



Volume 30
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EM Realite

Message from the Parish President. .

NEW AGE for Jefferson

Dear Parish employees,

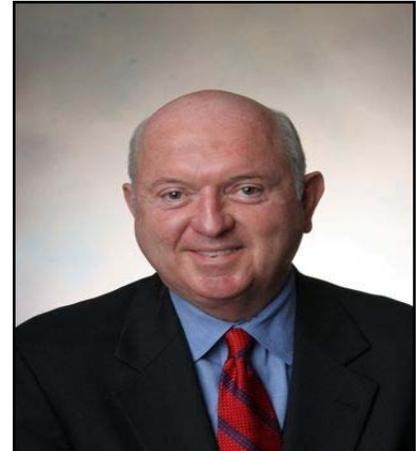
With the support of many of you, 2008 brought more progress to Jefferson Parish. A recent revision by the Census Bureau confirms that Jefferson Parish is the most populated parish in the state.

While we are moving forward with great confidence, we must never forget the forces of Mother Nature. By understanding what actions to take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

With that in mind, I have instituted a new approach titled "N.E.W. A.G.E." It stands for "Next Expected Weather-Event--Armor/Generate/Elevate." Here are the essentials of my "N.E.W. A.G.E." approach:

"Armor our assets" There are techniques that citizens, businesses, and government can do to better protect themselves from the damage that storm winds can cause. Everyone should shield the windows and glass doors on their structures with pre-cut plywood or install hurricane-resistant windows or storm shutters. Entry and garage doors should be secured.

"Generate our homes and businesses" Generator power to homes and businesses will result in quicker a return home after a storm or a better experience to those citizens who remained. I have appealed to our Congress-



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

sional Delegation to introduce a new federal law that would give federal tax credits for generators to Americans in storm-prone areas. If you agree, write our representatives and ask for their support.

"Elevate to mitigate flooding" In evaluating the aftermath of Gustav and Ike, the homes and businesses that were elevated since Katrina fared much better than the structures that were not elevated.

FEMA offers mitigation funds to elevate homes. The Base Flood Elevation (BFE) is the elevation of the 100-year flood. Elevating a structure above the BFE lessens the flood risk and reduces insurance premiums. For more information, log on to www.fema.gov

Together, let us take the necessary steps to prepare our homes and businesses to minimize the impact of the next storm or hurricane.

En Realité

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Editor's

Notes

New EAP: Care 24

Employee Assistance Program Available for All Parish Employees

I am very pleased to announce that the Parish has a new EAP (Employee Assistance Program) available for employees. Since Katrina it has been very difficult to find a worthwhile program for our employees, but we now have one as part of our agreement with our new healthcare provider, United Healthcare.

The new EAP offered through United is called *Care24*. Many of the benefits offered through *Care24* are available to all Parish employees, even if they do not elect health insurance through the Parish. Employees with insurance through United Healthcare will be eligible for some additional EAP benefits.

24-Hour Nurse Line

Care24 offers a Nurse Line that allows all of our employees access to a registered nurse 24-hours a day. The nurses can answer questions about health conditions or symptoms, possibly avoiding unnecessary trips to the doctor or ER.

Counselors Around the Clock

Counselors are also available 24/7 to provide advice and emotional support to all of our em-



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

ployees. Conversations with the counselors can be anonymous and are strictly confidential. Employees can call to discuss emotional distress, anxiety, family issues, substance abuse problems, etc.

Employees who have health insurance through the Parish will also qualify for up to three face-to-face sessions with a trained counselor.

Other Services Available

In addition to these services, Care24 also has professionals available during business hours to offer assistance with financial or legal questions. They will try to answer basic questions or at least refer the caller to local professionals.

Care24's toll-free number is 1-888-887-4114. Just follow the prompts to be connected to the service you need.

If you are in need of any of the services that our new EAP offers, I hope you give it a chance to help you. I am hopeful that Care 24 will be a valuable resource for our deserving Parish employees.

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

We at Environmental hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season.

We are sad to say goodbye to Environmental Quality Technician II, **Shantia White**, who is leaving us to attend graduate school full-time to study geophysics. We wish her the best of luck.

We would like to send a big get well soon to **Pat Reed**. We hope she comes back to us soon.

All the staff at Environmental would like to send their heart-felt condolences to **Carla Montalbano**, whose mother passed away on January 11, 2009.

IEC Leadership Fellowship

Environmental would like to congratulate Environmental Quality Specialist **Sami Khalil** on his Environmental Leadership Fellowship from The Institute for Environmental Communication (IEC) at Loyola University New Orleans.

The IEC brings together a diverse group of citizens including environmentalists, scientists, journalists, industrialists, politicians, government employees, teachers, and businesspersons to discuss issues of vital environmental importance to the region and nation.

Christmas Tree Marsh Project

Environmental would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project. The Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project, now in its 19th year, uses donated Christmas trees

to build sediment-trapping fences that protect and restore wetlands near Lafitte. The project is funded in part by a \$53,000 grant from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. However, this award-winning project could not take place without a tremendous volunteer effort and generous corporate donations.

On January 10 and 17, 2009, more than 150 volunteers helped with the project. The Environmental Department would like to thank all the volunteers and those who volunteered boats to transport trees and place them in the marsh.

We want to thank Coca Cola for donating all the beverages, SHAW Coastal, CDM, and Zupardo's for providing lunch and snacks for all the volunteers. In addition, special thanks go out to the Departments of Streets, Parkways, and Fleet for their help with this project.

