

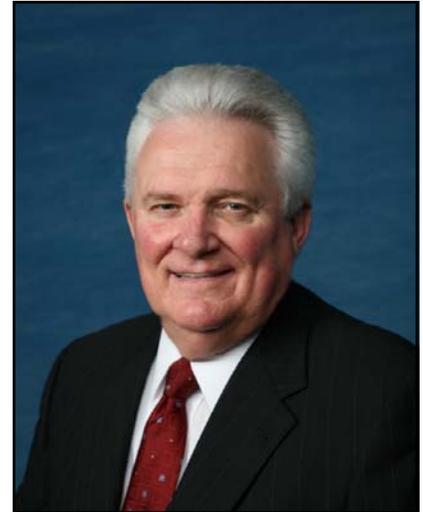


Volume 31
Number 1
February 2010

EM Realite

Message from the Parish President. .

New Jefferson Parish President Steve J. Theriot



Steve J. Theriot
Parish President

It takes a lot of people to run a parish, especially the largest parish in the State of Louisiana. Jefferson Parish employs nearly three thousand people.

Our employees range from animal control to drainage, from librarians to engineers and street maintenance workers. As an employee of Jefferson Parish, you have been part of a team that has led this parish's progress.

I am honored to be part of this group and serve the citizens of Jefferson Parish. I look forward to contributing to the many programs and policies that are steadily improving the parish now and for the future.

As the Louisiana Legislative Auditor for 5 ½ years and a Certified Public Accountant, I have the

knowledge and experience to review contracts and analyze parish policies and procedures.

Moreover, these reviews will contribute to public accountability by providing information relevant to performance within our parish.

As your Parish President, I take great pride in my mission to earn the public trust and deliver quality government service for citizens who live, work, and visit our growing community of Jefferson Parish.



En Realité

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Brandy Chism & David Stout

TRANSIT

Patricia Lyons

WATER

Kathy Theriot & Gennie Hebert

WORKFORCE CONNECTION

Frances Turner

Editor's



Notes

Employment Exploration Program for Special Kids

The Department of Human Resources is one of four departments that has had the good fortune to participate in the Employment Exploration Program for the last five years.

The Employment Exploration Program is part of the Jefferson Parish Public Schools Office of Vocational Services for Students with Disabilities that local retail businesses, like Winn Dixie and Big Lots, have participated in for several years. This non-paid, skill training program provides work experience at real job sites for students with moderate to severe cognitive or physical disabilities. These students, ages 15 to 22, share a common need to learn productive skills through hands-on experience.

A Special Education teacher, who is sometimes accompanied by a teacher's assistant, is always present at the jobsite with the student group. Student groups consist of one to four students. The teacher is completely responsible for the students and assists them with their work. The job site is asked to provide tasks for the students to work on, tasks which are usually ongoing and repeatable from week to week.

Four students work for us for two hours every Tuesday morning. We provide tasks for the stu-



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

dents that include filing, copying, and sorting. They often compile binders for our New Employee Orientation program and recently helped stuff envelopes with invitations for the Service Pin Award Ceremony. We regularly find new tasks for them and look forward to their return the following week. It's wonderful to see them become comfortable in our office and eager to do their "jobs."

Animal Shelter, Library, and Recreation have joined with Human Resources in welcoming these students into our workplaces over the past several years. But in order to provide varied experiences for the students in several different settings, we would like to see this program expanded to include more Parish departments.

We anticipate the Employment Exploration Program will continue in the 2010-2011 school year. We hope that more departments within the Parish will open their doors to these wonderful young people. Please contact Nancy Rodriguez @ 736-6128 for more information on the program and how your department can get involved.

Emergency Management

By
Karen Daviss, NREMT

The Emergency Management Department is now looking for volunteers to join their Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) Team.

Jefferson Parish MRC will play an important role in the parish with assisting and supplementing emergency and public health resources. With the support of volunteers, Jefferson Parish MRC will be able to promote well-being; help with evacuation and shelter sites, health fairs, and vaccination campaigns; and provide disaster assistance along with training and exercises.



Assessment

The Medical Reserve Corp mission is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical, and other volunteers. MRC falls under the Surgeon General Office, Dr. Regina M. Benjamin. MRC units are community-based and function as a way to organize and utilize volunteers who want to donate their time and expertise.



Shelter activation and preparation

Jefferson Parish MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians and social workers. Many community members include interpreters, chaplains, office workers, legal advisors, and others that can fill key support positions. The Jefferson Parish MRC is currently outfitting a trailer with supplies that would be needed to assist in an emergency or disaster.

Once on board with Jefferson Parish Medical Reserve Corp, our volunteers have training opportunities and announcements by going to the site www.medicalreservecorp.com and can also sign up on www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov on the Louisiana Volunteers in Action (LAVA) website.

For more information about volunteering, please feel free to contact Karen Daviss at (504) 349-5360 or email at kdaviss@jeffparish.net. You can also visit the Parish website at www.jeffparish.net to gather more information about MRC.

Citizens' Affairs

By
Tracie Chaix

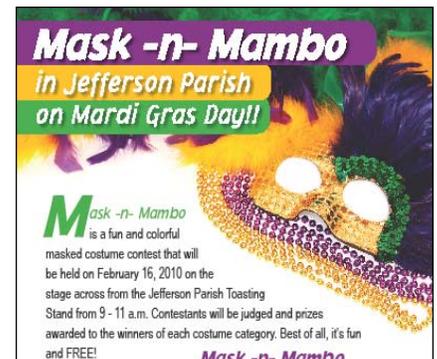
CARNIVAL

Jefferson Parish Carnival Season kicks off Friday, February 5, 2010. This year there will be nine (9) East Bank parades, and four (4) West Bank parades. However, no parades will roll on Superbowl Sunday, February 7, 2010; so enjoy the Superbowl parties and watch the game!

