



Volume 33
Number 2
April 2012

EM Realtime

Message from the Parish President. . .

Jeff Parish Government Access TV!

For the first time in the history of Jefferson Parish government, live Jefferson Parish Government Access Television (JPTV) and all Jefferson Parish Council meetings are available for viewing on the parish website.

Effective January 1, 2012, JPTV is streaming live on jeffparish.net and can be viewed on smart phones or hand-held devices with access to the internet. Jefferson Parish Television also is available on the parish government access channels, AT&T U-verse Channel 99, and Cox Channel 6.

Additionally, all Jefferson Parish Council meetings will be broadcast live from both the East Bank and West Bank Council chambers, where in the past all West Bank Council meetings were taped and replayed at a later date. Also, in the event of an emergency, Jefferson Parish now has the capability of broadcasting live from the Emergency Operations Center media room.

If you haven't had a chance to check it out, log on to the parish website, jeffparish.net. Click on the top box "Watch Jefferson Parish Television Live."

Currently, there are three tabs from which to choose: LIVE, PARISH COUNCIL, and ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING.

"LIVE" is the programming currently televised on JPTV.

"PARISH COUNCIL" offers the choice of watching any of the previously recorded Council meetings. Viewers can click to watch the meeting in its entirety or a vid-



John F. Young
Parish President

eo clip of any specific agenda item in the video archive.

"ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING" offers the opportunity to view some of the original programs produced by the videographers/producers in the Public Information Office. The Public Information Office staff is working very hard to produce new programs to improve the quality, quantity, and variety of content on JPTV channels.

An additional tab was recently added which will allow viewers to read the "BULLETINS" televised on the government access channels. These bulletins promote a variety of Parish services, programs, events, and job opportunities available within Jefferson Parish government.

Proposed new content for JPTV is reviewed by the Government Access Review Committee for consideration of approval.

I am pleased to say Jefferson Parish Government Access Television and JPTV on the parish website provide even more resources for helpful information not only for citizens of Jefferson Parish, but also for our employees.

En Realité

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

Departmental Reporters

- Alario Center**
Deirdre Cummings
- Animal Shelter**
Danielle Williams
- Citizens' Affairs**
Suzanne Lollis
- Community Development**
Sevilla White Finley
- Drainage**
Sheena Quinn Bauer
- Emergency Management**
Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**
Amanda Owens
- Environmental Affairs**
Kathy Russo
- Finance Authority**
Sheila Rodrigue
- Fleet Management**
Stephanie Gaudet
- General Services**
Jill Relick
- Human Resource Management**
Glenn Schiro
- Code Enforcement**
Linda Roy
- JeffCAP**
Catina Ward
- Juvenile Services**
Arlyn Smith
- Library**
Daniel Gitlin
- Parks & Recreation**
Gwen Styron & Jerry Savarese
- Parkways**
Chantell Prestenbach
- Planning**
Marilyn Slutsky
- Purchasing**
Nicolle Byars
- Sewerage**
Venice Cooper
- Streets**
Debbie Tunstall
- Traffic Engineering**
Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**
Patricia Lyons
- Water**
Susie Cunningham
- Workforce Connection**
Frances Turner

Editor's



Notes

**Our EAP:
Benefits for All!**

I want to make you all aware of a wonderful benefit that is available to all Parish employees: our EAP (Employee Assistance Program). Jefferson Parish provides this EAP through MHNet. Although MHNet is a subsidiary of Coventry, employees do not have to be enrolled in the Coventry health plan in order to take advantage of EAP services. EAP benefits are the same whether you have Coventry insurance or not.

I'd like to outline the extensive benefits that MHNet provides us with as part of our EAP.

Face to Face Counseling

Our employees are eligible for up to three sessions with a local counselor. Examples of issues that counselors can help with include marital/family problems, stress, substance abuse issues, work-related concerns, depression, and grief. When you call the EAP number, your problem will be assessed, and MHNet will find a counselor in your area from their list of providers. You can then call the provider to schedule convenient appointments.

If you and the counselor believe you need more than three sessions, the provider will help you find resources in your area.

Life Coaching

Life coaching can help you lead a more balanced, healthy, and fulfilling life. The focus can be on stress management, spirituality, personal growth, career planning, or even budgeting. Employees are eligible for up to three telephone counseling sessions per separate problem.



Peggy O. Barton
Editor

Legal Services

This benefit includes one free 30-minute office or telephone consultation per separate legal matter. Legal issues may include divorce/family law, landlord/tenant issues, malpractice, and wills and estate planning. If you need to retain an attorney, MHNet has participating attorneys who can be retained at a rate 25% lower than their normal rate. MHNet's web site also gives our employees access to on-line legal forms, such as power of attorney, wills, and medical consent forms.

Financial Services

Our employees are eligible for 30 days of unlimited telephone assistance from financial coaches. The coaches can provide research and referrals for financial planning, investment, tax advice and preparation, and insurance agencies.

The phone number for our EAP is 800-492-4357. You should also take advantage of MHNet's web site: www.mhnetep.com. Our user name is jpgov; password 8004924357. On-line services include locators for education and child and elder care. The site also features monthly and on-demand webinars on a variety of useful topics.

