



Volume 26  
Number 2  
April 2005

*En Réalité*

## Message from the Parish President. . .

### Millage Vote Saturday, April 2

Dear Fellow Employees:

On Saturday, April 2, 2005, voters will decide on a **reduced** millage for the Consolidated Road Lighting District. The Consolidated Road Lighting District encompasses unincorporated Jefferson Parish and the Town of Jean Lafitte.

It is important to realize that **this is not a new tax**. It is simply a renewal of an existing tax at a **reduced** rate.

The 10-year millage for the Consolidated Road Lighting District, which was authorized at 5 mills, expired in 2004.

This millage renewal will be reduced to an authorized rate of 3½ mills. The reduction is due to 1½ mills being rededicated from the Consolidated Road Lighting District to Criminal Justice and Economic Development in November 2004 by voter approval.



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

This new authorized millage of 3½ mills will continue to be the major revenue source for the Consolidated Road Lighting District. The revenues it generates will allow for the continued operation and maintenance of the Parish's road lighting system and ongoing capital improvements for the District.

Please remember to go to the polls on Saturday, April 2. If you have questions or need any further information concerning this millage renewal, please contact the Finance Department at 364-2767 or email us at [jpfinance@jeffparish.net](mailto:jpfinance@jeffparish.net).



# En Realité

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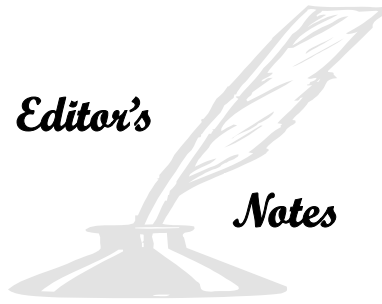
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*Editor's*

*Notes*



## New Publication for Parish Supervisors

One of the key components to any organization's success is effective communication. Parish government is no different than any other company or corporation with thousands of employees in that we can always find room for improvement in that area. I'm happy to let you all know about a new initiative Human Resources began this year in an effort to communicate useful information to Parish supervisors.

In February 2005, the first issue of our new publication, *Supervisors' Update*, was distributed through department contacts to every one of the over 500 supervisors in every department of Parish government. The purpose of the *Updates* is to provide Parish supervisors with timely information on changes in Parish policy and tips on leadership issues.

The issues will consist of brief, easily readable articles. For example, Issue 1 featured articles on the availability of certain Parish policies on-line, an explanation of the recent



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.  
Editor

changes in our grievance procedure, and an entertaining entry on the generation gap in the workplace. We have received some very positive feedback on it and are looking forward to publishing the next issue. That second issue (spring 2005) will be distributed in May and will include information about the Family & Medical Leave Act, the procedure for authorizing medical treatment for employees who get hurt or sick on the job, and the new Employee Investigative Report form.

Thanks to all the department contacts for distributing the first issue to the supervisors in your areas. I hope that if we can get useful and timely information to our supervisors, they will be better prepared to deal with management-related issues that come up and that as a result, all of our employees will benefit.

## Risk Management

By  
Evaline Armstrong

Since the first of January a lot of time has been spent reviewing all incidents, accidents, and claims which may cost the Parish money. There have been many open and honest conversations with directors, superintendents, and personnel from the most active departments. Every person so far has expressed a strong desire to work together to



reduce claims and perform at a higher level of awareness. The attitudes are both refreshing and encouraging. With continued efforts, discussions, reviews and implementation of processes, claims and expenses should decline and remain on a downward path. Thus far, the experience has been pleasant with the expectation of furthering good relationships producing superior results.

A special thanks to all the departments for sending the accidents reports in a timely fashion. Keep up the good work!

Just a reminder to those concerned: Automobile Liability Insurance Letter for your vehicles will be mailed to the directors during the last week of April for the period beginning May 1, 2005.

The Risk Management Department would like to offer its condolences and prayers to **Renee' Bergeron**, who recently lost her grandmother.

## General Services

By  
Kathy Theriot

General Services congratulates the following employees:

**Gregory Jeffrey**, employee of the month for December 2004.

**William Tinnel**, employee of the month for January 2005.

**Sonny Buchta**, supervisor of the month for December 2004.

**Van Taylor**, supervisor of the month for January 2005.

Congratulations to **Anthony Francis**. Anthony has been named Assistant Director of General Services, replacing **Leo Webb** who transferred to Parks and Recreation. Welcome back to General Services, secretary **Michelle Dufrene**. Michelle replaces **Darnell Muhoberac**, who took a position in the Community Development Department. **Norman Louis** was promoted to a Water Purification

Operator in the Water Department. Congratulations to **Abram Clayton** and his wife Amy. They became proud parents to their first child, Abram Clayton, Jr. born February 1, 2005, weighting 7 lbs, 10 oz.

