



Volume 35
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April 2014



Message from the Parish President. . .

Millage Election May 3

On Saturday, May 3, Jefferson Parish voters will be asked to decide whether to renew existing millages which fund Consolidated Road Lighting, Special Services, and Judicial and Culture. Only voters in Grand Isle will decide whether to continue millages which support Ambulance Service District No. 2 and Road Lighting District No. 7.

Early voting begins Saturday, April 19 - April 26, 2014.

Below are descriptions of services in Jefferson Parish each millage would continue to support for 10 years.

CONSOLIDATED ROAD LIGHTING, UNINCORPORATED JEFFERSON PARISH AND TOWN OF JEAN LAFITTE

This renewal of no more than three mills is essential to continue to fund acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining, and operating road lighting facilities. This millage is important to continue to power and properly maintain nearly 40,000 street lights, to replace deteriorated wiring and pole systems, and to install new lighting systems along remaining unlighted thoroughfares.

SPECIAL SERVICES (CRIMINAL JUSTICE 40%, CULTURE/PARKS 20%, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 20% AND SENIOR SERVICES 20%) UNINCORPORATED JEFFERSON PARISH AND TOWN OF JEAN LAFITTE

This renewal of no more than 2.5 mills would continue to provide shared funding to be used to support, maintain, administer, and operate judicial services in the Criminal Justice System, Culture and Parks, Senior Citizen Services, and Economic Development.

State law mandates local governments bear some of the financial re-



John F. Young
Parish President

sponsibility of the justice system, including the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, the Courts and Judicial System, Juvenile Court Process Servers, and Justices of the Peace and related services. This millage also supports funding for the West Bank Security Task Force.

Renewal of funding from this millage also would continue to provide, maintain, administer, and operate park facilities and programs and cultural facilities, such as the professional operation and management of the Jefferson Performing Arts Center.

Funding from this millage would continue to be dedicated to the Jefferson Community Senior Service Fund. This is the sole source of funding for the Office of Senior Citizens Services. It funds the six Senior Centers located throughout the Parish and supports the Council on Aging, which provides nutritious meals for homebound elderly, caregiver support, and senior citizen wellness and education programs.

And, the renewal of this millage would continue to fund the Jefferson Business Development and Economic

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JeffTalk

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

Departmental Reporters

- Alario Center**
Deirdre Cummings
- Animal Shelter**
Danielle Williams
- Citizens' Affairs**
Denise Stine
- Community Development**
Toya Jones
- Drainage**
Sheena Quinn
- Emergency Management**
Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**
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- Environmental Affairs**
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- Code Enforcement**
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- Juvenile Services**
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- Parkways**
Chantell Prestenbach
- Planning**
Marilyn Slutsky
- Purchasing**
Nicolle Whitney
- Sewerage**
Venice Cooper
- Streets**
Debbie Tunstall
- Traffic Engineering**
Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**
Patricia Lyons
- Water**
Amy Miller
- Workforce Connection**
Carolyn Haynes

Editor's



Notes

Putting Safety First

Keeping our employees and the public safe is, of course, a top priority for all of us in Parish government. Along those lines, I'd like to make you all aware of some important developments in the area of safety administration.

On-line Programs

First, I hope you are all aware of the safety programs that are available for view on the Employee Intranet Portal. To access them from the Intranet home page, click on Human Resource Management—Safety. Here are the programs that are currently on line:

- Heat Stress
- Poisonous Plants
- Accident Investigations
- How's My Driving
- String Trimmer safety
- GHS system for Safety Data Sheets

New safety programs will continue to be added. Programs on fire extinguishers and back safety are in the works. If you have any ideas about safety programs you'd like to see added, let our Safety Division know. The Safety Manager is Nolan Guidry and the two Safety Officers are Gregory Reynolds and Wayne Jones.

Evacuation Initiative

The second news I have is our departmental fire drill program initiative. We are coordinating



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

with department Directors to schedule evacuation drills for all Parish buildings. An employee from each building has been designated to schedule and report on these evacuations.

The Safety Division of Human Resource Management has designed a form to facilitate record keeping of the fire drill information. Any problems with scheduling, carrying out, or documenting your building's evacuation should immediately be brought to the Safety Division's attention.

Quarterly Stat Discussions

Finally, Human Resource Management will be reaching out to all department Directors to review and discuss statistical information regarding accidents and other safety issues relative to their departments. We will be scheduling quarterly meetings with departments to go over stats that the Safety Division and Department of Risk Management track, such as injuries, auto accidents, and workers' compensation information.

