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EMERGENCY

Message from the Parish President. .

Jefferson Better Prepared

As we begin the height of hurricane season, what better time to thank you for your hard work and dedication to making Jefferson Parish a safer place to live. Although the public may think much of what we do is routine and the norm, I know it is not. What we do together is exceptional.

The experiences we have endured have taught us much. In the last few years, levees and floodwalls have been fortified. Floodgates have been installed. The parish now has 13 safe rooms to provide shelter and allow pump station operators to remain on-site and at work during storms. Automation to enable pump station operators to remotely run pumps has been installed in a number of safe rooms, with more to come.

Millions have been spent under the Southeast Louisiana Urban Food Control Project (SELA). Specifically, on the West Bank, 21 of 32 improvement projects have been completed since 1995. On the East Bank, 34 projects have been completed in the same time span.

Training sessions for essential Parish employees and volunteers have been implemented, including the Citizens Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The Emergency Alert System is available to citizens.

The parish's Emergency Operations Center is now using Twitter (www.twitter.com for more information) to send out messages about emergency preparedness, the condi-



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

tion of the parish after an emergency event, and other related issues.

Jefferson Parish continues to improve its plan to protect lives, personal property, and businesses from damage as a result of hurricanes. You as a citizen must do your part.

To learn more about how to be better prepared, I invite you to attend the 2009 Southeast Louisiana Hurricane Preparedness Expos on Saturday, November 21, at the Alario Center in Westwego.

To obtain more information on Jefferson Parish's hurricane protection plan and how to better protect yourself, your family, and your business, log onto www.jeffparish.net.

Again, thank you for making Jefferson Parish the most populated, prosperous, and progressive Parish in Louisiana.

Aaron F. Broussard
President
Jefferson Parish

En Realité

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Brandy Chism & David Stout

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Kathy Theriot & Gennie Hebert

WORKFORCE CONNECTION

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Editor's



Notes

Computer Classes Returning!

I am very pleased to announce that the Parish will soon be offering computer training to our employees. The classes will be provided by the Training Division of Human Resources.

Many of you will recall that we offered computer training before Katrina. Many employees took advantage of introductory classes in various programs such as Word and PowerPoint. In the aftermath of the storm, however, we were not able to use the Computer Lab for training. Now that the Lab is back in use and equipped with brand new computers, the classes can once again resume!

The first computer course to be offered this year is *Outlook 1-2-3*. Outlook is the e-mail program that we use here at the Parish. *Outlook 1-2-3* will consist of three parts, each of which will cover different aspects of the Outlook program, such as sending and receiving messages, managing distribution lists, and planning with your Outlook calendar. The first classes of *Outlook 1-2-3* will be offered in September. Class size is limited, so another section is being planned for those who cannot attend this September section.

Excel To Be Next

The next suite of courses to be offered is Excel training. Excel is



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

Microsoft's program for creating and managing spreadsheets. Excel training will be offered at various proficiency levels from absolute beginners through working with pivot tables, macros, and more. Depending on interest, special topic courses may be offered to meet the needs of various departments.

The first level of Excel will soon be offered to Parish employees. This basic level gives trainees a solid basis on which to build for future Excel classes. Topics covered include opening, saving, and deleting workbooks and worksheets; data entry; basic print options; entering basic formulas; and creating basic charts. More advanced levels are still being developed and should be ready later in the fall.

All computer classes will be held in the Computer Lab (Room 321) of the Yenni Building. Interested employees should first seek permission from their departments to attend and then submit a completed registration form. For more information about the classes, or to express training requests, please contact the Training Division of Human Resource Management.

Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

We are happy to announce that **Julie Owen**, Planner III, is the proud mother of a beautiful baby boy, Wesley.

The Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center fund-raising was coordinated by **Jill Westlund**, Planner II. Jill reported that we collected a total of \$150.00. Thanks to everyone for contributing to this worthy cause.

Tanisha Johnson, Planner II, volunteers with the Department of Juvenile Services Venture Crew as an advisor. The Venturing Program targets low-risk 14- to 17-year-old girls in need of mentoring. This all-girl pilot group is the beginning step in their goal of sponsoring several Venture Crews for both boys and girls. Juvenile Services is always looking for adult volunteers.