General Services is extremely proud of our Grounds Keeping staff. Over the last year, our employees have done an extraordinary job keeping up with all the changes and additions going on at our properties around Jefferson Parish. Along with keeping up the grounds, our crew has assisted with moving furniture, shredding paper at Surplus, and will be involved with a new fence project on David Drive. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed by supervisor, **Van Taylor**. Van says "THANK YOU", keep up the good work!"



General Services' awesome Grounds Crew: Roshell Allen, Fitzgerald Fredericks, Abram Clayton, Claude Daniels, Gregory Jeffrey, and Michael Carter.

## Fleet Management

By  
Diane Spencer

Hello once again to everyone. It has been a while since I have had anything to report and it is great to be back. I hope everyone had a Blessed and Happy Easter.



As many of you know, and for the ones who don't know, our wonderful director, **Warren St. Cyr**, has retired as of March 18, 2005. Yes, he has left us to enjoy the good life of fishing and traveling. Warren was a great boss and very good friend to many of the people who work for various departments of Jefferson Parish. We will miss him terribly and hope to hear from him often.

We would also like to welcome our new director, Nicholas "Nick D" DiGerolamo, Sr. Nick comes to us from Lamarque Ford. He joined our department family on March 4, 2005; and during the short time that he has been here, he has been a pleasure to work with. Each and every one of us at Fleet Management would like to extend our welcome to Nick and will enjoy having him on board.

We would like to say good bye to a few of our employees. **Paul Martinez** and **Emery Cressionnie** have retired from Jefferson Parish after many years of service. Paul was our

foreman for the West Bank facility and Emery was foreman for our East Bank facility. Fleet Management would like to extend our congratulations to fellow employees **Carl Foret** and **Roy Luthjens** on their promotions to foreman. Carl will be foreman on the West Bank and Roy for the East Bank facility.

The entire department of Fleet Management would like to extend their deepest condolences to two of our co-workers, Mrs. **Yvette Beter** and Mrs. **Deely Prados**. Both of these ladies lost their mothers within weeks of each other. Our prayers are with them and their families during their time of sorrow.

Congratulations go out to Mrs. **Diane Spencer** on the birth of a new grandson. Robert Lee Norris III was born on March 10, 2005. Little Robert weighed 8 lbs. 7 ounces, 21 inches long and is cute as a button. Mom, Dad, and baby are all doing well.

Well that's it for now. We will be back next issue and until then, may God Bless and Keep You.

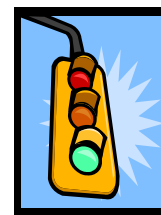


Water's Employee of the Year, Gaynel Kliebert, is congratulated by Director Randy Schuler.

## Traffic Engineering

By  
Carole Leteff & David Stout

A group of children and teachers from Harahan Elementary recently visited our office and shop. They all were surprised to know that the signs were manufactured here and could not believe how big the traffic signals are when standing next to one. Each colored lens is 12" in diameter, making the signal over 3 ft. tall.



There is a new signal at Carol Sue and Whitney and soon to come- at Harvey and Manhattan. Also, the signal at Ames and Belle Terre will be upgraded with new equipment.

Congratulations to our new Sign & Marking Supt. II, **Armand Kerlec**, who replaced **Harry Rivero**. He is doing an excellent job.

Now that the parade season is over, we usually send our crews after each parade to retrieve the No Parking Signs that were installed. Most of the signs are gone--taken as souvenirs.

We welcome new employees, **Brandon Rome** and **Francis Guidroz**, Sign Technicians I, and **Royal Jackson**, Signal Technician I, to our Division.

Recent retirees include **John Trick**, Signal Tech II, 32 years; **Michael Leclere**, Signal Tech III, 33 years; and **Harold Sydney**, Maintenance, 10 yrs.

## Inspection & Code Enforcement

By  
Linda Roy

On March 3, 2005, **Roberta Grace** retired from her position as Electrical Inspector II in our Roadlighting Division. Roberta was an "old schooler": She believed in getting the job done and doing it right no matter what it took, including working many long days. She was loyal and dedicated to her duties and to the Parish. She is a little "rough around the edges" and would like you to think of her that way. But, the truth is she has a Heart of Gold! We miss her. This will pass for we know she will devote as much loyalty and dedication to her retirement years as she did to her job. ENJOY!

*Thank You!* Service pins were awarded to **Mike Savage, Barbara Ciaccio** and **Daloss Falghou**, five years; **Gerald Gutierrez, Warren Probst, George Faustermann, Alice Melancon** and **Melody Kennedy**, 10 years; **Steve Sander** and **Theresa Tauceda**, 15 years.

