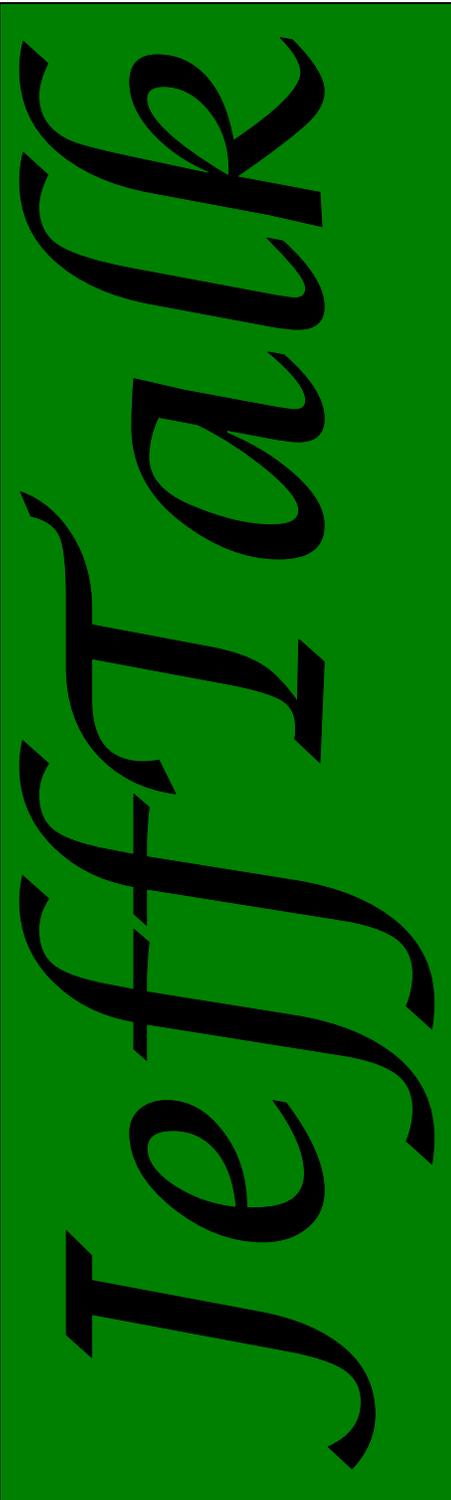




Volume 33
 Number 5
 December 2012



Message from the Parish President. . .

Enjoying the Season

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe and joyous holiday season. It is hard to believe 2013 is just around the corner, which should be a reminder to all of us how quickly time is passing. I encourage you to spend quality time with your family, friends, and loved ones, and be thankful for our many blessings. I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued hard work and dedication to the citizens of Jefferson Parish.



John F. Young
 Parish President

Holiday Event at Lafreniere

A special event families and neighbors can enjoy together is the 2012 Holiday in the Park light display in Lafreniere Park in Metairie. Jefferson Parish is very proud to offer this event for our citizens and visitors, and the display continues to grow each year, drawing crowds from all over the area.

For the first time, the entire exhibit is constructed with 100% LED lights, making it energy- and cost-efficient as well as environmentally friendly! In addition to more than 100 beautifully lighted displays generously donated by the Al Copeland Family, park visitors will see a new, lighted 60-foot Sea Serpent in the Lafreniere Lagoon, a Princess and her Castle, and a beautiful Gingerbread Man exhibit.

Some of the traditional favorites include the Lombardi Trophy standing tall between two New

Orleans Saints players, original creations including a Splash on Penguin Island, and a Cajun Holiday with Santa and “Gator Claus” complete with his pirogue pulled by a team of alligators.

Snow Day Returns!

“Snow Day” for the kids is returning at 9:30am, Saturday, December 15, 2012, near the Carousel between shelters 7 and 8. Children 12 years of age and younger are invited to play in the snow and enjoy the holiday activities.

Holiday in the Park will be open to the public November 30 until January 1, 2013, Sunday through Thursday from dusk till 9:45 pm and Friday and Saturday from dusk till 11:45 pm. The entrance fee is \$3 per vehicle.

The admission is free for Holiday in the Park visitors on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve, and New Year’s Day.

Happy holidays!



JeffTalk

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

Departmental Reporters

- Alario Center**
Deirdre Cummings
- Animal Shelter**
Danielle Williams
- Citizens' Affairs**
Suzanne Lollis
- Community Development**
Open
- Drainage**
Open
- Emergency Management**
Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**
Helen McGee
- 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
- 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**
Amy Miller
- Workforce Connection**
Frances Turner

Editor's



Notes

Saving on Prescriptions

Now that Open Enrollment is over, I am sure you have noticed that the biggest change in the medical plan for 2013 will be the increase in co-pays for prescription drugs. Here are a few strategies for keeping your prescription costs down while still maintaining the care you need.

The new co-pays are:

Most commonly used Tiers

- Tier 1 Remains \$10 or less
- Tier 2 Up from \$35 to \$50
- Tier 3 Up from \$60 to \$75

Self-Injectable Drugs

- Tier 4 Up from \$75 to \$90
- Tier 5 Up from \$100 to \$115

Tiers 1-3 are the most commonly used drugs. Tiers 4 and 5 are for very high-cost, self-injectable drugs such as cancer, growth hormones, and infertility injections. Diabetic insulin drugs are not in tiers 4 or 5.

Controlling your Costs.

Inside the Coventry Enrollment Guide is a Prescription Drug List, identifying the more commonly used drugs by tier. The tier 3 section provides a list of drugs along with alternate drugs that are in a lower cost tier. You may make a copy of this document and provide it to your doctor. If you are using a tier 3 drug, you may ask your doctor to consider prescribing one in a lower tier.

