

# In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

January 15, 2018

## ***MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOE HASSINGER***

### **Stay Alert!**

My Dad used to say that - a lot - when I was a kid. Going to school - "Stay alert son." Going to work - "Stay alert son." I'd think to myself "Ok I'm alert." Or, more often, "Why's he always telling me that?" or "Stay alert for what?"

It's funny how, as you get older, you find the wisdom in things your parents said and did, things that at the time didn't seem so remarkable. As the years have gone by, I've come to appreciate that phrase, and have repeated it to myself in many different contexts. As a lawyer, I stay alert for effective ways to protect my clients. As a businessman, I stay alert for ways to "WOW" my clients and prospective clients. As a father, I try to stay alert for opportunities to guide or, more often, learn from my kids, and so on. For the Flood Protection Authority, I ask you to stay alert.

Stay alert for the opportunity to make someone's day; to teach a skill, to solve a problem, to thank, or to guide; to acknowledge a mistake or to take responsibility; to collaborate, to lead, or to set an example; to impress, to surprise the public or a coworker with your level of service, or to be a hero. When you see the opportunity, don't hesitate - seize it.

Can you think of something your Mother, Father or Grandparent used to tell you? Something that stuck? Something that you now tell yourself or your kids? If so, email it to Glenda so we can include it in upcoming newsletters! Give us all some inspiration, some humor or some words of wisdom.

*Joe*

#### **THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS**

Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr., - President  
Richard A. Luettich, Jr., ScD - Vice President  
G. Paul Kemp, Ph.D. - Secretary  
Mark L. Morgan, P.E., Treasurer  
Clay A. Cosse'  
Quentin D. Dastugue, CCIM  
Andrew J. Englande, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., DEE  
Jason P. Latiolais  
Herbert I. Miller, P.E.

*Even with all our technology  
and the inventions that make  
modern life so much easier  
than it once was, it takes just  
one big natural disaster to  
wipe all that away and remind  
us that, here on Earth, we're  
still at the mercy of nature.  
Neil deGrasse Tyson*

## **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH NOMINATIONS**

**ALL EMPLOYEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT THEIR EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH NOMINATIONS EACH MONTH FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:**

**OPERATIONS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH  
POLICE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH  
ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

**INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR SUPERVISOR OR HR. NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY THE LAST DAY OF EACH MONTH FOR THE NEXT MONTH. NOMINATIONS CAN BE EMAILED TO [gboudreaux@slfpa.com](mailto:gboudreaux@slfpa.com), SENT BY INTEROFFICE MAIL OR TURNED IN TO YOUR SUPERVISOR FOR SUBMITTAL. DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT PROCESS.**

## News and Updates

The Flood Protection Authority Board at its December 21st Meeting authorized the execution of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement amongst the FPA, CPRA and New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board for assuming management and operation responsibilities of the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP). FPA staff is formulating a plan for the maintenance and operation of the PCCP, which is anticipated to be turned over by the Corps of Engineers by the end of February.

The next phase of the Leadership Training Project will be rolled out to all supervisors and specific other staff beginning the first week of January.

The audit of the FPA's financial statements for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017 has been completed and the audit firm of Carr, Riggs and Ingram has issued a clean report for the FPA with no findings.

Digital Message Boards have been ordered and will be installed in all FPA locations in January. IT staff is researching live-streaming Board meetings to the message boards.

IT recently ordered Dell all-in-one desktop work stations that will allow employees to check their emails and gain access to on-line/e-learning activities at a designated work space. The work stations are anticipated to be deployed by February.

Glenda Boudreaux has been appointed communications facilitator, and will drive frequent substantive communications broadly to team members. Various methods will be utilized, as appropriate, to communicate information to employees, such as e-mail blasts, electronic message boards, *In the Levee Loop*, and by distributing copies. Suggestions, ideas and information regarding the FPA's distribution methods can be submitted by email to [gboudreaux@slfpae.com](mailto:gboudreaux@slfpae.com) or placed in the *In the Levee Loop* suggestion boxes. Also, suggestions can be submitted by visiting the FPA's website ([floodauthority.org](http://floodauthority.org)) and clicking on the "Suggestion Box" tab located at the bottom of the home page.

