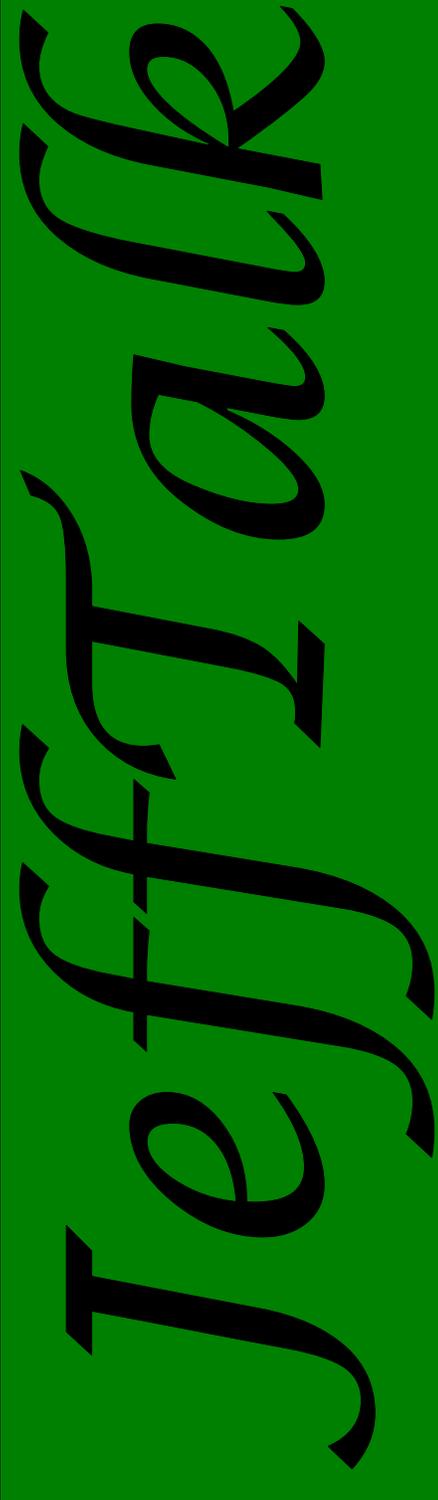




Volume 36
Number 1
February 2015



Message from the Parish President. . .

Carnival in Jefferson

The 2015 Carnival season is here and we are proud to celebrate tradition and welcome the new in Jefferson Parish!

The only all-children’s parade in the metro area, the Krewe of Little Rascals, will roll at noon on Sunday, February 1.

Family Gras is February 6- 8 at Mardi Gras Plaza on the neutral ground of Veterans Memorial Boulevard across from Lakeside Mall. Catch the parades, free outdoor concerts with live music, food, arts and crafts, and kid-friendly activities.

The Krewe of Excalibur parade will roll on Friday, February 6, at 7:00 PM, immediately followed by the new Krewe of Athena. Athena is making history as the first predominantly African-American, all-female krewe in Jefferson Parish. Be sure to try to catch their signature throw, a fedora hat.

The Krewe of Adonis is the premiere parade on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish, which rolls Saturday, February 7, at 11:45AM. The band “Chicken on the Bone” will perform a free, live concert between 11:00AM – 1:00PM at Carol Sue and Terry Parkway.

On Saturday, February 7, 6:00PM, the Krewe of Caesar will roll in Metairie with two of Marvel’s superheroes, Spider Man and Iron Man, as the Grand Marshals.

The Krewe of Centurions always draws big crowds. Centurions will roll Friday, February 13, at 7:00PM. The Krewe of Isis is Jefferson Parish’s oldest all-female parade with over 40 years of Carnival history. The ladies of Isis will



John F. Young
Parish President

parade on Saturday, February 14, at 6:30PM.

The Krewe of Napoleon’s signature float, the Waterloo, is a crowd favorite as it shoots confetti out of a cannon. Napoleon rolls on Sunday, February 15, at 5:00PM.

Rhythm on the Route returns after a very successful first year in 2014. Be sure to support your favorite Middle School and High School marching bands as they compete for cash prizes and bragging rights in Metairie’s own Battle of the Bands.

It all culminates at 10:00AM on Fat Tuesday, February 17, with the Krewe of Argus parade. We hope to see you and your families along the Veterans parade route on Mardi Gras. The Elks of Jefferson Truck parade will follow Argus, and the Krewe of Jefferson Truck parade will follow Elks.

Download our free Jefferson Parish Mobile app to receive parade alerts and follow us on Twitter, @JeffParishGov.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable Carnival season and thank you for your hard work and service to the citizens of Jefferson Parish.

JeffTalk

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 Managing Editor.....Greg Alexander

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- Citizens' Affairs**
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- Emergency Management**
Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**
Helen McGee
- Environmental Affairs**
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- Finance Authority**
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Glenn Schiro
- Inspection & Code Enforcement**
Doretha Parker
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Catina Ward
- Juvenile Services**
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- Library**
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Antoinette Holmes & William Cangemi
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Chantell Braniff
- Planning**
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- Purchasing**
Laniel Francis
- Sewerage**
Venice Cooper
- Streets**
Open
- Traffic Engineering**
Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**
Patricia Lyons
- Water**
Amy Truesdell
- Workforce Connection**
Carolyn Haynes

Editor's



Notes

Prescription Drug Update

As you are aware, on January 1st the Parish's healthcare insurance provider switched to United Healthcare (UHC). By and large, the transition has been successful considering the plan has over 5,000 participants. As a direct result of this change, Jefferson Parish plan members received a rate reduction of 1.1% as opposed to a 6.1% rate increase that would have occurred had the Parish extended its contract with Coventry, a difference of 7.2%. Moreover, historically, there was a \$200 co-pay for some diagnostic testing such as MRIs and CAT scans. Under the United Healthcare plan, there are **no** co-pays for these types of procedures and plan members continue to enjoy the benefit of no deductibles.

