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EM Realite

Message from the Parish President. . .

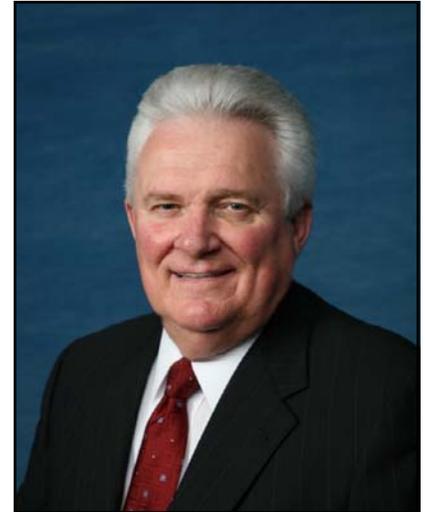
The Correct Census Count Is In Our Hands

This month every household across the nation will receive a census form. The Census is required once every 10 years by the U.S. Constitution. The 2010 Census will count every man, woman, and child living in the United States.

In addition to collecting population data for the purposes of apportioning congressional districts, the federal government uses the census data to allocate government funding for community services and programs in our community.

Getting Our Fair Share

Every year the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to tribal, state, and local governments based on census data. But a lack of participation can result in our community receiving less federal funding and less access to important services and resources than we might otherwise receive. Such services are supported by federal grants for our Jefferson Parish Transit System, Homeland Security Programs, and Southeastern Louisiana Flood Control Projects (SELA).



Steve J. Theriot
Parish President

Also, the data are important to help determine locations of new schools, hospitals, and infrastructure projects. An incomplete count could mean our parish will not receive its fair share of funding.

The most efficient way to respond to the 2010 Census is to complete the form as soon as it arrives and return it in the postage-paid envelope. Census workers will visit households that do not return the form to take the count in person.

One of the shortest forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks ten questions and takes ten minutes to complete. With your participation, we can create a better tomorrow for our families and our community.

En Réalité

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Managing Editor.....Greg Alexander

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Editor's



Notes

**Examining Inequities/
Expanding Awareness**

To ensure that Jefferson Parish promotes and preserves a respectful workplace, the Training Division of Human Resource Management conducts mandatory diversity awareness and workplace harassment training every two years for all Parish supervisors. This year's program, *Workplace Harassment 2010: Examining Inequities, Expanding Awareness*, will be conducted May through July. It is designed to provide our supervisors with the knowledge and skills they need to develop good management practices that establish and maintain a respectful workplace.

As important as it is to prevent illegal harassment in the workplace, it is also important to be aware of diversity issues and the value of diversity. Diversity training is often referred to as "sensitivity training," the goal of which is to raise awareness of the effect our words and actions may have on our coworkers. Treating co-workers respectfully means being sensitive to the thoughts and feelings of others and to treat them as they want to be treated.

When diverse people work together as a team, that inclusiveness provides an opportunity to exchange new ideas, insights, and perspectives. Once we have an



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

awareness of diversity and value it, we can move on to creativity and productivity, instead of conflicting over differences.

Workplace harassment and the insensitive treatment of others in the workplace are extremely costly to both an organization and its employees. The damaging effects of harassment on employees include low morale, intimidation, lost productivity, and absenteeism. That is why it's important to raise everyone's awareness about these issues.

In July a special program will be distributed to Parish departments designed to help all employees understand the concepts of harassment and discrimination in the workplace.

Becoming more familiar with the Parish's policies on harassment and discrimination will enhance employees' understanding of their rights and responsibilities. It is everyone's job to sustain a positive environment through the respectful treatment of fellow employees. A sensitive and respectful workplace is one that is conducive to efficient, productive public service.

Citizens' Affairs

By
Tracie Chaix

The following are several events that have occurred and are occurring that I would like to share with you! There is so much news to share!

Senior Olympics

Wayne Ory, Senior Citizens' Services Coordinator, hosted the Jefferson Parish Senior Olympics Bean Bag Baseball Tournament. Jefferson Parish Senior Centers participated in the Greater New Orleans District Senior Olympic Games, which were held on March 10, 2010, at the St. Bernard Council on Aging. Over 200 senior citizens from Lafitte, Bridge City, Marrero/Harvey, and Metairie Senior Centers were represented at this function as teams and cheerleaders! A fun time was had by all!

St. Patrick's Parade

Jefferson Parish's annual St. Patrick's Parade rolled down Metairie Road on Sunday, March 14, 2010, at noon, celebrating the "40th year of you, us, and Metairie



Irish-Italian Parade

Road." David Barrecca was the Grand Marshal of the event. Tons of revelers came out to the parade and had fun. The throws included beads, trinkets, cabbages, and tons of other vegetables. Saint Patty's Day was a great success!

Irish Italian Parade

The Irish-Italian parade rolled down Veterans Memorial Boulevard on Sunday, March 21, 2010, at noon. Barry Kern was the Irish Grand Marshal, and Hans Liljeberg was the Italian Grand Marshal. The Irish-Italian Association began parading in 1980. Each year there is an "Irish Grand Marshal" and an

"Italian Grand Marshal." This parade features 90 units, including floats and truck-floats that give out traditional Mardi Gras throws, cabbages, and other mixed vegetables, as well as marching clubs that hand out flowers and beads. I know there were many households in Jefferson Parish cooking up some delicious cabbage on Monday instead of red beans and rice!

