



Volume 36
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April 2015

Jefferson

Message from the Parish President. . .

Let's Keep Jefferson "Clean and Green"

I would like to take this opportunity to ask each of you to help us keep Jefferson Parish 'Clean and Green.' Two recent events serve as good examples of how our community leaders and volunteers came together to form one team to *Keep Jefferson Parish Beautiful*. Volunteers took part in "Leaders Against Litter" statewide on Friday, March 13, to clean-up litter in all corners of Louisiana, including here in Jefferson Parish. The local anti-litter event took place along Terry Parkway and Stumpf Boulevard.

Our continuing goal is to shed light on litter problems in Louisiana and engage leaders and citizens in our efforts to improve the environment across the state. "Keep Jefferson Parish Beautiful is one of several Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) affiliate communities across the state selected to participate in the event.

The Jefferson Parish Departments of Environmental Affairs and Parkways and Streets joined forces with the Terrytown Civic Association and the Terrytown Garden Club for another anti-litter



John F. Young
Parish President

event on March 28.

Participants were asked to sign a pledge to spread the word that litter is not acceptable, to pick-up litter whenever they see it, and to stand up and lead the way for a 'cleaner and greener' Jefferson Parish and litter-free Louisiana.

This event was part of the national Great American Clean-Up sponsored by Keep America Beautiful where volunteers across the United States and Louisiana gathered to preserve the local environment by cleaning and beautifying outdoor areas.

Those of us who live in and love Jefferson Parish should take pride in the continuing efforts to keep our Parish clean, beautiful, and free of litter.

JeffTalk

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

Departmental Reporters

- Alario Center**
Deirdre Cummings
- Animal Shelter**
Danielle Williams
- Citizens' Affairs**
Brandie Lange
- Community Development**
Toya Jones
- Drainage**
Sheena Quinn
- Emergency Management**
Sandra Ancar-Encalade
- Engineering**
Helen McGee
- Environmental Affairs**
Kathy Russo
- Finance Authority**
Sheila Rodrigue
- Fleet Management**
Stephanie Gaudet
- General Services**
Tessa St. Pierre
- Human Resource Management**
Glenn Schiro
- Inspection & Code Enforcement**
Doretha Parker
- JeffCAP**
Catina Ward
- Juvenile Services**
Arlyn Smith
- Library**
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Antoinette Holmes & William Cangemi
- Parkways**
Chantell Braniff
- Planning**
Marilyn Slutsky
- Purchasing**
Laniel Francis
- Sewerage**
Venice Cooper
- Streets**
Michelle Swenson
- Traffic Engineering**
Brandy Chism & David Stout
- Transit**
Patricia Lyons
- Water**
Amy Truesdell
- Workforce Connection**
Carolyn Haynes

Editor's



Notes

**Employment Program
for Special Kids**

The Department of Human Resource Management is one of the Parish departments that has had the good fortune to participate in the Employment Exploration Program for the last 10 years.

The Employment Exploration Program is part of the Jefferson Parish Public Schools Office of Vocational Services for Students with Disabilities that local retail businesses, like Learning Tools, the Educator, and Big Lots, have participated in for several years. The Employment Exploration program provides Special Education Students the opportunity to experience working in a variety of local community businesses, while receiving the individualized levels of support needed for growth and success. This non-paid, skill training program provides work experience at real job sites for students with moderate to severe cognitive or physical disabilities. These students, ages 15 to 22, share a common need to learn productive skills through hands-on experiences.

A Special Education teacher, who is sometimes accompanied by a teacher's assistant, is always present at the job site with the student group. Student groups usually consist of one to four students. The teacher is completely responsible for the students and assists them with their work. The job site is asked to provide tasks for the students to work on, tasks which are usually ongoing and repeatable from week to week.



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

Each week, on Wednesday mornings, four of the eight students assigned to our office work under the close supervision of their Special Education Teacher. We provide tasks for the students that include filing, copying, and sorting. They often compile binders for our New Employee Orientation program and recently helped stuff envelopes with invitations for the Service Pin Award Ceremony. We regularly find new tasks for them and look forward to their return the following week. It's wonderful to see them become comfortable in our office and eager to do their "jobs."

Adjudication, Code Enforcement, and the Library have joined with Human Resources in welcoming these students into our workplaces over the past several years, and First Parish Court has just become a new sponsor for students from Bonnabel High School. But in order to provide varied experiences for the students in several different settings, we would like to see this program expanded to include more Parish departments.

We anticipate the Employment Exploration Program will continue in the 2015-2016 school year. We hope that more departments within the Parish will open their doors to these wonderful young people. Please contact Kim Gordy @ 913-0351 or kim.gordy@jppss.k12.la.us for more information on the program and how your department can get involved.

Juvenile Services

By
Vicki Borja

RETIREMENTS:

Juvenile Services wishes a fond farewell to Executive Assistant **Arlyn Smith** and Assistant Detention Home Supervisor **Nathaniel Williams**. Arlyn retired February 13, 2015, after working over 35 years for the Parish. Nathaniel retired February 27, 2015, after working over 33 years with the Parish. Happy retirement to both of you! We will all miss you!



Arlyn Smith with Juvenile Services Director Roy Juncker

PROMOTIONS:

Christi Lacombe was promoted from Administrative Assistant to Executive Assistant. **David Vicari** and **Donya Snowton** were promoted to Probation Officer III. Congratulations to all of you!

