



Volume 35
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Jefferson

Message from the Parish President. . .

The New Jefferson Parish Mobile App

I encourage all of you to check out and download the Parish’s new, FREE mobile app, *Jefferson Parish MOBILE*.

The App “Home” page features an easy-to-follow menu and quick tabs on a colorful backdrop of images from around the Parish and the statue of one of our nation’s founding fathers and third U.S. President, our Parish’s namesake, Thomas Jefferson.

From the main menu, one touch takes you to the *Jefferson Parish website*, *News Releases*, *Special Notices*, and watch *LIVE JPTV*, which includes Live broadcasts of Council meetings, urgent Parish news conferences, special events, and daily JPTV programming.

One touch of the “*Services*” tab provides immediate access to helpful services:

- Apply for a permit
- Pay a Jefferson Parish water bill
- Report and track a code violation
- Conveniently plan a travel route on Jefferson Transit to anywhere JeT takes you
- Access a directory of all Jefferson Parish departments, municipalities, and agencies, and find your Council District
- Keep track of traffic flow with Live DOTD traffic cameras.

You can find out about road closures in your neighborhood, urgent event notifications, and announce-



John F. Young
Parish President

ments of Parish government office closures, special events, and programs with the “*Alerts*” tab.

And, with one touch of the “*More*” tab, stay ahead of the weather with Live “*Weather*” radar, the 3-day forecast, and notices of important weather information, and see the Adorable Adoptable dogs and cats available for adoption at our Animal Shelters.

Again *Jefferson Parish MOBILE* is free and available now.

Thank you for your continued public service to the citizens of Jefferson Parish. I hope you and your loved ones have a safe and happy holiday season.



JeffTalk

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

Departmental Reporters

- Alario Center**
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- 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
- Inspection & Code Enforcement**
Doretha Parker
- JeffCAP**
Catina Ward
- Juvenile Services**
Arlyn Smith
- Library**
Daniel Gitlin
- Parks & Recreation**
Gwen Styron & William Cangemi
- Parkways**
Chantell Braniff
- Planning**
Marilyn Slutsky
- Purchasing**
Nicolle Whitney
- Sewerage**
Venice Cooper
- Streets**
Open
- Traffic Engineering**
Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**
Patricia Lyons
- Water**
Amy Truesdell
- Workforce Connection**
Carolyn Haynes

Editor's



Notes

**The Jefferson Parish
 Safety Manual**

Jefferson Parish is dedicated to the prevention of accidents, to provide safe working conditions for all employees, to protect physical assets from damage or loss, and to provide a safe environment for the public we serve. In addition to safety training and accident investigations, the Safety Division of the Department of Human Resource Management conducts routine safety, health, and environmental inspections in order to eliminate unsafe working conditions and health hazards and to ensure compliance with laws and regulations.

Over the last year, one of the main focus areas of the Safety Division was to update our *Safety Manual*. As you are aware, the updated *Safety Manual* was launched in November. It addresses not just the physical workplace, but health and environmental issues as well. The more our employees and supervisors are provided with current and relevant information about hazards in the workplace and how to control those hazards, the greater the benefits are for everyone.

Employees should find the revised *Safety Manual* much more user friendly. The manual has been restructured, sections rewritten, and new sections added. The book is organized by subjects, and



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

each section focuses on a very specific topic. For example, there are separate sections for Motor Vehicles, Heavy Equipment, and Light Equipment. In addition, sections have been added on such topics as Ergonomics and Workplace Inspections. The Personal Protective Equipment section is more detailed and explicit. The manual has been revised to reflect best practices from across the country.

The new *Safety Manual* makes employee expectations clear. All employees must abide by the Employee Safety Rules of Conduct, which are spelled out in Section 4. It is important that employees at every level of Parish government understand their responsibilities as they pertain to the Safety Program. Those responsibilities are defined in the new manual for Department Directors, supervisors, and employees. Success of the Safety Program depends on everyone taking responsibility and fulfilling their roles.

The *Safety Manual* should be a pertinent and practical document, evolving to meet the needs of our employees as we strive to provide a safe environment for ourselves and the public.

Ask Personnel

Personnel receives various questions from employees and Administrators. For each upcoming issue, we will highlight a few of these questions and answers. The answers to these questions can be beneficial to all involved with Parish Government and, in particular, the Civil Service system.

Please feel free to submit questions to LCALL@jeffparish.net. All submitted questions will be answered and some may be chosen to appear in future issues. To view our frequently asked questions, go to our website at www.jeffparish.net/jppd and click on [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

1. I applied for a job a couple weeks ago and haven't heard anything back. Why is that?

Each position must remain open for at least two weeks. All who applied within those first two weeks are processed together. All candidates have one week from application date to turn in supporting documents (high school diploma, transcripts, additional work history, etc.)

If you haven't heard from us, it likely means we have the information we need from you at this time. We will contact you once we are able to schedule everyone for the test. If you have questions, call our office at 504-364-2730.

2. Do I get funeral leave if my brother-in-law passed away?

It depends on how you are related to him. If he is your sister's husband or your spouse's sister's husband, the answer is no. However, if it is your spouse's brother, the answer is yes: you get one

day of funeral leave.