Hurricane Preparedness Expo

This will be the third year that Jefferson Parish will be hosting the Southeast Louisiana Hurricane Preparedness Expo. Exhibits will include information on generators, storm shutters, and storm protection devices. Representatives from Jefferson Parish, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the State of Louisiana will be available to discuss issues of drainage, levees and flood protection, and coastal erosion. The Expo will be held Wednesday, June 2, 2010, at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. Doors will be open from 3 PM to 8 PM. Admission to the expo will be a canned good per person and will benefit Second Harvesters Food Bank. This event is a fantastic way to learn how to protect your property and family from future storms and disasters. Please come out and join us!



St. Patrick's Day Parade

Code Enforcement

By
Linda Roy

Code Enforcement is under new management. Ms. **Loren Marino** was appointed in February as Interim Director. Ms. Marino has been an Assistant Parish Attorney for the Parish since 2008. She brings with her a good working knowledge of Code as she handled blighted properties with Environmental Court.

Ms. Marino is well versed in the legal aspects of code issues, laws, and ordinances. She is dedicated, hard working, and will definitely be an asset to our Code family. We welcome her with open arms and look forward to working with her.



Code Enforcement's new Interim Director Loren Marino

GO SAINTS, GO!!

Can you believe it? The New Orleans Saints in the Superbowl! Having been a season ticket holder, I thought I'd never see this day. I was in Tulane Stadium when Tom Dempsey kicked the 63-yard field goal and continued to have season tickets, on and off, until this day.

Never in the history of any football franchise or superbowl championship have you seen anything like the fans, excitement, and love for a football team like



Her Saintliness Bonnie Beatson

we have for the Saints! What a ride we had – let's do it again next year!

To celebrate the Saints winning, our own **Bonnie Beatson** dressed up like the Saint Pope—miter and all. She was adorable. Good Job.

Moving On.

We said goodbye to **Esther Freeman** and **Joe Baroni** in January. Esther retired as a Property Maintenance Inspector with 18 years of service to the Parish, and Joe retired as a Building Inspector with 34 years of service.

Both are enjoying spending time with their grandkids. Enjoy your retirement – you've earned it!

New Location

Our Property Maintenance Division has new digs! – The office has moved from the third floor to the second floor. A new paint job and new carpet is refreshing. Stop by on two and say hello.

We wish well to **Alice Melancon** and hope to see her back at work soon.

Go Saints!!!!!!!



Director Loren Marino congratulates retiring Building Inspector Joe Baroni and his wife Deannie

Parkways

By
Chantell Prestenbach

Another successful Mardi Gras has passed, along with the St. Patrick's Day and Irish-Italian parades. The Parkways Department would like to take this time to commend all of its employees as well as all the employees from other departments who helped in the preparation and clean-up process for this past Mardi Gras season. GREAT JOB!

Now it's time to throw the beads on the side because as one event ends another begins.

Teeing Up!

Once again, April has rolled around the corner. For most people in our area that means lots of great outdoor activities are on their way. One of the most exciting events of the season is the annual Zurick Classic, which is held at Jefferson Parish's very own TPC in Avondale.

The event will kick off on April 19 and end on April 25. Parkways will once again proudly assist with the preparation and clean-up efforts for Jefferson Parish's premier golf tournament. For more information on the Zurick Classic, visit www.zurickgolfclassic.com

We'd also like to thank Jean Lafitte's Mayor Timothy Kerner for allowing us to be a part of a wonderful and new addition to the Town's area. Our West Bank crew went out early in March and created a beautiful landscape in front of the new headquarters for the Town of Jean Lafitte's Police Department, which was once the home of the town's Library.

Alario Center

By
Deidre Cummings

FIRST Robotics

On March 4-6, FIRST hosted their annual robotics competition at the Alario Center. Hundreds from across the U.S. attended this fabulous event to see first hand how gifted the youth of today are.

FIRST works closely with research and academic organizations to provide tangible evidence of impact on students' education and career choices. FIRST students are more than 3 times as likely to major in engineering. How cool is that?

The Alario Center's marketing staff worked diligently to bring this event here this year, and we hope to see them again next year. Job well done, guys!

A special thanks goes out to our Marketing Manager, **Michael Samardzija**, for his unrelenting service to our department. Michael's extra efforts in making each event a success

here at the Alario Center have not gone unnoticed. Keep up the good work, Michael!

Employee of the Year!

Carroll "Carl" Castille, Foreman I, is the department's Employee of the Year. Carl has been an employee of Jefferson Parish/Alario Center for 11 years. Congratulations, Carl!



Carl Castille

Baby News!

Congratulation to our General Manager **Greg Guthrie** on the birth of his first grandchild, Allie Jane, on February 22 and to our Secretary **Andrina Davis** on the birth of her baby girl Alei'ah Ayri on March 8.



Accounting shows its spirit on Black & Gold Day

Water

By
Kathy Theriot

Schuler Retires as Director

The Joseph S. Yenni Building was the gathering place for many friends and associates on Friday, March 26, to say farewell to **Randy Schuler** as he retired with more than 34 years of dedicated service to Jefferson Parish.

After taking over the top position in the Water Department in 1991 from Mr. David Macaluso, Randy has proven to be a devoted leader, steering the Water Department through years of expansion in Jefferson Parish, including the addition of the Grand Isle Water Department in early 2005. Later that same year, an unprecedented time in our history, he met the challenges of Katrina with courage and the conviction to triumph over the extraordinary demands to the Water Department brought on by this catastrophic event. We congratulate Randy on his numerous accomplishments, and we extend our best wishes for a happy retirement.