We congratulate **Daloss Falghou** for his promotion to Electrical Inspector II in our Roadlighting Division. *YOU DESERVE IT!*

*A SIGN OF THE TIMES!* Computerization has made its way to Code. The Cashier's Office is fully automated; there are two Cashier windows eliminating long lines. All our records are computerized; no more days of lifting heavy ledger books.

Computerization is in progress in our Electrical Section and our Plan Review Section.

Garage sale permits are on line, and you can track the status of a commercial permit.

Who knows, maybe the future will bring *CREDIT CARDS!!!*

*HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!!!*



Steve Sander and Theresa Tauceda receive their 15-year pins from Louis Savoye, Director of Inspection & Code Enforcement

## Community Justice

By  
Debbie Villio

### Victim Assistance, Crime Reduction Grant Programs to Continue

Federal funding for community justice programs to make the community safer and to assist crime victims has been continued for the 2005-2006 grant year. The Federal government has combined two programs for safer communities into a single broader based grant program, while grant programs for Homeland Security and assistance to women victims of crime will continue in Jefferson.

The new Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program combined the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance (BYRNE) Program and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program. Jefferson's JAG grant amounts to \$345,653.

The Law Enforcement Terrorist Prevention Program, more commonly referred to as the Homeland Security program, awarded Jefferson \$438,332, mainly for communication radios that are compatible among the various local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

The Violence Against Women Act program in Jefferson received \$91,916 for services to women victims of rape, spousal abuse, battered women, and related crimes. These funds are used to specially train police in order to help them be more sensitive to the victims, better understand the personal components of such trauma, and help guide victims through effective investigation and toward appropriate treatment.

These are all important programs in the community justice services provided by our parish, and we hope to be able to continue these services for the foreseeable future.

## Human Resources

By  
Greg Alexander

Human Resources welcomes a new member to our department. **Larry Guchereau** joined the Safety Division as a Safety Officer in February. Besides working with our other Safety Officers on general safety-related matters, Mr. Guchereau will be investigating security threats and conducting internal investigations as needed.

Larry has an extensive and impressive background in the military as well as security and law enforcement. A decorated combat veteran, Larry earned both a Bronze Star and the Combat Air Medal for his service in the U.S. Army Infantry in 1968-'69. While in Vietnam, Larry took part in long-range reconnaissance patrols. His law enforcement career began when he returned to the States. He recently retired from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office after 33 years with the department.

While with the JPSO, Larry worked as a patrol officer, traffic accident investigator, and narcotics officer assigned to the Special Investigation Division, which consists of Vice, Narcotics, and Criminal Intelligence. He has also worked with the Secret Service on security assignments for the President and Vice President of the United States.

Safety Manager **Nolan Guidry** is extremely enthused to add Mr. Guchereau to his divi-

sion: "Larry's professional law enforcement background and investigative skills will enhance our team atmosphere. I'm looking forward to working with him on some very important security issues. Welcome aboard, Larry!"

We in HR have been very happy to host some young workers from Jefferson Public Schools' Employment Exploration Program. The program finds work sites for some of its students with physical or cognitive disabilities. The kids have been working with us on Wednesday mornings for the past several weeks. Some of the tasks they help us with include paper shredding, gluing forms onto interoffice envelopes, and making CD holders out of cardboard sheets. If your department would like information on having some kids from the program come to your work site, contact **Nancy Rodriguez** in our Training Unit.

### Ode from Sewerage

By  
Bobbie Fose

A travesty so grave,  
We have to admit,  
No article, alas,  
We have to submit.  
The sewage is flowing,  
Our crews working hard  
But we do admit  
This is no Hallmark card!  
Just wanted to say  
"Happy Easter" to all"  
And next month, by George,  
We won't drop the ball.



## Emergency Management

By  
Sandra M. Ancar-Encalade

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual National Hurricane Conference was held in New Orleans the week of March 21- 25. **Walter S. Maestri**, Director, was a speaker and panelist at the conference. The conference concluded with Dr. William Gray's 2005 hurricane prediction. Dr. Gray, Colorado State University hurricane expert, forecasts a slightly above-average hurricane season with 9 named storms and 6 hurricanes. There is a 39% probability for at least one major hurricane (Category 3/4/5) hitting landfall between the Gulf Coast from the Florida Panhandle to Brownsville, Texas. Dr. Gray will update his 2005 hurricane forecast in April. This information is available at [www.hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts](http://www.hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts).

The hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30. NOW is the time for you and your families to have an emergency plan. Having a plan can help you be ready for emergencies. Preparedness includes: BEING aware, LEARNING about risks (specific to where you live), WORKING together, MAKING an emergency kit, KNOWING your evacuation plan, and STAYING calm. We hope you'll never need to deal with an emergency, but being prepared means you're ready for anything--and that can help your family feel more secure.

