



Volume 29
Number 3
June 2008

EM Realite

Message from the Parish President. .

Preparing for Hurricane Season

With the summer fast approaching, it is once again time to focus on the serious topic of hurricane season. The time to prepare is before an approaching storm becomes a reality.

Cover All the Bases

It is important that your hurricane plans include your family, the elderly, the handicapped, and your pets. You should have an evacuation plan: Decide which direction you may be going in and make sure your destination for lodging is secured. Develop a family plan, prepare a hurricane disaster kit, and make plans to secure your home.

Consult the Parish's Web Site

If you visit our web site at www.jeffparish.net, you will find all of the pertinent information necessary to prepare for and deal with the aftermath of a hurricane hitting Jefferson Parish.

There is a section dedicated to Hurricane Preparedness, as well as the various elements of assistance that the Parish can provide, including an Evacuation Re-Entry Plan, JumpStart Jefferson Parish Re-Entry Application Plan, and Jefferson Parish Emergency Alert System Registration.

Contact information for FEMA, the American Red Cross,



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

the Salvation Army, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, and the Jefferson Parish Fire Department can also be found on our site.

You can also find missing family members' information, a next-of-kin registry, and information on the Food Stamps Program and Ambulance Service.

Dealing with hurricanes is a continual learning process. Together, we have experienced difficult times; but we have endured, and we have advanced our services to produce a better, more prepared Jefferson Parish.

Thank you for your hard work and determination in helping make Jefferson Parish the best parish in the State.

*Aaron Broussard
Parish President*



En Realité

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR

F. Mendoza, Jr.

MANAGING EDITOR

Greg Alexander

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTERS

ANIMAL SHELTER

Kay Levy

CITIZENS' AFFAIRS

Joanna Lee

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sevilla White Finley

COMMUNITY JUSTICE AGENCY

Open

DRAINAGE

Maria Cervini

EIS/MIS

Angele Alexander

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Sandra Ancar-Encalade

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Barbara Arcement

FINANCE AUTHORITY

Sheila Rodrigue

FIRE/HAZMAT

Cindy Schouest

FLEET MANAGEMENT

Diane Spencer

GENERAL SERVICES

Judy Johnson

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Greg Alexander

INSPECTION & CODE ENFORCEMENT

Linda Roy

JEFFCAP

Yvonne Dumas

JUVENILE SERVICES

Arlyn Smith

LIBRARY

Linda Molinaro

PARISH PRESIDENT

Pat Borne

PARKS & RECREATION

Gwen Styron

PARKWAYS

Chantell Prestenbach

PERSONNEL

Dana Dunlap

PLANNING

Terri Wilkinson

PURCHASING

Rosa Campos

SEWERAGE

Bobbie Fose

STREETS

Michelle Swenson

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Paul Ferrara

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

Brandy Chism & David Stout

WATER

Kathy Theriot

WORKFORCE CONNECTION

Joan Vaughn

Editor's

Notes

Financial Seminar for All Employees

I would like to take this opportunity to let you all know about *Financial Awareness*, a very important seminar that we will be hosting in June. The seminar will be open to all of our employees and will cover three topics that should be of interest to most of you:

- Social Security
- Parochial Retirement
- Deferred Compensation

Unlike our regular retirement seminars, this Financial Awareness seminar is not designed for employees who plan to be retiring in the near future. Financial and retirement planning should begin early so that we can have many years to prepare for the day when we say good-bye to work. Three speakers will be on hand with presentations in their professional areas:

Maria Alvarez has over 20 years of experience in Social Security. She is the Social Security Administration's Public Affairs Specialist for the New Orleans area. Maria has taken part in our retirement seminars and is well aware of the interests and concerns of our employees with regard to Social Security. Among Maria's topics will be how Social Security is affected by a government pension.

Peggy Thomassie will be on hand to educate our employees



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

about the Parochial Retirement system, which most of us belong to. Peggy will discuss retirement eligibility, how to transfer service from other retirement systems, how Leave Without Pay affects retirement, leave accumulations, and other points of interest to our employees. Peggy will make sure to save time for questions.

Concluding the seminar will be Mikaela Ford, our deferred compensation representative from Nationwide Retirement Solutions. Mikaela will be explaining how our 457 plan works and how important it is to have something to supplement our retirement income.

The seminar will take place on Thursday morning, June 19, at East Bank Regional Library on West Napoleon Ave. We will begin promptly at 8:30 and conclude at noon. Let your manager know if you would like to attend, and send your registration to the Training Division of HR—Suite 517 of the Yenni Building.

I hope many of you will take advantage of this opportunity and start NOW to plan for your financial future.

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branan, RN

A Success Story

I recently met with one of our employees to discuss how he dramatically turned his life around. I hope you, too, will be inspired by his story.

