



Volume 30
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EM Realite

Message from the Parish President. .

KEEPING DRAINS FLOWING

Dear Parish employees:

I sincerely hope that you had a joyful Mardi Gras season. Carnival continues to grow tremendously in Jefferson on both sides of the river. Family Gras in Metairie attracted enormous crowds and exceeded our expectation of fostering the family-friendly atmosphere that we want to offer.

As our great parish continues to move forward, we will continue to be diligent in improving our infrastructure to prevent flooding in all areas of Jefferson.

Recently we held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of drainage and overlay improvements on Lapalco in Harvey. In February, installation began on new drain lines and a mini pump station near Midway Drive at Ridge Street in River Ridge. The work should be finished by the end of June. Work continues in Metairie on West Esplanade to improve road access, canals, and drainage.

Coming in April, an annual event that has proven to be a big success will take place in Terrytown. The Brooms to Basins campaign will be Saturday, April 25, at 10 a.m. at the Terrytown Golden Age Center, 640 Heritage Avenue in Terrytown.

Brooms to Basins is a parish-wide effort to prevent neighborhood flooding by clearing debris from neighborhood storm drains. As responsible stewards of our streets and homes,



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

you are asked to clear any items that would clog or prevent proper storm drainage on a daily basis.

Brooms to Basins is an opportunity for us to work together by removing leaves and other debris from our streets and property prior to the start of our rainy season. This must be monitored closely on a regular basis, as we must keep storm drains clear year-round.

You are welcome to come out on April 25 to assist in this effort. We will be welcoming many volunteers and volunteer service organizations, including Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, along with many outstanding students from our fine schools.

For more information, call the Jefferson Parish Public Information Office at (504) 736-6410. You can help. With everyone pulling together, we can continue to make Jefferson Parish a great place to live.

En Realité

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Editor's

Notes

Diversity Initiative: Phases 1 and 2

In my December article, I told you all about the Parish's exciting new Diversity Initiative, which began in the fall with Phase 1, consisting of a series of employee focus groups. The second phase of the Initiative—*Building Bridges to Understanding: The Challenges of Working and Managing in the 21st Century*—is wrapping up in April. By the end of this month, every one of the over 500 Parish supervisors and managers, as well as all department Directors and members of President Broussard's Executive staff, will have attended an all-day workshop.

Focus Group Findings

In those workshops the findings from the Phase 1 focus groups were summarized and reported to attendees. Those findings encompassed the Parish's strengths as well as our challenges and areas where improvement is needed.

The findings indicated that the Parish's overall culture is one that empowers employees, accommodates change, facilitates communication and understanding of the Parish's vision and goals, and promotes a positive image in the community.



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

Findings showed that our employees are committed to our mission of providing the services, leadership, and vision to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish. The areas for Parish improvement included promoting a greater sense of employee involvement, adapting to challenges in a manner that promotes productivity, and expanding communication and dissemination of information effectively to all levels throughout the Parish.

Workshop participants took part in various discussions and activities that were designed to help them explore their own ideas about diversity. But beyond the topic of diversity, they also examined the particular problems, challenges, and rewards of public service in Jefferson Parish.

Thanks to Our Presenters

I want to thank our presenters, Dorothy Reese and Margaret Montgomery-Richard, of DMM & Associates, for all of the work they did for us. Their research into the Parish as an organization was extensive, and their presentations to our managers were both informative and enjoyable.

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Community Development Director **Anatola B. Thompson** recently participated in the Gretna Community Center's dedication of their new Microsoft Computer Laboratory. Center supervisor **Clara Byes** officiated as mistress of ceremonies.

Community Development funded the 15 Dell computers, four printers, and furniture with CDBG funds for the new lab. The Computer Lab is a collaborative effort among Community Development, JeffCAP, and Delgado Community College. The Lab, which will teach computer skills, was made possible through a Bill Gates Foundation grant.

Ms. Tracie N. King, Delgado Microsoft Grant Coordinator, who will be teaching the free classes at the Gretna Center, said the Microsoft Digital Literacy program is a national curriculum that consists of five courses: Computer Basics;

the Internet and the World Wide Web; Productivity Programs; Computer Security and Privacy; and Digital Lifestyles that teach how to use cell phones, MP 3 players, digital cameras, and more.

Delgado has established a number of Microsoft Computer Labs in the greater New Orleans area through the Microsoft Unlimited Potential grant under the Gates Foundation. Classes are free and one does not have to live in Gretna to participate.