The 2005 hurricanes' names are:

Arlene	Harvey	Ophelia
Bret	Irene	Phillippe
Cindy	Jose	Rita
Dennis	Katrina	Stan
Emily	Lee	Tammy
Franklin	Maria	Vince
Gert	Nate	Wilma

## Animal Shelter

By  
Bert Smith



The threat of severe weather did not deter pet owners from taking their dogs and cats to one of the 20 vaccination stations set up throughout Jefferson Parish on Palm Sunday afternoon. It turned out to be a beautiful day, weather-wise and for the pets of the parish.

It was the Rabies Vaccination Campaign, an annual event sponsored by the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter Department and the Southeast Louisiana Veterinary Association. Thousands of dogs and cats were vaccinated that afternoon against the deadly rabies virus and received their parish pet licenses and collar tags.

Each employee of the Animal Shelter Department was assigned to one of the stations to manage and coordinate the event at that site. In addition, about 150 temporary workers, most of them employees of other Parish departments, participated to make the event a success. Many thanks go to the Animal Shelter employees and their colleagues from other departments who worked well together to make the Rabies Vaccination Campaign a smooth success from Kenner to Gretna, Metairie to Grand Isle, and all points in between.

The next Pet Adoption Day, another in the ongoing

series of monthly off-site events to find homes for dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens from the parish Animal Shelters, will be Saturday, April 23, at Jefferson Feed, Pet and Garden Center. It starts at 10 a.m. Animal Shelter workers and volunteers will be on hand to help prospective adopters get to know the animals. If a good match is made, the adoption can be completed right there.

Adopting at one of the off-site Pet Adoption Days is the same as adopting from the animal shelter itself. The adopters must sign a contract agreeing to be a good caretaker for the animal. The adoption fee of \$57 includes vaccinations and worming for the animal and the spay or neuter operation, which is required. The shelter veterinarians have checked all the animals for good health and friendliness. Dogs and puppies will be at Jefferson Feed until 2 p.m. The cats and kittens will be at the store the entire day in the Purr Pad, Jefferson Feed's cat adoption center.

Upcoming Pet Adoption Days are May 21 at Lakeside Mall under the Veterans Boulevard skylight, June 18 at Jefferson Feed, and July 16 at the PetCo store on Williams Boulevard in Kenner.

### New employees:

The Animal Shelter welcomes two new employees who started at the end of last year. They are **Michael Summers**, Animal Control Officer, and **Kimberly Smith**, Clerk I at the East Bank Animal Shelter.

## Streets

By  
Kim Moore

Hello all! I hope everyone had a great Easter and is having a fabulous new year! Unfortunately for the Department of Streets, we've had a couple of employees retire; but fortunately for them, they can pursue their lives full time. **Louis Antoine** retired from our West Bank Maintenance Division on October 29, after 30 years of dedicated service to Jefferson Parish. Also, **Ashvini Pandit**, Assistant Director, retired on December 27 after giving nearly 27 years of service dedicated to the Parish. Good luck, Louis and Ashvini!

Other employee accomplishments are **Jules Simoneaux**, Public Works Project Coordinator, receiving his 25 years service pin and **Shelly Dent**, Truck Driver II, receiving her 20 years service pin. Way to go, Jules and Shelly!

Huge congratulations to **Alicia O'Brien** for being selected as our Employee of the Year for 2004. Kudos Alicia! A special thank you to our maintenance divisions for doing the best job they can to maintain our roads! Keep up the good work everyone.

The Department of Streets wishes everyone the very best, brightest, and pothole-free 2005 possible! God bless and protect our troops!



Streets Director Mike Evans with Employee of the Year Alicia O'Brien

## Juvenile Services

By  
Arlyn Smith

Welcome to the following new employees: **Chad Harris**, Juv. Probation Officer, **Nachon Benn**, **Cory Cuillier**, **Tramaine Harrison**, and **Donald Royal**, Juv. Detention Officers at the Rivarde Detention Center.

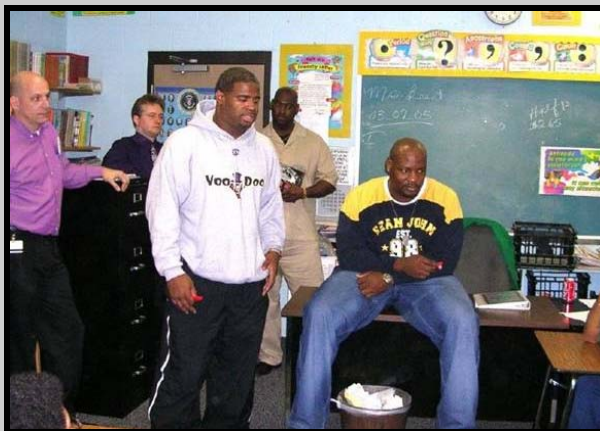
We wish all the best to Probation Officer **Luis Bustamante**, who will be leaving DJS. He has accepted a position with CASA Jefferson. We'll miss you!