3. My department sent me Family Medical Leave paperwork. Why should I fill it out?

Family Medical Leave is in place to provide job security when an employee is out for a serious health condition, birth or adoption of a child, care of a child, spouse, or parent who has a serious health condition, a qualifying exigency arising out of the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent being a covered military member, or care of covered service member with a serious injury or illness because the employee is the spouse, son or daughter, parent, or next of kin.

Regardless of whether or not you have leave available, you should fill out the Family Medical Leave paperwork to protect your job during the temporary period you are unable to work.

Also please note that Questions 2 and 3 are covered in on-line tutorials provided on the Human Resource Training page



Blood Donations

Streets & Parkways

By
Debbie Tunstall

Blood Donors

The bloodmobile was at our Eastbank office on October 1. Thanks to everyone who donated. Your donation is so important.



Streets & Parkways
welcomes the season!

Welcome

The Parkways Department welcomes **Brook Burmaster** as Director, and Eastbank Streets welcomes Typist Clerk III **Michelle Swenson**.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy goes to Streets Department Engineering Division Supervisor, N. P. **Mitch DeMuth**, who recently lost his daughter **Rebecca DeMuth**; to Typist Clerk III **Rachel Perez**, who lost her stepson **Christopher Hymel**; to Engineering Inspector **Scott Walker**, who recently lost his mother **Alice Walker**; and to the family of **Ronald Motley** of Eastbank Parkways, who recently passed away. We're so very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Wedding

Congratulations to Typist Clerk III **Chantell Prestenbach**, who recently married Randy Braniff. We're happy for you, Chantell; may you have many happy years together.

Retirements

Congratulations to Parkways Department's Administrative Assistant **Angela Winchester**, who retired October 31 with over 35 years of service to the Parish; Parkways Superintendent II **Collis Linson**, who retired on October 10 with over 33 years of service; Streets Engineering Inspector III **Raymond Andras**, who retired October 3 with 32 years of service; Parkways Director **Wayne Nocito**, who retired on Au-



Raymond Andras (Center) with Don Hogan and Mitch Demuth

gust 1 with 20 years. of service; and to Typist Clerk III **Deborah Tunstall**, who retired on October 17 with 17 years of service.

You will be missed, and we hope you all really enjoy your retirement.

Transit
By
Patricia Lyons

WELCOME

The Department of Transit Administration would like to welcome **Benjamin Francois III** to the Transit Administration family. Benjamin joined us June 30, 2014. Benjamin is our new Transit Service Contract Monitor/Analyst. We are happy to have him. Benjamin is new to Parish employment.



Ben Francois III

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Transit Service Contract Monitor/Analyst **Albert Roussel**, who retired on August 29, 2014, after 20 years of service.



Albert Roussel

Water
By
Amy Truesdell

Extra! Extra! Read all about it- The Water Department has had some very big changes since our last issue. First and foremost, we welcome our new Director, **Salvador Maffei, Jr.** Sal has been a resident of Jefferson Parish for most of his life, except when he studied chemistry at LSU. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1984, returned to Jefferson Parish, and started working at the Water Lab. Since 2008 Sal has been working in the Lab as the Water Quality Scientist IV. Now as Director, he says his main goal is to focus on the Water Treatment Plants, making improvements and ensuring Jefferson Parish has the highest quality drinking water possible. We welcome Sal with open arms and hope he is with us for many years to come.

In other news, several of our employees have received promotions, and we would like to give them a round of applause: **Kevin Sampey** is our new Waterline Maintenance Superintendent II, and **Zachary North** is our new Waterline Maintenance Superintendent I in the WB Distribution division; Utility Billing's **Michelle Rahm** was promoted to a Water Service Inspector II; **Gwen Sanders** is our new WB Water Service Supervisor, and **Donnie Hidalgo** is the new WB Water Service Inspector III in Utility Billing; **Chantelle Barrios** is our new WB Utility Billing Collector III; **Kristen Ragan** was promoted to Water Quality Scientist IV, and **Stacy Bernard Grant** has been promoted to Water Quality Scientist III. Way to go, everybody!



Sal Maffei with Linda Daly

We have several new employees as well: Water Quality Scientist II **Jasmine Lawrence** transferred to the Lab from Code Enforcement; Water Service Inspector I **Brittany Richardson**; Utility Billing Collector **Maria Carrillo**; EB Water Purification Operator **Daniel Ory**; Utility Billing Collector **Lachelle Hebert**; Data Entry Operator III **Angerean Taylor**; Instrument Maintenance Technician II **Garrick Huhner**; WB Water Purification Operator **Brandon Theriot**; Laborer **Melvin Fields**; Plant Maintenance Electrician **David Orgeron** transferred from Sewerage; and Water Service Inspector I **Warnicia Dillon**.

We wish to welcome back a few employees as well: Laborers **Keith Landry**, and **Ornie Ellzey**, and Grand Isle Typist Clerk III **Angel Besson**.

We say goodbye to several employees: Water Service Inspector II **John Ross**; Grand Isle Typist Clerk III **Gloria Bradberry**; Pump Equipment Mechanic **Ronald Bradley** transferred to Engineering; Equipment Operator III **Joseph Knapper**; Laborer **Johnny Campbell**; and Utility Billing Collector **Tamisha Washington**.

In other news, congratulations are in order for Utility Billing Collector **Nuyaka Williams**, who welcomed son Davan Williams on September 19; Water Purification Operator II **Jay Eckholdt** passed his Water Treatment II exams; and Water Quality Scientist I **Kirbye Sullivan** became Mrs. **Kirbye Smith** on October 23, when she said “I DO” to Mr. Sean Smith. The newlyweds are looking forward to a honeymoon cruise.