Planners **Louis Haywood** and **Bess Renfrow** ride their bikes to work sometimes, 10 miles round-trip, on the levee bike path along River Road. It's a great way to exercise.

Congratulations to **Larry Massey**, Planning Intern, who will graduate from UNO with a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning. In addition to his academic accomplishments, Larry is a runner and has participated in the Crescent City Connection, a 10K race held in April, and the Olympic Run, a 5K race held during the Greek Festival in May. **Larry** worked in the Planning Department for one year. We will miss you and wish you success.

Emergency Management

By
Brian J. Duplaisir

Cities Readiness Initiative

Over the past couple of years Emergency Management has gone through a complete make-over with its personnel and initiatives. We have strived to show that we are not just a hurricane preparedness department, but an all-hazards department. One of our plans includes the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI).

The Cities Readiness Initiative was started in 2004 in just twenty-one cities. The program has expanded to seventy-two cities with at least one city in each state. The purpose of the program is to prepare major U.S. metropolitan areas on how to effectively respond to a large-scale bioterrorist event by dispensing antibiotics to the entire identified population within forty-eight hours.

In the event of a bioterrorist attack or a large-scale public health emergency, Emergency Management will help coordinate the dispensing of antibiotics

to its citizens. The first wave of antibiotics will go to all the first responders and their families so that they can quickly begin to assist in the process of dispensing to the rest of the population.

When CRI is placed into effect, there will be Points of Dispensing (PODS) located across the parish.

There will be two types of PODS in Jefferson Parish: open and closed. Open PODS are for the general public, while Closed PODS are for certain businesses to dispense to their employees and family. All of the POD locations will be announced when CRI is implemented.

When the public arrives at the PODS, no one will be denied treatment. There are no eligibility requirements in order to receive medication. We joined this program to ensure that every person was able to be treated.

The Cities Readiness Initiative is just one of the plans that Emergency Management is coordinating to ensure that the citizens in Jefferson Parish are safe in the event of a hazard. To learn more about CRI, go to www.bt.cdc.gov/cri/ or contact Emergency Management at 349-5360.



Julie Owen and her new son Wesley are visited by Planning's Assistant Director Terri Wilkinson

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

CD Brings Home the Prize!

Congratulations! **Director, Anatola Thompson**, recently attended the 40th Annual National Community Development Association Conference (NCDA) in San Antonio, Texas, where she received the prestigious *John A. Sasso National Community Development Award*.

The Sasso Award, named for NCDA's founder, recognizes communities that exemplify the spirit of the Community Development Block Grant Program, a federal grant received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Award winners must showcase their accomplishments funded by CDBG during National Community Development Week.

Community Development featured a ribbon-cutting at the new Marrero Community Senior Center during CDBG Week on April 17. The Center was built with CDBG funds and is located on Ames Blvd. in Councilman Byron Lee's District 3. It replaces the Martin Luther King Center destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The exemplary project met all award criteria by encouraging community participation, media coverage, and the involvement of Louisiana's Congressional Delegation and other elected officials. Community Development was among five communities around the nation to be honored: Quincy, Massachusetts; Jacksonville, Florida; Jackson, Mississippi; El Paso, Texas; and Jefferson Parish, LA.

C.D. staff welcomes summer workers **Brooke Beninate, JaMia**



Community Development Director Anatola Thompson holds the SASSO Award, surrounded by her proud staff; Sevilla Finley holds the proclamation

Watts, and **Rory Winters**. Brooke will be a freshman at Delgado; JaMia, who hails from Nevada, received certification as a nurse's aide from Xavier University; and Rory will be a sophomore at L.S.U. The summer work program is S.O.A.R.S. – Stimulus Offers a Rewarding Summer.

Faye Galland, Parish Planner III, and **Michael Strausser**, Parish Planner II, have been overseeing participation in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of '09, which includes the Homeless Prevention and Rapid-Re-housing Program (HPRP). CDBG funds will be used to rehab houses purchased under the Road Home program for resale to eligible low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers. As currently planned, about half of the HPRP funds will be used for homeless prevention activities and the

other half will provide housing for the homeless, said the planners.

