

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

October 15, 2018

Message From the President

While the metro area was spared a direct hit this hurricane season, storms passing close by once again gave you, the men and women of the Flood Protection Authority, the opportunity to shine. When storms approach, you act - quickly and methodically. Complacency is not part of your vocabulary. Professionalism; a strong sense of responsibility to your neighbors, friends and family; a calm confidence built on a year-round program of preparation - those are the characteristics that you demonstrate. That's who you are. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, thank you for what you do so well.

As I write this, Hurricane Michael bears down on Florida, certain to make its way to our friends in the Carolinas, who are still recovering from Hurricane Florence. So let's take a moment to remember what we lost in Katrina and Rita. Take note of the casualties and destruction that could have come our way in 2018. Be thankful for what we hold dear. And remain vigilant for what will come our way one day.

Joe

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

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*“Do not put faith
in what statistics
say until you have
carefully considered
what they do
not say.”
William W. Watt*

Orleans Levee District Police Station Nears Completion



The O.L.D. Police Station on Elysian Fields Avenue and Lakeshore Drive is anticipated to be completed by the end of October and Officers are anxiously awaiting their move into the new state-of-the-art facility.

The Flood Protection Authority will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Police Station in mid-November and showcase the new law enforcement complex.

Additional pictures on page 7.

Congratulations on Retirement and Thanks for Your Service



Timothy Martin
retired on 10/1/2018
from LBBLD with
20 years of service



Charles "Mike" Croll
retired on 9/30/2018
from LBBLD with
7 years of service



Mark Fos
retired on 10/5/2018
from EJLD Police Dept.
with 28 years of service

Welcome New FPA Team Members



Vanessa Aragon hired 9/10/2018
O.L.D. Mobile Equipment Operator 2



Marie Dimm hired on 9/10/2018
O.L.D. Accountant 2



Austin Menard hired on 9/24/2018
LBBLD Laborer

Congratulations on Promotion



Troy Nelson
promoted to Mobile Equipment Operator 2
on 8/27/2018 at EJLD

Michael Soley
promoted to Mobile Equipment Operator 2
on 9/10/2018 at EJLD



Remington Kreitzer
promoted to Mechanic 3
on 9/10/2018 at EJLD

Kenny Albarado
promoted to Accountant 3
on 9/10/2018 at OLD



FPA Welcomes New Public Information Director

Antwan Harris, the new Public Information Director, comes to us with over a decade of experience in the news and marketing industry. He's been here in New Orleans since 2013 when he worked for WWL-TV as an anchor and reporter. In 2015 he transitioned to Jefferson Parish as the Public Information Officer where he served the Parish government for nearly three years. He states, "I'm proud to get a chance to work alongside skilled, knowledgeable people who are passionate about this city and I'm looking forward to doing good work."



Prior to coming here, he worked in several media markets including Detroit, MI, Atlanta, GA, and Chattanooga, TN.

He received a bachelor's degree in communication and media studies from Eastern Michigan University in 2003. The native of Flint, Michigan, earned a broadcast certification in that same field from the Atlanta Broadcast Institute four years later.

Antwan's wife, Jackie, is a native of New Orleans and they have a daughter who is approaching 2-years old. He is a proud and active member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and he dedicates some of his free time for organizations such as Boys Town Louisiana and 100 Black Men of Metro New Orleans.

Expression of Thanks to Mark Fos for 28 Years of Service

Mark Fos is the lifeline of the East Jefferson Levee District. He is loved and admired by everyone who he comes into contact with. On October 4, 2018 this great person officially retired from our family. I have come to love this guy for who he is: funny, caring, honest and a fighter. Mark has made a huge impact on my career. I always admired his strength and determination. He doesn't realize how much of an impact he has made to this agency. He was the go to guy for everyone. Everyday I look into his office and really miss him and wish we had more time to work together. I was thrilled when he was able to return and work every Friday. I am proud to have been able to work side by side with Mark. His retirement will leave a huge void within this agency and it will be up to all of us to carry his load.



Mark, you represent what the Levee District is all about: operational excellence, technical expertise, professionalism and dedication. You are transparent, visible, responsive and accountable. Mark, from everyone you crossed paths with from the EJ family: THANK YOU for 28 incredible years!



Pictures from Mark's retirement party

Captain Terry Durnin, EJLD Police

Thanks for Servicing During TS Gordon

Capt. Sue Eagan, O.L.D. Reserve Commander, on behalf of the FPA and herself, thanks the Reserve Officers who volunteered their service and worked at Bayou Bienvenue in early September during the threat of TS Gordon. The following officers are commended for their response:

Lt. Rachel Robertson
R/O Freeman Spears
R/O Chuck Badon
R/O Daniel Biggs

R/O Lacey Gerhold
R/O Julia Wells
R/O Jeffrey Johnson
R/O Raymond Stevenson

Captain Juneau and Capt. Eagan also thank Lt. Rachel Robertson for her efforts to procure officers for service at Bayou Bienvenue during TS Gordon.