Recycling Drop-off Days

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Recycling Drop-off Day held on December 20, 2008. We would also like to thank all who volunteered to help with our recycling events. Our next Recycling Drop-off Day for Parish residents will be on **February 7, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.**

East Bank residents may drop off their recyclables in the parking lot of the Joseph S. Yenni Building, located at 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Jefferson. West Bank residents may drop off their recyclables in the parking lot of the Alario Center, located at 2000 Segnette Boulevard, Westwego. We hope to see you there.

Finally, the staff of Environmental Affairs would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Mardi Gras.



Volunteers help load boats with Christmas trees for the Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project

Citizens' Affairs

By
Joanna Lee

Carnival/Mardi Gras Parades

Our Carnival & Special Events office is preparing for that special and most busy time of year with preparations for parade revelers. Also, there's a new parade route on the West Bank. For information on parade routes, please visit www.jeffparish.net. **Have a safe and Happy Mardi Gras!!**

Family Gras

Family Gras is sponsored and managed by the Jefferson Convention & Visitors Bureau and will take place February 13-15 along the neutral ground of Veterans Hwy. between Causeway and Severn. This fun-filled event features free live outdoor concerts on two stages, food vendors, an art market, and the pageantry of carnival. For more information, please visit: www.familygras.com.

Heroes Honored at Family Gras

Jefferson Parish officials announced the opening of nominations for the first annual Jefferson Heroes Awards. The Jefferson Heroes will be honored during Family Gras. Jefferson Heroes will be riding as special guests of the Krewe of Atlas on February 13 and the Krewe of Centurions on Sunday evening, February 15.

President **Aaron Broussard** states, "It is important to celebrate our citizens' efforts to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish, and there is no better time to celebrate than during Jefferson's own Family Gras. Our Jefferson Heroes will experience what most people only dream of: They will literally have a chance to become a king or queen for the day."

Emergency Preparedness Conferences

Katherine Hoover, Disabilities Affairs Specialist, attended and spoke at the Emergency Preparedness Conference in October in New Orleans, where she shared her experiences, insights, and views on this important topic.



Disabilities Affairs Specialist
Katherine Hoover

Also, Ms. Hoover spoke in December at the Kona Kai Resort in San Diego. This Conference brought together some of the most influential federal, state, and local experts in emergency management to discuss the processes involved in the emergency management spectrum and describe how special needs issues should be integrated into the four phases of emergency management. Each conference was a great success.

Bark-citement in the Park!

There's a new Krewe in town called the Krewe of Arfus. The new Jefferson Parish pet parade will be at Lafreniere Park on Sunday, March 8. The theme of the parade is "Bone Appetite". It's also a great opportunity for homeless pets to find their "Forever Homes." You know the saying, "Every Dog Has His Day," so come out and see these pets have a barkingly good time!!

Purchasing

By
Gail Petrie

Purchasing congratulates **Patricia Lasalle** upon the completion of her first year as Director.

Ms. Lassalle began her career with Jefferson Parish in 2004 as Internal Auditor. In 2006 she became the Accounting Director, and on January 5, 2008, Patti moved to the Purchasing Department in the position of Director.

During her first year, Patti experienced many challenges, including the implementation of JEFFPro, the on-line bidding program. She successfully accomplished all tasks presented to her and has introduced many positive and beneficial changes.

Patti is intelligent, cooperative, and understanding. She's a great manager with a wonderful sense of humor. She is and will be an asset and a blessing to Purchasing for many years.



Purchasing Director Patricia Lasalle

Drainage

By
Maria Cervini & Davelynn James

Promotions Announced:

Congratulations to the following Department employees on their recent promotions: **Larry Smith**, Laborer-Semiskilled, EB-Drainage; **Dwayne Curtis**, Laborer-Semiskilled, EB-Drainage; **Chantelle Lewis**, Drainage Pump Station Operator II, WB-Pump Station; and **Kellup Sullivan**, Drainage Pump Station Operator II, WB-Pump Station

New Employees Welcomed

Welcome to our new employees: **Willie Mason**, Laborer, EB Drainage; **Bobby Riggins**, Laborer, EB Drainage; **Herman Hartman**, Laborer, EB Drainage; **Cali Calcagno**, Laborer, WB Drainage; **Eric Young**, WB Drainage; **Brain Lemieux**, Laborer, WB Drainage; **Joeseph Harris**, Laborer, EB Pump Station;

Marco Laurmie, Laborer, WB Pump Station; and **Ryan Sievers**, Laborer, WB Pump Station.

Veteran Employees Honored

The following Drainage Department employees were

awarded certificates and service pins for 20 plus years of service to Jefferson Parish:

J. J. Thibodeaux for 35 years; **Brian J. Propps, Sr.** for 30 years; **Vincent Arceneaux, Sr.**, **Manuel Aspuria**, **Roland Blanchard**, **Frank Boudreaux**, **Larry Brown**, **Kevin Calcagno**, **Roland Cola, Sr.**, and **George Dunn** for 25 years; and, **Jeffrey Rivet** for 20 years. Congratulations to each of you for your dedication.

A big thank you goes to our Director **Kazem Alikhani** and Assistant Director **Bill Duplaisir** for our Christmas tree and to **Pam Descant** and **Claire Delyea** for decorating it.

Drainage is proud of the nine beautiful Christmas baskets that our employees filled for Jefferson's needy Seniors.

Finally, we are sorry to announce the passing of **Christopher DiBenedetto's** father in January. **Mr. DiBenedetto** is a GIS Operator II with Drainage.



