



Volume 28
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EMERGENCY

Message from the Parish President. .

Being Prepared

My Dear Fellow Employees,

We are in the heart of hurricane season. Although we have worked hard and the parish is more prepared than we have ever been, we hope that all of our preparations are for naught. Let's pray that this year's tropical activity is a repeat of last year and not 2005.

Just as the parish has prepared for the worst while hoping for the best, I urge you and your families to be prepared as well. Encourage each other—your coworkers, relatives, and friends—to be prepared.

Have a Plan

It is often said that knowledge is power, and that is certainly true for hurricane preparedness. When we understand and respect the force of nature that is a hurricane, when we employ techniques to safeguard and secure our property, and when we have a well thought-out plan for the safety of our families, then we are truly ready.

Take Advantage of Available Resources

There is good information on our parish website about hurricane preparation for individuals



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

and families. You can also find hurricane preparedness guidelines from the Red Cross, from our local television station meteorologists, and from the National Weather Service websites.

Remember Duty to Family and Citizens

Being prepared is especially important for those of us who are designated as essential duty employees. We have a personal responsibility to plan now so that we have the peace of mind that our loved ones are safe while we concentrate on our duties as public servants.

We must all work together and plan ahead so that we are confident and ready to meet any challenges that come our way.

Aaron F. Broussard
Parish President



En Realité

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Paul Ferrara

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

CAROLE LETEFF & DAVID STOUT

WATER

Kathy Theriot

WORKFORCE CONNECTION

Joan Vaughn

Editor's

Notes

Medicare Now an Option for Many Employees

I'm gratified to announce that many Parish employees who have not been contributing to Medicare will now have that option. This new development affects employees who were hired before April 1, 1986. Prior to that date employees who worked for the Parish or for any government entity did not contribute to Medicare. After that date, new employees began contributing, but those hired before were not given the option—until now.

The legislature recently passed a "Medicare Referendum," allowing governments to give the Medicare option to employees who have been denied it. Jefferson Parish is gladly taking the state up on the offer.

Accepting the Medicare option will mean contributing 1.45% of earnings. The Parish agrees to match that contribution—as it does for all employees currently contributing. Employees can earn up to four "credits" per year.

The benefit of earning credits is that it can reduce the cost of Medicare Part A—hospital insurance—when you become Medicare eligible. For employees with 40 or more credits, Medicare Part A is free. With no credits, this insurance costs several hundred dollars per month. Keep in mind that the Medicare tax does not affect Medicare Part B—medical insurance; eve-



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

ryone, regardless of credits, pays for Part B, but it is much less expensive than Part A.

Another important consideration is that any Parish employee who retires on or after January 1, 2005, must enroll in a Medicare 65 plan when they become Medicare eligible in order to have Medicare insurance with the Parish. *You cannot join a Medicare 65 plan if you do not have Medicare Parts A and B.*

Before accepting the Medicare option, consider if you are already eligible for Medicare—through your spouse or from credits earned in previous employment—because the decision is irrevocable. The decision is also permanent: Sorry, but you can't contribute just long enough to earn your needed credits and then drop out again!

If you choose to take advantage of the Medicare referendum, your ballot must be in the Human Resources office by August 17. *This is an absolute deadline.* If you have any questions about Medicare eligibility, please call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213.

Screen-Cleaning Classes:

Programs at East and West Bank Pump Stations Prepare for Storm Season

Between June 4-7, the Safety Division of Human Resources presented “screen-cleaning” classes to employees who will be charged with the important responsibility of keeping our canals free of obstructions. This duty is vital to the operations of our pumps during a strong rain and can be dangerous if safety is not a prime focus.

“The variety of debris that has to be removed from the screens during a strong rain is incredible,” says Safety Officer **Millie Brady**. “We’ve seen everything from children’s toys and bicycles to kitchen appliances. Anything you can imagine either falling or being dumped into a canal ends up at those screens.” And if the pumps are not kept cleaned of that debris, those million-dollar pumps will shut down.

Giant mechanical rakes pick up the debris from the screens, and our screen cleaners must manually remove it with pitchforks and rakes. A Bobcat



Pump Station Operator II Anthony Lobue uses a Bobcat to pile debris that has been removed from the screens near the Duncan safe house

pushes the debris into giant piles. “Since all of this work is typically done during significant rain events and in close proximity to a canal, it can be quite dangerous,” adds Millie. “That’s why we created this program.”

Nearly 200 employees from Drainage, Sewerage, and Parkways attended the training sessions at the Lake Villa and Ames Pump Stations. Safety Program Manager **Nolan Guidry** thanks

the Recreation Department for providing chairs for the events.

In addition to Guidry and Brady, Safety Officers **Gregory Reynolds** and **Larry Guchereau** took the participants through a specially designed booklet, outlining the key points of screen-cleaning safety. Special thanks also to Pump Station Operators **Randy Rivero** and **Larry Portier** as well as Drainage Superintendent **Manny Aspuria** for their assistance.



