



Volume 43
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Winter 2022

Jeff Do It

Message from the Parish President. . .

Get Ready to Jeff Do It!

With a new year comes new opportunities. As we continue to recover from what has been an unprecedented and challenging two years, your dedication, perseverance, and commitment to Jefferson Parish have been nothing short of inspiring. Every member of our team plays a vital role within our Parish; and I am grateful for the commitment, talents, and energy that you give each day.

One of my top priorities as Parish President has been unity among our staff and departments. Not only can we achieve so much by working together, but we can have fun in the process!

With that being said, my office recently introduced *Jeff Do It*, a new initiative that expands on the fun events and activities we've conducted in the past, including Black and Gold Fridays, door decorating contests, and food truck events.

Jeff Do It kicked off on Friday, January 28, with National Have Fun at Work Day. Jefferson Parish team members throughout our facilities participated in a 15-minute dance party to some of the most dance-worthy songs. I loved seeing your creativity and dance moves!

For Valentine's Day, employees spread the love to their colleagues by sending candy grams. The love is clearly evident throughout Jefferson Parish departments, as we received an overwhelming 2,100+ orders!



Cynthia Lee Sheng
Parish President

Through these employee engagement activities, we learn about our colleagues' backgrounds, traits, interests, personalities, and hidden talents. The *Jeff Do It* Planning Committee has partnered with the Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board to supplement their amazing programming.

The *Jeff Do It* Planning Committee has lists on lists of ideas for events, activities, incentives, and opportunities we think you may enjoy. We want to make sure that you feel seen, heard, and appreciated for all that you do to make Jefferson Parish the best it can be.

I encourage each of you to take part in the many exciting activities we have planned throughout the year. To learn more about *Jeff Do It* and preview upcoming activities, visit JeffConnect, our employee Intranet portal, and click on the *Jeff Do It* banner. To recommend activities or join the planning committee, email jef-fdoit@jeffparish.net.

I'd love to hear your ideas as we continue to build *Jeff Do It*.

JeffTalk

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- Sewerage** Venice Cooper
- Streets** Kenya Johnson
- Traffic Engineering**
Susan Treadway
- Water** Lakeisha Joseph
- Workforce Connection**
Carolyn Haynes

Editor's



Notes

Are you Social Media Savvy?

Do you ever check your supervisor's social media postings? Supervisors, have you checked out any of your employees' social media pages? *Do you think that your social media activity is none of the Parish's business?* While social media can be a great way to stay connected to friends, family, or the latest news, poor social media decisions can ruin and have ruined professional reputations.

If you use any of the many online platforms, weigh your comments and conversations as well as those of others that appear on your page against the value of your career. Is it wise to be associated with a family members' offensive joke? Should a certain photo remain on your page? Is it time to block somebody?

All Jefferson Parish employees should be familiar with the Parish's Social Media Policy (Section 515 of the *Administrative Management Policies*). The policy provides guidelines to help you understand your risks and responsibilities when using social media and defines social media as *"all means of communicating or posting information or content of any sort on the Internet."*

While we do not want to restrict an employee's freedom of speech, Parish policies prohibiting harassment and violence apply to our online posts; and violations of those policies can re-



Nicole Thompson, Editor

sult in disciplinary action. Hurtful comments that become public can cause serious problems for an employee, especially for one in a supervisory position. Make sure that you never post anything that promotes violence or unlawful conduct, inappropriate or discriminatory remarks, harassing remarks, or political views.

Cameras, Cameras, Cameras!

Remember as well that camera phones are everywhere! Bad behavior in public, especially when you can be identified as a Parish employee, can be recorded and posted on line by the public. Organizations, including the Parish, have the right to hold employees accountable for racist, sexist, or otherwise offensive remarks they make *even when not on duty*.

Policy 501, Item 7, warns against "conduct unbecoming to an employee." So, we can be disciplined for conduct or actions that reflect unfavorably on the Parish whether on line or off. We must be not only social media savvy, but also public-relations oriented as esteemed employees and positive representatives of Jefferson Parish.

Learn more about social media and your career at this link: [Manage Your Social Media, Please.](#)

Fleet Management

By
Amy Truesdell

Happy New Year to our fellow Jeffersonians! We have some good news to report for the beginning of 2022: Automotive Mechanic **Paul Kiern** received his 30-year certificate. Fleet is lucky to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable employee with us for all of these years; we hope Paul will stay with us until he receives his 40-year certificate.

Bernard Palmisano recently was promoted from Auto Mechanic Trainee to Auto Mechanic. Bernard joined Fleet Management a little over a year ago and has become an indispensable part of the team. He is willing to help in the tire shop and the service department whenever he is needed. We hope Bernard decides to stay with us until he received his 30-year certificate too.



"Disco Dalton"

In other news, Auto Mechanic **Chad Gillespie** has left the Department, and we wish him well. Finally, our entire department really enjoyed participating in the Jefferson Parish Dance Party/Have Fun at Work event. We chose *Stayin' Alive* for our song and we soon discovered who has a wild side. Please see our photo



Paul Kiern is congratulated by Fleet Director Randy Belanger and Superintendent Bruce Vosbein

General Services

By
Maryanne Adorno

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Ryan Babcock**, who was appointed Director of General Services. Ryan was formally our Assistant Director.



New GS Director Ryan Babcock

Congratulations!

Congrats to **Chris Frazier**, our new Assistant Director. Chris was formally Facility Maintenance Manager at the GGB.

Welcome

We would like to welcome our newest employees, **Patrick Bode**, Asst. Property Manager; **Huey Bethancourt** and **Brandon Restivo**, Stationary Engineers 1; and **Ashton Martin** and **Claude Daniels**, Laborers.

Service Awards:

Congratulations to the following employees for their service with Jefferson Parish. Pictured below are **Michelle Dufrene** and **Phyllis Breaud** with 30 years of service and **William Hamm** with 20 years. Not pictured is **Renee Poole** with 20 years of service.



Engineering

By
Helen McGee

Oh, it's Mardi Gras Time! Be Safe!

Engineering welcomes **Troy Walker**, GIS Operator I. We are happy to have you aboard.

Congratulations to **Mark McDonald**, Warehouse Supervisor, on his retirement. Mark retired with 36 years of service. Enjoy! You all will be missed.

Congratulations to **Kimberly Battaglia**, 30 Years; **Glen Hebert**, 25 Years; and **Shelly White**, 20 years of service. All three work in our Surveying Department. Awesome! And Congratulations.

It's see you later for **Rama Hbos**! After having her baby Girl in April of 2021, Rama has decided to be a stay-at-home Mom while her babies are babies. I'm sure she will enjoy.

Congratulation to **Catherine Bennet** of Street Lighting. Cathe-



Mark McDonald

rine is engaged to be married to Mr. Doug White in September Many Blessing to you two.

Last but not least, hats off and congratulations to **Brian Boudreaux** on being promoted to Warehouse Supervisor II; **Frank Fontana**, Utility Inventory Clerk II; and **Jason Montagi-**
no, Engineering Inspector III.

In Honor of Black History Month:

"You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is Right":
Rosa Parks

PMZ

By
Ashley Picquet

At the beginning of the year, PMZ welcomed Typist Clerk III **Troy Brown** to our Weed Control Division & Inspector I **Roderic Carey** to our East Bank Zoning department. Also congratulations on the promotion of **James McPherson** to West Bank Zoning Inspector III on December 20, 2021.

Special thanks to Director **Kelly Hopkins**, Typist Clerk III **Vicki Lore**, & our full PMZ team for both the Christmas and New Year's celebrations.



Kelly Hopkins

Best wishes to PMZ Inspector II **Kenneth Brown** whose last day with us was January 28, 2022. Farewell and congratulations to PMZ Inspector II **Patricia Finney**, who retired February 11, 2022. May the next chapter be better than the last.

The PMZ family would also like to express our condolences and continued prayers to Typist Clerk III **Tyra Allen** for the loss of her father.

Wishing everyone a safe Mardi Gras Season.



Engineering Director Angela DeSoto congratulates Glen Hebert, Kim Battaglia, and Shelly White

Finance

By
Jasmine Hamilton

Accounting

Please extend a warm welcome to our new Accountant I Central Finance Office worker, **Chelsea Muskelly**, who joined us in December. We are excited to have her in our department and all extend our warmest hugs and wishes. Good luck to you as you become accustomed to your new position.



