



Volume 28
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EM Ready

Message from the Parish President . . .

Emergency Alert System: Citizens Urged to Sign Up

I am excited to announce that the parish has established an Electronic Emergency Alert System to warn first responders and citizens of impending emergencies such as tornadoes, hurricane evacuations, hazardous material spills, and terrorist attacks.

The system is called MyStateUSA and is part of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System pilot program provided to the state by FEMA.

Our Emergency Management Department and the JP Sheriff's Office were the first officials in the state trained in the use and operation of the system. The system is being used now to communicate internally among parish departments and other first responders. It will be expanded next month to include private citizens who wish to receive the service.

Free for Citizens

Parish citizens are encouraged to sign up now for emergency alerts. There is no charge for the service. You can choose to be alerted via e-mail and/or through text messages on your cell phones, alpha numeric pagers, and blackberry type devices. Registering is quick and easy on-line by going to <http://jeffersonparishla.mystateusa.com>. Click on the "Sign Up Here For Alerts" box with the bright yellow bell on the top left side of the page. Fill in the blanks and click the button on the bottom of the page titled "Sign Me Up."

Citizens who do not have access to the internet can enroll by calling the Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens Affairs at 736-6000.

Emergency messages can be sent to registered users, either parish-wide or to those in a specific threat area, depending on the nature of the emergency. Periodic testing of the system will occur at least



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

monthly. The messages will be marked as a test.

The system also enables governments at all levels to share information during any crisis. Emergency management officials can create emergency communication groups that can be used to transmit emergency information to first responders in the field. For example, all the contact information for firefighters, police, and emergency medical services will be placed in groups so that they can be alerted and updated instantly with general information about the emergency or specific information about their role in the response.

The system can be used to communicate with evacuated citizens after a hurricane or other crisis to provide information about the condition of the parish and when they can return.

Later this year, MyStateUSA and FEMA will begin work on a system that will allow emergency officials to call home phones with emergency messages, such as the threat of a tornado or other impending emergency situations.



En Realité

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WATER

Open

WORKFORCE CONNECTION

Joan Vaughn

Editor's

Notes

Spring Health Fairs

Good health. It's something most of us take for granted until something happens. Most of us know that we should take better care of ourselves or plan that we will someday. However, good intentions don't do anything to preserve our health or to make us healthier. But, by educating ourselves about the major health risks we may face, we can take a real first step toward avoiding preventable physical problems and improve our health.

During April and May, the Parish is providing all employees the opportunity to take that real first step toward better physical health. The Department of Human Resources is once again sponsoring Employee Health Fairs. With the generous cooperation and participation of healthcare professionals from West Jefferson Medical Center and EJ General Hospital, we are able to schedule a series of six sessions, three on the East Bank and three on the West Bank.

A variety of health screenings, including cholesterol and glucose, will be available at no charge. Everyone who attends will receive a Personal Confidential Health Profile, and medical professionals will be available to privately discuss the results of the screenings.

In addition to our physical health, we also need to be aware



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

of our mental and emotional health needs. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita did enormous physical wreckage that is visible to everyone, but they did not spare us the emotional trauma that may be a little harder to recognize. Those emotional issues include stress, impaired concentration, anxiety, depression, anger, sleep difficulties, and other personal problems.

To help our employees recognize and better cope with the stresses of post-Katrina life, the organization Louisiana Spirit, a division of Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals, will conduct *Stress Management 101*. The program will help us identify the short- and long-term effects of stress, identify its signs and symptoms, and show us how to build our resiliency and ability to cope with stress. This program will be conducted twice—first on Wednesday, May 9, on the West Bank, and then on Thursday, May 10, on the East Bank.

I hope you will take advantage of both of these programs. They could be the first steps you need to take to become a healthier, happier you!

Telecommunications

By
Paul Ferrara



Welcome New Employee

When you call our radio shop, you may hear a new voice answering the phone. Mr. **Andre' (Andy) Toujas, Jr.**, is a welcome addition to Telecommunication's radio division. Glad to have you aboard, Andy.

25-Year Award

The staff of the Telecommunications Department would like to congratulate **Paul Ferrara, Jr.**, upon celebrating 25 years of service to the Parish. Paul began his service as a part-time dispatcher for fire alarm, and later moved over to manage the radio division. Twenty-five years of service is a great accomplishment, Paul – we look forward to helping you celebrate your 30th!

Yenni Repairs Near Completion

Hurricane Katrina damaged most of the antenna/radio equipment on the tower at the Joe Yenni Building in Elmwood. All equipment has been replaced and should be up and running very soon.

Emergency Radio Tests

Remember, we're getting

close to hurricane season, so don't forget about the emergency radio test that **Tom Rodrigue** with EOC conducts on the second Friday of every month.

Test time is approximately 9:45 a.m. Before the radio test begins, you can set your radio to scan or switch to ZONE CHANNEL ONE EOC DISP. Just don't forget to reset it after the test.

Special Week Coming in April

During the month of April we'll be celebrating National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. Across the nation in times of intense personal crisis and community-wide disasters, the first access point for those seeking all classes of emergency services and homeland security information is 9-1-1.

The local/parish/county public safety communications centers that receive these calls

have emerged as the first and single point of contact for persons seeking immediate relief during an emergency.

