



Volume 30
Number 3
June 2009

EMERGENCY

Message from the Parish President

HURRICANE SEASON PREPARATION

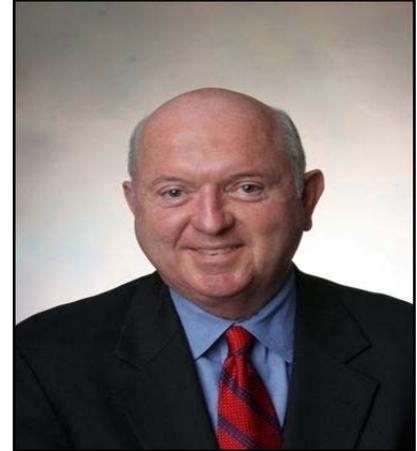
As we plan our summers, there is great anticipation of rest and relaxation. But we must never let our guard down about hurricanes.

It is vital that you have a disaster plan. Log onto our Parish website under Parish Departments > Emergency Operating Center (EOC) for the essential information you need to prepare your property, family, and pets.

As an employee of Jefferson Parish, check with your supervisor about your duties when a storm approaches. If you are essential personnel and are activated, arrangements have been made to feed and shelter you during the emergency event. For detailed information on these plans, go to our website under Emergency Operating Center (EOC) and click on Emergency Operations Plans to see the sections under Essential Duty Employee and Shelter Feeding and Essential Duty Employee Safe Shelter and Asset Security Operations. It is important that you plan now to make sure your family is out of danger so that you can confidently concentrate on your job.

With regard to prescription drugs for essential employees who must remain in the Parish during an event, our Jefferson Parish Health Care provider, United Health Care, will fill your prescription with a 60-day supply when an emergency looms. It is your responsibility to go to the pharmacy to fill your prescriptions before you are activated.

If you are a non-essential employee, you are allowed to evacuate to safety as a hurricane approaches. When you evacuate, please understand that you will be allowed to re-



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

enter Jefferson Parish as soon as I determine that there are sustainable living conditions. For more information on the re-entry plan, go to our website under Emergency Operating Center (EOC) and click on Emergency Operations Plans and see the section titled "Evacuation Re-Entry Plan." Additionally, you should monitor our website for updates and call the employee information line at 736-6003 for current information.

It is our fervent hope that Jefferson Parish and the entire New Orleans region will be spared the wrath of a hurricane in 2009, but we must always be prepared to handle whatever comes our way. By doing so, we will minimize damage to property, possessions, animals, and most importantly, to human life.

Thank you for all that you do to help make Jefferson Parish the best place to live in Louisiana.

Aaron Broussard
President
Jefferson Parish

En Realité

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR

F. Mendoza, Jr.

MANAGING EDITOR

Greg Alexander

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ANIMAL SHELTER

Cokeisha Washington

CITIZENS' AFFAIRS

Joanna Lee

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sevilla White Finley

DRAINAGE

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EIS/MIS

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WORKFORCE CONNECTION

Joan Vaughn

Editor's



Notes

Earning "Health Dollars"

I'm very happy to let all of you know that our healthcare provider, United Healthcare, is offering financial incentives for covered employees and spouses to encourage them to be more health conscious. Taking UHC's simple on-line health assessment can earn 75 "health dollars." This is essentially a \$75 gift card or certificate redeemable at a variety of stores and restaurants.

The health assessment can be completed in just a few minutes. It asks questions about your health-related habits, such as diet, smoking, drinking, and exercise as well as your personal and family medical history. It would be helpful to have your most recent cholesterol and blood pressure figures ready when you take the assessment.

To take the assessment, log onto www.myuhc.com. You must use your own or a friend's personal computer on your own time; you should not do this at work. If you have never used the site, have your UHC ID # and Group # handy to register. These numbers are on your UHC membership card. When you register, you will choose a username and password for future visits to the site.

Once you have registered, click on the Health Assessment link to the right of the screen. You will have to provide a private e-mail address to receive information about your "health dollars" reward. A couple of days after tak-



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

ing the assessment, UHC will send a list of merchants that honor the health dollars, such as Applebees, Target, Sports Authority, Outback Steakhouse, Home Depot, K-Mart, and many others. The employee then chooses the merchant he wants. The \$75 certificate will be mailed to the employee's home.

After the health assessment, employees and spouses may take advantage of two more opportunities to earn rewards: 1) Health Coaching on line for 25 health dollars; and 2) Telephone-based health coaching for 75 health dollars. The telephone-based coaching is more time-consuming and is geared toward those with serious health conditions.

The purpose of the health assessment is to help make people aware of their health issues. Everyone receives assessment results as well as tips to improve their health based on the assessment. Your responses will be confidential; no information will be used to affect your coverage or in any discriminatory way.

I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to earn rewards while raising your healthcare awareness.

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

Environmental Affairs says goodbye to three employees: Environmental Quality Supervisor **Joana Chambers**, student worker **Radzell Rosales**, and temporary Typist Clerk III **Crista Wood**. We wish all three the best of luck in the future.

Congratulations to **Kathleen Collins** on her promotion to Environmental Quality Supervisor in the Solid Waste Division. Prior to her promotion, Kathleen worked as a Storm Water Specialist.

Environmental congratulates the winners of the annual Non-point Source Storm Water Pollution and Solutions Contest. The winners were announced at a banquet in April at East Bank Regional Library. This contest is open to students in all Jefferson Parish schools.

Grades 3 through 6 participate in a poster contest; grades 7 and 8, in an essay contest. Environmental Affairs and the cities of Gretna, Harahan, Kenner, and Westwego co-sponsor the contest.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Recycling Drop-off Day held on May 23. For future Recycling Drop-off Days, check the Parish website.

Environmental thanks all who participated in the E-Waste collection event held on May 2. The event was held in conjunction with the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council of Baton Rouge (CACRC).

