our newest employee, Typist Clerk II **Suzanne Lollis**. She has already proven to be a wonderful addition, always with a smile on her face and a kind word for everyone. Welcome aboard, Suzanne. We hope you enjoy your experience working with us.



Suzanne Lollis

New Citizen!

The biggest news to come down our pipeline was the recent conferring of United States Citizenship on **Jun Chen** on April 22. Jun, who works in our Drafting Department as a GIS Operator, is a native of China.

After the ceremony, Jun was presented with a cake by his fellow workmates. The next day we were surprised to find not

one, but two beautiful cakes, one for each office, brought in by Jun as a token of appreciation. Please see Page 24 for Jun's thoughts upon achieving US citizenship.

Congratulations, Jun, on achieving one of your greatest dreams. We're all extremely proud of you.



Jun Chen

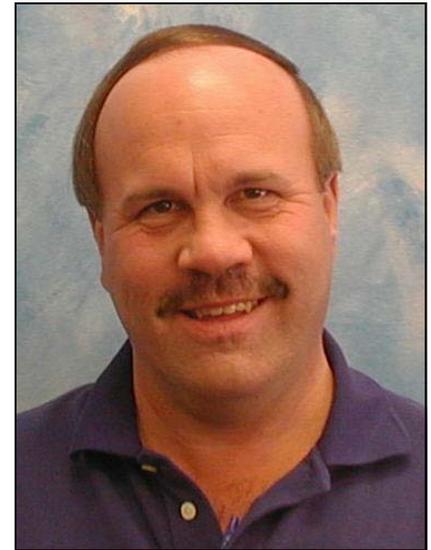
More Congratulations!

Our Director **Mark Drewes** became a first-time grandparent when his daughter welcomed little Caitlin Elizabeth on April 16. Congratulations, Mark. I'm sure she'll be spoiled in no time.

More congratulations must be given to **Zakita Holloway**, who was named Capital Projects Employee of the Year. Zakita has worked as a Secretary in the Capital Projects Department for 2 1/2 years under **Reda Youssef**. Well done!

Condolences

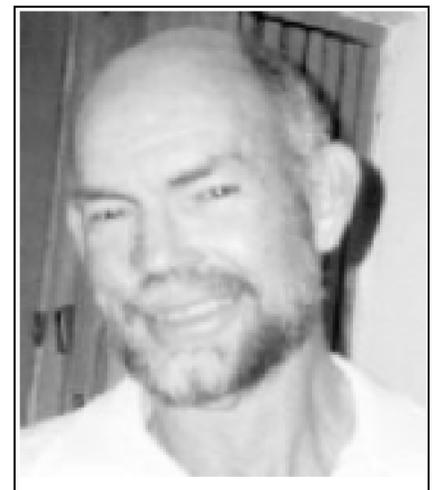
Sadly, the year also brought two losses to the Engineering family. **Mark Peyronnin**, Engineer-in-Training, passed away unexpectedly in February. Mark began working for the Parish in



Mark Peyronnin

1982. He was a kind, generous spirit, always willing to help with anything, always cracking jokes. His loss is still acutely felt, as I'm sure it will be for some time.

Alfred Cason, a Telemetry Technician with SCADA, also passed after a long illness. Even though his health was always fragile, he was a hard-working, diligent team member, respectful to all who met him. He worked for the Parish for over ten years, and even though his loss wasn't entirely unexpected, it has left a deep hole in the hearts of his coworkers.



Alfred Cason

Finance Authority

By
Sheila Rodrigue

Board Member Changes

The Jefferson Parish Finance Authority recently had some changes to our Board of Trustees. In March Barry Bordelon was replaced by Anthony J. Cash.

Mr. Bordelon, who was serving as Chairman, was appointed to our Board in January 2008 and had also previously served as Vice Chairman. Gary Lala was replaced by Jeffrey W. Bennett in April. Mr. Lala served on our Board since March 2008. Welcome to both Mr. Cash and Mr. Bennett.

Due to all the Board member changes, an election of officers was held. Forrest "Bucky" Lanning was elected Chairman, and Frank Muscarello was elected Vice Chairman. Marvin Johnson was re-elected Treasurer, and Michael Drawe was re-elected Secretary.



The Planning Department's new Typist Clerk III Kivana Cole is working in Planning's Land Use Section.

Purchasing a Home in Jefferson Parish?

The Jefferson Parish Finance Authority still has some bond money available for eligible borrowers. If you are purchasing a home in Jefferson Parish and need assistance with your down payment and closing costs or just want some additional down payment, our program may be able to help you. Our mortgage rate of 5.35% has 4% assistance for both down payment and closing costs. And we've just had an increase in the maximum allowed income. The gross family income was increased to a maximum of \$73,440 for a family of one or two and a maximum of \$85,680 for a family of three or more.

If you are interested in getting additional information about our current bond program, including a list of participating lenders, please call our office at 736-6311. The program requirements and a list of participating lenders can also be obtained from our website at www.jpfinanceauthority.com

Personnel

By
Aisha Patrick

The Personnel Department would like to congratulate **Ashley Jambon**, *Personnel Technician II*, on a job well done. Ashley has been chosen as Personnel's 2009 Employee of the Year! She has been with the Parish for 3 ½ years. Congrats, Ashley!



Personnel's Employee of the Year
Ashley Jambon

We would also like to welcome our new hires **Annie Vaughn**, *Personnel Technician I*, and **Loaletha Antoine**, *Clerk I*.



New Personnel Technician
Annie Vaughn



New Clerk I Loaletha Antoine

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

Congratulations to **James Schultz**, Environmental Affairs 2009 Employee of the Year. James, an Environmental Quality Specialist with our Industrial Pre-Treatment Program, has been with us for ten years. James is a real team player and is willing to go the extra mile, always willing to lend a hand to help his co-workers get the job done. James is a dedicated, loyal, and hardworking Parish employee whose work reflects his inner character and is a statement of his personal commitment to excellence on the job.



James Schultz with Environmental Director Marnie Winter

Environmental would like to congratulate all of the winners of the *10th Annual Non-point Source Storm Water Pollution and Solutions Poster/Essay Contest*. The winners were announced at an Awards Banquet held on April 22, 2010, at the East Bank Regional Library in Metairie.

This annual contest is open to students in all Jefferson Parish public, private, and parochial schools. Grades 3 through 6 participate in a poster contest, and grades 7 and 8 participate in an essay contest depicting a potential solution to at least one source of non-point source pollution.