Housing Update:

Jim Bush, Project Coordinator, notes that eligible low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers can receive up to \$50,000 for down payment and closing costs to purchase new homes on the West Bank. He reports that 10 of the 32 new homes are near completion in Beechgrove Subdivision in Westwego, and three purchase agreements have been signed.

Three new homes have been completed in Anderson Place (off Ames Blvd. in Marrero) and 8 of the 20 new additional homes are under construction. All of the new homes are for sale. Beechgrove homes are being handled by **Tonda Adolph** of RE/MAX at 504-430-1170 or 504-210-8453. Anderson Place homes are being handled by **Dwan Stevenson** of Omni at 504-250-0376.

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

Congratulations to Coastal Programs Supervisor **Jason Smith** for receiving The Bureau of Governmental Research Excellence in Government 2009 Latter & Blum Realtors Merit Award. The Bureau of Governmental Research Excellence in Government Awards honor local government employees for outstanding performance and creative problem-solving.

Coastal erosion is a problem Louisiana has been facing for years. Jason Smith works each day to restore Louisiana's valuable wetlands and prevent the harsh realities of continued coastal erosion.



Environmental's Jason Smith

As the coastal Program Supervisor of the Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs, Mr. Smith had the formidable task of removing all marine debris in Jefferson Parish's waterways after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustave, and Ike. After the storms, Mr. Smith accompanied the U.S. Coast Guard on reconnaissance trips to identify and target marine debris that blocked navigable waterways.

Jason worked tirelessly to encourage the public to report ma-

rine debris. His tenacity proved successful in getting support from the Coast Guard and FEMA for the removal of hurricane-related debris previously listed as ineligible for removal. In addition to his work on marine debris removal, Mr. Smith has spearheaded massive efforts in support of Jefferson Parish's Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project. The project involves hundreds of volunteers each year. It has resulted in the recycling of thousands of Christmas trees which serve as wave breaks to help protect, create, and enhance the wetland vegetation.

Mr. Smith has dedicated himself to a mission of the first rank: preserving our coastline from erosion. With such a threat to our region in play, citizens can take comfort in seeing civil servants such as Mr. Smith building up the defenses.

Congratulations to **Lauren Barton** on her promotion to Storm Water Specialist in the Storm Water Division. Prior to her promotion, **Lauren** worked

as a Storm Water Technician.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded two Brownfield Grants totaling \$400,000 to the Department of Environmental Affairs. Brownfields are vacant, abandoned, or under-utilized properties where redevelopment may be complicated by the real or perceived presence of environmental contamination. Funding under these grants allow the Parish to identify contaminated sites, perform site assessments, and develop clean-up plans. Jefferson Parish's Brownfield program is administered by the Department of Environmental Affairs, Solid Waste Division.

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered and participated in the Recycling Drop-off Day held on June 27, 2009. The Department of Environmental Affairs, in conjunction with the Recycling Foundation of Baton Rouge, had been conducting these drop-off drives regularly since April, 2007. Through this joint effort, we diverted nearly 550 tons of material from the parish landfill!



Engineering Director Mark Drewes with Jane Clouate at her retirement party in May

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

We are very proud to announce our new Traffic Engineering Division Signal Supervisor, **David V. Stout**. David replaces Dedo Hardin, who retired in June.

David has been a driving force in our Division since he started here almost 20 years ago. His quick learning, natural leadership skills, and outgoing personality allowed him to rise fast within this Division from a Sign Tech I in 1989 to the present Signal Supervisor. Often working outside of his classification, there was never a job too big or too small for David to handle, and he has always been readily available for the next task.



Traffic Engineering's new Signal Supervisor David Stout

Although it was not a requirement, David took on a personal agenda of receiving his State Electrical License. Due to his expertise in this field, he is called upon daily. Over the years David has proven to be one of our greatest assets in this Division. He is dedicated to his job and loyal to his employees and co-workers. David is a pleasure to work with, and we are incredibly proud of him. Congratulations, David!

Human Resources

By
Greg Alexander

HR welcomes our new Training Specialist **Dana LeBherz**. Dana grew up in the Washington, DC area and attended the University of Maryland, graduating in 1996 with a BA in English and a BA in German. She spent over 10 years working in different cities in Europe.

