

## Message from the Parish President...

## Hurricane Season Is Underway

As we reach the halfway mark of 2022 and the beginning of hurricane season, it's important to remember safety and preparedness are key. It goes without saying that every storm is unpredictable, so it's important to prepare ahead of time. Now is the time to create a plan for you and your family. Waiting until the last moment could have dire consequences.

## Jefferson Parish Is Ready

The safety of our employees and citizens is our first priority, and Jefferson Parish is prepared. We have reviewed and updated our emergency plans and have assigned and trained essential personnel for their duties. Over the past year, we have altered our plans to better address storms that are intensifying with little warning. We are grateful for the dedication of our essential team members who provide vital services to the parish before, during and after storms.

## **Be Prepared**

Residents should be prepared to evacuate if given the order. Riding out a storm is never the best option. Those who must stay should have enough supplies to make it not only through the storm but also during what could be a long recovery with potentially no electricity or water. Stock up on emergency supplies including:

- batteries
- flashlights
- a first aid kit
- prescription medicines
- one gallon of water per day for each person and pet
- at least 3-5 days' worth of nonperishable food, and
- a list of emergency contacts and locations you can access in a hurry.



Cynthia Lee Sheng Parish President

## Stay #JPAware

The first step towards safety during hurricane season is being prepared and informed.



Remember to check Jefferson Parish's official social media channels (@JeffParishGov on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) for real-time updates and sign up for alerts by texting JPALERT or JPNOTICIAS to 888-777.

## Thank You to Our Essential Personnel

I'd like to take a moment to specifically thank the essential Jefferson Parish personnel who are the first to respond before, during and after a storm. These employees are activated around the clock while away from their families, potentially dealing with lost possessions and homes in the aftermath of a storm, yet they still report to work under these difficult circumstances.

The work that you all do is critical to protecting the citizens of Jefferson Parish. We are grateful for your dedication, service and reliability. Your hard work each hurricane season does not go unnoticed.

JeffTalk Editor.....Nicole Thompson Managing Editor ..... Nordette Adams Copy Editor ...... Duane Darcey **Departmental Reporters** Accounting/Finance Jasmine Hamilton Alario Center Deirdre Cummings Capital Projects Gary Lehman Code Enforcement Courtney Bertucci **Community Development** Jonathan Whipple **Diversity Advisory Board Crystal Heine** Drainage Sheena Quinn **Ecosystem & Coastal Management** and Floodplain Management & Hazard Mitigation Seamus Riley **EIS** Buddy Burkhamer **Emergency Management** Dorina Gauthreaux Engineering Helen McGee **Environmental Affairs** Kathy Russo Fleet Management Amy Truesdell **General Services** Maryanne Adorno Human Resource Management Duane Darcey **JeffCAP** Yvonne Dumas Juvenile Services Vicki Borja Lafreniere Park **Charlene Singleton** Library Irene Lunkin Parks & Recreation Brianna Duronslet Parkways Karen Jackson Personnel Lauren Call Planning Samuel Mercier PMZ Ashley Picquet Purchasing Mark Buttery **Risk Management** Frances Buckman Safety Peggy Brenan Sewerage Venice Cooper Streets Kenya Johnson Traffic Engineering Susan Treadway Water Lakeisha Joseph Workforce Connection Carolyn Haynes



Summer is here! Many of us have already planned trips to the beach and other vacations, but summer arrives with more than fun. Those good times come with sizzling heat and hurricane season. I encourage everyone to have an evacuation plan in place for you and your family as well as the supplies you need to make it through dangerous storms.

For those employees who are deemed "essential" and cannot evacuate, now is also the time to form a plan to keep you and your family safe. In the event that you must stay during a storm and assist in the continuation of essential services, having a plan can help you rest easier. For a little help with planning, try online tools such as this emergency resource at <u>Home -</u> <u>Get a Game Plan</u>.

One smart move in any hurricane plan is to gather all of your personal information in one place in case of flooding, etc. Nationwide provides a personal-information organizer for everything that you need in the event of an emergency. You can use this resource as a guide to start planning better. Download the <u>organizer at this link</u>.

## Leave and Declared Emergencies

A Personnel rule that applies to all employees has changed. The amended rule allows employees to recover leave that coincides with a declared emergency.

When employees request sick or annual leave prior to a declared emergency and that approved leave falls within the declared emergency period, then employees can request to cancel the previously approved leave and use declared emergency leave instead. This amended rule benefits employees because it gives



Nicole Thompson, Editor

them the option of not losing their previously approved leave in the event of an unexpected declared emergency.

That said, I hope we have a peaceful and wonderful summer.

## **Our New Holiday**

By the time of this newsletter's publication, Parish employees will have already enjoyed the day off for Juneteenth, but some will not know the significance of the holiday. In 2021 the Jefferson Parish Council adopted Juneteenth to the legislative calendar in remembrance of enslaved African Americans in Texas who learned they were free nearly two and half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. This year the Parish observed Juneteenth on Friday, June 17, 2022.

## **Train for Your Future**

Would you like to improve your administrative skills or learn how to handle difficult work situations? Please visit the <u>HRM Training intranet page</u> and the <u>JP Professional Development Academy</u> to see a variety of training programs available to you.



## ACCOUNTING/FINANCE by

Jasmine Hamilton

Huge applause and congratulations to the Accounting and Finance departments for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 35th consecutive year.

As stated by Jefferson Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng herself, "This award represents a significant achievement by our Jefferson Parish Accounting and Finance Departments. I am once again so proud of the attention and efforts of our staff. especially Finance Director Timothy Palmatier, Accounting Director Madison Martin and Accounting Operations Manager Cliff Smith, for meeting the highest principles of financial reporting year after year and receiving this honor."

Not too long ago, the departments also received GFOA's Triple Crown medallion, which recognizes governments who have received all three GFOA awards: the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. Such a trifecta shows the undeniable dedication and commitment to excellence that each individual working behind the scenes has given to receive such an honor. Congratulations to you all and thank you.