Members of I-Storm (an international group of storm surge barrier owners/operators) will conduct an independent peer review of the IHNC Surge Barrier and Seabrook Complex in May, 2018.

The EJLD Lakefront Levee lifts are completed and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) contractors have begun the armoring of all five EJLD Lakefront Levee reaches. The USACE will advertise the consolidated levee lift/armoring projects for LPV 109.02 and LPV 111.1 located in New Orleans East in February.

Site work continues for the O.L.D. Police Complex on Elysian Fields Avenue and Lakeshore Drive (site pictures below).



Construction of the EJLD Safe House and Consolidated Facility continues on schedule (site picture right).



## *FPA Senior Level Reorganization*

Effective January 8th Earl Kugelmann has been named to the new position of Director of Maintenance for the FPA and will report to CAO Derek Boese. In this role, Earl will oversee maintenance operations for the FPA including all mechanic, laborer crews, mowing operations, floodgate/floodvalve operations and facility maintenance. Brian Stropolo as LBBLD Superintendent, Kerry Migliore as EJLD Superintendent and Earl's current O.L.D. direct reports (Mark Theard, Troy Scott and Joe Parsi) will report to Earl.

Gerry Gillen will remain Director of Operations and oversee all Complex Structures, LBBLD Pump Stations, and the new Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) and will report to the CAO.

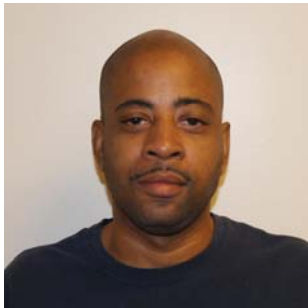
The new structure will allow Gerry to focus on the PCCP ensuring those major new facilities get up and running properly, and allow Earl to focus on the day-to-day operations.

## *Welcome to New Flood Protection Team Member*



Brittany Thomas  
Engineering - Technician 3  
Hired: 12/18/17

## *Congratulations on Flood Protection Team Promotions*



Darrell Glenn  
Maintenance Repairer Master  
12/4/17



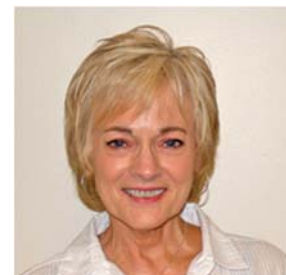
Carl Allen  
Maintenance Repairer Master  
12/4/17

## *Flood Protection Team Best Wishes to Retirees*



EJLD Police Captain Carl Mayeaux (left)  
retired on December 29th after 22 years with EJLD.

Paula Doucet, EJLD HR Analyst C (right)  
retired on December 15th with 14+ years of service.





## *End of the Year Report Meeting*

Flood Protection Authority Team Members attended the annual End of the Year Report Meeting on December 20th. Copies of the FPA's Culture Change Initiative Action Plan and 2017 Accomplishments and Goals for 2018 were distributed to team members at the meeting.





*End of the Year Report Meeting*



## Meet Your Finance Team



Adele Charles is an Accountant responsible for Accounts Payable, processing/billing work order, journal vouchers, petty cash, and fuel. When Adele is finished paying FPA bills, she enjoys walks, biking, music, and, most of all, her five grandchildren.

Please join me in congratulating Angel Shepherd on her recent promotion to the coveted position "Queen of Lake Borgne." Angel's strong work ethic and devotion to the FPA mission make her a favorite amongst the locals who are celebrating her coronation with tailgate parties, fireworks, and adult beverages. Long may she reign!