Please consider taking advantage of this important benefit and help spread the word.

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

Blood Drive

The East Bank Streets Maintenance Department had a blood drive on March 7, and our goal was met with 14 donors. Thanks to all who participated. Blood donation is greatly appreciated and very much needed.

Service Pins

Our department recently held a Service Pin Ceremony for employees. Congratulations to the following employees. **Don Hogan, Eric Williams, Charles Abbott, Melvin Adams, Henry Breaux, James Leblanc, Ryan Pike, Jared Reed, Emile Williams, and Ernest Williams** with 5 years of service; **Heta Babin,**



15-year Streets employee
James Thompson

Tyrone Dukes, Jr., Dennis Beaud, Timothy Constant, and John Jackson with 10 years of service; and **Michelle Swenson, Frank Bailey, Sean Duckett, Sarah Ruttley, Gary Sullivan, Andrea Williams, Eugene Zeno, Bobby Ferrell, Carl Reed, James Thompson, and Ricky Walker** with 15 years of service.



Streets Director Randy Nicholson presents Sarah Ruttley with her 15-year service pin

New Employees

A big welcome to new employees **Welton Jackson**, Laborer; **Milton Kelley**, Laborer; and **Don Cunningham**, Laborer for our East Bank Maintenance Department; and from West Bank Maintenance **Dwain Bannister**, Truck Driver II, and **Adolph Riggins**, Laborer. Congratulations and we hope you enjoy working with the Streets Department.

We also welcome back **Janice Adams**, Laborer. We missed you, Janice, and we're glad to have you back with us.

Promotions

Congratulations to **Keith**

Howard of West Bank Maintenance, who was promoted to Laborer Semi-Skilled, and also to **Arthur Moran** of East Bank Maintenance, who was promoted to Road Maintenance Superintendent II.

Retirements

Congratulations to **Perry Hobson**, Road Maintenance Superintendent I, retired 3/16/12 with 33 years of service; **Melvin King**, Equipment Operator III, retired 3/16/12 with 25 years of service; and **James Nunnery**, Road Maintenance Superintendent I, retired 3/9/12 with 32 years of service. You all will be truly missed, and we hope you enjoy your retirement.



Director Nicholson with 15-year employee Frank Bailey

Animal Shelter

By
Danielle Williams

New Employees:

We would like to start off by welcoming two new employees to our Animal Shelter staff. **Ashley Bell** joins the West Bank staff as an Animal Care Attendant, and **Britney Davis** is our new dispatcher.

Employee of the Year!

We would like to congratulate our 2011 Employee of the Year, **Edward Haywood!** Edward is our West Bank kennelmaster. He is very dedicated to this job, and always does a fabulous job. Not only do the employees of the shelter love and appreciate him, so do the animals. Thank you, Edward, for all the hard work that you do, and congratulations!



Animal Shelter's Employee of the Year, Kennelmaster Edward Haywood

Kitten Season

Here at the Animal Shelter we call the start of spring, the start of Kitten Season. This is when we see an influx of newborn kittens coming into the shelter. Most of the time, these kittens come in, barely days old, with no mother to nurse them. As a result, many of the kittens are euthanized. We also can get up to 4-5 litters a day on a bad day, so in an effort to save these kittens' lives, we are asking for help from the community.

If you see newborn kittens, do not move them. Wait and watch for the mama cat. Most of the time, the mother will return for her babies. If you do not see the mother after 4 hours, call the Shelter or bring the kittens in. Also, if you see kittens around, but no mother, we are asking citizens to allow us to set traps on their property to catch the mother. This will ensure the kittens' survival and also stop the unwanted breeding in neighborhoods.

Adoption Hours:

As always, we have plenty of animals that need good homes. Animals are available for adoption Monday-Wednesday and Friday 9am-5:30pm, Thursday 9am-7pm, and Saturday 10am-3:30pm.

Rabies Vaccinations:

We also offer rabies vaccinations weekly at both shelters. The West Bank shelter offers vaccinations every Tuesday from 10am-12pm, and the East Bank shelter offers vaccinations every Wednesday from 10am-11:30am.

Community Development

By
Sevilla Finley

Community Development Director **Anatola Thompson** reported the 2012 First-Time Homebuyer Assistance program, which opened in January, is moving well with over 60 applicants to date. The program will receive \$9.6 million in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in collaboration with the Louisiana State Office of Community Development (OCD).

The program encompasses three levels of assistance depending on income qualifications, with grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$70,000. It is also the first year Community Development has collaborated with OCD to assist eligible first-time home buyers to purchase an affordable home within Jefferson Parish. Eligible participants must not have owned a home in the past three years.

Preliminary applications will be accepted while funding is available. **James "Jim" Bush Jr.** is coordinating the project, and Housing Counselors **Liz Ruth** and **Toya Jones** handle preliminary applications. Program information is available on the Parish Website at www.jeffparish.net.

