



Volume 26
Number 4
August 2005

En Réalité

Message from the Parish President. . .

Community of One

I have a vision: to help all residents of Jefferson enjoy the highest quality of life possible; to build a community that is ethnically diverse, rich in character, noted for a strong work ethic, where businesses seek to locate, and is enriching to each individual resident.



Earlier this year I became involved in a wonderful project called *Community of One*, a non-profit organization that unites community leaders to promote positive character development. Its purpose is to create an academically empowered, ethically driven, and socially responsible community and demonstrate how civic and business leaders can come together to support students and create a culture of good character.

Also supported by Sheriff Harry Lee and Jefferson Public School Superintendent Dr. Diane Roussel, *Community of One* is based on the idea that each individual has the power to make the community a better place by emphasizing respect, courtesy, tolerance, good manners, compassion, and integrity.

Throughout the school year, thousands of children across Jefferson consider both the meaning and application of good character practices through the *Character Links* program. In meeting *Community of One's* goal of making these concepts more pervasive outside the public school system, specifically in businesses, social organizations, and civic groups, parish leaders are encouraging a dialogue about the difference that practicing good character traits can make.



Aaron Broussard, Parish President

Resources such as this *Community Link* for adults correlate on a week-to-week basis to topics being covered in Jefferson Parish public schools and reinforce recognition of a particular good character trait in the community by encouraging children to discuss these concepts with role models.

For those of you with school-aged children or who may be role models to children, I hope you will help inspire and promote good character as it is a cornerstone of our future. Also, please foster a concern for others that inspires caring by every Jefferson Parish resident as we work together to create a prosperous and caring community.

CHARACTER is what a person is on the inside. How you act shows others your character. I'll leave you with these thoughts to consider:

1. What "characteristics" might the general public attribute to your organization? What character traits would you like to have your association known for?
2. *Food for thought*: Is there anything about your own individual character that you would like to change, given the opportunity?
3. Let someone know at least one thing that you admire about their character, *i.e. their sense of humor, inner strength, or leadership ability.*

En Realité

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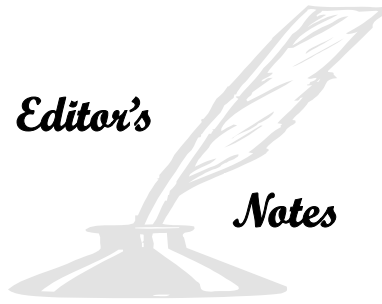
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Editor's

Notes



Two-Day Retirement Seminar Set for October

Every year dozens of employees retire from Parish government employment. Although our Parochial retirement system offers excellent benefits for its members, a good deal of careful planning is necessary to make sure we are really ready for life after work. To help our people prepare for retirement, Human Resources is once again sponsoring *Retirement—Ready or Not*, a free two-day seminar for Parish employees.

The seminar will be held on the mornings of Wednesday, October 5, and Thursday, October 6, in the second-floor EB Council Chambers of the Yenni Building. Various professionals will be speaking on a variety of topics of interest to potential retirees.

Day 1 will include presentations on real estate investment issues, health and wellness after retirement, and Social Security. Day 2 will feature legal issues after retirement, deferred compensation, IRAs, the Parochial Retirement System, and Parish retiree health benefits. All sessions will include question and answer time, so bring your questions.



Feleciano Mendoza, Jr.
Editor

We host *Retirement—Ready or Not* every other year, but it is not necessary that you be retiring this year or next in order to attend. Retirement planning should begin years before we stop working

Registration is required, and you do need your supervisor's and Director's permission to attend during work hours. Please submit a class registration form to Human Resources between now and September 23. You can choose to attend either or both days of the seminar.

I urge all departments to be accommodating in allowing their employees who are getting close to retirement to attend this seminar. Everyone should seek some kind of professional advice as retirement draws near. I believe *Retirement—Ready or Not* is a good place to start. Come and enjoy these two mornings with us.

The Coastal Impact Assistance Amendment: A Great Win for Jefferson and Louisiana

By
President Aaron Broussard



As the President of Jefferson Parish, I am very proud of our parish, our coastal wetlands, and bountiful natural resources. As a founding member of the Parishes Against Coastal Erosion (PACE), and having served as its first President, I feel a great sense of accomplishment for what our organization, working together with our state leaders and federal delegation, has accomplished.

In July, Congress passed an Energy Bill that includes a Coastal Impact Assistance Amendment, which will provide \$540 million to Louisiana, with 35% of that going to the coastal parishes.