Affordable Housing Update: Director Anatola Thompson reports the Parish-wide Homebuyer Assistance Program was successful, and the available funding has been committed. Pending further notice, Community Development will not be accepting applications for the program. The City of Kenner offers a \$10,000 grant to qualified purchasers, and funding is available. For more information on the Kenner program, call 736-6262 or 736-6282.



Anatola Thompson and Patricia Beebe

Congratulations to **Patricia Beebe**, Typist Clerk III, who recently received her 20-year pin from Director Anatola Thompson.

Faye Galland, Parish Planner III, and **Michael Strausser**, Parish Planner II, recently conducted public hearings on the East and West Banks for the HOME Consortium. The purpose was to solicit the community's participation and ideas on the needs and priorities to be considered for funding under HUD's CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs for the 2009 Action Plan (budget). The planners have been receiving proposals to be considered for next year's budget. Galland and Strausser also recently attended a ribbon cutting for a new home in Harvey built by Habitat for Humanity.

Kim Thompson and **Mike Strausser** have been appointed Office Coordinators for the Safety Committee, and **Patricia Beebe** is Safety Coordinator for the Fourth Floor. They discussed evacuation plans and distributed an evacuation bulletin to staff.



At the HOME Consortium public hearing: Michael Strausser, Parish Planner II; Faye Galland, Parish Planner III; Westwego Mayor Johnny Shaddinger; and Mary Ross of Kenner CD

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Traffic Engineering Does Its Part for Mardi Gras

I'd like to take this time to thank our crews for their hard work through the Mardi Gras season. Our Division puts in so much time and effort for the preparation and execution of the parades.

Our Traffic Engineers ensure all routes are safe for the oversized floats to travel. Our Sign Division has the task of first making the ever-popular Mardi Gras signs, posting them throughout Jefferson Parish, removing and replacing them with St. Patrick's Day signs, and then the Irish-Italian parades.



Our superior Signal crew not only escorts the parades, but also makes certain that all floats have a safe route by ensuring all street signals are properly raised for the height of the floats. Countless hours are put in by our entire Division, and they've all done a fantastic job. Thank you all for a job well done!

Purchasing

By
Gail Petrie

Congratulations are in order for **Sidney Duffy** and **Bryson Osborne**.

Sidney began her career with Jefferson Parish October 30, 2002, as a Typist Clerk III. In addition to her intelligence, ambition, and excellent multi-tasking ability, Sidney has a beautiful attitude. She was promoted to the position of Buyer I on February 11, 2009.

Bryson entered the Purchasing Department as a Typist Clerk II on November 15, 2008. As the only male in the department, he is a proven gentleman with intelligence and willingness to assist his co-workers and vendors as well. Due to his solid work ethic, Bryson was promoted to Typist Clerk III on January 29, 2009.

We welcome **Elkedria Richardson** (Kedra) to Purchasing in the position of Secre-

tary. Kedra started her Jefferson Parish employment in Code Enforcement in July 2007 as a Data Entry Operator II and left in February 2008 for the position of Typist Clerk II in Human Resources.



Elkedria Richardson recently left Human Resources for a promotion to Secretary in Purchasing

The Purchasing Department would like to thank you for cooperating with us during the rollout of JeffPro. We understand that this is a new approach to how we do business and realize that it will take time for you to adapt to the changes required.



Sidney Duffy, newly promoted Typist Clerk III in Purchasing

Sewerage

By
Bobbie Fose

Congratulations to **Kendall Jones** on being selected 2008 Departmental Employee of the Year for Sewerage. Kendall's outstanding contributions and dedication to Jefferson Parish are greatly appreciated. Kendall will be honored with a special presentation during the April 15 Council Meeting.

It is with pleasure that we welcome three new employees to the Administration office: **Cindy Gallo** took Joy Armstrong's position as Executive Assistant. Cindy is enjoying the challenges of her new job. **Yvette Russo** is our new payroll clerk. Yvette says she loves her new position, and we are happy to have her with us. **Jillian Campbell** is our new receptionist and a very welcome addition to our office.

Lionel Royal will be retiring from our department on April 3, 2009, with 31 years and 6 months of service. Lionel's supervisor said that he has always been a dependable and hard-working employee – completing whatever tasks that were asked of him. He said he was a pleasure to work with and will really be missed. Lionel, we want to thank you for

your years of dedication and service to Jefferson Parish and wish you a long and happy retirement.

