

**Special points of
interest:**

- [Training Academy](#)
- BRIDGE



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JeffTalk

Volume 47, Issue 2

June 2026

Message from the President

We're entering an exciting new chapter for our parish, one that's all about making your work easier, faster, and more connected.

On July 1st, we officially go live with our new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system — BRIDGE, powered by Infor — which will replace the outdated AS400 system. This is the largest internal project that the parish has ever undertaken, and will touch every parish department and many agencies, improving how our data is processed and reported.

It is more than just a system upgrade; it's a transformation in how we manage our finances, support our employees, and deliver services to our community. With the new system, you'll have real-time access to the information you need, right at your fingertips.

You will be able to easily view your payroll details, manage your benefits, and access your historical performance evaluations anytime and anywhere. But the benefits don't stop there. We're also modernizing sourcing and procurement, making it faster and more transparent to manage bids, contracts, and purchasing.

We ask everyone to plan ahead, meet key deadlines, and take advantage of the training resources



Cynthia Lee Sheng

being provided. Because when we go live, we want every member of our Jefferson Parish team to feel confident and ready. This investment is about you, our Jefferson Parish employees, and giving you the tools to succeed.

If you have any questions regarding this transition, please contact JPinfor@jeffparish.gov or reach out to the Change Champion in your department. You can also visit our website for training materials. To access the Infor Learning Library, go to the URL: jeffparish.uap.infor.com. Sign in with your JeffParish.gov account. If

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JeffTalk

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Editor's Notes

Change Never Stands Still

Living along the Mississippi River, we know all too well that the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus was right: you can never step into the same river twice because it's never the same river and you're never the same person.

Everywhere we look we see change. How we communicate, shop, and play are all changing. Think about it: we now have fully electric cars, cellphones that talk to us, and AI deep-fakes that make us question reality itself. Therefore, being able to adapt to change is a critical skill we all need to develop.

My suggestion is that we lean into change and embrace new things. An effective way to do this is to follow a predictable pattern that will allow us time to adapt to the change. A pattern that works well is to accept the change, prepare for the unknown, lean into the adjustment period, and embrace the new normal with a smile.

Going through these phases might take a short period of time for some and longer for others. No matter how long it takes, when you look at the new way of doing things as something that can bring excitement, joy, growth, and thrilling opportunities, you will find the new way might not be that bad after all.

Some people casually say, "I'll never change." As the world continues to spin, we must learn new skills. We must all remain open to the possibility of working with our team in a new way, communicating in a different way, and effectively adapting to new technology.

We might be working with different people, taking on different tasks and



Jonas Perriott, Editor

responsibilities, and addressing workplace challenges with new solutions. Along the way, let's remember to point out small wins and celebrate the positive things we experience.

We also need to help support others who are having a hard time adjusting. We should always respond to questions with empathy so that everyone feels comfortable providing input and ideas about how we can do things better.

If we can work together to do small things that will help us navigate change, Jefferson Parish will be the better for it. If you are adjusting well to change, try sharing something positive about the new experience or highlighting something that went well.

When we focus on the negative, it does not allow us to see all of the good things that are happening around us. It can also be beneficial to set short-term and long-term goals that give us time to check back and see just how much progress we have made.

Remember that your feelings and reactions will also change over time, especially as you become more comfortable with a new way of working. All of us can successfully adapt to change. We just have to keep in mind that change is like a river—a natural, constant flow that never stands still.

BUILDING PERMITS

Yasmenda Hart

Welcome

Five employees have joined our team:

- **Amber Nora**
Office Support Specialist II
- **Brian Seghers**
Mechanical Inspector I
- **Christopher Louis**
Office Support Specialist II
- **David Gudan**
Plan Reviewer I
- **Tri Dang**
Electrical Inspector I

Service Pins

5 years

Angel Brown

10 years

Emanuel Wilkerson**Employee of the Month**

Kirsten Conchetta Knott is the May 2026 Employee of the Month for the Office Support Specialist II section of the Building Permits Department.

Farewell

We had to say goodbye to Commercial Plan Reviewer **Nolty Kiff**; he has accepted a position with Community Development. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

We also had to say farewell to Office Support Specialist II **Alivia Turlich**. She has earned a promotion with the Sewerage Department. We wish her all the best as she advances her career with the Parish.

Kirsten Conchetta Knott (right)**CODE COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

Adonna White

Promotions

Congratulations to **Kenneth Brown** for his well-deserved promotion from Code Compliance Inspector Certified to Management Analyst II.

*Kenneth Brown**David Gudan***Service Award**

We congratulate Typist Clerk III **Shanetta Drake** for earning her five-year service pin.

Farewell

We had to say goodbye to Code Compliance Inspector II Certified **David Gudan**, but it's a short trip downstairs to say hello to him in Building Permits.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Matthew McKay

Community Development Month

Our team had the honor of being recognized by the Jefferson Parish Council at the April 8 Council meeting.

Parish President **Cynthia Lee Sheng** issued a proclamation designating April as Community Development Month. This distinction helps to spread awareness of the work we do for the Parish and the importance of the Community Development Block Grants Program (CDBG) funded by the U.S. Department

of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is essential to our community's wellbeing. We appreciate the recognition and strive to help with housing initiatives, economic revitalization, and disaster recovery in order to fulfill our department's mission.

(Continued on page 4)*Community Development staff being recognized at the Parish Council meeting on April 8*

(Continued from page 3)

Breaking New Ground

The Community Development team, in partnership with the Jefferson Parish Housing Services Development District, participated in a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the beginning of construction on an affordable housing project. Our shared commitment and the collaboration of many dedicated partners made the groundbreaking possible. Community Development is proud to play a role in expanding affordable housing opportunities in the community.



