



Volume 28
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EM Realite

Message from the Parish President. .

A Time To Reflect

The holiday season is upon us as another hurricane season fades away, giving us yet another reason to be thankful at this time of year.

Our Many Blessings

We were spared the wrath of nature this past tropical season, and for that we can truly be grateful. Over the years, I have gained more respect and confidence in our Parish departments. We are better prepared now than ever in our history. Our Parish is blessed with bright, talented, and passionate men and women who deeply care about their community.

As we close out this year and prepare for 2008, it is good to reflect on what we have accomplished and consider the challenges ahead of us.

A Thriving Parish

Jefferson Parish is seeing the results of hard work, optimism, and commitment to this place we call home. The Parish is thriving as never before, with thousands of new businesses open since Katrina and an unemployment rate that is lower than the overall U.S. unemployment rate, lower than the state



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

as a whole, and lower than that of surrounding states.

Our Relentless Efforts

There is more work to do. Each of us, through our labor, contributes to a higher quality of life in Jefferson Parish, making this a better community for our families, our friends, and ourselves. Our efforts make Jefferson Parish ever safer, more efficient and up-to-date, and more beautiful.

So in the spirit of the season, I thank you again for your dedication to this parish we call home and for your friendship and support. Please pass along my best wishes to your loved ones. Happy Holidays to you all.

Aaron F. Broussard
Parish President



En Realité

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Joan Vaughn

Editor's

Notes

I wanted to take this opportunity as the year ends to remind you all about a benefit that the Parish has been providing for our employees since last May: a series of sessions offered by Louisiana Spirit Hurricane Recovery, intended to reduce stress and help us cope with various emotional issues that may still be plaguing us in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricane season.

The sessions are conducted on both sides of the river—at the General Government Building in Gretna and at the Yenni Building in Elmwood. Many are presented by Ms. Sharon Henry, a wonderfully talented group leader who genuinely enjoys helping our employees. Here are some of the topics that have been presented by employee request:

Anger Management: We should recognize that anger is normal but that we can control its demonstration.

Assertiveness: Since it's no one's job to make our lives easier, we must learn how to stand up for ourselves.

Compassion Fatigue: What can we do to help ourselves while helping others?

Insomnia Strategies: There are some easy, gadget-free techniques to help us master sleep.

Managing Burnout Symptoms: Using self-care tips, including assertive communication, we can stay resilient on the job.

Relaxation Techniques: Practicing guided imagery, breathing, and meditation techniques, we can reduce the harmful effects of stress.

Working with Difficult People: These effective techniques help us to maintain our equilibrium with even the most difficult persons.

The December 2007 session will



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

be **Grief and Loss**, which will be conducted on December 19 at 9:00 in Gretna and 1:30 in Elmwood, and **Stress Management** will be presented on January 15, 2008. More information on Louisiana Spirit sessions is available in the monthly Training class announcements. To sign up for a session, send a registration form to the Training Unit of Human Resources, Suite 517 of the Yenni Building in Elmwood.

Besides sessions that Louisiana Spirit conducts for the Parish, there are outreach and specialty counselors available for free and anonymous counseling for individuals who call their 24-hour hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255). And, as a special service for Parish employees, Ms. Henry has also created and made available a Guided Relaxation audio clip. To download the clip, go to the Employee Intranet Portal, Departmental Pages, Human Resources—Training. Then click on the “Sharon Henry’s Guided Relaxation.”

I hope many of you will take advantage of the wonderful services that LA Spirit is offering and attend some of the sessions. Here’s wishing you all a happy and stress-free new year!

En Realité Reporters Enjoy Ice Cream Social

On September 18 Human Resources hosted an Ice Cream Social in honor of the departmental reporters who contribute articles to *En Realité*.

HR Director **Junior Mendoza** was on hand to greet the reporters and thank them for the service they do for the Parish in keeping us all informed about the news in their departments and of the accomplishments of Parish employees.

The reporters enjoyed a variety of cool, end-of-summer treats: root beer floats, lemonade, and rainbow sherbet, as well as cups and cones filled with their favorite ice creams—chocolate, vanilla, strawberry cream, butter pecan, banana split, cherry vanilla, and chocolate brownie.



Purchasing's Rosa Campos and Library's Jim Davis

After their “sugar-busters can wait” feast, the reporters and co-hosts **Nancy Rodriguez** and **Greg Alexander**, of HR's Training Division, shared ideas and discussed newsletter-related problems and issues. Special thanks to Parish Nurse **Peggy Branan** for her generous help with the event.

Reporters in attendance were **Gwen Styron** (Recreation),



Kay Levy, Carole Leteff, Joan Vaughn, Peggy Branan, HR Director Junior Mendoza, and Maria Cervini

Maria Cervini (Drainage), **Marilyn Slutsky** (Drainage), **Barbara Arcement** (Environmental), **Jim Davis** (Library), **Peggy Branan** (HR), **Judy Johnson** (General Services), **Joanna Lee** (Citizens' Affairs), **Joan Vaughn**

(Workforce Connection), **Angela Winchester** (Parkways), **Sandra Ancar-Encalade** (Emergency Management), **Kay Levy** (Animal Shelter). **Carole Leteff** (Traffic Engineering), **Yvonne Dumas** (JeffCAP), **Rosa Campos** (Purchasing), and **P.J. Hahn** (Community Justice).



Traffic Engineering

By
Carole Leteff & David Stout

The Sign Shop has been very busy since Katrina. Our crews have been working daily and Saturdays to straighten up, repair, and restore missing signs in the parish.

On the West Bank, we have worked on Wright, Whitney, Carol Sue, Stumpf, Holmes, Lapalco, Terry Parkway, Manhattan, and Wall.

On the East Bank, we have made repairs to West Esplanade, Bonnabel, Transcontinental, West Metairie, and Veterans east and westbound from Clearview to the Kenner line.

