



Volume 27
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EM Realité

Message from the Parish President. . .

A Time to Say Thank You

Dear Fellow Employees:

It's been a long, hard-fought nine months, living and persevering in the post-Katrina world. Many of you continue painstakingly rebuilding your homes and lives during these very emotional times.

Unfortunately these emotions and stress levels are now intensified as we make preparations, both at home and work, in anticipation for the 2006 Hurricane Season.

SUCH AWESOME DEDICATION

Parish officials and the citizens of Jefferson Parish are abundantly thankful for having the support and dedication of those essential employees who worked so diligently and unselfishly during the Katrina crisis. Your worry and concern for family members and friends who couldn't be with you or communicate with you weighed heavily on your minds as you carried out your duties, "above and beyond all expectations." Words could never express our sincere appreciation.



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

The hundreds of Jefferson Parish employees and other agency employees, who will forever remain connected by the Katrina experience, will be honored with a special luncheon at the "Essential Employee Appreciation Day." The luncheon will be held on Wednesday, June 14, from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m. at the Alario Center, 2000 Segnette Boulevard in Westwego.

I hope you will join us on this day of fellowship and appreciation. Once again, many, many thanks to you all and may God bless you!



En Realité

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Carla Montalbano
WATER
Open
WORKFORCE CONNECTION
Open

Editor's



Notes

Financial Seminar Coming

As hurricane season approaches, the list of things to worry about seems to get longer and longer. But, having a good plan and educating ourselves about what we can to prevent or lessen problems can help make those worries manageable.

Financial difficulty is one worry many people are facing. Whether struggling with debt, planning for retirement, or protecting ourselves against scams, we could all use sound financial guidance.

On June 13, 2006, Human Resources is facilitating *Financial Awareness*, a seminar open to all employees and presented by LSU Ag Center and Nationwide Retirement Solutions. The seminar will feature two programs: "Digging up Dollars: How to Reduce Debt and Create a Spending Plan" and "Identity Theft: When Bad Things Happen to Your Good Name."

According to a recent article in *Workforce Management*, Americans' attitudes toward debt have changed dramatically in the last twenty years, from shame to common acceptance. Despite its general acceptance, personal debt problems cause stress and anxiety that destroy personal productivity and may eventually lead to serious health problems. The "Digging for



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

Dollars" portion of the seminar will help employees:

- Recognize signs that indicate they are carrying too much debt
- Learn the true cost of debt and four keys to using credit wisely
- Create an action plan to help reduce debt and develop a spending strategy

Even if you are very successful at managing your finances, identity theft is a growing problem that everyone needs to guard against. It is estimated that between 5-7 million people will be victims of identity theft over the next five years. The "Identity Theft" portion of the seminar will address the issues of how someone can steal your identity, the effects of identity theft, and what you can do to minimize your risk.

The seminar will be held from 9 till noon, with sign-in beginning at 8:30. Please make plans to attend this informative program on Tuesday, June 13, at East Bank Regional Library.

Administrative Professionals Day 2006

The 22nd annual Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon was held on April 28 at the Alario Center in Westwego. Over 200 employees feasted on a delicious roasted pork lunch and enjoyed the special guest speaker, Amanda Hebert, star of "Late Night Catechism" as Sister Amanda.

Judge Jim Cannella served as Master Of Ceremonies, and President Aaron Broussard made opening remarks and read the Administrative Professionals Day proclamation.



Sister with one of her more troublesome pupils. Doesn't he know it's rude to point?

Overall, Sister Amanda was more impressed with the girls in her class than the boys, but she did say that Little Deano Bonano and Little Randy Nicholson were good boys who learned their lessons well.



Sister praises HR Director Junior Mendoza for learning his lesson

Everybody was there!



Water:

Donna Guidroz, Bob Dale, Stephanie Gaudet, Destiny Bratton, Joyce Hughes, and Janice Tassin



Drainage:

Margaret Vigier, Kazem Alikhani, Maria Cervini, Ali Pirsalehy, Rox Ann Sclafani, Patsy Firmin, Doris Short, and Davelynn James



Sewerage:

Joy Armstrong, Bret Todd, Lucie Claverie, Bobbie Fose, and Venice Cooper

Human Resources

By
Greg Alexander

Human Resources Director **Junior Mendoza** is pleased to announce that he has chosen Training Specialist III **Nancy Rodriguez** as our department's Employee of the Year for 2005.

"In many ways, Nancy has been a cohesive force within HR," says Junior, "working with the various divisions of the department to help us all function as a group. She worked with our Benefits Division to organize on-line open-enrollment training for all departments in the Parish. She also offered the Training Unit's assistance with benefits meetings, even conducting several of those meetings herself."

Nancy coordinated Jefferson Parish's participation in the Employment Exploration Program, a J.P. Public School program for secondary age students with moderate to severe disabilities. The program gives disabled students non-paid, hands-on training and the opportunity to prac-

tice life skills in a work setting within their community. She coordinated the students' visits to Human Resources and facilitated visits to other participating Parish departments.

Nancy is never impeded by the artificial boundaries of "job responsibilities." She is constantly looking beyond the Training Unit for ways she can benefit HR and indeed Parish government as a whole. In 2005 Nancy revised the *Jefferson Parish Employee Benefits* book, eliminating many errors and obsolete passages.