Derrick Harris, a twenty-four-year-old laborer with the Sewerage Department, just celebrated his two-year anniversary with the Parish in February. When he was hired, little did he know how dramatically his life would change.

Derrick really has his act together! Anyone who has been around him will tell you that he is blessed with a perpetual smile and a winning personality. Having a good work ethic, Derrick was determined to obtain a CDL (Commercial Driver's License), which would provide more opportunities for advancement.

Like so many young people today, Derrick's lifestyle was lacking in exercise, and he tended to indulge in unhealthy foods. As a result, the pounds started to add up. By the time he turned twenty-two, Derrick weighed 244 pounds at a height of 5'10". But life was good, so why make any changes?

The first time Derrick realized that his lifestyle may be harmful was 2006, when HR's Benefits Division hosted a health fair for employees. Derrick attended the fair and was told that his blood pressure was high and that he needed to see his doctor. A week later he began having dizziness and blurred vision, so he sought medical attention. The doctor advised him that his blood pressure was dangerously high and that he needed to lose weight and take blood pressure medication.

It was also around this time that he began working on his CDL. The CDL is required for individuals who drive commercial vehicles like buses, 18-wheelers, dump trucks, etc. Obtaining a CDL involves taking a physical. Obviously, people who drive these vehicles should be healthy. Well, Derrick was not able to pass the physical due to his high blood pressure.

Derrick became a man on a mission. Taking medications to control his blood pressure was not good enough for him; he also wanted to lose weight! His new no-nonsense approach to eating included avoiding fried foods, butter, and sweets and reducing his salt intake. He actually grew to enjoy baked chicken, salads, and mixed vegetables.

Before long, the pounds started to come off. But that wasn't the only change Derrick noticed. He had a lot more energy, which helped him to interact more with his son. His breathing was easier and much more relaxed. The temptation to eat unhealthy foods eased over

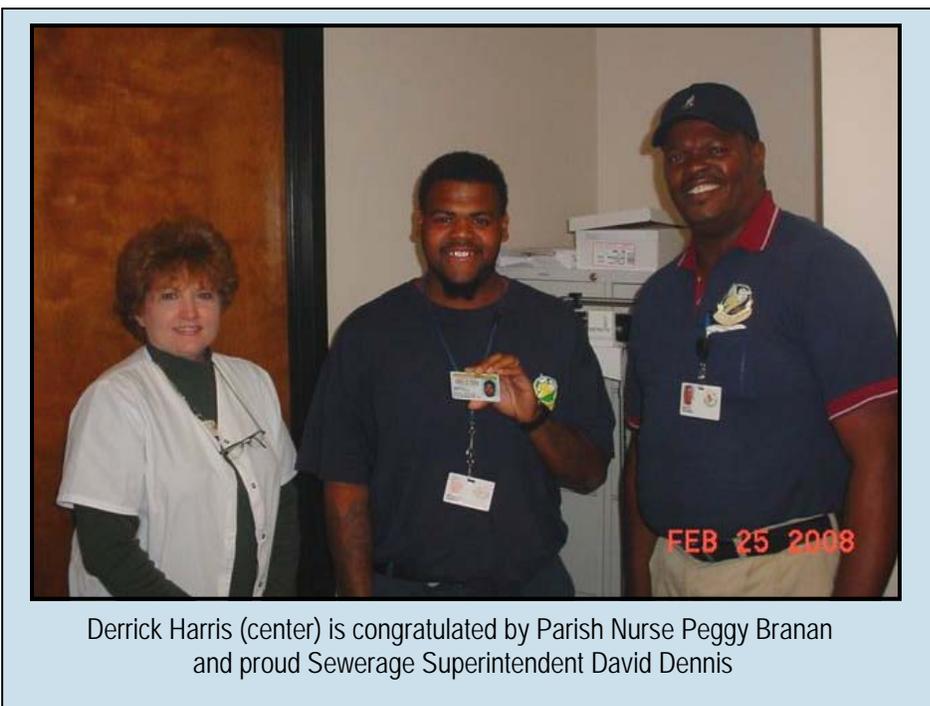
time. But perhaps most important was the way it impacted his general state of mind: Derrick has now become a more positive person in general and wants to do what is right and best in all areas of his life.

Such sweet success did not come without a downside. Some people teased him about losing weight. But that was OK because he had the last laugh whenever he got on a scale, eventually weighing in at a healthier 193 pounds.

So, what does the future hold for Derrick? As soon as his CDL paperwork is completed and the certificate is issued to him, he will be eligible to apply for a promotion. He looks forward to continuing his healthy lifestyle, doing some weight lifting, and having a bright future with the Parish!

Derrick, we are proud of what you have accomplished! Our best wishes for your continued success! Congratulations on behalf of everyone from Jefferson Parish!

If you too would like to start making healthier life-style choices and need assistance, please contact me at 736-6558.