PACE was formed in 2003 to organize the affected parishes to assist their individual efforts in raising the important issues of the loss of coastal wetlands to federal and state policy makers, alert their citizenry to the need to be informed and speak out on this issue, and assist in crafting innovative restoration alternatives.

Governor Blanco has shown great leadership on this issue.



Through her leadership and the strong support of business leaders, the *America's WETLAND Campaign* has garnered support from across the nation.

Congress has now recognized America's WETLANDS as the national treasure we all know it to be. Our federal delegation worked tirelessly on getting the Coastal Impact Assistance Amendment in the Energy Bill. "This is an incredibly important victory for Louisiana and the other Gulf Coast energy-producing states who contribute so much to our national energy supply, security and economy each year," said Sen. Landrieu. I am especially proud that in a recent conference call with the Governor, Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Angelle, and 16 other coastal parishes, Sen. Landrieu stated that, "*without PACE, we wouldn't have had the political muscle to get this through.*"

"By working together on the Energy Bill, Senator Landrieu and I convinced our colleagues that this is not just a Louisiana problem, but a national one. Our coast is in crisis, and we fuel this nation – Louisiana's contribution needs to be recognized. This funding is the next step in truly

restoring our coast – the future of Louisiana's coastal restoration funding is looking brighter than ever," said Senator Vitter. "PACE's quick action is the reason the state/parish split remains at 65 percent state, 35 percent parishes."

PACE has been there to support these efforts by meeting and sharing our story – a coast in crisis - with local leaders in Mississippi, Texas, and other states. To the rest of the nation, our land loss is an abstract notion, but here at home it is all too real. Our citizens who live and work on the coast, in areas like Lafitte and Grand Isle, see first hand the land slipping away, and they know the real cost of unchecked erosion. The Gulf is washing into their homes and businesses, erasing a one of a kind fishery/trapping based culture. Local fishers, who spend time outside of our levees, have been sounding the alarm for years as they have witnessed the incremental changes taking place over the last 50 years – a bayou getting wider, an island getting smaller.

Passage of the Coastal Impact Assistance Amendment in the Energy Bill is a big win for Jefferson Parish and all of Louisiana, and it is a great start on addressing our coastal land loss and restoring our coast.

Drainage Managers Answer the Call

The Parish's Safety Division wants to personally thank and congratulate West Bank Drainage Superintendent **Larry Palmisano** for his extraordinary effort in response to a recent high-profile vehicle accident with injury on the Huey Long Bridge.

As soon as Mr. Palmisano heard the employee reporting the accident over his radio, he swung into action. "One of the things that makes Larry's actions so commendable is that it wasn't even his own employee who was involved," says Safety Program Manager **Nolan Guidry**. "Larry knew that the nature of the accident would prevent East Bank Drainage officials from responding quickly, so he took charge himself."

Larry, along with Superintendent **Lynne Champagne**, arrived on the scene and assumed control of the situation, professionally following Parish procedures. He gathered information, determined the exact sequence of events, got reports from witnesses, took photographs, and dealt with the Causeway Police, who oversee the bridge.

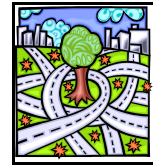
"Larry and Lynne's responsible handling of this very unfortunate and difficult incident made it possible to control the situation and minimize the Parish's liability," added Nolan.



Drainage Director Kazem Alikhani and Safety Program Manager Nolan Guidry present Superintendent Larry Palmisano a special Safety Certificate in recognition of his superb response to a recent accident.

Parkways

By
Angela Winchester



We have had a few changes since our last update. We have a new West Bank Maintenance Superintendent II, **Lance Stansberry**. Sound familiar? You guessed it; he's the evil twin of our former EB Superintendent, Lee Stansberry. Lance is not really evil; he just kind of grows on you, sort of like a rash. I'm joking. He is very organized, dedicated, and his vision for Parkways is already in the works.

Congratulations to **Mike Muller** on his promotion to EB Superintendent II. I know it's different from working on the West Bank, but you'll get it together; you have excellent co-workers over there.

Now for the distressing news: Our favorite Arborist, **Brook Burmaster** left for grass. He was my lunch buddy, our tree expert, plant expert, bug expert, fungus expert, and a whole lot of other things that we'll miss immensely. You just can't find all those good qualities in one man anymore. However, the search is on to find another Arborist.

I just attended Human Resource's new and improved Telephone Etiquette class, taught by the ever competent and upbeat Greg Alexander. I recommend it to everyone; it's very informative. A lot of things were obsolete since the last class I attended. You learn something new every day.

Well, stay tuned for the next installment of "As the World Turns" in the Parkways Department of Jefferson Parish.