Pam Descant and Claire Delyea decorated the beautiful Drainage Department tree, thanks to Director Kazem Alikhani and Assistant Director Bill Duplaisir



Drainage employees mark many years of Parish service: Back row: Larry Palmisano, Jeffrey Rivet, and Manuel Aspuria; Front row: George Dunn, Roland Cola, President Aaron Broussard, Director Kazem Alikhani, and Frank Boudreaux

Parkways

By
Chantell M. Prestenbach

Parkways would like to start off by welcoming **Benjamin Frank** to the West Bank Maintenance crew.

Over the past few weeks, Parkways participated in the Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project, which is headed by Environmental. The project is located in the Barataria Basin, and its purpose is to restore the marshlands that have been eroding away. Our marshlands are very important mainly because they help protect us from hurricane surges. Those of us who have been able to witness the flooding in lower Jefferson over the years can say each time has been worse. Donating an un-flocked Christmas tree may help in this fight to save our wetlands.

Moving forward into the future, we have already begun preparations for this upcoming Mardi Gras season, which kicks off February 8 on the East Bank of Jefferson Parish.

Finally, we'd like to say congratulations and farewell to **CJ Muller**, who recently retired from Parkways with six years of service to our department. He will be greatly missed.



CJ Muller

Emergency Management

By
Charles Hudson

Emergency Management welcomes our newest Coordinator, **Brian Duplaisir**. Mr. Duplaisir is a Coordinator I – Grant Specialist. He is a graduate of LSU with degrees in Accounting and Disaster Science Management. Brian has come on board full speed, and we are very impressed with his skills.



Emergency Management's new
Coordinator I Brian Duplaisir

Emergency Management has been very busy in continued education and planning. Under Director **Kenneth Padgett**, our department has become more involved with on-scene responses to major fires and incidents throughout the parish. We have also developed new plans in the form of Emergency Support Functions for personnel assigned to the Emergency Operations Center. This puts our parish in compliance with the Presidential Directive for all emergency agencies to become certified in the National Incident Management System (NIMS), as written in the National Framework for Emergency Response.

We are also proud to report that our department has several

members attending an Executive Leadership Program through the University of New Orleans, the very first of its kind in the country. This program is being taught to emergency management personnel so that they can become certified as a Louisiana Emergency Manager (LEM), Associate Emergency Manager (AEM), or Certified Emergency Manager (CEM). At the conclusion of this program, our department will have five members and Department status of the top honors of CEM. Our staff continues to educate ourselves through free online classes given by: FEMA's Emergency Management Institute: NIMS Classes; Independent Study Program Classes; National Center for Biomedical Research & Training Academy of Counter Terrorism Education; National Emergency Response & Rescue Training Center – TEEEX; National Terrorism Preparedness Institute, St. Petersburg College; and South Central Public Health Partnership.

All of these classes are available to the public. If you or anyone you know has an interest in Emergency Management, please take advantage of these programs. The Independent Studies Program has several topics particular to different areas of governmental departments such as Law Enforcement, Fire, Public Works, Schools, Medical, etc. These programs may help you in emergency planning for your department.

The Emergency Management Department would like to close by saying THANK YOU to everyone that helped with the response and recovery to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. The Parish could not have been as successful without your help.

Spotlight on Safety: Alario Center Recognized for Flawless 2008

Safety Program Manager **Nolan Guidry** went to the Alario Center in Westwego in January to congratulate General Manager **Greg Guthrie** and his staff for going injury- and accident-free in 2008. CAA **Bobby Bourgeois** was also on hand to convey his congratulations. Before presenting the Alario staff with a special safety award, Nolan had a few words to say to this special group:

“This special award is very much in order. The statistics that merit this award are outstanding. In 2008 over 100 transformations of the Alario Center facility took place, requiring thousands of labor-intense man hours. Thousands of citizens have enjoyed the use of this great facility. The impeccable house-cleaning that is so obvious to anyone who visits here also re-

quires many man hours. The Segnet Ball Park, which is the responsibility of the Alario Staff, is a tremendous responsibility with many potential hazards.

“The point I am driving home is that to perform all year without an injury or accident took something very special. Yes, the Director and staff of the Alario Center have as a team bought into Safety at a personal

level. The knowledge of their job builds confidence in what they do, and they do it safely. They understand that safety pays, and they make it a priority. If all of our departments would shoot for this as a goal, we could save the Parish millions of dollars and, most of all, lots of unneeded pain and suffering. I want to personally thank Director Greg Guthrie and his employees for doing a great job.”



Safety Manager Nolan Guidry addresses the staff of the Alario Center before presenting them with a special safety recognition award



Nolan Guidry, Greg Guthrie, Bobby Bourgeois, Deirdre Cummings, Patrick Bode, Dwight Galiano, Lebaron Simmons, Michael Samardzija, Daniel Gitlin, Virgil Jackson, Carl Castille and Andrina Davis. (Absent:: Dana Cook and Thomas Clark)

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

I hope everyone had a blessed Holiday Season and wish everyone a Happy New Year!

DJS had many happy faces on December 11, when snow fell and the Juvenile Justice Complex became a winter wonderland. Some of our staff turned into little children, playing in the snow, making and throwing snowballs! (See photo last page.)

WELCOME to our new employees: **Julie House**, Probation Officer; **Pamela Kent**, Juvenile Detention Home Security Guard; and Juvenile Social Workers **Melicia Dupaquier**, **Toyane Faulkner**, **Lisa Powell** and **Jessie Taylor**, who transferred from Juvenile Court.

