



Volume 29
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EM Realite

Message from the Parish President. .

The Jefferson Edge

With 2008 nearing an end and a new year on the horizon, the quest to move forward in positive fashion continues in Jefferson Parish. In the past year, you have seen improvements in flood protection, crime abatement, education, healthcare, and beautification in our parish.

A recent study by JEDCO (Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission) dealt honestly with these major issues, attacking them head-on. In partnership with your elected officials, JEDCO came up with a clear consensus on how to address the problems Jefferson Parish is encountering as we advance the calendar to 2009.

The primary areas addressed by JEDCO were Leadership, Quality of Life, and Economic Development. Addressing the leadership aspect, the objective is to encourage parish and business leaders to seize the opportunity to assume a greater leadership role in regional issues, particularly those affecting Jefferson Parish.

The recommendations were: 1) Focus state, legislative, and congressional initiatives on the pursuit of funding to improve community infrastructure, facilities, and services; 2) Encourage



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

leadership initiatives from the business community and regional planning and economic development agencies; 3) Strive for more effective government at local, regional, and state levels.

We believe that by taking these measures we can stabilize the population of Jefferson Parish while improving the quality of life for residents and businesses, sending a strong, positive message to all associated with our Parish.

The improvements are evident to all who visit, do business in, or drive through Jefferson Parish. Jefferson Parish is a great place to live and do business, and it is our stated goal to make it even better in both facets.

*Aaron Broussard
President
Jefferson Parish*



En Realité

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TRANSIT

Patricia Lyons

WATER

Kathy Theriot

WORKFORCE CONNECTION

Joan Vaughn

Editor's

Notes

The Parish's Diversity Initiative

This fall Jefferson Parish Government begins an exciting new project as we embark upon our first Diversity Initiative. The goal of the Diversity Initiative is to help the Parish as an organization to recognize the value of our workforce and to enhance communication and productivity among all of our employees.

Building Bridges

The project, titled *Building Bridges to Understanding: The Challenges of Working and Managing in the 21st Century*, actually began in September with a series of twenty focus groups, which some of you may have attended. Nineteen of these meetings were attended by randomly selected groups of Parish employees who shared their opinions on various aspects of working for the Parish. One focus group consisted of randomly chosen supervisors. The focus groups, which represented the first phase of our Diversity Initiative, assessed the organizational culture of the Parish.

The next phase of the Initiative will consist of workshops for all Parish managers—from foremen to Directors and members of President Broussard's Executive Staff. These all-day workshops began in November and will con-



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

tinue into the spring of the new year. Some of the findings from the focus groups will be shared with managers at the workshops.

The *Building Bridges to Understanding* project is being conducted by a local consulting firm, DMM & Associates, which specializes in leadership training and diversity management. Thus far I have been very impressed with DMM's conscientious commitment to the Parish's workforce. You can learn more about DMM by visiting their web site on the Internet: www.dmmassociates.com.

All we have to do is look around us to see the variety of people that make up the workforce of Jefferson Parish Government. My hope is that the *Building Bridges* project will help us go beyond our commitment not to discriminate based on an individual's race, gender, religion, or natural origin and to take the next step: to focus on the positive aspects that such a wonderful variety of people can bring to the workplace.

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

Juvenile Services welcomes our newly hired employees – East Bank—**Patricia Gordon, Daniel Lea, and Natalie Williams.** West Bank – **Donya Snowton, Julie House, Nancy Arceneaux, Ronjela Clay, and William Corkern.**

Farewell to Detention Officer I **Yaquina Cobbs**, who resigned to pursue other career opportunities, and to **Barbara Hamilton**, who retired from DJS.

Congratulations to Probation Officer **Tiyeshe Washington**, who just added a “big” bundle of joy to her family with the birth of Jaden Tyler on September 17, 2008.

DJS recently raised a total of \$700.00 for the American Heart Association due to the efforts of WB Probation Officer **Chantrell Cook** and EB Typist Clerk **Vicki Borja**, who spearheaded this year’s fundraiser.

Probation Officer **David Kraus**



Rivarde Detention Center's fabulous food service staff: L to R: Elaine Steib, Supervisor Rhonda Walker, Gwendolyn Bridgewater, Ernest Hunter, Julia Roy, Shelana Martin, and Denita Hunter



Juvenile Services Director Roy Juncker accepts his BGR award from Judges Andrea Janzen, Ann Keller, and Nancy Konrad.

was named Probation Officer of the month for September 2008 by the Jefferson Parish Marine Institute. Mr. Kraus was selected due to his support of the program and helping kids keep on the straight and narrow.

KUDOS to DJS Director **Roy L. Juncker, Jr.**, who was selected for the 2008 BGR (Bureau of Governmental Research) Merit Award.

Mr. Juncker has a long history of insightful and goal-directed actions. His career has spanned over 20 years of dedicated public service. Currently

he serves as the Chairman of the Jefferson Parish Children & Youth Planning Board, which has been recognized throughout Louisiana as a highly organized and effective organization committed to the improvement of the lives of children and youth.

As a result of Roy’s commitment, integrity, and initiative, Jefferson Parish was chosen by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to participate in their Models for Change initiative. Utilizing strict selection criteria, the MacArthur Foundation chose five parishes in Louisiana for their high potential to engage in lasting juvenile justice reform.

In addition, the Annie E. Casey Foundation chose Jefferson Parish’s Rivarde Detention Center as a site for their Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, which assists local jurisdictions in detention reform. Mr. Juncker has been an effective organizer and motivator for these nationally-recognized initiatives and has continued to provide leadership to the Department of Juvenile Services.

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Juncker for his selection for this highly competitive award.

Telecommunications

By
Paul Ferrara

Happy Holidays to all from Telecommunications!

Major Project in the Works for 2009

Radio Manager **Paul Ferrara** and Assistant Radio Manager **Andy Toujas** are busily planning for a major project that we expect will commence in the summer of 2009.