The CACRC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to collecting and refurbishing discarded computers while recycling the elec-

tronics that cannot be fixed. Louisiana is a state with one of the highest poverty rates for children. CACRC spearheads a program known as Computers for Louisiana's Kids (CLK, pronounced CLICK). This program distributes computers and needed technology to our state's schools.

According to CACRC's web site, our country will have over 400 million obsolete computers. Today only 13% of obsolete computers and electronics are recycled or reused. The rest may end up in landfills, with electronic waste becoming a leading source of environmental hazard.

Mosquito Season

It's mosquito time, so let's fight back. Here are some tips:

Protect Yourself

—Wear insect repellent and apply according to the manufacturer's instructions.
—Wear light-colored long pants and long sleeve shirts to cover exposed skin.

Fight Mosquitoes

—Repair holes in screens.
—Add sand to plant pot drip trays to absorb excess water.
—Get rid of old tires, buckets, or any water-holding containers.
—Fill in or drain any low places (puddles, ruts) in the yard.
—Keep drains, ditches, and culverts clean of weeds and trash so water will drain properly.
—Cover trash cans.
—Empty plastic wading pools four to five times a week and store indoors when not in use.
—Tree rot holes and hollow stumps can hold water; make sure they are filled with sand or concrete.
—Change water in birdbaths and plant pots several times a week.
—Keep grass cut short and shrubbery trimmed around the house.
—For places like stagnant ponds, rain barrels, and low-lying wet areas, use environmentally friendly larvicides.

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



Environmental staff members Rick Buller, Barbara Arcement, Katherine Costanza, Kathleen Collins, Billy "LSU" Sanders, Joana Chambers, and Barbara Kollin celebrate Kathleen Collins' promotion and Barbara Kollin's Employee of the Year Award and say goodbye to Joana Chambers.

Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

Congratulations to our Employee of the Year, **Darlene Duet**, Stenographer Clerk III, who is pictured receiving the award from **Ed Durabb**, Director of Planning, and **President Aaron Broussard**. Darlene, who has worked in the Planning Department for over nineteen years, is a dependable and conscientious employee and a valuable asset to our department.

Several members of the Planning Department attended the annual Administrative Professionals luncheon last month. The Planning Department greatly appreciates all of the work that our administrative assistants perform throughout the year.

A Baby Boy!

We are pleased to announce that **Julie Owen**, Planner III, had a beautiful baby boy, Wesley.

Louis Haywood, Planner II,



Planning's Employee of the Year Darlene Duet, with Planning Director Ed Durabb and Parish President Aaron Broussard

attended a three-day workshop held April 20 – 22, entitled Designing Streets for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety, which focused on street and intersection design, including crosswalk design, bicycle lanes, bicycle paths, and sidewalks. It was held in New Orleans and hosted by the New Orleans Regional

Planning Commission.

Congratulations to **Krista Les-tina**, Planning Intern, who recently graduated from UNO with a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Krista is already back in her home state, California. She will be missed, but we are happy for her and wish her success.



At the Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon: Carolyn Hidalgo, Director Ed Durabb, Sue Durabb, June Maxwell, Marilyn Slutsky, Assistant Director Terri Wilkinson, Darlene Duet, and Tracie Chaix

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

The Department of Community Development celebrated National Community Development Week on April 16 with a Ribbon Cutting at the new Marrero Community Senior Center. **Councilman Byron L. Lee**, District 3, was Master of Ceremonies. The new Center replaces the MLK Center destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, said **Director Anatola B. Thompson**. A large crowd of about 170 people attended the event.

The cost of the new center was \$1,775,000; the state provided \$300,000 and the remainder was funded by CDBG through Community Development. The Center will be operated by JeffCAP, Thompson said.

Director Anatola B. Thompson has announced that Community Development has begun construction on 32 new homes in the Beechgrove Subdivision off West Bank Expressway in Westwego. These homes, with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a one-car garage, are being made affordable for low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers in the workforce by offering grants of up to \$50,000 towards down payment and closing costs. A first-time homebuyer is someone who hasn't owned a home in the last three years. Parish employees may be eligible. For more information contact **Sevilla Finley** at 736-6282 or SFinley@jeffparish.net or Tonda Adolph at 504/210-8453.

Staff Happenings: Congratulations! **Elizabeth "Liz" Ruth**, Housing Improvement Counselor

II, was selected Community Development's 2008 Departmental Employee of the Year. Liz received a plaque from **President Aaron F. Broussard** at the April 15 Council Meeting. Liz goes out of her way to help people in the First-Time Homebuyer Assistance Program, which clients often call "the Liz Ruth program."



CD's Employee of the Year
Liz Ruth

Patricia Beebe, Typist Clerk III, coordinated the recent blood drive held three times a year by the Blood Center. Beebe held a motivational meeting to inspire staff to donate.

Congratulations to **Emann Batische**, Housing Counselor I, who passed her six-month probation. Emann's supervisors, **Helen White** and **Dianne Washington**, are pleased that Emman has joined our staff.

Ken Krey, Project Manager, reports that the Bunche Village-Little Farms beautification project is about 75% complete with trees planted along Ivy Street and the "Welcome to Bunche Village-Little Farms" sign erected. New signs are also in the works for Lincolnshire and Claiborne Gardens Subdivisions.

Alberta Pate, Administrative Management Specialist III, accepted a job with the State Office of Community Development. Our staff hosted a farewell party for her.

Alberta managed the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program grant through the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) for the Parish and will do similar work in Baton Rouge. **Mike Strausser**, Parish Planner II, is handling the LRA properties turned over to the Parish, a percentage of which will be converted into affordable housing.