Diane Landry is hard at work for the American Heart Association fund-raising drive. With Diane at the helm, I'm sure we will do extremely well. Diane always puts her *heart* – no pun intended - into all that she does.



Sewerage's Heart Association fund-raising Chair Diane Landry with her beloved LSU Bears

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Clarence Escude**. Mr. Escude passed away on March 16, 2009. Clarence came to work for the Parish August 27, 1977. Clarence was a dedicated and hard worker who willingly did everything that was asked of him. He will be missed very much.



Planning's Angela Galliano can now set her sights on visiting Italy as she retires with 20 years with the Parish

Planning

By
Terri Wilkinson

Congratulations to **Angela Galliano** on her retirement on March 20. Angela was with the Parish for over twenty years, the last several years as the Director's secretary. The department wishes Angela the best and hopes she can make it to Italy.

The Planning Department also expresses congratulations to **Darlene Duet**, the 2008 Departmental Employee of the Year. Darlene consistently does a good job as the stenographer clerk responsible for the department's purchasing.

And also for a job well done, **Julie Owen** recently was promoted to Planner III as supervisor of zoning studies and comprehensive planning.

The department welcomes three new urban planners, **Tanisha Johnson**, who is doing design review, and **Louis Haywood** and **Jill Westlund**, who are undertaking zoning studies.

Tanisha recently received her master's degree in city planning from the University of Illinois, Chicago; and Louis completed his master's degree in city planning from Hunter College, City University of New York. Jill, who received her master's degree in city planning from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, worked as a planner in Albuquerque before moving to New Orleans recently.

The department is glad to have **Marilyn Slutsky** as its new receptionist and typist clerk for the design review section. Marilyn transferred from Drainage.

Citizens' Affairs

By
Joanna M. Lee

Goodbye Carnival Season 2009!!

The last three months, we cheered and danced our way through another great carnival season in Jefferson! Our families experienced the enjoyment of live entertainment at Family Gras, the Mardi Gras Costume Contest with prizes, as well as the regular parades. Also, let's not forget our newcomers, Arfus Pet Gras Parade & Party! This was the Krewe's first year, which rolled in at the Zephyr's Parking Lot on March 8, and it was a great success! The weather held up beautifully, and the fun was non-stop.



After the carnival parades, we felt lucky, so we joined our leprechaun friends at the St. Patrick's Parade on March 15. Last, but not least, came the very colorful Irish-Italian Parade on March 22, which was our grand finale. So, take a break, re-coup, and we'll see you in 2010!!

We want to add a great big "thank you" to all the other departments in Jefferson Parish that helped us during carnival season: Streets, Parkways, Recreation, Fire, Traffic Engineering, Animal Shelter, General Services, Street Lighting, and Telecommunications. We really appreciate all your help!

Upcoming Special Events

Are you ready for more outdoor family fun? Our Permits & Special Events Coordinator **Carol Champagne** is sharing some interesting upcoming activities! The spring is filled with fairs and festivals that will breeze you into the summer:

Festival at Assumption of Mary Church on April 5 & 12; Fair/Rides at Believer's Life Family Church on April 2-12; Fair/Rides at Atonement Lutheran Church on April 17-19; Festival at St. Ann Church on 4/18/09; Festival at St. Agnes Church on 4/24/09.

Also, Grace King High School has its Festival with rides on April 24-26; Festival at Visitation of Our Lady CO-OP on April 24-26; Fair/Rides at Our Lady of Divine Providence on April 24-26; Festival at John Calvin Presbyterian Church on 4/25/09; Festival at Hazel Park Elementary School on 4/25/09; and Festival at St. Philip Neri School on May 1-2. I know that everyone will have a great time!

About Citizens' Affairs

Although our Staff has fun while participating in carnival and special events each year, our office offers much more. In this office, carnival is year-round. Our Executive Superintendent of Carnival and Special Events, **Dorothia Halligan**, and Director **Karen Wood** start planning for the coming carnival season by meeting with Krewe Captains and JPSO and coordinating with other Parish departments.

We are Jefferson Parish Information, which provide information and referrals to citizens. Also, we assist Jefferson Parish

residents in registering their cell phones for emergency alert. Cell phones must be able to receive text messages in order to register.

In the event of an evacuation, our team of essential personnel is ready to fully operate and serve the public. We take flood calls for residential damages for statistical purposes. Calls for debris, power outages, and other problems due to acts of nature are referred or transferred to proper departments for services needed. We also issue re-entry passes/placards to businesses. We receive and submit "How's My Driving" complaints to proper departments. We issue permits for outside special events, such as block parties and bike-a-thons.

