



Volume 43
Number 3
Summer 2022

JeffTark

Message from the Parish President . . .

One Year Later

It's been almost one year since Hurricane Ida made landfall as a powerful Category 4 storm, leaving a wide path of destruction across Jefferson Parish. The scars left on many areas of Lower Jefferson remain visible, but we have made extraordinary strides in recovery.

Last month, less than one year after Ida hit, we hosted the 94th Annual International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo – a tremendous feat considering 100 percent of the island's homes and businesses were hit hard and 35 percent were totally destroyed. It was a wonderful celebration and a reminder of the power of resiliency and the strength of our community.

Employees Are Key to Recovery

Following a storm, what often isn't visible is the behind-the-scenes work of our dedicated Jefferson Parish employees. You all played a critical role in helping our citizens before, during and after the storm. Individuals from many of our departments and agencies worked diligently around the clock, oftentimes away from family and while dealing with lost possessions and homes.

Our team has been busy in recovery mode, and we continue to see great progress as we work together to return to normalcy. So many of our departments are to thank for this – including our Emergency Management Department, Public Works crews, Parkways and Recreation staff and Jefferson Protection and Animal Welfare Services team, just to name a few. You all pivoted to meet the needs of the community in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

The work that you all do is critical to the ongoing recovery of Jefferson Parish. We are grateful for your dedication and service to our community.



Cynthia Lee Sheng
Parish President

Remain Vigilant

As a reminder, we're quickly approaching the peak of hurricane season. Now is the time to make sure you're prepared and informed; do not wait until a storm is in the Gulf.

Thanks to our Emergency Management team and CAA **Sarah Babcock**, we recently hosted a tabletop exercise with all local and state partners, including the Louisiana State Police, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and the Louisiana Department of Health. Because no two storms are the same, we are making sure that we are ready for every imaginable scenario. I am confident we are more prepared than ever for anything that comes our way, and this is because of the hard work and dedication of our employees.

Please encourage your friends and family to stay aware during this time by checking Jefferson Parish's official social media channels (@JeffParishGov on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) for real-time updates and signing up for alerts by texting JPALERT or JPNOTICIAS to 888-777.

For helpful links and resources, view our Hurricane Preparation Dashboard at www.jeffparish.net/jpaware.

JeffTalk

Editor Nicole Thompson
 Managing Editor..... Nordette Adams
 Copy Editor..... Duane Darcey

Departmental Reporters

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

Editor's*Notes***It's Back-to-School Time!**

While this may be delightful for those of us who have school-aged children or grandchildren under our care, the back-to-school season can also be challenging. Reestablishing routines, reinforcing rules and curfews, facing traffic and *home-work*—having the responsibilities of caring for a school-aged child while working can be taxing at times. Some of us can appreciate a little guidance.

I have found three useful online guides and parents' tools that I think can help those of us who are parents and those without school-aged children who support and help parents.

[Back to School](#) – Parents.com

[Louisiana Believes](#) – Louisiana

Department of Education

[Back to School Guide for Parents \(2022\)](#) – The Mabelhood

Another useful guide, the 2019 article "[Tips for Working Parents](#)" at Forbes.com, offers tips for working parents in particular. Here are a few that I found helpful:

- Review all of your obligations and make it clear to your manager and/or colleagues when you might need to be out.
- See if your colleagues have similar issues and help each other work on a flexible plan (which you can share with your manager so he/she knows the work is being covered).
- Meet with your child's teachers to let them know when you can attend events and collaborate with them. You both have the same interest at heart – your child's success. View them as partners or colleagues and be candid about how they can best help you and your child.

And here is a tip of my own: Know your back-up routes to work. School buses and harried parents on the road often lead to traffic jams.



Nicole Thompson, Editor

Promoting Work-Life Balance and Growing Our Workforce

Often around the beginning of the school year, some parents realize that they would prefer to work in an environment more accommodating to parents. They would like to work for an organization that values work-life balance, one of many benefits Jefferson Parish offers.

Parents are not the only group that can appreciate the perks work-life balance provides. Most of us work 35 or 40 hours per week and have fixed work schedules. We do not feel pressured to grind at 50 or more hours per week. Working for the Parish allows us the time we need to take care of our families, ourselves, and other responsibilities beyond our jobs.

You may help the Parish workforce grow by sharing that message. Do you know of any job seekers who want better work-life balance and may be unaware that they can have that balance with the Parish? The Parish has job openings right now. Perhaps you know someone who would fit here perfectly.

Other Seasons to Keep in Mind

Open Enrollment season begins in mid-October.

Be on the lookout for instructions around October 17. There will also be informative meetings prior to that date regarding potential changes to benefits. More information will be provided in the near future.

I hope you all have a successful school year and remain vigilant, prepared, and safe as we enter the most dangerous stretch of the hurricane season.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

by
Jonathan Whipple

Welcoming New Employees

We're pleased to introduce two new staff members to the Yenni Building this summer:



Guadalupe Scherer
Account Clerk III



Flora Fang Zhao
Accountant I

Summer Dress Down Day

Although we couldn't make it to the Tarpon Rodeo, that didn't stop us from sporting our Summer's Best!



Donnie Lewis, Jonathan Whipple, Guadalupe Scherer, Rayshawna Poole, Anna Williamson

Employee of the Year

This July we honored **Emann Batiste** as our director presented her with the award for Employee of the Year. Emann has dedicated nearly 14 years to Community Development and has worked several different programs in the Department. As a result, she has a vast amount of institutional knowledge that benefits all of us immensely. She is reliable, hard-working, trustworthy, innovative and an all-around pleasure to work with. Please join us in congratulating Emann!



Employee of the Year Emann Batiste



Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng (center-left) and Councilmembers proclaim June to be Healthy Homes Month

National Healthy Homes Month

June has officially been recognized by the Parish President as National Healthy Homes Month. This event, created by HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, helps bring awareness to the importance of home safety and healthy living conditions. It also helps link residents to available resources such as the Jefferson Lead-Safe Housing Program. Our department was proud to receive a proclamation from the Parish President and Councilmembers as well as a press release from the PIO team. Thank you to all of those involved in elevating the work we do to improve the housing conditions for our community!

Senior Luncheon

On June 7 members of our department participated in the annual Senior Luncheon hosted by **Councilman Byron Lee** at the Alario Center. The event was well attended and offered us an excellent opportunity to provide information and other resources to the community.



Senior Luncheon at the Alario Center – Philip Thomas, Guadalupe Scherer, Lauren Cheramie, Zachary Lemoine

Community Development *continued***Snowball Fest**

Another great community outreach event we participated in this summer was the annual Snowball Festival organized and hosted by **Crescent City Family Services**, a local WIC Clinic in Gretna. On July 18 we were excited to participate in this super fun community health and resource fair. Families from both sides of the river were treated to free snowballs, great music and tons of giveaways from vendors Healthy Blue, DePaul Community Health, United Healthy Care, Common Ground Health Clinic and Community Development to name a few.