National Community Development Week will be commemorated by communities across the nation on April 8 – 14 highlighting projects funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). A parish project recently completed is the Dorothy Watson Community Center renovation in Bunche Village. The Center received an interior facelift with new floors, ceiling tiles, a coat of paint, a revamped kitchen

with new appliances, a new front door, new visitors' counter, and more. Supervisor **Darcell Florence** said the Center operates a food pantry through Second Harvest and assists between 400 and 450 clients monthly, in addition to its regular activities. The Center, operated by JeffCAP, plays a vital role in the Bunche Village community. The renovation cost was about \$130,000, and was funded by CDBG.

April marks the 44th anniversary of the enactment of the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to discriminate in the sale and rental of housing when based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin is against the law.

The need for this legislation became acute during the Vietnam War when young, poor African-American and Hispanic infantrymen returned home and couldn't purchase or rent homes in certain areas because of their race or national origin. A number of organizations, like the GI Forum and NAACP, lobbied Congress to remedy the inequity.

Citizens' Affairs

By
Suzanne Lollis

We'd like to give a resounding thank you to JPSO, NOPD, NOFD, EB CFD, Terrytown VFD, Water, Sewerage, Streets, Parkways, Animal Shelter, Recreation, Code Enforcement, Engineering, Traffic Engineering, DOTD, General Services, EJGH EMS, WJMC EMS, Environmental Affairs, Emergency Management, Fleet, and our JP Council for their tireless efforts in making this Carnival season a great success!

Promotions and Departures

Congratulations to **Jillian Campbell** for her promotion to Administrative Assistant in the Finance Authority. We wish her all the best.

We were also sad to lose Bus Drivers **Kevin Russell** and **Quiana Bates** to the Departments of Water and Drainage. Best wishes to both in their new positions. They will be sorely missed.

Transit

By
Patricia Lyons

Jefferson Transit Receives \$1.3 Million Grant to Replace Jefferson Transit Buses

Jefferson Parish Department of Transit Administration (JPDTA) has been selected by the Federal Transit Administration to receive \$1,310,781 in grant funding to replace four transit buses that are beyond their useful life. This funding comes through the State of Good Repair competitive grant program for Bus and Bus Facilities.

Even More Buses Coming!

Upon receipt of the funds, Jefferson Transit (JeT) will place an order for four new 29' BRT-style low-floor transit buses with an expected delivery date of early 2013. The buses will be ordered from Gillig, LLC, of Hayward, California. Currently, Gillig is building Jefferson Transit eight new 40' buses, from an order placed earlier this year. Once all of these vehicles are delivered, JeT will feature a fleet that has 30 fixed route buses built in the last three years, all of which are ADA accessible and run on biodiesel fuel.

Jefferson Transit operates fixed-route and paratransit service, including 12 fixed bus routes and ADA-comparable service using 16 paratransit vehicles. JeT operates six routes on the East Bank and six routes on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish. In 2011, JeT provided 96,635 hours of fixed-route service and 34,202 hours of paratransit service.



Dorothy Watson Center Supervisor Darcell Florence

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

WELCOME: DJS welcomes new employee **Akassa Smith**, Juvenile Detention Officer.

RESIGNATIONS: Juvenile Probation Officer **Shawnta Gardner** and Juvenile Detention Officer **Alvin Dabney** resigned to pursue other opportunities. We wish them success in their future endeavors.

SYMPATHY: DJS was saddened to learn that **Helen Belanger** passed away on March 7. "Ms. Helen" was our receptionist from 1995-2003. She is also the mother of Deborah Quartararo, who works in Juvenile Court. We extend our sympathy to the family during this difficult time.

BABIES R US: Congratulations to Probation Officer **Chantrell Cook**, who gave birth to baby boy **Braylon Michael**, on March 5, weighing in at 7 lbs., 1 oz., and 20 inches long, and to proud "GRAMS" Executive Assistant **Arlyn Smith**, whose 5th Grandbaby **Addyson Ryan** was born on February 20, weighing in 6 lbs., and 19 ½ inches long.

WEDDING BELLS: Congratulations to Probation Officer **Linda Bostick**, who became *Mrs.* Ernest A. Thomas in a surprise proposal/wedding in Key West, Florida, on February 29. Ernest Thomas was the Detention Home Manager with Juvenile Services from 1968 until his retirement in 2001. We wish them many years of wedded bliss!

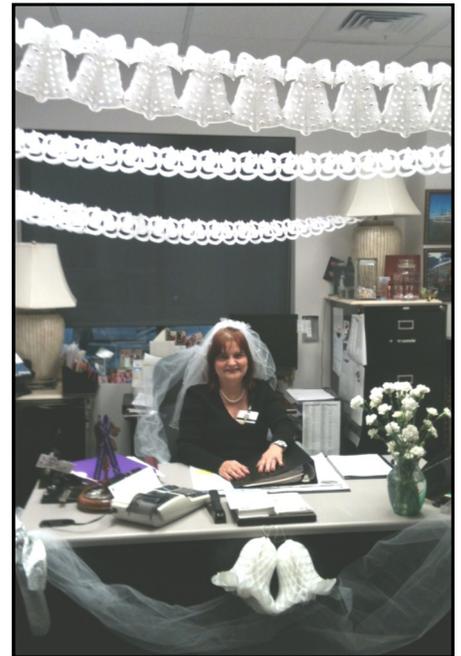
EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY: **Jared Sanders**, Detention Home Security Guard
Patrick Brammel, Mental Health Professional