The Signal Shop also has been very busy with the opening and upgrading of the following signals:

Destrehan and Patriot – new signal – operational
Destrehan and Destrehan – completely upgraded – operational
Destrehan and Lapalco – completely upgraded – operational
Destrehan and Liro – new signal

Destrehan and Fire Station – new emergency signal – 2008
Lapalco and Segnette/Nicole – completely upgraded – late 2007
Airline and W. Metairie – completely upgraded – operational
Edwards and Mounes – new signal – before the end of 2007
Edwards and Pepsi – new signal – before end of 2007
Severn and Lakeside Driveway – new signal – by end of 2007
Causeway & 22nd Street – completely upgraded – operational

Cameras are rolling!

Numerous Red Light Camera locations for signals on the East and West Banks are now operational. *Beware, Jefferson Parish motorists, of running red lights, as you will receive a citation in your mail!*

Traffic Engineering welcomes new employees **Bobby Barrios**, **Roosevelt Baggett**, **James Vasquez**, and **Doran Johnson** (Sign Technicians), **Clyde Wingate** (Signal Technician) and **Glenn Anderson** (maintenance worker). They are all doing a good job!

Sewerage

By
Bobbie Fose

The last few months we have been busy for worthy causes. Sewerage participated in the Change a Light Campaign, which encouraged individuals to change a light bulb to an energy-efficient bulb, which saves energy and helps reduce green house emissions.

We then participated in the Parish President's Eyeglass Recycling campaign. We contributed 15 pairs of eyeglasses as well as extra eyeglass cases to this cause. What a pleasure to be able to help those who are unable to purchase glasses!

Last, but not least, our champion fund-raiser, **Diane Landry** and her helpers sponsored a bake sale for the American Heart Association. I understand Diane's bread pudding was an instant sell-out. We raised \$350.00.

Venice Cooper and **Alicia Harper** staffed our booth at the Senior Citizen Expo in October. The seniors enjoyed their day out and were grateful for the information we provided – as well as the treats!

Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Mary Grace Bealer** on the loss of her father. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you.

It is with regret that we say goodbye to **Jerrod Jessie**, Computer Program Analyst. He will be missed. We certainly wish Jerrod good luck in his future.

Welcome aboard to Sewerage's new hires: **Al Breaux**, **Denis Mire, Sr.**, **Joe Montgomery**, **Jeremiah Thomas**, **Danny Bravata**, **Tyrone Alexander**, and **Juan Morales**. We wish all of you well in your new jobs!



Traffic Engineering at the site of recent Airline Park and West Metairie signal improvements: David Stout, Dawn Daleo, Joseph Parker, Jr., Susan Treadway, James Lambert, Angelo Barrera, and Michael Howell.

Safety Spotlight

By

Greg Alexander and Millie Brady

New Chainsaw Class

This summer HR's Safety Division presented the Parish's first Chainsaw Safety class. Safety's **Larry Guchereau** and **Ben Strange** developed the program on the basic fundamentals of chainsaw safety and presented it to Parkways and Drainage employees in August and September. Some of our employees use chainsaws regularly to trim along canal banks. And in emergencies, more employees could be called upon to use them.

"This is especially important during hurricane season," says Guchereau. "That's why we wanted all Drainage field employees to get these fundamentals right away. More extensive training for selected employees will follow."



Larry Guchereau suits up for chainsaw class

Because of the intense summer heat and humidity, **Millie Brady** included a segment on heat stress in the program. The heat stress segment included a short film and handout.



Engineering Director Mark Drewes receives the Excellence in Safety Award from Safety Program Manager Nolan Guidry in recognition of Engineering's greatly improved accident record this fall.

Added Orientation Segment

Safety recently added a new component to the New Employee Orientation program. The *Safety on the Job* training segment is geared toward Laborers, Groundskeepers, and Trades Helpers. "The Executive Safety Committee spearheaded this initiative," says Safety Program Manager **Nolan Guidry**. "Our goal is to provide these employees who work out in the field some extra preparation for the safety issues they will face that are distinct from what office personnel face. It's like a little extra Safety TLC for employees in these positions."



Rose Lanansa with Streets Director Randy Nicholson and Safety Program Manager Nolan Guidry

Safety Awards

Earlier this year the Safety Division began recognizing Parish employees whose safety performances make their departments and workplaces safer with the Excellence in Safety Award. The first three recipients of the award are **Anthony Francis**, Director of General Services; **Mark Drewes**, Director of Engineering; and **Rose Lanansa** of the Streets Department.

Rose received the award for her work with the Streets Department's Accident Review Committee meetings.

More Training

The Safety Division continues to reach out to all Parish departments with its year-round series of safety classes. In September Safety Officers **Millie Brady** and **Gregory Reynolds** conducted CPR/AED training for Alario Center employees at the General Government Building in Gretna. CPR/AED classes are currently being presented to Juvenile Services employees.

Call the Safety Office at 736-6421 with any safety concerns or to inquire about classes.

Drainage

By
Maria Cervini

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions: **Chris Bourgeois**, Laborer-Semiskilled; **Henry Brown**, Trades Helper; **Morris Bouvier**, East Bank Drainage Maintenance Superintendent II. We wish you the very best with your new positions and know you will do a terrific job.

We would like to extend our best wishes to **Nghi Tran**, Laborer, who retired after 28 years of loyal service.

Welcome to our new Laborers—**Cedrick Frank**, **Neemiah Frank**, and **Edward Carter**—and to **Tremaine Johnson**, Truck Driver II.

The Jefferson Parish Senior Citizen Expo in October included lunch, entertainment, and over 130 booths. **Patricia Rambeau** and **Marilyn Slutsky** represented Drainage and gave out delicious chocolate candy as a pre-Halloween treat. Patricia Rambeau, coordinator for this

year's Heart Walk, collected well over one hundred dollars from the department. Thank you, Marilyn and Patricia, for a job well done!

Condolences to **Donna Mena**, whose mother passed away in October.

Congratulations to **Diane Sumler**, Administrative Assistant, who is a grandmother for the first time. Her grandson, Alfred Lee III, made his arrival on November 2. **Clay Ledet**, Pump Station Operator II, is the proud father of Emily L. Ledet, born November 1.