The Krewes of Choctaw, Adonis, and Alla will parade consecutively on "Super Saturday," February 6, 2010. It's sure to be a great time, so be sure to catch them all! The Krewe of Argus is thrilled to have Rachael Ray, celebrity chef and television personality, as Grand Marshal for its Mardi Gras Day parade.

Mask-N-Mambo!

Also on Mardi Gras Day there will be the Mask-n-Mambo Costume Contest onstage at Causeway and Veterans, Lakeside Shopping Center side, across from the Jefferson Parish Toasting Stand. Admission is free! Register for this event by calling 504-293-2647, faxing entry form to 504-455-7103, emailing form to cgourgeot@nocci.com, or register onsite from 8-9am Mardi Gras Day! Contest categories are as follows: Individual, Family, Group and Children (ages 0-12).



Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

Congratulations are extended to **Ed Durabb**, Director, who has 25 years of service, and to **Darlene Duet**, Stenographer III, with 20 years of service. They received their service pins at a special ceremony at the Alario Center on December 8.

Greg Johnson, GIS Operator II, and **James Klevorn**, GIS Operator II, received their 10-year service pins; and **Juliette Cassagne**, Planner III, received her service pin for 5 years.



Planning Director Ed Durabb and Darlene Duet with their service certificates

Welcome to new Planner II, **James Borsos**, who will be working in the Planning and Research Section.

We are happy to announce that the Planning Department donated three Senior Wish Christmas baskets.



Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

Employees with 20 or more years of service were invited to *The 2009 Service Pin Ceremony* at the Alario Center in December. **Phil Rupp** from Human Resources emceed the event. The following Department of Sewerage employees received their service pins:

20 YEARS: **Brett Todd, Michael Stamps, Oscar Jasmine, and Dwayne Thomas**

25 YEARS: **Venice Cooper, Bruce Cook, Pablo San Martin, Nathan Allison, James Jackson, Glenn Miller, Royal Clark, Patricia Portier, Damian DeSalvo, George Gandy, and Ronald Williams.**

30 YEARS: **Lance Brown**

Congratulations to our retirees - **Moses Davis** and **Patricia Portier**. Moses retired from West Bank Lift Stations on January 1 with 27 years of service. Patricia will retire from our Bridge City Treatment Plant on February 3 after 13 years. Best wishes to both for many happy years of retirement!

Sewerage Administration and superintendents would like to thank all who worked many long hours maintaining and troubleshooting our sewer system during the historic rainfall event in December. We are proud and fortunate to have employees who are dedicated and willing to go that extra mile. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our 2010 United Way Campaign. In addition to employee contributions, we held

candy sales and “Blue Jean Monday” fundraisers. We donated a total of \$1,174.00. Thanks to all who donated for making a difference in our community.

The Department of Sewerage once again participated in the Senior Citizens’ Christmas Wish Program. Each year our Department participates in this worthwhile event by providing baskets filled with toiletry, household, and food items for the home-bound senior citizens of our parish. Through the generosity of numerous Department of Sewerage employees, our department contributed over \$400.00 worth of items (filling 20 baskets) to this cause.



Yvette Russo, Cindy Gallo, Venice Cooper, and Rose Martin assembling the baskets.

The baskets were delivered on December 21 and 22 - just in time for Christmas. Thanks to all employees who contributed for making the Christmas season a little brighter for our seniors. Thanks also to all of those who helped with coordinating, shopping, and/or assembling the baskets. Last, but certainly not least, thanks to our basket delivery persons – **Danny Bravata, Rochelle Ellis, and Elton Davis** (East Bank); **George Gandy, Kendall Jones, Lawrence Scieneaux, and Gerald Keller** (West Bank).

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Welcome & Congratulations!

As 2010 begins, Drainage has had lots of memorable moments since our last article. Among the most noticeable changes are our new additions and recent promotions. **Roy Brown, Cornelius Anderson, Kevin Lobrano, Michael Richoux, and Christopher Peters** have begun their careers with Jefferson Parish as laborers for the Department of Drainage. Good luck, you guys!

Also, we would like to congratulate the following for their recent promotions: **Chris Farve, Corsandria Baker, Kirk Craig, Larry Smith, Micah Polius, Ryan Sievers, Jose Puente, Dong V. Pham, and Errol Moliere.** And an extra special job well done to our newest Superintendent II, **Richard Davis.**

Award Recipients

The following employees received service pins for 5 years: **Jack Barnett, Julius Brown, Clinton Daigrepoint, John Dixon, Richard Hall, Clinton Hotard, Naricso Leyva, Maximo Marino, Leonie Mosley, and Lawrence Reese.**

10 years: **Brian Baudoin, Floyd Bell, Sr., Herbert Boudreaux, Leroy Coppage, Jr., Richard Honea, Chantelle Lewis, Donna Mena, Hai Nguyen, Eugene Pereira, Jr., and Jerome Seymore, Jr.**

15 years: **Davelynn James, Kenneth O'Neal, and George Withers.** Thank you for your hard work thus far. We look forward to seeing what you all will accomplish in the future.

Fond Farewells

While new faces were being introduced to our Department of Drainage family, we said goodbye to two hard-working men that retired after countless years of dedication and hard work. **Morris Bouvier**, East Bank Drainage Superintendent II, retired August 28 after 23 years of service to the department. His warm smile and great knowledge will be missed from around the office.