So you see, we're not only jumping for carnival, we're busy-bodies all year round, and we have a staff of team players anxious to get the jobs done.

ADA Reminder

Disabilities Affairs Specialist **Katherine Hoover** reminds us that the Parish does not discriminate on the basis of disability. Referring to requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended, Jefferson Parish will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Also, if you or anyone you know should require auxiliary aids or devices, or other reasonable accommodation under the ADA, please submit your request to the ADA Coordinator at least 48 hours in advance or as soon as possible. A 72-hour notice is needed to request Certified ASL interpreters.

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

Congratulations to Environmental Affairs 2008 Employee of the Year, Typist Clerk III **Barbara Kollin**. Barbara, who has been with us since 2006, is a valuable asset to our family. Working in the Solid Waste Division, she is always on top of every situation. Barbara shows up to work with a smile and is always willing to help anyone. Congratulations to Barbara for a job well done.

Environmental Affairs took part in Earth Fest held in March at the Audubon Zoo. Earth Fest is a fun way for people to learn about saving the environment. Exhibitors from non-profit and governmental sectors, as well as businesses involved with environmental issues, helped zoo visitors answer questions for prizes on the *Earth Quest* game. Environmental Affairs employees answered questions from children of all ages about coastal erosion, storm water pollution, recycling, and other environmental issues. Everyone involved had a good time.

Thanks to all who participated in our recent Recycling Drop-off Days. Check the Parish web site for future dates.



Environmental's Lauren Barton answers children's questions at Earth Fest

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Spring is here and the Department of Drainage seems to be flourishing more than ever. Many new faces are now a part of the Drainage family. Our East Bank facilities have opened their arms to welcome **Sheena Quinn** (Typist Clerk III), **Clem Foster III** (Laborer-Unskilled), and **Phillip Hollard** (Drainage Pump Station Operator II). **Brenda Conlee** (Data Entry Operator II), **Kendall Casey** (Laborer-Unskilled), **Carl Contranchis** (Laborer-Unskilled), **Harold Hooper** (Laborer-Unskilled), **Ernest Lucas** (Laborer-Unskilled), and **Quincy Sanders** (Drainage Pump Station Operator I) have become the newest additions to the West Bank.

Congratulations to the following deserving Drainage employees who received promotions: **James Williams** (Laborer-Semiskilled-West Bank Drainage), **Jerone Justin** (Equipment Operator III-East Bank Drainage), **Earl Peters** (Equipment Operator III-East Bank Drainage), **Christina Leger** (Drainage Pump Station Operator II-East Bank Pump Station), **Arthur**

Nicholas (Equipment Operator III-West Bank Drainage), and **Nikiya Sullen** (Drainage Pump Station Operator I-West Bank Pump Station). Thank you for your dedication and hard work for Jefferson Parish.

After 22 years of loyalty and perseverance with Jefferson Parish, **Leonard Devun** retired in January as a Drainage Pump Station Operator II. He spent the entire length of his career with the East Bank Pump Station Department. His commitment was greatly appreciated, and he will be missed.

On April 15, **Mr. Brion Adams** will be honored during a special presentation as our 2008 Employee of the Year. This high honor is being awarded to Mr. Adams after 19 years of devotion as a Drainage Pump Station Operator II, Resident.

Drainage is also proud that we were able to raise \$75 for the American Heart Association from the participation of "Wear Red Day." It was great to see so many people honor such a great organization.

Soon you will also be able to view our Director, **Kazem Alikhani**, on the Government Access Channel (6) promoting our upcoming event, "*Brooms to Basins*," which will be held on April 25.

Catch Kazem at these times through April:

- Tuesdays Premiere - 6 p.m.
- Wednesdays- 4:30 p.m.
- Thursdays- 6:30 p.m.
- Fridays- 8 p.m.

The next month has a few exciting events including the second annual Drainage Fish Fry and the March of Dimes Walk. It's sure to be a great time for everyone involved!

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

The Department of Juvenile Services congratulates **Dr. John Ryals**, Evaluation/Treatment Manager, who was selected as the 2008 DJS Employee of the Year. Dr. John has been very busy working to improve the services we provide to our youth and their families. He has been key in the implementation of new screening tools designed to help probation and detention staff do a better job.