NEW HIRES:

The Department of Juvenile Services welcomes **Cheryl Bourgeois**, who will be replacing Christi Lacombe as Administrative Assistant. Prior to coming to the Department of Juvenile

Services, Cheryl worked in Human Resources.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:

Juvenile Services would also like to congratulate the following employees for being Employee of the Month:

February 2015

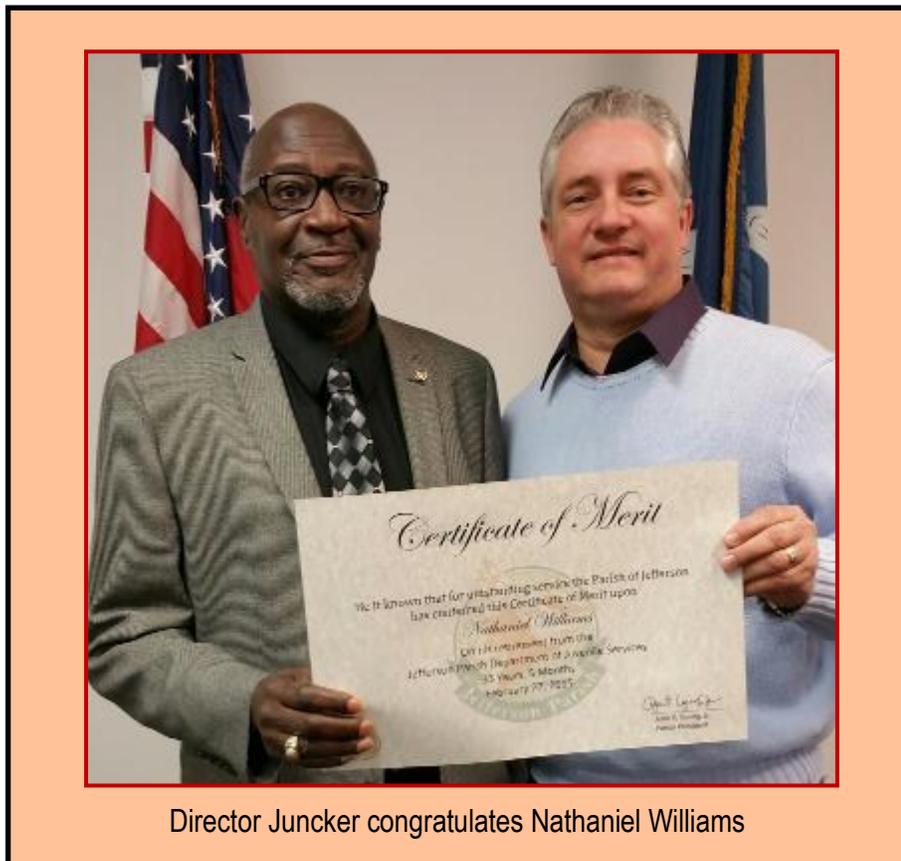
Detention: **Donald Joseph**, Juvenile Detention Officer I
Probation: **Lashaunda Thomas**, Probation Officer III

March 2015

Detention: **Danny Alexander**, Juvenile Detention Officer II
Probation: **Reginald White**, Mental Health Professional I
Keep up the great work!

BLOOD DRIVE:

Juvenile Services hangs on to the Bloodhound Award for obtaining 16 donations during the February blood drive. Thanks to all individuals who donated.



Director Juncker congratulates Nathaniel Williams

Lafreniere Park

By
William Cangemi

Glenn the Goose

It's said that every person has a story. Well the same could be said of the creatures here at Lafreniere Park. Take the case of Glenn, one of our Canadian geese. Three years ago the SPCA rescued him from a West Bank canal where he had lost his mate and refused to go near the water. Glenn was then brought here where he did not receive the warmest of welcomes. He was shunned by the other geese and wound up with a fish hook in his leg. But our story has a happy ending. He soon healed and can now be seen grazing near the lagoon with his girlfriend. It's safe to say they are living *happily ever after!*

Spring Concert Series

ARE YOU READY TO ROCK AND ROLL?!! Well here is Lafreniere Park's Spring Concert Series schedule (shows are on Thursday nights at 6:30pm at the Al Copeland Concert Meadow Stage):

April 16 - 90 Degrees West

April 23 - Category 6
April 30 - The Topcats
May 14 - Karma
May 21 - MoJeaux

And on a different note, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra will perform on Thursday night May 7 at 7pm.



Glenn the Goose on the rebound

Thank You

I was recently honored by being named Lafreniere Park's Employee of the Year. I am thankful for both the award *and* the job. You see, after I had lost my previous job to Hurricane Katrina, Park Management took me on here and they have been kicking themselves ever since. *Thank you all!*

Ask Personnel

By
Lauren Call, SPHR

The Personnel Department receives various questions from employees, Directors, 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](#).

Why did I not receive the tenure award?

There are two reasons why you may have not received the tenure award. First, if you have not been employed with Jefferson Parish for at least two calendar years, you are not eligible to receive the tenure award. Next, if you did not receive at least a Meets Expectation on your 2013 Performance Evaluation, you are not eligible to receive the tenure award.

What is the difference between a cost of living adjustment and a merit raise? Also which are we getting this year?

A Cost of Living Adjustment is a salary adjustment used to



Park Manager Barry McGuinness and Asst. Park Manager Rob Alexander with Lafreniere's Employee of the Year William Cangemi.

raise salaries in relation to inflation. A merit raise is a salary adjustment that is tied to your annual performance evaluation.

This year, we are getting merit-based increases. If you are evaluated as Meets Expectation (ME) on your annual performance evaluation, you will receive a 5% increase. If you are evaluated as Exceeds Expectation (EE) on your annual performance evaluation, you will receive a 6.5% increase. If you are evaluated as Substantially Exceeds Expectation (SEE) on your annual performance evaluation, you will receive an 8% increase.

My department had me sign a new green hire form. I've been working here for years. Why are they rehiring me?

The Personnel Department has required each department to provide updated job descriptions on every employee. This is being done in order to ensure that each employee's job description is up to date and accurate. This update does not change your hire date or your salary.

