



Volume 32
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EM Realtime

Message from the Parish President. . .

Promoting JPAAlert

As Jefferson Parish President, I am pleased to promote the availability of JPAAlert, the parish emergency alert system.

The JPAAlert system allows officials to immediately contact citizens with news regarding emergencies or to relay critical information. The alert system is capable of contacting subscribers via an email account, home phone, cell phone, pager, smartphone, or handheld devices. Subscribers may add two devices and two email addresses to a JPAAlert account, and alerts can be sent to all devices listed.

Now, when we have urgent situations, whether it is threatening weather, road closures, evacuation or shelter information, or other types of emergencies, we can provide citizens immediate access to this information. This is another way we are working to ensure our residents are safe and fully informed..

Real-Time System

JPAAlert is a real-time system that will provide subscribers with continuous updates and instructions on where to go,



John F. Young
Parish President

what to do, or what not to do, and whom to contact during an emergency. Notifications will be sent to cell phones via text messages.

Additional instructions may follow throughout the emergency situation, so citizens are advised to keep their phone or mobile device nearby. Read the messages promptly and follow instructions.

This is a free service; however, your wireless carrier may charge you a fee to receive messages on your device. You can register for this service at www.jpalert.com. If you encounter any problems, please contact Jefferson Parish Emergency Management at 504-349-5360 or via email at jpeoc@jeffparish.net.

En Realité

Editor.....Peggy O. Barton
 Managing Editor.....Greg Alexander

Departmental Reporters

- Alario Center**
Deirdre Cummings
- Animal Shelter**
Danielle Williams
- Citizens' Affairs**
Tracie Chaix
- Community Development**
Sevilla White Finley
- Diversity Advisory Board**
Open
- Drainage**
Sheena Quinn
- Emergency Management**
Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**
Amanda Owens
- Environmental Affairs**
Barbara Arcement
- Finance Authority**
Sheila Rodrigue
- General Services**
Jill Relick
- Human Resource Management**
Dana LeBherz
- Code Enforcement**
Linda Roy
- JeffCAP**
Elizabeth Cook
- Juvenile Services**
Arlyn Smith
- Library**
Christine Corcoran
- Parks & Recreation**
Gwen Styron & Jerry Savarese
- Parkways**
Chantell Prestenbach
- Planning**
Marilyn Slutsky
- Purchasing**
Gail Petrie
- Sewerage**
Venice Cooper
- Streets**
Debbie Tunstall
- Telecommunications**
Paul Ferrara
- Traffic Engineering**
Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**
Patricia Lyons
- Water**
Susie Cunningham
- Workforce Connection**

Editor's



Notes

Announcing Spring Health Fairs

I am pleased to take over direction of the Department of Human Resource Management from my esteemed predecessor, Junior Mendoza. Human Resource Management (HRM) is a service department: a department whose mission is to support all Parish departments and employees by offering a comprehensive list of human resource services including consultation, legal compliance, employee training and education, workplace safety, and employee benefits. An informed and healthy workforce combined with a fair and safe workplace better enables the Parish to fulfill its obligations to the citizenry of Jefferson Parish.

One way HRM tries to help employees stay informed about their health is the bi-annual health fair organized by the Benefits division. Starting in May, the Benefits division will organize several health fairs on both sides of the river. The focus of this year's fair is "Diabetes," a disease that afflicts literally hundreds of Parish employees. In fact, medication for diabetes ranked in the top three drugs prescribed for Parish employees in 2010. Even more eye-opening are the costs of hospitalization for diabetes-related illnesses: more than \$3 million in 2010! Understanding the risks,



Peggy O. Barton
 Editor

prevention methods, and disease management skills associated with diabetes could add years to (or even save) your life.

During the fair, Coventry Healthcare of Louisiana is sponsoring full health screenings at no cost for all employees insured by Coventry. The screenings include blood glucose screening, cholesterol screening, blood pressure checks, and BMI (Body Mass Index) measurement. These screenings can help you discover if you are at risk for diabetes and hypertension.

The fairs, held in coordination with East Jefferson General Hospital and West Jefferson Medical Center, will offer many other attractions that can inform and educate you about your current state of health, your health risks, and ways you can improve your health and prevent disease. The Benefits division will be communicating dates, times, and details via each department's benefits coordinator in the near future.

I encourage you to take advantage of these events and wish you a long and healthy career with Jefferson Parish!

Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

Planners Attend State Conference

Several Planning Department planners went to Baton Rouge in January to attend the State Conference of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). Sessions over the three-day conference included *Planners' Guide to Everyday Ethics*, *The Intersection of Politics and Planning*, *LADOTD's New Complete Streets Policy*, and a visit to the Port of Baton Rouge. Planners who went to the conference have been sharing the information they learned by giving presentations to planners who were unable to attend the conference.

New Metro APA Treasurer

Juliette Cassagne, Planner III, was elected Treasurer of the Metro Section of the Louisiana APA Chapter; and **James Borsos**, Planner II, was appointed as Co-Professional Development Officer for the state chapter. James, who has credentials from the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), is developing programs for other planners statewide that will aid them in becoming professionally certified and receiving continuing education credits to maintain that certification.

We wish to thank the members of our staff— Planner III **Robert Johnston**, **James Borsos**, UNO Graduate Assistant Intern **Alex Carter**, and **Marilyn Slutsky**— who were donors for the successful blood drive held February 14.

Code Enforcement

By
Linda Roy

On March 18, 2011, CAA **Loren Marino** presented **Pat Pettifoot** with her Retirement Certificate. Pat retired from the Parish with seventeen years of service. Code Enforcement offers its congratulations to Pat.