Mitchell T. Theriot, a professional engineer with 13 years of experience with Jefferson Parish, has been named the new Director. Mr. Theriot has developed a well-rounded view of Jefferson Parish Public Works, as he has worked in several departments beginning in Engineering in 1997, a move to Drainage in 1999, to Water in 2003, back to Engineering in 2007, and now as Director of Water. Mitch is a graduate of LSU. He and his wife Ann live in Metairie and are the parents of three children: Jake, Virginia, and Trey. Congratulations, Mitch, and welcome aboard.



Water's new Director Mitch Theriot

Retirement of Harold Landry

On Friday, March 19, family, friends, co-workers, and former employees all came together to celebrate the career of **Harold Landry**, Superintendent of Outside Maintenance, as he retired from the Jefferson Parish Water Department. His career began in May of 1974 and lasted 36 years, under four directors: Mr. Russo, Mr. Brockman, Mr. Macaluso, and Mr. Schuler.

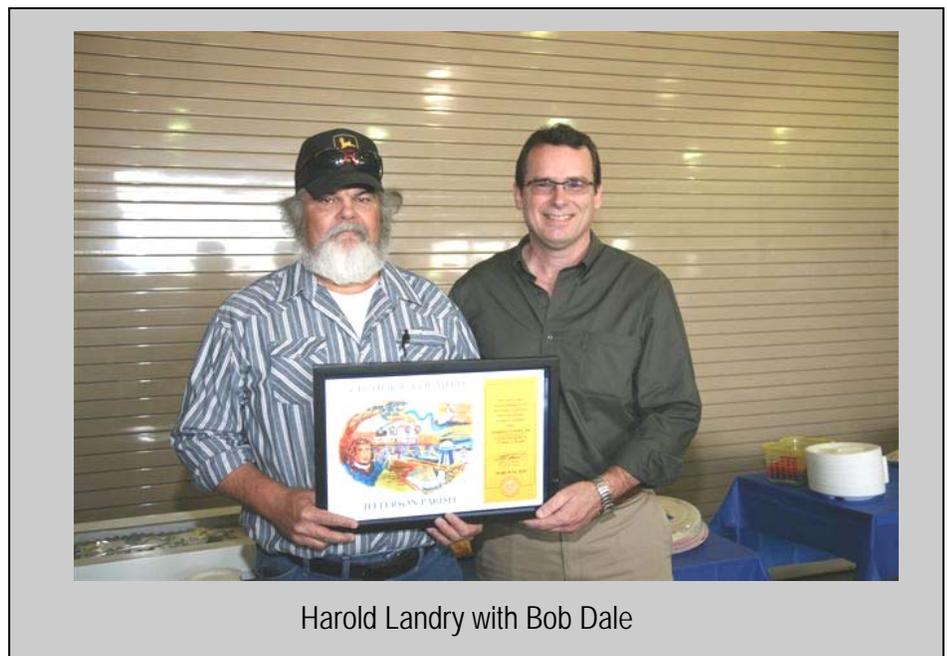
Harold has been the driving force of the West Bank Maintenance Department, using his expertise on each and every project, and the day-to-day work of the Water Department repairs

and maintenance in areas as far as Grand Isle. At his retirement party, which was attended by former Water Department Director David Macaluso, **Randy Schuler** stated he never had to worry when he gave Harold a job to do. He knew that with Harold in charge, the job would be done right. His presence will surely be missed by all of us. We hope he thoroughly enjoys his well-earned retirement. Now he has more time to spend with his wife, Joann, their children Amy and Harold III, and his precious grandsons Dylan and Devin.

We congratulate **Harold Robert** on his promotion to Superintendent II. With the training he received over the years, we know Harold will be very successful in his new position.

Promotion of Bob Dale

Bob Dale, Assistant Director of Water, will be moving to the Drainage Department to become the Assistant Director. Best wishes and much success to Bob in his new position. The Water Department will not be the same without Bob Dale.



Harold Landry with Bob Dale

Human Resource Management

By
Dana LeBherz

Benefits Implements Employee Wellness 2010

Benefits Administrator **Aubrey DeVillier** and Benefits Specialist **Cathy Leaumont** have been very busy organizing and implementing *Employee Wellness 2010*, a series of lectures, handouts, and screenings designed to enhance health and wellness for Parish employees and their families.



Benefits Manager Aubrey DeVillier

The goal of the series is to communicate tips, ideas, and facts to help employees reduce health risks and improve quality of life through screenings, exercise, and diet. The program kicked off in March with a lecture delivered on both the East and West Banks entitled “*Getting Started: 5 Tips to Healthy Eating.*” The lecture was attended by over 60 Parish employees. At press time, Aubrey and Cathy were preparing the follow-up lecture “*Why Diets Don’t Work...And What Does.*”

April’s theme is “*Heart Health.*” Each department’s benefits coordinator will be sending or posting important information to all employees about heart health and how to sustain or improve it.

In May, the theme is “*Blood Pressure.*” Our health care provider, United Health Care, will come to both banks in May to provide free cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure screenings to all employees who are members of United Health Care. Be sure to bring your UHC ID card to be admitted to the screening.

We’ll be outlining future events in upcoming issues of *En Realite*. In the meantime, check with your benefits coordinator for more information.

Vivian Lasseigne is HRM’s Employee of the Year!

The entire Human Resource Management Department would like to congratulate **Vivian Lasseigne**, Typist Clerk III, on being selected as the department’s Employee of the Year! Vivian has been with the Parish for almost 29 years and has served with dedication throughout. She now supports the Substance Abuse Unit, processing all paperwork regarding substance abuse testing for new hires as well as testing done for accidents and safety sensitive employees’ medication paper-

work.

