



Volume 35  
Number 3  
June 2014

Jefferson

## Message from the Parish President. . .

### Hurricane Season: Be Prepared

Hurricane season is upon us, and I encourage you to take the necessary steps to prepare your family and home before a storm or emergency occurs.

The 2014 Atlantic hurricane season officially begins June 1 and ends November 30. National Hurricane Center forecasters expect a “near-normal or below normal” hurricane season, estimating there could be anywhere from 8-13 named storms, of which 3-6 are expected to become hurricanes. The peak season generally is from mid-August to late October, but we should be on alert should a storm or hurricane enter the Gulf of Mexico at any time.

Jefferson Parish departments, agencies, and first responders continue to participate in training exercises designed to strengthen preparedness and response to better assist our citizens and businesses in any emergency.

I encourage you to take the time to prepare a disaster supply kit for your family. Be sure to include

- Important documents
- Water – at least enough for 3 to 7 days
- Food – non-perishable packaged or canned food/juices
- Blankets, pillows, etc.
- Clothing
- First-aid kit, medicines and prescription drugs
- Special Items – for babies and the elderly
- Toiletries, hygiene items, and moist wipes



John F. Young  
Parish President

- Flashlight and batteries
- Radio – Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- Telephones – fully charged cell phone, chargers
- and extra battery and a traditional (not cordless) television set
- Cash – with some small bills and credit cards
- Keys
- Toys, books, and games
- Tools
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled

### Pets Need Attention Too

Don't forget about your family pets. Be sure to plan a disaster readiness kit for your pet, which includes food, water, medicines, first-aid supplies, feeding supplies, a leash, carrier or cage, muzzle, and proper identification and immunization records. If your family evacuates, call ahead to your destination to make sure pets are accepted.

I would like to thank each of you for your continued public service to the citizens of Jefferson Parish.

*JeffTalk*

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

**Departmental Reporters**

- Alario Center**  
Deirdre Cummings
- Animal Shelter**  
Danielle Williams
- Citizens' Affairs**  
Brandie Lange
- Community Development**  
Toya Jones
- Drainage**  
Sheena Quinn
- Emergency Management**  
Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**  
Helen McGee
- Environmental Affairs**  
Kathy Russo
- Finance Authority**  
Sheila Rodrigue
- Fleet Management**  
Stephanie Gaudet
- General Services**  
Tessa St. Pierre
- Human Resource Management**  
Glenn Schiro
- Code Enforcement**  
Open
- JeffCAP**  
Catina Ward
- Juvenile Services**  
Arlyn Smith
- Library**  
Daniel Gitlin
- Parks & Recreation**  
Gwen Styron & William Cangemi
- Parkways**  
Chantell Prestenbach
- Planning**  
Marilyn Slutsky
- Purchasing**  
Nicolle Whitney
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Venice Cooper
- Streets**  
Debbie Tunstall
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Brandy Chism & David Stout
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Patricia Lyons
- Water**  
Amy Miller
- Workforce Connection**  
Carolyn Haynes

*Editor's*



*Notes*

**Tips for a Respectful Workplace**

Since all of our Parish supervisors are undergoing their regular harassment training this summer, I thought I'd remind all of you that maintaining a respectful workplace benefits all of us and is all of our responsibilities.

Many people are surprised to learn that feeling respected at work is among the top motivators of Americans in the workplace. Regardless of other rewards, if people are disrespected at work by their peers and especially by their managers, they will probably start looking for another job. In order that we never lose good employees out of disrespect, let's try to remember a few simple tips:

- Treat everyone politely and courteously. And coach others who may not have had the opportunity to learn appropriate language of behaviors at work. You don't have to be a supervisor to teach and help improve others.
- Don't cut people off. Encourage coworkers to express their opinions. Ask the quiet employees for their opinions. Some may be too timid to express themselves even though they have good ideas.
- Listen to others. Remember, listening equals respect. When someone says, "No one listens to me," he probably really means that no one respects him.



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

- Use other people's ideas. Employees especially feel valued when a supervisor adopts one of their ideas. Don't be too proud to admit that someone has found a better way to do something.
- Never insult or demean people for expressing an idea.
- Instead of nit-picking and criticizing everything, find something positive to say about other people's efforts.
- Treat people the same regardless of their race, religion, gender, or ethnic background. Treating people differently based on these factors could constitute harassment or illegal discrimination.

As more and more state and local governments, as well as private sector employers, are recognizing the importance of educating their employees on issues of harassment in the workplace, I am proud that Jefferson Parish Government has been providing this type of education to its supervisors since 2004. In addition, the Department of Human Resource Management continues to add more classes and programs for employees on conflict management, diversity, and sensitivity.

I hope all of you will do your part to make sure that all of our fellow Parish employees feel valued and respected at work.

**Water**

By  
Amy Truesdell

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new interim Director, **Linda Daly**. Linda is currently the Director of the Sewerage Department and will be very busy serving as our new Director as well. She has vast experience with the Water Department as she has served as Director of the Sewerage, Water, and Public Works Departments in St. Bernard Parish for several years.



Linda Daly

**Welcome!**

We have several other new employees to introduce: EB Utility Billing Clerk I **Shaunnell Lewis**; WB Utility Billing Clerk **Rishaun Bruce**; and WB Distribution Laborer **Shawn Lewis**.

Congratulations are in order for EB Water Service Inspector **Jose Torres**, who was promoted to Van Leader; **Hugh Castleberry**, who was promoted to WB Water Purification Operator I in the Treatment Plant; WB Water Service Inspector **Donyeal Morgan** was promoted to Water Service Inspector II; and the Water Lab's **Ykeisha Blount** was promoted to Water Quality Scientist I.

**Farewell!**

We would like to say goodbye to two of our employees; EB Water Service Inspector II **Sacara Kelly**; and WB Distribution Laborer **David White**. We wish the best for both of you.

**Births in the Department**

In baby news, congratulations go out to EB Utility Billing Collector **Rachel Harris**, who had a baby girl, Miss Aalajah Anderson, weighing 8lbs and 9 oz; and Utility Billing Clerk III **Allen Wells**, who welcomed a new granddaughter, Isabella on May 4, 2014.