Chelsea Muskelly

On December 29, before the holiday break, the Accounting Department threw a *Holly, Jolly Masked Christmas* party in celebration of everyone's hard work. Accounting Operations Manager **Clifford Smith** (The Christmas tree), was joined by Purchasing

Director **Renny Simno** (Santa), Budgeting Director **Victor LaRocca** (Rudolph), and Accounting Director **Madison Martin** (The Grinch), in sharing the holiday fun for their department. Special thank you to the Accounting, Budgeting, Finance, Payroll, Purchasing, and Public Safety Grants & Administration Departments. We truly appreciate each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication. See photo below.

Finance

Huge applause and congratulations to the Finance Department for recently receiving the GFOA's Triple Crown medallion. The special Triple Crown medallion recognizes governments who have received all three GFOA awards: the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award, and (the most important one) the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. Such an award shows the undeniable dedication and commitment to excellence that each individual working behind the scenes has given to receive such an award. Congratulations to you all and thank you.

Parks & Recreation

By
Brianna Duronslet

January 2022 New Hires:

Terrance Anderson
Austin Blum
Christopher Radcliff
Henre' Toliver

January 2022 Promotions:

Kristen Blount- Special Program Supervisor
Michelle Dearnitt- Special Program Supervisor
Brett Livaudais- Special Program Supervisor
Eric Pope- Assistant Center Supervisor

Service Pins:

5 Years of Service
Michelle Dearnitt
Anthony Foster, Jr.
Oscar Battle
Johnny Payton
Angela Robert
Gerald Stewart
Blair Thorton
Mary Young

10 Years of Service

Cody Berthelot
Robert Corona
Robert Keller
Anthony Richard, Sr.
Travis Shippley
Jolie Bruard
Walter Richardson, Jr.

15 years of Service

Gerard Fenasci
Nickole Moore
Julie Valence
Bryana Allemand
Pamela Bibbins
Jacob Krummel
Charles Sumner
Sidney Watkins
Annette Weisler

New Hires

Matthew Burg
Angelle Freeman
Theresa Jefferson



Austin Kern
Frank Kimble Jr.
Kenneth Kimble
Mitchell Maher
Tyler Ochello
Kenneth Ormsbee
Caden Paternostro
Haley Slocum
Valerie St. Amant

Promotions

Cody Berthelot- Ctr. Supervisor
Robert Corona- Shop Carpenter
Davyn Davis- Ctr. Supervisor
Cherie Dunn- Zone Manager
Jeb Klink- Zone Manager
Gerard LeBlanc- Asstistant Ctr. Supervisor
Kyle Manning- Assistant Center Supervisor
Christopher Scott- Center Supervisor

Next-Level Initiatives 2021 Recap:

The Recreation administrative team brainstormed ways to meet Parish President **Cynthia Lee Sheng's** call for next level government. After brainstorming, the Recreation Department created seven initiatives to complete within the year. Here is the recap of those seven initiatives:

Initiative #1: The Model Playground

In response to administrators in 2021 and in an effort to set higher departmental standards, JPRD staff created a policy manual as an easily accessible tool for operating playgrounds.

In addition, a manual for supervisors was created through workshops in conjunction with staff to develop a guide written for supervisors by supervisors on meeting critical tasks and giving suggestions and guidelines on how to be successful.

Initiative #2: JPRD Phone Application & Website



The lack of effective online platforms hindered the department's communication to the public. Our goal with this second next-level initiative was to create easy access to information, a website for immediate and readily available data, and a phone application to send real-time information through push notifications.

We launched the new website in December 2021, providing immediate information to the public, including forms, an event calendar, and program information which can be accessed at <https://www.jprd.com>.

JPRD will launch its new mobile application in early 2022. The app will allow for information like push notifications and schedules to be available to parents and participants.

Initiative #3: Streamlined Training System for Employees and Volunteer Coaches

New employees and volunteer instructors received minimal training after onboarding about their roles and expectations in the department before 2021.

Therefore, the department vigorously worked to enhance the experience of new hires and instructors by upgrading the screening procedures and identi-

fying expectations and training protocols.

JPRD and Human Resources worked together to create a virtual library for staff training videos and quizzes. In addition, the administration worked to develop and obtain videos that would be helpful to both incoming employees and current employees to increase understanding of their job tasks and roles.

Initiative #4: Appoint a Safety Administrator

The administration sought to streamline the responsibilities for safety protocols. As a result, JPRD appointed a safety administrator to ensure enhanced safety protocols. The Safety Administrator identified problems around the department while also creating tailgate sessions for employees. These sessions identify hazards and teach employees how to avoid or safely handle the danger.

Initiative #5: Year-Round Sports Academies

JPRD workshopped, creating opportunities for year-round sports at a higher level. For example, JPRD created seasonal workshops like the Nicholson Playground Summer Basketball Academy. The Athletics Division is working to develop more sporting academies in 2022.

Initiative #6: Family Participation

JPRD's focus in 2021 has been on implementing family programs and activities. During the beginning of the global pandemic, more families participated in activities together. The JPRD administration felt it was vital for Parish residents to continue the trend and incorporate more family-wide activities and programs.

The Leisure Service Division created community events like Screen on the Green to bring family-centered events to Jefferson Parish.

The department will start 2022 with a family-centered kickball tournament open for all families to enjoy and compete for a prestigious "kickin' it" trophy.



Initiative #7: Submitting Maintenance Work Tickets via Handheld Device

Maintenance of our facilities is of the utmost importance to providing quality programming for the public. However, the ticketing system for facility maintenance required an online work ticket, which required additional steps and time. So we upgraded our system to transform the maintenance division into a responsive and accurate team by

purchasing handheld devices for a streamlined ticket system.

2022 Next-Level Initiatives

For 2022 JPRD has decided to reduce the number of initiatives to focus on more significant projects and change. In addition, the department separated initiatives and goals that all live under one umbrella.

The 2022 JPRD Next-Level Initiatives are:

- Employee- Public Engagement
- The JPRD Brand
- Game Day Experience
- Non-Traditional Public Engagement

Following the more significant initiatives are the departmental goals that JPRD will complete symbiotically with the initiatives. The 2022 departmental goals are:

- Internal Communication and Employee Morale
- The Well-Rounded Employee
- Capital Projects Tracking
- Increase Participation Rates
- Consistent Playground Maintenance
- Lafreniere Park Pavilion Restoration
- Parc des Familles Revenue-Generating Programming

JPRD App & Website

JPRD is modernizing its communication platforms with a mobile app and website. In addition, as part of the 2021 next-level initiatives, the department has decided to enhance communication with the public by offering places for readily available communications. A primary focus of 2021 was procuring the app and website while training staff for an early 2022 launch. JPRD's new website launched in December of 2021. The website hosts an event calendar, class and pro-

gram information, forms, park and facility information, pictures, rental information, and the seasonal program guide. The new mobile app will launch during baseball/softball season in March of 2022.

New JPRD Programs

Parks and Recreation have a wide variety of classes and programs for people of all ages and interests. Our Leisure Service division has added a few new classes to its repertoire this year. 'JP' residents can now enjoy *painting for young adults*, *virtual theater class*, *disc golf* at Parc des Familles, and *parent-infant water safety classes* in partnership with the YMCA. The special population's group has also added a *dance with me* and *beats and movement class* as another social gathering for persons with developmental disabilities. Residents can find a complete listing of all programs in the JPRD catalog on our website.

Employee Training

Our Department had the challenge of producing a streamlined training system for staff and volunteer coaches and instructors. We intended to offer necessary training for the entire JPRD staff to excel in their positions. We created a resolution to our problem with the help and collaboration of the Library and Human Resources Departments. We started with the Library Department, creating opportunities for hands-on onsite training. In addition, our partnership with Human Resources resulted in the Parks and Recreation Academy- a division of Niche Academy. The academy provides online training videos to staff, coaches, and instructors. We are moving forward on the Niche Academy platform to create a robust catalog of informational videos to drive our employees to the next level.