Storm Water Pollution Contest Winners

We'd like to thank the environmental professionals and representatives from the Jefferson Parish Attorney's Office who volunteered their time to help judge the contest entries. The Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs and the cities of Gretna, Harahan, Kenner, and Westwego co-sponsor the contest, which was developed to raise public awareness of non-point source pollution. Non-point sources, such as leakage of automotive fluids, overuse of fertilizers and pesticides, pet wastes, etc., are among the primary causes of storm water pollution.

It's mosquito time again. Here are some tips to keep the annoying little critters away from your home and yards:

- *Check yard weekly for containers that might be holding water.
- *Flush bird baths, small swimming pools, pet water bowls, and bromeliads weekly with water.
- *Don't overwater potted plants; remove water from saucers.
- *Keep swimming pools, fountains,

etc, clean with a pump.

*Stock ponds with minnows.

*Treat swimming pools with appropriate chemicals regularly.

*Make sure roof gutters are clear.

*Fill and re-grade low spots, indentations and tire tracks.

*Remove trash from yard and keep grass mowed.

*Keep boats, barbecue grills, etc. covered or drain regularly.

*Seal voids under slabs with sand or concrete.

*Remove tires from yard by placing them curbside (4/week/home) or bringing them to the nearest trash drop off site (400 David Dr. & 6440 Lapalco Blvd. sites only).

*Fill tree holes with sand or concrete.

* Make sure that all screens are bug tight.

For additional information or to report problems, please call Environmental Affairs at 731-4612.

Last, but not least, we hope you have a great summer.

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Great Accomplishments

The Department of Drainage continued to grow as more new employees were added: **Joseph Cole, Willie Burrell, Adam Mataya, Joviun Chapman, and Virgil Jackson.** We're very happy to extend open arms to our newest members.

Also, special congratulations go to a well deserved group that received promotions: **Latrenda McGhee, Edward Carter, Curtis Johnson, Chris Bourgeois, Willie Mason, and Sean Hymel.** **Wilbert Richardson** is not only receiving a promotion, but he is also a new employee to the department, transferring from the Department of Engineering. Welcome aboard, and we're glad to have you in our family!

During the Council meeting held on April 14, 2010, the Departmental Employee of the



Patsy Firmin, Drainage Employee of the Year, with Public Works Director Kazem Alikhani

Year was recognized for the Department of Drainage. We would like to announce that this high honor was presented to **Patsy Firmin**, a West Bank Drainage employee since 1996. Patsy, an Administrative Assistant, has shown exemplary dedication to all that she does. As a vital part of the department, her expertise in the

Work Order System and years of dedication are truly helpful during heavy rain events when we must communicate with concerned citizens. She truly leads by example. Congrats, Patsy!

Award Pins

The Department of Drainage awarded service pins to employees that have been with us for 5, 10, and 15 years. The following dedicated employees received service pins for 5 years: **Joseph Whitley, Michael P. Blanchard and Chris J. Farve**; 10 years: **Patricia M. Rambeau, Dewey G. Gros, Jr., Cynthia J. Chatman, Lynn R. Champagne and John McClain, Jr.**; and 15 years: **Travis J. Ardoin, Pierre Smith, Robert P. Federico and Debbie A. Brignac.**

We would like to thank you for your hard work thus far and look forward to seeing what you all will accomplish in the future.



Superintendent Lynn Champagne receives her 10-year award from Superintendent Larry Palmisano

Water

By
Susie Cunningham

A Fond Farewell

The Water Department said good-bye to **Gennie Hebert**, Executive Assistant, on April 1 after 11 years of service. Gennie began her career with Jefferson Parish as a Typist Clerk II with Code Enforcement in 1998. She was promoted to Typist Clerk III with West Bank Water's Utility Billing Office in 2000, Administrative Assistant with Citizens' Affairs in 2006, and Executive Assistant with Water's Administrative Office in 2008. Her retirement party was held at the Yenni Building where her family and many friends gathered to celebrate her career and wish her a happy retirement. She will be missed!

Promotions

Congratulations to the following employees. Recently promoted were **Destiny Bratton** - Executive Assistant; **Susie Cunningham** - Administrative Assistant, **Laura Pagoaga** - Payroll Clerk; **James Fisher** - Waterline Maintenance Superintendent I; **Kathryn Ashley** - Utility Billing Collection Supervisor; **Gwendolyn Sanders** - Water Service Inspector III; and **Betty Turner** - Water Service Inspector II.

Welcome aboard to **Michele Wilson** - Utility Billing Collector I. We wish her well as she begins her Water Department career.

Administrative Professionals Day

Water's new Director, **Mitch Theriot**, and his office staff celebrated Administrative Professionals Day by enjoying lunch at Zea's. Everyone had a great time. Thanks, Mitch!

Thanks to all who contributed to the March of Dimes. Our coordinator, **Kathy Theriot**, collected \$125 for the cause.

Military

East Bank Water Treatment Plant employee **Kristin Swearingen** is currently serving overseas in Iraq with the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. We hope she is doing well as she serves our nation in this time of war and wish her a safe return.

Water Treatment Plant and Water Lab Tours

During the month of May, our Administrative staff was taken on a tour of our East Bank and West Bank Water Treatment Plants and our Water Lab. It was very interesting to see all of the machinery and to learn how our water plants produce clean water for the citizens of Jefferson Parish. Our East Bank Plant is currently producing about 42 million gallons of water daily and our West Bank Plant is currently producing about 25 million gallons daily. Our Water

Lab tests water samples for the Drainage Department, Sewerage Department, Sewerage Treatment Plant, and Water Department; and it even tests treated sewerage samples for Ochsner Hospital. A special thanks to Superintendents **Joe Lapine** and **Doug Pertuit** and to Chief Chemist **Sal Maffei** for having us!

Baby news

Congratulations to **Mario Kennedy** on the birth of his son, Mario Darnell Kennedy, Jr. He was born on his father's birthday, April 26, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz. We also wish to congratulate **Monique Baker** on the birth of her son, Jenerow Mekhi Wiley. He was born on March 14.

Also, congratulations to our new grandparents - **Pat Boudreaux** and **Sheryl Kelly** on the birth of their first grandchildren! Pat's grandson, Gavin Christopher Sterling, was born on April 7. Sheryl's grandson, Gary Carroll Kelly III, was born on May 6.



Water Director Mitch Theriot with retiring Executive Assistant Gennie Hebert

Diversity Advisory Board

By
Linda Roy

THIS IS A FIRST! This is the first article submitted on behalf of the Employee Diversity Advisory Board. Please take a minute to read it.

As many of you may not know, the Parish established an Employee Diversity Advisory Board. This was the result of the diversity initiative first launched in 2008.