Jefferson Parish is celebrating April 8-14 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. This week is sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International and celebrated annually. It honors the thousands of men and women who respond to emergency calls, dispatch emergency professionals and equipment, and render life-saving assistance to the citizens of the United States.

The importance of recognizing and celebrating the hard work of these dedicated professionals at every level is immeasurable. Please join us in giving them a very large and loud **THANK YOU!!!!**

That's all the news from here for now. Have a Happy Easter, everyone!



Training Administrator Nancy Rodriguez receives her 5-year service award from Human Resources Director Junior Mendoza

Sewerage

By
Bobbie Fose

Treatment Plant Expansion

On March 13, 2007, there was a gathering of Jefferson Parish officials at the Marrero Waste Water Treatment Plant to officially inaugurate a new addition to the plant. Present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Councilmen **John Young**, **Elton Lagasse** and **Byron Lee**. Mr. **Tony Digerolamo**, representing the Administration, joined our Director **Brett Todd**, and other guests and operational personnel of the Sewerage Department at the ceremony.

The modern plant expansion consists of a new treatment train that includes an aeration basin, blower building, and final clarifier capable of treating an additional 4.8 million gallons a day. In conjunction with the train, an extensive rehabilitation project took place at the headwork section of the plant. New automatic bar screens and other solids-

removal equipment were installed. A significant electrical power expansion complemented this work. This expansion is a great achievement by the government of Jefferson Parish in its efforts and commitment to improve and safeguard the health and environmental quality of the community of Marrero.

Employee Recognition

We would like to congratulate Sewerage employees who have been promoted. **Billy Hartline** promoted to Lift Station Superintendent II; **Adolph Grimes** promoted to Line Superintendent I; **William Sayles** promoted to Truck Driver II; **Michael Carter** to Lift Station Inspector; and **Marshall Robinson** to Trades Helper. Again, congratulations to all of you.

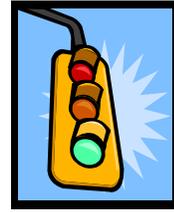
Also, we want to welcome our new employees: **Lawrence Aymami**, Lift Station Inspector; and Laborers **Derrick Harris**, **Shawn Walker**, and **Tracy Lloyd**. We wish you well in your new jobs.



Councilmen Elton Lagasse, John Young, and Byron Lee, along with Deputy CAA Tony DiGerolamo, at the inauguration of the addition to the waste water treatment plant in Marrero

Traffic Engineering

By
Carole Leteff and David Stout



Signal Progress

The most recent signals that are now in operation are Harvey and Manhattan, and Belle Terre and Ames. The Belle Terre signal was upgraded (rebuilt from storm damage); we eliminated the span wire signals and had mast arms installed. Both intersections have video detection instead of loops in the roadway. They actually have video cameras that process the info when cars are present to put calls into the signal controller.

We should soon have the following signals completed: Apollo and Lapalco, Lapalco and Segnette, and Destrehan and Lapalco Ramp—these will be intersection improvements and upgrades. Also, there's a new signal at Destrehan and Patriot.

Condolences

The Division sends our sympathies and prayers to the families of the recently departed: **Robert Dufrene** was a retiree of the sign department. Also, Sign Technician **Michael Parks** recently lost his grandmother, and Sign Technician **Alfred Maggio** lost his mother.

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

CD Director **Anatola Thompson** and staff have been busy packing up for their return to the Yenni Building from post-Katrina offices in Gretna, where we've been headquartered since October 2005. Amazing how much paperwork can accumulate in a year and a half! We expect to be fully operating in Suite 605 at the Yenni Building after Easter. If anyone would like a brochure on our programs – the First-Time Homebuyer Assistance Program that provides a \$10,000 grant for down payment and closing costs, or information on our Emergency Rehab program - please call us.

April 9-15 is **National Community Development Week** across the nation. The Jefferson Parish Department of Community Development administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other federal grants from HUD. CDBG provides a variety of projects that improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods, from the building of senior and community centers, to street improvements and drainage. These federal grants recycle our tax money back into our respective communities. **Ken Krey**, Project Manager, noted these projects funded by CDBG that are currently in various stages of progress: Drainage improvements around Cleary and Cypress streets in Metairie; water-proofing and masonry repairs to the Metairie Senior Center; and asphalt road reconstruction on

various streets in Bunche Village/River Ridge. It's easy to see how the Community Development Block Grant benefits everyone and is important to maintaining viable communities.

April is also **Fair Housing Month**. If you or someone you know believes they've been discriminated against unfairly by a landlord, lender, realtor, or someone in the housing industry, contact the **Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center** at 504-596-2100.

Congratulations to **James "Jim" Bush**, Project Coordinator, on being selected CD's 2006 Employee of the Year. Jim is the ultimate professional on the job, and we all enjoy working with him. Also, congratulations to **Christina Benfield**, Typist Clerk III, on being selected the Quiet Departmental Hero. Christina may be quiet, but she's quick as lightning in coming to our rescue.

Kim Thompson, HOME Program Manager, designed a Post-Katrina Housing Survey that was sent to more than 700 persons in Jefferson Parish who received assistance with home rehab, homebuyer assistance, replacement housing, and rental rehab. The survey gathers information on the current condition of their property post-Katrina. "Hopefully, from that information, we'll work with HUD to design a post-Katrina housing program, starting with the most severe cases in need," Kim said.

