



Volume 27
Number 5
December 2006

EM Realite

Message from the Parish President. . .

New Pay Plan

On December 13 the Parish Council approved my recommendation to implement a new pay plan and cost of living raise for classified employees as well as employees in the judicial and executive pay plans.

In August, the Council commissioned the Archer Company of Rock Hill, South Carolina, to conduct a salary survey and recommend revisions to our pay plans.

The goal of this study was to comprehensively increase the pay plan to a level that attracts and retains qualified employees in this post-Katrina employment market while also recommending a pay adjustment for existing employees not directly affected by implementation of a new pay plan. Here are the four major components of the study:

- 1) An overall revision to the pay grades in the Pay Plan for the Classified Service as well as the Judicial and Executive Pay Plans, which will allow the Parish to be more competitive in recruiting new employees.
- 2) An 8% cost of living adjustment, which applies to all existing Classified employees as well as those employees covered by the Executive and Judicial Pay Plans upon implementation of the new Pay Plan for the Classified Service.
- 3) Deferral of initial raise for new hires. In order to maintain an equitable balance between the pay of existing employees and new employees entering the system, the rules provide that the initial pay increase for new employees entering the service within six (6) months of (before and after) the



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

implementation of a new pay plan may be deferred to a date not more than 12 months from implementation. This provision prevents the pay of new employees from exceeding the pay of existing employees.

- 4) A mandatory review of the pay plan in two years. Such a review would be for the purpose of ensuring that the Pay Plan remains valid, up-to-date, and competitive.

The projected date for the implementation of the new pay plan is the first day of the first pay period in January 2007 (which is January 6).

Previously, on my recommendation, the Parish Council approved the reinstatement of anniversary raises for Parish employees in 2007. These annual raises, based on work performance, will be in addition to the 8% across-the-board raise at the beginning of 2007.

For more details of the recommendations made by the Archer Company and approved by the Personnel Board, please call Personnel at 364-2730.

En Realité

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR
F. Mendoza, Jr.

MANAGING EDITOR
Greg Alexander

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTERS

ANIMAL SHELTER
Kay Levy
CITIZENS' AFFAIRS
Brandie C. Lange
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Sevilla White Finley
COMMUNITY JUSTICE AGENCY
Debbie Villio
DRAINAGE
Maria Cervini
EIS/MIS
Angele Alexander
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Sandra Ancar-Encalade
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Barbara Arcement
FIRE/HASWMAT
Cindy Schouest
FLEET MANAGEMENT
Diane Spencer
GENERAL SERVICES
Kathleen Theriot
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Greg Alexander
INSPECTION & CODE ENFORCEMENT
Linda Roy
JEFFCAP
Open
JUVENILE SERVICES
Arlyn Smith
LIBRARY
Jim Davis
PARISH PRESIDENT
Jacque Bauer
PARKS & RECREATION
Gwen Styron
PARKWAYS
Angela Winchester
PERSONNEL
Dana Dunlap
PLANNING
TERRI WILKINSON
PURCHASING
Antoinette Holmes
RISK MANAGEMENT
Evaline Armstrong
SEWERAGE
Bobbie Fose
STREETS
Michelle Swenson
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Paul Ferrara
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
CAROLE LETEFF & DAVID STOUT
TRANSIT/CITIZENS W DISABILITIES
Carla Montalbano
WATER
Open
WORKFORCE CONNECTION
Open



DROP and Deferred Comp Seminars Coming Soon

Whether retirement is next year or many years away, it's never too soon to plan for the future. That's why Human Resources is coordinating a two-part seminar in January, designed to inform our employees about the options available to you as retirement nears.

If you are a member of the Parochial Employees' Retirement System and are contemplating retirement within the next few years, then DROP (the Deferred Retirement Option Plan) is something you should know more about so that you can make an informed decision concerning retirement.

Basically, the DROP program allows employees who are eligible for retirement to continue working for up to three additional years, earning their salary while their pensions are set aside in a DROP account to be drawn out when they actually do retire.

Peggy Thomassie, of the Jefferson Parish Retirement Office, will explain the Parochial Retirement System DROP program, its eligibility requirements and restrictions, and answer any questions you may have as to how the plan can benefit you.



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

Additionally, if you've been saving money in the Nationwide Deferred Compensation program, have you considered how you are planning to withdraw this money when you retire? A representative from Nationwide Retirement Solutions will review the different distribution options available for the money in your deferred compensation account. Understanding the different options available to you will help you determine which option will work best for you at retirement.

This special presentation will be held in the West Bank Council Chambers on Thursday, January 25, 2007, from 9 a.m. till noon. I hope you will plan on attending this informative session.

Until then, let me wish all of you a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year.



Human Resources

By
Greg Alexander

We in HR would like to welcome two new employees to our department. **Andrina Davis** is our newest Typist Clerk III, taking the place of Ranie Lefort, who took a well-deserved promotion with the Library. Before coming to the Parish, Andrina served in the US Army for five years as a Paralegal Specialist. In 2003 she was stationed in Kuwait.

Andrina's ultimate goal is to enter Loyola's law school and practice as a Family Advocacy Attorney. She has an Associate of Social Science degree from Delgado and is working on her Bachelor's degree at UNO. Welcome, Andrina!



Andrina Davis

Vivian Lasseigne recently transferred to HR from the Environmental Department. She is our new Typist Clerk III working in our Substance Abuse Division, where she is responsible for scheduling and processing paperwork for new hires, random drug tests, and accidents.

Ms. Lasseigne has been with Jefferson Parish for 25 years, occupying secretarial positions



One of HR's new Typist Clerk III's, Vivian Lasseigne, with husband George and their beautiful new Harley

in several departments. Vivian and her husband George have a Harley Davidson motorcycle and ride every chance they get. Their last big motorcycle adventure was to Sturgis South Rally in Sturgis, Mississippi, and then on to Tennessee and returning back to Louisiana, averaging about 1,200 miles in a few days.