Fourteen members, nominated by their directors and appointed by the department's CAA's, comprise the Jefferson Parish Employee Diversity Advisory Board. The board members represent a varied mix of people within Parish government. All are hard working, dedicated, and willing to commit their time and energy to the Board.

They are: **Karen Daviss, Co-Chairperson; Aretha Frison, Co-Chairperson; Dedire Cummings, Recording Secretary; Francois**

Ancar; Deborah Bourgeois; Jim Bush; Jelena Franklin; Gloria Helaire; Henry King; Nedra Lagarde; Maria Rose; Linda Roy; Billy Sanders; and Keith Thornton.

The Board will strive to ensure all Parish employees are afforded equal opportunity in all areas of their employment as well as equal access to all programs and services provided by the Parish.

In the upcoming months, we will have a **Diversity Kick-Off**. We encourage you to attend to meet us and to learn more about the mission of the Board.

We have many exciting ideas in the making that will help us open up the lines of communication with Parish workers and the Administration.

If anyone has a story about diversity and would like to share with us, please feel free to contact any of the Board members.

Stay tuned for information on upcoming events!

Code Enforcement

By
Linda Roy

We are pleased to announce Edmond St. Romain, Bldg. Plan Reviewer II, as Code Enforcement's Employee of the Year.



Edmond St. Romain

Edmond came to the Parish in 1989 as an intern in Planning while earning a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning at UNO. In 1992, he was hired as a Planner II in the Design Review Section. Four years later, he transferred to One Stop Development as a Plan Reviewer II, reviewing site plans for commercial development. He then transferred to Inspection and Code Enforcement where he was instrumental in developing procedures and application forms for the Metairie Ridge Tree Preservation District and the new dumpster ordinance.

We can count on Edmond to get the job done. He is thorough and precise in his work. He is accurate and very seldom makes mistakes. He is dedicated and hard working, often going out of his way to assist the public in understanding codes and permits.

Edmond is in his eighteenth year with Jefferson Parish.

We commend Mr. St. Romain for a **JOB WELL DONE!**



The Diversity Advisory Board pose with the Council

JeffCAP

By
Aretha Frison

Head Start Graduation

JeffCAP (Jefferson Community Action Programs) held its annual Head Start graduation at the Alario Center on May 13. Head Start graduated 298 children and hosted 500 parents and special guests at the event including Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-Large John A. Young.

WDSU-TV's Norman Robinson served as the master of ceremonies. In addition, Melinda Morris of the *Times-Picayune* published a wonderful story package on May 20. The Jefferson Parish Head Start Program is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for children and families. Head Start's goal is to provide comprehensive child-care services to at least 90 percent of disadvantaged and low-income pre-school children at no charge to the participants. For more information, contact Head Start at 504-736-8707 or email JPJeffCap@jeffparish.net.

Head Start Luncheon

On May 10, Head Start hosted its annual Volunteer of the Year Luncheon for parents who tirelessly volunteer at the centers throughout the parish. The luncheon at Zea's in New Orleans honored 18 parents who gave their time at nine centers. Special guests included JeffCAP Executive Director **Nicole Ferrier**, JeffCAP Assistant Director **Charles M. Gibson**, Head Start Administrator **Marvine Shedrick**, Head Start Assistant Administrator **Rochelle Rabathaly**, and other Head Start staff members. Head Start

also honored Jefferson Parish Photographer **Keith Adams** and WYES-TV's Monica Turner for their outstanding support of the Head Start parent volunteer program. To become a Head Start volunteer or supporter, call 504-736-8707 or email JPJeffCap@jeffparish.net.



Lashika Rogers, policy council president, with Causeway Head Start center supervisor Usha Kamboj

Super SOL Bowl

On April 18, more than 100 local agencies, organizations, clubs, celebrities, and athletes participated in the Super SOL Bowl for Special Olympics Louisiana at Colonial Lanes in Harahan. JeffCAP Information Specialist **Aretha Frison** attended the event and supported the Saints' players Robert Meachem and Lynell Hamilton, who bowled with Special Olympians representing Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

Special Olympics Louisiana provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for 13,000 people with intellectual disabilities. It gives a number of athletes opportunities to develop physical fitness and share their skills with other Olympians. For more informa-

tion on becoming a Special Olympics volunteer, visit the website at www.laso.org.

Neighborhood Partnership

JeffCAP recently established a partnership with the Neighborhoods Partnership Network (NPN), a nonprofit organization consisting of a citywide network of neighborhoods that was established after the Hurricane Katrina disaster to facilitate neighborhood collaboration, increase access to government and information, and strengthen the voices of individuals and communities. NPN's mission is to improve the quality of life by engaging New Orleanians in neighborhood revitalization and civic processes. *The Trumpet Magazine*, the bi-monthly publication from NPN, will feature a regular column focusing on JeffCAP's programs, volunteers, services, and events. Also, check out the JeffCAP page on the NPN website at www.npnnola.com and click on the "Organizations" tab.

ARRA Funds Available

Jefferson Parish citizens may now apply for CSBG ARRA funds for prescription drugs, food, one-time funding for school uniforms, job training, and tuition for post-secondary education. In addition, there may be funding for transportation assistance for recently unemployed citizens and underemployed citizens. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements. Interested persons must apply in person at a JeffCAP community center, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Marrero, 349-5953; Harvey, 227-1221; Avondale, 349-5422; Gretna, 376-2133; Bridge City, 349-5465; Metairie, 736-6488; and Jefferson, 838-4287.

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful time of year.

A big thank you to crews involved in trying to save our beautiful Gulf of Mexico from the oil rig disaster.

On April 16 our Department held its "Service Pin Picnic." This celebration was very nice as we enjoyed delicious food and good music. Congratulations to all who received Service Pins.

A "Secretary's Day Pot Luck Luncheon" was held on April 23. Thanks to everyone involved as the food was wonderful and very much appreciated by all who participated.

Congratulations to **Patricia Bailey**, who retired after working for Streets and Parkways Departments for 31 years and 4 months. Good luck to you, Patricia. You will surely be missed.

Rose Lanansa worked tirelessly in raising funds for the "March of Dimes" with a "March



Streets Director Randy Nicholson congratulates Amber Breaux for 15 years of service

of Dimes, March for Babies," and a "Parade of Prizes" fund raiser. The walkers who participated in the "March for Babies" were **Rose Lanansa, Natasha Dorsey, Sean Duckett, and Andrea Williams.**

Approximately \$300 was raised for this wonderful charity that has helped infants for 40 years. The "March of Dimes" is involved with research, and its mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature births, and infant mortality.