Code Enforcement

By
Linda Roy

The Department of Inspection & Code Enforcement hosted a training seminar on the International Building Code in July. Employees from Code Enforcement, Fire Department officials from Jefferson Parish and municipalities throughout the state, as well as architects and contractors attended. The Building Official Association of Louisiana offered continuing education credits to the participants.



Jo Dean Krack, Stenographer Clerk III, retired on July 1, 2005. The retirement party in her honor was well-attended by employees of many departments. Jo Dean received a gold locket from all of us in Code Enforcement.



Code Enforcement Director Louis Savoye and Regulatory Manager George Barilleau congratulate Jo Dean Krack at her retirement party.

Community Justice

By
Debbie Villio



New Pilot Program Remotely Monitors Alcohol Violations

This summer the Community Justice Agency initiated a pilot program aimed at helping persons caught driving while intoxicated and other alcohol abusers to eliminate their dependence on alcohol. The heart of the effort is a program called SCRAM (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor). Its supporters say it's part cop, part conscience, and part guardian angel.

SCRAM involves a device that monitors around the clock insensitive perspiration that is continuously secreted by an individual's skin – a process called transdermal testing.

To do this, an individual is fitted with an electronic bracelet. The bracelet, which must be worn at all times, sends transdermal test results to an electronic communications modem. The data are sent via phone to a monitoring center and then on to Gretna at the office, which also manages the parish's Home Incarceration Program.

SCRAM is viewed by its supporters as an effective tool for

the adult and juvenile justice systems to reduce and eliminate alcohol abuse among juveniles awaiting trial or as penalties or conditions of parole ordered by the judge for juveniles and adults. The pilot program in Jefferson is set up to monitor up to 26 individuals and is paid for by a private foundation grant of \$100,000 and \$50,000 matching funds from the parish's Adult "I Can" Drug Court for a period of two years.

Basically, SCRAM can tell almost immediately if the wearer ingests any type of alcohol any time of the day. If there is a violation, the information is sent to the judge in a matter of hours for further sanctions or revocation of parole. A Texas judge who has used SCRAM in the Dallas courts for more than two years says it is very effective at getting adult offenders off alcohol altogether.

As the next 20 months go by, the CJA will gather data on SCRAM's effectiveness in curbing use among alcohol abusers in the criminal justice system in Jefferson Parish. Cost of the program will eventually be paid by those who use it, just like those in the Home Incarceration Program here and the SCRAM program in Dallas.

If subsequent evaluation at the end of the pilot program shows SCRAM to be very beneficial, we look forward to it being expanded in Jefferson, and it probably will find its way into criminal justice systems in adjacent jurisdictions.

Sewerage

By
Bobbie Fose

The new West Bank Sewerage facility is finally finished. Everyone is excited at the prospect of moving in. The department is very happy to be providing much improved accommodations for the West Bank employees. Assistant Director **Mike Stamps** and Executive Assistant **Joy Armstrong** have been "hands on" in selecting furniture, appliances, matching colors, etc., and also in overseeing the project to its completion. By the time this goes to press, everyone should be situated in his or her new offices.

Service pins were awarded for 5 years of service with Jefferson Parish to **Jane Lennie, Stuart Lane, Kristopher O'Neal, Raymond Champagne, Jr., and David Toups**. A 10-year service pin was awarded to **Rodney Blanchard**. Receiving pins for fifteen years of service were **Mary Grace Bealer, Lucie Claverie, Alicia Harper, Joe Hill, Walter Roe, and Morris Sapia**. Congratulations to all of you for your years of service and dedication to Jefferson Parish.

The Department of Sewerage kicked off its United Way Fund with a Hot Dog Lunch Fundraiser. **Venice Cooper**, Administrative Assistant, who is in charge of the United Way for our department, said the lunch was a big success. Thanks to everyone who participated, contributed, and supported the United Way.

Parks & Recreation

By
Gwen Styron

Our 2005 Fall Activity Guide will be available Thursday, August 25 at local playgrounds, libraries or can be downloaded at www.jeffparish.net – Parks & Recreation web page (Adobe Acrobat Reader required). Register for most of our classes at ONLINE!