If you have any recommendations or questions regarding these initiatives, please contact HRM's Safety Division at 736-6129.

Workforce Connection

By
Carolyn Haynes

Spring is in the air at JWC (Jefferson Workforce Connection), as we spring into new assignments and promotions providing services to jobseekers and businesses within the region.

Promotions and New Assignments

Career Specialist **Ms. Karen A. James** was promoted to *JWC's* Youth Supervisor position. Ms. James was recently awarded Employee of the Year and has worked with *JWC's* Workforce Investment Act Programs for twelve years. Congratulations, Ms. James!

Service Pin Recipients:

Career Specialist **Joan Vaughn** received a 15-Year Service Pin; and Administrative Assistant **Rhonda Breaux**, a 5-Year Service Pin. Congratulations!

Acknowledgements

Danielle Martinez, Jefferson Parish Council, was a recent guest at *JWC's* February staff meeting. At *JWC* monthly staff meetings, we share upcoming events, address major accomplishments, and discuss lessons learned as we continue to serve our community. Thank you again for attending our meeting.

Notes from JWC

JWC wishes everyone a Happy Easter and Spring Holiday

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Greg Alexander**, Training Specialist III, who has been with the Parish for 15 years, and **Susie Cunningham**, Executive Assistant, who has been with the Parish for five years. We appreciate Greg's coordination of the many training activities offered throughout the year. Susie worked for the Parish for twelve years before taking a break and coming back five years ago, first in Water and now with Human Resources. Thanks for your contribution to HR and to the Parish, Greg and Susie.

Safety

On Tuesday, February 11, **Wayne Jones**, Safety Officer, taught a Transportation of Heavy Equipment Safety Training program for employees from the Maintenance Division of East Bank Streets.

On February 12, **Sami Khali**, Environmental Quality Supervisor, and **Wayne Jones**, Safety Officer, presented a training session at the General Government Building for West Bank General

Services employees. Mr. Khalil covered Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures, and Mr. Jones addressed changes in the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) in the workplace.

Continuing Education

On Thursday, February 27, **Greg Alexander**, Training Specialist III, and **Yvonne Keller**, Training Specialist II, attended a Training luncheon and seminar in Baton Rouge. Ms. Dana LeBherz, a former Training Specialist II with the Parish, who is now Division Administrator of the Training and Workforce Development Division of Louisiana State Government, presented practical strategies for organizations interested in determining the training needs of their workforces. Dana also discussed qualitative and quantitative methods of research, including focus groups and surveys.

Nancy Rodriguez, Human Resource Manager, **Nicole Thompson**, Human Resource Manager, and **Greg Alexander**, Training Specialist III, attended the Human Resource Management Association of Greater New Orleans luncheon on Wednesday, March 19. The topic of the luncheon presentation was Gay and Same



Wayne Jones lectures on new Safety Data Sheets

Sex Rights in the Louisiana Workplace.

Heath Care Benefits Survey

Recently HRM’s Benefits Division conducted a survey of active employees and retirees regarding the current medical HMO plan and a high deductible plan. With an HMO, participants pay a higher monthly premium while having no deductible and relatively low co-payments. With the high deductible health plan option, participants would pay a lower monthly premium but would have a high deductible.

1063 active employees—approximately 1/3 of the Parish workforce—responded. In addition to active employee participation, 125 retirees responded. The findings indicated that overall **76%** of respondents are satisfied with the HMO as their only health care option. Only 8% of all respondents indicated a preference for a high deductible health plan.

The survey was conducted to solicit employee/retiree input regarding the current HMO coverage and a possible alternative high deductible plan. We appreciate the feedback from participants.

Benefits Booklet on Intranet

The *Benefits Booklet*, which used to be mailed to your home, is now available on the Intranet. We are able to update the information as changes occur and save money on the cost of mailing the booklet to employee households. Please go to the Intranet home page, select Human Resource Management – Benefits, and the 2014 Benefits Booklet will be your first choice on the left.

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

New Hire

We welcome our new employee, Truck Driver II **Terrance Anderson**. Terrance will be working in the Maintenance Division of the Westbank Streets Department. Welcome aboard, Terrance, we hope you enjoy working with our department.

Promotion

Congratulations to **Billy Lane III** of Westbank Streets Maintenance Division. Billy was recently promoted to Equipment Operator III.