Also, Coventry has a notification system that mails the member and notifies the drug store when a generic or lower tier drug becomes available for a brand or a tier 3 drug. When



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

that happens, the drug store personnel generally inform the member and contact the physician for permission for the substitute drug. Once there is approval, the lower cost drug is provided.

In addition, members can research a drug alternative on the Coventry website found at <http://www.chclousiana.com>. You will need to become a registered member, so once a user name and password have been set up, then you can log on.

In the right hand column,

- Click on “**My Online Services**”
- Click the top tab “Benefits”
- On the left column, click on “Prescription Benefits”
- On the left column, click on “My Rx Choices.”

The medications that you purchased through the Coventry plan will be listed. You can then click on the drug and the program will identify alternate drugs.

Although our co-pays have increased, a little research can help you save some money. Be a wise healthcare consumer. It is within your control to seek out less expensive alternatives for prescription drugs that you purchase. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish’s Benefits Administrator, Mr. Aubrey DeVillier, or the Benefits Specialist, Ms. Cathy Leumont.

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism & David Stout

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and didn't eat or shop too much! Where has the year gone?

First, a HUGE thank you to all of our hard-working, dedicated Sign & Signal staff for their outstanding job during Hurricane Isaac. It's never easy switching to "emergency mode" with so many things happening at once with such little time to prepare, but our guys do it and they do it well. I couldn't ask for better co-workers to be associated with.

We have a new **Sign Technician** to welcome to Traffic. **Lafabian Fluker** has joined us and we're so happy to have him with us. We're also happy to welcome Flood Plain Coordinator **Paula Blackwell** to our office. Our Traffic Engineering family is growing!!



Lafabian Fluker

And, last but not least, **Charles Cristina**, Sign Technician II, retired in August after 31 years of service. Chuck and his wife Zelita are already enjoying retirement, fishing and relaxing at their "home away from home" in Grand Isle. It was a pleasure working with Chuck, and he will be missed!!

Code Enforcement

By
Ruth "Kappy" Day

INS AND OUTS!

There are several new faces in Code since our last issue: **Carmelite Flugence**, Clerk I, East Bank Building; **Jared Barcia** and **Jeremy Harrison**, East Bank Building Plan Reviewer I's; and **Kim Imler**, Account Clerk II, West Bank Plan Review. Welcome aboard! East Bank Plan Review also welcomes back **Tramone Chetta**, Building Plan Reviewer I, who is returning upon receiving required ICC Certifications. Attagirl, Tramone!

We bid farewell to **Warren Bergeron**, East Bank Plumbing Inspector III; **Al Chauvin**, East Bank Plumbing Inspector I; and **Sam Territo**, East Bank Building Plan Reviewer I. We wish these employees who retired recently all the best.

MORE WEDDING BELLS!

Congratulations and best wishes to **Tachel Ferguson**, Typist Clerk III, East Bank Property Maintenance/Zoning. Tachel married her long-time love on September 21, and we wish her and her new hubby every happiness in their beautiful new home!

CONDOLENCES

Since our last issue, several of our Code employees lost family members. Our sincerest sympathy is extended to **Steve Blakesley**, Electrical Inspector I, who lost his father; and to **Peter Mire**, East Bank Building Inspector I, and **David Cobb**, Assistant Regulatory Manager, who both lost a brother.

WHAT WILL WE DO?

Before the next issue of *JefTalk*, **Linda Roy**, woman extraordinaire, will be retiring. A Parish employee for 34 years, Linda started as a Typist Clerk in Training and Development (later Human Resources), and through hard work and dedication, she was promoted many times over the years and will retire as Assistant to the Director of Code Enforcement.

During her career as a public servant, Linda received many awards, including the Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Service Award, Delgado College's Circle of Excellence Award, and Code Enforcement Employee of the Year. She has handled tough issues in Code such as budget, personnel, and purchasing, and we'll miss her. Linda, as you ride off into the sunset, we wish you happy trails!

GOD BLESS US, EVERY ONE!

Code Enforcement wishes all Parish employees and their loved ones a happy and blessed holiday season and a joyous new year!



Code's Linda Roy

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

New Employees

Welcome to our new employees **Richard Bettis**, an Engineer in training and working with **Don Hogan**, our Assistant Director and Engineer; **Heta Babin** our new Typist Clerk III with Eastbank Streets Work Order Department; **Quinise Howard**, a Semi-Skilled Laborer with the Eastbank Streets Concrete Section; and **Shawn Voisine**, an Equipment Operator III in the Heavy Section at Westbank Streets.

We hope you all enjoy working with the Streets Department and will be with us for many years to come.

Promotions

We congratulate **Ernest Gril- lot**, who took a promotion in the PWIRS Dept. Good luck **Ernie**; we'll miss you and hope you have a bright future.

Congratulations to **Michael Perrin** and **Tyrone Batiste**, who

were promoted to the position of Road Maintenance Foreman with Westbank Streets.

They both will be assigned to the Concrete Section. **Melvin Adams** was also promoted to Road Maintenance Forman. We know they will each do a great job.

Retirements

Congratulations to **Charlie Johnson**, who retired on August 24. **Charlie** was a Road Maintenance Foreman with Westbank Streets and worked in the Concrete Section for over ten years. He will be greatly missed.

Also, best wishes to **Ralph "Box" Martin, Sr.** on his recent retirement from Eastbank Streets. He will also be missed. Good luck to both of you, and we wish you both many enjoyable days in the future.

