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EM ReaLite

Message from the Parish President. . .

Significant Progress Defines the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter

Over the past year, many changes, all positive, have taken place within the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter.

The Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter has stepped forward to reduce intake and euthanasia by providing foster homes, offering offsite adoption events, extending shelter hours, and promoting spay/neuter programs.

Recently, the Southern Animal Foundation and Jefferson Parish created a spay/neuter partnership entitled "Spay Jefferson." These efforts will assist in the fight against pet overpopulation by offering a low-cost spay and neuter program to our residents.

Additionally, the Parish received a \$10,000 grant from the Petco Foundation for a canine spay/neuter program. This program provides low-cost spay/neuter to Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard Parish residents owning dogs weighing a minimum of 40 pounds for a \$25 co-pay.



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

With the assistance of the Friends of the Jefferson Animal Shelter, we will receive a \$25,000 grant from PetSmart Charities. The funding will enable us to provide low-cost spaying/neutering for over 1,300 felines in our Parish.

With all of these initiatives, Jefferson Parish has made significant progress with its programs for animal care through our animal shelter, and we pledge to continue to make a difference for the animals in our Parish. Spay or neuter your pet today. Visit our website www.jeffparish.net for the details on all these programs.



En Realité

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TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

Brandy Chism & David Stout

TRANSIT

Patricia Lyons

WATER

Kathy Theriot & Gennie Hebert

WORKFORCE CONNECTION

Frances Turner*Editor's**Notes****Retirement – Ready or Not
Seminar Set for January 2010***

At the Service Pin Award Ceremony in December, there are 107 employees receiving pins for 25 years or more of service. These employees combined represent over 3300 years of service to Jefferson Parish! We thank them for their years of dedication to Jefferson Parish, but we also realize that many will soon be joining the ranks of the retired.

Every year dozens of employees retire from Parish government employment. Although our Parochial retirement system offers excellent benefits for its members, a good deal of careful planning is necessary to make sure we are really ready for “life after work.” To help our employees prepare for retirement, Human Resources is once again sponsoring *Retirement—Ready or Not*, a free two-day seminar for Parish employees.

The seminar will be held on the mornings of Thursday, January 21, and Friday, January 22, 2010, in the second-floor EB Council Chambers of the Yenni Building. Various professionals will be speaking on a variety of topics of interest to potential retirees.

On Thursday, January 21, the program will include presentations on real estate investment issues, health and wellness after retirement, and Social Security. The Friday, January 22, program will



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

feature legal issues after retirement, deferred compensation, IRAs, the Parochial Retirement System, and Parish retiree health benefits. All sessions will include question and answer time, so bring your questions.

We host *Retirement—Ready or Not* every second year, but it is not necessary that you retire this year or next in order to attend. Retirement planning should begin years before we stop working.

Registration is required; you need your supervisor's and Director's permission to attend. You can attend either day or both days of the seminar. Please submit your class registration form to Human Resources, Suite 517, Yenni Building. You will receive a confirmation when your registration is received.

I urge all departments to allow interested employees who are getting close to retirement to attend this seminar. Everyone should seek some kind of professional advice as retirement draws near. I believe *Retirement—Ready or Not* is a good place to start. Come and enjoy these two mornings with us.

Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

Congratulations to **June Maxwell**, Planning-Zoning Aide, who retired on October 23. June worked 28 years for the Parish and 26 years in Planning. Family and friends bid her *bon voyage!* We will miss you.

We are happy to announce the hiring of Planner II **Larry Massey**. He recently graduated from UNO with a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning and worked with us for one year as an intern. **Diana Soileau**, Typist Clerk III, was hired to work for the Design Review Section and the receptionist position.

Welcome also to our new Planning Interns and UNO Urban and Regional Planning graduate students **Devon McGuinness** and **Alex Carter**.

Planners **Juliette Cassagne**, **Jessica Duet**, and **Tanisha Johnson** attended the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association State Conference in Natchitoches, October 15-17. They attended informative sessions on comprehensive planning, infrastructure improvements, and cultural resources through the lens of Natchitoches' historic setting.

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

Our Department Secretary (and *En Realite* reporter) **Elizabeth "Bobbie" Fose** retired July 24 with 27 years of service. We wish her many, many years of retirement bliss!!! I spoke with Bobbie recently and she is enjoying retirement; the beautiful fall days we've been having; watching the Saints; and not having to get up in the mornings.

Congratulations to **Sidney Warren** and **Gerard Keller**. Sidney will retire from our West Bank Lift Stations Division on December 18 with 14 years of service. Gerard will retire from our West Bank Lines Division on January 8, 2010, with 29 years of service. Best wishes for many happy years of retirement, gentlemen.

The Department of Sewerage helped to "Blow the Whistle on Lung Disease." We donated over \$250 for the American Lung Association Walk on October 17. Our thanks to **Patricia Johnson** and **Alicia Harper** for chairing this fund raising effort for our Department. Great job, ladies!

Welcome to **Suzette Collins**. Suzette joined our department in June as the Receptionist in our administration office. We're happy to have you with us!



Suzette Collins

Cindy Gallo and **Venice Cooper** manned the Departments of Sewerage and Water Booth at the Senior Citizen Exposition on October 21, along with **Gennie Hebert** and **Lori Roth** from the Water Department. We provided the senior citizens with information on water and sewer services in the parish.