Safety Officer Millie Brady conducts a screen-cleaning class at the Ames Pump Station



Drainage employee Dawn Lovelace rakes debris from the screens at the Suburban Pump Station

Code Enforcement

By
Linda Roy

We welcome aboard **Merlin Gresse, Jr.**, Plumbing Inspector I, and **Elkedria Richardson**, Data Entry Operator. Glad to have you in our Code Enforcement family!

We also want to welcome **Kelli Totorico** to our Director's Office. She transferred from our East Bank Building Section. We hope you like your change of scenery!!!

Each year, Code is fortunate to have several young students working for us during the summer months. This year, **Amanda Sawyer, Josh Costanza, Kelli Johnson, Kimberly Lagarde, Brooke Otero, Lamone Young, and Lotoia Bazile** assisted us with our daily, routine clerical duties. They were a big help. We thank them and wish them luck in their studies. GOOD JOB!!

Congratulations! We are happy to announce **Chandelyn Whitehead's** promotion to Weed and Pollution Control Supervisor and **Michelle Champagne's** promotion to Administrative Assistant. Ladies, we know you will do a great job in your new endeavors. WONDERFUL!!!

We say good bye to **Carol Cox**. Carol rejoined our staff to help the Director's office during their difficult staffing shortage. YOU DID A GREAT JOB!! Thank You.

For the last year, our Inspectors and Plan Reviewers have been going through extensive training to achieve certification in their respective areas. This training has been done by in-

house staff as well as by an independent firm working through a grant with the State of Louisiana and will continue throughout the year and into the next. Many of our Inspectors, Plan Reviewers, and Regulatory staff have successfully accomplished certifications in the areas of Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Building, Plan Review, and Code Enforcement/Legal Management. We congratulate those employees for their hard work and dedication. We wish the best of luck for those who are still hitting the books for future testings. THANKS GUYS!!!!!!

Wedding bells rang for **Mirhonda Harris**, Weed Control. Mirhonda married on July 2 – That's why she's all smiles and giggles!!

Several of our employees have run into some bad luck and have been out sick. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to **Frank Vloutis** and **Dave Chaisson**, Property Maintenance Inspectors; **Dave Williams**, Asst. Regulatory Manager; and **George Dillenkoffer**. Take care of yourselves and hurry back!

Believe it or not – school has started again. Be mindful of school zones, speed limits, and school buses! Where did the time go?



Engineering Director Mark Drewes presents Thomas Franklin his 10-year award

Health & Wellness

By
Peggy Branan, RN



Try My Pyramid!

If most of us take an honest look at our ailments, chances are they're caused by carrying too much weight and/or not eating the right kind of foods.

Over the last twenty-five years, the eating and activity habits of Americans have changed dramatically for the worse. The numbers of overweight children are catching up to the normal-weight children. Unfortunately, adults are not doing much better. With the more sedentary lifestyles, eating more meals out, and the overindulgence of snacks, the health of Americans is in need of a major overhaul.

As a result, in 2005 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a new healthy food guidance system called MyPyramid, designed to address the individual nutritional and activity needs of Americans. Are you in need of a health overhaul? How can MyPyramid help you improve your health?

MyPyramid incorporates six themes for a complete approach to achieving good health. Each theme is explained as follows:

Activity: Steps go up the side of the pyramid to remind us that daily activity is important.

Variety: A specific color band represents each food group, as well as oils, in the pyramid.

Proportionality: Each color band has different widths. The width indicates the portion size of the food group in relation to the other food groups.

Moderation: The base of the triangle is wide and narrows as it goes upward to the tip. The sugar and fat content in the food groups goes up the closer it gets to the tip of the triangle. The food items closer to the base are the more healthy choices and can be eaten in greater quantities.

Gradual Improvement: A gradual approach toward improving one's health can best be achieved by making little changes in diet and activity every day.

Personalization: MyPyramid is designed to have the participants find the specific types and amounts of food they should eat that day based on their individual data.

MyPyramid.gov is a great tool to use. It is a complete resource to develop a healthy lifestyle plan, obtain tips and other resources, learn about dietary guidelines, find information for any age, and obtain materials to track progress. And, MyPyramid is free! So, link up to MyPyramid and get with the program! What do you have to lose but those unwanted pounds and unhealthy habits!!

As always, check with your doctor before starting a diet and exercise program.



Citizens' Affairs

By
Joanna Lee

Correction

Wayne Ory is not with Citizens with Disabilities as stated in our June article; he's our Coordinator of Senior Services.



Wayne Ory

And as Coordinator, Mr. Ory traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, for the National Senior Olympic Games. Mr. Ory represented Louisiana at a celebration of athletes and spoke at a luncheon regarding the comeback of Louisiana, especially for seniors participating in Olympic Games. He also had the opportunity of meeting Bruce Jenner and Mohamed Ali.

Carnival/Special Events

We are currently preparing for the 2008 Jefferson Parish Family Gras for the East and West Bank. More details will be available in our next article. Also, Sunday (1-27-08) there will be a Mardi Gras Marathon, so "get out your running shoes!"

Happy Anniversary, ADA!