Thanks to Drainage Superintendents **Harold Babin** and

Manny Aspuria for inviting HR's Safety Division to tour the new "Safe Room" at the Suburban Canal pump station in Metairie. Safety Officers **Greg Reynolds** and **Millie Brady** were very impressed with the strength and security of the new "Safe Room." To read more about the new pump station safe rooms and to see more pictures, see **Maria Cervini's** article on Page 12.



Drainage Superintendent Manny Aspuria inside the Suburban Canal Safe Room with Safety Officers Gregory Reynolds and Millie Brady

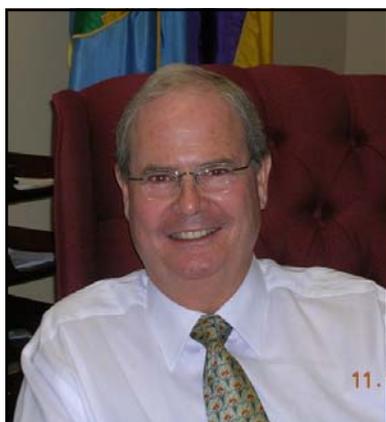
Citizens' Affairs

By
Brandie C. Lange

The past several months have brought many new and exciting changes to the Department of Citizens' Affairs. We have gained several new employees and two new sub-departments. The department of Transit Administration/Citizens' with Disabilities has merged with our department which already includes Carnival & Special Events and Senior Citizens' Services.

Terry McCarthy Named New Director

We would like to congratulate **Terry McCarthy** on his position as Citizens' Affairs Director. Mr. McCarthy was the Director of Transit/Citizens with Disabilities and Coordinator of Senior Citizens' Services. We are honored to be under his leadership.



New CA Director
Terry McCarthy

New Coordinators Named

And a special welcome is in store for our two new Coordinators: **Ryan Brown**—Coordinator of Transit Administration—and



Ryan Brown and Wayne Ory are new Coordinators of Transit Administration and Senior Citizens' Services

Wayne Ory—Coordinator of Senior Citizens' Services. Welcome aboard, gentlemen!

Henry Trapani Returns!

A warm welcome to **Henry Trapani**, who came out of retirement to be our acting Coordinator of Carnival & Special Events. Mr. Trapani retired in 2003 after 28 years with the Parish. He first became Carnival Coordinator in 1979 and is a former Director of Citizens' Affairs, which was then known as Citizens' Services. With Carnival season fast approaching, we are

especially happy to have him back!

Employees: Hellos and Good-Byes

We are pleased to welcome the following new employees: **Gennie Hebert** comes to us from the Water Department as our new Administrative Assistant; **Brandie Lange** is our new Secretary; and **Patricia Lyons** and **Mary Nelson** join Citizens' Affairs as Typist Clerk III's.

Finally, a fond farewell to **Kathy Hale**—Typist Clerk III, who left our department in September. We miss you, Kathy, and wish you the best!



Mr. Henry Trapani has returned to the Parish as Acting Coordinator of Carnival & Special Events

Senior Expo Held in October

Story by
Brandie C. Lange

Jefferson Parish's 6th Annual Senior Citizen Exposition was held at the Alario Center on October 25. The Expo was co-chaired by the Parish of Jefferson, West Jefferson Medical Center, and East Jefferson General Hospital. According to **Wayne J. Ory**, Coordinator of Senior Citizens' Services, "Jefferson Parish's Senior Expo was a huge success."

Over 2,300 senior citizens and sponsors attended the event, with 102 booths displaying the Halloween theme of the Expo.



Katherine Hoover and Gennie Hebert
at the Halloween Senior Expo

President **Aaron Broussard** provided opening remarks, followed by Council Chairman **John Young** and Councilmen **Roberts, Lagasse, Capella, and Lee**. Mayor **Robert Billiot** of Westwego also spoke.

Over 1,900 Senior citizens were served a healthy lunch and entertainment throughout the day.

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

We at Environmental hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We started a new tradition this year by having a pizza party to celebrate Thanksgiving and to bring our staff closer together. It was a big hit, and we hope to continue the new tradition for years to come.

Congratulations!

The employees of Environmental Affairs would like to congratulate **Inga Dupre** for her promotion to the position of Environmental Quality Supervisor in the Pre-treatment Program. Prior to her promotion, **Inga** worked as an Environmental Quality Specialist in the Pre-treatment Program, where her hard work and dedication earned her a promotion to fill the vacancy left by **James "Jim" Massony**, who retired in May.

We would also like to congratulate **Kathleen Deubler** on her promotion to the position of

Storm Water Specialist in the Storm Water Management Program. Prior to her promotion, **Kathleen** worked as a Coastal Zone Management Technician for the Coastal Zone Management Program where she helped residents complete their coastal use permit applications and was pivotal in organizing volunteers for the Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project. Our congratulations to both Inga and Kathleen.

Staff Changes

Environmental would like to say good-bye and good luck to **Vivian Lasseigne** and **Genyth DeSalvo**. **Vivian** transferred to Human Resources in August, and **Genyth** left us in September. We wish them the best of luck in their new endeavors and we will miss them both.

We would like to welcome to our Environmental Family **Barbara Kollin**, our new Adjudicative Clerk; **Carla Montalbano** our new Secretary, who came to



Environmental's Carla Montalbano and Barbara Arcement
greet seniors at the Senior Expo

us from Transit; **Emily Dorsey**, our new Student Worker; and **Dawn Louviere**, our Temporary office worker. We welcome all of you to our family.

Environmental Manager at Watershed Institute

Environmental Quality Supervisor for the Storm Water Management Program **Scott Finney** recently attended the Center for Watershed Protection's Watershed Institute in Fayette County, Ohio, on a scholarship from NACo (the National Association of Counties), located in Washington, D.C.

Scott and the other attendees spent four days learning about watershed protection. For those of you who do not know, a watershed is all of the land area that drains into a river system or other body of water, and all of us live in one.

The Center for Watershed Protection helps communities

minimize water quality threats through watershed planning, watershed restoration, storm water management, watershed research, education, and training. If you would like more information about the Center for Watershed Protection, visit www.cwp.org.