Congratulations to Probation Office **Troy Phares**, who became a proud Dad to Baby Boy Cole Joseph, born on November 27.

The following DJS employees were presented with career service awards at a special ceremony held on December 9 at the Alario Center:

20 YEARS

Patricia Kulakowski, Juvenile Probation Officer II

Luis Campos, Asst. Property Manager

Kenneth Cyprian, Juvenile Detention Officer II

Keith Guess, Juvenile Detention Home Supervisor, Assistant

15 YEARS

Marvin Lowe, Warehouse Supervisor

General Services

By
Revy Antoine & Jill Relick

Did it snow?! Property Managers **Michael Lemoine** and **Michael Fonseca** inspected the Yenni Building—even the roof—during the excitement of December 11.



Atop the Yenni Building,
December 11, 2008

The building survived this storm. Thanks to them for ensuring our safety and warmth. I wonder if they threw any snowballs up there? Wondering also if that snow stopped **Angela Cotham** from riding her new Harley. We're guessing NO!

Here is our BIG PIN AWARD tribute:

Five Years:

Fitzgerald Fredericks, Muriel Osborne & Gary Vukich

Ten Years:

Don Barrios

30 years:

George Folse

George Folse III assured us that he loves this place so much that retirement is out of the question. George is an asset to the Parish, and we're sure glad to have him with this department. George has been with GS since early 2002. He is currently active with the coordination of the Family Gras 2009. George has recruited **Tommy O'Neil**, our electrician, to assist with the project. We're all curious what costume George will wear this year.

Welcome to our new hires: **Kevin Blackwell**-Stationary Engineer I; and **Leandro Lopez**-Air Conditioning/Heating Mechanic.

Congratulations to **David Segura**, our new Property Manager.

We've had numerous questions regarding our new Generator Platform. We will have details in our April article.



GS Assistant Director George Folse observes 30 years with the Parish

Human Resources

By
Greg Alexander

Safety Officer Millie Brady Retires

HR bids farewell to one of the most popular and hardest-working members of our team—Safety Officer **Millie Brady**. Millie retires in February after eleven memorable years with Jefferson Parish.

Millie came to work as a Safety Officer in January 1998. She has worked with all departments of Jefferson Parish. In the last few years, Millie has concentrated on the needs of Head Start, Library, and Parks and Recreation.

In addition to her regular classes and duties, Millie created a Pump Station Screen Cleaning Program and worked with the Administration to establish evacuation programs at many Parish buildings.

“I have wonderful memories and will dearly miss the employees of Jefferson Parish that I have worked with for these 11 years,” says Millie. *“However, there are many endeavors that will be achieved even after retirement, which include traveling, volunteering for different charities, and especially enjoying my family and seven grandchildren.”*



Millie Brady, conducting a safety meeting at a Head Start Center

Congratulations to Executive Assistant **Nicole Thompson**, who recently observed ten years of service with the Parish.



Nicole Thompson with HR Director
Junior Mendoza

Health Fairs Coming

Benefits Manager **Aubrey Devillier** announces a series of health fairs for Parish employees this spring. “There will be eight fairs,” says Aubrey, “four on each bank of the river, between March 17 and April 16.”

The fairs will be sponsored by East Jefferson General Hospital and West Jefferson Medical Center. More information will be forthcoming in the form of posters, paycheck stuffers, and communications through departmental Benefits Coordinators in the coming weeks.

Transit

By
Patricia Lyons

Celebration of International Cultures

Jefferson Parish Transit Administration participated at the “Celebration of International Cultures” sponsored by the Jefferson Parish Public School System. The Celebration was held on Saturday, January 24, 2009, at Lakeside Mall.

Cultural Heritages Honored

The purpose of the Celebration was to honor the cultural heritage of students in Jefferson Parish Public Schools.

They presented multicultural performances to the community. The event also showcased programs offered by Jefferson Parish Public Schools. In addition, the celebration provided information concerning available community resources.

Transit Keeping the Public Informed

Patricia Lyons, of Transit Administration, distributed maps, schedules of public transportation routes, and schedules for Mardi Gras parades for Jefferson Parish Transit. Patricia also answered any questions from those in attendance pertaining to the schedules. In addition, Patricia distributed lots of goodies to the audience, including JeT pens, key chains, and candy.

All of the performers were very excited about performing at the celebration.

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branan, RN



Have you ever taken a walk and the next thing you know, you're down on the ground? More often than not, you may have a brush burn to your knee or at most, your pride is hurt. Falls can be deadly! In 2003, 18,044 falls resulted in being the fourth leading cause of death. How can you reduce your risk of becoming a statistic?

As babies, we learned how to balance our weight, be it sitting, standing, or walking. Our complex nervous system allows for various messages to be sent to the brain for interpretation. The body then responds by making adjustments to maintain the center of gravity and prevent it from falling.

Our ability to remain upright is dependent upon when either an external or an internal force takes place which results in the loss of balance and one falls. An external force may include: one's body being hit, losing one's footing without a surface to stand on, such as missing a step, or tripping on an object. An internal force may include anything originating from within the body that physically inhibits one from maintaining balance. For whatever reason, the brain cannot interpret a message necessary to maintain balance or respond quickly enough to correct a movement in order to maintain or regain balance. For example, a

medication may induce fatigue or dizziness. Head colds with congestion in the sinuses or "inner ear" are a common cause of dizziness.

How can you promote a safer environment? You may want to consider the following: how healthy you are, what type of shoes you wear, what types of terrain you travel on, or is the environment well lit. Is there anything you have control over that you could and should change?