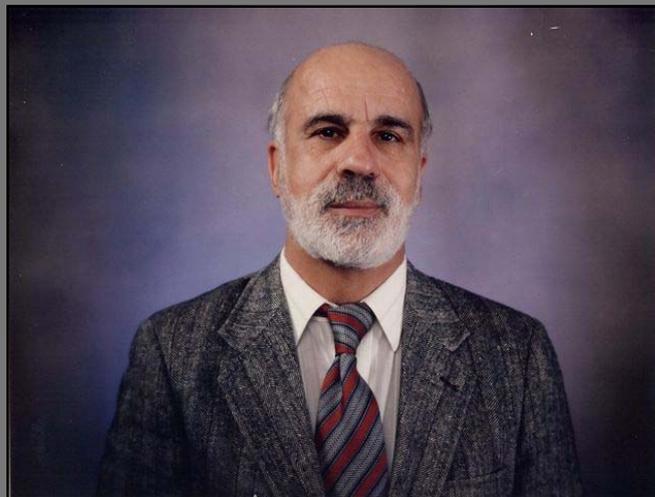
Also, our Assistant Director, **William "Bill" Duplaisir**, departed on January 8 after 33 long years with Jefferson Parish. Having started out as a draftsman, he managed to make his way up to Assistant Director and has made an impact on many that he has encountered. Between his work savvy and his great sense of humor, he will always be remembered. (See photo page 18)

With Great Sadness

We would like to take the time to extend our sincere condolences to those that have lost someone near and dear to their heart. **Thomas Robinson,**

Trades Helper for West Bank Drainage, experienced the loss of his wife, Donna Robinson, on November 12, 2009, after many years of marriage. Valerie Curtis, wife of West Bank Drainage Foreman **Patrick Curtis** and sister of West Bank Drainage Typist Clerk III **Javanda Dominic**, passed away on November 20. Services were held on November 28 and were filled with friends and family that truly loved and cared about her. **Joseph Harrison**, Laborer, also passed away around the Christmas holidays. Just shy of his one year anniversary with the parish, he showed true promise with the department.

Last, but definitely not least, we are sad to say that our beloved coworker, **Ali Pirsalehy**, recently passed away. On Sunday, January 17, he went to his eternal resting place at the age of 67. With 28 years of service with Jefferson Parish, Ali touched many lives in ways that can't be explained. He was a constant source of wisdom and love who will be sorely missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him. We are honored to have known him and will greatly miss him.



Ali Pirsalehy 1942-2010

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

The Department of Environmental Affairs would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project. The Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project, now in its 20th year, uses recycled Christmas trees to build sediment-trapping fences that protect and restore fragile wetlands near Lafitte.

The project is funded in part by a \$53,000 grant from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. However, this award-winning project could not take place without a tremendous volunteer effort and generous corporate donations. On January 13, more than 20 students from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, made the trek south to help transport Christmas trees to pre-constructed shoreline fences in Goose Bayou near Lafitte.

The Environmental Department would like to give special thanks to the Departments of

Parkways, Streets, and Fleet Management for their help with this project, especially when two of the volunteer events had to be canceled due to bad weather. This year, several thousand Christmas trees were recycled and used to refurbish more than 1,500 linear feet of shoreline fences.

The Department of Environmental Affairs received a grant from the National Association of Counties (NACo) to plant cypress trees along the banks of the Bayou Segnette Waterway as part of the 2008 Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program. Jefferson Parish has partnered with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) to double the size of the project. The restoration effort will provide the owners of nearby camps with educational guides regarding landscaping with native species, controlling exotic and invasive species, and showing the value of riparian wetland habitat to the ecosystem. Volunteer dates to plant cypress trees

along the banks of the Bayou Segnette Waterway will be in March. To volunteer, please contact Jason Smith at 731-4612.

The Department of Environmental Affairs received a grant from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community Based Restoration Program. Again, Jefferson Parish has partnered with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) to double the size of the project. The volunteer dates to plant black mangroves on Fifi Island will be in April. To volunteer, please contact Jason Smith at 731-4612.

Purchasing

By
Gail Petrie

With the start of the new year, the Purchasing Department will continue developing new and enhanced procurement processes. These practices will assist you with your procurement needs. There are some new procedures implemented in the procurement process. These recently established procedures will expedite and manage DEPO's and contract processing more effectively.

In the months ahead, our goal will be to provide you with the tools and information necessary to perform your job --- Training! Please provide us in Purchasing with the subject matter and topics on which you desire additional training.

Finally, the Purchasing Department wishes all of you a happy, prosperous New Year.



Environmental's Administrative Assistant Evaline Armstrong assists at the Christmas tree project.

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

I'd like to wish a Happy New Year to our department and to all of our readers. I hope 2010 will be a special year for you.

Congratulations to **Daniel Williams**, who recently became a grandfather. His daughter Lindsey Rae Williams gave birth to adorable Ashton Brock Nieto on November 21, 2009. What a wonderful time for Daniel and his family.

Mabelle Cheramie retired in December after working for the Streets Department for 31 years. We hope she truly enjoys her retirement. She will be truly missed.

There was an unveiling of a Blue Dog statue by renowned artist George Rodrigue on January 7, 2010. It was graciously donated by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shane. The statue is permanently displayed on Veterans Memorial Boulevard at Severn Ave. Blue Dog is part of Jefferson Parish Artscape, sculptures that are permanently displayed on medians, parkways, and other public spaces in Jefferson Parish.

Finance Authority

By
Sheila Rodrigue

New Bond Issue

Interested in purchasing a home in Jefferson Parish in 2010? The Jefferson Parish Finance Authority has a new bond program available for all eligible borrowers for the purchase of a single family residence. This Series 2009A bond program has a 30-year fixed mortgage rate of 5.35% with 4% down payment and closing costs assistance.

The loan can be used either for the purchase of a new or previously occupied residence (including a condominium unit) or for a new construction loan. The maximum acquisition cost of the residence cannot exceed \$316,177. The maximum income for a family of one or two cannot exceed \$71,760 and for a family of three or more the maximum income cannot exceed \$83,720.

All mortgage loans for a new or previously occupied residence must be originated on or before November 19, 2010. For a new

construction loan, enough time must be allowed by the lender for delivery of the mortgage loan to the Master Servicer on or before November 19, 2010.

