



Volume 36  
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Jefferson

## Message from the Parish President. . .

### Being Prepared

Hurricane season officially begins June 1 and runs through November 30, but I encourage all of you to act now to take the necessary steps to prepare your family and home.

National Hurricane Center forecasters expect a “below average” 2015 Atlantic hurricane season, estimating a likelihood of 6 to 11 named storms, of which 3 to 6 could become hurricanes, including possibly up to two major hurricanes. The peak season generally is from mid-August to late October, but we always should be on alert should a storm or hurricane enter the Gulf of Mexico.

Jefferson Parish departments, agencies, and first responders continue to participate in valuable training year-round, including exercises in evacuating citizens and their pets aimed at strengthening preparedness and response to better assist our citizens and businesses in an emergency.

I encourage you to take the time to prepare a disaster supply kit for your family. You should consider including

- ◇ Important documents
- ◇ Water – enough for 3 to 7 days
- ◇ Food – non-perishable packaged or canned
- ◇ food/juices
- ◇ Blankets, pillows
- ◇ Clothes
- ◇ First-aid kit, medicines and prescriptions
- ◇ Special Items – for babies and the elderly
- ◇ Toiletries, hygiene items, and moist wipes



John F. Young  
Parish President

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

Be sure to plan a disaster readiness kit for your pet which includes food, water, medicines, first-aid supplies, feeding supplies, a leash, carrier or cage, muzzle, and proper identification and immunization records. If your family evacuates, call ahead to your destination to make sure pets are accepted.

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

*JeffTalk*

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

**Departmental Reporters**

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

*Editor's*



*Notes*

**Deferred Comp: A Great Way to Supplement Your Retirement**

Nationwide Retirement Solutions has been the Parish's deferred compensation (457(b)) provider since 1981. For any employees who may not be familiar with deferred comp, it is an optional retirement program for employees who wish to supplement their Parish or Social Security retirements.

A "457 plan" is the government version of a 401k. Employees can choose to set aside pre-tax dollars from their paychecks for their account. Nationwide's focus is on helping public sector workers prepare for retirement. They are Number 1 in total 457 plans administered. Currently, almost 1.2 million public employees entrust Nationwide with more than \$59 billion in assets. The company was ranked in Fortune Magazine's '100 Best Companies to Work For' list in March 2015.

Nationwide offers web access at NRSforu.com. Once enrolled, you can opt for paperless delivery of statements, receive notices via email, and check the status of your account at any time. Information is available by using a computer, smartphone, or tablet. Nationwide recently introduced *My Interactive Retirement Planner*, which is an online retirement planning solution designed to help participants envision how their deferred compensation plan balance today may translate into income in the future.



Peggy O. Barton, Editor

Nationwide has expanded its online presence through Facebook and Twitter, delivering educational and fun content to engage participants in their retirement planning.

Recently, Jefferson Parish was assigned a new representative, Mr. John Desselle. As a retirement specialist, Mr. Desselle can help with enrolling new participants, conduct account reviews, help identify your retirement goals, and assist in determining your contribution level. Additionally, Mr. Desselle helps educate our employees on retirement savings strategies by participating in the retirement seminars held by the Training Division of Human Resource Management. These seminars are held twice a year—in the spring and fall. Look for the next one in October. You may contact Mr. Desselle by phone at 504-376-4652 or by email at [desselj@nationwide.com](mailto:desselj@nationwide.com).

Mr. Desselle also schedules "office hours" for Parish employees who want to discuss their accounts or open a new account. His next office hours will be June 18 from 9:00-4:00 in Room 405 of the Yenni Building in Elmwood; and June 19 from 9:00 till 4:00 in Room 3507 of the General Government Building in Gretna.

### Juvenile Services

By  
Cicki Borja

The Department of Juvenile Services was recognized as “Outstanding Internship Site” by the faculty and students of the University of New Orleans Counselor Education Program on May 14, 2015.

Sponsored by the Counselor Education Graduate Program and Chi Sigma Iota-Alpha Eta Chapter, the counseling honor society, the award was presented to **Dr. John Ryals, Jr.**, DJS Evaluation/Treatment Supervisor, by Dr. Barbara Herlihy, faculty advisor to Chi Sigma Iota and a highly respected member of the UNO faculty. The award is the first-ever given by the program and recognizes Juvenile Services’ long history of providing exceptional training opportunities for graduate level counselors.

### EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

We would like to congratulate the following employees for being Employee of the Month:



Dr. Barbara Herlihy presents Dr. John Ryals with the “Outstanding Internship Site” award

### April 2015

Detention: **Myron Hayes**, Juvenile Detention Officer II  
Probation: **Brittany Webb Stauts**, Probation Officer II

### May 2015

Detention: **Lilliam Rivera**, Juvenile Detention Officer II  
Probation: **Michelle Malone**, Typist Clerk III  
Keep up the great work!

### RESIGNATIONS:

We would like to wish a fond farewell to **Pierre Hollins** and **Tamika Smith**, who both resigned this month. We wish you both success on your future endeavors.

### PROMOTIONS:

We would like to congratulate **Ray Bridges**, who was promoted to Probation Officer II; and **Lilliam Rivera**, who was promoted to Detention Officer II.

