



Volume 34
Number 2
April 2013

Jefferson

Message from the Parish President. . .

Recognizing Some of Our Own

As your Parish President, I take pride in knowing our Jefferson Parish employees are hard-working and deeply dedicated to serving the citizens of this great parish. That daily dedication and commitment to public service are often recognized by agencies and organizations from across the country.

I would like to share with you the recent national recognition some of our co-workers, colleagues, and citizens have received for their efforts and actions.

Congratulations to our Department of Environmental Affairs and to the Keep Jefferson Parish Beautiful Advisory Board for receiving the 2012 KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL "President's Circle Recognition Award" recognizing their achievements and their standards of excellence. Marnie Winter, Kathy Costanza, Fay Doucet, Carol De-laune, Colleen Landry, Mary Crumb, and Carey Hammet deserve a round of applause.

The National Roadside Vegetation Management Association (NRVMA) selected Don Cole, Horticulturist in Jefferson Parish Parkways and Public Works, to receive the



John F. Young
Parish President

prestigious Turney Hernandez Award of Excellence for 2012.

Don is among only four individuals chosen nationwide for excellence in roadside vegetation management. The Turney Hernandez Award of Excellence recognizes Don's aggressive direction to enhance drainage and beautification in Jefferson Parish, particularly after several devastating disasters, including Hurricane Katrina and the BP/Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster.

On behalf of all the citizens of Jefferson Parish, I would like to congratulate Don and the Keep Jefferson Parish Beautiful Advisory Board, and I want to thank all of our employees who remain dedicated to making Jefferson Parish a progressive, friendly, safe, and clean place to live, work, and raise a family.

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**
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Sandra Ancar-Encalade
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Gwen Styron & Jerry Savarese
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Chantell Prestenbach
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Nicolle Byars
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- Streets**
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Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**
Patricia Lyons
- Water**
Amy Miller
- Workforce Connection**
Frances Turner

Editor's



Notes

**Sexual Harassment Training
 Coming for All Employees**

In 2004 Jefferson Parish became one of the first local governments in Louisiana to provide workplace harassment and discrimination training for its supervisors. Since then, all Parish supervisors have attended a harassment and discrimination class every two years. In addition, all new Parish supervisors receive this training as part of their Basic Supervision course.

Beginning in 2013, however, we will be providing sexual harassment training—not just for our supervisors, but for ALL Parish employees. Last year the Legislature passed a concurrent resolution directing all local governments to provide an hour of such training to all employees annually. In order to comply with the resolution, we have created a training program entitled *The Respectful Workplace: Understanding and Eliminating Sexual Harassment*.

The program will define sexual harassment and the related concept of gender discrimination. Among the topics that the program covers are:

- Recognizing inappropriate behaviors in the workplace
- An overview of federal discrimination laws
- How the courts view harassment in the workplace



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

- Two types of sexual harassment
- The responsibilities of employees and supervisors
- Complaint procedures
- Gender stereotyping
- Third-party harassment
- Retaliation

The program will be mandatory for all employees and will be available, beginning later this spring, as a live classroom training as well as an on-line program. It will include several realistic workplace situations; participants will evaluate the situations as to whether or not sexual harassment is taking place.

You will be receiving instructions from your departments regarding your compliance with this mandatory training. Most employees will be viewing the on-line version—either on their own computers at work or at computer stations made available by their departments. To receive credit for the program, you will need to enter your employee number and Payroll password—the password you use to access your electronic paystub.

I'm sure most of you will find the one-hour program interesting and enlightening. I believe it will help ensure that Jefferson Parish remains a place where we can work together with dignity and respect.

Water

By
Amy T. Miller

Springtime in Jefferson Parish brings St. Patrick's Day parades, baseball games, and the Easter Bunny. Along with longer days and warmer weather, it also is the beginning of wedding season: The Water Department would like to congratulate two of our employees on their recent marriages. Congratulations are in order for EB Waterline Maintenance Foreman **Joseph Butler** and his lovely bride Shana Moore, who wed on March 9; and WB Troubleshooter **Araven Jones**, who married Warren Ingram on Friday, March 8. We wish both couples joy and happiness throughout their marriages.

New Employees-

The Water Department would also like to welcome some new additions to our department: The Grand Isle division has a new laborer, **Raymond Bradberry**; WB Utility Billing has a new Water Service Inspector I, **Jose Torres**; and the EB Treatment



Doug Pertuit and Doug Vincent with 5-year pin recipients Osai Bailey, Erica Collins, Betty Turner, Kendra Washington, Leon James, Bridget Smith-Johnson, and Aaron Johnson

Plant has a new Pump Equipment Mechanic, **Ronald Bradley**. Welcome aboard!

Promotions-

We would also like to announce two promotions in our department: **Eugene Stanson** of the EB Treatment Plant has been promoted to Water Purification

Operator II and **Charlene Singleton** of WB Utility Billing has been promoted to Utility Billing Clerk II. Good Job!

Fond Farewells-

In other news, we bid farewell to **Anne Collick** of the Water Lab, who has relocated to Virginia. **Derren Harris** has transferred from Utility Billing as a Troubleshooter to the Library Department. We wish both of you the best of luck in all your endeavors.

Condolences-

Our condolences go out to **Raynell Stevenson** of the Water Lab, who recently lost his mother. We are very sorry for your loss, and our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. We did not have enough space in the last edition to include everyone who received Service Pins. We would like to honor those recipients by posting some photos.



Water's Assistant Director Doug Pertuit and Director Doug Vincent flank 15-year pin recipients Donnie Hidalgo, Julia Arseneaux, and Patricia Boudreaux

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

WELCOME:

Brittany Caronia, Ianisha Chairs, and Terinisha Coleman, Juvenile Probation Officers; and, **Eric Vicks,** Juvenile Detention Home Security Guard.

