

Special points of
interest:

- Hurricane Prep
- EFFAK



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JeffTalk

Volume 45, Issue 2

Spring 2024

Message from the President

Hurricane Season Is Approaching

As we quickly approach 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. According to forecasters, this hurricane season could be one of the most active on record.

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. Our Emergency Management Team has conducted a series of table-top exercises, shelter training and Emergency Operations Center activation training. Since Hurricane Ida, we have altered our plans to better address storms that are intensifying with little warning.



Cynthia Lee Sheng

Be Prepared

Every year, we ask residents to plan, prepare and stay weather aware. Given the higher-than-average forecast this year, we are urging residents to take this very seriously and plan early. 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.

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JeffTalk

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Editor’s Notes

What’s in Your Hurricane Wallet?

You may know that the commercial asking, “What’s in your wallet?” refers to a credit card, but the headline here refers to something more important. Do you have an emergency stash of cash?

More than likely you have heard predictions of an active hurricane season this year. And if you have lived here a while, you probably can recite by heart annual reminders to maintain your emergency kit (batteries, flashlights, non-perishable foods, first aid kits, etc.). But reminders to be financially prepared for disasters and other emergencies get much less air time.

If you answered “zero” to the first question of this article and “no” to the second, then why not consider the benefits of an emergency cash stash now?

I know that saving money and planning for disasters can be difficult. Thinking about it may even spark anxiety, but would finding yourself in a disaster without an emergency fund spark even more anxiety?

Ready.gov calls an emergency stash an Emergency Financial First Aid Kit, [EFFAK](https://www.ready.gov/effak), and advises us to stock it with more than money. For example, they advise having critical personal documents (copies of official photo IDs for household members; adoption records, birth certificates, medical information); contact information for friends, family, and your employer; and insurance policies (life, homeowners, renters, flood and auto). Good advice.

Let’s talk about the money. First, develop the habit of keeping small amounts of cash at



Nicole Thompson, Editor

home, particularly small bills because ATMs and credit cards may not work during disasters. Now, here are tips for building an emergency fund:

1. Determine how much you need in your fund.
2. Set a goal based on the amount you need.
3. Have a separate savings account designated for emergencies.
4. Automate your savings: have a set amount sent to your emergency account from each paycheck.
5. Save your change/coins. Do you have a piggy bank or water jug filled with coins? Cash it in and jump start your savings.
6. Cut back on your expenses. Maybe you have annual subscriptions to streaming services and products you do not need: find them and unsubscribe. Pay off a debt, eat out less or minimize spending on other non-essential items/activities. Then send the money you save in those areas to your emergency fund.
7. Finally, and possibly most important, set it and forget it. Let your emergency fund grow!

I hope that we are not affected by a hurricane this season, but if we are I am confident that we can all be prepared. Be safe, be ready, and start saving!

BUILDING PERMITS

Jasmine Moses

Welcome

The Building Permits Department welcomes new employees, Office Support Specialists II **Madison Genzale** and **Loaletha Antoine** and Mechanical Inspector **John Kovesdi**.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Chief Plumbing Inspector **Troy Ducote** for obtaining his Plumbing Plan Examiner Certification and to **Travis Marchese** for his promotion from Permit Technician to Plan Reviewer I.

On May 1st the Parish Council issued to the Building Permits Department a proclamation announcing Building Safety Month.



Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng and Parish Council members presenting Director of Building Permits Danny Ferrara with a proclamation for Building Safety Month

Service Pins

Congratulations to service pin award recipients

- *20 years:* Electrical Inspector II **Mark Dugas** and Office Support Specialist II **Cheryl Dufrene**,
- *15 years:* Plumbing Inspector **Dale Falgoust**
- *10 years:* Building Inspector **Thelma Atherton**, and
- *5 years:* Account Clerk II **Lorraine Seals**, .

Director **Danny Ferrara** presented each of them with their pins.



Danny Ferrara and Mark Dugas



Cheryl Dufrene



Dale Falgoust



Thelma Atherton



Lorraine Seals (center); Mindy Punch (right)

ECOSYSTEM AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Cassie Callais

Welcome

We are very happy to welcome two new staff members to our departments. **Cassie Callais** joined the Ecosystem and Coastal Management Department as an Administrative Management Specialist II, and **Latasha Smith** joined the Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Department as an Administrative Management Specialist II.

Service Pins

Congratulations to **Kimberly Thibodeaux** for her 15 years of service and **Cassie Callais** for her 10 years of service.

Bucktown – LSU AgCenter & AOL Education Field Experience

On April 4th the Departments of Ecosystem & Coastal Management and Floodplain Management & Hazard Mitigation partnered with the LSU AgCenter and the Pontchartrain Conservancy to host an educational field experience at the new Bucktown Bird's Nest Learning Pavilion for students attending Academy of Our Lady High School .

The students broke into three groups where they potted over 700 bare root cypress trees into one-gallon pots, to be planted in the future, and learned about the benefits of wetland restoration in our parish.



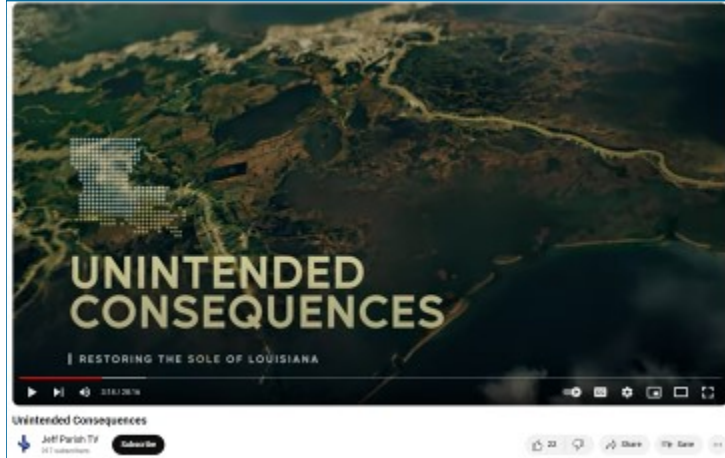
Students learn about the benefits of wetland restoration

LMFA Conference

Randi Ezell presented at the 2024 Louisiana Floodplain Management Association Conference in April where she taught attendees how to adapt their repetitive-loss mapping techniques to fit their jurisdiction's topography

and maximize CRS 510 credit points.