Whew! I think that is it! We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Moments of Magic

By
Glenn Schiro

Welcome to a new column in JeffTalk. When meeting with the Public First committees, we showed the video *Amazing Customer Service*. In the video, motivational speaker Shep Hyken talks about expecting a moment of misery when he entered a cab but he quickly realized that the cab driver provided him with excellent service— a moment of magic.

Recently, Director of Community Development **Ms. Detrich Hebert** shared with us the e-mail she sent to all of her employees about the moment of magic that one of their co-workers had provided to a citizen. **Ms. Toya Jones** received a thank you card from a citizen for being so helpful on the phone and in person. In her e-mail to the Community Development employees, Ms. Hebert stated that “We should always strive to put the Public First. When this results in a letter, card, or email to express their gratitude, I believe we truly went above and beyond in making their experience with Community Development a moment of magic and not a moment of misery”.

Based on Ms. Hebert’s recognition of Ms. Jones, we have created the Moment of Magic column. Please let us know when one of your employees goes “above and beyond the call of duty” to assist a citizen. We will share the stories of employees who demonstrate what a moment of magic is when serving the public. Our thanks to Ms. Jones for being our first moment of magic employee and to Director Detrich Hebert for recognizing Ms. Jones and encouraging her employees to put the Public First.



Diversity Week at West Bank Utility Billing

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Congratulations to Signal Technician II **Christopher Bellow** and Signal Technician I **Christine Ford** on their 5 years of service. Engineering Director **Mark Drewes** and Signal Supervisor **David V. Stout** presented them each with their service pin. Thank you both for your hard work and dedication!



Mack Richburg

We are pleased to announce the recent promotion of **Mack Richburg** to Signal Technician III. Mack is well respected, has

great leadership skills, and is a huge asset to our Division. We're very proud of Mack's accomplishments.

We welcome our new Sign Technician **Michael Dillon**. Michael is a great addition to our sign crew, and we're happy to have him here with us at Traffic.



Michael Dillon

Kenneth Lachney has retired after 33 years of service. Kenny started as a Sign Tech I in 1981 and moved through the ranks to his last position of Sign & Marking Superintendent I. When asked what he'll miss the most, Kenny says it'll be his striping crew. Kenny plans to travel, play more music, and spend time with his family. Happy retirement, Kenny!!

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Congratulations

We congratulate Benefits Administrator **Aubrey Devillier** for his ten years of employment with the Parish and Assistant Director of Human Resource Management **John Dumas** for his five years of service to the Parish. We appreciate your dedication to the Parish and we are grateful for the assistance you both provide to the employees of the Parish.



Benefits Manager Aubrey Devillier

Supervisors Update Bulletin reaches 40th Issue

The Training unit of HR is pleased to announce that the *Supervisors Update* bulletin has reached Issue 40 – ten straight years without missing a quarterly issue. The bulletin continues to be an effective way to communicate important and useful information to our supervisors.

Continuing Education

Assistant Director **John Dumas**, Human Resource Manager **Nancy Rodriguez**, and the Training Specialists **Yvonne Keller** and **Glenn Schiro** attended the NOLA-SHRM 2014 Conference and Exposition on October 16 at the Hilton- Airport.

Director **Peggy Barton** and Human Resource Managers **Fran Robichaux** and **Nicole Thompson**



Signal Supervisor David Stout and Engineering Director Mark Drewes with Christopher Bellow and Christine Ford

participated in the 2014 Phelps Dunbar New Orleans Labor and Employment Law Seminar at the Roosevelt Hotel on November 14.

Safety has been busy

During the past several months, Safety has scheduled, taught, and participated in a wide range of safety training programs.

On October 6, the Louisiana Tech. Assistance Program provided a four-hour training session for our slope mower operators at our WB Drainage facility. Slope operators from Plaquemines, St. John, and Terrebonne Parishes also attended the training. Thanks to the West Bank Drainage facility for setting up the classroom and providing equipment to make this training a success.

LTAP also provided safety training to 73 of our heavy equipment operators at EB Streets. Safety appreciates the hospitality of East Bank Streets in hosting the training and special thanks to Superintendent **Stanley Walker**.

On Tuesday, September 16, Safety Officer **Wayne Jones** taught Forklift training for employees from the EB Water Plant. On October 13 and 14, Wayne conducted Backhoe/Compact Excavator training for employees

from Streets, Drainage, and Parkways. Wayne provided the classroom training, and **Collis Pembroke** from Streets handled the field instruction.

Kudos to **David Stout** from Traffic Engineering, who did an outstanding job in scheduling and coordinating the testing of all Parish bucket trucks to ensure they were safe from electrical shock. The “di-electrical” testing, provided by Aerial Hydraulics, was done on eleven bucket trucks from Engineering, Parkways, and Recreation. We appreciate David for stepping up to the plate in coordinating this important initiative. (See photo below.)

On November 7, staff of the Marrero Ragusa Fire Department provided fire extinguisher training to employees from the West Bank Warehouse and the Marro Wastewater Treatment Facility. The hands-on training was held at the West Bank Warehouse. Thanks to Marrero Ragusa Fire Department for doing an excellent training job.