Fran Hemenway Retiring

Friends and colleagues, the time has come to bid **Fran Hemenway** goodbye as she will retire on December 31 after 39 years of service, hard work, and dedication. It has been an honor and a privilege to have had the opportunity to work with her. Please join us in wishing Fran health and happiness with her retirement, which is well deserved.

Let's go down memory lane with Fran...It all started back in 1968 when her Mom (thanks Mom) made her take the Civil Service test. Fran was hired as a Stenographer I with the Sewerage Department on Helios Street. This was when sewerage was dried in open beds and hauled to the dump. She had to run into the office at times because of the odor. At that time women were not allowed to wear pants but could only wear dresses with stockings. Needless to say, there were no computers or fax machines and only copy machines that used rolls of strange paper.

Her first boss was a very tough lady who wrote her up for squeaking in her chair, but taught her that hard work would be rewarded.

In 1977, Fran was promoted to Administrative Assistant and set up the purchasing division (which consolidated Sewerage, Drainage, Water & Streets purchasing functions) for the newly created Administrative Services Department. She prepared her first budget that year and just completed her last budget for Jefferson Parish Department of Drainage.

In 1986, Fran was again promoted, this time to Administrative Aide to Pump Stations. Her last promotion in 1997 was to Public Works Administrative Operations Coordinator.

Hurricane Katrina was a defining moment in everyone's life, including hers. She was assigned to the Public Works desk in the operations room at



Drainage Maintenance Superintendent Dwayne Detiege with Nghi Tran

the EOC. The things she remembers most were no running water for three days, cold showers in a tent for the first week, sleeping on the floor at the Streets Department, getting to really know people that she worked with for years, realizing certain people were so much fun, watching arguments and disagreements, participating in some of them, too much food, no exercise, no pedicures, manicures or haircuts, no shopping, restaurants, or margaritas anywhere. Since Katrina, whenever a storm lands in the Gulf, she prepares for a hurricane by scheduling a haircut, pedicure, and manicure.

One of the biggest lessons Fran has learned is that teamwork is required for any successful organization. She has had the honor and privilege to have worked with some of the greatest Parish employees who have helped her over the years.

Fran was eligible to retire nine years ago, but decided she was too young and loved her job and the people she worked for, so she stayed. She has used this time to pass on the knowledge she's received from others to the next generation of Parish employees. Her only goal now is to live long enough to collect her pension she's been talking about for years and spending time with her family.

Some people still don't believe it, but she is walking out the door on December 31. If you get a chance, come tell Fran goodbye on January 4, 2008, in Yenni Building Suite 405, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Citizens' Affairs

By
Joanna Lee

Transit News

We would like to congratulate **Ryan D. Brown**, Coordinator of Transit Administration, on a very productive conference at the Louisiana Public Transit Association (LPTA). Mr. Brown was appointed to serve as an LPTA Executive Board Member. This is a great opportunity for Jefferson Parish to be represented statewide. We are all very proud of Ryan's efforts and the recognition he deserves as representative of our department and Jefferson Parish statewide. Again, Congratulations Ryan!!



Transit Administration Coordinator
Ryan Brown

Welcome, Baby Shea!!

On August 30, Craig and **Brandie Lange** became the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl named Shea Catherine Lange. Congratulations on your "bundle of joy."

The "eyes" have it

Thanks to all participants of the eyeglasses drive. Our department collected 10 pairs,

which were turned in to Human Resources.

Senior Expo

This event on August 24 was a huge success! Attendance was the largest since the first Expo seven years ago. "We had over 3,400 in attendance including senior citizens, vendors, volunteers, caretakers, and family members assisting their parents and grandparents. "We fed approximately 3,185 senior citizens," says **Wayne Ory**, Chairman and Coordinator of Senior Services. There was entertainment throughout the day.

The Carol Scalise Award was given to **Mr. Rudy Sampey** for his volunteer service to Jefferson Parish. The three major hospitals in Jefferson Parish had representatives as Co-Chairmen for the Expo. From West Jefferson Medical Center- Jennifer Steel; East Jefferson General Hospital- Nina Victory; and from Ochsner Health Systems- Susan Piglia.

Parish President **Aaron Broussard** was the key speaker. Other speakers addressing the Senior Expo were: Councilmen **John Young** and **Elton Lagasse**; Harahan Mayor **Paul Johnson**; **Patrick J. Quinlan**, MD, CEO of Ochsner Health System; **Mark J. Peters, MD**, CPE, President & CEO East Jefferson General Hospital; and **Theresa Anderson**, Senior Vice President of West Jefferson Medical Center. The blessing was given by Rev. Russell Walker of True Vine Baptist Church. Wayne says the next Expo will be Wednesday, October 22, 2008, at the Alario Center. Mr. Ory is looking forward to next year's

Expo being as successful as the 2007 event and improving the quality of life for Senior Citizens in Jefferson Parish.

Katherine Hoover and **Genie Hebert** had an enjoyable experience handing out candy and bookmarks while talking to the participants that visited the Senior Expo. They are already looking forward to next year's event.

Carnival/Special Events

Hello all you parade- and fun-lovers! It's almost time for our East Bank Family Gras, January 25-27. Live bands will fill the air with Louisiana music, while families enjoy some unique foods. Each night of Family Gras is unique: January 25- Fright Night (Wear your favorite costume and have a frighteningly good time). January 26- Sports Night (Show support for your favorite team and be true sports fans with jerseys, shirts, hats, and team colors). January 27- Carnival Night (Wear colors of Mardi Gras and be your own queen or king).

This event will take place on the neutral ground of Veterans Memorial Blvd. across from Lakeside. So come out and be a part of the festivities. Information on the West Bank event will be announced in the next issue.

Relocation

The office for Citizens with Disabilities has moved to Room 210 of the Yenni Building. Disabilities Affairs Specialist **Katherine Hoover** can be reached at 736-6086 or you can leave a message on her voice mail.

New Orleans Heart Walk

The Office of Citizens' Affairs had a team walk in the American Heart Association Heart Walk, Saturday, November 17, at Audubon Park. Our team had a wonderful time, highlighted by meeting Richard Simmons! Thanks to **Carolyn Champagne**, who organized the walk for the team.