Environmental Lends a Hand at Senior Expo

This year Environmental Affairs once again took part in the annual Senior Citizen EXPO held on October 25 at the Alario Center on the West Bank. **Carla Montalbano** and **Barbara Arcement** handed out candy and provided seniors with information on mosquito control, recycling, storm debris pick-up, 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.

Sewerage

By
Bobbie Fose

Can you believe this year has flown by so quickly? It's hard to believe that it has been over one year since Katrina. We have been in our West Bank Facility for over one year. We want to thank everyone for sharing their space with us. We will miss all of you when we get back to the Yenni Building.



Sewerage Superintendent Pablo San Martin and Director Brett Todd present Jerrod Jessie (center) with a 5-year service pin award

We hope that everyone is back in their homes, getting back on track. For those who are still struggling, we wish you a new start in the New Year. We are survivors, and New Orleans will come back with a "little help from our friends."

I remember right after the storm, flying over the city and the pilot commenting, "Well there she **was**, ladies and gentlemen." He definitely was not from New Orleans and does not know the spirit, the hope, and the "we can do it" kind of people we are. It never ceases to amaze me at the tenacity of those who love New Orleans and know in their hearts that we will be back, and better than ever.

See you next year, everyone, and Merry Christmas to all.



Our Storm Water Management Program's Environmental Quality Supervisor Scott Finney and other Watershed Institute attendees survey the Republican Run watershed in Grove City, Ohio.

Code Enforcement

By
Linda Roy

We are happy to announce the following additions to our Code Family:

Billie Bates; Catherine Bennett; Elizabeth Berge; Carol Cox; Roland Creson; Mark Dugas; Lynette Florent; Mirhonda Harris; Tony Hewitt; Jacque Jeudevine; Carl Johnson; Reid Macaluso; Alton McClinton; Peter Mire; Allen Orgeron; Patricia Pettifoot; William Rigney; Bertie Sessions; Kelli Totorico; Roxanna Sullivan; Adonna White. Welcome Aboard!!

Thank you to the following employees for their years of dedication and service to the Parish:

Fifteen Years – **Dickie Bourgeois; Claire Deleya; Cheri Mckenna.**

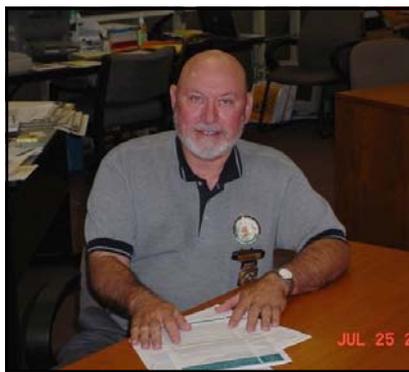
Five Years – **Marci Bourg; DeNean Laroche; Robin Lanusse; Frank Lopreore; Shanna Parria; Terri White;**
Ten Years; **Bonnie Beatson; Stephen Blakesley; Urashia Brice; Deidre Cummings; Kappy Day; Skeeter Thomassie; Dennis Tucker, Sr.** Thank You for sticking with us!!!

Goodbye and Good Luck! We extended our Best Wishes to **Frank Lopreore;** Frank left us in November to become the head of Code Enforcement for the City of Harahan. Way to go, Frank!!!

Congratulations to **Catherine Bennett.** Catherine gave birth to

a beautiful 9 lb; 6 oz; baby girl named Bailey! *What a wonderful Christmas present!*

Congratulations to **Tommy Baxter** on his promotion to Mechanical Inspector III; **Harold Logrande** on his promotion to Mechanical Inspector II; **Gerard Gutierrez** on his promotion to Building Plan Reviewer II; **Mike Furr** and **John Segura** to Building Inspector II; **Wanda Hartman** and **Kelli Totorico** to Typist Clerk III; and **Chandelyn Howard** to Administrative Assistant. *Great job, guys!*



New Mechanical Chief Tommy Baxter

Everyone at Code Enforcement would like to extend our prayers to the family of **Herbert "Slick" Schlaudecker.** Slick, who retired earlier this year, lost his battle with cancer. He will be missed, but his memory lives on in our hearts!.

It has been a very trying and stressful year for all of us in Code. But our efforts did not go unnoticed. We were honored at a dinner thanking us for our hard work during the year. We all had a GREAT time!!! Thank you!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!!!

Planning

By
Terri Wilkinson

Wanda DeWailly, a Stenographer Clerk who has 17 years of service with the Parish, will retire from the Planning Department on January 26, 2007. Diligent and dependable, Wanda has been an invaluable asset and will be greatly missed. Congratulations to Wanda and best wishes for a happy retirement!

Our new Grandmother (x2!)

New grandbabies recently arrived for Zoning Aide **June Maxwell.** Her daughter, Joan M. Garrett, gave birth to a girl, Jonae Francena-Mari Garrett, on October 10. And June's son, John Maxwell IV, had a boy, Andrew Miles Maxwell, on November 18. Congratulations to June on the joyful additions to her family!



Translating meeting minutes is one of the invaluable tasks that Wanda DeWailly has performed during her seventeen years of employment with the Parish. Wanda will retire in January

Annual Planning Conference in Baton Rouge

Planning Director **Ed Durabb** attended the Louisiana American Planning Association's 2006 Annual Planning

Conference October 11-14 in Baton Rouge. The conference's theme was "Implementing the Future."

Ed found the experiences of communities like Meridian, Mississippi, and McKenney, Texas, as they implemented plans and administered development regulations particularly interesting.

Planners Reach Out with Educational Lectures

Education was the purpose of recent outreach talks by planners **Adam Williams** and **Juliette Cassagne**.

On October 20 Adam participated in a panel discussion sponsored by the New Orleans Metro Chapter of the American Planning Association. He was one of several professional urban planners who spoke to senior planning students about their occupations. Adam described his job doing design review for the Parish.

And on November 15 Juliette spoke to planning students in UNO's "New Orleans Metro Region" class. Topics included the development of Jefferson Parish and the planner's role in making recommendations and educating the public about planning issues.