### BLOOD DRIVE:

Juvenile Services hangs on to the Bloodhound Award for obtaining 11 donations during the April blood drive. Thanks to all individuals who donated.

### Human Resources

By  
Glenn Schiro

### Welcome Aboard

We welcome HR Manager **Jonas Perriott**, who joined our staff in April. Prior to his employment with us, Jonas worked at the New Orleans Job Corp and with the Small Rental Property Division of the Road Home Program. Jonas received a BS in Marketing from UNO in 2005. Welcome aboard, Jonas.



Jonas Perriott

We also welcome Typist Clerk III **Mona Pentes**, who came to us from Fleet Management where she began working for the Parish in June of 2009. In her position with HR, Mona handles the important tasks of purchasing, payroll, and ordering supplies. We are glad that you are a member of our HR team, Mona.



Mona Pentes

**Our Condolences**

The entire HR staff expresses our sincere condolences to HR Manager **Fran Robichaux**, whose husband of 35 years Leonard “Lenny” Robichaux died on April 3. You are in our thoughts and prayers, Fran.

**Continuing Education**

On April 15, Assistant Director **Nicole Thompson**, HR Manager **Fran Robichaux**, HR Manager **Jonas Perriott** and Training Specialist III **Greg Alexander** attended “Current Trends in Labor and Employment” sponsored by the law firm of Adams and Reese.

On May 8, HR Director **Peggy Barton** and HR Manager **Jonas Perriott** attended a Fisher and Phillips law firm seminar “One Day, Many Solutions – Employment Law Coast-to-Coast.”

On May 20, NOLA-SHRM sponsored a luncheon featuring a presentation “A Good Handbook is Never Finished.” HR Director **Peggy Barton**, Associate Director **Nicole Thompson**, HR Manager **Fran Robichaux**, HR Manager **Jonas Perriott**, and Training Specialist III **Greg Alexander** attended the luncheon and presentation at the Cannery.

**Employment Exploration Program**

HR has concluded another year in participating in the Employment Exploration Program, which is a part of the Jefferson Parish Public Schools Office of Vocational Services for Students with Disabilities. Training Specialist II **Yvonne Keller** and Typist Clerk III **Lois Lartigue** assisted a Special Ed teacher and a Teacher’s Assistant who super-



HR’s Employment Exploration students and their teachers

vised a group of four students as they worked two hours every Wednesday morning on tasks such as filing, copying, shredding and sorting. According to Yvonne, “It’s wonderful to see students become comfortable in our office and eager to do their jobs.”

To obtain more information on the program and to learn how your department can get involved, please contact Kim Gordy at 913-0351 or

[kim.gordy@jppss.k12.la.us](mailto:kim.gordy@jppss.k12.la.us)

**Safety Training**

Safety Office **Wayne Jones** conducted Forklift Safety training for the Westbank Warehouse crew on March 10 and 11. Seven employees took advantage of the hands-on training that was held at the Westbank warehouse. Please contact Wayne at [wjones@jeffparish.net](mailto:wjones@jeffparish.net) if you are interested in arranging safety training at your facility.



Forklift Safety Training at the West Bank warehouse

### Engineering

By  
Helen McGee

Congratulations and big ups to our College Intern, **Alexa Dale**. Alexa recently received the PCCP Constructors, Engineering Scholarship. Way to Go Alexa!



Alexa Dale

### Employee of the Year!

Congratulations to **Karen Gilley**, Administrative Assistant. Karen was selected as Engineering Employee of the year. Ka-

ren truly is a hard worker that does Payroll and all Personnel for the Engineering Department. She truly displays a strong work ethic and will go out of her way to help and get the job done. Again Thanks for all you do, Karen. We are very proud of you!

Congratulations and Best Wishes to **Pam Descant**, Secretary to Public Works Director. Pam retired March 10 with 12years 10 months of Services. Enjoy your retirement Pam.



Pam Descant

Hats off to **Matthew Zeringue**, who recently passed



Professional Engineer  
Matt Zeringue

the Principles and Practice of Engineering Exam (PE), on his FIRST time taking the test. Congratulations to Matthew. We are very proud of you; way to go Mr. Professional Engineer!

Congratulations to **Roy Mullan** on his recent retirement. Roy retired with 33 years of Service. Enjoy your retirement, Roy! You will be missed.



Roy Mullan

Engineering welcomes **Michelle Wells** to the Eastbank Warehouse. Welcome aboard, Michelle.

We say farewell and good luck to **Robert Marrero** of SCADA. Robert has left to pursue another job. We wish you well.



Executive Superintendent Cindy Gallo and Engineering Director Mark Drewes congratulate Employee of the Year Karen Gilley

**Purchasing**

By  
Laniel Francis

**New Employee:** Tia L. Smith,  
Tia has been newly promoted to the Purchasing Department as Buyer 1. She initially started with the Citizen’s Affairs Department as a Typist Clerk III. Tia has over 15 years of Customer Service experience. She will definitely be an asset to the Purchasing Department.