The department's Internet web site has become Nancy's "responsibility": She periodically updates the pages for all HR divisions. She has also seen to it that many forms and policies that are important to all Parish employees are accessible electronically, either on the Parish's Internet site or the Employee Intranet portal.

Training, coordinating, communicating, and seeing no boundaries—these talents made Nancy Rodriguez an easy choice for HR Employee of the Year.



HR Director Junior Mendoza with Employee of the Year for 2005, Nancy Rodriguez

Emergency Management

By
Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade

The 2006 hurricane season begins June 1. The storm names for the 2006 hurricane season are:

Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael.

The National Weather Service in 1953 began naming the storms after women. In 1979, male names were added to alternate with the female names. The lists rotate each year. This year's names will not be reused until 2011. If a storm is so devastating to lives and property, it is taken off the list and replaced with another name. For example, there will never be another hurricane named Betsy, Camille, Andrew, or Katrina.

A storm starts as a Tropical Depression and moves on to become a Tropical Storm before it is given a name. The name remains when the Tropical Storm reaches hurricane status.

Congratulations and farewell to our director, **Walter S. Maestri, III, Ph.D.**, on his retirement after 18 years of service. It was a great honor working with Dr. Maestri and we wish Walter and his wife, Joann, all the best.

We extend a welcome to **Deano Bonano**, Deputy Chief Administrative Assistant – Emergency Operations. Mr. Bonano will oversee the Emergency Management Department.

Planning

By
Terri Wilkinson

The Planning Department's staff of administrative assistants received well-deserved accolades at the 22nd Annual Administrative Professionals Luncheon on April 28, 2006, at the Alario Center. Attending the luncheon with Planning Director **Ed Durabb** were **Leslie Hebert, Joyce Dean, Sue Durabb, Darlene Duet, June Maxwell, Angela Galliano, and Wanda De-Wailly**. The department greatly appreciates their efforts.

Honored at the May 17, 2006, Council meeting as the Planning Department's 2005 Employee of the Year was parish planner **Juliette Cassagne**. Juliette worked diligently with the Parish Attorney's Office and the Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement to draft the new zoning overlay called the Metairie Ridge Tree Preservation District, which the Council



Director Ed Durabb with the ladies of Planning at the Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon

adopted in February 2005, and then subsequent amendments that the Council adopted in April 2006. Congratulations to Juliette and thanks for her exemplary work.

Parish planner **Adam Williams** attended "Restoration 2006," a conference held May 15-17, 2006 at the Sheraton New Orleans. Sponsored by several organizations including the International City/County Management Associa-

tion and National Association of Counties, the conference, free to local governments impacted by Hurricane Katrina, featured sessions, discussions, and workshops that focused on effective post-disaster short-term recovery and long-term community and economic restoration.

How to recover lost cultural features, the "markers" that tie persons to their community, was one of the topics that Adam found interesting.



President Broussard with Planning's Employee of the Year Juliette Cassagne

The Planning Department was ecstatic to learn that parish planner **Julie Buffa** is staying with us. Earlier in the year the department expected Julie to resign in the spring because her husband, a recent graduate of Tulane Medical School, would probably do his surgical residency elsewhere. To everyone's pleasant surprise he matched with Ochsner Medical Center, and so Julie will continue her employment with the Parish. Good news!

Safety & Health

By
Peggy Branan, R.N.



Well, it is that time again for another issue of En Realite'. Time sure has a way of just marching on! It is hard to believe that we are now into another hurricane season!!

With our last issue, we were focusing on where we should be pre-hurricane season. Now, we will focus on where we should be at this time:

Review what bills normally come due during hurricane season. For example, insurance, loans, membership fees, etc. Record all necessary information in your "hurricane notebook" in case you have to contact them. Pay all bills promptly.



Carla Quiambao, of the Parish President's Office, receives her 10-year service pin from President Aaron Broussard

Do not procrastinate! Take care of business in a timely manner. Develop a backup plan with business associates so that communications can continue in the event of a prolonged evacuation. Record all important information in your hurricane notebook. Or, if some chore needs to be done around the house, get organized and get it done!

If possible, try to pay one or two mortgage payments ahead of schedule.

Review all the information in your hurricane evacuation notebook and update as needed. Keep your check-off list in a handy location, review periodically, and update as needed.

Move all essential papers into a portable file case, ready to grab at a moment's notice. Download a copy of all your files onto discs.

Have your vehicle serviced in the spring. Check your tires weekly for air. Keep a tire air gauge and a can of fix-a-flat in your vehicle. Keep several quarters in case you need to purchase air.

Keep maps in your vehicle.

Minimize the items in your yard. Have a plan to secure remaining items since anything can become a projectile.

Do not let prescriptions get too low before getting refills.

Conduct a trial hurricane evacuation run with your family and friends. Pick a location out of town and take your time driving on the back roads. Once you get to your destination, have lunch and a good time.

Traffic Engineering

By
Carole Leteff & David Stout

Congratulations to **Royal Jackson, Jr.**, who was recognized as Engineering's Employee of the Year on May 17th.



President Broussard with Mr. Royal Jackson, Jr.

The LED project is completed and we are already noticing reductions as much as 80% in some energy bills as we expected. The intensity of the new type lenses is also much greater.

New Traffic Signals!