According to Executive Assistant **Nicole Thompson**, “Vivian is an exceptional employee and her contributions to our department are unmatched. She is meticulous about the quality and accuracy of her work. This makes the department run more smoothly.”

Vivian will receive a plaque honoring her outstanding performance at the Parish Council meeting on April 14, 2010. Congratulations, Vivian! We are all proud of you!

Workplace Harassment Training 2010

The training division is preparing to deliver harassment training to all Parish supervisors from May through July. The three-hour training, entitled *Workplace Harassment 2010: Examining Inequities, Expanding Awareness*, is required for all supervisors.

The course will explore micro-inequities, present the new workplace harassment training intended for employees, and review additional responsibilities supervisors have in these areas. Supervisors will be scheduled for the course through their department.



HR’s Employee of the Year Vivian Lasseigne

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

Welcome new employees: **Eric Calhoun**, Juvenile Detention Officer; **Lorna Dart**, Vocational Counselor II; and **Jared Sanders**, Detention Security Guard.

Farewell and best wishes to **Jeffrey Lewis**, Juvenile Probation Officer, who left us to accept a position with Juvenile Court.

Congratulations to Our "2009 Departmental Employee of the Year" **Terence Dixon**, Juvenile Detention Home Security Guard. Mr. Dixon serves as the entrance/release focal point of the detention center. He oversees intake of new juveniles, serves as point of contact to the Juvenile Court, facilitates and supervises the public during visitations, and escorts juveniles to drug court hearings.

Mr. Dixon also serves as an essential employee, volunteering to man an employee shelter throughout an emergency event. Mr. Dixon is a proud husband and father. He is an avid Saints fan and always takes time out to cheer them to victory. Mr. Dixon's professionalism and responsiveness makes him a true asset to Jefferson Parish and in particular the Department of Juvenile Services.



JS's Employee of the Year
Terence Dixon

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Congratulations to Typist Clerk III **Patricia Beebe**, who received a certificate of merit from the Blood Center of New Orleans. Beebe, who coordinates C.D.'s blood drives said: "I give blood whenever I can. Each pint can save the lives of 3 persons."

CD Director **Anatola Thompson** held a public hearing on March 18. Robert Gaudin, of Western Economic Services of Portland, OR, gave a presentation on impediments to fair housing choices. The meeting, sponsored by the LA Recovery Authority Office of Community Development, addressed Jefferson Parish and Kenner. For a copy of the reports, go to <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/CDBG/DRHome.htm>

Federal and state fair housing laws prohibit discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, and familial status. Orleans Parish has extended protections for sexual orientation, gender identification, creed, age, and marital status.

Since 2005, the state Office of Community Development has received more than \$14 billion in Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery funding. Much of this funding is earmarked for affordable housing for residents with low to moderate incomes who live in traditional "entitlement" cities or parishes that are not accustomed to administering disaster recovery funding in their housing programs.

Parish Planner III **Faye Galand**, Information Specialist **Sevilla Finley**, Executive Assistant **Marilyn Beucler**, and Typist Clerk IIIs **Betty Overton** and **Connie Preston**, sent out a Community Needs Assessment Survey to parish churches and civic leaders. Galand will tabulate results, which will help develop the Parish's five-year plan to decide what projects and/or housing activities should be performed with CDBG, HOME, ESG funds.

Community Development held its First-Time Homebuyer Program lottery on February 11 with 251 people participating. Director **Anatola Thompson**, HOME Program Manager **Kim Thompson**, Project Coordinator **Jim Bush**, Housing Improvement Counselor II **Liz Ruth**, Housing Counselor I **Emann Batiste**, and others accepted lottery applications the first week in February.

Sayonara! C.D. staff said farewell with ice cream and cake to department secretary **Darnell Muhoberac**, who retired in February. Project Manager **Kenneth Krey**, who retired March 12 after 28 years, enjoyed a luncheon at Smiley's with colleagues. Both will be missed.



CD staff celebrate at Ken Krey's
retirement luncheon

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

Sewerage employees, showing their support for the New Orleans Saints, celebrated Black & Gold Friday on February 5 by wearing their Saints attire to work. And our New Orleans Saints did not disappoint us!

Congratulations to our *Employee of the Year* **Damian DeSalvo**, Operator IV at the Harvey Treatment Plant. Damian has been with the Parish for 26 years. His supervisors state that he shows commendable, exemplary dedication to the operation and maintenance of the plant and that his plant knowledge has proven to be extremely valuable.



Sewerage Employee of the Year
Damian DeSalvo

Damian, along with other Departmental Employees of the Year, will be honored with a special presentation during the April 14 Jefferson Parish Council Meeting. Congratulations on receiving this special honor, Damian!

Congratulations to **James Robinson**, a Trades Helper in our East Bank Lift Stations division, who was nominated by his supervisor for Employee of the Year.



Sewerage East Bank Field Office employees on Black & Gold Day

We'd like to convey our deepest sympathies to **Ann Williams** of our East Bank Field Office. Ann's father, Milton Boudreaux, Jr., passed away on March 17.

Good Bye, Hello, and Congratulations!

Congratulations to our retirees—**Willie Martin & Oscar Jasmine**. Willie retired from the Marrero Plant on March 12 with 12 years of service. Oscar retired from West Bank Lines on April 9 with 20 years of service.

