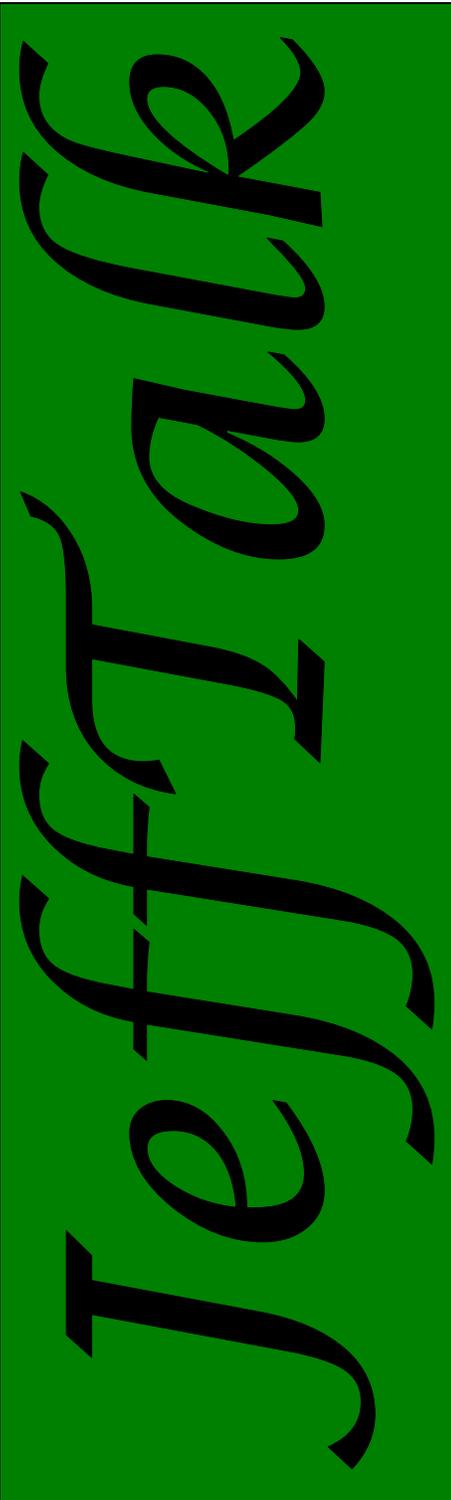




Volume 33
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Message from the Parish President. . .

Caring for Jefferson’s Animals

The Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter, Jefferson SPCA, Friends of Jefferson, and many dedicated staff and volunteers deserve to be recognized for a very successful new Spay-Neuter Program introduced parish-wide in 2011.

Jefferson Parish took a proactive stance in reducing the number of companion animals taken in locally by dedicating \$10 of each Rabies license fee to fund this ambitious Spay-Neuter Program for the residents of Jefferson Parish. Because of its success, Jefferson Parish is ranked among the top five most progressive programs of its kind in the nation.

In its first year, 8,784 spay-neuter surgeries were performed in Jefferson Parish at a cost of \$296,372.16, at an average cost per surgery of \$33.74. Next year, the goal is to perform 12,000 surgeries.

The Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter takes in over 10,000 stray and unwanted animals every year. Statistics show that communities with active Spay-Neuter programs have fewer animals coming into shelters and therefore fewer euthanized. Spaying and neutering also can make pets easier to manage, less aggressive, and healthier.

Adoption events almost every weekend throughout the parish helped the Animal Shelter increase adoptions by 30% and decreased euthanasia by 10%.

Most recently, the Father’s



John F. Young
Parish President

Day pet adoption event at Clearview Mall brought together 38 pets with new families. In March, the Shelter, ASPCA Tour for Life, and several local rescue groups found forever homes for 117 pets; and a Christmas and New Year Holiday Adoption helped find loving homes for 96 animals.

Many volunteers, such as students at Mount Carmel Academy, help walk, bathe, and teach obedience to many of our adoptable animals. Recently, 15 Mount Carmel students devoted five Mondays to volunteering at our shelters. The girls also painted the hallway of the East Bank shelter.

Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter employees continue to work hard at being a valuable resource for pet owners to learn about responsible pet ownership and help our community help their pets.

View our adoptable pets at www.jpas.petfinder.com or look for their pictures on JPTV, Cox Channel 6 or AT&T U-verse Channel 99.

JeffTalk

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

Departmental Reporters

- Alario Center**
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- Animal Shelter**
Danielle Williams
- Citizens' Affairs**
Suzanne Lollis
- Community Development**
Open
- Drainage**
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- Emergency Management**
Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**
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- Environmental Affairs**
Kathy Russo
- Finance Authority**
Sheila Rodrigue
- Fleet Management**
Stephanie Gaudet
- General Services**
Jill Relick
- Human Resource Management**
Glenn Schiro
- Code Enforcement**
Ruth "Kappy" Day
- JeffCAP**
Catina Ward
- Juvenile Services**
Arlyn Smith
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Gwen Styron & Jerry Savarese
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Marilyn Slutsky
- Purchasing**
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- Sewerage**
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- Streets**
Debbie Tunstall
- Traffic Engineering**
Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**
Patricia Lyons
- Water**
Susie Cunningham
- Workforce Connection**
Frances Turner

Editor's



Notes

Eliminating Harassment & Discrimination

As part of the Parish's efforts to maintain a congenial and productive work environment for all of us and to ensure that we are in compliance with all applicable laws, all Parish supervisors are attending Workplace Harassment and Discrimination training this summer. By the time this issue of *JeffTalk* is on line, more than two-thirds of the scheduled sessions will have occurred.