Related to your health, think about what may be a problem. Do you take any medications that may result in dizziness or drowsiness? Do you have poor vision? Do you have difficulty seeing in the dark? Do you have any medical conditions that cause dizziness? Diabetics with nerve damage to their feet are more prone to falling. How strong are your muscles? How quick are your reflexes? Do you exercise regularly? Do you eat properly? Do you take medications to control any medical conditions?

Shoes can be a real hazard at times. Smooth, slick soles with-

out any friction can send you sailing across a ceramic tile surface. Heels can become wedged in cracks and stop you dead in your tracks. Platform shoes can easily throw one off balance with the slightest wiggle. Pay attention to how the shoe fits and to the degree of ease in walking in them.

Think about the terrain you are planning to be walking on. Is it a wet surface? Is it a bumpy surface? How level is it? What is the surface material made of? Depending on the surface, you may need to wear special shoes for that environment. A walking stick may be needed for walking on uneven surfaces or just to give you a little extra help to maintain your balance. Is the area well lit? If not, carry a flashlight if another source of lighting is not available.

Last, but not least, regardless of your age, always be aware of your surroundings. Whenever possible, consider what your plans are for the day. Where will you be going and what will you be doing? Is there anything that you could have in your possession that would make for a safer environment?

And above all, BE SAFE!



Engineering Director Mark Drewes congratulates Division Supervisor Mike Carruthers upon his retirement with over 30 years of service

Finance Authority

By
Sheila Rodrigue

OUR CONDOLENCES

We would like to extend our condolences to the family of Margaret Bicknell, one of our Board of Trustee Members, who passed on December 15. Mrs. Bicknell was a member of our Board since May 1997. During her tenure she served as Treasurer, Vice Chairman, and Secretary. Mrs. Bicknell's presence at and contributions to our meetings will be greatly missed.

WELCOME

We would like to extend a welcome to Mr. Forrest H. "Bucky" Lanning, who replaced Mrs. Bicknell on our Board of Trustees. We are looking forward to working with Mr. Lanning.

CHANGES TO PROGRAMS

If you are in the market to purchase a home in Jefferson Parish, there have been some changes to both of our bond programs. The Series 2007C program has been extended to a final submission

date of March 1, 2009. This program has an interest rate of 6.36% with 4% down payment and closing cost assistance. The maximum incomes allowed are \$71,760 for a family of one or two and \$83,720 for a family of three or more. The maximum acquisition cost is \$316,250. There is only a limited amount of money still available in this program.

The Series 2008B program no longer has maximum income restrictions. The maximum acquisition costs are now \$417,000 for a conventional loan (FHLMC) or \$271,050 for a government loan (GNMA). The interest rate for the program is 6.75% with 4% down payment and closing cost assistance. The final submission date for Series 2008B is currently May 1, 2009.

The first-time homebuyer restriction is currently eliminated for both of our programs. If you are interested in a list of participating lenders or more information, call our office at 736-6311 or stop by our office in Room 505 of the Yenni Building.

Code Enforcement

By
Linda Roy

We welcome aboard **Janice Bruno**, Property Maintenance Inspector; **Ronald Every**, Building Plan Reviewer; **Denise Stone**, Typist Clerk III; **Patricia Finney**, Property Maintenance Inspector; **Jackie Taylor**, Typist Clerk III; and **Elvirus Anderson**, Data Entry Operator. Its Great to have you guys with us!

We also say goodbye to **Aubrey Champagne**, Bldg. Inspector I; **Richard Bourgeois**, Plumbing Inspector II; and **Deanna Kramer**, Typist Clerk III. With a combined 52 years of service to the Parish, your dedication and loyalty to your jobs is admired. Your retirement is well deserved. Enjoy!

The first part of 2009 has not been kind to some of our employees. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Tommy Baxter** and **Melvin Chaix**. Take care of yourselves and hurry back to work!

Our prayers are with **Jeff Charlet** on the loss of his sister; **George Faustermann** on the loss of his uncle; **Rene Maggio**, **Helen Pounds**, **Sal Puleo** and **Jerry Roy** on the loss of their Moms. May they rest in peace!

CONGRATULATIONS!

It is a pleasure to report **DeNean Laroche** completed her studies and was awarded an Associate Degree in Human Resource Management. This is quite an honor as it is not an easy task dealing with employee issues in these changing times. I'll be calling you – I need all the help I can get!



President Broussard congratulates Code Enforcement staff with service certificates: Laura Sawyer, Yolanda Everett, Nancy Sanders, Linda Fairchild, and David Williams

More congratulations are also in order for Code's Executive Superintendent (and Ace Reporter) **Linda Roy**. Linda will observe her 30th anniversary with the Parish on Valentine's Day! How appropriate: Linda and the Parish—a love-match made in Heaven!

John Piglia Named Assistant Code Director

Inspection and Code Enforcement is diversified in many ways. With over 140 employees, we are faced with the challenge of assisting in making Jefferson a great place to live and raise a family.

We are moving forward in enforcing quality of life issues, demolishing abandoned properties, cutting overgrown weeds, cleaning up debris from properties, and assuring proper permits are obtained and contractors are properly licensed.

In an effort to continue successfully meeting these challenges, we are pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr. John Piglia**, Assistant Director. Congratulations, John! We know you will do a great job. We will be glad to assist you in any way we can!

Traffic Engineering

By

Brandy Chism & David Stout

Traffic Engineering Division welcomes new employees **Ray Leblanc**, Laborer, and **Ted Cordero**, Sign Tech I, to the department. We're happy to have Ray and Ted here with us.