Safety thanks the drivers of Parish vehicles for helping us reduce the number of driving complaints by 25 % in 2014. Keep up the great work!

Engineering

By
Helen McGee

Welcome to SCADA **Gary Vukich**. Gary came by way of General Services. We are happy to have you on board.

Engineering is a lil’ short on news, however congratulations to all that received their service Pins. Congratulations **Jennifer Martin**. Jennifer received her 15 year pin.



Jennifer Martin with Mark Drewes

Hats off to **Daloss Falghou**, of Street Lighting, for 15 years of Service with the Parish. Last but not Least, Warehouse Superintendent **Jerry Zeringue** and Director **Mark Drewes** presented **Mark Buttery** and **Sharyn Voisin** with their 15 year pins. Congratulations to you all.



Daloss Falghou

Several Engineering employees received their 5-year Pin. Congratulations **Jun Chen**, **Matthew Zeringue**, **Todd Louge** and **Kivana Cole**



Lafreniere Park

By
William Cangemi



Carl Overton

As we approach the holiday season, remember the less fortunate, those in need. Take some time to feed the hungry, donate a toy, visit a nursing home. It is such a gratifying feeling that you and your family will enjoy.

Happy Holidays to all from our Director Mark Drewes and the Engineering Department!



Sharyn Voisin with Engineering Director Mark Drewes

Holiday in the Park

Lafreniere Park's annual holiday light display runs from December 5-January 1. As always, the event will be decorated with beautifully illuminated figures. We like to brag that some of those creations such as the *Sea Dragon* and the *Ferris Wheel* are the result of the artistry of our own Landscape Supervisor **Johnny Hayes** and the craftsmanship of Lafreniere Park's Electrician **Paul Clark**.

This year Johnny and Paul will bring to life two of the characters from the movie FROZEN: *Olaf the Snowman* and *Sven the Reindeer*. So bring the family out to see the new additions as well as enjoy all the displays and festivities at this year's *Holiday in the Park*.



Sven and Olaf light up the night

Congratulations

Assistant Park Manager **Rob Alexander** had a great year. He not only celebrated the birth of his first grandchild but also his 30 years with the Parish. He went into the Drop Program as well so now Big Rob can see the light at the end of the tunnel. This photograph of him, his wife Aimee, and little Grayson was supposed to be submitted to the last issue but it is still a timely picture because we believe it would make a beautiful holiday greeting card.



Lafreniere Park's Robin Alexander celebrates 30 years of Parish service with wife Aimee and grandson Grayson

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

We would like to welcome our intern, **Sarah LaRock**. Sarah is a graduate of Tulane and is currently working on a Master’s Degree in Public Administration at UNO.

We offer our condolences to **Evaline Armstrong**, Administrative Assistant, and **Rick Buller**, Landfill Engineer, on the loss of their fathers. Our prayers are with both of you and your families.

The diverse staff of Environmental Affairs celebrated Diversity Awareness Week in October.

Several employees of our department attended the WEFTEC Conference at the Morial Convention Center from September 29 till October 1. WEFTEC is the largest water quality conference in the world, and was attended by over 18,000 water quality professionals. There were many informative technical sessions and exhibits as well as networking opportunities.

On September 19, our Stormwater Division held a demonstration for General Services Depart-



Sami Khalil (3rd from left) leads Spill Cleanup training for General Services

ment employees on Spill Prevention, focusing on the proper use of a spill kits. OMI Environmental Solutions assisted Stormwater Management Supervisor **Sami Khalil** in the training.

On November 11 through 19, our Stormwater Division attended a Stormwater Management Workshop held in New Orleans City Park Pavilion of the Two Sisters. Local and national speakers discussed “green street” strategies, such as bio-retention, tree trenches, and porous pavement, which can be implemented on medians and parking lots to reduce stormwater runoff and improve stormwater quality.

Christmas trees will be col-

lected curbside throughout Jefferson Parish on January 8, 9, and 10, 2015. Trees will be recycled for a beneficial re-use – either marsh restoration or composting.

Residents of unincorporated Jefferson Parish and the incorporated areas of Jean Lafitte, Gretna, Harahan, Kenner and Westwego are advised to place trees curbside on the evening of Wednesday, January 7, 2015. Garbage trucks will make one pass through each neighborhood to collect trees on January 8, 9, and 10, 2015. Trees are typically collected on the second scheduled garbage collection day, but it is important that all trees be placed curbside on the evening of Wednesday, January 7, 2015, as the collection schedule may vary on the three (3) specified collection days.

Only clean, unpainted and non-flocked trees are acceptable for re-use. Prior to placing trees curbside, residents must remove all lights, tinsel, garland, ornaments, tree stands and plastic bags from their Christmas trees.

Volunteers are needed, especially those with shallow draft boats, to move trees from a Lafitte staging area to the pre-constructed



Environmental Affairs celebrates Diversity Awareness Week

shoreline fences in Goose Bayou. Volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Cochiara's Marina, 4477 Jean Lafitte Boulevard in Lafitte and move trees to the pre-constructed shoreline fences in Goose Bayou, near the Town of Jean Lafitte in mid-January. For more information or to volunteer, contact the Department of Environmental Affairs at (504) 731-4612.

