



Volume 34
 Number 1
 February 2013

Jefferson

Message from the Parish President. . .

A Time To Enjoy

Jefferson Parish is looking forward to another big crowd throughout this Carnival season, particularly on Fat Tuesday itself. Last year we entertained nearly 1 million people along our parade route. This year, we are looking forward to welcoming Super Bowl visitors to our family-friendly events, such as Family Gras.

Family Gras has evolved into a great tradition in Jefferson, each year drawing local families and more visitors from around the metropolitan area, the Gulf Coast, and across the country and world to join in the fun, free concerts, food, and festivities.

The Jefferson Convention and Visitors Bureau reports hotel occupancy in Jefferson Parish is near or at capacity with both Super Bowl and Family Gras visitors contributing to our local economy.

Little Rascals kicked off the 2013 Carnival season, and there are 14 more exciting parades scheduled through February 12, including the Elks and Jefferson Trucks parades.

Traditionally, Jefferson Parish provides more than 300 personnel to assist with parades, barricades, and public services on both the East and West Banks. Among them are



John F. Young
 Parish President

our employees from Traffic Engineering, Parkways, Engineering, Streets, Public Works, Water, Sewerage, Animal Shelter, Citizens Affairs, Code Enforcement, Public Information, Parks & Recreation, General Services, Emergency Management, Fleet Management, and Jefferson Parish firefighters.

I want to thank our employees who help ensure Jefferson Parish offers a memorable experience for all through the Carnival season.

We sincerely appreciate the hard work and commitment of the Jefferson Parish Council and the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and recognize their continued support in making Family Gras, Carnival, and Mardi Gras a great success year after year.

Have a safe and Happy Mardi Gras!

JeffTalk

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- Emergency Management**
Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**
Helen McGee
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Kathy Russo
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Glenn Schiro
- Code Enforcement**
Ruth "Kappy" Day
- JeffCAP**
Catina Ward
- Juvenile Services**
Arlyn Smith
- Library**
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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

I have two exciting announcements to share with you all this month. One involves a scholarship opportunity and the other some professional help with financial planning.

NACo/Nationwide scholarship

Nationwide Retirement Solutions, our 457 deferred compensation provider, is once again teaming with NACo (the National Association of Counties) to sponsor an essay contest for high school seniors. The seniors must submit a short essay on why early saving for retirement is important to public sector employees.

To be eligible for the contest, students must be high school seniors with a parent or grandparent currently enrolled in a NACo 457 Deferred Comp Program. The students must also enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study by the fall of 2013.

Applications can be found on line and must be submitted by March 3, 2013. You can find the application and more information on Nationwide's site: www.nrsforu.com/scholarship.

Last year, the son of one of our fellow Parish employees won one of these scholarships. Let's see if we can win another!

Financial Planning Classes

The second news that I'm pleased to pass on is the financial planning classes that are to be of-



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

fered by JPEFCU (our Credit Union). Here are the topics:

- Managing Income and expenses
- Credit Reports and Scores
- Setting Goals and Priorities
- Keeping Debt under Control
- Using Credit Wisely
- Building Savings
- Important Papers Reference Guide
- Avoiding Identity Theft

You can read the Credit Union's announcement on the Intranet by looking under Human Resource Management—Training. The announcement provides a brief description of each class. The first two classes have been scheduled as follows:

East Bank: Wednesday, February 27; Yenni Building, Suite 405

West Bank : Thursday, February 28; GGB, Suites 3503 & 3506.

The topics will be *Managing Income and Expenses: Getting from Here to There* and *Credit Reports and Credit Scores: Getting the Most Mileage from Credit*.

All sessions will be 9:00 till 11:00 a.m. You can send registrations to the Training Unit of Human Resource Management. I hope you will take advantage of this wonderful educational opportunity.

Code Enforcement

By
Ruth "Kappy" Day

SERVICE PINS

Congratulations to the following Code employees who recently received service pins for reaching milestones in their career with Jefferson Parish.

5 years: Eva Day, Mirtile Dugas, Karen Favorite, Tachel Ferguson, Derek Francis, Merlin Gresse, Charlene Jones, Tim Pierre, Sharon Salvato, Dan Suchand, Tess Verrett, Carolyn Webber, Dorothy Williams.

10 years: Liz Berge, Gary Lay, Harold Logrande, Reid Macaluso, Allen Orgeron, Wanda Willhoft.

15 years: Scott Baracco, Tommy Baxter, Catherine Bennett, Kurt Cavalier, Mary Claire Gates, Kelly McMurray, Nicole Meynard, John Singletary, Alberta Wright.

20 years: Edmond St. Romain. Thanks to all of you for your years of service!



Code's East Bank Service Pin Recipients

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Code Enforcement welcomes the following new employees: **Donny Phillips**, East Bank Building; **Allan Suess**, West Bank Building; and **Rodney Miller**, East Bank Plumbing. Also welcome to new PMZ Inspectors **Leslie Gardner** and **James McPherson**. Thanks for joining our team.