We also debuted at the conference a documentary that highlights the challenges we face in coastal Louisiana. Watch the video [Unintended Consequences](#) to learn more.



Participants in the LSU AgCenter & AOL Education Field Experience at the Bucktown Bird's Nest Learning Pavilion



Students potted over 700 bare root cypress trees into one-gallon pots



Students learn about the benefits of wetland restoration

According to the National Weather Service, nearly 70 percent of all tornadoes occur during the months of March through June. The Jefferson Parish Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Department would like to encourage everyone to take a moment and make a plan for tornado safety. Click [here](#) to learn more.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dorina Gauthreaux

Hurricane Season

Hurricane season is upon us once again. Hurricane season officially begins on June 1st and ends on November 30th. The hurricane names for this year are as follows: Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Francine, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Milton, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sara, Tony, Valerie and William.

GOHSEP

Jefferson is one of three parishes that participated in GOHSEP's three-day statewide exercise in mid-April. The purpose of the exercise was to train with our regional partners on a hurricane making landfall near SELA. On each day we practiced a different phase of emergency management.

On day one JPEM conducted a tabletop exercise to practice evacuation decisions. On day two we conducted the annual EOC Activation Training in conjunction with the statewide exercise. Injects were called by team members into our telephone operations, which were then tasked to assigned ESFs/LNOs. Situational reports and JP requests were sent to the State for assistance. JPEM is prepared for a far above-normal hurricane season. We want citizens to make sure they are ready too and have a plan in place before a storm threatens the area.

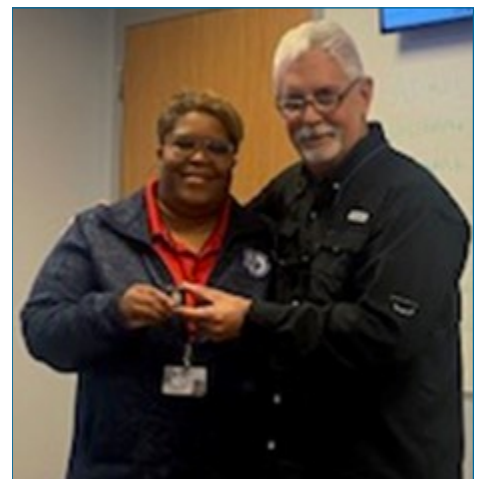


Jefferson Parish Emergency Management members **Joe Valiente, Claire Ward, and Kyle Baudoin** attended the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Florida, in March. During the conference the team attended sessions on new and emerging technology for increasing disaster preparedness, federal grant programs, strategic-level operations during hurricane response, sheltering, and panels hosted by hurricane experts. The team also attended multiple networking events hosted by Juvare, DRC, and Rave to bring better monitoring and emergency communication for the residents of Jefferson Parish.

Four staff members (**Joe Valiente, Dustin Guidroz, Jay Dugas, and Jeremy Guillot**) also attended the Louisiana Emergency Management Conference in Lake Charles. The conference included education, outreach and training tailored to the needs of federal, state and local government, specifically pertaining to homeland security, emergency preparedness, disaster recovery and mitigation activities.

Service Pins

Congratulations to **Precious Nelson** for serving Jefferson Parish 15 years, and **Allen Dyess** for five. We thank them for all their hard work and dedication.



Precious Nelson, Director Joe Valiente



Allen Dyess and Director Joe Valiente



Claire Ward, Sarah Babcock, Nichole Gaubert, Joe Valiente and Kyle Baudoin at the National Hurricane Conference



Sarah Richter and Kyle Baudoin at the Senior Expo

ENGINEERING

Amy Ross

Welcome

The Engineering Department welcomes JPAWS-transfer **Mariea Lucas** as its new Administrative Assistant and 2024 college interns **Taylor Patton, Jacob Hogan, and Raymond Culotta**.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

- **Christine George** to Signal Tech III - Traffic Engineering
- **Mike Soule'** to Signal Tech III - Traffic Engineering
- **Paula Nulty** to Administrative Assistant -Traffic Engineering



Mariea Lucas

- **Perry Milsap** to Sign Tech II - Traffic Engineering, and
- **Scott Bairnsfather** to Signal Tech III - Traffic Engineering.
- **Shelly White** to Engineering Division Supervisor-N.P. – Utilities Inspections Division

Retirements

We would like to congratulate and wish a fond farewell to **Jerry Zeringue**, who is retiring this spring as the Engineering Warehouse Superintendent with 11 years of service rendered. Jerry is also a veteran of the United States Air Force.



Jerry Zeringue

Service Awards

Congratulations to **Frank Fontana**, Utility Inventory Clerk I-Eastbank Public Works Warehouse, for receiving his five-year service pin and to **George Julie Martin**, Utility Inventory Clerk I-Eastbank Public Works Warehouse, for receiving her 10-year service pin.



Frank Fontana, George Julie Martin

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Kathy Russo

Congratulations to Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator **Alexander Adams** for being chosen as Departmental Employee of the year. Alex's performance has been outstanding, and he has been a great trainer to the employees he supervises. His award is well deserved.

At a recent Council meeting, Parish President Cynthia Lee-Sheng presented our Director, **Katherine Costanza**, with her 25-year service pin.

Congratulations also to **Gina Heim** on her promotion from Typist Clerk III to Administrative Assistant. Gina has been rapidly learning all of her new duties.

Ian Sareussen, Environmental Quality Specialist with our Pretreatment Division, recently passed his Wastewater Collection III exam. His hard work has paid off.

The Eclipse

On April 7th the department participated in the big eclipse. We held a small lunch that included cosmic brownies and watched some of the coverage on television. We went outside with our glasses, but it was difficult to see much due to the cloud cover that day. Because most of us are scientists, we found the eclipse really fascinating.