Congratulations to our Employees of the Month:

May: **Sue Amor**, Center Supervisor, Oakdale;

Becky Letort, Clerk Typist III, EB Leisure Service

June: **Norman Lestrack**, Groundskeeper – Kings Grant

Congratulations on the Promotion:

Phyllis Breaud, Facilities Reservation Coordinator

Percy Burns, Tradeshelper

Obery Celestine, Equipment Operator III

Marcus Deemer, Equipment Operator III

Danny England, Maintenance Repairman

Dariyan Griffin, Asst. Rec. Center Supervisor, Harvey

Brad Roth, Center Supervisor – Pontiff

Antoinette Williams, Typist Clerk III

Corey Kennedy, Asst. Center Supervisor at Cleary

Chris Naumann, Center Supervisor at Jefferson

Vernon Ross, Tradeshelper in EB Maintenance

Congrats to **Dave Ulm**, Lafreniere Park Manager, upon his marriage to Michelle Spraul on July 9.

Keymora was born to **Daniel**

Johnson (Terrytown) & Lekeisha on June 8.

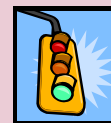
Isabella was born to Sal & Melissa Castaganetta on June 14. Melissa is the daughter of **June Callais** (EB Main Office).

Best Wishes to **Joe Winn III** (Groundskeeper at Cleary), who was drafted by the Chicago White Sox!

Emily Yvonne Williams was born to Wayne "Pal" and Nicole Williams on May 16. Wayne is the son of **Mary Williams** (WB Main Office).

Traffic Engineering

By
Carole Leteff & David Stout



Traffic Engineering re-stripes the roadways in Jefferson Parish as needed and as our funds permit. When the roads are newly re-striped, it is easier for motorists to stay in the correct lane and makes it safer for all of us. The most recent roadways that were re-striped were (1) Elmwood Parkway from Citrus to Jefferson Hwy., (2) Citrus Blvd. from Elmwood to Clearview, (3) Transcontinental from West Metairie to Airline, (4) Wall Blvd. from Lapalco to Mt. Laurel. We are getting ready to stripe Clearview Avenue as our next project. Harvey Blvd., S. Kenner Avenue, Bellemeade, and Mall Rd. will be re-striped before the end of 2005.

Our Division also welcomes new employees, **David Muhoberac**, Sign Tech I, and **Roldan Laguna**, Signal Tech I.

Regional Prayer Breakfast Set for September 15: President Broussard and Mayor Nagin to Co-Host

Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard and New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin will host the first ***Greater New Orleans Regional Prayer Luncheon*** beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 15, at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside.

The featured speaker will be Bob McEwen, former Congressman for the State of Ohio. During his congressional service, beginning in 1980, McEwen filled a variety of positions, including Special Presidential Envoy for both Presidents Regan and Bush and United States representative to the European Parliament from 1985 to 1993.

On August 23, 1989, Congressman McEwen and United States Senator Robert Dole participated as United States observers in Warsaw, Poland, to the first Parliamentary election of a noncommunist leader of a communist country. Hours later, the new Prime Minister, in his first official act, received the Congressman and Senator as representatives of the United States prior to meeting with the Soviet representative of the regime that had occupied that nation for fifty years. This action was the spark that encouraged the collapse of Soviet dominated governments throughout Eastern Europe, culminating in the destruction of the Berlin Wall ten weeks later.

McEwen meets regularly with the leadership of both the House and Senate. A spokesman for regulatory reform, McEwen has been active in working with Congress to lift the burden of red tape on American business. He is known for his capacity to make the

complicated simple and understandable.

His writings have appeared in numerous national publications and he frequently appears on network programming such as CNN's *Crossfire*, the *Today Show*, *Good Morning America* and *Larry King Live*.

McEwen is now President and Chief Executive Officer of FreedomQuest International, a multifaceted investment and business consulting firm. He is also a founding director of the International Center for Religion and Politics in Washington, D.C.

Tickets for the event are \$25 each. Tables securing eight collective seating arrangements may be purchased for \$250, and preferred seating tables are available for \$300 for eight. This year, there will be V.I.P. seating which includes attendance at a reception with the guest speaker and elected officials as well as special seating for eight for \$350.

For additional information or to reserve seating, contact Angela Williams at 736-6405.



President Broussard presents Telecommunications Director JoAnn Becnel with a 10-year service pin award and Human Resources Director Junior Mendoza with a 5-year award.



Animal Shelter

By
Bert Smith



Passersby may notice a lot of activity around the East Bank Animal Shelter just off the Earhart Expressway service road near Clearview in Elmwood.

The work is the final stage of waterproofing the building, which began with a new roof and other improvements last year. The building is now being painted with a special coating. The new look will be two-toned to enhance the architecture of the animal shelter.

At the same time, drainage improvements around the building are being completed and the landscaping is being updated.

Pet Fest

All the work is scheduled to be completed in time for Pet Fest, the annual fund-raiser for the private, non-profit Jefferson SPCA and a community open house for the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter Department.