July 26 was the 17th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This is the law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Parish President **Aaron Broussard**, Deputy CAA **Deano Bonano**, and **Director Terry McCarthy**

joined the New Orleans Mayor's Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities and Assistant Attorney General Wan Kim, from the U.S. Department of Justice, in recognizing the ADA's anniversary. **Mr. Broussard** offered a proclamation recognizing the ADA's 17th birthday and the ongoing efforts of the GNO area in prohibiting discrimination against citizens with disabilities.

Proud "Baggers"

We are very proud of our department for having 93 % participation in the "Brown Bag" Lunch Campaign. Also, we give thanks to **Mary Nelson** for her excellent work in being the coordinator for this very worthy cause.



Mary Nelson with proud Director,
Terry McCarthy

Transit News

In May of 2007, Jefferson Parish Transit and **Mr. Ryan D. Brown**, Coordinator of Transit Administration, were featured on the cover of the national magazine, *Busline*. **Mr. Terry McCarthy**, Director of Citizens' Affairs, was featured in the article also. Jefferson Transit was commended on revitalizing the public transit system after Katrina.

You can read the article on our Jefferson Parish website under Transit Administration.

Workforce Connection

By
Joan Vaughn

Se habla Español!!

Jefferson Parish was represented at Hispanic Outreach Day by the Jefferson Parish Employees Hispanic Outreach Committee. The event was organized by the Archdiocese of New Orleans on June 9 at the Kenner Lake Town Park as an effort to do community outreach to the Hispanic Community.

Established in 1995, the Hispanic Outreach Committee is formed by Parish employees who speak Spanish and wish to assist the Hispanic Community by providing information about Parish services and programs.

The Administration has been very supportive of our initiative. Six Parish employees and the Registrar of Voter office, including our own **Blanca Rosa Morales** and **Yerula Louque** assisted at the Parish Information Booth, distributing brochures, flyers, evacuation maps.

Members of the committee are as follows: **Blanca Rosa**

Morales (WC), David Egudin (Library), Esther Enamorado (JeffCap), Juan Gutierrez (Engineering), Luis Campos (General Services), Luis Vergara (Sewerage), Luisa Cazabon (JeffCap), Rosa Campos (Purchasing), and Yerula Louque (WC).

The Jefferson Parish Business Career Solution Center is working very hard to assist the public. Many people are returning to the city, trying to seek employment, training, and available services. The Hispanic population is growing and many Hispanics come to the center to use our resources. We are able to assist the Hispanic population with our bilingual staff.

The Business Career Solution Center would like to congratulate our veteran rep **Mr. Charlie Gilbert**, who was named the 2007 Veteran Small Business Champion of the year, a statewide honor for his work with veterans.

The staff of Jefferson Parish Business Career Solution Center is proud to be a part of rebuilding the community.

Sewerage

By
Bobbie Fose

Congratulations to our service pin award winners: **Frederick Chopin**, and **Frank Chivleatto, Jr.**, 5 years; , **Julian Jessie**, **Jerry Durant**, **Chris Fernandez**, **Willie Martin**, **Anthony Puglise**, **Tammy Guillot**, and **Manuel Vergara**, ten years; and **Randolph Doucet** and **Kevin Banks**, 15 years.

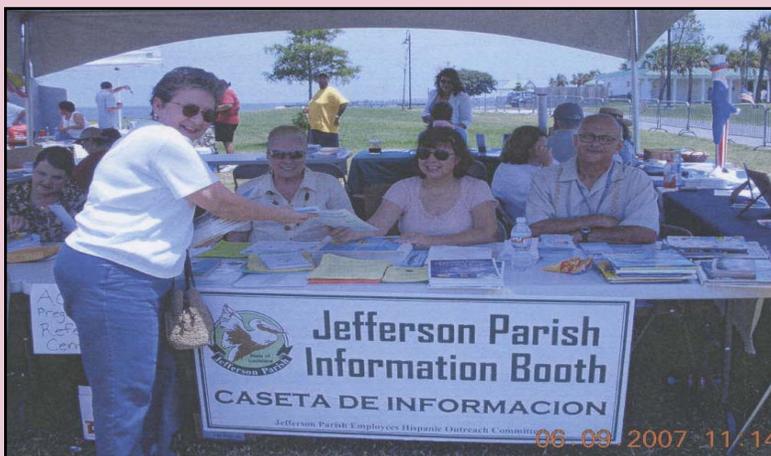


Randy Doucet and Kevin Banks receive 15-year awards from Sewerage Director Brett Todd

Welcome to our “Summer Workers” **Kirsty Allison** and **Corey Miller**. **Kirsty** has been working with Administrative Assistant **Lucie Claverie**, who says **Kirsty** is a meticulous, hard worker who cleared her filing in record time. **Kirsty** is also helping other people in Sewerage.

Corey Miller has been working in the Rehab Department with **Jerrod Jessie**, Computer Analyst Programmer. **Corey** has been doing data input and field reports. **Jerrod** said **Corey** is a very consistent, hard worker. Congratulations to both of you on your fine performance.