Pat Pettifoot with Loren Marino

Board of Standards & Appeals

The Board of Standards and Appeals operates within the Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement to hear appeals of

decisions and interpretations of Code officials and to consider variances to the technical codes. The Board is comprised of seven members, each one appointed by a different Council member. The members possess different disciplines, providing a variety of knowledge, experience, and expertise when considering appeals before them.

The current members are Jim Kenney, Chairman (general contractor); Wes Faulkner, Vice-Chairman (electrical/mechanical engineer); Neil Logan (civil/structural engineer); Don Seghers (architect); Sid Artigues (general contractor); Elliot Hano (architect); and Charles Settoon (mechanical engineer). Assistant Parish Attorney **Leighton Ciravolo** serves as legal counsel for the Board.

Parish President John Young attended the Board's meeting on February 24 to thank the members for their dedication and exceptional service to the citizens of Jefferson Parish.



President Young thanks the Board of Standards and Appeals

Animal Shelter

By
Danielle Williams

The last few months have been very busy here at the Animal Shelter. First, we would like to welcome our new Director, **Diane Guichard**. Ms. Guichard joined the Animal Shelter in February. We would also like to welcome **Heta Babin**, our new West Bank Shelter Manager. She joins us from Streets. Also joining us are **Claudia Zimmerman**, kennelworker; **Michael D'Aquin**, Accounting Clerk III; **Darlene Richard**, Animal Control Officer; and **Bernie-Jean Lippert**, Animal Care Specialist. **Rosa Campos** is our new Administrative Assistant. Rosa joins us from the Purchasing Department. **Kelli Trapp** is our temporary Typist Clerk III from Code Enforcement.

Tiera Jones was promoted to East Bank Shelter Manager. We would also like to congratulate one of our Animal Control Officers, **Roosevelt Chaney**. He was awarded with a pin for 5 years of service to the Shelter.

On February 12, we hosted another free vaccine clinic at the Belle Terre Playground. Pet own-



New Animal Shelter Director
Diane Guichard



Animal Shelter's Tessa Corthell (left) with the generous students and staff of Anastasia C. Alexander School

ers were able to bring their pets to get free basic vaccinations. In all, 300 dogs and 25 cats were vaccinated. The Jefferson SPCA teamed up with the Expressway Animal Hospital to create the Fix-A-Canine program. Pet owners could have their pets spayed/neutered for free. The funds should cover about 50 surgeries.

We would especially like to thank teacher Emily Smith and the students at Anastasia C. Alexander School. Ms. Smith read about the shelter needing dog beds and got the students involved to raise money for the beds. The students raised over \$771 and purchased 8 beds for us. In their honor, an adoptable puppy was named Anastasia. As luck would have it, an assistant teacher at the school adopted Anastasia the next day.

As always, finding animals a forever home is our main goal. Our adoption fee is \$67 and includes spay/neuter surgery, a microchip, the first set of vaccines, and a rabies shot. Adoption hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 9am-5:30pm; Thursday

9am-7pm; and Saturday 10am-3:30pm. Pets can also get rabies shots at the West Bank Shelter on Tuesdays 10am-12pm and the East Bank Shelter on Wednesdays 10-11:30am. The cost is \$15 for spayed/neutered animals and \$20 for unaltered animals. Microchips are also provided during regular office hours for \$25.

Volunteers Needed!

The Animal Shelter is asking for Jefferson Parish employee volunteers to help with emergency management during hurricane evacuation situations. Contact **Danielle Williams** or Kelli Trapp for info.



Anastasia and her new adoptive family

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Another Mardi Gras season has passed, and it would be a disservice not to acknowledge the hard-working individuals who put forth a tremendous effort behind the scenes to ensure its success. The 2011 Mardi Gras season provided a challenge to our sign crews. Working short-handed and with minimal experience, our crews performed exceptionally well.

Through the leadership of Sign Foreman **James Lambert, Jr.**, the sign crews met the challenge of installing the signs throughout the parade routes and then removing and replacing them for St. Patrick's Day and the Irish-Italian parades. This took hours of preparation and execution, and to their credit, the season progressed without a hitch.

The Division's Signal crews were responsible for float escorts before, during, and after the parades. Our Signal Supervisor **David Stout** diligently worked with the Sheriff's Office to provide safe routes for the floats. In addition, they made sure that all traffic signals were properly raised, relocated, or removed to allow for clearance of the floats



Signal Technician Clyde Wingate checks traffic counters



Peter Reynaud (fifth from right) with the Sign Crew, including Signal Supervisor David Stout (fifth from left)

and riders. Also, a special thanks to Traffic Engineer **Del Bosarge** for coordinating the work between the administration and the sign and signal shop. Countless hours were put in by our entire Division, and they all did a fantastic job. Thank you all for your hard work!

Our Division wishes a happy retirement to **Peter Reynaud**. Mr. Reynaud was a fixture with the sign crews before being promoted to the signal crew. Congratulations on 31 years of service to the public. We wish Peter the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Lastly, congratulations are in order for the Traffic Engineering Division Signal Supervisor **David V. Stout**. Mr. Stout has been named Engineering's Employee of the Year for 2010. David has been a driving force in our Division since his career began more than 20 years ago. He rose quickly through the ranks thanks to his quick learning, natural leadership skills, and

outgoing personality.

