

In the Levee Loop !

News of the Flood Protection Authority

September 15, 2018



Congressman Steve Scalise Visits the PCCP and Discusses the Importance of Flood Protection



The FPA was honored to have Congressman Steve Scalise, the U.S. House Majority Whip, tour the 17th Street Canal Permanent Canal Closure and Pumps (PCCP). Congressman Scalise was able to learn first hand about the role that the new state-of-the-art gate closure/pump stations play in providing perimeter protection for the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan area and see the technology used to operate the stations and monitor outfall canal water levels.

Turn to Page 4 for additional information regarding Congressman Scalise's visit.

Picture: Congressman Steve Scalise, Col. Michael Clancy, New Orleans District Commander USACE, Joe Hassinger, FPA President, Gerry Gillen, FPA Chief of Operations, and former U.S. Senator David Vitter.

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

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*"The more generous we
are, the more joyous we
become. The more
cooperative we are, the
more valuable we
become. The more
enthusiastic we are, the
more productive we
become. The more
serving we are, the more
prosperous we become."
William Arthur Ward*

Message From the President

While the metro area dodged a bullet with TS Gordon, the storm gave all Authority staff members another opportunity to shine. For those of us who sort of watch from the sidelines, it is really impressive to see everyone pull together, and accomplish what needs to be done, in a professional, organized and steady way.

The citizens in East Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard rely on you to be on the front line, and you do not disappoint. What an impressive group of people you are. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, thank you for what you do, and how you do it.

Joe

Welcome New Flood Protection Team Members



Alexander Williams
Engineering Technician 4
Hired 8/6/2018

Antwan Harris
Director of Public Information
Hired 9/10/2018

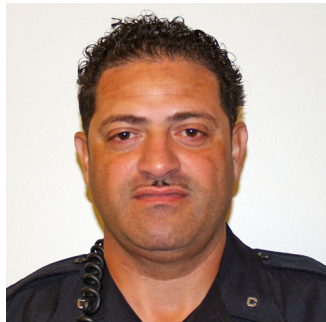
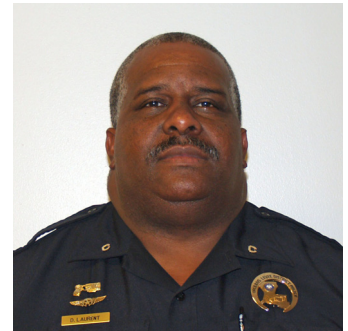


Congratulations on Promotion



Matthew Luke
Promoted to Levee Foreman B
East Jefferson Maintenance
8/13/2018

Darnell Laurent
Promoted to Lieutenant
O.L.D. Police
7/16/2018



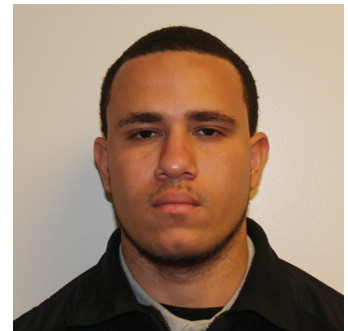
Noel Sanders
Promoted to Sergeant
O.L.D. Police
9/3/2018

Courtney Jimison
Promoted to Police Officer 2A
O.L.D. Police
8/7/2018



Kendrick Tinker
Promoted to Mobile Equipment Operator 1
O.L.D. Maintenance
8/27/2018

Christopher Norfleet
Promoted to Electrician Specialist Leader
8/27/2018



Seven Tenants and What They Mean

After doing my yearly PES and truly understanding the meanings of each of the seven tenets, I had a true eye opening moment. Sometimes you work with individuals who are so driven and professional that each of these tenets just screams this individual's name. As I went through each one starting with: 1) Accountability: this individual is always available and works circles around others. Has knowledge and skill that impresses anyone he comes into contact with. 2) Clear expectations: Truly organized and ready for any changes that may occur daily. 3) Open/Transparent: This individual is always coming up with solutions to any/all problems. Quick thinker. 4) Employees are valued/appreciated: this individual drops whatever he may be doing to help others. Motivates me daily as I watch him work. 5) Teamwork: again this individual works with you to the end. Does what is needed to successfully complete a project. Makes my job so much easier and I thank him for this. 6) Professionalism: A leader within this agency. Remarkable person to be around. Represents our agency with highest integrity. 7) Mission focus: Team player who goes above and beyond daily.

Now you wondering who I am referring to: I truly believe all of you reading this, but I am personally referring to....Mr. Phil Bacino. The best mechanic we have had assigned to the Police Department during my 17 years employed here.