Jefferson Chamber Young Professional Board Member 2022

I am proud to have been chosen to be a member of the Jefferson Chamber Young Professionals Board for 2022. I was shocked to have been selected to be a member and honored to represent my department and Jefferson Parish Government as a whole. The JCYP motto is to “cultivate future civic and economic leaders of Jefferson Parish and the surrounding community through philanthropic initiatives, education, and leadership development opportunities.” In just a short time of meeting with the group and planning events, I see that the future of Jefferson Parish is bright with these fantastic young pioneers who share my hunger and passion for not only being leaders in their fields but also wanting Jefferson Parish to be substantially better because of their skills and talents. It is lovely to be surrounded by so many young professionals that range from managers to attorneys, administrators to executives, meteorologists, and more. I’m eager for what the group will do for Jefferson Parish this upcoming year. I invite all Jefferson Parish employees to come to events and truly experience what Jefferson Parish offers through our eyes.

Spanish Program Guide

Estamos haciendo todo lo posible para acomodar a todos los residentes de la parroquia de Jefferson. Our Leisure Service division produced the first-ever Spanish JPRD program guide for the Spring 2022 catalog. The push for a guide in both English and Spanish came after a call from the Jefferson Parish Employee Diversity and Inclusion Board, asking more departments to accommodate non-English speakers. Parks and Recreation stepped up to the plate and began putting together the program guide with the help of **Danella Bello**. The guide is the

first step of many to produce significant materials in another language besides English. The department knows that Spanish is not the only language to translate materials but a starting point for making dual materials routine. Anyone can access the English and Spanish guides on the JPRD website and around playgrounds and businesses in Jefferson Parish.

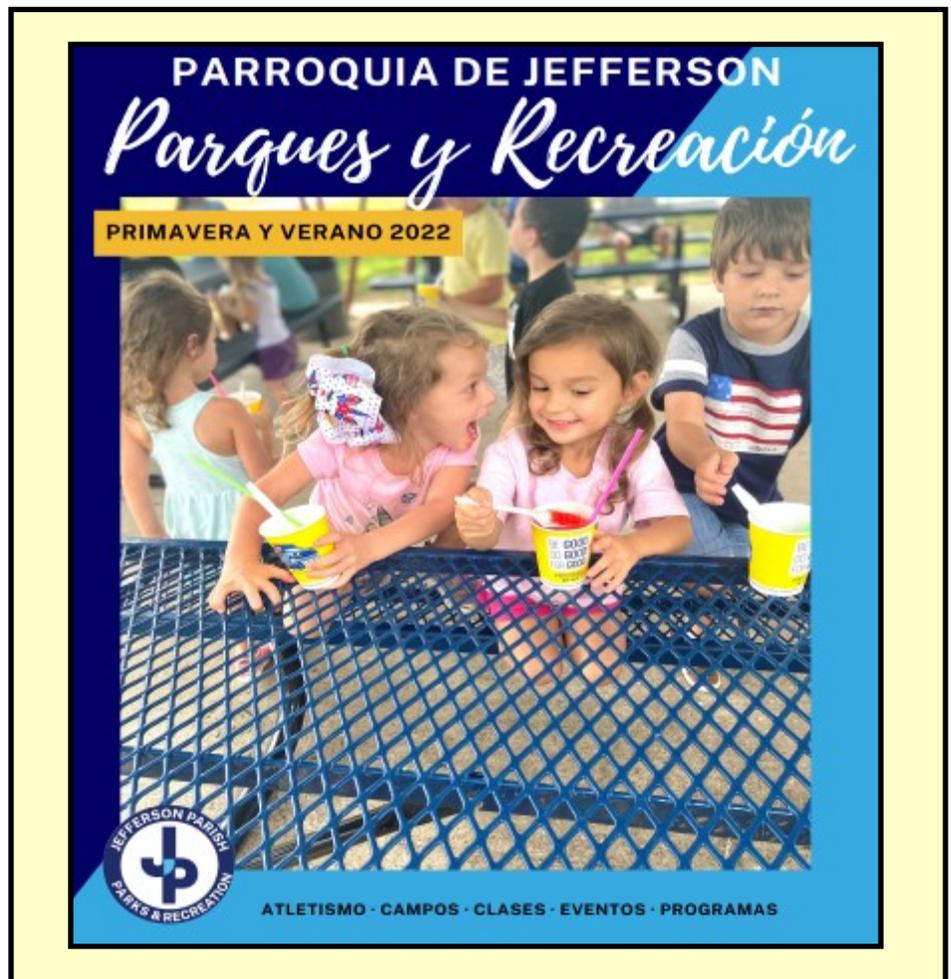
Presentation to the Parish President

Recreation staff presented the 2021 next-level initiatives to the Parish President on January 19. Director **Mario Bazile** and the JPRD administrative staff took to Microsoft Teams to show their work over the previous year to Parish President **Cynthia Lee Sheng**, Chief Operations Officer **Steve LaChute**, Deputy Chief Operating Officer **Valerie Brolin**, and Chief Administrative As-

sistant **Cherreen Gegenheimer**. Staff got to explain their triumphs and trials over the past year and celebrate their successes and the new direction of JPRD. The team also presented their initiatives to be put forth and completed in 2022.

Families Kickin’ it Event

Kickball started with a bang as our first family-centered event of the year. JPRD created its first kickball tournament for Jefferson Parish families to compete in some healthy competition for the highly-coveted “kickin’ it” trophy. Six teams competed at LaSalle Park on January 22 and competed in competitive play despite the frigid weather. The Piazza Mafia Famiglia took home the title of champions, winning the tournament. JPRD is planning to host another family-style kickball tournament this June.



Traffic Engineering

By
Susan Treadway

Traffic Engineering would like to congratulate our team members who recently received their certificates for years of service. We are lucky enough to have several employees with many years of experience working with us: **Scott Bairnsfather**, Signal Technician II – 20 years; **Dawn Daleo**, Traffic Engineer – 25 years; **Alfred Maggio**, Sign Technician II – 25 years; and **James Lambert**, Sign Superintendent II – 30 years. Thank you all and Congratulations! We would also like to congratulate Alfred Maggio on his retirement. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. We wish you well on your retirement.

Traffic Engineering enjoyed National Have Fun at Work Day on January 28. We celebrated with a King Cake Taste Test (Manny Randazzo won out of the four we tested) and by producing one of the best dance videos. If you haven't seen it, check it out at jeffdoit.net.

JeFFCAP

By
Ann Bridges & Yvonne Dumas

Welcome Aboard!

We would like to welcome our newest member to JeffCAP, **Ms. Toni Decay**. Toni is a new Teacher at Jutland Head Start. We hope you enjoy working with JeffCAP Head Start.

Promotions

We are very pleased to announce four promotions within our department: **Erin Albanese** was recently promoted to Exceptionalities Advisor; **Conella Blair** was promoted to Teacher at Terrytown Head Start; **Ashley Brown** was promoted to Early Head Start Teacher at Jutland Head Start; and **Megan Hunter** was promoted to Early Head Start Teacher at Terrytown Head Start.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Millie Triplett** on her retirement. Millie was a Family Service Specialist for JeffCAP Head Start, retiring on December 31 with 30

years of service. We will definitely miss Millie and we hope she enjoys her retirement. JeffCAP would like to also congratulate **Lisa Harrington**, ADMINIV-Fiscal on attaining her AGA (Association of Government Accountant) credential. The AGA awards a respected credential that recognizes the specialized knowledge and experience needed to be an effective government financial manager.

This professional certification demonstrates competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels. In addition to abiding by the AGA's Code of Ethics and having the required degree and professional-level experience, Lisa has passed all three comprehensive AGA examinations in order to earn the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) credential. This is MAJOR accomplishment that JeffCAP wanted to recognize publicly.

Remembering:

JeffCAP would like to take a moment to send condolences to the family and friends of **Anabel Barahona**. Anabel was employed by Head Start and worked at our Terrytown Head Start Birth-5 location. She was employed with Head Start for a little over 25 years. Anabel passed away in November of 2021. She was always a pleasure to be around, always had a kind spirit and a warm smile. She will truly be missed.

Also, condolences for one of our babies we lost to gun violence. **Jarion Walker, Jr.** was a student at our Lapalco Head Start Birth-5 center. On February 22 we will wear red (his favorite color) in solidarity and remembrance of Jarion.