Faith Bailey, Emann Batiste, Philip Thomas, Chief Administrative Assistant (CAA) Nicole Thompson and Stephanie Brumfield at the groundbreaking ceremony for new affordable housing project

Employee of the Year

We are excited to celebrate Program Counselor **Taiya Ray** for earning the 2026 Community Development Employee of the Year award. Taiya began her journey at the Department as a student worker, and through hard work and shining personality, she has become an invaluable member of the Community Development team. We appreciate the great work that she has done for our Department and the Jefferson Parish community at large.



Taiya Ray



Director Stephanie Brumfield and Flora Zhou

Service Pin

We also congratulate Accountant III **Fang "Flora" Zhou** on her five years of service with Jefferson Parish. Flora's knowledge of her field and tireless attention to detail are an asset to our Community Development team. We thank her for her years of service.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AND HAZARD MITIGATION

Diane Procchi

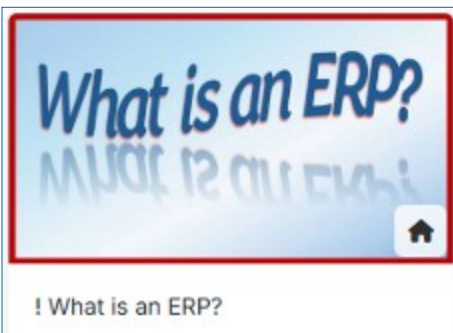
New Team Member

We are happy to welcome a new staff member to our team. **Mark Johnson** is our new Mitigation Grants Manager.

Love the Boot

On April 24 our staff participated in a Love the Boot cleanup event with two of our consultants, Bryant Hammett and Associates and Solutient. We marked storm drains with special educational markers and collected trash around their offices.

(Continued on page 5)



Click the image above to go to the Jeff Parish Development Academy



Brittany Martin, Dov Block, Mark Johnson, Diane Procchi, and Randi Ezell participated in the Love the Boot cleanup event

(Continued from page 4)

Diane Procchi attended the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Summit in New Orleans on February 26–28. She learned about waterway litter abatement and education techniques that are Community Rating System creditable activities.

STEM Fest

On March 28 our staff participated in the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans STEM Fest. We used the floodplain model to show how different factors can affect flooding in an area. The model also demonstrated how the presence or absence of various flood mitigation efforts can impact a community.

Hurricane Prep

Randi Ezell attended the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando on March 30–April 2. She participated in a panel discussion about the national updates on the mitigation grant programs and best management practices.

Brittany Martin and **Mark Johnson** attended the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) Academy on April 29–30 in Lafayette. The training focused on navigating mitigation grant programs funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Continuing Education

Our staff attended the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association annual conference in Baton Rouge on April 15–17. **Dov Block** gave a presentation on how to achieve open space credit for the

Jefferson Parish Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation would like to remind you that Hurricane season started June 1. Make preparations now so everything will be ready if you need to evacuate..



Diane Procchi and Dov Block gearing up for STEM Fest

Community Rating System program. **Randi Ezell** moderated a panel discussion with several mitigation industry professionals on non-structural mitigation best practices. Structural elevations, planning, education, and hazard reducing policies are examples of non-structural mitigation activities.

Flooding Awareness

On April 22 our staff used the floodplain model during an Earth Day event at LaSalle Park

(Continued on page 6)



Randi Ezell discussing mitigation efforts at the National Hurricane Conference

TROPICAL STORM & HURRICANE SAFETY

CLEAR YOUR YARD

Remove objects hanging on trees or your home's exterior, they can break off in high winds. Bring in lawn furniture, trashcans, toys, and garden equipment.

SHUT OFF UTILITIES

Turn off electricity, water, and gas. This will help prevent dangers including flooding, fire, and explosions.

WINDPROOF WINDOWS & DOORS

If you don't have stormproof shutters, fit plywood coverings over all windows.

PROTECT INDOOR ITEMS

Move valuables to higher levels in your home to prevent water damage. Wrap electronics and furniture in sheets, blankets, or plastic drop cloths.

LOCK YOUR HOUSE

Lock all doors and windows. Crooks and looters take advantage of evacuations. Don't leave house keys in an obvious place, such as a mailbox.

EVACUATION CHECKLIST

- Driver's license & proof of insurance
- Medical records
- Passports, Birth Certificates, Social Security Cards
- A list of personal contacts

The illustration shows a white pelican with an orange beak driving a red convertible car. Above the car is a yellow circular sign with a black eye symbol and the words 'EVACUATION ROUTE' in black. Below it is a green rectangular sign with a white arrow pointing up. The background shows a blue sky with clouds and a city skyline.

(Continued from page 5)

sponsored by Jefferson Beautification Inc. Students participated in hands-on activities to learn about the importance of flood education and awareness.

Program for Public Information (PPI)

On May 19 we held the annual PPI committee meeting. The committee is composed of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders including insurance agents, real estate agents, business owners and residents. The group meets to discuss our flood insurance assessment and outreach projects that are included in the PPI. The annual meeting helps us get full credit in the Community Rating System (CRS) program.

(Right) Dov Block speaking about open space at the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association Conference



Mark Johnson and Diane Procchi at an Earth Day event using the floodplain model to demonstrate how flooding affects communities



ENGINEERING

Amy Ross

Welcome

The Department of Engineering would like to welcome the following new staff members:

- **Easilyn Carter**, Engineering Inspector I—Engineering Inspections Roads and Bridges Division
- **John Lopez**, SCADA System Technician I—Engineering SCADA Operations Division

Promotions

Our team is celebrating the following staff members for their recent promotions:

- **Carson Chan** to SCADA Assistant Manager C3—Engineering-SCADA Operations Division
- **Darren Cheramie, Jr.** to SCADA Technician II C4—Engineering-SCADA Operations Division

- **Desiree Thornton** to Administrative Assistant—Engineering Public Works Warehouse Eastbank Division
- **Edward Monk** to Engineering Inspector II C1—Engineering Utilities Inspections Division
- **Randal Bonura** to Engineer IV Professional—Department of Engineering

(Continued on page 7)



Randal Bonura



Carson Chan



Edward Monk



Desiree Thornton

(Continued from page 6)

- **Matthew Zeringue** to Director of the Department of Engineering

Service Awards

The Department of Engineering congratulates the following staff members for receiving their service pins.