We inadvertently omitted mentioning **Shernell Shephard**, who recently transferred from the Day Reporting Center to accept a Juvenile Probation Officer position.

Congratulations to Probation Officer **Tiyeshe Washington** and her husband Jonas. They are the proud parents of Baby Jonas, who was born March 12.

### 2004 Perfect Attendance Awards:

**Christopher Bruno**, **Ambra Sanne**, **Eugene Thomas**, and **Rhonda Walker**.



New Orleans Voodoo players Leroy Thompson and John Hilliard speak to the kids at Rivarde

2004: 3 days or less of sick leave:

**Oliver Antoine**, **James Downing**, **Denise Gilson**, **Herbert Green**, **Myron Hayes**, **Charon Jules**, **Marvin Lowe**, **Lori Matherne**, **Troy Phares**, **Karen Robinson**, **Ramon Solares**, and **Christopher Trosclair**.

Service Pins January-June 2005:

5 YEARS:

**Paul Davis**, **Stacy Bertinot**, **David Kraus**, **De'Anna Lavigne**

10 Years:

**Violet Troulliet**, **Sidney Warren**, **Linda Bostick**, **Ulisa Brown**, **Jacquelyn Green**

15 Years:

**Ambra Sanne**, **Ethel Reed**, **Edward Roger**, **Lori Matherne**

Jamaall Magloire, All-Star Center for the New Orleans Hornets, visited the Rivarde Juvenile Detention Center on February 15. Leroy Thompson and John Hilliard of the New Orleans Voodoo visited Rivarde on March 7. Each player spoke of the challenges they have faced in their lives and our ability to make positive changes in our lives.

## Pump Stations

By  
Laura Shockley

### Pump Stations Merges with Drainage

On March 23, the Jefferson Parish Council voted to merge all Department of Drainage Pump Stations operations into the existing Drainage Department; to amend the duties and responsibilities for the position of Director of Drainage to include the supervision of all Drainage Pumping Station operations; and to abolish the Department of Pumping Stations and the position of Director of Pumping Stations. All other Pumping Station field employees and office staff are expected to continue in their current duties.

The results of these actions will become more apparent upon the completion of the administrative development planning and procedural changes, in no case longer than six months.

Employees soon to be awarded service pins are:

20 Years: **Bradley Dunn**, **Kenneth Babin**, **Clayton Michaud**, **Randy Rivero**, and **Leslie Webster**

15 Years: **Tracie Chaix** and **Brian Adams**

10 Years: **Darren Austin**, **Brian Rebaldo**, **Debbie Brignac**, and **Alisha Hunter**

5 Years: **Dewey Gros, Jr.** and **Stanley Terrell**

Congratulations and thank you for your dedication to public service in Jefferson Parish!

We welcome our two new employees -- **Branden Rodi**, West Bank Laborer, and **Andre Portier**, East Bank Laborer!

## Environmental

By  
Katherine Costanza

The Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs was one of several exhibitors invited to participate at the Audubon Zoo's Earth Fest 2005 during the weekend of March 19-20, 2005. Department staff, **Randy Majoria, Tom Cooper, Kathleen Deubler and Michele Van Pelt Smith** operated a booth, which showcased displays on the Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project, Nonpoint Source Pollution Storm Drain Marking Program, and Recycling Program. Several items of information were available to the public to learn about these ongoing environmental programs. The objective of the Earth Fest is to provide educational materials to the public to make them aware of the importance of the environment.

Jefferson Parish recently completed the bundling phase of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project. During three separate bundling events held this year, 300 volunteers from local schools, civic organizations and

businesses braved the chilly weather to bundle 50,000 trees. In an effort to combat coastal erosion, the trees will be used to refurbish more than a mile of wave dampening fences near the town of Jean Lafitte in Goose Bayou. Since 1991, Jefferson Parish has recycled more than 650,000 trees. Again, we applaud the efforts and support from volunteers and Jefferson Parish staff that have helped make this project a great success.