We would also like to send our condolences to **Eric Windsor**, whose grandfather recently passed away.

Citizens' Affairs

By
Tracie Chaix

Senior Dance Gala Coming

We are pleased to announce the "First Annual Jefferson Parish Senior Citizen Dance Gala," celebrating the best of the 40s, 50s, and 60s music. The festivities will be held on Friday, June 25, from 11am to 3pm at Angel Square, 1601 Bridge City Avenue, in Bridge City. Admission is free!

There will be refreshments sold at golden oldie prices. Hamburgers will be 15 cents, hot dogs 5 cents. Free iced tea, soda, and coffee! Enjoy the line dancing, and you can even sock hop to your favorite tunes played by Rockin Ron and special guest Victory Belles! Don't forget to wear the attire of your favorite decade, as there will be awards for the best dressed in each decade. This event is proudly sponsored by Peoples Health and Humana.

Award Nominations Sought

The Carol Scalise Award Committee is seeking nominations for the Eleventh Annual Carol Scalise Award. Carol Scalise was a prominent Jefferson Parish community activist. The award recognizes an individual age 55 or older who has supported the senior population in Jefferson Parish as well as contributed in a positive manner to our community.

This prestigious award was created to honor Carol Scalise after her death from cancer. Among the many activities in which Mrs. Scalise gave her time and service was as a member of the Jefferson Council on Aging Board of Directors and as an advocate and service volunteer for the mental



Kenneth Lemieux, Patricia Bailey, Rodney Lyons, and Marie Ricks of the Streets Department at Bailey's retirement party

Transit

By
Patricia Lyons

Jefferson Transit Security Outreach Days

On March 23, Transit began community outreaches in the form of Transit Security Awareness Days at the terminals and major bus stops. We want our riders to take an active role in preventing a transit emergency.

During outreaches, riders are informed on what to do when witnessing suspicious activity. We also provide information on how to stay safe during a transit emergency. Outreaches were held at the Wilty Terminal, Walkertown Terminal, City Park and Canal Boulevard stop, and at the Causeway Boulevard and Jefferson Highway stop. Jefferson Transit provided security brochures, schedule booklets, and promotional items at these events

Purchasing

By
Gail Petrie

Welcome **Erin Rose**, our summer worker. Erin is attending Holy Cross College studying Pharmacy. She worked with us before and is so totally an asset to the department. Her intelligence, talents, ambition, and beautiful attitude are a real plus.



Erin Rose



Birthday celebrations at the Bridge City Senior Center

health component of the Jefferson Parish Coroner's office. She was instrumental in gathering the needed support for the Coroner's Office on the West Bank.

Each year the award is presented by the Parish President and Entergy Corporation, which donates \$1000 to the winner's favorite charity. The winner will be announced at the Senior Expo.

Would you like to nominate someone 55 or older who generously gives back to the senior community? If so, fill out a nomination form and send it in by September 10. Please follow the instructions below:

- Go to www.jeffparish.net
- Click on Parish Departments
- Click on Citizens' Affairs
- Click on Carol Scalise Nomination Form

The packet needs to be downloaded to fill it out, and it can be returned by e-mail or mail—no faxes please—to khooover@jeffparish.net or mailed

to Katherine Hoover, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Suite 210, Jefferson, LA 70123. This year the deadline for nominations is September 10, 2010.

Congratulations to Mr. **Wayne Ory**, Senior Services Coordinator, who was presented an award for his continued support of the seniors of Jefferson Parish from the Greater New Orleans Senior Olympics.



Wayne Ory

Mr. Ory hosted birthday celebrations at Marrero/Harvey and Jefferson Centers on May 21, 2010, and at the Bridge City Center on May 18, 2010.

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

WELCOME to **Troylyncia LeBrane**, Juvenile Probation Officer, and to our summer workers – Clerk’s **Hannah Ha, Caitlyn LaChute, Megan Guillot,** and **Lacy Williams**; and Education Specialists **Beverly Davis, Bernadine LaMothe, Glinda Morton** and **Marble Pierre**. They really help during the busy summer months, and we appreciate all their hard work.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following DJS employees who celebrated and received their 2009 service award pins: **5 YEARS:** **John Beauregard, Kynan Davis, Denise Gilson, Willie Green, Myron Hayes, Ernest Hunter, David Vicari,** and **Stephanie Young.** **10 YEARS:** **Roberta Brown, Christopher Bruno, Shernell Sheppard,** and **Rhonda Walker.** **15 YEARS:** **Tara Williams** and **Carl Pierce** (Retired). **25 YEARS:** **Joseph Marshall.**



Juvenile Services Director Roy Juncker (right) with JS service pin recipients

STORK NEWS: Probation Officer **Elydia Ketchens** gave birth to baby girl Brielle on February 11, and **David Vicari** is the proud father of Dominic, born March 3.

On April 26 & 28, DJS hosted “2010 Spring Break Informational Workshops.” The workshops were attended by forty youth from Jefferson Parish. Presenters from various agencies—Jefferson Business &

Career Solutions Center, Delgado Community College, New Orleans Job Corps, Café Hope, LA Technical College, Jefferson Parish Operation Reconstruct, and Hope Center—addressed the youth and provided them with information to help them make informed decisions regarding their futures. The event was coordinated by **Ms. Lorna Dart**, Vocational Counselor, under the oversight of **Monique Willis**, Probation Supervisor.



Roy L. Juncker, Jr., receiving the Community Professional of the Year award from Judge Ann Murry Keller and Cynthia Chauvin, Director of CASA Jefferson.

Kudos to Director **Roy L. Juncker, Jr.**, who was awarded the Community Professional of the Year at the CASA Jefferson (Court Appointed Special Advocate) 8th Annual “Light of Hope” event on Tuesday, April 13. This was recognition for going over and beyond the call of duty to serve the abused and neglected children of our community.

On May 21, the staff of Juvenile Services was treated to a Staff Appreciation Cookout. Grill Master **Juncker**, with a little help, prepared a delicious lunch to thank everyone for their hard work.

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Congratulations to Housing Rehab Program Manager **Helen White**, CD's 2009 Employee of the Year. Helen is always ready and willing to help citizens with their housing rehabilitation needs that make their lives a little easier.



CD's Employee of the Year
Helen White

C. D. staff welcomes new staff member, Housing Improvement Counselor III **Toya Jones**, who will coordinate the HPRP-Rental

Assistance Program. Toya, who will be working directly under Anatola, was formerly a case manager for Volunteers of America (VOA) where she worked in mental health and housing issues. She has a bachelor's degree in Social Work and is working on a Masters of Social Work degree at Southern University of New Orleans.