Director Anatola Thompson recently attended the Terrytown Civic Association's Town Hall meeting. **Helen White**, Housing Rehabilitation Manager, and **Dianne Washington**, Housing Improvement Counselor III, manned a booth at the Providence Baptist Church Health Fair in River Ridge. Dianne also shared info at a Town Hall meeting at the Hazel Hurst Community Center in Shrewsbury.



Community Development's "Quiet Hero" Christina Benfield and Employee of the Year Jim Bush

Citizens' Affairs

By
Joann M. Lee

New Employee

We are pleased to introduce and welcome **Joann M. Lee**, as our new Typist-Clerk II. Joann will be taking the place of Chantell Prestenbach as our *En Realité* reporter.

"I started on February 26, 2007, and am very glad to be here," says Joann. "The staff warmly welcomed me as a new team member. In the short time I've been here, I find the entire staff to be sincerely thoughtful, and I feel very blessed to be a part of such a pleasant and professional office with a great atmosphere."

Fema Trailer Calls

In addition to informational referrals, we receive numerous calls regarding extensions and removal of trailers, as well as other trailer concerns. We put forth every effort in assisting

these callers. We are also taking calls from the public wishing to sign up for the Jefferson Parish Emergency Alert Service. The day the campaign started we logged over 200 phone calls.

Carnival/Special Events

As you know, the weather held up beautifully this Carnival season. This was our first year for "Family Gras," which lasted three days starting 2/9/07 thru 2/11/07. This event consisted of fun and music for all ages, which included: Fright Night Friday, Sport Night Saturday and Carnival Colors Sunday. Everything went well, the crowds were great, and we look forward to next year's Family Gras to be even bigger and better.

Finally, our department would like to congratulate **Dorothia Halligan**, who was just named Citizens' Affairs' Employee of the Year. Dorothia is the Executive Superintendent in our Carnival/Special Events Division and has been with our department ever since she came to work for the Parish in 1986.

Purchasing

By
Rosa Campos

There have been many changes in Purchasing to report: We recently said good-bye to **Peggy Barton**. Peggy was appointed Purchasing Director for a short period, until her promotion as Deputy Parish Attorney in January. Purchasing was very lucky to have someone wearing two hats – Director and attorney. We wish you the best, Peggy.

In January, **Elizabeth Louding** was named Acting Director for Purchasing. Congratulations to Liz. Purchasing is fortunate to have her over 28 years of procurement experience.



New Purchasing Director
Liz Louding

Continuing with congratulations to the following employees on their promotions:

Rene' T. Poole is now Chief Buyer. Rene's promotion comes at a high price; she is required to keep all fires under control. Hail to you, Chief! **Daphne Nelson** and **Stella Vasquez** were promoted to Buyer II -- Daphne and Stella will be working with advertised bids—those bids over \$20,000.

Continued on Page 7



Executive Superintendent Dorothia Halligan, the Department of Citizens' Affairs 2006 Employee of the Year

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

We would like to welcome **Joana Chambers**, our new Environmental Quality Supervisor in the Solid Waste Division. Joana, a native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has a Masters of Business Environmental Degree from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.



New Environmental Quality Supervisor Joana Chambers

Before joining us, Joana was an Environmental Scientist for Fluor, a contractor working on the Katrina Emergency Temporary Housing program for FEMA. We welcome her to our family.

Earth Fest Celebration

This year Environmental Affairs once again took part in the



James Schultz talks to children at Earth Fest

annual "Party for the Planet" at Earth Fest on March 17 and 18 at the Audubon Zoo. Earth Fest is a fun way to learn about saving the environment. Exhibitors representing groups from non-profit and governmental sectors as well as businesses involved with environmental issues helped Zoo visitors answer questions for prizes on the Earth Quest game. Environmental Affairs employees answered questions from children of all ages about recycling, Non-point Source Pollution, and storm-water issues. Everyone involved had a good time.

Recycling Drop-Off Day

The Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs, in conjunction with the Recycling Foundation, Inc., of Baton Rouge, will hold a Recycling Drop-off Day for Parish residents on April 14, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. East Bank residents may drop off their recyclables in the parking lot of the Yenni Building in Elmwood. West Bank residents may drop-off their recyclables in the parking lot of the Alario Center in Westwego. We hope to see you there.

Purchasing continued

We would like to welcome our new employees: **Sheena Berthelot**, Typist Clerk III, **Jenifer Lotz**, Buyer I and **Carol Gasper**, Buyer I. We are glad to have you!

March has been declared Purchasing Month by the NIGP (National Institute of Governmental Purchasing). Therefore, during the Council meeting of March 14, Liz Louding accepted a proclamation from the Parish President declaring March as Purchasing Month in Jefferson Parish. In addition, Purchasing received a proclamation from Governor Kathleen Blanco, declaring "Professional Purchasing Month." The Southeast Louisiana Chapter of NIGP holds many activities during the month of March; one of them was a Reverse Trade Show attended by some of the Purchasing Buyers at the Audubon Tea Room. These types of events are essential to the Parish because they attract new vendors interested in doing business with Jefferson Parish.