We are in the midst of collecting contributions for our 2010 United Way Campaign. In addition to employee contributions, we're holding candy sales and "Blue Jean Monday" fundraisers for United Way. **Venice Cooper** is chairing this effort, with the help of **Yvette Russo**. Thanks for all of your help, Yvette!!

We'll soon begin collecting items for our Senior Citizens' Christmas Wish Program Baskets. Each year our department participates in this worthwhile event by providing baskets filled with toiletries and household and food items for the home-bound senior citizens of our parish. **Venice Cooper** is once again our coordinator. If you have not already done so, please send in your donations. The baskets will be delivered just in time for Christmas – December 21 and 22.



Planning Supervisor Francois Ancar and Director Ed Durabb honor new retiree June Maxwell

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Congratulations to **Joseph R. Parker, Jr.**, on his recent promotion to Signal Technician III. Hired in 1989, Joseph has been part of the Traffic Engineering family since 1998.

Joseph has worked in all aspects of our Sign and Signal Division. There is never a job too big or too small, and every job is completed thoroughly to the best of his ability. Joseph has become a role model to his fellow employees for his positive attitude, enthusiasm to learn, patience to teach, and his ability to work so well with others. We're very proud of Joseph for this achievement in his career and look forward to many more in the future.

Congratulations to **James Vasquez** on his promotion to Sign Designer. James started as a Sign Tech in 2007 and has worked with both the Marking and the Striping Crew. James's willingness to learn and his ambition have not gone unnoticed. I predict that James will have a bright future here at Traffic!



Sign Designer James Vasquez

Congratulations to **Mack Richburg** on his promotion to Signal Tech II. Mack has proven to be a fantastic asset to the Signal Division. He is more than willing to go the extra mile, and we're very proud of his accomplishments.

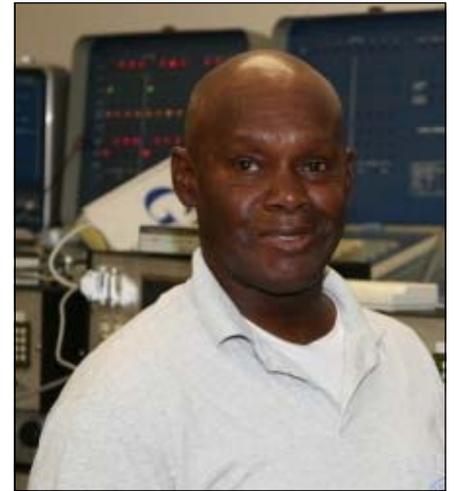


Mack Richburg

Triple congratulations to **Stephen Alfortish, Carl Holmes,** and **Eric Jones**, all of whom have been promoted to

Sign Tech II. Carl Holmes is always ready, willing, and able to do any task. Eric Jones is a hard worker and dependable. Stephen is reliable and prepared every day. Stephen, Carl, and Eric have a great attitude (and a great sense of humor) and continue to shine. Their positive approach will take them far. We appreciate your hard work, guys!! (See photos next page)

Congratulations to **Mr. Royal Jackson, Jr.**, on his 5 years of service with Jefferson Parish. Mr. Jackson, a Signal Tech II, has been an asset to the Division since day one.



Royal Jackson, Jr.

Within only a year after he started with the Parish, Mr. Roy achieved the 2005 Engineering Employee of the Year Award due to his strong work ethic, determination, and faith. He continues to strive for the best. Roy is truly a pleasure to have working with us!

Welcome aboard **Christine Ford** as our new Laborer. We are thrilled to have Christine here with us; she is doing an excellent job. She is a wonderful addition to our Traffic family.



Traffic Engineering's Signal Technician III Joseph Parker, Jr.

More Congratulations from Traffic Engineering



Sign Tech II Stephen Alfortish



Sign Technician II Carl Holmes



Sign Technician II Eric Jones



TE's latest hire, Christine Ford

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

Congratulations to **Richard Lamoureux**, promoted to Executive Assistant. Richard was Administrative Assistant in the Building Maintenance Section.

Also, congratulations to **Maria Cooper**, who has been promoted to Administrative Assistant in Building Maintenance. She was secretary to our Director, **Randy Nicholson**.

Michelle Swenson has been promoted to Secretary for our Director. She was formerly a Data Entry III in our Complaints section. Congratulations, Michelle.

We also welcome our new student workers, **Baley Bayham**, **Arisha Campbell**, and **Willie Parker**. We hope your experience with our department will help prepare you for the future.

Juanara Jordan and Michael Williams were married October 17. We wish them many years of wedded bliss.

Willis Comeaux, Equipment Operator IV, retired after 31 years. He has worked hard for many years, and we hope he enjoys his retirement.

Condolences to **Michelle Swenson**. Her grandmother Ida Lee Boling Johnson recently passed away in October. Our prayers are with you, Michelle.

We welcome our new employee **Rachel Riego** to our department. Rachel is our new Typist Clerk III in the Complaints section. She comes to us from General Services.

Sharon Cline, the Team Captain for The American Lung Association, raised \$35.00 for



Rachel Riego

“Blue Jean Mondays” on September 14, 21, and 28. Sharon also held a “Halloween Luncheon Fundraiser” for the “American Heart Association.” It was a great success as \$209.00 was raised. So far this year she has raised over \$600.00 for this great cause. Thanks to everyone who participated in this event.