Throughout that time, she worked in the Training & Development field, designing and delivering training in language, business, and cross cultural skills. Upon her return to the US, Dana worked as a consultant developing training materials.

"I'm really enjoying my role here with the Parish, which includes designing, enhancing, and delivering training on a wide variety of topics from Defensive Driving to compliance with federal employment law to computer skills," says Dana. "I've recently completed a revision of Outlook training, which we'll begin offering in September, and am now working on a multi-level Excel course."

Training Supervisor **Nancy Rodriguez** is very pleased to have Dana on board: "We've



HR's new Training Specialist Dana LeBherz

waited many years to fill the vacancy in the Training Division, but Dana LeBherz is worth the wait. She brings a variety of skills and an attitude of enthusiasm to the position. We're very fortunate to have her in Human Resources."

HR congratulates our Executive Assistant **Nicole Thompson**, who recently earned her PHR (Professional in Human Resources) certification from the Human Resources Certification Institute.



Nicole Thompson, PHR

To achieve her certification, Nicole attended a comprehensive 10-week course that covered a wide variety of HR topics and passed a rigorous professional examination. She becomes the third member of HR's staff to achieve professional certification in six months. All must work to maintain their credentials through continuing education.

Mary Jo Arcement, Fran Robichaux, Nancy Rodriguez, Nicole Thompson, and Greg Alexander attended the Society of Human Resource Management's annual Conference & Exposition in June.

Finally, congratulations to our Benefits Manager **Aubrey Devillier**. Aubrey's first grandchild, Jaden Kyle Bradshaw, was born to Aubrey's daughter Jessica on July 23.

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

We would like to thank our summer clerks (**Hannah Ha, Caitlyn LaChute, Hollie Holmes** and **Lauren Jerome**) and our Education Specialists (**Darlene Corley, Beverly Davis, Bernadine Lamothe, Glinda Morton** and **Marble Pierre**). They truly help us out during the busy summer months, and we appreciate it!



Juvenile Services' Director Roy Juncker serves up a burger for the Brown Bag Lunch Campaign

If you come to the "Lagniappe at the Market" Westwego Farmers & Fisheries Market, 484 Sala

Avenue, at 4th Street, Westwego, on Friday, August 21, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., you will be entertained with a FREE concert by Juvenile Services' own **Danny Alexander Blues Band**. Come out and enjoy the good music!

Probation Officer **Allan Kagan** and his wife Jennifer became the proud parents of Jacob Allan Kagan on June 27. Everyone is doing great, although Allan and Jennifer are a little sleep-deprived!

Assistant Director **Christopher Trosclair** once again served as chair for the Jefferson Parish Brown Bag Lunch Campaign, which benefitted the Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center. We are expected, with your help, to break last year's record of \$10,000. If you would still like to donate to help prevent child abuse in Jefferson Parish, contact Mr. Trosclair or your department's campaign manger. Mr. Trosclair thanks the Campaign Managers of each department. In particular he would like to thank **Nikki Johnson**, DJS Grant Writer, for helping to organize the entire Parish campaign!

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Great Accomplishments

As hurricane season starts, the Department of Drainage has added a few new faces to both East Bank and West Bank locations. The new hires consist of **Nam V. Nguyen, Curtis Coleman, Ronard Frank, and Alvin Smith**. As they start their careers with the department as laborers, we'd like to wish them the best of luck!

Thanks to Summer Workers!

We've also enjoyed the company of our summer worker, **Jacob Kennedy**. Although he and our summer intern, **Christopher Drewes**, will soon be leaving us after such a short visit, their presence will surely be missed in the East Bank administrative office. Christopher will be returning to LSU in the fall and Jacob to Brother Martin. (See photo next page.)

The entire Department of Drainage would like to extend extra special congratulations to **Mr. Clinton Hotard**, who has received his license and is now an Engineer I- Professional. Clinton has been working very diligently to achieve this title and we couldn't be any prouder of him and very happy that he is with the Department of Drainage. He has a long and successful road ahead of him!

Also receiving a promotion recently is **Mr. Raymond Coster III**. He is now a Trades Helper for the East Bank offices. Way to go Raymond!