The borrower does not have to be a first-time home buyer to use bond money, but the residence purchased using bond money must be located in Jefferson Parish and does have to be the borrower's primary residence. Unlike some of our previous programs, this new Series 2009A bond program does *not* allow for refinancing of an existing home loan, nor is a home rehabilitation loan allowed.

If you are interested in getting additional information about our Series 2009A 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.

Promotions

There have been two more changes in our office since Joycelyn Messina's retirement in December. **Cheryl Bourgois** has been promoted from Secretary to Administrative Assistant. Cheryl has been a Parish employee since 2000 and with our department since 2003, where she began as a Typist Clerk III followed by a promotion to Secretary.

Rae Ann Borne has been promoted from Typist Clerk III to Secretary. Rae Ann has been with the Parish since 1987 and has worked in several departments and in several positions. Rae Ann began working in our department in 2008. Congratulations to both Cheryl and Rae Ann.



Streets Director Randy Nicholson, Superintendents Rodney Lyons and Kenneth Lemieux, and Administrative Assistant Marie Ricks congratulate Maebelle Cheramie (center) upon her retirement

JeffCAP

By
Aretha Frison

Senior Holiday Program

This year, JeffCAP was honored to participate in the Parish President’s Senior Citizen Holiday Wish Project for homebound and needy senior citizens in Jefferson Parish. For the past several years, this project has helped Parish employees provide holiday cheer to seniors who are less fortunate.

In December, JeffCAP donated and delivered gift boxes to four East Bank senior citizens. The project called for the filling of baskets or boxes with various items that the seniors could use around the house as well as non-perishable food items. The seniors who benefited from this project participate in the Meals on Wheels program administered by the Jefferson Council on Aging. Many thanks to the JeffCAP departments that donated the necessary items that help these shut-in seniors.

RSVP Open Enrollment

If you are 55 years old or older, then you should consider becoming a JeffCAP RSVP (Retired



Hugo the Hornet with Lafitte Senior Center’s Helen Feurtado

Senior Volunteer Program) volunteer! You can sign up to volunteer at our RSVP stations and renew your former RSVP membership with us today! For more information on membership and these opportunities, contact RSVP Clerk **Amber Martinez** at 504-736-6165 or email amartinez@jeffparish.net.

Hornets/RSVP Holiday Lunch

The New Orleans Hornets Senior Holiday Luncheon, sponsored by owner George Shinn at the Alario Center in December 2009, attracted more than 1,000 senior citizens from greater New Orleans

Lafitte Senior Center

From beanbag baseball to growing fruits and veggies for needy families, the Lafitte Senior Center has an array of daily programs and events to keep its volunteer staff busy.

“We have some wonderful people down here, and they care about one another,” said Dorothy Wiseman, supervisor of the Lafitte center. During her three-year service, Wiseman said she has seen the 10-year-old center become a destination for volunteerism, fellowship, and holistic growth. The center houses a 14-member board of directors, who volunteer their time to coordinate initiatives to solicit supplies.

The 270 active RSVP volunteers distribute these supplies to seniors at the center and throughout the community. In addition, the volunteers plan events to keep their seniors entertained with birthday parties, a Mardi Gras party with a king



JeffCAP’s Jody Moreau with River Ridge senior Francis Plia

and queen, and movie outings.

These senior volunteers have a huge heart for community activism. The Better Swamps and Gardens Club maintains the landscaping and upkeep of the town’s gardens, while the defunct Lafitte Yacht Club makes sure underprivileged families have Christmas gifts. And many members make sure that condolences are provided to families during their times of grief.

Along with a budding library, classes are available weekly in sewing, exercise, art, French/Cajun, and computer. A nurse visits weekly for basic check-ups, and bingo is every Friday. Keep up the great work, Lafitte!



JeffCAP’s Aretha Frison with Hornets Guard Morris Peterson

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Congratulations to Sign Designer **Bruce Froelich** on his 30 years of service with Jefferson Parish. Bruce began his career in March of 1979 under the manpower program. Bruce actually replaced an employee who was out on maternity leave in the Parish Planning Department under the Direction of Hugh Ford. The Parish President at the time was Doug Allen. Bruce's title was Draftsman, and his duties were to create fliers and programs for the Planners which included information about Jefferson Parish and its history. Bruce created all of the graphics and headlines.

It was suggested by Bruce's then Supervisor Gordon Flugger that the Traffic Engineering Division Sign Shop could use his talent. Mr. Flugger helped to get Bruce hired to a permanent Parish position. On June 2, 1979, Bruce was hired to the Traffic Engineering Division and for the first three months worked out in the field. In

September 1979, Bruce was asked to come into the shop to help screen the signs (fabricate signs by silkscreen method). Soon after, he was asked to make his first street name sign in what we call the layout room.

Sign Designer at the time was Harry Scott, Jr., who took Bruce under his wing to teach him the many facets of sign design. Bruce has been instrumental in maintaining our sign shop with the latest up-to-date technology, equipment, and machinery, essentially enabling our Division to double the capacity for sign designing and fabrication. Most notable are the Mardi Gras, St Patrick, and Irish Italian Parade signs that Bruce has come to truly enjoy designing.

Bruce officially became Sign Designer on October 2, 2002; and in May 2007 he took over the daily operations of the layout room and all its glory. Congratulations, Bruce!

The newest member of our Traffic family is **Christopher Bellow**, Signal Technician I.

Chris is a wonderful addition to the Signal crew. He has great enthusiasm to learn and a positive attitude. We are very happy to have Chris with us!!



Christopher Bellow

Congratulations are also in order to our Signal Supervisor **David V. Stout** for 20 years of service and Signal Technician III **Joseph R. Parker, Jr.** also for 20 years of service. Our Signal Division does an outstanding job of maintaining our parish signals. Often working in inclement weather, overhead in traffic, and on live wires, our Signal Crew is dedicated to the job and deserves a big thank you!