FAREWELL:

Anthony Sparks, Jr., Juvenile Detention Officer.

PROMOTIONS:

Charles Ward was promoted from Maintenance Repairman to Warehouse Supervisor, and **Candy Jones** was promoted from Juvenile Detention Home Security Guard to Juvenile Detention Officer. **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

BABY NEWS:

Congratulations to Probation Officer **Danielle Phillips,** who gave birth to a baby boy, Johnathan, on February 7, weighing in at 7 pounds, 20 inches long.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

February: **Michelle Allen,** Juv. Detention Home Security Guard; **Tion McGhee,** Juvenile Probation Officer

March: **Shelana Martin,** Institutional Housekeeper; **Chantrell Cook,** Juvenile Probation Officer

SERVICE PIN AWARDS:

The following Juvenile Services employees were recognized at a monthly staff meeting and presented with their service pins by Director **Roy Juncker:**

5 YEARS:

Nancy Arceneaux, Volunteer Service Supervisor
William Corkern, Juvenile Detention Officer
Daniel Lea, Typist Clerk
Ronjela Clay, Juvenile Probation Officer
Donya Decou-Snowton, Juvenile Probation Officer
Julie House, Juvenile Probation Officer



Nancy Arceneaux

10 YEARS:

Kynan Davis, Juvenile Detention Officer
Denise Gilson, Mental Health Professional
Myron Hayes, Juvenile Detention Officer
Christopher Trosclair, Assistant Director

15 YEARS:

Shernell Shephard, Juvenile Probation Officer

DJS had a work space/door decorating contest which covered both Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day. The lucky winners were:

- 1st Place: **Debra Story**
- 2nd Place: **Linda Bostick**
- 3rd Place: **Charles Bradley**

Diversity Advisory Board

By
Crystal Heine

The Employee Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) is in the process of amending its *Rules of Organization* and hopes to vote on the amendments at its next regularly scheduled meeting on April 15, 2013.

Not all Parish departments have representatives on the DAB. Thus, members are being asked to volunteer, not only to represent the department they work for, but to adopt another department so that every department in the Parish is represented.

It's important that all departments are assigned to a member of DAB, especially when it comes to Parish-wide projects – like collecting recipes for the employee cookbook *Jefferson Parish Cooks!* – so that we can be assured that everyone in every department is included. And, in case you haven't recently taken a look at all the great recipes that were submitted by Parish employees for our cookbook, you may find *Jefferson Parish Cooks!* anytime on the Employee Intranet Portal in "Departmental Pages" under the link "Employee Diversity Advisory Board."

Committee Captains for 2013 are **Kim Melancon,** Membership Committee; **Alice White,** Media Committee; and **Darcell Florence,** Activity Committee. The Education Committee Captain position is currently vacant but will be filled at the April 15, 2013, meeting.

The Media and Education Committees are working on posters to display in order to promote the awareness of the diversity in Jefferson Parish.

Engineering

By
Helen Sharpe McGee

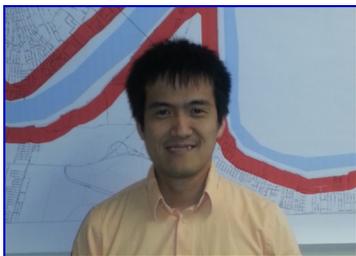
Spring is in the Air! Spring and springtime: time of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection, and regrowth. Time to get our gardens and lawns together!

We would like to welcome our new employee, **Joanna Lee**, who has been hired as a Typist Clerk II. We are happy to have her and know she will be an asset to Engineering.

Engineering also welcomes aboard **Peter Blaha**, Engineering Inspector II.

Several Engineering employees have been accomplishing many great achievements that I must share with you all.

Congratulations to **Chuong Pham** on his promotion to a Professional Engineer. Chuong recently passed the Principles and Practice of Engineering Exam (PE) on his FIRST time taking the test. Congratulation, **Chuong**. We are so proud of you!



Professional Engineer
Chuong Pham

Congratulations to **Shane Bradford** and **Russell Spansel** for completing a week of training in Water Distribution.

And I have news too! I recently was promoted to an Administrative Assistant. I am thankful and grateful for my new position.

Enjoy Life, you only get one!

Drainage

By
Ron Fuxan

Welcome and Congratulations!

We would like to welcome the following new employees to the Department of Drainage: **Jonathan Rivet, Courtney Wilson, Erron Robinson, Michael Leefe, David Howard, Desmond Gaines, Donald Rodrigue, Ulysses Bergeron, Derrick Brown, and Jarcarin Green.**

Also, we would like to congratulate the following for their recent promotions: **Brandon Simmons** as Truck Driver II, **Dimitrius Spencer** as Pump Station Operator I, **Manuel Jackson** as Welder, **Richard Davis** as Maintenance Supt. III, **Aaron Williams** as Laborer Semi-skilled Lead Worker, **Willie Theodore** as Laborer Semi-skilled, and **Larry Smith** as Truck Driver II.

With Great Sadness

We would like to take the time to extend our sincere condolences to those that have lost someone dear to them. **Patricia Rambeau**, Typist Clerk III, experienced the loss of her father on January 31. Also, **Joe Rivere**, Pump Station Superintendent III, experienced the loss of his sister on February 6.

Fond Farewells

We would like to give a sincere thank you and good-bye to our retiree who has left over the past few months: **Randy Rivero** (W.B. Pumps).

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Congratulations to **Robert Hymel** and **Quentin Hills** on their recent promotions to Sign Technician II. Rob and Quentin are doing a fantastic job!!



Robert Hymel & Quentin Hills

Welcome back **Michael Howell, Jr.**, Sign Technician II! Michael is back after a few years away but is now here to stay!!



