



Volume 35
Number 4

Jefferson

Message from the Parish President. . .

Making Progress

We have made some positive additions to Jefferson Parish lately. We recently began transitioning from manual garbage collection to semi-automated collection. Progressive Waste Solutions of Louisiana (PWSLA) is distributing 95-gallon carts to residences and small businesses serviced under Jefferson Parish’s trash collection contract.

Cart delivery is being phased in by area and is anticipated to be completed by September 15, 2014. The new system offers the advantage of preventing wind-blown litter, reducing odors, improving rodent control, automated collection, and is safer for refuse employees with reduced manual handling and lifting, and limits exposure to oncoming traffic. The new collection trucks are powered by clean compressed natural gas (CNG).

The carts are designed to hold up to 200 lbs. and will hold the equivalent of three (3) standard trash cans. Smaller 65-gallon carts are available upon request.

Also new to our Parish are the 12 new Clearview Fountains located in the detention ponds along Clearview Parkway. While their appearance



John F. Young
Parish President

enhances beautification and quality of life throughout our Parish, the primary function of the ponds remains as storage for rain water and to provide relief from flooding in the area.

The addition of the Clearview Fountains also promotes an aquatic environment and water circulation that results in increased oxygen levels for aquatic life and prevents the ponds from becoming stagnant. *(See photo Page 16)*

The two tallest patterns in the middle of the large ponds project water approximately 35 feet into the air. Each fountain is illuminated by four (4) LED white lights.

Thank you for doing your part in continuing to improve our quality of life and for your continued public service to all citizens of Jefferson Parish.

JeffTalk

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- Emergency Management**
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- Environmental Affairs**
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- Fleet Management**
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Glenn Schiro
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- JeffCAP**
Catina Ward
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Arlyn Smith
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Gwen Styron & William Cangemi
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Chantell Prestenbach
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- Purchasing**
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- 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

New Training Class Offerings

The Department of Human Resource Management is continually striving to provide practical and relevant training for Parish employees, through both live classroom training and convenient on-line programs. I'd like to make you aware of some of the latest programs that we have added to our course offerings.

Workplace Diversity: Respecting Different Paths to Success

This class covers the evolutionary perspectives of diversity in today's culture, how unconscious biases and micro-inequities affect our workplace, and how understanding diversity can help us improve our relationships with co-workers and the citizens we serve. The class covers cultural biases as well as the primary and secondary dimensions of diversity and how they relate to human sensitivity.

Conflict Resolution is an excellent class for employees or managers who want to discuss strategies for dealing and coping with conflict in the workplace. Through use of a "conflict instrument," which is distributed in the class, participants will understand their preferences in conflict situations and how they can improve their ability to handle conflict in the workplace. This class requires a good amount of participation and some fun role-playing.

Computer Classes. In addition to our regular introductory com-



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

puter training in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Outlook, we will soon be offering some "special topics" for students who want to learn advanced, specialized computer applications. The first special topic will be **Excel Pivot Tables**. A pivot table is a dynamic summary report generated from a database. The database can be in the form of an Excel spreadsheet, a table, or in an external data file. A pivot table can quickly combine and compare data for you to perform analysis on large amounts of data & allow you to filter all unnecessary data that makes analyzing large worksheet data much easier. Watch for this new program in September.

Safety Classes. Our Safety Division has also been busy creating a series of brief and handy on-line tutorials. The most recent additions to Safety's course offerings are **Back Safety**, which illustrates safe lifting techniques; **Poisonous Plants**, which will help our field employees avoid potential dangers like poison ivy and poison sumac; and **Heat Stress**, which can be a life-saver in these hot summer months.

For more information on these and all of our classes, call the Human Resources Training Division (736-6126) or Safety Division (736-6129).

Code Enforcement

By
Doretha Parker

Code Enforcement is moving forward! We are very proud to announce the improvements of our lobbies have been completed. Our new lobbies offer a relaxing environment as well as computers for our constituents' convenience.