5 years

- **Eric Forest**, Sign Technician II—Traffic Engineering Division
- **Karen Gibson**, Administrative Assistant—Engineering Inspections Roads and Bridges Division
- **Javier Ochoa**, Accountant III—Department of Engineering
- **Justin Monnerjahn**, Administrative Assistant—Department of Engineering

10 years

- **Matthew Palermo**, GIS Analyst II—Department of Engineering
- **Paul Eymard**, GIS Analyst II—Department of Engineering
- **Shelitia Thompson**, Shipping and Receiving Stock Clerk—Engineering Public Works Warehouse Eastbank Division
- **Taylor Besson**, Permit Analyst—Engineering Inspections Roads and Bridges Division

15 years

- **Chuong Pham**, Engineer III—Traffic Engineering Division
- **Jeffrey Matherne**, Signal Technician I—Traffic Engineering Division



(Above) Director Matthew Zeringue

(Right) Todd Louque, Karen Gibson, Matthew Zeringue



Javier Ochoa, Matthew Zeringue



Matthew Zeringue, Jeffery Matherne, Mack Richburg, Chuong Pham, Eric Forest and James Vasquez



Jeff Wasserman, Paul Eymard, Matthew Zeringue



Jeff Wasserman, Matthew Palermo, Matthew Zeringue



Archelle Thomas, Justin Monnerjahn, Matthew Zeringue



Renee Bourgeois, Shelitia Thompson, Matthew Zeringue



Todd Loque, Taylor Besson, Matthew Zeringue

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Barbara Arcement

Welcome New Team Members

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our newest team member in the Environmental Compliance Program, Environmental Quality Specialist **Cate Boisjolie**. Cate's arrival will help support the implementation of the Parish's Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) program. The FOG program focuses on preventing fats, oils, and grease from entering the sewer system, where they can cause blockages, sewer overflows, and environmental issues.

Congratulations and Recognition

Congratulations to Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator **Ian Sarussen** for five years of dedicated service and Environmental Quality Specialist **Elwinetta Dauphin** for ten. We thank them both for their continued commitment to the Department of Environmental Affairs and the residents of Jefferson Parish.

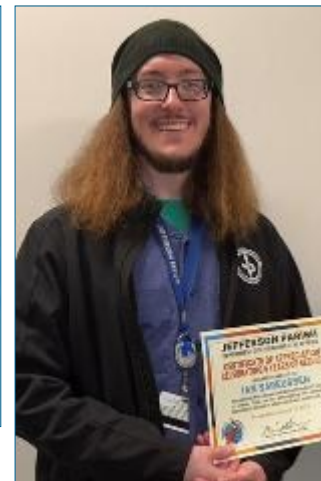
We are also proud to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our team members.

Congratulations to our 2025–2026 Environmental Affairs Employee of the Year, Environmental Compliance Supervisor **William Pestoff**. William stepped into the role of Environmental Compliance Supervisor during a major reboot of the program and has worked tirelessly to strengthen and advance its operations. His dedication, leadership, and hard work have played a key role in bringing the program up to speed and positioning it for continued success.

(Right) Members of the Industrial Pretreatment Program—Sarah Kohoutek, Tisha St. Cyr, Sloan Brignac, and Aaron Walsh—cleaned up portions of Highway 90 as part of Love the Boot Week efforts



(Above) Elwinetta Dauphin and Assistant Director Alexander Adams; (at right) Ian Sarussen



Congratulations as well to Assistant Director **Alexander Adams** for earning the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Manager of Landfill Operations (MOLO) certification on March 30. This nationally recognized certification reflects extensive industry knowledge and expertise gained through years of experience, training, professional development, and hands-on learning opportunities.

Keep Jefferson Parish Beautiful

Love the Boot Week, Louisiana's largest litter removal and beautification effort, took place April 18–26. This statewide initiative raises awareness of Louisiana's litter problem while empowering organizations and citizens to take action in their communities.

Keep Jefferson Parish Beautiful (KJPB) and the Department of Environmental Affairs proudly participated in eleven litter cleanup events across the Parish, helping collect approximately 1,300 pounds of litter. THAT is making an impact!

(Continued on page 9)



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Community Outreach

On March 28 members of our Stormwater Pollution Control and Industrial Pretreatment Programs participated in STEM Fest at the Ochsner Sports Performance Center. The event, presented by Entergy and hosted by the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans, provided a day of educational engagement for K–12 students, parents, and teachers to explore the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) through hands-on, interactive activities designed to inspire curiosity and showcase STEM opportunities.

Student Excellence

Environmental Affairs held an awards ceremony on April 24 at the Mel Ott Recreation Center in Gretna to honor the winners of the 2026 Non-Point Source Stormwater Pollution and Solutions Poster and Essay Contest, the High School Sewer Science Program, and the Stormwater Leadership Awards.

Alexander Adams (third from right), Director Michelle Gonzales (second from right), and Sami Khalil (far right) congratulate the winners of the 26th Annual Non-Point Source Pollution and Solutions Poster and Essay Contest.



Stormwater Pollution Control and Industrial Pretreatment Program staff engaged students through environmental education activities at STEM Fest

The annual contest raises awareness about non-point source pollution, such as automotive fluid leaks, fertilizer and pesticide runoff, pet waste, green waste, and construction runoff. Third- through sixth-grade students competed in the poster contest, while seventh-

and eighth-grade students participated in the essay contest, representing schools throughout Jefferson Parish.

The winning posters and essays will be showcased this summer at both the East Bank and West Bank Regional Libraries.