Parish Planner III **Faye Galand** is wrapping up a citizen survey to determine the needs of Parish residents and neighborhoods. Results will be used to help develop the Parish's five-year Consolidated Plan. Citizen feedback from the survey will help us decide what housing services and community projects are needed. The surveys were provided to civic leaders, church pastors, community and senior centers, and municipalities.

HOME Project Coordinator **James "Jim" Bush** was recently elected to the 2010 Employee Diversity Board. The board

serves in an advisory capacity and communication link between Parish leaders and employees. Jim is one of 14 Parish employees serving on the Board. Congrats! .

Accountant III **Stephen "Steve" Pruet**, Housing Improvement Counselor III **Dianne Washington**, and HOME Program Manager **Kim Thompson** attended "sensitivity training" at Workplace Harassment 2010: Examining Inequities, Expanding Awareness."

Housing update: The 2010 First-Time Homebuyer Assistance Program Lottery is moving along as Housing Counselor I **Emann Batiste** interviews potential lottery participants. More than 250 persons entered the lottery and Batiste, at last check, was working on lottery numbers 187-205.

First-time Homebuyer grants of up to \$50,000 for eligible participants are available for homes of new construction in the Beechgrove subdivision in Westwego. For more information on this program, contact Information Specialist **Sevilla Finley** at 736-628.

Traffic Engineers in Action : By Brandy Chism & Joseph Parker, Jr



Dawn Daleo is running a program on the Signal controller test panel before it goes into the field.



Sign Techs Al Maggio, Roosevelt Baggett, and Dwight Lewis putting in a crosswalk in front of a school.

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

We sadly offer condolences to the family and friends of **Darrell Jones**. Darrell passed away on April 3 with 16 years of employment with Jefferson Parish. He was a Lift Station Inspector in our West Bank Lift Stations Division. Darrell's supervisors described him as a dependable, quiet, "go-getter" who did whatever was asked of him and was always present at work. Darrell Jones will most definitely be missed by all of those who knew him here at the Department of Sewerage! May he forever Rest in Peace.

Good-bye, Hello, Congratulations!

Congratulations to our retirees – **Gwyneth Martinez & Pedro Rivera**. Gwyneth retired from the Harvey Plant on May 21 with 30 years of service. Pedro retired from West Bank Plants on May 28 with 22 years of service. Best wishes to both of you.

Welcome to our new hire **Jason Bratton**, who was promoted from Laborer in the Streets Department to East Bank Lift Station Inspector. Congratulations, Jason!

The American Public Works Association Metropolitan New Orleans Branch of the Louisiana Chapter held their Annual Public Works Week Luncheon on May 17. Employees from several Public Works departments were in attendance. Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao was the guest speaker, and his topic was *Public Works and the Region*. Much of the speech provided details about the horrible oil spill affecting the Gulf Coast. Congressman Cao also gave details about the Highway Bill, Federal Earmarks, and other issues being addressed in Washington.

New Grandparents!

Both **Ann Williams** (East Bank Field Office) and **Mary Grace Bealer** (West Bank Field Office) recently became new grandmothers. Ann's daughter Lindsey had a baby boy (Ashton) and Mary Grace's daughter Christine had twin baby girls (Avery Grace and Aubrey Madaline). **Superintendent Glenn Miller** also became a new grandfather. Glenn's daughter Courtney had a baby boy (Brayden). Congratulations to all of you!

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Our 2010 Summer Activity Guide, which includes activities and programs, is available on our website at 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

Uncle Sam Jam Coming in July

Uncle Sam Jam 2010 will be at Lafreniere Park on Saturday, July 3. Admission will be free! There will be food and beverage concessions available. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and bug repellent!



Recreation wants YOU
at the Uncle Sam Jam!

Performances as follows:

- 3:00 – 5:00 pm – Live DJ music
- 5:00 - 7:00 pm – Ghost Town
- 7:00 – 9:00 pm – New Orleans Concert Band
- 9:00 – 9:20 pm – FIREWORKS DISPLAY
- 9:30 – 11:00 pm – Wiseguys

For more info – call Park Office at 838-4389



Oscar Jasmine (Center) receives his 20-year certificate from Sewerage Superintendent Clifford Pierre and Director Brett Todd

New Tennis Courts Opening!

During the past month, JPRD has dedicated two new tennis courts at Bright Playground and Miley Playground. The courts at Girard will soon be completed as well. Pictured below is the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Miley Tennis Courts held on May 14, 2010.

Congratulations and best wishes to our retirees:

- **Darlene Wegmann**, Recreation Special Program Supervisor – Golden Age, East Bank Leisure Service
- **Samuel Benjamin**, Truck Driver I, West Bank Maintenance

Congrats on the promotion . . .

- **Darrell Acosta** to Assistant Center Supervisor – Avondale Playground
- **Troy Garner** to Center Super-



Darlene Wegmann (center) is congratulated by Dawn Caple, Leo Webb, hubby Bob Wegmann, and Kevin O'Quinn

visor – Miley Playground

- **Jeremy Authement** to Assistant Center Supervisor – PARD Playground
- **Billy Brassette** – to Maintenance Repairman – EB Maintenance

- **Jeb Klink** to Assistant Center Supervisor – Softball Complex
- **Hakim Raby** – to Foreman I in EB Maintenance
- **Howard Blalock** – to Equipment Operator I in WB Maintenance



Director CJ Gibson (center) leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Miley tennis courts on Saints Drive

Emergency Management

By
Timothy Gautreau, Jr.

It has been a year since I last reported the status of the CERT program that is under the direction of the Emergency Management Department. We have been very busy in this past year training and organizing the volunteers that have finished the requirements to join the Jefferson Parish Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). To date 75 citizens have been trained in the basic skills to take care of their loved ones during an emergency until professionals arrive on the scene. The skills that are taught in the Basic CERT class are CERT Organization, Fire Safety, Light Search and Rescue, Basic Medical Triage, Terrorism, and Psychology (how to deal with stress). Of the 75 citizens that have been trained, 19 have joined the Jefferson Parish CERT. These individuals get together twice a month at the EOC, once for a team meeting to discuss upcoming events and plans for the team. The second is a training day. The team trains on topics other than what they were originally trained on in basic training. Some of these topics are CPR, Traffic Safety Management, and Shelter Management, to name a few.

CERT is one of five volunteer programs that fall under Citizens Corps, which is under the direction of FEMA. Citizen Corps was created to help coordinate volunteer activities that will make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation. It provides opportunities for people to participate in a range of measures to make their families, homes, and communities safer from the

threats of crime, terrorism, and disasters of all kinds.