The project is an FCC mandated "rebanding" of the 800MHz frequencies and will require the re-programming of all Parish radio equipment. The department is working closely with our project consultant, Motorola, Tomba Communications, and our FCC representative to assure it proceeds as smoothly as possible. Parish departments will be hearing a lot more about this in the months ahead.

Welcome Aboard!

Central Telephone has a new Telephone Technician on staff.

John Bowes joined the department in August, bringing with him a wealth of experience and knowledge that we have quickly put to good use. We know he will be an asset to the Parish.

New Response System Approved

The Jefferson Parish Communication District (9-1-1) has just received approval from the Council for a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) emergency response system.

The \$4.1 million contract between JPCD and Tiburon, Inc., will not only enhance the 9-1-1 operators' ability to respond to calls-for-service but will provide information our current system cannot make available.

Planning and design of the new system is scheduled to begin November 18 and will take approximately one year to 18 months to fully implement. All 9-1-1 agencies and staff are anxiously awaiting this state-of-the-art system.

Library

By
Linda Molinaro and Ranie Lefort

Congratulations to **David Marchand**, who was promoted to Building Maintenance Supervisor. We welcome these new hires: Terrytown Branch Manager **Laura Balseiro**, West Bank Regional Reference Librarian **Nathan McArthur**, Maintenance Repairman **John Huggins**, Assistant Property Manager **Robert Bonvilian**, Laborer **Sidney Ford**, Maintenance Repairman **Sung Wook Yi**, and Maintenance Repairman **August Bracewell**.

We reopened the Belle Terre branch in August and the Charles A. Wagner branch in October. Demolition of the Lakeshore branch is complete, clearing the way for construction of its replacement. There is still a fair amount of renovation going on at the Regional branches and will be for the next year.

The entire staff of the Library met at East Bank Regional in October for our first in-service in recent memory. Those of us who had previously only talked on the phone got to meet face to face. Through this workshop we learned to "walk a mile in another's moccasins" and ways to facilitate quality customer service.

Reference Librarian **Jovana Susic** has begun giving an Online Health Information Class for Seniors at EB Regional. Here you can learn how to find health topics on NIH Senior Health website, and find answers to health questions of personal interest. To sign up for this one-time, two-hour class, go to <http://www.jefferson.lib.la.us> and click on Computer Classes.



The Department of Telecommunications' new Telephone Technician John Bowes

Sewerage

By
Bobbie Fose

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Gustave and Ike, our Director, **Brett Todd**, wrote a letter to the Department of Sewerage Employees which I would like to share with you. The letter reads: *“I commend each of you for the hard work and dedication put forth before, during, and after Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. I am proud of the work performed by our department during both storm events. Thank you for your teamwork and the incredible effort that was put forth in bringing our public sewer system and the department back on line after both storms. Once again, thank you for being a part of the Department of Sewerage team. I appreciate your hard work, dedication, and service to the citizens of Jefferson Parish. Keep up the good work! That being said, let us hope and pray that we are spared any more hurricanes. It seems we have truly had our share and then some.”*

On a lighter note, we want to congratulate **Joy Armstrong**, Executive Assistant in the Department of Sewerage on her retirement December 19, 2008. Joy has worked 35 years and 4 months for Jefferson Parish. She has contributed her knowledge and expertise to each job she has held. Joy will indeed be missed. When asked how she plans to spend her retirement, Joy replied that she will be joining family members in world travel, meeting with her “Red Hat Ladies” and of course, she said she is always available for lunch! We wish you a long and happy retirement, Joy.

Also in the month of Decem-

ber, **Ron Bordelon** will be retiring with 25 years and five months with the Department of Sewerage.



Ron Bordelon

Ron, your dedication and service to Jefferson Parish will be missed. We understand that you will not be missing us nearly as much as you will be enjoying your love of fishing and hunting. We also wish you a long and happy retirement, Ron.

Manuel Vergara is retiring after 11 years and 8 months of service as a Trades Helper with the Department of Sewerage. **Luis Vergara** says his father will be spending his retirement in well-deserved rest and relaxa-

tion. He will also be visiting family in Peru. Thank you, Manuel, for your years of dedication and service to the Parish.

Service pins were awarded to our employees with five, ten, and fifteen years of service with Jefferson Parish. A five-year service pin was awarded to **Khoi Q. Nguyen**. 10 year service pins were awarded to **Gary Alexis, Shane Camardelle, Garland Davis, Leo Williams** and **Wayne Marceline, Sr.** Fifteen year service pins were awarded to **Patricia Johnson** and **Darnell Jones**. Thanks to all of you for your years of service to Jefferson Parish.



Manuel Vergara (Center) is congratulated by his proud son, Superintendent Luis Vergara, and Director Brett Todd



Sewerage Assistant Director Mike Stamps and Director Brett Todd with retiring Executive Assistant Joy Armstrong

Transit Administration

By
Patricia Lyons

Editor's note: In this issue we welcome Tranist and Reporter Patricia Lyons to our En Realité family and look forward to more news from their department.

Senior Expo

Debra Duker and **Patricia Lyons** attended the Senior Citizens' Expo on October 22, 2008 which was held at the Alario Center. The participants were very inquisitive as Debbie and Patricia explained the different routes. They distributed maps, schedules, magnets, fare pouches, and candy to the participants from the Transit Administration Booth.

Both enjoyed talking to the participants. The Expo was a rewarding experience for them.

Tour De Jefferson

Patricia Lyons attended the Tour de Jefferson bike event on November 2, 2008, which was held at Bay Segnette State Park. One of the Jefferson Transit buses

with the bike rack was on display. Cyclists were able to get permits to ride their bikes on the front of the bus. Permits were issued along with pens and key chains.

JeT Service

Jefferson Transit added service for Kenner Local on November 16, 2008.

MITS

As of November 1, Jefferson Parish Mobility Impaired Transportation Service (MITS) is operated by Veolia Transportation. MITS will be housed at Jefferson Parish Transit Administration Department's Eastbank facility located at 118 David Drive, Metairie 70003.