Glad You're Back

We all welcome back to work **Todd Louque** after an absence. We're glad you're back and hope you're feeling better, **Todd**.



Streets Foreman Ervin Bennett gives the gift of life

Condolences

Our condolences go to **Pam Bourgeois**, who lost her brother Robert "Mitch" Guillot on October 10. We're very sorry for your loss, Pam. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Also, to **Pat Stoltz**, who lost a good friend **Norman Melancon** recently. We're very sorry for your loss as well, Pat.

Blood Drive

Eastbank Streets had a successful 2012 Blood Drive in October with 14 Donors. Thank you to everyone who gave.

Hurricane Isaac

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our co-workers/employees who were greatly affected by Hurricane Isaac. The Streets Department crews worked tirelessly filling and placing sand bags in Lafitte, cleaning screens and standing by at pump stations. They also made sure debris was removed from streets and drains after the hurricane. Thanks to everyone who contributed in making our streets safe once again.



Streets Superintendents Kenneth Lemieux and Rodney Lyons congratulate retiring Foreman Charlie Johnson (center)

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Exercise Classes at Yenni Building

We are currently in the fifth session of exercise classes. We started with Zumba and have had four sessions of “Cardio Sculpt.” The Recreation Department has been so obliging to make these classes available to employees at the Yenni Bldg.

The classes are available to all Jefferson Parish employees that wish to attend. Be on the lookout for an announcement for the next class.

Backhoe Training

During September and October, two groups of employees successfully completed the Backhoe Training Program taught by **Wayne Jones**, Safety Officer. The program consists of one day of classroom instruction followed by a day of hands-on instruction in the field. Participants in the first group were **Kevin Walker**, **Harold Blalock** and **Eric Windsor** from WB Recreation. The second group included **Robert Hudson** (Streets), **John Braswell** (Drainage-Westbank), **Ashton Bolton** (Streets) and **Ronald Tew** (Recreation).

Safety is looking forward to offering more Backhoe Training next year.

Help With Eating Healthy

During July and August, The LSU Ag Center hosted **Let’s Eat for the Health of It**. Twenty one employees attended six nutritional lessons on Wednesdays at the Yenni Bldg. Each session was interactive and included healthy food demonstrations and recipes.

Cathy Leumont, Benefits Specialist, has been working with the staff of the LSU AG Center to develop new programs for Jefferson Parish employees. The LSU Ag Center and our Human Resource Department share an important goal to educate Parish employees on how to live a healthy life through good nutrition and physical activity.

Special thanks to Alexis Navarro and Karen Walker, of the LSU Ag Center.



Benefits Specialist
Cathy Leumont

Best Wishes to Mary Jo Arcement

On August 23, we gathered together to wish **Mary Jo Arcement** a wonderful retirement. President Young gave Mary Jo a proclamation noting her 26 years of service to Jefferson Parish and its employees (photo Page 6). HR Director **Peggy Barton** shared some of Mary Jo’s many accomplishments. We were glad that Mary Jo’s husband and parents were able to join us for this celebration of Mary Jo’s commitment to Jefferson Parish.

We wish Mary Jo the best as she travels, remains active in her church, and looks forward to the birth of her grandson in February.

Prescription Drug Costs

Benefits Manager **Aubrey Devillier** wants to make sure all employees are aware of how they can save on the rising costs of prescription drugs and co-pays. Please read HR Director **Peggy Barton**’s column on Page 2.



At Safety Office Wayne Jones’s recent Backhoe Safety class: Robert Hudson (Streets), John Braswell (Drainage – Westbank), Jones (Safety), Ashton Bolton (Streets), and Ronald Tew (Recreation).

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Our 2013 *Spring Activity Guide*, which includes Summer Camp plus activities for January through May will be available at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page, or obtained at all local playgrounds and libraries the first week in January. We are working on getting a condensed version inserted, possibly in January, into the *Times Picayune* or local paper. For information about any of our programs, call the respective office (East Bank – 736-6999 or West Bank 349-5000) jprecreation@jeffparish.net

Congratulations to the following on their promotions: **Charles Colopy** to Shop Carpenter; **Anthony Centanni** to Shop Carpenter; **Chad Ramirez** to Girard Playground Center Supervisor; **Brent Griffin** to PARD Playground Center Supervisor; and **Cornell Garrison** to Kennedy Heights Assistant Supervisor.

Congratulations to the following for their years of service:
5 years – **Charles Dobbins, Jr.**, **Dariyan Griffin**, **Terry Mallette**, and **Nikki Herkender**
10 years – **Lorraine Chiasson** and **Robert Ragland**
15 years – **Marion Doucet**

Our sincerest sympathy to the family of **Gayle Dufour**, Recreation Special Program Supervisor, who passed away on September 15; to the family of **Jeffrey Teal**, Shop Carpenter, who passed away on October 7; and to the family of **Sean Ruffin**, a Groundskeeper in EB Maintenance, who passed away on October 28.

Congratulations to our RETIREES! **Lorraine Chaisson** (EB Leisure Service - 10/19); **Sam Wiley** (EB Maintenance - 10/19); **Miriam Miller** (EB Athletics - 12/14); **Cita Marchese** (WB Leisure Service – 12/28); **Sandy Davis** (WB Athletics – 12/28)

WESTBANK UPDATE:

Parc des Familles Pressbox/Concession, nearing completion
Avondale Playground, Kings Grant Playground, Terrytown Playground, Westminster Tot Lot, Woodland West, and Woodmere Playground tot lots – work in progress.

