

# In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

November 15, 2018

## *Message From the President*

### *Much to Learn From A World Away*

This past June my youngest daughter Sarah goes on a mission trip to Haiti. She is a selfless, good person to her core, as are Melissa and Blake, my other two children. I've been immensely blessed in that way. (Sometimes the apples do fall far from the tree.) Anyway, in Haiti Sarah befriends a young girl there - remarkably, another Sarah. After spending a week with Sarah and many others in Haiti, my Sarah returns with eyes opened to a world much different than she has known

You see, in Haiti, the public education system is virtually nonexistent, and there are few social services. There are also the restaveks. A restavek is a child who is sent by his or her parents to work for a host household as a domestic servant because the parents lack the resources required to support the child. They are essentially slave children who must work for others, cleaning, cooking, etc., for no pay and with little hope of escaping such a life.



One thing Sarah describes is how, despite the fact that many families there have virtually nothing in the way of material things (far worse poverty than anywhere in America), and face harsh reality on a daily basis, the people are happy. They love and appreciate life. And thus, they have much to teach. We are what seems like worlds apart, but each has much to give, and learn from, the other.

Anyway, the purpose of sharing this short story is simply to offer a reminder during the Holiday Season to be grateful for what we have, to not complain about trivial things and to look for the good in everyone, so we can imitate it.

Thank you all for giving us many other reminders of what to be thankful for. Thank you for protecting our families and friends. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

For a peak into a world away: <http://www.respirehaiti.org/>; <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=cJm4RyUQW8k&t=5s>.

*Joe*

## *Message From the C.A.O.*

On this Veterans Day, The Flood Authority joins together to say thank you to all the men and women who have served in the armed forces.

On November 11, 1919, Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day", which was the first anniversary of the end of World War I. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

We want to thank all those who have served and those currently serving. Your sacrifices and bravery help make New Orleans a great city and keep us all safe. As a veteran of the Army, I know the personal commitment it takes to serve this country with duty and honor. Many of the great men and women of the armed forces come from different walks of life, but all possess the same qualities: courage, pride, determination, selflessness, dedication to duty, and integrity.

On this Veterans Day, I proudly stand with my fellow veterans, and say Thank You. May God bless each of you on this special day.

*Derek*

## THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr., - President  
Richard A. Luetlich, Jr., ScD - Vice President  
Clay A. Cosse' - Secretary  
Mark L. Morgan, P.E., Treasurer  
Quentin D. Dastugue, CCIM  
Andrew J. Englande, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., DEE  
Jason P. Latiolais  
Herbert I. Miller, P.E.  
Herbert T. Weysham, III

*"The more we express thanks,  
the more gratitude we feel.  
The more gratitude we feel,  
the more we express thanks.  
It's circular, and it leads to a  
happier life." Steve Goodier*

## *Welcome New FPA Team Members*



Madriana Montes hired 10/08/2018  
HR Analyst B

James Obiol hired 10/08/2018  
Electrician Specialist



Krystal Griffin hired 10/22/2018  
Human Resource Specialist

Duane Gobin hired 10/22/2018  
Electrician Specialist (PCCP)



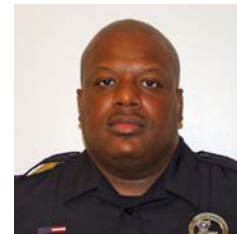
Alicia Ridout hired 10/29/2018  
Training and Developmental Specialist

## *Congratulations on Promotion*



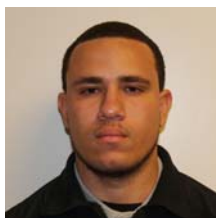
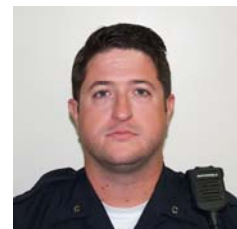
Vance Bieniemy  
Police Officer 3-A

Jerald Holmes  
Police Officer 3-A



Troy Johnson  
Police Officer 3-A

Sean West  
Police Officer 3-A



Christopher Norfleet  
Electrician Specialist, Lead

Jeffrey Beverly  
Maintenance Repairer 2



## *Reaching Out to the Leaders of the Future*



Capt. Donald Juneau spoke to the Discovery Middle School Assembly concerning Making the Right Choices. He also discussed issues with the students about not falling prey to peer pressure, choosing right from wrong in your heart and the definition of integrity.

Capt. Juneau received the esteemed title of MAGNUS Leader after graduating on June 15, 2018 from the first National Command and Staff College for Leadership and Excellence held in the United States.



Photos: Capt. Juneau speaking with students. Photo top right: Capt. Juneau with School Representative Middle School Principal Dr. Jesse Watson. Photos taken by Sgt. Doran Harvin, EJLD Police

## *FPA Welcomes New Training Coordinator*

Alicia Ridout joined the Flood Protection Authority team on October 29th as a Training and Development Specialist.

Originally from Palm Bay, Florida, Alicia moved to Louisiana in 2008 as a senior in high school. She studied at LSU for both her bachelor's and master's degrees, and then began her State human resources career at Louisiana State Civil Service in February 2016. After ten years in Baton Rouge she decided it was time to head to New Orleans to be closer to friends and family.