Taxicab

Taxicab is a part of the Transit Department. It is housed at our Eastbank facility located at 118 David Drive, Metairie.

Finance Authority

By
Sheila Rodrigue

NEW BOND ISSUE

The Jefferson Parish Finance Authority has a new bond issue for low interest home loans with down payment and closing costs assistance available for qualified applicants who are purchasing a home in Jefferson Parish. The mortgage rate for this program is 6.75% and has 4% down payment and closing costs assistance. The maximum income for a family of one or two is \$71,760 and for a family of three or more the maximum income is \$83,720. The maximum acquisition cost of a house cannot exceed \$316,250.

The loan can be used to either purchase a new or previously occupied home. All mortgage loans must be originated on or before May 11, 2009. If you would like to use the loan to purchase a new home which is under construction, do not delay in contacting one of our participating lenders. The deadline to reserve money for new construction is January 11, 2009.

The Jefferson Parish Finance Authority also has a loan program for rehabilitating a home. This program can be used to repair a home you already own, or it can be used to buy a home that needs repairs. The 203(k) Rehab Program has the same maximum incomes and maximum acquisition cost as listed above. These mortgage loans also must be originated on or before May 11, 2009.

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



Cyclist Robert Myers, bus driver Cerina Spencer, and Transit Administration's Patricia Lyons, enjoying the "Tour De Jefferson"

Citizens' Affairs

By
Joanna M. Lee

It's Good To Be Back!!

September was a very active month for all of us with Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. As most of us evacuated, our department's essential personnel set up in Baton Rouge in order to assist our callers and keep them informed. We returned home and continued our essential duties here at Yenni with the assistance of countless National Guardsmen around the clock. Also, the staff at Olive Garden Restaurant was so pleased and appreciative of our assistance that they personally delivered a complete lunch, which included pastas, salads, soups, and desserts that lasted for the entire week with condiments and flatware, accompanied by smiles and sincere thanks.

After Hurricane Ike, we were very busy assisting returning evacuees with lost luggage, taking information from residents whose

houses sustained structural damages for statistical purposes, other calls regarding problems caused by winds from Ike, as well as other information and referrals needed.

Senior Expo 2008

"The event was a huge success" says **Wayne Ory**, Senior Services Coordinator, who is happy to announce that over 3,100 senior citizens, volunteers, and sponsors attended the Expo. Wayne states that over 2,988 senior citizens were fed, which does not include the volunteers and sponsors. Mr. Ory was informed that day by most of the sponsors and by others through e-mails that they will participate next year. It is understood that this was the largest number of people at a senior expo on the West Bank. Mr. Ory states that he was also informed by a sponsor from Baton Rouge that the Jefferson Parish Senior Citizens Expo could be the largest in the Southern Region, and he also

says that there were over 132 vendors and very few complaints. Everyone enjoyed the lunch and, of course, the cake. Wayne wants to thank **Darryl Ward** and **Karen Wood** for their support and, of course, the major Jefferson Parish hospitals. Also, I thank **Mary Nelson**, my coordinating assistant for her continuous support. I am already planning for next year's 2009 Senior Citizens' Expo!! Thanks again to everyone!!



Commemoration for Harry Lee

On Wednesday, October 1, 2008, Jefferson Parish celebrated the unveiling of Harry Lee's statue at Veteran's Square, which marked the one year anniversary of his death. The weather held up beautifully, and we had a very good turnout. Present at this memorable event were dignitaries, honorees, and several speakers, including Mrs. Harry Lee, her daughter Cynthia Lee-Sheng, Sheriff Newell Normand, Parish President Aaron Broussard, as well as other distinguished speakers. Thanks to all Parish employees who made this ceremony a success.



Mary Nelson and Wayne Ory at the Senior Expo

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Congratulations to **Bobby Floyd**, Assistant Center Supervisor at Jefferson Playground, who was given the BGR (Bureau of Governmental Research) Excellence in Government 2008 AT&T Lifetime Achievement Award this month.

Our 2009 Spring Activity Guide, which includes activities and programs for spring, will be available in mid-December on our website at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page, and in the *Times Picayune* on Thursday, January 8. It can also be obtained at all local playgrounds and libraries the last week of December. For information about any of our programs, call the respective office (East Bank – 736-6999 or West Bank 349-5000) or e-mail jprecreation@jeffparish.net

Registration for track and soccer will be taken in January. The age determining date is March 1, 2009 (child must have attained the age of 6 on or before this date).

Congratulations and best wishes to our retirees:

- **Arthur Scott**, Equipment Operator I in WB Maintenance
- **Gary Scheffler**, Westbank Administrator
- **Barbara Scherer**, Special Program Supervisor
- **Georgia Cloy**, Administrative Management Specialist III

Congrats on the promotion . . .

- **Jay Ureta**, Area Coordinator of WB Athletics, to Administrator
- **Rodney Piglia** was promoted to Supervisor at Rose Thorne



Recreation's BGR Award winner Bobby Floyd has worked with Jefferson's youth for over 40 years

- **William Cangemi** was promoted to Typist Clerk II
- **Anthony Corpora**, promoted to Equipment Operator III
- **David Swilley** is now a Foreman I
- **Joe Winn** is now Asst. Center Supervisor at Cleary
- **Ashley Harvey**, promoted to Asst. Center Supervisor at the Softball Complex
- **Ethan Landry**, Asst. Center Supervisor – On Call at Pontiff to Asst. Center Supervisor
- Mike Novack** – ½ Asst. Center Supervisor at Avondale to Asst. Center Supervisor at Terrytown

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH . . .

June 2008

Anthony Guidry, Foreman II in WB Maintenance

Justin Mayeux, Maintenance Repairman – EB Maintenance

July 2008

Paul Burke, ½ Asst. Recreation Center Supervisor – Waggaman Playground

Kathy Creuder, Groundskeeper – Waggaman

Mike Krajcer – ½ Asst. Center

Supervisor – Pontiff Playground
August 2008

Dariyan Griffin, Asst. Center Supervisor, Johnny Jacobs Playground

September 2008

J R Prowell, Groundskeeper – PARD Playground

Denise Schaeffer, Asst. Center Supervisor – Rose Thorne

October 2008

David Frazier, Maintenance Repairman in WB Maintenance

Congratulations to **Anthony Guidry**, Foreman II in West Bank Maintenance, who was selected as the 2008 Parks and Recreation West Bank Employee of the Year.

Best Wishes to **Rebecca Firmin** (WB Maintenance) and **Anthony Corpora** (EB Maintenance) upon their marriage on November 22.

Barry McGuinness, WB Zone Manager, is now the proud father of a baby girl named Catherine. **Rodney Piglia**, Center Supervisor at Rose Thorne, is also the proud father of a baby girl named Alexis.

Water

By
Kathy Theriot

The Water Department had several employees retire this year as listed below. These hard-working, loyal employees served our department and Jefferson Parish well for many years, and they have earned their retirement. Congratulations to each and every one of them

- **Samuel Carter**, of EB Billing, retired in late November 2007 with 24 years of service.
- **Dennis Boudreaux**, of the WB Plant, retired in May with 34 years of service.
- **Mike Clark**, of WB Billing, retired October 17, 2008, with 30 years of service.
- **Robert Grant**, of the Water Lab, retired October 3, 2008, after 33 years of service.
- **Alton Hawkins**, of the West Bank Warehouse, retired on

The Water Department encourages everyone to "EAT GREEN":

Our very first Salad Day Sale for the benefit of the



Sameul Carter (center) is congratulated upon his retirement after 24 years of service by Water's Assistant Director Bob Dale and Service Inspector Supervisor Gary Centanni

June 23, 2008, with 22 years of service;

- **John Kleyle**, EB Outside Maintenance, retired with 22 years of service.

Heart Fund was a whopping success. We sold approximately 100 salads, some made by our very own Water Department employees. We added a bit of flair by naming our salads after famous celebrities. It was lots of fun and created lots of attention which promoted our sales.

Many thanks to our contributors, LaMadeleine, Sophisticated Salads, and Zea's for their wonderful salads.

Thanks to the following employees for their hard work in making our day a success: **Randy Arnold, Patricia Boudreaux, Gary Centanni, Donna Guidroz, Gennie Hebert, Tracy Johnson, Mary St.Pierre, and Kathy Theriot.**

Employees at our West Bank Billing Office, Water Lab and East Bank Outside Maintenance also contributed to our overall success. Keep up the good work guys!!!!



Superintendent Doug Pertuit (right) congratulates Dennis Boudreaux for 34 years of service

Human Resources

By
Greg Alexander

Happy Honeymoon!

Congratulations to HR Manager **Mary Jo Badeaux**, who became **Mrs. Mary Jo Arce-ment** when she married Mr. Jonnie Arcement in Thibodaux on November 22.

Safety Training Success

Safety Officer **Gregory Reynolds** wants to congratulate West Bank Recreation's **Myron Mitchell** for acquiring his Commercial Driver's License. Myron successfully completed Gregory's CDL Prep class recently and got his license earlier this year. To inquire about the class, call Gregory at 736-6421.



West Bank Recreation's Myron Mitchell displays his new CDL license alongside Safety Officer and CDL Instructor Gregory Reynolds.

In August Safety Officer **Millie Brady** conducted a Head Start Safety Seminar at the Lafitte Head Start Center. Employees from three Head Start Centers—Lafitte, Grand Isle, and Barataria—attended Millie's program.



Mary Jo Badeaux cuts the congratulatory cake presented to her by HR staff a few days before her wedding

Soup Day Hits the Spot Again

Human Resources is proud to announce that we raised over \$500 for the American Heart Association through our "Soup Day" fund-raiser. Coordinator **Nolan Guidry** thanks employees of HR and General Services for helping to make the October 16 event another solid success. Look for another Soup Day in '09.

Professional Development Never Ends for HR!

Executive Assistant **Nicole Thompson**, Training Administrator **Nancy Rodriguez**, and Training Specialist **Greg Alexander** recently completed a 10-week Human Resources certification prep course at UNO's Metropolitan College. The course covered a wide variety of HR topics, such as benefits, employee and labor relations, and strategic management.



The ladies of the Lafitte, Barataria, and Grand Isle Head Start Centers appreciated Millie Brady's safety seminar

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

We at Environmental hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving potluck luncheon that everyone enjoyed.

Environmental welcomes **Radzell Rosales**, our new student worker, to the family. Radzell is currently a senior at Grace King High School.

Congratulations to our very own **Joana Chambers**, who on September 19 welcomed a baby girl, Naomi, into this world. Congratulations to the new mom!

Environmental Affairs would like to thank all those who participated in the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event held on October 25 at the Yenni Building. It was a great success.

We would also like to thank everyone who participated in the Recycling Drop-off Days held on August 23, September 20, October 18, and November 22. Thanks to

all who volunteered to help with our recycling events.

Our next Recycling Drop-off Day for Parish residents will be on December 20 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. East Bank residents may drop off their recyclables in the parking lot of the Yenni Building in Elmwood. West Bankers may drop-off their recyclables in the parking lot of the Alario Center in Westwego. We hope to see you there.

Once again, Environmental took part in the annual Senior Citizen EXPO held on October 22, at the Alario Center in Westwego. **Inga Dupre** handed out candy and provided seniors with information on mosquito control, recycling, and garbage collection. She also answered questions from seniors about all things Environmental. All who attended had a fun time.

Finally, the staff of Environmental Affairs would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will see you next year.

General Services

By
Revy Antoine & Jill Relick

A lot is happening at General Services. So let's get started. First, Congratulate the following employees on their Promotions: **Randy Carmardelle** is our new Facilities Maintenance Superintendent, formerly Assistant Facilities Maintenance; **Shayne Perez** is now Assistant Facilities Maintenance Superintendent, formerly Engineer III; **Ryan Babcock** is our new Engineer III, formerly our HVAC specialist; and **Aleen Bernard** was promoted to a Engineer I, formerly a laborer.