A special thanks goes out to **Randy Nicholson, Jose’ Gonzales, Kori Allemand, Raymond Andras, Denise Bourg, Amber Breaux, Nicole Byars, Denise Chavers, Sharon Cline, Don Cole, Tim Constant, Maria Cooper, Karen Guillard, Richard Lamoureux, Joanne Pollet, Leonard Reeves, Steve Roth, Lance Stansberry, Pat Stoltz, Michelle Swenson, Leatrice Talley, Debbie Tunstall, Stanley Walker, Juanara Williams, Wayne Williams, Angela Winchester, Bernie Wisnowski, and Hope Zamora**. A total of \$60.00 was raised for “Pet Fest 2009.” The pets want to pass on a *ruff-ruff* and *meow*, a sit, stay, and roll over and a big howl, which means “Thanks, you’re the BEST!”



Willis Comeaux with Superintendents Kenneth Lemieux and Rodney Lyons

Code Enforcement

By
Linda Roy

Welcome aboard to **Jude Traficiano** and **Harold “Buster” Morgan**, Property Maintenance Inspectors. We hope your journey with Code Enforcement will be rewarding.

We say Goodbye to **Frank Vloutis**, Property Maintenance Inspector, and **Rosalie Wright**, Data Entry Operator. Frank retired with over twenty years of service to the Parish. He hails from Greece and will be traveling back home to visit family.

Rosalie retired after 28 years with the Parish, and she will be spending quality time with her grandchildren. THANK YOU for your dedication to Code! Send us a postcard and drop in to see us.

LOLA – she’s done it again! Lola, **Nancy Sanders’** bulldog, entered the sports costume contest at Lafreniere’s Pet Fest. Well, dressed in her favorite Saints Costume, she won first place! With all the injuries the Saints have experienced, the team might be interested in signing her up!

DID YOU SEE! – Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and



Lola Sanders is all smiles after winning the costume contest at Pet Fest

Plumbing inspectors have joined the technology age. They are equipped with a hand-held computer device that allows them to input their inspections and results into the computer as they perform their inspections in the field. It takes a little bit of getting used to, but they have gotten a lot of advice from our Property Maintenance Inspectors. Who said Code is behind the times?

It seems like it has been a long, difficult year with many adversities we may have faced, especially economically. As we enter the holiday season, we may find friends, loved ones, and fellow workers who are not as fortunate as others. Lend a helping hand, even if it is just a smile and a few encouraging words. It does matter and will go a long way.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

Environmental Congratulates Award Winners

Congratulations to Coastal Programs Supervisor **Jason Smith** and Solid Waste Inspector **Billy “LSU” Sanders**. Both men were honored with awards from The Woodmen of the World Lodge 620 at an awards banquet held at Common Grounds in Gretna on October 22, 2009.

Jason Smith received the *Woodmen Environmental Award* for his hard work in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard in the removal of marine debris after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike.

Billy “LSU” Sanders received the *Woodmen Caring for Others Award* for his tireless community service efforts. Environmental is proud to have **Jason** and **Billy** working in our department.

Welcome Aboard!

Our Environmental family keeps on growing. Since our last article, Environmental has welcomed two new employees to our family. Please join Environmental Affairs in welcoming **Jenna Dorward** and **Derrion Reid** to our Environmental family.

Jenna Dorward is our new Environmental Quality Technician II in the Storm Water Division, and **Derrion Reid** is our new student worker. Environmental would like to wish you all the best of luck in your new positions.

Along with our work family, our extended Environmental fam-



Frank Vloutis warming the heart of a Jefferson senior with a gift basket

ily keeps on growing as well. Environmental Quality Technician **Sami Khalil** and his wife welcomed the arrival of their second daughter Selina on September 3, 2009.



Sami Khalil with daughter Selina

Wedding bells rang for Environmental Quality Supervisor **Kathleen Collins**, who was married on November 2, 2009. Congratulations to both **Sami** and **Kathleen**.

On September 18, 2009, Environmental Quality Technician **Sami Khalil** helped raise \$270 by hosting a luncheon to benefit the American Lung Association.

Once again, Environmental Affairs took part in the annual Senior Citizen EXPO, held on October 22 at the Pontchartrain Center. **Inga Dupré** and **James Schultz** handed out candy and provided seniors with information about mosquito control, garbage collection, and storm water issues. All who attended had a fun time.

Christmas Tree Recycling Coming Again

Do not forget to recycle your Christmas tree for our Marsh Restoration Project. Collection days will be on January 7, 8, and 9. If you would like to volunteer to place trees in the marsh, volunteer dates are January 9, 16, 23, and 30. If you would like to volunteer or need more information on the Marsh Restoration Project, call Jason Smith at 731-4612.

Finally, the staff of Environmental Affairs would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday season. We will see you next year.

Workforce Connection

By
Frances Turner

Congratulations to Director **Sharon Wegner** and her staff for exceeding 6 out the 9 performance measures governed by the Louisiana Department of Labor. Both East Bank and West Bank centers assist a combined total of approximately 350 people a day. It is a great accomplishment for Sharon and her staff to continue managing day-to-day goals while providing excellent customer service. Services available at the Career Centers include, but are not limited to, Employment Assistance Services, Basic Skills Workshops, and Career Assessments.

All employees at the Career Centers are committed and illustrate a great amount of dedication. The department recently honored **Grayling Walker** as employee of the quarter for his hard work and tireless commitments. Grayling has been with the department in the position of Accountant II for the past 17 years.

Congratulations GRAYLING, way to go!

The Youth Division of Jefferson Business & Career Solutions Center has successfully completed the S.O.A.R.S. (Stimulus Offers A Rewarding Summer) Young Adult Program which was held this past summer. The department identified 500 young adults aged 14-24 and placed them in a meaningful work experience. We are proud to announce that some of these young adults were hired permanently by employers after their work experience was over. "JOB WELL-DONE" to **Frances Turner**, Youth Coordinator and the Summer Youth Staff.