James Lambert receiving his 30-year certificate with Angela DeSoto and Susan Treadway

A Special Thanks

Thank you to the Retired & Senior Volunteers and the Senior Crocheting Class at our Harvey Community Center for crocheting beautiful hats and scarfs for the children at Bonella A. St. Ville Elementary School.



Thanks, Volunteers!

JeffCAP would like to send a special thank you to two of our dedicated and efficient volunteers: **Rosalind Reece** has been volunteering for three years as a receptionist and file clerk with over 3,000 hours served. She has been working to assist in the processing of LIHEAP (Low income Home Energy Assistance Program) under the supervision of **Catina Ward, BeTrice Walker** and **Cappri Lebeaux**. She assists with applications, answering phones and various other duties.

Lisette Russell Lisette has been volunteering for over two years with over 2,000 hours served. She has been working as the volunteer for housing and emergency rental assistance programs (ERAP) under the supervision of **Monterae Lynch**. Her duties include labeling and filing to completing spreadsheets and various other duties as well.

From everyone in the department, we would like to thank them for their dedication, professionalism, kind spirit, and becoming true JeffCAP family members.

Toy Drive

Also, JeffCAP would like to thank Life Center Cathedral for hosting a toy drive for the children of Marrero and for their continued commitment to the City of Marrero. The toys were donated to the Rose B. Alexander Com-



JeffCAP and their "tacky sweaters"

munity Center for distribution where they were distributed to 63 households and over 120 children.

Additionally, we would also like to thank the Louisiana Bar Association and Tony Bertucci (NOLA Families in Need) for their gracious donations of toys, coats, and gifts to our children and families.

Holiday Festivus

We were excited to host our first ever Cookies with Council. Thank you **Councilman Dominick Impastato** for donating all of the cookies for this special event. Thank you **Councilwoman Van Vrancken**,

Councilman Marion Edwards, and **Councilman Bryon Lee** for taking time out of your busy schedules to visit our schools.

Holiday FESTIVUS with our JeffCAP family was so much fun and we showed it with our Holiday "tacky" sweaters.

Saints Fun

In honor of the Saint's final game, Jefferson Parish employees were invited to wear Saints attire. JeffCAP showed up ready, spreading 6 feet apart.

National Have Fun at Work Day

January 27, 2022, was "National Have Fun at Work Day Dance Party," and that's just what



Toy Drive in Marrero

Purchasing

By
Mark Buttery

Education

Members of the Purchasing Department attended an educational luncheon hosted by the Southeast Louisiana Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (SELA NIGP) at the Lafreniere Park Foundation Center on December 17, 2021. The luncheon consisted of a Title 38 Presentation by Assistant Attorney General Brett Robinson and a Hurricane Ida Roundtable Discussion by the Jefferson Parish Director of Public Safety Grants and Administration and Vice President of SELA NIGP, Nichole Gaubert.

Staff News

Please join us in congratulating our new Buyer III, **Daphne Nelson**. Daphne has been with the Jefferson Parish Purchasing Department since November 1997. Daphne has worked in many capacities of the Purchasing Department, starting with Typist Clerk III, to Buyer I, and eventually into the Buyer II position. The knowledge she has gained from her tenure with the department is



Daphne Nelson



The SELA NIGP Luncheon

a valuable asset. Sharing this knowledge will help the Purchasing Department to continue to grow internally and externally throughout the Parish.

Daphne's leadership role as the Treasurer in the Southeast Chapter of NIGP will help her in the next chapter of her career as a Buyer III with Jefferson Parish. She will be responsible for the supervision of the Buyer Is, assigning all small bids (under \$30,000), and assisting with PO Change Orders and Emergency POs.

We would also like to congratulate **Shanna Folsie** on her 20 years of service to Jefferson Parish. Shanna began her career path in May of 2001 with the Parish Attorney's Office as a Receptionist. She has also worked with the Inspection and Code Enforcement Department and General Services Department as a Typist Clerk III before accepting a position with the Purchasing Department as a Buyer I in September of 2015. She was then promoted to a Buyer II in 2019. We are truly thankful for Shanna's many years of service with Jefferson Parish.

Congratulations Daphne and Shanna!

Emergency Purchase Orders

When entering an emergency P.O. request in AS/400, requesting departments should email the bid number with detailed justification for the emergency to:

Misty Camardelle,
(MCamardelle@jeffparish.net),
Daphne Nelson,
(DNelson@jeffparish.net),
and Nicolle Whitney,
(NWhitney@jeffparish.net)

so that they can follow up in a timely manner. AS/400 does not have an emergency alert system that lets Purchasing know when a department enters an emergency request. It is the responsibility of the requesting department to follow up on its emergency request.



Shanna Folsie with Purchasing Director Renny Simno and Assistant Director Misty Camardelle

Code Enforcement

By
Adonna White

Welcome:

We would like to welcome a new employee, Plumbing Inspector I **Bryan Hebert**. Welcome, Bryan, we are looking forward to working with you.

Service Pins:

Way to go **Robin Lanusse**, Executive Operations Manager, on your 20-year service pin.



Robin Lanusse

And further congrats to Building Inspector I, **Phung Tran**, for receiving his 5-year pin.



Lonnie Campbell (center) is congratulated by Danny Ferrera, Sal Pulelo, Paul Pham, and Aimee Vallot

Congratulations:

We would like to congratulate, **Adonna White** on her promotion to Executive Assistant to the Executive Operations Manager; **Pedro Benitez** on his promotion to Chief Mechanical Inspector for the Westbank; **Kyle Paulson** on his promotion to Chief Mechanical Inspector for the Eastbank; and to **Courtney Bertucci** on her promotion to Administrative Assistant for the Eastbank.



Mike Hale and Aimee Vallot

Congratulations to **Nolty Kiff** for obtaining his Building Plans Examiner Certification; **Perry Manning**, who has been realocated to Building Inspector II for the Westbank; and **Lester Haydel**, who has been realocated to Building Inspector II for the Eastbank.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to **Lonnie Campbell** and **Mike Hale** on their retirement. Good Luck Fella's!!!



Code's Assistant Director Danny Ferrara with Phung Tran

Workforce Connection

By
Carolyn G. Haynes

National Have Fun at Work Day Dance Party!

JWC’s East and West Bank Offices were happy to participate in the *National Have Fun at Work Day Dance Party*. Our East Bank Office jazzed it up with a Second Line complete with umbrellas. Our West Bank Office performed a Line Dance to the Sound of *Jubilee*. Great Dance Moves, Everybody!

Christmas Sweaters

JWC’s West and East Bank Offices sported our Christmas Sweaters during the Holidays. Both locations were excited to don our holiday sweaters to bring holiday cheer to our offices.

United Way Campaign

Operations Manager and United Way Department Representative **Eurydice Bush-**



JWC’s East Bankers sport their Christmas sweaters

Harrison, Operations Manager – United Way Department Representative – reported in December 2021 a 93% overall participation rate for our department. Thanks to all employees who submitted donations to the United Way, which will help the agency to continue valuable services

within our communities.

National Wear Red Day

JWC’s West Bank Office proudly wore red on February, 4, 2022, to raise awareness for cardiovascular disease. This heart disease affects many women more than cancer and other diseases, according to the American Heart Association.



Jefferson Workforce Connection’s West Bank staff recognize National Wear Red Day



TechConnect

Information Technology News

Tech News

With -Buddy B.

Time for another installment of the EIS News page! Here, I'll try to keep you up to date on IT, GIS, and Telecom happenings, as well as important information about the Jeff Parish Tech world and how it may benefit you.

What's new here in the IT Department?



“Turn it up to **Eleven** Microsoft!”

Windows 11 that is.

We're all here learning and testing Microsoft's newest version of Windows. Eleven has some pretty cool upgrades that you can see as soon as you start it up. It has a more rounded corner look with the taskbar and start button in the center. So far it seems to play nicely on our network and with our JP applications. We'll keep you updated on the progress as we go along.

Don't worry, Windows 10 will be here for a while longer as Microsoft plans to support it until 2026. By then, everyone will have had an upgrade to the new operating system.

What's new in IT!

Email Archive files .PST:

Follow this email story closely and you'll be glad you did.