## New Hire

Hello and welcome to our new Accountant I Central Finance Office worker **Denise Fontenberry**, who started Monday, April 18,



2022. Denise is coming from the Louisiana Workforce Commission and has previous experience working as an accountant for SUNO and the Metropolitan Human Services District. We are excited to have her on our team and know she will be an exceptional addition. Good luck to you as you become accustomed to your new position.

## <u>Budget</u>

## **Baby News**

It's a girl! A special congratulations to Accountant II CFO **Tia Venible** and her little bundle of joy. Our warmest wishes go with her.

## **Finance**

## Departure

It is with great sadness and proud hearts that we say goodbye to our wonderful Executive Assistant, **Cory Durr**,



whose last day was Friday April 8, 2022. We have truly enjoyed working with her and thank her for going above and beyond in helping others and assisting during multiple storms and the pandemic. She will undoubtedly excel in all of her endeavors and thrive wherever she goes. We wish her great success as she continues her journey as an assistant director for the Westbank Animal Shelter. All the best, Cory!

## Condolences

We offer our deepest sympathies to our CFO Accountant II, **Marisa Madere**, who lost her stepson on Friday, April 15, 2022.

**Dorrean Demone Lewis** Sr. passed away at the age of 41. Our heartfelt condolences and prayers are with her and her family as they go through this difficult time.



## <u>Payroll</u>



We would like to give a special shout-out to our payroll department: Gloria Smith, Karen Lachute,

**Shea Green** and **Kellie Minjarez** for your perseverance during this difficult time.

The departments extend a special thank you for your invaluable efforts, your continuous work and your dogged determination in the face of recent adversities and hardships like the pandemic, hurricane, floods, power outages, fires, and other unforeseeable emergencies.

Thank you for making sure that every employee was up to date, paid, and safe and for accommodating employees whose circumstances created hardships. Your continued dedication to putting in long hours and working behind the scenes has been invaluable.

## **Retirement Party**

Surprise!!! (Well, sort of.) On Friday, April 29, 2022, Payroll Officer Assistant **Karen Lachute** was told she needed to come into the office for a very important exit interview. What she didn't know was that



a surprise retirement party was being held in her honor. Accounting Director Madison Martin also helped station Karen away from the big surprise. Even though Karen had her suspicions and eventually figured out that the office was up to something, she was pleasantly greeted in the conference room by her Payroll team, the Accounting Department, Budgeting, Retirement, Finance, Public Safety & Grants, and Purchasing for a surprise retirement party. With tear-filled eyes and happy hearts, everyone took a moment to wish Karen their farewells and celebrate this special occasion. Accounting Director Madison Martin gave a brief speech in honor of Karen before presenting her with the Certificate of Merit. Ms. Karen Lachute has been working with Jefferson Parish for

over 16 years. Throughout the years she's demonstrated a strong work ethic, exercised patience, delivered with precision, and adapted to challenges. There is no doubt the office will miss her company and light humor. Our warmest wishes go with her as she retires to a much needed rest. A special thank you to Payroll Officer Shea Green; Payroll Clerk CPO Kellie Minjarez; Payroll Clerk CPO Gloria Smith; Accounting Executive Assistant Nina Miller; Account Clerk CFO Rhonda Payne; Administrative Assistant Wanda Harvey; and Accounting Director Madison Martin for their contributions to the special occasion.

### Retirement

Please join us in extending best wishes to **Karen Lachute**, who retired from the Payroll department on Friday May 6, 2022, as the Payroll Officer Assistant.

Karen began as an employee of JeffCAP for two years before transferring to the Payroll department



where she stayed for another 15 years. We have all benefited from her strong work ethic, energy, patience, precision and helpfulness.

From all of us in Payroll, Accounting, Budgeting, Finance, Purchasing, Public Safety Grants and Administration, we hope that she is blessed with many wonderful experiences and wish her the best in all her endeavors.

We will undoubtedly miss her presence and the motivating atmosphere she created in the office. Our warmest wishes go with her.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS by

Gary Lehmann

## **Baby News**

It's a boy! Special congratulations go out to Capital Projects' Director, **Neil Schneider** and his wife on the arrival of their third child, **Silas Schneider**, who was born on March 16, 2022. Our warmest wishes go with the entire Schneider family!



## **15 Years**

Congratulations to Engineer IV Gary Lehmann for receiving his 15 Years' Service Pin Award. Gary joined Capital Projects after many years in the private sector, including nearly five years as a contract employee to Jefferson Parish, first as part of the Parish's Drainage Capital Improvements Program, then later with the Sewer Capital Improvements Program.



Director Neil Schneider with Gary Lehmann, holding his 15 Years' Service Pin Award.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT by Courtney Bertucci

## Welcome

We would like to welcome new employees, Typist Clerk IIIs, Kelly Siggio, Kandace Parker and Tawan Williams. We'd also like to welcome Residential Plan Reviewers, Dzung Tran and Thomas Hibert.

## Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Rodney Miller for obtaining his Plans Examiner Certification, Ricky Hawkins for obtaining his ICC Certificaton for Residential Plan Review, and Lester Haydel for obtaining his Commercial Building Inspector Certification.

## Service Pins

Executive Assistant Mary Ann Benitez, 5-year service pin



Aimee Vallot, Mary Ann Benitez, Danny Ferrara

## Retirements

Stenographer **Theresa Tauceda**, 32 years of service March 1, 2022.



Danny Ferrara, Theresa Tauceda, Aimee Vallot

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** by

Jonathan Whipple

## Retirement

The Community Development Department would like to express our gratitude and best wishes to Lee Floyd on his retirement.



Lee has been our Projects Coordinator for over nine years after coming on as a permanent employee in October 2013. Lee officially retired on March 25 this year. We cannot thank him enough for his years of dedication and service to the Parish. He will be greatly missed.

## Welcoming New Employees

We're pleased to introduce one new staff member to the Yenni Building this season.



**Tyler Ochello** comes to us from the Recreation Department and is our new Community Development Projects Coordinator. Welcome, Tyler!