The start date listed is when the update is being done, and the offer amount is your current salary. When you are asked to sign the green hire form, your signature is acknowledging receipt of a copy of your job description.

General Services

By
Tessa St. Pierre

Return of the Monarchs

The Landscape Crew, led by **Karin Fourcade**, recently planted two Butterfly Gardens on the South side of the Yenni Building. We can now announce that the Monarch Butterflies have made it their home.

The beautiful orange and black Monarch butterfly is a threatened butterfly species in North America. According to surveys, over 90% have disappeared in the last decade mostly due to loss of habitat.

Sprawling urban developments and intensive farming techniques mean fewer uncultivated margins where the milkweed plants can thrive and provide habitat for the Monarch. When the females cannot find a suitable habitat to lay eggs, the life cycle is interrupted and the population decreases. Milkweed is the sole food source for the Monarch Caterpillar. For more information on Monarch Butterflies and to find out what you can do the help save them, visit www.monarchwatch.org or contact our local LSU Agriculture Center at www.lsuagcenter.com. And take a moment to enjoy the beautiful Monarchs fluttering about the Yenni building.

Congratulations

General Services is happy to announce that **Darlene Fleetwood** has been promoted to Administrative Assistant.

Goodbyes

We say goodbye and good luck to **Roderick Woodside** on his new endeavors.

Water

By
Amy Truesdell

Breaking news at the East Bank Water Treatment Plant: Water Purification Superintendent I **Glen Ledet**, Water Purification Superintendent II **David Bertucci**, and Water Plant Maintenance Superintendent **Jeffrey Tassin** will be retiring at the end of March. Each has nearly thirty years of experience and knowledge; but do not fear-their replacements are just as hard working and valuable.



David Bertucci

Please congratulate our new Water Purification Superintendent I **Lawrence Aymami** and Water Purification Superintendent II **Mervin Graves**. We would also like to congratulate **Kirbye Smith**, who was promoted to Water Quality Scientist II in the Lab, and **Brady Brignac**, who was promoted to Water Purification Operator in the Treatment Plant. Congratulations to all!

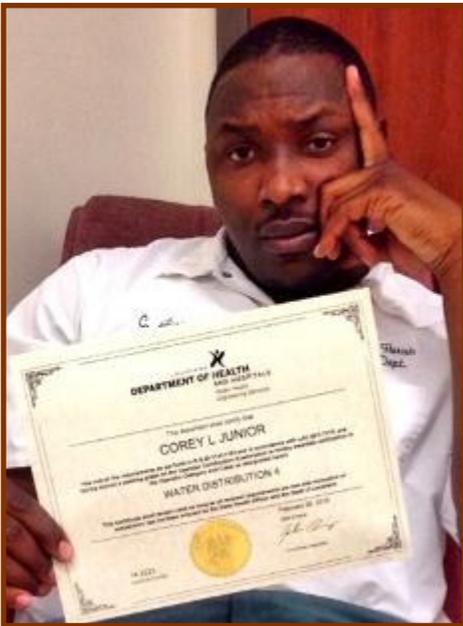
Bon Voyage-

Unfortunately, we have to say good-bye to several employees: Laborer **Victor Paz**; Laborer **De-nardo Jordan**; Water Service Inspector **David Sievers** transferred to the Recreation Department; Laborer **Theodore Thompson** transferred to the Sewerage Department. Good Luck, Everybody!



Testing Results-

We have several employees who passed the Water Treatment/Production/Distribution License exams: Water Purification Operator **Larry Cambrice**; Water Purification Operator **Chris Gai**; Water Purification Operator **Michael Barthelemy**; Water Quality Scientist **Lisa Johnson**; Water Quality Scientist **Stacy Grant**; Water Quality Scientist II **Delanor Junis**; Water Quality Scientist IV **Kristen Ragan**; Water Quality Scientist II **Kirbye Smith**; and Waterline Maintenance Foreman **Corey Junior**. Good Job, Everybody!



Waterline Maintenance Foreman
Corey Junior

Welcome Aboard-

We have several new employees to welcome to the Water Department: Pump Equipment Mechanic **Bernard Propps** transferred to the East Bank Plant from the Sewerage Department; Utility Billing Clerk **Brent Hermann**; Water Service Inspectors **Kevin Kelly**, **Michael Kelly**, and **Darius Johnson**; Laborer **Rodney Burns**; and Laborer **Rogers Kelly**.

Alario Center

By
Deirdre Cummings

**Alario Center : 16 Years
Hosting Local, National, and
International Events**

The John A. Alario Event Center is celebrating 16 years in Jefferson Parish as host to some of the area’s premier events.

Since the grand opening on March 20, 1999, the Alario Event Center located at 2000 Segnette Boulevard in Westwego, has hosted a variety of sporting events, filming of major motion pictures, theatrical and concert performances, gymnastics, dance and cheerleading competitions, professional and national high school wrestling events, Super Bowl and Sugar Bowl activities, Carnival balls, the Southern Sportsmen’s Expo, and many more. The Alario Event Center continues to host annual graduation ceremonies, large-scale first responder exercises, community outreach activities and conferences, including disaster recovery assistance, utility assistance applications, animal rabies and spay and neuter campaigns, and a number of senior citizen activities.

The Center offers two sepa-

rate halls with more than 21,000 square feet and 19,000 square feet, respectively; a 2,000 seat main arena, six basketball courts, 10 volleyball courts, locker room facilities, baseball seating for 650 under a cantilevered roof, and 10 acres of festival grounds. Additionally, The Alario Center offers four private meeting/conference rooms and provides in-house concession sales and full-service, on-site catering services.

The diversity of events has been key to attracting events to the Alario Center as a multi-purpose venue offering Jefferson Parish and surrounding communities a convenient, civic, and cultural facility.