Recycling

Jefferson Parish Environmental Affairs has partnered with REALCYCLE and Glass Half Full to provide drop-off recycling services to the public on Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., starting in April and continuing through September. REALCYCLE and Glass Half Full collects the following materials from the public, free of charge to our citizens: glass bottles and jars, cardboard, alumi-



Environmental Affairs staff watching the eclipse

num/tin/steel cans, plastics #1 and #2, and mixed paper. Service on the Westbank is located at the Lapalco trash drop-off site (6440 Lapalco Boulevard, Marrero, LA 70072). The Eastbank recycling drop-off location is currently in the parking lot of the Joseph S. Yenni Building (1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Jefferson, LA 70123) but is subject to change. Please monitor our [Recycling webpage](#) for any updates.

This program is open to all Jefferson Parish citizens. Residents are encouraged to sort their recycling by type and make sure that it is clean. Representatives from REALCYCLE and Glass Half Full educate the public and assist them with the sorting process. The events so far have been very popular, with an average turnout of 300 vehicles per week on the Eastbank and 100 on the Westbank. The Environmental Affairs Department would like to thank General Services, Security, the Public Information Office, and the Jefferson Parish

Sheriff's Office for their contributions that help make these events possible.

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

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Eastbank recycling drop-off with Glass Half Full

(Continued from page 7)

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.

The Department of Environmental Affairs will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on Saturday, June 8th, from 9 a.m. to noon at the John A. Alario Event Center. Jefferson Parish Environmental Affairs will work with Legacy Environmental, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's office, and Jefferson Parish Departments of Security, General Services, Alario Center, Recreation, and Public Information Office to put on another great event that will serve the public in an efficient and safe manner. Mercury-containing equipment, paint, lawn and garden products, household cleaning products and chemicals, lighting components, electronic waste, small arms ammunition, pyrotechnics, and safety equipment will be collected. As a state and national Keep America Beautiful affiliate, this event will showcase the Parish's continued commitment to reducing litter and assisting the community with proper disposal of all types of waste.

Summits and Workshops

On February 23rd and 24th **Sami Khalil** and **William Pestoff** attended the Tulane Law Summit workshop. This year's Summit featured dozens of panels, discussing issues such as the state of Louisiana's coastline, climate change, insurance rates, carbon capture, Louisiana's cancer alley, threats against pollinators and environmental justice and the future of energy transition in Louisiana.

On March 14th **Sami Khalil**, **Kathy Russo** and **Diane Coughlin** attended the Louisiana Emer-



Academy of Our Lady students clean up as part of the Love the Boot week

gency Planning Committee meeting. They got to meet representatives from the large facilities, police and fire departments who will sit on this committee.

On April 19th **Sami Khalil**, **Diane Coughlin** and **William Pestoff** attended the Love the Boot kickoff conference in Baton Rouge as part of the week-long cleanup initiative of Keep Louisiana Beautiful.

On April 22nd **Sami Khalil**, **Diane Coughlin** and **Barbara Arcement** helped Academy of Our Lady clean up the area around their school as part of the Love the Boot week.

Poster and Essay Contest

The Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs announced the winners of the 2024 Non-Point Source Stormwater Pollution and Solutions Poster and Essay Contest, as well as the High School Sewer

Science Program and the Stormwater Leadership Awards at a ceremony on April 26th held at the Lafreniere Park Foundation Center in Metairie. The annual contest was developed to raise public awareness of non-point source pollution, such as leakage of automotive fluids, fertilizers and pesticides, pet waste, green waste and construction runoff. The contest was open to Jefferson Parish students — third- through sixth-graders submitted posters, while seventh- and eighth-graders submitted essays — to depict or describe at least one source of non-point source pollution and potential solutions.

This year's banquet guest speaker was **Juliette Cassagne**, and the Land Use and Development Directors (Director of Code Compliance and Enforcement (CC&E) **Liza Caluda**, Director of Building Permits **Danny Ferrara**, Director of Ecosystem and

(Continued on page 9)



Nonpoint Pollution and Solutions Poster/Essay contest Awards Ceremony

(Continued from page 8)

Coastal Management **Michelle Gonzales**, Director of Planning **Bessie “Bess” Martin**, and Director of Flood Plain Management **Maggie Tally**) were this year’s banquet guest speakers. They talked about their departments and how their roles interact with the Stormwater division.

FINANCE

Accounting, Budget, and Public Safety and Grants Administration Departments

Wanda Harvey

Service Pin Awards

On March 15th we honored the following Service Pin Award recipients:

Finance

Kerry Schrieffer 15 years

Shakeva Taylor 5 years

Accounting

Nina Miller 15 years

Charles Ferrier 10 years

Public Safety & Grants

Kalvilyn Griffin 15 years

Budget

Tia Venible 10 years

Purchasing

Brenda Bellow 5 years

We are very proud of their 70 years of experience, which provides our department with a broad base of knowledge. We thank them for their dedicated service.

Promotions

On April 20th **Nhi Bui** was promoted to Assistant Director of Accounting. Nhi joined the Accounting Team in June 2016 as an Account Clerk II. In April of 2017 she was promoted to an Accountant I for JeffCAP. In April 2018 Nhi moved to Workforce Connection as an Accountant II, and in March of 2021 she returned to Central Office Accounting as an Accountant II. The entire department congratulates Nhi for her recent promotion.

Trophies were presented to first-, second- and third-place winners in the poster and essay categories, and certificates of honorable mention were also awarded in each category. President **Cynthia Lee Sheng** recognized the contest winners. Win-

ning posters and essays will be displayed at the Jefferson Parish East Bank Regional Library for the first half of the summer and then will be moved to the Westbank Regional Library for the remainder of the summer.