Kelli Chandler is the Director of Finance and is responsible for holding this department together! Kelli ensures effective financial operations and assists leadership with strategic growth of the FPA. Kelli is a die-hard Star Wars fan, has over 30 tattoos, and adores her kitten, Izzyrita Clementine, which she has affectionately dubbed "Izzy" for short.

Kenny Albarado is an Accountant responsible for Accounts Receivable, Fixed Assets, and Retiree Insurance. Kenny loves animals, especially his furry companions at home – a four year old Shichi (Shih Tzu/Chihuahua mix) and a five year old Puggle (Pug/Beagle mix).



Chandra Chaffin is the Grants Administrator, responsible for funding-related contract accounting and compliance. She is also the Employee Resource/Bereavement Officer, serving as EAP Liaison and providing support and referral services. Her hobbies include reading self-help books, barstool philosophy, and laughing at her own jokes. She performs in a one-woman ukulele band for her dogs, who advise her NOT to quit her day job. Also, coffee.

Donna Givens is Purchasing Clerk. She is responsible for finding the best deals possible on supplies and equipment necessary for the day-to-day business operations of the FPA. Donna is currently enjoying time off to welcome her brand new granddaughter into the world! Congratulations Donna!



Maria Chedid is an Accountant Administrator responsible for all fiscal activities including budget prep, annual financial statements, and setting and monitoring performance objectives. Maria enjoys brisk walks and spending time with family and friends.

Pam Zeringue is Purchasing Manager responsible for negotiating with vendors to secure advantageous terms, approving the ordering of necessary goods and services, finalizing purchase details of orders and deliveries, tracking and reporting metrics to reduce expenses and improve effectiveness, and regulating spending to build a culture of long-term savings on procurement costs. Pam has a life-long passion for rescuing, rehoming, and showing unconditional love to all furry creatures.



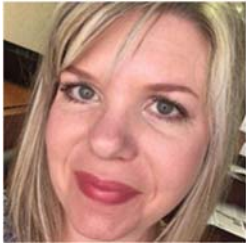
Jorge Sisson is a Purchasing Agent who shoulders the responsibility of finding, not only the least expensive price, but the best all-around value for the FPA's money. Jorge enjoys linguistics and speaks Creole, French, English a bit of Italian and can read Spanish, Portuguese and Latin. Jorge is also a damn good southern cook!



Peggy Sembera is Finance/Human Resources Liaison responsible for cross-functional and collaborative support of Financial Management, Human Resources, and Operational Support functions when necessary. Peggy has an uncanny ability to accomplish the impossible and, at any given moment, may bust out her Wonder Woman Cape and take flight. After a day of superhuman strength and invincibility, Peggy looks forward to vegging out in front of her favorite Netflix murder mystery show.



## Meet Your Finance Team



Shannon West is an Accountant responsible for bank reconciliation, investment entries, and select payroll functions and payables. When Shannon leaves the office, she can be found at the ballpark supporting her three athletic children in their various sports endeavors and yelling at the refs for bad calls.

Kelly DeRocha is an Accountant whose responsibilities include payables, receivables, and reconciliations. Kelly spent 16 years in the San Francisco Bay area working as a professional real estate photographer for homes and businesses before returning to her native New Orleans. Her work is published on numerous websites and in magazines. Kelly also served as a camera operator, lighting engineer, and is trained in computer graphics for live television.



Thuy Do is an Accountant whose primary responsibility is to ensure that all FPA employees are PAID! This has not been an easy task as of late due to the payroll transition to the new ADP system, but Thuy has persevered! Thuy enjoys watching Korean Drama, reading, and making fun of her younger brother.

Tuyet Nguyen is Accounting Manager and responsible for budgeting and other general accounting duties. After a hard day of accounting, Tuyet unwinds by playing on a competitive volleyball team. She is mother to baby Logan and expecting her second bundle of joy. Tuyet also has a voracious passion for all food.



William Joseph (a.k.a. "Will") is an Accounting Manager responsible for supporting and overseeing Payroll, Payables, and also other general accounting functions. Will is a self-proclaimed science fiction NERD, identifying the most influential works as the Star Wars Saga and the Matrix Trilogy. May the force be with you, Will, and choose the red pill.