**Employee of the Year!**

A big round of applause goes out to the EB Bank Plant's Water Purification Superintendent I **Mervin Graves**, who is our Employee of the Year, making the second year in a row the EB Plant has held the honor of producing the Employee of the Year.

The East Bank's Plant Superintendent **David Bertucci** said he had several reasons for nominating Mervin. He said Mervin will go out of his way to help his co-workers and the citizens of Jefferson Parish by staying on top of any problems that arise, and he is committed to finding a solution. He will help the maintenance personnel with plant issues and will go out of his way to find answers for constituents, often working after his shift has ended to resolve a complaint.

This year Mervin has taken on the major task of switching the computer system to Windows 7; several ledgers and reports had to be updated to support the change-over. Mervin went so far as to work from his home to make an easy transition. Finally, Mervin enjoys his work and has a real concern for the safety of the employees and the general public. Way to go, Mervin!!



Water's Employee of the Year Mervin Graves with Parish President John Young

## Lafreniere Park

By  
Bill Cangemi

This past spring was a busy time here at Lafreniere Park.

Our playgrounds were filled with children on field trips. Several thousand people attended and rocked out at our SPRING CONCERT SERIES. And a weekend didn't go by without every picnic shelter (as well as the Carousel) being rented and filled to capacity.

Our Facilities Reservation Coordinator, **Cathy Cutress**, celebrated her 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Parish. Four of those years have been here at Lafreniere Park. As the reservationist, Cathy is usually the person people see when they come to the office to book a party. Her pleasant and cooperative nature make reserving a facility here a very nice experience.

Park Ranger **Elizabeth Zar** was named Lafreniere Park's *Employee of the Year*. Ranger Liz came to us from Head Start and since then there have been numerous



Lafreniere Park's Facilities Reservations Coordinator Cathy Cutress

remarks and letters from park-goers complimenting her on her courtesy and helpfulness.

Summer promises to be a great time here at the Park. Our Carousel and Spray Park will be open seven days a week, and a beautiful fireworks display will light up the sky at our annual *Uncle Sam Jam* on July 3.

Have a great summer. We look forward to seeing you here at Lafreniere Park!

## Streets

By  
Debbie Tunstall

### New Employees

Welcome to our new Building Maintenance Supervisor **Charles Colopy**. We also welcome our new Engineer Inspector II's **Jared Reed, Keon Robinson, and Darren Teen**. Welcome aboard and we hope you enjoy working with us.

### Service Pin Recipients

Congratulations to the following recipients who recently received their service pins:

**15 Years of Service:** Administration - **Rachel Perez, Debbie Tunstall**

W.B. Maintenance - **John Allen, Lionel Florence, Troy Gilmore, Randy Martin, Melvin Taylor.**

**10 Years of Service:** Administration - **Pat Stoltz**

W.B. Maintenance - **Michael Bazile, Natasha Dorsey, Michael Perrin.**

**5 Years of Service:** W.B. Maintenance - **Tyrone Batiste, Kenric Benard, Gerard Bergeron, Jerry Berry, Horace Brown, Avona Dorsey, Keith Howard, Jamal Roussell.**

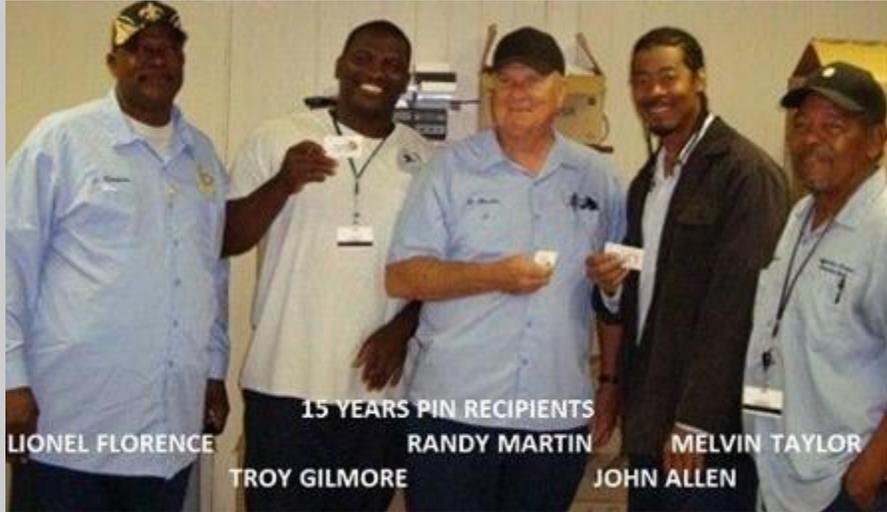
### Retirement

Congratulations to **Westbank Streets Maintenance Superintendent I Donald Boudreaux** who retired on April 30, 2014 with 30 yrs. 8 mos. of service. We're very happy for you Donald. You will be truly missed and we hope you enjoy your retirement.



Lafreniere Park's Employee of the Year Elizabeth Zar with Park Manager Barry McGuinness

## Streets Department Service Pin Recipients



15 YEARS PIN RECIPIENTS

LIONEL FLORENCE      RANDY MARTIN      MELVIN TAYLOR  
TROY GILMORE      JOHN ALLEN



10 YEARS PIN RECIPIENTS

NATASHA DORSEY      MICHAEL PERRIN      MICHAEL BAZILE



5 YEARS PIN RECIPIENTS

GERARD BERGERON      KENRIC BENARD      KEITH HOWARD      JERRY BERRY  
AVONA DORSEY      TYRONE BATISTE      JAMAL ROUSSELL      HORACE BROWN

## Workforce Connection

By  
Carolyn Haynes

Our Director, **Sharon Wegner**, announced *Jefferson Workforce Connection (JWC)* Employee of the Year: Administrative Assistant **Rhonda Breaux**. Rhonda recently received her 5-year service pin but also previously worked with *JWC*. She is instrumental in our quarterly employee performance enhancement activities, designing *JWC's* bulletin boards, and assisting with the daily coordination of activities within the center. Congratulations, Rhonda!