Code Enforcement Director Debbie Villio congratulates Alice Melancon for 15 years of Parish service

Drainage continued

Welcoming a new face to their family is laborer **Ernest Lucas**. He and his family welcomed a healthy baby boy on June 1, 2009. Little Ernest Lucas, Jr. will surely receive an overwhelming amount of love from everyone. Congratulations to the Lucas family.

The Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center recently held a brown bag lunch fundraiser for all employees. Donations were collected by our very own **Pamela Descant** for the department. After donating the money we would normally spend on purchasing our lunch, we were able to raise an amazing \$140. The JCAC appreciates every amount raised by our employees, so every cent raised will be cherished.

With the hurricane season now in full swing, we would like to take time out to remind everyone again to pay special attention to your catch basins and make sure they are clear of any debris. The smallest things will make the biggest impact!

Animal Shelter

By
Cokeisha Washington

The Animal Shelter would first like to welcome aboard all of its new employees:

Amber Martinez (Typist Clerk II), **Lakeisha Ellis** (Clerk I), **Melvin Jackson** (Kennel Worker), **Cokeisha Washington** (promoted to Secretary to the Director), **Derrick Frank** (Kennel Worker), **Elvirus Anderson** (Typist Clerk II), **Zondra Lewis** (Typist Clerk II), **Latasha Bourgeois** (Clerk I), **Mary Ellis** (Kennel Worker I), and **Benjamin Foster** (Kennel worker I).

OUTINGS FOR YOUR PETS

The Animal Shelter is proud to announce the success of our latest pet events. We also thank our supporters. The Animal Shelter has a lot in store for the community.

Our annual Pet Fest, which was held in Nov. '08, had over 5,000 attendees with 100 adop-

tions. Pet Fest had 30 shelter and rescue representatives and several local vets on site along with the AKC. There were also agility trials, music, food, and a marketplace.

This will probably not happen anywhere but here, a pet parade. It seems that the pets here love a parade as much as the people, and it showed in March at Arfus, held at Zephyr field. Reigning was King Jeffery I, a badly burned Chihuahua adopted by one of our own kennel workers. And Queen Teresa I, a lab mix from the West Bank who was adopted into a home with an autistic child. At the end of the event there were a total of 15 adoptions on large dogs and cats which are the hardest to adopt. Please come out and join the fun next year, Same time, same place.....

Our second event of the year, "PAWty" at the Lake," was held on Sunday, May 17. There was a good turnout even though there were about two other pet events that same day. 'Pawty' is another event with music, food, and pets. Our Friends of the Animal Shelter were in attendance along with other shelters and rescuers.

We had our annual rabies campaign on Sunday, July 26. It was hot, but the rain held up for the majority of the people coming into the shelter. If you or someone you know has pets that need a rabies vaccination, they are available every Wednesday at the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter for \$15.00. We also offer microchips every day for \$25.00.

If you've never been to any of these events, mark your calendars to come out and join us in November for Pet Fest. We hope to see you there.



Drainage Director Kazem Alikhani (second from left) with summer workers Christopher Drewes and Jacob Kennedy and new Engineer I-Professional Clinton Hotard

Water

By
Kathy Theriot

Our East Bank Utility Billing Office gathered together on July 17 to say “Happy Retirement” to our own **Mary Ellen Smith**. We were fortunate to have her with us for the past 12 years. She will be missed by all of us, but we are very happy for her and hope that she is able to enjoy a little bit of fishing now and then.

Pictured with Mary Ellen are the hard-working employees of our Utility Billing Office. We would like to take this opportunity to let them know how much we sincerely appreciate their dedicated service to our department. Theirs is a tough job, and they perform it with professionalism every day.

West Bank Outside Maintenance’s **Byron Matherne**, retired on June 1 with over 23 years of service. Our hats go off to him, along with our best wishes.



Monica Musmeci receives her 15-year pin from Water Director Randy Schuler

Total of 100 Years of Service

Congratulations to Water Department employees receiving their 2009 Service Pins. Experience like this is priceless!

Monica Musmeci of the Water Lab and **Mario Kennedy** of Outside Maintenance achieved fifteen years of service.