Tia L. Smith

**Congratulations in Order:**

Misty A. Camardelle

Misty received an award for becoming Employee of the Year with the Purchasing Department. Misty has been with the Purchasing Department of Jefferson Parish for 5 Years, and has over 9 years of experience in the procurement field. After being with the Purchasing Department for two years, she was promoted to Buyer II. She is also one of our First-Line Leaders for the ‘Public First’ Customer Service Enhancement Project. Misty is a very valued, important, and key essential employee for the Purchasing Department. Thank you, Misty, for all you have done and will continue to do!



Purchasing Director Brenda Campos with Employee of the Year Misty Camardelle

**Retirement Office**

By  
Peggy Thomassie

**Rachelle Rojas** has spent approximately twelve of her fifteen years of service in the Retirement Office and is known to have assisted countless numbers of employees and retirees over the years with issues regarding eligibility, retirement, DROP

(the Deferred Retirement Option Plan), health insurance, life insurance, etc. The Retirement Office received an extraordinary employee when Mrs. Rojas came on board.

Feel free to contact the Retirement Office at 364-2668 if you have any questions regarding your retirement. We also look forward to seeing you at the next retirement seminar this fall.



Rachelle Rojas (right), Asst. Secretary-Manager of Retirement, receives her 15-year service pin from Peggy Thomassie, Secretary-Manager of Retirement.

## Ask Personnel

By  
Lauren Call

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](mailto: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](http://www.jeffparish.net/jppd) and click on [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

### 1. What is the difference between the Human Resource Management Department and the Personnel Department; are they the same department?

For Jefferson Parish, the Human Resource Management Department and the Personnel De-

partment are two separate departments. The following information was taken from the Parish website to assist in outlining the difference:

The Human Resource Management Department is responsible for assisting all Parish departments and employees in employee-related matters. The department encompasses personnel management, employee training, employee benefits programs, occupational safety and health programs, and a substance use program.

The Personnel Department is one of the few departments specifically created in the Parish Charter. Personnel is responsible for the personnel functions provided in Section 4.03 of the Charter including policy and rule making; job classification; salary and rules administration; recruitment; employment testing; applicant certification; and employee appeals for positions in the Parish Classified Service. The Personnel Department provides the

Departments of Jefferson Parish with qualified candidates for employment in positions of public service and guidance as to the principles and merits of civil service employment.

### 2. What is the difference between a grievance and an appeal?

A Grievance is a way for employees to voice dissatisfaction and complaints about situations at work that they believe are causing them to be treated unfairly or not in accordance with the Parish or departmental policies. Some examples of items that employees may file a grievance about are: working conditions, safety issues, harassment (of any kind), violation of policies, abuse of discretion by supervisor, work-related dispute with fellow employees, or any other discrimination. The Human Resource Management Department oversees the grievance policy. It is important to review the Administrative Management Policies Section 603 Grievance Policy Procedures in the event that you are considering filing a grievance. A grievance tutorial is also available on the HR Training page of Employee Intranet.

An Appeal may be filed by a regular employee in the classified service with the Personnel Board when any of the following actions have been taken against the employee: suspension, fine, dismissal, layoff, demotion, reduction in pay, involuntary retirement, or furlough and designation as cyclic worker as provided under Rule III, Section 5.2 (a) and (c), matters of specific allegations of discrimination and/or retaliation for causes unrelated to merit-employment



HR's Greg Alexander and his "grandmother," Library's Irene Lunkin, took part in Emergency Management's evacuation preparedness drill at the Yenni Building

considerations, unsatisfactory service ratings resulting in appealable actions, untimely service ratings, involuntary leave, denial of annual leave, job reclassification, and absence without leave (AWOL), in order to test the reasonableness of such action. The Personnel Department oversees the receipt and processing of appeals. The Personnel Board or the Personnel Board Special Assistant serves as the Judge in the hearing of appeals.

Please review Administrative Management Policy Section 603 Grievance Policy Procedures; Personnel Rule II, Section 4 Appeals; and the Rules of Appeals Procedure for more information.

**3. How long do I have to file an appeal and what exactly is the process?**

Employees can file an appeal at either the East Bank or West Bank Personnel Department Office. The Appeals forms, Person-

nel Rules excerpts, and the Rules of Appeals Procedure are available in the office as well as online by clicking [Employee Appeals](#).

Appeals to the Board must be filed with and received by the Personnel Department during established Department working hours and within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of the action complained against. If the last day falls on a legal holiday, the period runs until the end of the next day which is not a legal holiday.

Once your appeal is received it will be assigned a docket number and placed on docket for the Personnel Board to review. If the Board finds that the appeal was filed within the correct time frame and that the appeal item is appealable in accordance with the Personnel Rules (see Question 2) they will schedule it to be heard by the Judge.

**Planning**

By  
Juliette Cassagne

Congratulations to Planning's Employee of the Year, Planner II **Liane Trick**. As a member of our Public First committee, Liane helps enhance the customer service that we provide to citizens, businesses, and those interested in relocating to the parish. Her interest in how the department works and in finding ways to make the office more efficient demonstrates the Parish's Core Values and contributes to the success of the department. Thank you to Liane for all her hard work.