June Humphrey is the Storeroom Manager responsible for shipping and receiving, and inventory control management. June loves to travel! She has traveled to many wonderful destinations – one of the most influential being Medjugorje, which she has visited three times. June says that her next adventure may very well be an Alaskan cruise!

Paul LaPorte is Storeroom Receiving Associate and is responsible for shipping and receiving, assists with inventory control, and operational and administrative package deliveries. When he is not working in the FPA Storeroom, Paul enjoys spending time with his three month old grandson, Marty.



What a team of diverse and interesting folks! They work tirelessly to maintain an appropriate financial base to support the mission, report the expenditure of public funds in accordance with the Louisiana Revised Statutes, uphold a respected credit rating in the financial community to evidence that the FPA uses prudent financial management, and maintain a high-level of efficiency, productivity, and professionalism, while striving to live daily the FPA's newly adopted values.

The Finance Team had a successful 2017 with major accomplishments including: Standardization of Chart of Accounts, Redesign of Org Chart, Restructure of Approval Limits, Consolidation of Locations, Implementation of Investment Program, Consolidation/Automation of Accounts, Early Payoff of Debt Saving over \$4 million, Standardization of Employee Related Policies & Procedures, Standardization of Medical & Life Insurance Costs, Standardization of Coverages and Employee Costs, Consolidation of Contracts for Employee Uniforms, Synchronization of Payroll, Standardization of Payroll System Setup and Coding, Re-Design of Department Code Structure, Partnered with HR to Host 1st Regional Employee Benefit Fair, Regional Tracking of Contract Costs, Central Location of Policies & Procedures, Formal Process for Proposing & Adopting, Completed Implementation of HR Benefits Database, and Incorporation of the 7 Values into the Finance Team's Daily Work Activities.

2018 has started strong with the Finance Team on-fleek, so here's to another high-key productive, successful, and fun-filled year!

# *Tchoupitoulas Street Floodwall Murals Project*



**New Orleans  
International Muralists, LLC**

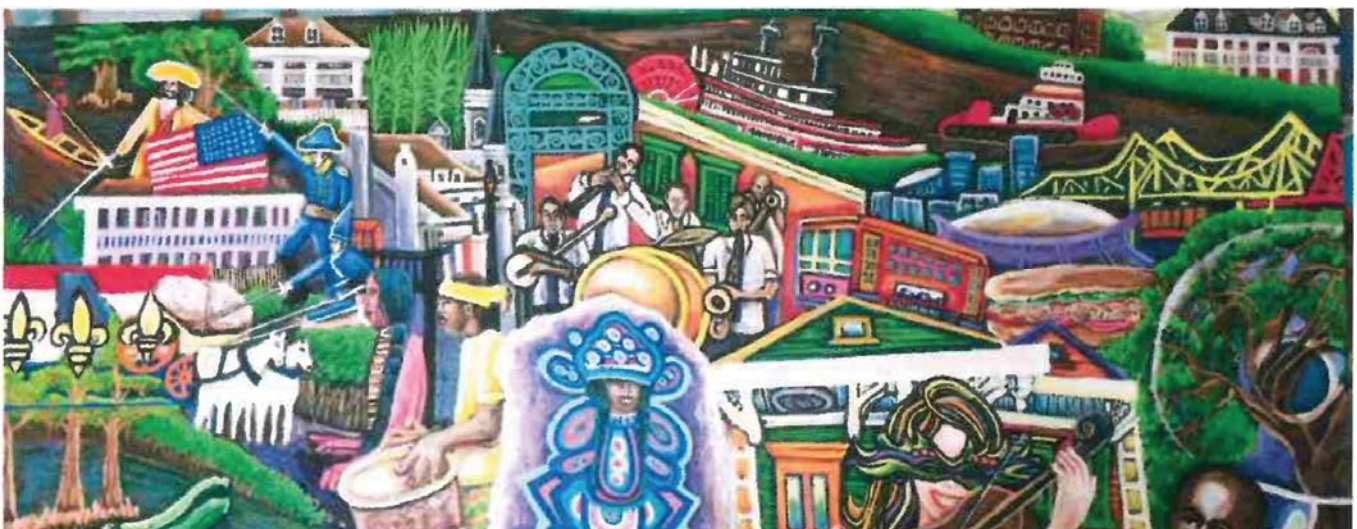
*Dedicated to cultural preservation through art and education*