Once upon a digital time, disk space and computer memory were very expensive. This resulted in E-Mail boxes that were quite small. That was fine then because emails were also quite small and mostly just text. As time passed and we became more dependent on email, we began to use it for archival purposes. We were faced with a problem. How do we squeeze all those emails into tiny ten to twenty-megabyte mailboxes? Fortunately, or not, Microsoft came up with a solution. The Personal Storage Table (.PST) File. Hooray! With a two-gigabyte capacity for storage, IT folk everywhere began using this new archive file for their email users and everyone lived happily ever after... End of story. Until now and this is the important part.

Here in the modern age, emails can have attachments and can include photos. Emails are larger than ever! That, once huge, two Gigabytes of space has become a dangerous limitation of the archive file. I say dangerous because as you reach the size limit of your archive file, you run the risk of losing the data within to file corruption and ultimately to file type obsolescence. No one wants a wiped-out email archive file that won't let them access any of their old emails. Right?

Well, that was the history and the potential nightmare. The following is the "Great News, Everyone!"

Great News, Everyone! Your current Jefferson Parish email box has twenty-five times more storage space than your old archive (.PST) file. More Great News, Everyone! Your JP IT team can show you how to rescue your endangered email from your old archive files and move them to their safe new home within your email's inbox folders and online archive. All you have to do is ask.

Internet Access at the Playgrounds!

WiFi for everybody at Jefferson Parish playgrounds!

IT has been working with Parks and Recreation to add Public WiFi at all Playgrounds. We expect to complete this by summer, provided we don't have more equipment availability delays.

Hotkey Corner

By Chris Martin

Enlarging Text

If you use a mouse with a scroll wheel (usually between the two buttons on a standard mouse), gently scroll it away from you whilst holding down the Ctrl key on the keyboard. Wheel it towards you to make the page smaller.



If you don't have a scroll wheel, hold down the Ctrl key and press the + (plus) key to make the page bigger (this can be found next to your backspace button). Using Ctrl - (Ctrl & minus) will make it smaller again.



Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Welcome & Congratulations!

As Spring begins, the Department of Drainage continues to blossom and expand with the addition of a new employee. **Donna Riche**, Typist Clerk III, is our newest face joining the Department of Drainage. Also, we are very pleased to announce several promotions within our department:

Tha Tran: promoted from Trades Helper to Equipment Operator III
Joseph Pete III has been promoted from Trades Helper to Foreman I with West Bank Drainage.

James Leblanc: from Trades Helper to Equipment Operator III
Michael Austin: from Truck Driver II to Foreman I with West Bank Drainage.

Reginald Matthews has been promoted from Equipment Operator III to Equipment Operator IV with West Bank Drainage.

Landis Woodruff has been promoted from Foreman I to Drainage Maintenance Foreman with West Bank Drainage.

Robert Federico has been promoted from Drainage Pump Station Superintendent II to Drainage



Pump Station Superintendent III with East Bank Pump Stations. Good luck and congratulations everyone!

Fond Farewells

While we are eager to welcome new faces into our family, we are sad to see one of our own leave. **Bradley Dunn**, Drainage Pump Station Operator II with West Bank Pump Stations, retired after 36 years of service with the department. Thank you for your hard work and dedication during your years of service.

We hope everyone has a happy and safe Mardi Gras & Easter holiday!

Pictures show East Bank (above) and West Bank (below) Drainage staff on "Wear Red Day."



Alario Center

By
Deidre Cummings

Tourism Award

In December, **Lydia Folse** received the 2021 Virgie Ott Tourism Award in recognition and appreciation to Jefferson Parish tourism. Congratulations on your dedication and hard work.

Retirement

Best wishes to Lydia Folse on her retirement. Lydia was our General Manager for the last 11 years. Before coming to us, Lydia worked in Councilman John Young's administration and the JP DA's Office. She was also a member of the JCVB, serving as a past chairman of the board and board member. Lydia enjoyed working as a public servant with and will greatly be missed.



Lydia Folse

Covid-19

Free drive-thru COVID-19 testing, COVID-19 vaccinations, and Monoclonal Antibodies Treatments are available Monday – Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Bayou Segnette Baseball Field next to the Alario Center.

For more information on the John A. Alario, Sr. Event Center or to schedule an event, please contact us at (504) 349-5525. You may also want to visit us at www.alariocenter.com or www.facebook.com/alariocenter.

Community Development

By
Jonathan Whipple

Congratulations & Thank You!

We're very proud to recognize **Dianne Washington** for her 30 years of service to Jefferson Parish!

Diane started her public service career in 1991 with the Engineering Department. She served with them for two years and has since dedicated 28 years to Community Development.

She hails from the Clearview Neighborhood in Metairie. We're truly grateful for her presence within the Department and all the counsel she provides to the Community!



Dianne Washington

Welcoming New Employees:

We're pleased to introduce four new staff members to the Yenni Building:

(Pictured from left)

Julius Thompson, Administrative Management Specialist III, CDBG Program Manager

Jonathan Whipple, Administrative Management Specialist III, Lead-Safe Housing Program Manager

Angelo Leon, Housing Improvement Counselor II

Zachary Lemoine, Housing Improvement Counselor II



New to Community Development: Julius Thompson, Jonathan Whipple, Angelo Leon, and Zachary Lemoine

Jefferson Lead-Safe Housing Program

The Jefferson HOME Consortium is the recent recipient of a \$3.3 million HUD funded **Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes Supplement Grant**. This Federal grant supports the Parish's efforts to eliminate lead-based paint hazards within the community. The 'Lead Grant Program' allows us to offer free lead paint inspections, lead remediation and other home repairs to qualified residents in Jefferson and St. Charles Parishes.

Criteria for the Program are as follows:

- Pre-1978 Housing

- Low income residents and/or owners
- Prioritizes families with children less than 6 years old.

For more information, please see our webpage:

www.jeffparish.net/leadsafe

Community Development Goes RED

The Department proudly participates in *Nation Wear Red Day* and *#HeartMonth* to support the American Heart Association in their mission to spread awareness about cardiovascular health. We aim to 'Reclaim the Rhythm' by rebuilding healthy habits, showing love for our hearts and moving more together!

(Picture below).



Juvenile Services

By
Vicki Borja

We send our prayers and condolences to **Cheryl Bourgeois** who lost her son **Jeremy** in December. We are sorry for your loss, Cheryl.

Christmas at DJS

DJS hosted a raffle for a Christmas wreath and **Darnika Lewis** was the lucky winner.

Years of Service



Antonio Condley presents Darnika Lewis with the Christmas wreath

Please join me in congratulating the following employees for their years of service to Jefferson Parish Government:

- Tiyeshe Washington** with 20 years
- Allison Toups** with 25 years
- John Ryals** with 25 years
- Eugene Thomas** with 30 years

Thank you all for your many years of dedicated service!

Employees of the Month

Congratulations to the following employees for their dedicated service and being selected Employee of the Month. Keep up the great work!

January 2022

Detention: **Raynard Cennett**, Detention Officer II



Nelda Breaux and Tion McGhee

Probation: **Shernell Marshall**, Probation Officer II

February 2022

Detention: **Alvin Poole**, Detention Officer I

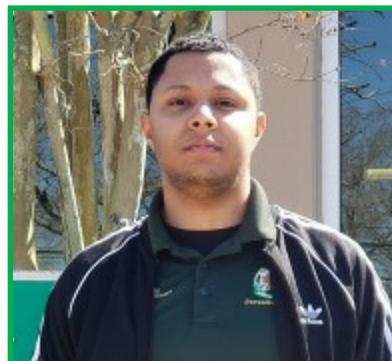
Probation: **Krista Jerome**, Probation Officer III

New Employees:

Please join me in welcoming our new employees **Robert Cannon**, Detention Officer II, and **Yshayahu Ysrayl**, Detention Officer I.



Robert Cannon



Yshayahu Ysrayl

Congratulations to **Mason Champagne** and **Michael Ford** on being promoted to Cook IIs.



Shernell Marshall and Tiyeshe Washington serving desserts at the DJS Christmas Luncheon

Departures:

Best of luck to **Kevin Ray**, Trades Helper and **Christopher Divinity**, Detention Officer I, who left the Department.