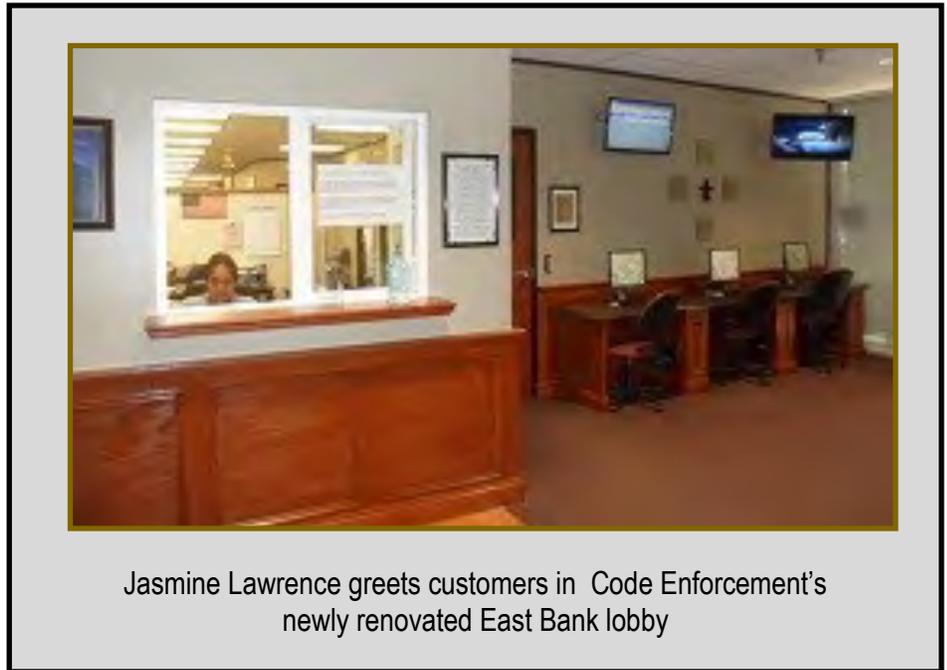
We invite every person to provide us with feedback of "How We're Doing." They are able to access this on our homepage. Soon to come is our online filing. The constituents will be able to file and request inspections using our online service. Residential and No Permit Required filings are now available online.

We are thankful to have Professor Ron Schulingkamp, Sc.D. from Tulane University working with us. With the introduction of the Baldrige Criteria, we are learning additional ways to satisfy our constituents.

With the help of our new



Plumbing Inspector
Roland Morvant



Jasmine Lawrence greets customers in Code Enforcement's newly renovated East Bank lobby

computer system, My Permit Now, we were able to decrease our constituent wait time more than fifty percent. Code Enforcement is leading the way to customer-driven excellence.

Our inspectors are bragging about how great their hotspots are working in the field. They are now able to update inspections immediately.

Code Enforcement sends farewells to **Helen Pounds**, and **Paul Landry**. We will miss you! We welcome our new employees **Leroy Griffin III** (Electrical Inspector), **Leroy Manning Jr** (Plan Reviewer), **Alexandra Aguillard** (Plan Reviewer), **Allen Seuss** (Plan Reviewer), **Jun Chen** (Plan Reviewer), **Keaton Cromartie** (Plan Reviewer), **Roland Morvant** (Plumbing Inspector), **Neil Couvillion** (Building Inspector), **Jasmine Lawrence** (Typist Clerk II) **Amanda Wardwell** (Typist Clerk III) and **Taki Johnson** (Cashier). Welcome back **Donnie Phillips** (Building Inspector). We are happy to have

you back!

Congratulations to **Jamie Harvey** for her promotion with Quality of Life. Also congratulations to our employee of the year, **Cheryl Dufrene**; and our new chief of the Mechanical Department, **Harold Logrande**. We continue the pursuit of excellence!



Employee of the Year
Cheryl Dufrene with
President John Young

Water

By
Amy Truesdell

The Water Department has a lot of news to report for this issue, so let's get right to it!

New Employees-

We have several new employees to welcome into our department: EB Water Service Inspector I **Ain Greenaway**; EB OM Laborers **Denardo Jordan** and **Brandon Hurst**; Water Quality Technician II **Dr. Dong Kim**; WB Water Service Inspectors **David Seivers** and **Jaranicke Hardin**; and WB Utility Billing Clerks **Ricquel Bryant** and **Akeila Lockett**. We hope each of you will enjoy your new position and plan on staying with us for many years to come.

Goodbyes-

We had to bid Adieu to several employees as well; WB Trouble Shooter **Ronald Triggs** transferred to Sewerage; Water Purification Operator **Thomas Leefe** has decided to move on



Mike Johnson says good-bye to partner-in-crime Gwen Sanders



Harold Robert is congratulated by Public Works Director Kazem Alikhani and Acting Water Director Linda Daly

to greener pastures; and Water Quality Scientist II **Ashley Kozem** is transferring with her husband to Lake Charles.

Retirements-

Congratulations to the following employees; WB Water Purification Supervisor **James Boulware**; WB Waterline Maintenance Superintendent II **Harold Robert**; Instrument Maintenance Technician for the Lab **David North**; WB Water Service Supervisor II **Mike Johnson**; and WB Outside Maintenance Clerk III **Dorothy Hayes**. We appreciate your years of service and wish you all the best!