The Sewerage Department was very proud to participate in the Brown Bag Fundraiser for the Jefferson Children’s Advocacy Center. We would like to thank all our employees who donated to this worthwhile cause.



Yerula Louque, Blanca Rosa Morales, and David Egudin assist a customer on Hispanic Outreach Day

Drainage

By

Maria Cervini & Marilyn Slutsky

New Assistant Director

Congratulations to **William Duplaisir**, who was promoted to Assistant Director. Bill has been with the Parish for 30 years. He started as a Drainage Draftsman back in 1976 and worked his way up the ranks as a Foreman and Superintendent. Since 2001 Bill has been our Operations/Maintenance Program Manager.



Drainage's new Assistant Director
Bill Duplaisir

Other promotions:

Cordell Farrar to Drainage Pump Station Superintendent II; **Oscar Mendoza**, **Kevin Romero**, and **Joseph Burse** to Drainage Pump Station Operator I; **Carl Sanders** to Drainage Pump Station Trades Helper; **Norman Walton** to Drainage Truck Driver II; and **Patricia Rambeau**, who transferred from the Library Department to Drainage Administration, to Typist Clerk III.

New Hires

Welcome to our new Drainage hires **Jerone Justin**, Trades Helper; **Tyrone Rose**, **Raymond Coster**, **Sylvester LeBlanc**, **Quincy Covington**,

Justin Bertrand, and **Scott Fredericks**, Laborers. Our new Drainage Pump Station hires are **Tyrone Granger**, Pump Station Operator I; **Dawn Lovelace**, **Tyrone Smith**, and **John Dixon**, Laborers.

A warm welcome is extended to our summer student worker, **Claire Ravannack**, Clerk I.

Service Awards

We would like to commend our employees who recently received their service pin awards—15 years: **Doris Short**, **Jason Alexander**, **Aaron Brown**, and **Jeffrey Walker**; 10 years: **James Caston, Jr.**, **Clay Ledet**, **Damian Dent**, **Michael Gray**, **Romalace James**, **Deborah MacCracken**, **Gary Richoux**, and **Lawrence Williams**; 5 years: **Terrell Power**, **Corey Chopin**, **Carl Beloney**, **Murphy Clark**, **Jenny Ann Wactor**, and **Ricky White, Jr.**

Praise from the Public

Foreman **Lawrence Williams** and crew **Alan Morris**, **Darrius Taylor**, **Leon Melancon**, and **Quincy Sanders**, of the West Bank Drainage Department, received a call of praise from a citizen for their excellent work on the canal behind her home on Vulcan Dr. on the West Bank. The resident said they worked hard cleaning up the canal servitude (Par 3 ditches) of the underbrush and wanted us to know what a wonderful job this crew did.

Frank Maness, Drainage Superintendent I, is now Safety Program Manager.

We extend our condolences to **Patsy Firmin**, whose mother passed away, and to **Dwayne Detiege**, who lost his father. We will keep them in our prayers.



Drainage Director Kazem Alikhani (left) and Superintendent III Larry Palmisano (right), congratulate Deborah MacCracken, Lawrence Williams, and Michael Gray, who are celebrating ten years of service.

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

Environmental Affairs would like to thank everyone who participated in the Recycling Drop-off Days held on June 2 and July 28, 2007. Both events were big successes.

We would like to welcome our newest family member **Lauren Lovell**. Lauren is our new student worker from Grace King High School. Welcome aboard.

Take the Pledge!

The Environmental Department would like to challenge all Jefferson Parish employees to take part in the 2007 Energy Star Change a Light Campaign.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) and Office Depot are again joining forces for the 2007 Energy Star Change a Light Campaign. The Campaign encourages individuals to change the most frequently used light in their home to an ENERGY STAR qualified light – saving on energy bills and reducing greenhouse gas emissions! Jefferson Parish is encouraging individuals to submit the pledge by going to the following website. www.naco.org/changealight. Paper pledges are also available for employees that do not have internet access. For paper pledges contact Joana Sá Chambers 731-4612.

The winning counties (Parishes), those that submit the most individual pledges from county employees, will receive national recognition in Washington, DC, on the national EN-

ERGY STAR Change a Light Day.

Energy-efficient light bulbs and fixtures that earn the ENERGY STAR offer warm, bright light with the added benefits of using at least two-thirds less energy than traditional models and lasting up to 10 times longer. Changing a light is a simple step we can each take to preserve energy resources, save money, and help protect our environment.

The pledges will be collected from July 1 through September 13, 2007. All you have to do is pledge that you will change just one light in your home to an energy efficient (ENERGY STAR-rated) light. Office Depot is offering a \$3 coupon toward the purchase of a new energy efficient light bulb for those taking the pledge. Please go to the website and take the pledge. www.naco.org/changealight.

Fight the Bite

It is that time of year again. Yes, it is mosquito season. Here are some tips to keep the annoying little critters away.

Protect Yourself:

Wear insect repellent and apply according to instructions. Wear light-colored long pants and long sleeve shirts to cover exposed skin.