Taking the Lead

Jefferson Parish took the lead in mandating harassment and discrimination training for all of its supervisors and managers back in 2004. Since then this training has been held every two years even though there was no state or federal law mandating that we do so.

Our supervisors are learning what to do when employees voice concerns about harassment or discrimination. As employees, you can be assured that your supervisors have been trained to deal with these types of issues professionally and as confidentially as possible.

Later this year, the Department of Human Resource Management plans to present a training program to the Executive Staff and Directors on Harassment and Discrimination so that they also are well equipped to deal with these issues in their departments.



Peggy O. Barton
Editor

HR Available to Help

Employees should know that they may consult with the Human Resource Manager assigned to their department if they have any questions, complaints, or concerns regarding harassment or discrimination. All of the Parish's Human Resource Managers are professionally trained and can provide assistance in a variety of areas. They can advise employees and supervisors on the best course of action to solve workplace problems and misunderstandings before they grow into more serious issues.

State-Mandated Training Coming in 2013

Next year we will all be a part of a state-wide sexual harassment initiative. Concurrent Resolution No. 107 was recently adopted which directs public agencies to provide in-service education and training on sexual harassment for its public servants. Beginning January 1, 2013, each public servant is to receive one hour of education and training on sexual harassment during each year of public employment or term of office as the case may be. We will be announcing specifically when and where this training will take place and how it will be delivered in the coming months.

Diversity Advisory Board

The Diversity Advisory Board experienced a very significant change in July when **Darryl Ward**, CAA Community Programs, stepped down as an Executive Advocate of the DAB. From the very beginnings of the Parish's diversity initiative in 2008, Mr. Ward has played an integral part. He has provided constant leadership in directing the course of the diversity initiative and in promoting diversity and inclusion throughout Jefferson Parish. Mr. Ward has assured the board that he will "be around" to help and advise us, but he will truly be missed at meetings. The DAB wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Ward for all he has contributed to the Jefferson Parish diversity initiative.

Who will be filling Mr. Ward's shoes as our new Executive Advocate? Welcome, **Loren Marino**, CAA Development, the Diversity Advisory Board's new Executive Advocate. We are excited to have you with us and look forward to working with you.

At the July 9, 2012, meeting of the Diversity Advisory Board, we discussed the formation of four (4) committees that will facilitate the accomplishment of projects we have undertaken and goals we have set. Each board member is asked to participate on at least one of the four committees. Many thanks to the following volunteers who offered to be Committee Captains:

- Membership: **Maria Cervini**
- Education: **Catherine Bennett**
- Media: **Alice White**
- Activities: **Darcell Florence**



DAB's new Executive Advocate
Loren Marino

At our July meeting, we also participated in a group activity about leadership. Each member was asked to choose two people he/she considered to be a role model and then write down the advice that role model might give to a young person. Some examples of the advice a role model might offer follow:

"Do not depend on anyone else to take care of you. Pave your own path to success."

"Knowledge is power. Be open to learn and teach what you have learned."

"You must always try; otherwise, you will never know success or learn from failure."

"Even the smallest kindness will be appreciated by the person who receives it in their time of need. Be selfless in your thoughts and actions."

"Stay strong and always finish what you start."

Nationwide Scholarship Winner

On June 27, Nationwide/NACo presented Justin Lehmann with a \$2,000 college scholarship prior to the Council meeting. Justin is one of four students selected from over 200 applicants across the country who submitted a paper on the importance of government employees saving for retirement.

The scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors who will be attending an accredited university in the fall, and who have a parent or grandparent currently enrolled in and contributing to the NACo 457 Deferred Compensation Plan. Justin will be attending LSU, where he plans to major in Computer Science.



President John Young, Nationwide Rep Mikaela Ford, Justin Lehmann, Nationwide's John Piper, Police Jury Association Executive Director Roland Dartez, Gary and Michele Lehmann, and Councilwoman Cynthia Lee-Sheng.

Citizens' Affairs

By
Suzanne Lollis

ADDITIONS

The Department of Citizens' Affairs would like to welcome **Beth Paille** to the Citizens' Affairs family. Beth joined us July 23 from Inspection & Code Enforcement. We are happy to have her and know she will help make our department an even more efficient and pleasant place to work.



Beth Paille

CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

Katherine Hoover, Disability Affairs Specialist with Citizens with Disabilities, is looking for interested individuals with disabilities in Jefferson Parish and to a lesser extent, individuals, including parents who work with individuals with disabilities to volunteer to participate on an Ad Hoc Basis for several projects coming up during the next few months.

The first group will work with me on involving people with disabilities in emergency planning for all types of hazardous

events. Katherine Hoover may be contacted at 736-6086 or through email at khoo-ver@jeffparish.net.

SENIOR SERVICES

The Senior Citizens' Services Department held a Senior Bean Bag Baseball Tournament on June 22, 2012, at Harvey Playground. We would like to thank all of the seniors as well as volunteers who came out to support the team players, all senior centers, and the Greater New Orleans Senior Olympics Teams for their participation.

The winners were as follows:

- 1st Place-Lakeshore Allstars
- 2nd Place-Marrero/Harvey Saintsations II
- 3rd Place-Lafitte Pirates
- 4th Place-Lafitte Cajuns

We would also like to welcome our new Coordinator of Senior Citizens' Services, **Maria Cervini**. We are looking forward to a successful year with Ms. Cervini and wish her the best of luck with her new endeavors.