Oakdale Playground Gym roof coating, soon to be completed
Kings Grant Elevator/Room renovations – Bids will soon open
Avondale - gym air conditioning/heating and handicapped accessible entrance and parking areas – work is in progress.

Lincolnshire – two new elliptical machines will be installed
Rose Thorne – gym air conditioning/heating installed
Interior gym metal ceilings/walls at PARD, Oakdale, and Waggaman – to begin in January.
Waggaman gym air conditioning/heating – work should soon begin

EASTBANK UPDATE:

Bright Playground – work will soon begin on tot lot and shelter
Girard Playground – new roof over rooms and gym air conditioning/heating work should be complete by the end of the year.
Lakeshore Playground – new tennis court work should be complete by the end of the year.
Owens Playground – work in progress on major renovations.
Williams Playlot – the store-

room to classroom project is nearing completion.

BONNABEL BOAT LAUNCH

The fishing pier is closed until further notice due to structural damage from Hurricane Isaac.

LAFRENIERE UPDATE:

“Holiday in the Park” will open on November 30 and run through January 1. Hours are Friday and Saturday, dusk to 11:45 pm; and Sunday through Thursday, dusk to 9:45 pm. Admission is \$3 per car. The Downs Blvd entrance will close at 5:00 pm, so please enter from West Napoleon.

Additional features this year are a 60 ft. serpent (to be placed in the lagoon), Princess and Castle scene, Transformer scene, and a gingerbread man scene. The entire display is now LED. In addition, we have booked many groups to provide entertainment. The Carousel is open every night for this event until 9:00 pm at a cost of \$1 per rider.

“Snow Day” at Lafreniere Park will be Saturday, December 15, at 9:30 am in the area near the Carousel. It is FREE for children 12 and under.



HR's Mary Jo Arcement is congratulated by President Young

Water

By
Amy T. Miller

NEW REPORTER NAMED-

Let me start by introducing myself. I am the new reporter for the Water Department. I filled the position of Administrative Assistant previously held by **Susie Cunningham**, who was promoted to Executive Assistant with Human Resources. I was previously a Clerk/Typist III for EB Outside Maintenance. While I miss my former co-workers, I am busy learning new tasks in the Administrative Office, one of which is to report for *JeffTalk*, so let's get started with the news!

NEW EMPLOYEES-

Our Department would like to extend a warm welcome to several new employees: **Doretha Parker** and **Christy Roche**, Utility Billing Clerks; **Joyell Dabon**, **Donyell Morgan** and **Willette Van Zant**, Water Service Inspectors; **Dianne Claffey**, Data Entry Operator III in EB Utility Billing; **Gregory Ford**, Laborer for WB Outside Maintenance; and **Cynthia Dominique** is a welcome new edition from Engineering, filling the position of Typist/Clerk III in EB Outside Maintenance.

CONDOLENCES-

We extend our deepest sympathies to **Rennice Young**, Utility Billing Superintendent, who recently lost her father, and to Superintendent **Mario Kennedy**, who lost his grandmother at age 98. Our prayers are with the families during this difficult time.

FOND FAREWELLS-

We would like to say goodbye to two of our very valuable employees. First, to **Margaret Meyers**, Data Entry Operator III, who

has retired after nearly 28 years in our Billing Department, and to **Richard Babin**, Foreman in EB Outside Maintenance for 14 years. We hope you enjoy your retirement, and we will always remember your contributions to Jefferson Parish.



Richard Babin
is ready for retirement

CONGRATULATIONS-

We have several new additions to the Water Department family: **Ykeshia Blount**, Water Quality Technician II, delivered Ethan Henry James on October 4; **Kathryn Ashley**, Utility Billing Collection Supervisor, welcomed her fifth child, baby Alice, on October 24; and **Araven Jones**, Water Service Inspector II, had a baby boy, De'Lantae on November 1. All mothers and babies are doing well.

WB Treatment Plant Superintendent **Myron Romero** became a proud grandfather to Kellen Austin Romero on October 20. We would also like to congratulate **Ashley Bruner Kozan**, Water Quality Scientist II in the Water Lab, on her marriage to Nathan Kozan on September 2.

From all of us at Water, we wish happy and safe holidays to all Jefferson Parish employees and their families.

Drainage

By
Ron Fuxan

Welcome and Congratulations!

Drainage welcomes these new employees to the department: **Joseph Santini** (West Bank Drainage), **Pierre Washington** (E. B.), **Wendell Hampton** (E. B.), and Secretary **Venus Williams**.

Also, we would like to congratulate the following for their recent promotions: **Kenneth Babin** as Superintendent I, **Roger McCathern** as Pump Stations Operator II, **Rosavelt Price** as Pump Station Operator II, **Robert Federico** as Pump Stations Operator II, **Van Hughes** as Laborer Semi-skilled Lead worker, and **Jose Puente** as Pump Stations Operator II.

Fond Farewells

We would like to give a sincere thank you and good-bye to our recent retirees: **Anthony Lobue** (E.B. Pump Stations), **Donald Smith** (photo Page 15), **Thanh Tran** (W.B. Drainage), **Charles Deffner** (E.B. Pump Stations), **Vincent Arce-neaux**, Sr. (W.B. Pump Stations), **Romalice James** (W.B. Pump Stations), **Larry Portier** (E.B. Pump Stations), **Dwayne Detiege** (E.B. Drainage), **Hezzie Jenkins** (W.B. Pump Stations), and **Adrian Sapia** (W.B. Pump Stations).