We would like to welcome **Scott Baracco** from Inspection and Code Enforcement. He is our new Assistant Property Manager in the Joseph S Yenni Building. Also welcome to **Kenneth Burst**, our new Engineer I. **Rickel Spiller** joins our Central Printing office.

Congratulations to **Don Barrios** (yes, that's "Don the Plumber") for 10 years of service. And congratulations to **Darnell Ellis** and her family. A new grandson has arrived.

Announcing a special invitation from Director **Anthony Francis** to view our newly renovated Media Room on the second floor of the Yenni Building. **Kurt Chiasson** and **Wayne Kleinpeter** are responsible for the custom-made oak molding and the solid oak veneer paneling. Their signature sanding, staining, and varnishing can be seen in many other JP offices. For an appointment to view or reserve "The Media Room," contact Property Mgr.



The staff of Environmental Affairs enjoys their Thanksgiving pot-luck luncheon

Michael Fonseca in Ste 509 in the Yenni Building.

Simon Says: THANK YOU in puppy language to our EB Animal Shelter and **Gary Daigrepoint**, Simon's owner. Gary is our Stationary Engineer II, therefore an essential employee. During Gustav, Simon was under the shelter's care during the many hours Gary worked @ the Joseph S Yenni Bldg



Gary Daigrepoint with Simon

The Yenni Building Registrar of Voters has a different look this Historic Year. **Tommy O'Neill** ensured their newly enlarged office met all the electrical code requirements. **Jerry Durant** and **Ray Craig** designed the new closet, and **John Stortz** painted the entire addition. We call him Van Gogh now.

Thank you, Ben Strange, for your efforts to duplicate the infamous Nolan Guidry Seafood Soup in his wordly travel absence. Human Resources and General Services combined their culinary expertise to have a successful third annual Soup Day Fund Raiser for the Heart Association. FYI, **Mike Defourneaux** guarantees we won't run out of the turtle soup next year.

This year's GS Heart Walk Tribute function was held at

Audubon Park in tribute to our fellow employees and family who are now heart healthy and those less fortunate. Special heart-healthy foods were enjoyed along with the traditional heart-healthy exercise--touch football in the park. Ryan Babcock should open a Jambalaya Restaurant. He could quit his day job. We know this will never happen. We'll just wait for our departmental events to enjoy his homemade Babcock Jambalaya.

Senior Expo '08

General Services is very happy to be a part of the Citizens Affairs Senior Expo each year. The Alario Center was the location of the '08 festive event. The guests were able to win energy efficient light bulbs and seasonal treats by "Spinning the **RA-CHEL** Wheel". We'll see you next year, Mr Wayne Ory and Mary Berry Nelson. Thank you for the wonderful opening ceremony and catered lunch.

United Way

Best of luck to **Shanna Parria** with her coordination of our General Services Department United Way campaign "Living United."



General Services' United Way Coordinator Shanna Parria

Streets

By
Sheena Quinn

Congrats, Farewells, and Condolences

Lately, there have been some rather noticeable changes that have been made to the Streets Department. A few new friendly faces have been added to the Streets family, and of course a few deserving employees received promotions after proving their dedication, drive, and hard work to the Parish.

Well-deserved promotions went to **Kenneth Lemieux** to the position of Superintendent II after four years with the Parish as Superintendent I. Also, **Juanara Jordan** is now a Typist Clerk III in Employee Services. They've really proven their worth and we appreciate all of their hard work.



WB Streets' new Superintendent II
Kenneth Lemieux

Among the new hires are **Crystal Clofer** to West Bank Streets-Administration and also the addition of three new COE workers- **Quinisha Cockheran**, **Nakia Brown**, and **Chuckaria Evans**. They truly are great assets to the department.

We've also experienced the loss of a few employees that made a huge impact over the many

years they were here. **Charlie Zwiefel** retired August 1 after an amazing 32 years with Jefferson Parish. Also retiring in the past few months included **Arthur Thomas** with 20 years and **Sterling Foster** after 30 years. Their retirement parties were thrown at Belle Terre Playground, where they were presented their plaques from Director **Randy Nicholson** and Road Maintenance Supervisor **Rodney Lyons**.

Another bittersweet loss we experienced was the departure of **Denise Stine**, but it was a farewell



30-year retiree Sterling Foster (center) and his wife Maxine are congratulated by Superintendents Kenneth Lemieux and Rodney Lyons and Director Randy Nicholson



Arthur Thomas (center) with Superintendent Daniel Williams and Director Nicholson

that we were proud to endure. She was promoted to Typist Clerk III in East Bank Code Enforcement.

We'd like to send out our condolences to those that have lost beloved friends and family members these past few months. Among those that have suffered a great loss are

Sheila Clinton who recently lost her mother; **Nastasha Dorsey** and **Henry Austin** who both lost their fathers; and lastly **Rosell Taylor**, who lost her brother and sister. They will be greatly missed.

Departmental Achievements, Events, and Fundraisers

The Streets Department has gladly put on many events and fundraisers to help out the community and to show appreciation to the employees that keep the department running smoothly.

October was the busiest month of them all. The Senior Expo was held in October at the Alario Center. Senior citizens were able to play Plinko at the booth and receive prizes. Representatives from our department were there to assist the senior citizens with any complaints they may have regarding streets.

Those that volunteered to help

Swinging Into Action



Superintendent Perry Hobson (at left holding chainsaw) and his EB Streets crew were clearing debris in Metairie only hours after the passing of Hurricane Gustav

were **Denise Chavers** and **Sheila Clinton** of East Bank Streets and **Marie Ricks** of West Bank Streets-Maintenance. On October 11, **Rose Lanansa** and **Andrea Williams** managed to raise \$166 for the Breast Cancer Crusaders Walk on Lake Shore Drive.