We say goodbye to **Janice Bruno**, **Donald Morgan**, **Doug Pertuit**, **Warren Probst**, and **Linda Roy**, who all recently retired. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

BABIES

Love and best wishes to two new little girls in our Code family! **Erin Myers**, of West Bank Electrical, gave birth January 15 to her second daughter, Sarai Lynn; and **Kim Tarleton** in our East Bank Cashier's Office became a grandmother again when her second granddaughter, Kennedy Christel, was born November 17. Congratulations, ladies!



Edmond St. Romain with Code Director Tiffany Wilken



Code's West Bank Service Pin Recipients

WELCOME BACK!

After an extended absence, **Charlene Jones**, Department Secretary, is back in the Director's Office. Other Code employees (**Robin Lanusse**, **Mariea Lambert**, and **Kappy Day**) pitched in to help while Charlene was out, but the office wasn't the same without her! Welcome back, Charlene. We missed you!

Planning

By
Marilyn Slutskey

We are happy to announce the birth of **Liane Trick's** son Jackson on November 19. Liane is a Planner II in Current Planning.

Larry Massey was recently promoted to Planner III in Long-Range Planning as the new supervisor. Congratulations, Larry!



Larry Massey

We bid a fond farewell to **Katrina Van Every**, Planner II. Katrina just accepted a planning job in Jackson, Wyoming, closer to her Washington State home.

Congratulations to **Sue Durabb**, who retired on January 4 after over 34 years in the Planning Department. We miss Sue and wish her a happy retirement!



Sue Durabb

Our sincere sympathy to **Darlene Duet** and her family on the passing of her father, Harold G. Riehm Sr. on December 29, 2012.

Welcome to two new Planner II's: **Brian Markey** will be working in Long-Range Planning; and **Shane Yokum** will be working in Current Planning.

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

Mardi Gras

It's that time of year again, and while everyone will be having a great time at Mardi Gras, our streets will need a good cleaning afterwards. Thanks to everyone in our department who will labor to keep Jefferson Parish beautiful through this busy Carnival season.

New Employees

We welcome our new employees: **Bobbie J. Lambert** is a Laborer with the Westbank Maintenance Department; and **Alex Green, Jr.**, is a Laborer with our Eastbank Maintenance Department. We hope you both enjoy working with the Streets Department and will be with us for many years to come.

Promotion

Congratulations to **Melvin Adams**, who was promoted to Road Maintenance Foreman in the Drainage Section of Westbank Maintenance Department.

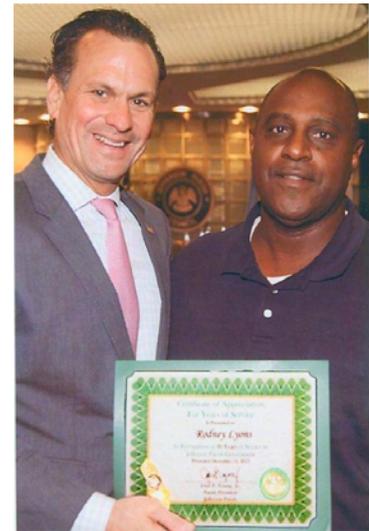
Condolences

Our condolences to the family of our friend, **Robert Edwards**, Truck Driver II with Westbank Maintenance Department, who passed away suddenly and will be greatly missed.

Our condolences also to **Stanley, Ronnie, and Rickey Walker**, employees with Eastbank Maintenance Department who lost their father **L.W. Walker**. We're so very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Service Pins

Service Pins were recently awarded to Streets employees with 30 years of service with the Parish, and they are: **Pam Bourgeois, Rodney Lyons, Rose Lanansa, Rodney Jessie, and Scott Walker**.



President Young with
Rodney Lyons

A Service Pin was also awarded to **Gregory Williams** with 25 years of service.

Congratulations to all of you on this wonderful accomplishment



Rose Lanansa with
President Young

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

WELCOME: **Debra Story** and **Tamika Smith**, Juvenile Probation Officers; **Yasmenda Lumzy**, Typist Clerk II; and **Douglas White**, Juvenile Detention Officer.

FAREWELL: **Akassa Smith**, Juvenile Detention Officer.

PROMOTIONS:

Shelena Martin was promoted from Cook I to Institutional Housekeeper; **Allan Kagan** and **Gloria Meiskey** were promoted from Juvenile Probation Officer II to Juvenile Probation Officer III, Supervisor. **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

SYMPATHY:

Juvenile Services grieves with the family of Probation Officer **Donya Decou-Snowton**. On January 10th, her Marrero home caught fire. Donya and five of the children made it out, but their 15-year old daughter, Diante, did not. Her father, Generald, ran into the house to save her. Both were critically injured. Diante died at Children’s Hospital on January 14 as a result of her injuries.

The family lost not only their child, but their home. They need our continued prayers and support. Juvenile Services, Juvenile Court, Clerk of Court, and District Attorney’s staff held a benefit luncheon on January 25 to assist the family with expenses. An account has been set up at Chase Bank in the name of **Decou-Snowton Family Fund** for anyone wishing to make a contribution.