The Alario Center boasts a new roof and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) system, exterior digital marquee, weatherproofing and sealing of the building’s exterior, Wi-Fi installation, and ample parking. Among the planned improvements are a new center-hanging scoreboard in Hall A, new LED flat screens for directional signage and advertising panels, and new programmable LED lighting in Halls A and B.

For more information or to schedule an event, visit www.alariocenter.com or contact our office at (504) 349-5525.



Planning

By
Marilyn Slutsky

The Planning Department welcomes three new members to our staff: **Melissa Guilbeau, AICP**, Planner III; **Robin Jones**, Planner III; and **Arrington Pickens**, Typist Clerk III.



Guilbeau, Jones, and Pickens

In January, Planning Director **Terri Wilkinson, AICP**, served on a panel at the annual conference of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association about the parish's efforts in redeveloping Fat City. Assistant Director, **Juliette Cassagne**, served as moderator of the panel which also included the Director of JEDCO, Jerry Bologna.

The Planning Department also welcomes Silas Joseph Yokum, born March 4, 2015 to proud parents Angela Suarez and **Shane Yokum**, Planner II.



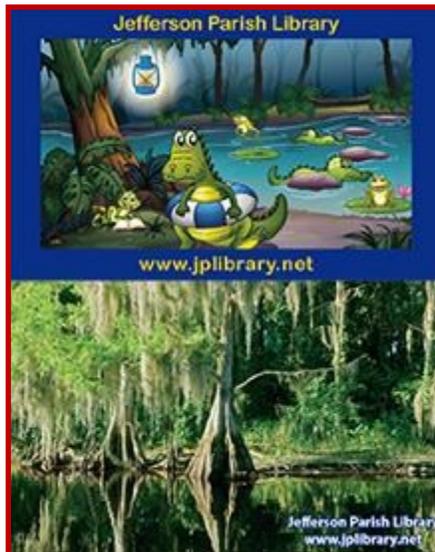
Library

By
Daniel Gitlin

New Library Cards Introduced

The library released two brand new library card designs in March to the public. The designs were coordinated through a library panel and digitally designed by **Trey Green**, Webmaster. Through the end of April, the library is offering patrons a chance to trade out their old card for one of the new designs for free (generally a nominal \$1 fee exists for replacement).

Each card was designed with a different age group in mind. The "Library Swamp Critter Family" card features a cartoon alligator along with his family of swamp friends and was de-



signed to appeal to children and younger patrons. The "Louisiana Swamp Scene" card, which features a photo of a Louisiana Swamp, generally is preferred by adults.

Both cards are now available at any library branch. For a list of library locations visit www.jplibrary.net or call (504) 838-1100.

Thank You, Thomas & Verna

On Friday, March 20, **Thomas Huston**, Librarian IV, Technical Services, worked his last day at the library after a more than 25 year career. Thomas brought not only a professionalism to the library everyday but also warmth of character and extensive knowledge.



Library Director Marilyn Haddican with Thomas Huston

Marylyn P. Haddican, Library Director, summed up Thomas' qualities in an email announcing his retirement, "...from the first time I asked Thomas a question on the phone to his position now as Head of Acquisitions he has always put the patron first...it has been great for the patrons and others in Jefferson Parish and beyond."

Earlier in March, **Verna Geihlsler**, Librarian I, Lakeshore, retired after a career spanning more than 20 years. During her career Verna worked at multiple branches on both sides of the river. One of Verna's specialties was putting on a great "Storytime" – a weekly event for children - where her passion for the job stood out during high-energy performances as she sang, danced and read with a crowd of young library patrons.

Lisa Ciravolo, Librarian I, Books by Mail Outreach, who worked with Verna for several

years, spoke fondly of her in an email saying, “She was always a pleasure, friendly, industrious, and professional. I am lucky to have known her over the years as both a colleague and a friend.”

“Verna has always been a dedicated & reliable worker...the patrons and children will miss her being there,” said **Marylyn P. Haddican** in a statement to staff. “I want to thank her for all she has done for the system as a whole and wish her happy days during her retirement.”

New Hires

Welcome to the following new employees: **Phat Tieu**, Maintenance Repairman; **Roosevelt Brown**, Maintenance Repairman; **Emily Bufford**, EBR Library Associate; **Kirsten Langberg**, WBR Children’s Librarian; **John Zeringue**, EBR Library Associate; and **Robin Markel**, Lafitte Library Branch Manager.

Service Pins Awarded

Recently Jefferson Parish Service Pins were awarded to the following library staff: **15 Years: Joseph Ketry**, Associate; **Carlos Martinez**, Associate; and **Elizabeth Reso**, Librarian IV, Lakeshore Library Branch Manager.

10 Years: Erin Korosi, Librarian IV, Youth Services Coordinator. **5 Years: Tammy Arce-neaux**, Typist Clerk III; **Rodney Black**, Computer Systems Specialist; **Kimberly Fleming**, Page; **George Forbes**, Truck Driver I; **Janel Franks**, Associate; **Trey Green**, Webmaster; **Shannon Kitchens**, Associate; **Eric Krieger**, Librarian II, Live Oak Branch Manager; **Jennifer LaBurre**, Associate; **Kiesler Lee**, Typist Clerk III; **Peter Melancon**, Associate; **Raquel Pena**, Page; and **Chris Smith**, Adult Programming Coordinator.

Parks & Recreation

By
Antoinette Holmes

Congratulations: to **Helen Pullins** on her granddaughter “Reaghan Mariah Gorham”; to **Bridgette** and **Eric Windsor** on their baby girl “Ella”; and to **Sarah Ruttley** on her granddaughter “Shyanne MaeLynn Francois.”

Congratulations to **Rebelee Luke** on her retirement. She originally started with Recreation more than 25 years ago. She will surely be missed.