Workforce Connection

By
Carolyn Haynes

Thank You's & Acknowledgements

JWC extends a thank you to **Cameron Christy** and **Jasper Frank** of Delgado Community College's Accelerated Career Education Program for their presentation at our September monthly staff meeting. The information regarding upcoming training for members was valuable as they strive to upgrade skills for future higher wage employment. Thank You!

Youth Department

JWC bids farewell to Clerk Typist **Nedra Tate**, who accepted another position within Jefferson Parish.

Welcome Back

JWC welcomes the return of **Grayling Walker**, Accountant II, West Bank Office. We are happy for your speedy recovery.

Notes

JWC wishes everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season!

General Services

By
Tessa St. Pierre

Welcome

General Services would like to welcome **Michael Landry** and **Paul Wattigney**! Michael has joined the Grounds crew as our new laborer and is a great help to them. Our new carpenter Paul is already teaching us so much. He and Rob make a great Carpentry duo.

Promotions

Congratulations are in order for **Lance Agoff** and **Eric Lotz**. Lance has been promoted to a Stationary Engineer I, and Eric has been promoted to Trades Helper. We would like to congratulate them on their hard work!

Diversity Week

Our very own **Aleen Bernard** is part of the Diversity Advisory Board. She put together all the ribbons in our department and she did it all with a smile on her

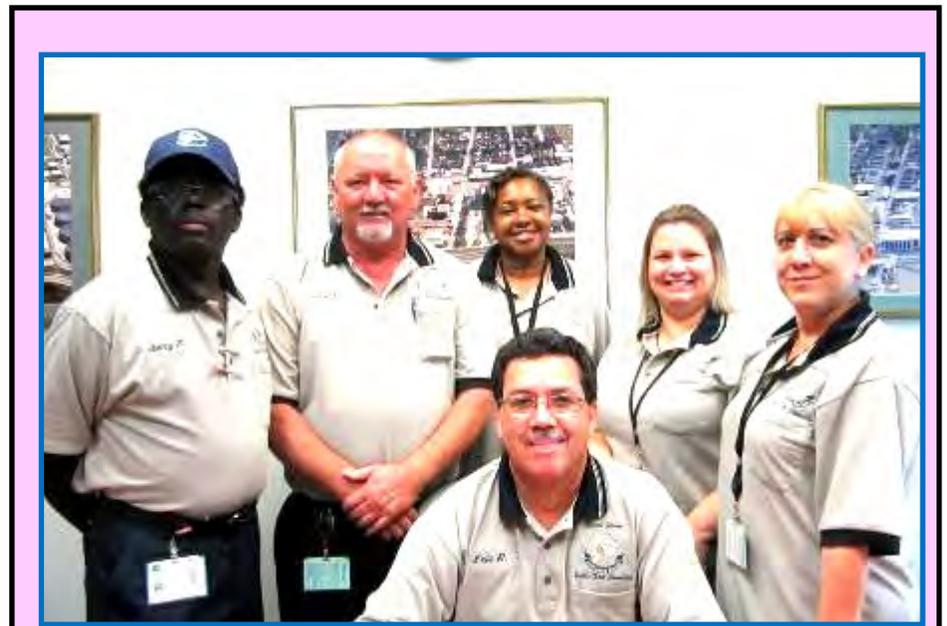


Aleen Bernard
with GS's Diversity ribbons

face. We would like to thank her for all the hard work she does for us. Thank you, Aleen!

Public First Committee

We would like to introduce a new committee that is about putting the "Public First," the **Public First Committee**. Their focus is to make sure that everyone has a



The smiling faces of General Service's Public First Committee

pleasant experience when they interact with General Services, as their Chairman **Eric Romain** says. The members of the committee are **Jerry Adams, Revy Anotine, Jerry Durant, Shanna Folsie, Jan Grey, and Eric Romain**. We can't wait to see all the great things they have in store for us!

Surplus

This year's Surplus was a success with great weather and number of people that showed. Our Assistant Property Manager **Dale Esteves** would like to give a special thanks to the many employees who helped make this auction operate so smoothly.

Dale sometimes refers to the following as his "DREAM TEAM" **Revy Antoine, Don Barrios, Neal Lavin, Janet Gray, John Davis, Mike Lemoine, Tonda White, Fred Carreras, Jonathan Frank, Timothy Hoskins, Maryanne Adorno, Troy Sanchez, Jerry Durant,** and Director **Anthony Francis**.

Every year we can't give enough thanks to the hard-working Fleet Management staff for making our auction so successful. **Diane Spencer, Bruce Vosbein, Roy Luthjens, Bob Morgan, Melissa Miller,** and Director **Nick Digerolamo** deserve accolades for their participation. We also need to thank **Nicole Tomba,** and the Parish Attorney's Office for assisting with the Notary. Extraordinary thanks to all; none of this could have been done without each one.

Emergency Management

By

Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade

October 2014 was the busiest month this hurricane season wherein three tropical cyclones formed: Fay, Gonzalo, and Hanna. The season began with Hurricane Arthur on July 1 followed by Hurricane Bertha, Hurricane Cristobal, Tropical Storm Dolly, and Hurricane Edouard. The season officially ended November 30 with a total of eight named tropical storms/hurricanes. Hurricane Arthur was the only named storm affecting the eastern mainland of the United States.