Michael Howell

And, last, but certainly not least, welcome **Fredrick Addison**, our newly hired Signal Technician I. Fred is excited to join us just as we are to have him!



Fredrick Addison

Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

Congratulations to **Charles Hudson**, who was appointed Interim Director of Emergency Management Department on March 8, 2013. He is a certified Louisiana Emergency Manager and has assisted in the supervision of the Emergency Management Department since 2007. Charles's experience includes 26 years in the fire service with Jefferson Parish.

Charles has also been selected as the 2012 – 2013 Departmental Employee of the Year for the Emergency Management Department. He will be recognized for his outstanding contributions and dedication along with the other departmental honorees on May 1, 2013. Job Well Done!

On February 19-21, Charles attended the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergen-

cy Preparedness (OHSEP) Workshop held February 19 – 21, 2013, in Baton Rouge. The workshop brings together all the Emergency Preparedness Directors throughout the State to discuss numerous emergency preparedness topics such as Hurricane Isaac After Action review, homeland security grants, hazard mitigation planning, budget forecast, mass care, and training.

Timmy Gautreau has joined the ranks of Grandparent for the first time. Kenzie Theresa Gautreau arrived on February 9, 2013, and is the daughter of Timmy's son Tray and daughter-in-law Lindsay.

Best wishes to **Karen C. Daviss**, EMS Compliance Specialist, who is leaving to take a job in the private sector. We wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

Promotion

Congratulations to **Chantell Prestenbach**, who was promoted to Typist Clerk III in Employee Services with the Streets Department. Chantell comes to us from the Parkways Department.

Blood Drive

Eastbank Streets recently participated in a Blood Drive. Thanks to everyone who volunteered. Your donation is very much needed and appreciated.



Collis Linson at the Blood Drive

Departure

We said good-bye to Juanara Jordan Williams, who left us to move to Dallas, TX. We'll miss you, Juanara, and we really hope you're happy in your new home.

Get Well

We wish a speedy recovery to **Heta Babin**, who recently had surgery, and hope she's feeling better.

Condolences

Condolences go to **Hope Zamora**, who recently lost her father. We're very sorry for your loss, Hope. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



Charles Hudson (circled left) at the OHSEP Directors' Workshop

Code Enforcement

By
Ruth "Kappy" Day

MY PERMIT NOW

A new permit tracking software called *My Permit Now* is coming soon to Jefferson Parish! Some of the features include:

- On-line customer portal to allow tracking individual projects.
- Project management component so users can see all requirements of a project – what has been done and what needs to be done.
- Allows uploading of digital plans and related documents.
- Future capabilities will include applying and paying online.

Additional future enhancements will include access to property complaints so that this will truly be a “one stop shop” for all interactions with Code Enforcement. *My Permit Now* runs best on the Firefox browser. Of course, we will still be available by phone, email, and in person to assist citizens. The anticipated deployment of *My Permit Now* is in the first quarter of 2013.

SERVICE PINS

Congratulations to the following Code employees who recently received service pins: *5 years:* **Joe Carrillo, Tony Dabdoub, Jami**



Code's West Bank Service Pin recipients

Daigle, Ron Every, Patricia Finney, Cynthia Krantz, Jason Manning, Debbie Parnell, Jacqueline Taylor. *10 years:* **Cheryl Dufrene, Mark Dugas, Jeanne Guidry, Don Landrieu, Kim Tarleton, Dennis Tucker, Jr., Quiana Vaughn.** *15 years:* **Agnes Gaines, John Maxwell, Helen Pounds.** Thanks to all of you for your years of service!

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Code Enforcement is pleased to announce our Employee of the Year, **Steve Blakesley**, Electrical Inspector II. Due to recent retirements in our East Bank Electrical Section, Steve became the “last man standing” in a section previously staffed by 4 employees. Even with an overwhelming workload, he has han-

dled his increased duties with confidence and professionalism.

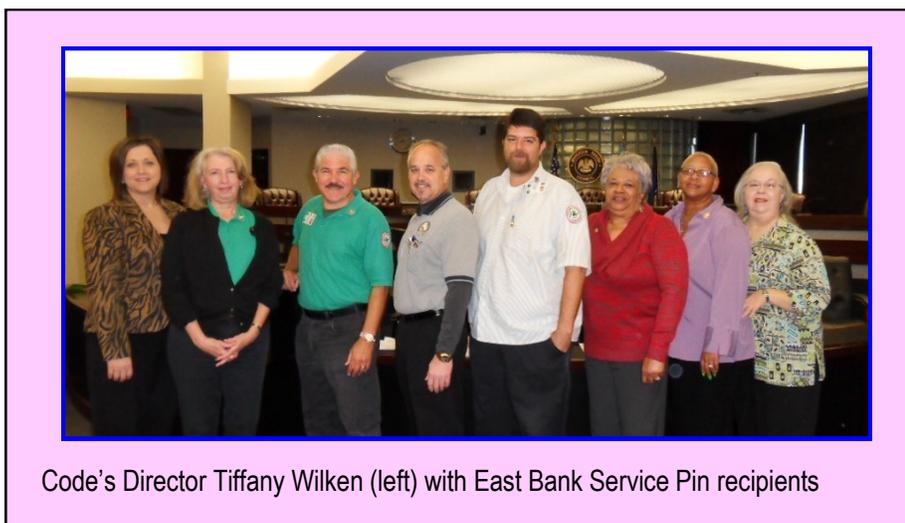


Steve Blakesley

Steve remains dedicated and steadfast, maintaining an exemplary work ethic and a calm and cheerful demeanor. He exhibits all the qualities of an exceptional public servant, showing courtesy and respect to both customers and coworkers. Congratulations, Steve. You're the man!