Left-to-right, back row: Renny Simno, Charles Ferrier, Tia Venible; front row: Nina Miller, Nichole Gaubert, Eric Chi, Timothy Palmatier, Kerry Schrieffer, Brenda Bellow, Kalvilyn Griffin, and Shakeva Taylor

Charles Ferrier has been with the Central Office Accounting Department since July of 2014 serving as an Account Clerk II (the title changed in 2020 to Account Clerk I CFO). Charles’ ten years of experience will be very helpful in his new Account Clerk II CFO position. We congratulate him for his well deserved promotion.



Charles Ferrier

Team Building Activities

Our Finance Community believes that for a team to work well together and respect each other’s differences, we need to socialize by enjoying creative office activities that everyone volunteers to organize.

On February 27th, we celebrated National Strawberry Day by inviting all team members to bring a delicious strawberry treat for co-workers to enjoy. We thank all who participated.



Left-to-right: Suzanne Hutchinson, Wanda Harvey, Susan Andrews, Linh Trinh

On March 1st, we celebrated **National Employee Appreciation Day** by presenting each team member with a mini certificate of appreciation and purchasing donuts as a treat to show, “We Do not Know What We Would Do Without Their Support.” Thanks to all the Finance, Accounting, Budget, Public Safety Grants and Purchasing team members for their outstanding dedication, commitment and contributions to our team and the individuals we serve.

On March 15th our team celebrated **St. Patrick’s Day** by bringing their favorite “green foods,” which ranged from salads to desserts. It was amazing to see the creative dishes. Everyone also joined in by wearing green or Shamrock-themed attire.

On March 28th, our team put all our eggs in one basket to share with one another. We thank all of our hopping team members for supplying seasonal **Easter** treats.

On **National Clean Your Desk Day**, everyone received cleaning supplies and some time to make our department shine.

We celebrated **National Coffee Day** by providing hot and cold brews of coffees along with several added flavors and toppings to choose from. Coffee culture can help spark new ideas, enhance brain activity, fight off sleepiness, boost focus, and improve productivity. Our team members were bright-eyed that day.

National Pizza Day is always a crowd pleaser, especially when everyone enjoys Huey P’s Pizza while sharing special moments together socializing with fellow team members.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Budget Director **Susan Andrews** on the death of her husband of 26 years, [Hugh A. Andrews](#), who passed away suddenly at home on Sunday, March 10th.



National Employee Appreciation Day



St. Patrick's Day



Easter celebrations



National Coffee Day



National Pizza Day

FLEET MANAGEMENT

Amy Truesdell

Farewell

We recently had to say good-bye to several of our long-time employees:

Auto Line Supervisor **Melisa Miller** retired after 25 years of service. Melisa’s plans include riding her horses and working on antique cars.

Office Support Specialist II **Wanda Rivera-Pagan** made a move to Arkansas. She had been with us for five years and certainly kept our Auto Supervisors on their toes.

Administrative Assistant **Kiesler Lee** accepted a promotion to the Purchasing Department. Kiesler had been a mainstay in the Westbank Garage for over four years.

We will certainly miss all three, and we wish them happiness and success in the future.

Service Pins

We also had our Annual Pin Ceremony to celebrate milestones for the following employees:

5 years

Auto Mechanic Trainee **Nicholas Rester**

10 years

Laborer **Darlene Price**

15 years

Auto Mechanics **Michael Boudreaux** and **Terrance Herrmann**; Executive Superintendent **Amy Truesdell**; and Auto Line Superintendent **Keith Nicholas**

Finally, Fleet congratulates Office Support Specialist II **Aaylia Smith** on her graduation from Southern University with a Master’s degree in Criminal Justice. Aaylia is taking a break for now, but she is going for her PhD next year. We should be referring to Aaylia as Dr. Smith in the near future.



Melisa Miller (center-right) with her crew (left-to-right) Mechanics Nelson Allison, Vince Bobzin and Jay Worley



Five-year pin recipient Nicholas Rester (left) with Tire Shop Foreman Bernard Palmisano

Secretary **Kandace Parker** has been counting down the days until her wedding for the past year and a half and it is finally here! Fleet hosted a bridal shower for Kandace and she was certainly surprised. We hope her wedding is all she dreamed it would be.



Aaylia Smith



Kandace Parker

GENERAL SERVICES

Phyllis Breaud

Welcome

General Services welcomes several new employees to our team:

Trades Helper **Jerry Cook**, Shop Carpenter **Kevin Ausbrooks**, Laborers **Summer Claybrooks**, **Cornelius Oliver** and summer worker **Sidney Andrews**.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following employees on their promotions:

Trevor Marshall to Laborer Semi-Skilled, **Christy Calmette** to Executive Superintendent, **Stephanie Bush** to Executive Assistant and **Tessa Dove** to Administrative Assistant.

Kudos also to Andrew Babcock, son of **Ryan Babcock**, on his graduation from Archbishop Shaw High School.

Bakari Johnson, son of **Nicole Johnson**, deserves congratulations, too, for receiving the Entre-



Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng presenting Micheal Tilquit with the General Services Employee of the Year Award

preneurship Award from Archbishop Shaw High School.

Employee of the Year

Congratulations to **Micheal Tilquit** for being selected General Services Employee of the

Year. Micheal started with General Services as a laborer in December of 2016 and has steadily moved up the ladder to Assistant Property Manager. We are grateful for his hard work and dedication to the department.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Duane Darcey

Service Awards

The following employees received awards for their dedicated service to the Parish:

5-Year Service Pins

Latorya Jones

Nordette Adams

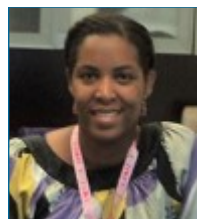
10-Year Service Pin

Adrienne Breaux

Employee of the Year

Gretchen Tilton

HR Manager Adrienne Breaux (top); Training Division Administrator Nordette Adams (bottom-left); Benefits Specialist Latorya Jones (bottom-right)



Assistant Director and HR Employee of the Year Gretchen Tilton

HR Reorganization

The Safety Division of HR will be transferred to the Security Department, effective June 1st. Safety Manager **John Braswell** and his team, Safety Officers **Greg Reynolds** and **Peggy Branam**, will report to Director **Steven Quaintance**.