President Broussard recently presented Parish Attorney Tom Wilkinson with a 15-year service award

Parkways

By
Angela Winchester

For our last article of the year 2006, we in Public Works Parkways are busting at the seams with pride. We have started beautifying our parish more than ever before.

Gorgeous yellow mums have popped up at major intersections where Mr. Broussard's "Paint the Parish Red" planters are located. Our neutral grounds are spruced up and looking good. Betty Boulevard in Marrero and Codifer Boulevard in Metairie are the first to receive a planting of trees on the huge bare neutral ground area as part of Parkways and Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful's "Releaf the Parish" one tree at a time.

Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful recently had their annual fundraiser, "The Autumn Affair." It was an overwhelming success. The annual "Christmas Tree Project, Save the Marsh" is well under way.



Betty Blvd. in Marrero looking good thanks to Parkways & Friends



Parkways Director Kai Adams (center) and Superintendents Lance Stansberry and Jason Montagino at "The Penn" in Lafitte. Parkways placed Christmas trees in "cribs" to prevent tidal erosion

Health & Safety

By
Peggy Branan, RN



As many of you may know, a major part of my job duties as the Parish Nurse includes working with employees with job-related injuries. I attempt to solve problems that arise and make the whole recovery process as smooth as possible. If you were not aware of this, then good for you! That means you have not had an accident while at work. But what must you do if you have an accident?

What should you report?

Report any accident that causes bodily injury; for example, a trip resulting in cuts to your knees and hands. Report any accident even if there are no physical complaints. *All accidents must be reported.*

Always report any accident to your supervisor or acting supervisor at the first opportunity. Before the work day ends, if management was not available, you need to report it to your department's office staff; for example, the clerk who handles the workers' compensation paperwork. Ask your supervisor who to report an accident to if a supervisor is not available.

Why must you report the accident ASAP?

By law, once the Parish is

notified of an accident, the "Employer Report of Injury/Illness," commonly referred to as the 1st Report of Injury, must be sent to the State of Louisiana Office of Workers' Compensation. Even if no injury occurred, the accident must be reported.

This report originates from your department and is forwarded to Risk Management, who then forwards it to the State and our workers' compensation insurance carrier so they can open a file on the employee. They must have this report so they can give permission for treatment, physical therapy, or for medication/orthopedic prescriptions.

What will happen next after you report an accident?

You will be asked if you have any injuries, the severity of the injury, and if you want to see the doctor. If yes, your supervisor will take you to our doctor's office for care. For follow-up visits, you will not need your supervisor to escort you.

After the doctor visit, you and your supervisor must review the doctor's order for your work status. If the doctor has ordered work limitations, you and your supervisor will discuss plans for what work assignment changes will be made. The supervisor and employee will then date and sign at the bottom of the page of the form with the doctor's orders. When a department cannot make accommodations for the work limitations, the employee will have to be placed on lost time.

What if the doctor didn't complete the "Return-to-Work form?"

Following every doctor visit, you must bring a return-to-work form to your supervisor, indicating what work restrictions you may have. It is best to look over the form before leaving the doctor's office. If you realize it is not complete after leaving, contact the Parish Nurse or take it back to the doctor to complete.

What if you choose not to treat with our company doctor?

You will need to tell your supervisor, the Parish Nurse (736-6558), and our workers' compensation insurance company of your desire to treat under your own doctor. Additional paperwork will be required. You will need to take our return-to-work form with you to your doctor to complete. You will then return it to your supervisor and discuss any work limitations.

What about a life-threatening injury?

The 911 emergency system will be activated to transport you to the nearest hospital emergency room.

What if the Parish doctor's office is closed?

Your supervisor will take you to the nearest emergency room.

How do I get my prescription filled?

Take your prescription to the pharmacy. Tell them you are an employee of Jefferson Parish Government and that the medication is for a job injury. The pharmacy will have to check with our workers' compensation insurance company to make sure that it is a job injury before they agree to pay for it. They **will not** authorize payment unless they have received the 1st report of injury that originates

within your department. Until our workers' compensation insurance company gets the 1st report of your injury, you will need to purchase all prescriptions and then submit the receipt to Risk Management for reimbursement.

If you are treated at the hospital emergency room for your injury, use the hospital pharmacy to get your prescription filled. You will already be in their system as a worker's comp case and you will not have to pay for the prescription. By the time any future prescriptions need to be filled, the paperwork should be completed so that your local pharmacy can obtain authorization for payment by our workers' compensation insurance carrier.

What else do I need to know about follow-up doctor visits?

You may go to the doctor's office for follow-up visits without your supervisor.

Do I have to use my Annual or Sick Leave before Worker's Comp benefits kick in?

No, it is up to you.

What else should I do?

Contact the Parish Nurse, at 736-6558, following every doctor visit or with any questions. If the Parish Nurse is not available, contact our Safety Manager (736-6129) or Risk Management (736-6909). Complete the green page, "Employee Statement" section, of the ART (injury) form packet. The form will be forwarded to the Safety Division for review and follow-up.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. And stay safe and healthy during this holiday season and always!

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

Thanksgiving is over and we are zooming towards the end of the year! I hope everyone has a very blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

It's been quite a while since we had an *En Realite* issue, so here goes all the DJS news:

Employee of the 2nd Quarter

Janice Jenkins – Detention Officer
Allison Toups – Detention Support
David Kraus, Probation Officer
Jessie Taylor – Probation Support
Arlyn Smith, Supervisor

Employee of the 3rd Quarter

Willie Green – Detention Officer
Terri LeBlanc – Detention Support
Allan Kagan – Probation Officer
Ambra Sanne – Probation Support
John Ryals, Supervisor

Welcome:

Rhonda Billiot, Security Guard;
Alvin Dabney, **Stanley LeBlanc**,
Lilliam Rivera, and **Gerald Daniels**, Juvenile Detention Officers;
Ebony Allen, Probation Officer;

cer; **Lizette Johnson**, Typist Clerk II, **Sarah Schouest-Goodwin**, Volunteer Coordinator; **Willana Wiggins**, Cook, and **Leshawna Williams**, Receptionist.