## **Service Pins**

5 years of service: Accountant I **Anna Williamson**; Administrative Management Specialist III, Public Services **Craig Henry** 

10 years of service: Home Federal Programs Coordinator **Donnie Lewis** 



Donnie Lewis, Anna Williamson, Lee Floyd, Craig Henry

## **Seniors Expo**

Several members of our department participated in this year's Seniors Expo at the Pontchartrain Center in March.

We were excited to take part in this important event to promote the resources and services we have to offer to the community. It was also a great opportunity to network with other departments and agencies in the parish. This year we partnered with Lowe's, who donated free cleaning supply buckets, which we raffled off to three different participants at the event. We would like to thank the Lowe's on Jefferson Highway for these donations and their help in our aim to educate residents about the importance of maintaining clean, safe and healthy homes for their families.

## Emergency Rental Assistance Community Outreach

This year, we've been leveling up our outreach efforts to promote the programs and services we offer, particularly the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. This spring we hosted outreach events on the Eastbank and Westbank to help residents get the housing assistance they need in their communities.

We've also taken part in some of the local civic association meetings, such as the Old Harvey Civic Association meeting, where we were accompanied by members of JeffCAP as well as Councilman **Byron Lee**. This was a great opportunity for us to get the word out and to meet with the community to hear about their needs and concerns, as well as answer questions about our programs.



Angello Leon, Rayshawna Poole, Jonathan Whipple, Victoria Treeby, Eman Batiste

ECOSYSTEM AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT and FLOOD-PLAIN MANAGEMENT AND **HAZARD MITIGATION** by Seamus Riley

## **Cypress Tree Potting Event**

The Ecosystem and Coastal Management Department held a cypress tree potting event as part of an outreach initiative designed to educate students and adults about the critical importance of trees and wetland habitat.

In March the department potted 1,229 cypress bare roots into onegallon containers to foster growth in anticipation of volunteer plantings in February and March of 2023. To study tree growth rates, we applied a teaspoon of slow-release fertilizer just 1-2 inches below the surface of the dirt in 607 of the potted cypresses.



David Illgen and Patrick Hurley potting bare root cypress for next year's planting events.

We obtained the cypress bare roots from the Cypress Brake Tree Farm, located in Rayville, Louisiana. Our team would like to thank the Parkways Department for providing the soil and for completing repairs to the outside irrigation system used for the project.

## **Senior Expo**

On March 16 the Jefferson Parish Departments of Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation and Ecosystem and Coastal Management participated in the Jefferson Parish Senior Exposition, held at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner.

Floodplain staff focused on life and property protection against flood hazards, while the Ecosystem team showcased the benefits of the Jeffer-



The Jefferson Parish Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Department would like to remind everyone that NOW is the time for you to have made your tropical storm and hurricane safety plans. If you haven't yet, start planning ASAP; hurricane season is upon us.



Kim Thibodeaux speaking to a resident about flood insurance and mitigation options.



## ENGINEERING

by Helen McGee

## New Hires

Engineering welcomes GIS Analyst I **Paul Eymard**; Engineering Inspector I **John-Carr Goza** by way of Drainage; GIS Analyst I David Williams by way of Traffic Engineering; and college interns **Darrell Robicheaux** and **Reagan Treadway**. We are happy to have you all aboard.

## **Returning Home**

Engineering welcomes back **Mitchell Theriot**. After serving as a Director of both Water and Drainage, Mitch is returning to his Engineering roots! We are thrilled to have his experience and expertise back in the Department.

## Service Pin

Congratulations to **Michael Calecas**, Public Works Project Coordinator - Utilities, who recently received his pin for five years of service. Awesome!



Director of Engineering Angela DeSoto; Public Works Project Coordinator, Utilities, Michael Calecas; and Engineering Division Supervisor Peter Blaha.

## Promotions

Congratulations to Gerald Lohner for his promotion to Warehouse Supervisor II, Westbank, and to Peter Martin for his promotion to Warehouse Supervisor I. Much success to you both.

## Departures

Best wishes to GIS Analyst I Troy Walker, S&R/Stock Clerk Edward Williams, Brian Boudreaux and Stephanie Gaudet on their recent departure from the Engineering Department.



## Stephanie Gaudet

#### Retirements

Congratulations on their retirement! Gary Vukich served for 18 years, Jun Chen, 13, and Ken Schexnayder, 26. Enjoy! You all will be missed.



Ken Schexnayder

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS by

Kathy Russo

## **New Hires**

We would like to welcome our new Clerk Typist III **Gina Heim**, who comes to us from outside the Parish. We look forward to working with her and wish her a successful career.

We also are excited to welcome **Stephanie Gaudet** as our Administrative Assistant. Stephanie used to work for our department many years ago and has since worked for several other Parish departments, most recently Engineering. We look forward to working with her also.

## **Service Pins**

Environmental Affairs would like to congratulate the following employees for their years of dedication and service to Jefferson Parish.

Alexander Adams – 5 years Richard Mayer – 5 years Diane Coughlin – 10 years Sami Khalil – 15 years Barbara Kollin – 15 years

### **Continuing Education**

Congratulations to **Tracey Patania** for passing her Wastewater Collections System IV exam. Level IV is the highest level. Congratulations also to **Peyton Aubin**, who passed the Wastewater Treatment Class I exam, and **Ian-Maxwell Sareussen**, who passed the Wastewater Collection Class I exam.

## Retirement

We also would like to wish 21year employee **James Schultz** well in his retirement as of May 20, 2022. James will be sorely missed because he has always been very knowledgeable and courteous to all.



Environmental Service Pins Recipients Alexander Adams, Richard Mayer – 5 years; Diane Coughlin – 10 years; Sami Khalil, Barbara Kollin – 15 years; Katherine Costanza, Assistant Director

## **Poster and Essay Contest**

This year the 22nd Annual Storm Water Poster and Essay Contest Ceremony was held on Friday May 6, 2022, at the Lafreniere Park Foundation Center.