Welcome to **Christopher Cambre**, Coordinator II, who joined our department on July 26, 2014. Christopher brings valuable training and experience, having served four years active duty and five years civil service with the U.S. Marine Corps in addition to working in the private sector. Christopher



Christopher Cambre

will provide the logistical support our department was looking for in this position. Christopher resides in Kenner and is married to Danielle and has three children, Justin, Abigail, and Sarah.

Also, welcome to **Robert Greene**, Coordinator II, who joined our department on October 18, 2014. Robert provides this department with the IT support we were looking to bring into our department. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Media Art and Minor in IT from Tulane University. Robert's training and experience being employed in the fire service since 2006 is a valuable asset. He currently resides in Marrero and serves as a volunteer firefighter with the Marrero-Ragusa Volunteer Fire Company No. 3.



Robert Greene

We would like to extend best wishes for peace, health, and happiness during this holiday season and throughout the coming year. Please remember the men and women of our U.S. Armed Forces, near and far, for their sacrifice, dedication, and service to our country.

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

WELCOME:

JS welcomes Detention Home Security Guards **Victoria Beecher** and **Dena Voisin**; Detention Officers **Leslie Henderson**, **Mark Hughes**, **Donald Joseph**, **Angelle Williams**; Mental Health Professional **Stephanie Lester**; and Probation Officer **Monique Taylor**.

RESIGNATION:

Farewell and best wishes to Detention Officer **Eddie Magee**, Detention Home Security Guard **Lachelle Hebert**, Probation Officer **Charles Bradley**, and Mental Health Professionals **Romonica Jones** and **Linda Bon**.

**PROMOTIONS/
REALLOCATIONS:**

Congratulations to Detention Officer **Candy Jones** reallocated to Juvenile Detention Officer II; and **Ianisha Chairs** reallocated to Juvenile Probation Officer II. They have demonstrated journey-

man knowledge, skills, and abilities of their positions. Congratulations on a job well done!

RETIREMENT(S):

For their many years of dedicated service to Jefferson Parish, we CONGRATULATE and wish all the best to Probation Officer III **Carolyn Robinson** (October 3rd), and **Monique Willis** (December 26th), on their retirement.

**EMPLOYEES OF THE
MONTH**

AUGUST: Detention – **Cynthia Anderson**, Detention Home Security Guard
Probation – **Linda Bon**, Mental Health Professional II

SEPTEMBER:
Detention – **Myron Hayes**, Detention Officer
Probation – **Patrick Brammell**, Mental Health Professional II

OCTOBER:
Detention – **Alisha Hunter**, Cook

II; Probation – **Romonica Jones**, Mental Health Professional II
NOVEMBER:

Detention – **Douglas White**, Detention Officer
Probation – **Monique Willis**, Probation Officer III

BABY NEWS:

CONGRATULATIONS to Probation Officer **Ronjela Clay**, who gave birth to baby girl Jael Rae on November 13, weighing in at 6 lbs., 2 ounces.

BLOOD DRIVE:

On Tuesday, October 7, we held our fifth Juvenile Justice Complex Blood Drive of 2014. Our goal was **15** blood donations. Overall, we had **22** attempted blood donations and **18** successful donations! Mr. Juncker initiated a friendly competition among the agencies housed here, called the “JJC Bloodhound Award.”

The first agency to win the award was the **Jefferson Parish Sheriff’s Office**, who had the highest percentage of employees participating in the blood drive. Still, **DJS** had the most donations overall, and plans on capturing the award at the December 2 JJC Blood Drive. Thank you to everyone that helped the Blood Center!

HOLIDAY WISHES

On Friday, November 21, JS had their department Thanksgiving gathering. The food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

As we draw to the end of another year, the Department of Juvenile Services wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year!



Juvenile Services Director Roy Juncker (Right) presents the JJC Bloodhound Award to representatives of the JP Sheriff’s Office

Diversity Advisory Board

By
Crystal Heine

In the past few months, the Employee Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) has been busy working with the 2015-2017 board, including an orientation session and a joint meeting. Members of the DAB met at the Alario Center on October 6, along with the 2015-2017 board members. It was a great opportunity to reflect on how far the board has come and to encourage continued efforts. The strides that have been taken were evident in the application made by the DAB for the annual *Commitment to Diversity Award* presented by the New Orleans Society for Human Resource Management (NOLA-SHRM). Many thanks to **Nancy Rodriguez** for making it possible for the application to be submitted. Though we did not win, it was a wonderful experience, particularly in seeing how far we've come and where we'll be headed in the future.

On July 7, the Administration approved the amended by-laws, including the statement of purpose, which emphasizes "a deliberate focus on acceptance, education, and inclusion of diversity within Jefferson Parish." Along with amended by-laws, the DAB voted to cease standing committees and appoint ad hoc committees on an as needed basis.

The meeting on October 13, was the fourth and final regular meeting for the DAB in 2014. This meeting allowed current and new members to meet for the first time and provide the new members an opportunity to observe a Board meeting and ask questions.

The DAB would like to thank all employees who participated in the Second Annual Diversity Outreach Week from October 20 - 24. We were delighted to see so many employees wearing orange ribbons and hope that you enjoyed the activities that week. We would like to thank the Administration for their continued support of diversity and inclusivity measures.

Members of the DAB went before the Parish Council at the meeting on October 22 to receive the Diversity Week Proclamation. The proclamation reflects the mission of the DAB, which is to promote a deliberate focus on acceptance, fairness, education, and inclusion of diversity within the Jefferson Parish workforce. Through Diversity Outreach Week, we hope to recognize, celebrate, and embrace the collective mixtures of differences and similarities of all our employees and residents.