DJS supervisory staff were treated to a "surprise" luncheon in honor of Bosses' Day. It was a true surprise and very appreciated. Thanks to all who participated and helped to prepare the delicious luncheon surprise.

Congratulations to Probation Officer **Ramon Solares** on his October 28 marriage to Cynthia Adams. We wish them many happy years together.

Reaching Out:

Juvenile Services is participating in the 2006 Doll and Toy Fund. We've already filled up boxes at the West Bank office and hope to fill many more. Thanks to Probation Supervisor **Monique Willis**, who is spearheading this worthy cause.

Our department also participated in the American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Walk at Audubon Park. The department raised a total of \$600.00. Way to go!

West Napoleon Completed!



Traffic Engineering managers and staff at the completion of West Napoleon through to Williams Blvd, September 26. L to R are Peter Reynaud, David Stout, Dawn Daleo, Dedo Hardin, and Scott Bairnsfather.

Animal Shelter

By
Kay Levy

The Animal Shelter wishes everyone Happy Holidays. We look forward to the New Year and to welcoming new employees to both of our shelters.

The community has been very generous this year with donations. A young girl came into the shelter with a jar filled with coins; she had sold cups of lemonade and collected \$43.50 for our animals. The children of Lisa Blume came in with their jar and donated \$84.35. On August 2, 2006, Rummel High School's "Operation Head Start Service Organization" donated \$400 from their car wash.

In September our cruelty investigators confiscated 80 Chihuahuas. We hoped to adopt the dogs to loving homes, but due to the health of the dogs, they were released to animal rescue groups where they received medical treatment. After the dogs were treated, they were put up for adoption. About 35 were released to North Shore Animal League, Ft. Washington, New York; and the remainder were released to Southern Animal Foundation in New Orleans.

The Animal Shelter has a Senior Citizen adoption program sponsored by Purina. Purina allots the Animal Shelter a limited number of adoptions per year. Senior citizens (60 years and above) are eligible for a "one time" free adoption. Mr. Lawrence (Teets) Monfra was a happy recipient of a "Senior Adoption." On November 4 he adopted his new friend and

travel companion, "Foxy," a 4-year-old Chihuahua, from the West Bank Animal Shelter.

On October 5 East Bank shelter employees enjoyed a special treat. In appreciation of Customer Service, the Glaudi family brought employees a "Thank You" cake for all to enjoy.

West Bank Shelter Manager **Jackie Booker**, East Bank Shelter Manager **Norma H. Briscoe**, and Humane Officer **Louis Taylor** represented the Animal Shelter at the Senior Citizen Expo, which was held at the Alario Center on October 25. They greeted attendees and handed out gift bags which included brochures, key rings, and address books.

Throughout the week of November 13, U.S. Agriculture Department employees assisted Animal Shelter Humane Officer **Raul Fernandez** and Animal Control Officer **Steve Sander Jr.** in capturing coyotes in the Jefferson Parish area. The captured coyotes were not harmed during capture and were released in North Louisiana.



Animal Control Officer Steve Sander carefully handles a captured coyote

The Animal Shelter was represented by East Bank Shelter Manager **Norma H. Briscoe**, **Tiera Jones**, and **Zakita Mitchell** at the Greater New Orleans Expo Bird Fair, which was held on November 11 and 12, 2006, at the Alario Center. They greeted attendees and handed out brochures which included Animal Shelter ordinances.

We welcome back **Norma Uluduz**, West Bank Kennel Master, from leave. Also, welcome to **Brandon Hurst**, Kennelman at the East Bank Shelter. Finally, we wish **Elizabeth Nelson**, West Bank Clerk, good luck with her new job in the Water Department.



EB Shelter Manager Norma Briscoe and WB Clerk Tiera Jones at the Greater N.O. Expo Bird Fair

Drainage

By
Maria Cervini

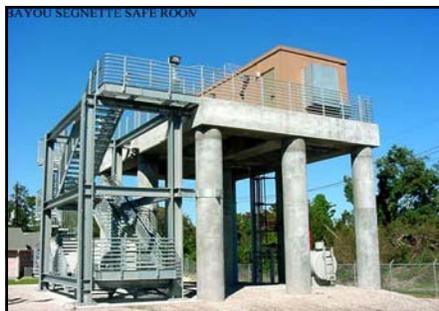
The Drainage Department would like to welcome to our staff the following employees. We are very happy to have them on board with us and wish them the very best. **Troy Alexander, Nicholas Allemand, Arevia Antoine, Karlos Atkinson, Gregory Bates, Chris Farve, Stanley Griffin, Bernard Growe, Joe L. Hill, Jr., Yvette Hurst, Sterling Jackson, Keith Landry, Emanuel LeBlanc, Eric Loydrake, James McGinnis, Leon Melancon, Clarence Matthews, Errol Moliere, Brandon Owens, Dong Pham, Hoang Pham, Micah Polius, Rosa Velt Price, Ernest Robinson, Quincy Sanders, Jerome Seymour, Jr., Marilyn Slutsky, Joe Smith, Nikiya Sullen, Diane Smith, Norman Walton, and Lawrence Williams.**

Additional congratulations to the following employees who have devoted 20, 25, and 30 years of service and dedication in making our community a great place to live. 20 years – **Morris Bouvier and Robert Williams, Jr.** 25 years – **Peter Bui, Angela Burrell, Chris Dunn, Hung Ngo, Hung Nguyen, Kiem Nguyen, Xuan Nguyen, Ali Pir-salehy, Janis Sanchez, Chi Tran, Hoa Tran, Joseph Tran, and Neal Williams.** 30 years – **Dwayne Detiege, William Duplaisir, Jr., and Rene Keller, Jr.** Their loyalty, diligence, and exemplary work habits were recognized by Mr. Broussard at a special presentation on Thursday, December 7, 2006 at the Alario Center.

Congratulations to these employees who have been promoted within our Department: **Gregory Bates, Equipment Op-**

erator; Davelynn James, Administrative Aide; and Joseph Whitley, Foreman I. We wish them good luck.