Welcome to our new hires: **Edgar Allen & Ricky Patton**, Laborers with East Bank Lift Stations; **Wilbert Joseph & Wardell McIntyre**, Laborers with West Bank Lines; and

Teduse Jackson, Laborer with East Bank Lines.

Congratulations to our newly promoted employees: **Christopher Forester** was promoted to Plant Operator I at the Harvey Plant; **Harold Williams** was promoted to Trades Helper at the Bridge City Plant; and **Bruce Lemieux** was promoted to Plant Operator I at the Marrero Plant.

Correction:

I erroneously reported in the last issue that **Patricia Portier** retired from our Bridge City Treatment Plant. Patricia did not retire. She received her 25-year service pin award. **Tammy Guillot** retired from our Harvey Treatment Plant on February 3 with 13 years of service. Congratulations, and sorry for the mix-up, ladies!



Sewerage Administration Office employees on Black & Gold Day

Traffic Engineering

By
Joseph Parker, Jr. & Brandy Chism



Royal Jackson (pictured) and **Chris Bellow** of Traffic Engineering Signal Division slide signal lights back into place after the Irish/Italian parade. The signals are slid to the side in order for floats and passengers to safely fit underneath.



Mack Richburg in the signal control room at Traffic Engineering checks the conflict monitor. Conflict monitors check for traffic signal conflicts throughout Jefferson Parish, such as a green light northbound and a green light westbound at the same time. Signal conflicts will automatically go into flash mode if this happens, at which time the public will call our office, Jefferson Parish Dispatch, or the JPSO to report the malfunction. The Signal Division has a technician on standby at all times for such calls.

Transit

By
Patricia Lyons

Transit Promotion Package

Jefferson Transit has developed a Promotional Packet to distribute to local businesses that can benefit from fixed route service. This Promotional Packet includes information on JeT routes, half fare cards, and schedules. It also includes information for employers on the tax benefits of offering employees the Jefferson Transit VIP Monthly Pass.

Jefferson Transit has begun marketing this Promotional Packet to the Elmwood Business Association. We will continue outreach efforts with presentations to the Chamber of Commerce, the Jefferson Hispanic Chamber, and to businesses with a large number of employees along JeT routes.

Jefferson Transit Security Grant Program

Jefferson Transit has received funding to conduct a public education campaign. Our goal is to educate JeT riders on transit security issues, including terrorism and natural disasters, and to encourage active participation in maintaining a safe transit environment.

In an effort to do this, Transit produces bi- and multi-lingual posters and “take ones” and provides web site updates and public service announcements. On a monthly basis, we will be conducting Transit Security Awareness Days at the terminals and major bus stops. We will also conduct presentations at transit security meetings in target neighborhoods that have a large number of transit riders and/or major transit security concerns.

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS RECEIVES STATE AWARD

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality selected the Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs to receive the 2010 Environmental Leadership Program Award in the Community Environmental Outreach, Municipalities category. The Community Environmental Outreach Award recognizes those agencies that have innovative projects that contribute to enhancing the quality of the environment for the local community.

The Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) is a voluntary partnership designed to promote a cleaner and better environment for Louisiana. This program recognizes outstanding activities and projects that demonstrate environmental leadership and the pursuit of a cleaner, safer environment.

Marnie Winter, Katherine Costanza, Scott Finney, James Schultz, Sami Khalil, Randy Majoria, Lauren Barton and Jena Dorward accepted the award at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality headquarters in Baton Rouge on March 24. Congratulations to all our Environmental employees; this was a team effort. Your hard work and dedication throughout the year helped make this a reality.

Cypress Tree Planting

Environmental Affairs received a grant from the National Association of Counties to plant bald cypress trees along the banks of the Bayou Segnette Waterway as part of the 2008 Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program. We partnered with CRCL (the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana) and held cypress tree planting events on March 12, 13, and 17.

Approximately 2200 bald cypress trees were planted along the Bayou Segnette waterway.



Environmental's Jason Smith instructs cypress tree volunteers.

Once this project is complete, approximately 3100 bald cypress trees will have been planted along the waterway. Restoration projects such as this help to educate the public on the importance of restoring Louisiana's coastline.

Environmental also received a grant from The Nature Conservancy through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Community Based Restoration Program to plant mangroves on FiFi Island in Grand Isle. Environmental Affairs will again partner with the CRCL to double the size of this project. For more information or to volunteer for the mangrove planting event in April, contact Jason Smith at 731-4612.

Finally, we are saddened by the loss of long-time SCADA employee **Alfred Cason**, who passed away on March 6. Although Alfred was not an Environmental employee, he worked next door in the Rheem building for many years. He was a very kind man, and we will miss him. Our prayers are with him, his family, and all the SCADA employees.



Environmental Director Marnie Winter, Asst. Director Katherine Costanza, Lauren Barton, Scott Finney, Sami Khalil, Jenna Dorward, James Schultz, and Randy Majoria accept the 2010 Environmental Leadership Program Award.

Library

By
Mark Deane

Jefferson Parish Library congratulates Belle Terre Library Branch Manager **Tom Giroir**, our Employee of the Year. Tom Giroir took over at Belle Terre at the beginning of 2009 and never looked back. He began a story-time program, started craft events on Saturdays, and has recently added adult computer classes.

Last year, the summer reading program at Belle Terre had more children participating than any other branch—topped only by the two regional libraries. And when the Grand Isle Library needed a manager, Tom took on that responsibility as well. The Library is proud to call Tom Giroir one of our employees.