WESTBANK UPDATES: Avondale Playground – major improvements will begin thanks to a grant from the LA Office of Facility Planning & Control, Councilman Spears, and Senator Alario. Glisson Park – Launch and fishing pier improvements in the works. Harold McDonald Playground – putting the final touches on the Pavilion renovations. M. L King Playground and Kings Grant – New gym liner panels installed. M. L King Playground – replace field lights and tennis courts lights and new kitchen equipment installments will begin soon.

EASTBANK UPDATES: LaSalle Park will be celebrating “Earth Day 2015” on May 12. Bright, Cleary, and Lakeshore HVAC Project has begun. Girard Playground – improvements are beginning soon! 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/ conces-



Verna Geihlsler with Lakeshore Library Manager Elizabeth Reso

sion replacement/ repair.

BONNABEL BOAT LAUNCH
Backdown Ramp repairs – working with the U.S. Wildlife & Fisheries is forthcoming. **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:
Easter Egg Hunt – preparations are in works for 2015 – watch for details.

PARC DES FAMILLES UPDATE:
Construction of pavilion and marquee is forthcoming.

Traffic Engineering

By
Brandy Chism

Congratulations to **Michael Parks** on his promotion to Shop Carpenter and to **Carl Holmes** on his promotion to Sign & Marking Superintendent I. We’re happy for your accomplishments! Traffic Engineer **Delmas H. Bosarge** retired with 38 years of service. Del was an integral part of our staff. His years of experience and expertise involving signage and striping will be sorely missed. We wish Delmas the best!!

Emergency Management

By
Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade

Emergency Management participated in the 2015 Senior Citizen Exposition held March 12, 2015, at the Alario Event Center. Citizens received our All Hazards Preparedness Guide which includes information on preparation, evacuation routes, JP Community Alert System (JPAlert), JumpStart Jefferson re-entry plan for business owners, emergency supplies, important numbers and websites, and other helpful tips.



Christopher Cambre and Claire Ward providing information at the 2015 Senior Expo

Also, Publicly Assisted Evacuation forms were provided for citizens who may need assistance evacuating during an emergency event. A weather radio giveaway was held each

hour for citizens who visited our booth and was a huge success.



Emergency Management's Employee of the Year Sean Hurley

Congratulations to **Sean Hurly**, Coordinator II, selected as our Departmental Employee of the Year 2014-2015. He manages the numerous grant programs securing funding for homeland security and emergency preparedness equipment among many other responsibilities. Sean is a valuable asset to this department and this award is a testimony of his hard work and dedication.

Timmy Gautreau, Jr., has joined the ranks of grandparent for a second time. Averie Grace Gautreau arrived on February 26 and is the daughter of son, Tray, and daughter-in-law, Lindsay.



Timmy Gautreaux



Michael Parks and Carl Holmes

Streets

By
Michelle Swenson

The Streets Department would like to welcome our new West Bank Streets Laborers, **Quindell Jeffery** and **Charles Turner**.

We would also like to welcome our new East Bank Streets Typist Clerk III **Sandra Vappie**. Recently joining us in Street Administration are Typist Clerk II **Paula Nulty** and Typist Clerk III **Rachel Mitchell**. We are happy to have you.



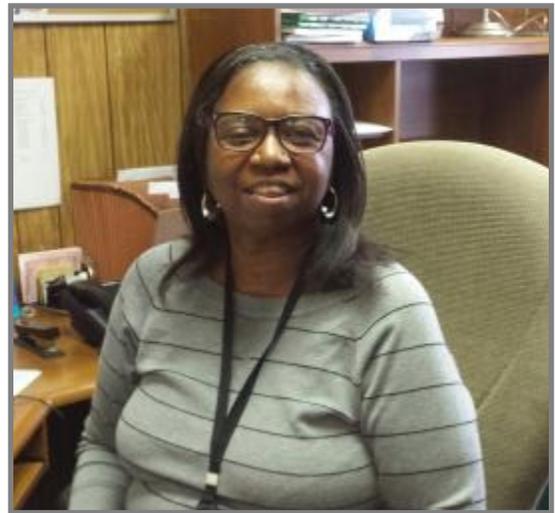
Streets Administrative Assistant Sharon Cline says good-bye to Rachel Perez



Sandra Vappie

Farewell

We also would like to say farewell and congratulations to Mrs. **Rachel Perez** who recently was promoted to secretary for Public Work Director Mr. **Kazem Alikhani**. Our loss is most definitely their gain. You will surely be missed.



Rachel Mitchell



Paula Nulty

Congratulations

And last, but not least, we would like to announce Mr. **Ronald Fuxan** as our employee of the year. Ronnie is Director **Randy Nicholson's** secretary. He has been an employee of the parish for seventeen and a half years and he came to us from the Drainage Department in 2013.



Streets Employee of the Year Ronald Fuxan

Human Resources

By
Glenn Schiro

Congratulations, Yvonne

Congratulations to Training Specialist II **Yvonne Keller**, who is Human Resource Management's Employee of the Year for 2014-2015. Yvonne, who obtained her PHR (Professional in Human Resources) certification in 2013, has been employed with Jefferson Parish for over three years.

Yvonne has distinguished herself as an excellent training professional who balances her commitment to new and special programs—i.e. the Kronos time-keeping project—while continuing to perform her core responsibilities such as teaching a wide range of computer courses with a high level of quality, detail, and engagement. When Yvonne undertakes a project, she will do it well, on time, and with a smile.

Assistant Director of HR **Nicole Thompson** describes Yvonne as “a team player who continuously demonstrates a strong work ethic, patience, and willingness to assist her fellow staff members and employees from many departments.” Yvonne is a quick learner who knows how to make a complex topic simple to understand.

We are grateful that Yvonne is an outstanding member of our HR team. She is a dedicated employee who works daily to expand and improve the many services and programs offered by HR and its Training Division.