Our Halloween Heart Association Fundraiser was a big hit, raising over \$157 which brought the total of donations from Streets and Parkways this year to a staggering \$656.65—all thanks to **Sharon Cline** and her commitment to the association. They are truly blessed to have you in their corner.

“We would like to say thanks to Mr. Frank Bailey for all his help in our charitable endeavors. Mr. Bailey has assisted in almost all the West Bank Streets’ Fund Raisers,” says **Rose Lanansa**, West Bank Streets-Maintenance.

During Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, both Streets and Parkways departments went above and be-

yond the call of duty to make all areas of Jefferson Parish accessible and livable for residents even if it meant very long days that seemed to go on forever. We appreciate all of the laborers and superintendents that stayed behind during the storm to make sure all was well. Thanks guys.

On November 14, 2008, the annual Public Works Pin Luncheon went according to plan—even though the rain was an unexpected surprise. Many superintendents and directors were on hand to serve delicious food to all of those that keep the department running smoothly while **Ernest Grilliot** dj’d the event to make sure everyone was dancing in their chairs.

The Jefferson Parish Employee Federal Credit Union was on hand to provide applications to those that would like to open an account with them as well as a chance to take a spin in the infamous money booth.

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Director **Anatola B. Thompson** and staff members **Kim Thompson**, HOME Program Manager; **Jim Bush**, Project Coordinator; and **Liz Ruth**, Housing Improvement Counselor II, coordinated the First-Time Homebuyer Assistance Program which will start taking Preliminary Applications December 1.

The goal of the program is to help low- and moderate-income citizens to purchase an affordable home in Jefferson Parish. The program will subsidize down-payment and/or closing costs for eligible participants up to \$50,000, in conjunction with loans obtained through the Jefferson Parish Finance Authority or other qualified lenders.

Eligible participants must complete a Preliminary Application and provide supporting documentation before an in-house application will be granted. Participants include households that have not owned a home during the past three years. The annual maximum allowable household income limits are based on family size, according to HUD guidelines. For example, a family of four can earn up to \$47,850, but not more than that amount. Anticipated monthly mortgage payment may not exceed 30% of their monthly household income.

Eligible participants must take two classes: a First-Time Homebuyer Class and a Financial Fitness Class and produce a proof of attendance. Community Develop-



Everyone seems to be enjoying the annual Public Works Pin Luncheon

ment does not give these classes but can provide a list of certified class providers. JeffCAP is one of several agencies that provide the classes. Information on the First-Time Homebuyer Assistance program is available on the Internet at www.jeffparish.net under Community Development in the online Parish Departments directory. Preliminary Applications also are available at the JeffCAP Centers.

HOUSING UPDATES

Project Coordinator **Jim Bush** reports that homes of new construction are available at Beechgrove Subdivision in Westwego and Anderson Place off Ames Blvd. in Marrero. Eligible participants may receive up to \$50,000 through the First-Time Homebuyer Assistant Program.

WELCOME ABOARD!

CD welcomes **Mrs. Emann Batiste**, Housing Counselor I, who will be working with **Helen White**, Housing Rehab Program Manager, and **Dianne Washington**, Housing Improvement Counselor III.

SENIOR EXPO 2008

Director **Anatola B. Thompson**; **June Durnin**, Administrative Management Specialist III; **Sam Oliver**, Building Maintenance Supervisor; and **Sevilla Finley**, Information Specialist, staffed a booth at the 2008 Senior Expo at the Alario Center.

CD staff celebrated Thanksgiving with an office lunch that highlighted their cooking talents. Among the staff who donned their chef hats were **Ken Krey** (roasted turkey, baked ham, mashed potatoes); **Helen White** and **June Durnin** (stuffed baked chicken); **Liz Ruth** (4 casseroles - eggplant/seafood, cornbread with oysters, dirty rice, and sweet potatoes with rum and pecans); **Connie Preston** (mac & cheese, 7-Up cake); **Dianne Washington** (potato salad). These were among the many outstanding culinary contributions! **Faye Galland**, Parish Planner II; **Darnell Muhoberac**, Secretary; and **Betty Overton**, Typist Clerk II, created the table decorations with help from **Jim Bush** and **Mike Strausser**.

JeffCAP

By
Aretha Frison

RSVP Luncheon Honors Local Volunteers

The Jefferson Community Action Program, JEFFCAP, held its 28th annual RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) recognition luncheon on Sept. 18 at the Best Western Landmark Hotel in Metairie.

RSVP recruits and places people 55 years and older who are retired or semi-retired in meaningful volunteer assignments. These assignments are intended to stimulate the involvement of our seniors to touch many lives throughout Jefferson Parish. The worth of their service to the community is immeasurable.

Nancy R. Cassagne, Chief Executive Officer of West Jefferson Medical Center, was the event's primary guest speaker. Terry McCarthy, Councilman Byron Lee, and Councilman John F. Young, Jr., were among the honorable guest speakers.

Ms. Clair Joseph, Gretna Community Center, and Ms. Eliza Robinson, Dorothy B. Watson Center, both 99 years young, were awarded a certificate of merit for their dedication to RSVP.

"There are 650 volunteers who serve at hospitals, community centers, senior centers, head start centers, as well as faith based and social organizations here in Jefferson Parish," said JeffCAP Director **Nicole Ferrier**.

Ferrier said there are three volunteers who have been with the program since the beginning: Evelyn Vidacovich, Alva Reisinger, and Berchmann Fitzmorris.



Father John Talamo, WJMC's Nancy Cassagne, Executive Assistant Terry McCarthy, JeffCAP Director Nicole Ferrier, and Councilman John Young at the RSVP luncheon

JeffCAP-Head Start Health Fair Draws 250 Participants

JeffCAP held its annual Head Start Health Fair for the Head Start families and the public on Nov. 21 at Mike Miley Playground in Metairie. About 250 families attended the event. McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger King, Sam's Club, and Target donated items for the event's participants. Representatives from the Children's Museum, East Jefferson Medical Center, Jefferson Parish Ragusa Fire Department, Dental Zone, and Associated Hearing passed out informational packets, toothbrushes, and other necessities. There was a tour for the children through the ambulance; food and treats; and plenty of children bouncing and running around on the spacewalks.