Derrick Harris (center) is congratulated by Parish Nurse Peggy Branan and proud Sewerage Superintendent David Dennis

West Bank Recreation Safety Awards Banquet

On Friday, April 25, WB Parks & Recreation hosted its eighth annual awards banquet for those WB playground employees who went one year without a major safety infraction, injury, or accident. Recreation's West Bank Administrative Staff organized the event, which recognized the outstanding safety achievement of employees representing nine WB facilities:

Belle Terre, PARD, ML King, Johnny Jacobs, Avondale, Kennedy Heights, Nicholson, Terrytown, and Bridge City.

Special Awards were presented to **Frank Musacchia**, Maintenance Supervisor—Buildings; and **Sue Amor**, Center Supervisor at King's Grant. Frank implemented an innovative, inexpensive way to replace broken or missing end caps on bleachers. Sue saw the need for a Stop sign at the entrance to her park due to a blind



spot in her driveway and worked to see that it was installed, avoiding possible accident or injury.

Safety Officers **Millie Brady** and **Gregory Reynolds** were on hand to thank everyone for their

contributions to the safety of the Parish. After the awards presentation, everyone enjoyed a marvelous fish fry. Every employee in attendance also received a nice prize, such as a gift certificate, ice chest, LSU or Hornets shirts, etc.



Recreation Administrator Gary Scheffler and Safety Officers Millie Brady and Gregory Reynolds congratulate Sue Amor (left photo) and Frank Musacchia (right) for their contributions to the safety of employees and the public at WB Recreation's Safety Awards Banquet

Administrative Professionals Day 2008

The 24th annual Jefferson Parish Administrative Professionals Day took place on Thursday, April 24. The event was celebrated by a luncheon at the Rose Garden in Harahan.

Over 200 Parish employees and their managers attended and enjoyed bacon-wrapped chopped

sirloin, Creole jambalaya, eggplant Creole, and bread pudding with pecan sauce.

Human Resources Director **Junior Mendoza** welcomed all in attendance with introductory remarks, after which **President Aaron Broussard** thanked all of the Parish's administrative pro-

fessionals for their tireless contributions to the Parish. **Judge James Cannella** gave the invocation.

Everyone who enjoyed the event owes thanks to HR's Executive Assistant **Nicole Thompson**, who served as the event's coordinator.



Telecommunications

By
Paul Ferrara

Retirement:

Congratulations go out to Telecommunications Supervisor **Lou Moyer**. Lou had been with the Parish since 1995 and retired on April 11. (We miss you already!) Lou is enjoying the good life now with a “Honey Do This” and “Honey Do That” thrown in for good measure. No more excuses, Lou!

National Telecommunications Week: April 13-19, 2008

Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services. Jefferson Parish, along with 911 Centers across the nation, will be honoring their personnel for their dedication to serving the public.

The Telecommunications Department, along with Jefferson Parish 9-1-1 law enforce-



Telecommunications Director Jo Ann Becnel congratulates Lou Moyer upon his retirement

ment and fire and emergency medical service personnel, celebrated National Telecommunicators' Week (April 13-19) by enjoying a lunch of hot dogs, Paul's Famous Chili, and potato salad. Naturally it was rounded off with cake for dessert. Of course as usual, everyone wants Paul's excellent chili recipe!!!!

New Facility:

Our new combined 9-1-1 and Emergency Operations Center facility project is off and running. Construction bids have been advertised, and bid openings are scheduled for May 20. We can't wait to get the ball rolling on that project!

Regarding Rebanding:

As a result of the FCC Mandated Rebanding Project, the Radio Shop, assisted by Tomba Communications, will need to reprogram all Parish radios once again later this year. A comprehensive radio inventory will be required from each department in advance of the reprogramming. Every radio serial number and Parish property tag number must be verified by your departmental personnel. In order to accomplish these projects, we'll need the full cooperation of all departments. It's a big job, but it is sure to be a big improvement for all.



Telecommunications celebrates National Telecommunicators' Week with a hot dog luncheon

Finance Authority

By
Sheila Rodrigue

Since this is our first column in *En Realité*, let me tell you about our department. The Jefferson Parish Finance Authority was known as the Home Mortgage Authority before Katrina.

What Do We Do? The Finance Authority has low-interest home loans with down payment and closing cost assistance available for qualified applicants who are purchasing a home in Jefferson Parish. The mortgage rate for our current program is 6.36% and has 4% down payment and closing cost 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.

We also have a loan program for rehabilitating a home. This program can be used to repair a home you already own or to buy a home that needs repairs. The 203 (k) Rehab Program has the same maximum incomes and maximum acquisition cost as listed above.

If you are interested in getting additional and more detailed information about either of our programs, including a list of participating lenders, please call us at 736-6311. We'll be delighted to talk to you about our programs.

WELCOME!