On behalf of President **Cynthia Lee Sheng**, Cross Cultural Affairs Coordinator **Daniella Bello** recognized the contest winners. Trophies were awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners in the poster and essay categories, and certificates of honorable mention were also awarded in each category. Winning posters and essays will be on display through the summer at the Jefferson Parish East Bank Regional Library, located at 4747 West Napoleon Ave. in Metairie, and West Bank Regional Library, located at 2751 Manhattan Blvd.

The "Non-point Source Storm Water Pollution and Solutions" poster and essay contest, hosted by the Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs, was developed to raise public awareness of non-point source pollution, such as leakage of automotive fluids, fertilizers and pesticides, pet wastes, green waste, construction run-off, etc.

The annual contest is open to all Jefferson Parish students in grades 3 through 8. The 3rd through 6th graders submitted posters, and the 7th and 8th graders submitted essays. The students depicted or described at least one source of non-point source pollution and presented potential solutions. Two teachers were recognized this year for their years of dedicated participation in this contest. The winning teachers are Peggy Gaffney of Academy Metairie and Lama Hamdan of the Islamic School of Greater New Orleans.



*Sami Khalil* addresses award winners at the poster and essay contest banquet.

We have expanded our awards banquet to include teachers who participate in our High School Sewer Science program. The Stormwater division recognized two teachers who developed the Sewer Science Project with their students this year. The Sewer Science Project is a week-long experiment designed to showcase the process of how the parish cleans and treats our sewerage water. The program uses a scientific approach in an effort to increase awareness about water pollution and its impact on the environment. Teachers review the program and provide a hands-on demonstration with the sewer science equipment.

This year's winning teachers are **Blake Harwell** of Grace King High School and **Sarah El Shaal** of Helen Cox High School.

The expanded awards banquet also includes the winners of our Stormwater Leadership Award. The award recognizes those individuals, businesses, or organizations that strive for environmental leadership through programs and actions that improve storm water quality and/or quantity, thereby reducing the amount of pollution that enters Jefferson Parish waterways. This year there are joint winners for Pollution Prevention/Innovation: Scott Boyle, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, and Ryan Boudreaux, Jefferson Parish Sewerage Department.

## **Protecting Our Environment**

Our Stormwater Division works with our first responders in spill emergency situations to ensure that proper environmental cleanup is done. The team also investigates illicit discharges and spills to make the perpetrators responsible and liable for any cleanup costs.



Sami Khalil with Alex Gorman, Hazardous Materials Assistant Coordinator, and other emergency responders responding to an 18-wheeler diesel spill in April

## **Grant Money**

Our Stormwater Division received a sub-grant from the UNO Research and Technology Foundation for urban gardening and stormwater management. The goal is to promote and cultivate a community urban-gardening initiative within Jefferson Parish. Local industry leaders will be engaged in an educational program that will teach parish residents how they can safely utilize existing spaces within the urban environment for successful gardening practices.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Household Hazardous Materials (HHM) are leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients. Products such as paints, common household cleaners, oils, batteries and pesticides that contain potentially hazardous ingredients require special care when disposed. The improper disposal of HHM can include pouring waste down the drain, into storm drains, or, in some cases, putting it out with the trash. The dangers of such disposal methods might not be immediately obvious, but improper disposal pollutes the environment and may pose a threat to human health.



HHM waste disposal event at the Yenni Building on May 21

The Department of Environmental Affairs usually hosts Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events twice per year, once on the East Bank at the Yenni Building and once on the West Bank at the GGB. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions and Hurricane Ida, these events have been cancelled over the past few years.

On Saturday, May 21, 2022, from 9 a.m. to noon the Department of Environmental Affairs was once again able to host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event in the parking lot of the Joseph S. Yenni Building. During the event Jefferson

Parish Environmental Affairs staff and their contractor, OMI Environmental Services, removed and sorted HHM from 574 vehicles, some containing materials from multiple households. Many citizens expressed their thankfulness and relief to be able to rid themselves of items that had been accumulating during the years since our last event.

With cooperation from Jefferson Parish departments of Security, General Services, Recreation, and Public Information Office, in addition to the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's office, the Department of Environmental Affairs was able to put on a great event that served the public in an efficient and safe manner.

Four semi-trailer loads of mercury -containing equipment, paint, lawn and garden products, household cleaning products and chemicals, lighting components, electronic waste, small arms ammunition, pyrotechnics, and safety equipment were collected.

As a state and national Keep America Beautiful affiliate, this event was part of the Parish's continued participation in the Great American Cleanup.

### FLEET MANAGEMENT by Amy Truesdell

Fleet Management is so excited with the team we have been putting together. We believe our crew is one of the best groups of employees Fleet has had in a long time!

#### New Hire

Please welcome **Aaylia Smith** to Fleet as a Data Entry Operator II. If you see her in one of the offices in the garage, be sure to stop in and say hello.

#### **Promotions**

We have several promotions to announce: Alec Whittenberger, Meshach Hardison, and Don Usea were promoted to Auto Mechanic Seniors. All three are new to Fleet, but they have made a big impact on our department. They are friendly, hardworking and have made themselves indispensable. **Nicholas Rester** was promoted from Laborer to Auto Mechanic Trainee, and **Philip Kerlec** will be promoted from Water Department Trades Helper to Auto Mechanic Trainee. We are looking forward to the young, fresh faces in the tire shop.

## **Service Pins**

Vincent Bobin, Darrin Frisella, and Jay Worley all received their ten -year service pins this month. It is hard to believe these three mechanics have only been with us for ten years. All three are invaluable to the Fleet operations, and we hope each of them stays long enough to receive their 30year pins!



10-year service pin recipient Vincent Bobin with Director Randy Belanger.



Retirement party for Gregory Walker

#### Retirement

**Gregory Walker** has retired from the tire shop after 16 years of service. We will miss Gregory and the knowledge he has been passing on to our younger staff. We wish him the best of luck.

## **GENERAL SERVICES**

Maryanne Adorno

## Congratulations

**Patrick Bode** was recently promoted from Asst. Property Manager to Property Manager.

#### Welcome

bv

We would like to welcome our newest employees, Administrative Assistant **Kim Johnson** and Laborer **Ryan Rabalais**.