New Coordinator
of Senior Citizens' Services
Maria Cervini

Animal Shelter

By
Danielle Williams

Adoptions Pick Up

As many of you may have heard, both the Eastbank and Westbank Shelters have been extremely full. Due to overcrowding, adoptable dogs were in danger of being euthanized. As soon as the word spread through the community, our adoptions increased. In the past two weeks, adoptions have been averaging between 7-8 per day. This is a tremendous step in the right direction for the Shelter.

The work, however, is far from over. For every dog that gets adopted, three come into the shelters. It is our goal to educate the public about spay/neuter, responsible ownership, and the reality of what happens when they surrender their pet to a shelter. It is through education that we hope to end this vicious cycle and save as many animals as possible.

Adoption Times

As always, you can do your part by adopting or encouraging friends and family to adopt. Through September the shelter is offering a discounted adoption fee of \$12 for dogs that are six months of age and older. Puppies under six months old are still \$67. Cats and kittens are \$12.

Adoption hours are 9am-5:30pm Monday-Wednesday and Friday; 9am-7pm on Thursday; and 10am-3:30pm on Saturday. We also offer rabies shots at the Westbank shelter on Tuesdays from 10am-12pm, and at the Eastbank shelter on Wednesdays from 10am-11:30am.

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

WELCOME:

The Department of Juvenile Services welcomes **Candy Marshall**, our new Juvenile Detention Security Guard.

PROMOTION CONGRATULATIONS:

Our department offers well deserved congratulations to **Joan Ruiz-Sturcke**, who was recently promoted to Juvenile Probation Officer IV. Joan has been with the Parish since 1985, and has worked in every unit in probation, having started in the Rivarde Detention Center as a Juvenile Detention Officer.

Joan is well respected by those she has worked with over the years as well as the Juvenile Court Judges. Her knowledge of our reform efforts in probation will be important when it comes to taking the Department of Juvenile Services to the next level and becoming a model probation department in Louisiana.



Newly promoted Juvenile Probation Officer IV Joan Ruiz-Sturcke

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

The Department of Juvenile Services wishes to recognize these outstanding employees for June and July 2012:

JUNE 2012:

Denita Hunter, Cook II;
Erin Ronquille, Juvenile Probation Officer II

JULY 2012:

Malcolm Fredericks, Trades Helper;
Justin Romogasse, Juvenile Detention Home Security Guard

DJS's Summer Youth Program

Juvenile Services conducted a Summer Youth Program during the month of June. The purpose of the program was to educate, give life skills, provide job opportunities, promote self-esteem, and address family issues. The youth also toured the Delgado Community College City Park Campus. The youth were encouraged, motivated, and enlightened. And most of them had perfect attendance!

Thanks to all who participated in the program. Its success was a byproduct of great teamwork. Special thanks to staff members **Lisa Cole, Monique Willis, Eugene Thomas, Roberta Brown, Linda Bon, Deanna Lawson, Patrick Brammell, Sandra Williams, Cassandra Cutno, Brian Dew, Linda Bostick, Michelle Malone**, and the Rivarde Detention Center food services staff for all their hard work and preparation. The staff was honored to be a part of this life-changing experience in the lives of our youth.

Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

Director Ed Durabb Retires

Ed Durabb retired as Director of the Planning Department on June 1 after 27 years and 7 months, with 20 years as Director, and a total of 37 years in the planning profession.

Ed started working in the department as an entry-level planner and was promoted several times: to Planner III, Assistant Director, and Director. His retirement will give him the time to pursue his hobbies: photography, gardening, and travel. We wish Ed a well-deserved, happy retirement!



President Young congratulates retiring Planning Director Ed Durabb

New Director Named

Our new Director is **Terri Wilkinson**, Ph.D., AICP, who has worked in the department for 14 years and was the Assistant Director.

We extend a warm welcome to **Mary Mason**, Typist Clerk III, who formerly worked for JeffCAP.

Code Enforcement

By
Kappy Day

HELLO AND GOODBYE!

Code welcomes **Mariea Lambert**, Typist Clerk III in the East Bank Electrical Section; **Mark Cooley**, Building Inspector I in the East Bank Building Section; and **Precious Nelson**, Typist Clerk III in the East Bank Property Maintenance Section. Mariea comes to us from JeffCap; Precious comes to us from a short stint in the Planning Department and before that the Water Department; and Mark is new to Parish employment.

The Board of Standards welcomes its newest member, **Arthur "Art" Tudela**, who was appointed by Councilman Ben Zahn as the District 4 representative. We're glad you're all here! Recent retirements include **Marci Bourg**, East Bank Plumbing Section; **Mike Savage**, East Bank Building Section; and **Jim Kenney**, dedicated member and chairman of the Board of Standards for over 43 years.

Danny Montz, East Bank Plumbing Section, and **Tony**



Code Enforcement Director Tiffany Wilken and President Young with Birthday Girl Karen Hamilton

Hewitt, West Bank Building Section, both recently resigned; and we also say goodbye to **Beth Paille**, East Bank Property Maintenance Section, who has accepted a position with Citizens' Affairs. We'll miss you all and wish you well!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Laura Sawyer has been promoted to Executive Assistant and is being "groomed" to take over for **Linda Roy** in East Bank Cashiers when Linda re-

tires later this year. You have some big shoes to fill, Laura, but we know you can do it! Congratulations also to **Gary Lay** and **Jason Manning** for recently receiving Certification for Commercial Building Inspectors. Attaboys!