We now have the signals at Destrehan Ave @ Keithway Dr. New signalized intersections are soon to be completed at Harvey Blvd @ Manhattan Blvd. and at Ames Blvd @ Belle Terre. This will alleviate many traffic problems for our friends over at WB Streets and the Emergency Management Bldg. Thanks for being patient.

Harry Scott and **Michael Karl** retired in May. Congratulations to **Jody Savoie** on receiving his 20 year service pin.

Angelo Barrera recently transferred from Sign Tech to Signal Tech I. on May 13.

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

Employee of the Year Named

On Wednesday, May 17, Mr. **Milton Crosby, Sr.**, was presented with the “2005 Employee of the Year” award for the Department of Juvenile Services. Mr. Crosby served 38 years with the department, retiring on March 31, 2006. He was a true “public servant,” committed to the youth of Jefferson Parish.

Employee of the 1st Quarter

John Beauregard – Det. Officer
Paula Ashley – Detention Support
James Downing, Probation Officer
Melicia Dupaquier – Probation Support
Rhonda Walker, Supervisor

Attendance Awards 2005

Juvenile Services wants to recognize the dedicated service of several staff members. The following DJS employees were

awarded a “Certificate of Perfect Attendance” from the Director:

John Beauregard, Christopher Bruno, Willie Green, Ernest Hunter, Allan Kagan, Karen Robinson, and Ambra Sanne.

Welcome to new employee **Brett Jackson**, Juvenile Detention Officer I.

DJS wishes Mr. **Clarence Collins, Jr.** a very happy retirement. He is retiring after 27 years, 8 months of full-time service.

RELAY FOR LIFE

DJS participated in this year’s RELAY FOR LIFE. Many fun activities were planned for the Saturday, May 20, event at Muss Bertolino Stadium. The department is pleased to have raised **\$889** for this very worth cause. We held bake sales, sold lunches, and raised money through generous donations. Thanks to team captain **Lynn Shields** for all her hard work!



Juvenile Services Director Roy Juncker (far left) with DJS’s Relay for Life Team

Citizens’ Affairs

By
Brenda Campos

June 1 marks the start of hurricane season, a fact that everyone has forever engraved in their memory. With this, citizens who sustain damage to their property after a storm may call our office at 504-736-6100 to report the damage. This will enable Jefferson Parish to request assistance from both state and federal agencies.



Citizens’ Affairs Employee of the Year Joy Alfortish

New Role for Terry McCarthy

Once upon a time, an Irish lad found his way to the magical world of Citizens’ Affairs. Some of you may know him as T-Man; others as *Terry McCarthy*. Terry worked hard with the other leprechauns, planning the Senior Expo, developing services for senior centers, and coordinating FEMA trailers for emergency responders.

Terry has now landed on another rainbow, as Director of the Transit Department. Terry will continue to serve as Senior Citizen Services Coordinator, in addition to his new role at Transit. We wish Terry the best, because he is the best.

Animal Shelter

By
Kay Levy

Make Plans for Pets Too!

It is hurricane season again and it is important to review hurricane evacuation plans. Remember that animals are not allowed in emergency shelters for humans.

The best way to ensure that you and your family, including your pets, will have a safe place to ride out the storm is to preplan your arrangements now. If a family friend or relative will allow you to stay with them, let them know what kinds of animals and how many animals will be coming.

Pet-Friendly Web Site

Many hotels and motels allow pets. Many relax their rules for emergency evacuees. Most hotels have rules about pets in rooms and most require damage deposits. Most hotels require that pets be kept in portable kennels in the room.

Visit www.petswelcome.com for a state-by state list of hotels and motels that welcome pets.

Travel Tips

Prepare now for traveling with your pet. Have a portable kennel or travel crate for each animal. The kennel will keep the animal safe in the car and can be used to house the animal at your destination.

Make sure your pets are up-to-date on all vaccinations and that each has a secure collar with rabies tag and identification tag attached. Put your cell phone number on the identification tag. Never take the collar off while traveling. Have a leash for each animal and put the animal on the leash before opening the car door at any rest area. Bring plastic bags, newspaper, and cleaning supplies to clean up after your pet in the car, at rest stops, and at your final destination. Don't forget pictures of your pet(s) for identification purposes, in case your animal does escape from you. Be sure to have your pet microchipped.

Stick to the pet's regular diet while traveling, and bring some water from home. Gradually mix in new water with home water until the pet is used to the new water. This can help prevent upset stomach. If your pet is not a seasoned traveler, get it used to riding in the car by taking it on short trips now.

If you are urged to evacuate, it means that your home will not be safe for you or your pets. Boarding kennels and veterinary clinics in the danger zone are not safe alternatives, and local animal shelters will not accept personal pets because they are also in the danger zone and are already filled to capacity with stray animals

Staff Accomplishments

The Animal Shelter congratulates **Norma Uluduz**, West Bank Kennel Master, and **Norma H. Briscoe**, East Bank Shelter Manager on receiving, belatedly, their 25 year service pins. Also, **Hope Zamora**, West Bank Clerk III, received her 15 year service pin. Best wishes to **Cleo Johnson**, on her retirement on March 30.

We welcome **Ashley Phipps** and the return of **Steve Sander, Jr.**, Animal Control Officers. Our best wishes to **Michael Sumner** and **Norma Uluduz** for a speedy recovery.