With the start of the New Year comes the anticipation of the Mardi Gras season. This is by far our busiest time of year here at Traffic Engineering.

From the concept of the new 2009 Jefferson Parish Mardi Gras sign to the last sign that is installed on Veterans Boulevard, our crews are steadily on the move with these duties. Just as fast as the celebratory fete comes, it's gone again and we move on to the next parade and do it all over again!

Condolences:

On October 31, we were saddened by the news of the death of John E. Trick, Jr. Johnny re-

tired from Traffic Engineering in February of 2005 with over 32 years of service. He will be greatly missed by all of his friends and family here at Traffic. "Trick" and his family are still in our thoughts and prayers.

We'd like to express our deepest sympathy to Sign Marking Superintendent **Larry Soileau** and his family for the loss of Larry's mother-in-law. Larry, you are in our prayers.

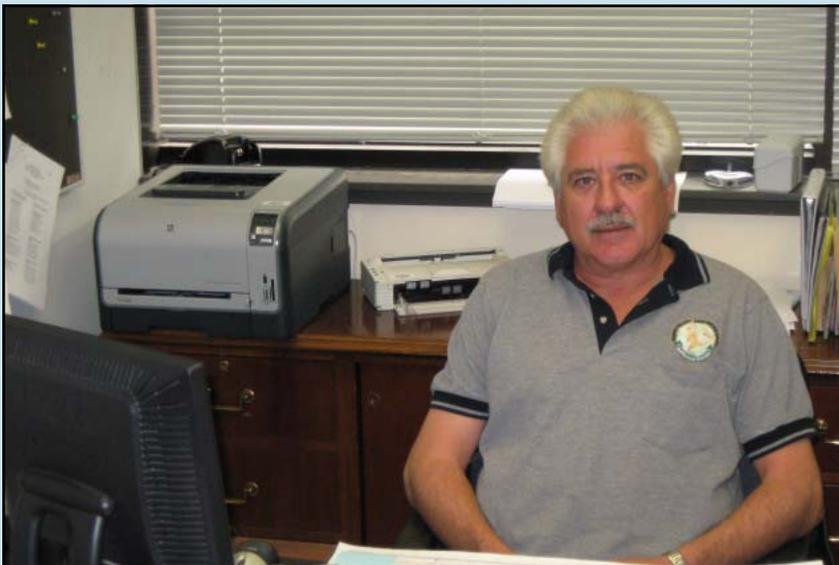
Signal News:

We recently activated the two new traffic signals on Manhattan Boulevard in front of the Fountain Park Centre facility. Hopefully this will alleviate some of the traffic snarls on Manhattan Blvd, which has become a highly traveled thoroughfare in these last few years.

There are also plans for the future to add an extra north-bound lane on Manhattan from Gretna Blvd to the West Bank Expressway. The extra lane will help with entering and exiting the many businesses along Manhattan.

Our signal crews are also in mid-stream of preparing for the Mardi Gras season. Every year we are required to raise, relocate, or remove some of our traffic signals to allow for clearance of the floats and their riders. We look forward to another safe season.

Please remember to be safe, alert, and patient when driving through the many construction and work zones that we are ALL working in.



Inspection & Code Enforcement's new Assistant Director John Piglia

Streets

By
Sheena Quinn

A Hero Walks Among Us

On January 14 Superintendent **Kenneth Lemieux** was traveling in the West Minister Subdivision when a woman came out of her home in distress. Her home was on fire and her invalid mother was still stuck inside. Mr. Lemieux went into the smoke-filled house and, with the help of one of the neighbors, brought the woman, who was on the floor by this time, out of the house. The homeowner and her mother are now eternally grateful for Mr. Lemieux's courageousness. We are very lucky to have such a caring person working for the Streets Department.

A Job Well Done

We've had a host of dedicated workers that are being rewarded for their many years of hard work. **Mr. Wayne Williams** was promoted to Road Maintenance Superintendent III, and **Mr. Stanley Walker** also received a promotion to Road Maintenance Superintendent II.



Superintendent II Stanley Walker

On December 2, 2009, at the Alario Center on the West Bank, **Mr. Aaron Broussard** hosted the Service Pin Ceremony for the



Superintendent III Wayne Williams

Streets Department's career service employees with 20 years or more. The following employees were among the special guests:

20 years:

Randy Bernard
Curtis Grimes
Eugene Chest
Ernest Pugh
Daniel Williams

25 years:

Raymond Andras
Wilton Demuth
John Cordilla
Ray Walker
Melvin Boudreaux

30 years:

John Glenn
Wayne Williams
Maebelle Cheramie
Willis Comeaux

Get Well and Condolences

Andrea Williams and **William Bumgarden** are recovering well and expected back to work soon. Mrs. Williams will soon return in the upcoming week. Mr. Bumgarden will follow in later weeks. Get well soon, you guys!

On a much sadder note, the Streets Department's Assistant Director, **Don Hogan**, lost his uncle, Gilbert G. Hogan. He was

laid to rest on Friday, January 23, in Westwego following the funeral that was held at Mothe Funeral Home.

Special Parish Projects

Recently, the Streets Department and Director **Randy Nicholson** were featured in a *Times Picayune* article announcing to all Jefferson Parish residents and local artists about the future plans for the Veterans Boulevard CPZ Beautification Project.

Along with the sculptures that are located on Club Drive at Veterans Boulevard and Bonabel Boulevard at Veterans Boulevard, which were donated by the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Parish is planning on incorporating sculptures to the existing landscape at Clearview Parkway at Veterans Boulevard.