Promotions-

WB Plant Water Purification Operator I **Hugh Castleberry** was promoted to an Operator II; EB Utility Billing Clerk II **Chandra Alexander** was promoted to Utility Billing Collections Supervisor; Grand Isle Laborer **Timothy Bradberry** was promoted to Equipment Operator III. Good Job, Everybody!

Service Pins-

Several employees received Service Pins; For five years of service: EB Laborer **Matthew Bergeron**; Water Quality Scientist II **Ykeisha Blount**; WB Utility Billing Collections Supervisor **Marion "Denise" Holt**; Water Purification Operator **James Neely**; Water Service Inspectors **Darren Pecot** and **Michelle Rahm**; and yours truly, **Amy Truesdell**. For fifteen years of service: Executive Superintendent **Destiny Bratton** and Water Service Inspector II **Patrick Sumler**.

On a Personal note-

Utility Billing Collector **Christy Roche** had an eight-pound baby girl, Gianni; Water Quality Scientist II **Ashley Kozem** delivered Baby Girl Kozem, we are all anxiously awaiting a name- If you have any suggestions, please email Ashley!; Payroll Clerk **Keyon Kent** lost her mother on Saturday, July 12th to cancer and I also lost my mother to cancer on July 8th. Both Keyon and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support over the past several months.

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Congratulations to Edgar Allen and Stephen Clesi on their recent reallocations to Sign Tech II. Both have proven to have the desire, knowledge and skills to step up to leadership roles and responsibility. We're all very proud of you!!



Mr. & Mrs. Michael Parks

Also, congratulations to Michael Parks on his recent wedding to his longtime love, Robin. We all wish you both much love and happiness!!

Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

The 2014 Region 1 Teen CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Camp was a three-day event held on July 17 – 19, 2014, at the Lafreniere Park Foundation Center. A total of 74 teens from Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes participated.

The event consisted of activities and hands-on training relative to emergency preparedness, fire safety, CPR, medical triage, search and rescue, cyber bullying/internet safety, and weather safety.

This department, along with the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness, Plaquemines Parish Sherriff's Office, St. Bernard Sheriff's Office, East Jefferson EMS, Jefferson Parish Sherriff's Office, Jefferson Parish East Bank Consolidated Fire Department, Louisiana State Fire

Marshal's Office and National Weather Service-Slidell, was instrumental in this successful event.



Layla Vicknair (above) and Tyler Vinet (below) practice CPR at the Teen CERT Camp



Congratulations to **Charles M. Hudson**, Director, on his appointment to the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association (LEPA) Board of Directors for the 2014 – 2017 term representing Jefferson Parish. LEPA is an organization of emergency preparedness and response practitioners with the goal of improving public safety in emergencies.



New Sign Tech II's Stephen Clesi and Edgar Allen

Welcome Summer Worker!

Welcome to **Oldeneshia Holly**, who has joined our staff through the Summer Youth Jobs Pilot Program offered through JeffCap. Oldeneshia is a graduate of John Ehret High School and resides in Marrero along with her mother and two brothers.

Neshia has been a great asset to this department, assisting administratively in emergency preparedness and emergency medical services. Her future plans include attending college with an interest in pediatric nursing.



"Neshia" Holly

First Storm of the Year!

The first named storm of the hurricane season, Arthur, developed on July 1 in the Atlantic near the Bahamas and become a hurricane shortly thereafter making landfall on July 4 near the barrier island of North Carolina and continuing up the eastern seaboard to Canada. The 2014 hurricane forecast is for a slightly below-average season. BE PREPARED.

Diversity Advisory Board

Members of the Employee Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) met at the Yenni Building on July 14, 2014. Topics of discussion included selection of the 2015-2017 board and new member orientation, which is scheduled to be conducted before the fourth quarterly meeting.

On October 13, 2014, at 2:00 p.m., a meeting is scheduled to serve as the fourth and final regular meeting for the DAB in 2014. This meeting will allow current and new members to meet collectively for the first time and provide the new members an opportunity to observe a Board meeting and ask questions.

Multicultural Calendar

The DAB has been working on a multi-cultural calendar to post on the parish website and/or intranet. The calendar will provide information of worldwide holidays, observances, and other events. The calendar is designed not only to help build a respectful and inclusive workplace but also to educate people about the vast cultural and religious holidays and observances throughout the world.