Though they will only be moving one floor away in the Yenni Building, the HR team will miss their daily presence in the office. We wish them all the best in their new department.

Training Corner

Click a tile to go to an e-learning course on the JP Professional Development Academy



Microsoft
Applications Courses
Build Your Computer Skills
CC Microsoft Applications Pathway



Available LinkedIn Learning Courses



Managing Workplace Drama
5 Stages of Conflict
4 Reasons for Relationship Drama
3 Magic Words
Managing Workplace Drama: 5 Stages of Conflict and More



How to Bring Innovation to Your Job
*How to Bring Innovation to Your Job

JEFF FIT

Steve Roch, Jr., RD, LDN

New JeffFit Incentive Rewards Program and Benefit (UHC Rewards and One Pass Select)

JeffFit kicked off the year with a new enhanced wellness benefit program. Beginning January 1st employees were able to enroll and start participating in the UHC Rewards financial incentive program. We also introduced One Pass Select. These benefits are available to all employees covered under a medical health insurance plan with UnitedHealthcare through Parish Benefits.

First JeffFit Quarter Onsite Activity

On March 6th JeffFit invited a vendor familiar to JPG named Jet Dental back to set up a dental services event at the Yenni Bldg. Services included cleanings, x-rays, exams and/or whitening services. Many of these procedures were

covered under a UHC Dental plan, which meant no out-of-pocket costs to eligible employees. Eighteen employees participated throughout the day for this event. JeffFit looks forward to making this an annual event.

JeffFit Monthly Challenges

Each month JeffFit offers a new health promotion challenge. Employees who participate in these challenges and share their results with Steve in the timeframe offered, earn a giveaway incentive item designed to help support them in their wellness journey. Examples include water bottles, sleep masks, stress-relief fidgets, journals, etc.

February’s challenge was to sign up for any of the One Pass Select monthly fitness membership tiers. We distributed a JeffFit/UHC-branded sport towel to anyone who shared that they signed up to a fitness tier.

The March challenge incentivized employees with two options to earn a wellness giveaway item. First, anyone who registered and attended the Onsite Dental Service appointment received a pair of JeffFit/UHC-branded earbuds. Second, everyone who completed the Health Survey in their myuhc app received a four-in-one spatula/cooking tool in celebration of National Nutrition Month.

April offered the opportunity for everyone to step up their fitness habits with the Million Mile Challenge. Anyone who participated was challenged to achieve and track their fitness activities using the myuhc app/account and share their tracked activities with Steve at the end of the month. Successful parties who tracked and shared getting at least 15-active minutes or 5,000 steps every day during the month of April earned a pair of wrist/ankle weights.

JPAWS

Gloria Soto

New Hires

JPAWS welcomes to the team Animal Care Attendant **Wilbert Sauerwin, Jr.** as well as Administrative Assistant **Cynthia Miller**, who comes to us from Juvenile Services.

Service Pins

Congratulations to the following employees who received their service pins for their years of service to Jefferson Parish.

5 years

- Pau Villanova Castellvi**
- Emily Caro**
- Daisy Lynch**
- Skylar Tassin**
- Brittany Thibodeaux**

10 years

- Dejuan Henderson**
- Kenneth Jamison**

15 years

- Cory Durr**



Service pin recipients, left-to-right: Skylar Tassin, Brittany Thibodeaux, Dejuan Henderson, Emily Caro, Cory Durr and Daisy Lynch

Promotions

Congratulations are in order for the following employees on their recent promotions: Animal Care Attendant Supervisor **Emily Caro**, Animal Care Administrative Clerk **Lillian Lynch** and Humane Officer Chief **Layla Chandler**.

Congratulations

On March 17 **Kassaius Phillip Lewis** was born to our Animal Care Administrative Clerk **Lillian Lynch** and Elbert Lewis. Baby Kassaius is also the grandson of our Animal Care Administrative Clerk **Daisy Lynch**.



Kassaius Phillip Lewis

JUVENILE SERVICES

Vicki Borja

Service Pins

5 years

- Katina Bills**
- Lionel Breaux**
- Brian Davis**
- Titus Jones**
- Ralph Sacks**
- Tammy Eursin**
- Amber Aragon**

10 years

- Donald Joseph**
- Ray Bridges**
- Monique Taylor**

15 years

- Krista Jerome**
- Ron Ellison**
- Toyane Faulkner**
- Erin Ronquille**

Employees of the Month

Congratulations to the following employees for their dedicated service and for being selected Employee of the Month.

February

- Detention
- Katina Bills**
- Probation/Administration
- Gloria Meiskey**

March

- Detention
- Alvin Poole**
- Probation/Administration
- Ralph Sacks**

April

- Detention
- Patrick Brammell**
- Probation/Administration
- Trista Duplessis**

New Employees

We welcome the following employees to our department:

- Dominique Lambert**
- Micah Creecy**, and
- John Sebastian Rene**.

(Continued on page 15)



Dominique Lambert



North Kenner Library staff recognized with a proclamation by the Jefferson Parish Council on April 17th.

(Continued from page 14)

Departures

Best wishes to **Melissa Riddick** and **Cindy Miller** who left the Juvenile Services Department.

Condolences

We are saddened to learn that our former employee and member of the maintenance team **Francisco Antonio Huezco** passed away on February 11, 2024. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



Francisco Antonio Huezco (1955-2024)



LAFRENIERE PARK

Charlene Singleton

Employee Spotlight

Superintendent **Jeff Mumphrey** has been a dedicated part of the Lafreniere Team for 17 years and a family man. One of his primary duties is making sure all special events come off without a hitch. He confirms the details and makes sure everything is always mapped out for the event. He is a man of action not words, and his wit helps him see things in a different light. He will get in there and get his hands dirty with the best of them at the Park. He wouldn't tell anyone to do anything he wouldn't do himself. We thank Jeff for all he does.