We have been extremely busy in the Department of Drainage post-Katrina. One of the areas to better prepare ourselves for next Hurricane Season was the construction of eight Safe Rooms.



The Bayou Segnette Safe Room

These Safe Rooms will shelter personnel who are essential to the operation of the Parish's pump stations. Pump Operators will enter Safe Rooms located at eight major pump stations – four

on the East Bank and four on the West Bank during Category 3, 4, or 5 hurricane conditions.

The Safe Rooms are designed for Category 5 hurricane-force winds of 250MPH and the surges associated with it. The living quarters are equipped with bunk beds for six to eight people, a bathroom with vanity, lockers, and A/C. They also have communication equipment including satellite phones, televisions, medical supplies including defibrillators, food and water for up to five days, a back-up generator unit, rafts, and a 213-gallon day tank which powers the Safe Room during power outages for approximately six to eight days (see picture.) The pump stations are automated with remote control capability to allow the horizontal pumps to be operated from the Safe Rooms.

The Drainage Department extends warm Holiday Season's greetings to all. See you '07!

Drainage Veterans Receive 20, 25, and 30-Year Awards



First row: Morris Bouvier, Dwayne Detiege, Director Kazem Alikhani, Aaron Broussard, Director of Public Works, Jose Gonzalez
Second row: Bill Duplaisir, Robert Williams, Jr., John Sell, Chris Dunn, Hung Ngo ;Third row: Joseph Tran, Angela Burrell, Hoa Tran, Hung Nguyen

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Our 2007 Spring & Summer Activity Guide, which includes activities and programs for both the East Bank and West Bank, will be available on our website at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page (Adobe Acrobat Reader required) by mid December and can be obtained at all local playgrounds and libraries the week of January 1, 2007.

The Guide will be inserted into the Thursday, January 4, edition of the *Times-Picayune*. For more information call the respective office (East Bank – 736-6999 or West Bank 349-5000) or via e-mail to jprecreation@jeffparish.net

Track and Soccer registration will begin in January. To participate, a child must have reached the age of 6 by March 1, 2007. Baseball/Softball registration begins in mid March.

Best wishes to our retirees **Linda Crawford**, Girls Program Supervisor at Lemon, and **Bernadine Boudreaux**, Groundskeeper at Avondale. Departing in December are **Tom**



Recent Recreation retirees Linda Crawford and Bernadine Boudreaux

Boudreaux, West Bank Warehouse Supervisor, and **Floyd Wilkins**, West Bank Maintenance Repairman

During November, Parks and Recreation honored their Employees of the Month at a luncheon. The East Bank's luncheon was delayed from last year. Honored were those employees from 2004-2005 and named as East Bank Employee of the Year for 2005 was **Jerry Corona**, ½ Assistant Center Supervisor – Nights at Delta Playground.



Jerry Corona celebrates with EB Recreation's Kevin O'Quinn

At the West Bank's luncheon, the WB's 2006 Employee of the Year was announced: **Lillian Hennessey**, Center Supervisor at Terrytown.



Recreation's Gary Scheffler and Director CJ Gibson congratulate WB's Employee of the Year Lillian Hennessey

Congratulations to our Employees of the Month .

- August – **Lillian Hennessey**, Center Supervisor at Terrytown
- September:
 - **James "Prowell**, PARD
 - **Melvin Robertson**, Owens
 - **Keith Davillier**, Asst. Center Supervisor at Owens
 - **Randolph Green**, Groundskeeper at Owens
- October:
 - **Larry Walker**, Pontiff
 - **Shawn Burras**, Center Supervisor at Kennedy Heights
- November:
 - **Wayne Amedee**, Asst. Center Supervisor at LaSalle
 - **Charles Harris**, Equipment Operator III in WB Maintenance

APPOINTMENTS:

Sue Amor – Center Supervisor at Kings Grant
Rene Bergeron – Typist Clerk III at EB Main Office
Sterling Brignac – Center Supervisor at Woodmere
Chris Garton – Groundskeeper
Connie Ginther – Typist Clerk II at EB Main Office
Clint Hunter – Center Supervisor at Rose Thorne
Bertrell McDaniel – Groundskeeper in EB Maintenance

Garrison Nedd – Groundskeeper at Delta

Ken Nick – Girls Program Supervisor at Jefferson

Kevin Pichon – Girls Program Supervisor at Girard

Jeremy Roach – Groundskeeper at Jefferson

Chris Sumner – Groundskeeper at Belle Terre

Ken Trahan – Information Specialist

Bruce Tuckson – Groundskeeper at J. Jacobs

PROMOTIONS:

John Brooks, Jr. to Center Supervisor at M.L.King

Chris Hamilton to WB Maintenance Repairman

Rudy Luke to Center Supervisor at Oakdale

Vincent Mastracchio to Asst. Supervisor at Delta

Robert Ragland to EB Maintenance Chemical Control Sprayer II

Natalie Stoufflet to Center Supervisor at PARD

Larry Thomas Walker to Asst. Supervisor at LaSalle

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Director, Anatola B. Thompson and staff at Community Development offer their best wishes for a Joyful and Peaceful Holiday Season to all in the Parish system.

CD staff recently celebrated Thanksgiving with a smorgasbord lunch of their favorite dishes. **Liz Ruth** brought baked eggplant with crabmeat; **Marilyn Beucler** made her famous sweet potato casserole with pecans. Talk about good! We will keep our annual tradition of a Christmas lunch on December 21.