Snowball Fest Vendors Group at Crescent City Family Services



Emann Batiste and Jonathan Whipple

District 3 Leadership Meetings

On July 21 members of our team joined **Councilman Byron Lee** in meetings on the Eastbank and Westbank with ministers from District 3. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss community outreach, extend information about resources offered by our departments, answer participants' questions and discover ways we can work together to best serve their constituents. We appreciate the Councilman's invitation to take advantage of these opportunities to strengthen the connection between the work we do and the community we serve.



Jonathan Whipple, Emann Batiste, Councilman Byron Lee

ECOSYSTEM & COASTAL MANAGEMENT AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT & RISK MITIGATION

by
Seamus Riley

Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful Speaking Engagement

On June 22 Coastal Resources Manager **Jason Smith** served as guest speaker at the Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful luncheon held at the Lafreniere Park Foundation Center. Participants were rewarded by learning about the successful Bayou Segnette volunteer cypress plantings conducted in 2010 along the Bayou Segnette Waterway, Jean Lafitte Histori-

(Continued on page 5)



Ecosystem's Jason Smith presenting at the Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful luncheon

(Continued from page 4)

cal Park and Preserve Barataria Unit riparian shoreline, all located near Westwego and Marrero. Jason talked about the recent volunteer planting of 600 cypress trees along the eastern shoreline of Goose Bayou this past February. Lastly, he informed participants of the department's recent educational outreach initiative to grow cypress at the Parkways greenhouse facility to be planted later by volunteers in the nearby swamps and marshes. These plantings will help to facilitate public engagement while educating people about the important values and functions wetlands serve in our communities.

Greenhouse Repairs

The Ecosystem & Coastal Management department, with assistance from Parkways, coordinated and monitored greenhouse repairs following Hurricane Ida. Repairs included removing and replacing four 6 x 15-foot clear polycarbonate roof panels and installing a new 48 x 36-foot 50% shade cloth on top of the structure to reduce heat generated inside the greenhouse. All costs were covered by a Hurricane Ida mini-grant.

Eco-Encounter Events

On June 28 and July 21, the Ecosystem and Coastal Management, Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation, and Environmental Affairs departments hosted Eco-Encounter events at Johnny Bright and Kings Grant playgrounds. These events featured multiple hands-on stations for campers to learn about storm surge and the multiple lines of defense protecting our coast. Campers interacted with the floodplain model to grasp how changes in topography can affect flooding. They also learned about stormwater runoff and ways to prevent pollution, create coastal art pieces, and more. These events gave our offices the opportunity to teach about the importance of our surrounding natural resources and methodologies for protecting and conserving them and our way of life in southeastern Louisiana. Special thanks to the Parks and Recreation Department for giving us these opportunities.



AmeriCorps member Patrick Hurley teaching campers about storm surge



National Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Center

The Ecosystem & Coastal Management department traveled to the National Resources Conservation Services Plant Materials Center in Galliano, La., to learn about methods used to grow various types of wetland vegetation. The center's manager, Garret Thomassie, provided a tour of their facility, which unfortunately sustained considerable damage from Hurricane Ida.

However, Garret was eager to give advice on what methods have proven successful and others that didn't fare so well. Some discussion concentrated on the approaches to grow Vermilion smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) and cypress. Coastal Resources Specialist **David Illgen** stayed late to absorb as much knowledge as possible.

A floodplain rain-event simulation in action

*Ecosystem continued***Community Ratings System Required Messaging**

As we continue through this hurricane season, Floodplain Management & Hazard Mitigation would like to encourage everyone to be Storm Ready. Visit www.jeffparish.net/flood to learn more.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

by
Dorina Gauthreaux

Hurricane Season

The last couple of months the Emergency Management department has been extremely busy getting ready for hurricane season. We are currently entering the peak months for this hurricane activity. We hope it remains a quiet season this year, but we are prepared if anything does come our way.

On May 12 and 13 we conducted our annual Ops Room Training Exercise in preparation for hurricane season. Participants were provided with real-world training scenarios to gauge their readiness for the upcoming season.

Public-Assisted Evacuation Exercise

The Emergency Management department held its annual public-assisted evacuation exercise at the Alario Center on May 23. The Public-Assisted Evacuation Plan is designed to provide transportation to those citizens who would require assistance to evacuate if the Parish President orders an evacuation of large portions of Jefferson Parish during disasters or emergencies. Multiple planning meetings were conducted to provide better understanding among state and local agencies and JP departments.

Disaster Resilience Summit

On July 11 the Emergency Management department hosted Meta's first in-person Disaster Resilience Summit for first responders, government agencies, small businesses, and relief organizations. The purpose was to get the most out of Meta before, during, and after disasters.

Presentations from Meta staff explained Meta Crisis products, resources, and core features of Facebook. A partner panel comprised of local representatives from across southeast Louisiana discussed the best ways local communities can use powerful digital communication tools to respond to natural disasters.

Training sessions covered resources like local alerts, business resilience, ads in an emergency, and included an on-site help desk for account and tech support. The Summit also included a tailored best practice training program for small businesses to show them how best to use digital tools in their own preparation, response and economic recovery after a disaster.

**Essential Duty Employee (EDE) Tracker**

This year we also worked closely with other departments to create the Essential Duty Employee (EDE) tracker. This tracker allows us to determine how many employees to house during the critical hours of a disaster. It also lists each employee's job during an event. This will help activations run smoother and facilitate tracking for FEMA reimbursement after the activation has ended.

WWL-FEMA NPWS/PEP Broadcast Shelter Training

The National Public Warning System (NPWS) is a nationwide network of Primary Entry Point (PEP) Broadcast Shelters and other entities connected with government emergency activation points.

NPWS/PEP Broadcast Shelters serve as the primary source of emergency broadcasts in times of emergency.

FEMA equips NPWS/PEP Shelters with backup communications equipment and power generators that enable them to continue broadcasting information to the public during and after an emergency.

The 77 participating broadcast stations across the nation cover more than 90 percent of the U.S. population.

Emergency Management staff participated in two trainings—virtual and in-person at a location that will serve WWL in metro New Orleans.

NPWS/PEPs are located at specifically designated commercial radio broadcast stations as selected by FEMA. They provide Emergency Broadcasts with life-saving information for the public and are activated when all other means of communication infrastructures are disrupted.

CPR Certification

The Emergency Management department also held a departmental CPR class on May 3. Chris Becker from AMED did a great job getting our department CPR certified.



Claire Ward, Kevin Woods, Precious Nelson, and instructor Chris Becker



Director Joseph Valiente

New Employee

We would like to welcome our new Assistant Director **Chris Trosclair**. Chris is coming to us from Juvenile Services, where he has been for the last 18 years. He will make a great addition to our team!



ENGINEERING

by
Helen McGee

Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Engineering's Employee of the Year, **Curtis McFarland**, Warehouse Supervisor II. Curtis has distinguished himself in his position of directing the operations of the East Bank warehouse in spite of personnel shortages and supply chain issues. He continues to demonstrate a "can do" attitude in providing materials for the Public Works Department.

Thank you, Curtis, for your hard work, dedication, and outstanding job performance. Well deserved!

Much luck to everyone returning to school! Have a safe and successful school year. Watch those school zones!



Engineering Employee of the year Curtis McFarland and Director Angela DeSoto



Sisters Caroline and Kate welcome baby sister Natalie Anne Zeringue

New Addition

It's another girl!