It is common for medications to change tiers, up and down, at the start of the year when a change in an insurance company is made or similarly within the same insurance company from year-to-year. Through listening to employees and working with UHC, it came to light that Jefferson Parish was initially placed in UHC's Advantage Prescription Drug List. However, after review, it seems that our employees are more familiar with the generic-focused Traditional Prescription Drug List. Therefore, UHC has agreed to implement the following:



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

- Move Jefferson Parish to the Traditional Prescription Drug List, wherein approximately 270 drugs will be moved to Tier 1 with \$10 co-pays. It will take 2-3 weeks to implement the change in the UHC system, but rest assured that UHC is working diligently to accomplish the move as fast as possible.
- Employees who have purchased medications which will move to Tier 1 under the Traditional Prescription Drug List will be reimbursed for amounts spent in excess of what the co-pay cost will be after the move to the Traditional Prescription Drug List is completed. If possible, please keep the receipts attached to the prescription in case there are any questions regarding the reimbursement.

The intranet now has information on Retailer Discount Drug Programs for your convenience. It can be found under Departmental pages, Human Resource Management – Benefits. Additionally, UHC representatives are holding meetings throughout the parish for plan participants so that you can meet one-on-one to discuss any issues you may have.

(Continued on Page 9)

Water

By
Amy Truesdell

2015 has started off with a bang. **Tyrell Chatman** was promoted to General Water Superintendent. He will be coordinating Water repairs on both the East and West Bank; **Mario Kennedy** was promoted to Waterline Maintenance Superintendent II.

We have two new employees to introduce-Utility Billing Clerks **Geniva Kearney** and **Morgan White**. Water Purification Operator **Christopher Gai** passed his Water Treatment Class I class; WB Water Purification Operator **Gennard Davis** passed his Water Distribution and Production I classes; EB Water Purification Operator **Jay Eckholdt** passed his Water Treatment III class; **Emmanuel Becknel** was promoted to Water Service Inspector II.

Several employees received their Service Pins. Five year recipients are Utility Billing Clerk III **Chantelle Barrios**; Water Purification Operator **Michael Barthe-**

lemy; Water Purification Superintendent I **Brian Belsome**; Water Purification Operator II **Hugh Castleberry**; Laborer **Wayne Harris**; Pump Equipment Mechanic **Kevin Howard**; Pump Equipment Mechanic **Adrin Cannon**; Water Service Inspector I **Louis Lepkosky**; Equipment Operator III **Michael Marcelle**; Laborer **James McCray**; Laborer **Lance Price**; Laborer **Shannon Taylor**; Laborer **Prentiss Washington**.

Fifteen year recipients are Equipment Operator III **Elbert Harris**; Water Purification Superintendent **Louis Jackson**; Waterline Maintenance Foreman **Greg Louis**; Executive Assistant **Jesse Rosenfeld**; and Utility Billing Superintendent Assistant **Monica Stanton**.

Receiving Service Pins for twenty years or more of service are Instrument Maintenance Technician **Raynell Stevenson**; Water Quality Scientist III **Lisa Johnson**; Computer Programmer **Monica Musmeci**; Water

Purification Superintendent II **Myron Romero**; Water Plant Maintenance Superintendent **Christopher Y. Smith**; Waterline Maintenance Superintendent II **Kevin Sampey**; Waterline Maintenance Superintendent II **Mario Kennedy**; Pump Equipment Mechanic **Kenneth O'Neal**; Plant Maintenance Electrician **David Orgeron**; Water Plant Maintenance Superintendent **Jeffery Tassin**; Water Purification Superintendent I **Chep Richard**; and Trades Helper **David Pierce**.

Utility Billing Clerk II **Patricia Boudreaux** welcomed grandson Christopher Owen into the world on December 15. Waterline Maintenance Foreman **James Francis** retired December 30; Water Service Inspector **Parrish Davis** left Utility Billing; **Varice Webber** transferred from Utility Billing to Engineering.

And a final note: East Bank Water Plant's Water Purification Operator II **Marc Williams** lost his mother Jean Marie Williams on January 10. We would like to extend our condolences to Marc.



Back row: Pin recipients Wayne Harris and Kevin Howard with Water Purification Superintendent Myron Romero; Monica Stanton; Director Sal Maffei, Jr.; Pin recipients Prentiss Washington; Adrin Cannon; Front Row: Chantelle Barrios and Jesse Rosenfeld.

Lafreniere Park

By
William Cangemi

A Holiday Success

Lafreniere's month-long *Holiday in the Park* ended on New Year's Night capping off an exciting event which drew just under 17,000 cars. Those vehicles were filled with everyone from infants to grandparents, all enjoying the magnificent light displays, Carousel rides, and arts and crafts for the kids. A heartfelt thanks goes out to all the employees from both Lafreniere Park and Parks and Recreation whose time and effort brought this Holiday Festivity to life!

Labyrinth

Although Lafreniere Park always seems to be hopping with festivals and happenings, it is also a place for rest and relaxation, peace and quiet. An excellent place for this is the LABYRINTH. Dedicated last year, the park's newest addition is a circular walking meditation path located in the beautiful Parterre Gardens. As you walk this peaceful path you may notice near the water a park bench on which sits a heartfelt sculpture of a woman with a child. All in all, it is a peaceful experience far from the maddening crowd.

Park Improvements

They wait before dawn for the park's gates to open and often they're the last ones here at night. We're referring to the hundreds of joggers and walkers who make use of Lafreniere Park's 2-mile

Jogging Trail every day. Many of them will be happy to know that later this year work will begin on resurfacing the 53,000 square feet which make up the track. The work will be done in phases and (*good news!*) it will not shut down the jogging trail. Elsewhere an extensive repair job is being done at the Pavilion, one of the park's signature structures; and rehabilitation of the Marsh Island Boardwalk will be completed during the first third of the year.



Lafreniere's Woman with Child sculpture

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Traffic Engineering welcomes our newest Sign Technician **LaShawn Camese**. LaShawn is a great addition to our Division and we're happy to have him here!!