Our family in Purchasing is forever growing. We have plenty of Grandmas, including this reporter; therefore, many of our conversations revolve around our grandkids: Congratulations to **Sidney Duffy**; she is the proud Grandma of twins! Her daughter Sarah is now an "overtime" mom of twins, a 3-year-old and 2-year-old, Jeremy. As Sidney says, "He is my Hurricane Grandbaby." Many blessings to your family, Sidney.

General Services

By
Kathy Theriot

Landscaping Seminar

On March 22, General Services and the LSU Ag Center held the first “Basic Landscaping” seminar at Lafreniere Park. The seminar was attended by employees from Recreation, Parkways, Lafreniere Park, and General Services. **Van Taylor**, our Landscaping Supervisor, launched and organized the seminar. He is grateful to our Director **Anthony Francis**, Property Manager **Mike Lemoine**, and employees of the LSU Ag Center for their assistance.

Van felt it was time to pull our resources together to help our new employees identify and work with plants, correctly use equipment, and learn safety requirements. Safety Manager **Nolan Guidry** and his staff addressed safety issues. Thank you all for your expertise. We hope to make this an annual event.

Congratulations

Our Property Manager, **Mike**

Lemoine, is our General Services Employee of the Year.

Judy Johnson, our Mail Courier, is our January employee of the month. Judy has kept mail moving to the correct destinations through all of the Katrina relocations—not an easy task! She is our “Shining Star.”



Judy Johnson with Asst. Property Mgr. Mike Fonseca

Welcome New Employees

Ryan Babcock, AC & Heating Mechanic; **Gary Daigrepoint**, Stationery Engineer I; and **Tommy O’Neill**, Electrician.

Jill Relick, Clerk Typist III, has been a welcome addition to our Clerical Staff. She is the cheerful, helpful person you hear when you call us at the Yenni Building. Thanks, Jill, for sharing your truly unique spirit with us!



General Services' new Typist Clerk III Jill Relick

Fond Farewells

Mike Scardino, Yenni Building Property Manager, has left GS for the Engineering Department. Mike is enjoying his new position. Best of luck to you, Mike. Enjoy your “New Ride.”

This will be the last issue of *En Realite* that I (**Kathy Theriot**) will prepare for General Services, as I have accepted a position in the Water Department. My four years in GS have been a great experience, and I will always be grateful to the department for giving me my start with Jefferson Parish.

Sad News

On March 21, we learned of the death of our West Bank Trades Helper, **Paul Gilmore**. Paul had been employed with General Services since June of 1987 and just learned of his illness in September of 2006. Paul leaves behind his wife and two daughters. We are all saddened by his death, and we will surely miss him. Funeral Services for Paul were held on Friday, March 30, at the Rock of Ages Baptist Church in Marrero.



Director Anthony Francis congratulates Property manager Mike Lemoine, General Services' Employee of the Year

Planning

By
Terri Wilkinson

Planning Director **Ed Durabb** visited the University of Washington in Seattle March 7-10 to participate in a jury critiquing a redevelopment plan for an area of Terrytown. Created by planning, architecture, and landscape architecture students at the university, the plan divided Oakwood Shopping Center and the area south of it into five subareas, each with its own concept for housing, retail, office, open space, infrastructure, and other community facilities.

The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Universities Re-Building America Program (URAP) that partners the nation's top schools of planning and architecture with local communities affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Planner **Miki Hodges** returns to work on April 9 after four months of family medical leave for the birth of her and her husband's first child. Born on December 5, 2006, Tyronne "Tre" Hodges III is a cutie who already has made several visits to the Planning Department. Congratulations and welcome back, Miki.



Tre, son of Miki Hodges, takes a nap after viewing zoning maps at the Planning Department

Drainage

By
Maria Cervini & Marilyn Slutsky

Congratulations to **Gary P. Boudreaux**, Equipment Operator III, who retired after 30 years of service. His retirement party was held on Friday, March 23, in our Bridge City Office. It was a great success, partly due to the beautifully decorated cake that his wife baked for the party!

The Drainage Department's Employee of the year for 2006 is **Kevin Calcagno**, a Plant Maintenance Electrician for the West Bank Pump Station for 24 years. In troubleshooting all types of electrical problems, **Mr. Calcagno** is a skilled technician and has shown outstanding working performance, especially during rain events.

Welcome to our new employees, who were hired as Laborers - **Melvin Lyons, Chris Bourgeois, Bob Thompson, Jimmie D. Owten, Sr., Ronald Jackson, Sr.,** and

Bobby J. Barrios, Jr. Welcome also to **Arthur Nicholas**, who was hired as a Truck Driver II. Congratulations to **Thelbert McGee** who was promoted to Truck Driver I position.

Congratulations to **Manny Aspuria**, who was promoted to East Bank Drainage Pump Station Operations Superintendent III. Manny started working for Jefferson Parish in 1983. Prior to his employment with the Parish, **Mr. Aspuria** worked in the maritime industry, for the U. S. Air Force and Merchant Marine.

Our West Bank Drainage Pump Station Operations Superintendent III is **Joseph Rivere**, who transferred from Maintenance to Operations after 10 years. Joseph started his career with Jefferson Parish in 1987. **Mr. Rivere** had worked for Avondale Shipyards for many years prior to working for the Parish.

Condolences are extended to **Elizabeth Scioneaux**, an East Bank Drainage employee, whose husband passed away.