Captain Terry Durnin, East Jefferson Levee District Police



Phil Bacino
EJ Mechanic

Preventing Suicide is Everyone's Business

SEPTEMBER IS
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
AWARENESS
MONTH

According to the CDC, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death and is on the rise.

In 2016, nearly 45,000 Americans age 10 or older died by suicide—about one death every 10 minutes. In 2016, 9.8 million American adults seriously thought about suicide, 2.8 million made a plan, and 1.3 million attempted suicide.

Learn more about this important subject by visiting
suicidepreventionlifeline.org/



Warning signs of suicide:

- Talking about wanting to die.
- Looking for a way to kill oneself.
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no purpose.
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain.
- Talking about being a burden to others.
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Acting anxious, agitated or recklessly.
- Sleeping too little or too much.
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated.
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.
- Displaying extreme mood swings.

The more of these signs a person shows, the greater the risk. Warning signs are associated with suicide, but may not be what causes a suicide.

What to do:

- Do not leave the person alone.
- Remove any firearms, alcohol, drugs or sharp objects that could be used in a suicide attempt.
- Call the U.S. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255).
- Take the person to an emergency room or seek help from a medical or mental health professional.

Congressman Scalise Talks About Flood Protection



Top: Ignacio Harrouch, CPRA Chief of Operations, discusses technology for monitoring the canal water level and pump operations with Congressman Scalise

*The following is quoted from
“THE SCALISE CAPITOL REPORT”
dated August 18, 2018:*

Fighting for Strong Hurricane Protection

This week, I was able to evaluate the 17th Street Canal pumping station and talk with local, state and federal flood protection officials. As we enter the height of the 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season, it's so important our region is ready for whatever may come our way. Hopefully the full capacity of the 17th Street Canal pump station is never needed, but it is important to know that the system is ready and fully capable of operating to its highest level if the worst kind of storm happens.

While this pump station and the rest of the New Orleans area flood protection system are critical parts of our defense system against powerful storms, much work remains to ensure protection for all areas across Southeast Louisiana, and I will continue to fight every day for additional flood protections and coastal restoration efforts in Congress.

Steve Scalise
House Majority Whip



Above: Seeing the pumps first hand. Below (l-r): Speakers at the press conference held after the tour were Congressman Scalise, Col. Michael Clancy, Ignacio Harrouch and Joe Hassinger. Bottom: Touring the Pump Station.



FPA Preparations for Tropical Storm Gordon



Crews close Floodgate S-01 (above) at Southern Scrap along the Industrial Canal and Floodgate E-13 (below)



Closing valves (above and below)



Boats find safe harbor behind Caernarvon Structure (above). Wyatt Hallywell and Ebert Williams closing Caernarvon Sector Gate (below).



A total of 41 floodgates and 17 valves were closed in the Orleans Levee District and 13 floodgates were closed in the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District in response to TS Gordon.

Then, of course, after the storm everything that was closed had to be reopened as weather conditions allowed.

The Flood Protection Team conducted an After Action Review for TS Gordon on September 12th to review activities and discuss lessons learned.



Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board



Shannon West was recognized by the Board as the FPA's Employee of the Month at its August 16th meeting.

Shannon was nominated by her colleagues because she exemplifies the FPA's values in her commitment to the FPA's mission and in the performance of her day-to-day duties. She is a hard working professional who cares about the organization and has earned the admiration and respect of all of the members of the FPA team.

Shannon was hired by the EJLD on February 24, 2003 as an Accounting Specialist. Her position at the EJLD was upgraded on September 24, 2003 to Accounting Technician and reallocated on October 27, 2014 to Administrative Program Specialist A.

Shannon was primarily performing Finance duties at the EJLD, but took on HR duties at a time when assistance was sorely needed due to a coworker's retirement. Shannon excelled in her HR role to the point that she became a full time HR staff member and officially became an HR Analyst A on June 4, 2018. She provides exemplary service for employees, always with a positive attitude, and has done so even during the challenges due to the FPA's reorganization and tumults experienced in the HR Department.

Shannon has had to relocate from the EJLD Administrative Facility to the Franklin Avenue Facility, which not only disrupts and changes an individual's working environment, but also their personal life, and has done so with an exemplary attitude. She has also taken on a completely new role -- that of HR Analyst A -- at a time when the Flood Protection Authority urgently needed someone to provide much needed HR services for employees.

The professionalism and responsiveness that Shannon exhibited when she performed Finance duties at the EJLD carried over to her new position in Employee Services. She is always professional, positive, responsive and cares about her coworkers. She is clearly a team player and there have been nothing but excellent reports from FPA team members regarding the services that she provides.