INS AND OUTS

Code welcomes these new employees: **Mohamad Ardekani**, EB Electrical; **Donna Reamey**, WB Cashiers; and **Britney Davis**, WB Property Maintenance/Zoning. Thanks for joining our team. We say goodbye to these employees in our West Bank offices: **Kurt Cavalier, Fanette Craft, Judy Green, and Gary Hebert.** We'll miss you!



Code's Director Tiffany Wilken (left) with East Bank Service Pin recipients

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Congratulations, Cathy

We congratulate Benefits Specialist **Cathy Leumont**, who is HR Management's Employee of the Year. Cathy started her employment with the Parish in 1990 as a Typist Clerk II in Employee Management. In 1997, Cathy became Benefits Specialist. For all of us who have interacted with Cathy over the years, we know that we can count on her to listen to us and assist us with our Benefits questions and concerns. Cathy is extremely knowledgeable of the complex and ever changing issues that we face with healthcare coverage.

Thank you, Cathy, for always being available and willing to help active employees and retirees with their Benefits.



HR's Benefits Specialist, Wellness Coordinator, and Employee of the Year Cathy Leumont

Safety Training

During March, Safety Officer **Wayne Jones** taught two Backhoe/Compact Excavator courses and two Forklift training courses. Employees from Streets and Sewerage successfully completed the Backhoe course, while employees from General Services and Recreation successfully completed the Forklift Training course.



Recent Forklift students from West Bank Recreation: Steven Williams, Lance Agoff, Percy Burns, Howard Blalock, and Frank Musacchia

2013 Employee Health Fairs

All Jefferson Parish employees are invited to attend the 2013 Health Fairs, which will be held during April and May. The Fairs, sponsored by East Jeff General Hospital, West Jeff Medical Center, and Coventry Health Care, include exhibits and free health screenings for Coventry members. The screenings, which require fasting, include glucose, cholesterol, BMI, and blood pressure. Please bring your Coventry ID card if you wish to take advantage of the free health screenings.

For more information about the Health Fairs – including dates, locations, and times – please check with your department's Benefits Coordinator or with your supervisor.

Let's Eat for the Health of It

During January and February, The LSU Ag Center conducted *Let's Eat for the Health of It*, the second in a series of nutritional classes to help employees learn how to eat healthier. Alexis Navarro and Karen

Walker of the LSU Ag Center taught the six one-hour classes, which included interactive demonstrations, fun activities, and food tasting. Some of the topics covered were reading labels to make better food choices and how to eat less solid fats, added sugars, and salts.

Barbara Galley-Gilbert (Road Lighting) said that she "learned several topics to make meals healthier while enjoying a good meal."

According to **Ricardo De Los Reyes** (Engineering), "Portion control and snacks done in class were awesome and I plan on duplicating them."

Glenn Miller (Sewerage Department) stated "They make learning fun."

Jefferson Parish appreciates all the time and work that the LSU Ag Center put into offering this excellent, affordable program for our employees. Plans are in the works for a summer session, so be on the lookout for the announcement and take advantage of this enjoyable, informative, and HEALTHY program.

Animal Shelter

By
Brooke Bourgeois

NEW EMPLOYEES:

Welcome aboard to the newest Animal Shelter employees! **Melinda Olsen**, East Bank Shelter Manager; **Kacie Maxwell**, Animal Care Specialist; **Bertrand Vicks**, Animal Care Attendant; and **Rachel Harris**, Clerk I.

GOODBYE:

Fond farewell to **Danielle Williams**, Typist Clerk, who transferred to the Recreation Department for a promotional opportunity. We will miss such a valuable team member and friend but congratulate her on her new position!

KREWE OF BARKUS:

On Sunday, January 27, 2013, the Animal Shelter participated in the annual Krewe of Barkus parade! The entire department united and walked through the French Quarter showcasing adoptable dogs in costumes on a beautiful afternoon; and the event was a huge, enjoyable success for employees, shelter animals, and the public who cheered us on!

TOUR FOR LIFE:

On March 23 and 24, the Animal Shelter partnered with the Jefferson SPCA and participated in the North Shore Animal League's Adoptathon at Clearview Mall. Both East and West Bank Shelters brought adoptable dogs and cats, and both days resulted in shelter animals finding their "forever homes"!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

The Animal Shelter is always seeking volunteers to assist both

in and out of the shelters. Volunteers are welcomed at the shelters to help with socializing adoptable animals, bathing and walking dogs, etc. We are also seeking volunteers to assist us on adoption days, which normally take place on Saturdays at Jefferson Feed on Jefferson Highway or Petco on Manhattan Blvd. For more information on volunteer opportunities, please call 504-736-6111 or 504-349-5111.

LOW-COST RABIES VACCINATION CLINIC:

On Sunday, April 21, 2013, the Animal Shelter will hold its annual Rabies Vaccination Clinic. The rabies vaccination included with license and tag will be offered at a cost of \$15 per animal. The vaccinations will be offered at several play-

grounds on both sides of the river. For more information, please call the East Bank Shelter at 504-736-6111 or the West Bank Shelter at 504-349-5111.

KITTEN SEASON:

Due to a very short winter season, kitten season is in full swing! We are always looking for bottle moms to foster litters of kittens who arrive at the shelter without their mothers. Please contact the shelters if you are interested in becoming a bottle mom!

The animal shelter is always full of amazing animals looking to find their forever homes. Our adoption fee is \$67 for both cats and dogs, and that includes spay/neuter, microchip, rabies shot/license, and all vaccinations. All dogs aged 6 months and older are tested for heartworms and all cats FeLV/FIV tested.



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 James Simmons.*” James is a Pump Equipment Mechanic in our Eastbank Lift Stations Division. He began work with the Parish in September 1992, over 20 years ago.