Billy "LSU" Sanders and Jason Smith at the Woodmen of the World Awards Banquet with Woodmen of the World Lodge 620 President Earlie Vicknair (center)

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

It's hard to believe 2009 is almost over. It's been a very busy year. DJS has been known for its leadership and commitment to juvenile justice reform and has been selected the lead agency with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation *Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice*.

On October 23, New Orleans Saints Reggie Bush and Anthony Hargrove visited and spoke with the youth at the Rivarde Detention Center. They spoke about making positive decisions to improve their lives. They told the kids that even though they may make bad decisions, they can still turn their lives around.

We've also been involved in many fund-raising activities such as Heart Walk, United Way, Asthma Walk, March of Dimes, etc. Thanks to all the staff that spearheaded and contributed to these worthy causes.

Executive Assistant **Arlyn Smith** and Grants/Research Manager **Nikki Johnson** participated in the Senior Expo at the

Pontchartain Center on October 20. It was a great experience for all – especially the Trick-or-Treating!



Arlyn Smith & Nikki Johnson

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Welcome to new employees **Kassielyn Vicknair**, Typist Clerk II; **Ashley DeMouy**, Administrative Management Specialist II; and **Romonica Jones**, Juvenile Probation Officer I.

DJS wishes all the best to **Ann Breaux Huffman**, Vocational Counselor; **Korie Fortenberry** and **Monique Fisher**, Mental Health Professionals; and **Natalie Williams**, Juvenile Probation Officer, who resigned to pursue other opportunities.

Congratulations to recent retirees **Carl Pierce**, Maintenance Repairman, and **Rebecca Johnson**, Typist Clerk II. We thank them for their service.

JeffCAP

By
Aretha Frison

JeffCAP Hosts 29th Annual RSVP Luncheon

Jefferson Parish recognized about 600 volunteers during the annual JeffCAP RSVP Luncheon, held at the John Alario Center in Westwego in September. The theme was "America The Beautiful! The Way of Service."

Dressed in an array of red, white, and blue, many RSVP volunteers, supporters, and dignitaries displayed their patriotic spirit in a variety of outfits during the event. Jefferson Community Action Programs (JeffCAP) operates JeffCAP RSVP with volunteers devoting over 28,000 hours of service every year—making it one of the largest programs in Louisiana. The volunteers serve in 26 non-profit organizations and other agencies throughout Jefferson Parish.



Among winners of RSVP's Patriotic Costume Contest was Sam "Slick" Ridgley (second from left)

Executive Director **Nicole Ferrier** served as the mistress of ceremonies at the event. Rev. Jennie Thomas, the Ochsner Pastoral Care Manager, served as the luncheon chaplain; and JeffCAP Assistant Director **Charles M.**



Saints players Reggie Bush and Anthony Hargrove at Rivarde

Gibson led the pledge of allegiance at the luncheon. This year, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard attended the event, alongside Councilman-at-Large John Young, Councilman Byron Lee, Parish Attorney **John Luck**, and Parish Senior Citizens Coordinator **Wayne Ory**.

Adam Hall, the community relations assistant for People's Health, which was one of the sponsors of the event, provided lots of goodie bags to the luncheon participants. The luncheon included many door prizes, music, and a Patriotic Costume Contest. For information about volunteer opportunities with JeffCAP RSVP, please contact **Calvin McCall**, RSVP Program Manager at 504-736-6165 or email at cmcall@jeffparish.net.

Hispanic Heritage Month at Gretna Community Center

Several members of the community in Gretna participated in the center's Hispanic-American Heritage month in October, which recognized the contributions, heri-

itage, and culture of Hispanic Americans to the United States.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under the Lyndon Johnson administration and expanded in 1988 to cover a 30-day period running from September 15 through October 15.

The event, coordinated by the center supervisor **Dr. Clara Byes**, displayed flags and catered foods from several Latin-American countries, along with Latin music, speeches, and dancing.

There were many special guests at the celebration including Rev. Walter C. Jackson, pastor of Mt Sinai Baptist Church; representatives from Councilman Chris Roberts' office; Jefferson Parish ESL Bilingual Parent Liaison Areli Hernandez; Gretna Park Elementary Principal Mary Ellen Hepting; and Louisiana Spirit Crisis Counselor Michelle Young. For more information about hosting a cultural event at the center, contact Dr. Byes at 376-2130.

Human Resources

By
Dana LeBherz

John Dumas Joins the Human Resource Management Team

The Human Resource Management Department would like to welcome its newest HR Manager, **John Dumas**, to the department and congratulate him on his return to the Parish.



New HR Manager John Dumas

After receiving his BS degree in Business and Economics from Southern University, John worked as a Personnel Tech for the Parish from 1990 to 1993. He then joined Hibernia Bank (which later became Capital One), and spent ten years in their recruiting division, followed by almost six years as an Employee Relations Administrator. During this time, he also earned a Master of Public Administration degree from UNO.

John is now responsible for helping several departments interpret and apply the Parish Personnel Rules and administrative policies. His primary responsibility is ensuring the Parish is in compliance with all relevant employment laws and regulations. His responsibilities include the following departments: Animal Shelter, Workforce Connection, Citizens' Affairs, Environmental Affairs,



JeffCAP staff participated in Red Ribbon Week in October for the Jefferson Parish Alliance for Concerned Citizens.