Knowledge of such events increases cultural awareness and improves mutual respect and understanding in a diverse workplace. The calendar will contain information about the major religions and cultural festivals in North America and identify non-religious celebrations, too. If you have any suggestions for the

calendar, please email at cheine@jeffparish.net.

New Training Program

The Human Resource Department recently added a course to the training program entitled **“Workplace Diversity: Respecting Different Paths to Shared Success.”** The course focuses on dealing with cultural and hidden biases and how to identify and deal with micro-inequities before they lead to harassment and discrimination. The next class will be held on August 8, 2014, at the Yenni Building in Room 208.

Call for Articles

DAB is always in need of articles for the Diversity Matters Newsletter. Please submit articles relative to diversity to **Brian Duplaisir** for publication in the DAB newsletter.

Many thanks to **Brian Duplaisir**, who edited the original version of the DAB logo to now read *“Employee Diversity Advisory Board.”*

JEFFERSON PARISH
EMPLOYEE
DIVERSITY ADVISORY BOARD



There never were in the world two opinions alike, no more than two hairs or two grains; the most universal quality is diversity. - *Michel de Montaigne – an influential writer of the French Renaissance*

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

WELCOME:

JS welcomes **Jeremiah Alexander**, Juvenile Detention Officer I; **Richard Sullivan**, Trades Helper; and **Joseph Johnson**, Maintenance Repairman.

RESIGNATION:

Michelle Allen resigned from her position of Juvenile Detention Home Security Guard and we wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

PROMOTIONS/ REALLOCATIONS:

Congratulations to Detention Officers, **Thomas Knight**, **John Shephard**, **Joel Sweeney**, **Douglas White**, and **Freeman Wright** who were reallocated to Juvenile Detention Officer II positions; and to **Debra Story**, reallocated to Juvenile Probation Officer II. They have all demonstrated journeyman level knowledge, skills, and abilities of their positions. Congratulations on a job well done!

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

JUNE 2014: **John Shephard**, Juvenile Detention Officer
Tiyeshe Washington, Juvenile Probation Officer

JULY 2014: **Vandyke Hester**, Juvenile Detention Officer
Patricia Green-Metz, Juvenile Probation Officer

SERVICE PINS:

Congratulations to JS staff who received their service pins from Director **Roy Juncker** at the July monthly staff meeting.

5 YEARS: Maintenance Repairman **Ron Ellison**; Mental Health Professionals **Toyane Faulkner**, **Romonica Jones**, **Lisa Powell**; and Probation Officers **Krista Jerome**, **Erin Ronquille**, and **Brittany Webb**

10 YEARS: Detention Officers **John Beauregard** and **Willie Green**; and Probation Officers **Tion McGhee**, and **David Vicari**

15 YEARS: Probation Officer **Roberta Brown**; Detention Supervisor **Christopher Bruno**; and Food Service Manager **Rhonda Walker**

PUBLIC FIRST

Thanks to the following staff who have volunteered their talents and time to represent JS on the "Public First" committee: **Christopher Bruno**, **Chantrell Cook**, **Toyane Faulkner**, **Denise Gilson**, **Romonica Jones**, **Allan Kagan**, **Carolyn Robinson**, **Barbara Rose**, **Shernell Shephard**, **Christopher Troscclair**, and **Reginald White**.

The committee will help to ensure that our already caring and hardworking staff continues to possess the training and skills to respectfully and expeditiously serve our clients, partners and coworkers while performing their daily work in the field, on the phone, or at one of our facilities.

BLOOD DRIVE:

On June 17th a blood drive was held here at the Juvenile Justice Complex. We had a goal of 15, and 16 successfully donated. "WAY TO GO". Next blood drive will be August 12th.

Streets

By
Debbie Tunstall

Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Road Maintenance Superintendent III, **Stanley Walker**, who is our **Employee of the Year**. Stanley is a dedicated employee who is truly deserving of this award.

Retirement

We said good-bye to our Engineering Inspector, **Steve Roth**, who retired with over 30 years of service. We hope you have a happy retirement, Steve, with many new adventures ahead.



Steve Roth

Good-bye

We also said good-bye to Typist Clerk III **Sarah Ruttle**, who is now working with the Recreation Department. We'll miss you and good luck to you, Sarah.

Service Pins

Congratulations to the Lapalco Bridge employees who recently received their service pins. **Joe Johnson** with 15 years of service; **Gerry Meridy** and **Jenny Wactor** with 10 years; and **Catherine Hayes** with 5 years.

Wedding

Administrative Assistant **Pam Bourgeois** and **Larry Guidry** were recently wedded. Congratulations, Pam. May you and Larry have many years of happiness.