From a Sign Tech I in 1989, Mr. Stout currently holds the position of Signal Supervisor. Often working outside of his classification, there is never a job too big or too small for David, and he is always available for the next task. Over the years David has proven to be one of the greatest assets to this Division and to the residents of Jefferson Parish. He is dedicated to his job and loyal to his employees and co-workers. David is a pleasure to work with, and we are incredibly proud of him. Congratulations, David!



Signal Supervisor David Stout, Engineering's Employee of the Year

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Community Development Director **Anatola Thompson** and staff gathered on March 4 to bid farewell to Housing Rehab Program Manager **Kim Thompson** on his retirement. Staff offered their blessings and baskets of goodies to keep Kim in good stead. Kim also received a Certificate of Merit from President John Young. Kim worked for the Parish for 29 years.

National Community Development Week is April 25–30. Community Development is planning several activities to commemorate this event, including a program on April 27 at 10 a.m. at the Marrero Community Senior Center that was built with CD Block Grant (CDBG) funds. CD received a prestigious national award for its work in building the Center. The Center is an example of how our tax dollars are returned to our community to improve the quality of our lives.



Kim Thompson (center), surrounded by well-wishing CD staff

Congratulations to Typist Clerk III **Betty Overton**, who received her 10-year pin recently.

First-time Homebuyer Assistance update: Project Coordinator “**Jim**” **Bush Jr.** notes three new houses are available for purchase in the Beechgrove subdivision in Westwego. These new

units qualify for HUD grants of up to \$50,000 for closing cost and down payment for eligible low- and moderate-income participants. The new homes sell for \$139,000 and have three bedrooms, two baths, an open floor plan, and a one-car garage. Call Information Specialist **Sevilla Finley** on how to become a first-time homeowner at 504-736-6282 or Housing Improvement Counselor II “**Liz**” **Ruth** at 736-6267. An Open House is planned in Beechgrove during Nat’l C. D. Week.



CD Director Anatola Thompson congratulates Betty Overton

April is Fair Housing Month. Your right to fair housing is protected by federal laws. It is unlawful to refuse to rent, lease, or sell a house or apartment to you because of your race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin. Amendments to the Fair Housing Act in 1988 expanded the coverage to include families with children and disabled persons. If you or someone you know has faced discrimination, call 504-736-6282.

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

Congratulations

Congratulations to our Engineering Inspector **Rodney Jessie**, who recently became a grandfather. His daughter **Racquel** gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. **Jordan Isaiah Tyrone Banks**, 5 lbs. 11 oz., was born on December 28, 2010.

Also, congratulations to Administrative Asst. **Marie Ricks** of West Bank Maintenance. Marie was awarded a service pin for 30 years of service by Parish President **John Young** in a ceremony on December 9.

Wedding bells will soon be ringing for **Rachel Falcon** and **Shayne Perez**. They will be married on April 9. May you have many years of wedded bliss, Rachel and Shayne.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy goes to **Rodney Jessie** and his family with the loss of his mother-in-law **Florida Montgomery**. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Retirements

John Harper and **Melvin**



Rodney Jessie's new granddaughter Jordan



East Bank Streets' new headquarters at 200 Shrewsbury Road

Boudreaux have recently retired from the Streets Department. We really hope you enjoy your retirement, John and Melvin, and are able to do all of the things you have dreamed of.

Get Well

Get well wishes to **Jeannette Perez-Sandi**. We miss you, Jeannette, and hope you will return soon.

New Office Building

The Streets Department has new offices. East Bank Streets moved into their new offices on March 16. The new 15,000-square-foot office replaces the 46-year-old office that had outlived its use. East Bank Streets and Parkways staff is now housed at 200 Shrewsbury Rd. The facility can now safely accommodate all of our employees during emergency events.

The old office will be demolished, and our warehouse will receive a new roof and wall panels. It is a much needed improvement for this facility.

Promotions

We wish **Heta Babin** the best of luck. **Heta** was recently promoted to Manager of the West Bank Animal Shelter. We will miss you, Heta; however, we know the animals at the shelter will benefit from your care.



Heta Babin leaves Streets for a promotion in Animal Shelter

Environmental

By
Barbara Arcement

Congratulations to Environmental Affairs 2010 Employee of the Year, Environmental Quality Specialist with our Industrial Pretreatment Program **Sami Khalil**. Sami is a real team player and is willing to go the extra mile, always willing to lend a hand to help his co-workers get the job done. Sami is a dedicated, loyal, and hardworking Parish employee whose work reflects his inner character and is a statement of his personal commitment to excellence on the job.

On February 22, 2011, Environmental Affairs employees took time out of their busy schedules to judge posters for the *11th Annual Non-point Source Pollution & Solutions Poster and Essay Contest* for Jefferson Parish public, private, and parochial school students in grades 3 through 8.

The goal of this contest is to demonstrate non-point sources of

urban storm water pollution and to involve students in identifying solutions. Students in 3rd through 6th grades participate in a poster contest, while students in the 7th and 8th grades participate in an essay contest. The winners will be announced at an awards banquet on April 14, 2011, at the East Bank Regional Library. Congratulations to all the winners.

Mosquito Season!