Drainage Assistant Director Ali Pirsalehy and West Bank Superintendent Larry Palmisano congratulate Gary P. Boudreaux (center) upon his retirement

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn smith

Big Changes

The Department of Juvenile Services is going through change. Due to the recent resignation of Community Justice Agency Director **Deborah Vilio**, to run for district judge, **Roy L. Juncker, Jr.**, has accepted the position of Interim Director of the CJA, and **Christopher Trosclair** has accepted the position of Interim Director of DJS. We wish them all success in their new endeavors, and we will continue to give our best to keep the department running smoothly and continue to serve the children and community.

Welcome to the following new employees: **Korie Fortenberry**, Juvenile Social Worker; **Nelda Bonfiglio**, West Bank Receptionist; **Jamyle Phillips**, Juvenile Detention Officer I; **Randy Jones**, Trades Helper; and **Roderick Howard**, Cook I.

Farewell and best wishes to **Sidney Warren**, Trades Helper, who transferred to West Bank Sewerage; **Carol Gasper**, Typist Clerk III, who accepted a promotion to Buyer I with the Purchasing Department; and, **Stacy St Pierre**, Probation Officer, who resigned to take care of her child.

2006 4th Quarter Employees:

Mose Sam, Detention Officer
Allison Toups, Detention Support
Shernell Shephard, Probation
Michelle Malone, Probation

Animal Shelter

By
Kay Levy

Animal Shelter employees had a very successful Rabies Vaccination Campaign, which was held on Sunday, April 1, at various schools in Jefferson Parish. The Rabies Campaign is an annual event held in association with the Louisiana Veterinary Association.

The Animal Shelter was represented by East Bank Shelter Manager **Norma H. Briscoe**; West Bank Shelter Manager **Jackie Booker**; **Zakita Mitchell**, WB Kennel Master **Norma Uluduz**, and **Tiera Jones** at the Greater New Orleans Expo Bird Fair and Craft Show, which was held on March 10 and 11, at the Alario Center.

Jackie Booker, West Bank Shelter Manager, **Norma H. Briscoe**, East Bank Shelter Manager; **Nedra Lagarde**, Chief Animal Control Officer; **Erica Palmer**, East Bank Kennel Master; WB Kennel Workers **Ashley Roussel** and **Clayton Rayfield**; Animal Control Officer **Michael Sumner**; and Humane Officers **Raul Fernandez** and **Louis Taylor** attended the "Louisiana State Animal Response Training" classes in Baton Rouge on March 22 and March 23. The class was held in Baton Rouge in association with the Louisiana Veterinary Association.

On Wednesday, March 21, all of our Kennelman I's attended the "Animal Behavior Training Class," which was held at the Bridge City Fire Station.

We would like to welcome Animal Control Officer **Billie Turner** and Typist Clerk II **Bryson Osborne** to the West Bank Shelter and **Kavodas Harris**, Clerk I, to the East Bank Shelter.

Everyone in the Animal Shelter Department congratulates **Tiera Jones**, our 2006 employee of the Year. Tiera is a Clerk II at the West Bank Shelter.



Animal Shelter Employee of the Year Tiera Jones

We would like to thank Kathy Singleton, Friends of the Animal Shelter volunteer, in her work with our adoption animals. Kathy works regularly with the animals in socialization, preparing them for their new adopted homes.

Animal Shelter's next off-premise adoption will be held on Saturday, April 21, at Petco in Kenner (corner of Williams and West Esplanade) between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

Health & Wellness

By
Peggy Branan, RN



Wellness for Summer Activities

As I began to write this article, I could not help but force myself to stay focused on my work. With the warmer temperatures and colorful flowers in bloom, you can't help but feel a burst of energy.

Now is a great time to take inventory of your surroundings. What needs to be repaired, replaced, thrown away? Unwanted containers of paint and chemicals are a hazard and should be properly disposed of. Kitty litter is a cheap and effective absorbent when stirred into wet paint to make it ready for the trash. Take out a calendar and plan your projects. Prioritize them to make sure that the most important projects make the list.

Now that you have your list of projects to do, are you ready physically to get the job done? Many of us remain sedentary all week long and then become weekend warriors as we try to tackle all of the physically grueling projects. Come Monday morning, the aches and pains remind us that we are not as young as we once were!

So, what can we do to take a more health-conscious approach to our chores?

Consider what physical demands will be placed on the body. How much weight will you be moving and for how long? When-

ever possible, space out labor intensive chores over several hours or even days to minimize stress on the body and get help. And, for those aches and pains, an effective and inexpensive old-time remedy is soaking in Epsom salts.

What impact will the elements have? The higher the temperature and humidity, the greater the demand will be for the body to keep cool. Frequent water breaks are critical. Prolonged time in the sun can result in a sunburn, so wear protective clothing, a large brim hat, and lots of sunscreen with a high SPF. Whenever possible, try to avoid working outdoors during the hottest time of the day, usually between 11:00-3:00.

If it has been a while since you've had a physical, now is a good time to get a thorough exam. Always get recommendations from your doctor regarding the best regimen for outdoor activities. Check the expiration date of all of your medications, prescription or over-the-counter. A good up-to-date stock of first-aid supplies may include Benadryl for allergic reactions to insect bites, prescription epinephrine shots for severe allergic reactions, analgesics, an anti-inflammatory, muscle relaxants, and cortisone cream. Maintain a supply of fresh gauze bandages, tape, and an assortment of different sized Band-Aids. Make sure that even the smallest scratches are cleaned and properly dressed. It only takes a simple skin break to allow for bacteria to enter and infect the body.