Senior Exposition

The 2014 Jefferson Parish Senior Citizen Exposition was held on Tuesday, March 18, at the Pontchartrain Center. **Hope Zamora** and **Sheila Clinton** represented the Streets Department. The Expo featured approximately 50-75 exhibition booths of products, services, and programs, including information regarding governmental departments, health care, and assisted living for senior citizens. Refreshments, entertainment, and giveaways were provided throughout the day.



Maria Cooper’s son,
Shaun Ryan Cooper, Jr.

Good-Bye

We said good-bye to Building Maintenance Supervisor **Todd Louque**. Todd is now working for the Engineering Department as an Engineer Inspector. Congratulations to you, Todd. We’ll miss you and wish you well with your new position.

Condolences

Our condolences go to **Denise Bourg**, who lost an Uncle, Conway Perrin, on 2/8/14, and also a cousin, Jules Leon Nunez, on 2/21/14; also to **Tim Constant**, whose brother Richard J. “Pookie” Constant passed away on 2/21/14; and to **Bernadette Weber**, whose sister Joyce Bartholomew passed away on 2/24/14. We’re so very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.



West Bank Drainage’s Heavy Equipment Transportation Safety students

Continued from page 1

Service Fund which promotes industry, trade, and commerce by providing financial and planning assistance to support business enterprises in Jefferson Parish.

**JUDICIAL AND CULTURE –
PARISHWIDE
(CRIMINAL JUSTICE 50% AND
CULTURE/PARKS 50%)**

This renewal of no more than one mill would continue to provide additional essential funding to be used to maintain, administer, and operate Judicial Services in the Justice System of the Parish and to provide, maintain, administer, and operate cultural and park facilities and programs.

**AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT #2 – GRAND ISLE ONLY
RENEWAL OF NO MORE
THAN 10 MILLS**

This millage renewal would continue to provide funding used to acquire, construct, improve, maintain, and operate ambulance service facilities for the district in Grand Isle only.

**ROAD LIGHTING DISTRICT #7
– GRAND ISLE ONLY
RENEWAL OF NO MORE
THAN 5 MILLS**

The renewal of this millage would continue to provide funding used to acquire, construct, improve, maintain, and operate road lighting facilities in the district in Grand Isle only.

Please remember to vote on May 3, 2014.

And thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to serving the citizens of Jefferson Parish.

Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

Three staff members of the Planning Department received their service pins: **Juliette Cassagne**, Assistant Director, 10 years of service; **Larry Massey**, Planner III, and **Diana Soileau**, Secretary, 5 years.

Planning Department staff received professional development training by attending the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association Conference in New Orleans in January. The conference was focused on technology in planning.

Planning Director **Terri Wilkinson**, AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners), was a member of the panel for a session titled *Around LA in a Planning Way*, where panelists gave a seven-minute presentation on projects happening in their community. Assistant Director **Juliette Cassagne** served

as moderator for the panel on *Open Government* where panelists presented how their communities use technology to bring transparency to government.

Juliette also led a mobile workshop, bringing conference participants to visit West Jefferson and discuss development in the area, including NOLA Motorsports Park and the JEDCO offices. The tour stopped at JEDCO where Economic Development Services Director (and former JP planner) Lacey Guidry Bordelon discussed economic development of West Jefferson with tour participants.

Planning staff attended sessions which included *Public Engagement*, *Real Time Transportation*, *Green Development Regulations*, and *Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization*. Staff, including **Walt Reeves**, AICP, also had the opportunity to attend sessions on planning law and ethics, which are required to maintain certification. These sessions afforded planners the opportunity to learn from other planning professionals around the state and share what is happening in Jefferson Parish.



Diana Soileau, Larry Massey, and Juliette Cassagne

Traffic Engineering

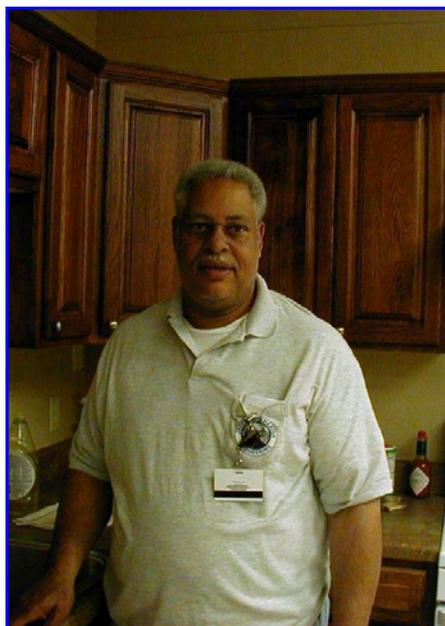
By
Brandy Chism

We have a few new employees to welcome aboard here at Traffic. Sign Technician I **Albert Jones**. Albert is currently working with the Sign Crew and learning the ropes. Sign Technician I **Michael Gasper** is new to our Division and currently with the Striping Crew.