Library's Employee of the Year
Tom Giroir

We say goodbye to two long-time employees at the Library. North Kenner Library Branch Manager **Mel Louviere** retired in February, and East Bank Regional Library Manager **Mario Dipietrantonio** retired in March.

Mario Dipietrantonio served Jefferson Parish for more than 30 years. For the last 13 years, he

has been the manager of the East Bank Regional Library, providing the type of leadership and support that has allowed his staff to learn new skills and effectively serve the public. “Mario has mentored a generation of library staff,” says colleague and friend Librarian II **Linda Molinaro**. “His familiarity with library matters is outweighed only by his understanding of people – on both sides of the service counter.”



Mario Dipietrantonio

Mel Louviere began working for the Library in 1967. Over the years, he came and went at the library, leaving twice to pursue his educational goals. He returned for good in 2000 and became Branch Manager at North Kenner in 2006. Mel is known for his often-used phrase “We soldier on,” useful advice for the Library now that we are losing such a valuable employee.

New faces at the Library include Computer Systems Specialist **Rodney Black**, Truck Driver **Benjamin Frank**, Library Associate **Jane Franks**, Live Oak Branch Manager **Eric Krieger**, Library Page **Peter Melancon**, Computer Systems Specialist **Shane Russo**, and Li-

brary Associate **Donna Sylver**.

Jefferson Parish Library continues to build back better with two new library branch openings: Lafitte and Gretna. Both were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The new Lafitte Library opened its doors March 4 as part of the Leo. E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex. The library is almost three times bigger than the old facility and includes a collection of 14,000 brand new items and 12 public access computers. The former library building will be the new Sheriff Harry Lee Police Station.

The new Gretna Library opened on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. It is twice as big as the old library, which was located on the same spot. The new Gretna Library has the distinction of being the first rebuilt library using funds donated by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and administered by the LYRASHIS Gulf Coast Libraries Project.

Library Director **Lon Dickerson** and IT Network Administrator **Ricardo Mesa** appeared on WWL-TV's Morning Show “Digital Gumbo” segment to give an update on technology improvements at the Jefferson Parish Library. The improvements include more computers at every branch, wireless internet (Wi-Fi) at every branch, and a faster internet connection.

The Library also offers e-books, audiobooks, and videos that users can download from home for use on electronic readers, iPods, and MP3 players. For more information about those services, check out the Library website: www.jefferson.lib.la.us.

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Spring Is In The Air...

As spring begins, Drainage continues to blossom and expand with the addition of new employees. We'd like to welcome **George Forbes, Reginald Sparks, Brice Parker, Charles Robinson, Willie Theodore Jr., Darrick Williams, Renard Foster, and Clarence Lambert** to our family. Good luck and we look forward to hearing great things from you all!

Also, a special "job well done" goes out to those commendable Drainage employees that received promotions these past few months. They include **Gary Clarks, Dominick Ditcharo, Arthur Nicholas, Ronard Frank, Emanuel Leblanc, and Joseph Burse III**. Congratulations to you all; we anticipate seeing more promotions in the future. We are also welcoming new Assistant Director **Bob Dale** to the family. We all wish him the very best!

A Few Fond Farewells

We'd like to send off two of our very dedicated and hard-working Drainage employees as they begin their journey in their much deserved retirement. **Eddie Hebert** and **Janis Sanchez** have both put in many years with the Department of Drainage.

Mr. Hebert officially retired January 21, 2010, as an Equipment Operator IV for West Bank Drainage after 21 years followed by Ms. Sanchez on February 3, 2010, after 29 years. Janis was a Drainage Pump Station Operator II for West Bank Pump Station.

Health & Wellness

By
Peggy Branan, RN

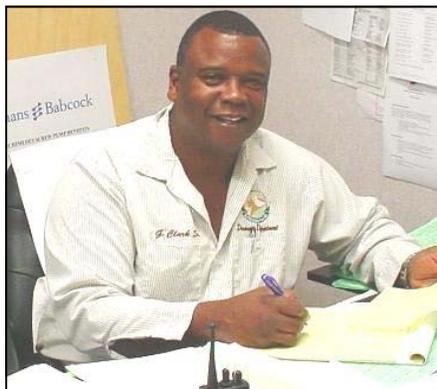


Every day countless Americans undergo surgical procedures. While most operations are uneventful, there are always risks involved. Chances are that at some point in your life, you too will have a procedure. So, what can you do to minimize your risks?

No surgery is insignificant. Every procedure will alter tissue integrity, introduce chemicals/medications into the body, and stimulate an immune and stress response by the body.

As a result, at any time, an adverse reaction could occur. Some reactions may include infection, abnormal elevation or drop in the vital signs, excessive bleeding, blood clot formation, pneumonia, a wide range of side effects from the medications and anesthesia, and in the most extreme and rare cases, death.

What are some things you



Drainage Pump Station
Superintendent II Gary Clarks

should consider before the procedure?

- Learn all you can about your procedure so you are familiar with what will take place.
- Make sure that a family member or a friend likewise is familiar with how the procedure and recovery process should proceed.
- Don't be afraid to ask your doctor questions.
- Become familiar with what your insurance plan will and will not cover.
- Obtain the necessary items to make the recovery phase safer:
 - Safety grab bars installed in the bathroom, door entrances, etc.
 - Bed side rails
 - Shower chair
 - Hand held shower sprayer
 - Rubber tub floor mat
 - Non-skid socks
- Obtain the necessary items to make the recovery phase more convenient and comfortable: Clothing that allows easier dressing and undressing
- Rearrange household furnishings as needed
- Consider obtaining a TRANSFER wheelchair to make mobility much easier

What are some things you should consider following the procedure?