When asked to share some of his feelings about the job he does, James had this to say – After seeking a career change (he was a Chef), he started out as a Laborer with the Department of Sewerage, working with Bill Hartline. Two years later, he was promoted to Mechanic Assistant, working with Glenn Miller. Six short years later, he was promoted to Mechanic. James says that he's worked very hard and considers

himself a mentor and leader to many of his co-workers.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Julian Jessie** on his recent promotion from Equipment Operator III to Sewerage Maintenance Foreman with our Westbank Lines Division. Julian has been employed with the Parish for 15 years.

Congratulations to **Rodney Blanchard** and his wife Stacy on the recent birth of their son, Micah Paul Blanchard. Rodney is Superintendent at our Harvey Wastewater Treatment Plant.

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

Carlos Bernard, Sr. – Lift Station Inspector, Eastbank Lift Stations

Brederick Bryant – Lift Station Inspector, Eastbank Lift Stations

DaSean Jordan – Lift Station Inspector, Westbank Lift Stations

Vance LaFrance, Jr. – Equipment Operator III, Eastbank Lines

Robert Mitchell – Laborer, Eastbank Lines

Library

By
Daniel Gitlin

Library Survey Coming

Director **Marylyn Haddican** is working daily to ensure that the library continues to be a place where members of the community feel represented and at home. As part of a community outreach program, she has worked with the marketing team to create a new library survey that will be available to patrons beginning in April. The survey, available at any library branch and online via (www.jplibrary.net), asks general and specific questions so that the library can better understand the growing needs of the community. Questions range from asking patrons what days and hours they prefer to use the library to asking if there are distractions within the library that inhibit them from having a peaceful experience.

“As a library system it is our obligation to make sure that we are meeting the needs of the community as best as possible,” says Haddican. “It's important to communicate with our users because their opinions may open our eyes to things that need attention.”

The survey will be available for two months - from mid-April to mid-June. Afterwards, results will be tallied and reviewed to see which steps need to be taken to improve the library system.

“It's impractical to think that we are doing everything perfectly,” says Haddican. “Libraries are about change and growth, and the best voices to listen to are of the people we serve every day.”



Lift Station Mechanic James Simmons

Library Employees Star in Marketing Campaign

For the second straight year, the Library will be promoting National Library Week with an in-house poster campaign starring library employees. More than 40 employees have volunteered to be in posters that will be displayed at all library branches during National Library Week (April 15-20).

Employees are given the opportunity to pose with their favorite book, movie, magazine, or other library material. The posters not only show off the wide array of materials available at the library, but also help the patrons feel more connected to the librarians at the branches.

All steps of the process, from the photos to the poster prints, are done in-house using library materials.

Thank You, Connie, For 30 Terrific Years

Thank you to **Connie Mashia**, Interlibrary Loan Department,



Connie Mashia (right) at her retirement luncheon with Stephanie Brumfield



Library's Sealy Faught, Irene Lunkin, and Alice Hubbard celebrate 15 years with the Parish

who recently retired from the library in March. Connie spent 30 years working for the library after beginning her career in September 1982. She was presented with a plaque by Library Director Marylyn Haddican and with a special retirement luncheon by her coworkers.

Before she left, Connie sent a heartfelt message to her coworkers, stating "It has been a wonderful experience to have worked with such hard-working individuals. Well, it's time to cut off my computer, finish my cataloging duties, and start another chapter."

We all wish Connie the best and thank her for her dedication and commitment.

Service Pins Awarded To Library Employees

Congratulations to the following library employees who were recently awarded service pins.

15 Year Service Pins: Daniel Cangelosi, Sealy Faught, Alice Hubbard, Irene Lunkin, and Maude Thomas.

10 Year Service Pins: Stephanie Brumfield, Trisha D'Aquin, Monica Ezelle, Rosalie Guidroz, David Harlan, Daniel Ledet, and Luticha Perkins.

5 Year Service Pins: Gary Bourgeois, D'Juan Foster, Albert Lusnia, Nathan McArthur, Bill McKee, Ricardo Mesa, Camilla Wiik, Alison Williams and Susan Williams.

Welcome New Employees

Welcome to the following new employees: **Lucille Chaix**, Associate (floater/sub); **Breagh Derbes**, Associate (floater/sub); **Mary Ellen Kenyon**, Associate (floater/sub); **Margaret Perrillioux**, Associate (Belle Terre); **Mona Richoux**, Custodian (Grand Isle); **Ray Robles**, Page (EBR); and **Angela Tircuit**, Page (WBR).

JeffCAP

By
Catina Ward

RSVP:

JeffCap is proud to display its seniors at their best, showing off the lady in them. Below are a couple of photos from the 2013 Senior Expo. The first is a photo of our coordinator **Ms. Kalondra Ellison** with Ms. Linda Sanchez, a volunteer of the new Info desk located at the General Government Building. The next photo is of more dedicated volunteers of the Bridge City Community Center, Ms. Shirley Edwards and Ms. Patricia Scott, who's also a retired employee of JeffCAP. It goes to show you that you can take the job away but the worker in you will always be. Thanks for giving back, Ms. Pat.

Transfers:

Shawn Martin, whom I found here at JeffCap and I thought would never leave, has left the building after many years of service. She has trained employee after employee to do every job in the center. She's trained not only her colleagues but some of the current center supervisors as well. In life we have to know when it's time to just walk away and run through the next open door. I pray that the door that has



Linda Sanchez and Kalondra Ellison at the Senior Expo

opened for her leads her to something more fulfilling. If you've never heard it before on behalf of the entire Management staff, we appreciated everything you did and Best Wishes.