Workforce Connection

By
Joan Vaughn

A few months ago the telephone rang while I was working at my desk. I answered the phone and the caller was a participant I assisted a few years ago: Tyrone Ferrell, one of my participants I sent to driving school training. I was surprised to hear from him because few clients will take the time to contact us to thank us.



One of Workforce Connection's many grateful success stories: Tyrone Ferrell with his family and truck in Missouri

Tyrone stated to me that he and his family were residing in Missouri. He is employed and was fortunate to purchase his own truck. I asked Mr. Ferrell to send me a picture of his truck and his family because I wanted to do a success story on him. I received the picture and a letter he wrote to me:

Dear Ms. Vaughn,

I would like to say thanks for giving me the chance I needed, getting my CDL back five years ago. I have accomplished so much out of that and I owe it all to you. I've started my own business, which is based out of New Orleans, and I have one truck, but it will soon be a fleet! So once again, I would like to say thanks for all you've done for me and my family —Tyrone Ferrell



At the American Heart Association's Heart Walk in Audubon Park: Carolyn Champagne, Mary Nelson, Richard Simmons, and Dorothea Halligan

Code Enforcement

By
Linda Roy

Twenty-Six Achieve ICC Certification

The Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement has been faced with the challenge of complying with recent state law by having our inspectors and plan reviewers certified in their field.

Certification is granted by the International Code Council by passing certification exams. We have offered numerous training classes and seminars to assist our employees in passing.

We are proud to report that twenty-six employees became certified since January of 2007.

They are: **Jeffrey Charlet**, Certified Building Official; In Building: **Melvin Chaix, John Segura, Joe Baroni, Scott Baracco, Peter Mire, Dennis Tucker, Gary Lay, David Richard.**

In Electrical: **Kurt Cavalier, Reid Macaluso, Jerry Roy.**

In Mechanical: **Tommy Bax-**



ter, Harold Logrande, Lenny Guardina, Mike Hale, Tim Pierre, Mirtile Dugas.

In Plan Review; **John Piglia, Danny Ferrara, Salvador Puleo, Anthony Bazile, Bernard Klumpp, Jerry Gutierrez.**

In Plumbing; **Danny Montz, Donald Landrieu.** Congratulations to all!

WE SAY GOODBYE! We will be saying goodbye to **Gwen Rogers.** Gwen is retiring with 30 years of dedication and loyalty

to her job in Weed Control. It has been a pleasure working with you. Everyone at Code wishes you the very best in your retirement.

Our Director, **Louis Savoye**, was honored to present service pins to his employees.

Receiving 15 year pins were **Lynn Hauck** and **Edmond St. Romain**; Ten year pins were given to **John Singletary, Kelly McMurray, Nicole Vicknair, Catherine Bennett, and Kurt Cavalier.** Five year pins were given to **Reid Macaluso, Lorraine Jackson, Elizabeth Berge, Harold Logrande, and Wanda Willhoft.**

We welcome aboard **George Hagman**, Plumbing Inspector I; **Kimberly Holden**, Payroll Clerk; **Susan Williams**, Typist Clerk III; and **Carolyn Webber**, Typist Clerk II. Glad to have you!

We wish all a Merry Christmas. May you have a wonderful and prosperous New Year !



Community Justice

By
P.J. Hahn

As the year draws to a close, it's time once again to reflect on the many good things that have taken place during 2007.

With the completion of our permanent offices located at the Yenni Building, the Community Justice Agency was finally able to move out of our temporary facility in the Juvenile Services Department on Causeway Blvd. in Metairie and into our new offices on the 6th floor.

There have been a few changes to our CJA personnel as well. **P.J. Hahn** joined the CJA team, replacing Emile Lafourcade, who left the agency to become spokesperson to the City of Kenner under Mayor Ed Muniz. However, P.J. will be leaving us as well, to begin his new position as Director of Coastal Restoration in Plaquemines Parish.

Congratulations to **Pay Palafox** for being awarded this year's Community Justice Agency Employee of the Year. Her hard work and determination has earned her the much coveted award from her peers.

Our phone numbers are still the same: CJA-(504) 736-6844; Drug Court-(504) 364-3478, and Home Incarceration-(504) 364-3481. As always, we are looking forward to continuing to serve the Jefferson Parish Justice System.

From all of us at CJA, we would like to wish everyone a very safe and Happy Holiday season and best wishes to all for the New Year.

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

We at Environmental hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. This year we continued a tradition that we started last year. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving luncheon that everyone enjoyed.

Environmental Affairs would like to welcome **Margaret Fonseca** and **Evaline Armstrong** to our family. Margaret comes to us from the Water Department and is our new Typist Clerk III. Evaline, our new Administrative Assistant, comes to us from Risk Management. Welcome aboard.

We also wish to say goodbye to two of our own. Former Storm Water Technician **Darrel Dominique** left the department to finish studying for a career as a Massage Therapist. Storm Water Specialist **Kathleen Deubler** left us to pursue a career with the Federal Government. We wish them the best.

Change-A-Light Results

Thanks to all employees who participated in the Energy Star Change a Light Campaign. We would especially like to thank **Joana Chambers** for putting the campaign together, and the department coordinators who worked so hard to promote participation.

Jefferson Parish came in 6th place out of 24 similarly sized counties. Aside from the contest, there are other benefits of 665, or 22%, of Parish employees changing just one light bulb to an energy-saving bulb. Together, we will save: 187,530 kilowatts of energy and \$17,440.29 in energy bills and prevent 271,985 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. **THANK YOU ALL!**

Hazardous Waste Collection

We'd like to thank all who participated in the Limited Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste collection event held on October 27. The event was held in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Envi-



Environmental employees Thomas Cooper, Evaline Armstrong, Katherine Costanza, Joana Chambers, William Sanders, Sami Khalil, and Scott Finney at the Limited Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste collection event.

ronmental Quality and Lamp Environmental Industries, Inc. The event was a great success. Over 8,600 electronic components were collected. Residents also dropped off approximately 5 gallons of elemental mercury as well as several containers of banned pesticides.