Congratulations to Assistant Director **Matthew Zeringue** and his wife on the arrival of their third daughter, **Natalie Anne**. She was born on June 2.

New Hire

Engineering welcomes **Brian Abadie**, Engineering Inspector II (Eastbank Inspections) by way of PMZ and newcomer **Logan Limjuco**, Engineering Inspector I (Westbank Inspections). Happy to have you both aboard!

Service Pins

Congratulations to **Arnold Wharton**, Shipping and Receiving Stock Clerk, **15 years** of service, and **Jerry Zeringue**, Warehouse Superintendent, **10 years** of service.



Arnold Wharton, (15 years), Director Angela DeSoto, Jerry Zeringue (10 years)

Engineering continued**Promotions**

Congratulations to **Jared Arnold** on being hired as Engineer-in-Training, formerly our college intern; **Peter Martin**, Warehouse Supervisor I; **Troy Tillman**, promoted to Administrative Assistant; **David Vitrano**, Electrical Inspector II; and **Daloss Falghou**, Public Works Field Operations Coordinator. Much success to you all on your promotions.

Farewell

Best wishes to **Shelia Rodrigue**, Secretary, on her recent departure from the Engineering Department.

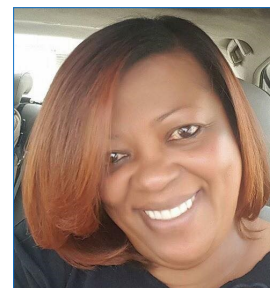


Shelia Rodrigue

Helen McGee Signing Off

I would like to take this time to say that this will be my last article. I have enjoyed my time getting the word out and sharing the news about Engineering. I wrote my first article in December 2012 and haven't missed one since. Time to pass the torch. It's been great!

*Reporter
Helen
McGee*

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

by
Kathy Russo

Employee of the Year

Congratulations to our Assistant Director, **Katherine Costanza** on being selected as Employee of the Year. Katherine's exemplary leadership and extraordinary work led this department through COVID-19, garbage collection and landfill issues, and two hurricanes and their massive debris pickups, largely without a director. Keep up the excellent work!

Continuing Education

Environmental Affairs would like to congratulate **Alexander Adams** on passing his Wastewater Treatment Class III exam.

Peyton Aubin, Environmental Quality Technician, represented the department at the EPA Region IV Pretreatment Association Workshop in Denton, Texas. Peyton brought back a lot of useful information that he learned at the workshop and from representatives of other cities.

Nine of our employees attended the Pipeline Association of Louisiana annual Pipeline Emergency Response and Damage Prevention Workshop held at the Moore Venue in Elmwood. This was the first time an in-person workshop has been held since 2019 due to the pandemic.

This summer **Sami Khalil** participated as an instructor in the Parish Supervisor Safety Training class. Sami focused on how Good Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention for Municipal Facilities helps create a safe working environment for our employees.



Sami Khalil instructing Parish supervisors on spill training

Summer Camps

Environmental Affairs joined Ecosystem & Coastal Management and Floodplain Management & Hazard Mitigation at two Jefferson Parish summer camps. On June 28 **Diane Coughlin** and **Ian Sareussen** participated at the Johnny Bright Playground summer camp, and on July 21, **Diane Coughlin** and **Peyton Aubin** participated at the Kings Grant Playground summer camp. At both camps the campers were taught about non-point source pollution and solutions, why pollution is bad for the water environment, and the Dead Zone.

LEPC

Sami Khalil, **Kathy Russo** and **Diane Coughlin** attended the Jefferson Parish Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting on August 2 at the EOC. The LEPC is a required committee by the state Emergency Response Commission and is a group of government emergency responders, public works, industrial representatives, and local citizens. It is open to all members of the public. The LEPC is in the process of being reorganized, and this was the first meeting since the pandemic. It will meet quarterly.

Scout's Honor

The Stormwater Division helped John McNally achieve his Eagle Scout project by supplying him with storm drain markers and glue so he could clean up litter and mark storm drains around St. Mary Magdalen School and Our Lady of Divine Providence.



Ian Sareussen teaching children at Johnny Bright Playground summer camp on Non-Point Source Pollution.

FINANCE

by
Jasmine Hamilton

Accounting

Employee of the Year

We are delighted to congratulate **Wanda Harvey** for being Employee of the Year for her exceptional work and dedication as our Administrative Assistant in the Accounting department.

Wanda has been a treasured member of the Jefferson Parish Accounting department since July 15, 2017. Not only is this wonderful human being lovely inside and out, she has a generous, creative and spirited nature and devotion to excellence that we have come to depend on.

Although Ms. Wanda is loaded with responsibilities of her own, she can often be found assisting coworkers, other departments or helping prep and cleanup during events. Over the past five years, we have all benefited from her willingness to put in extra time, energy and planning. Her willingness to assist others and her commitment to training employees is unequalled.

Thank you, Ms. Wanda, for all that you do. We are extremely grateful to have you as a part of our team.



Accounting Employee of the Year Wanda Harvey

Budgeting

Employee of the Year

Congratulations to our Accountant II Central Finance officer worker, **Tia Venible**, for being employee of the year. Since February of 2012 Tia has been a treasured member and friend to all. She is being recognized for her hard work, attention to detail, dedication, consistency, multiple skills, intelligence and overall beautiful soul and personality. Despite the overwhelming amount of work, Tia consistently finds ways to help her coworkers and departments. Ms. Tia, we want to thank you for your hard work this year and for demonstrating what it means to be an excellent employee. We are extremely grateful to have you as a part of our team.



Budgeting Employee of the Year Tia Venible



Gloria Smith

Payroll Department

Promotion

Please help us congratulate **Gloria Smith**, who is being promoted from Payroll Clerk CPO to Payroll Officer Assistant. She began her new role on May 7.

This promotion recognizes the contributions Gloria has made to Jefferson Parish, and we are happy for her new promotion. Please join us in wishing Gloria the best of luck as she takes on these new responsibilities.

Retirement

Please join us in extending best wishes to our Accounting Operations Manager, **Clifford Smith**, who retired from the Accounting department on August 12.

Cliff first began working with Jefferson Parish in January 1991.

In the many years Cliff has been in the office, we have all benefited from his scrupulous attention to detail, professional level of judgment, and his personal initiative to go above and beyond to help us meet deadlines. His commitment to excellence while also keeping the broader picture in mind has been invaluable and unmatched.

In addition to his incredible competence and skill, Cliff has always brought his own sense of humor. Whether it was his quirky dance moves, quiet encouragement, quirky humor, chuckles and smiles, his presence and warm-hearted nature will be missed immensely. From the Accounting, Budgeting, Payroll and Finance departments, we hope that he is blessed with many wonderful experiences, good health, relaxation, peace and prosperity. We wish him the best in all his plans and endeavors.

We will miss you, Mr. Cliff!

Public Safety, Grants & Administration

Employee of the Year

A well-deserved congratulations to our Administrative Management Specialist IV-FEMA Public Assistance, **Kalvilyn Griffin**, for being Employee of the Year.