Brittney Grice and Debra Story

Blood Drive

The last **Juvenile Justice Complex Blood Drive** of the year was held on December 14, 2021. We collected 12 units of blood, which helped 36 patients in need. In 2021, DJS hosted six Juvenile Justice Complex Blood Drives; and we collected 93 units of blood, which helped save 279 patients' lives. This is one small way DJS and our JJC Partners gave back to the community and helped area hospitals.

The next Blood Drive will be coming soon, and five more will follow every two months in 2022.

Parkways

By
Karen Jackson

Welcome new employees:

New Westbank Parkways employee - **Tarrence Wilson** (Laborer). Eastbank Parkways - **Detroit Lestrick** (Laborer) and **Travell Brooks** (Laborer) – Welcome to Parkways Department! Just in time for our busy Mardi Gras season!

Service Pins

Congratulations:– **Neal Cason** received his 5-year pin; **Daryll Johnson** and **Paul Babcock** both received their 15-year pins; and **Michael Muller** received his 25-year pin (Way to Go Mike)!



Parkways Director Bryan Parks
with Mike Muller

Promotions

Congratulations to the following on their recent promotions:
Tim Prestenbach – Transfer to Westbank and promotion to Foreman II
Michael Loup - Promotion to Superintendent I Eastbank
Damon Weatherspoon - Promotion to Foreman II Eastbank
Ronald Stackhouse – Promotion to Superintendent II Westbank



Tim Prestenbach

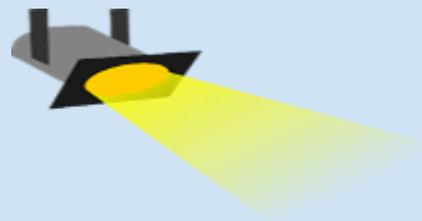


Damon Weatherspoon



Ronald Stackhouse

SPOTLIGHT



Spotlight Shines on Michael Loup.

Mike was hired June 15, 2002, and has been with the Parish for almost 20 years. He has been with Parkways Department the entire time and worked his way up from a Laborer to his new position as Superintendent I. “Mike’s a true asset, hard-working and always eager to lend a hand,” says **Jessica Ball**. He’s learning new information while making strides handling all the tasks in the field and office. Congratulations and best wishes on your promotion.



Water

By
Lakeisha Joseph

Welcome to Team Water!

The Water Department is excited to welcome the following new employees:

Jessica Albert - Utility Billing Clerk I ; **Emily Davis** – Utility Billing Clerk I; **Ashley Jackson** – Water Service Inspector I; **Nguyen Linh** – Water Service Inspector I; **Rochelle Thompson** - Water Service Inspector I ; **Diamond Bates** - Utility Billing Clerk I; **Bryon Ross** – Water Service Inspector I; **Ra’Sha Ledet** – Water Service Inspector I; **Nicholas Sweeney**– Water Service Inspector I; **Kenneth Breland Jr.** – Laborer ; **Noelle Johnson** – Water Quality Scientist I. Welcome aboard all!

Promotions!!

Bryson Smith to a Waterline Maintenance Superintendent I ; **Deronte Conway** to a Laborer Semiskilled ; **Vance Lafrance Jr.** to a Waterline Maintenance Foreman ; **Tyrell Chatman Jr.** to a Waterline Maintenance Foreman ; **Jasmine Lawrence** to a Water Quality Scientist III ; **Chanz Cook** to a Water Purification Superintendent I .

Retirements!!

We would like to congratulate **James Neely** (Water Purification Superintendent I) retiring with 12 years, **Brian Irvin Sr.** retiring with 38 years and 8 months (Waterline Maintenance Foreman) and **Lisa Johnson** (Water Quality Scientist III) retiring with 33 years. Good luck to all and a Happy Retirement.



Brian Irvin
with Director Sidney Bazley

Outstanding Employees

Big Congratulations to the following employees for being recognized of being outstanding:

Utility Billing – **Amy Landry**
Administration – **Nikita Caples**
Treatment Plant – **Lloyd Senek**
Lab – **Shanavia Crenshaw**
Outside Maintenance – **Bruce Tumblin Jr**

Whoo-hoo let’s keep up the outstanding work!



Water’s Outstanding Employees with Director Sidney J Bazley III

Streets

By
Kenya Johnson

As Mardi Gras slowly approached our city, all of us at the Streets Department knew that through the month of February and into March there would be plenty of parades on both sides of the river. We knew that everyone would be having a great time at these parades, but most of all that our Streets Departments would be making sure that the streets of Jefferson Parish would remain clean and safe for all of us.

Service Pins

Congratulations to the following employees who have received service pins for their years of service with the Parish. The following dedicated employees received service pins for 20 years: **Ava Bourgere**; and 25 years: **Michelle Swenson**. We would like to thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Streets Department.



Ava Bourgere



Michelle Swenson

Ecosystem/Floodplain

By
Seamus Riley

Annual Christmas TreeCycling

The Department of Ecosystem & Coastal Management hosted the 32nd annual Jefferson Parish Coastal TreeCycling and Cypress Tree Planting Volunteer Event on Saturday, February 5, 2022, at Cochiara’s Marina in Lafitte. We would like to thank everyone for coming out on such a chilly morning to help make this nationally recognized Christmas tree recycling event a huge success.

Following social distancing guidelines, approximately 2,800 Christmas trees were diverted from the landfill and used beneficially to fill pre-constructed shoreline wave dampening fences in order to combat coastal erosion and increase public awareness of wetland losses. The shoreline cribs are located on the western side of Goose Bayou near Lafitte.

For the second time in its 32-year history, this year’s project contained a restoration component as 700 cypress saplings, grown



over the past year in one-gallon pots at the Parkways greenhouse facility, were planted by committed volunteers on the eastern shoreline of Goose Bayou, just across the bayou from the shoreline cribs.

We would especially like to thank our fire and police departments, along with Plaquemines Parish, and Randy and Sandra Smith for the generosity of their time, effort, and usage of their

boats, which allowed for the transport of Christmas trees to the cribs and volunteers to the cypress planting site.

We would also like to thank President Cynthia Lee Sheng and Councilman-At-Large Ricky Templet for their endless support of this worthwhile endeavor.

A special thanks to the following:
First Responders: Bridge City Volunteer Fire Company No. 1,



Volunteers load Christmas trees onto boats in Lafitte



Ecosystem's David Illgen removing a derelict crab trap.

crabs and other important aquatic species,” and that the “wire mesh enclosures pose a potential navigation hazard to boats and often become entangled in other fishing gear like shrimp trawl nets.”

Bucktown Park and Marina Clean-Up

The Ecosystem & Coastal Management and Parkways Departments partnered with the Pontchartrain Conservancy and the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation on December 16, 2021, to host a Bucktown Park and Marina marsh clean-up and tree maintenance event. Several members of the Louisiana Ragin Cajuns football team took time out of their busy schedule prior to the New Orleans Bowl to help clean trash from the park's wetland area, realigned existing trees and placed mulch around all types of vegetation. Hurricane Ida's high winds and associated storm surge caused many trees to flatten and debris to be scattered throughout the park. These invaluable efforts led to a successful clean up event, and a safer and healthier natural space for the public's enjoyment.

Harvey Volunteer Fire Company No. 2, Herbert Wallace Volunteer Fire Department, Jefferson Parish East Bank Consolidated Fire Department, Kenner Police Department, Lafitte-Barataria-Crown Point Volunteer Fire Department, Marrero-Harvey Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, Marrero-Ragusa Volunteer Fire Company No. 3, Third District Volunteer Fire Department, and Westwego Volunteer Fire Company Number One.

Local Agencies and Private Citizens: Plaquemines Parish, Randy and Sandra Smith

Jefferson Parish Departments: Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation, Emergency Management, Engineering, Environmental Affairs, JEFFCAP, Parkways, SCADA, Streets.

Derelict Crab Trap Rodeo

On February 12, 2022, LA Sea Grant partnering with the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) held a Derelict Crab Trap Rodeo at Jean Lafitte Harbor, in lower Lafitte. The Ecosystem & Coastal Management Department participated by providing a 20-foot flat boat and staff. The JP team successfully removed 19 abandoned crab traps, and other types of debris from the waters and marsh in and around

Bay Dosgris.