At the Marrero ribbon-cutting ceremony: Westwego Mayor Johnny Shaddinger, Center Supervisor Anthony Williams, JeffCAP Director Nicole Ferrier, Councilman Byron Lee, CAA Darryl Ward, CD Director Anatola Thompson, HUD's Cheryl Breaux, and Judge Marc Johnson

Human Resources

By
Greg Alexander

HR congratulates our Benefits Manager **Aubrey Devillier** on his being named our department's employee of the year for 2008.

"This year the Parish switched from Coventry to United Healthcare. This change required major effort and dedication on behalf of Aubrey," wrote HR Director **Junior Mendoza**. "He was responsible for developing a health plan that would provide competitive rates without sacrificing the quality of benefits. Our new plan has been a major savings to the Parish and to all employees, active and retired."



HR's Employee of the Year Aubrey Devillier with Director Junior Mendoza

Our Executive Assistant, **Nicole Thompson**, once again coordinated the Parish's Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon, which was held in April at the Rose Garden in Harahan.

More congratulations for former HR Manager **Beverly Williams**, who succeeded Mike Scioneaux as the Parish's Personnel Director on May 29.



HR Director Junior Mendoza congratulates Beverly Williams upon her promotion to Personnel Director

Safety:

HR's Safety Division conducted several sessions of Backhoe Field Training in April. **Larry Guchereau** and **Ben Strange** led the students, who were then tested by Personnel's **Maurice Charles**. The classes covered various aspects of backhoe safety, such as loading and unloading, flagging, recognizing underground pipe colors, and the "cushion of safety."

"The cushion of safety is an important backhoe concept," says Safety Officer Larry Guchereau. "The area inside of the reach of the backhoe's arm is called the 'cushion of safety.' The operator must recognize that area and shut the machine down whenever anything that could be injured or damaged comes inside of it." Employees from Recreation, water, Drainage, Sewerage, and Streets took part in the training.

Also in April, our safe house and water plant employees at-



At Backhoe field training class: Anthony Corpora, Maverick Charles, Safety Program Manager Nolan Guidry, Leo Williams, Jason Barriere, and Safety Officer Larry Guchereau

tended Commercial Life Raft training. The Parish's safe houses and water plants are each equipped with a commercial life raft. They are Coast Guard approved and must be regularly inspected.

Safety Officer **Gregory Reynolds** and Drainage Superintendent **Manny Aspuria**, both of whom have military life raft experience, recognized the need for a training session to accompany the inspection. Kurt Theriot, of Marine Service & Supply in Harvey, conducted the sessions.

The employees learned the proper procedure for utilizing the rafts, including how to operate the canopy, which shelters the raft's passengers. Employees were able to enter the rafts and locate the various items that the rafts are equipped with, such as food, water, flares, a signaling mirror, and leak-repair tools.

Smoking—What's the Risk?

By

Jules Poirier, R.R.T., West Jefferson Medical Center

Smoke, cancer stick, and ciggy are all colloquial expressions used for a cigarette, that concoction of tobacco leaves, reconstituted tobacco, and sometimes other additives rolled or in a cylinder of paper.

Former Director-General of the World Health Organization Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland said, "A cigarette is a euphemism for a cleverly crafted product that delivers just the right amount of nicotine to keep its user addicted for life before killing the person."

Early in the 1900's, harmful effects of cigarettes on health began to be studied in earnest. Today, smoking tobacco is recognized as a lead-

ing cause of preventable disease, illness, and premature death in the United States. According to the American Lung Association (ALA), more than 400,000 Americans die each year from smoking-related diseases, such as emphysema; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; cardiovascular disease; stroke; peripheral vascular disease; pneumonia; and oral, throat, lung, kidney, and bladder cancer.

Smoking reduces the amount of oxygen in the blood, makes blood clots more likely to form, and has been shown to increase cholesterol. The ALA statistics indicate 90% of lung cancers in men and 80% in women are due to smoking.

The role of smoking cessation programs is incalculable in terms of quality of life. West Jefferson Medical Center's core measures for quality incorporate heart attack, heart failure, and pneumonia. Community Outreach activities of the Medical Center's cancer program, cardiac service line, wellness programs, and Family Birth Place demonstrate a "no smoking" and "stop smoking" ideal.

If you smoke, discuss options for stopping with your physician. Besides eliminating stained teeth and smoker's breath and saving money, you might just save your life.

Jules Poirier, R.R.T. is Head Respiratory Therapist in Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Smoking Cessation at West Jefferson Medical Center. He can be reached at 349-6226.



EB Drainage employees at the Commercial Life Raft training

Streets

By
Amy T. Miller

Congratulations to **Wayne “Peanut” Williams**, EB Superintendent III, on being selected employee of the year. Wayne has been an employee of the Parish for 31 years, and his hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated. He was presented with a plaque from Parish President Aaron Broussard and the Director of the Streets Department, **Randy Nicholson**.



Streets Employee of the Year Wayne Williams with Director Randy Nicholson and President Broussard

Blue Dog Sculpture Coming

Our department is working in conjunction with artist George Rodrigue to create a 16-foot aluminum Blue Dog sculpture which will be placed on Veterans near Severn Avenue in Metairie. The Blue Dog will be painted red, white, and blue and will be able to rotate to face different directions. It will join three other sculptures that were placed on Veterans Memorial Blvd. last year.

Adopt-a-Parkway Winner

The recipient of the 2008 Jefferson Parish Adopt-A-Parkway Sponsor recognition award is Mrs. Elaine Bankston of River Ridge. She was presented with a



Joseph Davis gives blood at the EB Streets Yard

bronze statue of a “gardening girl.” It will be installed in front of her business, River Ridge Ace Hardware. Since 1989 Mrs. Bankston has maintained this area with fresh, colorful annuals.

One of our department’s top priorities this season was working on the beautification of the TCP for the Zurich Classic. In addition to planting flowers and trees, our department erected the golfer’s statue, which will be a permanent fixture at the TCP.