“Marvelous Marvin” Lowe with JS Supervisor (and Ace Reporter) Arlyn Smith

RETIREMENT:

DJS bids *Adieu, Aloha, Farewell, Adios, Ciao, etc...*, to **Marvin J. Lowe**, A.K.A. “**Marvelous Marvin**,” who retired from his position of Warehouse Supervisor I, on January 11, after 30 years of loyal, dedicated, hard- working service. Mr. Lowe personified the values of a Jefferson Parish Government Employee. He truly placed the “Public First,” “Pursued Excellence,” “Responded Positively to Change” (there were many!), “Respected Others,” and was “Community Minded.” Marvin was loved by all and will surely be missed. We wish him all the best in his retirement!

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:

December 2012: **Anthony Sparks**, Juvenile Detention Officer; **Phyllis Jefferson**, Juvenile Probation Officer

January 2013: **Gaynell Dumas**, Juvenile Detention Officer; **Mark Duplessis**, Juvenile Probation Officer

SERVICE PIN AWARDS:

In December the following Juvenile Services employees were recognized for their years of service at a pin ceremony held

in the Council Chambers at the Yenni Building. Thanks to them for their loyal and dedicated service to Jefferson Parish.

20 Years: **Michelle Malone**, Typist Clerk

25 Years: **Danny Alexander**, Juvenile Detention Officer, and **Terence Dixon**, Juvenile Detention Home Supervisor, Assistant



Danny Alexander

30 Years: **Herman Price**, Maintenance Repairman, and **Arlyn Smith**, Executive Assistant

35 Years: **Marshall Jackson** and **Janice Jenkins**, On-Call Juvenile Detention Officers

DJS held a “Door/Work Space Decorating” contest over the holidays. Congratulations to our creative and talented winners who are as follows:

- 1st Place: **Linda Bostick**
- 2nd Place: **Debra Story**
- 3rd Place: **Julie House**

Diversity Advisory Board

By
Crystal Heine

The DAB (Diversity Advisory Board) welcomed many new members in October 2012. Members are requested to serve a minimum of a one-year term, and each member of the board is also a member of one of the four committees formed in July 2012: Membership, Media, Education, and Activities.

On January 8, 2013, elections were held for the two co-chair positions and the recording secretary. Congratulations to **Cheryl Legohn-Tubbs** and **Kim Melancon**, who will serve in 2013 as the co-chairs, and **Nichole Gaubert**, who will serve as the 2013 recording secretary.



Cheryl Legohn-Tubbs

And thank you to **Darcell Florence**, **Alice White**, and **Deidre Cummings** for the time and effort you put in during your tenures.

The DAB sponsored the first “Diversity Awareness Week” in January (see photos next page). The board voted and chose the color orange to acknowledge the diversity of Jefferson Parish and its employees. The board, with

help from Citizens’ Affairs and the Parish Presidents’ Office, cut and pinned over three thousand orange ribbons and delivered them to the departments so employees could wear them all week to acknowledge the diversity within Jefferson Parish. On behalf of the DAB, thank you to those who helped with the rib-



Deidre Cummings

bons as this could not have been done without your help!

New in 2013 is a DAB brochure that was created and approved for distribution and will soon be available on the parish website and emailed to the directors to print for employees.

Drainage

By
Ron Fuxan

Welcome and Congratulations!

We would like to welcome the following new employees to the Department of Drainage: **Allen Orgeron**, **David Kleinschmidt**, **Clyde Posey**, **Brian Baudoin**, **James Green**, **Brian Iglus**, **Robert Marrero**, **Douglas Ellzey**, **Joshua Polk**, **Jason Cheramie**, **Armand Bellanger**, **Darrell Rhea**, **James Cocurullo**, and **Caleb Simmons**.

Also, we would like to congratulate the following for their recent promotions: **Renard Foster** as Maintenance Foreman, **Bryan Carriere** as Pump Station Op. I, **Quincy Sanders** as P.S. Op. II, **Curtis Coleman** as Laborer Lead Worker, **Anthony Giglio** as P.S. Op. I, **Adam Mataya** as Trades Helper, **Elaine Washington** as Equipment Op. III, **Lamar Heisser** as Equipment Op. III, **Aaron Lewis** as Laborer Semi-skilled, and **Milton Betton** as Laborer Semi-skilled.



Drainage Director Mitch Theriot (3rd from right) with Service Pin Award Winners: Jason Alexander (20 years); Brett Hunter, Sr. (25 years); Benjy Perkins (25 years); Joseph Rivere (25 years); and Perry Andras, Sr. (30 years)

Jefferson Parish Diversity Awareness Week—January 14-18, 2013

Employees throughout the Parish wear orange ribbons to celebrate diversity.



Water

By
Amy T. Miller

With Christmas behind us and Mardi Gras in full swing, the Water Department hopes all Parish employees had a great New Year and wish to extend our good wishes into the upcoming weeks of parades and Superbowl merriment. Before the festivities begin, we hope you take a moment to find out the latest events in the Water Department.