## Job Fair

**Tim Hoskins** and **Chance Rojas** participated in the Jefferson Parish Job Fair held at the Alario Center on March 26.



Tim Hoskins and Chance Rojas



*Kim Johnson*, 5-year service pin honoree, with Director *Ryan Babcock* 

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General Services service pin recipients, from left to right: Hoai Luong, Darrell Restivo, 5 years; Cornell Jackson and Neal Lavin (not pictured), 10 years; Gary Daigrepont, Aleen Bernard, 15 years; Wayne Venible, Jr (rear), 5 years

## HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

by Duane Darcey

## **Employee of the Year**

Congratulations to Administrative Assistant LaTanya **Tibbs** for earning the Employee of the Year award. Director Nicole Thompson bestowed the honor upon her, praising LaTanya for her commitment to performing her duties "in an exceptional manner" even while rebuilding her house, which was significantly damaged by Hurricane Ida. Thompson cit-

ed "diligent effort" as the reason LaTanya is able to overcome challenges to submitting accurate records as the HRM payroll clerk and scheduling meetings as the secretary for the Insurance Advisory and Coordinating Committee. HRM

attitude



colleagues HRM Employee of the Year and 15-year agree that her posi- service pin honoree Latanya Tibbs with has Director Nicole Thompson

made her a joy to work with since she joined the department in 2011 after stints in the Library and JeffCAP.



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## **Service Pins**

Director Nicole Thompson awarded service pins to Administrative Assistant LaTanya Tibbs for her 15 years of dedicated service to the Parish and Benefits Administrator Jessica Palermo for reaching her five-year milestone. Jessica Palermo

## Promotion

Emily Cassanova, who began working as a Utility Billing Clerk in the Water Department in December, 2018, and joined HRM as a Typist Clerk in June, 2021, has been promoted to Typist Clerk III. Great job, Emily!



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## **New Hire**

HRM would like to welcome Duane Darcey to the Training team. He joins Division Training Administrator (Training Specialist III) Nordette Adams to provide orientation to new hires, supervisory skills to managers, and continuing education opportunities to all employees through the Professional Development



Academy. He comes to the Parish with nearly two decades in the private sector as an Instructional Designer and Corporate Training Manager at Stewart Enterprises, Inc. and a Technology Instructor at Jones Walker, LLP. He is an asset to the department and we are happy to have him aboard.

## Departure

On June 8 we bid a fond farewell to our colleague and friend Yvonne Keller, who has moved on after serving in HRM for nearly 11 years, first as a Training Specialist and then as an HR Manager. Director Nicole Thompson recognized her for always being willing to go above and beyond her duties. She will be greatly missed but remembered for her generosity and kindness. We wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

## **Online Training**

The Training team has been developing online courses and making them available through the JeffParish Professional Development Academy website. Courses are geared to a wide array of employees and managers at various skill levels. eLearning modules include the Basic Supervision series, technology classes for Office applications, and the Leadership learning path.

## JeffParish Professional Development

## Excel-lerate!

Do you want to increase your chances to be  $\Lambda$ 

promoted? Have you ever wanted to challenge yourself to learn a new skill? Then try tackling Excel! There is an eLearning course for beginners on the JeffParish Professional Development Academy website. It's the perfect way to get started today.

## JEFFCAP HEAD START

by Ann Bridges and Yvonne Dumas

## **Employee of the Year**

The staff of Jefferson Community Action Programs would like to send a welldeserved congratulations to our Executive



Assistant Genika Green-Jupiter, who received employee of the year from Director Christi Langoni. Thanks, GG, for a job well done!

## JUVENILE SERVICES by

Vicki Borja

## **Baby on Board**

Congratulations to **Percy Hollins** on the birth of his daughter, **Noire Reihe Hollins**, on March 23, 2022.



Percy Hollins's daughter Noire

## **Celebrating the Holidays**



The Department's entry into the Jefferson Parish shoebox float contest

## **Employees of the Year**

We are proud to announce that the Employee of the Year award goes to **Rhonda Walker**. Thank you for a job well done, Rhonda!

## **Employees of the Month**

Congratulations to the following employees for their selection as Employee of the Month. Thank you for your dedicated service, and keep up the great work!

## March 2022

Detention: **Reginald Francis** Probation: **Malcolm Fredericks** 

## April 2022

Detention: TaRaunce Martin Probation: Sandra Williams May 2022 Detention: Brett Jackson, Probation: Danielle Phillips

## **Promotions**

Please join us in congratulating **Danielle Phillips** for her promotion to DJS Probation Manager! Congratulations and best of luck in your new position.



DJS sent an **18-member delegation** from detention, probation, and administration to the 2022 Louisiana Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice, which was held in New Orleans.

## Departures

Best of luck to **Huy Dinh**, **Steve Bozeman**, and **Luis Bustamante** who left the department in April for new job opportunities.

## **Blood Drive**

The JJC Easter Blood Drive was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, in the DJS Multi-Purpose Room. Our department held on to the Bloodhound Award by collecting 19 units of blood, surpassing our goal of 15 units. We greatly appreciate the JJC employees' donations. Thank you to everyone who helped with this lifesaving event!

## LIBRARY

by

Irene Lunkin

## Retirements

Library Director Marylyn Haddican retired this past February with over 40 years of service with the Jefferson Parish Library. We wish her the best in her retirement!

Library Page Jeanette Brown also retired with 7 years of service.

## New Hire

The Library welcomes Library Associate **Bridget Johnston**.

## **Summer Reading Program**

JPL's Summer Reading Program "Oceans of Possibilities" will run from June 1 to July 31. A children's



*Marylyn Haddican*, retired *Library Director* 



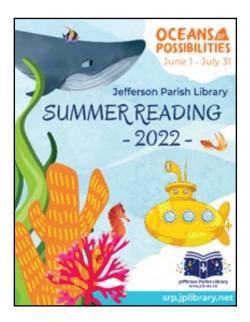
Bridget Johnson

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### (Continued from page 11)

Summer Reading Kick-off Party will be held at both the East Bank Regional and West Bank Regional libraries on Saturday, June 4, from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Families are invited to register for the reading program and take part in mermaid crafts and activities with special guests, the Sirens of New Orleans. A separate kick-off party will be held for teens on Saturday, June 11, from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. at East Bank Regional and 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at West Bank Regional.