FLEET MANAGEMENT

Amy Truesdell

Comings and Goings

We are pleased to announce that we have two new Automotive Mechanic Trainees, **Conner Shirah** and **Jaidon Brown**. Both are a great addition to the Tire Shop, and we are pleased to announce that this is the first time in over five years that our Tire Shop is fully staffed.

The East Bank Shop welcomed Maintenance Assistant I **Gage Michel**, who transferred from Recreation, and West Bank Maintenance Assistant I **Misty**

Boudoin, who came to us from Baton Rouge.

We wish all the best to Auto Maintenance Assistant **Ferrell Ledet**, who accepted a position in the Drainage Department as a Pump Station Operator.

Job Fair

For the second year in a row Auto Line Supervisor **Brett Lachute** and Office Support Specialist II **Samdrael McKay** represented Fleet Management at the Bonabel Job Fair. Our team members enjoy getting out into the public and discussing the benefits of working for Jefferson

Parish and hope some of the students join the Parish family in the future.

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Samdrael McKay

(Continued from page 9)

Service Pins

Several of Fleet Management's employees received pins this year in recognition of their service:

5 years

- **Bernard Palmisano**, Auto Work Control Supervisor
- **Dalton Chiro**, Auto Line Supervisor
- **Meshach Hardison**, Automotive Mechanic
- **Seth Gray**, Auto Mechanic Trainee

10 years

- **Wardell Vontoure, Sr.**, Trades Helper

15 years

- **Brett Lachute**, Auto Line Supervisor



Wardell Vontoure, Sr.



Seth Gray

GENERAL SERVICES

Ashley Foddrill

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following employees for their most recent promotions:

- **Christopher Frazier** to Director
- **Timothy Hoskins** to Assistant Director
- **Joseph Self** to Mechanical Systems Operator I



Assistant Director Timothy Hoskins and Director Christopher Frazier



Langdon Mickens

Service Pins

Congratulations to the following employees for receiving their service pins:

5 years

- **Chance Rojas**
- **Claude Daniels**
- **Huey Bethancourt Jr.**

10 years

- **Langdon Mickens**
- **Larry Webb**
- **Micheal Tilquit**
- **Thomas Lawson**

15 years

- **Mark Buttery**



Larry Webb



Micheal Tilquit



Thomas Lawson

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Employee of the Year

Facilities Maintenance Manager **Robert Brouillette Jr.** has been named our Employee of the Year. We congratulate Robert for his dedication.

Retirement

We congratulate **Gary Daigrepoint** on his retirement after 19 years with the Parish. We will miss him greatly and we wish him all the best.

Welcome

We are thrilled to welcome our new General Services team member, Maintenance Assistant I **Nickson Thibodeaux**.

Highlights

Tessa St. Pierre and HR Manager **Lucas Dove's** son **Noah** turned one in June.

Robert Brouillette Jr.'s daughter **Delilah** graduated from Hancock High School.

Nicole Johnson's son **Bakari** graduated from Archbishop Shaw High School. He has been accepted into the Neuroscience program at Texas Christian University. Bakari's ambition is to become a pediatric neurosurgeon.

Director **Christopher Frazier's** daughter **Jolie** graduated from Southeastern University with a Bachelor's degree.



Shayne Perez, Gary Daigrepoint, Thomas Lawson



Director Christopher Frazier and Claude Daniels



Noah Dove



Delilah Brouillette



Bakari Johnson



Jolie Frazier

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Duane Darcey

Welcome

HR is happy to announce that **Gae Goodwin** has joined our team as the new Training Administrator working alongside **Duane Darcey** to continue training all Parish employees.

Gae has spent over 20 years with several major corporations working in various roles in Human Resources before choosing to focus exclusively on Learning and



Development. Most recently she acted as a Positive Learning Experience Professional for a school district in Texas where she facilitated positive learning experiences for students and teachers.

A native New Orleanian and graduate of McDonough 35 high school, she attended DeVry University and Abilene Christian University. She is excited about returning to her hometown.

(Continued on page 16)

(Left) Gae Goodwin

INSPECTOR GENERAL

Britney Majure

Connecting with the Community

The Jefferson Parish Office of the Inspector General (JPOIG) welcomes opportunities to engage directly with residents, professionals, and civic organizations to share accomplishments and hear concerns. Deputy Inspector General **Jeffrey Adolph** spoke before the Accounting and Financial Women's Alliance and the Association of Governmental Accountants. Inspector General **Kim Raines Chatelain** recently spoke with Legal Professionals of New Orleans, West Jefferson Civic Coalition, and Johnny Bright Booster Club. She also participated in Politics with a Punch.

Our 2025 Annual Report

Every year the JPOIG compiles our findings, investigations, and operational milestones into a comprehensive Annual Report. Our [2025 Annual Report](#) is officially finalized. Here is a quick look at our accomplishments over the last year:

- **74 Opened and 56 Closed Intakes:** Your vigilance drives our oversight. Thank you to everyone who used our confidential tip line to report potential waste, fraud, or abuse.
- **Over \$464.9 million in Contract Valuations Reviewed:** Protecting tax dollars is our primary directive. Our team maintained strict oversight across major Parish contracts, capital commitments, and hiring practices to mitigate financial liability.

Ready for Risk Assessment

Every year our office develops and presents an annual work plan that is "risk" based. We began our risk assessment in June to prepare for our Annual Work Plan, which will be published in September. This is an excellent opportunity for employees to raise concerns or share knowledge about waste and inefficiencies they believe may impact accountability, public trust, or the effective delivery of services. If you have information about waste and inefficiencies within your department, please share your concerns with us.

Tip of the Month: Department-Issued Policies and Procedures

Does your department have department-issued policies and procedures? Having effective policies and procedures helps governments build public trust.