NEW EMPLOYEES

Water would like to welcome several new faces: **Christopher Gai** is our new Shipping and Receiving Clerk; **Darnell Hawkins** is the newest edition to WB Outside Maintenance; **Benjamin Guidroz** joined the WB Utility Billing Department; and **Ronald Johnson** has filled the position of Water Service Inspector I. **Kylie Harvey Perre** transferred to Utility Billing from Accounting. Welcome aboard, Kylie. And a round of applause to **Dorina Gauthreaux** and **Tamisha Washington**, who were promoted from Utility Billing Collector I to Utility Billing Collector II, and to **Shantell Harrell** on her promotion to Service Inspector II.



Kazem Alikhani, President John Young, and Director Doug Vincent (back row) with 30-year employees Roland Lafleur, Paula Richard, Dorothy Hayes, and Jimmy Fisher.

Several employees are taking the Water Purification exams and passing with flying colors: **Bobbie Wilson** has received his Class II Water Treatment license, **Keisha Barnes** received her Class IV Water Production License, **James Neely** completed Water Treatment III classes, and **Michael Barthelemy** and Lawrence Aymami were promoted to Water Purification Operator II's. Congratulations, all!

SERVICE PINS

Service pins were awarded to the following employees:
5 years: **Bobbi Wilson**, **Osai Bailey**, **Aaron Foster**, **Leon James**, **Erica Collins**, **Cherell**

Gardere, **Bridget Smith-Johnson**, **Betty Turner**, **Kendra Washington**, **Allen Wells** and **Keeland Cheraminee**.

10 years: **Wardell Vontoure, Jr.**
15 years: **Donnie Hidalgo**, **Julia Arceneaux**, and **Patricia Boudreaux**.

30-Year Service Pins were given to the following employees:

Alexander Baker and **Paula Richard** of EB Distribution; **Quincy Monette** of the EB Treatment Plant; **Randy Arnold** of EB Utility Billing; **Roland Lafleur** of the WB Water Plant; Superintendent **Jimmy Fisher** of WB Distribution; and **Dorothy Hayes** of the WB Distribution. Water thanks all for your years of service!

FIELD TRIP

The Administrative Office was treated to a tour of the EB Water Treatment Plant by Superintendents **David Bertucci** and **Jeff Tassin**. We learned a lot on our tour about how much goes into serving the people of Jefferson Parish with clean water. We were able to observe the water intake systems, chemical treatments and emergency procedures, as well as the day-to-day operations of the plant. Thanks, David and Jeff!



On the "Field Trip: Laura Pagoaga, Cynthia Dominique, Kathy Theriot, David Bertucci, Jesse Rosenfeld, Jeff Tassin, Cynetra Smith, and Destiny Bratton.

Engineering

By
Helen Sharpe McGee

Happy New Year! Everyone in Engineering hopes you all are sticking to those New Year's Resolutions! We know that it is hard, but we can do it!!!

Wedding Bells!

The Department of Engineering offers its congratulations to **Matthew Zeringue** on his marriage to Alison Ruth. The lovely couple was married on January 26, 2013. Congratulations!

Diversity Week

Engineering Department employees proudly wore their orange ribbons to celebrate the third anniversary of Diversity Week.

Welcome Aboard

We would like to welcome our new employee, **David Montalbano**, who has been hired as shipping and receiving clerk in the warehouse. We are happy to have you on board, David.



Dianna Dutreix, Britney Davis, Jane Guimbellot, Kivana Cole and Helen McGee proudly display their Diversity Ribbons.

Service Pin Winners

Congratulations are in order for the following employees who recently received service pin awards from Engineering Director **Mark Drewes**.

Recipients with 30 years of services were: **Mark Morris**, EB Warehouse, and **Eric McJilton**, WB Warehouse; **Mike Quebedaux**, of Scada.

Twenty-five years of Service: **Alfred Tonguis** of Surveying

Recipients with 15 years of Service: **Ray Mowla**, **Ken Schexnayder**, and **William (Barry) Sims** of Engineering; **Edgar Lane**, E/B Warehouse, and **Jason Phillips**, Scada

Recipients with 10 years of Service were: **Ricardo Delos Reyes** and **Charles Schmuck**, both of Drafting; and **Lorraine D. Jackson** of W/B Warehouse.



Ricardo De Los Reyes and Charles Schmuck

And employees receiving 5-year pins were **Shane Bradford**, Inspections; **Robert Fortenberry**, **Kelly Obaugh**, **Aronold Wharton** of W/B Warehouse; and **Claudetta Golston** of E/B Warehouse.

Have a safe and happy Mardi Gras!



Leo Lay and Engineering Director Mark Drewes flank 15-year service pin recipients Ray Mowla and Ken Schexnayder

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism & David Stout

Welcome to our newest employee, **Reginald Allo**, Sign Technician I. Reginald is a great addition to Traffic Engineering, and we're happy to have him with us!



New Sign Tech I
Reginald Allo

Service Pins

Service pins were awarded to several employees for their dedication to Jefferson Parish. **Clyde Wingate**, Signal Technician II, and **James Vasquez**, Sign De-



President Young with 30-year Traffic Engineering Supervisor Kenny Lachney

signer, 5 years of service; **Angelo Barrera**, Signal Technician II, 15 years of service.