Juvenile Services, Emergency Management, Risk Management, the Transit Department, CJA, Inspection and Code, and the Pump Stations in the Drainage department.

Outside of these responsibilities, John enjoys reading, golfing, watching the Saints, and spending time with his wife Wendy and 6-year-old daughter Kasey.

**Basic Supervision
Marks 500th Graduate**

The Training Division and Water’s **Destiny Bratton** each achieved a significant goal this fall. Destiny completed HR’s Basic Supervision series, which covers topics such as Customer Service, Fair Employment Practices, and Performance Evaluation training. Destiny completed thirty hours of training to fulfill the series.

For the Training Division, Destiny’s graduation marked the 500th student to complete the series. **Greg Alexander**, Training Specialist for HRM, said “I am very encouraged to see that 500 Parish supervisors have completed our series.”



Basic Supervision’s 500th Graduate,
Water’s Administrative Assistant Destiny Bratton

The department celebrated the occasion by giving Destiny a special certificate and a jar filled with 500 pink M & Ms!

**HR Keeps Up With Latest
Developments in Federal Law**

Several members of HR attended recent seminars and hearings to maintain an expert level of knowledge on changes in employment law. On November 20 **Nancy Rodriguez** and **John Dumas** attended a Question and Answer session hosted by the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the US De-

partment of Justice.

The session gave an opportunity for citizens and employers alike to ask questions and clarify requirements raised by the recent changes under the ADA Amendments Act. The ADA, or Americans with Disabilities Act, charges employers to make good faith efforts to accommodate employees with disabilities. “It’s imperative for the Parish to have a clear understanding of the changes in the ADA in order to better accommodate employees and avoid discriminatory practices,” said Rodriguez.

Also in November, HR Managers **Mary Jo Arcement** and **John Dumas**, as well as Director **Feliciano “Junior” Mendoza** attended an EEO seminar hosted by law firm Phelps Dunbar. This seminar covered a wide range of employment law topics. Mary Jo reiterated the necessity of HR maintaining the most current knowledge on these topics. “It is critical for HR Managers to be on top of changes and developments in HR law as we advise the Parish departments on proper and legal procedures.”



Linda Roy, Assistant to the Director of Code Enforcement, with Delgado College’s Circle of Excellence Award for outstanding accomplishment and service to the community

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

CD Wishes You A Happy Holiday Season!

Anatola Thompson, Director; Emann Batiste, Patricia Beebe; Christina Benfield; Marilyn Beuclet; Jim Bush; June Durnin; Sevilla Finley; Faye Galland; Ken Krey; Darnell Muhoberac; Sam Oliver Betty Overton; Connie Price; Steve Pruett; Liz Ruth; Kim Thompson; Dianne Washington; Helen White

Director **Anatola Thompson** and Community Development co-hosted a Fair Housing Forum with the City of Kenner on November 16 at the Yenni Building. The LA Office of Community Development is currently undertaking a study called *The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice*. Several dozen non-profits, realtors, and lenders attended to hear the preliminary findings of the study reported by consultant Robert Gaudin of Portland, Oregon.

Director Anatola Thompson and Chief Planner **Faye Galland** obtained a \$1.4 million grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to provide Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) in the Parish. CD will collaborate with Jefferson Parish Alliance for the Homeless (sub-recipients), Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of New Orleans, the City of Kenner, Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority (JPHSA), Responsibility House, Resources for Human Development (RHD), and VIA Link. The first five agencies will provide intake, eligibility, rental placements, and supportive services to implement the HPRP Program. VIA Link will assist in the data collection, evaluation activities, reimbursement requests, and reports required by the federal government.

Michael Strausser, Parish Planner II, recently retired after 20 years with the Parish. Not liking emotional good-byes, Mike didn't announce his plans until his last day on the job!

Transit

By
Patricia Lyons

Jefferson Parish Senior Citizen EXPO 2009

The 9th annual Jefferson Parish Senior Citizen Exposition was held on October 21 at Kenner's Pontchartrain Center. Jefferson Parish Transit sponsored a booth, staffed by **Deborah Duker** and **Patricia Lyons**.



Deborah Duker and Patricia Lyons
at the Senior Expo

We provided seniors with information packets on Transit fixed routes bus service and Mobility Impaired Transportation System (MITS) service. Also the employees handed out Transit brochures, system maps, schedules, magnets, pens, key chains, JeT fare pouches, and candy.

The Expo was a great success!

Tour de Jefferson

The 3rd Annual Tour De Jefferson Bike Ride was held at Bayou Segnette State Park on November 8. Jefferson Parish Transit had one of its buses with the bike rack on display. Cyclists were provided JeT bike brochures and system maps. Information on how to mount the bike on the front of the bus was available for cyclists. JeT pens, fare pouches, and key chains were handed out also.



Community Development Director Anatola Thompson with Louisiana Recover Authority's Wil Jacobs and Robert M. Gaudin, Director of Research & Planning for Western Economic Services

Library

By
Mark Deane

Jefferson Parish Library is building back better with renovated branches and two openings on the horizon. The Gretna and Lafitte Libraries will have new buildings soon. And the Harahan and Old Metairie Libraries got a makeover in October with new furniture, carpets, and an updated design. Terrytown is next in line for renovations, and construction on the new Lakeshore Library begins soon.