Alicia states, "I am excited to create a comprehensive training program for the FPA that will develop, motivate, and inspire employees."

*"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."  
Oscar Wilde*

# Night Out Against Crime

## EJLD Police Participate in Celebration and Thank You Party



The Celebration and Thank You Party for the Night Out Against Crime sponsored by Crimestoppers was held on Friday, October 19th at the Bonabel Boat Launch.

EJLD Police Officers served unbelievable jambalaya donated by Jambalaya Girl. Mr. Paul Preau (Jambalaya Girl) was gracious enough to cook the jambalaya off-site and bring to the event. Mr. Nick Chisesi of Chisesi Brothers donated the sausage used in the jambalaya. These two local vendors stepped up and

helped make the night a blast. Hands down our food was the hit of the party. Officers served 1,000 servings of jambalaya in one hour. Our Police Officers represented the EJLD PD and FPA with great pride and passion.

Special thanks to Carol Purcello, Kerry Migliore and Glen Hartline for helping to make this event a success. Special thanks also to Kelly DeRocha who attended the event and used her excellent photography skills and provided the photos used in this article.



# Night Out Against Crime

## Levee District Police Departments Participate in Inaugural Crime Prevention Workshop



Capt. Donald Juneau and Res. Lt. Al Haynes

On Tuesday, October 16th, the East Jefferson and Orleans Levee District Police Departments and the New Orleans Police Department worked together to present the very 1st Crime Prevention Workshop for the residents of the Lake Vista and Lake Terrace Subdivisions. The workshop was held at St. Pius Church/School and sponsored by the Lake Vista Crime Prevention District. Speeches were provided by Reserve Lt. Al Haynes on the Proper Use of the 911 System and by Capt. Donald Juneau on Community Crime Prevention. An open forum Q & A session was conducted with residents after the speeches.

The presentations were well received and the Officers received a great amount of feedback from the attendees. Our Officers set up two tables with public safety publications for residents to take home and discuss with family members and neighbors. Numerous OLDPD Reserve Officers attended and supported the event.

The FPA team congratulates our Officers for their contribution towards making the first Crime Prevention Workshop a great success!



## EJ Police Officers Participate in Lafreniere Park Kickoff Party



The EJLD Police Department participated in the National Night Out Against Crime Kickoff Party held at Lafreniere Park on Sunday, October 14th. The event introduces citizens to the upcoming week of National Night Out Against Crime activities for 2018. Our Police Officers helped citizens learn about who the Levee District Police are and what they do. Officers also handed out information on numerous safety, security, health, parenting and juvenile issues.



Participants at this year's event were Reserve Captain Gerald Hart, Reserve Captain Vincent Yetta, Reserve Lt. Jack Marcey and Reserve Sgt. Ed Merida. Photography by Capt. Donald Juneau.



Pictured L-R: Reserve Lt. Marcey, Capt. Yetta and Capt. Hart; Reserve Sgt. Merida; Reserve Capt. Yetta; Reserve Sgt. Merida and Family.

## *Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board*



Jason Glenn was recognized by the Board on October 18th as the FPA's Employee of the Month.

Jason is a Maintenance Repairer 2 in Department 312 - Operations and Maintenance/Facilities Maintenance. Jason is an outstanding employee and goes above and beyond when it comes to a work project. He leaves no stone unturned when completing an assignment. Jason never complains when given a task whether it is big or small. He is one of the first to volunteer whether the job is in his

department or another department. Jason's colleagues say that he is a great person to work alongside.

Jason truly exemplifies the Authority's values in his day to day activities. He is a team player and exhibits professionalism, accountability and commitment to the Authority's mission.

Jason is a valuable member of the Flood Protection Authority team and an important contributor to the success of the organization.

## *Police Officer of the Month*

Eric LaBranche, Police Officer II in the EJLD Police Department, was selected as the Police officer of the month. Most supervisors have a "go to" person on their watch. Officer LaBranche is such a person and the "go to" officer for his supervisor when something needs to be done. He is always available to do whatever he is asked to do without comment or argument. He rarely takes time off (annual or sick) and can be counted on to be on the job. Officer LaBranche knows the flood protection system backwards and forwards and will always be found on the system. He works well with all officers in the department and is frequently called by others for advice or just to listen. Officer LaBranche is an ideal example of the Authority's values.



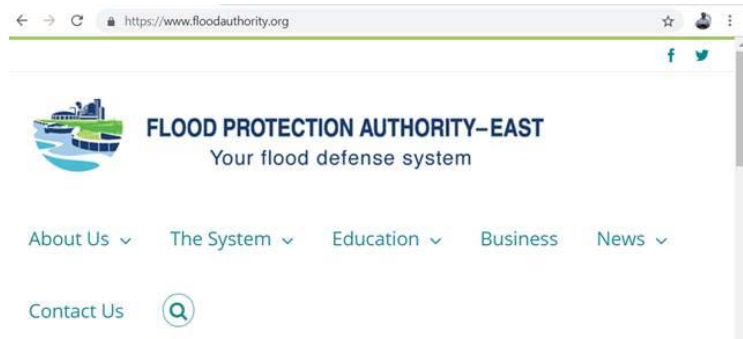
Officer LaBranche's professionalism, hard work and dedication to Authority's mission and law enforcement makes him a valuable asset to the FPA, the EJLD Police Department and to the community.