### Thank You's

**Ms. Karen A. James**, Youth Supervisor, posted Cinco de Mayo flyers provided by our Diversity Advisory Board. At *JWC* we serve multi-cultural members. The flyers were very informative. Thank you, Diversity Advisory Board!

### Recognition Week

*JWC* staff wore yellow ribbons and yellow attire in recognition of public service week. Quality and Excellent Public Service are always our ultimate goals at *JWC*. Staff wore their ribbons proudly!

*JWC* wishes everyone a safe, cool, and happy summer season!

### Alario Center

By  
Deidre Cummnga

The Alario Center staff demonstrated how “Happy” we were to celebrate Public Service Recognition Week, that we celebrated the entire month of May. The staff gathered for lunch and shared funny stories of outrageous events and discussed what it’s like working at the Alario Center. We also selected happy faces featuring our personalities.

#### Employee of the Year!

Congratulations to **Ricky Epherson**, the Alario Center’s Employee of the Year! Ricky has been a part of our Operations Division since 2011. There is never a day that Ricky doesn’t have a smile on his face. We appreciate your hard work and great work ethic. **WAY TO GO!**

### Engineering

By  
Helen McGee

Congratulations to **Mahmoud “Ray” Mowla**, Engineer III, as he was honored as Engineering’s Employee of the Year for 2013-2014. Ray has been employed the Jefferson Parish Department of Engineering for 16 years. (Photo next page)

Big ups to **Donna Guidroz** of Public Works! Donna recently competed in Two (2) races in two (2) days. Donna was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Overall Female in the Pelican Man Decathlon and 2nd place in the Huey P. Long 5k Bridge Race. Congratulations, Donna. We are very proud of you. Also, congratulations on the honor of being named Employee of

the year for Public Works. Way to Go, Donna.



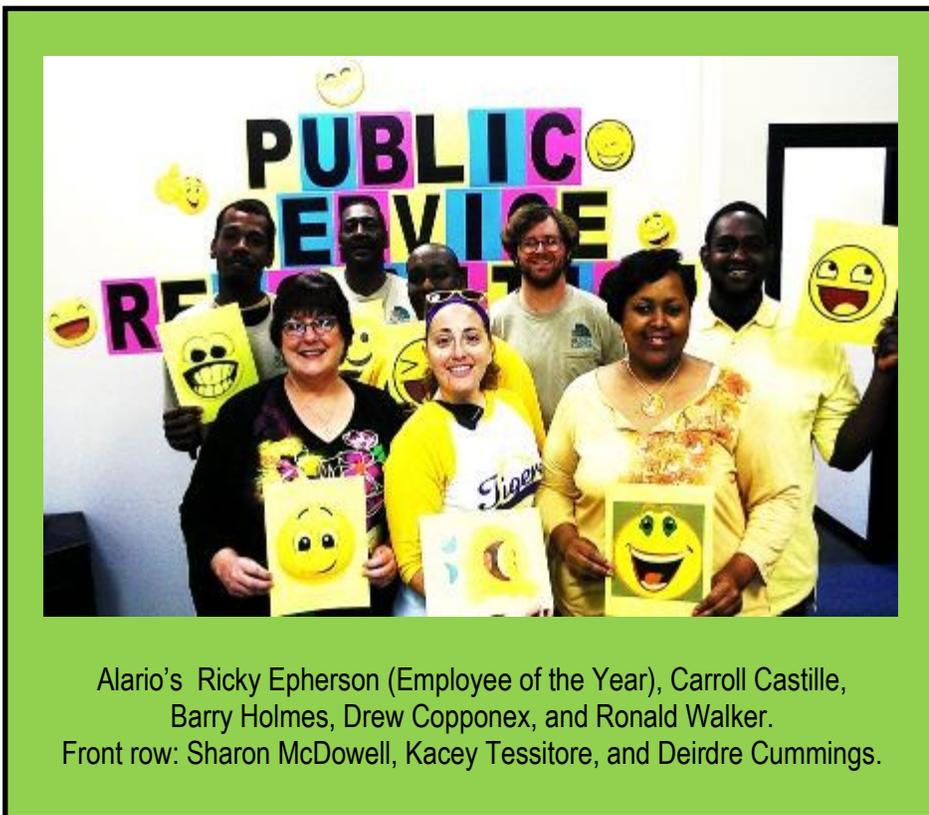
Donna Guidroz

Thanks to Jefferson Parish as they honored us all with a nice banner, certificate, and a ray of smiling face balloons! Check my model **Karen Gilley** out in front of the banner. Thanks again!



Karen Gilley

Best Wishes are in order to **Jason Phillips** of our Scada Department. Jason has left the parish to pursue another job. Thanks, Jason, for your excellent public service for seventeen years. We will surely miss you! (See photo next page)



Alario’s Ricky Epherson (Employee of the Year), Carroll Castille, Barry Holmes, Drew Copponex, and Ronald Walker. Front row: Sharon McDowell, Kacey Tessitore, and Deirdre Cummings.



Engineering Director Mark Drewes, Jason Phillips, and Public Works Director Kazem Alikhani

There was a recent Croc sighting in Lafitte by our employee Peter Blaha, Inspector. Be careful of the Crocs out there! Enjoy your summer!



Dangerous croc

## General Services

By  
Tessa St. Pierre

### Welcomes

We are happy to introduce our new Trades Helper **Lance Agoff**, who has just transferred from Recreation. Lance coaches Tee ball at Kings Grant during the summer, and his latest hobby is working on his truck.

The Grounds Crew is very excited to welcome their new foreman **Donovan Allen**. Donovan loves to cook and is a fan of all sports. For eighteen years he has been taking kids in who were looking for a home.

Our new Stationary Engineer I **Johnathan Frank**, who transferred from the Water Department, is excited to be with us. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family, working out, and attending church services on Sunday.