Thanh Tran with
Drainage Director Mitch Theriot

Engineering

By
Helen McGee

Hello, everyone in Parish Land! Just a quick introduction since I am new with the Engineering Department and as the department's reporter. I am **Helen Sharpe McGee**, Typist Clerk III. I joined Engineering from Fleet Management. I am truly enjoying my new duties and look forward to getting the word out about Engineering and our employees.

Congratulations to **Mickey LeBlanc** on his recent promotion to Project Coordinator.

Well wishes to **Cindy Dominique** on her recent promotion. Cindy accepted a new position in East Bank Water. Good Luck, Cindy; you will be missed.

The Department of Engineering would like to welcome **Britney Davis**, Typist Clerk II. Britney joins us from the Animal Shelter. We are happy to have her and know she will be an asset to Engineering.

Derek Francis joins Engineering from the Department of Code Enforcement. Derek will be working as an Engineering Inspector 1. Welcome aboard, Derrick!

A warm welcome to newcomer **Nicholas Romain**! He accepted the position of Shipping and Receiving Clerk at Central Warehouse. As a new employee with the Parish, I am sure you will enjoy working for Engineering.

Congratulations are also in order to Newcomer **Nicholas Romain** and wife **Ashleigh Romain** on the birth of their child on November 13. New Job, new baby! Way to Go!

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

I wish everyone a blessed Holiday season. WOW! It's hard to believe 2012 is almost in the history books!

Juvenile Services wishes to recognize these outstanding employees who were named **"EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH"**:

AUGUST 2012

William Corkern, Juv. Detention Officer; **Lisa Cole**, Vocational Counselor II

SEPTEMBER

Brett Jackson, Juv. Detention Officer; **Lori Winters**, Typist Clerk III

OCTOBER 2012

John Beauregard, Detention Officer; **John Ryals**, Evaluation & Treatment Manager



Mark Duplessis, Colleen George, Brittany Webb, and Krista Jerome

NOVEMBER 2012

Danny Alexander, Juv. Detention Officer; **Allan Kagan**, Juv. Probation Officer

East and West Bank staff shared the spirit of Halloween dressing up! It brought a smile to all the staff. Maybe next year we will have more ghouls and goblins running around!

WELCOME TO NEW EMPLOYEES: **Charles Bradley, Joseph Dyson, Pierre Hollins, and Kianna Simmons.**



Engineering's Leo Lay and Director Mark Drewes congratulate Inspector Robert Arseneaux (center) upon his retirement

FAREWELL to **Natalie Williams, Frank Schiro, Lanika Parker, Charissa Williams, Ashley Rome, Pamela Kent, Margaret Lumas, Lloyd Morgan, and Deanna Lawson.** We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

On November 19, the Correctional Options /Intensive Probation Program(s) held a Job Skills/ Social Skills Workshop with probationers. There were several guest speakers who gave presentations on career and mentorship opportunities, which included a barber who gave free haircuts!

A great big “SHOUT OUT” to **Nancy Arceneaux, Julie House, Allan Kagan, and Carolyn Robinson** for spearheading our Thanksgiving luncheon held Friday, November 16. They worked very hard organizing the delectable event. Everyone had a wonderful time!



Juvenile Services' Thanksgiving Committee: front row left to right Julie House and Nancy Arceneaux, 2nd row left to right Allan Kagan and Carolyn Robinson.

Alario Center

By
Deirdre Cummings

Bonding Time!

On National Boss's Day, General Manager **Lydia Folse** and Alario Center employees enjoyed a day at Nola Motor Sports.

Alario Center Projects

A variety of projects will soon begin around the complex, including roof repairs and repairs to the hardwood floors resulting from Hurricane Isaac. We soon hope to have like-new courts with new paint and wax finishes.

Best Wishes

Wishing all fellow Parish employees the best throughout this upcoming Holiday season.



Front Row: Deirdre Cummings, Lydia Folse, Dana Cook and Sharon McDowell
Back Row: Drew Copponex, Montgomery Creamer and Michael Samardzija

Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

The Emergency Management Department began September in the midst of Hurricane Isaac activation. The new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) building was put to the test for the first time in full activation and came through with flying colors. All aspects of the facility were utilized as both EOC Operations Teams A and B were activated.

We are very proud of the personnel that worked through this storm. All the training & preparing that we have provided to the EOC Operations Teams were tested, and they came through like champs. No two disasters will ever be the same, but the response and recovery modes from the disaster usually run in a very similar pattern. The diverse skills and talents throughout the Parish excelled throughout the response. Whether at the EOC or carrying out tasks and assignments throughout the Parish, it seemed this first run of a major activation of the EOC went very well.



Karen Daviss

Congratulations to **Karen Daviss** on her promotion from Emer-



The Emergency Operations Center in full activation for Hurricane Isaac

gency Management Coordinator II to the new EMS Compliance Specialist. She will continue to serve within our department and also work Emergency Management functions during EOC activations.

Congratulations to **Timothy Gautreau, Jr.**, for receiving his 5-year service pin. Timmy joined our department. Best wishes for many more rewarding years with us.

Finally, Emergency Management wishes everyone a Happy & Safe Holiday Season. Please remember the brave men and women of our Armed Services in your thoughts and prayers during the holiday season.

Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

We are happy to announce **Juliette Cassagne's** promotion to Assistant Director. **Juliette** was supervisor in the Comprehensive Planning & Research Section.

A warm welcome is extended to our new staff members: **Kimberly Thibodeaux**, Typist Clerk III, who had formerly worked for Jeffcap; **Walter Reeves**, Planner III; and **Bill Spivey**, Planner II.

We bid a fond farewell to **Nicolette Jones**, Graduate Student Intern who graduated from UNO in Urban and Regional Planning and welcome our new Graduate Student Intern, **Brooke Perry**.