Shawn Martin

Promotions:

Cappri Lebeaux

I would first like to extend a big apology to Ms. **Cappri Lebeaux**, who's our Dorothy Watson Center Supervisor and has been for some time. Every accomplishment should be acknowledged big or small. Cappri was promoted from Counselor to Center Supervisor. She was one of very many people who worked closely with and was trained by Ms. Shawn Martin. Shawn made it known that Cappri's promotion was over-looked. This was a selfless act on her part but also was a good reflection of the good supervisor Cappri has become. She has been able to maintain the center operating very strongly even when short staffed. Go ahead, Cappri, pat yourself on the back. You deserve it.

New Hire:

Amy Hellmers

Amy Hellmers, who was hired as our new LiHeap clerk,

is doing a GREAT JOB filling in temporarily as our payroll clerk. Amy, being a real trouper, has really gotten the swing of things. Without hesitation she jumped into the job, which was no problem since she has had previous experience with payroll. She is no stranger to the Parish either. This is Amy's third run with the Parish and hopefully this third time is a charm. Welcome aboard and Good Job.

Jessica Laurendine

Welcome aboard, Ms. Jessica, your arrival has been long awaited. A great attitude and organization skills are all you need. I hope your stay here will be nothing less than interesting but very informative. Again Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

LiHeap (Low Income Home Energy Program)

has officially reopened and we're taking applications. Please contact your local community center within your area for an appointment.



Shirley Edwards and Patricia Scott

Citizens' Affairs

By
Suzanne Lollis

Carnival-Special Events

Mardi Gras 2013 in Jefferson Parish was a great success. The extra weekend due to the Super-bowl extended the season, and many came out to enjoy the parades.

The Office of Citizen's Affairs would like to thank all Parish departments for their support and hard work during this Carnival season.

We couldn't do it without the support of the following departments: Animal Shelter, Environmental, Traffic Engineering, Street Lighting, Water, Emergency Management, Recreation, Parkways, Streets, Code Enforcement, Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, and East and West EMS. Though it rained early, there was a phenomenal turnout Mardi Gras Day in Metairie.

Senior Services

We would like to thank all of the seniors and participants who attended the 2013 Senior Exposition held at the Alario Center on March 14, 2013. There were over 2000 participants, and the event was a huge success. Also, many thanks to all of the departments who participated.



The Senior Expo

Time Warp Found!

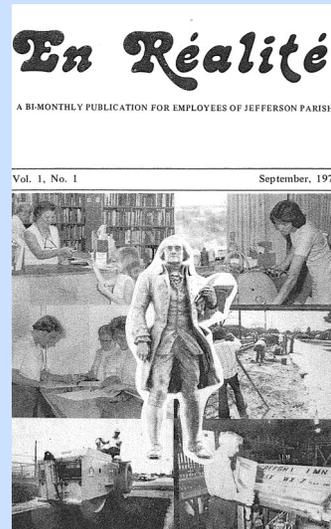
Citizens' Affairs Employee Discovers Wormhole to 1977!

She thought it was going to be an ordinary day at the office in March 2013 when Citizens' Affairs Executive Assistant **Brandie Lange** was going through some old folders in her desk and out fell a rare relic from the past: the very first issue of the Parish employee newsletter, then called *En Réalité*!



Brandie Lange holds the first issue of *En Réalité*, next to the desk it fell out of!

"I couldn't believe it," said Brandie in an exclusive interview with *JeffTalk*. "I could tell it was old by the size and shape of it, but then I looked closer and saw it was the very first one, from September 1977! I was only one year old when it came out. And it's in almost perfect condition—like it was never read." (Imagine that!)



En Réalité—Volume 1, No.1

Fortunately for us, Brandie resisted the urge to auction the rare find on E-Bay and instead donated it to Human Resources for the Parish archives. (What a trouper!) The issue will no doubt eventually find its place outside the Council Chambers alongside other historical Parish documents, but meanwhile we have posted it on the Intranet under Announcements so all can take a look. Along with lots of hair and bell bottoms, you can read about the "new Mississippi River Bridge," Phase 1 of construction of Lafreniere Park, news of the construction of the West Bank Expressway, and a reference to the "recent movie *Jaws*"!

Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Our 2013 *Summer Activity Guide* is available on our website at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page, or can be obtained at all local playgrounds and libraries. The 2013 Fall Guide will be available in late August. For information about any of our programs, call the respective office (EB – 736-6999 or WB 349-5000) or e-mail jprecreation@jeffparish.net

Congratulations to the following on their promotions – **Gary Schmidt** to EB Zone Manager; **Daisey Acosta** to Area Coordinator of WB Leisure Service; **Timothy Cook** to Assistant Recreation Supervisor at Oakdale; **Ethan Landry** to Center Supervisor at Jefferson Playground; **Darrin Cook** to Center Supervisor at Little Farms; **Anthony Corpora** to Foreman II in EB Maintenance; **Mark Maunoir** to Equipment Operator III in EB Maintenance; and **Brittany Kelly** to Assistant Center Supervisor at Owens.

Employees of the Month – JANUARY: **Claude Daniels** (Johnny Jacobs Playground); FEBRUARY: **Rory Luke** (Oakdale Playground)
Congratulations to our RETIREES! **Marion Doucet** (EB Main Office – March); **Robert Rodrigue** (WB Maintenance – March); and **Gervin Mitchell** (M.L.King Playground)
WESTBANK UPDATE:
Avondale Playground New Tot Lot dedicated in March
Avondale and Waggaman Gym air conditioning - work is in progress.