George Murray commands attention while demonstrating the lift

**Jerry Kaywood** is our new Laborer. His main enjoyment is Preaching the Gospel. He has been married to his lovely wife Denise for 35 years, and they have five wonderful kids.

**Charles London** joins our team as new Stationary Engineer I in our Jefferson Parish Correctional Center.

Our new Laborer **Ashley Schexnaldre** is a lifelong resident of Jefferson Parish. Ashley is married and has two sons, one grandchild, and another on its way. His hobbies include going to Cocodrie to camp, fishing, golf, and of course watching the SAINTS.

**Tim Smith** is one of our Laborers, but he is also a great musician that has traveled to many places. One of the instruments he plays is the bass.



Engineers congratulate Ray! Pictured are (L-R), Richard Betis, Matthew Zeringue, Chuong Pham, Employee of the Year Ray Mowla, Director Mark Drewes, Leo Lay, Juan Gutierrez, and Chanen Joseph

**Promotions**

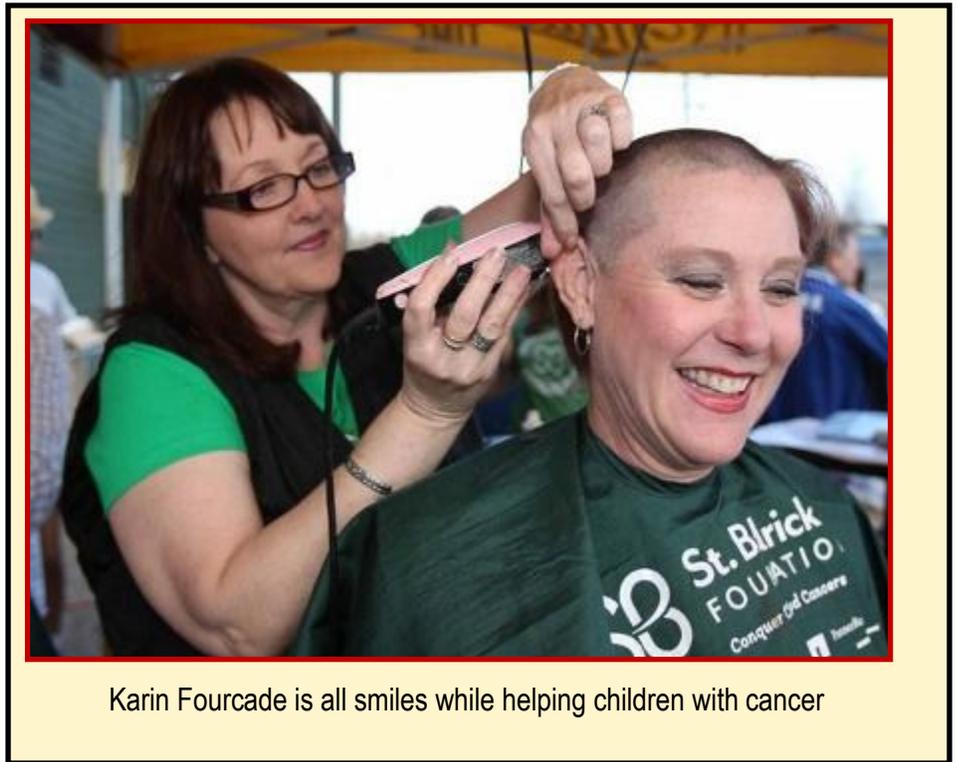
Congratulations to **Timothy Hoskins**, who was promoted to Stationary Engineer I, and **Cornell Jackson**, who was promoted to Trades Helper.

**Tailgate Safety Meeting**

In our recent Tailgate Safety Meeting, attention was given to aerial lift safety. There are a wide variety of uses for aerial lifts such as painting, electrical, tree cutting, carpentry, etc. It is imperative that those who use man-lift equipment take safety very seriously. As **Mr. George Murray** gave his presentation, everyone was in awe with finding out all the steps that need to be taken before using the lift. It was a great experience for everyone, and now everyone will be safe while using the lift.

**Going Bald for Kids**

General Services would like to shine the light on Landscape supervisor **Karin Fourcade**, who par-



Karin Fourcade is all smiles while helping children with cancer

icipated in the St. Baldrick's fundraiser, where she generously allowed her head to be shaven in order to raise money for children with Cancer. Karin's Team, BALD-Busters, raised \$1,518, resulting in a Second Place win.

We would like to thank Karin for this absolutely selfless act that will benefit research to cure pediatric cancer.

**Goodbyes**

**Gary Vukich**, our Assistant Property Manager, transferred to SCADA to become a Telemetry 2 Technician. We will miss him and we wish him the best of luck.

**Deaths**

Sadly **Maryanne Adorno's** husband of 33 years, Joe Adorno, passed away on May 8, 2014, after a long battle of illnesses. Please keep Maryanne and her family in your thoughts.

**Employee of the Year**

Let's all congratulate **Gary Daigrepoint** for making Employee of the Year. Gary has been with General Services for seven years, and his two loves are Simon his puppy and the beach. He hopes that one day he will live on the beach in Destin, Florida.



General Services Management congratulates their Employee of the Year Gary Daigrepoint

## Traffic Engineering

By  
Brandy Chism

We have three new Sign Technicians to welcome. **Cody Besson, Michael Soule`, and Willie Lunkin** have all come aboard to Traffic Engineering.

Also, congratulations are in order to **Stephen Clesi** on his reallocation to Sign Technician II as well as **Ray Leblanc** on his promotion to Sign Designer. We're proud of all of our guys for continuing to do a fantastic job!!



Sign Designer Ray Leblanc and Sign Technician II Stephen Clesi



Traffic Engineering's new Sign Technicians Cody Besson, Michael Soule`, and Willie Lunkin

## Drainage

By  
Sheena Quinn

### Welcome & Congratulations!

As 2014 gets into full swing, the Department of Drainage has had lots of exciting and memorable moments since our last article. Among the most noticeable changes are the newest additions to the department and recent promotions. **Dominique Bickham, Cori Norah, Gregory Jackson, Javon Coler, Elmore Leblanc, and Benjamin Lepine** have begun their careers with the Department of Drainage.