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Safety Officer **Wayne Jones** participated in Quantitative Fit Testing training for WB Water employees on June 25. This important training was provided by **Keith Wells** from the safety company MSA North America.

Wayne taught Backhoe/Compact Excavator training on June 3-6. Employees from Streets, Drainage, and Water completed this training consisting of classroom and hands-on instruction. **Albert "Shorty" Harris** from Water provided excellent field instruction to participants.

On May 4, Wayne successfully completed the **Powered Industrial Trucks Compliance Training Seminar** presented by the National Safety Council in cooperation with the South Louisiana Chapter.

New Class

Training Specialist II **Glenn Schiro** recently taught **Conflict Resolution** on July 22nd. This was the first time Glenn taught the class. Using the results of the Dealing with Conflict Instrument that each participant completed prior to the class, Glenn showed participants their preferences in dealing with different types of conflict.

The class involved a lot of roll playing of various types of conflict we often encounter in the workplace. Glenn will teach the Conflict Resolution class on September 30. For details, please call him at 736-6128.

General Services

By
Tessa St. Pierre

Welcome

General Services is excited to welcome **Antonio Dyson!** Antonio is coming from Parks and Recreation. He will be our new Trades Helper at the Yenni Building.

Promotions

We are happy to announce recent promotions for Assistant Property Manager **Fred Carreras**, Executive Assistant **Michelle Dufrene**, Printing Room Supervisor **Debby Henry**, Maintenance Repairman **Cornell Jackson**, and Administrative Assistant **Tonda White**. Congratulations to all and thanks for your hard work! We are all very proud of them!

Safety

During General Services Safety Tailgate meeting, **Tim Smith** demonstrated how to use the Eye Wash and the Emergency Shower. The crowd watched as Tim went through the motions of the procedures to follow. No one expected to see what he did next. He stepped

under the shower head and pulled the lever that released the water. While everyone stood aghast by his action, he went over how long you should stay under the water, how to clean up after that time expires, and other safety instructions.



Tim Smith

Goodbyes

Although we are sad to see **Richard Sullivan** and **Jerry Cook** leave, we congratulate them on their new positions. They both were promoted to Trades Helper. Richard will be starting at Juvenile Services, and Jerry will be starting at Sewerage. We wish them both the best of luck.



Backhoe/Compact Excavator training in progress

Engineering

By
Helen McGee

We are at the end of summer already. The School Bell will be ringing. Let's get the children ready for a great year.

Congratulations are in order for **Tim Guidry**, Engineering Inspector III, who retires August 1. Enjoy your retirement. You will be missed.

Congratulation to **Sheryl Khatri**, of Engineering Inspections. Sheryl celebrated 33 years in June with Jefferson Parish.



Sheryl Khatri

Engineering has several new employees that we are Welcoming Aboard: **Larissa Owens**, Rodman; Engineering Inspectors **Todd Louque** and **George Brown**; **Jeremy Horowitz**, GIS Operator; **Sandra Vappie**, Typist Clerk; **Robert Marrero**, SCADA System Manager, **Don Barilleaux**, SCADA Telemetry Technician; and **Edward Williams**, Warehouse.

Congratulations to **Craig Brue** and **Steven Roberts** of SCADA on their recent promotions. Way to go, guys.

Lafreniere Park

By
William Cangemi

Uncle Sam Jam

There wasn't a blade of grass to be seen as over 20,000 people filled every inch of the park for Lafreniere's annual *UNCLE SAM JAM*. Music, food, and fireworks were the order of the night as GRAMMY AWARD WINNER Lee Greenwood lit up the audience with his signature song "God Bless the USA" followed by a brilliant fireworks display which lit up the night sky.

Actress/singer Jana Kramer rounded off the night with a wonderful set that sent everyone home happy and wondering how we were going to top this one next year.

Promotions

Congratulations go to Operator III **Ronnie Tew** and Operator I **Mike Couch** on their recent promotions. Long-time park employee Ronnie Tew and 5-year veteran Mike Couch are excellent workers and great guys to know. Outside of work, Ronnie belongs to a carnival crew (*He looks great in a tux!*) and Mike



Mike Couch

follows his three favorite sports: FOOTBALL, FOOTBALL, and FOOTBALL.

Proud Grandpa

Assistant Park Manager **Rob Alexander** has a new title: GRANDPA. His first grandchild is a boy named Grayson, who Rob and his family like to take to the Lafreniere Park Carousel. Rob is looking forward for his grandson to be old enough to take to the Zephyrs' games.

There's plenty of life left in this summer, so we hope to see you here at Lafreniere Park!