Fight Mosquitoes:

- Repair holes in door and window screens.
- Add sand to plant pot drip trays to absorb excess water.
- Get rid of old tires, drums, buckets, or any water-holding containers.
- Fill in or drain any low places in the yard.
- Keep drains, ditches, or culverts clean of weeds and trash so water will drain properly.
- Empty plastic wading pools several times a week and store indoors when not in use.
- Fill tree rot holes or hollow stumps with sand or concrete.
- Change water in birdbaths and plant pots and drip trays several times a week.
- For stagnant ponds, rain barrels, and low-lying areas, use environmentally friendly larvicides.

For more information go to www.FightTheBiteLouisiana.com



Over 750 residents brought their recyclables to the Yenni Building at the Recycle Drop-off day. A total of 44680 lbs were collected on the East Bank.

Water
By
Kathy Theriot

Service Pins Awarded

On June 28, 2007, Water Department Employees gathered in Suite 909 at the Joseph S. Yenni Building to receive well-deserved years-of- service pins. Director **Randy Schuler** congratulated each employee and thanked them for the many years of dedicated service to our Parish.

The ceremony ended with an assortment of pastries and juice. Once again, we would like to thank these employees and wish them continued success in their future years with us.



Water Director Randy Schuler presents Equipment Operator Alexander Baker with a 15-year service pin award

Fifteen Year Recipient: **Alexander Baker**

Ten Year Recipients: **Dwayne Batiste, Herman Wilson Jr., David Bailey Jr., Brian Irvin Sr., Bruce Tumblin Jr., Julita Arseneaux, Patricia Boudreaux, Donnie Hidalgo, and Mary Smith.**

Five Year Recipients: **Wardell Stewart, Wardell Vontoure Jr., Corey Junior, Amy Landry, Robert Skrokov Jr.**

General Services

By
Judy Johnson

Congratulations to **George Folsie III** on his promotion to Assistant Director and to **Mike Fonseca**, our new Property Manager.



New Property Manager Mike Fonseca

Welcome to our new employees, **Christian (Andy) Pate** and **Jacob Kummel**.

Service Awards:

15 Years: **Claude Daniels** and **Mark Meyers**

10 Years: **Craig Balestra, Judy Johnson, Michael Lemoine, John Stortz, and Wayne Guillot**



15-year service award recipients Mark Meyers and Claude Daniels pose with General Services Director Anthony Francis, and GS managers Harold Brown and Van Taylor

5 Years: **Kurt Chiasson, Gregory Jeffery, David Segura, and Bennie Ditcharo**

Childens Advocacy

Thank you, General Services, for participating in the fund-raising event. We raised \$250.00. Job well done.

Dedication of Donelon Bldg.

The newly renovated Thomas F. Donelon Building was dedicated on May 25, 2007. The Master of Ceremonies for this event was Jefferson Parish President **Aaron F. Broussard**. The building was named after past President Donelon, who served as Parish President from 1964 to 1976.

Before renovations the building was known as the Courthouse Annex Building, dedicated in 1968. Over the years the building has housed many different agencies such as Judicial Court, District Attorney's Office, and Clerk of Court's Office. Today it is the home of the 24th Judicial District Court.

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

WELCOME to the following new employees: **Tino Lyons**, Juvenile Detention Officer I; **Shelana Martin**, Cook I; **Trenise Smith**, Receptionist; and welcome *back* to **Linda Bon**, who was reinstated as a Juvenile Social Worker II.

FAREWELL to **Sal Gendusa** and **Tramaine Harrison**, Juvenile Detention Officers; **Dawn Louviere**, EB Receptionist; and **Wiliana Wiggins**, Cook I.

We would like to thank our summer employees who helped out tremendously during these past months: **Megan Guillot**, **Hollie Holmes**, and **Matthew Villio**, who worked as Clerks; and the following teachers who helped continue our educational components: **Lucy Bates**, **Beverly Davis**, **Marble Pierre**, **Jacquelyn Crosby**, **Bernadine Lamothe**, and **Jennifer Jenkins**.

Matthew Villio has accepted a position with the Department of Juvenile Services as the Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinator (Administrative Management Specialist II). This position will help to foster our juvenile justice reform efforts in this area. We wish him all the best in this new endeavor.

Brown Bag Lunch Campaign – DJS collected \$618.37 for the Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center. **Christopher Trosclair**, DJS Director & Parish Brown Bag Lunch Campaign Manager, would like to thank everyone

that helped to make our Parish Campaign a success. The grand total will be announced in the near future.