Receiving Ten Year Pins are **Jesse Rosenfield**, **Monica W. Stanton**, **Elbert Harris**, **Greg Louis**, **Jennifer Martin**, **Lynn Crout**, and **Louis Jackson**.

Brown Bag Lunch Campaign Hits a High Note

Thanks to all our employees and to the employees of **Comfort Zone** for their contributions to our campaign this year. We contributed \$337.64 to this important Fundraiser for the Jefferson Children’s Advocacy Center. **Susie Cunningham**, our Payroll Clerk, did an outstanding job as our Campaign Manager. Thanks, Susie, for all your hard work; you made it happen!



Water’s EB Billing crew at Mary E. Smith’s retirement party: Left to right Delores Caminta, Kermit Franklin, Lynette Jones, Allen Wells, Cassandra Swims (seated), Rennice Young, Mary Ellen Smith, Superintendent Betty Durr, Monique Baker, Diana Evans, Brigid Smith-Johnson, Pat Bourdeaux, Liz Bourgeois, and Connie Guillot

Streets

By
Debbie C. Tunstall

Streets welcomes **Jeanette Perez-Sandi** as our new Typist Clerk II/Receptionist. Jeanette transferred from the Animal Shelter. Jeanette, we hope you enjoy working with us and will remain with our department for many years to come. Jeanette replaced **Amy Miller**, who transferred to the Water Department.



Jeanette Perez-Sandi

A “Brown Bag Lunch” campaign was held by **Maria Cooper** on the West Bank and **Denise Chavers** on the East Bank for the Jefferson Children’s Advocacy Center on July 10. Hot dogs and chili with all of the fixings along

with sweet treats were served for a \$5.00 donation. The luncheon was a success. The total amount raised between Streets and Parkways was \$276.00. Thanks for your hard work, Maria and Denise. We need to do all we can to fight child abuse.

“The 88th Annual Tarpon Rodeo” was held July 23 through the 25. A lot of hard work and preparation went into this event. Special recognition and gratitude goes out to all who worked tirelessly planning and meeting the deadline.

We wish our Engineering Inspector **Shari Orgeron** a speedy recovery. We want her to know that we miss her and hope she’ll return soon. We miss your ray of sunshine, Shari.

Finally, we want to extend our condolences to **Wayne “Peanut” Williams**, our Road Maintenance Superintendent III for the East Bank. His father passed away June 13. We’re very sorry for your loss, Wayne; our prayers are with you.

Parkways

By
Chantell Prestenbach

Parkways would like to take this time to commend all of its employees for the creativity and hard-work that was put into the preparations for another successful “*Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo.*”

We’d like to take a moment in welcoming some new faces to the family of Parkways: **Brandon Curtis**, (East Bank Maintenance), **Kelvious Scott** (East Bank Maintenance) and **Delvin Jordan** (West Bank Maintenance).



Delvin Jordan and Brandon Curtis

Purchasing

By
Gail Petrie

We would like you to join us in welcoming **Sharon McDowell** to Jefferson Parish. Sharon has been a member of the workforce for many years and is now the new Typist III in Purchasing as of July 20. Her experiences and knowledge will serve us well. Welcome Aboard.

Bryson Osborne is a respected member of our Purchasing Staff. Bryson served his country in the Marines from 1998 to 2005. During his term of service, Bryson served two tours in Iraq.

Our thanks go out to Bryson and other members of the armed forces for their contribution to our American freedoms.



Landscaping for the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo

General Services

By
Revy Antoine & Jill Relick

Bye Bye, Randy!

A lot has happened since the last issue. **Randy Camardelle** retired July 17, 2009. We will miss you, Randy. Pictured is just half of his crew that attended his retirement function.

We want to welcome **Scott Chachere**, Stationery Engineer III for JPCC, and **Lonnie Everage**, Stationery Engineering II for the East and West Bank Health Units. Also, congratulations to **James Troxclair**, who was promoted to Truck Driver I.

General Services participated in the fundraising for the Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center. I want to thank everyone in General Services for their support. **"It's all about the Children,"** and their needs! Hooray, we raised \$253.00!