The phone lines have been flooded with artists interested in submitting sketches to be considered for future projects. I'm sure whichever sculpture is selected will be a great addition to Veterans Boulevard.



Jefferson Parish Beautification artwork:
Veterans at Bonabel Blvd.

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Community Development Director **Anatola B. Thompson** and staff members **Faye Galland**, Parish Planner III, and **Mike Strausser**, Parish Planner II, conducted a Public Hearing on each bank of the river on January 29 and February 3 for the Jefferson Home Consortium.

The purpose of the hearings was to collect feedback from citizens on the community's needs and to offer ideas for public improvements, public services, housing, and economic development in relation to the 2009 budget. Staff provided an overview of the programs, the comprehensive planning process, and the program's requirements.

Affordable Housing Update

The First-time Homebuyer Assistance Program is moving gingerly since its kickoff December 1. **Liz Ruth**, Housing Improvement Counselor II, has been handling the applications. Applicants are served on a first-come first-served basis until the funds are depleted.

Qualified applicants may receive a level of assistance up to \$50,000 for down payment and closings costs, with loans obtained through the Jefferson Parish Finance Authority or other qualified lenders. Liz works with **Kim Thompson** and **Jim Bush** on the HOME program.

New Construction Update

Jim Bush reports that People's Community Subsidiary has three homes under construction in Mar-

rero, and Third Emanuel Baptist Church and Residential Housing Development Corporation each have one home under construction in Bridge City. All five homes are expected to be completed in April.

In the Beechgrove Subdivision, a notice-to-proceed has been issued for ten new homes. The homes are expected to be completed by spring and will be available for sale.

Marrero Community/Senior Center Update

Ken Krey, Project Manager, reports that the project is in the final phase of completion and will be open and ready for use by the end of March, if not sooner. The Center is located at 1855 Ames Blvd.

The Center is being built by CS & Associates, and the design consultant is N-Y Associates. When completed, the Center will provide about 6,000 square feet for a variety of community activities. The building, which is being financed by Community Development via HUD funds, will be operated by JeffCAP.

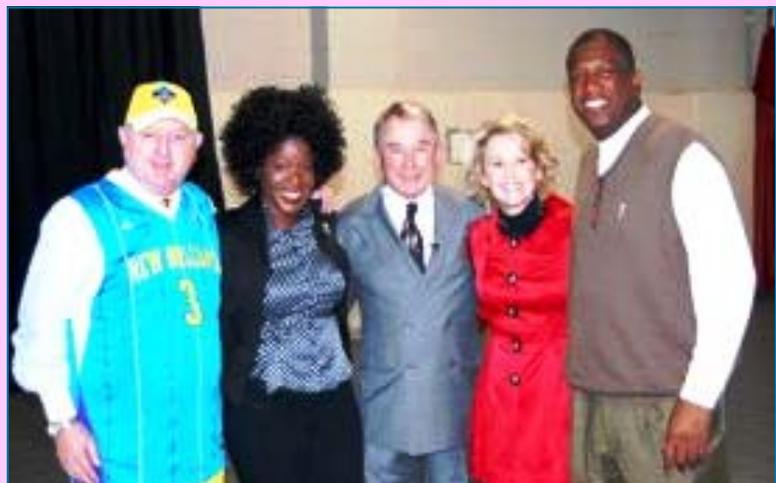
JeffCAP

By
Aretha Frison & Nicoli Armstead

Christmas with the Hornets

On December 16 the New Orleans Hornets staff members served lunch to more than 1,000 senior citizens during the annual Senior Christmas Luncheon at the Alario Center. The team's owner, George Shinn, interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Nero, two members of JeffCAP's partnering senior centers, with Hugo, the Hornets mascot.

Parish president Aaron **Broussard**, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Newsletter Editor **Aretha Frison**, Shinn, and his wife Denise and Councilman Byron Lee also attended the event. Other attendees included JeffCAP Assistant Director **Ed Stucke**, RSVP Coordinator and RSVP Assignment Editor **Nicoli Armstead**, RSVP Clerk **Joan Oncale**, Watson Community Center seniors, members of the Kenner Senior Center, plus Bonnie Brown and Pauline Morgan.



Celebrating Christmas with the Hornets: President Broussard, Aretha Frison, George and Denise Shinn, and Councilman Byron Lee

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Bridge City Community Center serves as a conduit for local seniors to meet and connect with one another. Frequent visits to the community center are a regular activity for the seniors. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program, (RSVP) volunteers help with food distribution, answering the phone, and conducting other forms of community service at Bridge City.

Diana Smith is the supervisor at the JeffCAP Bridge City Community Center, and one of the major supporters of the RSVP volunteer program. **Patricia Toliver**, the senior counselor at the center, encourages and motivates RSVP participation. She said the seniors are revamping their volunteer program to participate in more services this year. Invite a friend to join the ranks. RSVP welcomes ages 55 and older. For more information, contact **Nicoli Armstead**, RSVP Coordinator at 736-6160.



JeffCAP's Assistant Director Ed Stucke with RSVP Coordinator Nicoli Armstead

Hazel Hurst Center Marks Inauguration Day

About 30 seniors from the community center joined church members and other community

citizens at Marine Baptist Church in Jefferson on Jan. 20 to watch the inauguration of President Barack Obama. **Joyce Sullivan**, center supervisor at Hazel Hurst, said many seniors were in tears as they watched the event. She also said they shared stories from segregation and the Civil Rights movement that were heartfelt and very moving. Afterwards, they had a luncheon that featured red, white, and blue decorations.