So, make a plan, make preparations, and you should be ready to tackle the great outdoors!

History Quiz

Q: What National Park Unit is located on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish?

Can you name the man who lobbied Congress for it?

The Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve, established in 1978, was the first National Park to be established in Louisiana. Unlike other National Parks around the nation, it is divided into 6 sites (or Units): Acadian Cultural Center in Lafayette; Prairie Acadian Cultural Center in Eunice; Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center in Thibodaux; French Quarter Unit in New Orleans; Chalmette Battlefield in Chalmette, and the Barataria Preserve in Marrero.

The Barataria Unit has a visitor's center and walking trails. Its 20,000 acres include bayous, swamps, marshes, forests, alligators, nutria and over 300 species of birds. Boardwalk and dirt trails wind through the preserve, and waterways can be explored by canoe or kayak. Park rangers offer guided walks, canoe treks and bird watching.

The walk along the Bayou Coquille trail in the Barataria Unit is especially beautiful in April when the purple irises bloom in the marshes.

Marrero resident, Frank J. Ehret Jr., spearheaded a movement in the 1960s and 1970s to save the wetlands in the Barataria Preserve from development. Congress passed legislation to create the Jean Lafitte National Park, and the Barataria Unit was the catalyst.

—Sevilla Finley

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Our 2007 Spring & Summer Activity Guide, which includes activities and programs for both the East Bank and West Bank, is available on our website at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page or can be obtained at all local playgrounds and libraries. For information about any of our programs, call the respective office (East Bank – 736-6999 or West Bank 349-5000) or via e-mail to jprecreation@jeffparish.net.

Baseball/Softball registration is now in progress. The age determining date for baseball is May 1, 2007, and for East Bank softball it is January 1, 2007. The child must have attained the age of 6 on or before these dates.

Retirement Announcements

Best wishes to **June Callais**, Secretary in the East Bank office, who formerly handled the EB reservations for numerous years. June began working in 1979 and will retire on March 30, 2007.

Also retiring on March 30 is **Jeanne Ellis**, our West Bank Leisure Service Area Coordinator. Jeanne has worked for the Parish since 1978. This Department will certainly miss these two ladies. We wish them the best!

Our deepest sympathy for their loss:

- **Randy Tallon**, WB Maintenance, upon the loss of his father-in-law, Jim Davis, on January 11.



East Bank secretary June Callais (left) and West Bank Leisure Services Coordinator Jeanne Ellis (right) retired from Parish employment on March 30

- **Erin Ruddock**, Girls Program Supervisor at Lakeshore Playground, upon the loss of her mother, Rose Mary Lecrouts Ruddock, on February 12.
- **Sana Winck**, Center Supervisor at Harvey Playground, upon the loss of her husband, Kenneth Winck on March 14. Kenny was very well known on the West Bank for his coaching ability.
- The family of **James Scrubbs Jr.**, a Recreation Specialist in West Bank Recreation, who passed away on March 22.
- **Dawn Caple**, WB Leisure Service Special Program Supervisor, upon the loss of her grandmother, Suzanne Plaisance, in March.
- **Leo Webb Sr.**, Acting Director, upon the recent loss of his father-in-law, Joseph Monju.

Jobs Well Done

Congratulations to all, including the following Employees of the Month . . .

- February:
 - **Dennis Seal**, A/C Heat Mechanic in WB Maintenance
- March:
 - **Rudy Luke**, Center Supervisor, Oakdale

Appointments:

Kevin Austin – WB Maintenance Repairman
Willie Jordan – Groundskeeper in WB Maintenance
Kim Olivier – On Call Asst. Center Supervisor - Girard
Rosa Price – WB Maintenance Repairman

Promotions:

Walter Gordon to Asst. Center Supervisor at Terrytown
Ronald Greichgauer to Asst. Center Supervisor at Miley

Library

By
Jim Davis

First off, we welcome two new employees, **Connie Price**, Typist Clerk II, Tech. Services, and **James Troxclair**, Laborer, Maintenance. Reluctantly, we bid a fond farewell to two individuals who will be sorely missed: **Geraldine Williams**, who has moved on to Code Enforcement, and **Kevin Austin**, who has gone to the Recreation Department. The only consolation is that we know our fellow departments have gained these two dedicated employees.

East Bank Regional Library celebrated its tenth anniversary on Wednesday, March 14, with the support of Friends of Jefferson Public Library and cake generously donated by Maurice's French Pastries of West Napoleon Ave. Visitors to the library that day received cake and sweet treats wrapped in tin, it being our tenth year, as well as book bags, water bottles, and books donated to us by the American Library Association and its convention vendor participants.

Zurich will be donating to the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative when the PGA Tour's Zurich Classic participants make birdies. Zurich plans to make a donation to Friends of Jefferson Public Library in appreciation for JPL's providing a location for the taping, the same area chosen for the world-wide announcement of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Bush-Clinton Fund grants last year.