Sign Tech II Roosevelt Baggett

Receiving pins from President **John Young** at an awards ceremony held at the Yenni Building, **Roosevelt Baggett**, Sign Technician II, 25 years of

service, **Kenneth Lachney**, Sign & Marking Foreman, 30 years of service, and **Armand J. Kerlec**, Sign & Marking Superintendent II, 35 years. Congrats, guys!!



This space "reserved"—
for Armand Kerlec

We would like to wish our crews a very safe Mardi Gras season. Our Division is crucial in the groundwork and execution of the Jefferson Parish parades.

To our Traffic Engineers that ensure all routes are safe for the oversized floats to travel, our Sign Division that installs and removes the Mardi Gras signs, and our Signal crew that not only escorts the parades, but also ensures that all floats have a safe route by maintaining a safe signal height for the floats--Thank you all for helping make Mardi Gras 2013 possible. Countless hours are put in by our entire Division, and we certainly appreciate your hard work!!



Signal supervisor David Stout and Engineering Director Mark Drewes congratulate Signal Technician Angelo Barrera for 15 years of service

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 Randy Alexander.*” Randy is a Trades Helper at our Marrero Wastewater Treatment Plant. He has been with the Parish for almost 31 years. Randy began work with the Parish as a Laborer in 1982 and was promoted to Trades Helper in 1995.



“Spotlight” on
Randy Alexander

When asked to share some of his feelings about the job he does, Randy had this to say – “First and foremost, I would like to thank God for blessing me to work with the Sewerage Department for 30 years. While working here I’ve met a lot of people. I can truly say we are family, friends, and a very close-knit ‘Bunch.’ It makes the job go so much smoother, and coming to work so much easier.

It’s only God’s grace and mercy that allow me to be here and acquire so many friends for 30 wonderful years.”

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Tyrone Lawrence** (Lift Station Inspector), who retired on January 4, 2013. Tyrone retired from our Eastbank Lift Stations Division with over 10 years of service.

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

Lawrence Bates was promoted from Lift Station Inspector to Truck Driver II with our Eastbank Lines Division. Lawrence has been employed with the Parish for 1½ years.

Timothy Kennedy was promoted from Equipment Operator III to Sewerage Maintenance Foreman with our Westbank Lines Division. Timothy has been employed with the Parish for 15 years.

Aaron Whitney was promoted from Truck Driver II to Equipment Operator III with our Eastbank Lines Division. Aaron has been employed with the Parish for 1½ years.

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

15 YEARS: **America Brooks** and **Timothy Kennedy**

5 YEARS: **Tyrone Alexander** and **Brett Ramsak**



Timothy Kennedy

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

Ruben Rivera, Jr. – Trades Helper, Westbank Lift Stations

Laykia Skinner – Laborer, Westbank Lift Stations

Nicholas Ramsak – Laborer, Westbank Lift Stations

Dontae’ Thompson – Laborer, Westbank Lines

Department of Sewerage Administration Office employees participated in Jefferson Parish Diversity Awareness Week, wearing orange ribbons the week of January 14 – 18, 2013.



Sewerage Director Linda Daly and Superintendent Morris Sapia with America Brooks

Emergency Management

By
Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade

Emergency Management has been actively involved during this Carnival season by providing emergency services support on the parade route. The Emergency Management Mobile Command Post Vehicle will be positioned at Causeway and Veterans throughout the Carnival season.



Timmy Gautreau and Director David Dysart

Congratulations to **Timothy “Timmy” S. Gautreau, Jr.**, who recently received his 5- year service pin. He is a Coordinator II responsible for training, exercises, and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). Timmy is anxiously awaiting the birth of his first grandchild from his son, Tray, and daughter-in-law, Lindsay.

We wish everyone a safe and Happy Mardi Gras.

JeffCAP

By
Catina Ward

Transfers:

In life there are no guarantees, and as the old folks say tell GOD your plan and make him laugh. **Kiesler Lee** was a caterpillar in a cocoon waiting for her time to become the beautiful butterfly and spread her wings. We hope that her new colleagues can appreciate the presence that we’re missing. We wish you well, Goldie

Kywinna James was a counselor on Monday, clerk on Tuesday, Secretary on Wednesday, and a friend and dedicated worker to many all week. The center is truly missing its jack of all trades. She mastered them all! Good Luck & Farewell.

Promotions:

There is nothing better than when a new challenge is offered to you because of your hard work and dedication. This is just a little reminder to all of you that it’s your time to shine. So as you take on your new positions, feel free to keep shining as bright as you can. It only gets

better with time. Without further ado, congratulations to all of you: **Sharlene Adams, Ann Bridges, Jeanette Brown, Kalondra Ellison, Michelle Luke, Taisha Muse, Rochelle Rabathaly, and Nancy Williams.**

Retiring:

Ms. **Sevilla Finley** was a 17-year employee with Community Development. In the past 7 months she has been JeffCAP’s RSVP Coordinator.



Sevilla Finley

Sevilla has been very instrumental in helping Citizens Affairs recruit volunteers for what is now known as the information desk at the General Government Building. Ms. Sevilla is a wealth of knowledge. Anything asked of her she could answer or she would find out and make sure to tell you the next day. Ms. Sevilla has a love for books and journalism, and although she’s retiring you can bet your bottom dollar she’ll be reading or looking for a historical project to get into.