Special recognition goes out to **Rose Lanansa**, who has been working tirelessly for The March of Dimes. Rose conducted a raffle with several different prizes up for grabs. She coordinated a fund raiser on April 16—serving hot dogs with all the fixings and dessert. Several of our employees participated in The March of Dimes Walk-a-thon as well. Rose raised \$445 for The March of Dimes and said she didn’t do it alone. She wants to thank **Frank Bailey**, **Andrea Williams**, and **Natasha Dorsey** for their help.

New to our department is **Amy T. Miller**, filling the clerical position formerly held by **Sheena Quinn**. Amy says she loves her new job and hopes to be with the Parish for many years to come. We would also like to welcome several new summer workers: **Zachary Rau**, **Ashley Homes**, **Cory Collongues**, **Antonia Scott**, **Lindsey Billiot**, **Claire Ravannack**, **Sarah Piglia**, and **Monica A. Haslauer**.

Congratulations are in order for **Pat Stoltz** and **Todd Louque**. Pat welcomed a new granddaughter, Alyssa Ann, on April 14; and Todd became a father for the second time when his son Tyler arrived on April 30.

Our department is also very proud of our student workers, **Quinisha Cockheran**, **Chuckaira Evans**, and **Nakia Brown**. All three graduated from Higgins High School on May 23. We wish them all the best in their upcoming endeavors. We would also like to extend our condolences to Quinisha Cockheran on the recent loss of her grandfather.

Code Enforcement

By
Linda Roy

We are privileged to have several new employees join our Code Enforcement team. **Jeffrey Frederick**, Clerk I; **Beth Paille**, Typist Clerk III; **Jack Wilson**, Plumbing Inspector I; **Dale Falgoust**, Plumbing Inspector I; and **Jeanne Baxter**, Typist Clerk III are our new additions. It's great to have you!!!

We will say goodbye to Regulatory Manager **Jeffrey Charlet**. Jeffrey is retiring in July of this year. He joined Parish government in Code Enforcement in April of 1979.



Retiring Regulatory Manager
Jeff Charlet

Jeff was promoted from Plan Reviewer to Assistant Regulatory Manager and will retire with over 30 years of dedicated service to the Parish in the position of Regulatory Manager. He has seen many changes in the Parish and in Code Enforcement, and he met many people and probably has a few good stories to share. We all wish him good luck in his future endeavors. If you get a chance, stop by and see him.

WE DID IT AGAIN! **Ruth "Kappy" Day** coordinated the department's efforts in collecting



March of Dimes Coordinator Ruth "Kappy" Day

for the March of Dimes. With the help of **Mary Claire Gates**, bean bag dolls and pralines were sold and donations were made by employees. Our total contribution was \$650.00. We came in First Place out of all Parish departments. **WONDERFUL!!** Thanks, girls, for a great job and thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause. Come by and see our trophy!

WELL DESERVED!!! Gary Lay was chosen Code Enforcement's Employee of the Year. Gary joined us in October of 2002 as a Building Inspector I. In the last year, he accepted the

challenge of conducting building and demolition inspections for Environmental Court. He has been praised by several Parish departments and supervisors for his dedication, knowledge of his position, and his professionalism in dealing with the public and at Court hearings. Gary goes the extra mile to get the job done. He takes pride in his work, and he makes sure his job is done right. He was also recently promoted to Building Inspector II. **CONGRATULATIONS – You've earned it!!**

From all of us in Code, have a safe and cool summer! Let's all pray for a calm hurricane season.



Gary Lay receives Code Enforcement's Employee of the Year award from Director Debbie Villio and President Broussard

Sewerage

By
Bobbie Fose

Congratulations to **Cindy Gallo**, our Executive Assistant, on her completion of “Basic Supervision Class.” Basic Supervision is designed to provide training in employment practices and supervisory skills for all newly appointed supervisors. Cindy completed the required 10 classes. We were so proud of her that we decided she needed a special graduation cap and certificate!!



Cindy Gallo with her new “BS degree”: Basic Supervision, that is!

It seems that one brave and fearless General Superintendent in the Department of Sewerage, **Roy Lindsey**, does have *one little issue* with *one little mouse*. I wonder how fast he jumped on that table.



Sewerage’s fearless (except when a mouse is in his office) Superintendent Roy Lindsey

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

Staff Changes:

WELCOME to **Monique Fisher**, Mental Health Professional I, with the Juvenile Assessment Center.

FAREWELL to Probation Officer **David Kraus**, who recently resigned.

We once again will have Clerk I’s to help out during the busy summer months – WELCOME to **Hannah Ha**, West Bank Office; **Hollie Holmes**, Rivarde; and, **Lauren Jerome**, East Bank Office.

Blessed Events:

The stork has been very busy at DJS lately. Congratulations to Probation Officers **Ariann Knox**, who gave birth to baby girl Kennedi Elise on April 7; **Natalie Williams**, who gave birth April 17 to baby girl Daija; **DeAnna Lavigne-Lawson**, who gave birth to baby girl Alayah on May 22; and Detention Officer **Gerald Daniels** is the proud father to baby boy Gerald III, born on April 16.

Wedding Bells:

Receptionist **Nelda Bonfiglio** wed Faron Breaux on May 21 in VIVA Las Vegas. The beautiful bride was walked down the aisle by Elvis himself!

Graduation News:

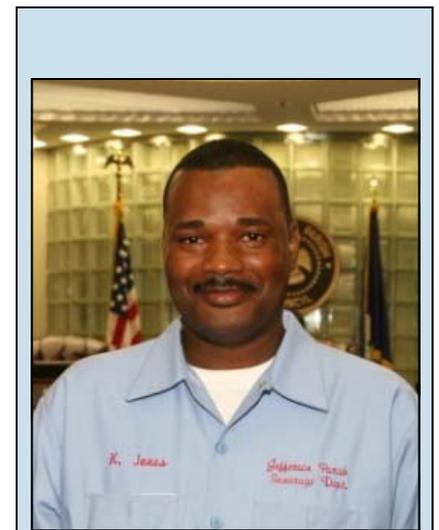
Probation Officer **Elydia Ketchens-Matthews** received

her Master of Arts in Criminal Justice from Southern University of May 9, 2009.