LA GOHSEP (Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness) receives a FEMA grant yearly, and then the state distributes individual grants to the Active Citizen Corps Programs. Jefferson Parish has received \$54,000. dollars since 2007. This money is used to support and operate a self-sufficient CERT program with training, supplies, and needed equipment to respond to any incident.

Eight members of the Jefferson Parish CERT recently traveled to Lake Charles, LA, to attend the Louisiana Citizens Corps Conference where we listened to lectures on a variety of different preparedness topics including one from Mrs. Rachel Jacky, the National CERT Program Director, giving the latest updates on New Tools to Support Program Expansion. The highlight of the conference was the lecture by Retired Lt. General Honré, which focused on

Leadership and Preparedness in the 21st Century.

The next day the team competed in four events against ten teams from all over the state in the Louisiana CERT Rodeo (extinguishing a small fire, Light Search & Rescue, Cribbing, and Team Gang Plank). The team was separated into a six-person team, so we had six on one team and two on another with four ladies from other parishes. The teams made me so proud by placing 3rd in Cribbing and 1st and 2nd in Search & Rescue. We were the only Parish to win three ribbons. Not bad for their first competition and only being formed as a team for 4 months!

The basic CERT classes are 20 hours and are held every other month on four weekdays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and one Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

For more information on CERT or how to join the Parish team, contact Timmy Gautreau, Jr., at the EOC, 349-5360, or tgautreau@jeffparish.net.



Jefferson Parish CERT members prepare for competition at the CERT Rodeo in Lake Charles

Library

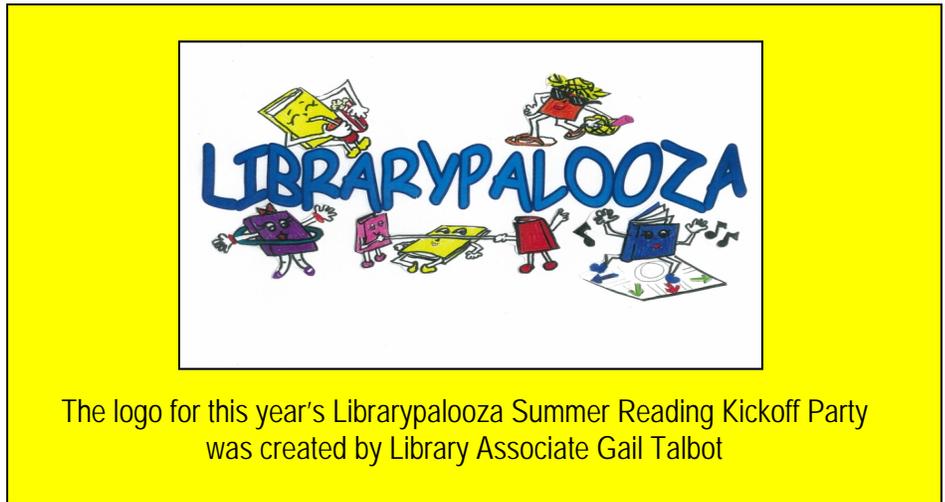
By
Mark Deane

Summer means reading at Jefferson Parish Library. The Summer Reading Program begins June 1 and runs through July. This year's theme is "Make a Splash – Read!" and every library branch will offer stories, songs, games, and activities exploring the world of water.

The Summer Reading Program is open to all ages, from babies to adults, with special programs and chances to win prizes for reading. One of the new prizes this year for completing the Summer Reading Program is a "Library Champion" yard sign. Readers who finish the required number of books will receive a sign for their front yards that reads: "A Jefferson Parish Library Champion Lives Here." Library Champions can take a picture standing next to their sign on display and send it to the library, where it will be showcased on the library's website.

To get a sign, children 12 and under must read 10 easy books (fewer than 100 pages) or 5 challenge books (more than 100 pages), and teens must read 5 books or complete a BINGO card with library activities. Readers who accomplish these goals will also be entered into a raffle to win more prizes.

The Summer Reading Program kicked off with a party on both sides of the river. "Librarypalooza" took place Saturday, June 5, at the East Bank Regional Library and the West Bank Regional Library in Harvey. The party included performances



The logo for this year's Librarypalooza Summer Reading Kickoff Party was created by Library Associate Gail Talbot

by storyteller Johnette Downing at East Bank Regional and PapiLion at West Bank Regional. There was also video gaming, t-shirt decorating, contests, and prizes.

Throughout the Summer Reading Program, the Jefferson Parish Library branches will hold special programs, including popular storytellers, visits from the Zoomobile, the Bugmobile, the AquaVan, New Orleans Zephyrs players and mascot Boudreaux, Longue Vue & Gardens, magicians, and more. All of the programs are free and open to the public.

In April, Librarian II **Gwen Kelly** and Librarian II **Maria Landrum** helped organize the library's participation in the March for Babies. Typist Clerk II **Mindi LeCarpentier** joined them for the April 24 walk to raise money for the March of Dimes. Thanks to their efforts, the library raised \$160 to improve the health of babies.

Jefferson Parish Library welcomes our new employees, including Typist Clerk III **Tammy Arceneaux**, Library Page **Kimberly Fleming**, Library Page

Shannon Kitchens, and Library Page **Raquel Pena**.

The library also says goodbye to some longtime employees. Library Associate **John Walker** retired after 30 years with the Library. And, West Bank Regional Library Manager **Chris Stuckwisch** retires this month. Chris began working for the Library in 1979 as a Bookmobile manager, and a few years later became the branch manager at Westwego Library. He was also the head of the Audio Visual Department before taking over as manager of West Bank Regional Library in 2002. We wish both of them luck in whatever they do next.



Workforce Connection Director Sharon Wegner (left) congratulates WC's Employee of the Year Frances Turner

General Services

By
Jill Relick & Revy Antoine

The General Services Department is happy to welcome back our Summer Worker Program participants. **Amanda Brown**, 3rd year; **Patrice Delahousse**, 4th year; and **Bryan Cooper, Jr**, 4th year with our department. They will gladly help you when you phone our offices.

Welcome New Manager!

Our new Assistant Property Manager **Michael Brown** comes to us with 18 + plus years of facility and construction experience. We have a lot of department work in progress, and we're especially in need of his expertise. Stop by in our office on the fifth floor of the Yenni Building anytime to welcome Michael.