Welcome to **Rae Ann Borne**, who transferred at the end of April from the Animal Shelter into our department as a Typist Clerk III. Rae Ann has worked with the Parish for 21 years, and we look forward to working with her.

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Congratulations to the following employees for their promotions:

Angelo Barrera, Signal Tech II;
James Vasquez, Sign Tech II;
Michael Ricks, Sign Tech II.

A warm welcome to Typist Clerk II **Kay Levy**. Kay comes to us courtesy of the Animal Shelter. We're very happy to have Kay with us.

Service Pins were awarded to **Chris Nelson**, Sign Tech II - 5 years; and **Delmas Bosarge**, Traffic Engineer - 15 years

Our condolences to **Scott Bairnsfather** on the loss of his grandfather. Our prayers are with you and your family.

Administrative Assistant **Carole Leteff** retired on April 3 with 26 years of service. We wish Carole good health, good fortune, and many happy years of retirement. Replacing Ms. Leteff is **Brandy Chism**, from Public Works Engineering. She is doing a wonderful job filling Carole's shoes.

Signal Improvements:

We recently started the upgrade of the traffic signal at the intersection of Transcontinental & W. Esplanade. It will be well worth the inconvenience during the construction process. The upgrade will include all new wiring, which is much needed; a new control cabinet; and removal of the "old" span wire system to install mast arms.

We have also started a project to add a westbound right turn lane to Veterans at the Lakeside Shopping Center Driveway. This should alleviate some of the congestion between Severn and Causeway on Veterans.

Marking Improvements:

Recently, the following streets have been brightened up with new roadway markings:

- Wall Blvd. from Belle Chasse Hwy. to Lapalco Blvd.
- Stumpf Blvd. from Whitney Ave. to Holmes Blvd.
- Carol Sue Ave. From Whitney Ave. to Terry Pkwy.
- Severn Ave. from the North Service Rd. to 4th St.



Traffic Engineering's retired Administrative Assistant Carole Leteff

Workforce Connection

By
Joan Vaughn

Workforce Connection welcomes several new employees to the Career Solution Center. **Carl B. Jenkins** represents the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program for the East Bank, and **Ingle Everett** represents the same program for the West Bank.



Ingle Everett

Nedra Tate is our new Typist Clerk III for the West Bank. **Keziah Lee** is the Community Development Block Grant Specialist, and **David Anderson** is a Youth Manager. Both were hired through Goodwill Industries working with Career Solutions on the West Bank.



Nedra Tate

All new employees are welcomed to WC. Their contributions are a great asset to the Solution Center and others.

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

Congratulations to Environmental Affairs Employee of the Year for 2007, Environmental Quality Specialist **Randy Majoria**. Randy started with Environmental in 1997 as an Environmental Technician 2, and was promoted to Environmental Quality Specialist in 1999. Randy is a valuable asset to our Environmental family. He always shows up to work with a smile and is always willing to lend a helping hand to others. Congratulations, Randy...job well done.

Oh how the years go by. Environmental Affairs would like to congratulate **Scott Finney** on 5 years of service, and **Barbara Arcement** for 15 years of service as Jefferson Parish employees.

Environmental would like to congratulate all of the winners of the 9th annual Non-point Source Storm Water Pollution and Solutions Poster/Essay Contest. The

winners were announced at an Awards Banquet held on April 16, 2008 at the East Bank Regional Library. This annual contest is open to students in all Jefferson Parish public, private, and parochial schools. Grades 3 through 6 participate in a poster contest, and grades 7 through 8 participate in an essay contest, depicting a potential solution to at least one source of non-point source pollution. Professors from local universities and environmental professionals judge the contest entries. The Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs and the cities of Gretna, Harahan, Kenner, and Westwego co-sponsor the contest. The contest was developed to raise public awareness of non-point source pollution. Non-point sources, such as leakage of automotive fluids, overuse of fertilizers and pesticides, pet wastes, etc., are one of the primary causes of storm water pollution.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Recycling Drop-off Days held on April 26 and May 31. Future Recycling Drop-off Days for Parish residents



Environmental's Employee of the Year Randy Majoria with Director Marnie Winter

will be held on June 28, July 26, August 23, and September 20, 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.

Fight Mosquitoes

It's mosquito time again, so let's fight the bite. Here are some tips to keep the annoying little critters away.

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

For more information go to www.FightTheBiteLouisiana.com

Parkways

By
Chantell Prestenbach

Community Service

Parkways, Streets, and General Services have joined together with various courts in distributing 300,000 community service hours to sentenced offenders. Their offense(s) are being used to bring back something positive to a community they've wronged. The types of services they will be required to do range from litter abatement to carpentry.

Upcoming Projects

Parkways would also like to inform everyone about a few upcoming projects at Transcontinental and Veterans on the East Bank and Highway 90 and Belle Chase Highway on the West Bank.