Pet Fest is set for Saturday, Oct. 1, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. All Parish employees and citizens are invited to bring the family, including the family dog (on a leash, of course) and enjoy the entertainment, food, vendor booths, and other attractions.

There will be games for kids and for dogs, including the popular obstacle course and tennis ball retrieve for dogs.

Musical acts will be on the stage throughout the day. We will also be featuring contests

for pets and their people such as the pet-owner look-a-like, the canine peanut butter eating contest, and a pet costume contest.

There will be raffles and silent auctions for a variety of prizes and lots of pet-themed merchandise for sale.

Of course, the Animal Shelter will be offering dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens for adoption for the usual low adoption fee of \$57, which includes the first set of vaccinations for the pet and the spay or neuter operation. The shelter veterinarians and kennelmasters have checked all animals up for adoption from the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelters for good health and friendliness.

Mark you calendar now for Pet Fest and join in the fun to benefit the Jefferson SPCA, which offers programs and services to the community such as its Low Cost Spay and Neuter Program, humane education for area school children and youth groups, and dog obedience training.

Other Animal Shelter upcoming events include off-site Pet Adoption Days on Aug. 13 at Lakeside Mall under the Veterans skylight; on Sept. 17 at Jefferson Feed, Pet and Garden Center in old Jefferson; on Oct. 15 again at Lakeside Mall; on Nov. 12 at Jefferson Feed; and on Dec. 10 at the PetCo store on Williams Boulevard at West Esplanade in Kenner.

And remember, anyone interested in adopting a friendly cat or kitten can always visit Jefferson Feed's Purr Pad cat adoption center. Every day cats from the parish Animal Shelters are there, hoping for someone to give them a new home.

Emergency Management

By
Sandra Ancar-Encalade

The 2005 hurricane season is in full swing. Natural disasters – hurricanes, floods and tornadoes— can happen quickly and without warning. Knowing in advance what your risks are (reside in low-lying area) and being prepared can help you and your family stay safe. If a disaster strikes, you need to know what to do. Let's keep our guard up!

On July 14 our department hosted a training workshop at the Forensic Center for personnel who are assigned to the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) during emergencies. On July 15 the training workshop was for all our hazardous-materials team members. The training for both workshops was conducted by The Command School of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Various emergencies, either weather-related or hazardous-materials incidents, were presented. The workshop stresses the use of the National Incident Command System. All response and recovery issues were critiqued after each scenario. Both workshops were excellent training tools for our personnel.



Tom Rodrigue of Emergency Mgt. receives the National Floodplain Manager of the Year Award in Madison, Wisconsin, from Larry Larson and Chad Berginnis of the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

General Services

By
Kathy Theriot & Amber Breaux

On July 15, the Department of General Services hosted a party in honor of our Director **Randy Nicholson**, who was promoted to Streets Director. The party was a huge success and everyone's generosity really shined through the food that was brought. We couldn't have had a better spread if a caterer was brought in. A special thanks to **Van Taylor**, Park Landscape Supervisor, for coordinating such a successful event! Thanks to all our employees for the delicious food and cake they brought. Randy was very thankful, surprised, and delighted.

Randy has been employed with General Services since January 1987, when he was a Property Manager. He was promoted to Assistant Director in November 1989 and then to Director in February 1994. His 18 years with this department will surely be missed.

Randy, on behalf of the De-

partment of General Services, we want to say "Thank You" for your years of dedication and direction; and best of luck with your new endeavors at the Streets Department.

Secretary **Michelle Dufrene** and her husband David are the proud parents of Matthew Phillip Dufrene, born May 31. We all got a chance to see and hold baby Matthew recently; and we all agree he is truly an angel. Congratulations Michelle and David! General Services is happy to welcome **Rick Pert** to our JSYB staff as Laborer. **Kentra Davis** joined our General Government Building staff as Typist Clerk II. Our summer workers this year are **Krista Jerome** and **Toni Scott**.

General Services recognizes the following employees for a job well done:

Employees of the month:

Don Barrios----- April

Scott Chachere----- May

Supervisors of the month:

Randy Camardelle-----April

Michael Fonseca----- May

Juvenile Services

By
Arlyn Smith

Welcome to **Jamila Martin**, Juvenile Probation Officer I, and farewell to **Angela Burmaster**, **Raymond Harrison**, **Chad Harris**, and **Esther Walker**. We wish them the best.