Traffic Engineering's new Sign Tech LaShawn Camese

Congratulations to **Michael Gasper** on his recent reallocation to Sign Tech II. Michael works with the stripping crew and has quickly become quite proficient at all aspects of the job!!



Michael Gasper

Congratulations to Traffic Engineer **Susan Treadway** on 20 years of service, Signal Supervisor **David V. Stout** for 25 years of service and Signal Technician III **Joseph R. Parker, Jr.** for 25 years of service. A service pin ceremony was held in December in the Council Chambers for the special occasion. What a great accomplishment!!



David Stout, Susan Treadway, and Joseph Parker, Jr.

Engineering

By
Helen McGee

Engineering welcomes and congratulates, **Varice Webber**. Varice came by way of the Water Department and will be an Inspector 1 with Engineering. Welcome Aboard Varice!

Congratulations and Happy Retirement to **John Foltz, Jr.** of the Warehouse. John retired with 36 years of service. Happy Retirement to **Carlton Overton**, of the Warehouse, who retired with 15 years of service. Enjoy your

retirement!

Engineering welcomes and congratulates **Sandra Vappie** on the arrival of her grandson, **Christopher Luis James Vappie**. **Christopher** was born January 22, 2015 tipping the scale at 6lbs and 11ozs. Congratulations!

Recipients receiving Service Pins with 30 years of Service were **Bruce Cook**, Inspections, **Vic Vonhassel**, Drafting, **Olive Magee**, Warehouse and **Valerie Burke** of Inspections. Congratulations!



Bruce Cook, and Olive Magee with Superintendent Jery Zeringue



Vic Von Hassel with supervisor Leo Lay and Director Mark Drewes

Diversity Advisory Board

By
Ingrid Johnson

New Board Takes Office

On January 12, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., the Jefferson Parish Employee Diversity Advisory Board conducted their first meeting of the year. The Board members came together to discuss old business, elect new officers, and brainstorm ideas for new projects which could benefit all persons of Jefferson Parish.

Mrs. **Aleen Bernard** created a beautiful 2015 Multicultural calendar for the Diversity Advisory Board, and we are seeking to have this available on the Jefferson Parish website. The Board members voted to change the JPEDAB meeting dates to now be held on Tuesdays from 10:00-12:00 on alternating banks of the river. The next meeting will be held in April and members will be notified by e-mail of the exact date and location. The Board elected as Co-chairs Mrs. **Emann Batiste** and Mrs. **Ingrid Johnson**, and as Recording Secretary Mrs. **Brigid Johnson**.

The newly elected Board members have an opportunity and a commitment to be an example as we prepare to work together to encourage acceptance of all people. New members are encouraged to participate by offering suggestions, feedback and assistance to each other. The previous JPEDAB members offer their support and guidance, and we would like to thank them for their service, dedication and groundwork.

Library

By
Daniel Gitlin

Retirements

Thanks to **Cathy Gontar**, Librarian II, for her many years of service our patrons and community. Cathy began her in 1986 and worked at several branches including Metairie, Rosedale, and both regional libraries. Cathy was a valuable part of our team, and we wish her the best!

Promotions and New Hires

Douglas Deichmann, Librarian IV, was promoted to East Bank Regional Manager; and **Nathan McArthur**, Librarian III, was promoted to East Bank Regional Assistant Manager. Congratulations to both Doug and Nathan.



Doug Deichmann

We recently added many new employees including: **Heidi Austin**, WBR Page; **Laborers Westley Body** and **Lance Broussard**; **Lawrence Bowman**, Maintenance Repairman; **Brian Campbell**, Associate; **Pages Madeline Crosby**, **Megan Crozat**, and **Nesha Hunter**; **Clifton D'Aquin**, Computer Systems Specialist; **Linda Gordy**, Reference Librarian II; **Lyneisha Green**, Terrytown Associate; **Nolty Kiff**, Maintenance Repairman; **Nea Lewis**, Associate; **Mark Maunoir**, Park Landscape Supervisor; and **Derek Ullo**, Computer Systems Specialist.

Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

Governor's Conference

Emergency Management staff attended the 2015 Annual Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) Conference held in Baton Rouge from January 20 – 22, 2015. Panel discussions included topics on Ebola virus, sheltering, public assistance, American Red Cross, and hazard mitigation, among others.

LEM Certification

Congratulation to our Director, **Charles M. Hudson**, on receiving the highest Louisiana Emergency Manager (LEM) certification, LEM Professional. This certification is an indication of Mr. Hudson's extensive experience, hard work, continuing education, and dedication in the field of emergency management.

Director Hudson would also like to acknowledge and congratulate **Sandra Ancar-Encalade** on receiving her 25-year service pin. "Sandra serves as my Executive Assistant and is a very big reason for the success and accomplishments that move through the Emergency Management department," said Mr. Hudson. "Sandra, has been through a number of emergency activations of the EOC and has served our country through her military career. She is a prime example of a public servant to her Country, State, and Parish. We are lucky to have her."

Training Exercises To Come

Emergency Management will be conducting several training classes, exercises, and a Hurricane Preparedness Day in anticipation of the 2015 hurricane season. The hurricane and storm activity predictions for 2015 will come out in April. It is never too early to begin preparedness activities ahead of the season.



Sandra Ancar-Encalade
with Emergency Management Director Charles Hudson

Workforce Connection

By
Carolyn G. Haynes

Accomplishments

Jefferson Workforce Connection is proud to announce that we met 9 out of 9 performance measures, and exceeded 8 out of the 9 Louisiana Workforce Commission indicators. Performance measures are an indication of the number of individuals employed, their average wages, and their job retention.

JWC's Recruitment & Placement Teams held several job fairs for employers at the East and West Bank Centers with several jobseekers obtaining employment. Congratulations Team!

Thank You's

JWC thanks Career Specialist **Janet James** (pictured with our Security Officer **Keisha Houston**) with the placement of beautiful Mardi Gras decorations on our tree. Thank You!