Walt Reeves, Kimberly Thibodeaux, and Bill Spivey

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

“SPOTLIGHT” SEGMENT

Every day, we speak with our co-workers in other departments, and never get to learn anything about them or what they do in the Parish. In each *Jeff Talk* issue, I'll be “spotlighting” a Department of Sewerage employee by sharing some information about them and what they do.

In this issue, “*The Spotlight is on Adolph Grimes.*” Adolph is a Line Repair Superintendent II for our Westbank Lines Division. He has been with the Parish for 28 years.

Adolph began work with the Parish as a Laborer at our Eastbank Lines Division. He worked his way up to Operator III, then to Foreman, and in 2006 to Superintendent I at our Westbank Lines Division. Earlier this year, Adolph was promoted to Superintendent II at Westbank Lines. Adolph's responsibilities include investigation of Westbank Lines complaints, supervision of all Westbank Lines employees, and the scheduling of their jobs.

When asked to share some of his feelings about the job he does, Adolph had this to say: “I have enjoyed every moment of climbing up the ladder of success. I am thankful for my Parish family. One of the most thankful moments was when I had to go serve my country. The support I got from my Parish family was unbelievable. At this time, I feel that I supervise the best department employees ever. I thank my family for the support and understanding that they show me when I have to leave them to be with my second family.”



“Spotlight” on Superintendent Adolph Grimes

THANK YOU TO OUR HARD-WORKING EMPLOYEES!

In recognition of all of their hard work and dedication during Hurricane Isaac, Department of Sewerage employees were treated to a Fish Fry Lunch on Friday, November 9, 2012. Everyone gathered at our Westbank yard and enjoyed a delicious lunch of fried fish, shrimp, jambalaya, and potato salad.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

George Gandy was promoted from Sewerage Maintenance Foreman to Superintendent I with our Westbank Lines Division. George has been employed with the Parish for 28 years.



George Gandy

Craig Bradley was promoted from Sewerage Maintenance Foreman to Superintendent I

with our Eastbank Lines Division. Craig has been employed with the Parish for 19 years.

John Jessie was promoted from Sewerage Maintenance Foreman to Superintendent I with our Eastbank Lines Division. John has been employed with the Parish for 22 years.

Donald Jackson was promoted from Sewerage Maintenance Foreman to Superintendent I with our Westbank Lines Division. Donald has been employed with the Parish for 24 years.

Brett Todd was promoted from Operations and Maintenance Manager to Assistant Director. Brett has been employed with the Parish for 23 years.

Michael Rogers was promoted from Laborer to Laborer Semi-Skilled at our Marrero Treatment Plant. Michael has been employed with the Parish for 1 year.

Rose Martin was promoted from Typist Clerk II to Typist Clerk III at our Administration Office. Rose has been employed with the Parish for 16 years.

Frank Chivleatto was promoted from Engineering Inspector III to Project Coordinator.

Frank has been employed with the Parish for 10 years.

Henry Burns was promoted from

Laborer to Laborer Semi-Skilled with our Eastbank Lines Division. Henry has been employed with the Parish for 3 years.

Gennard Davis was promoted from Laborer to Laborer Semi-Skilled with our Eastbank Lines Division. Gennard has been employed with the Parish for 1 year.

George Jackson was promoted from Laborer to Laborer Semi-Skilled with our East Bank Lift Stations Division. George has been employed with the Parish for 2 years.

Dwayne Holmes was promoted from Laborer Semi-Skilled to Sewerage Maintenance Foreman with our West Bank Lines Division. Dwayne has been employed with the Parish for 13 years.

Jason Johnson was promoted from Equipment Operator IV to Sewerage Maintenance Foreman with our East Bank Lines Division. Jason has been employed with the Parish for 13 years.

Congratulations to the following employees who recently received their Service Pin Awards:

15 YEARS: Christopher Fernandez, Jerome Justin, and Reginald King

10 YEARS: Frederick Chopin

5 YEARS: Charles Mushatt

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

Marquel Stackhouse – Laborer, Westbank Lines

Jaron Coler – Laborer, Westbank Lines

Kevin Johnson, Jr. – Laborer, Eastbank Lift Stations

Horace Porter, Jr. – Laborer, Eastbank Lift Stations

Brennen Dupre – Laborer, Westbank Lift Stations

Animal Shelter

By
Danielle Williams

New Employees:

We would like to welcome some new employees to the Animal Shelter: **Jessica Barrilleaux**, Animal Care Attendant; **Dominique Leach**, Animal Care Attendant; **Kevin Toups**, Animal Care Attendant; and **Barbara Borel**, Animal Care Specialist.

New Arrival:

Congratulations to Animal Care Attendant **David Jackson** on the birth of his son. David Jackson Jr. was born on September 28, 2012.

Goodbye:

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to our dispatcher **Britney Davis**. Britney is leaving the Animal Shelter to take a promotion in the Engineering Department. Good luck, Britney. We will all miss you.



Britney Davis

Pet Fest:

Our annual Pet Fest was held on Sunday November 18, 2012. Citizens could bring their pets for a day of fun, food, and pet adoptions. Various rescue groups and animal shelters were on hand with wonderful animals that needed great homes. You could also have your dog DNA tested. In all, about 8 animals were adopted from the East and Westbank shelters. Pet Fest happens every year in November, and we hope next year is even better.



Sewerage employees line up for delicious seafood at their November Fish-Fry Luncheon

JeffCap

By
Catina Ward

Transfers: Cheryl Joseph:

Cheryl, there may be many words to describe you but one will never use the words stagnant, complacent, or simply put, afraid to describe your character.