Key Reasons for Departmental Policies and Procedures

- **Consistency and Fairness:** They help all staff operate under the same standards, reducing arbitrary decision-making and ensuring equitable treatment of residents.
- **Risk Management:** Clear procedures act as a legal defense, mitigating liability by ensuring compliance with state and federal laws.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Well-defined procedures streamline workflows, reduce errors and save time in daily tasks.
- **Accountability:** They establish clear performance expectations and provide a basis for staff accountability and discipline.
- **Public Trust:** Transparent, documented procedures demonstrate professionalism, enhancing the public's confidence in local governance.
- **Knowledge Retention:** Policies document "how-to"

Our goal is simple:
Make Jefferson Parish
government more efficient
and accountable. We
provide the objective
oversight that our
community deserves.

Kim Raines Chatelain
Inspector General



Inspector General Kim Raines Chatelain



Deputy Inspector General Jeffrey Adolph (right)

See Something? Say Something.

If you suspect something isn't right, let us know. Tips can be completely confidential.

- **Visit Us:** 990 N. Corporate Dr., Suite 300, Elmwood, LA 70123
- **Main Office:** (504) 736-8962
- **Confidential Tip Line:** (504) 528-4444
- **Report Online:** jpoig.net/report
- **Follow Us:** Connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for regular updates.

information, facilitating smooth onboarding and preserving institutional memory when staff change.

If your department is functioning without department-issued policies and procedures, that's the kind of thing we want to hear about. We would gladly work with your Director and department to bring better policies and procedures in order to make your life easier and government function smoothly.

JEFFCAP

Ann Bridges and
Genika Green-Jupiter

Congratulations

The whole JeffCAP crew congratulates our outstanding team members on their well-deserved recognition and achievements.

During Teacher Appreciation Week of May 4-8, Teaching Strategies GOLD honored five exceptional educators from across the country.

We are proud to share that our very own **Shital Desai**, Early Head Start Teacher at West Metairie Head Start, was selected as one of these distinguished professionals.

Since joining JeffCAP in 2017, Shital has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to early childhood development. She is widely recognized for her warm, responsive teaching style and her ability to foster a nurturing environment where infants and toddlers feel safe, supported, and inspired to learn. Her feature on Teaching Strategies' national social media platforms is a testament to her dedication and impact. Shital's award is a remarkable achievement.

We also extend our sincere congratulations to our Education Coordinator **Rosalind East-Cambeilh**, for earning her Master's degree in Early Childhood Leadership from Northern Arizona University. This accomplishment reflects her dedication to professional growth and educational excellence in. The JeffCAP team is very proud of her.

Congratulations to **Sonia Romero** for her promotion to Accounting II in the Central Finance Office. We truly appreciate her hard work and dedication. We wish her all the best in her new role.



Infant-Toddler Teacher, West Metairie Head Start, Kenner, LA



Officer "Bear"ington educates the children at the Jutland Head Start school



Sonia Romero

Special Visit

JeffCAP extends a heartfelt thank you to Jutland Head Start and the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office for hosting a wonderful event. The Head Start children had a fantastic time learning about gun safety, and they especially enjoyed hearing from **Officer "Bear"ington**.

We truly appreciate the effort and care that went into making this experience both educational and engaging for the children. We are grateful for such a meaningful and memorable event.



Jefferson Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng (fourth from right), Council Members, Steve Roch Jr. (center) and JeffFit Wellness Committee Members

JeffFit

Employee Health and Wellness Program

Steve J. Roch Jr., RD, LDN
JeffFit Onsite Wellness Coordinator

JeffFit Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The JeffFit Employee Health and Wellness program kicked off the new year by celebrating ten years of helping Jefferson Parish employees and their families transform their lives.

We introduced many fun and incentivized program additions to help employees live healthier lives, including new JeffFit communications, new health promotion challenges with incentives, new opportunities to schedule onsite biometric appointments to collect biometric health screening data, suggestions for how to build healthier office workplaces by supporting and motivating others and much more. We encourage employees to review our emails to learn about and participate in the rest of JeffFit happenings in 2026.

Parish Leadership Recognizes JeffFit

April 8 at the Eastbank Council meeting was named JeffFit Day. **Steve Roch Jr.**, along with a few members of the JeffFit Wellness Committee, received a Proclamation Day certificate and a Certificate of Merit for outstanding achievements in raising awareness and offering health services to Parish employees.



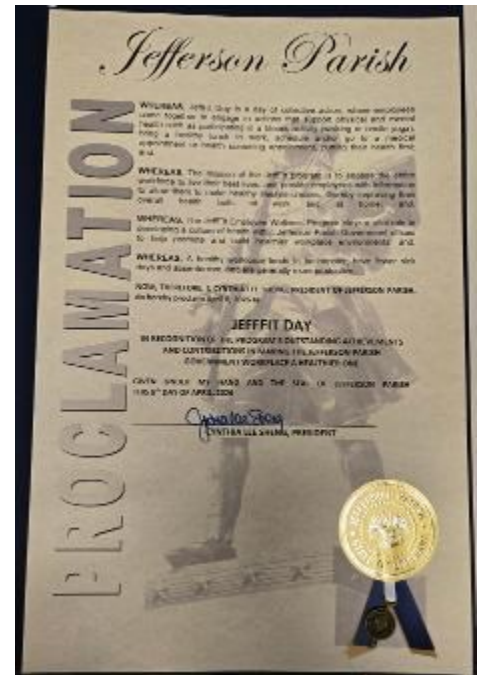
This was the first time that JeffFit received this award. Each certificate will be framed and placed on a wall for all to view in the HR department in Suite 517 of the Joseph S. Yenni building.

Onsite Biometric Health Screening Events

In April JeffFit offered nine onsite biometric health screening events allowing eligible colleagues and their spouses to collect their health results data and earn \$75 in UHC Rewards.

JeffFit is pleased that we met our goal of getting at least 30 participants at each event. That means that JeffFit will be able to schedule these events at the same locations in 2027.