Our Assistant Director **Christopher Trosclair** will once again chair the Jefferson Parish Brown Bag Lunch Campaign, which will be held on July 10, 2009. The kick-off event will be June 4. We look forward to it and hope all Jefferson Parish departments participate. The goal is to top last year’s contribution of \$10k.



Juvenile Services’ Assistant Director and Brown Bag Lunch Campaign Chair
Chris Trosclair



Sewerage Employee of the Year
Kendall Jones

Purchasing

By
Gail Petrie

Purchasing welcomes back our summer worker, **Erin Rose**. Erin is a 2008 graduate of St Martin’s High School and has completed her first year of Pre-Pharmacy at Auburn University.



Erin Rose

Congratulations to **Jennifer Lotz** and **Antoinette Holmes**. Jennifer began her Jefferson Parish career with Code Enforcement in 2001. She was promoted in 2002 to a position in the Water Department and in 2007 became a Buyer I here in Purchasing. Recently she was promoted to Buyer II. Jennifer was chosen our Employee of the Year thanks to her efforts in assisting all in need.



Purchasing’s Employee of the Year
Jennifer Lotz

Antoinette Holmes began as a Typist III in Purchasing several years ago and left for a position in Payroll. She returned to Purchasing as a Buyer I and was recently promoted to Buyer II. Her enthusiasm and interest for her job responsibilities are evident in the work she produces.

Finance Authority

By
Sheila Rodrigue

Welcome New Executive Director

The Finance Authority Office would like to extend a “Welcome to our Department” to our new Executive Director, **Terry McCarthy**, who comes to our department from the Parish President’s office. We are all looking forward to working with him on upcoming projects.



Finance Authority’s new Executive Director Terry McCarthy

Series 2008B Bond Program

There is still a little time left if you were thinking about using the Finance Authority’s bond issue to purchase a home or refi-

nance your current mortgage. The origination period has been extended to July 11, 2009. The mortgage rate for this program is 6.75% with 4% down payment and closing costs assistance.

With this program, there are no income restrictions and you do not have to be a first-time homebuyer. The maximum loan amount cannot exceed \$271,050 for a government insured loan or \$417,000 for a conventional loan. The house does have to be a single family home, located in Jefferson Parish, and owner occupied after purchase or refinance.

The IRS’s new First-Time Homebuyer Tax Credit may be used in conjunction with our Series 2008B bond program. The tax credit is available for first-time homebuyers only. If you purchase a home before December 1, 2009, you may be eligible for a Tax Credit that is equal to 10% of the home’s purchase price, up to a maximum of \$8,000.

If you are interested in getting additional and more detailed information about our bond program, including a list of participating lenders, please call our office at 736-6311.



Tim Guidry receives his 15-year service pin award from Engineering Director Mark Drewes

Water

By
Gennie Hebert

**Jefferson Parish Utility
Payment Center Now Open!**

This one-stop drive-through payment center can provide customers an alternative location to pay their Jefferson Parish Water bill and their Entergy, Atmos, and Cox Communications bills. The payment center is located at 721 Terry Parkway on the West Bank.

Generosity Appreciated

Thanks to all who supported our March of Dimes drive and helped make it a success. West Bank Utility Billing collected the most with \$117.00; East Bank Utility Billing, \$25.15; West Bank Plant \$34.11; and the Administrative Office \$20.00.

Recognizing our employees:

David Deffner, a 30-year employee, has retired from the East

Bank Water Plant. David plans on fishing and hunting as much as he can.



Water Director Randy Schuler
with Sharyn Mayo

Total of 50 years of service

Congratulations to those Water Department employees receiving their 2009 Service Pins: **Destiny Bratton** and **Patrick W. Sumler**, 10 years of service; **Sharyn Mayo** and **Carlton L. Overton**, 15 years of service.

The West Bank Warehouse would like to congratulate **Mr. Terry Tanzey** and **Mr. Ronald Boudreaux** for successfully

completing their probationary periods. At the same time, we offer a belated farewell to **Mr. Alton "TC" Hawkins**, who retired after 20 years of service, and **Mr. Roger McCathern** to a promotion to Pump Station Operator I. We wish them both the best.

Welcome to **Patrick Watts** as the newest stock clerk for the East Bank Warehouse.

Congratulations to **Michael Johnson**, who has been promoted to Water Service Inspector Supervisor on the West Bank, and to **Monica Winston Stanton** to the position of Utility Bill Collector Supervisor at the new Utility Payment Center.



New WB Water Service Inspector
Supervisor Michael Johnson

Welcome to our new employees at the West Bank office and payment center: **Cynetra Smith**, **Nicole Parker**, and **Marion Holt**.

Sheryl Kelly, **Kathy Theriot**, **Bob Dale**, **Gennie Hebert**, and **Destiny Bratton** attended the APWA Metropolitan New Orleans Branch Luncheon at the Plimsoll Club at the World Trade Center. The view of New Orleans and the Mississippi River was amazing.



Kelly Faucha, Marion Holt, and Monica Winston
at Water's new drive-through payment center on Terry Parkway

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Drainage had lots of memorable moments since our last article! Among the most noticeable changes are our new additions: **Christopher Drewes** for the East Bank Administrative office, and **Tuong Banh, Joseph Ellis, and Quincy Sanders** of the West Bank Pump Stations. We also welcome **Jonathan Clarks, Ellis Landix, Lynell Schexnayder, and Eldwin St. Cyr.**

A special “job well done” goes out to those commendable Drainage employees that received recent promotions: **Tremaine Johnson, Brenda Bush, Dwayne Curtis, Jerronomore Griffin, Micah Polius, and Clinton Daigrepoint.** Congratulations to you all.