Ms. Sevilla, we know that you have spent most of your time working over the years, but now that you’re retiring, I hope you take some time for yourself and really enjoy retirement.

On behalf of JeffCap and Community Development and all your dedicated years of service, we wish many many more years of lifelong happiness. Thanks for everything,



Emergency Management’s Mobile Command Post Vehicle

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Welcome, Susie.

We welcome **Susie Cunningham**, HR's new Executive Assistant. Susie started with the Parish in 1985 and worked for 12 years in Water. After taking 12 years off to raise her family, Susie returned to Water in 2009. We are glad that Susie is a member of the HR staff, and we wish her the best in her new job.



Susie Cunningham

Safety Classes.

Wayne Jones, Safety Officer, taught a Backhoe/Compact Excavator Safety course in December. The course included classroom and field instruction. **Eric Thompson** (Water), **Gregory Hunter** (Streets), and **Aaron**

Whitney (Sewerage) successfully completed the course. In January, Wayne taught the Crawler/Dozer Safety Class. **Kris Christofell**, **George Singleton**, **Anthony Corpora**, **Maverick Charles**, **David Fray** and **Ronal Tew** – all from Parks and Recreation - completed the new course. For details about either class, please contact Wayne at either 736-6421 or wjones@jeffparish.net.

Defensive Driving

The Defensive Driving Class- a four-hour instructional program offered through the National Safety Council – is open to all Parish employees. If you are a Parish employee but do not drive a Parish vehicle or drive your own car on Parish business, you can enroll in a Defensive Driving class. Please check with your supervisor if you are interested in registering for an upcoming Defensive Driving class.

For more information about the Defensive Driving class, call or e-mail Glenn Schiro in Training at 736-6128 or gschiro@jeffparish.net.

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

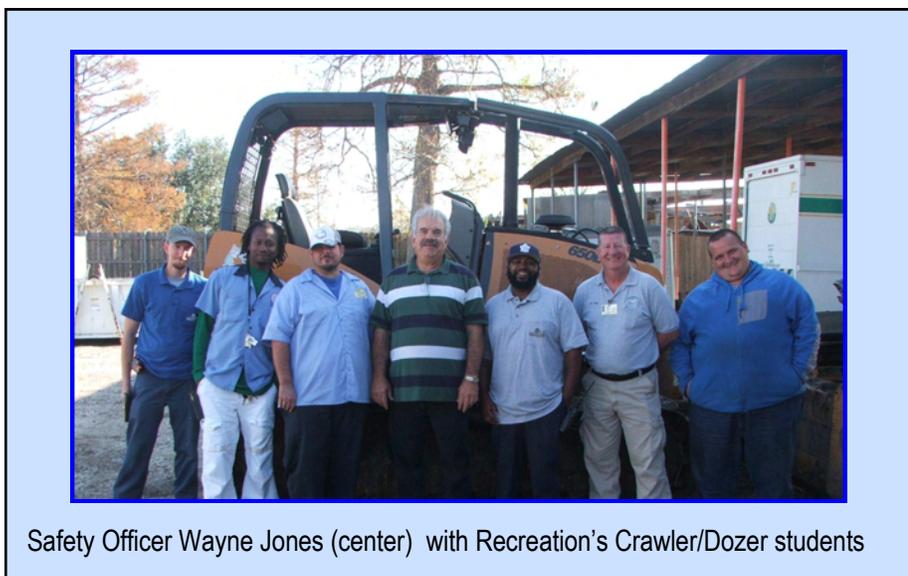
Our 2013 *Spring Activity Guide*, which includes Summer Camp plus other activities and programs for January through May is available on our website at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page, or can be obtained at all local playgrounds and libraries. The 2013 Summer Guide will be available in early April. For information about any of our programs, call the respective office (East Bank – 736-6999 or West Bank 349-5000) or e-mail jprecreation@jeffparish.net

Congratulations to the following on their promotions – **Maverick Charles** to EB Maintenance Supervisor – Grounds; **Cherie Dunn** to Recreation Special Program Supervisor in EB Leisure Service; **Kyle Beske** to EB Recreation Maintenance Supervisor – Buildings; **Terry Duhe** to Tradeshelper in EB Maintenance; **Paul Champagne** to Tradeshelper in EB Maintenance; **Jonathan Bryant** to Assistant Recreation Center Supervisor at Pontiff Playground; **Felix Dorsey** to Tradeshelper in WB Maintenance; **Brandon Labourdette** to Assistant Recreation Center Supervisor at PARD Playground; **Danielle Williams** – Typist Clerk III in WB Athletics.

Congratulations to **Danielle** and **Eric Williams** upon the birth of their son, Brycen on December 10, 2012.

Get well wishes to **Marion Doucet** at the EB Main Office.