WEDDING BELLS!

Code extends very best wishes to **Michelle Champagne**, Administrative Assistant in West Bank Property Maintenance. Michelle was married July 28, and we wish her a lifetime of happiness with her new hubby.

A VERY BIG DEAL!

Very seldom do we have the opportunity to wish one of our full-time Code employees a Happy 80th Birthday, but that's exactly what we did recently. Even Parish President **John Young** and Code Director **Tiffany Wilken** were on hand June 5 to surprise **Karen Hamilton**, Typist Clerk III in the East Bank Electrical Section, with a visit and birthday wishes. Karen's still going strong with no plans to retire any time soon! Thanks, Karen, for being an inspiration to us all.



Jim Kenney, retiring Chairman of the Board of Standards, with President John Young

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

NEW "SPOTLIGHT" SEGMENT

Every day, we speak with our co-workers in other departments but never get to learn anything about them or what they do in the Parish. Beginning this issue, I'd like to introduce a new segment called "**The Spotlight Is On.**" In each issue, I'll be "spotlighting" a Department of Sewerage employee by sharing some information about them and what they do.

This issue, "The Spotlight is on **Mary Grace Bealer.**" Mary Grace is a Typist Clerk III at our Westbank Field Office in Bridge City. She has been with the Parish for 22 years, starting in Streets in 1990 and transferring to Sewerage in 1996. Mary Grace's responsibilities include managing all Westbank sewerage complaints, dispatching trucks to service calls, issuing work orders, typing accident reports, and assisting our Westbank superintendents with various clerical duties.



Mary Grace Bealer

When asked to share some of her feelings about the job she does, Mary Grace had this to say: "I have really enjoyed my position with the Department of Sewerage for the last 16 years. All of the Superintendents have been

very congenial and helpful. All of my co-workers are respectful and courteous. I have made many acquaintances and developed many friendships over the years while speaking to other Parish employees and serving the general public in the handling of sewerage complaints.

On a personal note, my oldest granddaughter, Ashlen Rudolph, who plays softball with the "Dixie Belles," won the Louisiana State Championship in Monroe recently. The team will be competing for the National Title at the Girls National Softball Tournament in Richmond, Virginia on August 2. Good Luck Ashlen and the Dixie Belles!"

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following Department of Sewerage employees upon their retirements:

Superintendent II **David Dennis** retired on June 20, 2012. David retired from our Eastbank Lines Division with over 32 years of service.



David Dennis

Superintendent I **James Jackson** retired on June 8, 2012. James retired from our Westbank Lines Division with over 28 years of service.



Sewerage Director Linda Daly
with James Jackson

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

Keith Jones was promoted from Superintendent I to Superintendent II with our Eastbank Lines Division. **Keith** has been employed with the Parish for 16 years.

Thaddeus Johnson was promoted from Laborer, Unskilled to Trades Helper with our Eastbank Lift Stations Division. **Thaddeus** has been employed with the Parish for 9 months.

Charles Mushatt was promoted from Truck Driver II to Equipment Operator III with our Eastbank Lines Division. **Charles** has been employed with the Parish for 5 years.

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employee:

Kevin Dusang – College Engineer Intern, Administration Office

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

New Employees

We would like to welcome our new employee, **Rickey Addison**, Laborer, to the Westbank Streets Division. Rickey will be working in our Concrete section. Also, welcome to **Billy Lane, III**. Billy will be working in our Asphalt section, Westbank Streets. We hope you both will be happy working with the Streets Department.

Promotions

Congratulations to **James Thompson** (Eastbank Streets), who was promoted to Road Maintenance Superintendent I; **Marlon Harding** (Eastbank Streets) promoted to Road Maintenance Superintendent I; **Sean Duckett** (Eastbank Streets) promoted to Road Maintenance Superintendent I; **Ralph Mitchell** (Eastbank Streets) promoted to Truck Driver II; and **Ernest Pugh** (Westbank Streets) promoted to Equipment Operator IV.

Retirement

Congratulations to **William “Billy” Bumgarden** on his retirement. Billy was an Equipment Operator III (Westbank Streets), and retired in June with 30 years of service to the Streets Department. He will be missed.

Condolences

Our condolences go to **Tim Constant**. His mother, Nita M. “Ethel” Toups Constant, passed away on July 7, 2012.

Also, our condolences to **Sarah Ruttley**, who lost a good friend Brandon Richard tragically in July as well.

We’re very sorry for your loss, and we’re praying for you and your loved ones.

2012 Tarpon Rodeo

The Streets Department employees will be working at Grand Isle to assist with the “**2012 Tarpon Rodeo**” to help make it a great success. Thanks to all who have contributed their time and effort.

Water

By
Susie Cunningham

Retirement

George Saucier, Water Purification Operator, retired from our West Bank Water Treatment Plant on June 20, 2012, with nearly 28 years of service. Thank you, George, for your many years of dedicated service to Jefferson Parish! Enjoy your retirement!

Fond Farewell

Congratulations to **Amy Miller** on her promotion to the position of secretary with the Department of Drainage’s Administrative Office. We wish Amy the best in her new position. She will be missed!