Also, we would like to congratulate the following for their recent promotions: **Keith Thornton, Larry Palmisano, Lawrence Nulty, Jeffrey Wilson, Juana Gonzalo, Joseph Santini, Joseph Pittman, Dolan Ellsworth, Marshall Leblanc, Clyde Davis, Tyrrell Molette, and Wendell Hampton.** Your hard work and dedication have paid off. Good luck and congratulations everyone!

### Great Accomplishments

During the Council meeting held on May 14, 2014, the Departmental Employee of the Year was recognized for the Department of Drainage. We would like to announce that this high honor was presented to **Joseph Centanni**, an East Bank Pump Station employee since 1989. Joseph, a Drainage Pump Station Operator II, has showed exemplary dedication to all that he does. He truly leads by example. Congrats, Joseph!

### Fond Farewells

While new faces were being introduced to our Department of Drainage family, we said goodbye to two amazingly hard-working people that retired after countless years of dedication and hard work. **Frank Boudreaux**, Equipment Operator IV for our West Bank Drainage office, and **George Davis**, Drainage Pump Station Superintendent I for East Bank Pump Station. We appreciate everything that they have done for the Department and wish them all the best upon the beginning of their retirement!



Drainage Director Mitch Theriot and Superintendent Manny Aspuria congratulate Joseph Centanni

## Diversity Advisory Board

By  
Crystal Heine

At the April 14, 2014, meeting, the majority of the Employee Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) approved the amended Rules of Organization, which have been sent to the administration for final approval, and discussed two events that the DAB was planning for May – a poster for Cinco de Mayo and a celebration of *Public Service Recognition Week*.

### Cinco de Mayo Observed

A *Cinco de Mayo* poster was created by the Jefferson Parish Employee Diversity Advisory Board and distributed through inter-office mail to all Parish departments at the end of April. It is important that we, who serve all citizens of Jefferson Parish, recognize and celebrate the different cultures that make up our community, and the Mexican culture is a vital part.

In Puebla, Mexico, and in many cities in the United States, especially in those with large Mexican populations, there are parades, dancing, and festivals to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, which is literally the “*Fifth of May*.” Cinco de Mayo is sometimes referred to as a “Mexican St. Patrick’s Day,” because it’s really about celebrating the Mexican way of life and Mexican culture.

### Public Service Recognition Week

At the Parish Council meeting on April 30, 2014, President John F. Young signed a proclamation

declaring May 5-9, 2014, *Public Service Recognition Week* to recognize and commend Jefferson Parish employees for their outstanding service to the parish. There were banners and balloons in the General Government Building and the Yenni Building to mark *Public Service Recognition Week*, and Parish employees were recognized with a certificate of appreciation within their departments for their contributions to Jefferson Parish.

### Call for Members

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Employee Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) for a two-year term, now is the time to let your Director know you are interested. The time has come to recruit a brand new group of members for DAB.

Sometime this summer, the process of selecting new members will begin with every Director being asked to submit a nomination of a person from his/her department

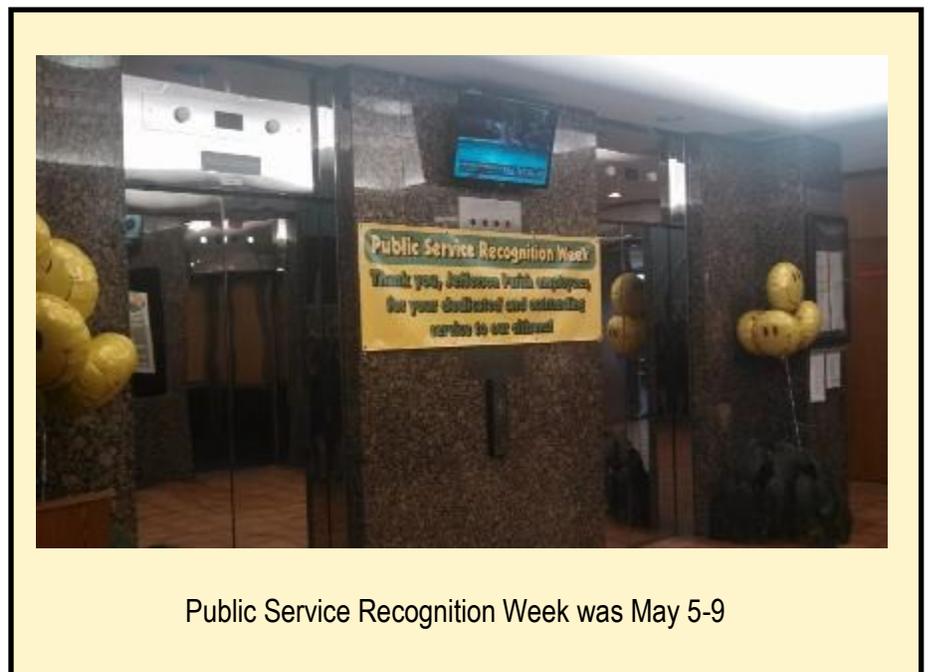
to serve a two-year term on the DAB. These nominations will be sent to their respective CAAs, and each CAA will select two (2) members from among the nominations they receive.

The DAB is looking for a few dedicated employees willing to serve – an employee who:

- Models inclusiveness and recognizes the value of diversity;
- Is able to work and communicate with others at any level in the workforce – a person who can and will reach out to others;
- Understands that time spent working on projects for DAB doesn’t relieve them of accomplishing the duties of their job – DAB involves EXTRA work;
- Takes pride in the Parish, the job, and the community;
- Takes the initiative to get things done.

“We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same.”

Anne Frank



Public Service Recognition Week was May 5-9

## Environmental

By  
Kathy Russo

Congratulations to **Lily Zhou**, Environmental Quality Technician with our Coastal Zone Management Program, for being chosen Departmental Employee of the Year. Keep up the good work.