Congratulations to our RETIR-



Safety Officer Wayne Jones (center) with Recreation's Crawler/Dozer students

EES! **Vic Caldarara** (EB Main Office – November); **Miriam Miller** (EB Athletics - December); **Cita Marchese** (WB Leisure Service - December); **Sandy Davis** (WB Athletics – December); **Debbie Ford** (EB Administration - January)

Lafreniere Park Update:

USA NFL Flag Football Championship was held Tues, Jan 29. Six (6) fields were used for the event. (Photo below)



West Bank Update:

Avondale Playground New Tot Lot has been completed.
 Avondale and Waggaman Gym air conditioning - in progress.
 Harvard Walk Track now has a new shelter
 Kings Grant Tot Lot – work in progress



Sporting Diversity Ribbons: Barry McGuinness (seated) with John Doyle, Becky Letort, Cheryl Anderson, Phyllis Breaud, and Antoinette Williams

Kings Grant Elevator/Room renovations – Work to be done after Summer Camp
 Lincolnshire - two new elliptical machines will be installed
 Oakdale Gym – new roof is almost complete
 Rose Thorne gym air conditioning is complete
 Terrytown Tot Lot – work in progress
 Interior gym metal ceilings/walls at PARD, Oakdale and Waggaman – work should begin soon.
 Parc des Familles Pressbox/Concession nearing completion

East Bank Update:

Bright Playground Tot Lot and Shelter – work in progress
 Girard Playground – new roof over rooms and gym AC/heating in progress, soon to be completed.
 Lakeshore Playground – new tennis will soon open
 Owens Playground – work is in progress on major interior and exterior renovations.
 Williams Playlot – the storeroom to classroom project is complete.

Bonnabel Boat Launch

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



West Bank Recreation recognizing Diversity Week

Library

By
Daniel Gitlin

New Coffee Shop to Open at East Bank Regional

The East Bank Regional Library will soon be home to a new coffee shop! The coffee shop, Cup N Chaucer, is scheduled to open in February. The small café will help make the library a more inviting destination for parish residents.

Library Takes Part in Holiday in the Park

The Library teamed up with the Recreation Department in December and provided visitors of Holiday in the Park with free entertainment and information!

Storytime performances on the main stage helped the Library promote its services to the thousands who attended the light spectacle at Lafreniere Park in Metairie. **Selena Muhoberac**, Teen Librarian, organized a very successful event for the library! Thank you, Selena!

Retirements, Promotions & New Hires

Thank you to **Eleanor Bunch**, Typist Clerk III, who recently retired from the Library in December. Ms. Ellie, as she is known by



Max Perez, Selena Muhoberac, and Shannon Kitchens-Stonicher



Jennifer LaBurre celebrates Holiday in the Park with "Frosty"

her co-workers, was originally hired by the Library Department in September 1979. The library community sends its appreciation to Ms. Ellie for her 33 devoted years in the department!

Congratulations are in order for the following employees who were promoted during the past few months: **Danielle Joachim**, Librarian II, was promoted from Library Associate and is the new Branch Manager at the Harahan Library; **Sheila Bradford**, Librarian II, was promoted from Library Associate and is the new Branch Manager at the Charles A. Wagner Library in Metairie; and **Linda Spencer**, Librarian II, was promoted from Library Associate and is now working in the Reference Department at East Bank Regional.

Also, congratulations to the following employees who were recently promoted to Library Associates: **Jennifer Dumas** (East Bank Floater/Substitute), **Jaymie LaFleur** (Edith S. Lawson Library in Westwego), **Andy Pham** (Terrytown Library), **Manuel "Max" V. Perez de la Mesa** (North Kenner

Library) and **Camilla Wiik** (Gretna Library).

The Library would like to welcome the following employees who recently joined the library team: **Tara Taylor**, Library Page, East Bank Regional; **Angelita Espino**, Librarian II, Children's Department at Jane O'Brien Chatelain Westbank Regional; and **Margaret Castleberry**, Librarian II, Technical Services at East Bank Regional.



"Ms. Ellie" Bunch is congratulated by Library Director Marylynn Haddican

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

Welcome Aboard!

We would like to welcome a new employee to our Pretreatment Division. **Emily Federer** has joined our department as an Environmental Quality Technician. We look forward to working with you.

Condolences

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of **Margaret Fonseca**, Clerk Typist III, and wife of Yenni Building Property Manager **Mike Fonseca**. Margaret passed away suddenly on December 2, 2012. Margaret was a warm, dynamic person and a valuable member of our team, and we miss her so very much. We offer our condolences to Mike and the entire Fonseca family.

On December 14, 2012, three Environmental Affairs employees were honored at the 2012 Service Award Pin Ceremony. **Marnie Winter**, our Director, received

her pin for 30 years of service; **Kathy Russo**, Industrial Development and Research Coordinator, received her 25-year pin and **Carla Montalbano**, Secretary, received her 20-year pin. We would like to congratulate these employees on their years of dedicated service.

We recently completed the 23rd Annual Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project by placing recycled Christmas trees in pre-constructed shoreline fences to trap sediment to restore and protect fragile wetlands near Lafitte. This year, all Christmas trees collected were recycled for a beneficial re-use, either in marsh restoration or as part of a pilot composting project done in coordination with Wood Materials, LLC.

We want to recognize **Jason Smith**, Coastal Program Supervisor, for a job well done, along with our staff members and department project partners, the Departments of Parkways, Streets, and Fleet Management,



Jason Smith

who worked in advance and during the volunteer event, for making sure that the project ran smoothly. Without their manpower and equipment, this project would not be possible. We share the success of this year's project with all of these departments!