Ronnie Tew

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

On July 8, Jefferson Parish was recognized by the Regional Planning Commission as a Clean Fleet Leader for using alternative fuels to power some of its fleet, resulting in reduced emissions, fuel savings, and improved air quality.

Accepting the award from Rebecca Otte, Coordinator of the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership, were **Parish President John Young** and **James Schultz**, Environmental Quality Specialist.

The Department of Environmental Affairs has three gas-electric hybrids in its fleet of fifteen vehicles.

Jefferson Parish is a recipient of a National Association of Counties (NACo) 2014 Achievement Award for its program titled “Jefferson Parish Stormwater Task Force Coalition” in the category of Environmental Protection and Energy. We are proud of this national recognition of our Storm Water Division - **Sami Khalil**, Environmental Quality Supervisor; **Nancy Woodlock**, Environ-



James Schultz and Parish President John Young accept Clean Fleet Award from Rebecca Otte, Regional Planning Commission

mental Quality Specialist; **Diane Coughlin**, Environmental Quality Technician – and all of our municipal partners. This program was also recognized in February of this year as recipient of an Environmental Leadership Award from LDEQ.

On July 19, the Department of Environmental Affairs, with support from the Department of General Services, held a Parish-wide Household Hazardous Materials Collection Event at the Joseph S. Yenni Building.

The event, funded with a

grant from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), was a great success! Over 22,000 pounds of household hazardous material (HHM), including electronic wastes and paint, were collected for re-use, recycling, and/or proper disposal.

This parish-wide collection event, which kept significant hazardous materials from our natural environment, would not have been possible without funding from LDEQ and without The Green Project and the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC) participation in collection of materials for re-use.

We’d like to remind our fellow employees to only purchase household chemicals, cleaners, paints, and pesticides in the amount needed for their household, and to follow product instructions. It is important that chemicals and materials such as mercury are not disposed of in the regular trash, as it may potentially leach from a landfill into ground or surface water or release toxins that are harmful to human health and the environment.



The Household Hazardous Waste Event

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 Linwood Simien”*. Linwood is



Linwood Simien

a Truck Driver II at our Westbank Lines Division. He has been with the Parish for 19 years. When asked to share some of his feelings about the job he

does, Linwood had this to say: “I pride myself in teaching and showing all employees at Jefferson Parish how to get along with one another in order to achieve our goals. I also always take pride in my work, because in the end, that’s what speaks for us. Even though I’m close to retirement, I still take pride in everything I do. Every chance given to me in our safety meetings, or lunch breaks, I love to encourage my fellow co-workers to hang in there; do



Raymond Champagne is congratulated by Superintendent Glenn Miller, Sewerage Director Linda Daly, and Superintendent Morris Sapia

what’s right for yourself and others; and one day they will make it to retirement like I have. I’ve been told by co-workers that I put a smile on their faces, or brighten their days with the few catch phrases I say. Those are the types of things I want to be remembered for.” Linwood’s supervisors say that he is always willing to give a word of advice to other employees, using one of his catch phrases – “production and progress” or “When I leave, I’m leaving with more than I came with, and that’s knowledge and experience.”

FLUSHABLE WIPES – NOT SO FLUSHABLE

Wipes are causing serious issues for wastewater treatment system operators all over the country. Many of the wipes entering the sewer system are not dispersible and technically not flushable. The term “flushable wipes” was coined in the 1980s, when latex bonded wet wipes with polyester fibers were brought onto the market. The

wipe was considered “flushable” since it could transit through the toilet, but with all of the polyester fibers it was not dispersible. The definition of what is flushable is not subject to industry guidelines or consumer instructions. With the rapid increase of wipes on the market, there is significant consumer confusion about what is and is not flushable. For example, baby wipes, household wipes, and feminine hygiene wipes are not flushable.

As sewers around the world turn into solid waste conveyance systems – we all have to work harder to keep sewage flowing. De-ragging of pumps, valves, and other equipment is adding maintenance and higher energy costs for sewer agencies around the world – including our sewer system in Jefferson Parish. Mitigation measures include public education, better technology, and new regulations. The most important mitigation aspect is public education. Consumers need to know what to flush, and more importantly, what not to flush!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Raymond Champagne** on his recent retirement. Raymond retired from our Westbank Lift Stations Division on June 13, 2014 with over 14 years of service.

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

Lionel Everson was promoted to Laborer Semi-Skilled at our Eastbank Lift Stations Division.

Horace Porter was promoted to Laborer Semi-Skilled at our Eastbank Lift Stations Division.

Joseph Sergent was promoted to Trades Helper with our Westbank Lift Stations Division.