A 16-mile boat trip was necessary to reach this remote area and our flat bottom boat allowed access to extreme shallow waters. Many of the crab traps were partially or fully buried due to Hurricane Ida and took considerable effort to dislodge and remove. Sheepsheads and blue crabs were released from the traps back into the water. The LDWF state that these traps “continue to fish, ensnaring blue



Volunteers realigning a cypress tree knocked over by Hurricane Ida.

Planning

By
Samuel Mercier

“Planning” for Carnival!

The Carnival spirit is strong in the Planning Department: as temperatures begin to rise after the holidays, members of Planning have leveraged the Yenni Building’s close proximity to Caluda’s and other king cake favorites to ensure a steady supply of the purple, green, and gold confections make their way through the department kitchen.

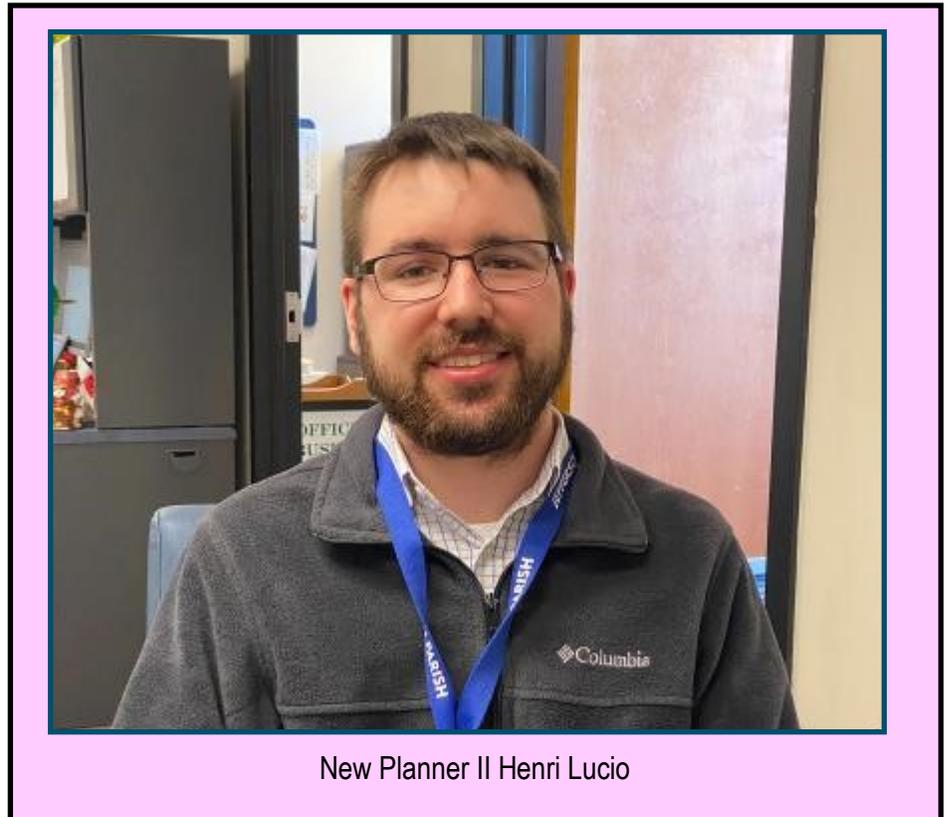
On January 27, the department also enthusiastically embraced *Jeff Do It’s* National Have Fun at Work Day dance party by turning the conference room into a dance floor complete with balloons and disco lights. A shout-out to Typist Clerk IIIs **Katina Webb** and **Cinthya Chacon**, who kept the



Katina Webb



Cinthya Chacon



New Planner II Henri Lucio

party going by second-lining down to the lobby with the Jeff Do It dance krewe.

Industrial Zoning District Study

The Planning Department and Camiros Ltd., a planning and zoning consulting firm, are undertaking a comprehensive study of Jefferson Parish’s industrial zoning districts. This study gives Jefferson Parish the opportunity to evaluate its 50-year-old industrial zoning regulations and create a set of new, modern industrial zoning districts that work with existing development practices and help the Parish move toward the vision established in its Comprehensive Plan.

As part of this study, Planning and Camiros are soliciting public input on their draft [Framework Report](#), which was created following a review of zoning districts, site visits, and stakeholder engagement. The feedback on this report will help

guide us in the creation of new industrial zoning regulations. We solicited public feedback on this plan at two meetings on Wednesday, February 16th and Thursday, February 17th. If you were unable to attend and would like to leave a comment, or would like to know more about this important project, please visit www.jpindustrialzoning.com.

New Arrival

We are pleased to welcome **Henri Lucio**, a new Planner II in our Long-Range Division. Henri was born and raised in Jefferson Parish and returns home after working in St. Tammany Parish as a land use planner.

Henri received his Master of Urban & Regional Planning in spring 2020 at the University of New Orleans and has longtime interests in tourism and transportation within planning. Henri is “excited to help plan the growth of the parish and see where trends take Jefferson.” Welcome, Henri!

Human Resources

By
Nordette Adams

New HR Specialist

Human Resource Management welcomed its new HR Specialist, **Betina Noveh**, in December 2021. Betina handles all Parish-wide new hire paperwork and Service Pins. New to HRM but not new to the Parish, Betina has served in a variety of roles in various departments since 2010.



Betina Noveh

Managing Editor Produces His Last *JeffTalk*

If you read this employee newsletter regularly, then you know that **Greg Alexander** has been its managing editor for nearly two decades. Unfortunately, this *JeffTalk* is Greg's last. We must bid him farewell as he nears retirement and hope that the next

managing editor upholds his high standards.

Greg changed the name of the newsletter from *En Realite* to *JeffTalk* in 2013, one of multiple changes and improvements. A valued member of Human Resource Management, Greg has sought news from Parish employees, chased photos, coordinated his "Ace Reporters," copyedited the entire publication, laid it out, and proofed all copy.

He has performed these duties while also serving as the Training Supervisor for Jefferson Parish employees, earning his Professional in Human Resources certification, and sometimes conducting HRM investigations. It's no wonder that he was named Employee of the Year in 2006.

Greg's stellar organizational skills, eagle-eyed editing, and thoughtful design have always been an asset, and he has remained patient. Yes, patience is a virtue, but it is also a must for any publishing enterprise.

Thank you, Greg, for your service to your co-workers and the Parish.

Library Cards for ALL Parish Employees!

Thanks to our Library Department's cooperation, all Parish employees can receive a free Jefferson Parish Library card regardless of residence. Your free library card gives you free access to LinkedIn learning.

Previously known as Lynda.com, LinkedIn Learning has more than 17,400 courses available. These courses span a wide range of business subjects from Microsoft Office to bookkeeping, Adobe Photoshop, computer programming and more. Take advantage of free online training and expand your career potential.

To receive your library card, all you have to do is drop by any library location and present the required identification. Jefferson Parish residents must present standard identification that proves residency. *All other employees* must present standard identification plus their JPG badge.

Standard forms of identification include a driver's license, a Louisiana ID card, military ID, or any other photo ID showing your current address.

Library cards issued to employees who live outside of Jefferson Parish will last one year. You can renew your card upon expiration.

For more information about training via your library card as well as how to get HRM credit for completing courses, please email:

Training.Team@jeffparish.net from a Parish computer or call 736-6180.



Retiring *JeffTalk* Managing Editor Greg Alexander

Emergency Management

By
Bianca Acero & Dorina Gauthreaux

These last couple of months have been very busy for Emergency Management. Due to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases we have been assisting with the setup and breakdown of many parish-wide COVID testing and vaccine sites. We also assisted with the setup of the COVID testing kit giveaway supported by local government officials.

We want to thank **Joe Valiente** (Director), **Timothy Gautreau Jr.** (Coordinator II), and **Allen Dyess** (Coordinator II) on participating in the Christmas Tree Recycling project in Lafitte. The project consisted of making holes to plant 700 cypress trees. The trees utilized in this project were grown by the Jefferson Parish Ecosystem and Coastal Management Department. It was an honor for our department to participate in such an impactful project. We hope to be a part of this project for many years to come.