Congratulations to our Service Pin recipients:

5 Years: **Vicki Borja**, Typist Clerk III; **Julie Cuber**, Probation Officer; **Rebecca Johnson**, Typist Clerk II; **Charon Jules**, Detention Officer; **Troy Phares**, Probation Officer

10 Years: **Gaynell Dumas**, Detention Officer, and **Sandra Williams**, Probation Officer

15 YEARS: **Michelle Malone**, Typist Clerk III

DJS 2ND QUARTER (APRIL-JUNE) EMPLOYEES:

Detention Support: **Randy Jones**
Detention Officer: **Mose Sam**
Probation Support: **Michelle Malone**
Probation Officer: **Ebony Allen**
Supervisor: **Monique Willis**
Employee: **Chantrell Cook**

Congratulations to these employees for their outstanding service and commitment to DJS and

Human Resources

By
Greg Alexander

On June 27, Safety Officer **Larry Guchereau**, assisted by Ben Strange, conducted Backhoe Field Safety Training at the Fire Training Center in Bridge City. Employees from Streets, Drainage, and Sewerage took part in the two-day training. Prior to the field training, the participants attended and passed a classroom training. Successful completion of the course is a requirement for promotion into a Backhoe Operator position.

After the training, participants must demonstrate their operation of the equipment before a representative of the Personnel Department. "The course is an excellent way for us to ensure that only the most competent and skilled Parish employees are able to operate our backhoes," says Safety Program Manager **Nolan Guidry**. Backhoe Safety Training is offered periodically throughout the year as demand calls for it. For information about the course, call HR's Safety Division at 736-6421.



Safety Officer Larry Guchereau (center) with Backhoe students Harrison Davis (Sewerage) and Kendrick Powell (Streets); Gerry Griffin of Drainage not pictured

Animal Shelter

By
Kay Levy

New Director Named

Our new Director, **Lee Ann Matherne**, started with the Animal Shelter on Monday, July 23. Ms. Matherne comes to Jefferson Parish from St. Charles Parish, where she was the Supervisor of the parish animal shelter and Animal Control Agency. Before that, LeeAnn founded the St. Charles Humane Society, which partners with the parish animal shelter to provide care and hope for the animals there.



Animal Shelter's new Director
LeeAnn Matherne

Changes are being made at the shelter for the better. Cats are being moved into air conditioned areas that were previously office and conference space. The veterinarian and kennel staff have new equipment to help care for the animals. Ceilings are being repaired to improve ventilation. Painting is planned to improve the look of the interior and to make the kennel areas healthier. More changes are being planned for the future.

We would like to thank **Chris Garton** of Recreation, **Jill Relick** of General Services, and **Frank Moran** of Streets. They helped us tremendously in assisting the kennel personnel with cleaning the dog kennels and cat cages. We also had the assistance of temporary workers **Leo Threats**, **William Lemon**, and **Melvin Jackson**. When all the workers left for the day, floors had been scrubbed and polished, cat cages had been relocated, and we looked like a new place at the end of the day.

On June 25, the Animal Shelter received a generous donation of \$765.00 from Winn-Dixie Marketplace. St. Matthew the Apostle School students also generously donated \$2376. These donations will help us feed and care for the many thousands of dogs, cats, and other animals we shelter each year.

We would like to welcome new employees to the shelter: **Paul Boutte** and **LaKeshia Moore** are Kennel Workers at the East Bank Shelter. On August 6, 2007, **Nkenge Gould**, Kennel Worker I, and Animal Control Officer **Tracy Borne** will join the staff at the shelter.

Call for Adoptions!

We continue to have off-premise adoptions. On August 18, 2007, the Animal Shelter will be at PetCo at Williams and W. Esplanade from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

If you are ready to bring a new friend into your life and home, come to PetCo to see the dogs and cats up for adoption.

Streets

By
Michelle Swenson

Farewell, Retirees!

The Streets Department would like to wish a bittersweet farewell to our retirees. **Cliff Dufrene Sr.** retired July 31, 2007, with 19 years of service. **Thomas Laborie** retired July 31, 2007, with almost 16 years of service. And **Rosalie Dyer** also retired on July 31, 2007, with 15 years of service. (See photo, back page.) We will miss all of you. Congratulations, and you better come back to visit!

Welcome, New Hires!

Cliff Dufrene Sr. is not leaving us empty-handed. His grandson, **Cliff Dufrene III**, has joined the department. **Todd Louque** has also recently joined us. Todd and Cliff III will both be working in Streets Administration. Welcome! We are glad to have you on board.

It's that time again. Our summer workers will soon be leaving us. We must say good bye to **Jessica Washington**, **Caress George**, **Kelsey Kerner**, **Simone Delahoussaye**, **Ashley Holmes** and **Sahara Clark**. Thank you; you have all been a wonderful addition to the Streets Department family. We wish the best of luck to you all.

The Streets Department would like to extend our sympathies to **Sal Battaglia**, who recently lost his father, **Gaetano (Guy) Battaglia**. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Director **Anatola B. Thompson** has recently published a newsletter that was disseminated to community organizations and churches in Jefferson. The newsletter includes tips for homeowners on purchasing insurance and provides information about our programs, such as the Home Modification Program for the Disabled. The Home Mod Program offers a grant of up to \$7,500 for home modification for wheelchair accessibility, such as ramps, grab bars, walk-in showers, etc. For information call 736-6862 for eligibility requirements.