We have two newly promoted Stationary Engineer 2 employees: **Kenneth Burst** and **Aleen Ber-**

nard.
Hakim Raby has relocated to the Recreation Department. Good luck with your new department. We are so glad for your promotion.

Employee of the Year!

Congratulations to all the 2010 Parish employees of the year. Super pick for our department is **Tommy O'Neill**. Tommy is our Electrician in the Yenni Building. He joined our team in 2007.



Tommy O'Neill

Planning to finish your spring office cleaning soon? Time is with you. You have

through the end of September to send your items to Surplus Property. The 2010 Auction is scheduled on October 23. **Dale Esteves** and **James Troxclair** have been prepping the warehouse since the 2009 auction. Wondering if we'll have the kitchen sink this year?

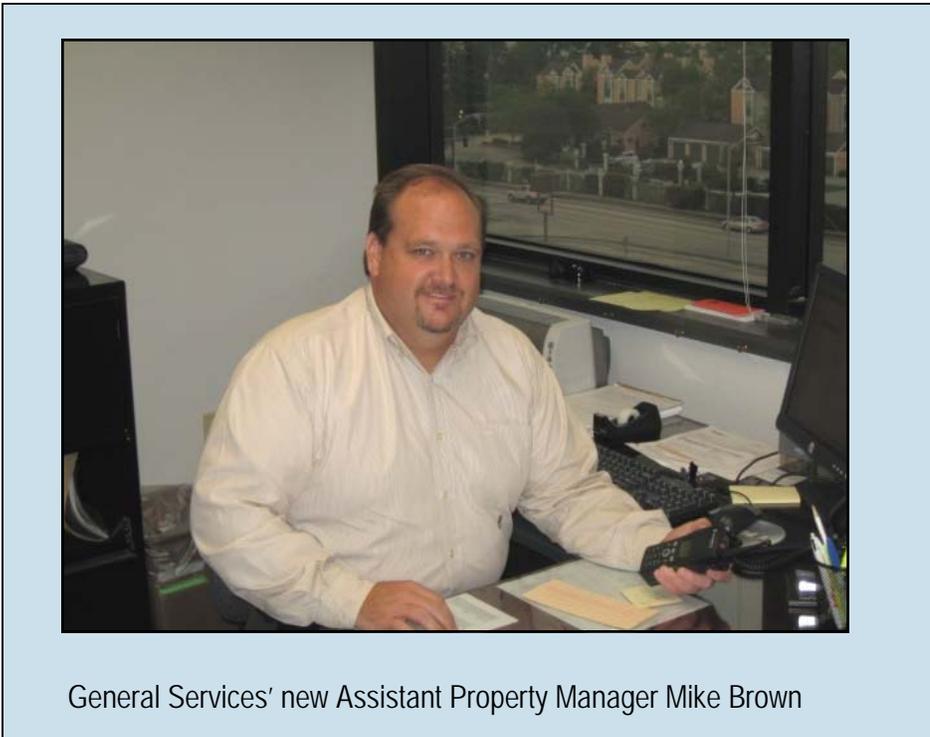
A new grandfather in the house. . .Congratulations to our Property Manager, **Mike Lemoine**, on the birth of his twin grandchildren, Ms. Sage and Mr. Jackson. The preemie babies came into this world on March 27, 2010. The babies and Mike's daughter Nicolle are all home and doing well. Congratulations, Paw Paw Mike!



Property Manager Mike Lemoine's new grandbabies Sage and Jackson

George Fols and the General Services Safety Committee will meet in June. The accident prevention advisory board will create the topics for the remaining 2010 employee safety meetings and review parish-wide accidents.

Also, George and **Mike Fonseca** would like to thank all the Yenni Building employees for your cooperation and patience during the caulking, window washing, and roof repair of the Yenni Building. The completion date is just a few months away.



General Services' new Assistant Property Manager Mike Brown

Parkways

By
Chantell Prestenbach

The Parkways Department would like to commend everyone who participated with the preparation for the 2010 Zurich Classic; it was another successful and productive event for the TPC.

Lance Stansberry and **Don Cole** recently accepted an award for “It Ain’t Been Easy in the Big Easy.”



Project Habitat Award

Lance and Don’s project was selected as a 2009 Project Habitat Award winner in the Specialty category. Congratulations!

Last but definitely not least, with the recent Memorial Day Celebration, we’d like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and give thanks to all the men and women who serve and have served in our military, especially Chris Canedo.



Chris Canedo

Chris is a former Parkways employee who, back in October, was deployed to Afghanistan, where he serves his second tour of duty. Your family here at Parkways is very proud of you and awaits your safe return.

Human Resources

By
Dana LeBherz

Safety Leadership for Supervisors

How do you empower more than 500 Parish supervisors to provide effective Safety Leadership? The course “Safety Leadership for Supervisors,” offered by the Safety Division of HRM, is one potent avenue.

The course leads the movement of safety leadership from “rules-based” compliance to “principle-based” commitment. It addresses ways and means for supervisors to manage safety expectations, encourage their teams to work with a “safety first” attitude, and ultimately reduce workplace accidents and injuries.

The Safety Division, including Safety Manager **Nolan Guidry**, Safety Officers **Larry Guchereau** and **Greg Reynolds**, and Parish Nurse **Peggy Brannon**, assist in delivering the training. This group approach utilizes the expertise of each member of the safety division and ensures that any and all department-specific safety issues are addressed.

The course is mandatory for all supervisors to attend once every four years.

Workplace Harassment 2010 Kicks Off

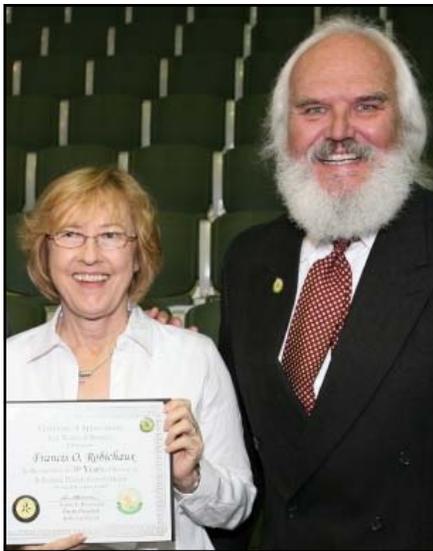
The Training Division began its newest course, *Workplace Harassment 2010: Examining Inequities, Expanding Awareness* in May. So far, more than 12 sessions had been delivered, with over 160 supervisors attending.



Landscaping created by Parkways employees for the TPC during the Zurich Classic

The newest harassment course, which covers the concept of micro-inequities, previews the new harassment training program for employees, and updates supervisors on their responsibilities regarding harassment, will run through mid-July. Attendance for all supervisors is mandatory. Supervisors should check with their director's office if they are unsure when they are scheduled to attend.