MARCH: **Willie Green**, Juvenile Detention Officer
Shernell Shephard, Juvenile Probation Officer

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **Gloria Meiskey**, Juvenile Probation Officer II, who has been selected as Juvenile Services' Employee of the Year for 2011. Gloria began her employment with DJS in December 2007. With an uncommon commitment to continuous learning and self-improvement, Gloria has demonstrated her ability to learn intricate technical details of her position while maintaining a positive, can-do attitude with probationers and co-workers alike. She has earned



DJS's Newlywed
Linda Bostick

the respect of her peers and the Court by her thoroughness, empathy, and team focus. She remains modest, humble, and always willing to assist with more. We are proud of Gloria's achievements and are happy to have her on our team.



Juvenile Services' Employee of the Year,
Probation Officer Gloria Meiskey

Water

By
Susie Cunningham

New Employees

Welcome to our new employees: **Alfred Shelton**, Water Service Inspector II; **Kimberly Videau**, Utility Billing Clerk I.

We would also like to welcome **Kevin Russell**, Water Service Inspector I, who has transferred to us from the Department of Citizens' Affairs.

Welcome back to **Ursala Richardson**, Utility Billing Collector II. She left us for a short while, but has returned to work with her friends in the East Bank Utility Billing Office once again.

We wish you all the best and hope you enjoy working with us.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions: **Brian Belsome**, Water Purification Operator - Class I; **Cassandra Swims**, Utility Billing Supervisor; **Chris Burgau** and **Rudolph Augustine**, Laborers, Semi-Skilled.

Baby News

Jaclyn and **Mark Martin** welcomed baby Mettah Mae Martin into the world on January 31, 2012, at 2:58 p.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz and was 20 inches long. Congratulations to the Martins on the birth of their daughter!

Condolences

We extend our deepest condolences to the Sheffield Family, who recently lost their loved one, **Juliette Sheffield**. Juliette was a retiree of the Department of Water. We also send our sympathies to **Chad Gleason**, who recently lost his father. Our prayers are with you and yours at this difficult time.

Alario Center

By
Deidre Cummings

A Word General Manager **Lydia Folse**



March marked the Alario Center's 13th birthday. Since hosting its premier event in 1999, our facility has undergone many changes as well as challenges. We expanded our physical space as well as our goals with the addition of Hall C as the Hornets' practice area, and we continue to expand to meet the needs of our local sports teams. We now serve as home field for Loyola Wolfpack Baseball and as the indoor practice facility for the New Orleans Voodoo.

I'm excited to be a part of the next era at the Alario Center as we focus on increasing our multi-purpose facility use, developing

a strategic marketing plan, making significant technical improvements to keep the facility competitive in the market, and working with industry professionals to successfully construct, manage, and operate the new Amphitheater and Festival Park.

Thanks to the dedicated staff who work tirelessly to market, plan, produce, and manage the wide variety of events we host, those in administration who are responsible for the everyday tasks of managing a successful department, and the operations crew who maintain the buildings, grounds, and equipment. They are our most valuable asset.

We hope to see you at an Alario Center event in the near future!

New Orleans VooDoo

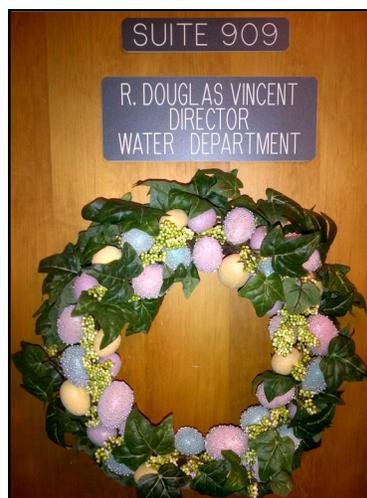
The Alario Center is pleased to welcome the New Orleans VooDoo back to practice! This marks the VooDoo's second season at the Alario Center. Owner Dan Newman and his wife Maryann are excited to get the season started and can't wait to see you at an arena football game. Please visit www.arenafootball.com/team/new-orleans-voodoo for this season's schedule.

Administrative Professionals Day!

Wishing a Happy Administrative Professionals Day to **Deirdre Cummings**, Executive Assistant and **Sharon McDowell**, Secretary.

What's Going On!

April brings AAU Basketball to the Alario Center. For more information, please visit www.alariocenter.com for upcoming events.



Water wishes all a Happy Easter with its Easter Wreath

JeffCAP

By
Catina Ward

JeffCAP congratulates our Assistant Director **Charles Gibson**, who has been offered an interim promotion as a Chief Administrative Assistant in the Parish President’s Office. He is working to help keep both Jeff CAP and the Parish President’s office flowing smoothly, and we would like to just say Job Well Done.