Bridge City Tot Lot will soon have new play equipment
Kings Grant Tot Lot – complete
Kings Grant Elevator/Room renovations – Work to be done after Summer Camp

Lincolnshire - two new elliptical machines will be installed
Terrytown Tot Lot – completed
Interior gym metal ceilings/walls at PARD, Oakdale and Waggaman – work to begin soon.
Parc des Familles Pressbox/Concession is nearing completion and starting construction phase of new parking lot
Woodmere Playground and Westminster Walk Tract now have new tot lots

EASTBANK UPDATE:

Bright Playground Tot Lot and Shelter – completed
Girard Playground – new roof over rooms; gym AC/heating work will soon be completed.
Jefferson Playground – new shelter coming
Lakeshore Playground – new tennis now open
Owens Playground – work is in progress on major interior and exterior renovations.
Williams Playlot now has a meeting room

BONNABEL BOAT LAUNCH

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

LAFRENIERE PARK UPDATE:

Spray Park will be open on weekends only. 9:30 am – 11:30 am is for private rentals only. Public sessions are from Noon – 7:00 pm with a cost of \$5 per person (Maximum of 75 in Spray Park area at one time). Beginning the weekend before Memorial Day, the Spray Park will be open 7 days per week (hours are same). Beginning the first weekend in August, Park will be open on weekends only until Labor Day, at which time it will close for the season.

Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra
Concert – Wednesday, May 22, at 6:00 pm (Rainout date will be Friday, May 24)

Lafreniere Live (Spring Concerts) on Thursdays:

April 18 – Wise Guys

April 25 – 90 Degrees West

May 9 – Flow Tribe

May 16 – The Yat Pack

May 23 – Mojeaux

May 30 – Bucktown All Stars

Carousel is in the process of getting a new protective coating.



CAA Royce Blanchard (center) presides over ribbon-cutting for new Woodmere Tot Lot

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

We would like to welcome aboard **Christina Duggar**, our newest Environmental Quality Specialist in our Industrial Pre-treatment Program. Christina received her undergraduate and master's degrees at U.N.O. and has a wide variety of relevant experience. We look forward to working with her!

Also new to the department are **Shawn Martin** and **Amber Martinez**, both Typist Clerk IIIs who came to us from JeffCAP. JeffCAP's loss is our gain as both of them have stepped right in, learning all our garbage, mosquito, and other programs and quickly becoming part of our departmental family.

Senior Expo

On March 14, **Inga Dupre** and **Barbara Kollin** represented the department at the Senior Citizen's Expo at the Alario Center. They provided information on our department and solid waste and recycling collection to the attendees. All of the attendees seemed to have a good time.

Kathy Russo and **Sami Khalil** attended the New Orleans Entrepreneur Week Water Challenge Day in March at Gallier Hall. Kathy represented Jefferson Parish on the steering committee and was involved in planning the event. At the end of the day, four aspiring entrepreneurs presented their products or services to the attendees. The judges selected a winner who was awarded \$50,000 in startup money for his company.



Sami Khalil



Kathy Russo

In February, Stormwater Supervisor Sami Khalil and Stormwater Technician **Diane Coughlin** attended the National Stormwater Center Inspector Training and received their Stormwater Inspector certifications.

Jefferson Parish holds a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), that establishes programs to control pollutants entering the storm drainage system from its many canals to the receiving water bodies of Lake Pontchartrain and the bayous and lakes of the Barataria Basin. Co-permittees on the LPDES MS4 Permit are the cities of Gretna, Harahan, Kenner, and Westwego and LDOTD.

Our Stormwater Division has established a Co-permittee Working Group that meets monthly to coordinate efforts to improve the water quality of the storm drainage system. The Louisiana Non-Point Source Management Plan recognized Jefferson Parish for its efforts to improve water quality with the following:

“Jefferson Parish has played a major role in storm water management for many years. Their local programs provide data and information to identify specific problems that exist in the parish. Through LDEQ's NPDES Storm Water Program, they were required to implement programs



Environmental's Inga Dupre and Barbara Kollin at the Senior Expo

related to reduction and control of pollutants in urban storm water runoff. Their construction inspection program is a model for other parishes across the state. LDEQ views Jefferson Parish as an important partner in LPB to reduce NPS pollutants from urban areas in the state.”

Kudos to our Storm Water Division staff, Sami Khalil, Program Supervisor; **Nancy Woodlock**, Environmental Quality Specialist; and Diane Coughlin, Environmental Quality Technician and the Co-permittee Working Group!

Pilot Recycling

At the beginning of March, through the hard work and dedication of the Department of General Services and Environmental Affairs, along with the cooperation and support of Progressive Waste Solutions of Louisiana (PWSLA), the Parish’s recycling contractor, a pilot recycling program, was implemented in the Yenni Building.

PWSLA is supplying the recycling containers and collection of recyclables at no cost to the Parish. The goals of the program are to reduce disposal costs, reduce the amount of office materials going to the landfill, and increase the amount of recycled material. We certainly seem to be meeting that goal: In just the first week of the program, the garbage volume was reduced by 83%.

Plans are to expand the program to the General Government Building in the future. Kudos to the Department of General Services staff and all Yenni Building employees for making this program a success and reducing the amount of garbage sent to the Parish landfill!