Liane Trick with President Young



Planning Director Terri Wilkinson (center) with Marilyn Slutsky and James Borsos

Planning also recognizes the years of service of three employees: **James Borsos**, AICP, LEED GA, Planner II, 5 years; **Marilyn Slutsky**, Typist Clerk III, 15 years; and **Esbii Ogholoh**, Planner II, 30 years. Esbii's 30 years of service will be recognized at the parish Pin Ceremony in December 2015. The May 8 meeting was Marilyn's last department-wide meeting as she started in Parkways on May 18. We wish Marilyn the best in her new position.

## Alario Center

By  
Deirdre Cummings

### Home Improvements!

Major home improvement projects are underway! Installation of new programmable LED lighting will provide energy efficiency coupled with near-theatrical quality effects and HDTV quality lighting.



The latest completed project at the Alario Center is the addition of all new Flat Screen TV Monitors to provide directional signage, promote events, and generate advertising revenues.

Stay tuned for updates on upcoming projects that are scheduled to begin in the near future.

### Employee of the Year!

Congratulations to **Drew Copponex**, Operations Manager, selected as our Departmental Employee of the Year. Drew is a valuable asset to the Alario Center and this award is a testimony to his hard work and dedication.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Southern Sportsman's Festival & Expo!

The Southern Sportsman's Festival & Expo is the Greater New Orleans premier event for outdoorsmen. With a festival atmos-



Alario Center's Employee of the Year Drew Copponex with President John Young

phere including live music, delicious drinks, and mouth-watering food, guests will enjoy three days of demonstrations, hands-on activities, and one-on-one time with hundreds of trusted outdoor experts. Come experience this year's can't miss event at the Alario Center. You'll be reminded why Louisiana truly is a Sportsman's Paradise!

For more information on the John A. Alario Sr. Event Center or to schedule an event, visit [www.alariocenter.com](http://www.alariocenter.com) or contact the Alario Center office at (504) 349-5525.



Muriel Osborne with GS Director Anthony Francis

### General Services

By  
Tessa St. Pierre

#### Marrero-Harvey Senior Center Ground Breaking

On Wednesday May 20, the Marrero-Harvey Senior Center had the ground-breaking ceremony to celebrate the new renovations coming soon. The renovations will consist of a new multi-purpose room and an upgraded kitchen and restroom.

Councilman Paul Johnston was the Master of Ceremonies, General Services' very own **George Murray** led us in prayer, and we had a special guest appearance by **Royce Blanchard**, who was representing Jefferson Parish President John F. Young's Office. The event went off without a hitch and the local senior citizens were all smiles at the anticipation of what is to come.

#### Employee of the Year

General Services would like to congratulate **Muriel Osborne** for becoming Employee of the

Year. Muriel is a sparking example of what a hard worker should be. She cleans all the restrooms and makes sure the first floor is clean while saying “Good Morning” to all who walk into the building. We all thank you for your dedication.

**Welcomes**

We would like to give a big welcome to **Jason Brown**, who has just joined General Services as our new Laborer. He is a big fan of the 49ers and can be found watching them with his wife and three sons.

**Baby Boom**

Congratulations to **Jerry Adams** for becoming a “Poppy” on April 3, 2015, to grandson Bentley Joseph Adams. Let’s not forget about the new “Granny” in town, **Debby Henry**, whose granddaughter Addison Faye Ordoyne was born April 21, 2015.

**Workforce Connection**

By  
Carolyn Haynes

Jefferson Workforce Connection welcomes summer as we help our jobseekers search for upcoming hot jobs and assist businesses to fill job openings within the region.

**Employee of the Year**

Congratulations to Westbank Office Career Specialist **Tanya Bates**, our Employee of the Year. Ms. Bates is a member of our Westbank Office Recruitment and Placement Team. She has been instrumental in enhancing the services of our center by serving on various committees to ensure efficiency and valuable service to the public. Congratulations!

**Thank You and Acknowledgements**

Ms. Marsha Walley, Training Facilitator, Delgado Community



Workforce Connection Director Sharon Wegner congratulates Employee of the Year Tanya Bates

College, one of our One Stop Partners, provided an excellent training on Customer Service Skills. The training was also attended by Jefferson Parish Transit Department. Thank you again for the training which will assist staff as they render services to jobseekers and customers.



The groundbreaking of the Marrero-Harvey Senior Center

## Drainage

By  
Sheena Quinn

### Welcome & Congratulations!

As 2015 gets into full swing, The Department of Drainage has had lots of exciting and memorable moments since our last article. Among the most noticeable changes are the newest additions to the department and recent promotions. **Adrian Haynes, Raynard Brown, Justin Course, Hakeem Joseph, Christopher Hawkins, Andre Brue, Richard Preis, Frank Meyers, and Steven Rodgers** have begun their careers with Department of Drainage. Also, we would like to congratulate the following for their recent promotions: **James Wing, Cedrick Frank, Cornelius Hurst, Timothy Gaubert, Leatha Terrell, and Reginald Matthews.** Good luck and congratulations everyone!

The New Hires weren't the only new additions that came to Drainage. Superintendent **Frank O. Maness III** became a grandfather for the first time on December 21, 2014, with the birth of his grandson Graham Oliver Leblanc. Graham, mother Heather, and father Brett are doing great and living in Marrero.