On Friday, November 21, the DAB held an end-of-year potluck gathering and diversity training session. The food was, as always, delicious and abundant. The topic of the session

was leadership, with an activity specifically designed to provide members with an opportunity to share their leadership values and experiences so that members may have a better understanding of one another's backgrounds and strengths. Acknowledging individual strengths, values, and contributions is essential in not only finding individual value but in understanding that each person has strengths and abilities to make important contributions to the workplace.

The DAB has posted the multicultural calendar on the Parish intranet and is working on corresponding posters to display. The calendar and posters are educational tools used to provide knowledge and understanding of various worldwide holidays, observances, and other events.

The new board will hold their first quarterly meeting in January 2015 at the Yenni Building.

"If we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity.
John F. Kennedy - at the commencement address at American University, June 10, 1963



The DAB receives Diversity Week Proclamation before the Parish Council

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Our 2015 Spring Activity Guide, which includes Summer Camp plus other activities for January through August will be available in mid-December on our website at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation page, or can be obtained at all local playgrounds and libraries in late December or early January. For information, call the respective office (East Bank – 736-6999 or West Bank 349-5000) or e-mail jprecreation@jeffparish.net

Congratulations to the following on their promotions – **Jarette Carmouche** to Center Supervisor at Harvey Playground in WB Recreation; **Annette Weisler** to Administrative Assistant in WB Recreation; **Sammy McGowan** to Equipment Operator IV in WB Maintenance; **Kevin Walker** to Equipment Operator III in WB Maintenance

Welcome **Antoinette Holmes**, formerly in Purchasing, who will be replacing Gwen Styron, who is retiring in December!

Congratulations to our RETIREES! **Rose Scott** - Special Program Supervisor – Cultural in WB Leisure Service (May); **Lizette Mitchell** – Administrative Assistant in WB Recreation (June); **Sana Winck** - Center Supervisor – Harvey Playground in WB Recreation (August); **Peggie Massaro** – Special Program Supervisor – Disabled in EB Recreation



Peggie Massaro is flying high after retirement

(December); **Gwen Styron** – Information Specialist – EB/WB Recreation & Lafreniere Park (December)

Our sympathy to **Luis Aldana**, Center Supervisor at Bridge City Playground, upon the loss of his father.

Congrats to the proud new parents! **Amy Bourg**, Typist Clerk in EB Leisure Service, (son – Amarien) on August 29; **Will Comeaux**, Center Supervisor at Kings Grant Playground (son – Espen) on September 30.

WESTBANK UPDATE:

Avondale Playground – various major improvements will soon begin thanks to a grant from the Louisiana Office of Facility Planning & Control, Councilman Spears, and Senator Alario.
Glisson Park – Launch and fishing pier improvements are in the works.
Harold McDonald Playground – work will soon begin on the Pavilion renovations.
Harvey Playground – new tot lot installed

Kennedy Heights Playground – New gym roof liner panels are being installed.

M. L King Playground – various improvements are forthcoming thanks to a State Grant; new gym roof liner panels are being installed.

Parc des Familles – Quadraplex is now complete with a pressbox/concession, covered bleachers, batting cage, and tot lot.

PARD Playground – Additional property purchased.

Waggaman Playground – Gym flooring to soon be installed; Pressbox repair underway.

Westside Progressive Park - tot lot installed

EASTBANK UPDATE:

Registration Software – Parks and Recreation will soon be using new software for registering for classes. Watch for details

Bright Playground – Gym air condition/ heat system has been put out for bid; new marquee posting events.

Cleary Playground - Gym air condition/ heat system has been put out for bid.

Girard Playground – New green perimeter fencing is being

installed and interior/ exterior repair work should soon go out for bid

Lakeshore Playground - Gym air condition/ heat system has been put out for bid

Miley Playground – work has begun on the new Multi Purpose Building at the corner of Saints & Eisenhower

Pontiff Playground – Bids will soon open on the pressbox/ concession replacement/ repair.

BONNABEL BOAT LAUNCH

Backdown Ramp repair – working with the U.S. Wildlife & Fisheries for grant approval and once received, it will be put out for bid.

BUCKTOWN HARBOR

Monthly slip rentals are \$240 (40’ slip). Call our office for details

The new shelter and several picnic tables have been placed at the site.

LAFRENIERE PARK UPDATE:

Holiday In The Park will host the lighting ceremony on Friday, December 5 at 6:30 pm in the South Mall Parking Lot. Display will run through January 1. Check the website for entertainment details. Admission: \$3 per vehicle.

Snow Day – Saturday, December 13 at 9:30 am.

Walking Trail repair – bids are soon due with work following.

Easter Egg Hunt – preparations are in works for 2015 – watch for details.

Code Enforcement

By
Doretha Parker

Jefferson Parish Inspection & Code Enforcement is excited to announce our newest employees. We all would like to give a warm welcoming to **Troy Ducote** (Plumbing Inspector), **Quang Nguyen** (Electrical Inspector) **Jerry Moore** (Electrical Inspector), **Earl Surgi** (Electrical Inspector), **Ke Xaio** (Computer Analyst), **Alecia Washington** (Typist Clerk), **Eddie Reyes** (Plan review), **Keith Daggett** (Plan Review), **Michael Thainbinh** (Plan Review), **Salome Boyd** (Plan Review), and **Tara McKeefry** (Plan Review). Thank you all for joining our department!