It's mosquito time again. Here are some tips to keep the annoying little critters away from your home and yards:

- Check yard weekly for containers that might be holding water and empty them.
- Flush bird baths, small swimming pools, pet water bowls, and bromeliads weekly with clean water.
- Don't overwater potted plants; remove water from saucers under potted plants.
- Keep swimming pools, fountains, and ponds clean and

- circulating with an operational pump.
- Stock ponds with minnows.
- Treat swimming pools with appropriate chemicals on a regular basis.
- Make sure roof gutters are not clogged or holding water.
- Fill and re-grade low spots, indentations, and tire tracks.
- Remove trash and spare parts from your yard and keep grass mowed.
- Keep boats, barbecue grills, etc. covered (make sure tarp is tight and doesn't hold water) or drain regularly.
- Seal voids under slabs with sand or concrete.
- Remove old tires from your yard by placing them curbside for collection (4/week/home) or bringing them to the nearest trash drop off site (400 David Dr. & 6440 Lapalco Blvd. sites only) for disposal.
- Fill tree holes and hollow stumps with sand or concrete.
- Make sure that all window and door screens are bug tight.
- To protect yourself from mosquitoes, avoid being outdoors at dawn and dusk, wear long sleeves and long pants when outside, use insect repellent containing DEET according to label directions.

For additional information on mosquito abatement measures or to report stagnant swimming pools or other potential sites of mosquito breeding in Jefferson Parish, please call the Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs at 731-4612.

Finally, the staff of Environmental Affairs would like to wish everyone a happy and beautiful spring.



Environmental's Sami Khalil, Kathy Russo, and Barbara Arcement judge posters for the 11th Annual Non-point Source Pollution & Solutions Poster and Essay Contest.

JeffCAP

By
Elizabeth Cook

New JeffCAP Director

Jedidiah B. Jackson, a New Orleans area native, was recently named the new Director of Jefferson Community Action Programs (JeffCAP). Mr. Jackson had this to say about his new appointment: “I have for a while been working in service to the community, here and in Orleans Parish. I interned with a housing foundation to help first-time home buyers, and worked in a Congressional office to deal with issues that everyday people deal with. Now, to work



New JeffCAP Director
Jedidiah B. Jackson

for an agency that helps to meet those everyday goals for people is fulfilling.”

One goal of Mr. Jackson’s is to “improve every facet of JeffCAP, ensuring compliance with everything we do.” Mr. Jackson said he is utilizing the values of Jefferson Parish employees that Parish President John Young has set forth. “I think we will achieve success,” Mr. Jackson said. On a personal note, Mr. Jackson is busy planning his marriage in June to

Miss Lyndsey Jalvia. Mr. Jackson is a New Orleans area native, and of course, he’s a big Saint’s fan. When not watching the Saints, he enjoys eclectic tastes in music, exploring a wide variety. “I like hip hop, country, blues, jazz, funk....you name it.”

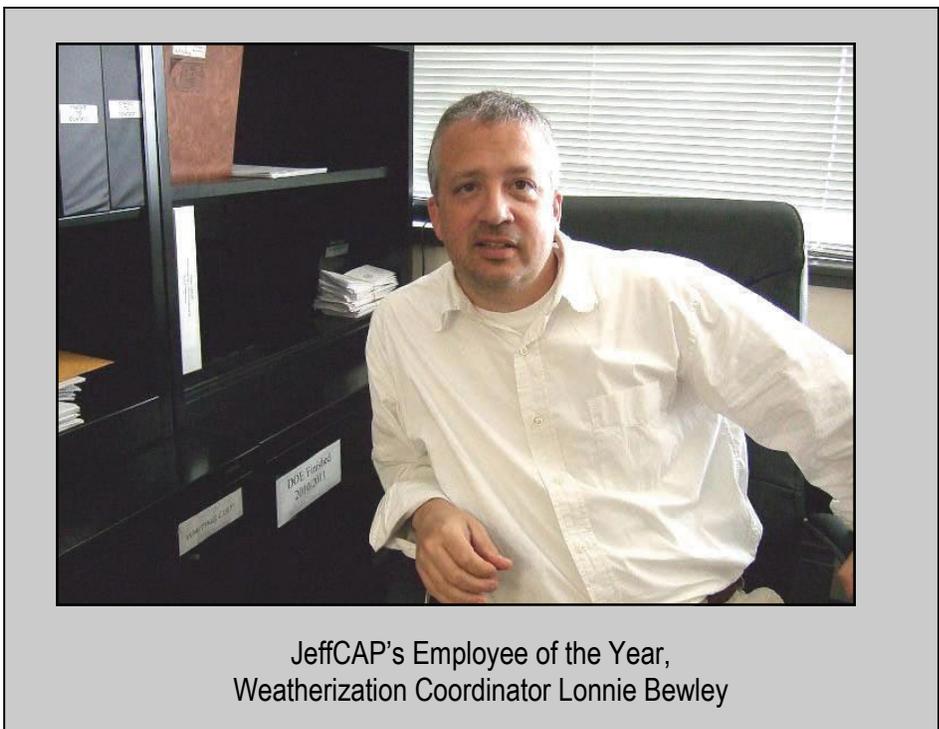
Employee of the Year

Lonnie Bewley, Weatherization Coordinator since June of 2009, was recently named JeffCAP employee of the year. In a letter, Parish President John Young thanked Mr. Bewley for his “outstanding contributions and dedication.” Mr. Bewley said, “It’s good to be recognized helping the elderly and low-income people of Jefferson Parish. It’s been a team effort with our great support staff and outside contractor.”

Weatherization assists the elderly and low-income in Jefferson Parish to reduce their energy bills. It’s based on income, and you are required to be a Jef-

ferson Parish resident to receive assistance in this parish. “We weatherize about 22 homes a month, and our goal is to weatherize 500 homes for the year by March 12.”