I'd like to wish our crews a very safe Mardi Gras season. Our Division is crucial in the ground-work and execution of the Jefferson Parish parades. Our Traffic Engineers ensure all routes are safe for the oversized floats to travel, our Sign Division installs and removes the Mardi Gras signs, and our Signal Crew not only escorts the parades, but also ensures that all floats have a safe route by maintaining a safe signal height for the floats. Thank you all for helping make Mardi Gras 2010 possible. Countless hours are put in by our entire Division, and we certainly appreciate your hard work!



Bruce Froelich and David Stout accept service certificates from Traffic Engineering's Kevin Moore and Engineering Director Mark Drewes

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Director **Anatola Thompson** and staff rounded the corner of the new year with plans to open the 2010 First-time Homebuyer Assistance Program on February 1 through February 5 with a lottery. Lottery submissions will be taken in person from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. at the office of Community Development, Joseph Yenni Building, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Suite 605.

The lottery drawing will be held at noon on February 11 at the 2nd Floor Council Chambers in the Yenni Building. Applicants must appear in person to fill out and sign the submission; substitutions will not be accepted. An instructional packet will be given at the time of applying for the lottery. Financial assistance will be provided to eligible participants of up to \$50,000 for down payment and closing costs for the First-time Homebuyer Assistance Program. This program assists eligible low- and moderate-income citizens who haven't owned a home in the past three years to purchase a home in Jefferson Parish.

Among the requirements: Participants must take two classes



CD's Ken Krey supervised these new welcome signs for Lincolnshire and Little Farms subdivisions

and provide a certificate stating they satisfactorily attended the classes. Participant's monthly mortgage cannot exceed 30% of his/her monthly income. Participants are required to provide a down payment of \$1,500. To learn more about the requirements and the 7 steps, go to www.jeffparish.net and click on Community Development updates on the parish home page, or contact **Sevilla Finley** at sfinley@jeffparish.net or 736-6282.

More Housing Updates:

In addition to the First-time Homebuyer Assistance Program, Community Development is working with People's Community Subsidiary and Harris Builders LLC to provide afford-

able new housing for eligible low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers on the West Bank. These properties are under construction, and financial assistance of up to \$50,000 is available to eligible participants at these specific locations: Anderson Place, off of Ames Blvd. in Marrero; and Beechgrove Subdivision in Westwego. These homes are exempt from the lottery.

Congratulations to **Faye Galland**, Parish Planner III, who received her 30-year pin, and **Helen White**, Housing Rehab Program Manager, who received her 20-year pin.

Faye Galland spearheaded two Public Hearings with help from Connie Preston and Betty Overton for the Jefferson HOME Consortium that includes Jefferson Parish, the City of Kenner, and St. Charles Parish on January 20 and 21. Citizens were encouraged to participate by lending their ideas regarding community needs and priorities in their neighborhoods and to offer ideas for public improvements, services, housing, and economic development activities for funding consideration under HUD's HOME, CDBG, and ESG programs for 2010-2014 planning.



WC Director Anatola Thompson (center) with Conchetta Sulli and Stephanie Brouillette, who teach bilingual First-Time Homebuyers' classes

Human Resources

By
Dana LeBherz

Retirement Seminar Wraps Up

Once again, the training division facilitated the biennial *Retirement: Ready or Not!* seminar. Over 100 employees attended the two-day seminar to listen to nine speakers covering topics of interest to retirees or those preparing to retire.

Several speakers from organizations outside the Parish volunteered their time to speak to us. Marian Arnoult-Jackson, of Prudential Gardner Realtors, spoke about real estate concerns and reverse mortgages. Maria Alvarez spoke about Social Security and Medicare. Nationwide Retirement Specialist Mikaela Ford answered questions about deferred compensation.

A special thanks goes to physical trainer Genevieve Miller from West Jefferson Hospital, who filled in at the last minute and gave an excellent presentation on remaining fit through the retirement years. Finally, Vicki



HR Director Junior Mendoza (center) congratulates Greg Alexander and Lois Lartigue for their ten years of Parish service

O'Brien, from JPEFCU, outlined some of the products and services the credit union offers.

Many of our Parish colleagues also gave excellent advice and answered questions: Parish Attorney **Gerry Garvey** addressed legal issues after retirement. Parish Benefits Administrator **Aubrey DeVillier** presented information on retiree health benefits, and JeffCap Information Specialist **Aretha Frison** spoke about the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program

(RSVP). Finally, **Peggy Thomassie**, Secretary Manager of the Retirement System, addressed the group with information about the retirement process.

One of the many attendees was Sewerage Superintendent **David Dennis**. "All the information was important," Dennis said, adding "I found I learned a lot about reverse mortgages." **Kori Allemand**, of Streets, agreed. "It is important to know this information when you are planning your retirement. It's nice to know that there are so many resources for retirees."

Training Specialist III **Nancy Rodriguez** and Training Specialist II **Greg Alexander** arranged everything from speakers to doughnuts and made sure the seminar ran smoothly. "Part of our job is helping to ensure employees have access to information they need," Rodriguez said. "This seminar brings many experts to our employees at once."

Safety Delivers Holiday Care Baskets to Elderly

Is the Safety Division an outpost of the North Pole? Do Safety Manager **Nolan Guidry** and



Marian Arnoult-Jackson, of Prudential Gardner, discusses real estate issues at the January retirement seminar

Safety Officers **Larry Guchereau**, **Ben Strange**, and **Greg Reynolds** moonlight for the big man in the red suit? It seemed that way in December as the guys organized and led HR in providing Holiday Care Baskets to elderly citizens in need. All together, we contributed enough soaps, lotions, and other sundries and treats to fill five large baskets. Nolan and Ben delivered the baskets to area seniors. "It really warms my heart to see their smiles as we bring the baskets in" Guidry said. "Many times, we get asked to help out by changing light bulbs, moving a piece of furniture, or doing other things they can't do for themselves. They sometimes put us to work!" Great job, guys!