JeffCAP's Assistant Director and Acting CAA
Charlie Gibson

Marrero Senior Guild: Christmas 2011

The Marrero Senior Guild reached out to the community and was able to help several needy families for the Christmas holidays. A very grateful Marrero father could hardly hold back his tears when he was chosen to receive a gift card from the Marrero Seniors just in time for Christmas. Several of the members are featured in our photo (upper right) along with some employees of the Marrero Com-



Marrero Senior Guild and Community/Senior Center staff

munity/Senior Center; the Center Supervisor **Ms. Patricia Toliver**, center; and counselor **Mrs. Louise Lacey**, front far right.

ferred an opportunity to pursue her life-long dream of working as a journalist. We wish you well; you’ll be missed.

Resignations:

Most of you may know Ms. **Aretha Frison** as the face of JeffCAP RSVP Coordinator, but she has taken on a new adventure; and on behalf of all JeffCAP employees we would like to wish Ms. Aretha a fond farewell. She has been of-

Mardi Gras 2012

Mardi Gras is always a big hit among seniors at the Marrero Community/ Senior Center, and this year was no different. We are proud to introduce to you Marrero Senior Guild’s new Mardi Gras King Mr. Stanley Bush and Queen Ms. Sheila Tyler.



Left to Right Dr. Clara Byes; Supervisor of the Gretna Community Center, Patricia Toliver; Marrero Senior/ Community Center Supervisor, King Stanley Bush, Queen Sheila Tyler and a host of Senior Guild members.

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism & David Stout

Thank you to our Traffic Engineering staff for another safe Mardi Gras. A job well done by all.

The Traffic Engineering Division has lots to boast about this issue. First up, we would like to congratulate **Charles Cristina**, Sign Technician II, and **Kenneth Lachney**, Sign & Marking Foreman, on receiving their 30-year service pins from President John F. Young at a special awards ceremony held at the Yenni Building.

James A. Lambert, Jr., Sign & Marking Foreman, was also recognized for 20 years of service. Thank you, gentlemen, for all that you do!

Kenneth also welcomed his first grandson, Kenneth Lachney III, on March 5. At 7 pounds 6 ounces and 20 inches long, he's a beautiful baby, and I'm sure already spoiled by his Grandpa!

Congratulations to **Joseph R. Parker, Jr.**, our 2011 Employee of the Year. Joseph has 23 years of service with the Parish and continues to excel at every aspect of the job. We're very proud of you, Joseph! Miss **Christine Ford** and her fiancé Jamal are first-time homeowners. We're happy and excited for you and wish you lots of love and joy in your new home! And finally, we'd like to welcome three new Sign Technicians to our Traffic family: **Quentin Hills**, **Robert Hymel**, and **Tyrone Hudson** have joined us, and we're very happy to have the additional smiling faces aboard.

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Congratulations to HR Manager **Mary Jo Arcement**, who is Human Resource Management's Employee of the Year for 2011-2012. Mary Jo started her employment with the Parish in 1986 and has been with HR since 1988.



HR's Employee of the Year
Mary Jo Arcement

Mary Jo is an effective HR Manager who combines her invaluable interpersonal skills with her vast knowledge of Parish policies and procedures to serve Jefferson Parish and its employees.

Mary Jo's award is a well-deserved recognition for her commitment and excellent service to the Parish. Great job, Mary Jo!



Traffic Engineering's Employee of the Year Joseph Parker, Jr.

Online Performance Review Program

Please check out our new online Performance Review program, which is available for viewing on the Parish Intranet Portal. The tutorial program is designed to help Jefferson Parish supervisors understand and implement the Parish's Performance Review system for classified employees.

A special thanks to the following employees who provided excellent narration for the online program:

- Kriss Fortunato** – Public Information Office
- Nicole Tomba**- Parish Attorney
- Daniel Cangelosi** – Library
- Nicole Thompson**- HR
- LaTanya Tibbs** – HR

- To access the online Performance Evaluation tutorial on the Employee Intranet Portal, go to
- ⇒ Select Department, select Human Resource Management – Training. Click Go.
 - ⇒ Select Online Classes
 - ⇒ Select Classified Employee Performance Evaluation Tutorial

New Class for Parish Drivers!

In April, a new class will be offered to assist employees who drive or ride in Parish vehicles regularly. *How's My Driving: Customer Service Behind the Wheel* will use a discussion format to help employees relate good customer service practices to the safe and courteous driving of a Parish vehicle.

While the April class is filling up fast, more sessions will be offered in the future.

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

Congratulations to the following Sewerage employees upon their retirements: **Roy Lindsey** (General Superintendent). Roy retired from our Lines Division with over 31 years of service.

Clifford Pierre (Superintendent II). Clifford retired from our Westbank Lines Division with over 29 years of service.

Lance Brown (Laborer Semi-Skilled) retired from our Westbank Lines Division with over 33 years of service.

Alan Roux (Lift Station Inspector) retired from our Westbank Lift Stations division with 33 years of service.

Willie Detiege, Jr. retired with over 35 years of service. Although Willie had recently transferred to the Public Works Investigative Rehab Section, he worked for the Department of Sewerage for most of his career.