Speaking of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grants, wheels are in motion for the placement of temporary facilities at the sites of the Lakeshore and Gretna Libraries donated by the Foundation and administered by SOLINET as soon as possible, with a target date of mid-May.

On Saturday, March 24, at the annual Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities annual Humanities Awards Ceremony held at the Houmas House plantation in Darrow, **Mel Louviere**, Branch Manager of North Kenner Library, and **Burke McFerrin**, Youth Coordinator for JPL, accepted an award for North Kenner's having hosted a PrimeTime family storytime series in 2006. Another PrimeTime program is currently being conducted at Westwego Library; and for the first time in the state, there is a Hispanic Primetime underway now at North Kenner Library. The current issue of *Louisiana Cultural Vistas*, the LEH magazine, pictures **David Egudin**, who conducts the storytimes.



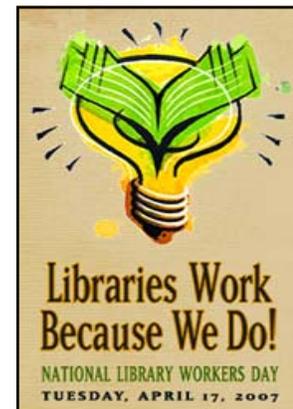
"Come Together @ Your Library" is the theme of this year's National Library Week, April 15-21; and "Libraries Work Because We Do!" is the theme for National Library Workers Day, Tuesday, April 17.

During that week, express your appreciation for *your* public

libraries and the freedom to use them and their services by stopping by your local branch and saying hello to the library staff – and get a library card while you are there, if you don't have one, and use it, if you do. Check it out at the library!

Two special programs will be held during National Library Week:

Tues., Apr. 17 – 7:00 PM
The Art of Pastel Painting.
Distinguished Artist and Teacher Alan Flattmann presents a pastel painting demonstration and discussion of his book. Rarely is a living artist inducted into the Pastel Artist Hall of Fame, but Flattmann has been bestowed this honor.



Sat., Apr. 21 – 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Louisiana in Words
A Reading by Contributors to *Louisiana in Words*, edited by Josh Clark.

Writers, both amateur and professional, were asked to submit a piece about a captured moment from a Louisiana day. Those submissions have been compiled into a book, which *will be launched simultaneously throughout the state*, and East

Bank Regional Library has been selected as one of the locations. Contributors to the book who will be joining Clark include Patrick Burke, Katheryn Krotzer Laborde, Wayne McGaw, and Jack Saux.

Other upcoming programs at East Bank Regional are not the “same ol’ same ol’” – they include something of interest to mystery, dessert, and book lovers. Additionally, we’ll have sport fishermen, a comic poet and satirist, a Louisiana cowboy, a Hall of Fame artist, biographers of Fats Domino and Albert Einstein (and CEO of the Aspen Institute), and tango dancers. There’s even a program about “Catlic Y’ats.”

Wed., Apr. 4 – 7:00 PM
A Walk on the Noir Side
Julie Smith, Author and Editor of *New Orleans Noir*, with a panel discussion by contributors to the anthology including Patty Friedmann, Greg Herren, Ted O’Brien, and Christine Wiltz.

Apr. 10 – 7:00 PM
Kit Wohl discusses her new book, *New Orleans Desserts*. More than recipes, the book delves into the history of famous New Orleans desserts. Plans are that she will bring along a featured chef, and that the chef will bring along some tasty treats.

Wednesdays, Apr. 11 through May 16 – 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities RELIC Program:
The Creole Identity in Louisiana Literature and History, facilitated by Dr. David Moore and

Dr. Gary Richards
This six-week reading and discussion group program, a brand new series from LEH which looks at the Louisiana Creole experience through historical works and literature, is being offered at EBR for the first time anywhere in southeast Louisiana. *Closed: The class filled within 3 days of the opening of registration.*

Mon., Apr. 23 – 7:00 PM
Just before Jazz Fest, on Monday, of course, celebrating the paperback release of *Blue Monday: Fats Domino and the Lost Dawn of Rock ‘N’ Roll*, Author Rick Coleman.

Tues., May 1 – 7:00 PM
From Side Effects and After-Effects, author Patty Friedmann discusses and reads from *A Little Bit Ruined*, her novel set in post-Katrina New Orleans.

Tues., May 8 – 7:30 PM
Einstein: His Life and Universe, Aspen Institute CEO Walter Isaacson discusses his new biography of Albert Einstein.

Sun., May 13 – 2:00 PM
Louisiana Cowboys, Author Bill Jones presents a

multimedia presentation as he discusses his new book (to be accompanied by a Louisiana cowboy exhibit).