We say goodbye to Library Associate **Muriel McGittigan**, who is retiring this month after 25 years of service. Muriel has worked at three different branches, most recently at the Old Metairie Library. About her time at the library, she says, "I loved every minute of it. I loved the people and the work." She also thanks a fellow library worker for introducing her to the *Moody Blues*, an experience she will never forget. And everyone will miss her homemade goodies.



Muriel McGittigan

The Library welcomes many new employees, including Computer Systems Specialist **Susan Ally**, Library Page **Nancy Anderson**, Library Page **Tedra Anthony**, Information Specialist **Mark Deane**, Librarian II **Natalie**



Maria Landrum (in monster costume) and Selena Muhoberac make *Where the Wild Things Are* come alive at East Bank Regional Library

Miller, Library Page **Leslie Morgan**, Computer Systems Specialist **Theodore Nass**, Library Associate **Amy Noll**, Computer Systems Coordinator **Jaime Oviedo**, Shipping Clerk **Donald Raymond**, Typist Clerk II **Latoya Sommersville**, and Library Page **Kane-Elaine Wischan**.

For this year's "Blow the Whistle on Lung Disease" fundraiser, Library employees raised \$575.85 for the American Lung Association. The library came in 11th for total team amounts out of the 42 groups participating and collected the most of any Parish department. Library Director **Lon Dickerson** thanks everyone who donated. Special thanks to Internet Librarian **Marylyn Haddican** and Typist Clerk **Latoya Sommersville** for their efforts with the fundraiser.

And the American Heart Association benefited from the good will of library workers. A

crew of dedicated employees including Network Administrator **Ricardo Mesa**, West Bank Regional Branch Manager **Chris Stuckwish**, Old Metairie Branch Manager **Suzanne Upshaw**, Librarian II **Jovana Susic**, Librarian II **Maria Landrum**, and Typist Clerk II **Mindi LeCarpentier** braved the overcast and rainy weather for the *New Orleans Start! Heart Walk* in November. The Library raised almost \$800 for the fundraiser, far more than our goal of \$500.

Several library workers from East Bank Regional showed students that story time can be fun – and maybe a little scary. Around Halloween, Youth Services Coordinator **Burke McFerrin**, Teen Librarian **Selena Muhoberac**, Librarian II **Maria Landrum**, and Library Associates **Janis Lorio** and **Trisha D'Aquin** visited several parish schools and put on a show full of monsters, singing, dancing, and laughter. The storytellers got the children and even some of the school's teachers involved in the stories.

Parkways

By
Chantell Prestenbach

After only being back for a short time from his first tour in Iraq and only six months back at Parkways, **Christopher Canedo** is proudly returning to Afghanistan for a second tour of duty. September 23 was his last day with us.

Chris originally joined the family of Parkways in May 2003. He later decided to enter the military, joining the United States Army.

All of us at Parkways are sad to see him leave, but we are also very grateful to him and the many other brave men and women who put their lives on the line for us every day. Without people like Chris, we would not be so privileged to say we live in the “United States of America,” “the land of the free and home of the brave.”

Chris, during your long journey, we will be thinking of you and the others like you. Remember, you are the reason we are able to sleep in peace every night. May God bless you, watch over you, and bring you safely back to us. From your extended family here at Parkways, we love and will miss you.

Finance Authority

By
Sheila Rodrigue

Single Family Excellence Award

On September 17, 2009, the Jefferson Parish Finance Authority was presented an award for Single Family Excellence at the NALHFA (National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies) conference in Denver, Colorado.

NALHFA’s Single-Family Excellence Award recognizes and highlights an organization’s achievement, innovation, and creativity in single family projects and programs. The Jefferson Parish Finance Authority’s Series 2008B Single Family Revenue Bond Program was nominated for its original approach to financing a single family bond program. A new and innovative partnership with a local bank was created, and the Jefferson Parish Finance Authority was able to have a bond issue in 2009 when other housing finance agencies across the country were unable to find investors.

Our Executive Director, **Terry McCarthy**, and Forrest “Bucky” Lanning, one of our Trustees and Vice President of our Board, attended the NALHFA conference to accept this award for the Finance Authority.

Board Member Changes

In August we were sad to say goodbye to Lester Dunn, one of our Board Members, who was originally appointed to our Board of Trustees in February 2004. Mr. Dunn was replaced by Marvin Johnson, who had been a previous appointment to our Board. Welcome back, Mr. Johnson!

Retiring

Our Executive Assistant, **Joycelyn Messina**, is retiring on December 18. Joycelyn has been with the Parish since 1979 when she started working with the Parish of Jefferson Home Mortgage Authority (later renamed Jefferson Parish Finance Authority) as a Secretary.

Not many people start their career in a Parish office and remain in the same office for 30 years. She and her knowledge of the Authority since its earliest days will be missed. We all wish her a happy retirement.

Promotion

In the wake of Joycelyn Messina’s retirement, **Sheila Rodrigue** (that’s me) has been promoted to Executive Assistant from Administrative Assistant. I hope I can do as good a job as Joycelyn has during her career.

There are more changes to come to our office, and those will be announced in the next newsletter.



Roy Mullan (center), Public Works Project Coordinator, receives his 25-year award from Supervisor Leo Lay and Engineering Director Mark Drewes

Citizens' Affairs

By
Jillian Campbell

October and November were very eventful for Citizens' Affairs.

SENIOR EXPO 2009

The Senior Citizens' Exposition was held October 21 at the Pontchartrain Center. There were over 140 vendors and sponsors. According to **Wayne Ory**, Chairman of the event, it was the largest Exposition to date! There were over 4,600 senior citizen volunteers and sponsors at the Expo.