We want to thank Judge John Molaison for assigning court-appointed community service workers to assist with the labor-intensive tasks. We also want to give a special thanks to the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office LASER Division, and the many Fire Departments, including East Bank Consolidated, Avondale, Davey Crockett, Kenner, Lafitte, Live Oak Manor, Nine Mile Point, and Westwego, all of whom provided boats and labor. A big thank you goes out to the Department of Juvenile Services, Food Services Division's Rivarde staff, for providing a delicious lunch for our many volunteers.

Last, but not least, we were delighted that Parish President **John Young** dropped in, took a boat tour of the project sites, and even tossed a few Christmas trees into the crib fences.



Carla Montalbano and Kathy Russo with President Young and Environmental's Assistant Director Katherine Costanza

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branan, RN



Controlling Our Habits

Have you ever gotten into your car and once arrived at your destination, had no recollection of your journey? Have you ever sat down to watch a movie and the next thing you know, you've eaten a WHOLE bag of chips? Have you ever found yourself automatically lighting up a cigarette when answering the phone? What do these scenarios have in common? Conscious decision-making was not a factor. What implications can that have on our well-being?

Humans are "creatures of habit." The brain is wired to develop into a "habit" that which is repeated often. The brain does not discriminate whether it is a "good" or "bad" thing; all that matters is that it is repeated often. This point should give hope that one CAN change a "bad" habit!

Much of what we do is out of habit. These habits manifest in our thoughts, behaviors, and emotional or physiological responses. Sometimes we have behaved or held beliefs for so long that it doesn't even cross our consciousness to behave differently. As a result, we often live much of our lives on automatic pilot. However, acting on automatic pilot isn't all bad. If we had to think through every action we took, it would be very draining on us. Fortunately, much of what we do on a daily basis is out of habit, such as hold-

ing onto your chair to steady yourself before standing or looking both ways before crossing the street. On the other hand, harmful habits can pop up and derail us from reaching an optimal level of well-being. For example, associating sweets with being loved can be the result of behaviors passed down from one's mother, grandmother, etc.

So, what are we to think about our habits? Any habit that has a negative effect on our mental state or physical well-being qualifies as a habit to shake loose from! Take an honest look at your life. Are you pleased with where you are physically and mentally? What is holding you back from being what you would like to be? Are there any habits that you can identify that are a hindrance? If yes, then how do you erase that habit from the brain?

The brain has a very short attention span. It is only concerned with the next ten minutes. Often when you develop an urge for something, if you don't give in to it and focus your attention onto something else for the next several minutes, that urge will pass. As you can imagine, it takes a total commitment to overcome urges that become so routine that they do not even rise to conscious level. Again, with repetition, over time, one can stop a habit.

So, how do you identify negative habits? What are you doing that is harmful to you mentally, physically, financially, etc.? How do you rate your health? Are you currently under treatment for any medical conditions? Do you have a family history of medical/mental conditions that may place you at a

greater risk? Are you aware of anything that you are doing that is detrimental to your health? If you are having trouble identifying anything, you may want to consult with your doctor.

How can you strategize to change negative habits? You may find it helpful to write down all of the habits/actions that you know you need to stop. Also, write down the triggers that prompt that negative habit/action. For example, when going grocery shopping, you always go up and down every aisle. Of course, you are always drawn to pick up your favorite candy on the candy aisle. It would be better to write a list of healthy grocery items and avoid those not in your best interest. If you find yourself lighting up a cigarette when the phone rings, place the cigarettes far from the phone, making it inconvenient to light up. Keep a list of positive messages to refer to when you are plagued with negative thoughts. Consciously think about what you are doing, as well as the consequences. Ask yourself if you need to eat that candy, as opposed to a healthier snack. Or even better, just drink a glass of water.

If you want to break a negative habit, you should replace it with a positive habit. Also, the more importance you give to the change you need to make, the more likely you will be to change. Every time you replace a negative action with a positive action, contemplate how being in control empowered you. Make the commitment to change, and with repetition, you really can make those positive habits become a part of your consciousness and unconsciousness! And finally, you have to REALLY want to change!! So start now by changing the "I can't," to "I CAN!"

Retirements

Anna Winfield
Recreation
35 years

Susan Durabb
Planning
34 years

Linda Roy
Code Enforcement
33 years

Eleanor Bunch
Library
33 years

Marycita Marchese
Recreation
32 years

Marvin Lowe
Juvenile Services
30 years

Debra Ford
Recreation
24 years

Adrian Sapia
Draiangne
22 years

Hezzie Jenkins
Drainage
22 years

Janice Bruno
Code Enforcement
21 years

Victor Caldarara
Recreation
20 years

Warren Probst
Code Enforcement
18 years

Sevilla Finley
JeffCAP
18 years

Alvin Millet, Jr.
General Services
18 years

Miriam Miller
Recreation
16 years

Sandra Davis
Recreation
15 years

Patricia Reed
Environmental
11 years

Diversity Week Recognized in Jefferson



The Department of Sewerage gets into the Diversity Spirit.