The goal of the Department is to apply evidence-based screening tools and to implement evidence-based services to as many youth as possible while monitoring outcomes and making adjustments as necessary. While this may sound simple, it is no small task. Dr. John has spent countless hours working on this and is well deserving of this award. Congratulations on a job well done!

I apologize for omitting from prior issue employees who received their Five-Year Service Pins late in 2008 – **Christopher J. Trosclair**, Assistant Director; and **Myron Hayes**, Juvenile Detention Officer. We thank them for their years of dedicated service.

WELCOME to new employee **Darrell Irons**, Laborer.

Congratulations to **Matthew Villio**, who was recently promoted to the position of Administrative Management Specialist III (Coordinator) with the MacArthur Models for Change.

Wedding Bells will be ringing when Probation Officer **Chantrell Cook** weds Burnell McCaskill on April 17. We wish them many years of wedded bliss.

Emergency Management

By
Timothy Gautreau, Jr.

CERT Classes for Citizens

The Emergency Management Department is now offering C.E.R.T. classes to citizens. C.E.R.T. stands for Community Emergency Response Team. These classes are geared towards teaching the public how to take care of themselves, their loved ones, and their neighbors until professionals arrive. During an emergency situation, our Emergency Services (Police, Fire, and EMS) can quickly become overwhelmed.



A CERT student learns the proper use of a fire extinguisher

This is where C.E.R.T. comes into the picture. During this 20-hour course students are taught C.E.R.T. Organization, Fire

Safety, Light Search and Rescue, Basic Medical Triage, Terrorism, and Psychology (how to deal with stress). C.E.R.T. teams don't always have to be used in a disaster/emergency role. They can also help staff First Aid Booths at fairs or festivals and even assist with giving preparedness tips and handing out brochures.

Once individuals complete the basic C.E.R.T. course, they are offered to apply to join the Jefferson Parish CERT team. They will fall under the Emergency Management Department, coordinated by Timmy Gautreau, Jr., and will do more in-depth training in order to respond to emergencies within Jefferson Parish when requested.

The Jefferson Parish Team is currently outfitting a trailer with all the tools and supplies to be self-sustained at any type of emergency or disaster to assist the Jefferson Parish Emergency Services. There are C.E.R.T. classes scheduled throughout the year. For more information, check the Emergency Management Department's web page at <http://www.jeffparish.net/index.cfm?DocID=2302> or call (504) 349-5360.



A CERT class in progress

Parkways

By
Chantell Prestenbach

Mardi Gras, along with the St. Patrick's Day and Irish-Italian parades, has officially come to an end. Now it's time to recuperate and get back into the swing of things.

The Parkways Department would like to take this time to commend all of its employees and all of the other departments who helped in the preparations and clean-up process for this past Mardi Gras season. GREAT JOB!

Another upcoming event that our department proudly helps with preparations and clean-up efforts for is Louisiana's premier golf tournament, the Zurich Classic. The Class is held at our very own TPC in Avondale. This year's event will take place April 20-26. For more info visit www.zurichgolfclassic.com

We'd also like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Don Cole** for achieving the "Employee of the Year" for 2008. Congratulations on a job well done!



The Parkways Department's Employee of the Year for 2008, Don Cole

Water

By
Kathy Theriot

Welcome New Employees:

The following employees have joined our staff in 2009. We wish them great success, and we are happy they are part of our department:

Susie Cunningham, Payroll Clerk; **Matthew Bergeron**, Laborer; **James Neely**, Water Purification Operator; **Kristen Swearingen**, Pump Equipment Mechanic; **Patrick Watts**, Shipping & Receiving Clerk; and **Junior Downs**, Water Service Inspector II.

Fund Raiser for the American Heart Association

Our Water Department employees really came through for the "Wear Red and Jeans Day" on March 12. I was very happy to turn in over \$100 for this event. Below are some of the employees that participated.

Many, many thanks go out to our Water Lab employees who participated. Utility Billing on the East Bank and West Bank really showed their true colors for this event. They are as follows:

East Bank: **Patricia Boudreaux**, **Connie Guillot**, **Liz Bourgeois**, **Bridget Johnson**, and **Keyon Kent**.

West Bank: **Clara Coffey**, **Kellie Faucha**, **Shirley Guidry**, **Lia Hernandez**, **Amy Landry**, **Lillian Nelson**, **Nicole Parker**, **Monica Winston**.

Our Administration Office employees were **Jerome Wool**,

Susie Cunningham, **Gennie Hebert**, and **Kathy Theriot**.