The department extends our heartfelt sympathy to **Oliver Antoine Sr.**, whose son **Oliver, Jr.**, died suddenly, and to **Marvin Lowe**, whose Aunt **Delores Gonzales**, a previous Parish Clerk, passed away after a battle with cancer.

Congratulations and Bon Voyage, to **Marion Preatto** and **Ethel Reed**, Cook II's, who are retiring. Marion worked for 19 years, and Ethel for 15 years. We thank them for their hard work and dedicated service and wish them all the best!

The Department of Juvenile Services took part in holding an employee health fair on Friday, July 15. Attendance was good, the weather hot, and it was a very helpful and informative morning for the staff. Many of us discovered "STRESS" levels that were in the danger zone!

2nd Quarter Employees

Lashaunda Thomas, Probation Officer; **Ambra Sanne**, Probation Support; **Shirley McIntyre**, Detention Officer; **Barbara Hamilton**, Detention Support; **Milton Crosby**, Supervisor of Quarter.

Thanks to our summer clerks **Matthew Villio** and **Jeanne Zar**, our teachers **Beverly Gilbert**, **Lucy Bates**, **Jacqueline Crosby**, **Marble Pierre**, **Mary Williams**, and **Frank Williams**, who work during the summer to assist us.



Acting Director of General Services Anthony Francis (left) with outgoing Director Randy Nicholson, who was just named Director of Streets.

Drainage

By
Maria Cervini

Hurricane season is here! Tropical Storm Cindy and Hurricane Dennis worried us in Jefferson Parish as they made their presence known and challenged our Department's expertise. However, we are happy to report that not only were we prepared, but we were able to, let's say, "weather the storms" successfully and without injury.

REMINDER: "KEEP THOSE DRAINS CLEAR OF DEBRIS."

We welcome new employees **Christina Leger, Henry J. Estrade, Jr., Kirt J. Thomassie, Jr., and Miles Jenkins** to our Department.

We want to thank the following employees for their loyalty and dedication to Jefferson Parish:

5 YEARS:

Lynn Champagne, Dewey Gros, Jr., Adonis Hudson, Glendell Junior, John McClain, Jr., Leon Melancon, Jr., Stanley Terrell, Leo Williams

10 YEARS:

Travis Ardoin, Darren Austin,

Debbie Brignac, Robert Federico, Pamela Hassel, Alisha Hunter, Brian Rebaldo, Pierre Smith

15 YEARS:

Brion Adams, Tracie Chaix, Louis Giordano, Kerry Lawless, Derrin Robinson, Jerome Seymore, Joe Zamora

Safety Manager **Nolan Guidry** and Drainage Director **Kazem Alikhani** presented **Larry Palmisano** a Safety Achievement Award for outstanding response to a high profile accident.

We want to wish farewell to **Albert Cutno, Sr.**, who retired from Drainage with 21 years of service. We wish him the very best.

We'd also like to congratulate **Clinton Hotard** on his recent marriage. Clinton tied the knot on May 28, 2005, and honeymooned in London and Rome. We wish him health, wealth, and happiness!

Please keep **Fran Hemenway's** daughter-in-law, Master Sgt. **Angiela Heidbrink, USMC**, in your prayers as she was just sent to Iraq for nine months.



Albert Cutno, Sr., receives congratulations on his retirement from Director Kazem Alikhani and Superintendent John Sell

Citizens' Affairs

By
Brenda Campos

Senior Expo Coming

The **Senior Expo** will be held on October 26 at the Alario Center from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. The purpose of the Expo is to provide information to Jefferson seniors regarding various services, programs, and functions offered by area businesses and non-profit organizations. Seniors may participate in giveaways and enjoy a variety of entertainment.

The Expo is conducted in an effort to help Jefferson's seniors access the resources needed to attain optimal physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual health.

Fire

By
Dion Travis

Congratulations to our recently wedded employees: Communication Officer **Jan Dunning** to Francis Button, III; Comm. Off. **Lisa Wamstead** to Norman Ortiz; Rookie Firefighter **Darren Whitmeyer** to Laura Piranio.

Congratulations to **Eric Fruchtnicht** on his retirement and to the following for their promotions: CPT: **E. Luce, E. Goldman, III, D. Pitfield, R. Froeba**; LT'S: **R. Frenzt, D. Mire, B. Ray, J. Schexnayder**; OP'S: **J. Scardino, M. Rodrigue, C. Burkett, W. Haas, IV.**

News:

The EMS division has now joined JPDF with **John Roquemore and Jackie Casey.**

Station 15 is getting ready for its grand opening – coming soon! JPDF Rookie graduation set for August 5, 2005.