Lakya Skinner was promoted to Lift Station Inspector with our Westbank Lift Stations Division.

David Toups was promoted to Sewerage Maintenance Superintendent with our Westbank Plants Division.

James Troxclair was promoted to Trades Helper with our Westbank Lift Stations Division.

Congratulations to Superintendent **Morris Sapia** on recently completing certification in Wastewater Treatment 3 with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

Jerry Cook - Trades Helper, Westbank Lift Stations

Dylan J. Ramsak – Laborer, Westbank Lift Stations

Ronald W. Triggs – Lift Station Inspector, Eastbank Lift Stations

Meisha Ursin – Laborer, Westbank Lift Stations

Alario Center

By
Deirdre Cummings

BABY NEWS!

Congratulations to Laborer **Ricky Epherson** and his wife who celebrated the birth of their baby girl Riley in June. Ricky also received the Employee of the Year award for the Alario Center. Way to go Ricky!

Congratulations are also in order for our General Manager **Lydia Folse** as well. Lydia is the proud new grandmother of baby girl Kaitlyn Rose, born on July 24, 2014, weighing 8 lbs 4 oz, and measuring 21 inches long.



Lydia Folse with granddaughter
Kaitlyn Rose

The **Southern Sportsman's Festival & Expo** is the Greater New Orleans premier event for outdoorsmen. With a festival atmosphere including live music, delicious drinks, and mouth-watering food, guests will enjoy three days of demonstrations, hands-on activities, and one-on-one time with hundreds of trust-

ed outdoor experts. Come experience this years can't miss event at the Alario Center. You'll be reminded why Louisiana truly is a Sportsman's Paradise.

Visit our new updated website for upcoming events at www.alariocenter.com. You can also visit us on [facebook.com/alariocenter](https://www.facebook.com/alariocenter).



Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

Welcome to our new employee, **Rich Gillen**, a licensed Landscape Architect and graduate of LSU, Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture. Rich is a Jefferson Parish native; his past job experience includes projects in Baltimore, Memphis, and Washington D.C.



Rich Gillen

Workforce Connection

By
Carolyn Haynes

Awards & Achievement

Jefferson Workforce Connection (*JWC*) is proud to announce an award from the Louisiana Workforce Commission on July 29, 2014, for achievement in exceeding 9 Performance Measures for our Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Indicators (2012). Performance Measures include number of Individuals employed, employment retention, and amount of wages.



Sharon Wegner and her West Bank JWC staff celebrate their WIA award



CAA Darryl Ward, Director Sharon Wegner, LQF President Gordon Payne, and Parish President John Young.

Another Award!

We are also proud to announce the receipt of the Louisiana Quality Foundation (LQF) Level 2 Performance Excellence Award. The award is a continuation of achieving excellence in an effort to max-

imize quality of services rendered to our business sector and community. Our Director, **Ms. Sharon Wegner**, received the award at the Governor's Mansion on June 24, 2014. Congratulations to our East and West Jefferson Business and Career Solutions Centers for achieving Level 2 and receiving this excellent recognition.

Youth Department

JWC welcomes our summer workers, **Candice Hills**, **Justin Course**, **Daneisha Blair**, and **Ariel White**. Our summer workers have been very helpful to our department while simultaneously gaining valuable work experience for their future careers.

Get Well Wishes

JWC wishes a speedy recovery for **Grayling Walker**, **Accountant II**, West Bank Office.



JWC Director Sharon Wegner shares WIA award with East Bank staff

Library

By
Daniel Gitlin

Summer Reading Wraps Up a Terrific Summer

The library wrapped up its 2014 Summer Reading program with multiple drawings for prizes including iPad Minis, Amazon gift cards, and themed prize baskets designed specifically for kids or teens.

All prizes for Summer Reading were purchased by the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library.

“After such a wonderful summer of reading, programs and special events, it was great to end it on a high note by raffling off our grand prizes,” said **Erin Korosi**, Youth Services Coordinator, who noted that attendance for the summer programs, which included musicians, magicians, and special storytellers, has continued to rise over the past few years.

The library’s annual Summer Reading program encourages kids and teens to read which not only



Charlotte Lewis (Second from right) is congratulated by Alice Hubbard, Verdie Richburg, and Anna Jensen

helps promote the library’s services but also aids the participants in retaining reading skills they’ve learned during the previous school year.

“As librarians we really enjoy entertaining kids and promoting reading, and this program helps us accomplish both at the same time,” said Korosi. “We are already excited to be planning for next summer!”