FPA Discusses Flood Defense with Pakistani Visitors

On September 26th a delegation of seven visitors from Pakistan, comprised of engineers and directors of water programs, and their three State Department interpreters visited the Flood Protection Authority. The group is in the U.S. studying the theme "Provincial Cooperation on Water Resources Development and Management of the Lower Indus River."

The delegation met with CAO Derek Boese and Director of Operations Gerry Gillen to discuss the FPA's flood defense system. The meeting was coordinated by the U.S. Department of State.



Water Environment Federation Conference



The Water Environment Federation held its 91st Annual Technical Exhibition & Conference in New Orleans September 29—October 3. 20,000 attendees visited with 1,000 national and international exhibitors to view and discuss cutting-edge technologies in the field. There were also world-class technical sessions and workshops led by internationally recognized experts.



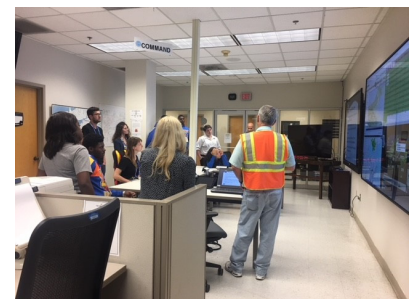
The Flood Protection Authority participated in a leadership workshop held at the Tulane River and Coastal Center on October 1st to discuss workforce development with industry experts. Drew Lehman, Environmental Education Consultant led the informative discussion with participants including Derek Boese (FPA), Sherry Calloway (Limitless Vistas), Dave Cavvanah (SWBNO), Dr. Tamika Duplesis (Delgado & Pro Tem SWBNO), Percy Gasery, Jr. (G&A Consultants), Antwan Harris (FPA), Wilma Heaton (FPA), Joseph Kane (The Brookings Institute), Mary Kinkaid (Office of Resiliency NOLA), Michael Knapps (LA Workforce Commission), Ghassan Korban (Director-SWBNO), Jesse Noel (NFA), Alysia Ordway (Private Industry Council - Boston), Megan Scott (Public Utilities—San Francisco), Willie Thomas (BFA Environmental), Ifetayo Venner (Arcadis/WEF), Francesca Vietor (Public Utilities-San Francisco) and Arlanda J. Williams (Delgado Workforce Development).



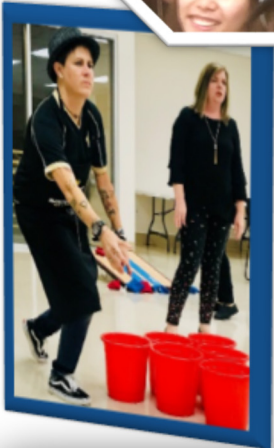
The FPA staff also provided tours to the WEFTEC Emerging Water Quality Scholars participants. For additional information on the experience these young people had with this mentoring program for introduction to environmental sciences check out the blog article by one of the participants, Ms. Aki Franklin - <https://www.limitlessvistas.org/blog/emerging-water-quality-scholar-aki-franklin-writes-about-her-experience-in-the-program>.



Pictured left from top: Participants in leadership workshop; scholars tour 17th St. Canal PCCP; scholars visit Treme Community Center and create a green infrastructure project; and having lunch at Lakefront Airport. Pictured right: Scholars tour Carrollton Water Treatment Plant.



Go Saints! Tailgating/Teambuilding Party



The Finance Department came together last month to discuss team building and the necessity of every employee working diligently in their individual role as well as collaborating with their team members to achieve the FPA's mission.



Regional Finance Director, Kelli Chandler, was prepared to grill hamburgers and hotdogs outside, but the weather did not cooperate. Kelli, not being one to be stopped by a little rain, took the party to the safe house where the team ate, played cornhole, and even witnessed Kelli's Cups skills.



Kelli reinforced to the department that, like our beloved Saints football team, every Finance team member brings something different and equally important to the team and that communication and successful collaboration are crucial to achieving the overall mission.



Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board



Sean Hodges was recognized by the Board at its September 20th meeting as the FPA's Employee of the Month.

Sean was hired by the Orleans Levee District on October 31, 2016 as an IT/GIS Senior Support Analyst. His responsibilities primarily include the development, implementation and maintenance of the CADD based geographical information system (GIS); however, he also serves as the Records Officer managing the agency's record and document management needs.