### Award Pins

The Department of Drainage awarded service pins to employees that have been with us for 5, 10, and 15 years. The following dedicated employees received service pins for 5 years: **Raul Fernandez, Renard Foster, Nita Gentris, Lamar Heisser, Cornelius Hurst Jr., Adam Mataya, Charles Rivet, Tha Tran** and



Drainage Director Mitch Theriot and superintendent Dom Ditcharo with Employee of the Year Alvin Billiot

**Venus Williams; 10 years: Michael Blanchard, Chris Farve, Michael Herbert, Manuel Jackson, Christina Leger, and Joseph Whitley** and 15 years: **Gregory Breaux, Lynne Champagne, Dewey Gros Jr., Frank Maness, Duane Martinez, John McClain Jr., and Patricia Rambeau.** We're looking forward to what you all will accomplish in the future.

### Great Accomplishments

During the Council meeting held on May 13, 2015, the Departmental Employee of the Year was recognized for the Department of Drainage. We would like to announce that this high honor was presented to **Alvin Billiot**, a West Bank Drainage employee since 1989. Alvin, an Equipment Operator IV, has shown exemplary dedication to all that he does. Congrats, Alvin!

### Fond Farewells

While new faces were being introduced to our Department of Drainage family, we said goodbye to two amazingly hard-working people that retired after countless years of dedication and

hard work. **Lawrence Williams**, Foreman I for our WB Drainage office and **Perry Andras**, Equipment Operator IV for WB Pump Station Maintenance. We appreciate everything that they have done for the Department and wish them all the best on the beginning of their retirement!

### With Great Sadness

We would like to take the time to extend our sincere condolences to those that have lost someone near and dear to their heart. **Yvette Hurst**, Typist Clerk III for East Bank Drainage, experienced the loss of her brother; **Timothy Gaubert**, Truck Driver II for West Bank Drainage, lost grandfather as well 2 weeks ago. Services were held for both that were filled with people whose lives had been touched by their sincerity and caring nature. They will be missed greatly.

\*\*\* With the hurricane season now in full swing, we would like to remind everyone again to pay special attention to your catch basins and make sure they are clear of any debris. The smallest things will make the biggest impact! \*\*\*

## 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 Ryan Boudreaux*”. Ryan is a Superintendent at our Bridge City Wastewater Treatment Plant. He has been employed with the Parish for 10 years. When asked to share some of his feelings about the job he does, Ryan had this to say – “I’ve been with Jefferson Parish for 10 years, starting out as a Laborer at the Marrero Plant on April 18, 2005. When Hurricane Katrina hit, I hadn’t even made my 6 months yet. Everyone ques-



Ryan Boudreaux:  
In the “Spotlight”



Sewerage Director Linda Daly and Public Works Director Kazem Alikhani with Employee of the Year (and Ace Reporter) Venice Cooper

tioned why I stayed and said if they were in my shoes, they would have left with their family. My coworkers baked a cake for me and celebrated my 20<sup>th</sup> birthday locked down at the Marrero Plant because of Katrina. I stuck it out with a positive attitude the whole time.

“On July 10, 2006 I was promoted to Plant Operator at the Marrero Plant. Following our stay for Hurricane Gustav, on September 8, 2008 I got the job at the Bridge City Plant as Plant Operator. I worked under David Mahner until he retired and I took over as Superintendent of the Bridge City Plant on August 9, 2014. As Superintendent, I oversee the operations and functions of the Bridge City Wastewater Treatment Plant. I love my job. The fun, friendly people I work with make me look forward to coming to work every day.”

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

- Devence Hampton** was promoted to Truck Driver II at EB Lines.
- Chace Collins** was promoted to Pump Equipment Mechanic at Eastbank Lift Stations.
- Bobbie Lambert** was promoted to Pump Equipment Mechanic at Westbank Lift Stations.

### WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:

- DaVante Adams** – Laborer, Westbank Lines
- Kenneth Anderson** – Dispatcher, Administration
- Steven Fernandez** – Laborer, Eastbank Lines
- Donald Gabriel** – Laborer, Westbank Lines
- Brian Lemieux** – Operator, Marrero Plant
- Jeremiah Lewis** – Lift Station Inspector, WB Lift Stations

### FAREWELL

We bid farewell to **Gertrude Hurt**. Gertrude has resigned her position as Dispatcher after being with us for 14 years. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

### Streets

By  
Michelle Swenson

#### New Employees

We would like to welcome our newest additions to the Streets Department. Typist Clerk III **Patricia Gordon** joins our complaint division; and Typist Clerk II **Stacey Stewart** is our new receptionist. We are happy to have you both.



Patricia Gordon

#### Retirement

Congratulations to our recent retirees. Administrative Assistant **Pam Bourgeois** retired May 18th with 33 years of service and Road Maintenance Superintendent



Retiring Streets Superintendent Rodney Lyons

III **Rodney Lyons** retired June 1st also with 33 years of service. We wish you all the best.

**Dennis Beraud, Timothy Constant, and Tyrone Dukes, Jr.**

#### Service Pins

We would like to acknowledge our employees who recently received their service pins. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our 10 years of service recipients: **Charles Abbott, Jared Reed, and Eric Williams.** Also, to our 15 years of service recipients:



Stacey Stewart



Mitch Demuth and Don Hogan congratulate Pam Bourgeois

## Emergency Management

By

Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade

The 2015 hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30; however the Eastern states have experienced Tropical Storm Ana in early May.