Welcome Back to Gennie and Susie:

Although it has been a year now since **Gennie Hebert** returned to the Water Department as our Executive Assistant, we would officially like to say Welcome Back. We are all happy to have you on board again. Gennie worked for six years at our West Bank Utility Billing Office, and then left us for a stay with Citizens' Affairs. Their loss is our gain, as she returned last year to Suite 909.

Now Susie left us twelve years ago, when the stork visited her and left her twin daughters, Lindsey and Lauren. She is now our Payroll Clerk.



Water welcomes back Gennie Hebert and Susie Cunningham

We wish her the best. **Destiny Bratton** is now our Administrative Assistant. She brings her wealth of knowledge to the desk, as she had been our Payroll Clerk for three years. Her warm smile is there to greet our new employees as they start their Water Department careers. She is our "Shining Star" in matters concerning our personnel.

JeffCAP

By
Aretha Frison

Avondale Hosts Emerald Cabaret

In March, Jefferson Community Action Programs sponsored the Emerald Cabaret dance party and entertainment showcase at its Avondale Community Center to benefit the American Cancer Society's upcoming Relay for Life event. Sponsors of the St. Patrick's Day-themed cabaret included Robin Tricuit of WDSU Channel 6, Councilman Chris Roberts, Avondale Community Center Supervisor **Shedrick Figaro**, Winn-Dixie of Avondale, Gretna Community Center Supervisor **Dr. Clara Byes** and Harvey Community Center Supervisor **Sam Ridgley**.

The cabaret brought out several people from greater New Orleans for the dance party to celebrate life, including the Dance Unlimited dance troupe and DJ Bigg Dogg. It also honored six cancer survivors with a special dance tribute and 2009 honorary cancer



At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Gretna Community Center computer lab: JeffCAP Director Nicole Ferrier; Brett Lawson, councilman aide for District 1; Community Development Director Anatola Thompson; Gretna Mayor Ronnie Harris; and Dr. Clara Byes, supervisor of the Gretna Community Center.

lapel pins. There was a buffet-style dinner, door prizes, and tons of St. Patty giveaways. The cabaret's master of ceremonies was Gerod Stevens, co-host of *The Good Morning Show* on WBOK 1230AM. The event raised more than \$700 for Relay for Life, which was scheduled for Saturday, April 4 from 10AM to 10PM at [St. Mark's Episcopal School in Metairie](#). Donations can still be given for Relay for Life to **Aretha Frison**, Jefferson Community Action

Programs in Suite 402. Cash is accepted, or make checks payable to the American Cancer Society.

New Computer Lab for Gretna

Also in March, the Gretna Community Center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception for its newly-installed computer lab, which was donated to the center through a partnership with the Bill Gates Foundation and Delgado Community College. JeffCAP operates the community center, which now houses 15 new Dell computers, four printers, and furniture through a Community Development Block grant. Currently the community center is in the process of structuring a comprehensive schedule for individuals in Gretna who desire computer training.

The Gretna center staff is receiving training using the Microsoft Digital Literacy program, a national curriculum consisting of five courses such as the Internet and the World Wide Web and how to use cell phones and MP3 players. Applications for the free courses are now available at the Gretna Community Center at 504-376-2130.



At the Governor's West Bank Luncheon: Jackie Henry, Joyce Campbell, Irene Salahuddin, Dr. Clara T. Byes, JeffCAP Director Nicole Ferrier, and Aretha Frison

Library

By
Linda Molinaro

We have new employees: **Ed Stucke**, Library Business Manager, who comes to us from JEFF-CAP; part-time West Bank Regional pages **Keshon Kent** and **Derricka Griffin**; part-time associates **Brian Johnson** and **Alicia Schwarzenbach** for Terrytown and WBR respectively; and Laborer **Cortez Brumfield**.

Tom Giroir, an associate at WBR, earned his Master's Degree in Library and Information Science. Tom was promoted to Librarian II and is now Manager of the Belle Terre branch. He'll also devote time to the Grand Isle branch.