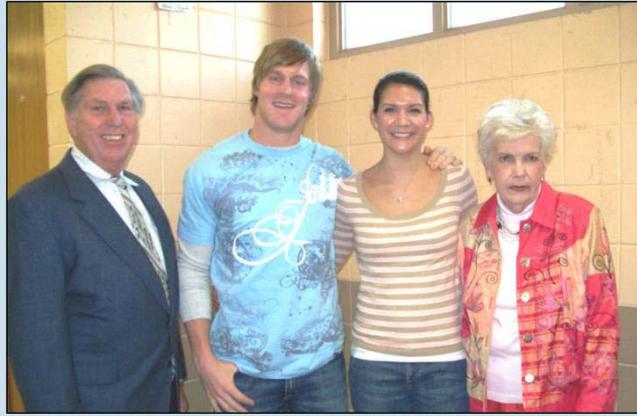


The Spacewalk at the Head Start Health Fair

JeffCAP Supports American Heart Association, Pet Fest

The JeffCAP staff, along with many Jefferson Parish employees, opened their hearts and doors by donating close to \$300 to the American Heart Association in Metairie through our Halloween Heart Brown Bag Lunch and paper hearts sales.

During the lunch sale on Oct. 31, many lunches were purchased and donations were received.



Saints player Chris Reis and his wife Michelle (center) with JeffCAP's Ed Stucke and Luisa Cazabon

Then 100 paper hearts and donations were received to fight cardiovascular disease.

JeffCAP also raffled four gift baskets and a set of movie tickets during the lunch, which were well received by Jefferson Parish employees, including **Helen White** of Community Development and **Linda Plaisance** of the Lafitte Head Start. **Byron Foret** of Capital Projects won a sports bottle full of goodies, and **Pamela Lapping** of JeffCAP won movie theater tickets.

Our Director, **Nicole Ferrier**, was one of the organizers who spearheaded the first annual Friends Pet Fest in Jefferson Parish on November 1 at Lafreniere Park. The fest raised about \$20,000 for the Animal Shelter.

Thanks, Entergy and Saints Player Chris Reis!

In November, Entergy Louisiana donated \$1,000 worth of food items to JeffCAP's Dorothy Watson Community Center and another \$1,000 worth of food items to Gretna Community Center, according to Brian Washington, customer service manager for Entergy Louisiana.

The items will help supply

the food banks at the centers for their disadvantage, low-income and shut-in residents. **Luisa Cazabon**, center supervisor at Watson, and **Dr. Clara Byes**, center supervisor at Gretna, were very pleased with their donations.

"Entergy recognizes that there are many individuals that are served through these centers that are in need of food," Washington said. "And Entergy is more than happy to contribute to this cause."

It's the second year for River Ridge residents Chris Reis of the New Orleans Saints and his wife, Michelle, to give to JeffCAP's Dorothy Watson Community Center for Thanksgiving.

"I'm thrilled that they came through again this year," said **Luisa Cazabon**, center supervisor.

"We live around this area, and we heard about the community center's needs through the Saints' facility. We saw a need, and we wanted to fulfill it," said Chris Reis. The couple donated \$2,500 worth of food and supplies for Thanksgiving baskets to give to needy families and residents.

"We just can't thank them enough for their generosity again this year," said **Ed Stucke**, Assistant Director of JeffCAP.

Drainage

By

Maria Cervini & Marilyn Slutsky

After 31 years of loyal service **Ronald Celestain**, Truck Driver I, East Bank Drainage, will retire in December.

Congratulations to the following Department of Drainage employees on their recent promotions: **Leonie Mosley**, Typist Clerk III, West Bank Drainage Administration; and **Joshua Wilson**, Trades Helper, West Bank Pump.

Welcome to our new employees: **Willie B. Bacchus, Sr.**, Laborer, East Bank Drainage; **Pamela Descant**, Typist Clerk III, East Bank Administration; **Durell D. Hawkins**, Laborer, East Bank Drainage; **Gregory Henderson, Sr.**, Truck Driver II, West Bank Drainage; **Brian D. Ladieu**, Equipment Operator IV, East Bank Drainage. And **Roger McCathern**, who had formerly worked in the Water Department,

Honey Bees Meet Worker Bees



Drainage Director Kazem Alikhani and Public Works Director José Gonzalez at the Hurricane Preparedness Expo with the "Honey Bees"

accepted a promotional position as Drainage Pump Station Operator I, West Bank Pump.

The Department of Drainage participated in the first of its kind, "Hurricane Preparedness Expo" in Jefferson Parish on Saturday, November 22 at the Alario Center. Several exhibitors handed out information on

how citizens and businesses can prepare for next year's hurricane season. Also, on Saturday at the Hurricane Expo the "Worker Bees" (Kazem and José) were surprised by a visit from the "Honey Bees" who were then given a tour of the exhibit.



Director Alikhani congratulates Equipment Operator IV Sidney Williams for 15 years of service

Patricia Rambeau, Typist Clerk III, who is our coordinator for Heart Walk, announced that the Drainage Department contributed a total of \$145.00.

We are sorry to announce the passing of **Anthony Taylor's** father in October. **Mr. Taylor** is Pump Station Operator II at Hero Pump Station.



Superintendent Joe Rivere (left) and Director Kazem Alikhani (center) congratulate Drainage's 10-year service pin award recipients: Kelvin Washington, Ann Lefort, Christopher DiBenedetto, Juana Gonzalo, and Vuong Nguyen

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Traffic Engineering sign and signal crews worked diligently after Hurricane Gustav to repair and replace signs and signals throughout Jefferson Parish. As wind and rain swept through the area, our men were out as soon as feasible for repairs, often working around the clock. With most areas without proper operational traffic signals in place, driving was a very dangerous task.