Albert Jones and Michael Gasper

Also, **Gerald Gusman** is our new Laborer. We're happy to have the additional smiling faces here!!



Gerald Gusman

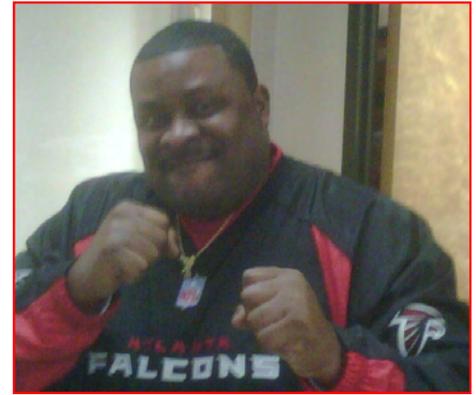
Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

We are extremely thrilled for our director, **Charles M. Hudson**, who wrote an article entitled "Moving Forward After Katrina" in the February 2014 issue of the *International Association of Emergency Managers' (IAEM) Bulletin*. The article points out the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina as well as the triumphs and trials experienced. The IAEM bulletin provides informative articles and professional development opportunities to the Emergency Management community worldwide. We are so proud for Charles for making Jefferson Parish known worldwide.

Farewell to **Ben M. Williams, Sr.**, Building Maintenance Supervisor, who is retiring on April 8 after 33 years as a great public servant to the citizens of Jefferson Parish. Ben has been instrumental to this department's growth and success and will be sorely missed. Ben is a devoted Atlanta Falcons fan and has a great acceptance of the ribbing received the following morning after a Saints vs Falcons game. "In good spirits, Ben will utilize some of his free time to sit back and wait for the Atlanta Falcons to reach the Superbowl," says Director Charles M. Hudson. (We had to get one more in for the "Who Dat" Nation). Ben will enjoy his well deserved retirement along with his wife Angela, children, and grandchildren.

Also, we congratulate **Ben M. Williams, Sr.**, on receiving Emergency Management's De-



Ben Williams

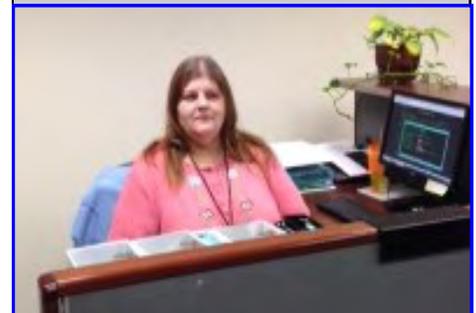
partmental Employee of the Year 2013 – 2014 award for his dedication and unwavering commitment. Now that's the way to go out! Congratulations, Ben!

Purchasing

By
Nicolle Whitney

The Purchasing Department would like to welcome our newest employee, **Donna Reamey**. Donna joins us from Inspection and Code as a Buyer I. Welcome aboard!

We have tentatively scheduled Purchasing training for May 2014. This will be a dual training class presented by Purchasing and Accounting. Once we have finalized the dates we will send out notification to all requisition contacts to see who is interested in attending. As usual we will hold one class at the Eastbank Regional Library and one at the Westbank Regional Library. Hope to see you all there!



Donna Reamey

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

Welcome: Ray Bridges, Reiana Rousseau, and Landon Williams, new Probation Officers I.

Promotions: Pierre Hollins and Tamika Smith were reallocated from Juvenile Probation Officer I to Probation Officer II, and Daniel Lea from Typist Clerk II to TC III at our East Bank office.