There was entertainment throughout the day. Guest hosts were radio and TV commentators Bob and Jan Carr. Co-Chairmen of the Expo were the three major hospitals in Jefferson Parish: West Jefferson, East Jefferson, and Ochsner. Lunch was served and the Carol Scalise Award was announced.

Next year's Expo will be Wednesday, October 20, 2010, at the Alario Center. Wayne would like to thank President Broussard and the Council for their continuous dedication to improving the quality of life for senior citizens in Jefferson and surrounding areas.

PARK-A-BOO 2009

Jefferson Parish participated in the first annual "Park-A-Boo," which was held October 23-25 in Lafreniere Park. The three-day Halloween celebration allowed families to partake in activities such as trick or treating, face-painting, and experiencing the slightly spooky "Boo House," all in a safe family environment.

This event was particularly geared towards children ages 3 to 13. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible, particu-



Barry McGuinness & family at Park-a Boo

larly Recreation Director **C.J. Gibson** and Lafreniere Park Manager **Barry McGuinness**, along with the Jefferson Parish Fire Department. Preparations are already under way for the second annual "Park-A-Boo" to be held October 22-24, 2010. The event was a grand success, and we look forward to participating again next year!

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS EXPO 2009

We are proud to announce that the 2nd Annual SELA Hurricane Preparedness Expo was once again a success! The Expo was held November 21 at the Alario Center. Almost 50 vendors and sponsors participated in this year's Expo, along with emergency vehicles on display outside. Vendors provided information and displayed products to help educate citizens on how to prepare for hurricane season.

President Broussard expanded this year's Expo by partnering with neighboring parishes to include Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, and St. Tammany. Also participating this

year were our own Parish Departments including: JeffCAP, the Animal Shelter, Citizens' Affairs, Drainage, Emergency Management, Environmental Affairs, and Sewerage. We want to give big thanks to our Public Information Office, all the staff at the Alario Center, and **Angela Pacaccio** for helping to make this event a success. We are excited to start preparing for the Expo in 2010!

SENIOR BASKETS

It's the time of year again to start preparing "Christmas Wish List" baskets for the home bound senior citizens of Jefferson Parish. The baskets should contain various essential home products, such as paper plates, Zip Loc Bags, batteries, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.

President Broussard has invited each department to participate again this year. For more information on how you can kindly contribute, please contact you Department Coordinator. The request for baskets this year is greater than ever. Let us all try to remember those less fortunate than ourselves and give thanks for the blessings in our own lives this holiday season.

General Services

By
Jill Relick

What a busy summer and fall for General Services! Thanks to our groundskeeping staff and **Van Taylor** for their efforts to keep our Yenni Building parking lot blooming with color. Even Dan Gill would approve.

The Department of General Services was happy to be so active with the Grand Opening of the 18-month renovation of the German-American Cultural Center in Gretna. Councilman John Young was the Master of Ceremonies of the evening. "The Parish of Jefferson actually owns this building and fully supports the German-American Cultural Center," he said. "This center is part of the National Park Services and was opened in June 1999." Catch **Mike Lemoine** anytime for more details.

New WB Parking Garage

The Parking Garage Expansion at 300 Derbigny has seven floors and three added elevators. Hours of operation are 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. It is open for employees with access. The newly completed expansion has approximately 300 new parking places.

Going, Going, Gone!

"AS IS, WHERE IS": That's how all the items were sold at the Surplus Auction '09--everything, including the kitchen sink. The sink went so fast the photographer missed the shot. **Dale Esteves** and his dream team are anxious to get started with the Surplus Property for Auction 2010. **James Troxclair** is ready to accept all your unneeded office items.

GS & Senior Expo

Special thanks to the Wheel of Fun staff, **Shayne Perez** and **Shanna Parria**, who ensured all 46,000 attendees of the '09 Senior Expo located at the Pontchartrain Center had an enlightening experience. General Services gave out energy-efficient fluorescent light bulbs to the winning rollers. **Wayne Ory** coordinated an amazing patriotic program. His assistant **Mary Nelson** dressed like Betsy Ross and assisted all the booth participants.

Welcome Aboard!

General Services would like to recognize our new employees: **Charlene Painter**, Foreman I; **Hakim Raby**, Trades Helper; **Cody Orgeron**, Laborer; **William Walker**, Assistant Property Manager, Library; and **Rodrick Woodside**, Engineer I.

Our Quiet Hero!

Congratulations to our own **Troy Sanchez**, recipient of the Community Adoption Awareness Award from the Louisiana Department of Social Services. Troy and his wife Sherleta have

been foster parents to special needs children for the past several years. They were honored at the Governor's Annual Adoption Celebration on November 6 for providing a safe, stable, and loving home for their children.

Troy and Sherleta are the proud parents of four children, all adopted between 2006 and 2009: Ernest (17), Franklin (14), Henry (18), and Shawn (17). They have truly been an inspiration to others for their commitment to children with special needs. They have shared their experiences and the joys of being foster parents and are dedicated to providing a stable family life for their children.

That's not the end of the story for Troy and Sherleta. This week they were named "Quiet Heroes" by Channel 4's *Morning Show* hostess Sally Ann Roberts for their compassion and inspiration.

"It could always be the other way around – that's the way I look at it," Troy humbly told us. When asked how he is doing, Troy responds, *"Always blessed!"*

And we are blessed to have you with us, Troy!