Citizens of any age are invited to participate in the Summer Reading Program. Participants will earn one point after reading one book, reading for one hour, or completing one activity. At five points, participants will earn a prize from the treasure chest and children up to 5th grade will receive a free kid's meal from Raising Cane's while teens and adults will receive a FREE book certificate for the next Friends of the Jefferson Public Library's Big Book Sale. All participants can earn additional treasure chest prizes when they earn 10 and 15 points and will be entered into a grand-prize raffle for a \$150 Amazon gift card.



In-person activities and performances for kids, teens and adults will also be taking place all summer at all locations.

#### **Coming Soon!**

Coming soon to a library near you ... The Jefferson Parish Library is thrilled to announce a new project in the works called a **Library** of **Things** (LoT). A Library of Things is a collection of items for borrowing that expands the idea of traditionally defined library materials. The LoT collection supports a sharing economy by enabling our community to share items they may only need occasionally and offers an opportunity to "try before you buy," saving community members money in the long run.

With this collection, JPL aims to offer the physical tools needed to support lifelong learning and creativity. There will be arts and crafts, games, sporting items, kitchenware, musical instruments, technology, and more.

The pilot of the LoT will be located at two JPL branches, one on either side of the river. Those locations will be announced soon, so stay tuned!

Remember that as a Parish employee you can sign up for a library card, even if you are not a resident of Jefferson Parish. Your card will give you access to endless possibilities. The proof is on the website, www.jplibrary.net.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

by Brianna Duronslet

February New Hires: Matthew Brown Alton Sartin Jade Lopez Dwight Rixner

March New Hires: Michael Fulks II Danielle Rixner Raven Smith Jason Ward, Jr. Timothy Ponthieux Ashlin Viola

February Promotions: **Michelle Dearmitt** – Special Program Supervisor **Christopher Hamilton** – Foreman II March Promotions: **Timothy Smith** – Welder **Dennis Gros, Jr.** – Center Supervisor Assistant **Travis Shipley** – Foreman II

May-August Service Pins

5 Years Shawnee Albright Fernand Carmadelle, Jr. Byron Fredericks Michael Griffin Andrew Lore Trey Martinez Marvin Smith Katsun Yee

10 Years Brennen Camardelle Uneeta Lacoste Sammie McGowan Michael Millican 15 Years Anthony Centanni, Jr. Tiffany Curtis Rayfield Gaston, IV Jessica Kovacs Jeffrey Mumphrey Robert Schoen

25 Years David Frazier

35 Years Dana McNally Jack Scott

40 Years Warren Melinie

Compliment-a-Coworker Employees: Alvin Carter Christopher Hamilton Clarence Sarah Anthony Centanni Stefan Familgio Derrick Phillip Ramon Jackson Rebecca Bourgeois Nicholas Alexander



## Service Pin Breakfast

Employee morale has been at the forefront of departmental change for 2022. Along with technological advancements and communication enhancements, employee morale is an initiative driving full force across the department.

On Friday, April 29, Director Mario Bazile hosted a breakfast for employees receiving service pins in 2022 for January through April. He recognized the 2021 January through April employees as well. Employees enjoyed a light breakfast with the director and administrators. Bazile asked each employee to give their best moment in the department: Bazile and Assistant Leo Webb distributed certificates of appreciation and service pins.

The following employees were recognized:

#### 5 years:

Michelle Dearmitt Anthony Foster, Jr. James Brown Davyn Davis Christopher Hamilton Mark Hollebone Lionel Jones, Jr. Robert Pistorius

#### 10 years:

Cody Berthelot Robert Corona Robert Keller Anthony Richard, Sr. Travis Shippley

15 years: Nickole Moore Julie Valence Jerome Johnson Bridgette Windsor

20 years: Antoinette Holmes Cheryl Anderson

25 years: Amy Denny Derek Breaux 30 years: Albert Cornish, Jr. Harold Buhler III Robert Otero Travis Henry

The employee Logo Committee developed the Jefferson Parks and Recreation Department's new logo to represent the JP community and the services offered across the Parish. In late 2021, JPRD created an employee logo committee to redesign our logo for a stand-alone look that was cohesive to the Parish brand and represented the department's values as a whole.

The JPRD Director and Information Specialist created the employee group with sixteen employees who ranged in division and position in the department. The Information Specialist led the team through numerous workshops to achieve the logo that the JPRD Administration presented on May 23, 2022. Over the series of seminars and meetings, the logo committee voiced opinions and provided critical feedback to the logo and design consultants.

The logo features **four quadrants** representing the community, solid foundation/ growth, action and enjoyment, and opportunity.

## *Top-left:* **Community**

These figures shown from smallest to largest represent the diversity and different ages of people in the community.

### Bottom-left:

## Action and Enjoyment

These yellow lines upward and to the right illustrate movement inspired by athletics, music, entertainment, and recreation. Yellow represents the sun and outside, where much of our department's sports classes and activities occur.



## Top-right:

## Solid Foundation and Growth

These horizontal steps with the heaviest at the bottom signify a strong foundation. We are climbing, growing, and reaching new heights. Orange represents optimism, creativity, and adventure, among other positive associations.

## Bottom-right: **Opportunity**

The V-shaped character represents the outstretched arms of the victorious. Similarly, it symbolizes giving with open arms and reaching for an opportunity. Blue is also associated with the outdoors and nature and has significance in traits such as loyalty, honesty, and commitment- elements of successful teamwork.

## **Employee of the Year Banquet**

The time had come for a new employee to be recognized for demonstrating the

values of JPRD. Director Mario Bazile, along with Assistant Director Leo Webb and Chief Administrative Assistant Cherreen Gegenheimer hosted a celebratory lunch and award ceremony at the Lafreniere Park Foundation Center on Friday, April 29, to honor eight nominees for employee of the year: Kristen Blount, Shelley Bruard, Pamela

Bibbins, Jarette Carmouche, Ramon Jackson, Michael Griffin, Norman Lestrick, and Brianna Duronslet.