Pet Adoption Day

The Animal Shelter is having a Pet Adoption Day at Jefferson Feed, Pet, and Garden Center, 4421 Jefferson Highway @Central Avenue on June 17, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



Animal Shelter Director Elena Jones with Norma Briscoe, Rae Ann Borne, and Jacqueline Booker at the Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon

Sewerage

By
Bobbie Fose

General Superintendent **Monroe Tanner** is retiring with nearly 31 years of service. To say he will be missed is an understatement. Monroe's invaluable experience and expertise will be hard to replace. But we do wish him a happy and well-deserved retirement.

Also retiring from our department is **Thomas Robinson**, who has 21 years of service. We want to thank you both for your years of service and dedication to Jefferson Parish.

Doyle Roe, who recently retired from the Department of Sewerage, was selected as "Employee of the Year" for his

outstanding services to Jefferson Parish, especially during Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Roe was presented with a special award at the last council meeting.



Monroe Tanner (left) with
Sewerage Director Brett Todd

To **Mary Grace Bealer**, Typist Clerk III at our West Bank Facility where the orphans of the Yenni Building, Sewerage Ad-

ministrative office, evacuated to after Hurricane Katrina, we have one question to ask: Are you used to us yet? I know it must have been a change going from a one-woman office to a—well, what should I say. Words elude me. I'm thinking a "gaggle of geese." No, no, that surely can't be us. And after all, I am including myself in that. How about ten lovely ladies? And, we won't be here forever, Mary Grace. We will grow on you. We promise.

Congratulations to Gaston and **Lucie Claverie**, brand new grandparents to a bouncing baby girl, Victoria, weighing in at 8lb. 15 oz. Lucie and Gaston are ecstatic, as are the new parents. I'm sure we will be seeing lots and lots of pictures!

Environmental

By
Katherine Costanza

It has been a while since Environmental appeared in *En Realite*. Since Katrina, we have been very busy working with FEMA and the Corps of Engineers on debris removal. However, we are back now and would like to congratulate several employees.

First, a very big welcome, several months late, to **Patricia Reed** and **Gregg Lutz**, both of whom started with us in October. In January, **Kathleen Deubler**, who is an Environmental Quality Technician II, and Environmental Specialist **James Schultz** both received their

Five Year Service Award pins. In February, **Barbara Arce-ment** was named our Employee of the Year for 2005. Barbara was chosen as the recipient of the award because of her excellent overall work record and positive attitude. Barbara is an Inspector-Office of Contract Monitor in the Department's Solid Waste/Landfill Division.

We have two retirements to announce. On May 19, Environmental Quality Supervisor **Jim Massony** retired. Jim came to Environmental after 14 years with the Jefferson Parish Bacteriology Laboratory. On June 2, Our Assistant Director **Paul O'Rourke** retired. Paul started with the Parish in 1978 as a Water

Quality Technician. He moved up the ranks and into Environmental 14 years ago as an Environmental Quality Specialist. Both Paul and James have been wonderful assets to this department. We will miss them both.



Environmental's Employee of the Year Barbara Arce-ment (right) with Director Marnie Winter.

Streets

By
Michelle Swenson

Hello, all! We said good bye to our executive superintendent, **Joey Vasquez**, who left to work for the credit union. We wish him great success in his new job. We extend our best wishes to our retirees: **Jessie Boudreaux** retired on April 14 after 25 years of service. **Michael Vicknair** retired on April 28 with almost 20 years of service, and **George Vicknair** retired on May 5, 2006 with over 16 years of service.

We would like to recognize our valued employees and thank them for their years of service. The following people have recently received their service pins:

35 Years

Elvin Modica (Retired January 2)

25 Years

Sherman Johnson, James Nunery Jr., Marie Ricks

20 Years

Milton Baker, Patricia Carmadelle, Kenneth Lemieux, David Macaluso, Eddie Polizzi, Stephen Roth, Richard Williams

Marie Ricks recently accepted her Employee of the Year award for 2005 on May 17, 2006. Congratulations, Marie.

Many of us had the opportunity to attend the Customer Service classes taught by **Nancy Rodriguez** (Human Resources). We would like to extend our

gratitude to her for making the classes interesting and motivating.

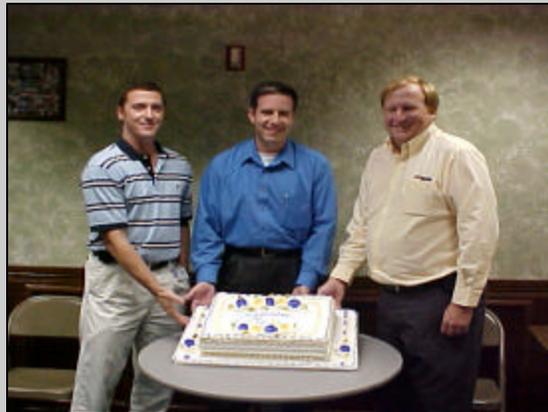
The Streets Department with the help of the Parkways Department raised much needed money for the March of Dimes. We would like to thank the March of Dimes organizers. **Lovonia Cola** with the help of **Rosalie Dyer** helped raise \$160.00 and **Rose Lanansa** helped raise \$481.00. We appreciate your time and effort put in for such a great cause.

I would like to make a correction before I go. I mistakenly said our new Assistant Director, **Don Hogan**, was

from Lake Charles Parish. It is Saint Charles Parish. Sorry, Don.