Streets

By
Kim Moore

Hello and Happy Independence Day to all! Wow, doesn't it feel great to say "INDEPENDENCE DAY"? God bless our troops! The Department of Streets has been busy these last few months. Welcome aboard to our new Director, **Randy Nicholson**. May this be a long and happy journey for you, Randy!

Best of luck to our retirees, **Gwen Lewis**, May 27, 2005, 20 years of service; **Thom Hartsell**, July 22, 2005, 20 years 4 months of service; and **Gary Theriot**, July 22, 2005, 20 years 6 months of service. We'll miss you Gwen, Thom and Gary!!!!

Kudos to **Marie Ricks** for receiving the American Public Works Association's Award of Merit; awesome job, Marie! And to our West Bank Maintenance Streets and Parkways division for coming in 2nd for the most

money collected throughout the Parish for the March of Dimes. Way to go everyone; may your kindness rub off others! Congrats to **Patsy Camardelle** and **William Bumgarden** on the arrival of their new grandbabies!

Welcome to our summer workers **Kristy Sevin**, **Clark Nodier**, **Shae Crain**, **Simone Delahoussaye**, **Shane Leonard**, and **Gavin Guillot**; you are all so very helpful. Get well wishes go out to **Blance Bailey's** sister, and **Sherman Johnson's** wife; may they have the speediest recovery possible. Condolences are extended to our numerous employees that have lost loved ones recently and to **Arthur Moran**, whose home caught on fire last week; you all are in our prayers. 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. Until next time, The Department of Streets wishes everyone a happy and cool summer. Well, 1 out of 2 isn't bad!



Gwen Lewis accepts retirement congratulations from Executive Superintendent Joey Vasquez and Administrative Assistant Sharon Cline, of the Streets Department.

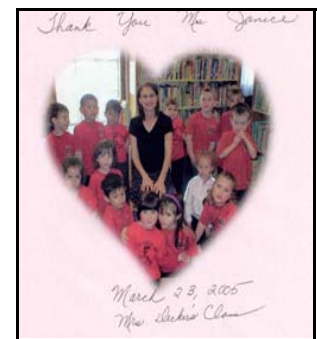
Library

By
Jim Davis

Congratulations!

Jefferson Parish Library welcomes the following new employees: **Deborah Boudreaux**, Library Associate, Grand Isle; **Josephine Bradley**, Library Page, East Bank Regional Library; **Nicholas Roppolo**, Laborer, Maintenance; **Deborah Russell**, Library Page, East Bank Regional Library; and **Rochondra Whipple**, Library Page, East Bank Regional Library.

Thank You, Ms. Janice!



The Library shares the sentiment expressed in Ms. Decker's Jean Lafitte Elementary kindergarten class love note: "Thank you, Ms. Janice." **Janice Favalloro**, Lafitte Library Branch Manager and a library employee there for 23 years, was the recipient of the Library's Employee of the Year award for 2004.

Though Janice's welcoming smile greets all who enter the Lafitte Library, she has a special fondness for the children who visit the library—and reveals a special talent when it's story time. To see Janice "perform" a story reading is to yearn to be a kid again and be fascinated by the world of books and knowl-

edge, with her as a guide. In addition to the regular story times at the library and outreach programs at the local schools, Janice coordinates sing-alongs, special holiday crafts, and guest speaker programs to promote the library as a fun and welcoming place. She gives out stickers, bookmarks, and balloons as rewards for coming to the library.

And of course she and her staff are always involved with the summer reading program to help children and teens retain their reading skills throughout the school break. Congratulations and thank you, Ms. Janice, for representing Jefferson Parish Library Department so well!

River Ridge e-Branch Grand Opening

The grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new River Ridge e-Branch was held Tuesday, July 26, at 10:00 AM, with Councilmen Elton M. Lagasse (District 2) and John F. Young, Jr. (Councilman-at-Large) joining Library Director **Lon Dickerson** to welcome those in attendance. Those on hand for the ceremony included library board members, other Parish representatives, Friends of Jefferson Public Library, special guest Gretchen Fairbanks of the State Library of Louisiana, library staff members, and the general public. A reception followed, with refreshments provided by the Friends organization.

The River Ridge e-Branch, located in the Trading Post Shopping Center at 128 Sauve Road, is a state-of-the-art virtual

library, the only one of its kind in Louisiana. It is called an e-branch because it electronically plugs its customers into resources available through the Jefferson Parish Library system. Like other e-branches being opened in other communities around the country, its focus is linking residents with the most reliable online information available.