In other news, JeffCAP’s Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Coordinators held a Client Education Energy Expo at Dorothy B. Watson Community Center on S. Myrtle Street in Metairie on March 24. Over 100 people came to learn how to increase the energy efficiency in their home and to receive door prizes in the form of water heaters, blankets, and flashlights. JeffCAP employees, including Dorothy B. Watson Community Center Supervisor **Luisa Cazabon**, LIHEAP Coordinators **Clara Scott** and **Darcell Florence**, and numerous support staff organized this endeavor as part of LIHEAP’s mission to inform the public on energy efficiency. “It was a beautiful day, and we had a good turnout,” said Clara Scott.



JeffCAP’s Employee of the Year,
Weatherization Coordinator Lonnie Bewley

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Spring Is In The Air...

As Spring begins, the Department of Drainage continues to blossom and expand. We are very pleased and excited to announce the addition of several new employees to our department.

We'd like to extend welcome to **Kirk T. Plaisance, Aaron Williams, and Jeffery Matherene** to our family. Good luck to you all, and we look forward to hearing great things from you!

Also, a special "job well done" goes out to all of the commendable Drainage employees that received well-deserved promotions over these past few months. They include **Eldwin St. Cyr, Alfred Lee, Jr., Dawn Lovelace, Don Barrilleaux, and Derrin Robinson**. Congratulations and thanks to you all. We anticipate seeing more promotions in the future.

A Few Fond Farewells

We'd like to send off one of our very dedicated and hard-working Drainage employees as he begins his journey in a much deserved retirement. **Joe L. Hill, Sr.** officially retired on February 7, 2011, as a Truck Driver II for East Bank Drainage. Mr. Hill worked for Jefferson Parish for 21 years, and we in Drainage were fortunate to have had him with us for five of those years. Enjoy your retirement, Joe!

The Jefferson Parish Department of Drainage hopes everyone has a fun and safe Easter holiday!

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

**Sewerage Welcomes
New Director**

We welcome **Linda Daly** to the Department of Sewerage. Linda joined us on February 28, 2011, as Director of the Department of Sewerage. She was formerly Program Manager of the Sewer Capital Improvements Program.



New Sewerage Director
Linda Daly

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Leo McBride**. Leo retired from our Marrero Wastewater Treatment Plant on March 18, 2011, with 28 years of service. Best wishes to Leo for many happy years of retirement.



Sewerage Employee of the Year
Don Murray

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations to **Don Murray**. Don has been selected 2010 Departmental Employee of the Year for the Department of Sewerage. He is employed as General Superintendent of Sewer Treatment Plants. Don has worked in the Department of Sewerage for over 20 years.

Don began employment with Jefferson Parish in May of 1988 as a Laborer in the Water Department and has worked his way up into various positions over the years. Don and the other Departmental Employees of the Year were honored with a special presentation at the April 6, 2011, Jefferson Parish Council Meeting.



Superintendent Luis Vergara and Sewerage Director Linda Daly congratulate Leo McBride after 28 years with the Parish

Water

By
Susie Cunningham

Retirements

Congratulations to **Mary Daniels** and **Glen Hollinger** on their recent retirements. Mary retired from our East Bank Utility Billing Department on February 11, 2011, with 30 years of service. Glen retired from our East Bank Water Treatment Plant on March 25, 2011, with 13 years, 7 months of service. All of us at the Department of Water wish them well.

Promotions

The Department of Water would like to congratulate the following employees on their recent promotions: **Brent Lewis**, Water Service Inspector II, with East Bank Utility Billing and **David White**, Laborer, Semi-Skilled, with East Bank Outside Maintenance.

New Employees

Welcome to **Gloria Brad-**



Water Director Mitch Theriot
with Mary Daniels

berry, Typist Clerk III; **Lisa Rhodus**, Water Service Inspector I; **Juanika LaSalle**, Data Entry Operator II; **Thomas Corr**, Water Purification Operator; and Laborers - **Joshua Cole**, **Timothy Nicholson**, **Herbert Bryant**, **Christopher Descant**, **Denver Brown**, and **James Bell, Jr.**

Welcome back to **Darren Breecher, Jr.**, Water Purification Operator. Darren left us briefly but has returned to work with his friends in the West Bank Water Treatment Plant once again.

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

Welcome to **Stacy St. Pierre** and **Natalie R. Williams**, who were reinstated to Juvenile Probation Officers, and **Christi LaCombe**, Administrative Assistant, who transferred to us from the Fire Department. We're glad to have you all on board!

Welcome back to **William Corkern**, Juvenile Detention Officer, who returned after a lengthy injury. We're glad he's returned as good as new!

Joseph Robinson, Juvenile Detention Home Security Guard, retired after many years working with the youth of Jefferson. We wish him well and thank him for his dedicated service.

Hassan Williams, Juvenile Detention Officer, and **Troylycia LeBrane**, Juvenile Probation Officer, have resigned to pursue other career opportunities. We wish them all the best.

Juvenile Services extends our sympathy to the family of **Stephanie Young**, Juvenile Detention Officer, who died on March 19. Stephanie worked with Juvenile Services since 2004, and she will be missed.

Personnel Changes

Congratulations to **Colleen George** and **Lashaunda Thomas**, who were promoted to Juvenile Probation Officer III.

Brittany Webb was reallocated to Juvenile Probation Officer II, and **Denise Gilson** transferred from Juvenile Probation



Glen Hollinger is congratulated upon his retirement by Water Plant Maintenance Superintendent Jeff Tassin

Officer to Mental Health Professional with the Juvenile Assessment Center.