Shannon is an invaluable asset to the organization and the FPA is fortunate to have Shannon as part of the its team.

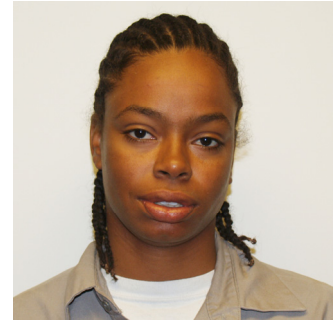
"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen."

Michael Jeffrey Jordan

Operations Employee of the Month

Monica Hall started her career at the Orleans Levee District on December 3, 2001 in the position of Laborer. She was promoted to Mobile Equipment Operator 1 on July 14, 2008, Mobile Equipment Operator 2 on May 20, 2013, and to Levee Foreman A on July 6, 2015.

Monica is dedicated to her job and the mission of the FPA. She has earned the trust of her colleagues and is a splendid representative of the FPA to the community. Monica is known by her coworkers as being out spoken and for getting her point across--all in a good way. She loves using her communication skills with people to get things done.



Recently when Monica was on the job performing levee maintenance responsibilities she was approached by Advocate reporter R. Stephanie Bruno and quoted in the New Orleans Advocate article, "A row of modern homes in Holy Cross, where a levee is a front-row seat to fireworks over the river" published on June 28, 2018. Using her excellent communication skills Monica was able to inform the reporter about the FPA and its responsibilities.

Monica exemplifies the FPA's values and is an important member of the FPA team.

Police Employee of the Month



Kelli Lopardi was employed by the EJLD Police Department on October 10, 2016 as a Police Officer 2-A.

Officer Lopardi was nominated by her colleagues as the Police Officer of the month because of her professionalism, teamwork and focus on the FPA's mission. Officer Lopardi is known for her professionalism, which is not only extended to her closest team members, but all members of the FPA and the law enforcement community. On more than one occasion Officer Lopardi has assisted the Harahan Police Department with calls for service when its officers were overwhelmed with calls. She also assisted Sgt. Michael Wright on a call with subjects that involved narcotics and illegal underage drinking.

Officer Lopardi was recently praised by a member of the public who participated in a ride-along for being professional, knowledgeable and courteous. She is a commendable example to the community of the EJLD Police Department's and the FPA's values.

Officer Lopardi is a tremendous asset to the FPA and to the community. The team wishes Officer Lopardi a long, successful career in law enforcement at the FPA.

"The leaders who work most effectively, it seems to me, never say 'I'. And that's not because they have trained themselves not to say 'I'. They don't think 'I'. They think 'we'; they think 'team'. They understand their job to be to make the team function. They accept responsibility and don't sidestep it, but 'we' gets the credit.... This is what creates trust, what enables you to get the task done."

Peter F. Drucker

FPA Team Effort to Prepare for Tropical Storm Gordon



On Wednesday, August 29th, EJLD employees erected Hesco baskets in a low spot of lakefront levee Reach 5 on the west side of the 17th Street Canal Permanent Canal Closure and Pumps (PCCP). The small section of levee was part of the right-of-way provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the construction of the PCCP. The Hesco baskets are used as a short-term measure until the spot is raised by the Corps when the Interim Closure Structure is demolished.

The sand used in the team project was brought to the location in dump trucks by O.L.D. employees.

Photos taken by Glenn Hartline, Levee Foreman C



Learn More About Your Flood Defense System

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently expanded and enhanced the National Levee Database to be more user friendly and to include the recently issued Levee Safety Action Classifications (LSACs) along with the Risk Characterizations for the systems. Citizens are urged to visit the site to access the plethora of available useful information about their flood defense system. Go to <https://levees.sec.usace.army.mil>.

Lake Borgne Team in Action



FPA teams across the Authority are working hard to keep up with the fast growing grass and weeds that come with the summer rainy season. An important part of this team effort is the repair and maintenance of the equipment required for operations and maintenance crews to do their jobs.

The Lake Borgne team has shared some flashes into a very busy work day at the LBBLD.