Surplus Auction in October

Our Jefferson Parish Surplus Auction will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2009, at the Surplus Property, which is located at 920 David Drive in Metairie. The auction begins at 9:00am, and bidders are required to register prior to the auction. There are numerous items such as construction equipment, trucks, automobiles, office equipment, and furniture. Everything is sold "AS IS, WHERE IS." So, get ready for this Great Event! **Dale Esteves** has this success story already under way.

We have had four assistants with us this year. Our first assistant is **Patrice Delahoussaye**; this



is her third year with us. She has received a scholarship to Nicholls State University, where she will study nursing. Her last day will be August 7, 2009.



Patrice Delahoussaye
& Amanda Brown

Amanda Brown has completed her second year with us. She will be attending Tulane University to study Early Childhood Education. Her last day will be July 31, 2009.

Brian Cooper is the son of Venice Cooper, and this is his third year with us. He will be a senior at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans. He has

earned a scholarship for his senior year due to his academic excellence during his junior year. His last day will be August 7, 2009.

Our last assistant is **Jamie Webb**; she is the daughter of Leo Webb Sr., who originally started to work for Jefferson Parish in the Department of General Services. This is Jamie's first year with us here in General Services. Even though Jamie resembles her father in many ways, she will not be following in her father's footsteps here at the Parish. She will be attending Vanderbilt University in January to receive her Masters in Nursing as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.

Congratulations to you all. We have enjoyed working with each and every one of you. We appreciate the job you have done for us. So, persevere with your aspirations and keep us apprised.

Watch for details in the December issue of all our General Service projects, Parish-wide.

Library

By
Linda Molinaro

Sorry we submitted too late to be included on the issue's military page, but Library wants to recognize its military families too:

- Major George D. "Donnie" Hasseltine, U.S. Marine Corps; son of **Mary Ellis Hasseltine**
- Joel Walker Hobbie II, Air National Guard, son of **Jeannie Hobbie**
- SPC Timothy O'Keefe, US Army, son of **Cathy O'Keefe**



SPC Timothy O'Keefe

Coming Attractions:

East Bank Regional Library will be hosting a traveling exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum through August 23 entitled *Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings*. It deals with the events of May 10, 1933, and their aftermath where German students gathered and burned books. This "Action against the Un-German Spirit," the censorship that followed, and the immediate American responses (including an anti-Nazi demonstration in New York City on the day of the burnings) are all covered. The exhibition is open during library hours, 9 AM – 9 PM Monday – Thursday, 9 AM – 5 PM Friday – Saturday, and 1– 5 PM Sunday.

Author Appearances

Author Michelle Buuck will appear to read from and sign her book, *The St. Bernard Fire Department in Hurricane Katrina* on August 25 at East Bank Regional at 7 PM. Her special guests will be members of the St. Bernard Fire Department.

Coffee and Conversation: A Series of Readings, Signings, and Literary Revelations" will return for its eighth season in the fall. On August 26 Judith Kelleher Schafer and facilitator Deb Mc Donald, manager of the Garden District Book Shop, will discuss Sex and the City, N'Awlins style in Schafer's book *Brothels, Depravity, and Abandoned Women: Illegal Sex in Antebellum New Orleans* at 7 PM.

On September 16 at 7 PM facilitator John Magill of the Historic New Orleans Collection and Peggy Scott Laborde will ruminate on Sweet Life in the Crescent City, and in particular their book, *Christmas in New Orleans*. Barb Johnson will chat about "Building a Character, Building a Collection" with Arin Black of Nolaphile.com and Johnson's short story collection, *More of This World or Maybe Another* on October 28 at 7 PM. The series concludes on November 10 at 7 PM with Amanda Boyden and Bill Loehfelm and the program "You Have to Kill Your Darlings to Save Your Art." They'll discuss "the often heartbreaking, head-aching process of revising one's work."

Next time: an invitation to an anniversary party, as Jefferson Parish Library turns sixty.

JeffCAP

By
Aretha Frison & Sabrina Minor

JeffCAP Board Member and Shrewsbury Activist Dies

Ms. Hazel Rhea Hurst has died. The JeffCAP family will sincerely miss this dedicated community activist.

Hurst, who died at 96 on July 3, was an activist in the Shrewsbury community for over 70 years and taught in the Jefferson Parish School system for 40 years.