- Keep the post-surgical instruction sheet close by and follow the instructions
- Monitor your temperature
- Notify your doctor of any medication side effects
- Keep a medication log to keep track of what you take

So, if and when your time comes, be informed, be prepared, and be at ease.

JeffCAP

By
Aretha Frison

Tri-Parish Conference Honors Ferrier

Executive Director **Nicole Ferrier** was the keynote speaker at the 15th Annual Tri-Parish Elected Officials and Legislators Conference in St. James, Louisiana. Parish presidents from St. Charles, St. James, and St. John attended, along with their state senators and representatives.

Ferrier spoke about the need for Community Action Partnership agencies (CAP) in the parishes and what they offer to constituents. In addition, she highlighted the importance of CAP agencies working with state legislators and elected officials. The conference officials presented Ferrier with an award for serving as the keynote speaker.



JeffCAP Director Nicole Ferrier

New Senior Volunteer Station: Metairie Senior Center

Recently, the Metairie Senior Center, located at 265 N. Causeway, became an RSVP volunteer station. JeffCAP RSVP has over 800 senior volunteers, ages 55 and older, who serve at 25 volunteer stations throughout Jefferson Par-

ish. The center houses 22 active volunteers and provides meals, classes, and elderly services to Metairie seniors. The two-story facility has a library, several meeting rooms, and a multi-purpose room to celebrate birthdays, holidays, and monthly bingo events.

The Jefferson Council on Aging (JCOA) operates the Metairie Senior Center, which is responsible for advocacy and coordinating a variety of services that are available to 80,000 persons, ages 60 and older in Jefferson Parish. To become a Metairie Senior Center volunteer, contact **Amber Martinez**, RSVP clerk, at 504.736.6165.

JeffCAP Designated President's Volunteer Service Certifying Station

Recently, Jefferson Community Action Retired Senior Volunteer Program (JeffCAP RSVP) was accepted as a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award. At our annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition Brunch in September, we will present this award to three volunteers and one volunteer station based on the number of volunteer hours accrued from July 2009 to July 2010.

Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service, encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation, and inspires others to make service a central part of their lives. The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard measured by the number of hours of service over a 12-month period or cumulative hours

earned over the course of a lifetime.

We encourage all station supervisors to recognize their outstanding volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 18-24 and promote the **President's Volunteer Service Award**. It is the highest honor and most prestigious volunteer award directly associated with the White House and one that all Americans can aspire to achieve.

Such a nationalized display of recognition during our annual luncheon will not only leverage the nation's focus on service, but also establish a direct link with the projects and activities at our volunteer stations and align them with a prestigious national award. For more information, contact **Aretha Frison**, information specialist, at 504.736.6165.

New Family Home Day Care Coordinator

The newest member of the JeffCAP team is **Darcel Florence**, our new Family Day Care Homes Coordinator. Florence was hired after the retirement of the former coordinator, June Williams.

JeffCAP continued



Darcel Florence

Florence will be responsible for the daily management of program participants who operate a home-based child care program in Jefferson Parish.

Participants in the day care program receive reimbursements through the National Association for Family Child Care and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Day Care Homes program. To apply, a Family Day Care Home must sign an agreement with a sponsoring organization in order to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

The program provides reimbursement for meals served in day care homes. USDA's statistics show that almost 3 million children receive nutritious meals and snacks through CACFP. The USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers CACFP through grants to participating state programs through the educational agencies.

For more information on our JeffCAP program, please contact **Darcel Florence**, JeffCAP Family Day Care Homes coordinator, at 736-6166 or and email **dflorence@jeffparish.net**.

New JeffCAP Staff

At JeffCAP central office, **Justin Hoffman** is the new accountant, **Amber Martinez** is the new RSVP clerk, and **Clara Scott** is serving as a community service coordinator.

Jessie Taylor is serving as the new center supervisor at the Bridge City Community Center, while **Darlene McKinnies** is

serving as the new center supervisor at the Harvey Community Center. These centers provide a range of services including housing counseling, commodities, utility assistance, and classes for individuals, families, and the elderly throughout Jefferson Parish. **Rochelle Rabathaly** is the new assistant administrator for Head Start. **Antionette Davis** is our new West Bank Head Start center supervisor, and the new Teacher Adviser for Kenner/Clay St. Head Start is **E. Vanessa Alcazar**.

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 participants. This "center-based" program spends 6 hours in a classroom-learning environment at all nine centers throughout Jefferson Parish. Head Start provides comprehensive health, education, nutrition, parent involvement, school readiness, and social services.

Congratulations to all and welcome aboard!



Justin Hoffman

General Services

By
Jill Relick

We are proud to welcome **Charles Clark** to our Grounds Crew, **Joseph Castjohn** to the First Parish Court, and **Roseann Miquet** to our East Bank General Service family. Remember: the worst question is the one you don't ask!



Roseann Miquet joins the GS team

A special thanks to **Judy Johnson** and **Janet Phillippe**. They are our staff members who inspect our AED UNITS. (Automated External Defibrillators). Make sure you are aware of the AED's location in your building, and if you have any questions about their function ask your supervisor for details. Your knowledge could save lives. Look for Janet and Judy anytime inspecting General Government Building and Yenni Building AEDs.

Tim Anderson has been "holding down the court." That's the First Parish Court. The skeleton crew is something of the past now. His initiative and expertise of the operation of the building have proven beneficial in many ways. Thanks to you, Tim.