The Veterans project will be part of Phase 2 of the Beautification Project, and the filling of the medians will be taking place on Transcontinental. On the West Bank there will be the planting of Chinese Pistachios along Belle Chase Highway from Whitney Avenue to Peters Rd. We are also beginning a large landscaping project at Highway 90 at Lapalco Boulevard.



Parkways Employee of the Year
Kevin Price

Human Resources

By
Greg Alexander

HR's Soup Day in March was again a fabulous success! We raised over \$300 for the American Cancer Society. Thanks to Soup Chefs **Cathy Leaumont**, **Nolan Guidry**, and **Nancy Rodriguez**. Also thanks to **Jill Relick** and **Randy Camardelle** of General Services for their assistance.



Nolan Guidry, Cathy Leaumont, and
Millie Brady serve up the soup

Human Resources has once again been fortunate to have a group of students from East Jefferson's Employment Exploration Program work with us this year. Training Administrator **Nancy Rodriguez** has coordinated HR's involvement with the program. The kids come to work in our office once a week and perform a variety of jobs, such as shredding, filing, folding letters, and preparing interoffice envelopes for use. Nancy wants to thank Training's Typist Clerk III **Lois Lartigue** for helping direct the kids' work.

Congratulations to our **Kathy Bourg**, whose work as Scout Master of Grace Presbyterian Church Boy Scout Troop 497 during Brooms to Basins Week was recognized at the May Council Meeting. Kathy's troop assisted in cleaning the drains at the Jefferson Playground Golden Age Center.

When the kids were asked what they learned, they replied as follows: “If the drains are blocked, the people flood. Some of the senior citizens cannot bend over to clean their drains and need help. It only takes a few minutes to clean the drains. If everyone did, the water would drain a lot faster.” The troop plans on joining the Parish in future Brooms to Basin Campaigns.



HR's Kathy Bourg (right) with Scout Troop 497 during Brooms to Basins Week

Human Resources congratulates our Executive Assistant Nicole Thompson on being named the department's Employee of the Year. Nicole has been with us for two years and with the Parish for almost ten years.



Executive Assistant Nicole Thompson, Human Resources' Employee of the Year

Code Enforcement

By
Linda Roy

Eight years ago, Code Enforcement was appointed a new director. We knew little of our new leader; some of us didn't even know what he looked like! We didn't know what we were getting ourselves into. Most of us commented, “On no, we have to train another one.”

Have you ever heard, “It's not just a job, it's an adventure”? Well, we were in for the adventure of our lives.

Enter, **Louis A. Savoye, Jr.** Louis is a man of integrity and honesty, one of Christian beliefs coupled with good morals and principles. He looks at all sides of the story, putting himself in the other guy's shoes before making a decision. He believes there is good in everyone and always hopes the good will overshadow the not so good. He has a work ethic that encompasses fairness and kindness. He is genuine.

As our director, he deliberated over decisions affecting employees' lives, seeking guidance within his faith and often tearing himself apart over where he went wrong as a leader.

He worked long hours facing many adversities, tackling issues from the Parish Administration, Council, civic organizations, employees, and the public—whatever it took to get the job done. He made many friends and few enemies.

Louis was right there in the trenches with us after Katrina in spite of his own personal traumas.

Was he perfect? Nobody is perfect. But we didn't care; he was ours.

Now, Louis, you take on a new adventure. We know you will embrace retirement with the same tenacity as you did your job. We know you will take the path that is right for you, enjoying what you do, how you do it, and the people you share your life with. We know you will always cherish the friendships you have made, sharing memories, both good and bad. We know we touched your heart just as you touched ours. We thank you. We will miss you. We will always love you!

And always remember, Keep the Fork! The Best is Yet to Come!!!

A retirement party will be held June 27, from 3-5 in Room 405 of the Yenni Bldg. Stop by and see Lou!! While you're there, welcome our new leadership, **Deborah A. Villio**. She knows she has some pretty tough shoes to fill. We have faith she will do a GREAT job in her own right. And yes, we have to train another one!



Retiring Code Enforcement Director
Louis Savoye, Jr.

General Services

By
Judy Johnson

General Services welcomes our new employees **Troy Sanchez**, **Linda Fountain**, and **Roger Brooks**. Welcome aboard.

We send our sympathy and prayers to the family of **Harold Brown**, our W.B. Engineer, who passed away recently.

Congratulations to Engineer **Vernon Pippin**, who retired in May.

And finally, special congratulations **Lionel Harris**, our department's Employee of the Year!



General Services Employee of the Year Lionel Harris (right) with Assistant Property Manager David Segura

Citizens' Affairs

By
Joanna Lee

The staff of Citizens' Affairs welcomes **Jackie Casey** as our new Typist Clerk III. Jackie started with the Parish in 1965, left, and returned 11 years ago. She comes to us from EMS, where she was Typist Clerk II.