Congratulations to the following employees who have been named "Employee of the Month":

January – **Arlyn Smith**, Executive Assistant, and **Joseph Robinson**, Home Security Guard

February – **Linda Bon**, Mental Health Professional, and **Rhonda Oliver**, Juvenile Detention Officer

March – **Monique Willis**, Juvenile Probation Officer III, and **Willie Green**, Juvenile Detention Officer

DJS Employee of the Year

Cudos to **Stephen J. Cabal**, Juvenile Probation Officer IV, who has been selected as Juvenile Services "2010 Employee of the Year." Mr. Cabal has been with Juvenile Services since 1980 and is responsible for the management of the entire probation component of the department. His outstanding contribution and dedication demonstrate the way in which he embraces the Parish's Core Values. He has decades of proven and documented service to Jefferson Parish and the metropolitan area. His continued efforts to make the DJS Probation Division a model for the state and country remain strong. Stephen will be honored with a special presentation during the April 6 Jefferson Parish Council Meeting.

Lights/Camera/Action: On Wednesday, March 23, the crew of *Treme* filmed at the Juvenile Justice Complex in Harvey. Look for this during Season 2 of *Treme* on HBO, which begins in April.

Engineering

By
Amanda Owens

Thomas Franklin has retired from the Parish after 13 years of hard work and dedication. A Telemetry Technician II in the SCADA Division, Thomas played an important part in incorporating the Grand Isle Water Distribution System in the SCADA system, as well as upgrading many of the SCADA drainage pump station sites with the latest technology. Jason Phillips, SCADA Supervisor, said that Thomas took great pride in his work and accomplishments. Here's to 13 fantastic years, Thomas. You will be missed.



SCADA Supervisor Jason Phillips and Engineering Director Mark Drewes congratulate Thomas Franklin

Citizens Affairs

By
Tracie Chaix

The 2011 parade season was a huge success! Our very own **Jillian Campbell**, Secretary of Citizens' Affairs, was chosen as Queen Centurion XXXII, which paraded on Friday, March 4! The skies parted as Centurions rolled, allowing perfect weather for our beautiful Queen to be showcased on her day!



Queen Centurion XXXII Jillian Campbell

General Services

By
Revy Antoine

Congratulations to **John Stortz** on his retirement.

Also, we would like to congratulate **James Day**, who was promoted to Trades Helper with Drainage Pump Station, and **Devin Jones** who was promoted to Asst. Supervisor with the Recreation Depart. We wish you well.

Energy-Saving Tips

Appliances

- Look for Energy Guide and Energy Star Labels.
- Replace aging appliances with energy efficient Models.

Air-Conditioning/Heating

Heating/cooling account for 56% of energy use in a typical United States home.

If possible, replace existing, aging heating/cooling equipment with a high-efficiency model system.

- Replace thermostats with digital, energy-efficient brands.
- Seal all leaks in air-conditioning duct work.
- Replace filters on a monthly basis.
- Have air-conditioning/heating system cleaned and inspected on an annual basis.
- Have air-conditioning return air sealed for maximum efficiency.

Insulation/Sealing

- Seal all cracks/opening around windows and doors. This will significantly reduce energy costs and will create a healthier indoor environment.



John Stortz cuts the cake at his retirement celebration

- Check walls and attic for proper insulation.

Lighting

- Install compact fluorescent light fixtures.
- Replace all incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Install timers or occupancy sensors.
- Turn off all unnecessary lighting.
- Maximize the use of daytime lighting in your home.
- Learn how to read your home electrical meter.

How to Read Residential Electric Meters

The basic unit of measure of electric power is the watt. One thousand watts are called a kilowatt. If you use one thousand watts of power in one hour, you have used a kilowatt-hour (kWh). Your electric utility bills you by the kWh. The standard electric power meter is a clock-like device driven by the electricity moving through it. As the home draws current from the power lines, a set of

small gears inside the meter will move. The number of revolutions is recorded by the dials that you can see on the face of the meter. The more power consumed at any one instant, the faster the gears will rotate.

When reading an electric meter, read and write down the numbers as shown on the dials from the right to left. When the pointer is directly on a number, look at the dial to the right. If it has passed zero, use the next higher number. If the dial has not passed zero, use the lower number. Record the numbers shown by writing down the value of the dial to your extreme right first and the rest as you come to them. Should the hand of a dial fall between two numbers, use the smaller of the two numbers.

Note that some newer electric meters use digital displays instead of dials. The difference between one month's reading and the next is the amount of energy units that have been used for that billing period.

Library

By
Christine Corcoran

Employee of the Year Named

Ricardo Mesa, Computer Network Administrator, has been named our 2010 Employee of the Year by Library Director **Lon Dickerson**. "Ricardo is an energetic and dedicated individual who strives continually to provide top quality services to Jefferson Parish's residents," said Mr. Dickerson. "He does a great job in managing the Library's 11-person IT Department. It's immediately apparent that the department functions as a team and its members are continually honing their computer and people skills. Ricardo's focus is also on 1) frontline library staff and ensuring that IT is providing the appropriate and quality computer support they need and 2) the library customers or end users."

Ricardo is a highly skilled IT administrator who continually strives for excellence and is constantly looking for ways to provide the best and most advanced computer applications for the Library. He regularly speaks at and attends the meetings of IT people in Louisiana libraries. He talks with IT people at large urban libraries and participates in webinars and list serve discussions.

Ricardo wants Jefferson Parish residents to have the highest caliber of library services possible, and he's willing to expend whatever personal energies are necessary to attain them.