Jeff Mumphrey



Uncle Sam Jam

It's time again for the red, white and blue Uncle Sam Jam, put on by the Jefferson Parish Visitors Bureau, on July 3rd from 4p to 10p. There will be a fireworks display and fun for the whole family. We hope everyone comes out and enjoys the event.

Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market is here at the Park. We hope everyone can come out to shop and eat with us every Wednesday from 2p to 7p. Check our Facebook page or call the office (504.838.4389) to see if there is a cancellation due to bad weather.

LIBRARY

David Johnson

Hurrah for the North Kenner Library

The staff of the North Kenner Library were recognized with a proclamation by the Jefferson Parish Council on April 17th. The commendation included testimonials from library patrons who expressed gratitude for our colleagues' service to the community. The proclamation read, in part: "Whereas the North Kenner Library prides itself on an amazing staff that works hard to help eve-

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ryone that walks through the doors, that service is what the Jefferson Parish Library Department strives for at each and every one of their branches ... a teacher who has been visiting libraries across the metro area expressed her praise of the staff and the facility, claiming that her recent visit to the library was the highlight of her month, she said the resources and team were great, patient, kind and very helpful, and they went beyond the basics all the time. She called them 'The Dream Team.'"

Regional Premiere of Long-Lost Bogdanovich Comedy Movie Slated for Eastbank Regional Library

Squirrels to the Nuts, the final motion picture directed by Peter Bogdanovich--and only recently rediscovered--was screened at on May 29 at the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon, Metairie. The program was free of charge and open to the public.

A substantially revised version of the film was released in 2014 as *She's Funny That Way*. It was heavily cut, reshot, and burdened with a voice-over narration. The director's cut was thought to have vanished until a high-definition video master was discovered on eBay by James Kenney, a Bogdanovich fan and instructor of English at City University of New York (CUNY) who is under contract to write a biography of the renowned filmmaker.

Starring Owen Wilson, Imogen Poots, and Kathryn Hahn, *Squirrels to the Nuts* is a raucous screwball comedy in the vein of *What's Up, Doc?* (1972), a last hurrah for a filmmaker obsessed with human foibles and the complications that arise from them. In the film, a married Broadway director falls for a call-girl-turned-actress and works to help her ad-

vance her career, but the plot becomes more complicated.

Kenney spoke in advance of the screening and a Q&A was held at the conclusion of the film. He describes *Squirrels* as "a rich and delightful summation of Bogdanovich's style and obsessions, featuring surprising depth of characterization and expertly executed comic set pieces." Though it was screened only three times, Bogdanovich called *Squirrels* "one of my best pictures."

This program was organized by Nicholas Caluda, a librarian at the West Bank Regional Library who has organized an ongoing film series at that branch location.

For more information on this screening, contact Chris Smith, Manager of Adult Programming for the library, at 504.889.8143 or wcsmith@jefferson.lib.la.us.

Summer Reading Program Kickoff

Jefferson Parish Library will kick off the 2024 Summer Reading Program on Saturday, June 1, 12-3 pm, with celebrations at both the Eastbank and Westbank Regional Library branches. Live music, games for all ages, and other amusements will launch a two-month series of special events for both kids and adults promoting the theme "Adventure Begins at the Jefferson Parish Library" at all 16 branches of the library system. Those who sign up to participate in the Summer Reading Challenge for the months of June and July will receive:

Kids: A crocodile charm bracelet and a charm

Teens: A bracelet and charm or a book tote bag

Adults: A book tote bag

Participants who document five hours of reading will receive:

Kids: A free meal from our corporate sponsor, Raising Cane's, a Croc charm and a raffle ticket for a grand-prize drawing

Teens: A free book from the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library Book Sale, a button or a charm, and a raffle ticket for a grand prize drawing

Adults: A free book from the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library Book Sale, a button and a raffle ticket in the grand prize drawing.

For more information on the Summer Reading program, visit srp.jplibrary.net.



Terrytown Library of Things Collection Includes Vintage Vinyl Additions

The Terrytown Library has added a collection of 35 vintage vinyl and new-release albums to its Beyond Books: Library of Things collection, to pair with four portable turntables that are available for two-week loans. The record collection includes such titles as The Beatles' *Revolver* (1966), Pink Floyd's *The Dark Side of the Moon: Live at Wembley Empire Pool, London, 1974*, Jon Batiste's *Anatomy of Angels: Live at the Village Vanguard* (2019) and Bob Marley and the Wailers *Live!* (1975), among others. The collection will continue to expand in months to come.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Brianna Duronslet

A Warm Welcome to Our New Team Members

Welcome to all of the new hires joining the Recreation Department. We are thrilled to have each of them on our team.

Rec. Ctr. Supervisor

Braden Williams

Office Support Specialist II

Hannah Wray

Information Specialist

Joseph LaCava

Office Assistant II

Rashonda Toney

Rec. Ctr. Supv. Assistants

Corey Williams

Daniel Zajac

Don Carmadelle Jr.

Richard Clement

Groundskeepers

Ashton Champagne

Bryce Campos

Byron Adams

Clinton Ott

Joshua George

Joshua Grabert

Joshua Moore

Philip Smith

Celebrating Our Employees' Promotions

Congratulations to all the employees who have recently been promoted.

Director

Harold Buhler

Rec. Ctr. Supervisors

Andrew Lore

Carl Johnson

Kenric Thornton

Kevin DeBose

JP Helping Paws Hosts Paw-some Dog Show

JP Helping Paws, one of JPRD's social clubs, organized a dog show on April 13th to support

local animal rescues and promote adoptable dogs. The event took place at Jefferson Playground and five local rescues attended—Jefferson Protection and Animal Welfare Services (JPAWS), Jefferson SPCA (JSPCA), Animal Rescue New Orleans (ARNO), Take Paws Rescue, and Krewe of Mid-City Mutt Mama's Rescue. The dog show contestants competed in various categories, including best smile, best ears, and best senior dog. The department contributed a portion of the proceeds from the event to the rescue organizations.