We wish all of these long-time employees the very best and hope that they enjoy many years of

happiness. Their combined years of employment total over 161 years of service to the citizens of Jefferson Parish.

Promotional Congratulations

Morris Sapia—promoted from Pump Equipment Mechanic to Maintenance Superintendent. Morris has been employed with the Parish for 21 years.

Carlos Ruperti—from Laborer to Laborer Semi-Skilled. Carlos has been employed with the Parish for 8 months.

Wardell McIntyre—from Laborer to Laborer Semi-Skilled. Wardell has been with the Parish for 2 years.

Toduse Jackson—Laborer to Laborer Semi-Skilled. Toduse has been with us for 2 years.

Edgar Allen—from Laborer to Laborer Semi-Skilled.

Herbert Moore—from Truck Driver II to Equipment Operator III.

Glenise Holmes—from Laborer to Trades Helper.

Donald Robinson—from Laborer to Trades Helper. Donald has 5 years with the Parish.



Director Linda Daly with Willie Detiege and Lance Brown

Welcome New Employees:

Darren Cheramie, Machinist, Westbank Lift Stations Division
Anthony Roussel, Laborer, Eastbank Lines Division

Department Projects

Plans are under way for a \$1.6 million Odor Control Project at the Marrero Wastewater Treatment Plant. Design of the project will include installation of Bio filters to treat odors generated from the plant and upgrades to the aluminum odor control covers on the primary clarifiers, trickling filters, and primary clarifier splitter box.

This project is in the preliminary design phase. Plans and specifications are expected to be complete by June 2012.

Plans are complete for a \$3.3 million bar screen replacement project at the Eastbank Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project includes replacement of the three existing bar screens, which remove grit and large floating objects from sewerage at the headworks of the treatment plant. The project is also designed to replace the electrical controls for the bar screens. Bids will be opened for this project in April 2012.



Sewerage's Administrative Professionals staff: Sitting (l-r): Alicia Harper, Mary Grace Bealer, Ann Williams, Patricia Johnson, and Diane Landry. Standing (l-r) are: Pamela Lapping, Rose Martin, Yvette Russo, Cynthia Gallo, Venice Cooper, Jane Lennie, and Shirley Eskridge. (Eva "Lucie" Claverie is not pictured.)

Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

Jefferson Parish’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) hosted and participated in the Louisiana Citizens Corps Council Conference at the Pontchartrain Center on March 23-24.

The Citizens Corps involves citizens in all-hazards emergency preparedness and community safety. **Timothy “Timmy” Gautreau, Jr.**, is the State Advocate and the Coordinator for our CERT team. **Col. David B. Dysart**, Emergency Management Director, gave the opening address at the conference.

Citizen Corps Councils from ten parishes throughout Louisiana participated in this year’s event. Training sessions were conducted on Friday, March 23, with a field exercise on Saturday, March 24, where the participants had to perform medical triage and patient packaging techniques from a number of different scenarios.

Anyone interested in receiving information regarding the free CERT classes, please contact **Timmy Gautreau** at 349-5360 or tgautreau@jeffparish.net.

General Services

By
Jill Relick

A grand welcome for our new General Services employees. We are happy to introduce our new staff. We wish them the best and good luck as they become more oriented to our department. Good Luck with your every effort toward success! Which one will become our next Parish President?

- Larry Coleman**-Laborer
- Robert Corona**-Shop Carpenter
- Karen Fourcade**-Park Landscape Supervisor
- Van Taylor, Jr.**-Laborer
- Chris Fonseca**-Laborer
- Chad Bourgeois**-Laborer
- Offord Langston**-Maintenance Repairman
- Charles Vasquez**-Tradeshelper

As the newbies arrive, we have retirees to recognize too.

Assistant Director **George Folsie** retired on March 23 after over 33 years with Jefferson Parish. George started in the Sewerage Department. We are thankful he brought his expertise and professionalism to the General Services Department.



GS Director Anthony Francis with retiring Assistant Director George Folsie

Enjoy your many hobbies anytime you want! All of Jefferson Parish will miss you.

“A very dedicated employee” is how all associates refer to **Danny Ramagas** from the Library department. He has 18+ years with the Parish. His last 8 years have been with Library Maintenance. Thank you for being an employee with Jefferson Parish with a great work ethic—and a friend to all. Good Luck with the volunteer community service work you and your wife Scheryl are involved with.

Best of luck to **Claude Daniels** with his new position as Assistant for the Department of Parks & Recreation. Claude started with General Services in November 1992. He was an asset from day one.

Jan Gray has begun her Interim Director position for the Office of Telecommunications. Good Luck and stay in touch.

“Each child is different.” just ask **Pat and Bebe Bode**. A proclamation for World Autism Awareness Day, which is on April 2, was presented at the March 28 Council meeting to Seth Bode by John Young. Pat shares a warm thought: Seth shows us every day that he is the teacher and we are the student.



The “Ready Gator” Citizen Corps mascot with Jefferson CERT Team

Michelle Dufrene received her 20-Year Service Award. We're so thankful for her commitment to Jefferson Parish and General Services!