Recycling Dropoff Day

We would also like to thank everyone who participated in the Recycling Drop-off Day held on November 10. The next Recycling Drop-off Day will be held on January 26, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Once again, 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. For information about what items will be accepted, please call the Environmental Department at 731-4612. We hope to see you there.

Once again, Environmental Affairs took part in the annual Senior Citizen EXPO, held on October 24 at the Pontchartrain Center. **Joana Chambers** and **Barbara Arcement** handed out candy and provided seniors with information on mosquito control, recycling, and garbage collection. 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.

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

It's hard to believe another year is nearing an end. Juvenile Services hopes everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and we wish everyone a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

We've been busy participating in many fund-raising events. We recently participated in the Breast Cancer Walk, the American Heart Walk, and the Eye Glass campaign. We also participated in the Senior Expo recently held at the Ponchartrain Center and will begin preparing baskets for senior citizens.

NEW EMPLOYEES

Welcome to **Jessica "Nikki" Johnson**, Grants/Research Specialist; **Elaine Steib**, Cook; **Herneisha Gibson**, Detention Home Security Guard; **Shawn Vinnett**, Probation Officer; and congratulations to **Jamyle Phillips**, who was promoted to Juvenile Probation Officer I.

3RD QUARTER EMPLOYEES (JULY-SEPTEMBER)

Detention Officer **Danny Alexander**; Detention Support **Carl Pierce**; Probation Officer **Tiyeshe Washington**; Probation Support **Nelda Bonfiglio**; Supervisor **Arlyn Smith**; Employee **David Vicari**.

Congratulations to the following employees, who will be receiving their Service Pins at a ceremony held December 5:

20 Years:

Danny Alexander, Juvenile Detention Officer II
Terence Dixon, Juvenile Detention Home Security Guard

25 Years:

Thomas Adoue, Juvenile Probation Officer III
Arlyn L. Smith, Exec. Asst.

Wedding bells will ring as Probation Officer **Julie Cuber** weds Michael Breaux on December 8. We wish them many years of happiness.



HR Director Junior Mendoza presents Safety's Ann Woods with a ten-year service award

Planning

By
Terri Wilkinson

Happy Announcements!

Congratulations to GIS Operator **Greg Johnson** on his June wedding to Malee Dejprayura. The Planning Department wishes Greg and Malee many happy years together.

Congratulations also to Steno Clerk **Joyce Dean**, whose daughter Janice Triplett gave birth to Bain Allan Triplett on November 6. Bain, who was 8 lbs. 10 oz. and 20 in. long, is Joyce's second grandchild.

Welcome Back!

The Planning Department extends a warm welcome back to Planner **Phil Tiller** after his recovery from illness. It also welcomes Typist Clerks **Carolyn Hidalgo**, who transferred from the Public Works Engineering Department, and **Tracey Chaix**, who transferred from the Public Works Drainage Department.

Planning Conference

Many of the department's planners attended the American Planning Association Louisiana Chapter's annual conference on September 20 and 21 at the Hotel Monteleone in the French Quarter. The conference focused on recovery initiatives in south Louisiana, but addressed other topics, such as trends in land use regulation, that the department's planners found relevant to their zoning and subdivision work in the parish.

Water

By
Kathy Theriot

We are happy to welcome to our staff **Jerome Wool, Jr.**, our Professional Engineer III. Jerome comes to us from Drainage. He started with the Parish in February of 1988 in Pump Stations and went to Drainage when they merged in 2005.

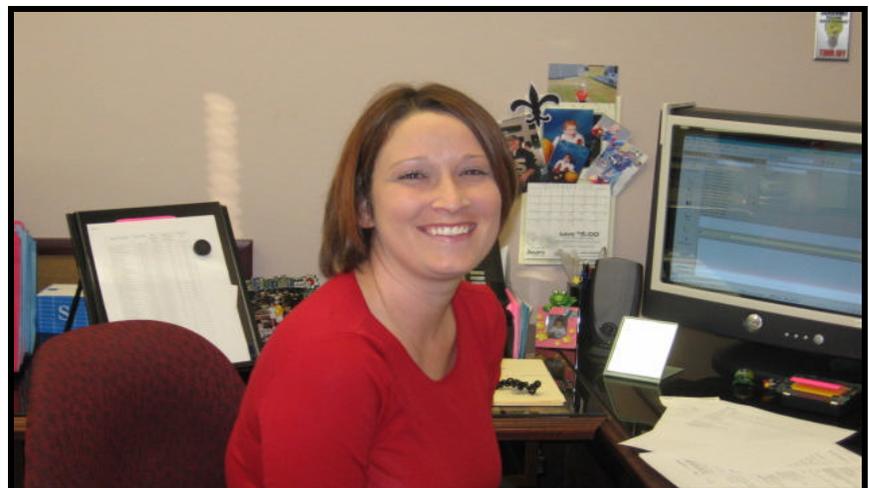


Jerome Wool, Jr.

Jerome is always there for us whenever we need his help. Jerome replaces **Mitch Theriot**, who transferred to the Engineering Department. Thank you, Jerome, for all of your help; we are glad you are here with us.

Our Administrative Assistant, **Stephanie Gaudet**, has been busy with the yearly benefits enrollment process. Hers is the smiling face you see as you enter Suite 909 at the Yenni Building. All personnel issues for our department are handled by Stephanie. Employed with the Water Department since 2003, she started with Jefferson Parish in 1998. She is always there to assist our employees, and to greet and process our new employees. We are grateful for all of her hard work.

In October, Director **Randy Schuler**, and East Bank Outside Maintenance Superintendent **Tyrell Chatman, Sr.**, presented a service pin to **Eric Thompson**, of East Bank Outside Maintenance for ten years of service. **Richard Coleman**, of West Bank Outside Maintenance, was presented a service pin for five years of service by Director Randy Schuler. We are proud of these employees, and we value the experience they bring to their positions. All of our best wishes for much success in the future go out to Eric and Richard.