Hazel Hurst Center Supervisor Joyce Sullivan

Good News for Head Start

Congressman Steve Scalise announced on December 12 that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded a \$1 million grant to Jefferson Parish for Head Start projects.

The funds will be distributed between nine Head Start Centers in Jefferson Parish. Jefferson Parish has now received a total of \$4 million for the centers; \$2 million more will awarded at a later date.

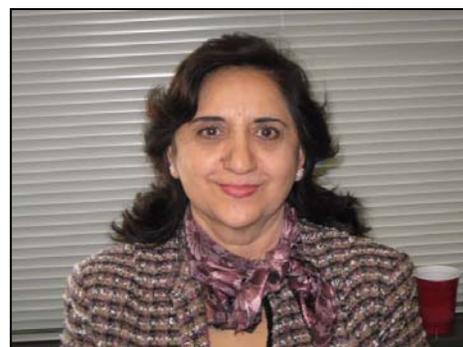
“This grant will continue to allow JeffCAP to provide outstanding early childhood education at all of our Head Start centers,” said **Nicole Ferrier**, Executive Director of JeffCAP. “We truly appreciate all the hard work Mr. Scalise has done to make this financial support possible for Jefferson Parish.”

Sunrise Living Complex Ribbon Cutting

On Jan. 8, Director Nicole Ferrier and Councilmen Tom Capella and Ron Maestri attended the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Sunrise Senior Living complex on West Esplanade Avenue in Metairie. More than 100 dignitaries and special guests attended the high-profile event, which included live New Orleans jazz music, scrumptious samplings of meals that will be on the Sunrise menu for residents, and a special tour of the 3-story residential building. Sunrise is scheduled to open in February.

Red, White, and Blue Day at Causeway

The Red, White, and Blue Day at Causeway Head Start Center in Metairie celebrated the inauguration of President Obama on Jan. 20. The delightful event earned impressive coverage in *The Times-Picayune* on Jan. 21. About 88 students, ages 3-5, showcased their handmade American flags and played with patriotic stickers and beads as they watched the event on a big-screen TV in the center's cafeteria. Center supervisor, **Usha Kamboj** told reporters that the Head Start teachers prepared the students to understand the inauguration.



Causeway Head Start Center Supervisor Usha Kamboj

Library

By
Linda Molinaro

We'd like to thank recently retired coworkers **Elsa Pratt**, **Peggy Garrett**, and **Joan Baptiste** for their many years at West Bank Regional Library, in Technical Services and in Administration, respectively. We already miss you. We welcome the newly hired **Susan Williams** and **Gary Bourgeois**, Associates, to Belle Terre and Terrytown, as well as **Mary Bailey** and **Kafi Jasmine**, Pages, to East Bank Regional Library.

Jovana Susic will give another class in "Searching for Health Information Online—An Internet Course for Older Adults" on February 12. Health issues are a vital concern for older adults; surveys show that most who go online search for health and medical information. "Research has shown that age is no hindrance to computer or Internet use. But proper training is important to build com-



Library Director Lon Dickerson with retiring Business Manager Joan Baptiste

puter confidence and Internet skills in older people," says Richard J. Hodes, M.D., National Institute on Aging director. "This training program is designed to open up the Internet to older adults who want to know more about the health issues facing them as they age."

Join us at East Bank Regional on February 12, 10 AM-12 NOON. Build your Internet skills, get reliable health and wellness information from the

National Institutes of Health, and learn to evaluate the quality of online health information. Please call 838-1111 and ask for Jovana to sign up or find out more.

Two new databases available through the library website <http://www.jefferson.lib.la.us> are MANGO LANGUAGES and HELPNOW, powered by BRAINFUSE. They're found on the right under Online Tools. You will need a current library card to access them.

MANGO LANGUAGES currently offers 12 language courses – Brazilian Portuguese, Spanish, Japanese, French, German, Italian, Greek, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, and ESL for Polish, Spanish, and Brazilian Portuguese speakers—with many more on the way. Students or anyone else with a card can receive one-to-one tutoring from HELPNOW powered by BRAINFUSE via a versatile and user-friendly online classroom. Those in grades 3-12 and those taking introductory college courses can use it at their local branch or from home for academic assistance in Math, Science, English, and/or Social Studies, 7 days a week, 2PM-11PM.



President Broussard and Director Lon Dickerson present service certificates to Ranie Lefort, Doug Deichmann, Jean Genovese, Dennis Wall, Mario Dipietrantonio, Mary L. Cooper, and Irvin Diemer

Retirements

Joy Armstrong
Sewerage
35 years

Jerry Thibodeaux
Drainage
34 years

Richard Crappel
Water
33 years

Georgia Cloy
Recreation
33 years

Elizabeth Louding
Purchasing
31 years

John Carruthers
Engineering
30 years

Barbara Scherer
Recreation
29 years

Joan Baptiste
Library
28 years

Norma Uluduz
Animal Shelter
28 years

Ronald Bordelon
Engineering
25 years

Raymond Hock
Water
24 years

Barbara Campesi
EIS
21 years

Raul Fernandez
Animal Shelter
18 years

Mary Garrett
Library
18 years

John Jones
Fleet Management
17 years

Raymond Ordoyne
Recreation
16 years

Patricia Scott
JeffCAP
14 years

Mildred Brady
Human Resources
11 years



The Juvenile Justice Center in Harvey during the area's rare snowfall, December 11, 2008
—photo by Chris Trosclair