The final permit (OL2017-014) has been issued to the New Orleans International Muralists, LLC (NOIM) by the Authority granting permission to paint a mural on the Tchoupitoulas floodwall between Josephine Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Street. This will be the first mural project approved by the Orleans Levee District since 1890.

The overall goal of this project that coincides with the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Orleans is to depict the history of the city and represent all of the ethnic groups and genders that were and have been resilient in building New Orleans. Daniel J. Pate and Jamar D. Pierre are spearheading the historic project and are cultural gatekeepers who were both born and raised in New Orleans. They have both been very involved in giving back to the City through education endeavors, community activism and public art projects.

Artist Pierre said that “the Tchoupitoulas Street floodwall is a perfect location to paint a mural large enough to tell a story that helps preserve the past, present, and give an artistic insight of what type of future New Orleans could have. With the city we all love to claim and nurture on the brink of its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the timing for this couldn’t be better for a mural of such historic significance.”

NOIM has been planning and meeting with local artists, USACE, FPA staff, local officials, and others within the arts communities for this mural for over three years. In order to exhibit the city’s rich history with great detail using talented artists, funding substantial enough to create a mural along the approximate 1.5 mile stretch of floodwall is still needed. The mural will be painted one block at a time as funding provides. Each floodwall panel will illustrate at least one and upwards of three important historical events. By working with their selected groups of artist this project is anticipated to take between 18 and 24 months (weather permitting). Funding is still needed for each city block, estimated between \$50-60,000 per three floodwall panels for a total budget of \$450,000. For additional information contact Wilma Heaton at [wheaton@slfpae.com](mailto:wheaton@slfpae.com) or contact the artists directly at [nomuralist@gmail.com](mailto:nomuralist@gmail.com), [artbyjpierre.com](http://artbyjpierre.com) or [noim504.com](http://noim504.com).



**Resilience by J. Pierre**

The above original collage by artist Jamar Pierre draws from New Orleans’ past, present and future and depicts various historic figures, sites and scenes that will grace the floodwall murals along the Tchoupitoulas Street Floodwall.



## 2017 IHNC Surge Barrier Tours

The IHNC Surge Barrier, the largest design-build civil works project in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' history, is drawing national and international attention from storm water management professionals, engineers, educational institutions and anyone interested in flood protection. In December the Flood Protection Authority conducted a tour for the American Geophysical Union Conference (AGU). The approximately 32 AGU members who participated in the tour represented numerous universities and institutions located around the world. Listed below are some of the organizations and countries of origin of our 2017 visitors. The Corps of Engineers' tours include visiting officials, staff and personnel.

January (2 tours) - Italy and Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

February (2 tours) - Vietnam and Denmark

March (4 tours) - Corps of Engineers Pittsburg Office, Climate Change Conference, Babson College and Corps of Engineers

April (3 tours) - NY State Representatives and Arcadis, Corps of Engineers with NHC tour, and Thailand

May (5 tours) - Bucknel University tour (yearly), students from Toronto, Wetland Warriors Group, Corps of Engineers' Hydraulic & Structure group, and IBITTA conference.

June (1 tour) - I-Storm (England, the Netherlands and Italy).

July (3 tours) - Corps of Engineers, Krewe De Nieux (attorneys), and European College student group.