Water's Administrative Assistant Stephanie Gaudet

General Services

By
Judy Johnson

Welcome New Employees

Jeffery Craft
Della St. Cyre
Gerald [Jerry] Eagan

We welcome **Jerry Eagan** as our new East Bank Assistant Property Manager. Jerry came to us from Tulane with 20 years experience. We are happy to have him on our East Bank staff.

Record Auction

The auction was a success, and the weather was beautiful. General Services would like to thank Durham Company of Mississippi. We would also like to thank all General Services employees who helped make the auction run smoothly: **Jill Relick, Rachel Riego, George Folsie, Mike Fonseca, Dale Esteves, Don Barrios, Jeffery Craft, Fitzgerald Fredericks, Lionel**

Harris, Micheal Carter, Jacob Krummel. And a special thanks to Fleet Management employees: **Nick DeGerolamo, Diane Spencer, Gary Lampard, Roy Luthjens, Jake Lasavia, and Bobby McKee.** Their expertise was vital in making this auction successful. We look forward to seeing these employees at the next auction.

Sad News

On July 27, 2007, we learned of the death of our West Bank laborer, **Richard Thibodeaux.** Richard had been employed with West Bank General Services since May 2006. In June of 2007 Richard became very ill. We are all saddened by his death, and we will surely miss him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Finally, our condolences go out to **John Stortz** on the loss of his brother. Our thoughts are with you.

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Community Development Director **Anatola Thompson, Kim Thompson,** Housing Rehab Program Manager; **Jim Bush,** Project Coordinator; and **Liz Ruth,** Housing Counselor II, are working with three non-profit organizations to provide affordable housing for eligible low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers in Jefferson Parish. The properties are new construction at specific locations, and eligible participants may receive down payment and closing cost assistance of up to \$50,000 through the HOME Program.

Nine new homes are being built in Lincolnshire Subdivision in Marrero by Dominion & Power Community Development; 16 townhouses in Jacqueline Court Subdivision in Harvey, built by Peoples Community Subsidiary; and 7 modular homes on Hancock Street in Gretna by Volunteers of America. Interested participants should call **Sevilla Finley,** Info Specialist, at 736-6282, for a list of housing providers to contact. Mrs. Thompson reports that all 32 homes are expected to be completed by January and February of 2008.

Helen White, Housing Program Rehab Supervisor, and **Dianne Washington,** Housing Counselor III, developed a Modular Housing pilot program post-Katrina. Six households were selected to participate. The first is almost ready to move in, and the others are either awaiting financing or finalization on their



General Services' staff enjoyed a picnic at Pard Playground in November

specs and plans.

Ken Krey, Project Coordinator, reported on the projects he supervises: Renovations to the Hazel Hurst Community Center are now 20 percent complete. Construction of the new Marrero Community Center will begin soon, as the contract was awarded November 14. Reconstruction of Glen Della Street and North Claiborne Parkway on the West Bank by Kass Bros. Co. has begun. The preliminary design for landscaping Ivy Street in Bunche Village is done.

Community Development took to the high seas October 24 when they decorated their booth in the Pirates of the Caribbean theme at the 7th Annual Senior Expo at the Pontchartrain Center. **June Durnin**, who decorated the booth with help from her family, created the pirate theme with a paper mache ship complete with mast, sails, and wooden chests filled with golden nuggets. June was the prettiest pirate on the high seas. A talented decorator in her spare time, June administers the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) for homelessness prevention. She credits her son, Brent Durnin, and

his friend Chad Brickley, both full-time college students holding full-time jobs, for helping her design and build the set. "I'd like to give credit to both these dedicated and hard-working young men for their time and talent in helping me create the pirate display," June said. "I could not have done it without them." Her son, **Lance Durnin**, loaned his van to transport the paper mache decorations to and from the Pontchartrain Center.

Community Development staff gathered at the Treasure Chest Casino on Friday, November 16, to celebrate a Thanksgiving luncheon together. There was a general consensus that the gumbo was delicious. And where else can you live and brag on the holiday gumbo?

Two long-time Housing Rehab Specialists, **Ciro Palermo** and **Phil Ciatto**, hung up their hats and retired. **Director Anatola Thompson** and staff celebrated **Ciro's** sendoff with a lunch at the Red Maple in Gretna. Following **Ciro**, C.D. staff hosted a retirement lunch for **Phil** at the Olive Garden in Kenner.

Streets

By
Michelle Swenson

Seasons greetings to you all! The Streets and Parkways Dept. honored their employees with a pin luncheon at Lafreniere Park on November 2. We would like to thank **Wayne Williams** for cooking and having his crew set up and to Parks and Recreation for the use of their beautiful park. We would also like to thank **Vickie O'Brien** and all of the ladies from the Credit Union for attending and especially for the money machine.

Tears of laughter welled in the eyes of many watching the people scramble to collect the money flying around the booth. We had 10 lucky employees leave the picnic with more money than they came in with.

Thanks also to the committee for their hard work organizing and bringing the picnic together. The committee includes **Amber Breaux**, **Maria Gibson**, **Rodney Lyons**, **Mitch Demuth**, **Wayne Williams**, **Don Hogan**, and **Lance Stansberry**. Finally, we would like to thank our director, **Randy Nicholson**, for bringing us together and taking the time to show his appreciation to his employees.