New Employees

Welcome to the following new employees: **John Umazor**, Water Purification Operator; **Joseph Burse, III**, Equipment Operator III; **Jacqueline Turcios**, Utility Billing Clerk I; and **Chandra Alexander**, Utility Billing Collector I. We wish each of them the best as they begin their employment with us.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions: **Destiny Bratton**, Executive Superintendent; **Russell Grabert, III**, and **Varice Webber**, Water Service Inspector II’s; **Herbert Bryant**, **Bryson Smith**, **Clinton Smith**, and **James Wilcox**, Laborers, Semi-Skilled. All the best to each of them in their new positions.

Service Pin Awards

We wish to congratulate the following employees who recent-



Streets Superintendents Rodney Lyons, Andrea Williams, and Kenneth Lemieux congratulate William “Billy” Bumgarden (second from left)

ly received service pin awards on June 28, 2012, from Director **Doug Vincent** for their years of dedicated service to Jefferson Parish:

Recipients with 15 years were: **David Bailey, Jr., Bruce Tumblin, Jr., and Herman Wilson, Jr.** Recipients with 10 years were: **Corey Junior, Amy Landry, and Wardell Stewart.**

Recipients with 5 years were: **Lawrence Aymami, Keisha Barnes, Yvonne Downs, John Flesher, Jr., Shentell Harrell, Keyon Kent, Rickey Munster, Zachary North, Joshua Slack, Jr, Takeilla Smith, Delta Torres, and Tonda White.** We appreciate the work you do to make our department function as smoothly as possible.



Water Director Doug Vincent (second from left) with 15-year employees Bruce Tumblin, Herman Wilson, and David Bailey

Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathies to employee **Masashi Takekawa**, who recently lost his father. We also extend condolences to the **Latour Family**, who recently lost their loved one, **Priscilla Latour**, who was a retiree of the Department of Water. Our prayers are with the families and friends at this difficult time.



Director Vincent
With Corey Junior

State Certification

The Water Department has asked all Water Purification Plant Operators to consider taking the State of Louisiana operator certification exams. Once passing the required State exams, Water Purification Operators become certified and licensed under State law and are considered qualified to operate Jefferson Parish Water Purification facilities. Although Plant Superintendents are required to have the necessary licenses, Plant Operators are gaining the certifications in order to increase the numbers of qualified personnel available in the plant. Once Plant Operators are certified, they also fulfill a requirement necessary for promotion. Also taking exams were some Outside Maintenance personnel.

The Water Department would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the following employees on passing exams given

on 06/15/12: **Robert Armand, Michael Barthelemy, Brian Belson, Thomas Corr, Trudell Edgerson, Tremaine Ivey, Earvin Mallery, Chep Richard, Eugene Stanson, and Mark Williams.**

Since there are a number of levels of certification, some personnel will continue on the path to Class IV certification. We would like to wish them the best in those efforts.

New Reporter Named

This will be my last article for the Department of Water, as I have been offered and have accepted a promotion to the position of Executive Assistant with the Department of Human Resource Management. I will miss my boss and coworkers, but am looking forward to a new adventure with my new boss and coworkers.

Cynetra Smith will be taking over as the new reporter for the Department of Water. I think she will enjoy it!

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Congratulations to **Nicole Thompson**, who has been promoted to Human Resource Manager. Nicole started with the Parish in 1997 as a Cooperative Education student in Public Works. She became an Administrative Assistant in Public Works. In 2006 she became an Executive Assistant in the Department of Human Resource Management.



New HR Manager
Nicole Thompson

In addition to her degrees in Business, Nicole also attained the Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certification in 2009.

Through her employment experience with the Parish and her education, Nicole is ready to use her many talents and skills to successfully handle the HR challenges in today's workplace. We wish you the best, Nicole.

Welcome to Wayne Jones

We welcome Wayne Jones, who has joined HR as a Safety Officer. Wayne brings vast experience to his job, having worked as an Environmental Consultant and a Safety and Health Professional. Wayne has an Associate Degree in Safety and Health Technology from Delgado Com-

munity College. Wayne's commitment to safety and health attracted him to the Safety position with the Parish. We welcome Wayne to our excellent team committed to keeping Parish employees safe in their workplaces.



HR's new Safety Officer
Wayne Jones

Chainsaw Safety Training

On July 18, Safety Program Manager **Nolan Guidry** and Safety Officer **Wayne Jones** taught a "hands on" class on Chainsaw Safety. The class, which was held outside of the Yenni Building, was a follow-up to a movie shown during a safety meeting of General Services employees.

Nolan and Wayne covered basic chainsaw operation and maintenance. They also demonstrated the important role and need for Personal Protective Equipment when using a chainsaw. We applaud General Services for their strong commitment to safety in the workplace.

Exercise Classes and Eating Healthy

As part of the Parish's Wellness Program, the Recreation Department is offering exercise classes on the East and West Banks. The Yenni Building classes meet on Monday and Wednesday, and the General

Government Building classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday.

All classes are from 4:45 till 5:45 p.m. The current theme of the East Bank classes is Cardio Sculpt while the West Bank program involved All Around Aerobics.

The LSU AG Center is currently offering a series of six free, fun-filled and innovative nutrition lessons entitled *Let's Eat for the Health of It*. Ag Center staff member Alexis Navarre is teaching the classes, which meet on Tuesdays from 10 till 11 in the Yenni Bldg. Currently, 20 employees are enrolled in this nutritional program, which started on July 10 and will end on August 17.

The Employee Wellness Program is always looking for ways to help employees live a healthier lifestyle, so be on the lookout for other wellness programs in the future. For additional information about the wellness program, exercise classes through the Recreation Department, and the nutritional program offered by the LSU Ag Center, please e-mail Cathy Leumont in Benefits at CLEaumont@Jeffparish.net.