The nominee who took the title of JPRD Employee of the Year was **Norman "Woody"** Lestrick.



PARKWAYS by Karen Jackson

## Welcome New Employees

John Braswell – Superintendent I John has been with the Parish 10 years, 10 months. He came to Parkways from Lafreniere Park and is looking forward to tackling the challenges of his new position.

Thomas Ivicevich has joined the team from Parks and Recreation.

Connie Preston comes to us from the Water Department. She has been with the Parish for fifteen years. Connie is ready to dive in and help out wherever she is needed. She has a vast knowledge of the inner workings of the Parish, having worked in other Departments (Community Development, Transit, and Risk Management) over the years. She loves her new surroundings and meeting all the new faces. It's exciting and so different, she says.

Mike Muller and Ronald Stackhouse participated in this year's Job Fair for the Parkways Department.



John Braswell



Thomas Ivicevich



Connie Preston

Parkways played their part by sending employees to the food truck for the "Jeff Do It" event in the parking lot behind the Yenni Building. The food was good, service was fast and the event was enjoyable for all.



Terrell Thornton



John Braswell and Tim Prestenbach planting a tree in the Harvard walking track. The project was completed in early April.



Connie Preston, Durrell Jones (Streets) wait for their food trays.







Mike Muller, Ronald Stackhouse

Parkways Department Employee of the Year: Equipment Operator IV Brian Joseph!



Brian Joseph, Director Bryan Parks



Superintendent I Michael Loup, Superintendent III Mike Muller, Employee of the Year Brian Joseph, Superintendent II Mark Maunoir, and (rear) Director Bryan Parks.



Our Spring Spotlight shines on **Detroit Lestrick** and **Daryll Johnson**!



**Lestrick** and **Johnson** received kudos from a happy citizen after they ground a root in front of her property.

"Thank you!!! The Gentlemen did an excellent job grinding the very large root! Started at 7 AM and should be finished about 9:15 AM - great job! Their smile (in the photo) matches their personality!"

-M. J. Shannon

**PLANNING** by Samuel Mercier

Spring has sprung and summer is upon us. The last months have brought longer days, crawfish boils, and the return of Jazz Fest to the region. Progress continues in the Planning Department on a number of important long-range initiatives, including the Industrial Zoning District Study, Green Infrastructure Plan, and various text and area studies.

Beyond this, planners in our current and zoning administration divisions, landscape architect, and clerical staff work every day to provide the public with high-quality planning and zoning support.

To celebrate their hard work, the Planning Department hosted an officewide party on Cinco de Mayo this year. Planners and staff brought decorations, music, and taco supplies galore to the conference room for a fun-filled lunchtime. A shout-out to the whole department for their participation and to the **Jeff Do It** committee for encouraging the parish to celebrate this holiday. ¡Feliz Cinco de Mayo!

## **Personal Announcements**

Congratulations to the newlyweds! UNO graduate assistant **Sam Mercier** and **Hannah Samberg** were married in Mandeville on May 8, 2022, after six years together. Family and friends traveled from as far away as Montreal and London for a very special event that was blessed with blue skies and warm weather. On May 6, Planning presented Sam with well-wishes, gifts, and sage advice from the entire department. Sam and Hannah would like to thank everyone for their warmth and generosity. He is looking forward to sharing a lifetime of happiness with Hannah!



## **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/ZONING (PMZ)** by

Ashley Picquet

## Jeff Do It

The New Year brought about a few celebrations for the PMZ team as we gathered for both Mardi Gras and Cinco de Mayo.

## New Hires

Earlier in the year PMZ welcomed new **Director Liza Caluda**.

Also joining the team were new hires Alaa Abuali, Kevin Ray and Ashley Agoff, each as an Inspector I, and Channon Williams as a Typist Clerk III.

## **Service Pins**

We had several Service Pin honorees this spring. Congratulations to Karen Favorite, 15 years; Vicki Lore, 10 years; Ashley Picquet, 5 years; and Barre Rousset, 5 years.

**Barre Rousset** and Vicki Lore with their 5– and 10–year service pins, respectively

## PURCHASING

by Mark Buttery

## Preparedness

Since hurricane season is upon us, please ensure that your department reviews its contracts and is prepared. Pre-planning is essential to successfully navigate and overcome an emergency event.

In order for the Parish to successfully request and receive full reimbursement from FEMA, it is a requirement that departments maintain accurate and thorough records and documentation related to the emergency event. This includes all purchases made in anticipation of, during, and after the emergency event.

Each department should have an Emergency Event Preparedness and Response Plan (Plan) in place including specific procedures pertaining to emergency purchases.

Departments should utilize the Purchasing Department's <u>Emergency Procurement Manual</u> for all emergency purchases related to federal, state, and local disasters. This manual focuses on the emergency procurement process before, during, and after an emergency event. It also includes relevant forms that are required for emergency procurement. You can also visit the Purchasing Department's "Reference Material" section of the JeffConnect intranet portal to access the Manual.

## **RFP Process PowerPoint**

A <u>Request for Proposals (RFP)</u> <u>Process slide presentation</u> has been developed to provide guidance to Parish departments on the RFP pro**Brian Kennedy, Liza Caluda** and **Michelle Champagne** represented PMZ at the parish-wide Job Expo.

cess. The PowerPoint, which details the steps for processing RFPs, can also be accessed by visiting the Purchasing Department's "Reference Material" section of the JeffConnect intranet portal.

Departments seeking procurement through either a RFP or SOQ (Statement of Qualifications) should send all necessary documentation to Purchasing Department Assistant Director **Misty Camardelle** for assignment and processing.

## What is a Request for Proposals (RFP)?

An RFP is the usual method used when competitive purchases for services or nonstandard items cost more than \$15,000 and when an award based solely on price is not practical or advantageous to the parish. Pro-



#### (Continued from page 16)

posals are evaluated and ranked according to the criteria identified in the RFP. The Jefferson Parish Council then accepts a vendor's proposal after reviewing the scores and rationale of the Evaluation Committee on the basis of the criteria.