HR Employee of the Year Yvonne Keller

Good bye, Cheryl

We sadly say good bye to Typist Clerk III **Cheryl Bourgeois**, who has left Human Resource Management to become an Administrative Assistant with Juvenile Services. Cheryl, who worked in HR since August of 2013, did a great job in handling a wide range of responsibilities, including purchasing. Cheryl, we are grateful for your excellent service and commitment to HR during your stay with us. We wish you the best—today and always.

Safety Training

Our Safety Division has been busy providing forklift safety training to several departments. On January 28, Safety Officer **Wayne Jones** did forklift training at West Bank Water. Staff members who attended the training were Chris Smith, Wayne Harris, Prentiss Washington, Gennard Davis, and Kevin Howard. On February 13, Wayne provided forklift training to East Bank Warehouse staff members Elvin Villa-

ronga, Edgar Lane, Tori Jacobs, Edward Williams, and David Montalbano.

Wayne wrapped up forklift safety training during March with a training session on March 10 for West Bank Maintenance – Department of Parks and Recreation. Maintenance staff members Travis Shipley, Kevin Austin, Carl Bollette, August Bracewell, Dwight Galiano, Myron Mitchell, Jacob Krummel, and Walter “Joe” Gordon participated in the forklift training.

On March 18, Fire Prevention Chief **Dennis Guidry** conducted fire extinguisher safety training for employees from West Bank Streets maintenance crews and West Bank Parkways. Safety Officer Wayne Jones, who attended the session, emphasized the importance of fire extinguisher training and the quality instruction provided by Fire Prevention Chief Guidry. We encourage all departments to contact Wayne at 736-6421 to schedule this useful safety training.

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. With each issue, it’s getting harder and harder to find volunteers to be in the spotlight. So, in this issue, ***“The Spotlight is on me, Venice Cooper”***.

I am an Executive Assistant at the Department of Sewerage. I oversee the administrative areas of our department and handle budgeting. I’ve been employed with the Parish for almost 31 years, since June 1984. I worked at the Council Office, and then at Transit Administration, before being transferred to the Department of Sewerage. I started work in the Council Office as a part-time COE (Cooperative Office Education) Student Worker during my senior year of high school in 1983. After graduating, I was hired as a Typist Clerk, was promoted to Secretary, then Administrative Assistant, and now Executive Assistant.

Over the years, I’ve worked with so many different people, on all levels of local government. Although stressful at times, I enjoy my work, and I am proud to be a public servant. I have a wonderful boss and work with some



Sewerage’s Employee of the Year (and Ace Reporter) Venice Cooper

great people. Imagine my surprise when I received a letter from the Parish President a few days ago congratulating me on being selected the 2014-2015 Departmental Employee of the Year for the Department of Sewerage. It feels good to be recognized and appreciated for your work and dedication to your job.

SENIOR EXPO

The Senior Expo was at the Alario Center on March 12. **Jane Lennie and Fran Trapani**



Jane Lennie

manned the Department of Sewerage booth at the expo.

Here is what they shared about their experiences at the expo:
Through the rain and humidity, mini-buses carried senior citi-

zens to the Alario Center to attend the Jefferson Parish Senior Expo. The theme was “Spring is in the Air,” and the Department of Sewerage’s booth was decorated in shades of spring, Easter hats, and brightly colored banners. Valuable information, important phone numbers, and informational brochures that explained how the sewerage system works were handed out. Although outside was wet and dreary, all those who came seemed to enjoy the day.

FLUSHABLE WIPES REDUX

Our field superintendents recently expressed concern that flushable wipes are causing more and more problems in our sewer system. After being flushed, the wipes are making their way to the sewer lift stations, and clogging up the pumps and motors. Crew members have to be dispatched to these stations daily to manually remove clumps of wipes from the equipment.

Please share the following information with your relatives, friends, and neighbors:
Wipes are causing serious issues for wastewater treatment system

operators all over the country - including our sewer system in Jefferson Parish. Many of the wipes entering the sewer system are not dispersible and technically not flushable. The term "flushable wipes" was coined in the 1980s, when latex bonded wet wipes with polyester fibers were brought onto the market. The wipe was considered "flushable" since it could transit through the toilet, but with all of the polyester fibers it was not dispersible.

The definition of what is flushable is not subject to industry guidelines or consumer instructions. With the rapid increase of wipes on the market, there is significant consumer confusion about what is and is not flushable. For example, baby wipes, household disinfectant wipes, and feminine hygiene wipes are not flushable.

As sewers around the world turn into solid waste conveyance systems – we all have to work harder to keep sewerage flowing. De-ragging of pumps, valves, and other equipment is adding maintenance and higher energy costs for sewer agencies around the world. Mitigation measures include: public education, better technology, and new regulations. The most important mitigation aspect is public education.

Consumers need to know what to flush, and more importantly, what not to flush! Please DO NOT flush wipes down toilets. The wipes are not dispersing, and are making their way through the sewer system to the pumps/motors of sewer lift stations, causing pump fail-

ures, blockages, back-ups, and/or sewer overflows.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

Charles Clark was promoted to Equipment Operator III at Westbank Lines.

Patrick Barrios was promoted to Equipment Operator I at Westbank Lift Stations.

George Jackson was promoted to Equipment Operator I at Westbank Lift Stations.

Matthew Solares was promoted to Operator I at the Marrero Plant.

Jackqueline Smith was promoted to Operator I at the Marrero Plant.

Phillip Wright was promoted to Equipment Operator IV at Eastbank Lines.

Congratulations to **Venice Cooper** on her selection as 2014-2015 Departmental Employee of the Year for the Department of Sewerage. Recipients will be honored with a special presentation at the May 13, 2015 Council Meeting.