Social Clubs

JPRD has introduced various social clubs as an extension of the Golden Age programs. The department aims to be more inclusive of all adults and has rebranded some of its programming into clubs. JPRD has established gardening, cycling, animal care/volunteering, crafting, and more clubs. To learn more about JPRD's adult social clubs, contact the Recreation Department at JPRecreation@jeffparish.net.

Recreation Retirements

Congratulations to **John Brooks**, Center Supervisor of Nicholson Playground for his retirement after 27 years of service to the Recreation Department and to Jefferson Parish.

JPRD Westbank Athletics Hosts 2024 Girls World Biddy National Tournament

JPRD Westbank Athletics hosted the 2024 Girls World Biddy National Tournament for girls between eight and 12 years old. The tournament was held at Terrytown, Oakdale, and Estelle Playgrounds and brought together the best players from JPRD's playgrounds, Orleans Parish, St. Tammany Parish, Terrebonne Parish, Ascension Parish, St. Charles Parish, and even a team from Finland. During the tournament, 24 Finnish players were hosted by JPRD West for a week. They were treated to local high school tours, shopping, crawfish, and snowballs.



2024 Girls World Biddy National Tournament



JPRD West 12U Boys Biddy Basketball Team Wins 2024 International Championship

The JPRD West 12U Boys Biddy basketball team won the 2024 International Biddy National Championship in Kansas City, Missouri. The team went undefeated to claim the title from some of the best 12U teams throughout the nation.

Mike Miley Playground Set for Exciting Revamp

Mike Miley Playground is about to undergo a cosmetic renovation. Mike Miley, a site recipient of the Greater New Orleans Foundation's Next 100 Years Challenge Award, will have its parking lot renovated. This will include overlaying new asphalt, installing concrete curbing, concrete sidewalks in the lot in front of the gym, and a concrete walkway leading to the main entrance of the gym building. The bidding process for parking lot striping is still ongoing. In addition, roof repairs, which includes replacing the gym roof and installing new gutters and downspouts, are also part of the project.

PLANNING

Matthew Wilson

Spring has sprung and summer heat is just around the corner: the past few months have brought warmer days, crawfish boils, and the return of Jazz Fest to the region. In addition to the efficient processing of current planning cases, progress continues in the Planning Department on a number of important long-range initiatives, including the Industrial Zoning District Study which is nearing completion. Planning is excited for what the rest of 2024 has to bring!

Awards and Recognition

Planning congratulates Administrative Assistant, **Katina Webb**, our department's 2024 Employee of the Year. From purging old department cases to planning the next big office party and every-

thing in between, Katina works tirelessly every day to provide the Planning Department with excellent administrative support. Department supervisors were proud to attend the award ceremony held on May 8th, where the Parish President honored her with a plaque to commemorate her achievement.



Matthew Wilson

Departure

UNO Graduate Assistant, **Matthew Wilson** recently graduated from the University of New Orleans after attaining his Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Since he joined the Planning Department in 2022, Matt has been an invaluable addition to the department's long-range section, assisting with multiple area studies and helping with the department's Green Infrastructure Code Amendments. This summer Matt will be starting a new job with a local planning consulting firm, Desire Line LLC. Planning wishes him the best of luck in his new career.

Planning's Employee of the Year Katina Webb (center)

Departure

Planning congratulates our Landscape Architect, **Richard Gillen**, who will be retiring on May 31st. A Louisiana native, Rich graduated from LSU with his Landscape Architecture degree in 1982. He spent the early part of his career working for various private architecture firms across the US.

In 2008 he returned to the Big Easy to teach at Delgado, prior to accepting his current position with Jefferson Parish. Over his 10 years of service with the Planning Department, he has been able to beautify Jefferson Parish by helping to implement new landscaping regulations for development within the Parish, bringing the Parish up to a national standard, as well as ensuring continued compliance with landscaping requirements for individual properties and develop-

ments. Additionally, he played a key role in the completion of the Parish's Green Infrastructure Plan that was adopted last year, as well as the ongoing drafting of code amendments meant to implement the provisions of the GI Plan.

In his retirement Rich will be moving to Hendersonville, North Carolina, just south of Asheville, where he plans to remain active and get involved in his new community. He intends to continue pursuing his lifelong love of gardening by joining the local gardening club and keeping fit by participating in running events (which just so happen to end at the local microbrewery).

Most of all he is looking forward to the beautiful scenery provided by the Great Smokey Mountains. While sad to see him go, the entire Planning Staff



Richard Gillen

wishes him the best of luck and good health. We hope that North Carolina and his view of the Smokies brings as much joy and beauty to his life as his service to Jefferson Parish has provided to the people of Louisiana.

PURCHASING

Mark Buttery

Purchasing Department Presents at JEDCO

The Purchasing Department participated in the "Prosper Jefferson: Doing Business with the Government" program that was held in April at the JEDCO Conference Center. The program was sponsored by the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) and the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce. Purchasing Director **Renny Simno**, Purchasing Assistant Director **Misty Camardelle**, and Assistant Parish Attorney **Megan Grantham** presented and provided an overview of the vendor registration and procurement processes, and discussed the variety of opportunities available for vendors to do business with Jefferson Parish. Fifty individuals, representing 40 local companies, attended the event.



Director Renny Simno, Colleen Broussard Perry (Louisiana APEX Accelerator), Sam Briuglio (Pond & Company), Misty Camardelle, and Megan Grantham.



Renny Simno, Misty Camardelle, and Megan Grantham presenting at JEDCO

Hurricane Season Preparedness

Since hurricane season is almost 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 request and receive full reimbursement from FEMA, departments must 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 Emergency Procurement Manual for all emergency purchases related to federal, state, and local disasters. The 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. Visit the Purchasing Department's "Reference Material" section of the JeffConnect intranet portal to access the Manual.

Welcome New Employees

Ruby Tran recently joined the Purchasing Department as a Purchasing Specialist II. Ruby comes to Jefferson Parish from Xavier University, where she served as Project Manager for 15 years. During her tenure there, Ruby managed the university's procurement process, working on many major campus projects and initiatives. Ruby received her Associate of Applied Science degree from Delgado Community College.