## **Staff Recognition**

Congratulations to Typist Clerk III Lisa Caronia for receiving her fiveyear service pin. Lisa started her career with Jefferson Parish as a Clerk Typist II for JeffCAP and accepted the Clerk Typist III for the Purchasing Department six months later.

Lisa does everything from typing letters of introduction to approving DEPOs, CPOs, and SPOs, creating slide presentations for training purposes, and taking care of internal and external customers daily. Lisa is always up for a challenge and ready to help whenever she can. She is a great team member.

### Job Expo

The Purchasing Department was represented at the Parish's Employment Expo, which was held at the Alario Center on April 26, 2022. Buyer III **Daphne Nelson** and Purchasing Coordinator **Nicolle Whitney** had the opportunity to share departmental information with those in attendance and meet potential candidates interested in pursuing a career in procurement.

## SAFETY

by Peggy Branan

When it comes to roadwork safety, the Human Resource Management Safety Division, has been making a difference!

This past March, Safety coordinated with the LA Transportation Research Center: Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) to provide two work zone training sessions, "Basics of Work Zone Safety with Basic Flagger Training," for our upper-management who oversee work being done either in or adjacent to a roadway. (For more, see <u>Basic Work</u> <u>Zone Flagger Exercise</u>.)



Typist Clerk III Lisa Caronia (center) receives her 5-year service pin from Director Renny Simno and Purchasing Coordinator Nicolle Whitney



Daphne Nelson, Nicolle Whitney

### **Did You Know?**

Purchases less than or equal to \$10,000 require a valid quote by the department requesting the purchase. The date, vendor's name, person contacted and the prices quoted will become a permanent part of the transaction record.

Good judgment must be exercised in choosing vendors whose past experience proves them to be generally competitive. This type of purchase should be equitably distributed, giving preference to parish vendors.

Under no circumstances shall there be a division or separation of any purchases or projects into smaller purchases or projects which division or separation would have the effect of avoiding the bidding requirements set forth herein. *Reference: Jefferson Parish Ordinance No. 26390 Section 2-902.* 

If you have any questions, contact the Purchasing Department at 504.364.2678.

## **Correct Contact Information?**

When submitting a bid request that requires your department's contact information, please confirm that the contact information is valid. Help us keep the playing field level for all vendors and get competitive pricing for Jefferson Parish.

The Safety Division, in cooperation with the Traffic Engineering Division, created the work zone presentation, "Work Zone Safety Training," with an emphasis on how to design a Detail 1B work zone. (For more, see <u>Creating a Detail 1B Work Zone</u>.) Between April and May, six presentations were pro-



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Employees creating a Detail 1B Work Zone

#### (Continued from page 17)

vided. Approximately 150 employees, representing ten different departments, participated.

In addition to the roadwork safety training, the Safety Division coordinated with LA 811 One-Call to provide eight training sessions for our employees. This training was made available for those who are responsible for either planning for or doing excavating work that has the potential to damage buried pipes or cables. Approximately 175 employees, representing ten different departments participated.

If you would like more information on how to access these training programs online, please contact Safety Officer Peggy Branan at 504.736.6129.

## WATER

by Lakeisha Joseph

#### Welcome, New Employees

Customer Relations Specialists I: Reinara Adams, Brenda Alexander, Julie Boudreaux, Elise Duet, Dequila Thompson,

Laborers: Ingrid Barnes, Ashley Mott, Shawn Price

Water Service Inspectors I: Kerry Foster, Denzel Washington

## **WORKFORCE CONNECTION**

by Carolyn G. Haynes

### **Retirement News**

JWC announces two retirements this spring. Our Director, **Sharon Wegner**, retired in March. Ms. Wegner has over 15 years of service with Jefferson Parish.

Career Specialist (EB) **Judy Stone** retired in April. Judy has over 20 years of service in Jefferson Parish and will be missed.

We wish both a happy retirement!



Judy Stone



LA 811 One-Call Presentation

#### **Promotions**

Heather Davis to Water Quality Scientist II; Paige Rome to Water Quality Scientist I.

Congratulations!

#### Retirement

We would like to congratulate Patricia Boudreaux on retiring with 24 years and 7 months of dedicated service. Thank you, Ms. Pat, for your service. Good luck, and may you have a happy retirement.



#### **Service Pin Recipients**

Four JWC employees received their 15-year service pins. They are Federal Program Coordinator (EB) **Deanna Stewart**; Career Specialists (WB) **Troy Powell**, **Janet James**, and **Tanya Bates**. Congratulations to all of our service pin recipients!

#### Events

JWC's Operations Manager **Eurydice Bush-Harrison** and

Career Specialist **Tanya Bates** recently attended the Jefferson Parish Job Expo held at the Alario Center on April 26, 2022. Job opportunities with Jefferson Parish were posted, and our employees provided vital information to job seekers regarding training and employment services.

**Tanya Bates** represented JWC at the Senior Job Expo held on March 16, 2022, at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, LA. Thanks to everyone for providing information and participating in these events.

# Retirements

Greg Alexander HR Management 23 years

Gwendolyn Baker EIS-GIS 28 years

Patricia Boudreaux Water 25 years

Kirk Bradley Juvenile Courts 33 years

Debbie Brignac Drainage 26 years

Darnell Brown Parish Council 19 years Jeannette Brown Library 7 years

> Jun Chen Engineering 13 years

Patricia Finney PMZ/QOL 13 years

Lee Floyd Community Development 8 years

Brenda Flynn First Parish Court 27 years

> Betty Koenig D.A.'s Office 28 years



Great Blue Heron

Jack Labaron Telecommunications 15 years

> Karen Lachute Accounting 16 years

Arthur Nicholas Drainage 15 years

> Carl Reed Streets 25 years

Kenneth Schexnayder Engineering 25 years

Judy Stone Workforce Connection 25 years

Gary Vukich Engineering SCADA 19 years

> Gregory Walker Central Garage 10 years

Sharon Wegner Workforce Connection 15 years