I'd like to remind everyone that if a street signal is out, treat it like an all-way stop. I'd like to thank our guys for their hard work and dedication. Everyone performed an amazing job. Many thanks to all departments and entities that helped us get back on our feet so soon after this event.

We welcome **Christopher Garton**, Sign Tech I. Chris blended in well and went straight to work right after the storm. Nothing like a crash course one day after a hurricane to get some valuable "on the job training."

We also welcome **Carl Holmes**, Sign Tech I, to Traffic Engineering. Carl is energetic, eager to learn, and always has a smile on his face. **Stephen Alfortish**, Sign Tech I, is the newest member of our Division. Stephen has a great personality, a positive attitude, and is quickly learning his new position. We expect both Carl and Stephen to be great additions to our Division.

Sign & Marking Forman **Michael A. Howell, Jr.**, has left the department after 10 successful years with Traffic Engineering.

Michael is moving on to bigger projects outside of the Parish, and we wish him the best.

Congratulations are in order for **Kenneth Lachney** on his recent promotion to Sign & Marking Foreman. Kenny has been here for more than 27 years and has worked in all areas of our division. We know Kenny will do a great job!

Chris Nelson has been promoted to Shop Carpenter. This is a multi-faceted position that requires knowledge and skill in all areas of our Division. Chris has proven to be the perfect fit for this position.

Traffic Engineering is mourning the loss of two of its employees. **Mr. Roland Henning** passed away on September 2. Mr. Henning was a Sign Technician II with 23 years of service. Through his dedication and years with the Sign and Signal Dept., he worked in every capacity that he could. Anything he was asked to do, he did with a smile. Roland was liked by all and will be missed dearly.

Francis Guidroz passed away on October 6 after a brief illness. Francis was our Shop Carpenter since 2004, but his job duties went beyond the title of Carpenter. A man of many talents, Francis began as a Sign Technician where he installed, repaired, and replaced various signs throughout the parish. He was promoted to Sign Tech II and finally to our Shop Carpenter. Frank was always trying to make the job easier for his fellow employees. We will miss Frank dearly.

And finally, best wishes are in order for **Russell Meyer**, Sign Tech II, who retired on November 21 with 25 years of service. Russell has had a wonderful career here at Traffic Engineering and has seen and been a part of many changes throughout his tenure. Russell's knowledge and expertise will be hard to replace. We'll miss his infectious laugh, his kindness, and his sense of humor. When I asked Russell what he'd miss most about leaving us, he simply said his friends. Congratulations, Russell. We'll miss you dearly.



Executive Superintendent Jane Guimbellot with Russell Meyer at his retirement party on November 21, 2008.

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branan, RN



Make Those Resolutions Count!

As we approach 2009, most of us have started thinking about our New Year's resolutions. It is a shame that very few if any resolutions make it beyond the first few days, weeks, or at best months, since the resolution must have had enough substance to it in the first place in order to have made it to the point of being considered. Why do we do this to ourselves over and over??? What can be done to make real change???

I guess it is just our human nature. We tend to be creatures of habit, and once we get into a routine, it is very difficult to break it. We may become so comfortable with the negative behavior that our conscience becomes numb to the sting of the offense and we start to accept it as normal.

Usually, it is not until we are confronted or faced with a life-altering experience that we take notice of how our lifestyle may be impacting us in a negative way and we consider making changes in our lives. The change may be based on fear, economics, logic, or change just for the sake of change. Perhaps very critical regarding making changes in our lives is the level of importance we attach to it. The higher level of

importance that we attribute to the change, the more likely we are to succeed in making the change.

Once the process has begun, it is critical to keep the momentum going. It usually takes at least thirty days for the change to become a more routine part of your lifestyle. Some tips you may find helpful to continue may include: reward yourself along the way, keep a diary of how you are progressing, recognize under what circumstances you may backslide and come up with a strategy to work around them, make several small reachable goals that will eventually lead up to the ultimate big goal, and find a support system.

Unfortunately, you may not want to share with some people what you are attempting to do, as they may, in sub-conscious ways, sabotage your plans. You know who these people are. It may be your sweet great-aunt who does not want you to deprive yourself of her thick and

gooey chocolate bars, even though everyone knows how dangerously out of control and high your blood sugar is.

Perhaps, the most successful approach to making a change has been associated with the twelve-step program for alcoholics, known as Alcoholics Anonymous. Because we do tend to fall back into our old ways, they encourage frequent meetings and calling someone immediately when feeling the urge to backslide. A list of twelve points is to be read often to remind people of what they are doing. What is great about this twelve-step approach to change is that you can remove the alcohol-related terminology and replace it with whatever it is you are trying to give up or to add into your life.

So, go ahead and come up some 2009 resolutions. Don't ever give up on becoming the person you want and know you can become. For every day that we wake up provides us with the opportunity to start anew!!



HR Director Junior Mendoza (center) congratulates Safety Officers Millie Brady and Gregory Reynolds upon their achieving ten years of Parish service

Retirements

Robert Grant
Water
33 years

Sterling Foster
Streets
33 years

Charles Zweifel
Streets
32 years

C. B. George III
Streets
31 years

Ronald Celestain
Drainage
31 years

Gary Scheffler
Recreation
30 years

Michael Clark
Water
30 years

Yolanda Everett
Citizens' Affairs
30 years

Edwin Mayo
Personnel
30 years

Russell Meyer
Traffic Engineering
25 years

Arthur Thomas
Streets
25 years

Edward Robinson
Streets
25 years

Arthur Scott, Sr
Recreation
19 years

Aubrey Champagne
Code Enforcement
19 years

Lester Penouilh
Sewerage
18 years

Richard Bourgeois
Code Enforcement
17 years

Geraldine Riley
Library
16 years

Craig Balsetra
General Services
11 years

Water Lab Bids Farewell



Water Quality Scientist Robert Grant (center) is surrounded by the admiring staff of the Water Lab upon his retirement with 33 years of Parish service