Classes Get New Materials

The National Safety Council has updated its student and instructor materials for the Defensive Driving Course. The new course includes revised multimedia content as well as the latest information on today's driving hazards such as distracted driving. The new materials will be implemented in the Parish starting in March 2010. Safety Officer **Larry Guchereau** and Training



Stephen Hemenway (center) is congratulated upon his retirement by Engineering's Jason Phillips and Director Mark Drewes

Specialist II **Dana Le Bherz** offer the course monthly to Parish employees.

We are also pleased to announce the arrival of three additional automated external defibrillator (AED) simulators to be used in our CPR/AED classes. AEDs are life-saving machines that analyze heart rhythm in cardiac emergencies and can also deliver life-saving shocks. "These simulators work the same way as all the real AEDs in the parish, without delivering an actual shock, of course." says Safety Officer **Gregory Reynolds**, who leads the CPR/AED classes along with Training Specialist II **Dana Le Bherz**. Le Bherz adds, "Hands-on practice

with the simulators is beneficial for the trainees so that they feel confident if the time comes to use them for real." The simulators allow the trainers to replicate various real-life scenarios rescuers may come across. CPR/AED classes are offered monthly.

HR Stays Abreast of Legal Updates

Several HR employees attended the Human Resource Management Association's January luncheon and employment law panel discussion at the Lindy Boggs Center. In attendance were Substance Use Program Manager **Fran Robichaux**, Executive Assistant **Nicole Thompson**, Training Specialist III **Nancy Rodriguez**, and Training Specialists II **Greg Alexander** and **Dana Le Bherz**.

The program, led by local labor law attorneys, focused on federal employment law updates for 2010, federal agency initiatives for 2010, and a review of applicable Louisiana statutes. "All HRM employees need to know the most up-to-date information about labor law as we are often called upon to pass that information on to other departments," says Nicole Thompson. "We must provide current and correct information."



Safety's Larry Guchereau and Nolan Guidry prepare to deliver Christmas baskets to Jefferson seniors

Parkways

By
Chantell Prestenbach

There were two unveilings between December 21 and January 7 of a sculpture which depicted a flock of toucans and a statue of the blue dog, respectively. These pieces of art are a part of the “Jefferson Parish Art Scapes.”

If you have driven along Veterans Memorial Blvd. between Clearview and Severn over the past month, I’m sure you’ve noticed the new additions to our medians. Jefferson Parish Parkways Department is thankful to have been included in the preparation of the dedication ceremonies for the unveiling of the two new additions along Jefferson Parish medians.

The Christmas Holidays have come and gone and once again brought us to a very important event, the “Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project.” Since 1991 Jefferson Parish Parkways Department has been fortunate in helping with such an amazing project. This project takes unflocked Christmas trees that are donated by citizens and uses them in the fight against the fastest eroding land of one of Louisiana’s coasts, the Barataria Basin.

This area of wetlands helps the fight against hurricane surges, provides natural treatment for storm water, and provides a rich nursery ground for fisheries. This year’s project was held on the weekends of January 9 through January 30. For more information regarding this project or if you would like to volunteer for next year, you may call the Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs.

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

The staff of Juvenile Services welcomes our new employees **Erin Ronquille** and **Bianka Cornish**, Mental Health Professionals; **Ron Ellison**, Maintenance Repairman; and **Brittany Webb**, Juvenile Probation Officer.

We must bid farewell and best wishes to **Jessie Taylor**, Mental Health Professional, who accepted a promotion as a Community Services Supervisor with JeffCAP; and to **Herneisha Gibson**, Juvenile Detention Home Security Guard, who resigned to pursue other opportunities. We wish them both the best.

Our department wishes to offer its congratulations to the following Juvenile Services employees who received their 2009 Service Pin Awards at a ceremony held on December 8, 2009, at the Alario Center in

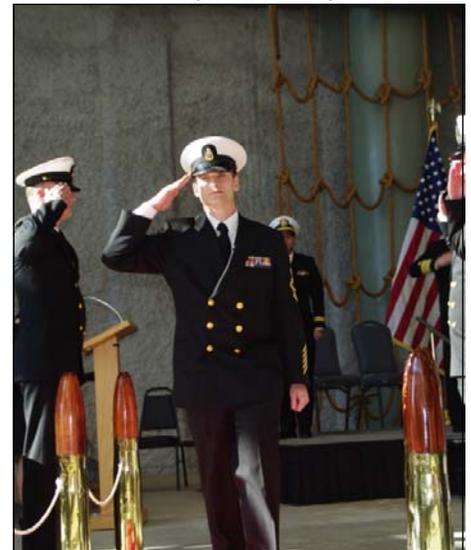


The Blue Dog of Metairie

Westwego. We applaud all of them for their many years of dedicated service to the Parish of Jefferson:

Carolyn Robinson, Juvenile Probation Officer III – 30 Years
Monique Willis, Juvenile Probation Officer III – 25 years
Joseph Marshall, Juvenile Detention Officer II – 25 years

John S. Ryals, “Piping ashore”



John Ryals, of Juvenile Services and the United States Navy, at his military retirement ceremony

And finally, all of us at Juvenile Services are very proud to extend our congratulations to Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (Fleet Marine Force) **John S. Ryals, Jr.**, United States Navy (also DJS’s Evaluation/Treatment Manager), who retired from the United States Navy Reserve after twenty-one (21) years of service.

The retirement ceremony was held January 10, 2010, at the National WWII Museum. Dr. Ryals was mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2005-2006. We wish him “Farewell and Following Seas” in his *first* retirement.