Streets Director Randy Nicholson with Employee of the Year Marie Ricks



Streets Assistant Director Don Hogan and Director Nicholson wish departing Executive Superintendent Joey Vasquez well

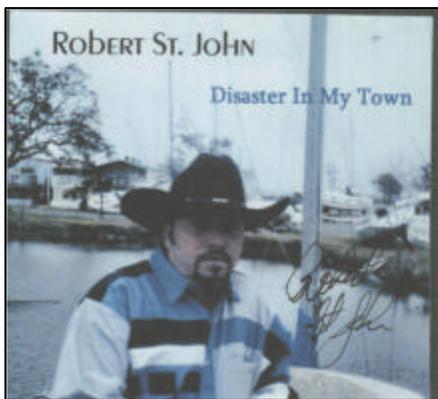


Jessie Boudreaux (left) retires after 25 years of service

Drainage

By
Maria Cervini

Have you ever been inspired by something you've seen or heard? Well, that's exactly what **Robert St. John**, an Operator I on the West Bank, did. Robert always aspired to become a Country Western singer, and his Grandfather, William St. John, always told him to follow his dream and never give up.



Drainage Operator and recording artist Robert St. John

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Robert returned home to see Airline Hwy. looking like a fishing canal with boats attempting to rescue people from the roofs of houses. As he approached I-10, which was a drop-off zone, he saw the helicopters delivering people to safety and as devastating as it seemed that's what inspired him to record a CD, "Disaster in my Town." You can contact Robert about his CD at 430-7348 or st.john38@aol.com

We would like to acknowledge an East Bank Maintenance crew on a job well done. While they were recently on assign-

ment, a resident called to compliment their Supervisor **John Sell** on their professionalism and attitude. This maintenance crew, which is comprised of Foreman **Pierre Smith** and his crew of **Mike Picou, Henry Brown, Julius Brown, Marshall Robinson, and Kenneth Wallace**, share the core values of the Drainage Department. It is this synergy that creates the right environment which fuels greater productivity and produces maximum results.

Congratulations to our nomination for Employee of the Year, **George Davis**, Pump Station Operator II. Mr. Davis started as a Trade's Helper in 1984, and was promoted to Pump Station Operator I in 1985. Later, he was trained to assume the responsibilities of a Pump Station Operator II and was promoted to this class in October 1992.

George works together with employees to train them on the proper and safe opera-

tion of the equipment, educating them for possible promotions. He also trains employees in the proper preventive maintenance of the different equipment found at the pump stations. George keeps his assigned station in a very neat and orderly condition and takes pride in its appearance. When he is off duty, he is always available to come to work when needed. He keeps abreast of the current weather conditions and will contact the supervisors to inform them he is available, if needed, at any station on the East Bank. We wish him good luck!

We wish our retirees, **Tim Augillard** and **Richard Moore** the very best and know they'll enjoy their retirement. Thank you for your dedication and hard work coupled with a combined service of 47 years. We want to extend a great big welcome to **Carl Sanders III**, who started as a Laborer in May.



Drainage Manager William Duplaisir and Director Kazem Alikhani congratulate Tim Augillard (center) upon his retirement

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

June Durnin, Administrative Management Specialist III for the Department of Community Development, has been actively involved in applying for new grants and grant renewals to provide public services for homeless persons. Once again, Jefferson Parish Alliance for the Homeless and UNITY for the Homeless have collaborated to submit a joint application for the SuperNOFA grant. “There were 21 exhibitors this year that applied for the SuperNOFA funding,” June said.

The SuperNOFA grant provides Jefferson Parish with Shelter Plus Care funds for tenant-based rental assistance through the Human Services Authority and for Gateway Foundation Inc. June also submitted an Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) to the State of Louisiana that enables C.D. to administer funds to the Metropolitan Battered Women’s Shelter, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans for the Jefferson CARE (Homeless) Center, and a small homeless shelter run by Waymaker Ministries.

Homebuyer Orientation

Home ownership is one of the biggest investments we’ll make in our lifetime and is one of the surest ways to accumulate wealth. **Liz Ruth**, Housing Improvement Counselor II, teaches a popular

First-Time Homebuyer Orientation Class at the Parish Council Chambers in Gretna to help low-and moderate-income citizens tap into available housing grants monthly. The First-Time Homebuyers Program provides \$10,000 down-payment and closing costs for people who qualify.

The classes are helpful to anyone interested in purchasing a home. Liz gives step-by-step instructions on how to apply for the program and many helpful tips on dealing with lenders and realtors. The schedules for the free First-time Homebuyer Orientation Classes are as follows: June 13 & 20; July 12 & 25; August 1 & 15; September 5 & 19; October 3, 10 & 24; November 7 & 21, and December 5 & 19. Pre-registration isn’t required. Jefferson Parish employees are eligible.

Ken Krey, Project Manager, attended the kickoff of the new air conditioning project at the Martin Luther King (MLK) Gymnasium in Harvey. The A/C project, long overdue and well deserved, is being funded by Community Development CDBG funds. **Councilman Byron Lee** noted: “This will improve the quality of life for all citizens in this community and will enable the gym to be used as a multi-purpose center for community events.”

Stephen Pruett, Accounting Supervisor, has ordered new digital cameras to replace the old Polaroids for some members of the CD staff. “We’ve found digital cameras to be especially useful to our work in inspections and capital project review,” Steve said.