Kiesler Lee, a longtime employee of Jefferson Parish, joined the Purchasing Department in



Misty Camardelle

Employee of the Year

Assistant Director **Misty Camardelle** has been recognized as this year's Purchasing Department Employee of the Year. Misty began working for Jefferson Parish in 2011 as a Buyer I. In 2013 she was promoted to the position of Buyer II. Misty left the department in 2019 to become the Administrative Assistant for the Parish's Ecosystem and Coastal Management Department. She returned to the Purchasing Department the following year to serve as the department's Assistant Director. Misty currently serves as the President of the Southeast Louisiana Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (SELA NIGP), which is a professional organization that provides training for procurement professionals.

May. Kiesler, who is a Purchasing Specialist I, previously served as an Administrative Assistant for the Fleet Department. Prior to joining the Fleet Department, she worked as a Typist Clerk III for the Library Department as well as for JeffCAP. Kiesler has been a Parish employee since 2011.

We look forward to the contributions that Ruby and Kiesler will make in the department.

Parish Contracts

Parish-wide contracts will no longer be updated on the Parish website. Please save <http://jpnet/jpcontracts/> to your browser favorites bar for quick access to all Parish contracts. Let us know if

you have any questions or need assistance.

Update on State Contracts for Copiers

As we get closer to the expiration of the state contracts for copier rental and maintenance, the Purchasing Department continues to receive bid requests for copiers that we are unable to process because we are not certain if the state is going to extend the current contract or create new contract numbers. We will let you know as soon as we find out. If the state extends the current contracts, we will be able to extend ours as well. The Purchasing Department will continue to monitor this matter and provide an update to departments.

STREETS

Kenya Johnson

New Employees

The Streets Department welcomes **Trae Jones** to the Westbank division. We hope he enjoys working with us for many years to come.

Service Pins

Congratulations to the following employees who have received service pins for their years of service with the Parish:

5 years: **Veronica Vance**

15 years: **Richard Ignont** and **Kedric Louis**.

We thank them for their hard work and dedication to the Streets Department.

Retirement

Congratulations to **Paul Ellis**, who retired on May 17th with 32 years of service. We hope he enjoys his retirement; we will surely miss him.



Charles Colopy, Veronica Vance

(Continued from page 1)

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
- A list of emergency contacts and locations you can access in a hurry

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.

Stay #JPAware

The first step towards safety during hurricane season is being prepared and informed. Remember to check Jefferson Parish's official website, JeffParish.net and social media channels (@JeffParishGov) for real-time updates, and sign up for alerts by texting JPALERT or JPNOTICIAS to 888-777. It's also important to follow your local media outlets and the National Weather Service for accurate and reliable information.



(left to right) Durell Jones, Kedric Louis, Brook Burmaster



(left to right) Durell Jones, Richard Ignont, Brook Burmaster

WATER

Lakeisha Joseph

New Employees

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

Customer Relations Specialists I

Clervie Stinson, IV

Erica Geary

Sidne White

Stephanie Jones

Suzanne Varnado

Tennile Bachu

Laborers

Albert McGee

Alton Buter, Sr.

Antonio Jefferson

Dewayne Joseph

Keith Lockett

Michael Belton

Water Quality Scientist I

Kristian Wilson

Water Service Inspectors I

Da'Quan Dunn

Monica Samuel

Promotions

Congratulations to Waterline Maintenance Supervisor **Randy Jones** and Waterline Maintenance Technician I **Ja'Quann Struggs**.

Service Pins

The following employees were recognized for their service:

5 years

Dedria Bailey

John Umanzor

10 years

Brady Lasserre, Jr.

Christopher Bertrand

Jasmine Lawrence

Josh Brignac

Kirbye Smith



Outstanding employees, left to right: Troy Williams, Monica Stanton, Shanavia Crenshaw, Wardell Vontoure, Linh Nguyen, and Director Sidney Bazley III.



Supervisor Joshua Chiasson, Michelle Rahm, Director Sidney Bazley III



Supervisor Melissa Firven, Marion Voisin, Director Sidney Bazley III



Supervisor Kristin Rivero, Kirbye Smith, Director Sidney Bazley III

2023-2024 Water Department Outstanding Employees

Administration

Troy Williams

Distribution

Wardell Vontoure

Treatment Plant

Linh Nguyen

Utility Services

Monica Stanton

Water Quality Lab

Shanavia Crenshaw

Retirement

Congratulations to Water Purification Superintendent I **Rusk Marcotte**, who is retiring after 23 years. We wish him a happy retirement and thank him for his service.

Water News

Did you know there was a National Drinking Water Week? Drinking Water Week is an annual observance in the first week of May sponsored by the American Water Works Association to recognize the critical role drinking water plays in our daily lives.



Philip Mitchell, III

Randy Jones

15 years

Lakeisha Joseph

Marion Voisin

Michelle Rahm

Retirements



Photo by Colon Frelid via Pexels

Arevia Antoine
Security
38 years

Paul Ellis
Streets
32 years

May Bridges
Library
10 years

Richard Gillen
Planning
10 years

Victoria Lore
Code Compliance & Enforcement
12 years

John Brooks
Recreation
17 years

Michael Gray
Drainage
27 years

Rusk Marcotte
Water
23 years

Lisa Ciravolo
Library
33 years

Eric Harris
Sewerage
36 years

Denis Mire, Jr.
Fire Department
34 years

Brian Claverie
Fire Department
29 years

Kevin Kiser
District Attorney
20 years

Scott Obrien
Fire Department
28 years

Don Cunningham
Streets
12 years

Michael Labruzzo
Fire Department
26 years

Connie Preston
Parish Council
17 years

Brian Ladieu
Drainage
36 years

Michael Raymond
Fire Department
34 years

Chris Landry
Water
12 years

Isaac Salsberry
Sewerage
39 years

Clinton Lauman
District Attorney
11 years

Jerry Zeringue
Engineering
12 years



Photo by Petr Ganaj via Pexels