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Congratulations to Assistant Director **Leo Webb Sr.** for being chosen 2009 Lafreniere Park Person of the Year. The award was given for Leo's guidance and support of the Capital Projects outlined in the current Lafreniere Park Master Plan.



Leo Webb Sr.

Our 2010 *Spring Activity Guide* is available at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page, or can be obtained at 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

Registration for track and soccer is underway. In order to be eligible, a child must have reached the age of six on or before January 1, 2010.

Registration for baseball and softball will begin in March.

We are proud to announce the coming of the new play/exercise area for youth and adults at Jeffer-

son Playground. Build Day, scheduled for March 9, will not only be productive but fun for all. There will be many volunteers (400-500) from the community and from The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons constructing this in ONE DAY! This is being done through KaBOOM and is sponsored by The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

Thanks to **Kevin O'Quinn**, **Scott Muhoberac**, **Barry McGuinness**, and all the park staff for the Christmas Light Display at Lafreniere Park. It was a huge success.

In November, JPRD proudly held the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Estelle Playground, 5801 Leo Kerner Lafitte Parkway in Marrero.

Congratulations and best wishes to our retirees **Pam Hassell**, Typist Clerk III, West Bank Office; **Jean Marie**, Assistant Center Supervisor, PARD Playground; and **Herbert "Duke" Robinson**, Foreman II in East Bank Maintenance.

Congrats on the promotion . . .

- **Maverick Charles** to Foreman II in East Bank Maintenance;
- Troy Garner** to Assistant Center Supervisor – Miley Softball Complex; and
- Justin Mayeux** to HVAC Mechanic – East Bank Maintenance.

Sincerest sympathy to the family of **Albert "Bucky" Gibbs**, Assistant Center Supervisor – Lakeshore Playground, who passed away on January 13. He will be missed by us all.

Congratulations to **Kathy Forsyth**, of Belle Terre Playground, on the birth of her grandson, Brennen David to Cherelle (daughter) and Bryan Stanley .

Natalie Stoufflet, Special Program Supervisor – East Bank Adult Athletics, reported that her fiancé, Kevin, is now home and doing better.

Paula Blackwell, Facilities Coordinator at Lafreniere Park, graduated in December from Tulane with honors, receiving the Davenport Scholarship Award, with a BA in Homeland Security.



Estelle Playground ribbon-cutting ceremony

Library

By
Mark Deane

The Library Holiday Baskets were a success in '09. We thank all who donated. Our goal was 26 baskets, which we easily surpassed, collecting enough for 30 baskets, each containing gifts and a book for children and parents.

Arranging the baskets this year were Administrative Assistant **Irene Lunkin**, Typist Clerk II **Mindy LeCarpentier**, Account Clerk II **Tanisha Love**, Typist Clerk II **Latoya Sommersville**, Typist Clerk III **Jeannie Hobbie**, and Gretna Branch Manager **Bill McKee**.



Latoya Sommersville, Tanisha Love, and Irene Lunkin

Director **Lon Dickerson**, along with Assistant Property Manager **Bobby Bonvillian**, **Danny Ramagos**, **John Shad-dinger**, and **David Marchand** delivered them to families.

At the 2009 Service Award Pin Ceremony, 14 Library employees were honored: Typist Clerk II **Mary Anderson**, Typist Clerk III **Eleanor Bunch**, Library Associate **Jeannette Lebioda**, Library Associate **Martha Waggener**, Branch Supervisor **Verdie**

Richburg, West Bank Regional's **Chris Stuckwisch**, and Library Associate **John Walker** received 30-year pins. Librarian **Daisy Johnson** and Associate **Muriel McGittigan** (before her retirement) accepted 25-year pins. And 20-year pins went to **Debbie Boudreaux**, **Lucretia Egbi**, **Hallie Hankel**, **Georgina Thomas**, and **Charles Wagner, Jr.**

We would like to thank Library Page **Maria Rodriguez** and all the Library staff who helped raise money for the American Heart Association at the *New Orleans Start! Heart Walk* in November. They raised the second most among Parish departments participating in the walk.

New faces at the Library include West Bank Regional Children's Librarian **Christina Dominique-Pierre** and Assistant Property Manager **William Walker**. We say goodbye to retiring employees Librarian **Lorraine Allen**, who leaves after 28 years, and Library Page **Ruthie Pitre**, who has been with the Library for 12 years.

The Library would like all Jefferson Parish residents to get library cards, including Parish employees. If you don't have one already, head to your library and get one. A library card gives you access to more than free books. Jefferson Parish Library lets you check out movies and music. You can learn languages online for free. And you can even download e-books, audiobooks, and videos from your home computer. Check out www.jefferson.lib.la.us for all of the Library's services and for info on how to get a library card.

Workforce Connection

By
Frances Turner

The Holiday Season is over, but the staff at Jefferson Workforce Connection was filled with the spirit of giving. The staff at both East Bank and West Bank locations donated enough supplies to fill eight baskets to deliver to senior citizens residing in Jefferson Parish.

Newcomers

The department would like to welcome **Rhonda Breaux**, Typist Clerk III. Her knowledge and experience will be an asset to the department.

The Giving Just Won't Stop

Director **Sharon Wegner** and her staff joined in to send Mardi Gras to troops in the military from Louisiana. Soldiers' Angels, the spearheading group of this effort, decided to send Mardi Gras trinkets to troops who were deployed overseas. There are over 5,000 troops from Louisiana on deployment overseas. The department collected enough trinkets, beads, etc., to fill (4) boxes.



WC's Director Sharon Wegner

General Services

By
Jill Relick

General Services wants to make you aware of a few noteworthy occurrences.

Mr. Troy Sanchez received a proclamation from the Parish President at the December Council Meeting in addition to the honor of “Quiet Hero” by Channel 4’s Sally Ann Roberts. He was also the recipient of the Community Adoption Awareness Award from the state.