Service Pin Recipient

Congratulations to Career Specialist **Paulette Victor**, a 25-Year Service Pin Recipient.

Youth Department

JWC bids farewell to Typist Clerk III **Ava Bougere**, who accepted another position within Jefferson Parish.



General Services

By
Tessa St. Pierre

Magic not Misery

The Public First Committee conducted its first "Customer Service Training" for the entire General Services Department. The training took place on both the Eastbank and Westbank. There was a morning and an afternoon session on each side of the river in an attempt to encompass the entire department.



The committee's training techniques consisted of showing informative videos, offering empowering speeches, and engaging an audience member from the crowd to test their customer service abilities with different scenarios that the

committee made up. To top it all off, we were all served with popcorn and our choice of drink by the Public First Committee. (See photo Page 17)

As the Chairman, **Eric Romain** says our focus or "theme" is to empower our co-workers by giving them the tools they need to engage any situation with confidence and the POWER to "CREATE MAGIC NOT MISERY." This is slated to become an annual event for General Services.



General Services' Public First Committee Chair Eric Romain

Promotions

We are happy to announce that **Gary Daigrepoint** has been promoted to an A/C Heating Mechanic, **Jerry Kaywood** to a Semi-Skilled Laborer, and **Tim Hoskins** is Stationary Engineer II. We are so proud of them for their hard work and dedication.

Goodbyes

After years of service, **Don Barrios** and **Jerry Lehrmann** have retired! Don has worked with the Parish for 17 years and Jerry for 10 years. General Services is very sad to see them go but wishes them the best of luck as they sleep past 8 in the morning.

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Good-bye, John, and Congratulations, Nicole

We say goodbye to **John Dumas**, who has left his Assistant Director position with Human Resources to become Personnel Director for the Parish. We wish you the best, John. We know you will do a great job.

We congratulate HR Manger **Nicole Thompson**, who has been promoted to Assistant Director of HR. Nicole, who is a Professional in Human Resources and who has an MBA, has been employed by the Parish for over 17 years. Nicole's education, qualifications, and years of service will enable her to do an exceptional job as Assistant Director.



Nicole Thompson

New Benefits Specialist Joins HR

Speaking of departures and arrivals, Benefits Specialist **Cathy Leumont** has retired after 24 years of service with the Parish. Cathy helped many employees and retirees with their concerns and questions regarding Benefits. We welcome Benefits Specialist **Ahmed Siddiqui**, who was in Per-

sonnel for Kenner for 4 ½ years before coming to work in Benefits for the Parish. Ahmed, who has an MBA from UNO, demon-



Ahmed Siddiqui

strates on a daily basis his genuine commitment to assisting employees and retirees with their Benefits coverage.

75 Years of Service!

We applaud HR Director **Peggy Barton**, HR Manager **Fran Robichaux**, and Occupational Health Nurse **Peggy Branam**, who

were recognized for their years of employment with the Parish during the recent pin ceremony in the Yenni Building Council Chambers. Kudos to Fran (35 years), Peggy Barton (20 years) and Peggy Branam (20 years) for a combined total of **75** years of outstanding service to Jefferson Parish.

Safety Certificate of Appreciation

Safety Manager **Nolan Guidry** awarded Forman **John Braswell** from Drainage a Safety Certificate of Appreciation for John's suggestion that all Parish vehicles and equipment display a "Don't Forget Your Walk Around" sticker. The sticker is a constant reminder to all employees to perform their daily pre-trip inspections.

A special thanks goes to Director of Fleet Management **Nick DiGerolamo**, who purchased the stickers and had them placed on all Parish vehicles and equipment. Thanks to John and Nick for making the Parish safer.



Safety Program Manager Nolan Guidry thanks Drainage's John Braswell

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Welcome & Congratulations!

As 2015 begins, 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. **Brady Reed, Matthew Lavigne, Thomas Leefe, Dwayne Frank and Justin Course** have all begun their careers with the Department of Drainage.

Also, we would like to congratulate the following for their recent promotions: **Jason Cheramie, Damien Dent and Michael Herbert**. Good luck and congratulations, everyone!

Award Pins

The Department of Drainage awarded service pins to employees that have been with us for 20, 25, and 30 years. The following dedicated employees received service pins for 20 years: **Davelynn James and George**

Withers; 25 years: **Alvin Billiott Jr., Joseph Centanni, and Lanny Higgins**; and 30 years: **Gary Clarks Sr., Robert Dale, George Davis, Richard Davis, Devery Duckett, Michael Fields and Keith Lewis** We would like to thank you for your hard work thus far and look forward to seeing what you all will accomplish in the future. (See photo below.)

Job Well Done!

We would like to take this opportunity to say “job well done” to **Renard Foster, Sterling Jackson, James Mason, John Nguyen, and Fujikol Simpsons** for their swift actions and exemplary service in response to a complaint from Councilman Spears’ office.

In Memory Of...

Lastly, but definitely not least, we are sad to say that our beloved coworker, **Terrell Power**, recently passed away. On Wednesday, December 31, she went into her eternal resting place at the age of 59. With 12 years of service

Editor’s Notes (Continued from Page 2)

Check with you department’s Benefits Coordinator for the schedule. You are also encouraged to go online to www.myuhc.com to set up a new member account. Once you set up your login ID and password, you will be able to access details of the UHC health coverage at any hour convenient to you. UHC also has a customer service number which is manned by live customer service specialists from 8am-8pm daily: 1-800-357-0958. The number can easily be found on the back of your ID card.

As always, you may also contact Aubrey DeVillier, Benefits Administrator (adevillier@jeffparish.net) or Ahmed Siddiqui, Benefits Specialist (asiddiqui@jeffparish.net) by email or phone (504)736-6180.

with Jefferson Parish, she has been an incredible asset and important part of our department. We are honored to have known her and will greatly miss her.