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

Torie Hart – Laborer, Eastbank Lift Stations

Raymond Sauerwin – Lift Station Inspector, Eastbank Lift Stations

Theodore Thompson, III – Equipment Operator, Eastbank Lift Stations

Travon Wright – Laborer, Eastbank Lines

Engineering

By
Helen McGee

Spring is in the Air! Time of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection, and regrowth.

Congratulations to and see you later, **Sandra Vappie**. Sandra was promoted to Clerk III, Water Department. We wish you the Best; you will be missed.

Ewe welcome **LaShawn Camese, Sharell Chatman, and Leroy Manning**. All three will be working in our Inspections Department. Welcome aboard!

We also welcome **Betty Gaddis**. Betty will be assisting our Inspectors! We are glad to have you on board!

Congratulations and Happy Retirement to **Roy Mullan**. Roy retired with 33 years of service. Enjoy your retirement, Roy!

Big Applauds and Congratulations to **Karen Gilley**, (Ms. Personnel), Engineering Employee of the year. Karen, you deserve it! And Thanks for all that you do!



Engineering's Employee of the Year
Karen Gilley

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

Congratulations to **Christina Duggar**, Environmental Quality Specialist, on her election to Officer-at-Large for the Louisiana Conference on Water Supply, Wastewater and Industrial Waste.

On March 12, **James Schultz**, Environmental Quality Specialist, and **Barbara Kollin**, Typist Clerk III, represented the department at the Jefferson Parish Senior Citizens Expo at the Alario Center. They distributed information and answered questions on garbage collection, recycling, mosquito and rodent control, and general environmental concerns in the Parish. It was a very informative event.



Katherine Costanza, Assistant Director; **Kathleen Collins**, Solid Waste Supervisor; **Rick Buller**, Landfill Engineer; and Sarah LaRock, Intern, attended the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) national conference at the Morial Convention Center from March 23 through March 27, learning valuable information on the solid waste industry and what is done in other



Nancy Woodlock and Sami Khalil clean and mark storm drains

communities. Rick Buller conducted a landfill tour as part of the conference. The tour was attended by about 50 people from all over the country.

The Department of Environmental Affairs is pleased to announce that the areas of Metairie and Terrytown achieved the number one position in the 2015 Louisiana Garden Club federation's Annual Cleanest Cities contest in their district divisions. District judges toured the areas on March 23 and designated them as the First Place winners in their respective divisions. These areas are now eligible to advance to the State competition, which takes place in mid-April. We are proud of our Cleanest City district titles, and we are particularly grateful to all who participated and worked so hard to make this happen, particularly the departments of Streets and Parkways. It is genuinely an honor to be acknowledged for our efforts, but the true reward was in developing partnerships with the Terrytown Garden Club and the Better Swamps and Gardens Club who worked with us to make this a reality.

The towns of Jean Lafitte and Grand Isle also scored top marks with the judges who toured the Parish during the District Judging and will also be advancing to the State competition.

This is the second year the Department of Environmental Affairs has been involved in coordinating the Parish's participation in the contest. We have every intention in being strong competitors in the upcoming State contest.

On March 25, 2015, approximately one hundred Patrick F. Taylor Science Academy students, four school teachers, along with our storm water staff placed 120 educational storm drain markers, and picked up 10 trash bags in the Oak Forest Subdivision in Marrero. Residents were very happy for the activity in their neighborhood. Functions like this help involve the public in keeping our streets and storm drains clean.

Our department participated in the 2015 Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation's *Spring Sweep* in Metairie on Saturday March 21. Our employees worked alongside 300 volunteers picking up trash around the lake and marking

storm drains with bilingual, educational markers.

In March, **Sami Khalil**, Storm Water Section supervisor, led Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) training classes to approximately 100 General Services staff members. Presentations were done on both the East Bank and West Bank to update employees regarding federal, state and local SPCC regulations and available Best Management Practices to control pollutants in stormwater runoff. The training classes are held annually.

On March 26, our Stormwater Staff attended The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) EnviroSchool free training session on LDEQ construction stormwater permits. The session provided an overview of stormwater general permits and the requirements for operators of construction projects to obtain authorization to discharge stormwater. The training was held in the Yenni Building's Council Chamber.

Code Enforcement

By
Doretha Parker

As we spring forward, we would like to give a round of applause to all of our employees for demonstrating such great dedication. They have been working diligently to reduce our customer wait-times in our lobbies.

Congratulations to Team C, (Cashier's office, Director's office, and our Plumbing Section), of our *Code Challenge* for creating the best overall slogans for our online filings. We also congratulate the efforts of teams O, D, and E who also participated in the challenge. Thank you all, for being a part of Team C.O.D.E.

Hooray, to our Employee of the Year, **George Faustermann** (Commercial Plan Reviewer II). Mr. George has served with us for 20 years. He has shown a

tremendous amount of dedication with the architects, engineers, and developers who also assist in making Jefferson Parish Code Enforcement a friendly environment. George has had the opportunity to retire for several years. However, he chooses to remain a part of Team Code Enforcement. We are grateful and honored for you to be an employee of Code Enforcement. Thank you, George!

Test-taking experts are what we are! We are proud to announce that our very own **Quang Nguyen** (Electrical Inspector I) passed the International Code Council Exam and **Keith Daggett** (Residential Plan Review I) passed the Residential Plan Review Test. Hooray! We welcome **David May** as our new Plumbing Inspector I. We are very happy to have you aboard!

Farewell to **Deanna Lombard** (Electrical typist clerk III). Code Enforcement enjoyed the time you have served with us. We wish you well!



Sami Khalil teaches Spill Prevention to General Services staff

Workforce Connection

By
Carolyn Haynes

JWC (Jefferson Workforce Connection) welcomes spring as we introduce new endeavors providing excellent services to jobseekers and businesses within the region.