Waddie Griffin is one of our Jefferson Parish brushes with fame. Waddie has been in the Mardi Gras Indian Club for over 20 years. He is Chief of his own tribe called Young Cherokee and has been for 3 years.



Waddie Griffin

All the suits are made by Waddie bead by bead. He has performed at Jazz Fest and traveled



Anthony Francis with Michelle Dufrene

to Tennessee to perform. Hope to see you perform next year.

Freddie Carerras, Barry Schexnaildre and Jerry Durant combined their carpentry skills to create a new office supply work area for our East Bank office, allowing the office to function with much improved organization. Plus the cupboards look beautiful with the birch, stained with mahogany and clear varnish. The European hinges were Freddie's master carpenter touch. Thanks, guys.



Barry Schexnaildre, Jerry Durant, and Fred Carreras

Library

By Daniel Gitlin

American Italian Library Now Open at East Bank Regional

The American Italian Research Library was rededicated on March 17 at its new location at the East Bank Regional Library in Metairie.

The festivities included a performance by the world famous Sansepolcro Flag-Wavers, visiting from Tuscany, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony. (See photos Pages 13 and 16.)

Invited speakers included Jefferson Parish President **John Young**, Councilwoman **Cynthia Lee-Sheng**, Deputy Chief Operating Officer **Jennifer Van Vrancken**, and JP Library Board President **Nancy Pearson**.

The American Italian Collection, a history of Italian resources, is located in the Special Collections section.

These resources join a collection of Louisiana genealogical information, providing a vast array of resources in one location.

The Library would like to welcome the following employees who recently joined the Library working family: **Salvadore Serio**, Clerk III (Curator for the American Italian Research Library); **Brittany Ranson**, Library Page at West Bank Regional; **Elizabeth Carter**, Library Page at East Bank Regional; **Danielle Smith**, Library Associate at all locations; **Dorothy Derbes**, Library Associate at all locations.

In addition, we would like to welcome **Almethia Wells**, Truck Driver III, who transferred recently from the Water Department to help deliver materials between library locations.

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

The Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs would like to congratulate our Director **Marnie Winter** on being selected to receive a *Coastal Stewardship Award* from the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. The Coastal Stewardship Awards Program recognizes individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to the preservation and restoration of Louisiana's coastal wetlands.

We would also like to congratulate **Kathleen Collins**, Solid Waste Supervisor, on being chosen Departmental Employee of the Year. We are lucky to have Kathleen on board as she is committed to improving the environment in Jefferson Parish through her dedicated service supervising the Solid Waste and Brownfields Programs.

Service Pins:

Congratulations to the following employees for many years of

dedicated service to Jefferson Parish:

Sami Khalil, Environmental Quality Specialist – 5 years.

Margaret Fonseca – Typist III – 5 years.

Randy Majoria - Environmental Quality Specialist – 15 years of service.

Kathleen Collins – Solid Waste Supervisor – 5 years of service with our Solid Waste Section. Kathleen previously worked 6 additional years in our Coastal Program.



Environmental's
Administrative Professionals

At the request of the Diversity Advisory Board, our Administrative Professionals posed for a



The Sansepolcro Flag-Wavers of Tuscany (see Library article Page 12)

picture together in celebration of the upcoming Administrative Professionals Day, which will be observed on April 25.

Thank you to **Michele VanPelt Smith, Evaline Armstrong, Carla Montalbano, Pat Reed, Margaret Fonseca** and **Barbara Kollin** for all you do to help keep the department running smoothly. Your hard work is greatly appreciated!

Curbside Recycling Returns!

We are excited to announce the impending return of curbside recycling to Jefferson Parish for the first time since Hurricane Katrina. Service is anticipated to start in July. Shortly before the service begins, residents will be delivered an 18-gallon bin to place recyclables curbside for once-a-week collection.

Recyclable Items:

Items that will be accepted are paper products, including newspapers and inserts, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, home office paper, boxboard (i.e. cereal boxes, shoe boxes, soda cartons, etc.), phone books, greeting cards, dark-colored envelopes and folders, shredded paper (in bags), aluminum cans and foil, tin and steel cans, plastic bottles (#1 through #7) and corrugated cardboard.



Environmental Director Marnie Winter with Sami Khalil and Randy Majoria

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Our 2012 Summer Activity Guide, which includes Summer Camp plus other activities and programs for April through August will be available on our website in early April at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page, or can be obtained at all local playgrounds and libraries in mid-April. For information about any of our programs, call the respective office (East Bank – 736-6999 or West Bank 349-5000) or e-mail jprecreation@jeffparish.net

Baseball and Softball registration is underway. Please check with your local playground and be sure to register your child.

Congratulations to the following employees for the first quarter of 2012 for their years of service:

5 years - **Gerard Fenasci, Nickcole Moore**
10 years – **Cheryl Anderson, Jerry Corona**
15 years – **Elaine Mire, Sandra Davis and Derek Breaux**



The Rose Thorne Boat Launch

Get well wishes to **Glenn Camardelle** (Waggaman Playground) and **Vic Caldarara** (EB Main Office)

West Bank Update

Avondale Playground, Terrytown Playground, Woodmere Playground, Woodland West, and Westminster will be getting a new tot lot soon.