The winners of the “Non-point Source Storm Water Pollution and Solutions” poster and essay contest were announced at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Storm Water Poster and Essay Awards Ceremony on April 17, 2014, at the Mel Ott Recreation Center in Gretna. Jefferson Parish President John Young and Gretna Mayor Belinda Constant welcomed and congratulated the winning students, their parents, and their schools. Trophies were presented to first, second, and third place winners in the poster and essay categories, and certificates of honorable mention were also awarded in each category.

Winning posters are currently displayed at the Jefferson Parish West Bank Regional Library, located at 2751 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, and, on June 23, 2014, will move to the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 West Napoleon Ave., Metairie, where they will be on display through August 25, 2014.

On May 14, 2014, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) training classes were presented to approximately 100 Parks and Recreation staff members. Employees who work in our recreational facilities were educated about parish, state, and federal storm water regulations and the Best Management Practices needed on site. Coordination was done

with our Safety Division to make sure that employees are safely in compliance with the regulations. The training classes are held annually.

On March 12, 2014, approximately 100 Patrick F. Taylor Science Academy students and teachers worked with Environmental Affairs staff to place 150 storm drain markers and collect litter in the Hill Crest neighborhood of Marrero. Area residents were happy with the beautification activity in their neighborhood.

On Saturday, May 10, 2014, the Department of Environmental Affairs participated in the 2014 Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation’s Lake Fest at the Bucktown Marina, Metairie. Our employees set up a display with educational material and spoke to visitors about our various programs and services that our department provides to the public.

The Department of Environmental Affairs is pleased to announce that the areas of River Ridge, Metairie, and Terrytown

achieved the number one position in the 2014 Louisiana Garden Club Federation’s Annual Cleanest City Contest in their District Divisions. District judges toured the areas on April 3 and 4, and designated them as the 1<sup>st</sup> Place winners in their respective divisions. These areas were eligible to advance to the State competition. Both Metairie and River Ridge placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the State, and Terrytown placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We are proud of our Cleanest City district and state titles, and we are particularly grateful to all who participated and worked so hard to make this happen. It is genuinely an honor to be acknowledged for our clean city efforts, but the true rewards have been in witnessing the partnership between the garden clubs that represent Terrytown, River Ridge, and Metairie and the various Parish departments (Streets & Parkways) that worked with us to make this a reality.

Although this is the first time that the Department of Environmental Affairs was involved in coordinating the Parish’s participation in the contest, there is no doubt we’ll be strong competitors in 2015.



Sami Khalil, Stormwater Program Supervisor, and Nancy Woodlock, Stormwater Program Specialist, at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation’s Lake Fest at Bucktown Marina.

**Planning**

By  
Marilyn Slutsky

**Employee of the Year!**

Congratulations to the Planning Department Employee of the Year, Planner II **Shane Yokum!**

**American Planning Association Conference (Local)**

At the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) Conference in New Orleans held in January, **James Borsos, AICP**, Planner II, received a LA Chapter-APA Leadership Appreciation Award for 2014. James served three years as the Co-Professional Development Officer on the Executive Committee for the LA Chapter-APA.

James is also certified by the United States Green Building Council, with Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Continuing Certification accomplished through 2017. Congratulations to James on his award and recognition.

**American Planning Association Conference (National)**

Planning Director **Terri Wilkinson, AICP**, and Assistant Director **Juliette Casagne** attended the American Planning Association National Conference Awards Luncheon in Atlanta in April. They attended to accept the National Planning Excellence Award for a Planning Advocate on behalf of Councilwoman Cynthia Lee-Sheng, District 5. The councilwoman was recognized by the APA for her work in the re-development of Fat City.

**Farewell**

The Planning Department also congratulates our intern, **Brooke Perry**, on her graduation from the University of New Orleans with a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning. Brooke was with the planning department for two years and worked on a number of studies and projects. She will be greatly missed.

**Juvenile Services**

By  
Arlyn Smith

**NEW EMPLOYEE(S): Della Hollerman, Cook I**

**RETIREMENT:**

Congratulations to **James Bright**, Juvenile Detention Officer II, who will retire on May 30. We wish him all the best and thank him for his many years of service to the youth of Jefferson Parish.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

**Jerry Billiot**, Maintenance Repairman, on April 25; **Gaynell Dumas**, Juvenile Detention Officer, on June 6; and **Brittany Caronia**, Juvenile Probation Officer I, on July 4. All the best is wished for them as they begin their new endeavors.

**EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:**

**APRIL: Harry McGuire**, Juvenile Detention Officer  
**Linda Bostick**, Juvenile Probation Officer

**MAY: Terri LeBlanc**, Registered Nurse  
**Matthew Villio**, Administrative Management Specialist III

In addition to **Matthew Villio** being named Employee of the Month for May 2014, he got engaged to Julie. *She said "YES"!!!* The wedding is set for April 2015. Congratulations, Matt!

*Congratulations* to proud parents— Probation Officer **Lashaunda Thomas**, whose son



Planning's Employee of the Year Shane Yokum with President John Young

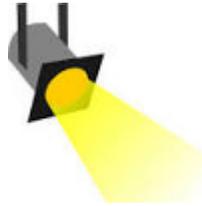
Clyde, and Mental Health Professional **Toyane Faulkner**, whose daughter Cameryn graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School. Both plan to attend LSU this coming fall.

On May 20, under our breezeway, JS hosted the 2014 Employee Health Fair in partnership with West Jefferson Hospital and Human Resource Management. We had a great turnout from employees of Juvenile Services, Juvenile Court, and the District Attorney's Office. Thanks to all who participated to insure a healthy, productive workforce.

On Friday, May 23, Juvenile Services' "FUN RAISING" Committee held a cook-out at the WB office. It was a beautiful day as staff dined on hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, etc

## 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 Yvette Russo.*" Yvette is an Administrative Assistant at our Administration Office. She has been with the Parish for six years. She started with the Department of Sewerage in June 2008 as a Typist Clerk II. In December 2008, she was pro-

moted to Payroll Clerk, and she was recently promoted to Administrative Assistant.