We would like to recognize all of our valued employees and thank them for their years of service. Some people just recently received their pins, so all have been included for the past few years. And also included are Parkways Department employees. The following people received their pins at the recent pin luncheon:



The Prettiest Pirate: CD's June Durnin at the Senior Expo

10 Years:

2007: **Kori Allemand, Ernest Grillot, Joe Johnson, Debbie Tunstall, Davis Hayes, Roslyn Knox, Warren LeBlanc, Darren Teen, John Allen, Cedric James.**

2006: **Janet Pitts, Michelle Swenson, Bobby Ferrell, Frank Moran, Carl Reed, Ricky Walker, Frank Bailey, Sean Duckett, Sarah Otero**

2005: **Leonard Reeves, Andrea James, Jason Montagino, Gary Sullivan, James Thompson.**

5 Years:

2007: **Charles Howard, Demarco Martin, Steward Washington, Roy Williams, Michael Bazile, Charlie Johnson**

2006: **Heta Babin, John Jackson, Melvin Adams, Gary Dufrene**

2005: **Tim Constant, Dennis Beraud, Tyrone Dukes, Morgan Stackhouse, Ronald Stackhouse, Lance Stansberry.**

Parkways

By
Angela Winchester

This is our last issue for the year and I'm actually at a loss for words. Well, not exactly at a loss. We have had a long and successful year despite the department shortages of manpower and equipment; we have managed to fill what openings we have with quality employees who come to Jefferson Parish trained and ready to make Jefferson Parish the beautiful place we all would like it to be.

Our medians are looking good, our trees are beautiful, and we are planning beautification projects throughout Jefferson Parish. We have wonderful volunteers and volunteer groups that are willing to help us make that happen. We have dedicated, loyal, long-time employees who want a parish that everyone is proud to live and work in. We look forward to a prosperous and beautiful 2008.

Animal Shelter

By
Kay Levy

The Animal Shelter wishes everyone a Happy Holiday. We are looking forward to the New Year.

The West Bank Shelter staff would like to thank **Lyndsey Nash** and **Lauren Himojosa**, Summer Community Service workers, for their kind monetary donation as well as the donation of newspapers and supplies to the shelter. Donations are greatly appreciated and always put to good use.

We would like to welcome new employees, **Laquita Gowdy**, Clerk I, West Bank Shelter; **Nolan Long**, Kennel Worker I; **Lori Ingram**, Clerk I; and **Roosevelt Chaney**, Animal Control Officer, to the East Bank Shelter. Also, we would like to welcome our new veterinarian, **Jessica Coates-Hudson**, DVM, and her Vet Tech, **Darrell Thaxton**, to the East Bank Shelter. Dr. Coates and Darrell came to the shelter from Primary Veterinary Clinic.

As we welcome new employees to the shelter, we also said goodbye to **Hope Zamora**, West Bank Shelter. Hope moved to the West Bank Personnel Department. **Zakita Mitchell**, East Bank Shelter, moved to the Capital Projects Department. Also, **Keyon Kent** and **Kavodas Harris**, East Bank Shelter, transferred to the Water Department. We wish them all good luck in their new positions.



Streets Director Randy Nicholson congratulates Lovonia Cola, who is retiring with 30 years of service

Our Pet Adoption Day is to be held on December 15, 2007, from 10:00 A.M to 2:00 P.M. at Jefferson Feed and Garden at Jefferson Highway and Central Avenue.

The East Bank had an exciting October when “K-Ville” chose our location to film an episode of their television series. The episode aired on November 19, 2007. Shelter employees had their pictures taken with the star of “K-Ville,” Anthony Anderson. Pictured are **Norma Briscoe, Nedra Lagarde,** and **Alberta Wright.**

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branan, RN

Care With Medications

When you have a physical complaint, the affected tissues send a signal to the brain to let you know that something is wrong. It may be something as simple as a rock in a shoe, or it may be the onset of appendicitis. Depending on what is causing the ailment, it may resolve on its own or require medical intervention. Some conditions that should always

be evaluated by a doctor as soon as possible include difficulty breathing, uncontrollable bleeding, heart-related complaints, infections, a lump, and sudden unexplained weight loss or gain.

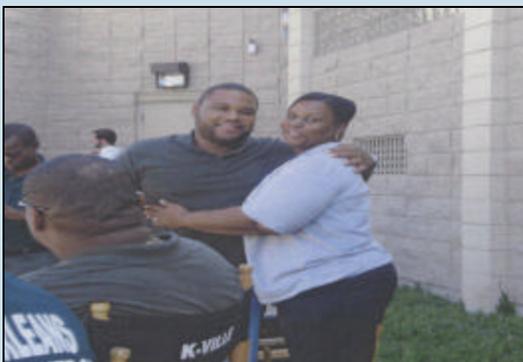
If you have an ailment, chances are there is a medication on the market to treat it. Just watch the television long enough and sooner or later a commercial will run with the medication for that ailment. Some medications may be over-the-counter, while for others a doctor will have to write a prescription. With so many different products on the market, what is one to do?

It is important to remember that just because a medication can be purchased without a prescription does not minimize the fact that it can be potentially fatal if taken improperly. Also, care and respect must be given to the numerous vitamins and herbs that are on the market. Again, these items can be potentially fatal if taken improperly.

It is always good to become familiar with whatever medical conditions you have and the medications you are taking. Also, become familiar with what medications and herbs can aggravate a medical condition or interact with other medications.

Technology has greatly improved the delivery of information to the consumer. You can obtain information regarding medications on the bottle itself, the prescription handouts given when the prescription is purchased, on the internet, and various pharmaceutical books. The important information provided includes the Trade and Generic names; the amount of medication to take; how often and how to take it; the side effects/

K-Ville at the Animal Shelter



adverse reactions; the contraindications or situations/conditions under which you should not take the drug; and special instructions. If, after reading the literature, you still have questions, contact your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

Always remember to keep all medications out of the reach of children who may take them thinking it is candy. Keep essential emergency numbers next to the phone in case of emergencies. Store medication according to the instructions. Most can be kept at room temperature; while others may need refrigeration.

Always check the expiration dates on medications before opening the bottle. Throw away all medication past the expiration date. Keep Benadryl in the medicine cabinet in case of allergic reactions. Multiple pill products are available to cut pills or for pill storage organizing according to time of day or day of the week. To avoid double-dosing, design a medication record and write in the time medications are taken. Always wash down pills with enough water to move them into the stomach. Never allow pills to start dissolving in the esophagus.

To conclude, your doctor should be contacted if there is a concern that an adverse or allergic reaction may be occurring. And for severe reactions, if it is affecting your breathing, causing chest tightness/pressure, or developing severe hives and intense itching, call 911!