Safety Manager Nolan Guidry leads a Chainsaw Safety class for General Services

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Our 2012 *Fall Activity Guide*, which includes Summer Camp plus other activities and programs for September through December will be available on our website at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page, or obtained at all local playgrounds and libraries in late August. We will have a condensed version scheduled for insertion in the Sunday, August 26, edition of the *Times Picayune*. 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

Congratulations to the following employees for the 3rd quarter of 2012 for their years of service:
5 years – **Tiffany Curtis** (EB Leisure), **Francisco Aquino** (Terrytown), **Joe Winn** (Jefferson), **Jorge Herrera** (Lafreniere)
10 years – **Clint Hunter** (PARD), **Ronald Tew** (Lafreniere)
15 years – **Maverick Charles** (EB Maintenance), **David Frazier** (WB Maintenance)

Our sincerest sympathy to the family of **Jerry “Pops” Ureta Sr.**, retired Area Coordinator of Westbank Athletics and father of **Jay Ureta**, Westbank Administrator, who passed away on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, and to the family of **Robert “Bobby” Waltzer**, retired Assistant Center Supervisor at Jefferson Playground, who passed away on Saturday, July 21, 2012.

WESTBANK PROJECT UPDATE:

Parc des Familles Pressbox is



still under construction and should be complete this fall.

Avondale Playground, Kings Grant Playground, Terrytown Playground, Westminster Tot Lot, Woodland West, and Woodmere Playground tot lots will soon be constructed/replaced.

Oakdale Playground's gym roof will soon be replaced. The interior gym ceilings at PARD, Oakdale, and Waggaman will be covered.

EASTBANK PROJECT UPDATE:

Girard Playground Gym roof repair should begin soon. Lakeshore Playground – work should begin soon on the new tennis court.

Mike Miley and Little Farms Playground tot lots should be completed very shortly.

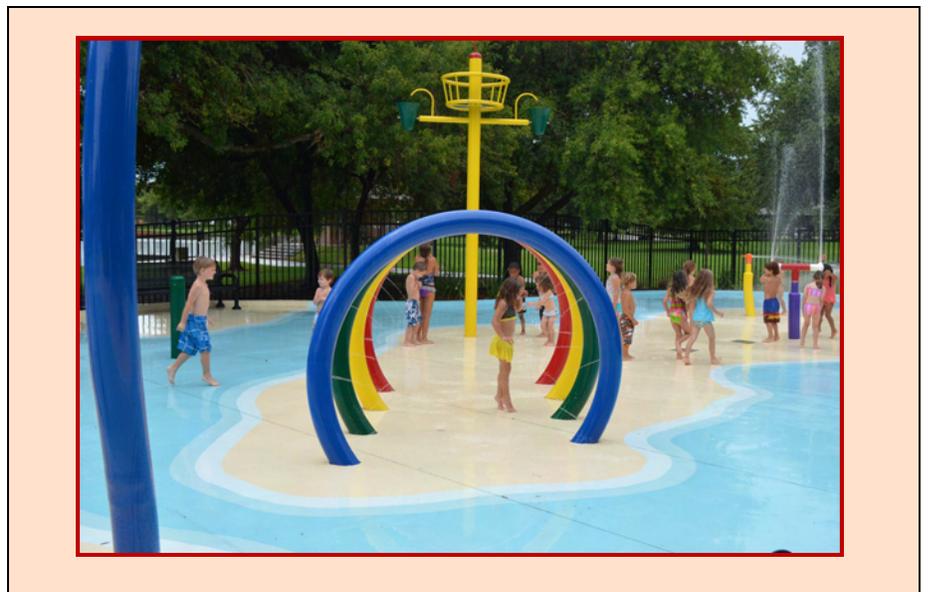
Owens Playground – work is underway on major interior and exterior renovations.

BUCKTOWN MARINA

Work is completed on the walking trail at the Marina.

LAFRENIERE PARK UPDATE:

The new Spray Park, located adjacent to the carousel, opened July 13 for ages 10 & under. It will remain open each day from noon until 7:00 pm until Labor Day. Cost is \$5 per person per 45-minute session. Sessions begin on the hour. Private parties can be booked from 9:30-11:30 am.



Library

By
Daniel Gitlin

Thank You to Lon Dickerson, Library Director

Lon Dickerson, Library Director since 2004, recently announced that he will retire from a career of almost 40 years of public service at the end of August. The Library staff community thank Mr. Dickerson for the leadership, dedication, and innovation that he brought to Jefferson Parish in the past eight years.

"I wish Lon and his wife, Anne, the best in their retired life together," says **Irene Lunkin**, Administrative Assistant to Mr. Dickerson. "It was a pleasure knowing Lon and working beside him for the past several years."

"Lon has taught me to be my best, regardless of the circumstances," shares **Ricardo Mesa**, IT Network Administrator. "He has made our library system the best in Louisiana. He will be greatly missed."

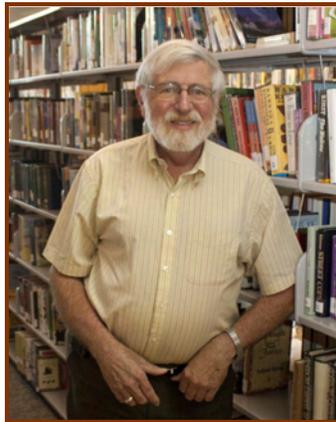
Mr. Dickerson will best be known for his commitment to rebuilding the libraries after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when more than half of the library buildings were heavily damaged.