Another Mardi Gras season has come and gone! We were excited to help with Mardi Gras 2022. Emergency Management worked closely with local organizations to not only ensure safe parade routes, but for a successful Mardi Gras season in Jefferson Parish. Listed below are just some of the duties the Emergency Management Department handles during parade season for Jefferson Parish:

- Monitoring EOC surveillance cameras
- Maintaining interagency coordination and support of public safety agency liaisons assigned to the Unified Command.
- Staging the department's Mobile Command Bus near the Family Gras site.
- Coordinating rides at the beginning of the parade route.
- Coordinating Emergency Public Messaging.
- Providing MG updates (parade routes, weather, safety, entertainment) via JPMARDIGRAS.

Environmental

By
Kathy Russo

We would like to welcome our new Clerk Typist III **Zelda Laieke**. Zelda comes to us from the Water Department and is a 20-year Parish employee. We look forward to working with her.

On December 14, 2021, our employees attended a free 8-hour HAZWOPER Refresher Training Course at the Fire Training Center in Bridge City.



Alex Gorman, Fire's Assistant Hazardous Materials Risk Coordinator, and Environmental's Sami Khalil

The course was designed for HAZWOPER-certified Parish employees and addressed responding to Hazmat incidents involving oil and chemical spills, proper containment, handling and storage of chemicals/products, State/Federal Environmental regulations of chemical material including reporting requirements, how to read SDS sheets and Emergency Response Guidebook, etc....

We would like to thank the Fire Training Center for providing this free training. The class was organized by **Sami Khalil**, and the class was taught by Fire Department, Hazmat Department, Safety Department, OMI Environmental Solutions, and our Stormwater Division.

On February 3 and 9, Sami Khalil participated as one of the instructors in the Parish Supervisor Safety Training class. Sami



Allen Dyess and Joe Valiente planting cypress trees in Lafitte

focused on how Good Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention aid in creating a safe working environment for our employees.

On January 28, the Parish launched its new *JeffDolt* program with the celebration of Have Fun at Work Day. Several employees participated and submitted a video that was included in the Parishwide video. Fun was had by all who participated, and we look forward to doing this fun activity again. We are also participating in the February shoe box float contest and are currently working on our float.

Please keep your eyes posted for a Press Release announcing a Household Hazardous Waste collection day. We are planning on scheduling one tentatively for May. This will be the first one since the fall of 2019 due to the pandemic. We also had to cancel our one scheduled in the fall of 2021 because election day was moved due to Hurricane Ida. We are expecting a big turnout since it has been so long since we have provided this service.

Library

By
Irene Lunkin

Service Awards

The Louisiana Civil Service League nominated Library Associate **Cynthia Jackson** as an Honorable Mention recipient for the 2021 Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Service Award. This award is given to Louisiana's outstanding merit public employees under State and local civil service. Of the 12 winners this year, Cynthia's ratings were just a few points below the actual winners. She was acknowledged and presented with her award at the 62nd Annual Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Service Awards Luncheon at the DoubleTree Hotel in New Orleans.

Cynthia, a retired employee of the Jefferson Parish School System, has been employed at the Jefferson Parish Library for a little over 40 years. The Library thanks her for the work she does with the library and in her community! Congratulations Cynthia; keep up the good work!



Cynthia Jackson receives a crystal plaque from President Lee Sheng

In addition, the following employees were acknowledged for their tenure with Jefferson Parish and received a service pin and certificate: Library Associate **Cathy Miller Moran** - 35 years; Library Associate **Lisa Ciravolo** - 30 years; Library Associate **Max Pieri** - 25 years; and Librarian IIs **Latonya Alexander** and **Sheila Bradford**, Administrative Assistant **Keywinna James, Sr.** Associate **Charles McChesney**, and Library Associate **Patricia Muggivan** - 20 years. The Library thanks you for your continued service!

Retirements

This past December Account Clerk **Georgina "Gina" Thomas** retired from our Business Administration department with 32 years of service. Old Metairie Library Associate **Rosario "Ro" Centanni** retired with over 21 years. We wish the two of them well in their retirement.

Meet the New Managers!

Librarian II **Brent Ferrantelli** is the new Branch Manager of Westwego Library. Brent joined JPL as one of our Reference Librarians at the West Bank Regional last summer. He received his Masters of Science in Library and Information Science (MSLIS) degree in 2019 from the School of Information and Sciences at the University of Illinois. Brent shared that he's a retired Coast



Supervisor Training on Good Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention

Guard officer (22.5 years) and is excited about the opportunity and looking forward to working with the Westwego staff and serving the community of Westwego. He will be instrumental in reopening the Westwego Library after its renovations are completed.



Brent Ferrantelli

Librarian II **Regina Stewart**, new Branch Manager of Rosedale Library, embraces the public system. She previously worked in academic libraries, first as a student worker at SLU and then for ten years at Delgado Community College. Regina grew up on the West Bank, and went to West Jeff High School. As a lifelong user of JPL, she finally gets the opportunity to be behind the scenes to get a better view of the inner workings of JPL. Regina shared that she looks forward to working with the staff to provide our patrons with great service, now and in the future, and that she is happy to be a member of the Jefferson Parish Library.



Regina Stewart

Promotions

Congratulations to **Chad Willingham** on his promotion to Grand Isle Library Associate. Chad started with the Library in 2019. We know he will do well in his new position. Both Chad and fellow Library Associate **Dominic Santiny** are instrumental in continuing with library services in Grand Isle post Hurricane Ida by utilizing a section in the Grand Isle Multiplex center to provide residents access to Library computers, internet and WiFi, and the ability to order and pick up items from the Library’s collection.



Chad Willingham

New to JPL Stacks

We welcome Library Associates **Jessica Buckey**, **Emily Francois** and **Katie Vedros**; EBR Reference Librarian **Michelle Ochillo**; and Computer Systems Specialists **Bryan Sproles** to the JPL team.

Helpful Friends

Last fall the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library were busy and thought of creative ways to raise money to help the community and the library. In October they held a jigsaw puzzle sale followed by a Holiday/Cookbook sale.

In December, Friends President Diane Schleifstein and Online Sales Committee Chairperson Joan Demers presented JPL with a \$50,000 donation on behalf of the Friends of Jefferson Public Library.

We thank them for all they do in continued support of JPL. The Friends will have their Big Book Sale March 18-20 at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. If you would like to become involved with the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library, please visit their website: www.friendsofjeffersonlibrary.org.

Happenings at the Library

Our Children’s Librarians at both our East Bank Regional and West Bank Regional libraries are performing storytime and read & sing events. On the East Bank, you can find them at Lafreniere Park – Shelter 6 on Mondays @ 10:30 a.m. and at EBR Library in the Children’s section Tuesdays – Thursdays. At the West Bank Regional Library, you can find staff in the courtyard for read & sing on Wednesdays @ 10:30 a.m. and storytime on Saturdays @10:30. Feel free to stop by and enjoy an event.

Tax Forms

IRS 1040 tax booklets and instruction booklets are available for pickup from any Jefferson Parish Library during tax season. Residents seeking Louisiana Resident and Non-Resident tax forms or booklets may contact the LA Department of Revenue at 1/855-307-3893 to order the forms or booklets; or you can visit their website www.revenue.louisiana.gov/taxforms to print forms.

Remember to stop by your local library to sign up for a library card. It’ll allow you access to endless possibilities, the proof is on the website www.jplibrary.net

Library cards are now available free to all Parish employees. See Page 23 for more information..

Retirements

Cordell Farrar
Drainage
39 years

Lydia Folse
Alario Center
39 years

Brian Irvin
Water
38 years

Mark McDonald
Engineering
36 years

Bradley Dunn
Drainage
36 years

Lisa Johnson
Water
33 years

Theresa Tauceda
Code Enforcement
32 years

Georgina Thomas
Library
32 years

Dwayne Thomas
Sewerage
32 years

Marylyn Haddican
Library
30 years

Alexander Baker
Water
29 years

Alfred Maggio
Traffic Engineering
25 years

Stephen Blakesley
Code Enforcement
25 years

Lonnie Campbell
Code Enforcement
25 years

Rosario Centanni
Library
21 years

War Horse



Our newest sculpture in Lafreniere Park: Donated by Henry and Pat Shane. The sculpture is titled *War Horse* by artist Frank Ledbetter. The 14-Foot high sculpture is constructed of corten steel and weighs 2000 lbs.