This fabulous employee has been a huge asset to our department since September 14, 2009, and is very deserving of this award and recognition. With a calm demeanor, hard work ethic and willingness to help others, Ms. Kalvilyn has been an essential coworker and a treasured friend to many. We have all benefited from her time and energy in helping the departments meet deadlines and stay in order.

Ms. Kalvilyn, we want to thank you for your consistent hard work year after year and for demonstrating what it means to be an excellent employee. We are extremely grateful to have you as a part of our team.

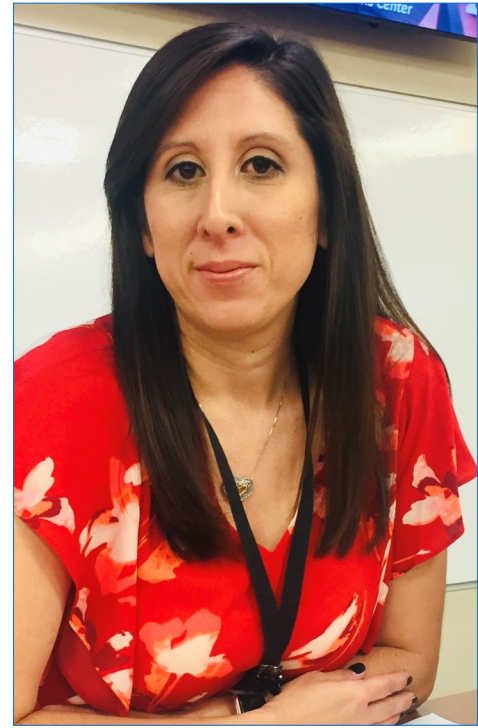
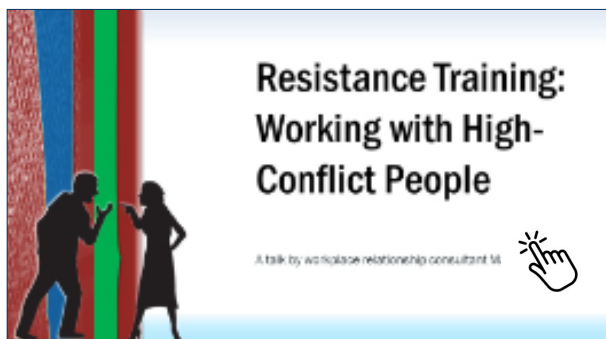


Public Safety Grants & Administration Director **Nicole Gaubert** (left) with Employee of the Year **Kalvilyn Griffin**

Office Party

On July 26 the Payroll staff dressed up and decorated their office for the Summer Dress-down Day Event.

JeffParish Professional Development



Melissa Ovalle

New Employee

Please join us in welcoming our new Administrative Management Specialist III-Grants for Public Safety Grants & Administration, **Melissa Ovalle**, who started her position on July 18. She came to us as a Buyer II from the GGB Purchasing Department. We look forward to supporting you as you begin your journey with us. Good luck to you as you become accustomed to your new position.



Kellie Minjarez, Shea Green, Wanda Harvey, Denise Fontenberry and Gloria Smith (top) all posed in their flip flops, beach hats, towels, and sunglasses for the occasion.

FLEET MANAGEMENT

by
Amy Truesdell

New Arrivals

This summer proved to be an exciting one for Fleet Management. We added a new team member to our crew: Miss **Ainsley Belanger**, born August 3, weighing in at 7 lbs. 6 oz., and measuring 19.75 inches long—and full of attitude, per her daddy, Director **Randy Belanger**. We have all been anxiously waiting for the new arrival and are thrilled that the Belangers have a new addition to the family.

In other baby news, Typist Clerk III **Wanda Rivera Pagan** became a grandmother for the fifth time, welcoming a new granddaughter, Miss **Jubilee**, born on June 15.

New Hires

Robert England has joined our staff as a Laborer. Robert was formerly a Laborer with Water and after several years away from Jefferson Parish is back and ready to work.

Ryne Fogarty has also joined Fleet as our newest Automotive Mechanic for our East Bank garage. We expect great things from Ryne and hope he will be with us for a long time to come.



Director Randy Belanger, daughter Ainsley and dog Brees

Promotion

Typist Clerk III **Gail Gregoire** was promoted to the secretarial position. Gail has taken the reigns without hesitation and is ready for the challenge.

Employee of the Year

Maintenance Repairman **Wardell Vontoure, Sr.** received Fleet's Employee of the Year Award. We value Mr. Wardell's hard work and craftsmanship. Whenever we need a building repair, Mr. Wardell is there to take care of the issue, and he has a great attitude. Mr. Wardell is a pleasure to work with and always has a great sense of humor.

Farewell

We had to say goodbye to Secretary **Karen Gilley**, who accepted a promotion to Administrative Assistant in Engineering; she will definitely be missed!

Open Enrollment for Benefits

runs from
mid-October to mid-November
and don't forget, you need to
renew your FSA each year!
Benefits begin January 1, 2023

 JeffParish Professional Development



Director Randy Belanger, Employee of the Year Wardell Vontoure, Sr. and Assistant Director Bruce Vosbein

GENERAL SERVICES

by
Marianne Adorno

Welcome

We would like to welcome our newest employees, Laborers **Tyron Clofer** and **Kaylemn Perez**.



Employee of the Year Tim Hoskins

Employee of the Year

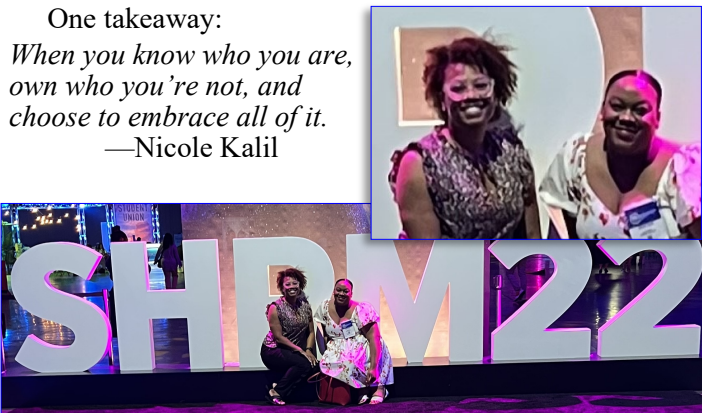
The entire General Services staff would like to send a well-deserved "Congratulations!!!" to Property Manager **Tim Hoskins**, who received the Employee of the Year award.

HR Managers **Angie Taylor** and **Adrienne Breaux** attended the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) "Cause the Effect" conference held in New Orleans June 11-15.

One takeaway:

*When you know who you are,
own who you're not, and
choose to embrace all of it.*

—Nicole Kalil



Condolences

With deep sadness and a heavy heart, we regret to inform you that **Neal Lavin** has succumbed to his battle with cancer. Neal was a devoted Jefferson Parish and General Services employee who dedicated his career to performing outstanding services to the citizens of Jefferson Parish. Please keep his wife, children, and family in your thoughts and prayers.

[Neal Lavin](#) (1960 - 2022)

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

by
Duane Darcey

Service Pins

Congratulations to Safety Program Manager **Wayne Jones** for earning his 10-year service award.