Employees of the Month

FEBRUARY: Stanley LeBlanc, Juvenile Detention Officer
Ianisha Chairs, Juvenile Probation Officer

MARCH: Lilliam Rivera, Juvenile Detention Officer
Jerry Billiot, Maintenance Repairman

Service Pin Congratulations:

5 Years

Ron C. Ellison, Toyane Faulkner, Krista Jerome, Romonica Jones, Lisa Powell, Erin Ronquille, and Brittany Webb

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

John Beauregard, Willie Green, Tion McGhee, and David Vicari

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Roberta Brown, Christopher Bruno, and Rhonda Walker

CONGRATULATIONS to Joan Ruiz-Sturcke, Juvenile Probation Office IV, who was selected as JS's Employee of the Year for 2013-2014.



Joan Ruiz-Sturcke

Joan's career and vocation with Jefferson Parish began on August 5, 1985, when she became a Juvenile Detention Home Counselor I. She went on to become a Juvenile Probation Officer I on December 6, 1986; a Juvenile Probation Officer II on July 30, 1988; a Juvenile Probation Officer III on April 6,

2002; and finally Juvenile Probation Officer IV on June 16, 2012.

Joan takes to heart the Parish's Core Values and works tirelessly to ensure that all DJS employees understand and adhere to them. In particular, she constantly stresses to her probation staff the importance of teaching responsibility and accountability to the juveniles in our care through their words and actions, thereby making our department a better place to work and our community a safer place to live.

Community Development

By
Toya Jones

We are happy to announce the opening of our 2014 First-time Homebuyer Assistance Program. The opening dates are Friday March 28, 2014, and ending on April 3, 2014. The program will be conducted by lottery at 3:00PM on Friday, April 4, 2014. Please refer to the Parish website for more information at www.jeffparish.net.



Melissa Firven

New Employee

There is a new addition to our Community Development family. **Melissa Firven**, our new Account Clerk III, was promoted from the Parish Accounting Department. Congratulations and welcome aboard!!!



Juvenile Services' newest Juvenile Probation Officers
Ray Bridges, Reiana Rousseau, and Landon Williams

Engineering

By
Helen Sharpe McGee

Spring is in the Air! Finally, after a long and cold winter, so happy to see the flowers blooming and the freshness in the air!

Welcome back **Suzanne Lolis**! Suzanne is back and working in Engineering Inspections! Welcome back, Suzanne.

We would like to welcome our new employee to Engineering Inspections Eastbank, **George Brown**. George comes to us from Water. Welcome Aboard!

Also Welcome to **Todd Louque**! Todd comes to Engineering Inspections Westbank from the Streets department. Welcome, Todd!

Congratulations to **Mark Buttery** and **Mark McDonald**, both of whom work for Westbank Warehouse. Both guys were re-

cently promoted. Way to go, y'all.

Congratulations to new Retiree **Philip Dubone**, GIS Operator II. Phil retired on March 21, 2014. We will miss Phil! Such a hardworking, loving, humble, and gentle person! Enjoy your Retirement, Mr. Phil.



Condolences and Prayers go out to our Director **Mark Drewes** and family. Mark's mother, Mrs. Joan Drewes, passed away March 17, 2014. We will keep you all in our prayers.

Remember to enjoy life and do something good today, bless someone in need.

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

As Spring begins, Drainage continues to blossom and expand with new employees. Welcome to **Michael Zielinski**, **Daniel Allen**, and **Timothy Gaubert**. Good luck and we look forward to hearing great things from you all! Also, a special "job well done" goes out to those commendable Drainage employees that received promotions these past few months. They include **Travis Ardoin**, **Erron Robinson**, and **Lodis Perkins**. Congratulations to you all, and we anticipate seeing more promotions in the future.

A Few Fond Farewells

We'd like to send off one of our very dedicated and hardworking Drainage employees as he begins his journey in a much deserved retirement. **Hoa Tran** officially retired on March 14 as a Laborer Semiskilled for West Bank Drainage after 33 years with Jefferson Parish, all of which was with the Department of Drainage.

And though her time with us was short, we would like to wish a fond farewell and congratulations to **Zakita Holloway** on her recent promotion to Code Enforcement!

With Great Sadness

We would like to extend our sincere condolences to those that have lost someone near and dear to their heart. **Joseph Centanni**, Pump Station Operator II for East Bank Pump Station, experienced the loss of his father. Services were held for him on March 10 and were filled with people whose lives had been touched by his sincerity and caring nature. He will be missed greatly.



Philip Dubone with Engineering Director Mark Drewes

Citizens' Affairs

By
Denise Stine

Happy Mardi Gras!

This Carnival season kicked off on February 16 along with Family Gras, where it was estimated approximately 75,000 people attended. There was lots of food and entertainment to enjoy, including our own Amanda Shaw!