The names for the 2015 hurricane season are: Ana, Bill, Claudette, Danny, Erika, Fred, Grace, Henri, Ida, Joaquin, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor, and Wanda.

The 2015 hurricane season is predicted to be “below normal” with 6 to 11 named storms with winds of 39 mph or higher, of which 3 to 6 could become hurricanes with winds of 74 mph or higher and up to 2 major hurricanes with winds of 111 mph or higher. The main factor affecting the “below normal” prediction is El Nino, which affects wind and pressure patterns. Now is the time to make sure you have an emer-



Emergency Management prepares for its Evacuation Drill

gency plan in place for your family, pets and business. We have experienced a low level of tropical activity during the past few years; however, it only takes one storm to change your life.

Your emergency plans should include receiving emergency

alerts on weather conditions to your email, cell phone, smartphone, and other handheld devices. JPAAlert is the Parish’s emergency alert notification system that allows officials to immediately contact you and deliver emergency information.

Sign up at [jeffparish.net](http://jeffparish.net) or contact our office at 349-5360 if you do not have access to a computer. You can also request to receive a copy of our All Hazards Preparedness Guide or you can download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide at [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org).

Our department conducted a public assisted evacuation drill at the Joseph Yenni Building on April 8, followed by an EOC Operations Room table-top exercise on April 16 for the upcoming hurricane season. This training provides the necessary skill, knowledge, and experience to effectively handle any disaster situation.



Emergency Management’s Employee of the Year Sean Hurly with President John Young

## Parks & Recreation

By  
Antoinette Holmes

WESTBANK UPDATES: **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. **Rose Thorne Playground** – building a new Tot Lot. M. L King Playground – replaced field and tennis courts lights and new kitchen equipment installments will begin soon thanks to a State Grant!

EASTBANK UPDATES: **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 has started for the pressbox/ conces-

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** is renovating the Boardwalk, Pavilion, and Jogging Trail.

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

**Earth Day 2015** is behind us, but it was a huge success! We had a multitude of volunteers from all backgrounds that came out to teach children the importance of caring for the environment we live in. They learned about the birds that migrate to LaSalle Park, and they learned how to plant fruits, vegetables, and trees.

## Library

By  
Daniel Gitlin

### North Kenner Reopens

After several months of renovations, the North Kenner Library recently reopened to the public, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 27. Upgrades to the library include new carpeting, lighting, furniture, exterior and interior paint, a new roof, and a reconfiguration to allow for a meeting room.

Political leaders from both Jefferson Parish and the City of Kenner spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, including Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-Large **Elton M. Lagasse**, City of Kenner Mayor **Michael S. Yenni**, Jefferson Parish District 4 Councilman **Ben Zahn**, Jefferson Parish Deputy Chief Operating Officer **Andrew Maestri**, and City of Kenner District 4 Councilman **Leonard J. Cline**.

North Kenner patrons, who patiently waited while the renovations were completed, have been extremely positive about the upgrades. Many patrons who attended the ceremony gathered with city and parish officials in the meeting room for cake and refreshments following the ribbon cutting.

Library Director **Marylyn P. Haddican**, who also spoke at the ceremony, commended the library patrons for their patience and trust. She thanked the staff who helped through the process and recognized the team effort that made the renovations such a success.



Earth Day 2015



Interior of the magnificently updated North Kenner Library

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

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



Summer reading made fun

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

Throughout the Summer Reading Program, every branch of Jefferson Parish Library will have special events with performers and community educators. The events include popular storytellers and musicians, the Audubon Zoo's Zoomobile, Bugmobile, Wetlands Express and AquaVan, plus magicians, clowns, artists and more.

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

**Staff Reaches Out to Thank Daisy Johnson Upon News of Her Retirement**

Thank you to Librarian I **Daisy Johnson** who recently retired from the Library after working more than 30 years for Jefferson Parish. Daisy most recently worked at the Westwego Library, in a career that included stops at several library branches and two parish departments.

Library Director **Marylyn P. Haddican** announced Daisy's retirement in an email expressing how Johnson was "someone who always had a smile on her face and was willing to help anyone who needed assistance."

Library team members followed up to share their thoughts. Branch Supervisor Librarian VI **Verdie Richburg** credited Johnson for being an employee "that no department wants to lose" because of her eagerness to assist and do "whatever was necessary to get the job done."

Outreach Librarian **Lisa Ci-ravolo** noted that Daisy was instrumental for her during the transition when she took over the outreach role that Johnson held previously. “Daisy was gracious to me,” wrote Ci-ravolo, “taking me on her route to meet the patrons and staff she had been dedicated to for years. I will always appreciate her generosity.”

After more employees wrote in to share their thoughts and express their gratitude Johnson replied in a heartfelt statement saying, “You all are a great group. I will miss you and I’ll always treasure the moments we have shared.”

#### **Acknowledgments, Promotions & New Hires**

Congratulations to Branch Supervisor Librarian VI **Verdie Richburg**, who was recently named the Library’s Employee of the Year. Library Director **Marylyn P. Haddican** explained the selection commending Richburg on her “professionalism, expertise, steadiness in difficult situations and dedication to the system.”