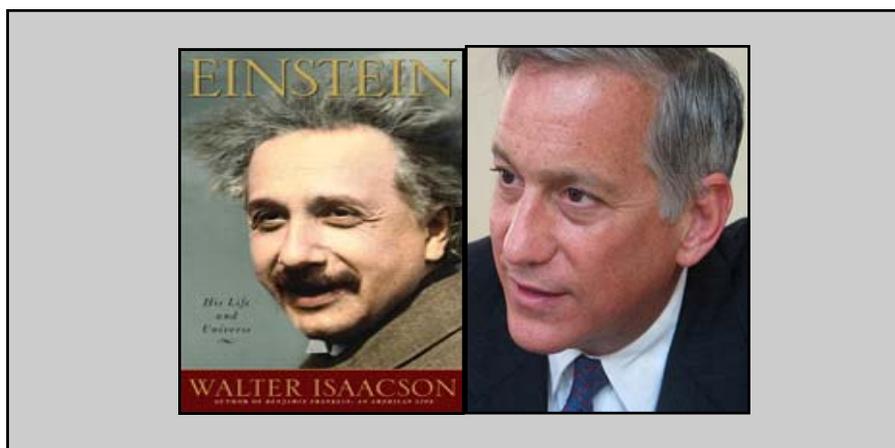
Tues., May 22 – 7:00 PM
Resurrection of The Bear Bryant Funeral Train, author Brad Vice presents a reading and discussion of his controversial short story collection.

Sat., May 26 – 2:00 PM
Two to Tango at Two: Tango Demonstration and Lecture with author Christina Vella and dance partner Steve Gurley.

Wed., June 6 – 7:00 PM
Roach Opera, poet, playwright, comic, and political satirist Chris Champagne presents a program focusing on his book of poems, *Roach Opera*.

A question-and-answer session follows each event, as well as a book signing for book-related events. Book sales are made possible by and proceeds from them go to Friends of Jefferson Public Library.

Dates are, of course, subject to change and circumstance. Watch the library’s website at www.jefferson.lib.la.us as the dates approach for confirmation.



Human Resources

By
Greg Alexander

Reunion: Colonel Nancy Pearson, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Commander of Community Relations, and HR's **Larry Guchereau** had the opportunity to work together again as Colonel Pearson delivered a series of addresses to Parish employees on our new neighborhood watch initiative. As a young Jefferson Parish police officer, Nancy was trained by Larry, who worked in law enforcement for over thirty years before joining HR's Safety Division.

Congratulations to **Greg Alexander**, who was named HR's Employee of the Year for 2006. Greg has been a Training Specialist since joining the Parish in 1999. Greg co-hosts the Parish's bi-weekly Orientation program for new employees and designs and presents a variety of classes for Parish employees. He also serves as Managing Editor for *En Realité* (and wrote this article!)



Former colleagues in crime-fighting, Colonel Nancy Pearson of the JPSO and Safety Officer Larry Guchereau, joined forces again to promote the Parish's neighborhood watch initiative

"Soup Day": A Delicious Success

For our March of Dimes fund-raiser, HR once again sponsored "Soup Day." Many of you will recall that we held our first Soup Day in 2005, but due to the many dislocations from the Yenni Building post-Katrina, we were unable to repeat in '06.

Due to an overwhelming surge of requests, Soup Day returned on March 29. We served seven varieties of soup to over 100 soup-starved Parish employees, raising over \$400 for the March of Dimes.

Workforce Connection

By
Joan Vaughn

Editor's note: In this issue, we are pleased to welcome a new department to our family of En Realité contributors. Thanks to Ms. Joan Vaughn for agreeing to keep our readers informed about the accomplishments of Workforce Connection.

Workforce Connection welcomes our new Director, Mrs. **Sharon Wegner**. Mrs. Wegner has great plans and new ideas to implement into our new program.



New Workforce Connection
Director Sharon Wegner

Sharon Wegner worked as an educator for many years and supervised the adult education program. She belongs to many community societies and continues to stay involved with community activities. Sharon assisted with the Workforce Planning Committee, the youth council combined with Delgado.

Sharon Wegner is a great asset to the Career Solution Center because she is a grant writer. We are looking forward to future and successful plans for the LA Works Business & Career Solution Centers.



Safety Officers Millie Brady (top) and Gregory Reynolds (far right), assisted by three CPR dummies, teach the newly revised CPR/AED program to Traffic Engineering employees (the dummies are the ones with the masks on)

Retirements

Stephen Calcagno
Water
33 years

Gary Boudreaux
Drainage
30 years

Margaret Ellis
Recreation
28 years

Louis Fink
Code Enforcement
18 years

Craige Larson
Parish Attorney
17 years

L.J. Harper
Streets
17 years

June Callais
Recreation
17 years

Patricia Jackson
Parish Attorney
11 years

Terryione Mero
Water
10 years

Congratulations to Jefferson Parish Departmental Employees of the Year for 2006:

Alario Center: **Dwight Galiano**; Animal Shelter: **Tiera Jones**; Citizens' Affairs: **Dorothia Halligan**; Code Enforcement: **Ruth "Kappy" Day**; Community Development: **James "Jim" Bush**; Community Justice: **Paytonia Palafox**; Drainage: **Kevin Calcagno**; Engineering: **Ryan A. Breaux**; Environmental: **Joseph R. "Rick" Buller**; Fleet Management: **Melissa Miller**; General Services: **Mike Lemoine**; Human Resources: **Greg Alexander**; Juvenile Services: **Terri LeBlanc**; Library: **Robert Deffner**; Management Information Systems: **Angele Alexander**; Parish President's Office: **Deano Bonano**; Parkways: **Lance Stansberry**; Personnel: **Ron Sessum**; Planning: **Joyce Dean**; Sewerage: **Joy Armstrong**; Streets: **Richard Lamoureaux**; Water: **George Roth**



Code Enforcement's EOY Kappy Day with Regulatory Manager Jeff Charlet and Director Louis Savoye