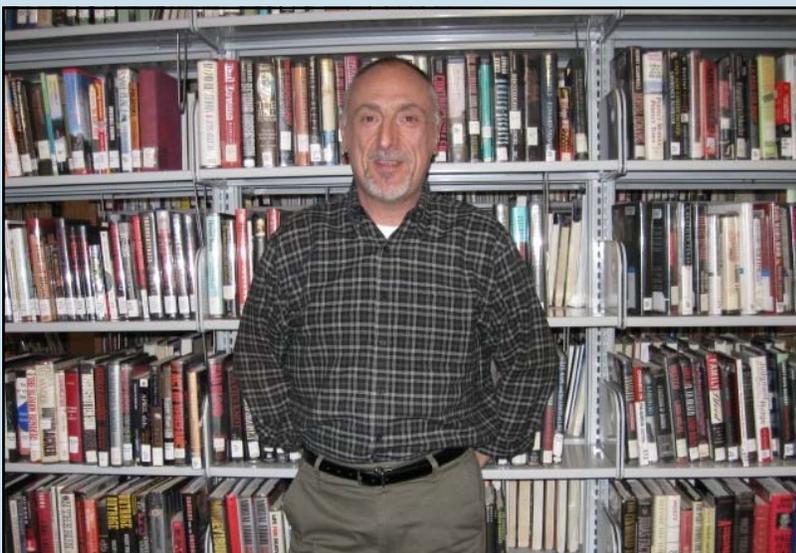
Library Department Employee of the Year **Mario Dipietrantonio** was recently awarded his 30-year pin. Mario has worked in over half the branches in the system, at one point drove the bookmobile, helped establish the Reference Department, and earned his MLIS while doing so. For the last

twelve years he's been the Manager of the East Bank Regional branch, and as the Library Director put it, "has played a key role" and "has provided the required support, patience, and leadership to help the staff learn the new skills they need to effectively serve the public." We congratulate Mario for a recognition that is long "overdue."



Sprucing up East Bank Regional

The Library staff bids farewell to **David Egudin**, who recently retired. David was Librarian I of the North Kenner branch and was well known for his popular bilingual story time events for children. Adios, David! You will be sorely missed.



Library's 30-year pin recipient and Employee of the Year Mario Dipietrantonio

Human Resources

By
Greg Alexander

Staff Changes

HR will miss our wonderful Typist Clerk III **Elkedria Richardson**, but we congratulate her on her promotion to Secretary in the Purchasing Department. We're sure Purchasing will appreciate Kedra's efficiency and professionalism as much as we did. (See Gail Petrie's article and photo of Kedra in Purchasing's column on Page 4.)

Replacing Kedra is our new Typist Clerk III, **Monique Parrazzo**. Monique began her employment with the Parish at the Animal Shelter in June 2008. Monique was a TC II in her former position. Congratulations on your promotion, Monique, and welcome aboard!

Professional Certifications Earned

Congratulations to **Greg Alexander** and **Nancy Rodriguez** for successfully achieving their SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) certification.

Greg and Nancy completed a 10-week course using the SHRM learning system, put in countless hours of study, and then took a grueling four-hour exam. But their hard work was rewarded in December with their new SHRM certifications:

Greg Alexander, PHR (Professional in Human Resources)

Nancy Rodriguez, SPHR (Senior Professional in Human Resources)

Health & Wellness

By
Peggy Branan, RN



Do you know what Napoleon, Beethoven, Walt Disney, Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci, Stevie Wonder, Abraham Lincoln, and Steven Spielberg all have in common?

Are you easily distracted or have difficulty remembering? Do you have a frequent urge to move about or gravitate to extremes in what you do? You may have more in common with these famous folks than you think.

These famous people have or had character traits that are consistent with ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) or ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). When we think about attention deficit or hyperactivity disorders, we usually think about children. But these behaviors can carry over into adulthood and either become a blessing or a curse, depending on how one learns to control them. What should we do if we are identifying more with this article than we'd like?

First, be aware of the behaviors associated with these disorders. Some behaviors include being easily distracted, impulsiveness, hyperactivity, forgetfulness, quickly becoming bored, difficulty managing time, procrastinating, difficulty staying focused on long-term projects, difficulty managing paperwork, and monopolizing conversations. With ADD or ADHD this is their "normal" day every day, and the behaviors, if

not controlled, tend to be troublesome.

Secondly, if one suspects that he or a loved one may have ADD or ADHD, he should seek a professional. Everyone at some time will experience some of these behaviors. Therefore, a thorough evaluation and history will need to be conducted to determine a proper diagnosis.

If the diagnosis is ADD or ADHD, what is one to do?

Keep in mind that it need not be viewed as a psychological death sentence. Develop a strategy to take control of your life. Start by taking an inventory of all of your behaviors and identify how they have impacted your personal and professional life. What are your interests? What is your personality type? Identify your strengths and weaknesses. What is your level of training?