Jackie also worked in other departments including the Parish President's Office, JeffCAP, Citizens' Affairs, and EMS, which was then a sub-department to Citizens' Affairs – so you see, she's not a stranger to the department. Welcome aboard, Jackie. We're very happy to have you!!



CA's latest addition Jackie Casey



Citizens' Affairs Employee of the Year Dorothia Halligan



The Citizens' Affairs Gang at the Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

Farewell and best wishes to Probation Officers **Ebony Allen** and **Shawn Vinnett**, who resigned.

Congratulations to Probation Officer **Allan Kagan**, who received his Master of Social Work degree on May 10, 2008.

BABY NEWS: Probation Officer **Danielle Phillips** gave birth to a baby girl, Jourdan Danielle, on April 13, weighing in at 6 lbs, 2 oz. Detention Officer **Herlin Riley, III** and his wife had a baby girl Gisele Analise, born May 21, weighing in at 8 lbs., 2 oz.

A special notice to the following dedicated employees who recently received their service pins:

Denise Gilson, 5 years;
Barbara Hamilton, 10 years
Shernell Sheppard, 10 years
Colleen George, 15 years
Calvin Thompson, 15 years

Brown-Bag Lunch Time Again!

Our Assistant Director **Christopher Trosclair** will once again chair the Jefferson Parish Brown Bag Lunch Campaign on July 11, 2008. The kick-off event for all department campaign managers will be June 5, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at Lafreniere Park. We look forward to it and hope that all Jefferson Parish departments participate. We also hope to top last year's contribution of over \$7,000! Thank you in advance for your support!

DJS staff participated in the March of Dimes Team "Jefferson Parish Justice" and raised a total of \$1868, which made us the "top team" for Jefferson Parish. A special thanks to Team Captain **Tion McGhee** and her co-captains **Korie Fortenberry**, **Monique Willis**, **Ann Breaux-Huffman**, **Trenise Smith**, and **Rhonda Billiot**, who worked hard for this worthy cause. And the department had fun while doing it!



Members of Team Jefferson Parish Justice at the March of Dimes Walk

Emergency Management

By
Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade

2008 Hurricane Names

The 2008 hurricane season is June 1 – November 30 and we are expecting an above-average season. The 2008 named hurricanes are:

Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gustav, Hanna, Ike, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paloma, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, and Wilfred.

Hurricane Categories

Category 1 – Winds ranging between 74-95 mph; storm surge estimates of 4-5 feet; coastal road flooding with above normal water levels; secured buildings should see no legitimate structural damage, with only mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees at genuine risk.

Category 2 – Winds ranging between 96-110 mph; storm surge estimates of 6-8 feet; considerable damage to trees and shrubbery along with mobile homes; roof, door and window damage to buildings; low-lying escape routes estimated to flood 2-4 hours before the eye of the storm approaches.

Category 3 – Winds ranging between 111-130 mph; storm surge estimates are 9-12 feet above normal levels; mobile homes are most likely destroyed with small residences and utility buildings experiencing damage; low-lying escape routes estimated to flood up to 5 hours

before the eye of the storm approaches.

Category 4 – Winds ranging between 131-155 mph; storm surge estimates are 13-18 feet above normal levels; major damage to lower floors of buildings near water or low-lying areas.

Category 5 – Winds greater than 155 mph; storm surge estimates are 18 feet or higher; catastrophic damage to most residences and industrial buildings; lower-floor flooding to structures.

Have a Plan

Emergency planning should not only include hurricanes, but all-hazards; i.e., severe thunderstorms, natural disasters, problems at a local power plant, or a terrorist attack. Knowing you are prepared for an emergency can help you and your family stay calm and act effectively. Prepare a communication plan to contact each other during an emergency. Put together an emergency kit. Protect your important family documents from fire, flood, and other natural disasters as you may need them during or after an emergency. Make an evacuation plan.

Make safety a way of life by regularly reviewing and practicing your emergency plans and staying informed and alert, especially during this hurricane season. Preparation isn't about fear; it's about being ready. And that can be reassuring.

Sewerage

By
Bobbie Fose

The American Public Works Association held its annual luncheon on May 20, 2008. One of the things that occur during the luncheon is to present Merit Awards to those public works employees who have been nominated by their respective agencies and departments and then selected by the Awards Committee of New Orleans Metropolitan American Public Works Association.



José Gonzalez

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Public Works Director **José Gonzalez** for being selected as Public Works Leader of the Year.



Sewerage Director Brett Todd with retiring Receptionist Patty Polkey

Congratulations to **Patty Polkey**, receptionist for the Department of Sewerage, on her retirement. Patty has been with Jefferson Parish for twenty-five years. She was given a big send-off party and can now plan her days as a “lady of leisure.” We’ll be thinking of you, Patty.

We would like to welcome aboard our new GIS Operator, **Shane Stradley**. We are happy to have you with us, Shane.