C.D.'s Housing Rehabilitation Program is accepting applications for Replacement Housing, Regular Rehab, and Emergency Repair. The Replacement Housing program provides a \$95,000 grant/loan (\$60,000 grant plus \$35,000 loan at 3% interest.) The program replaces

homes that are beyond repair. **Helen White**, Housing Program Rehab Manger; **Dianne Washington**, Housing Counselor III; and **Ron Johnson**, Housing Counselor II, are testing a Pilot Program with six modular homes. The models can be seen at Oak Creek Modular Homes in Westwego.

Three people have thus far chosen their models and are waiting for the plans to be approved. C.D. will demolish a home that cannot be repaired and replace it with the chosen modular home. Modular homes are assembled and delivered in two parts. They can withstand winds of over 100 miles per hour (unlike mobile homes/trailers). The average cost is about \$130,000. Helen and staff have added a new component by collaborating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for additional funding for folks who need a little extra assistance.

Congratulations to **Liz Ruth**, whose son Michael just defended his PhD dissertation in Computer Science at UNO.

JeffCAP

By
Yvonne Dumas

JeffCap (Jefferson Community Action Programs) offers the following services to the residents of Jefferson Parish:

Commodity Distribution:

We distribute USDA donated food to needy households.

Elderly & Indigent Transportation Services:

Provides transportation throughout Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. Clients travel to doctors' offices, hospitals, rehab centers, social service agencies, and activity centers.

Family Day Care Homes Feeding Program:

Child-care feeding program reimburses individual day care providers who meet requirements.

Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program:

We assist eligible clients who are leaving transitional housing with their first month's rent and security and utility deposits.

Housing Counseling:

JeffCAP provides housing counseling services which offer comprehensive housing to tenants and homeowners, information and referral, housing and financial assistance, whenever available. JeffCAP's First-Time Homebuyer Program provides knowledge that leads to homeownership.

JeffCAP's LIHEAP Program – The primary goal of the Low



Engineering Director Mark Drewes (left) and Leo Lay (second from right) present Barry Sims, Mahmoud (Ray) Mowla, and Mitch Theriot with 10-year service pin awards

Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is to assist eligible households to meet the cost of home energy for heating and cooling. The LIHEAP program serves eligible households that meet the eligibility criteria. Assistance through LIHEAP Utilities provides direct payments to Entergy and ATMOS or any heating fuel vendors for those households which fall within 60% poverty guidelines.

Retired & Senior Volunteers:

RSVP provides a variety of opportunities for retired individuals and seniors to help their community. Volunteers work in hospitals, nursing homes, day care centers, schools, etc. They also receive insurance and limited expense reimbursements.

For more information on any of these programs, please contact a community service counselor at the neighborhood community center located nearest you:

- Marrero: 349-5452
- Harvey: 227-1221
- Avondale: 349-5414
- Gretna: 376-2130
- Bridge City: 349-5464
- Metairie: 736-6840
- Jefferson: 838-4277

Head Start Program:

The goal of Head Start is to help children develop physically, socially, and emotionally, thus preparing them to function at or above the norm in formal education. Children receive educational activities, physical exams, speech, dental, hearing/vision screenings, and two nutritious meals daily. The staff encour-



On June 20, Archbishop Rummel High School received recognition by the Parish Council for 11 years of dedicated service to the children of Head Start.

As members of Operation Head Start, the students held fundraisers to purchase toys and sports equipments for the children. During the school year they distributed Christmas toys, read stories, and held tots track and field sports clinics.

We deeply appreciate the members of Operation Head Start and their teacher, Mr. Mark Firmin, who began Project Head Start 13 years ago.



The Parish Council recognizes Head Start Policy Council (HSPC) members for their active participation in the Head Start Program. The HSPC is composed of parents and community representatives.

After Hurricane Katrina, hundreds of families in Jefferson Parish were in need of quality early childhood programs. Because of the shared decision-making process in Head Start and this dedicated group of Policy Council members, the Jeff-CAP Head Start program was able to obtain money from the Federal Government to repair, renovate, and purchase new centers for families in Jefferson Parish.

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Bobby Floyd Nominated for BGR Award

Parks and Recreation's nomination for the BGR (Bureau of Governmental Research) Excellence in Government Awards 2007 was **Bobby Floyd**, ½ Assistant Center Supervisor – Nights at Jefferson Playground. Bobby began his career with Parks and Recreation in September 1966 as the night supervisor at Harlem Playground, now known as Lemon Playground. In 1973, he was transferred to Jefferson Playground. His attentiveness to detail and his passion for helping children and youth have earned him this honor. In addition to working as a night supervisor, Bobby also taught and coached for the Jefferson Parish Public School System for over 40 years and just recently retired from the school system. He is still doing what he loves best – working at the playground. (See photo above right.)

Our 2007 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 www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page. It can also be found in the August 23 edition of the *Times Picayune* or 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.



Recreation employees with 25 or more years of service gather for a photo. Front row: Vincent Massaro, Peggy Massaro, Lizette Mitchell, Janey Witt Perez, Sandy Hoffpauir, and Erin Ruddock; Back row: Lindell Gilbert, Paul Pace, Kevin O'Quinn, Carlton Palmer (30 years), Bobby Floyd (40 years), and Tommy Bryant. Not pictured: Sana Winck.