August (4 tours) - NY Times & Times Picayune, Corps of Engineers, National Levee Safety Committee, Waterways Council

September (0 tours) - (New Zealand) The tour had to be canceled due to Hurricane Harvey

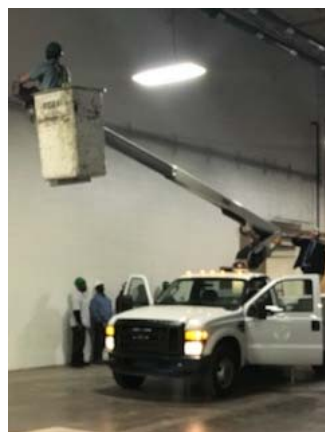
October (3 tours) - ASCE Convention, Corps of Engineers, PBS

November (1 tour) - Water Works

December (2 tours) - Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans and American Geophysical Union Conference and Corps of Engineers

## FPA Team Training

In December O.L.D. Maintenance personnel participated in training utilizing various pieces of equipment, including Interstaters, Rotary Cutters, Turfcats and the bucket truck. Training was conducted by Jim Green, who is a Certified Safety Training Specialist/Safety Manager/Auditor with the Alamo Group, and Carroll Barriere, Levee Foreman C.



## *The FPA's Employees of the Month for December*

### *Thuy Do Recognized by Authority as Employee of the Month*



Thuy Do is an Accountant 1 with the Finance Department. Thuy is a new employee to the Flood Protection Authority and was challenged almost immediately with many changes taking place in payroll. She has demonstrated excellent communication and teamwork skills in keeping her supervisor and team members informed of issues. She has demonstrated professionalism and accountability by her attention to detail to ensure items are entered into payroll correctly.

Thuy has worked with ADP, Human Resources, and multiple team members on the payroll consolidation project helping make the Authority's transition to the new database as seamless as possible while also making the necessary updates to individual deductions in each employee's profile in ADP for the changes taking effect January 1, 2018. Thuy has been excellent at identifying potential issues through her test runs and has quickly grasped how the new database is structured and what changes need to be made. Thuy's work and effort has helped the Authority avoid numerous potential issues during its transition period without neglecting her day to day duties, and she has accomplished this with a smile on her face and a spring in her step. She is a great addition to the Finance team and the Flood Protection Authority.

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### *Jackie Johnson Recognized as Operations Employee of the Month*

Jackie Johnson has been an employee of the Flood Protection Authority since July 5, 1996. In his 22 years of service Jackie has been through many hurricanes, and has been an integral part of the mechanic shop through his entire carrier. Gerry Gillen, Operations Director, advised that during the week of December 11, 2017, while the foreman was on vacation, and he was running the shop, he noticed Jackie cleaning up the storage area. He removed all unused filters and parts and he organized the storage shelves. In addition, with the help of Keith Zimmer, he also cleaned and organized the hose cutting area. Gerry stated that he had never seen the parts storage area so clean and organized. Jackie, without having to be directed to do this job, took the initiative to clean and organize the parts storage area. This is commendable and shows his concern for the shop and the organization in general.



Jackie, along with his supervisor Kent Ural, have also recently been rewarded for their innovation of using the hydraulics on the tractor to raise and lower the cutting decks, bypassing the inefficient cutting deck hydraulic pump that often breaks and has to be replaced, thus saving the agency over tens of thousands of dollars in equipment and labor.

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### *P/O Brad Baradell Recognized as Police Officer of the Month*



P/O Brad Baradell is a Police Officer II with the EJLD Police Department and is recognized for his outstanding teamwork and professionalism. He assists other levee district units as well as outside agencies. While on scenes, he assists units with collecting evidence and documentation. He keeps a positive and professional attitude both on and off scenes.

P/O Baradell conducted a traffic stop at S. Clearview and Earhart. In addition to the multiple traffic violations, both occupants were wanted. As he attempted to have the suspects exit the vehicle, the driver accelerated dragging him along the side. After a brief pursuit, the suspects were apprehended. The driver was booked with multiple charges including attempted first degree murder of a police officer. P/O Baradell is an invaluable asset to both the Flood Protection Authority and the community.