Make a list of the tasks that are being negatively impacted by troublesome behaviors. Next, the challenge is to find an approach towards accomplishing the task at hand by minimizing the stressors associated with that behavior.

For example, **TIME MANAGEMENT:** Develop a daily routine. Keep your own appointment book. Jot down all meetings/tasks/duties that will take place that day. Review the book first thing in the morning, at different intervals during the day, and at the close of the day; and update it as needed. Write down a prioritized to-do list at the beginning of every day. Keep it close as a reminder of what to do and check off as you accomplish tasks. Plan to arrive early to your appointments. You can take busy work with you while you are waiting. Never overbook your day.

DISTRACIONS: Face away from the line of traffic to minimize interruptions/interactions with those passing by. Write down any reoccurring thoughts that are keeping you from staying focused on your work. Once you recognize that you are having trouble concentrating on a task, move on to another task.

IMPULSIVENESS: Think before speaking! Before making commitments, check your schedule. At meetings, don't make comments that you may regret later. Instead, jot down notes that will



Nancy Rodriguez and Greg Alexander display their newly acquired HR certificates

allow you time to review and possibly rewrite or eliminate all together.

HYPERACTIVITY: Plan your day to allow for purposeful movements, such as delivering the office mail or walking to a colleague's desk to talk instead of using the phone. Take a walk during your breaks and lunch hour. Or, you could even volunteer to keep the stock room organized!

MEMORY PROBLEMS: Set an alarm to remind you when you need to leave for a meeting. Keep your appointment book close at hand. Check reminder notes often. **BOREDOM:** Perform boring tasks during high energy times. Attack the boring tasks by breaking them down into smaller more manageable tasks. Whenever possible, you can delegate boring tasks to others.

PROCRASTINATION: Do not allow the approaching deadline to be the signal for you to start working on a project. Short-term tasks prohibit the likelihood of procrastination. **DIFFICULTY WITH LONG-TERM PROJECTS:** Team up with others. Have meetings, as needed, to evaluate progress. **PAPERWORK:** This is especially troublesome. If you despise paper-



HR's new Typist Clerk III Monique Parrazzo

work, find a job with minimal paperwork. Develop a simple filing system. Designate a time of day to do filing.

INTERPERSONAL DIFFICULTIES: Conversations tend to be one-sided with frequent wandering off into tangents. Blunt comments without any forethought are common. Try to be more observant of those you are interacting with. Think before you speak.

On a positive note, many of the traits associated with ADD/ADHD are similar to the traits associated with highly creative individuals. What would life be like if we did not have the Leo-

nardo DaVincis, Thomas Edisons, and Beethovens? Society certainly benefits from all different types of character traits. Early identification of these traits can allow for the appropriate schooling and job training for the individual.

The key to success is to channel those traits into acceptable behaviors. Albert Einstein was told that he would never learn because he was stupid. Leonardo da Vinci composed only 17 paintings in 67 years. His response to not finishing projects was that he had so many diverse interests he just couldn't stay focused.

Sometimes a difficult question will have to be asked: Have you chosen a career that complements your character traits? When all else fails, sometimes a career change is the best answer.

In the final analysis, it will take a strong will to take control and make these traits work for you! Learn all you can about ADD/ADHD, maintain as much structure in your life as possible, bring order out of the chaos in your life by changing negative habits and developing healthier ways of dealing with stress, and don't be afraid to ask those around you to help you stay focused! Just remember there is always hope!



Barry McGuinness is Lafreniere Park's newly appointed Park Manager

Retirements

Cynthia Schmidt
Zoning
36 years

Clarence Escude
Sewerage
31 years

Lionel Royal
Sewerage
31 years

Anthony Guidry
Recreation
30 years

Augustine Sumner
Parkways
29 years

Melvin Carter
Water
27 years

Frank Larousse
Water
23 years

Sandra Hoffpauir
Recreation
22 years

Leonard Devun
Drainage
21 years

Elena Jones
Animal Shelter
21 years

Angela Galliano
Planning
21 years

Edward Daigre
Drainage
19 years

Joe D. Walker
Streets
19 years

David Egudin
Library
16 years

Deanna Kraemer
Code Enforcement
16 years

Sharon Rohli
Library
14 years

Janice Gallinghouse
Parish Attorney
14 years

Affordable Housing Program



These new homes in Gretna were developed by Volunteers of America in conjunction with funding from Community Development. Additional new units are available in Bridge City, Marrero, and Westwego. Call Sevilla Finley, Info Specialist at 736-6282 for more information.