Brian cutting (top left)
Brian Stropolo, LBBLD Operations Superintendent



Jaurell sparking (top right)
Jaurell Aisola, MEO 1-Heavy



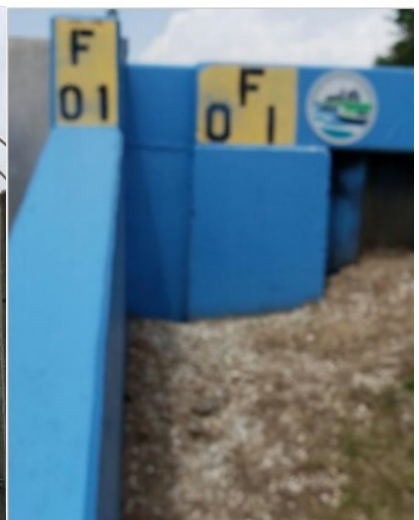
Jerry and Percy cutting (bottom left)
Jerry Latapie, MEO 2 and Percy Williams, Operating Engineer 2

Russell spraying (bottom right)
Russell Gelvin, Levee Foreman B



Standardizing and Branding FPA Floodwalls and Floodgates

The Floodgate Crew under Maintenance Foreman Steve Durr are installing the FPA logo on floodgates in areas that are highly visible to the public. Floodgate numbers across the FPA's flood protection system were recently standardized in order for operations and maintenance teams to easily identify and locate gates.



FPA Levee Maintenance Crews Battle Rains



The recent heavy rains that interrupted maintenance operations and left levees saturated also sped up grass growth. These conditions require our hard working levee maintenance crews to work longer hours to keep our levee system looking its absolute best.



FPA levee maintenance crews work 10 hour days from Monday to Thursday; however, the crews worked Friday and Saturday (August 24-25) and did an excellent job in winning the battle along the Mississippi River Levee — if only for the short time until the next rains.

Pictured: Maintenance operations along the Mississippi River Levee to the St. Charles Parish line.

OLD Police Complex Update



The construction of the O.L.D. Police Complex is 85% complete. The facility is scheduled for completion at the end of October.



GEM—Going the Extra Mile

Kudos to Officer Brad Baradell for Making a Difference in This Citizen's Life

The following note was received from Gerald J. Maus expressing his appreciation for EJLD Police Officer Brad Bardell's service to the community.



"My car broke down. It was probably the tie rods since both wheels were toed inward making the cab impossible to move. Officer Baradell arrived in a minute or so. The incident was on West Esplanade, a main street. He stayed with me as I called my wife and AAA. He helped me transfer items from my disabled vehicle to my wife's car when she arrived. AAA finally gave an estimate of 55 minutes, which I considered unacceptable for emergency service. Officer Baradell was able to arrange a tow in 15 minutes, so I cancelled the AAA service. Officer Baradell was a true gentleman and a credit to his unit. Thank you officer Baradell."



O.L.D. Police Officers Tammy Canfield and Lacey Gerhold Reach Out to the Community

O.L.D. Police Officers Tammy Canfield and Lacy Gerhold visited a recent event sponsored by Lake Vista Homeowners in an effort to broaden the Department's relationship with the community. Officer Canfield stated that she and Officer Gerhold enjoyed meeting the homeowners and their families.

Several of the Lake Vista residents told the officers how pleased they are with the police presence in the subdivision and that they were happy that the Officers stopped by the event. The Officers passed out Stranger Danger books and OLDPD wrist bands to the kids.

Officers Lacy Gerhold (left) and Tammy Canfield (right) pictured with some of the kids they met.



EJLD Safehouse and Consolidated Facility Update



The construction of the EJLD Safehouse and Consolidated Facility is about 65% complete.

The facility is anticipated to be completed this winter.

Phishing Prevention and Awareness

Please note, we as employees, possess credentials and overall knowledge that is critical to the success of a breach of our agency's security. One of the ways in which an intruder obtains this protected information is via phishing. The purpose of phishing is to collect sensitive information with the intention of using that information to gain access to otherwise protected data, networks, etc. A phisher's success is contingent upon establishing trust with its victims. We live in a digital age, and gathering information has become much easier as we are well beyond the dumpster diving days. Listed below, are some techniques used by attackers.

- ◆ Embedding a link(s) in an email that redirects the employee to an unsecure website that requests sensitive information.
- ◆ Installing a Trojan via a malicious email attachment or ad which will allow the intruder to exploit loopholes and obtain sensitive information.
- ◆ Spoofing the sender address in an email to appear as a reputable source and request sensitive information.
- ◆ Attempting to obtain company/agency information over the phone by impersonating a known company vendor or IT department.

Please exercise extreme caution, when opening solicited and/or unsolicited emails.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your IT Department for further assistance.

Roman Dody, MSCIS, Regional Director of Information Technology

Calendar of Events

September

September 20 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

October

October 18 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

November

November 6 (Tuesday) - Election Day (State Holiday in even-numbered years)

November 12 (Monday) - Veterans Day (State Holiday)

November 15 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

November 22 (Thursday) - Thanksgiving (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@floodauthority.org or sent to Glenda Boudreaux, SLFPA-E, Airport Terminal, Suite 225, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.