We have been able under Ricardo's leadership to maintain everyday operations and make enormous strides in advancing

library services through innovative enhancements in technology.

Ricardo is very active in helping at the schools his children attend and in community support projects. He is often a team captain each year in parish campaigns to raise funds for United Way, American Lung Association, etc.



Library's Employee of the Year
Ricardo Mesa

Summer Reading Program at the Jefferson Parish Library

The Jefferson Parish Library Summer Reading Program will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2011, and we would like to make this our biggest year yet! In 2010, approximately 8,300 children and teens participated in the program, and 3,550 or 43% completed by reading ten or more books (five books for teens). In 2011, we are trying to register many more children and teens and achieve a 90% completion rate.

The Summer Reading Program will officially run from June 1 through July 31; and this year for the first time patrons will be able to register and re-

cord their books online! A link directing patrons to the summer reading site will be prominently displayed on the Jefferson Parish Library's website: www.jefferson.lib.la.us and available starting June 1.

The Summer Reading Program is divided into three categories to accommodate all age ranges from birth through adulthood. The Children's Summer Reading Program, "One World, Many Stories," is designed for children ages 0-12. The Teen Summer Reading Program, "You Are Here," is for teens ages 13-18. Teens will need to read five books to successfully complete the program. Adults can also take part in their own Summer Reading Program, "Novel Destinations." Like the teens, adults will need to read five books to successfully complete the program.

Exciting programs for children, teens, and adults will be taking place throughout June and July at all Jefferson Parish Library locations including storytelling, puppetry, gaming, music, arts and crafts, movies, and book clubs. Some of Louisiana's best performers will dazzle families who attend the free performances of storytelling, music, dance, puppet shows, and more. All library programs are free and open to all.

New Laptop Checkout Program at Jefferson Parish Libraries

Jefferson Parish residents with valid library cards will now be able to check out laptop computers to use in the Jefferson Parish Library.

The Library has 319 hard-wired, public access computers, which are in continuous use by customers. People also bring their

personal laptops to use in the library because of the recently upgraded Wi-Fi access with newer 802.n wireless protocol.

The new, free program will give all residents greater access to computers and allow them to be flexible in where they use them in the library.

This service will be available initially at East Bank Regional Library and West Bank Regional Library. Within the next few days, the Gretna, Lakeshore, North Kenner, Rosedale, and Westwego Libraries will also have laptops which can be checked out for up to two hours for use in the library. There are no fees or rental charges for borrowing the laptops, but they cannot be borrowed by non-parish residents.

“Everybody doesn’t own a computer or have broadband, Metro Ethernet access in their homes,” says Library Director Lon Dickerson. “The 23 new laptops will enable us to make computers available to more people and let people choose the learning environment which best meets their needs—traditional desktop computers versus portable laptop.”

In the twenty-first century, a computer is no longer optional when it comes to academic success – it is mandatory. The same is true for people searching for jobs and submitting resumes and job applications.

Condolences

The Library staff extends its condolences to **Ed Stuckey**, Library Business Manager, on the loss of his father. Stanley Stuckey, 91, passed away on February 18, 2011.

Health Issues

By
Peggy Brannan, RN



Don’t Let the Bed Bugs Bite!

“Sleep tight; don’t let the bed bugs bite!” This saying once rang true with its humble beginnings going back to our colonial days. Back then, “sleep tight” was a reference to the way mattresses were secured to the bed frame. Moss- or straw-filled bags or mattresses were held in place from beneath with ropes stretched from one side of the bed frame to the other. The ropes had to be retied as they became loose; so goes the saying, “sleep tight.”

“Don’t let the bed bugs bite” was a reference to real bugs, found in the bed, that sought out their blood meals while their victims slept!

Bed bugs were killed off in our country between the 1940’s-1950’s by the use of pesticides. Some of these chemicals were so toxic that they have since been banned in the U.S. However, in the countries where those pests survived, they continued to thrive. Then, due to their hitch-hiking a ride with global travelers, they found a new home here in the U.S. again. As a result, the first round of bed bug infestations was found in, of all places, the big city elite hotels.

Most people born in the 1950s and later have never seen bed bugs. The very thought of having one in bed with you is enough to cause nightmares! So, what should we know to avoid the little pests?

Cimex lectularius, otherwise known as the bed bug, has evolved to be the most adapted insect to live among humans. The female bed bug can lay up to five eggs, no larger than a speck of dust, a day. After it hatches, the nymph is 1mm long, the size of a pin head. The life cycle of the bed bug includes five stages. To progress to each stage, a blood meal is necessary. The optimal temperature is between 70-90 degrees. Under the optimal conditions, the egg will reach adulthood within 6-8 weeks.

What about the behavior of this pest has ensured its success? The smell of carbon dioxide and the attraction towards warmth draws the pest like a magnet. Its primary time to attack is around 3:00 am. It is no surprise that it feeds during that time frame when humans typically sleep. Bed bugs DO NOT like their host meal to move! Due to their small size, they are able to hide virtually anywhere, be it a crevice or even the recess space made by a screw.



Library’s Marilyn Barbato receives her 30-year award from President Young

While they usually stay within 6-10 feet of their meals, they have been known to travel up to 100 feet to eat. So the preferred hangout for the bed bug will be the bed mattresses, bed frame, headboard, and night stands.