Sean was recently assigned the task of compiling a formal consolidated Records Retention Schedule for the FPA and the levee districts to submit to the Secretary of State (State Archives) for approval. He had to be thoroughly knowledgeable about the State's records management policies, requirements and approved processes, including acceptable methods for retaining documents, retention periods and procedures for the disposal of records no longer needed. Prior to the assignment of this task to Sean, each levee district had its own schedule and procedures. He worked with representatives of each department to formulate its list of records along with appropriate retention periods and processes for short or long term retention of each set of records, and then developed a consolidated listing and schedule along with a policy that included consistent procedures to be implemented Authority-wide.

Sean is also in the process of developing a plan so that he can help each department implement the approved schedule and required procedures. This is an exceptionally huge undertaking considering the massive amount of records placed in storage even prior to Hurricane Katrina.

Sean is always professional and knowledgeable and cheerfully provides assistance to anyone needing help. His demonstration of leadership and teamwork while working on the consolidated Record Retention Schedule was exemplary. He patiently works with everyone in order to achieve the FPA's goals and clearly values each team member's contribution. Sean practices the FPA values in his day-to-day activities and is a valuable asset to the Authority.

Police Officer of the Month



Tammy Canfield is a Police Officer II with the Orleans Levee District Police Department. She is a team player who is always willing to help her fellow officers and the community. In addition to her regular duties, she is also a First Aid and CPR instructor for the agency. Officer Canfield is also always available to attend community functions and represents the Flood Protection Authority in the most professional way.

Officer Canfield recently conducted First Aid and CPR Training for FPA Authority employees. This was done on very short notice and there was some confusion in getting the employee certification cards from the American Heart Association. Officer Canfield work tirelessly to get the issues resolved and to make sure everyone was certified.

Officer Canfield demonstrates the values of the FPA and is a valuable asset to FPA and the community. The TPA team wishes Officer Canfield a long successful career in law enforcement.

Operations Employee of the Month

Ross Debouchel is a Maintenance Repairer 2 in Operations and Maintenance - Floodgates. He has not worked for the Flood Protection Authority very long, but is recognized by his colleagues for the great job he is doing. Ross's work ethics are second to none and his work is always top notch. His attitude is, if it does not go right the first time, then he will find a way to do it right.

Ross is always on time and ready to work for 6 a.m. He works well with his fellow workers in his crew and with other crews and departments. He goes out his way to get the job done. Ross is always one of the first to be out the truck to start work on or around the floodgates and he is always willing to help other workers in the crew.

In the short time he has been with the FPA Ross has picked up a vast amount of knowledge about the floodgates and other parts of the Maintenance Department's work. He even has done cement work on the flood walls with Mike Leblanc's crew on many occasions. Many times he has gone to his supervisor, if he has a little time to spare, asking to dump the dumpsters. He is also second in line for handling opening and closing of the Bayou Dupree structure. Ross goes above and beyond his job.

Ross is well liked by his supervisors and colleagues and is known for his friendliness, good personality and willingness to help no matter what needs to be done.

The commitment, dedication and contribution of team members like Ross is the reason for the Flood Protection Authority's success. The FPA team congratulates Ross for being selected as the Operations Employee of the Month.



Polygraph Process Ensures Integrity When Hiring New Officers



Mr. Jim Elmore at the Franklin Avenue Facility after his equipment was set up preparing for the next police applicant's pre-employment test.

Employee Services Introduces Polygraph Examiner - Jim Elmore

In an effort to ensure the highest hiring standards for Full-time and Reserve Police Officers, Employee Services has instituted the use of a pre-employment polygraph test to be used by all Police applicants.

Mr. Jim Elmore comes with federal and local law enforcement experience totaling more than forty (40) years of law enforcement service. Since 1981, Mr. Elmore has been conducting polygraph exams for pre-employment, internal (administrative) and criminal investigations. He has conducted thousands of polygraph exams nationally and internationally.

We are fortunate to have Mr. Elmore and the polygraph process ensuring the integrity of our police officers during the police hiring process.

The FPA is privileged and honored to have a strong team of professional law enforcement officers who exhibit integrity, professional decorum and make us proud day in and day out.

***"It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data."
Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle***

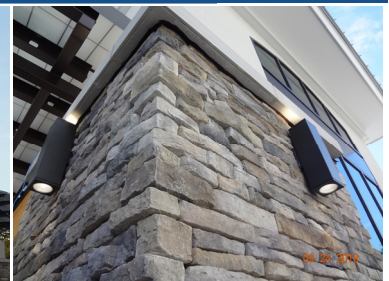
EJ Levee Maintenance Team In Action

The East Jefferson Levee Maintenance Team deals with fast growing grass due to heavy rains on Lakefront Levee Reach 4 (house side).