Moment of Magic

By
Glenn Schiro

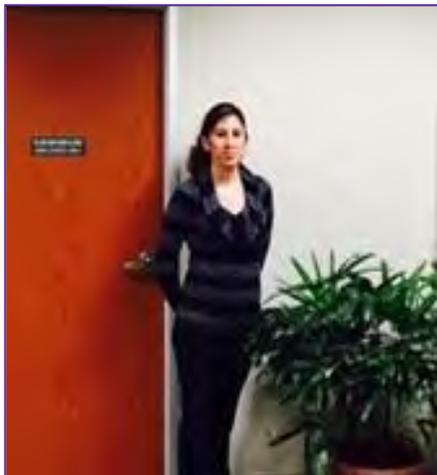
This month we recognize **Renard Foster, Sterling Jackson, James Mason, John Nguyen, and Fujikol Simpson** from Drainage for repairing a citizen’s leaking joints and filling the resident’s sink holes with sand.

They were commended by the citizen whose property was being affected and by Councilman **Mark D. Spears** and his Administrative Aide **Casey Jumperi**. Thanks to Renard, Sterling, James, John, and Fujikol for providing a “moment of magic” to the citizens we serve.

Purchasing

By
Laniel Francis

Melissa Ovalle is a New Buyer to our Department. Her title is Buyer 1. Melissa began working with Purchasing Department on January 10, 2015. She is a wonderful addition to the Purchasing Family.



News Buyer Melissa Ovalle

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

RESIGNATION:

Farewell and best wishes to Detention Officers **Wynton Grady** and **Leslie Henderson**, who resigned to pursue other career opportunities.

RETIREMENTS

This is my last issue for **JEFF TALK!** With many mixed emotions, I have decided to retire from my position of Executive Assistant with Juvenile Services, effective Friday, February 13th (no superstitious thoughts here)! I have felt every emotion there is (Happy/Sad, Excited/Scared, Confident/Confused, etc...), but.....the worst is feeling OLD!!!

I will miss the wonderful people I have worked with over the years. Jefferson Parish has some truly professional, dedicated, and caring individuals. I am proud of the fact that I have made it to this point and look forward to pursuing other adventures. **Vicki Borja**, Typist Clerk III, has graciously accepted taking over as reporter for the department. Thanks, Vicki! I know you will do a great job!

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER 2014: **Charles Ward**, Warehouse Supervisor
William Corkern, Juv. Detention Officer II

JANUARY 2015:
Arlyn Smith, Exec Assistant
Joel Sweeney, Juv. Detention Officer II

SERVICE AWARDS:

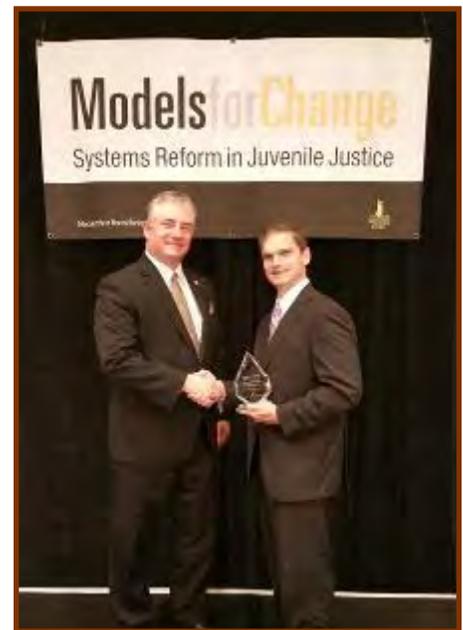
In December, the following JS employees were presented with their Certificate of Appreciation from Parish President John Young, for their Years of Service to Jefferson Parish:

Carolyn Robinson, Juvenile Probation Officer III - 35 Years
Monique Willis, Juvenile Probation Officer III - 30 Years

LOUISIANA CHAMPION FOR CHANGE

Congratulations to **John S. Ryals, Jr.**, Evaluation/Treatment Supervisor. He was the recipient of the national 2014 Champions for Change Award. It was presented to him December 15 in Washington, D.C., by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The MacArthur Foundation Models for Change Program supports reform to improve the lives of young people in trouble with the law, enhance public safety, and hold youth accountable for their actions.



JS Director Roy Juncker with John Ryals, JR.

Parks & Recreation

By
Antoinette Holmes

Congrats to the proud new parents! **Ethan Landry** (Pontiff Playground) on the birth of his daughter Reese. Congrats to the newlyweds David & Katie Abadie! Congrats to Rene Bergeron for going back to school. Renee will be attending Delgado Community College, majoring in Business Management.

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. Kennedy Heights Playground – New gym roof liner panels are being installed. M. L King Playground – replace field lights and tennis courts lights 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. Wagaman Playground – Gym flooring to soon be installed; Pressbox repair underway. Westside Progressive Park - tot lot installed

EASTBANK UPDATE:

Bright, Cleary, and Lakeshore HVAC Project is beginning soon. 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 – Construction is on the way for the pressbox/ concession replacement/ repair.