At the 31st anniversary of National Community Development Week: Councilman Byron Lee; Community Development Director Anatola Thompson; Gregory Hamilton, HUD Director of Community Planning & Development; Parish President Aaron Broussard; Marvel M. Robertson, HUD Field Office Director; and John Young Jr., Council Chairman.

Code Enforcement

By
Linda Roy

In December of 1995, we hired an individual to work as a Building Plan Reviewer I. This person is bright, hard working, and eager to learn. He presents himself with good moral character and shows respect to his co-workers and the public. He earned his promotion to Building Plan Reviewer II in September of 1996 and Building Plan Reviewer III in August of 2002. He continues to be an integral part of our Code Enforcement family. We are pleased to announce Code Enforcement's 2005 Employee of the Year, **Mr. Paul Pham**. A Job Well Done!!!!



President Broussard with Code Enforcement's Employee of the Year, Paul Pham

Have you ever passed up entering a contest because you know you aren't lucky enough to win? **Kelly McMurray** entered her mom and herself in a contest sponsored by *Teen Magazine* to see *American Idol*. AND SHE WON!!! **Kelly and Rachel** flew to Hollywood for an all expense paid trip to see the show and

cheer on their Idol!
GO AHEAD GIRLS!!!!

Our condolences on the loss of **Anthony Bazile's** mother and **Frank Lopreore's** sister. Our prayers are with you.

Welcome Aboard! We welcome **Daniel Montz**, Plumbing Inspector I; **A.J. Gautreau**, Electrical Inspector I; **Judith Champagne**, Typist Clerk II; and **Urashia Brice**, Data Entry Operator II to Code.

As Time Goes By – **Herbert Schlaudecker**, Mechanical Inspector III, retired on May 26, 2006 with 23 plus years of dedicated service to the Parish. **Slick**, as we all loved to call him, is a unique person. A little rough around the edges, but he has the kindest heart we all have come to love. He served our country aboard the USS *Amato* with the same honor and pride he brought with him in his job as Mechanical Chief. Slick will always be part of our Code family. We are honored he shared 23 years with us!



Retiring Mechanical Chief
Herbert Schlaudecker

Purchasing

By
Antoinette Holmes

Purchasing is proud to announce the appointment of **Peggy Barton** as our new Director. Peggy started with the Parish in 1994 as an assistant parish attorney. In 1996 she became the attorney for Finance and worked closely with Purchasing. We welcome her and all of the knowledge she brings to us.

Former Director **Lynne Hefti** has chosen to work with us part-time and begin her mission as volunteer for **Opus-Buno Sacerdotii** – which means “work for the good of the Priesthood.” We thank you for your dedication and many, many smiles.



Nicole Byars and Lynne Hefti

Congratulations to **Rene Poole** for 25 years of service and to **Nicolle Byars** for five years.

We are holding a Purchasing Training Session on Wednesday and Thursday, June 21 and 22. The training will consist of: Specification Writing, Bids, Purchase Orders, Resolutions, and Contracts. Buyers will be on hand to answer questions. We started with morning sessions, but due to the overwhelming response, we're offering afternoon sessions from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. To sign up, call 364-2678.

All add new vendor forms must have a W-9 filled by the vendor attached. These forms can be printed from Purchasing Public Folder.

Community Justice

By
Debbie Villio

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement has awarded Jefferson Parish more than \$1.3 million to reopen two pods at the Rivarde Juvenile Detention Center and create a 12-bed acute medical care unit at the parish jail.

The grant came from a federal Office of Justice Programs Hurricane Relief Grant to Louisiana for hurricane recovery in parishes declared disaster areas from the two hurricanes last August and September.

Jefferson will use the money to hire five juvenile detention officers and one security guard to reopen two secure detention pods (housing a total of 16 youngsters). Once reopened, Rivarde will be back at its pre-Katrina level and help keep more violent youthful offenders off the streets.

Other funds will be used to create an acute medical care unit in an existing area of the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center. This will help relieve the strain on the parish's two public hospitals, which also have borne much of the burden for patient care from adjacent parishes because Charity Hospital was closed by the storm.

The OJP grant money is welcomed by Jefferson and the many other parishes that suffered severe damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It will be used in criminal justice system recovery efforts throughout the region as citizens engage in the rebuilding of their respective communities.

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Our 2006 Summer Activity Guide, which includes activities and programs for both the Eastbank and Westbank, is available on our website at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page (Adobe Acrobat Reader required) as well as all local playgrounds and libraries. For more information call the respective office (Eastbank – 736-6999 or Westbank 349-5000) or via e-mail to jprecreation@jeffparish.net

Baseball/softball season is in full swing! Day Camp will begin June 5th. This makes this season one of the busiest for Parks and Recreation.

Football, volleyball, and cheerleading registration will begin in August. The Fall 2006 program guide is scheduled for release at the end of August.

Retirees:

Warren Bridgewater, Center Supervisor at Nicholson Playground

James Berggren, Asst. Center Supervisor, Nicholson



Community Justice Employee of the Year Linda Fairchild

Larry Smith, Maintenance Repairman, West Bank

Get Well wishes to **Solomon Aguilar** (Groundskeeper at Harvey). Also, our deepest sympathy to the family of **Wayne Amedee** (Assistant Center Supervisor at LaSalle Park) upon the loss of his father, Lawrence A. Amedee, who passed away on May 11.