We wish good luck to **Jun Chen**, who transferred to the Engineering Department, and **Jasmine Lawrence**, who transferred to Water Department. Code Enforcement would like to give a huge shout out to **Leroy Griffin III** and **Clayton Touns** on passing the Residential ICC Exam. And thumbs to **Alexandra Lopez** for passing her Residential Plan Review Test.

We also would like to give

thanks to **Rene Maggio** for all of his hard work and dedication to the Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement, and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement after 33 years with Jefferson Parish. We take your advice and “Reboot!” We wish you a wonderful retirement, Rene!

We are incredibly proud to share that our very own **David Williams**, the Regulatory Manager, was one of the twelve recipients of the Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Award. This award is statewide and is an honor to be considered for. David’s service to the Parish has been one of great public service, and we are pleased to give him such a gift as he prepares to enter retirement.

The Department’s new online filing system, *My Permit Now*, is available for all residential and commercial permit submittals, and all plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and gas filings. Our most recent milestone is the ability to process the Department’s license renewals online. This innovation allows a few thousand license holders to renew from the comfort of their home or office via the internet. Please spread the news and be sure to check out our website at www.Jeffparish.net.



Rene Maggio with Code Enforcement Director Tiffany Wilken and Assistant Director John Piglia

Health & Wellness

By
Peggy Branan, RN



I hope this issue of *JeffTalk* finds all in good spirits! Unfortunately, for many, depression and anxiety can become exacerbated during the holidays. For some, the holidays may be just a mild source of annoyance, while others may become overwhelmed and unable to function.

So, what are we to do??

Identify what best describes you physically and mentally during the holidays. Then categorize your activities/behaviors/choices/ as healthy or unhealthy. Those you recognize as unhealthy should be top priority to resolve.

Usually, how we react during this time is based on our expectations for the holidays. What does the holiday season mean to you? This is usually going to be based on a lifetime of experiences. It's important to remember that if you had negative experiences, it is possible to develop new, healthier ways of looking at life. Often, just making a decision to look at something in a different way can make all the difference. And just like exercising, one has to rethink and reaffirm that "new" approach before it becomes integrated into their natural thought processes.

Can you identify triggers that initiate a downward spiral? Usually one bad decision will lead to another. So, avoid that initial bad decision.

The following are some steps to help you avoid those triggers:

Avoid time crunches:

Keep an up-to-date calendar.
Write a schedule for all activities and stick to it and prepare well in advance.

Avoid confrontation:

Avoid situations/people that result in confrontation.
Do not allow anyone to drag you into an argument.

Avoid excessive spending:

Develop a budget and stick to it.
Buy items on sale in advance.

Avoid negativity:

Replace your negative thoughts/actions with positive ones.
Watch positive programs.
Avoid negative people.

Avoid too many responsibilities:

Learn how to say no.
Set realistic expectations.
Warn others in advance what you will or will not do.

Avoid unhealthy eating patterns:

Eat healthy meals/snacks.
Avoid unhealthy party dishes.
Don't go to parties hungry.
Practice portion control.

Unhealthy thinking patterns:

Focus on what you have, not what you don't have.
Decide to forgive.
Make a conscious effort to look at something in a positive light.
Decide to act in the way you "know" you should.
Remember, you are not the most important person in the room. A little humility can go a long way.

Focus on what is important:

Find the silver-lining.
Control your medical conditions.
Create new meaningful holiday memories with family and friends.

Do rethink the holidays:

Focus on what is truly important.
Create new traditions.

Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

Typist Clerk III **Nedra Tate** was hired in September. We are very happy that she joined our staff.



Nedra Tate

Planning participated in Diversity Week held October 20-24, 2014. **Shane Yokum**, Planner II, serves on the JP Employee Diversity Advisory Board.

Obtain a deeper understanding of what your religion teaches.
Don't let secular practices disrupt your peace.

Do be flexible:

Anticipate last minute changes.
Have a plan B, a plan C, and perhaps even a plan D.

Celebrate the lives of lost loved ones:

Adopt a needy family/elderly person (monetarily or personal interactions).
Carry on the dreams/special causes in the name of your loved one.
Find support with friends and family.
Stay busy.

NOTE: Individuals who are under the care of a doctor/psychiatrist/etc. should always follow their prescribed plan of care and provide updates, as needed, especially if one feels like they may be losing control.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!

Retirements

Angela Winchester
Parkways
35 years

Carolyn Robinson
Juvenile Services
35 years

Rene Maggio
Code Enforcement
33 years

Collis Linson
Parkways
33 years

Lindell Gilbert
Parks & Recreation
33 years

Angela Burrell
Drainage
33 years

Raymond Andras
Streets
31 years

John Bumgarden III
Sewerage
30 years

Clarence Robinson
Drainage
28 years

Pascal Rotolo
Sewerage
26 years

Vilche Brooks
Drainage
24 years

Cathy Leaumont
Human Resources
24 years

Beverly Williams
Personnel
23 years

Usha Kamboj
JeffCAP
23 years

Kathy Gontar
Library
21 years



Fire Extinguisher Training for West Bank Warehouse and Marrero Sewerage Plant