Additionally, recognition was given to **Jan Gray** for her 25 years of Parish service. Jan started her career with the General Services Department, Purchasing Division. A year later she was promoted into the administrative office of General Services where she is currently.

Congratulations to **Albert Lehrmann**, who was promoted to Stationary Engineer III, and to **Revy Antoine** for her promotion to Secretary. We also welcome our newbies: **Cody Orgeron**, **Roderick Woodside**, and **Wil-**



Jill Relick with Janet Gray

liam Walker. Remember the worst question is the one not asked.

Our General Service Yenni Building carpenter **Ray Craig** has been working with our staff to complete the second floor renovation for the Inspection and Code Department. **Jerry Durant** has provided a few details about the recent renovation of the Inspection and Code office. **Tommy O’Neil** completed all the electrical work, allowing **John Stortz**, **Roger Brooks**,

and **Jerry Durant** to remove walls, float sheetrock, install carpet, and paint their new office in Suite 202.

Assistant Director **George Fols** continues his Safety Procedures class in 2010. The first topic was Workplace Violence Prevention attended by all GS staff. If you see George, feel free to ask him about special projects and safety concerns you have.

Peter Marx started as an Engineer I with General Services in January 1980. You may have known Pete from the Donelon Building on N Causeway or the Yenni Bldg. His untimely death in December 2003 suddenly ended his career at the JPCC just days shy of his thirty-year anniversary with the Parish. He is missed.

The Blood Drive for the General Government Building in Gretna was scheduled on February 4. Thanks to all the donors! The Yenni Bldg will hold their first 2010 drive on February 12 in suite 405 between 7:30-4:30, just in time for donors to receive a box of chocolates for their valentine. Don’t forget to eat a good meal before donating and to bring your picture ID!



Councilman Byron Lee with Troy and Sherleta Sanchez

Health & Wellness

By
Peggy Branan, RN



Medication Awareness is Everyone's Responsibility

Imagine being hospitalized after a non-life-threatening injury. Your primary doctor pulls up your medical information. Fortunately all tests come back unremarkable. Time goes by, but your condition deteriorates.

What could be going wrong? A possible culprit is side effects from medication. Unfortunately, we tend to think of our medications as safe and look elsewhere for the solution. Almost every medication can alter normal body functions in one way or another. Every organ system can become impaired and begin to mimic various disease processes. This can then set off a chain reaction for the doctors to try to diagnose and treat. This can result in ordering more medications to treat the symptoms and/or the side effects. A vicious cycle is set in motion which begins to blur the actual medical condition.

So, what is one to do?

First, make sure that your doctor's records are up to date. This should include your diagnosis, medications, allergies, etc.

Until the medical event is resolved, make sure that you have a designated relative or friend who will check in on you at least once a day. Depending on the situation, you may need someone with you

around the clock!

If brain functioning becomes impaired, chances are you will not even realize it. Impaired judgment, confusion, and disorientation can result. Impaired organ systems can occur and in worst cases, impaired heart and lung functioning as well.

Make sure you know any special instructions on how to take your medication. Do you need to take it after eating? Do you need to drink a full glass of water? Do you need to avoid hazardous activity? Do you need to avoid taking it along with other medications?

Know what the side effects and adverse reactions are for every medication you are taking. If you begin to have any unusual complaints, bring them to your doctor's attention immediately. The elderly are especially sensitive to drug side effects!

Don't feel intimidated into accepting everything the doctor says or orders. Do not hesitate to question your doctor if he wants to change you to a new medication even though your current medication is working just fine. You do have a right to refuse medications! Keep in mind that an incorrect diagnosis can easily be made when it is based on abnormal blood work due to medications. In many situations, once the offending medication is discontinued, the symptoms will go away.

Never underestimate your gut feelings—just knowing that something is not right. Don't ever hesitate to present your concerns to the nurse or doctor. And don't give up until you are satisfied and you or your loved one is back home safe and secure!

Carnival Guidelines

By Dorothea Halligan

To make Carnival safe and enjoyable, here are a few safety tips:

- No animals
- No ladders, scaffolding or portable elevating devices on the street between the curbs
- No ladders fastened together
- No ropes, tents, scaffolds, barricades or vehicles that may impede vehicles or pedestrians
- No parking within 15 feet of parade route or along the curb or as posted

Within 50 Feet of Parade Route:

- No glass container of any type
- No open flame heating or cooking devices on public right-of-way
- No silly string within fifty (50) ft. from parade route
- No skates, skateboards, roller blades, bicycles, unicycles, or any other type of cycles
- No stink bombs or stink sprays
- No bomb bags
- No laser pointers

Within 200 Feet of Parade Route:

- No metallic confetti streamers
- No flare or device to produce a flame or to produce visible combustion
- No incendiary or pyrotechnical instrument or device

MUST:

- Ladders must be placed as many feet back from the curb as the ladder is high
- Barricades - parade viewers must obey restrictions by barricades

Retirements

Joseph Baroni
Code Enforcement
33 years

William Duplaisir, Jr.
Drainage
33 years

Maebelle Cheramie
Streets
31 years

Joycelyn Messina
Finance Authority
30 years

Scott Ferguson
Water
30 years

Gerard Keller
Sewerage
29 years

Janis Sanchez
Drainage
28 years

Aaron Broussard
President
29 years

Moses Davis, Jr.
Sewerage
27 years

Charles Henning
Water
26 years

Lorraine Allen
Library
27 years

Eddie Hebert
Drainage
20 years

Robert Burns, Jr.
Risk Management
20 years

Muriel McGittigan
Library
25 years

Esther Freeman
Code Enforcement
18 years

Stephen Hemenway
Engineering
19 years



Public Works Director Kazem Alikhani (second from right) congratulates Drainage Assistant Director Bill Duplaisir and family upon Bill's retirement after 33 years of Parish service