Congratulations to Substance Use Program Manager **Fran Robichaux!** Fran recently observed her thirty-year anniversary with the Parish. That milestone came shortly after Fran's leading role in revising the Parish's Substance Use Policy in 2009.



HR's Fran Robichaux is congratulated by Phil Rupp for her 30 years of service to the Parish

Important Update: Health Care Reform Act

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590), perhaps better known as the Health Care Reform Act, was recently passed. This is a very lengthy and comprehensive Act that will change the way health care will be delivered to consumers in the future and will impact all of us.



Alario Center Director Greg Guthrie congratulates Alario's Employee of the Year Carroll Castille

Interpretations of this Act and how we will be affected are starting to roll out. A few provisions will kick in as soon as January 1, 2011; but most of the mandates don't take effect until 2014 and beyond.

Here's what we know right now that is mandated for 2011:

Dependent coverage will be available up to age 26, regardless of student or marital status, unless the dependent has access to an employer-sponsored plan.

Coverage does not extend to the dependent's spouse or child.

dren. There will be no surcharge to this benefit.

There will be no preexisting condition exclusions up to age 19.

If you participate in the Flexible Spending Account, over-the-counter drugs will not be reimbursed unless there is a written prescription.

We anticipate that there will be more guidance on the Act in the coming months, and we will provide updates as necessary. Jefferson Parish Government maintains its commitment to providing the most competitive health care coverage available.



HR's Employee of the Year Vivian Lasseigne with her supervisor Executive Assistant Nicole Thompson

★ ★ Our Military Heroes ★ ★

Once again, *En Realite* would to take a moment to acknowledge the dedication, duty, and courage shown by relatives and children of Parish employees serving in our Armed Forces. We thank them, depend on them, and honor them for upholding the freedom so many of us take for granted. The next three pages highlight a few of our homegrown heroes.



Pictured clockwise, starting top right::

SSGT Tiese Blazio,
US Army
Daughter of Clifford Pierre

PFC Erica Plaisance,
US Army
Niece of Dawn Caple

SSGT Jason Holmes,
USAF
Nephew of Tanya Bates

CPL Brian Hunter, USMC
CPL Shelley Hunter, USMC
Son and
Daughter-in-
law of Cliff
Hunter



★ ★ Our Military Heroes ★ ★



Pictured clockwise, starting top right:

SSG Metoyer Jordan
US Army
Nephew of Juanara Jordan-Williams

Sr Airman Jaron Chess
USAF
Husband of Cokeisha Washington



Specialist Brad Johnston
US Army
Son of Rob Johnston

Major George Donelson
"Donnie" Hasseltine
USMC
Son of Mary Ellis Hasseltine



★ ★ Our Military Heroes ★ ★



Pictured top left:
Brandon Plaisance
US Army
Nephew of Dawn Caple

Pictured bottom left:
Airman 1st Class Mark Lier, Jr.
USAF
Nephew of Gina Thomas

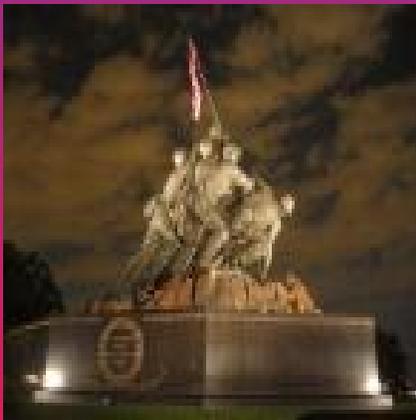
Pictured bottom right:
Lt Col. Bret Frymire
USAF
Son of Francis Robichaux

Not pictured:
MSGT. Frank Tunstall
LA Air National Guard
Spouse of Debbie Tunstall

SSG. Mark Perez-Sandi
LA Air National Guard
Son of Jeanette Perez-Sandi

Sergeant Albert Simoneaux, Jr.
National Guard
Nephew of Sharon Cline

Petty Officer Tiffany Crusto
US Navy
Fiance of Bryson Osborne



Retirements

Patricia Bailey
Streets
31 years

John Walker
Library
31 years

Chris Stuckwish
Library
30 years

Alton William
Fire
30 years

Gwyneth Martinez
Sewerage
30 years

Samuel Benjamin
Recreation
25 years

Pedro Rivera
Sewerage
22 years

Darlene Wegmann
Recreation
21 years

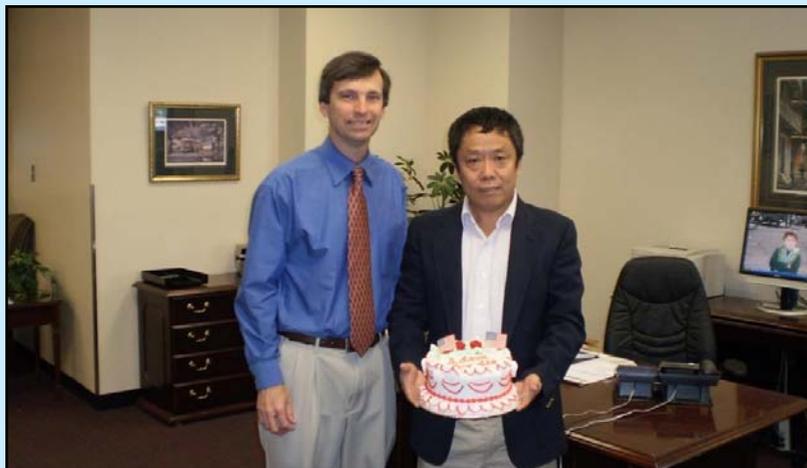
Melvina Peck
JeffCAP
20 years

Oscar Jasmine
Sewerage
20 years

Hilton Roussell, Sr.
JeffCAP
18 years

D.J. Mumphrey
President's Office
17 years

The Parish Welcomes a New Citizen!



Engineering Director
 Mark Drewes with GIS
 Operator and new US
 citizen Jun Chen

"I am so happy and proud to be American citizen today. It is the greatest moment for me when I took the Pledge of Allegiance to the American national flag. The ceremony was exciting and wonderful and gave me a feeling that I cannot explain. Becoming an American citizen has been my dream since I was in middle school. It is wonderful after I moved to the United States for six years my dream to come true. I admire President Kennedy saying "What can I do for my country, not what country can do for me." I will do my best to defend Constitution, involve in community activities, volunteer work, obey the law, and be an excellent citizen of United States."

—Jun Chen