Parc des Familles Ball Fields (Quadraplex) are just about complete with a new press box under construction

Rose Thorne Boat Launch now boasts of two back-down ramps and a fishing pier. This officially opened March 8.

The new Terrytown Golden Age Center officially opened

Monday, March 26. It is beautiful and a welcome addition!

East Bank Update

Mike Miley and Little Farms Playgrounds will soon receive a new tot lot.

Owens Playground is scheduled to receive interior and exterior renovations.

Bucktown Marina

On February 17, the Marina officially opened. Thanks to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, twenty trees were planted Saturday, March 24, by volunteers to make the area appealing for picnicking.

Lafreniere Park

The new 5-acre Dog Park officially opened on January 7. Many attended the Grand Opening and many are now using this facility.

Live at Lafreniere Park – Spring series will begin on Thursday, April 5 with the Top Cats. Watch for details at www.lafrenierepark.org.

The new Splash Park will soon be opening for young children to enjoy. It will consist of 14 features, from in-ground spray features to colorful above ground sprays, including a rainbow arch and even large water cannons.



The Bucktown Marina

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branam, RN



Who Would Have Thought?

Heat stroke

It is a beautiful day with temperatures in the 70s. You are running an errand to a friend's home with your child asleep in his car seat. You park in the driveway that is in full view from the entrance of the house.

With the child fast asleep in the car, you crack the window open, go to the trunk to get some boxes, and proceed to the front door. In a minute or two, your friend arrives at the door. The two of you catch up on the latest news, with only one interruption when your cell phone rings. You then drop off your boxes and pick up some new boxes.

You go back to your car, rearrange the trunk for new boxes fit, and then get back in your car. It only took you 18 minutes! But there is one major problem. When you ask your child a question, she does not respond. You realize she is not just asleep, but has succumbed to heat stroke. If only you had known how quickly a car can heat up. Who would have thought?

Encephalitis

Your eyes are itchy, watery, and red. Your nose is sore from sneezing. But worst of all, your sinus headaches are a daily event. Well, you must live in

New Orleans! The price we pay for our beautiful trees, bushes, and flowers are the release of their pollen into the air. Not to be outdone is our ever-present molds and airborne mold spores. What is a poor allergy sufferer to do?

Because you're not one to read operator manuals, before reading the instructions on how to use a neti pot, you grab your neti pot, fill it with some tap water, and flush your sinuses till every irritant is gone! The next thing you know, you are having mild flu-like symptoms: headache, fever, aches, and fatigue. Then the symptoms get more intense and you are confused and disoriented.

After you're admitted to the hospital, you are diagnosed with encephalitis from an amoeba found in tap water. While not a threat in small amounts in the gastro-intestinal tract, it can kill when it finds its way into brain tissue. The route of infection, the sinuses, flooded with the contaminated water, allowed the contaminated water to find its way to the tissues surrounding the brain, resulting in encephalitis or a brain infection. Had you taken the time to read the instructions, things could have ended differently. Who would have thought?



Planning's Alex Carter's new son Gerard Allen

Women's Heart Attacks

It is Saturday morning and because you have been working long hours all week, you decide to sleep in. You finally wake up at 10:00 am to the noise of your husband cutting the grass, but still feel unusually fatigued. When you go to stand up, you are dizzy and weak in the legs, so you sit back on the bed to compose yourself.

While sitting there, you feel a wave of nausea with a pressure sensation to your upper abdominal area and lower chest. But, last night you did overdo it eating your husband's wonderful spicy Mexican dish! Who wouldn't have some heartburn? As the intensity of your complaints rise, you tell yourself that if only the discomfort will ease, you will NEVER eat that dish again!

As you turn your head, you glimpse your grandson's picture on your nightstand and remember that you are supposed to pick him up for 12:00. You realize that the time has quickly sped by and it is now 11:00 and there is no way you can stick to the plans for the day. You work your way to the back door and with the greatest effort to take in a deep breath, you call out to your husband to come assist you. The next thing you remember is waking up in the emergency room.

You, like most women, have had a heart attack without ever having the classic chest pain, like an elephant standing on top of your chest. If only you had known the common complaints that women have while suffering from a heart attack! Who would have thought?

Remember, knowledge is a powerful tool, and always read the instructions first!

Retirements

W. Detiege, Jr
Sewerage
35 years

George Folsie III
General Services
33 years

Lance Brown
Sewerage
33 years

Bernard Klumpp
Code Enforcement
33 years

Perry Hobson
Streets
32 years

James Nunnery
Streets
31 years

Roy Lindsey
Sewerage
31 years

Steve Potter
Fleet Management
30 years

Alan Roux
Sewerage
30 years

Clifford Pierre
Sewerage
29 years

Merlene Wall
Fleet Management
28 years

Melvin King III
Streets
25 years

Rededication!



Among dignitaries on hand for the rededication of the Italian-American Research Library were Parish President John Young, Library Director Lon Dickerson (far left), COO Chris Cox (fourth from right), and Deputy COO Jennifer Van Vrancken (far right).

—See Library's article Page 12