Registration for football, volleyball, and cheerleading will be taken in August. The age-determining date is September 1, 2007 (child must have attained the age of 6 on or before this date).

Work has begun on the damaged gymnasiums. Pontiff gym has been demolished with Terrytown scheduled for mid-August. Work is in progress on the floor plans for the new gyms. We hope to have contracts in place

soon for Jefferson's interior demolition and environmental cleanup.

Bonnabel Boat launch is another facility that will soon have repairs made to the parking lot and pier as the bid has been accepted.

Employees of the Month:

May: **Annette Parker** and **Phyllis Breaud**

June: **Jerome Johnson**



Recreation Director CJ Gibson (left) and Assistant Director Leo Webb (right) with 15-year employees Vic Caldarara, Phyllis Breaud, and Fran Roberson (front), and Barry McGuinness, George Wyman, and Bobby Waltzer (rear).

Library

By
Jim Davis

Two For the Books!

Jefferson Parish Library congratulates **Bobby Deffner**, Property Manager, and Betty **Paulhus**, Librarian I, Harahan Library, upon their retirements. These two employees can never be replaced. Though their jobs were different, they shared a common spirit of helpfulness, and we will miss them both.

We welcome new employees joining the library team, including **Chris Rogers**, Laborer; **Clarence Harris Jr.**, Laborer; **John Shaddinger**, Park Landscape Supervisor; **Robert Heim**, Computer Systems Coordinator; and **Jennifer Chan**, **Maria Landrum**, **Samantha Langley**, and **Elizabeth Schwartz**, Library Associates.

Temporary Facilities Soon To Open

The openings of the temporary facilities at the sites of the Lakeshore Library and the Gretna Library made possible by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant announced at East Bank Regional Library last year are closer to becoming a reality. The temporary structures have both been delivered in recent weeks, so watch for announcement of the openings as soon as the building setup is complete and the locations are stocked and staffed.

Million Dollar Grant!

At a press conference at East Bank Regional Library in Met-

airie on July 16, 2007, the Americans for Libraries Council with support from the Bush-Clinton-Katrina Fund presented a \$1.2 million grant to Friends of Jefferson Public Library to help Jefferson Parish Library “build back better.” Grants also will be forthcoming for New Orleans Public Library and the Hancock County Library System and Harrison County Library System in Mississippi.

Jefferson Parish Library has spent \$4.6 million on clean-up activities and expects to spend another \$10-\$14 million on repairs (“building back”). “But we’re not just building back,” says Library Director **Lon Dickerson**. “We’re building back better.” Toward that end, the Library has a \$12.5 million wish list which includes \$6 million for updating and expanding the library’s collection, \$2.3 million for a new library in Lafitte, and \$500,000 for system-wide technology upgrades, etc.

The wish list also includes \$3.8 million for physical components that will make every library more usable and inviting. “We want our libraries to be desirable destinations and community gathering places,” Lon said. The library had already raised \$1.2 million of that amount. The additional \$1.2 million presented by the Americans for Libraries Council will be used for physical modifications at eight of the library’s fifteen branches.

“The library is playing an active role today in rebuilding our parish and the greater New Orleans area,” said Lisa Conescu, the Library Board’s President.

She pointed to a 2006 Urban Institute study that found a significant shift in the role of public libraries – from passive, recreational reading and research institutions to active economic development agents. She says everyone is determined to create a stronger and more vibrant library in Jefferson Parish—one that will make a profound difference in our economic recovery and growth, in helping students be successful in school, and in enhancing our quality of life. Conescu thanked the Americans for Libraries Council and the Bush-Clinton-Katrina Fund for their support.

See the Library’s website for more information on this from the *Making Cities Stronger* report, as well as the poignant comments made at the press conference by Library Board President Lisa Conescu and Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian, State Library of Louisiana, as well as a breakdown of how the grant will be used at various JPL locations: <http://www.jefferson.lib.la.us/katrina/alc.htm>.

Summer Reading Wrap-Up Party

After the end of the Summer Reading Program on August 10, there will be skate party celebrations on Saturday, August 11, from 1:30 PM until 6:30PM at Airline Skate Center and Skate Country West Bank. A certificate of completion will be the pass to enter the celebrations free!! (Skate rental will be extra.) See our web page for the exciting list of prizes in various categories for children, teens,

Retirements

Carolyn Melling
Engineering
34 years

Thomas L. Laborie
Streets
23 years

Clifton Dufrene, Sr.
Streets
19 years

Rosalie Dyer
Streets
14 years

Patricia Griffin
Code Enforcement
12 years

Joseph Morella, Jr.
Parks & Recreation
10 years

Dolores Matherne
Water
7 years



Streets Director Randy Nicholson (left) and Assistant Director Don Hogan (right) congratulate retirees Cliff Dufrene Sr., Rosalie Dyer, and Thomas Laborie