Anyone has not had their biometric health data collected this year can still do so. Eligible colleagues and spouses have three remaining ways to collect their health data and earn the United Health Care (UHC) Reward. Participants can bring the unique medical form to their doctor's office visit, schedule an appointment at a Quest lab through the myuhc app, or order



JeffFit Proclamation Day Certificate

an at-home test kit from UHC through the myuhc app.

New Ways to Get Right with Body and Mind

Beginning in April, JeffFit introduced a new chair aerobics class called "Move Baby, Move" at the Yenni Building. Classes are available each Thursday from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Rooms vary depending on availability.

In May, JeffFit introduced another Tai Chi class with a meditation component called Qigong (pronounced Chee-gu-hn-g). Classes are offered at various office work locations throughout the day on different days of the week. Those who are interested in attending should review JeffFit email communications, which include monthly class calendars.

JPAWS

Gloria Soto

New Hires

The JPAWS staff welcomes our new team members.

Care Attendants I

Alley Warden

Ann Fleming

Cai'Ray Wallace

Dalvin Price

Jada Coulon

Kira Fisher

Minh Nguyen

Seth Carrier

Talon Comeaux

Administrative Clerks

Constance Coleman

Iman Thibodeaux

Marc Villere

Humane Officer

Sean Henderson

They will all make great contributions to the JPAWS team.

Events

Over the last few months, JPAWS has had numerous adoption events such as the Flying Dolly's Adoption, the Lucky Cat Café cat adoption and the Tour for Life adoption event. We even held a "Taylor and Travis Wedding" at the East Bank Regional Library. We've had multiple transports in order to get these loving animals out of the shelter environment. And, as always, JPAWS holds numerous Bissell events throughout the month where citizens can get their pets spayed and neutered at a reduced cost.

Farewells

JPAWS recently bid farewell to **Marti Martin** and **Tabitha Cordero**, who took promotions at the Alario Center and Juvenile Services, respectively. We greatly miss them.



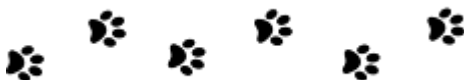
Shannon Neal and Dejuan Henderson



Rachel Goyette, Director Michelle Brignac Carr and Dejuan Henderson

(Left) Director Michelle Brignac Carr and Katie Terrance

(Below) Hannah Bonvillian, Katie Terrance, Denise Vincent, and Talon Comeaux



JUVENILE SERVICES

Vicki Borja

Congratulations

On May 23 **Dr. John Ryals**, Evaluation/Treatment Supervisor, was ordained a deacon in the Catholic church. After five years of diaconate formation, his plans for retirement are becoming clear. Dr. Ryals stated, "I am humbled by God calling me to serve the Church" and he asks for prayers.



Dr. John Ryals (second from left) at his ordination to Deacon

Employee of the Year

Congratulations to **Ron Ellison** for being selected as Juvenile Services Employee of the Year. We thank Ron for all that he does for our department.

Employees of the Month

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

February 2026

Detention: **Celina Wilson**

Probation: **Tammy Eursin**

March 2026

Detention: **Darrnika Lewis**

Probation: **Veronica Merricks**

April 2026

Detention: **Brian Gougisha**

Probation: **Christi Lacombe**

New Employees

We welcome the following new employees to the Juvenile Services family:

Gerald Oracoy

Inez Gilbert

Travis Turnage



Gerald Oracoy



Inez Gilbert



Travis Turnage

Condolences

Our deepest sympathies go to the family of Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Deputy **Scott Smith**, who passed away on May 13. Scott was a well-liked and valuable team member who always had a smile on his face. We will miss him very much.



Scott Michael Smith

(1975 – 2026)

(Continued from page 11)

Gae Goodwin

Over the course of her career, Gae has developed a passion for leadership development. She spends her free time reading and learning all about workplace leadership and how leaders can effectively guide their teams to achieve greater success. She is excited to join the HR team and is looking forward to providing inspiring and engaging learning experiences for all Parish employees.

LIBRARY

David Johnson

Employees of the Month

The individuals listed below were honored as Employees of the Month by their colleagues at the Jefferson Parish Library (JPL) for the spring months of 2026.

March

Jesse Hunt of the Maintenance Department. His nomination included this testimonial: "Jesse is an outstanding worker, always displaying a positive demeanor when he's out on the field. He's super helpful to staff and does a great job following up with work order requests. I've observed him being a team player on many occasions."

April

Heidi Austin, Librarian I at the Gretna Branch. Heidi was nominated for her consistently warm, welcoming presence and her ability to make both patrons and coworkers feel valued. As one nominator shared, "Heidi is so silly and sweet and just a friendly face. She welcomes everyone with a smile and makes sure patrons leave the library satisfied with their experience."

May

Christie Cognevich, Information Specialist who previously served as a Librarian I. Christie has brought her knowledge of customer service with library patrons to the JPL Marketing Team where she is posting to social media, creating brochures and flyers, and producing a weekly email that informs all employees of media coverage for the library to prepare staff for patrons' follow-up and questions. With a doctorate in English literature, she has led public programs at the library on the work of master poets whose prose has inspired punk and rock musicians.

(Continued on page 18)



Jesse Hunt (center) with (left-to-right) Director Jessica Styons, Julie Gendusa, Offord Langston and Selena Muhoberac



Heidi Austin (center) with Director Jessica Styons and Bill McKee



Christie Cognevich (holding certificate), Eric Krieger, Director Jessica Styons and Jessica Gradolf

(Continued from page 17)

First Quarter

Director **Daniel Cangelosi** was selected as Supervisor of the Quarter. For the first quarter of 2026, West Bank Regional Library nominations included the following praise: "After over 20 years in libraries, he is the best manager I have ever had," and "There is nothing he would ask of you that he would not do himself. Danny listens to you and to the patrons and cares about the answers."

Summer Reading Challenge Continues Through July 31

All Jefferson Parish Library cardholders are encouraged to participate in the Summer Reading Challenge, a contest that measures reading hours and attendance at library programs culminating in a prize drawing after July 31.