Congratulations! **June Durnin**, Administrative Management Specialist III, recently received a plaque for Outstanding Support from Way Maker Ministries. Executive Director Charles Johnson of Way Maker Ministries operates an emergency shelter for 8 persons under an ESG grant. Way Maker also provides other pro-



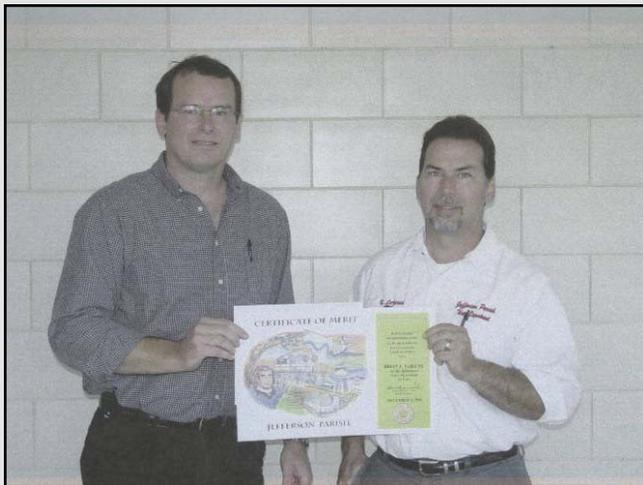
Community Development's
June Durnin

grams to help parish citizens.

Sevilla Finley, Information Specialist, attended a check presentation ceremony hosted by Unity at the New Orleans Mission. The event thanked the Middle Eastern nation of *Qatar* for generously donating \$2 million to repair hurricane-damaged housing for Katrina-affected homeless people. VOA, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, and Responsibility House were among 10 agencies who received funding from Qatar's gift.

Know anyone with a blue roof? Perhaps CD can help. The Emergency Home Repair Program assists low-income qualified homeowners to repair or replace their roofs. The program helps with electrical, plumbing, air-conditioning, and heating repairs.

CD staff enjoyed meeting seniors at the Senior Expo 2006. **June Durnin** decorated the booth in a Halloween theme with great imagination. CD staff volunteers at the Alario Center Expo were **Mike Strausser, Liz Ruth, Jim Bush, Helen White, Dianne Washington, and Ron Johnson.**



Water Plant Superintendent Brian Lejeune (right) is congratulated by Assistant Director Bob Dale upon his retirement after 30 years of service

40-Year Employee Retires from Parkways

The Parish is about to say good-bye to one of its most respected veteran employees. **George H. Dent**, Superintendent III in Parkways, will retire on December 29 with over 40 years of service. George recently stopped by Human Resources to share his thoughts as he prepares for another milestone in his life.

“I’ll never forget that date—April 6, 1966,” George says. “I was just eighteen and hadn’t even finished high school.” On that day George began his career with Jefferson Parish in the Sanitation Department. “I was a Hopper,” he says, “one of the guys running behind the truck emptying garbage cans into it.”

Dent’s work ethic was quickly recognized as he moved up the ranks: Truck Driver in 1969; Foreman in 1972; Superintendent in 1975. And then in 1978 he was appointed to Deputy Director of Sanitation by Councilman Lloyd Giardina.



When Sanitation was privatized, George moved into the Department of Roads and Bridges, which gradually evolved into Streets and Parkways. George has been exclusively with Parkways since 1980. In 2002 he was their Employee of the Year.

George is very proud of his



George Dent of Parkways prepares to leave Parish employment after 40 years

career in public service. He cites several important accomplishments that he has been part of with Parkways over the years: the Christmas Tree Marsh Project, Parkways Promenade, Arbor Day preparations, and the Tarpon Rodeo to name but a few. “I remember when we manually put up the tents for the Rodeo,” George recalls. “Of course today we do it with the help of heavy equipment.”

We couldn’t help noticing George’s remarkable memory for names and dates, rattling them off during our interview faster than we could write them down. “I’ll never forget Jim Griswold, who worked in Personnel back when I first started,” says George. “Jim encouraged me to earn my GED, which allowed me to qualify for promotions through the years.” George wanted to thank his recent Directors Mike Evans and Wayne Nocito for their encouragement. He also mentioned the men who preceded him as Superintendent: Warren Phillip and Ronald Lewis. George still has his first Safety Certificate, issued in 1972 and signed by President Tom Donelon.

Dent was born in Tallulah, Louisiana, in 1947. His family moved to Jefferson in 1954, and he has resided here ever since. He and his wife of 29 years, Lynnette, have three children: Troy, Shelley, and Damian. Troy works for WJ Hospital. Shelley and Damian are both Parish employees: Shelly is a Truck Driver in Streets and has 22 years of service; Damian has nine years with WB Drainage.

Recognizing what needs to be done is what motivates George. “I could have retired a year ago with three years in DROP, but I didn’t because Katrina left us with too much to do.”

That drive to recognize work that needs to be done will keep George busy after he retires: Besides his mother Otheree Lee and his brothers Louis and Charles, George has three wonderful grandchildren to spend time with—Braxton, Tomekia, and Damian III.

He also plans to work with his church, the Dominion of Power Ministries, helping children in neighborhoods where crime and drugs are plentiful. “There’s just so much to do,” George says. “And that’s what public service is all about, isn’t it?”

Library

By
Jim Davis

Paralleling business in Jefferson Parish, the fourth quarter has been an extremely busy time for Jefferson Parish Library, with more events and special programs than ever.

Another successful Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) RELIC program, "Encounter in Louisiana," was held at East Bank Regional, conducted by the ever-popular Dr. Gary Richards of UNO (so well liked is he that he now has groupies.); the evaluations were nothing but praise.

The fifth season of "Coffee and Conversation," held in partnership with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, ended with the grand finale featuring Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Olen Butler and his wife, novelist Elizabeth Dewberry, a season which included the premiere launch of the book *Canal Street* by Peggy Scott Laborde and John Magill.

A new partnership with The Historic New Orleans Collection has brought historical programs related to special exhibits to Metairie. Jefferson Parish Library was a sponsor of the New Orleans Banned Book Week Kickoff and celebrated the twenty-fifth annual American Library Association sponsored Banned Book Week with a marathon twelve-hour "Sideshow" book reading by local authors, celebrities, Friends members, library customers, and staff.

Teens & Kids

Teen Read Week was celebrated with special events, as well as Children's Book Week, which featured a special storytime performed by a troupe of library employees who traveled to libraries and area schools to present a children's literature-based tableau based upon the books *Piggie Pie* and *T'was the Night Before Thanksgiving*.