Spotlighting Yvette Russo

When asked to share some of her feelings about the job she does, Yvette had this to say: *"I was recently promoted to the Administrative Assistant position, and I am loving my new job!! Although it comes with new challenges, the people in our office are helping to make the transition easy for me. The Department of Sewerage employees are a great bunch of people and I enjoy working with each and every one of them.*

*"They have become my second family. I look forward to the years ahead as an employee of the Department of Sewerage. Some of my job duties include supervising the clerical staff and coordinating their schedules, assisting the Director with various projects, preparing various types of reports, working with our Executive Assistant, processing utility bills, processing general liability and recovery reports, accepting complaints, working with other Parish departments, and working with our field superintendents."*



At Juvenile Services' "Fun-Raising" cookout: Probation Officers David Vicari, Cassandra Cutno, Brittany Webb, and Erin Ronquille.

Sewerage Dept. continued

**CONDOLENCES**

We offer our sincere condolences to **George Gandy** at our Westbank Lines Division on the loss of his granddaughter, Nathaly Gandy, in May 2014.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent retirements:

**David Mahner**, Superintendent at our Bridge City Wastewater Treatment Plant, retired on April 18, 2014 with 33 years of service.

**Luis Vergara**, Superintendent at our Marrero Wastewater Treatment Plant, retired on May 30, 2014 with 33 years of service.

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

**James Troxclair** was promoted to Laborer Semi-skilled at our Eastbank Lift Stations Division. **Joseph Sergent** was promoted to Laborer Semi-skilled at our Westbank Lift Stations Division.

Congratulations to Superintendent **Morris Sapia** (Papa) on the birth of his grandson, Ayden Kyle Wood on May 1, 2014. Ayden is the son of Morris' daughter and son-in-law, Danielle & Andrew Wood.



Morris Sapia's grandson Cael Martin holds Ayden Kyle Wood

**WELCOME**

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

**Robert Ritter** – College Intern, Administration Office

**Kellie Minjarez** – Payroll Clerk, Administration Office

**Patrick LeBranch, Jr.** – Laborer, Eastbank Lines

**Michael Green** – Laborer Unskilled, Westbank Lines

**Library**

By Daniel Gitlin

**Summer Reading Mixes Learning and Fun For Kids and Teens**

Perhaps the busiest and most exciting time for all of the libraries is during Summer Reading, a program designed to help kids retain what they've learned in school the previous year while still having fun and taking part in exciting activities.



Summer Reading Performer Matt Noel

Children and teens are encouraged to read throughout the summer. Participants enroll in the program and create an online log where they keep track of all the books they read through the summer. The more books they read – the more prizes they can win at the library. In addition, the library holds special programs throughout the summer to help educate and entertain kids and teens.

Throughout the Summer Reading Program, every branch of Jefferson Parish Library will have special events with performers and community educators. The events include popular storytellers



Luis Vergara (second from right) with Sewerage Assistant Director Brett Todd, Superintendent Don Murray, and Director Linda Daly

and musicians, the Audubon Zoo's Zoomobile, Bugmobile, Wetlands Express and AquaVan, plus magicians Irwin Royes and Glen Ghiradi.

Registration is free and open to the public. Children and teens can sign up at any library branch or by visiting [www.jpilibrary.net/srp](http://www.jpilibrary.net/srp).

**Thank You, Ed Stucke**

Thank you to **Edward Stucke**, Library Business Manager, who recently retired from the library after working more than 20 years for Jefferson Parish. Before coming to the library in 1993, Ed worked with Jeff CAP for more than 15 years.

Ed worked side by side with those in the library's administrative wing and was best known for his calm, collective and professional approach to handling the library's finances. Though a true businessman, Ed was one of those people who could turn a bad day around just by giving you a good laugh, a smile and a pat on the back when needed.

Library Director **Marylyn P. Haddican** expressed her feelings in losing Ed to retirement in this beautifully written statement sent out to all employees: "When Ed told me months ago about his decision to retire, I had to take a moment to accept it. Ed's calm manner has helped to keep the library on track in regard to grants, contracts and the budget. He had the library's back."

**Promotions & New Hires**

Congratulations to the following employees who recently were promoted to Library Associate: **Peter Melancon, Juan Saenz and Margaret Clare.**

Welcome to the following team members who recently joined the library: **Kenneth Jamison** (Maintenance Repairman), **Alisha Thomas** (Computer Systems Specialist) and **Kathleen Weigert** (Children's Librarian).

**Emergency Management**

By  
Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade

Congratulations to **Timothy "Timmy" S. Gautreau, Jr.**, who is our new Assistant Director effective May 31, 2014. Timmy joined our department seven years ago and is a certified Louisiana Emergency Manager and a Master Exercise Practitioner. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position



Emergency Management's Assistant Director Timothy Gautreau

The 2014 hurricane season begins June 1, and a near or below normal season is predicted due to El Nino conditions, which create wind shear that chops the tops off clouds that form into tropical systems. Predictions are 8 to 13 tropical storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 3 to 6 will be hurricanes with 1 or 2 reaching Category 3 or greater (winds of 111 mph or higher). The names for the 2014 season are: Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky and Wilfred. This pre-



Ed Stucke with Library Director Marylyn Haddican

diction is by no means a reason for us to be complacent, as it only takes one.

June 1 is a reminder to have your families ready for the next big storm. Preparedness now can make a difference. JPAAlert is an alert notification system that allows officials to immediately contact you and deliver emergency information via email, cell phone, smartphone, and other handheld devices. Sign up at [jeffparish.net](http://jeffparish.net) or contact our office at 349-5360 if you do not have access to a computer.

**Table-top Exercise**

Our department hosted an EOC Operations Room table-top exercise and drill in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season with more training events to follow. These training events provide the necessary skill, knowledge, and experience to effectively handle any disaster situation.

We extend our condolences to **Claire F. Ward**, on the loss of her mother, Miriam Fricke. Our thoughts are with you.