HRM Director Nicole Thompson presents Safety Program Manager Wayne Jones with his 10-year service pin

Ethics Training

Congratulations to Training Specialist II **Duane Darcey** for becoming a Certified Ethics Trainer (CET). This designation enables him to deliver ethics training to anyone in Louisiana, including new Parish employees during their orientation. His role will include assisting Director of Governmental Ethics and Compliance **Victoria Wood Landrieu** to ensure that new hires meet the state's training requirements and understand the concepts underlying ethical behavior for government employees.

INSPECTION AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

by
Courtney Bertucci

Welcome

We would like to welcome new employees, Typist Clerk III **Christina Wilson** and Mechanical Inspector **Charles London**, to the Mechanical Section.

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate **Danny Ferrara** on his promotion to Director, **Tramone Chetta** on her promotion to Assistant Director and **Sal Puleo** on his promotion to Regulatory Manager.

Congratulations to **Quang Nguyen** for obtaining his Electrical Plans Examiner Certification, **Pedro Benitez** and **Kyle Paulson** for earning their Mechanical Plans Examiner Certifications and **Troy Ducote** for gaining his Residential Plumbing Inspector Certification.

Congratulations to **Mindy Punch** for being chosen as Employee of the Year. Great job!



Aimee Vallot, Mindy Punch, Danny Ferrara

Service Pins

Congratulations to Secretary to the Director **Charlene Jones** for receiving her 10-year service pin.



Charlene Jones and Aimee Vallot

Congratulations to Account Clerk III **Kevin Kinsley**, for receiving his 10-year service pin.



Danny Ferrara and Kevin Kinsley

Congratulations to Plan Review Supervisor **Ricky Hollier** and Electrical Inspector I **George Jackson** for receiving their 5-year service pins.



Sal Puleo, Ricky Hollier, Aimee Vallot



Quang Nguyen, George Jackson, Aimee Vallot

Farewell

We would also like to wish **Carmelite Flugence** good luck in her pursuit of following her lifelong dream of working with children in the Parish school system after 9½ years of service in our department.

Retirement

The entire staff of Inspection and Code Enforcement would like to congratulate **Richie Sonier** on his retirement after 13 years of working for Jefferson Parish.



TechConnect

Information Technology News

Tech News

With Buddy B. & Heather G.

Time for another installment of the EIS News page! Here, we'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.

Who's new in IT?

Typist Clerk III, Tiffany—

There's a new voice answering the phones in MIS! **Tiffany Tigler** joined our department in July as our new Typist Clerk III. Be sure to say "hi" next time you're at the front desk!

IT Business Analyst, Heather—

We welcomed **Heather Glass** back into our department earlier this year as our IT Business Analyst. She's working with several departments on their technology projects, updating our cybersecurity action plans, and assisting with AS400 support.

Computer Systems Specialist Contractor, Jermaine—

Jermaine Brown is our newest tech from NewEra. He joined Buddy's team of superstar PC techs this July and is already fitting right in!

Intern, Parker—

Parker Bode joined us in August as our new Computer Systems Intern. One day he hopes to work in IT for the FBI, and we will be proud to say he started here in Jefferson Parish!

What's new in IT!

Multi-Factor Authentication for Email

A big **Thank You** to everyone who has enrolled in DUO and helped to further enhance our cybersecurity posture. We have implemented Duo multi-factor authentication (MFA) on all Microsoft Office 365 accounts, which includes email.

For those not familiar with MFA, it's an authentication method that requires two or more verification factors: 1. something you know and 2. something you have. For instance, to access technology resources such as an application like Office 365 or a VPN, the something you know is your user name and password, and the something you have is the code from the Duo application.

Those with VPN access will use the same Duo account to access email and Office 365 apps. Learn more about MFA at <https://guide.duo.com>

Speaking of Cybersecurity...

KnowBe4

- ⇒ Do you know how to recognize a suspicious email?
- ⇒ What do you do if you get a pop-up message demanding payment in bitcoin?
- ⇒ How do you respond to a coworker who asks to "borrow" your password?

Be on the lookout for emails from KnowBe4 inviting you to your annual cybersecurity training. Take your training early so you can amaze your coworkers, family, and friends with your knowledge of online safety!

Peak Hurricane Season is here...

Is your laptop ready for evacuation or remote work?

- Do you have the right power cable and accessories?
- Does it power up and hold a charge?
- Connect to our network and log in using your current password.
- Make sure you can access all files and programs.
- Stay current on Windows updates.
- Test and troubleshoot any remote connections.

Contact the IT Helpdesk if you need a "hurricane season" checkup on your laptop or tablet.

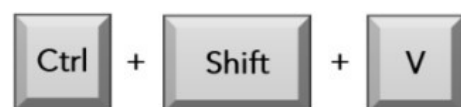
Make a habit to check for Windows updates each week, and you'll be ready for the unexpected!

Hotkey Corner

By Chris Martin

Have you ever tried to copy and paste something but your text ends up not matching and looks **LIKE THIS**? Try pasting using **Ctrl+Shift+V** instead.

This strips the formatting from the source of what you copied and matches the formatting of what you are typing instead, saving a lot of headaches trying to match the font size and formatting after the fact. This shortcut works in most applications but is especially useful in Outlook, Word, and Excel.



JUVENILE SERVICES

by
Vicki Borja

Employee of the Year

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



Director Roy Juncker presenting Rhonda Walker with the Employee of the Year award

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!

June

Detention: **Mason Champagne**
Probation: **Antonio Condley**

July

Detention: **Katina Bills**
Probation: **Percy Hollins**

Promotions

Congratulations to **Miranda Delatte**, who has been promoted to Probation Officer II.

New Employee

Please join me in welcoming **Dominique Lambert**, who was hired as Detention Officer. Welcome aboard, Dominique.



*Detention Officer
Dominique Lambert*

Departures

Best of luck to **Christopher Trosclair**, who transferred to Emergency Management as Assistant Director, as well as **Larin Stewart** and **Darrnika Lewis**, who also left the department.

Employee Cookout

The Department of Juvenile Services, along with Juvenile Court, celebrated with an employee cookout on July 19. Comradery and fun were enjoyed by all.



Department of Juvenile Services and Juvenile Court employee cookout

LAFRENIERE PARK

by
Charlene Singleton

Repairs

Amazing work has been done to the Al Copeland Concert Center and Shelter #3. They are beautiful once again. Thanks for a job well done! Please come and check them out at Lafreniere Park.



Lafreniere Park, continued

Recently refurbished Shelter #3 at Lafreniere Park

New Hires

We would like to welcome our new hires to the Lafreniere Park Team/Family: Groundskeeper Catrell Robair and Groundkeeper Supervisor David Fray, who came from Parc De Familles. Welcome aboard.



Catrell Robair

Farmer's Market

Wednesdays from
2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Come and eat your lunch at the park. We'd love to have you!

LIBRARY

by
Daniel Gitlin

Employee of the Year

Congratulations to **Chad Willingham**, Library Employee of the Year.