## *Students Surprise O.L.D. Police Officers with Carols and Gifts*



On December 20<sup>th</sup> the 4<sup>th</sup> graders of St. Pius X, along with their teachers, surprised the O.L.D. Police Department with a beautiful Christmas carol. On top of that, they presented gift wrapped boxes filled with candy, cakes, cookies, chips and much more for the police officers. THEY WERE AWESOME!!!!



## *Den 8 Bear Cub Scouts Learn About Police Work*



On Thursday January 11th, the cub scouts from St. Pius (Den 8 Bear Cub Scouts) visited the O.L.D. Police Station. They learned about police dispatch, stranger danger, weapon safety, police vehicles, and as you can imagine, they had all sorts of questions. The police officers were honored to answer questions and engage with these curious kids. Also, Officer Tusa fingerprinted each and every child and the prints were given to their parents.



## *FPA Employees Battle SWBNO Gusher to Protect Levee System*



**Darrin Richard and Carroll Barriere**

On Wednesday, January 10th, a break in a Sewerage and Water Board line under the Lakefront Levee at Franklin Avenue created a gusher of water at the curb. Levee Maintenance Foremen Darrin Richard and Carroll Barriere and Police Officer Calvin Hills and Lt. Bruno Mason were on the spot providing barricades and O.L.D. Police presence on Franklin Avenue for public safety, as there was some concern that the concrete scour protection and/or the street could wash out. The S&WB was contacted and thanks to the help of Bob Turner, the appropriate people were advised and the repair should be underway soon



**PO Calvin Hills and Lt. Bruno Mason**

## *Corps of Engineers Schedule for 2018 Annual Inspection*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued its schedule of Annual Inspections for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) and Mississippi River Levees (MRL).

**Wednesday, January 10**—Inspect MRL and completed HSDRRS levees/floodwalls on the east bank in Jefferson Parish in the New Orleans East Bank System.

**Wednesday, January 31 thru Thursday, February 1**—Inspect MRL/floodwalls and completed HSDRRS levees/floodwalls in St. Bernard Parish in the New Orleans East Bank System (St. Bernard Subbasin).

**Tuesday, March 13**—Inspect HSDRRS levees and MRL in Orleans Parish in the New Orleans East Bank System (St. Bernard Subbasin).

**Thursday, March 15**—Inspect MRL and floodwalls and the Seabrook Complex in Orleans Parish in the New Orleans East Bank System (Orleans Metro Subbasin), and, if time permits, the IHNC West floodwall

**Wednesday, March 21**—Inspect completed HSDRRS levees in the New Orleans East Bank System (Orleans East Subbasin).

**Wednesday, March 28 thru Thursday, March 29**—Inspect completed HSDRRS levees/floodwalls in Orleans Parish in the New Orleans East Bank system (Orleans Metro Subdivision).

**Monday, May 7**—Inspect IHNC Surge Barrier in the New Orleans East Bank System (Orleans East Subdivision).

## *Calendar of Events*

### **January**

January 15 (Monday) - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (State Holiday)

January 18 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

### **February**

February 13 (Tuesday) - Mardi Gras

February 15 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

### **March**

March 15 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

March 30 (Friday) - Good Friday (State Holiday)

### **Reminders**

Submit your Employee of the Month Nomination Forms by the last day of each month

**Suggestions, comments, news items (weddings, births, significant anniversaries and other events you wish to share with your coworkers) , original articles and other submittals are welcomed.**

Editor: Glenda Boudreaux  
Associate Editor: Wilma Heaton

Submittals can be placed in any "In the Levee Loop" suggestion box, emailed to [gboudreaux@slfpae.com](mailto:gboudreaux@slfpae.com) or sent to Glenda Boudreaux, SLFPA-E, Airport Terminal, Suite 225, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.