BONNABEL BOAT LAUNCH

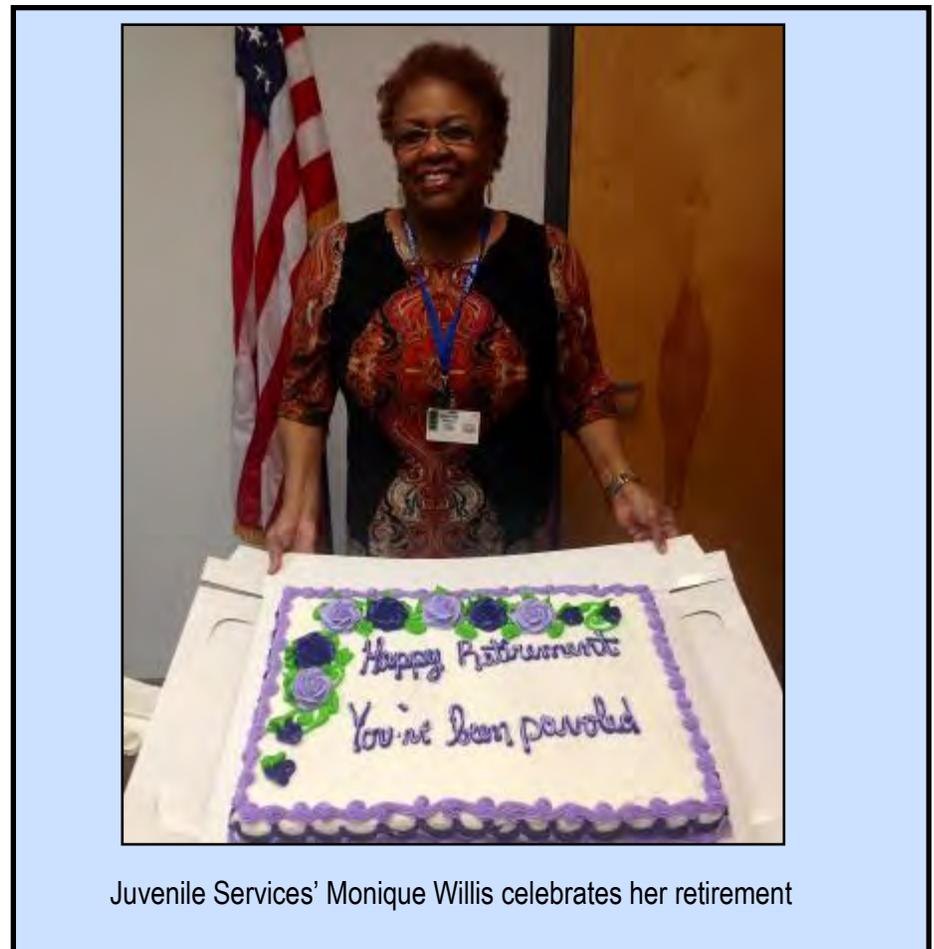
Backdown Ramp repair – working with the U.S. Wildlife & Fisheries for grant approval and once received, it will be put out for bid. BUCKTOWN HARBOR Monthly slip rentals are \$240 (40’ slip). Call our office for details. The new shelter and several picnic tables have been placed at the site.

LAFRENIERE PARK UPDATE:

Walking Trail repair – bids are soon due with work following. Easter Egg Hunt – preparations are in works for 2015 – watch for details.

PARC DES FAMILLES UPDATE:

Construction of pavilion and marquee is forthcoming.



Juvenile Services' Monique Willis celebrates her retirement

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

We offer our condolences **Rick Buller**, Landfill Engineer, on the loss of his mother. Our prayers are with Rick and his family.

On December 19, 2014, two Environmental Affairs employees were honored at the 2014 Service Award Pin Ceremony. Receiving their pins for 20 years of service were **Joseph “Rick” Buller**, Landfill Engineer, and **Michele Van Pelt Smith**, Executive Assistant. We would like to congratulate these employees on their years of dedicated service to Jefferson Parish.

Sewer Science Project

On January 12, 2015, our Storm Water Division staff began working with high school students from Patrick F. Taylor Science Academy and their science teacher on a Sewer Science Project, wherein students learn about municipal wastewater treatment via a



James Schultz and Thomas Cooper demonstrate the magnetic manhole puller

hands-on laboratory, using specially designed tanks, analytical equipment, and a student workbook.

Environmental Supervisor named VP of LUSC

Sami Khalil, Stormwater

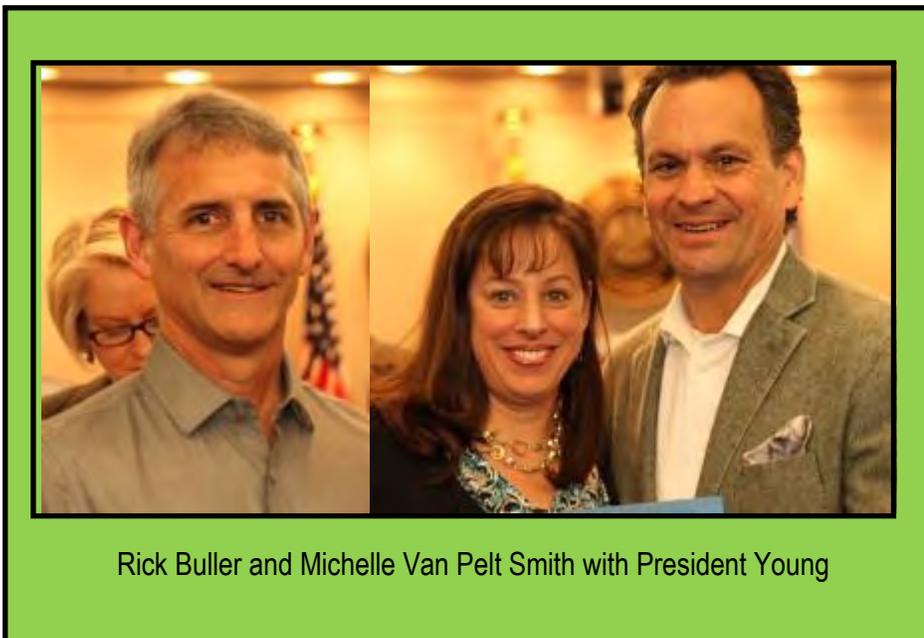
Management Supervisor, was nominated to be Vice President for The Louisiana Urban Stormwater Coalition. LUSC is an EPA and LDEQ-supported nonprofit organization that assists parishes, municipalities, and neighborhoods in meeting stormwater program goals through education.

Certifications Earned

Congratulations to **James Schultz**, Environmental Quality Specialist, and **Thomas Cooper**, Environmental Quality Technician II, who recently received their Wastewater Collection Class IV Operators Certifications from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals!

Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project Completed

Environmental Affairs proudly completed its 25th annual Christ-



Rick Buller and Michelle Van Pelt Smith with President Young

mas tree marsh restoration project on January 10, 2015, when pre-constructed shoreline fences in Goose Bayou, near the Town of Jean Laffite, became home for over 10,000 recycled trees. Thanks to the large number of volunteers, the project was able to be completed in just one day.

Thanks for Volunteers

Volunteers included the New Orleans Organ Grinders dance troupe, community service workers, boy scouts, and others.

Additionally, a number of boats were provided by the Jefferson Parish Sheriff’s Office and local Fire Departments including East Bank Consolidated, Kenner, Lafitte Barataria Crown Point, Avondale, Bridge City, Harvey, Live Oak Manor, and Marrero Estelle. Several Parish departments contributed to the project, including Parkways, Streets, Recreation, Fleet Management, Emergency Management, and Juvenile Services.

Although the state no longer provides funding for the tree marsh restoration projects, we were able to continue our program thanks to a donation of \$25,000 from DynoNobel and thanks to the cooperative effort of Wood Materials, LLC in accepting some of the trees at their local composting facility. We would like to thank all individual volunteers and organizations for helping with the huge success of this year’s project.

Code Enforcement

By
Doretha Parker

Farewell, Rosalyn!

Code Enforcement “Jingle Bell Rocked” **Rosalyn Cimino** into retirement on December 29, 2014. We thank her for all the hard work and dedication she has given us. Most of all, we would like to thank her for her time with us. After twenty-one years of service, we wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

Welcome Aboard!

The Department of Code Enforcement welcomes our new employees, **Karen Jackson** (Building Typist Clerk III), **Jason Manuel** (Building Inspector), and **Rayonna Scieneaux** (Clerk I). We’re glad to have you aboard!

Promotion!

We are proud to announce as well as congratulate **Roland Morvant II** on his promotion to Plumbing Inspector II, which is a Supervisory position in our Westbank office.

Years of Service

Also, a big congratulations to **Mariea Lambert, Rosalyn Cimino, Gerald Gutierrez,** and **George Faustermann** for 20 years of service, 25 years to **Theresa Tauceda,** and 30 years to **Daniel Ferrara.** (See photo next page)

Home Building Association Board Meetings

We also like to give a huge thanks to our Director **Tiffany Wilken,** Assistant Director **John Piglia,** and our Section Chiefs for attending monthly



Code’s Rosalyn Cimino is congratulated by John Piglia, John Segura, and Director Tiffany Wilken

Home Building Association Board Meetings and for visiting other Code Enforcement jurisdictions for benchmarking purposes. There's always an opportunity to learn to do better, so thank you.

Enhancing Customer Service

Code Enforcement is extremely excited about a few key accomplishments in 2014. We now have a Lobby Tracking Screen for our customers to monitor the status of their sign-in while they wait for assistance from their requested section.

And, since our customers are now able to submit applications for permits, filings, and license renewals online, we have now installed computer kiosks in the Code lobbies for customer use. Code is continually updating and simplifying its processes to be as convenient for our customers so that they will have a favorable experience with us.

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 Phyllis Johnson*". Phyllis is a SCADA Dispatcher for our Administration Office. She has only been with the Parish since December 2014. Since she is a new employee, Phyllis has not had very many on the job experiences. However, her previous employment included the positions of Park Ranger and University Police Sergeant.

WEFTEC

Several Department of Sewerage employees attended WEFTEC 2014 at the New Orleans

Convention Center in October 2014. WEFTEC is the Water Environment Federation's Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference. WEFTEC is recognized as the largest annual water quality exhibition in the world. It provides access to new technologies and promotes peer-to-peer networking between attendees. The Water Environment Federation (WEF) was formed in 1928. It is a technical and educational organization, representing water and wastewater quality professionals around the world, through flagship issues – wastewater, industrial wastewater, bio solids, and watershed. WEF supports clean and safe water by providing knowledge, leadership, championing innovation, and connecting professionals in the field.

PUBLIC FIRST!

Ronald Huffman, Jane Lennie, and Glenn Miller represent the Department of Sewerage on the Public First Committee. They've been working on the following endeavors:

- Posting the Parish Vision Statement and Department



Code Enforcement's proud service pin recipients

- Mission Statement in offices
- Providing the Customer Service Video for viewing by employees
- Updating the Parish website information
- Developed the Public First Brochure and distributed it to employees

OUR CONDOLENCES

We offer our deepest sympathies to the following employees on their recent loss of loved ones: **Eva “Lucie” Claverie** lost her sister, Wanda Willhoft, in November. Wanda was a Jefferson Parish Code Enforcement employee. **Alicia Harper** lost her mother, Carrie Williams, in December. **Venice Cooper** lost her mother, Nellie Gabriel Singleton, in January 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following Sewerage employees who received their Service Pins from Parish President Young at the 2014 ceremony in December : **20 Years – Timothy Engel, Diane Landry, and Phillip Wright** **25 Years – Dwayne Thomas and Brett Todd** **30 Years – Venice Cooper, Damian DeSalvo, George Gandy, Jr., Glenn Miller, and Ronald Williams**

Congratulations to the follow-

ing Department of Sewerage employees who received their Service Pins on December 5, 2014: **5 Years – Carter Alexander, Henry Burns, and Kristopher Hunt** **15 Years – Dwayne Holmes**

Congratulations to our Secretary, **Pamela Lapping**, on her recent retirement. **Pamela** retired on January 2, 2015, with over 33 years of service.



Pam Lapping

Congratulations to **John Bumgarden** on his recent retirement on October 7, 2014, with over 11 years of service.

Congratulations to **Frank Chivleatto** on his recent retirement. **Frank** retired October 3, 2014 with 12 years of service.

Congratulations to **Morris Clark** on his recent retirement. **Morris** retired on December 19, 2014 with over 8 years of service.

Congratulations to **Pascal Roto-lo** on his recent retirement. **Pascal** retired on October 31, 2014 with 27 years of service.

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

Ryan Boudreaux was promoted to Sewerage Treatment Plant Superintendent I.