Something new added to Carnival in Jefferson Parish was the "Rhythm on the Route" (Metairie's battle of the bands). Cynthia Lee-Sheng was instrumental (no pun intended) in making this take place. The goal of this contest is to encourage band participation in Jefferson Parish parades. Schools from all over the region participated. Prize money was awarded to first, second, and third place winners. Congratulations to the winners and all who participated.

The Office of Citizens' Affairs sends out a huge THANK YOU to the following Departments/Agencies for their support in helping make this a safe and successful Carnival season; they are:

Parish President's Office, Parish Council Office, Parish Attorney's Office, Animal Shelter, Emergency Management, Environmental Affairs, East Bank Consolidated Fire Department, General Services, Inspection & Code Enforcement, Parks & Recreation, Public Works which includes Engineering, Sign and Signal, Parkways and Streets, Sewerage, Street Lighting, also the Water Department, EJGH EMS, WJGH EMS, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, the State of La. DOTD, the Health Department, and last but not least the Terrytown Fire Department.

Alario Center

By
Deidre Cummings

WELCOME ABOARD

The Alario Center is very excited to welcome Laborers **Barry Holmes** and **Ronald Walker**, and Marketing Sales Associate **Kacey Tessitore** to our team.

FAREWELL

We also said goodbye to Marketing Manager **Dana Cook** and Laborer **Warren Hindelang**. Best wishes in your future endeavors.

UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS!

- Ring of Honor Wrestling – April 4th - 6th
- AAU Basketball – April 4 – 7
- Loyola Baseball – April 11 – 14^t
- AAU Basketball – April 11 – 14
- Loyola Baseball – April 25 – 26

Please visit us at www.alariocenter.com or www.facebook.com/alariocenter for information regarding upcoming events.



Citizens' Affairs and Friends celebrate Mardi Gras 2014!

Diversity Advisory Board

By
Crystal Heine

The Employee Diversity Advisory Board will meet on April 14, 2014, at the Alario Center for its second quarterly meeting. In the meantime, DAB committees will be meeting to brainstorm activities in recognition of Cinco de Mayo and the Hispanic/Latino population of our workforce and community and to celebrate Public Service Recognition Week.

Contrary to popular belief, *Cinco de Mayo* is not Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated in September. This day commemorates the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, when a ragged group of vastly outnumbered Mexicans managed to defeat the French army, which was considered the best army in the world at that time. Today, Cinco de Mayo is observed as a celebration of Mexican pride and heritage in the United States, particularly in areas with large Mexican-American populations.

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) is May 4-10, 2014. Celebrated the first week of May since 1985, it is a week set aside to honor the diverse men and women who work at all levels of government throughout the United States and to recognize the value of their dedication and service. Public service not only includes those that go to war or those who are seen each day on the streets fighting crime or fighting fires, but it includes each person involved in the process and day-to-day operations of government at all levels.

If you would like to learn more about PSRW, please go to publicservicerecognitionweek.org/

Water

By
Amy Truesdell

It's been a busy couple of months in the Water Department. We would like to thank all of those employees who worked during the Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day festivities and helped make the parades a pleasant experience for the people of Jefferson Parish. We have had several changes in our employee roster and would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new employees: Two new Laborers in the East Bank Plant, brothers **Josh** and **Brady Brignac**; East Bank Billing Data Entry Clerk **Darren Herring**; West Bank Plant Shipping/Receiving Stock Clerk **Daniel Johnson**; East Bank Distribution Laborer **Victor Paz**; Water Quality Scientist II **Delanor Junis**; West Bank Distribution Laborer **Keith Snowden**; Grand Isle Water Service Inspector **Francis Vegas**; and former Laborer **Phillip Brown** has returned to West

Bank Distribution.

We would like to say goodbye to East Bank Distribution Laborer **George Brown**, who transferred to Engineering; East Bank Water Service Inspector **Jonathan Frank**, who transferred to General Services; and East Bank Plant Laborer **Philip Kerlec**.

Congratulations are in order for **Lisa Johnson**, who was promoted to Water Quality Scientist III in the Lab; **Corey Collins** was promoted to West Bank Distribution Waterline Foreman; **James Neely** passed the Water Treatment IV test; **Gennard Davis** passed the Water Treatment I test; **Hugh Castleberry** passed the Water Treatment Production and Distribution 2 tests; and **Corey Junior** passed the Water Distribution 2 and Water Treatment I tests. Good Job, Everybody!