The team works hard to ensure a well maintained levee and takes pride in a job well done.



O.L.D. Police Station Nears Completion



Completion scheduled by the end of October.
See Page 1 for story.



Floodwall Maintenance Crew Demonstrates Their Skills



1. Before - Concrete damaged and old rebar exposed



2. Pieces of old concrete chipped out; old rebar removed and replaced with new rebar



3. Form put in place and new concrete poured



4. After - Completed repair

Maintenance Foreman Mike LeBlanc shared some of the typical repairs performed by the FPA's skilled Facility Maintenance staff. The repairs pictured were to the front and back side of the Mississippi River Floodwall in the vicinity of the Coastal Cargo facility.

The damages to the older section of floodwall could be the result of movement caused by temperature fluctuations over the years.

The numerous miles of floodwalls in the FPA's regional flood protection system keep our Maintenance staff busy.

Pictured Right: (1) Damage to Floodwall. Continued Below: (2) Pieces of old concrete chipped out; (3) rebar replaced; (4) form put in place and concrete poured; (5) and repair completed.



Team Work Preparing for TS Gordon



In anticipation of Tropical Storm Gordon, Levee Maintenance Crew members (Dept. #313) assisted the Floodgates/Maintenance Crews by placing sandbags against a number of the floodgates and in other locations. This allowed the Floodgate/Maintenance Crews to focus on closing floodgates as needed and alleviated some of the strain on those team members. The Levee Maintenance Crew members removed the sandbags after TS Gordon was no longer a threat.

The cooperation and teamwork demonstrated by Levee Maintenance Crew 313 and crews across the Authority is a key to the success of the FPA and contributes significantly to our shared flood defense mission.



EJLD Safehouse and Consolidated Facility



The EJLD Safehouse / Consolidated Facility is anticipated to be completed in January, 2019.

O.L.D. Police Support Local Girl Scouts



St. Paul's Episcopal School mates, 9 year old, Avery Sue Bock (left) and 10 year old Carolina Plaia (right), are both members of Girl Scout Troop #42602. They came to the O.L.D. police station on October 6th to drop off a gift of several varieties of their delicious cookies!!!

The girls seemed very excited to do so and even stood to take a photo with our Sgt. Noel Sanders and Officer Sean West, both of Platoon C.

Please support the local troop. They left an order form at the station, if anyone wants to order a few boxes of cookies and candy!



Kudos for a Job Well Done



Anyone who has been in the Engineering Library knows what a tangle has been weaved there.

Kudos to Susan Jenkins for getting the area organized and ready to move when the Warehouse Renovation is complete.

Contributed by Felton Suthon



Renovation of Franklin Avenue Facility Begins



Phase 1 of the Franklin Facility renovation project started on October 1st and reconfigures a portion of the Warehouse by removing several cinder block walls and constructing offices for Engineering and Operations staff. Phase 1 also increases the HVAC capacity by adding a new chiller and cooling tower, and includes a new generator. Phase 2 involves the Administration Building and includes a modular wall/partitioning system and furnishings for Administrative staff.

LASERS Individual Retirement Sessions

Individual retirement counseling sessions are vital to LASERS members as they prepare for retirement. To better serve members throughout the state, retirement analysts will be in **New Orleans** for individual counseling sessions.

Please keep in mind that these sessions are for active full-time members who are within 18 months of eligibility for retirement or DROP. Each individual counseling session will last approximately one hour. Members can schedule an appointment by calling LASERS at 800.256.3000 (toll free). Member should be prepared to submit when scheduling the appointment: their name, social security number, two phone numbers, email address, anticipated retirement date, beneficiary name and their date of birth, and current annual and sick leave hours. A limited number of appointments are available on the following dates, which will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

**November 26 & 27, 2018
(8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)
University of New Orleans, University Center
Barataria Room 204 & Vermillion Room 206
2000 Lakeshore Drive
New Orleans, LA 70148**

Registration deadline is October 26, 2018.

Calendar of Events

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

Annual Training Required by Civil Service

All Civil Service/FPA employees and FPA Board members must complete Ethics Training and Sexual Harassment Prevention Training each year prior to December 31. Both courses can be completed on line by logging into the LA Division of Administration—Louisiana State Employee (LEO) website—<https://leo.doa.louisiana.gov/irj/portal>. Please remember to print a copy of the certificate of completion for each of the two courses and forward a copy to Employees Service.

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.