Additional congratulations go to **Jeanne Furse** and **Titanannia Jones** who were both recently promoted to Library Associate at the East Bank Regional Library.

Welcome to Westwego Library Associate **Rishaun Bruce** and East Bank Regional Library Associate **Laura Pagoaga** who both recently joined the Library Department!

## **Environmental**

By  
Kathy Russo

We would like to express our condolences to **Barbara Arce-ment** on the loss of her father, Hilton. Hilton was a WWII Navy Veteran and a retired Parish employee. Hilton worked for the Streets Department on the Lapalco Bridge from 1976 to 1989.

The winners of the Jefferson Parish “Non-point Source Storm Water Pollution and Solutions” poster and essay contest were announced at the 15th Annual Storm Water Poster and Essay Awards Ceremony on April 16, 2015, at the Kenner City Pavilion. Trophies were presented to first, second, and third place winners; and certificates of honorable mention were also awarded in each category. Winning posters are currently displayed at the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 West Napoleon

Ave., Metairie, and on June 22, they will move to the Jefferson Parish West Bank Regional Library, 2751 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, where they will be on display through August 18.

On May 12 the Department of Environmental Affairs participated in the Jefferson Beautification Inc. Earth Day Celebration at LaSalle Park in Metairie. **Nancy Woodlock**, Storm Water Program Specialist, and **Diane Coughlin**, Storm Water Program Technician, set up a display with educational material and spoke to the visiting 5<sup>th</sup> grade students about various programs and services that our department provides to the public. Enviroscape presentations were also provided to demonstrate different sources of Non-Point Source Pollution in our community. (Photo Page 19)

The New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council, a non-profit organization that arranges professional meetings and cultural activ-



Environmental Assistant Director Katherine Costanza addresses the audience at the Storm Water Poster and Essay Awards Ceremony in Kenner

ities for international visitors sent to the New Orleans area through the U.S. Department of State, co-hosted a meeting between the Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, and environmental representatives from the Republic of Iraq.

**Mr. Sami Khalil**, Storm Water Program Supervisor, discussed the roles that governmental and environmental agencies play in protecting water quality. This is a part of a multi-regional project that focuses on U.S. efforts to protect the shared water resources that are increasingly at risk around the globe from pollution, depletion, population growth, industrial expansion, climate change, and inadequate or disputed access.

On Saturday, April 11, staff from the Department of Environmental Affairs joined volunteers at their respective community locations and began picking up litter along several main corridors intersecting at the West Bank Expressway as part of the annual West Bank Stop the Trash Day. This event is spearheaded

by Representative Patrick Connick to make the public and businesses aware that littering is unacceptable in Jefferson Parish.

Among the volunteers were State Representatives Bryan Adams and Chris Leopold, Councilman Rickey Templet, Westwego Mayor Johnny Shaddinger, Environmental Affairs Assistant Director, **Katherine Costanza**, Storm Water Program Staff members **Sami Khalil** and **Nancy Woodlock**, and Solid Waste Inspector **Barbara Arce-ment**. Representatives from West Jefferson High School, the Terrytown Civic Association, and local scout groups also lent a hand. Safety vests, gloves, trash bags, and water were provided by Environmental Affairs.

On May 28, **Christina Dugar**, Industrial Pretreatment Specialist, an at-large Board member for the Louisiana Conference on Water, Wastewater, and Industrial Waste, attended a quarterly planning meeting in Shreveport with fellow board members and regional chair members.

## Traffic Engineering

By  
Brandi Chism

We welcome our newest Sign Tech I **Dustin Weber**. And kudos to **Cody Besson**, **Michael Soule**, and **Lafabian Fluker** on their recent promotion to Sign Tech II; and to **Fredrick Addison** on his promotion to Signal Tech II. Well deserved, guys. Keep it up!



Dustin Weber

Finally, congratulations to **Kay Levy** on her recent retirement with over 17 years of service. Our Division truly appreciated all of Kay's efforts. She will be missed. We all wish Kay the happiest of times for retirement. Taking Ms. Levy's place is **Paula Nulty**, our new Typist Clerk II. Paula has blended right in with our Division, and we couldn't be happier!



Sami Khalil (center) meets with Environmental representatives from Iraq

## Health Issues

By  
Paggy Branan, RN



In this day and age of high-tech diagnostic imaging machines, laboratories, computers, and microscopes, it is hard to imagine the practice of medicine in previous years, in a low- to no-tech world. But yes, once upon a time, the only tools the doctor had were his five-senses to make a diagnosis. While our high-tech age brings with it amazing possibilities to medicine, we should never forget the importance of the old-world medicine diagnostic techniques. Just what can doctors learn by using their senses?

FIRST, the sense of hearing is used. The initial encounter with a patient requires that the doctor obtain a thorough history. The history should include: their family medical history, a history of their own chronic/acute medical conditions, surgeries, allergies, medications, diet/appetite, bowel/elimination habits/frequency, and chief complaint(s). Also, by conversing with the patient, an assessment of their level of consciousness, mental status, and cognitive functioning can be determined. The critical information received during this interview will help to guide the course of care for the patient. While it may appear to be a very basic task to obtain the information noted above, even today many critical conditions are not identified because someone did not ask the right question(s) or the patient did

not reveal critical information.