We are happy to report that our Assistant Director, **Paul O'Rourke** is now home and recovering well after his long stay in the hospital. Paul reported that he is looking forward to returning to work and thanks everyone for their prayers. We'd like to congratulate **Catherine Fabbacher** on her new position as Principal Planner for Collier County, Florida. Catherine started her second tenure as our Stormwater Supervisor in December 2003 after leaving us in 1998 to work for the City of Covington. We wish her all the best in her new position. Our prayers and condolences go out to **Vivian Lasseigne** on the loss of her father, Pascal Rotolo, who

## Fire

By  
Dion Travis

The Fire Department is proud that 137C, 138C, and 169C were awarded by The American Legion Post 175 for outstanding service during a canal rescue attempt.

Our new Rookie class is to start April 11, 2005, with 20 students.

LSFA fireman's competition will be held on April 16, 2005, at the Fire Training Center and will host fireman throughout the state of LA competing for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place events. The 1<sup>st</sup> place team will be honored at the State Fireman's Convention in Shreveport in late July.

Thanks and appreciation to our recent retirees: **Frank Cusimano, Valex Becnel, and John Ritter**.

### PROMOTIONS:

CPT'S: **P.Joseph, M. Firmin, L. Healy**

LT'S: **D.English, E.Pritchett, K. Hahn, G.Parham, D.Rushing, J. Dunn, R.Lopez, M.Travis, A.Sambola**

OP'S: **J.Evans, S.Davis, J. Cardinale, B.Johnston, D.Marino, S.Tassin, F.Corona, F.Pelicano, L. Dominique, V.McCoy**

### SERVICE PINS:

25 YEAR: **M.Olavarietta, K.Joseph, B.Saltalamachia**

20 YEAR: **M.Floyd, R.Lee, M. James, V.Becnel, E.Hartenstein, J. Rauch, J. Blanchard**

Congratulations to **Hank Chenet** on his recent marriage to Maria Garnett and to **Ronnie Vitellaro** and **Brian Johnston** on the births of their daughters Ginger and Lindsey in February.



Network Specialist Randy Roppolo (right) receives Management Information Systems Employee of the Year award from Computer Systems Supervisor Francis Martinez

## Library

By  
Jim Davis



*We'll miss working with you!*

Jefferson Parish Library congratulates Librarian I **Kathy Lloyd**, Harahan Library, upon her retirement, effective March 22, 2005. We know that fortunately we will continue to see Kathy, since she is very active in attending the Library's literary and cultural programs.

### *A Ton of Beads!*

According to The Arc's Milton Batiste, more than a ton of beads were dropped off at Jefferson Parish libraries during the The Arc bead donation campaign. The library partnered with the Sierra Club, Delta Chapter, New Orleans Group, to support this cause. The bead donations enable The Arc (formerly Association of Retarded Citizens) in providing work and income for its clients via bead sales held throughout the year. Given the overwhelming success of this year's campaign, we anticipate that we will participate in years to come, so keep us in mind as you accumulate beads throughout the year.

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## Community Development

By  
Sevilla Finley

This year marks the 31st Anniversary of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and the Department of Community Development joined communities throughout the nation to celebrate CDBG Week during March 28 – April 2, 2005.

Community Development Director, **Aimee K. George**, greeted our elected officials from all levels of government, the city, the parish, the state, and the Congressional delegation. C.D. staff mingled with civic and religious leaders who were among the many who participated.

This year's CDBG Week celebration was held on Wednesday, March 30 at the Gretna Community Center, 1700 Monroe Street in Gretna. Center Coordinator, **Dr. Clara Byes**, always ready to lend a helping hand, provided the site. The Gretna Community Center is operated under the JeffCAP program and was built using CDBG funds.

The CDBG program was created when President Gerald R. Ford signed into law the Housing and Community Development Act on August 22, 1974. The Community Development Department was established the following year, in 1975, and has administered the entitlement funds for low and moderate-income citizens for the past 30 years.

CDBG has continued to provide affordable housing, health care, senior citizens centers and community centers, economic development and infrastructure improvements, such as street and sidewalk paving, sewerage and water projects that boost the standard of living in Jefferson Parish. The Bush Administration currently proposes to terminate CDBG under HUD and to combine it with 17 other programs under Commerce with a diminished budget. However the House and Senate have so far rejected some of the \$2 billion funding cuts that were proposed, thanks to a grass roots movement by the people who have opposed it.



President Broussard, Henrietta Dobard of HUD, Community Development Director Aimee K. George, and Councilman Byron Lee of District 3.

## ***Photography Contest***

Join Jefferson Parish Library in celebrating National Library Week (April 10-16, 2005) by entering its "Bridges: Your Library Connects" Photography Contest now.

Because libraries offer computers, videos, books, newspapers, magazines, and even reference assistance, they are your bridge to learning. As a part of our National Library Week celebration, Jefferson Parish Library invites you to submit an entry in its second annual library photography contest. In keeping with the theme, submissions should incorporate any type of bridge.