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branan, RN



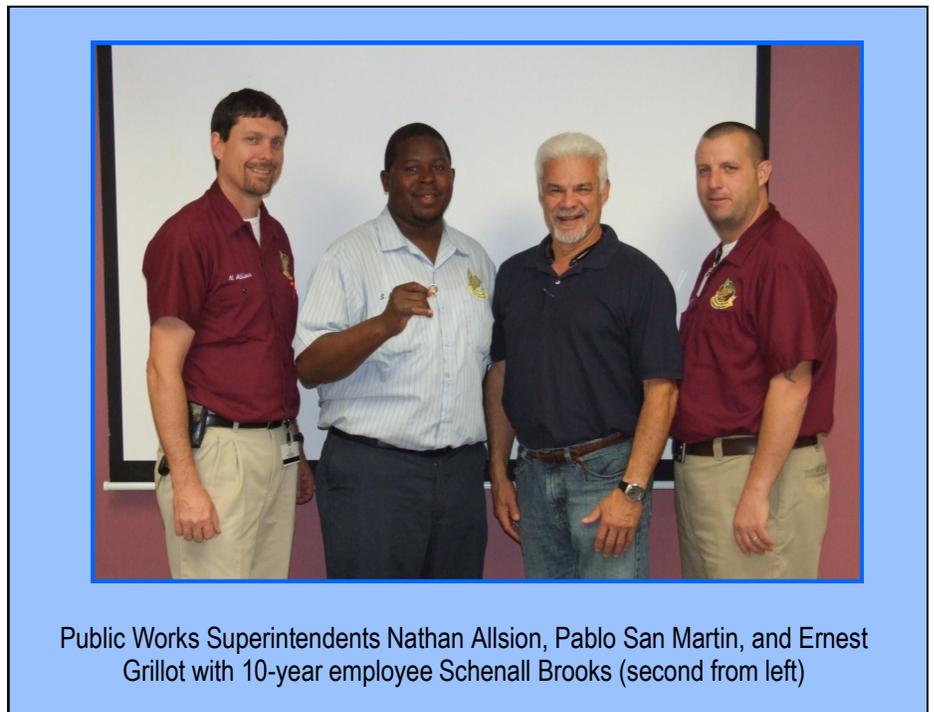
Kidney Disease

It is hard to imagine the incredible degree of major industrial-like functions the organs within our bodies maintain around the clock; usually with us being totally oblivious to what is going on, in order to keep our bodies in a state of good health. Be it the computer/communications center, the electrical power plant, an assembly plant, or a recycling plant, nothing comes even close in comparison to the intricate and complex design of the human body.

For example, one of the major organs of the body are the kidneys. These two bean-shaped

organs, located near the middle of the back, just below the rib cage, provide these major body functions: to filter the blood, control the body’s fluid balance, regulate the balance of electrolytes, and release three important hormones: Erythropoietin, which stimulate the bones to make new red blood cells; Renin, which regulates the blood pressure; and the active form of vitamin D, which is needed to maintain calcium for the bones and normal chemical balance within the body.

Why would blood need to be filtered? After digestion takes place, the body retains what it needs to sustain itself and the by-products not needed by the body become waste. The normal life-cycle of muscle tissue includes its breakdown, which also results in waste byproducts. These waste byproducts enter the blood stream and make their way to the filtration system in the kidneys. There, the kidneys recycle the waste materials and chemicals that can be reused. The kidneys are able to



Public Works Superintendents Nathan Allsion, Pablo San Martin, and Ernest Grillot with 10-year employee Schenall Brooks (second from left)

detect the amount of chemicals (electrolytes) like sodium, phosphorus, and potassium that the body either needs to retain or excrete and does so accordingly, maintaining proper electrolyte balance. About 200 quarts of blood flow through the kidneys everyday with about 2 quarts of waste products and extra water resulting. The extra water and waste products then become urine to be excreted. If the kidneys were not able to produce urine, the waste products and extra water would kill us.

Kidney function can still be considered “healthy” when it is working at a 50% rate. However, once you get to a rate less than 20% of kidney function, you will experience some serious health problems, although you may not be aware of what is taking place internally. It is possible to not experience any complaint or notice anything wrong with only 10% of kidney function present. However, kidney function below 10 – 15% is incompatible with life and requires either dialysis or a kidney transplant. This is why many

people who are diagnosed with kidney failure are already deep into the disease process before they are even aware of it.

How does kidney damage occur? Most diseases of the kidney involve the nephrons, the filtering agent of the kidney. Nephrons can be damaged quickly from a direct and forceful blow to the kidneys, injury, or poisoning. But usually they are damaged in a slow and silent manner over even decades before the damage is found. Some over-the-counter drugs can poison the kidneys when taken regularly over a period of years, the most dangerous being products that combine aspirin, acetaminophen, and other medicines such as ibuprofen. If you take painkillers regularly, bring it to your doctor’s attention.

The two most common causes of damage to the kidneys result from diabetes and high blood pressure. In the diabetic, the high sugar levels damage the nephrons, called diabetic nephropathy. By keeping blood sugar levels down, the damage

can be delayed or event prevented. High blood pressure causes damage to the small blood vessels in the kidneys. Once damaged, the vessels cannot filter out the poisons from the blood. Regarding kidney cancer, the most common cause of kidney cancer is from SMOKING.

How will I feel if I have kidney disease? As noted earlier, in the early stages of kidney damage/disease, many do not feel any different. The initial complaints, being vague, may be frequent headaches, feeling tired or itchy all over your body. As the kidney disease worsens, you may experience the following: increase or decrease in urination, loss of appetite, nausea & vomiting, swelling and/or numbness to hands and feet, drowsy, poor concentration, muscle cramps, skin darkening.

How is kidney disease diagnosed? The doctor may order blood tests, urine tests, renal imaging (MRI, CAT scan), or a renal biopsy. Once diagnosed, the patient will need to follow a special diet. Depending on the stage of damage, dialysis may be ordered. Careful attention will need to be made regarding what medications are taken if they are eliminated from the body via the kidneys.

So, what is one to do? If you have a family history of kidney disease, make sure your doctor is aware of it. Live a lifestyle that minimizes your risk for developing high blood pressure and diabetes or keeps these conditions under control, take all medications as instructed by your doctor, STOP SMOKING, obtain physicals on a regular basis, and inform your doctor of any changes in your health.



15-year Public Works employees Shane Camardelle and Kelvin Washington are congratulated by Superintendents Nathan Allison, Pablo San Martin, and Ernest Grillot

Retirements

Susan Kinler
Library
34 years

Connie Mashia
Library
30 years

Randy Rivero
Drainage
27 years

Barbara DeForest
Parish Attorney
27 years

Arthur Smith, Jr
General Services
12 years

Tyrone Lawrence
Sewerage
10 years

Argus 2013