Charles Clark was promoted to Laborer-Semi Skilled.

Chase Collins was promoted to Trades Helper.

Shane Dickerson was promoted to Maintenance Superintendent.

Devence Hampton was promoted to Laborer-Semi Skilled.

Ronald Huffman was promoted to Sewerage Treatment Plant Superintendent II.

Jane Lennie was promoted to Secretary in our Administrative Office.

Brett Ramsak was promoted to Electrician.

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

Patrick Barrios – Laborer, Eastbank Lift Stations

Darryl Carter –Operator, Marro Wastewater Treatment Plant

Bruce Cook – Public Works Project Coordinator, Administration

Phyllis Johnson – SCADA Dispatcher, Administration

Ronald Johnson – Truck Driver II, Eastbank Lines

Patrick LeBranch – Laborer, Eastbank Lines

Cory Malveaux – Lift Station Inspector, Eastbank Lift Stations

Michael McBride – Laborer, Eastbank Lines

Frances Trapani – Typist Clerk II, Administration

Justin Watson – Laborer, Eastbank Lines



Sewerage’s 30-year veterans Glenn Miller, Venice Cooper, and George Gandy

Health Issues

By
Peggy Brannan, RN



The Living Will

Pat knew that sooner or later she was going to have to go back into the hospital for the removal of scar tissue. A couple of years prior, Pat had an elbow injury that required constructive surgery. The scar tissue grew back like a cob-web mesh of concrete, spreading and attaching to surrounding structures, resulting in restricted movement and compression to the nerves, blood vessels, and muscles. Besides the constant pain, the risk for permanent damage was becoming a real threat. So, the phone call was finally made to her orthopedic surgeon that she was ready for surgery to remove the scar tissue.

Aside from her left arm, Pat was the picture of health! At thirty-two, she looked like someone half her age. Needless to say, complications, infirmities, and a pre-mature death was the last thing on her mind. She was on the go and didn't have time for negativity.

Never one to waste time, Pat requested that her surgeon put her first on the surgery list. Even though this meant she had to arrive at the outpatient surgical suite for 6:00am, she figured on being home no later than mid-afternoon. With her surgery taking place on Wednesday, this would give her four full days to recover and return to work Monday.

Having set her alarm for 4:00am, she knew she would have to get to bed early and pray that she could fall asleep quickly. But, a good night's rest was not to be. The pain from her left upper arm down to her fingers

was unrelenting and would not allow her to find any relief or comfort so she could fall to sleep.

At 1:00am, she got out of bed and looked over the paperwork she had received during her pre-op session. At least, if she had to be awake, she could be a "good" patient and actually read the paperwork she had signed off on.

One document she had not given her full attention to was the "living will" or "advanced directives." Being a bit intrigued by the document, she began to have more questions than she would have preferred. With no one available at that hour of the night that she could ask her questions, Pat began to research the topic on-line....

In 1990, the Patient Self-Determination Act was enacted to allow competent patients to designate someone to speak on their behalf regarding their wishes related to health care interventions in the event the patient is unable to do so. On the State level, laws were also enacted to give rights to competent patients to control the direction of their health care in the event they were unable to voice their desires. As a result, it is now routine for medical institutions to ask the patient if they have a "Living Will," otherwise referred to as an "Advanced Directive." If they don't, they are encouraged to complete one for their records.

The purpose of the living will is to have a legally binding document from the competent patient, which provides the medical staff with directions related to medical care the patient would prefer to have, or not have, related to end-of-life issues. This can include providing or withholding food & water to advanced life-support.

But not all "Living Will" documents are created equal. Depending on who is drafting the document, the wording can run across a wide spectrum from the specific and precise to the more broad and loose. A major concern is that once the pa-

tient is no longer considered to be competent, for better or worse, the document speaks for them. This can be especially problematic if an unanticipated medical scenario arises with the result of withholding of care that otherwise the patient would have wanted, not to mention the ethical dilemmas that may arise. It is unrealistic to try to develop a document that lists every medical scenario.

An alternative to the living will is to designate a health-care decision maker to speak on your behalf. This person should be someone you know well and they should know your wishes for care, including the medical, financial, ethical, and spiritual aspects. Ideally, you would want to discuss various scenarios so they are comfortable making decisions.

The "DURABLE POWER-OF-ATTORNEY" document, not to be confused with the "GENERAL POWER-OF-ATTORNEY", which addresses NON-MEDICAL concerns, allows your designated person to access/obtain your medical information, to be your health care decision maker and advocate. The "Durable Power-of-Attorney" requires the individual for whom it is written to be competent at the time of the drafting. In the document, the name of the person to speak on their behalf is recorded. And, most important, the document must be notarized. Medical institutions will only recognize a notarized original or a notarized "certified true copy of original copy." So, at the time the original document is drafted, it is best to obtain several notarized copies for the designated health-care decision maker, other appropriate family or friends, all treating doctors, and medical facilities upon admission.

After becoming more enlightened following her research, Pat began to regret not being better informed and prepared for an unforeseen medical event. She vowed that she would obtain additional counsel and if needed, obtain the necessary documents so she would be ready for whatever the future may hold for her.

Retirements

John Foltz
Public Works
36 years

Arlyn Smith
Juvenile Services
35 years

Hung Nguyen
Drainage
33 years

Pamela Lapping
Sewerage
33 years

Kenneth Lachney
Traffic Engineering
33 years

Rose Lanansa
Streets
32 years

James Francis
Water
31 years

Monique Willis
Juvenile Services
30 years

Peggy Massaro
Parks & Recreation
28 years

Gwen Styron
Parks & Recreation
25 years

Willie Walker
Drainage
25 years

Gabriel Guidry
Engineering
20 years

Linda James
Library
20 years

Rosalyn Cimino
Code Enforcement
20 years

Carolyn Champagne
Citizens' Affairs
18 years

General Services Takes the Lead!



A good teacher, like a good entertainer, must first hold his audience's attention. General Services staff, enjoying their Public First Committee's presentation.