Retirements, Promotions and New Hires

Thank you to **Charlotte Lewis**, Terrytown Library Associate, who retired in May after spending almost 30 years as a Parish employee. Charlotte began her career in 1985 with the Department of Jefferson Community Action and spent the last 14 years with the library at the Terrytown Branch.

Charlotte made a positive impact at every place she worked throughout her career with Jefferson Parish. Her impact was best explained by **Verdie Richburg**, Public Services Supervisor, who wrote in an email to all library staff that Charlotte always “stepped-up to the plate” when called upon and always “accepted challenges” throughout her career as a way to set an example.

“She willingly assisted with the training of all new librarians and associates assigned to Terrytown,” said Richburg. “She is to be commended for all her work, especially for her team



A musical Summer Reading event

spirit with co-workers and of course for always striving to provide top quality service to all patrons.”

Thank you to **Louise Wadsworth**, Charles A. Wagner Library Associate, who retired in June after working with the library for more than 12 years.

Sealy Faught, Children's/Teen Collection Development Librarian, who worked with Louise as her supervisor for several years at Wagner shared, “Louise was a hard worker who enjoyed working for the library. She was prompt and thorough in her work and helped patrons to access the information that they needed.”

Congratulations to **Scott East**, who was promoted to Computer Network Specialist earlier this year. Scott has been working in the library's Information Technology Department for the past 17 years and provides assistance to both patrons and staff.

Welcome to the following employees who recently joined the library team: **Adrienne Breaux**, East Bank Regional Library Associate; **Elizabeth Carter**, Old Metairie Library Associate; **Paris Hughes**, Library Associate (Multiple Branches); **Titanannia Jones**, West Bank Regional Library Page; **Donna Sylver**, East Bank Regional Library Associate; **Kelly Ruff**, Library Associate (Multiple Branches); and **Kerry Knobloch**, Library Business Manager.

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branan, RN



GERMS! No matter where you go, you can't get away from them! When you think about all that you touch, you can see how easy it is to spread the germs. But what can you do to minimize your exposure?

The best way to minimize exposure to germs is to be more aware of your surroundings and to develop healthy hygienic practices. It has been said that the best way to prevent catching a cold is to wash your hands. This is true: You would want to wash your hands after touching objects shared by numerous individuals, such as the grocery basket, door knobs, chairs, buffet serving utensils, electronic pens, and the pneumatic tubes at the bank drive thru. Always wash your hands before eating. Use a tissue when cleaning your eyes, ears, or nose. And, NEVER put objects, especially fingers, into your mouth!

The preferred method of hand washing is soap and water. The friction is the main factor in the cleansing process. Next, a hand wipe, which also requires friction, provides a way for cleansing and removing debris. Antibacterial gel is also helpful. For specific needs, refer to the labels to read what it kills. Also, read

the label to see what the expiration date is.

When you are on the go and do not have access to running water, you can purchase various hand cleaning products. You can keep a large container of hand wipes in your vehicle and the pocket size containers on you at all times. Use gels or wipes, whatever your preference may be. But, you don't want to overdo it with the antimicrobial cleaners! Remember that you are also killing off the “good” bacteria along with the bad. So, when you have access to running water, good old soap and water is best.

The proper distance to keep from individuals is at least three feet. This helps to minimize the exchange of airborne germs. For those who need to cough, practice the “cover the cough” technique: Cough into your sleeve instead of your hand.

Numerous products are on the market to treat those annoying symptoms of an infection. Make sure you read the labels to see if it is appropriate for your condition. Don't forget that the pharmacist can be of great assistance. If you are unsure, consult with your doctor. Also, some symptoms associated with an infection that you need care for immediately include a fever, intense vomiting & diarrhea, a change in mental status, no energy, difficulty breathing, blood in urine or stool, or nasal secretions or mucous that is colored.

And lastly, do all you can to maintain a healthy immune system! Eat well-balanced meals. Exercise regularly. Keep stress to a minimum. Keep a positive outlook on life. Get at least eight-hours of sleep a night. Keep medical conditions under control. And, get your flu shot!

Retirements

Michael Johnson
Water
33 years

Cassandra Winck
Parks & Recreation
33 years

Neal Williams
Drainage
33 years

David North
Water
32 years

Carolyn Sambrone
Accounting
32 years

James Boulware
Water
31 years

Harold Robert
Water
31 years

Stephn Roth
Streets
30 years

Glenn Samuel
Streets
30 years

Shelly Dent
Parkways
30 years

James Bright
Juvenile Services
29 years

Dorothy Hayes
Water
29 years

“Clearview Fountains”



See President Young’s message on Page 1 for information.