In 1997, Governor Mike Foster had a state facility named in her honor, the Hazel Rhea-Hurst Community Center, located at 1121 S. Causeway Blvd. At the time, she was the only living person in the state to have such an honor. Hurst also established The Hazel Rhea-Hurst College Education Fund for graduating high school seniors in the Shrewsbury community.

Hurst was a member of the JeffCAP Advisory Board, the Retired Teacher's Association, and many other civic and educational organizations.

Many accomplishments were achieved in the community because of Hurst's hard work. She was a true pillar of the Shrewsbury community.



Hazel Rhea Hurst 1912-2009

JeffCAP continued

Jefferson Parish Honors Rummel Student Volunteers

President **Aaron Broussard** and **Nicole Ferrier**, JeffCAP Executive Director, presented certificates of appreciation to Archbishop Rummel High School students for 14 years of dedicated service to the children of Head Start.

As members of Operation Head Start, the students held fundraisers for toys and sports equipments for the children of Causeway, Westbank, Kenner, and Clay Street Head Start centers. During the school year, they distributed Christmas toys, read stories, and held a Tots Track and Field Sport Clinic. They also dressed as super heroes and the most popular cartoon and storybook characters.

We deeply appreciate the volunteers from Archbishop Rummel High School for serving as positive role models for the children in Head Start, and we are grateful for

Health & Wellness

By
Peggy Branan, RN

The Swine Flu

Over the years, we have seen repeated news stories regarding the flu virus. In many of these reports, the virus is identified by a phase number. The most recent flu virus to be reported is the H1N1, or the "swine flu." It has grabbed the headlines, reaching Phase 6 pandemic level. But, just what does that mean?

In order to provide a systematic approach toward viral infections, WHO (the World Health Agency) developed the "Pandemic Phase Descriptions and Main Actions by Phase" framework. The chart consists of six phases, followed by a post-peak period and a post-pandemic period. A corresponding description notes if human and/or animals are being infected; if virus levels are sustained; and where

in the world outbreaks are occurring. Main actions are then set forth per phase, regarding planning and coordination, situation monitoring and assessment, reducing the spread of disease, and continuity of health care provisions.

The phase numbers indicate the *spread* of the virus, not its *severity*. You can have a virus with the ability to spread quite easily and also have a low death rate.

A great deal of concern began to grow in communities as the H1N1 Virus Phase level rose. The reported concern was that even though the virus has remained a rather mild illness, except for individuals with underlying health conditions, the possibility of it developing into a more deadly virus exists. As a result, our government decided to have the H1N1 Swine flu vaccine available for this flu season, in addition to the traditional seasonal flu vaccine.

During an average flu season in the United States, 5% - 20% of the population will catch the flu and around 36,000 people will die. In the United States, between April 15 and July 23, we have had 43,771 cases and 302 deaths from the H1N1 virus. As of July 6, WHO reported 134,503 cases and 816 deaths worldwide of the H1N1 virus. They are no longer obtaining statistics on the number of cases and deaths on this virus.

The Parish will be offering the routine flu vaccine this flu season as we have done in years past.

Do your part to reduce the spread of any infections: Wash your hands as needed; avoid going in public when you are sick; do not come to work when running a fever; use a tissue to cough or sneeze into and throw into waste basket; and follow your doctor's advice.



JeffCAP Director Nicole Ferrier and Operation Head Start Coordinator Mark Firmin (center) with President Broussard and Council members Cynthia Lee Sheng and John Young, congratulating Rummel student volunteers

Retirements

Randy Camardelle
General Services
32 years

Lionel Jones
Sewerage
27 years

Bryon Matherne
Water
23 years

Claudia Sharp
Library
14 years

Roger Weidner
Accounting
14 years

William Howard
Code Enforcement
13 years

Mary Smith
Water
12 years

New Home in Marrero



This new home is on Anderson Place, off Ames Boulevard. Jefferson Parish has contracted with People's Community Subsidiary to develop 20 new homes in that area. For citizens in the workforce, first-time homebuyer assistance is available to qualified participants. Contact Sevilla Finley in Community Development (736-6282) for more information.