Welcome to Recreation:

- **Carolyn DiSalvo** – Typist Clerk III in EB Athletics
- **Glenda Tumblin** – Assistant Center Supervisor – Williams Playlot
- **Jerome Johnson** – Groundskeeper – Oakdale
- **Charles Sumner** – Groundskeeper – WB Maintenance
- **Wendell Davis** – Groundskeeper – Girard
- **Vincent Mastracchio** – Groundskeeper – Delta
- **William Cangemi** – Groundskeeper – Lafreniere Park
- **Thomas Walker** – Groundskeeper – Pontiff
- **Kelly Keller** – Asst. Center Supervisor (Nights) at Lakeshore Playground
- **Clifton Dufrene** – Asst. Center Supervisor (Nights) at Nicholson Playground

Congratulations on the Promotion:

- **Craig Brue** – Electrical Supervisor – EB Maintenance
- **Michael Millican** – Truck Driver I
- **Rodney Piglia** – Assistant Center Supervisor – Cleary
- **Clint Hunter** – Center Supervisor – Kings Grant

General Services

By
Kathy Theriot

Successful Auction

The first auction since 2004 due to Hurricane Katrina was held on April 29, 2006 at Surplus Property, 920 David Drive in Metairie. The auction was a success, and the weather was pleasant. General Services would like to thank Lone Star Auctioneers of Fort Worth.

We would also like to thank all General Services employees who helped make the auction run smoothly: **Rosalind Tillman, Kathy Theriot, Crystal Heine, John Luck, Mike Lemoine, Mike Fonseca, Mike Scardino, Dale Esteves, Michael Carter, John Stortz, Rick Peart, Alan Orgeron, Fitzgerald Fredericks, Lionel Harris.**

And special thanks to Fleet Management employees: **Victor Rodrigues, Gary Lampard, Bob Morgan, Melissa Miller, Roy Luthjens, Bruce Vosbein, Diane Spencer and Director, Nick DiGerolamo.** Their expertise was vital in making this auction successful. We look forward to seeing these employees at the next auction.

Recognition for Our Staff

Roshell Allen of the Grounds Crew, and **Dale Esteves** of Surplus have been named Employees of the Month of April. Our congratulations go out to them for their outstanding service to our department. Their extra efforts have not gone unnoticed.



General Services Director Anthony Francis says good-bye to Amber Breaux, who is leaving GS for a promotion in the Streets Department

Well wishes go out to **Amber Breaux**, our Administrative Assistant for the past seven years. **Amber** has been promoted to the position of Executive Superintendent in the Streets Department. Her career with Jefferson Parish started in 1994. She has been a vital part of our department and will surely be missed.

Several General Services employees have announced retirement: **Bob Hingle**, Laborer, 5 years of service; **Lucien Sabathe**, Laborer, 15 years of service, both spent their time in General Services. **Mary Ann Treuil**, Payroll Clerk, who has twenty-five years of service, came to us just one year ago from Gaming, where she had worked for six years. She also worked for eighteen years in Inspection and Code. All of these employees are loyal and very hard-working. We will miss them, but we hope they enjoy their well-earned retirement.

General Services is very happy to welcome two new employees: **Richard Thibodeaux** and **Clarence Jackson.** Both men are starting with us in Laborer positions. We are happy they are with us.



Pat Borne (left), Employee of the Year for the Parish President's Office, is congratulated by Public Information Officer Jacquie Bauer

Library

By
Jim Davis

Summer Reading Begins in June

Summer Reading Programs are set to begin on June 3, and will run through August 11. Fun activities are planned, incentives to be earned, and prizes to be won for participating in “Paws to Read!” for kids, “TSI – Teen Scene Investigation” for teens, and the Fourth Annual Big Readers’ Summer Book Club for adults.

Vacation into a book; you can really go places without leaving your chair! “Paws” to “investigate” a good book and have a really “big” time. Check Jefferson Parish Library’s website for more information about the Summer Reading Program and the kickoff skating parties for children and to learn of the activities and programs planned for the best summer reading program ever.

Employee of the Year

And speaking of the Summer Reading Program, the person responsible for coordinating SRP is **Burke McFerrin**, our Youth Services Coordinator, who has been named Employee of the Year, the first professional Librarian to be bestowed the honor. Prior to Burke’s appointment to her present position, the library had not had anyone coordinating both children’s and teen services for several years. Burke took over responsibility for directly supervising youth services at both regional libraries

and for coordinating these services at the other library locations. She is also responsible for selecting the children’s materials purchased by the library and for maintaining the children’s collection. Her enthusiasm and high-energy level are contagious, and there is a new spark in youth services.



Burke McFerrin

Operation Photo Rescue

From Monday, May 1, through Friday, May 5, volunteer photographers, photojournalists, and graphic artists from across the county worked at EB Regional to begin the process of restoring local citizens’ photographs damaged in last year’s devastating hurricanes.

Upon hearing that OPR was here, misplaced Louisianans from Baton Rouge and beyond brought their water damaged, fading, and moldy photos--and hope. The OPR saints collected over 2,000 photographs and served more than 360 families and individuals.

The photographs are being emailed to volunteers throughout the country and around the world who will digitally restore them. The restorations will be sent to the owners free of charge.