The new hires weren't our only new additions. **Tremaine Johnson** and family welcomed a healthy baby boy, Tre' Carroll Johnson, on January 7. Also, **Cory Chopin** welcomed a bouncing baby girl, Koryell Chopin, on April 16. Best wishes to the proud papas and their families.

Leonie Mosley received very special recognition for going above and beyond for a citizen. Not only was the resident appreciative of her excellent work, but we're glad to have Leonie as a part of our family!

Robert H. Williams, Jr., known as Hulio to many of us, retired after 22 years of service on April 17. Robert's dedication and sense of humor will be missed by all who were lucky enough to work with him.



Jambalaya Chefs (and Drainage Superintendents) Joe Rivere and Larry Palmisano at the West Bank Fish Fry

Events Galore!

On April 2, Drainage held its 2nd Annual Fish Fry at the West Bank Drainage facility. There was fun and food for everyone. Superintendents **Larry Palmisano** and **Joe Rivere** supplied their own special jambalaya. It was too hard to choose just one. They were both delicious!

Over 200 hungry Drainage employees were served enough food to put a smile on everyone's face. The Jefferson Parish Employees Federal Credit Union was also there to sponsor the infamous money booth. A few lucky names were picked for a chance to grab as much cash as they could in 30 seconds. **Ms. Terrell Power** and **Patricia Rambeau** represented the ladies and did very well. Despite the rain, it went off without a hitch. Can't wait until next year!

On April 22, Parish President **Aaron Broussard** held the 25th Annual Administrative Professional Luncheon, and the Department of Drainage was in attendance. There was even a special drawing where one of our very own won a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

The American Public Works Association Metropolitan New Orleans Branch held its annual luncheon at the Plimsoll Club in the World Trade Center in downtown New Orleans. Great views and great company made it an enjoyable event. Special recognition was made to the hard-working Public Works personnel.

With the hurricane season fast approaching, be sure to pay attention to your catch basins and make sure they are clear of any debris. The smallest things will make the biggest impact!



Terrell Power in the “money booth”

Citizens' Affairs

By
Joanna Lee

Congratulations and Farewell!!

Karen Wood has retired as our Department Director. Karen left us to get married and is now traveling with her new husband. Although we all miss her, we're very happy for her and wish her all the best.

Welcome Aboard!!

We proudly introduce and welcome **Edith "Dee Dee" Lancaster**, our new Director. Dee Dee, a native of Metairie, earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from LSU. Before joining us in May 2009, Dee Dee held various prestigious positions in the Washington DC area; such as, Vice President of Events and Special Projects with Epiphany Productions, Inc.; Deputy Finance Director with the Republican National Committee; President with The Overlook Project, Inc. Consulting Firm; and Regional Finance Director for Presidential Trust/National Finance Committee.

We feel privileged to have Dee Dee over our department and look forward to a pleasant, professional working relationship with her.

Continuing with warm welcomes, we introduce, **Jillian Campbell**, as our new Typist/Clerk II. Before joining us, Jillian worked in other departments such as Sewerage and Animal Shelter. She also worked in the District Attorney's Office. Besides sharing her cheery smile with us, Jillian is in school studying for her Masters Degree. Welcome to the family, ladies; and we're glad to have you!!

Telecommunications

By
Paul Ferrara

Radio Manager, **Paul Ferrara** and assistant **Andy Toujas** have been feverishly working on the FCC-mandated "rebanding" of the 800MHz frequencies. This project will require the re-programming of all Parish radios and infrastructure equipment. The Radio Division is working closely with our project consultant (RCC), Motorola, Tomba Communications, and our FCC representative to assure it proceeds smoothly.

Motorola and Tomba technicians began their site visits in April, and we anticipate this process will take us into early 2010. In order to minimize interruption of normal business operations, all re-programming of equipment will be done at each department's site. Tomba will contact each department to plan the site visits. We want to thank all Parish departments for their patience and cooperation in this project.

As we move into the hurricane season, it is time to remind everyone to ensure all radios are tested and taken to Tomba for a regular maintenance check. Set your "scan" buttons to the Parish Emergency Channel and listen



New Director of Citizens' Affairs,
Edith "Dee Dee" Lancaster

for any important announcements. The Emergency Channel is identified as "Eoc Disp" and is located in Zone 1 Channel 1.

New CAD Response System Approved

The Jefferson Parish Communication District (9-1-1) received approval from the Parish Council for a new \$5.1 million Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) emergency response system. The installation of the new system is underway at the Marrero 9-1-1 facility and is expected to "go live" in May 2010. Operators and first responders will now have access to information never before available. The Communication District looks forward to providing first responders with the critical information needed to ensure that Jefferson Parish citizens receive the highest level of service possible.

9-1-1 Facility Construction

If you work on the West Bank or visit the General Government Building, you cannot miss the ongoing construction of the new 9-1-1/EOC facility. The 43,000-square-foot building will house state-of-the-art equipment for both departments. All 9-1-1 agencies and staff are anxious for the move to the new building.

In recognition of "Administrative Professionals Day," Telecommunications participated in a lunch at the Center to recognize **Darlene Fleetwood** and **Cindy Soto** for their hard work throughout the year. Darlene and Cindy were treated to lunch and a delicious dessert from Copeland's. Everyone enjoyed being together, if only for a short time, while sharing conversations and laughter, too.

General Services

By
Jill Relick

Welcome to **Amanda Brown, John Davis, Patricia Delahousaye, and Jamie Webb**. We are all so glad to have you as part of the General Service Team. And remember, the worst question is the one you don't ask us!

We are on schedule with the West Bank Employee Parking Garage Expansion. The completion is scheduled for the end of August. There will be seven floors and three elevators upon completion. The best part: approx 300 new parking places will be available. A special thanks to **Van Taylor** and his crew for the landscape beautification of the JSYB parking lot!