Shortly after the storm, Mr. Dickerson started working with parish officials on the following:

- Completely rebuild the Gretna, Grand Isle, Lafitte, and Lakeshore libraries.
- Complete major renovations to the Belle Terre, Live Oak, North Kenner, Wagner, West Bank Regional, Terrytown, and Westwego libraries.
- Renovate the Harahan, Old Metairie, Rosedale, and East

Bank Regional libraries to make them more up to date and customer friendly.

Eight years later, all of these accomplishments have been realized, with the Grand Isle Library set to reopen in late August and plans for the renovations of the East Bank Regional and Rosedale libraries in place.



Lon Dickerson

Summer Reading

The Library will close out the 2012 Summer Reading Program with Wrap Parties beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 4, at both regional libraries (East Bank Regional, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., and Westbank Regional Library, 2751 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey). The parties are free of charge and open to children, teens, and Parish employees and their families.

The Nashville-based *Groove Club*, entertainers who involve children in a high-energy musical variety show, will be performing at both libraries. The parties will celebrate another terrific year for the Summer Reading Program. Over 10,000 children and teens finished the program this year!

Congratulations to **Gary Bourgeois**, Library Associate at the Edith S. Lawson Library in

Westwego, who had one of his short stories published in the 2012 edition of *Ellipsis*. *Ellipsis* is the University of New Orleans' annual journal of art, ideas, and literature. Gary's story, "The St. Benedict Club," is about an exorcist-led team of experts and adventurers who hunt demons in New Orleans during the 1920s. A copy of the 2012 *Ellipsis* is available at the Westwego Library.

The Library would like to thank **DiAnna Timonet**, Library Page at West Bank Regional, who will retire in August. DiAnna has spent the past 10 years with the Library.

Welcome to **Michael Smith**, Librarian IV, the new manager of the East Bank Regional Library in Metairie. Michael was the deputy circuit librarian for the US Court of Appeals, Fifth Judicial Circuit, from August 1988 to August 2008 and again from March 2009 to September 2010.

Also, welcome to **Manuel Perez de la Mesa**, East Bank Regional Page, and **Juliette Hobson**, Grand Isle Library Associate, who joined the Library team in the past few months!



New East Bank Regional
Manager Michael Smith

JeffCAP

By
Catina Ward

Promotions:

Darcel Florence has been with JeffCap for three years and has been moving up the ladder ever since. Darcel started as a Family Day Coordinator and took over as Liheap (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) program Coordinator. She was promoted to Community Center Supervisor and now holds the position of Administrative Management Specialist III. With a will to succeed and a little hard-work, anything is possible.



Darcell Florence

The very charming, charismatic **Lonnie Bewley** has graced JeffAP with his presence since 2009, taking the job by storm. This place has not been the same since he arrived. We congratulate Lonnie on his new position as Property Manager. And just as he has in the past, he will dominate this job. He is a true breath of fresh air.



Lonnie Bewley



Louise Lacy and Cheryl Joseph at the LiHeap Senior Outreach Seminars

Transfers:

After a long run with JeffCap, both **Mariea Lambert** and **Mary Mason** have moved on to new ventures. The passion to help the needy and the loyalty to this department that these ladies exuded to this department will always be remembered.

LiHeap News

The Liheap team—**Courtney Taylor, Clara Scott, Cheryl Joseph and Louise Lacy**—recently had two senior offsite outreach seminars. One was held at the Gretna and the other at the Kenner Council on Aging Centers to provide energy assistance and energy conservation education to a number of seniors. The outreach was very successful, and we are happy to have introduced a high number of new seniors to the program.

Headstart:

Get ready, Moms and Dads, Head-Start Teachers, and Assistants! Summer-break is over and our 10 Eastbank and Westbank Head Start Centers will reopen on Aug. 20, 2012. Jefferson Parish Head Start Services over 900 children and families. Orientation is currently being held on the Eastbank inside the counsel chambers in the Joseph Yenni Build-

ing. Along with the dedication of the staff and parent advisory board members we are looking forward to the future.

Headstart Retiree:

Mrs. **Marvine Shedrick** is retiring this month after 19 years of dedicated service. Mrs. Shedrick joined the Headstart staff in 1993 at the Parent & Child Center. During her journey here, she worked as a Head-start teacher and later became a Teacher’s Advisor, using her creativity and faith to inspire others to become great leaders. Since then she has been promoted to Administrator, where she has decided to end her journey but leave her legacy. Mrs. Marvine, thanks for your many years of dedicated service, your commitment to education, and your hope for the future of this program. You are already missed.



Marvine Shedrick

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

The Department of Environmental Affairs congratulates **Margaret Fonseca**, Typist Clerk III, on her five years of employment with the Parish. Margaret recently received her five-year pin. Margaret does a great job assisting Jefferson Parish residents with questions and complaints regarding recycling and garbage collection, as well as handling service requests for mosquito and rodent control services.

Some of you may know – correction - *most* of you may know Environmental Affairs's very own **Billy "LSU" Sanders**. However, you may not know that Billy is having serious health problems. On Sunday, July 8, his family held a benefit to raise money for medical expenses. Billy's two sons cooked and served up gumbo and potato salad. Several Environmental staff members turned out to support Billy, including Marnie Winter, Rick Buller, Jason Smith, Michele Van Pelt Smith, Barbara Arcement, Susan Nakyanzi, Carla Montalbano, Evaline Armstrong, Nancy Woodlock and our summer intern, BaBa Fofanah.