Most people who use the Internet know how to retrieve information via Google and other popular search engines. But the Internet is geared to serving people trying to purchase commodities, and the authenticity of the information often leaves something to be desired. The information is only as good as the reliability of the individuals who created the websites. Librarians have become highly skilled in surfing the web, and they know where the higher caliber and of-

ten more credible information can be found. Besides developing links to such resources, Jefferson Parish Library subscribes to “proprietary” databases that cannot readily be accessed except through the library. These databases provide access to literally thousands of local, state, and national newspapers, journals, magazines, reports, and other information resources; and they tend to be more scholarly and reliable.

It was announced at the ceremony that the new branch is the first in the library system to go wireless. Customers with wireless-ready computers can bring their own notebooks to the location and connect to the library’s system without physically having to plug into a connection. The River Ridge e-branch also provides e-mail and Internet access to people who do not have

Ribbon-Cutting in River Ridge



Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony were, left to right, Lon Dickerson, Library Director; Ralph Brandt, President, River Ridge Civic Association; Councilmen Elton M. Lagasse and John F. Young, Jr.; Bobby Bourgeois, Executive Assistant to the Parish President; Lisa Conescu, President of Friends of Jefferson Public Library/Library Board Member; Patricia Cox, Friends Representative; and Carolyn H. Van Norman, Library Board Member.

computers or an Internet provider. The computers and trained staff enable beginners and advanced surfers to access the Internet, as well as the hidden resources and proprietary databases that they can't readily access from their homes and businesses.

Customers are able to read the current issues of the country's leading newspapers online and to check stock prices and a host of other information resources. Individual assistance and guidance to be provided will enable users to sharpen their skills in utilizing online genealogy resources to which the library subscribes and other tools for locating information virtually.

Though print and audio-visual resources are not housed at this location, customers can pick up books and other resources that will be delivered to the River Ridge e-branch upon request,

and they can return library items there as well. The staff person will help people access the library's catalog online and request any circulating item in our system that strikes their fancy.

The hours of operation are 2 to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Although the e-branch is intended to serve residents of all ages, these hours will be especially beneficial to students who want to work on homework assignments.

The Branch Manager of the new location is **Andree Stuttz**. The phone number is 736-6455.

Fourth Annual Coffee and Conversation Author Series Speakers Announced

The Coffee and Conversation series, co-sponsored by the Jefferson Parish Library and the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, returns for the fourth year to East Bank Re-

gional Library in August, with author reading and discussions held at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month through November. The excellent choices scheduled to appear include:

August 16 - Andrew Fox (*Fat White Vampire Blues, Bride of the Fat White Vampire, Calorie 3501*)

September 20 - Authors Silas House (*The Coal Tattoo, Clay's Quilt*) and Bev Marshall (*Hot Fudge Sundae Blues, Right as Rain*)

October 18 - Helen Scully (*In the Hope of Rising Again*)

November 15 - Rick Bragg (*All Over but the Shoutin', Ava's Man*) and Sonny Brewer (*The Poet of Tolstoy Park*)

Watch the library's website for discussion topics and complete program details. Book signings will follow each program, with book sales made possible through Friends of Jefferson Public Library.



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 or by calling Jim Davis, Information Specialist, at (504) 838-1100 x262.



Harry Zimmerman, of Engineering, retires after 34 years of service. Congratulating Harry are Supervisor Leo Lay and Engineering Director Mike Lavelle.

Retirements

Harry Zimmerman III
Engineering
34 years

Sadie Dent
JeffCAP
33 years

John E. Adams
Water
32 years

Douglas Meadowcroft
Water
32 years

Darryl Madere
Parkways
30 years

Michael Holmes
Fleet Management
30 years

Herman Steiner
Streets
29 years

Philip Biondillo
Planning
29 years

Melvin Anderson
Sewerage
28 years

Kenneth Gasper
Engineering
26 years

Albert Cutno
Drainage
21 years

Gary Theriot
Streets
20 years

Barbara Favre
Personnel
20 years

Thomas Hartsell
Streets
20 years

Marion Preatto
Juvenile Services
19 years

Edward Holmes
Animal Shelter
19 years

Grace Jordan
JeffCAP
15 years

Joe Dean Krack
Code Enforcement
12 years

Historic Photo: The Harvey Castle



The Harvey castle was built in 1844 by Captain Joseph Hale Harvey for his wife, Lousa Marie Destrehan. It was located on the east side of Destrehan Avenue near the river. It was leased to the parish and served as a courthouse for Jefferson Parish from 1874 to 1884. The castle was demolished in 1924 to make room for the intracoastal water system.

—research by Sevilla Finley