Of special note is our Administrative Clerk III **Sheryl Kelly** became a grandmother for the second time. Granddaughter Reese Leeane was born on March 11 @ 2:11 p.m. and is 6 lb., 14 oz. and is 20" long.



Water's proud grandparents Sheryl Kelly and husband Gary welcome their new granddaughter, Reese Leeane

Sewerage

By
Venice Cooper

CONDOLENCES

We offer our sincere condolences to **Craig Bradley** at our Eastbank Lines Division on the loss of his father, in February 2014.

We offer our sincere condolences to **Robert Mitchell** at our Eastbank Lift Stations Division on the loss of his mother, in March 2014.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following on their recent promotions:

Robert Mitchell was promoted to Laborer Semi-skilled at our Eastbank Lift Stations Division. Robert has been employed with the Parish for 1 year.

Lakyia Skinner was promoted to Laborer Semi-skilled at our Westbank Lift Stations Division. Lakyia has been employed with the Parish for 2 years.

Yvette Russo was promoted to Administrative Assistant in our Administration Office. Yvette has been with the Parish for 5 years.



Yvette Russo

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

Edith Johnson – Typist Clerk III, Eastbank Field Office

Wilmer Hernandez – Laborer Unskilled, Harvey Plant

Travon Wright – Laborer Unskilled, Eastbank Lines

Bryan Davis, Sr. – Truck Driver II, Westbank Lines

LaDonna Harris – Lift Station Inspector, Westbank Lift Stations

Ernest Curtis – Lift Station Inspector, Eastbank Lift Stations

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

On February 26, Environmental Affairs was the recipient of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Leadership Program Municipality Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention. We received this award for undertaking a series of activities to educate various stakeholders on water quality issues.

The Stormwater Task Force Coalition was formed to involve as many partners in the region as possible. Environmental Affairs launched a program to educate the public on ways to prevent pollution and keep local waterways clean. Efforts utilized to reach target audiences included classroom demonstrations and application of bi-lingual education. Outreach at events such as Earth Day, Fight the Trash, and the Leaf Blower & Grass Clipping Campaign encouraged behavioral changes to reduce pollutants in stormwater. Congratulations to all of the staff for the success of this program!

The New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council, a non-profit that arranges professional meetings and cultural activities for international visitors sent to New Orleans through the U.S. Department of State, co-hosted a meeting between Environmental Affairs, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, and environmental representatives from nine different nations (Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile, Israel, Jordan, Palestinian Territories, Mexico, Sierra Leone, and Thailand). Mr. **Sami Khalil**, Storm Water Management Supervisor, discussed the roles



Sewerage's New TC III Edith Johnson

that governmental and environmental agencies play in protecting water quality. This is a part of a multi-regional project that focuses on U.S. efforts to protect the shared water resources that are increasingly at risk around the globe from pollution, depletion, population growth, industrial expansion, climate change, and inadequate or disputed access.

Rick Buller, Landfill Engineer, **Kathleen Collins**, Solid Waste Program Supervisor, and **Richard Mayer**, Landfill Inspector, attended the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Solid Waste Conference in Lafayette in March. The conference provided the opportunity to gather information about solid waste and landfill issues and to network with counterparts from local governments throughout the state.

Sadly, we offer our wholehearted condolences to **Laura Becker**, Landfill Inspector, on the recent loss of her mother. A beautiful garden is being planted

Library

By
Daniel Gitlin

Gregory Alexander to Speak at EB Regional

Gregory Alexander, author of the new book *The Holy Mark*, will be the guest speaker at the Fiction Writers' Group meeting at 7 p.m., on Monday, April 14, at the East Bank Regional Library in Metairie.

Publishers Weekly described Greg's novel as "disturbingly memorable." *New Orleans Living* called it "a vivid portrait of New Orleans past."

Alexander will be discussing how he expanded *The Holy Mark*, which was originally published as a short story in an Atlanta literary magazine, into a novel.

The event is free and open to the public.

Library Employees Stars of Marketing Campaign

For the third 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 13-19).

This year's theme is "The Future is Yours," and employees use their favorite book, movie, magazine, or other library material to show what their future holds. 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.

Promotions and New Hires

Congratulations to **Lebaron Simmons**, who was recently promoted to **Trades Helper**. Also, congratulations to **Carlos D'Avanzo**, who was recently promoted to **AC/Heating Mechanic**.