Billy was much honored when Parish President John Young dropped in at the benefit event. The event included an auction with Billy's brother, Bobby, serving as a very entertaining auctioneer and Billy performing some of his regular shenanigans. Environmental employees in attendance pooled our money to buy an extremely rare and invaluable item. This item is so rare we felt we had to share it with the

rest of the Parish – a photograph of Billy "LSU" Sanders wearing a Tulane Green Wave shirt. This leads us to wonder if he is really an "LSU" fan, or is he a closet Tulane fan?



Recycling in Full Swing

On July 1, curbside recycling finally returned to Jefferson Parish, and all indications are that people are really excited about it. In the initial week, we had about a 50% participation rate, and many residents have called or written our office expressing gratitude for the return of this important service.

A recycling drop-off location has been added at the David Dr. Trash Drop-off site located at 400 David Dr. This will allow residents in apartments and the municipalities on the East Bank to drop off their recyclables free of charge between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. during daylight savings time and the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. during standard time. The West Bank recycling drop-off site is located in front of the Progressive Waste Solutions of Louisiana (PWSLA) facility at 500 Seven Oaks Blvd. in Bridge City. This location is open 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

Our department is also working with the Department of General Services and PWSLA to establish an employee recycling program for the Yenni Building and General Government Building (GGB).

Storm Debris Reminder

We are now in the peak of hurricane season. Although we all hope that we will never again have a hurricane, we stand ready to collect the storm debris should one occur. It is important to remember that storm debris is collected separate from household garbage, and as such, is a somewhat slower process if the Parish wishes to get reimbursed by FEMA.

To expedite the collection of storm debris, it is important to keep it separated at the curb. Storm debris needs to be kept separate from household garbage because it is collected by different contractors on different schedules. Vegetative debris should be kept separate from all other debris because state law requires that it be reduced by 50% in both weight and volume; thus it must be collected separately for processing.

The other types of debris that should be kept separated are white goods (appliances); building materials; household contents, such as furnishings, carpet, etc.; chemicals; and small motorized equipment, such as lawnmowers. Refrigerators and freezers must be emptied of all food, and the food waste should be placed out with household garbage. Several passes are typically made on each street to collect the various categories of storm-generated debris. Proper separation at the curb allows for quicker debris collection.

General Services

By

Jill Relick and Maryanne Adorno

It is our pleasure to announce the appointment of **Ryan Babcock** to the position of Assistant Director. Ryan will be in charge of the day-to-day activities and will be a driving force continuing to move this department forward.



General Services' new Assistant Director Ryan Babcock

Congratulation to **Revy Antoine**. She received the Employee of the Year award for 2012. Rebe wears many hats for our Department and the Parish. AND SHE WEARS THEM WELL.

General Services has two new

members of our General Services Family: Ms **Maryanne Adorno** is a friend to all. She has been employed with Jefferson Parish for 23 years. Throughout her employment with the Parish, she has worked with Workforce Connection, Photo Lab, Public Information Office, and Parkways. Maryanne said she has learned a great deal working in each of these departments and also made wonderful friendships. In her spare time she enjoys reading, walking her two dogs, and spending time with her family.

Also a warm welcome to Ms **Tonda White**. She is training with **Angela Cotham** in our payroll department as Angela will retire in November after 23 years with the Parish. Ms Tonda has worked with the Streets and Water Departments. She brings five years of expertise to our department. Stop by to welcome her in the General Government Building. Ask her why she enjoys scary movies! A hint: She was born on Friday the 13th.

Health Issues

By

Peggy Branan, RN

Did You Know?

When going for a diagnostic test or surgery that requires you to not eat or drink anything, it may be acceptable or advised that you take certain critical medications, such as your blood pressure pill. It is very important that you discuss with your doctor any medications you *should* take prior to your procedure.

Plantar Fasciitis

You may have heard of someone complaining about having plantar (bottom of foot) fasciitis (inflamed connective tissue). The plantar fascia ligament is made of tough fibrous tissue that runs from the heel to the toes and forms the arch. When this ligament is overstretched, it tears, resulting in plantar fasciitis.

You are at greater risk if you have arch problems, run long distances, are obese, wear soft-soled shoes or shoes without good arch supports, or have tight Achilles tendons. During the night, the Achilles tightens. When the person gets out of the bed, they will experience extreme pain/tenderness to the heel. With more walking, the Achilles relaxes and the pain eases. Climbing stairs, intense activity, or sitting or standing for a while can also cause the pain to intensify. Treatments include anti-inflammatory and analgesic medications, stretching exercises to the heel and foot, shoes with good arch supports, and rest.

If you have foot pain, notify your doctor to obtain a proper diagnosis and treatment plan to avoid more serious complications.



Joseph Taylor (Center) gets a pat on the back from Safety Manager Nolan Guidry at the General Services Chainsaw Safety Program

Retirements

David Dennis
Sewerage
31 years

Sarah Ancar
General Services
30 years

William Bumgarden
Streets
30 years

Michael Savage
Code Enforcement
29 years

James Jackson
Sewerage
28 years

George Saucier
Water
27 years

Lois Smith
Code Enforcement
26 years

Robert Arseneaux
Engineering
11 years

Steven Phillippe
Animal Shelter
10 years



**President Young at the opening of the Lafreniere Park
Spray Park, July 13, 2012 —see article Page 11**