JWC is proud to announce exceeding 9 out of 9 WIA performance measures for the second Quarter of 2014. Performance measures are an indication of the number of individuals employed, their average wages, and their job retention. We are proud to attain this recognition!

Thank You and Acknowledgements

Allied Prep Technical Institute, LLC, a new training provider for Pharmacy Technicians/Certified Professional Coders provided vital information on their programs for staff at JWC's monthly staff meeting

Ms. Denise Smith, President & CEO, Hospitality & Senior Care Training Institute, also a new training provider, was a guest at our monthly meeting. Information was provided to staff regarding training programs in the Hospitality Industry.

We thank our new training providers for the presentations which will assist staff disseminating information to jobseekers pursuing careers.

Notes from JWC

JWC wishes everyone a Happy Easter and Spring Holiday.



Workforce Connection's proud West Bank staff

Health Issues

By
Peggy Branam, RN



I recently heard a guest on a radio talk-show giving her testimony about her experience as a "sex-slave" here in America. What I heard was heart-wrenching and unthinkable, to say the least. The impact this crime had on her personal life haunted her for decades. Unfortunately, her story happens more often than one might think, with far reaching consequences throughout our society.

Reports of human trafficking seem to be in the news with an increasing frequency. Human trafficking is defined by the U.S. Department of State, regardless of gender or age, as the recruitment, transportation, transferring, harboring, or receiving of an individual, through treats, coercion, abduction, fraud, deceit, deception, or the abuse of power. The end goal being pros-

titution, pornography, violence/sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, debt bondage, or slavery or similar practices.

Many myths are held regarding sexual exploitation in human trafficking. Such as, "that is a problem in foreign countries," "in America, victims are usually not citizens," or "the victim doesn't usually know the predator." Unfortunately, nothing could be further from the truth! Sex trafficking is a serious problem in this country. Anybody at any age or gender can become a victim. And, it is not uncommon for the victim to know the predator.

Innocence and trust go hand in hand. It is a natural state of mind to be trusting of others, especially when it comes to one's relatives, friends, and those in authority. The innocence of a child is not preoccupied with thoughts of where their next meal will come from, where they will find safe shelter to sleep for the night, or how they will obtain what else they need for their safety and well-being. The thought does not even enter the child's mind to worry about such things. But, once a fearful or painful event occurs, if

serious enough, the child's life can be forever changed with a loss of their innocence and trust. Even for adults, when their trust in someone has been violated, it can change their emotional well-being.

How one becomes a victim of sexual abuse can have its origins through multiple scenarios that can range from a sudden violent onset, as seen in abduction, to a more gradual unfolding of control, as seen in a false relationship. The ultimate end in all of these scenarios is one of controlling the person sexually.

Psychological techniques used to manipulate the victim may include the predator taking steps to make the young victim feel they have a special connection or bond. It is not uncommon for the "pimp" to portray himself as a caring boyfriend. Initially, the victim is showered with gifts, privileges, experiences, etc. Then, the predator will begin to ask favors of their victim. They may be pressured to prove their love for them by acting out sexually with other individuals. In this multi-media world we live in, if there are compromised images captured on video,

one can be further controlled through threats of blackmail using these images. With a continued loss of self-respect and not recognizing their dignity as a human being, a deepening spiral into victimhood may result.

If being a victim of a sexual predator was not bad enough, it is not uncommon for the predator to then exacerbate their control by inducing the victim into drug abuse. Once they become a drug addict, then they become locked into a cycle of a lifestyle that can provide them with the means to get their next fix. The question then becomes how to break that cycle?

Be it in your personal or professional life, you may have a chance encounter with someone involved in this lifestyle. By recognizing the signs associated with sex abuse, you may be able to make a difference in the life of that person, ending the cycle of abuse. It is estimated that less than 10% of doctors recognize victims of trafficking, in spite of the fact that 87% of victims obtain care by a medical provider at some point during their time being abused. Also, these vic-

tims also tend to have involvement with law enforcement, be it as a juvenile or an adult.

So, how may one identify a potential victim of sexual abuse? A personal history may reveal some high risk factors for victimization. The statistics show that one is more vulnerable to become a victim of sexual abuse and trafficking if they are: runaways, have a history of being sexually abused, or are foster children. Physical signs may include bruising, tattoos, burns, or brands. Tissue injury to sites where restraints may be used could be on the wrists, ankles, and neck. Marks of "ownership," which may even be found on their face, may include: ink-like barcodes, dollar signs, or the name or "brand" of their captors or pimps.

Physical and sexual abuse typically go hand-in-hand. So, evidence of multiple bruising, scars, and broken bones are usually present. The psychological trauma one experiences can manifest into behaviors such as extreme anxiety, PTSD, angry and belligerent comments, difficulty trusting others, an abrupt change in behavior, activities, and appearance. Minors usually go from be a good student to failing. The victim may be totally controlled by fear of further abuse or threats of their loved ones being harmed. This fear may be so paralyzing that even if they are in public, they won't run or ask for help.

If you think someone may be a victim of sexual abuse/trafficking and want to help or you want more information on this topic, you can call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, an anonymous hotline: at 1-888-373-7888; Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233; or the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office: 911.



Workforce Connection's East Bank staff

Retirements

Delmas Bosarge
Traffic Engineering
38 years

Nathaniel Williams
Juvenile Services
33 years

Roy Mullan
Engineering
33 years

David Bertucci
Water
31 years

Jeffrey Tassin
Water
30 years

Glen Ledet
Water
28 years

Raymond Foret
Streets
25 years

Rebelee Luke
Parks & Recreation
21 years

Verna Geihlsler
Library
20 years

Stephen Pruett
Community Development
19 years

John Ross
Water
18 years

Deborah Tunstall
Streets
17 years

One of the Yenni Building's New Butterfly Gardens



See General Services' story Page 5

— Photo by Jill Relick