Just a reminder of the upcoming Blood Drives:

- Jeff. Parish Library April 12
- Joseph Yenni Building May 7

Emergency Management

By
Gerard Doris

Jefferson Parish Emergency Management Department is now more prepared for all hazard situations with its new Mobile Command Center and Communications Vehicle.

The communication vehicle is equipped with a number of systems that give First Responders phone, fax, internet, and radio communication. It has a satellite system that allows the responder access to phone communications and the internet through a desktop computer and a wireless router.

The vehicle has the capability of taking radio systems and frequencies from two different agencies that can't talk to each other and patching them together so that they can have direct communications over their existing system. Equipped with three 700/800 MHz radios, with the State Interoperability Regional programming information, the vehicle also has VHF & UHF radios. Lastly, it has a PTZ camera that



Communications Vehicle

can be used to see the area of the incident while positioned at a safe distance.

and the capability to add four more stations.



The Unified Command vehicle is a 40-foot-long mobile command center with 10 workstations

It has five 700/800 MHz radios with the State Interoperability Regional programming system, 1 Marine, 1 Ham, 1 GOHSEP, and 1 UHF radio.

The command vehicle is equipped with a Pelco CCTV camera that can be elevated 30 feet in the air and has a zoom camera that allows a 360 degree visual of an incident from a safe distance. The images from the camera can also be viewed from computers back at the Emergency Operations Center over an internet link. The Command Post is also equipped with an on-board weather station. Lastly, it has one desktop computer with four tuff book laptops along with a wireless router.



Emergency Management's new Unified Command Vehicle

The Emergency Management Department can have these vehicles deployed within one hour after receiving a request for the vehicles and have either of them operational ten minutes after arriving. If you would like to get more info or to take a tour of the vehicle, contact our department at (504) 349-5360.

Employee Diversity Advisory Council

When the Jefferson Parish Diversity Initiative was first launched in fall 2008, the objective was to establish a workplace culture of tolerance, inclusion, respect, and appreciation in Jefferson Parish. At the outset, there were three phases planned for the initiative: 1) assessment of existing Parish culture; 2) diversity awareness training for all supervisory staff; and 3) establishment of a Diversity Council.

The first phase surveyed and assessed the current culture at Jefferson Parish by conducting employee focus groups of randomly selected employees from throughout the Parish, giving them the opportunity to share their perspectives on workplace diversity at Jefferson Parish. The information collected in these sessions was used to plan the second phase, which was training for all Parish supervisors in understanding and appreciating diversity in the workplace.

The third phase of the Diversity Initiative was launched in January 2010 with the creation of the Employee Diversity Advisory Council. The purpose of this council is to assist in providing an environment where there is a conscious focus on acceptance, education, and inclusion of diversity within Jefferson Parish. The council champions the benefits of diversity through the development, implementation, and support of activities that honor the unique abilities and address the common concerns of employees. The council serves as an advisory body and communication link between Parish Leadership and Parish employees.

The Employee Diversity Advisory Council is made up of fourteen (14) employees. In winter 2009 each department Director nominated one person from his/her department who fit the member profile of a council member. From that group, each CAA selected two (2) employees to represent all the departments managed by that CAA. Two (2) members were also selected by the DCAO from departments that report directly to the Parish President, the CAO, or the Deputy CAO.

The members of the **2010 Employee Diversity Advisory Council** and newly elected officers are as follows:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Group Represented</u>
Karen Daviss , Co-chairperson	Emergency Mgt.	CAA Deano Bonano
Aretha Frison , Co-chairperson	JeffCAP	CAA Darryl Ward
Deidre Cummings , Rec. Secretary	Alario Center	CAA Bobby Bourgeois
Francois Ancar	Planning	CAA Tony DiGerolamo
Deborah Bourgeois	Risk Management	AA Cherreen Gegenheimer
Jim Bush	Com. Development	CAA Darryl Ward
Jelena Franklin	Engineering	CAA Kazem Alikhani
Gloria Helaire	Accounting	DCAO Bert Smith
Henry King	Fire	DCAO Bert Smith
Nedra Lagarde	Animal Shelter	CAA Deano Bonano
Maria Rose	MIS	CAA Cherreen Gegenheimer
Linda Roy	Inspection & Code	CAA Tony DiGerolamo
Billy Sanders	Environmental	CAA Bobby Bourgeois
Keith Thornton	Drainage	CAA Kazem Alikhani

The additional personnel that serve to assist the Employee Diversity Advisory Council are three Executive Advocates: CAA **Kazem Alikhani**; CAA **Cherreen Gegenheimer**; CAA **Darryl Ward**; and a Human Resources advisor **Nancy Rodriguez**.

Retirements

Patricia Lataxes
Finance
38 years

Harold Landry
Water
35 years

Randall Schuler
Water
34 years

Martha Waggener
Library
30 years

Darnell Muhoberac
Community Development
30 years

Morris Burras
Water
30 years

Mario Dipietrantonio
Library
29 years

Philip Krey
Community Development
28 years

Salvatore Battaglia
Water
23 years

June Williams
JeffCAP
15 years

Stella Braswell
Library
14 years

Alfred Cason
Engineering
13 years

Willie Martin
Sewerage
12 years

Virginia Hebert
Water
11 years

Melvin Louviere
Library
10 years

Water Director Retires



Recognizing Randy Schuler's retirement: Public Works Director Kazem Alikhani, Randy Schuler, President Steve Theriot, Council members Cynthia Lee Sheng and John Young, and COO José Gonzalez