### Eligibility Requirements:

1. Photographers/patrons may submit no more than one photograph.
2. Photographs should relate to the theme "Bridges: Your Library Connects."
3. Each photograph should be developed on photograph quality paper (not printer paper), with resolution no less than 250 dpi.

4. Dimensions of work should not exceed 20"x24".
5. Works need not be framed, but all entries should have a sturdy backing and be ready to hang (with wire or hooks).
6. Photographs may be submitted at any Jefferson Parish Library location now through Friday April 1st.
7. Photographs will be returned to participants' local branches after May 23rd.

The contest is open to the public, and there is no entry fee. Members of the local arts community are encouraged to participate. While no sale of artwork can be made on parish property, artists may provide contact information to be posted for those interested in purchasing artwork.

Ribbons will be awarded to the first, second, and third place entries in each of three categories: children up to 12, teens 13-18, and adults 19 and up.

For more information about the contest, contact **Burke McFerrin**, Programming Coordinator, at 838-1109.

## ***Food for Fines***

Also in celebration of National Library Week, the library offers its Food for Fines during that week, April 10-16. The Library will accept canned food donations for Second Harvest Food Bank. In return for food donations, fines on overdue library materials will be waived. This is how it works...

- Fines will be forgiven for any overdue item in exchange for a non-perishable food item. For example, if one book is returned, one can of food will be accepted in lieu of fine payment.
- This promotion relates to fines accrued from overdue books, magazines, DVDs, videos, and CDs.
- Fees (such as those associated with lost or damaged materials, card replacements, or returned checks) will not be waived, nor will any items that have been referred to the Parish Attorney.

## ***Yoga Classes at West Bank Regional***

An Introduction to Yoga class will be held at 12:00 noon, Saturday, April 9, at West Bank Regional Library, 2751 Manhattan Boulevard, Harvey. Jaya Pande, UNO instructor, will present an introduction to hatha yoga, which will include breathing exercises, warm-up, standing, sitting, and lying down positions. She will also teach relaxation techniques.



Jefferson Parish Library and The Arc employees with just a small portion of the beads donated at the library's 15 locations.  
Left to right: Library staff Ivory Crouch, Kevin Austin (back), and Darren Monnerjohn and Arc employees Isaac Brooks (kneeling) and Milton Batiste.

## ***National Garden Month***

In celebration of National Garden Month, two programs will be presented by LSU Ag Center's Ginger Fortson at East Bank Regional Library.



On Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 PM, Fortson will present a lecture/audiovisual/discussion program on "Landscaping with Natives." Participants will learn how to use plants native to the Louisiana area in their landscaping plans.

On Thursday, April 14, 6:30 PM, the presentation will be "Beyond Beautification—Trees." At this program participants will learn the many benefits of trees as Fortson covers the environmental, urban, psychological, financial, and wildlife benefits of them.

## ***Divas' Book Club***

The Divas' Book Club, moderated by library associate **Tiffany Mashia**, is for the reader who loves African American contemporary literature. The club will begin meeting on Wednesday, April 13, at North Kenner Library; the club will meet on the second Wednesday of each month thereafter. At the first meeting, book club members will discuss *Heat Seekers* by Zane.

If you think you are diva enough to handle this book club,

stop on by; new members are invited to join. Call North Kenner Library at 736-8730 for more information.

This latest book club joins many others that meet regularly at our libraries. Check the library's website calendar for listings, and join a reading group near you.

## ***Master Liar Coming***

Join us at one of Jefferson Parish Library's regional library locations on Wednesday, April 13, 2005, for "Ain't It the Truth? – Champion Liar Bil Lepp," as Bil, a former Methodist minister and master teller of tall tales, will spin original, hilarious yarns that will bring a smile to the face of even the most ill-humored person.

Bil will make an appearance at 2:00 PM on April 13 at East Bank Regional, followed that evening by a 7:00 PM show at West Bank Regional. The program is free and open to the public. Large groups are requested to call the library at 838-1100, x274, to register.

## ***Food & Recipes***



"You Are WHERE You Eat – Stories and Recipes from the Crescent City," a traveling exhibit about the ethnic diversity of New Orleans's people and its food, will be on view April 24-May 24 at East Bank Regional and May 25-June 25 (except

June 11) at West Bank Regional.

The exhibit features ten exhibit panels with photographs, artwork, and written first-person accounts of food memories and practices in New Orleans's diverse communities. This exhibit tells stories that are not just about food, but reveal things about our city and our struggles for cultural identity.

## ***SAT Practice Tests***

On April 23, Jefferson Parish Library will host Princeton Review's free practice test program at East Bank Regional that gives students the opportunity to attend free events to help them begin to prepare for the new format SAT test. This program is for high school students graduating in classes of 2006 and beyond only. Only students in the class of 2006 and beyond will need to take the new format test.