Tears flowed frequently in EBR’s lobby, as people bringing in their treasured but damaged photos shared their stories behind the photos – the damage they had suffered, the significance of the photos to their lives, the memories they hoped could be preserved. As many said, they can replace their homes and most belongings, but not their precious pictures, and the pictures are the windows to remembrance. More than once, the volunteer photographers had to retreat to the nearby restroom to compose themselves before they could go on with composing the photographs.

The trip to EBR marked OPR’s third trip to the hurricane ravaged region and their first in the New Orleans area. Jefferson Parish was honored to be able to provide East Bank Regional as the site for this noble volunteer effort.

On behalf of the citizens of Jefferson Parish and the Greater New Orleans area, thank you, OPR!

Operation Photo Rescue is the brainchild of Dave Ellis, of Fredericksburg, Virginia. He and photojournalist Becky Sell embarked on a mission to recover the photos and memories that otherwise would be lost to the storm.



OPR volunteer Joe Leute of Madison, WI, receives a hug from Metairie resident Elaine Antonatos

Reopenings Celebrated

The reopening ceremony for the North Kenner Library was held on Monday, May 1, followed by a ceremony at Old Metairie Library on Thursday, May 4 to celebrate its reopening. Although North Kenner had been closed since the storm, Old Metairie was able to open its doors in spite of damage in October, but was closed the last half of April for recarpeting and remodeling.

At both reopenings, attendees discovered customer-focused rearrangements, an increased number of Internet accessible computers, and wireless Internet connectivity (wi-fi) for users with their own laptops at both newly carpeted libraries. In addition, those present at North Kenner found a major expansion of the children's area, as well as increased services and materials for Spanish-speaking customers. The hours have expanded, too; North Kenner is now open on Sundays, 1:00-



Branch Manager Mel Louviere (center) and two members of his dedicated staff—Angela LeBlanc and John Sheridan—welcome patrons back to the newly reopened North Kenner Branch

After welcoming remarks and the ribbon-cutting at North Kenner, an audience, including students from A.C. Alexander Elementary, was treated to “Don’t Just Sit There, Read!” a children’s performance by entertainer Rick Kelley, made possible through Music with a Message for Kids, Inc. At Old Metairie, students were treated to “Melonsongs,” a performance by musical entertainer Philip Melancon.

North Kenner Branch Manager **Mel Louviere** says that North Kenner is now open seven days a week: Hours are 9am to 9pm, Monday through Thursday; 9am to 5pm Friday and Saturday; and 1pm to 5pm on Sunday.

Twenty-four Internet accessible computers are available to the public at North Kenner. For Spanish-speaking customers, two North Kenner staff members are bi-lingual. North Kenner Branch is located at 630 West Esplanade Ave., between Chateau Blvd. and Loyola Dr. Please use the rear entrance.

Retirements

All of us at Jefferson Parish Library congratulate **Mary Sanchez**, East Bank Outreach Library Page, and **Andrea Taylor**, Children’s Librarian, West Bank Regional Library, upon their retirement. Both Mary and Andrea had over 20 years of Parish service.



At the Reopening Ceremony at Old Metairie Library, Councilwoman Jennifer Sneed cuts the ribbon, assisted by Library Director Lon Dickerson, Councilman-at-Large John Young, Jr., and President Aaron Broussard.

Retirements

Michael Weber Engineering 33 years	Michael Karl Engineering 33 years	Larry Smith Recreation 31 years
Martin Schwegmann, Jr. Personnel 29 years	Joseph Conino Parish Attorney 29 years	Clarence Collins Juvenile Services 28 years
James Massony Environmental 28 years	Ned Pitre Personnel 28 years	Paul O'Rourke Environmental 28 years
George Folse III General Services 27 years	Alvin Tapie GIS 27 years	Mary Sanchez Library 26 years
Tim Augillard Drainage 26 years	Robert Weaver Water 26 years	Edgardo Castro Fleet Management 25 years
Mary Anne Treuil General Services 25 years	Richard Moore Drainage 24 years	Andrea Taylor Library 23 years
Herbert Schlaudecker Code Enforcement 23 years	Thomas Robinson Sewerage 22 years	Leslie Webster Drainage 21 years
Harrison Davis, Jr. Drainage 20 years	Michael Vicknair Streets 19 years	Victor Danielsen, Jr. Code Enforcement 19 years

Congratulation to our Employees of the Year for 2005:

Accounting—Geraldyn Savoie . . . **Animal Shelter**—Jacqueline Booker . . . **Citizens' Affairs**—Joy Alfortish . . . **Community Justice**—Linda Fairchild . . . **Drainage**—George Davis . . . **Engineering**—Royal Jackson, Jr. . . . **Environmental**—Barbara Arcement . . . **Fire**—Bruce Salatalamachia . . . **General Services**—Anthony Francis . . . **Human Resources**—Nancy Rodriguez . . . **Inspection & Code Enforcement**—Paul Pham . . . **Juvenile Services**—Milton Crosby . . . **Library**—Burke McFerrin . . . **MIS**—Maria Rose . . . **Parish President's Office**—Patricia Borne . . . **Parkways**—Collis Linson . . . **Personnel**—Catherine Harvell . . . **Planning**—Juliette Cassagne . . . **Recreation**—Janice Parker . . . **Sewerage**—Walter Roe . . . **Streets**—Marie Ricks . . . **Transit**—Albert Roussell . . . **Water**—Dale Hymel