Library Associate Chad Willingham earned the Library Employee of the Year award earlier in 2022 for his outstanding commitment to maintaining services for residents of Jefferson Parish, even in the toughest conditions. The Grand Isle Library suffered damage as Hurricane Ida rolled onto shore, making access to the library impossible for residents of the barrier island. Not only were books damaged, but also critical communications devices such as computers were down.

Perhaps Chad, who at the time was a Library Page, might never have imagined he would be so important; but after the senior staff members retired because of complications from the storm, he was the only employee left to help.

In her nomination form Library Assistant Director **M. Selena Muhoberac** painted a detailed picture of how important Chad was during the time after the storm. It was Chad, she explained, an employee with just two years of experience, who boxed up damaged items, opened the library for insurance adjusters and FEMA representatives, and worked closely with IT staff to get computers up and running in the Grand Isle Multiplex, a place that would serve as a temporary library location.

"Mr. Willingham rose to the occasion and took on the hard work necessary after a hurricane," Muhoberac said. "Chad has proven himself to be an invaluable asset to the Library by going above and beyond to keep the Grand Isle Library operational."

Chad worked through the difficult time while also dealing with damage to his own home. Considering the damage to Grand Isle, Chad was not even sure if he would still have a job.



Library Employee of the Year Chad Willingham

"Chad was willing to make long trips and work under extremely unpleasant conditions to help return needed services to the residents of Grand Isle," Muhoberac wrote. "He showed incredible dedication."

Over the course of several weeks, Chad worked to help make sure damaged items were replaced, and computers were once again available to residents.

The entire Library department congratulates Chad on his accomplishment and recognition. He is an outstanding example of the impact a parish employee can make to the people of Jefferson Parish.

*Library, continued***On the Passing of Sal Serio**

The Library lost a dear friend in May with the passing of **Sal Serio**. Sal was the curator of the Italian American Research Library on the second floor of the East Bank Regional Library.

Sal was a genealogy expert, a veteran of the Marine Corps, a father of four, and an outstanding public speaker. Hundreds of local residents frequently packed the meeting rooms to learn genealogy from Sal, while others sat beside him at his wooden desk, peering over his shoulder as he patiently explained how library resources could be used to track down lost generations.

Sal brought an energy and passion with him every day to work. He was the type of employee who made people smile, laugh, and feel included. People traveled to Metairie from other cities and states just to get Sal's help.

It is difficult any time a fellow parish worker passes away, but even more so when it's unexpected. Just



[Salvadore J. Serio](#) (1934 - 2022)

weeks before his death, Sal was planning his summer lecture series, looking forward to seeing so many he had not seen since before the Covid outbreak. In his honor, the lecture series went on as scheduled, with guest speakers who were close with Sal leading the discussions.

The Library, in general, has a hush over it, but without Sal, it seems even quieter.

Still, Sal leaves such a legacy of hard work behind him that his presence will be felt here for years to come. The goal of any librarian is to make such an impact.

There are some people who are hard to describe in words, and Sal is one of those. He was special, and everyone here at the Library was better for having him around. He was an outstanding employee, teacher, and friend. He will be incredibly missed.

New Hires/Promotions

The Library welcomes Library Associate **Mary Hafkesbring**.

Congratulations to the following employees who were recently promoted to Librarian I/Sr. Associate: **Jamie Brown, Jessica Conner, Alfred Ledesma, and Paris Hughes**.

Congratulations to **Chad Williamson** on his promotion from Library Page to Library Associate and **Shane Cardinelle** on his rise from Foreman I to Foreman II.

PARKS AND RECREATION

by
Brianna Duronslet

Employee of the Year Spotlight

Small Equipment Mechanic **Norman Lestrick** celebrates his new JPRD Employee of the Year title. Lestrick, a 23-year recreational veteran, started as a groundskeeper at Kennedy Heights Playground and moved to various parks through the years, from Bridge City to Waggaman to Kings Grant. Lestrick, also known as **Coach Woody**, became the maintenance repairman for small engines at the Westbank maintenance yard and has held the position ever since.

Coach Woody is now the head speaker for the Jefferson Parish Safety Committee and hosts talks at playgrounds on equipment safety and field maintenance seminars. Not only does he work on small engines, but he also assists other Maintenance personnel at the yard.

He is also a volunteer coach in the department. "I've been a volunteer coach for 15 years at Oakdale Playground," said Lestrick. "We're getting ready to get started with football in July."



In his reflection about his years at Recreation, Coach Woody said, "Recreation is a wonderful place to work. You will learn a lot." He advises incoming employees to stay positive, focused, and humble because the "more humble [you are], prizes like [Employee of the Year] will come, and at the end of the road, you'll see the sunshine."

Parks and Recreation, continued**New Hires***April*

Frederick Carreras, Phillip Harris
Anthony Giglio, Braden Melancon
Jessica Woodfill

May

Raynell Butler, Raymond Daniels

June

Joseph Barbara, William
Makepeace, Ryan Prestenbach

July

Steven Smith, Dustin Zeller

Promotions*April*

Kevin Austin – Buildings Maintenance Supervisor; **Julie McDonald** – Clerk II

May

Kristen Blount – Recreation Center Supervisor; **Frank Matise** – Recreation Center Supervisor; **Soraya Pirsalehy** – Typist Clerk III; **Chad Thomassie, Jr.** – Recreation Center Supervisor

July

Cory Goodwin, Jr. – Center Supervisor Assistant; **Elizabeth Hebert** – Special Program Supervisor; **James Prowell** – Center Supervisor Assistant

Compliment-a-Coworker Employee

David Swilley

App, Website, Logo Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

JPRD unveiled its app, website, and new logo to the public and department on May 23 at Jefferson Playground alongside staff and Parish Administration. The launch came after the department completed the year-long, next-level initiatives to increase external communication and streamline departmental branding. JPRD is currently in a transitional phase incorporating its new look into the department and using the app and website for external information dissemination. For the latest on JPRD, visit www.jprd.com and download the app on Google Play and the Apple store.

**JPRD Beautification Day**

Service is at JPRD's core with a new initiative of employee community service. JPRD started its Beautification Day project in July, picking a playground to "beautify" on the weekend. JPRD employees volunteered their Saturday morning to clean Delta Playground. The employee group pressure-washed the sidewalks and shelters, raked leaves, cleaned the parking lot, sanitized the tot lot, spread dirt and mulch, and picked up trash. The beautification day initiative has become a new monthly event at JPRD, with the next event scheduled at Kings Grant Playground.



JPRD volunteers participate in Beautification Day at Delta Playground



Gerard Constant



Nicholas Naumann



Leo Webb



Kristen Blount

PARKWAYS

by
Karen Jackson

Welcome

New employee **Terrell Thornton** transferred from Drainage to Parkways Westbank.



Terrell Thornton

Neal Cason transferred from Eastbank Parkways to Westbank Parkways. Neal has been with the Parish for a little over 5 years.



Neal Cason

Retirement

Congratulations to **Bernard "Bernie" Wisnowski**. Bernie is retired! Bernie was with the Parish for over 27 years as the Parish Arborist. He's been looking forward to lots of rest and relaxation. Enjoy your retirement, Bernie!