The sense of hearing is also critical to evaluate the condition of the lungs, heart, and circulatory system.

SECOND, the sense of smell is used. As a result of chemical reactions from various bodily functions, characteristic odors, normal or abnormal, result. Abnormal conditions that can have a characteristic odor include discharge from infected wounds; bad breath may indicate an overgrowth of bacteria from the mouth down to the stomach or a problem with the liver or the kidney. Abnormal odors from the stool or urine may also be indicative of a health problem. A fruity breath odor may indicate ketoacidosis, a serious medical condition when one's blood sugar rises to dangerously high levels. If the body cannot use glucose as a fuel source for energy, the body will start to burn fats. The by-product of the breakdown of fats is acetone and ketones. The by-product acetone, flowing through the bloodstream makes its way to the lungs, where the

pungent odors are released as one exhales. An injection of insulin is necessary to prevent the person from going into a coma and possibly dying. Every once in a while you will hear a news story reporting a person dying while being held in the jail. Their primary or secondary charge may be public intoxication. The person will be found to be incoherent, staggering with uncontrollable body movements, and having a fruity odor to their breath. What appears to be a drunken state is actually ketoacidosis. Unfortunately, the prisoner in that state of mind would not be able to verbalize their condition and their need for insulin. The authorities, not knowing any different, leave the prisoner to sleep off their drunken state and then die.

THIRD, the sense of taste is used. While not performed now for obvious reasons, the only circumstance I am aware of when the TRULY DEDICATED doctor used his sense of taste for diagnostic purposes began in ancient times to detect the presence of sugar in the urine of his diabetic patients. Thank God for modern



Diane Coughlin conducts an Enviroscape presentation for Fifth graders

diagnostic testing devices!

The patient reporting a history of abnormal tastes in their mouth can be significant and would require further investigation.

FOURTH, the sense of touch is used. The diagnostic use of touch can be accomplished by pressing down on tissue to determine the presence of abnormal growths; applying pressure to elicit a pain response, which could indicate a diseased organ; or applying pressure and manipulating the patient's body to again elicit pain, which could indicate an injury.

Lastly, percussion combines the senses of touch and hearing. The doctor places his palm on the patient's abdomen. Then, with the fingers on his other hand, he taps on his hand to create a noise, much like one would do when checking the ripeness of a melon. The doctor can determine the presence of fluid in the abdomen and the size of the liver by performing this action. The patient reporting a history of burning/numbness to the extremities can be significant and would require further investigation.

FIFTH, the sense of sight is used. By performing a visual exam of the patient's body, significant medical findings may be obtained which may warrant additional testing/evaluations. For example, bleeding gums may be due to a hormonal imbalance. A tongue that is swollen, red, shiny, or beefy in appearance can be a sign of iron deficiency. Teeth that have cracks and seem to be dissolving can be the result of acid reflux. Teeth that have become worn and flattened, in combination with complaints of headache, may be a sign of stress.

There can be an association between gum inflammation/disease and heart problems. Thick, yellow, slow growing nails may indicate respiratory disease; yellow normal growing nails may be a sign of diabetes. Concave nails can be related to liver disease, iron deficiency anemia, or low-functioning thyroid gland. Nail clubbing can be related to heart disease. Hair loss on the toes and coolness to feet may indicate poor circulation, be it vascular disease or heart dis-



Earth Day 2015

ease. Toes that tip upward can be associated with lung, heart, or gastrointestinal disease. Brittle toenails can be a sign of vitamin deficiency. An orange peel appearance with swelling and redness to the breast can be associated with inflammatory breast cancer, an extremely aggressive and lethal form of breast cancer. Hair loss can be associated with nutritional deficiencies, hormonal imbalances, stress, and fungal infections. An eye exam can reveal a possible diagnosis of diabetes or vascular disease.

So, while we would not want to be without the high-tech advances in medicine that we benefit from today, the interaction between the doctor and the patient remains the critical factor for the successful delivery of healthcare.

NOTE: The information noted above is just a brief overview on this subject matter. As you have seen, some seemingly benign conditions may have more serious origins. Therefore, it is important that you bring to the attention of your doctor anything you sense to be out of the ordinary.



Earth Day at Lasalle Park

# Retirements

**Pam Guidry**  
Streets  
33 years

**Rodney Lyons**  
Streets  
33 years

**Ronnie St. Pierre**  
Fleet Management  
25 years

**Thomas Huston**  
Library  
24 years

**June Durnin**  
Community Development  
20 years

**Lawrence Williams**  
Drainage  
17 years

**Kay Levy**  
Traffic Engineering  
17 years

**Randy Martin**  
Streets  
16 years

**Karin Maurer**  
JeffCAP  
16 years



**Transitioning in theme throughout the year, a unique holiday tree stands in the 10<sup>th</sup> floor lobby of the Joseph S. Yenni Building Parish President's office. For Memorial Day, under the creative direction of Michelle Artigues, the tree's boughs in May celebrated the five branches of the United States military and honored the fallen Americans who sacrificed their lives defending our Nation and its values.**