Jane Lennie is our coordinator for the America Heart Association. Jane is as busy as a bee getting all kinds of goodies together for this benefit. Good luck, Jane.

Later this month **Alicia Harper** and **Bobbie Fose** will be organizing the Brown Bag Lunch Campaign for their department. This campaign is sponsored by the Jefferson Children’s Advocacy Center. The mission of the Jefferson Children’s Advocacy Center is to provide a professional, compassionate, and coordinated approach to the investigation and treatment of abused children and their families.

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Our Director, **Anatola B. Thompson**, and staff welcomed **Alberta S. Pate**, new Administrative-Management Specialist III. Alberta will be working with Anatola and the Jefferson Parish municipalities to administer the CDBG Disaster Recover Program grant provided through the Louisiana Recovery Authority.

Alberta previously served on Mayor Ray Nagin's executive staff and as Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development, where she managed a staff of 140 people and administered an annual budget of more than \$30 million. Previously, Alberta was a Director of the New Orleans Partnership Office for Fannie Mae. She received an MBA from Tulane University and is the recipient of several prestigious awards. Welcome aboard, Alberta!

Congratulations! **Dianne Washington**, Housing Improve-

ment Counselor III, is Community Development's Employee of the Year. Dianne does a fine job working with her clients on such projects as modular replacement housing, home repair, and home modification for the handicapped. She updates us on the modular replacement housing situation: To date, one resident has moved into his new modular home in Harvey, and two others anticipate moving to their new modular homes in Marrero and Metairie. This pilot program re-

places homes that are beyond repair.

Director Anatola Thompson, with assistance from **Faye Galland**, Parish Planner III, and **Mike Strausser**, Parish Planner II, submitted the FY 2008 Action Plan of the Consolidated Plan for the Jefferson Parish HOME Consortium. The Action Plan reflects the budget and activities planned under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) program. Community Development administers these funds for Jefferson Parish from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Parish Council adopted the Ordinance on May 21, 2008.

Driving in Gretna on Hero Dr. went from a nuisance to a pleasure from Gretna Blvd. to 34th Street since this stretch of roadway was reconstructed and brought up to grade recently. The project was funded with \$500,000 of CDBG funds, with matching funds from the city.

Community Development celebrated Fair Housing Month in April. June marks National Homeownership Month.



CD's Employee of the Year Dianne Washington (center) is congratulated by Director Anatola Thompson and Housing Rehab Program manager Helen White



Celebrating Fair Housing Month: Council Chairman John Young Jr.; Trudy Criddle of HUD; CD Director Anatola Thompson; President Broussard; Diana LeBlanc of the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of REALTORS; Tranell Barton, of NOMAR; and Frank Trapani, past president of NOMAR.

Library

By

Linda Molinario & Ranie Lefort

Congratulations to **Jim Davis**, Adult Programming Manager, for three wonderful accomplishments. He was Library's Employee of the Year, the Parish's Employee of the Year, and is now the new Director of the Center for the Book at the Louisiana State Library. Others will continue in his old job, but he is irreplaceable.



Jim Davis

We'd like to welcome **Willie Randle** back from active duty in Iraq and thank him for his service to our country. We also welcome several new employees, including **Bruce McJilton** and **Sidney Ford**, Assistant Property Manager **Robert Bonvillian**, and Property Manager **Roy Burst, Jr.**

We also have two new Branch Managers: Librarian II **Bill McKee** at the Gretna branch, and Librarian II **Alison Williams**, at Lakeshore.

The Library had the honor of presenting An Evening with Louisiana's Poet Laureate: Darrell Bourque on May 27. Bourque read from his book *The Blue Boat*.

Drainage

By

Maria Cervini & Marilyn Slutsky

The Pumps Are Ready!

Hurricane Preparedness Week was held May 26 through May 30. On Wednesday, May 28, the public was invited to attend demonstrations and testing at various Pump Station Safe Rooms on the East and West Banks. Director **Kazem Alikhani** gave a presentation at the Hurricane Summit on Friday, May 30, at the East Bank Regional Library. The topic was "Status of Pump Stations, Safe Rooms, and Automation."

Drainage Supports Brooms To Basins

In preparation for the upcoming hurricane season, President Aaron Broussard kicked off the annual Parish-wide event "Brooms to Basins" at Jefferson Playground on May 17. Kazem

Alikhani attended this campaign, encouraging citizens to participate by clearing storm drains and catch basins of debris and continuing to monitor throughout the year.

Pirsalehy Receives Award of Merit

Public Works Week was held May 19 through May 23. The Council made a proclamation at the Council meeting of May 17 to promote our profession. The Drainage Department displayed a photo board at the Council meeting, reflecting photos of major projects and our employees at the job sites working hard. An "Award of Merit" was presented to **Ali Pirsalehy** by the American Public Works Association, Metropolitan New Orleans Branch, for his years of service and dedication at the annual luncheon held on May 20 at the Plimsoll Club.