JeffCAP

By
Yvonne Dumas

Community Centers Observe Thanksgiving

JeffCAP distributed over 170 Turkey Baskets at the Dorothy B. Watson Community Center in Metairie, under the supervision of **Mrs. Luisa Cazabon**, to the citizens in Jefferson Parish for Thanksgiving. A special thank you to New Orleans Saints player Chris Reis & his wife Michelle and Mrs. Pauline Morgan & The True Democrats, who provided the turkeys for the baskets. Your act of kindness is greatly appreciated.

The Gretna Community Center, under the supervision of **Dr. Clara Byes**, served over 300 Thanksgiving meals to the citizens of Jefferson Parish on Thanksgiving Day. Thank you to the 50 plus volunteers that took time to help with delivering meals, preparing food, serving, or cleaning

up. Their thoughtfulness, time, and kindness are deeply appreciated.

New Head Start Centers

JeffCAP has a lot to be excited about in the Head Start Program! We have two new centers for children ages 3-5. Terrytown – Gretna, 2315 Terrytown – Gretna, 2315 Park Place, Gretna, LA; and Bridge City, 301 Third Emmanuel Street, Bridge City, LA.

Saying Goodbye

We wish to say a fond farewell to **Albertine Jackson**. Ms. Jackson worked at the Marrero Community Center as a Community Service Counselor. She was employed with Jefferson Parish for 30 years. Congratulations on your retirement!

On behalf of JeffCAP, we would like to wish everyone a very safe, joyous, and prosperous Holiday Season!



The new Terrytown-Gretna Head start Center opened in April 2007

Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

While this hurricane season comes to an end on November 30, sighs of relief are short-lived as a new season will begin in six months. Forgetting all about hurricanes until June is a thought we cannot entertain as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita's destruction is still evident among us.

Let's take the next six months to review flood and homeowners' insurance coverage to ensure that we are properly insured. Failing to have full replacement costs can mean significant financial hardship as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have significantly affected the cost of building materials and labor. This department is continuously reviewing and updating emergency plans for hurricanes as well as other natural and man-made disasters. We are planning several exercises in 2008 to test these plans.

Staff Announcements

Congratulations to **Charles M. Hudson** on his promotion to Assistant Director. We wish "Charlie" success in this new position. And we welcome **Timothy Gautreau, Jr.**, as an Emergency Coordinator II. Timmy has been a Volunteer Firefighter for ten years and is a life-long "Best Banker." He is married to Crystle and has two children, Addi, 17, and Tray, 14.

As the magic of the holiday season approaches, the Emergency Management staff would like to extend our best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season and a good year ahead.

Library

By
Jim Davis and Ranie Lefort

Jefferson Parish Library congratulates **Mary Curry**, Administrative Management Specialist III, on her retirement; **Debbie Troxclair** on her promotion to Assistant Library Director; and **Irene Lunkin** on her promotion to Administrative Assistant.

In celebration of the New Orleans Museum of Art exhibition "Blue Winds Dancing: The Whitecloud Collection of Native American Art" (running through Feb. 17, 2008, and free to Louisiana residents), Jefferson Parish Library in partnership with NOMA presented "A Harvest Festival: Celebrating Native American Culture" at East Bank Regional Library on November 10, made possible in part by a grant from the Ruby K. Worner Charitable Trust and in partnership with the NOMA.



Mardi Gras comes early in 2008, and so do programs at Jefferson Parish Library. On Tuesday, January 15, 7:00 p.m. at East Bank Regional Library, Mardi Gras authors and histori-

ans Arthur Hardy and Errol Laborde on the same night follow the same parade route, so to speak, to discuss their most recent Mardi Gras books. Hardy will talk about his *Mardi Gras in New Orleans, An Illustrated History*, 3rd Ed, and Laborde will discuss his *Krewe: The Early New Orleans Carnival—Comus To Zulu*. Join us for this special event to kick off your Carnival season.

We welcome new employees joining the library team, including **Lawrence Aymami**, Maintenance Repairman; **Tachel Ferguson**, Typist Clerk II; **Tammy Guthrie**, Library Associate; **Jessica Kovacs**, Typist Clerk II; **Roy Landry**, Maintenance Repairman; **Priscilla Lyons**, Librarian II; **David Marchand**, Maintenance Repairman; **Scott Seely**, Library Associate; **Marlon Tabora**, Maintenance Repairman; **Kathy Thurnau**, Librarian II; **Irene West**, Computer Systems Specialist; and **Stephanie Williams**, Clerk III.

One of Two Temporary Facilities Now Open

Gretna Library is now located in a fully functioning temporary Library facility located in the parking lot of the Gretna location at 102 Willow Drive, made possible by Solinet's Gulf Coast Libraries Project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The temporary structure is now stocked and staffed. The Gretna Library hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. We are happy to be back in the old neighborhood.

Retirements

Robert Deffner
General Services
31 years

Albertine Jackson
JeffCAP
30 years

Lovonia Cola
JeffCAP
30 years

George Brand III
Sewerage
30 years

Nghi Van Tran
Drainage
28 years

Mary Curry
Library
28 years

Patrick Juneau
Fire
27 years

Joyce Seiber
Parkways
25 years

Samuel Carter
Water
24 years

Phillip Ciatto
Community Development
14 years

Joyce Lee
Code Enforcement
12 years

Ciro Palermo
Community Development
11 years

In Memory Of Joey



After General Services' article was submitted, we learned of the sudden and untimely death of Stationary Engineer II Joseph Lodrigues. He was 43 years of age. Joey worked on both banks of the river, originally at JPCC and the Courthouse. Joey was Engineer on the East Bank, responsible for the Yenni Building as well as Jefferson and Bridge City Senior Centers. Joey began working for Jefferson Parish on October 9, 1995, and has been a beloved member of General Services for his entire time here. He will be sorely missed. Joey leaves behind two sons, Devyn, age 10, and Dylan, age 15; a step-son Johnny, age 5; as well as his life partner, Judy Johnson. Our prayers and sympathies go out to his family and friends.

—Paula Blackwell