Rick Peart is the proud Daddy of his and **Katy's** beautiful reddish blonde baby Leslie Kathryn Peart in March. Just 9 lbs and 12 oz. that's all. . . .Leslie already has aspirations to follow in her Mommy's steps and work in the H20 Department too.

Randy Camardelle started w/the Parish in 1977 as a laborer, cutting grass at the WB Courthouse. He became a Stationary Engineer I about a year later for the Courthouse Annex building.



Randy Camardelle



General Services Director Anthony Francis with Employee of the Year Ryan Babcock

Through the years he was promoted five times until he became our Facility Maintenance Superintendent.

“**Anthony Francis** and **Sonny Buchta** [now retired] and many others have had a great influence in my life and my job, says Randy. “It has been a great career, and I have met many wonderful people whom I will never forget in my 32 years with the Parish..” Stop by and say “hey” to **Randy** before he leaves in early July.

Congrats to **Ryan Babcock**, our Employee of the Year. He has been w/the Parish since February '07. We are very fortunate to have his HVAC expertise and his outstanding ability for problem solving. We hope Ryan will be around to receive this award many times.

Darnell Ellis says she knows that her new grandbaby Elijah Gill will be saying MaMa soon. He is a healthy 8 lbs and just two months old.

Library

By
Linda Molinario

We have two newly hired employees: **George Gurtner**, Typist Clerk III for our upcoming Marketing/Development team; and **Bobbi Lynn Jones**, Computer Systems Analyst Senior.

Robert Heim was promoted to Computer Network Specialist. **Nancy Feild**, whose smile is matched only by her gift in acquiring books, has retired and will be missed very much.

We are proud to have in our midst the recipient of the 2009 Joseph S. Yenni Award (given by the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce) and Parish Employee of the Year **Mario Dipietrantonio**.

Although the honors are for the current year, Mario has mentored a generation of library workers. He exemplifies the motto of the library fraternity Beta Phi Mu: “Consumed in the service of others.”

JeffCAP

By
Aretha Frison

Moreau: Employee of the Year

Jody Moreau, grant/fiscal specialist for JeffCAP, received the Employee of the Year Award during a special ceremony in April in the Council Chambers at the Joseph A. Yenni Building. Moreau, among several other Parish departmental employees, received an award for outstanding job performance and service to Jefferson Parish Government.



Jody Moreau

Relay for Life

Yvonne Dumas, Cheryl Joseph, and **Catina Ward** were presented with T-shirts and other gifts for their hard work and dedication on the JeffCAP team for the Metairie Relay for Life event on April 4, which raised awareness and proceeds for the American Cancer Society.



Yvonne Dumas, Cheryl Joseph, and Catina Ward



Ronald McDonald at Head Start Graduation

Head Start Kids ‘Moving Up’

On May 13, the Kenner Head Start celebrated their children “moving up” with each class at the center singing songs including *Listen and Do*, *ABC Rock*, with Clay Street Head Start singing *Playing in My Band* and *Number Rhyme*.

Every year, Head Start students who will graduate next year participate in a special event called “Moving Up.” These adorable children, ages 4 and 5, receive a special diploma and perform a number of plays and songs for the Head Start teachers, staff, and parents.

At the 31st Street Head Start, Nikiera Kelly achieved perfect attendance and welcomed all their guests. The rest of the darling students sang the Head Start Song and other numbers.

Finally, Causeway Head Start had performances from all its students, who danced to *The Chicken Dance* and the *Tiki Macarena Dance*, where the children invited their parents to dance with them on stage. The children sang songs and performed *Little Bunny Fu Fu*.

Head Start Graduates 256

Parents cheered, clapped, shouted, kissed and hugged their children on May 15 after the annual Head Start graduation at the Alario Center in Westwego. WGNO ABC 26’s Michael Hill hosted this year’s event, along with West Bank Head Start’s **Marilyn Robinson** and **Lisa Mitchell**. The special guest speakers were Councilmen John Young and Byron Lee, with special appearances from Ronald McDonald and educational speaker Kendra Singleton.

Executive Director **Nicole Ferrier** said the graduation was especially great this year because she noticed the huge turnout of fathers and grandfathers. In addition, parish photographer **Keith Adams** was given a special award for his outstanding support as a parent policy council community representative for the Head Start program.

Marrero Ribbon Cutting

More than 170 people attended the 35th anniversary of National Community Development Week on April 16 with a ribbon-cutting at the newly completed JeffCAP Marrero Community Center on Ames Blvd. The new center cost \$1.7 million with a capital outlay of \$300,000 from the state and the remainder paid for by CDBG. The money for Jefferson Parish was administered by **Anatola B. Thompson**, Director of the Department of Community Development. (See photo Page 5.)

Ferrier Receives LACAP Award

Executive Director **Nicole Ferrier** was presented with a special award for outstanding service on May 6. Ferrier has served as JeffCAP's Executive Director for 13 years. The presentation was during LACAP's annual conference in Baton Rouge. The award was presented by Gervis LaFleur, president of LACAP, and Jane Killen, executive director of LACAP.

Golf Pro Donates

U.S. Open golf pro Lee Janzen partnered with JeffCAP to distribute food to needy Jefferson Parish families on April 21 at the Alario



Jody Moreau, Darlene McKinnies, and Shedrick Figaro helped feed families at the Alario Center

Center. Feed The Children, an international hunger relief organization, worked with its local partnering agency, Harahan Christian Church to offer boxes of food and personal care items to more than 300 Jefferson Parish families.

"During such a great economic recession, we are extremely grateful that Lee Janzen wanted to partner with us to help provide food to our constituents in Jefferson Parish," said Director Nicole Ferrier. "And I am very thankful to Harahan Christian Church and Feed The Children for assisting us."