Service Pins

Service pins were awarded to: **Jacob LeGlue, Jr.**, Pump Station



Ali Pirsalehy (left) accepts his APWA Award of Merit and is congratulated by Drainage Director Kazem Alikhani

Operator II – 15 years; **Javanda Dominic**, Typist Clerk III – 10 years; **Maria Cervini**, Executive Assistant, **William Brignac**, Pump Station Operator II, **Joseph DiLorenzo**, Plant Maintenance Electrician, **Jerronomore Griffin**, Truck Driver II, and **John Payne, Jr.**, Pump Station Operator II – 5 years.

Staff News

Congratulations to several employees who were recently promoted: **Michael Frerene**, Trades Helper, **Thelbert McGee**, Truck Driver II, **Dong Pham**, Laborer-Semiskilled, and **Bob Thompson**, Laborer-Semiskilled.

Welcome to our new employees: **Brenda Bush**, Laborer; **Robert Carr**, Laborer; **Kirk Craig**, Laborer; **Harvey K. Harrison**, Equipment Operator IV; **Rosa Velt Price**, Drainage Pump Station Operator I; **Craig Rousseau**, Laborer; and **Randy Simmons**, Drainage Pump Station Operator I.

On April 24 the 24th Annual Administrative Professionals Day luncheon was held at the Rose Garden. Our Director, Kazem Alikhani, attended the luncheon with the administrative staff from the Drainage Department.



Javanda Dominic receives her 10-year pin from Drainage Superintendent Larry Palmisano and Director Kazem Alikhani

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to the following Recreation employees:

- **Fran Roberson**, Typist Clerk II at Lafreniere Park, retired in April.
- **Jerry Savarese**, Facility Reservation Coordinator for Lafreniere Park, was promoted to Administrative Assistant at the Park.
- **Myron Mitchell**, Asst. Center Supervisor at Woodmere, was promoted to a Foreman I in WB Maintenance.
- **Denise Schaffer**, Groundskeeper at Kings Grant, was promoted to Asst. Center Supervisor at Rose Thorne.

Welcome to **Paula Blackwell**. She is now the Facility Reservation Coordinator for Lafreniere Park. She came to Parks & Recreation from General Services.

Employees of the Year

Congratulations to **Chris Naumann**, Center Supervisor at Jefferson Playground, for being selected as Parks and Recreation's 2007 Employee of the Year. Chris has done an excellent job at Jefferson, considering the gym has not reopened since Katrina. He and his staff run the office in a storage container. Chris always goes that extra mile to assist in whatever way he can.

Congratulations to **Dennis Seal**, A/C & Heat Mechanic in West Bank Maintenance, who was selected as the 2007 Parks

and Recreation West Bank Employee of the Year. Dennis does an outstanding job making sure our facilities are cool during warm weather and warm on cold days.

John Doyle, Building Supervisor in East Bank Maintenance, was selected as the 2007 Parks and Recreation East Bank Employee of the Year. John does an excellent job and is always willing to do whatever is asked of him without complaint.

Our 2008 Fall Activity Guide, which includes activities and programs for both the East Bank and West Bank, will be available in mid-August on our website at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page, and in the *Times Picayune* at the end of August, or can be obtained at all local playgrounds and libraries the last week of August. 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 football, volleyball, and cheerleading will be taken in August. The age determining date is September 1, 2008 (child must have attained the age of 6 on or before this date).

Finally, congratulations to our Employees of the Month:

January 2008: **Gayle Dufour**, **Darlene Wegmann**, **Lorraine Chaisson**

February 2008: **Sandra Bealer**, **Robert Ragland**

March 2008: **Jay Champagne**, **Jean Marie**

April 2008: **Debbie Ford**, **Steve Williams**

Retirements

Dennis Boudreaux
Water
33 years

Richard Crappel
Water
33 years

Joseph Greco, Jr.
Fire
31 years

Lanny Schwartz
Fire
28 years

Rhea Flowers
Fire
28 years

Carole Leteff
Traffic Engineering
26 years

Patricia Camardelle
Streets
25 years

Patricia Polkey
Sewerage
25 years

Elda Olsen
Emergency Management
24 years

Linda Allo
Sewerage
20 years

Horace Husser
Streets
20 years

Gloria Small
JeffCAP
17 years

Gaston Claverie
Sewerage
15 years

Louis Moyer
Telecommunications
13 years

Vernon Pippin
General Services
8 years

What Lola Wants!



At the April Cancer Relay at Jefferson Playground, Code Enforcement mascot Lola Sanders (pride and joy of Nancy Sanders) with Relay Chair Tom Capella. Lola sold her first kiss to Councilman Capella. SMOOCH!!!