Your diligence to succeed in all you do can be used as an example to anyone watching.

We wish Cheryl well and Good Luck!



Cheryl Joseph

Retiree: Kitty Fortenberry:

The saying goes two mountains may never meet but two people will. And if you've never had the opportunity to be graced with the presence of this carefree, quick-witted spirit, then just be patient because you're in for a treat.

Kitty has stories of daily evenings at the fantastic, eventful parties at the Elks and let's not forget all those crazy road trips with family and friends that will have you bent over in your seat. She is the true meaning of live each day like it's your last.

So from one free spirit to another, I say that you're physically gone but your presence

will always be here from the footprint left behind.

We wish Kitty well and keep on keeping on.

Head Start: Ann Bridges:

JeffCap would like to give a big warm welcome to **Mrs. Ann Bridges**, who is no stranger to the department but new to the office. She transferred from Head Start and is just getting to know us. I hope our hospitality has made you feel right at home.

RSVP

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Coordinator, **Sevilla Finley**, enjoyed being a guest at two Thanksgiving luncheons. One was hosted by the Harvey Community Center on November



RSVP Coordinator Sevilla Finley

9, and the second was November 15 at the Marrero Community Senior Center hosted by the Marrero Senior Citizen's Guild. The baked macaroni prepared by **Ms. Polly Ra'oof** of the Harvey Center was just like her late mother used to make.



Serving the Thanksgiving lunch to the seniors at the Harvey Community Center are Ms. Polly Ra'oof, Community Service Counselor; Darcell Florence, JeffCAP Administrative Management Specialist III; and Darlene McKinnies, Harvey Center Supervisor.

Library

By
Daniel Gitlin

**New Grand Isle Library
Now Open**

The brand new Grand Isle Library opened to the citizens of Jefferson Parish on Wednesday, November 14, 2012. The new building replaces a Cybermobile Library given by the Muncie, Indiana, Public Library, and “Gertie,” a 32-foot bookmobile, from the Waukegan Public Library of Waukegan, Illinois. Both temporary facilities were donated after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed the original building in 2005.

“I invite everyone to visit us and see the new state-of-the-art technology we have, including loanable laptops, downloadable e-books and a Smart Table,” says Grand Isle Head Librarian **Tom Giroir**. “Of course, for our faithful readers of all ages, we have a completely new book collection. Ah, that new book smell, there’s nothing like it.”

A grand opening celebration will be held on December 13,

2012, which will include a ribbon-cutting, music, food, and special programs. Guest speakers will include Parish President **John F. Young, Jr.**, Councilman At Large **Chris Roberts**, Councilman **Ricky J. Templet**, Grand Isle Mayor **David Camardelle**, and Library Interim Director **Marylyn P. Haddican**.

The library is located at 143 Ludwig Lane in Grand Isle next to Grand Isle Town Hall.

**Marylyn P. Haddican New
Interim Director**

On November 14, 2012, Parish President **John F. Young, Jr.** announced that **Marylyn P. Haddican**, a Library employee for the past 30 years, would be the new Interim Director for the Library System.

She will become the permanent director if approved by the Jefferson Parish Council.

Ms. Haddican had previously served as the Internet Librarian in the Information Technology/ Training Dept., and was responsible for the Integrated Library System Online and securing



Marylyn Haddican

funding through the Federal Government ERATE Technology Program. She started her career as a library page and rose to work in management positions at the East Bank Regional, West Bank Regional, Charles A. Wagner, Lakeshore, and Lobby libraries.

Ms. Haddican has a Master of Library Sciences degree from LSU and earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of New Orleans.

Parish President Young stated that Ms. Haddican is “uniquely qualified to lead the 16 locations of the Jefferson Parish Public Library System into the future.” The entire Library Department would like to congratulate Marylyn P. Haddican on her appointment.

The library would like to welcome **Lisa Kirchner**, **Nashaunta Robinson**, and **Vanessa Sellers** to the East Bank Regional Library Circulation Team! All three will be full-time pages at the library on W. Napoleon Ave.

Also, welcome to **Gregory Johnson**, Old Metairie Library Associate, and **Peter Martin**, Shipping & Receiving/Stock Clerk.



The beautiful new Grand Isle Library just opened

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

New Employees

The Department of Environmental Affairs would like to welcome two (2) new Environmental Quality Technicians, **Lily Zhou** and **Diane Coughlin**.

Lily is a graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. She has held several positions with the National Parks Service and is trained as a forest fire fighter. She comes to the Parish from the Jean Lafitte National Park, where she served as a Park Ranger for the Barataria Preserve, the French Quarter Visitor Center, and the Chalmette Battlefield. Lily is currently our Coastal Programs Technician.

Diane recently received her master's degree in Aquatic Ecology from the University of Southern Mississippi. Diane also holds a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from UNO. She served as a teaching assistant while working on her master's degree. Diane is our Stormwater Program Technician.

Environmental Conference

In early October, several Environmental Affairs employees attended the Water Environment Federation Technical Conference (WEFTEC) which was held at the Morial Convention Center. WEFTEC is the largest water quality convention in the world and was attended by almost 20,000 people from all over the U. S. and the world. They gained valuable knowledge from speaking with the exhibitors and inter-

acting with other water quality professionals.

Margaret Fonseca, Typist Clerk III, and her husband, **Mike Fonseca**, Yenni Building Property Manager, once again spent Thanksgiving in Gatlinburg, Tennessee attending the Turkey Bowl with their grandson Coedy. Coedy represented the Jefferson Parish Recreation Department as part of the JPRD Bulldogs football team.