The summer fun kicked off with simultaneous Dig, Discover, Grow! parties at the East Bank Regional and West Bank Regional Libraries on May 30. The event focused on dinosaur-themed activities for all ages.

On June 5-6 both regional libraries hosted Back to the '90s adults-only parties that featured a "craft buffet" packed with fun projects, including puff paint creations (custom T-shirt decorating), along with '90s trivia, mocktails, cupcakes, and a fully loaded nacho bar with a variety of toppings. Attendees sang along to '90s-era hits during a special "seated karaoke" with lyric videos playing on the big screen.

For more information on how to participate in the 2026 challenge and a list of the prizes underwritten by the Friends of Jefferson Public Library, visit the library's [Summer Reading Challenge](#) site.



Daniel Cangelosi and Director Jessica Styons

PARKS AND RECREATION

Joseph LaCava

A Warm Welcome to Our New Team Members

We are excited to welcome these individuals to the Jefferson Parish Recreation Department (JPRD) team as they begin serving our community across the Parish.

Assistant Recreation Center Supervisors

Derek Francis – LaSalle Playground

Jamie Battey – Cleary Playground

Christopher Oufnac – Girard Playground

Special Program Supervisor

Glynn Holmes Jr. – Leisure Services

Groundskeepers

Edward McDermott – Pontiff Playground

Davon James – Delta Playground

Welcoming Back Our Team Members

We are pleased to welcome employees back to the Department, and we appreciate their continued dedication to serving our community.

Groundskeeper

Tony Hebert – Mike Miley Playground

(Continued on page 19)



Jefferson Parish Public Schools Partner of the Month Director Harold Buhler (center-left) and Tiffany Joseph (center-right) pose for a photo with Jefferson Parish School officials

(Continued from page 18)

Recognizing Our Transient Employees

Thank you to our transient employees for their support and contributions to Recreation Department operations across Jefferson Parish.

Groundskeepers

Brandon La Monte – Girard Playground

Gabriel Alexander – Bright Playground

Troy Gould – Lemon Playground

Tyree Bruer – Pontiff Playground

Cody Lepine – Jefferson Playground

Celebrating Our Team Promotions

Congratulations to the employees who have recently earned promotions within the Recreation Department. Their hard work, leadership, and commitment continue to strengthen our department and community.

Business Manager

Antoinette Holmes – Administration

Executive Superintendent

Pamela Bibbins – Administration

Maintenance Supervisors

Jessica Woodfill – Girard Playground

Donavan Maher – Pontiff Playground

Office Support Specialist II

Danay Jackson – Administration

Assistant Recreation Center Supervisor

Tony Hebert – Mike Miley Playground

Jefferson Parish Public Schools Partner of the Month

The Jefferson Parish Recreation Department was recognized as the Jefferson Parish Public Schools May Partner of the Month in recognition of the continued partnership and collaboration between both organizations in serving students and families throughout Jefferson Parish.

Through JPRD parks, playgrounds, athletic facilities, and community spaces, student-athletes across the parish are provided opportunities to practice, compete, and participate in events throughout the year. Facilities such as the Alario Center, Mike Miley Playground, Oakdale Playground, and Terrytown Playground continue to serve as important locations for school and community activities.

The partnership also allows JPRD to utilize school facilities for Parish-wide programming and youth events, further strengthening the shared commitment to serving the Jefferson Parish community.

Woodmere Playground Open House

JPRD welcomed families and community members to the Woodmere Playground Open House for a day celebrating community, connection, and the future of the playground. Returning participants and new families alike gathered to explore the playground, meet staff, and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere as Woodmere Playground continues to grow its programs and community presence.

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Woodmere Playground Supervisor Rayfield Gaston with Special Programs Supervisor Raynell Butler

Coach Pete Adams Memorial Tournament

JPRD honored the life and legacy of **Coach Pete Adams** during a special memorial presentation held at JPRD Eastbank. Friends, family members, and community supporters gathered as staff presented a commemorative plaque recognizing Coach Pete's more than 50 years of dedication to coaching and mentoring young athletes throughout Jefferson Parish.

Coach Pete's impact extended far beyond the field; he served as a mentor, role model, and lifelong friend to generations of athletes and families. His passion for sports and commitment to helping young people succeed on and off the field left a lasting impact on the community. His legacy and dedication to Recreation Department athletics will continue to inspire generations to come.

JPRD Day Camp Training

With Day Camp beginning June 1, JPRD staff gathered for annual training and preparation ahead of the summer season. Staff members participated in sessions designed to help create a safe, engaging, and positive environment for campers throughout Jefferson Parish.



Michelle Dearnitt (red shirt) presents a memorial plaque to the family of Coach Pete Adams



JPRD staff members participate in annual Day Camp training ahead of the 2026 summer season

A special thank you to **Sarah Babcock** and her team for presenting "Trauma, Brain Development and Child/Coach Relationship." She provided

valuable insight into emotional responses, child development, and strengthening relationships between staff and campers.

PLANNING

Katina Webb

Gratitude

We are grateful for the dedication, teamwork, and positive spirit that each employee brings every day to our department, helping to create a supportive and successful workplace environment.

We would like to highlight a few recognitions, events, and fresh beginnings we had in the Planning Department this year.

New Employees

We are excited to welcome a couple of new faces to our department family. We are thrilled to have these individuals join our team.

Planner II **Anya Tipton** received her Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Rhodes College in 2018 and her Master's in Urban Planning from Wayne State University in 2024. Most recently, she served as Interim Director of the Clinton County Regional Planning Commission in Ohio.



Anya Tipton

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Raised in New Orleans, Anya is excited to return to her roots after five years in the Midwest and contribute to the future and prosperity of the region that shaped her.