*Director **Bryan Parks**
with Bernie Wisnowski on
his last day*



Service Pins

Horticulturist **Don Cole** received his 15-year service pin. Don helps all the Departments in the Parish with landscaping and keeping areas green and beautiful.



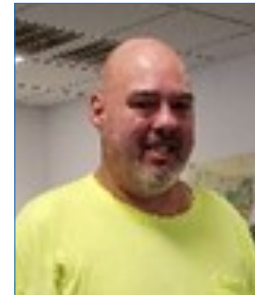
Don Cole

Memorial Day Clean-up

Parkways received a thank you letter for the work done on the Memorial before their service on Memorial Day. Patrick Kennedy, VFW Commander, and Kolleen Herndon, VFW Auxiliary President of Metry Post #6640 sent their "sincere appreciation" to Director **Bryan Parks** for all he did to help make their VFW Inaugural Day of Service 2022 "a great success." They wrote that they had "a nice turnout and everyone took pride in beautifying the War Monuments that mean so much to us."



Complaints Investigator **Ferril St. Pierre** earned his 5-year service pin.



Ferril St. Pierre

Pictured below are some of the veterans who helped with the Memorial Day clean-up.



Parkways, continued

Parkways SPOTLIGHT

Our spotlight shines on **Damon Weatherspoon**. Damon is leaving the Parkways department after his recent promotion to Eastbank Parkways Foreman. He's moving out of the area and we are sad to see him go. Good luck in your future endeavors, Damon.



Damon Weatherspoon

PLANNING

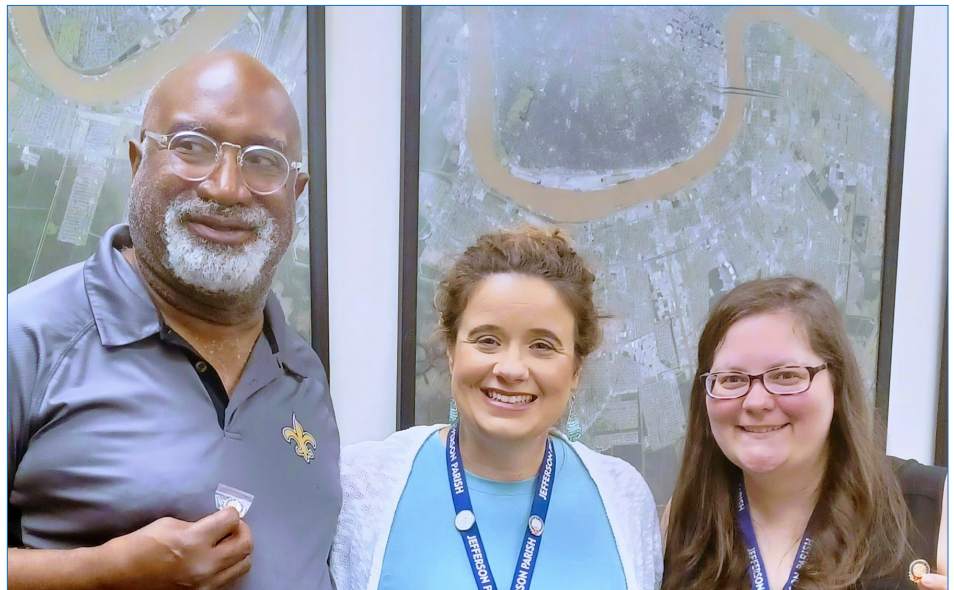
by
Samuel Mercier

Rather than embrace the doldrums of a hot Louisiana summer, the Planning Department has swept through June, July, and August with a flurry of projects, arrivals, and employee recognition. Among those projects is the rollout of our Integrated Green Infrastructure Strategy, which Planning is undertaking in coordination with other Land Use & Development departments such as Ecosystem & Coastal Management and Floodplain Management & Hazard Mitigation.

Employee of the Year

Another round of congratulations to Planner II **Amanda Ponti**, who is our 2021-2022 Employee of the Year! Amanda researches and writes studies as part of Planning's Long-Range Division. She also acts as a department-wide subject matter expert in GIS and plotting. Amanda is a deserving recipient of this award and was chosen for her outstanding service and dedication to the Planning Department.

*Planning Employee of the Year
Amanda Ponti*



Service Pins

Kelvin Jackson, Carrie MacKay, and Molly Brackin Bernard received 5-year service pins for their work with Jefferson Parish. Planning Director Bess Martin presented Carrie, Kelvin, and Molly with their pins on August 12. All three employees work as Planner IIs in the department: Kelvin is in our West Bank Current Planning Division, Carrie is in our East Bank Current Planning Division, and Molly is in our Zoning Administration Division. Thank you for your service!

Summer Intern

Simeon Davis was our 2022 Summer Youth Program intern. He assisted the Planning Department over the summer with a variety of clerical tasks, including purging planners' cases. After graduating from high school, he is interested in working with computers; to that end, he is already learning the Python and C++ programming languages. Simeon's favorite part of working with Planning? He finds purging relaxing: "I get to purge at my own pace."

*Planning, continued***Birth Announcement**

Planning is very excited to announce the birth of the daughter of Josh and **Brooke Tolbert**, Assistant Director of Planning. Ms. **Perry Lou Tolbert** was born on August 4 at 8:39 a.m., weighing in at 8 lbs., 13 oz. and measuring 22 inches long. Mother and baby are happy and healthy. Congratulations!

**Departures**

Best of luck to former Typist Clerk III **Arrington Pickens**, who left the department after seven years of service. Arrington handled a variety of clerical tasks for the Zoning Administration Division and the entire department, including taking calls and directing customers from our front desk. Thanks for your great work, Arrington – you will be missed!

**PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE ZONING &
QUALITY OF LIFE**

by
Vicki Lore

New Hires

Summer has brought a number of new faces to PMZ. In June we welcomed WB PMZ Inspector I **Kerry Foster**. In July EB Typist Clerk III **Shanetta Drake-Pruitt** came on board. Joining the team in August were **Loaletha Antoine** and **Tarez Carson**, each as an EB PMZ Inspector I.

Employee of the Year

In June PMZ honored Assistant Director **Brian Kennedy** for being named Employee of the Year for the department. Brian has been a Jefferson Parish employee for 32 years. Thank you for your dedicated service and a job well done!

*PMZ Employee of the Year
Brian Kennedy*

**Service Pins**

Service pins were presented to Administrative Assistant **Ashley Picquet** for 5 years of service and Clerk Typist III **Karen Favorite** for 15 years of service. Congratulations to both recipients!



Ashley Picquet, 5-year, and Karen Favorite, 15-year, service pin recipients

Promotions

Congratulations go out to all of our summer promotion recipients. **Brian Kennedy** was promoted to Assistant Director, **Michelle Champagne** to Executive Superintendent, **Anthony Dabdoub** to EB PMZ Inspector III, and **Barre Rousset** to WB PMZ Inspector III.

Condolences

The PMZ family would like to express our sincere condolences to **Michelle Champagne** on the loss of her brother and to **Nicole Dennis** on the passing of her father.