**Human Resources**

By  
Glenn Schiro

**Congratulations  
to Human Resources'  
Employee of the Year!**

Congratulations to Executive Assistant **Susie Cunningham**, who is Human Resource Management's Employee of the Year for 2013-2014. Susie worked in the Water Department from 1985 to 1997 when she left to raise her daughters. She returned to the Water Department in 2009.

In August of 2012, Susie came to HR where she quickly demonstrated her many talents and abilities. Susie can always be counted on to go the extra mile to get the job done. She has a strong work ethic and role models on a daily basis what it means to be a team player. Susie, thank you for your outstanding dedication to the HR Department and to our Parish government. You are the best.



Susie Cunningham  
with President John Young

**Safety**

On April 14, Safety Officer **Wayne Jones** taught a Transportation of Heavy Equipment Safety training program for Streets employees. Wayne also taught the class to Sewerage employees on April 24.

Please look at Human Resource Management - Safety on the Jefferson Parish Employee Intranet Portal to view several on-line programs including Safety Video for Echo String Trimmers and Brushcutters, Heat Stress, Poisonous Plants, and Back Safety. More Safety programs will be coming on line.

**June is Men's Health Month**

The purpose of Men's Health Month is to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys. Statistics show that men's health is at a great risk. On average, men die almost 6 years younger than women and suffer higher mortality rates. The lives of hundreds of thousands of men will continue to be threatened without immediate action to combat this growing crisis.

Please circle the following date on your calendar for this very important informational program:

**June 12, 2014; General Government Bldg, 1st Fl.; 10:00- 3:00**

For more information, contact Alexis Navarro of the LSU Ag Center, 736-6519



Timmy Gautreau addresses essential duty personnel at the EOC's pre-hurricane season tabletop exercise in Gretna

## Health Issues

By  
Peggy Branam, RN



The old classic saying, “You don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone,” could not ring more true than when referring to eyesight. Most people don’t give much thought to their eyes unless they have a complaint, which may include blurred vision, itching, redness, burning, or pain. Unfortunately, to make matters worse, many will not take the time to go to the eye doctor (Ophthalmologist) unless the eye complaint is too bothersome to ignore.

Typically, eye complaints will result from trauma, environmental factors, infections, drug reactions, inherited or non-inherited medical conditions. The range of severity and level of intervention required can range from minor to a severe medical emergency requiring immediate medical attention. What you do or don’t do can make the difference between the quality of eye/vision health.

The following is an overview for some common eye conditions. More information can be obtained from your eye doctor.

**DRY EYES:** One of the more common and benign of eye conditions is dry eyes. Complaints: burning, scratchy/gritty feeling, mild redness. Diagnosis: history, eye exam to observe the amount of tear/tear patterns. Causes: dry

environment, medications, over-use. Treatment: artificial tears, treat allergic conditions.

**EYE ALLERGIES:** Another very common aggravating, but benign condition, especially in the N.O. area! Complaints: red, itchy/watery/puffy eyes. Diagnosis: history, eye exam. Causes: Various allergens (pollen/animal dander/dust/etc.) Treatment: Cool/wet compresses to closed eyelids, antihistamines, lubricating eye drops.

**EYE INFECTIONS:** These range from mild to severe and should be treated by a doctor. Complaints: itching, eye discharge, burning/stinging, swelling to eyelids, eyes bulging, redness to eyelids or sclera (white of eyeball). Diagnosis: history, eye exam, culture of discharge. Causes: Viruses, bacteria. Treatment: Cool/ wet compresses to closed eyelids, eye drops/ointment and/or pills as prescribed.

**BLURRED VISION:** Poor vision, near or far, should be evaluated to determine if glasses are needed.

Minor blurring that is temporary can be a symptom of various non-emergency conditions. When in doubt, contact your doctor for recommendations. The abrupt onset of blurred vision that persists is an emergency and should be treated ASAP.

If only one eye becomes blurred or suddenly becomes dark, this is a medical emergency and could be a detached retina, or even a stroke.

Blurred vision with pain is always considered an emergency, so seek help immediately!

**CATARACTS** occur when the natural lens to the eye becomes cloudy.

Complaints: Cloudy vision. The vision is impaired to the point of not being able to read or see at a distance comfortably. Diagnosis: Eye exam. Causes: Usually age-related in older adults. Treatment: Surgical removal.

**GLAUCOMA:** Occurs when the optic nerve tissue is destroyed. This is a painless condition and without obvious signs of damage until it is too late. Complaints: Impaired peripheral vision. Diagnosis: Eye exam. Causes: Increased pressure within the eye. Vascular diseases. Certain medications can aggravate the condition. Usually age-related in older adults. Treatment: Prescription eye drops.

**MACULAR DEGENERATION:** Occurs when blood leaks out of the blood vessels within the eye and destroy the retina. Complaints: Blurred vision. Difficulty seeing fine details. Straight lines looked crooked. Vision loss begins with blackness to center of field of vision that over time enlarges till blindness occurs. Diagnosis: Eye exam. Causes: Vascular disease. Diabetes stimulates new blood vessel growth in the eye. These vessels are fragile and leak over time. Treatment: Laser surgery can slow down of vision loss, but does not restore the vision that is already lost.

Never take your vision for granted. Check with an ophthalmologist, not an optometrist, one who tests for reading glasses, if you think you may have a condition that needs treatment. If you have a family history of eye disease, you could be at a greater risk for eye disease.

# Retirements

**Luis Vergara**  
Sewerage  
32 years

**David Mahner**  
Sewerage  
32 years

**Frank Boudreaux**  
Drainage  
31 years

**Donald Boudreaux**  
Streets  
30 years

**Charlotte Lewis**  
Library  
29 years

**Patricia Beebe**  
Community Development  
25 years

**Linda Lambert**  
JeffCAP  
25 years

**Helen Pounds**  
Code Enforcement  
15 years

**Janet Phillippe**  
General Services  
15 years

## Public Service Recognition Week



**President Young—accompanied by members of the Council, his administration, and representatives of the Diversity Advisory Board—declares May 5-9 Public Service Recognition Week.**