Another native New Orleanian, Planner II **Jose Martinez**, graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning. He believes that pursuing this profession creates opportunities to leave a positive impact on this city and future generations. In his free time, he likes taking photographs and going on hiking trips.

We look forward to all of the great things that each of them brings to the team. Their unique skills and experiences will help contribute continued success in our department.

Recognitions

Planning Department Service Pin Ceremony

We recognized, celebrated, and honored our team members for their many years of dedication, hard work and service to Jefferson Parish. Employees were presented with service pins representing their milestone years of service.

10 years

- **Alena Gesser**

Director

- **Patricia Butler**

Office Support Clerk III

5 years

- **Cinthya Chacon**

Office Support Clerk III

- **Ian Conrardy**

Landscape Planner

We are proud to recognize these employees for their years of service that reflect commitment, dedication and the success of our office.

(Continued on page 22)



Jose Martinez

(Continued from page 1)

Presidents Message

you do not have a JeffParish.gov account, click on 'Use Another Method.' If this is your first time logging in with a non-JeffParish.gov account, you will need to create a new password.

Again, I'd like to thank each and every one of our employees for your dedication, your flexibility, and your commitment to Jefferson Parish.

Together, we're building a smarter, stronger future.



Director Bessie Martin and Alena Gesser



Ian Conrardy



Cinthya Chacon



The administrative staff members of the Planning team

(Continued from page 21)

Administrative Professionals Day

The Planning Department recognized and celebrated our dedicated administrative staff who help keep our department running smooth each and every day. They are the backbone of our daily operations. They work behind the scenes but we know that they have a great impact in our department. This was an opportunity to let them know that all their efforts and hard work do not go unnoticed and we as a department appreciate it.

- **Diana Soileau**
Executive Assistant
- **Katina Webb**
Administrative Assistant
- **Cinthya Chacon**
Office Support Clerk III
- **Nedra McKinney**
Office Support Clerk III
- **Patricia Butler**
Office Support Clerk III

Departures

We also need to announce the departure of **Keneva Headley**, our graduate assistant from the Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) program at the University of New Orleans (UNO) and congratulate her for earning her Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning.

Keneva was an asset to the Planning Department and we hope she uses her positive experience with us in her future endeavors. We wish her much success and the best of luck.



Director Bessie Martin and Patricia Butler

STREETS

Kenya Johnson

Celebration of Cinco de Mayo

On May 5 the Streets and Parkways Department celebrated the rich culture, history and traditions of Cinco de Mayo. We had a luncheon to thank our hardworking team for all they do each day to help keep our community clean, safe, and beautiful.

(Continued on page 23)



Ava Bourgere



Cinco de Mayo luncheon

(Continued from page 22)

Service Pins

Congratulations to the following employees who have received pins for their dedicated service with the Parish.

5 years

Emile Williams
Johnathan Washington
Melvin Winfield
Raymond Overstreet

10 years

Brian Barthelomew
Denise Scholl

We truly appreciate their dedication and hard work.



Helen McGee (right)



Maria Cooper



Patricia Gordon



Denise Scholl



James Crocket, Raymond Overstreet



Alan Jefferson, Emile Williams



Derrin Robinson, Brook Burmaster, Brian Barthelomew, Arthur Clayton IV



Alan Jefferson, Melvin Winfield, Brook Burmaster



Johnathan Washington

Condolences

We extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to **Amy Bourg** for the loss of her grandmother, **Gladys Matherne**. We are truly sorry for Amy's loss, and our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family during this difficult time.

PURCHASING

Sean Dumas

Federal Contract Provision Requirements - Statewide Contracts*Did you know?*

If your department intends to purchase through a statewide contract, using federal funds, all required federal contract provisions must be attached to the procurement request.

Departments that utilize grant funds must ensure compliance with all applicable federal requirements and guidelines.

It is critical that the Parish adhere to federal requirements. Failure to include the required provisions may result in the statewide contract being deemed noncompliant for purchases funded with federal grant dollars.

Infor Supplier Registration Training Sessions

Over 300 Parish vendors attended two in-person training sessions hosted by the Purchasing Department in May to learn about the upcoming transition to our new Financial Management System – an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution by Infor Public Sector.

All vendors are required to register in the new portal to interact with the Purchasing Department to ensure that they are up to date on procurement opportunities. Through the new Infor self-service Supplier Portal, vendors will be able to better manage their profiles, respond to solicitations, track Purchase Orders, upload certifications, insurance documents and licenses.

Supplier Portal Registration is now live. We ask for your assistance in notifying vendors to complete their registration, which can be done by visiting [Supplier Portal](#).

An overview of the change along with a training video is available on the [Procurement System Update | Jefferson Parish, LA](#) webpage.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact the Purchasing Department at (504) 364-2678. Thank you for helping to educate Parish vendors about the importance of completing their registration in advance of the system's go live on July 1, 2026.

Retirements

Gary Alexis
Sewerage (27 years)

Craig Bradley
Sewerage (33 years)

Gary Daigrepoint
General Services (19 years)

Don Hebert
Sewerage (8 years)

Ramona Klegseth
District Attorney (18 years)

Jane Lennie
Sewerage (26 years)

Kevin Sampey
Water (36 years)

Joann Saucier
Juvenile Courts (26 years)

Cynthia Teachworth
Second Parish Courts (26 years)

Training Corner**Basic Computer Skills****Be Prepared for Infor Training**

The new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system is coming online July 1. Everyone needs to possess basic computer skills before taking training on how to use the new software.

To see if you need to learn the basics so that you're ready to take the more advanced Infor training, click the link below.

[Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment](#)

1. Create a learner account.
2. Click Basic Computer Skills.

Log in with a learner account:

Need a learner account? [Sign up as a learner](#)

If you already have a learner account: 

LOG IN WITH NORTHSTAR



Essential Computer Skills

 Phone Keyboard Basics & Logging In

 [Basic Computer Skills](#) 



Internet Basics

CC 2 Internet Basics