Quiet Hero Troy Sanchez (left) with Property Manager David Segura

Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

The 2009 hurricane season began with Hurricane Ana and has ended with Hurricane Ida. With its end comes a sigh of relief. As the 2009 hurricane season ends, work continues within this department to make the citizens of Jefferson safer – from the implementation of new forecasting and alerting tools and community awareness programs to the rehearsing of our emergency response plans.

We must not let our guard down as we need to prepare for “all hazards”; i.e., heavy rains, hard freezes, and hazardous materials incidents—not just hurricanes. Preparedness helps you protect your family and possessions. We can’t prevent natural disasters, but we can help you prepare for them.

Congratulations to **Charles M. Hudson**, Assistant Director, on receiving the Louisiana Emergency Manager Certification on July 16. This certification requires years of experience in emergency management, 100 training hours in two categories—general education and emergency education—as well as actual experience of a disaster or participation in exercises. Charles’s knowledge and expertise in this field is an asset to Jefferson Parish, and we are very proud of him.

Congratulations to **Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade**, Executive Assistant, on 20 years of service to Jefferson Parish. She will be recognized along with other Parish employees at a presentation on December 8.

Health & Wellness

By
Peggy Branan, RN



Are You “Bone Healthy”?

We’ve all heard that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! Unfortunately, we do not usually give serious consideration to something until it becomes a problem. When it comes to our health, sooner or later, our actions or inactions will catch up with us.

One such example is the health of our bones. Usually, it is not until someone is diagnosed with a broken bone or osteoporosis that he considers how to strengthen his bones. So, what can we do now to prevent bone-related problems?

Our bones are at their strongest between the ages of 18-25. If calcium is lost, the bones may become thin and weak over time (osteoporosis). Strong bones can be achieved by the following actions: Read food labels to see how much calcium and Vitamin D the food contains; eat a diet rich in calcium and Vitamin D; limit the amount of alcohol you drink; exercise regularly; think safety when it comes to preventing falls; take precautions to protect your bones; and maintain a healthy weight.

Vitamin D is necessary for calcium absorption. It is stored in body fat. Exposure to the sun allows the body to produce Vita-

min D. People over the age of seventy have more difficulty making Vitamin D from sunlight. We can also obtain Vitamin D through foods and vitamins. The recommended daily amount for ages 51-70 is 400 IU and 71 and older is 600 IU. Some foods high in Vitamin D include herring, salmon, catfish, oysters, sardines, tuna, shrimp, and eggs. Some fortified sources include milk, orange juice, and cereals.

What is the significance of calcium? Ninety-nine percent of our calcium is stored in teeth and bones. Calcium is released into the blood stream to maintain a normal calcium blood level. Calcium is necessary for controlling blood pressure and maintaining the heart beat. Calcium is deposited back into the bone through our diet. The recommended daily amount for ages 19-50 is 1,000mg and ages 51 and older is 1,200mg. Some foods high in calcium include milk products, dried figs, greens, salmon, sardines, soy nuts, and fortified foods.

Exercise is important to maintain a healthy heart. It improves muscle tone and helps with coordination and flexibility. Being fit ultimately helps prevent falls. Always check with your doctor before starting an exercise program.

It is critical that you evaluate your bone health status. How much calcium and Vitamin D do you take in? How much exercise do you do? Do you have a family history of weak bones? Have you taken medications that can pull excessive amounts of calcium from the bones? Are you at a healthy weight?

Now is the time to discuss your bone health status with your doctor and take steps to achieve your optimal bone health!

Retirements

Pamela Theriot
Accounting
36 years

Sharon Daigle
Planning Advisory
31 years

Rosalie Wright
Code Enforcement
28 years

Elizabeth Fose
Sewerage
27 years



Ms. Joyce Sullivan began her career with the Parish in 1967! She retired from JeffCAP in October after 42 years.

Willis Comeaux
Streets
31 years

Hazel Robinson
JeffCAP
30 years

June Maxwell
Planning
28 years

Morris Bouvier
Drainage
23 years

2010 Jeffreson Carnival Schedule (subject to change)

LITTLE RASCALS	FRIDAY	02/05/10	6:30 P.M.	TERRY PARKWAY
EXCALIBUR	FRIDAY	02/05/10	7:00 P.M.	VETERANS BLVD.
ATLAS	FRIDAY	02/05/10	7:30 P.M.	VETERANS BLVD.
CHOCTAW	SATURDAY	02/06/10	11:30 A.M.	TERRY PARKWAY
ADONIS	SATURDAY	02/06/10	NOON	TERRY PARKWAY
CAESAR	SATURDAY	02/06/10	6:00 P.M.	VETERANS BLVD.
ALLA	SUNDAY	02/07/10	11:00 A.M.	TERRY PARKWAY
THOR	WEDNESDAY	02/10/10	7:00 P.M.	VETERANS BLVD.
CENTURIONS	FRIDAY	02/12/10	7:00 P.M.	VETERANS BLVD.
ISIS	SATURDAY	02/13/10	6:30 P.M.	VETERANS BLVD.
NAPOLEON	SUNDAY	02/14/10	5:30 P.M.	VETERANS BLVD.
ZEUS	MONDAY	02/15/10	6:30 P.M.	VETERANS BLVD.
ARGUS	TUESDAY	02/16/10	10:00 A.M.	VETERANS BLVD.
ELKS TRUCKS	TUESDAY	02/16/10	FOLLOWS ARGUS	VETERANS BLVD.
TRUCKS	TUESDAY	02/16/10	FOLLOWS ELKS	VETERANS BLVD.