In addition to performances at East Bank Regional and Terrytown Libraries, the program to promote reading and library use was presented at Gretna Park Elementary, Bissonet Elementary, St. Rita School, Joshua Butler Elementary, Terrytown Elementary, Ella Delhonde Elementary, J. C. Ellis Elementary, and Alice Birney Elementary.

Another special storytime, so popular we scheduled a second performance, was the "Fun with

the Muffins" storytime featuring the original Mrs. Muffin, Terry Flettrich; Romper Room's Miss Linda, Linda Mintz; and local actress Brittney James.

Live Oak Reopens

After over a year, the re-carpeting of East Bank Regional Library is almost complete, and another library closed for repairs and renovation since the storm has just reopened! Live Oak Library just resumed operations on Monday, November 20.

The public was invited to join Jefferson Parish Library and Parish dignitaries at the Reopening Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting for Live Oak Library.

The ceremony for Live Oak Library, located at 125 Acadia Drive, Waggaman, was held on December 5. The program included public recognition of gift donations to the library. A re-

Bi-Lingual Story Time at Kenner



David Egudin conducts bilingual story time (Spanish/English) at North Kenner Library every other Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. North Kenner is now open on Sundays from 1:00 till 5:00

ception followed the event, with refreshments provided by the Waggaman Civic Association.

In addition to new carpeting, Live Oak Library users will discover a customer-focused rearrangement, a new children's collection, and an increased number of Internet accessible computers. The collection at Live Oak Library will continue to grow; and after the first of the year, as soon as equipment arrives, the library will provide wireless Internet connectivity (wi-fi) for users with their own laptops, all part of our commitment to build back better.

Hours of Operation:

The Live Oak Library hours of operation are 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. The Branch Manager of Live Oak Library is **Janice Favaloro**. The phone number is (504) 736-8475.

See <http://www.jefferson.lib.la.us/Wishlist/LOA.pdf> for a summary of hur-

ricane damages and future plans and needs for Live Oak Library.

Ho-Ho-Holidays for the Children

Join us at our fourth annual Ho-Ho-Holiday Sing-Along to celebrate the holidays. In holiday spirit and holiday costume, wearing reindeer antlers, volunteer library staff members will be presenting special storytimes in December at the regional libraries. Check the library calendar* for details of this very Merry-time storytime.

Plans for 2007

Plans are under way for programs in 2007. In addition to special children's and teen programs, weekly story times, and the monthly book clubs, we'll be hosting authors anthologized in *Do You Know What It Means To Miss New Orleans*; Julie Smith and contributors to a new book *New Orleans Noir*; Susan Larson, Book Editor for the *Times Picayune*; a dramatic reading of

Tennessee Williams' women by Linda Mintz; and a special Blue Monday just before Jazz Fest featuring Fats Domino biographer Rick Coleman.

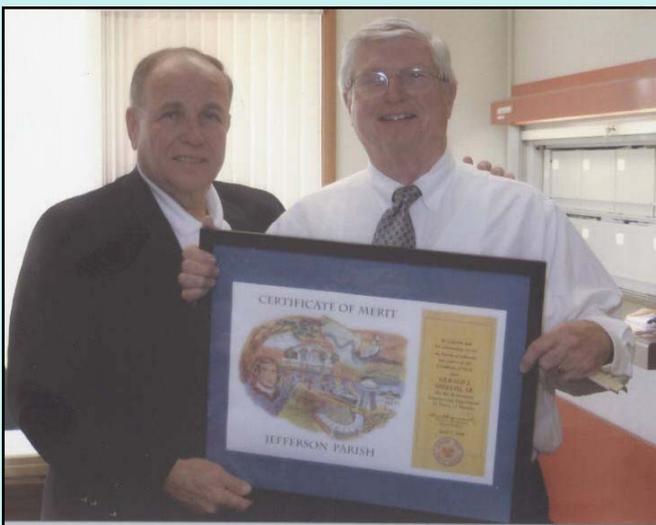
Because of Jefferson Parish Library's successful history with LEH programs, East Bank Regional has been honored as the location for the launch of a new RELIC reading and discussion program, "Creoles in Louisiana," the first time offered anywhere in the state. And don't be surprised if you see announcements of programs featuring the culinary heritage of our area and famous New Orleans chefs. As with our building, we continue to build back better and better with programming for all ages.

Retirements, Promotions, and a Welcome

Well wishes go out to the following library employees who have retired: **William Mark**, Library Associate; **Debra Santavicca**, Library Associate; and **Jessica Travis**, Acting Assistant Director, Administration.

We congratulate the following employees for their hard-earned promotions: **Bobby Deffner**, Property Manager, Maintenance; **Tiffany Mashia**, Computer Systems Specialist; and **Melissa (Selena) Muhoberac**, Librarian II, West Bank Regional. And a big welcome to **Ranie Lefort**, who has transferred from Human Resources to serve as Administrative Assistant in Jefferson Parish Library's Business Office.

*Check it out at the library website, www.jefferson.lib.la.us



Public Works Director José Gonzalez congratulates Gerald Shields of Engineering for 34 years of service

Retirements

Dale Hymel
Water
35 years

Michael Brooks
Sewerage
33

Jude Vollenweider
Finance
32 years

Catherine Templet
Alario Center
30 years

Vennie Martinez
General Services
30 years

Ernest Mitchell
Streets
30 years

Brian LeJeune
Water
30 years

Alton Riley
Water
29 years

Vernon Welman
Personnel
28 years

Linda Crawford
Recreation
28 years

Carl Finley
Fire
25 years

James Adams
Water
25 years

Albert Alleman III
Sewerage
25 years

Kim Van Nguyen
Drainage
25 years

Peter Bui
Drainage
25 years

Deborah Buras
Code Enforcement
20 years

Bernadine Boudreaux
Recreation
20 years

Janice Tassin
Water
19 years



Water Plant Superintendent Dale Hymel (left) recently retired after 35 years of service to the Parish. Here Dale is personally thanked and congratulated by Water Department Director Randy Schuler.