PURCHASING

by
Mark Buttery

State Bid Law (Title 38) – Increase to Contract Limits

Effective August 1, 2022, R.S. 38:2212.1 A.(1)(a), through House Bill No. 221, Act No. 204, Regular Session, 2022, is amended to provide a contract limit as follows:

All purchases of any materials or supplies exceeding the sum of sixty thousand dollars to be paid out of public funds shall be advertised and let by contract to the lowest responsible bidder

Therefore, effective August 1, 2022, only bids exceeding \$60,000 shall be publicly advertised in the Official Journal, *The Advocate*. Further, all purchases of any materials or supplies exceeding the sum of \$10,000, but less than \$60,000, require three quotes by telephone, facsimile, email, or any other printable electronic form, and shall be advertised via the Parish's e-Procurement system, Central Bidding.

In addition, effective August 1, 2022, bids under \$60,000 no longer require approval from the General Advisory Board (GAB).

The Purchasing Department's "Procurement Overview" PowerPoint provides a comprehensive overview of the procurement process, including the new bidding thresholds. The "Procurement Overview" is available in the [Reference Material](#) section of the Purchasing department's intranet page.

Departures

The Purchasing department would like to say farewell to two buyers who recently left for promotional positions within the Parish.

Melissa Ovalle has accepted a position as an Administrative Specialist III with the Department of Public Safety Grants & Administration. Melissa began her tenure in Purchasing in January 2015 as a Buyer I and was promoted to Buyer II in 2016. Melissa possesses a vast knowledge of federal procurement, which will assist her in her new role.

Rae Lynn Hartman has accepted a position as an Administrative Assistant with the Drainage Department. Rae Lynn started with Purchasing in May 2019 as a Buyer I. Her knowledge of the small bids process will be an asset in her new position.

We thank Melissa and Rae Lynn for their contributions to advance the work of the Purchasing Department and extend our best wishes to both of them as they continue their careers with Jefferson Parish.



Director of Purchasing Renny Simno presenting Melissa Ovalle with Employee of the Year award

Employee of the Year

Congratulations to the Jefferson Parish Purchasing Department Employee of the Year for 2022, Buyer II **Melissa Ovalle**. This year Melissa went above and beyond for Purchasing. She was instrumental in developing a Statement of Qualifications training program for her cohorts, creating an SOQ template and revising the SOQ procedures. Melissa is a pleasure to work with and is knowledgeable in all aspects of procurement.



JeffParish Professional Development



STREETS

by
Kenya Johnson

We hope everyone enjoyed their summer. We are in hurricane season, and we will continue to make sure that the Jefferson Parish Streets department is doing everything we can do to keep our streets and drains clean. We appreciate all the hard work from our employees.

Service Pins

Congratulations to the following employees who have received service pins for their many years of service with the Parish: Road Maintenance Superintendent II **Durrell Jones**, 30 years; Road Maintenance Foreman **Ricky Walker** and Equipment Operator IV **Gregory Hunter**, 25; and Engineering Inspector II **Tim Constant**, 22.

We would like to thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Streets department.



Road Operation Maintenance Manager James Thompson, Durrell Jones, 30 years service award, and Director of Streets Brook Burmaster



*Ricky Walker
25 years*



*Gregory Hunter
25 years*



*Tim Constant
22 years*

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

by
Susan Treadway

Traffic Engineering would like to welcome back two employees, Signal Technician I **Lafabian Fluker**, and Sign Technician I **Perry Milsap**. We are all happy to have you back on the team.

Congratulations

We also have a few team members to congratulate. First, **Solomon Collins** was recently promoted to Shop Carpenter. He has been doing a great job and is definitely ready to take on this new challenge. Next, Sign Superintendent I **James Vasquez** received his 15-year service pin and Typist Clerk II **Debbie Leonard** received her 5-year service pin. Congratulations to you both and thank you for everything you do.

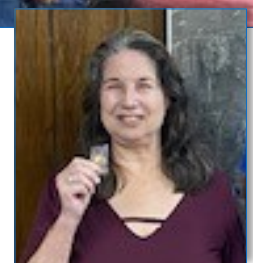
We'd also like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Brandy Stout** on

her new position in Engineering. We miss you here in Traffic, but it helps to know you aren't far away. And thankfully, we were able to get **Karen Gilley** to take your place. Welcome, Karen!

We'd also like to congratulate **Mack "PopPop" Richburg** on the birth of his first granddaughter, **Aubree Lawson**, and **Michael Soule** on the birth of his daughter, **Emma Jane**. Both babies are adorable and made these men all smiles.



James Vasquez receiving his 15-year service pin with Susan Treadway (left) and Angela DeSoto (right)



Debbie Leonard with her 5-year service pin

WATER

by
Lakeisha Joseph

Welcome to Team Water!

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

Claudia Diaz
Ernestine Williams
Bryson Cosey
Reginald Clark
Charles Scholl
Rashard Johnson

We would also like to welcome **Candies Champion**, who comes to us from JPAWS.

Promotions

Congratulations to Water Service Inspector II **Nicholas Sweeney**, Water Service Inspector II **Henry Williams**, and Water Purification Operator **Tahj Hawkins**.

Departures

Best wishes to **Jessica Albert**, **Loaletha Antione**, **Tiffany Tigler**, **Emanuel Becknel**, **Edwin Lofton**, and **Jason Bratton**, all of whom recently left the department for new career opportunities.

Service Pins

The following employees were recognized:

5 Years

Jason Bratton
Cornelius Frazier
Christopher Gai
James McCray
Kathy Randle
Paige Rome
Davionne Turner

10 Years

Chris Landry

15 Years

Yvonne Downs
Ralph Mitchell
Delta Torres

Employees of the Year

Congratulations to **Lloyd Seneck**, a Pump Equipment Mechanic at the West Bank Treatment Plant, for receiving the Employee of the Year award. We would also like to congratulate our Director **Sidney J. Bazley III** for receiving Public Works Employee of the Year award. Thank you both for a job well done.



Employee of the Year Lloyd Seneck with Superintendents Louis Jackson (left) and David Mahner (center-left) and Director Sidney J. Bazley III (right)

Retirement

We would like to congratulate Water Quality Scientist-GCMS **Harold Blytt**, who is retiring with over 20 years of service and Utility Service Manager **Lori Roth** with 30 years. Happy Retirement!



Director Sidney J. Bazley III

Employee Appreciation Event

JP Water department hosted its inaugural Employee Appreciation Event at Lafreniere Park. It was filled with fun and great laughs.



15-year service pin recipient Ralph Mitchell with Superintendent Bruce Tumblin Jr. (left) and Director Sidney J. Bazley III (right)



5-year service pin recipient Jason Bratton with Director Sidney J. Bazley III (left) and Superintendent II Joseph Butler (right)



Retirements

Jason Alexander

Drainage
30 years

Willie Kerner

D.A.'s Office
21 years

David Tibbetts

Fire Department
5 years

James Barton

Streets
30 years

Carl Reed

Streets
26 years

Bernard Wisnowski

Parkways
28 years

Harold Blytt

Water
20 years

Lori Roth

Water
29 years

George Wyman

Recreation
26 years

Myrna Jones

JeffCAP
20 years

Richard Sonier

Code Enforcement
13 years

William Zeigler

Fire Department
29 years