Then students who take the test will be able to attend a follow-up strategy session, which their parents are welcome to attend, where they will be able to meet an expert Princeton Review instructor who will walk them through some difficult questions. Participants will learn more about the structure of the test, types of questions to expect, and proven techniques.

The practice test will be given at East Bank Regional Library, 4747 West Napoleon Avenue, Metairie, on Saturday, April 23 2005, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. A follow-up strategy session will be held at East Bank Regional on Wednesday, April 27, 6:00-7:00 PM. Space is limited.

Those wishing to take the local practice test are required to register in advance DIRECTLY with Princeton Review by calling 800-2REVIEW.

### *Outreach at Westminster*

Library Director **Lon Dickerson** recently accompanied the East Bank Outreach Services staff members **David Egudin** and **Mary Sanchez** on the regularly scheduled visit to Westminster Towers in Kenner, one of the largest retirement homes in the state. While there, they were treated to a piano recital by Westminster resident Flora Mazarsky.

The library's East Bank Outreach Services, focusing on senior services, delivers library materials to scheduled outreach stops such as nursing homes, retirement homes, assisted living homes, and adult day care cen-

ters or to homebound elderly or disabled patrons who live alone. The library's West Bank Outreach Services focuses on children's day care providers.

### *Summer Reading*

The **Summer Reading Program** will soon be here! Great programs for the whole family—children, teens, and adults—are already being planned. We have lots of fun surprises awaiting you this summer, no matter what your age, but especially for kids. Summer reading is extremely important in children's maintaining their reading skills from the end of one grade to the start of the next. Plan now to bring the kids and grandkids to the many programs to be announced for the summer so you can help them maintain their reading readiness for the school year to come.



Left to right: Westminister Towers residents Lee Hooker, Helen Jacob, Mercedes Facham, pianist Flora Mazarsky, Library Director Lon Dickerson, Library Outreach Services staffer Mary Sanchez, residents Joy Piper and Judy Ruppel. Not pictured: Library Outreach Services staffer and photographer David Egudin

All library programs are free and open to the public, though registration may be required as indicated. Further information about other upcoming programs and exhibits at all of Jefferson Parish Library's fifteen locations is available on the Library's website at [www.jefferson.lib.la.us](http://www.jefferson.lib.la.us) or by calling **Jim Davis**, Information Specialist, at (504) 838-1100, x262.

### Transit/ Citizens with Disabilities

By  
Carla Montalbano



The staff of Transit administration and Citizens with Disabilities would like to welcome our new Interim-Acting Director, **Al Robichaux**. Mr. Robichaux comes to this department after having worked for the Jefferson Parish School Board. Furthermore, we welcome **Carla Montalbano**, who was secretary at Citizens' Affairs and recently transferred to Transit as our Typist Clerk III replacing **Brenda Campos**.

Carla noted that the commute is much easier these days and the expense of gasoline is a bit easier now that she is not traveling so far.

# Retirements

**Michael Leclere**  
Engineering  
33 years

**John Trick**  
Engineering  
32 years

**David Bailey**  
Parkways  
30 years

**Bobby Bourgeois**  
Drainage  
30 years

**Jo Ellen Broekhoeft**  
Community Development  
28 years

**Frank Cusimano**  
Fire  
28 years

**David Saunders**  
Fire  
27 years

**Warren St. Cyr**  
Fleet Management  
26 years

**Vertis Walker**  
Juvenile Services  
24 years

**Valex Becnel**  
Fire  
21 years

**Odelia Parker**  
Water  
20 years

**Willie Benard**  
Parkways  
19 years

**Kathleen Lloyd**  
Librarian  
18 years

**Raymond Montalbano**  
Employment & Training  
12 years

**Harold Sydney**  
Engineering  
10 years

## HISTORIC COURTHOUSE BUILDING



**THE FIRST SEAT OF JEFFERSON PARISH WAS IN THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE FROM 1833 TO 1852, WHEN IT WAS INCORPORATED INTO NEW ORLEANS. THE AREA IS NOW KNOWN AS THE IRISH CHANNEL.**

**THIS IS THE SECOND PARISH COURTHOUSE BUILDING IN THE 2200 BLOCK OF ROUSSEAU STREET, NEAR JACKSON AVE. AND ONE BLOCK FROM THE RIVER. IT IS A RARE EGYPTIAN REVIVAL STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE, BUILT CIRCA 1836.**

**ITS PRESENT OWNER IS A CARNIVAL ORGANIZATION WHICH USES IT FOR STORAGE.**

**—SEVILLA FINLEY**