Clean-up Thanks

Thank you to all Environmental and Public Works crews that supplemented the contracted debris pick-up after Hurricane Isaac. Public Works crews alone collected 387.5 tons of black bags of storm-generated debris. In total, the contractors and Parish employees collected a total of 7,945 tons of additional bagged waste and approximately 217,000 cubic yards of loose vegetative debris and 65,520 cubic yards of construction demolition debris over a six-week period to restore the Parish to normal conditions. All of the vegetative debris was recycled by chipping and either using as fill material or composting.

Annual Poster Contest

Our annual Non-Point Source Pollution and Solutions Poster/Essay Contest has begun. Letters were sent out to all of the elementary and middle schools in Jefferson Parish urging their students to participate. The contest is open to third- through eighth-graders. Third- through sixth-graders submit posters and seventh- and eighth-graders submit one-page essays. The post-

ers and essays are due in January, and an awards ceremony will be held in April. Our Stormwater Program staff is busy conducting EnviroScape model presentations at schools who want to participate.

Holiday Tips

With the holiday season upon us, it is important to remember that if you fry a turkey, please do not dump the grease in the storm drains. Not only is the practice illegal, but it will clog the drains and cause flooding when it rains. Louisiana Oilworks, a Kenner-based company, will pick up used fryer oil from residences. Please contact Louisiana Oilworks at (504) 451-2261 for more information. The oil will be used to make biodiesel. Also, this year residents of unincorporated Jefferson Parish are reminded that greeting cards and gift wrap may be placed in their recycling bins to be recycled.



Drainage Director Mitch Theriot congratulates Donald Smith upon his retirement

Health Issues

By
Peggy Brannan, RN



A Positive Outlook

Do you feel like your life is going full steam ahead, stuck in neutral, or perhaps even going in reverse? Of what value do you see your life? What prospects do you see for your future? The way we choose, *yes choose*, to look at life has a very powerful impact on every aspect of our lives. Be it for our good or our detriment, our perspective on life is the result of how we interpret and internalize all of our life experiences.

It is always interesting to observe how siblings who are raised under similar conditions and experiences grow up to have such diverse outlooks on life. One is the eternal optimist, while the other is the ultimate victim. Leo Buscaglia, PhD, the son of Italian immigrants in the early 1900s, sky-rocketed to fame as an author, motivational speaker, and college professor. He truly was the eternal optimist. As a young poor boy, he was unable to speak the language in his “new” country, yet he overcame the obstacles. In his talks, he would reflect on how he and his siblings would reminisce on their childhood. His was of glowing images of a loving home, but theirs were in stark contrast to his.

A pessimistic outlook can damage your health, physically

and mentally. Chemicals the body releases when stressed can cause high blood pressure, high blood sugar, lowered immunity, insomnia, anxiety, weight loss or gain, or depression.

But don’t despair: Just because you have had your present mindset for so long does not mean you cannot change your attitude. Remember that you are responsible for the way you *choose* to look at life.

Of what value do you see your life? You have your own particular gifts and talents that make you unique. Have you discovered your gifts and talents? For some it may be the talent to solve any math problem thrown their way. For others, the gift of empathy with a comforting smile. Many people don’t even recognize their gifts and talents. Sometimes it takes another individual to point out the good in us. Take a moment to point out to your co-workers the gifts and talents that you see in them! I’m sure you will make their day!

Often what we consider to be our curses really turn out to be

our blessings. For example, you detest the fact that your loved one with dementia uses a wheelchair. However, the wheelchair allows you to control your loved one during dementia outbursts; thus they do not need to be placed in a nursing home. The curse becomes the blessing! You can probably find many other examples!

Are you pleased with the direction your life is taking? If not, don’t be discouraged. If you find yourself to be in a rut, take heart, life has a way of healing itself. Decide today that you will be open to all the opportunities life has to offer. Decide to see your curses as your blessings! And, if needed, change your path if your current path is leading you down a dead-end.

May the New Year offer many opportunities to see the world in a different way that brings you a sense of purpose, and well-being! Who knows, tomorrow may bring that chance encounter, a change in your perception, or a life-altering event that can change your life FOREVER for the BETTER!!



The Diversity Advisory Board met at the Unified Command Center in the EOC on November 16, 2012, to discuss plans for Diversity Awareness Week in January 2013 and to share a pre-holiday lunch.

Retirements

Dwayne Detiege
Drainage
36 years

Joel Roussell
Engineering
33 years

Ralph Martin
Streets
33 years

Donald Smith
Drainage
32 years

Charles Deffner
Drainage
30 years

Charles Christina
Traffic Engineering
30 years

Sam Wiley
Recreation
30 years

Thanh Tran
Drainage
30 years

Vincent Arceneaux, Sr.
Drainage
29 years

Roland Blanchard
Drainage
29 years

Margaret Meyers
Water
28 years

Larry Portier
Drainage
27 years

Mary Arcement
Human Resources
26 years

Clarence Bernard
General Services
26 years

Lena Stockstill
Accounting
25 years

Anthony Lobue
Drainage
23 years

Angela Cotham
General Services
22 years

Kenneth Cyprian
Juvenile Services
22 years

Mary-Catherine Sharp
Library
21 years

Evandus Lambert
JeffCAP
21 years

James Bush
Community Development
17 years

Alphonse Chauvin
Code Enforcement
17 years

Romalace James
Drainage
15 years

Caleb Smith
JeffCAP
15 years

Warren Bergeron
Code
14 years

Richard Babin
Water
14 years