How do infestations occur? The primary source is usually an infested hotel/motel room. The bed bug will then hijack a ride via luggage, bags, clothing, purses, etc. into the owner's home. The tell-tale signs of an infestation will usually be the black and bloody smears on the mattresses. However, the actual confirmation that one does have bed bugs requires actually seeing the bug or its eggs. Early detection is preferred over a full-blown infestation. Whenever you return from a trip, for the next several weeks, observe objects within 10 feet of your bed for evidence of bed bugs. Take note of any bumps on your body that weren't there when you went to bed. Please note that some people do not develop any bumps after being bitten.

Fighting Back!

How does one fight back? Immediately consult with a reputable pest control company. Be prepared for the process to take 3-4 visits. Bed bug proof rated encasement covers for the mattresses are critical. Chemical sprays for bed bugs may be used. Professional steam cleaning is an option. Canine dogs may be brought in to locate the presence of live bugs, eggs, or remains. In extreme cases, a house heating treatment may be used to literally bake the pests to death. Laundering items placed in the drier at 120 degrees for at least 20 minutes will kill the bed bugs and their eggs. Eliminate clutter in the house so as to mini-

mize hiding places for the pests. Absolutely do not change the room where you sleep. This will just encourage the bed bugs to then infest the entire house instead of just a couple of rooms, thus making treatments that much more difficult. Just think of it like you would if treating a house with fleas. You would not stop going into the den to avoid the fleas. Vacuum bags should be bagged and thrown into the trash outside so as to prevent the bed bugs or their eggs from being reintroduced into the house. The pests can live nicely inside of a vacuum bag.

This is but a brief overview of bed bugs. I would encourage you to call me or the health unit if you have any questions or concerns. But one thing should put your mind at ease: Bed bugs have not been found to transmit any known diseases. However, it is possible that given enough bites, one could become anemic. Some authorities are saying that within the next couple of years, chances are that most people will know of someone who has had bed bugs. So, in the meantime, "sleep tight and don't let the bed bugs bite!"

Human Resources

By
Dana LeBherz

Director Mendoza Retires

The seasons are changing, and so are things in HRM! Our Director, **Feliciano Mendoza, Jr.** (better known as "Junior") has decided to retire after more than ten years of service to the Parish.

Junior's tenure was marked by many achievements, including ensuring ongoing training for Parish supervisors and improving efficiency of internal service to both council and departments. Perhaps his greatest achievement was to restrict our health insurance premium increases below the national average throughout his tenure.

Don't expect Junior to relax much now that he's retired. In addition to travelling and visiting family, Junior plans to reduce his golf score, do some fishing and boating, and, of course, bag a lot of birds when Hunting Season opens. Ducks and fish beware!

Human Resources will miss Junior's steady leadership, his sense of humor, and his support. We congratulate him on his successful career and offer best wishes for his retirement!



President John Young and the Council congratulate Junior Mendoza upon his retirement

New Acting Director

We would like to welcome Ms. **Peggy Barton** to the department as our Acting Director. Peggy has served more than seventeen years with the Parish in several capacities, including work in the Parish Attorney’s Office, and as former Director of Purchasing.

When not working, Peggy enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, and is an accomplished world traveler. Welcome, Peggy! We look forward to working with you!



Acting HR Director Peggy Barton

Special Assistant Retires

Clement Donelon, the Special Assistant to the Human Resource Management Department, has also decided to retire. Clem began his Parish career in the Parish Attorney’s Office in 1984. Ten years later, he became the Special Assistant to the department. Throughout his tenure, Clem represented the Parish in Personnel matters with aplomb, dedication, and expertise. His extensive knowledge of Parish policy and employment law benefitted the Parish daily. Congratulations to Clem on 27 years of distinguished public service!

Paaartty!

Although the entire department will miss Junior and Clem, we wanted to send them off in style! Music, decorations, coffee, punch, and of course, cake helped set the mood. Once again, Executive Assistant **Nicole Thompson** and Clerk Typist **Monique Porrazzo** organized and delivered a great party!

In the midst of the celebration, C.A.A. **Jennifer Van Vrancken** presented proclamations to both Junior and Clem on behalf of Parish President John Young, followed by speeches by both Clem and Junior. Did we hear a catch in Junior’s voice as he bade us farewell? We’ll never tell.

Wellness Resources

In addition to being a hard-working and long-tenured employee (see photo), Benefits Specialist **Cathy Leaumont** would like to remind you that wellness

resources are sent each month to each department’s benefits coordinator. These resources include health and diet tips, information on screenings and other preventative measures, and ideas on how to feel better and get fitter. Check with your benefits coordinator for the latest wellness information.



CAA Jennifer Van Vrancken with retiring HR Special Assistant Clement Donelon



Outgoing HR Director Junior Mendoza with Benefits Specialist Cathy Leaumont

Retirements

Keith Adams
Parish Photographer
33 years

Peter Reynaud
Traffic Engineering
31 years

Mary Daniels
Water
30 years

Kim Thompson
Community Development
29 years

Leo McBride
Sewerage
28 years

Joann Becnel
Telecommunications
26 years

Joe Hill, Sr.
Drainage
20 years

Clement Donelon
Human Resources
17 years

Patricia Pettifoot
Code Enforcement
16 years

Thomas Franklin
Engineering
13 years

Joseph Robinson
Juvenile Services
14 years

John Stortz
General Services
14 years

Glen Hollinger
Water
13 years

Connie Marks
MIS
12 years

Feliciano Mendoza, Jr.
Human Resources
10 years

Retirement Party



General Services Director Anthony Francis (standing in center) and staff wish John Stortz (holding certificate) a happy retirement