Welcome to the following new employees: **May Bridges** (Associate Floater/Sub), **Andrea Loyola** (Associate Floater/Sub), **David Roberts** (Computer Systems Analyst Sr.), **Morris Brooks** (Laborer), and **Terry Duhe** (Maintenance Repairman).



Stormwater Staff Accepting LDEQ Environmental Leadership Program Award
L-r: Diane Coughlin, Environmental Quality Technician; Sami Khalil, Stormwater Program Supervisor; Katherine Costanza, Assistant Director; Nancy Woodlock, Environmental Quality Specialist; and Peggy Hatch, LDEQ Secretary

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branan, RN



The Problem of Dementia

It seems like the topic of dementia is in the headlines with an ever increasing frequency. With 14% of Americans 71 years of age and older having some form of dementia, of which there are over 50 different types, this is not surprising. Some examples of causes of dementia can be: a result from lack of blood flow or inadequate oxygen levels to the brain; inherited conditions; drug induced; sleep deprivation; inadequate levels of brain chemicals; depression; and inadequate nutrition (gastric bypass patients are at risk!). As we see life expectancies increase, so also does one's risk for dementia. While 1% of 60 year olds have dementia, 30 – 50% of the population 85 years old and older suffers from dementia.

Dementia is a progressive disease that impairs one's cognitive function. Cognitive function refers to: perception, interpreting the information the five senses transmit to the brain; memory, the ability to recall stored memories; and judgment, the ability to process and analyze data and respond accordingly. With dementia, the ability to perform routine activities of daily living will become increasingly impaired as these

cognitive functions diminish. It is usually when one's activities of daily living and memory become so impaired that one seeks medical care. For the individual with dementia, the mental state can be unpredictable. Every day can be a new day, every hour can be a new hour, and every minute can be a new minute. At that time, various tests can be performed to determine what and where the brain deficits are so a diagnosis can be made and the appropriate treatment prescribed. Keep in mind that the sooner the doctor evaluation is obtained, the better. Unfortunately, at this time, there is no miracle pill, so be wary of any false, misleading advertisements.

The basic problem with the majority of the dementias is due to the brain cells dying. Mental and physical impairments and even organ failure can result, depending on where and how many brain cells die. It was once thought that the number of brain cells you were born with remained the same till death. However, research has revealed that in fact the brain can generate new cell growth. This discovery opens up greater possibilities for being more proactive in one's brain health.

So, what is one to do? Depending on the type of dementia, it may be reversible, the onset may be delayed, or the progression of the disease may be slowed down. The latest research is promoting a healthy lifestyle as your best way of minimizing your risk for a debilitating dementia condition.

Things you can do NOW to improve your brain, as well as overall general health, include: maintaining a healthy blood pressure and blood sugar level; keeping all medical conditions under control (especially as they relate to the cardiovascular system); getting at least 8-hours of sleep a night (develop a healthy sleep pattern); stopping smoking; eating a healthy diet (the Mediterranean diet is the BEST); maintaining a healthy weight; developing, with your doctor's guidance, an exercise program; obtaining treatment for depression; and last, but not least, performing brain exercises whenever you possible can.

Just what do we mean by brain exercises? You want to challenge the brain to process new information. This causes an abundance of chemical reactions in the brain to occur and can result in new cell growth. For example: using your non-dominant hand, learning a new language, learning anything new, puzzles, an active social life, dancing, brain teaser games, etc. You can go on-line and find numerous brain teasers and exercise websites.

The fear of developing dementia can be very depressing and create anxiety for many. As soon as you have any concerns, talk to your doctor about them. Also, keep in mind that we all have our memory lapses that are not related to dementia. And in the meantime, start living that healthy lifestyle that you've been putting off. Again, not only may you preserve your brain, but the rest of your body will thank you for it as well!

Retirements

Hoa Tran
Drainage
33 years

Ben Williams
Emergency Management
33 years

Nedra Lagarde
Animal Shelter
30 years

George Davis
Drainage
30 years

Willie Davis
Parks & Recreation
22 years

Frank Button
Water
20 years

Sameul Oliver
Community Development
20 years

Phillip Dubone
Engineering
19 years

Irene West
Library
19 years

Harold Mitchell, Sr.
Parks & Recreation
18 years

Ruth "Kappy" Day
Code Enforcement
17 years

Thomas Baxter III
Code enforcement
15 years



**President John Young issues a proclamation
for Outreach Day for senior volunteers.**