Head Start Cruise

The Head Start center supervisors and administrators paid tribute to 14 Head Start parent

volunteers during the JeffCAP Head Start Volunteer of the Year Cruise on the Riverboat Natchez on May 8. Director Nicole Ferrier and interim Head Start Administrator **Marvine Shedrick** welcomed and thanked participants from all eight centers.

Awards and Centers:

Center supervisors **Michele Luke** and **Rochelle Rabathaly** presented awards to Parent President Teirra Davis and parents Jonathan and Donquell; Terrytown/Gretna center supervisor **Trenice King** presented awards to Parent Vice President Dietra Marshall and Policy Council President Shamika Washington; Bridge City center supervisor **Dale Roth** presented awards to Parent President Carolyn Holland and Policy Council Vice President Courtney Jones; Causeway and 31st Street center supervisor **Usha Kamboj** presented awards to Cherlyn Henderson, Policy Council Secretary Samantha Smith, and Peggy Could; Kenner and Clay Street center supervisor presented awards to Alicia Walker, Policy Council Representative Peter Miller, Policy Council Alternate Kelly Madere, and Detrice Murray. And Lafitte and Grand Isle center supervisor **Linda Plaisance** presented awards to Susie Miller and Tiffany Jones.



Nicole Ferrier accepts her award from Jane Killen and Gervis LaFleur, of LACAP

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

In this edition, we say welcome, congratulations, farewell, and good luck to several staff members.

We'd like to first welcome our newest Sign Tech I, **Dwight Lewis**. Dwight is friendly, has a high energy level, and is eager to learn. We're happy to have Dwight with us.

Congratulations to **Ray Leblanc** on his promotion from Laborer to Sign Tech I. Ray is a fast learner and has a positive attitude. Ray makes a great addition to the Sign division.

Raymond Decedue, Sign Technician II, retired on May 22, 2009, with 21 years of service with Jefferson Parish. Ray consistently performed well at any task at hand. Ray was well liked by his coworkers and got along with everyone. Ray's great sense of humor and infectious smile will be greatly missed.

We're wishing **Armand Kerlec**, Sign & Marking Superinten-



Dedo Hardin at his retirement party with Traffic Engineering's Kevin Moore

dent II, a speedy recovery. We miss you, Armand!

Congratulations to **Susan Treadway**. Susan has received her fifteen-year service pin from Director **Mark Drewes**. You're halfway there, Susan!



Susan Treadway

Dedo Hardin Retires

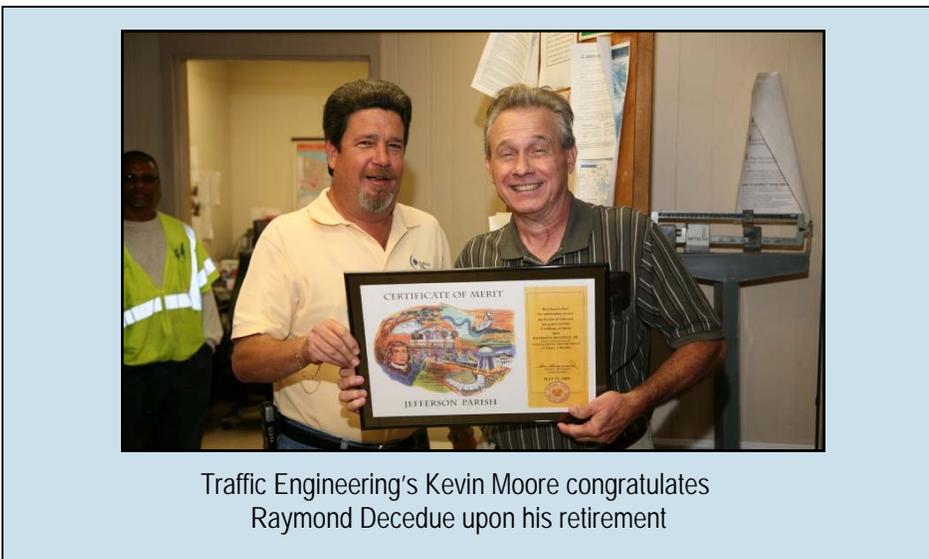
On June 5, Traffic Engineering Signal Supervisor, **Dedo Hardin** retired with 33 years of

service. Friends and colleagues celebrated in style with good food, fun, and best wishes for Dedo.

Dedo was actually introduced to working for the Parish back in 1973, when he worked with the Parkways Department for about 3 months as summer help. For some reason he came back on May 22, 1976, and started working as a Signal Technician I. Dedo diligently worked approximately 19 years in the field as a Tech I, II, and III before taking over the Signal Supervisor's position when John Dupuy retired in the latter part of 1995.

Dedo has seen many changes over the years, from the old electro-mechanical, to solid state, to the current computer-driven microprocessor traffic controllers. He was also instrumental in energy conservation with the Parish by installing LED signal lenses in all of our traffic signals and retrofitting lighting fixtures in our office and shop areas. These two issues alone have saved the Parish thousands of dollars over the years.

Congratulations, Dedo, and thank you for your years of service. We will miss you.



Traffic Engineering's Kevin Moore congratulates Raymond Decedue upon his retirement

Retirements

Dedo Hardin
Traffic Engineering
33 years

David Deffner
Water
30 years

Michael Scioneaux
Personnel
28 years

Janey Witt
Recreation
28 years

Adrian Burst
Fleet Management
25 years

Michael James
Fire
25 years

Owen Roussell
Recreation
24 years

Jane Clouate
Engineering
24 years

Robert H. Williams, Jr.
Drainage
21 years

Raymond Decedue, Sr
Traffic Engineering
21 years

Nancy Feild
Library
20 years

Palmire Constant
Parish Attorney
11 years

New Homes in Westwego



Just two of the new homes being constructed in the Beechgrove subdivision of Westwego for which first-time homebuyer assistance is available. See Sevilla Finley's Community Development article on page 5.