## *FPA Now Live Streams Board Meetings !*

The FPA is excited to announce that our monthly Board Meetings will be live streamed.

You can view the livestream by visiting our website <https://www.floodauthority.org/> and clicking on the Facebook icon located at the top right corner of the page.

You will also want to view the new informative videos on the PCCP that have recently been added to our website.



## *Regional Finance Director Recognized by FPA Board*



**Kelli Chandler Received Special Recognition at the October Board Meeting for Outstanding Leadership, Teamwork and Commitment to Excellence. Kelli is pictured with Board members and the Finance Team.**

The FPA created the position of Regional Finance Director to manage all financial activities of the Authority, serve as its chief financial spokesperson, and lead the consolidation and centralization of Finance functions. Kelli Chandler joined the FPA on October 24, 2016 as its first Regional Finance Director. She quickly learned about the Authority and levee districts. Before attempting to implement changes, she gained a full understanding of the financial operations by spending time individually with Finance staff members learning their duties and developing personal relationships. She then proceeded with the enormous job of not only consolidating and centralizing financial operations, but also investigating and implementing up to date technologies to achieve efficiencies.

Kelli has collaborated with directors, supervisors and FPA team members to achieve a successful consolidation of financial operations, and her professionalism, hard work, knowledge and sense of humor have gained her the admiration and respect of everyone with whom she has worked. She continues working hard to advance the Authority's financial operations and the overall success of the organization.

An important part of Kelli's success is her embracement of the Authority's cultural initiative. Her extraordinary efforts in team building have won the affection of her staff and the admiration of all FPA team members. Kelli also recognized the importance of interacting with every team member and on many occasions meets with and participates in training team members throughout the organization.

Kelli is the consummate example of leadership, teamwork and integrity and her commitment to excellence is recognized by all members of the FPA team.

*Following are some of the many comments received from her colleagues.*

*"Kelli is always eager and open to thoughts and ideas from other departments. Although I do not work directly for her, I can see from her personality/disposition that she would be great person to work under. She is a great asset to the finance department, the Authority, and valued among her team members."*

*"Kelli is a leader who is always enthusiastic about teamwork. She encourages individuals to be open-minded to new ideas and to brainstorm better processes and functions that could benefit the Finance department and the Agency as a whole."*

*"Kelli's devotion and commitment have not gone unnoticed and she is deserving of this recognition. No matter what questions we have for her, she always seems to have the answers, or gets the answers in short order. By example, her hard work and focus is something all in our organization should aspire to. The work she does, the training she provides, the leadership she exhibits, and her kind personality are exceptional."*

## *Safety and Training—A Top Priority for Dept. #313*

Safety and training is a top priority of the FPA and will be a topic of focus for 2019. Carroll Barriere, Levee Foreman C, has shared some flashes from training sessions being conducted by Dept. #313 (Levee Maintenance) on skid steers, front loaders and backhoes. The trainers are Darrin Richards (Levee Foreman A), Brian Lee (Mobile Equipment Heavy 1) and Keanon Brisco (Mobile Equipment Operator 2).

Training started with new hires Elisha Collins and Vanessa Aragon (Mobile Equipment Operator 2) along with Rontrell Jones, Micheal Redditt and Deron Moore. The training sessions will concentrate on developing and improving skills and will draw upon prior experiences in the field.



## *Debris Clean Up Along Riverine and Flood Defense Levees*



Cleaning up debris along the Mississippi River Levee batture due to high river levels and from along the hurricane defense system levees due to hurricane and tropical storms is a continuous chore for the levee districts.

O.L.D. Dept. 313 is shown removing debris from along the Mississippi River batture adjacent to the lower Ninth Ward near Jackson Barracks due to the high river level experienced early this year (pictured top left and right).



The riverine clean up also provided a training opportunity for Mobile Equipment Operator 1 Deron Moore and Mobile Equipment Operator 2 Keanon Brisco on heavy equipment (dozers) along with Mobile Equipment Operator Heavy 1 Brian Lee.

EJLD crews took on the task of cleaning up debris as a result of Lake Pontchartrain overtopping the rock foreshore protection along the East Jefferson Lakefront Levee during Hurricane Michael. Pictured bottom left: Shawn Boudoin, EJLD Mobile Equipment Operator 1/Heavy.

*“Once you start practicing being grateful and thankful for things, people, and events, you may notice that you start to attract more positive things, people, and events in your life.” Stephanie Conkle*



## *Orleans Avenue Canal PCCP Pumps Tested*

On October 26<sup>th</sup> the FPA and New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board (SWBNO) conducted a joint test of the Orleans Pump Station (PCCP) at Lake Pontchartrain and SWBNO Drainage Pumping Station 7 on the Orleans Canal. The effort successfully discharged storm water from SWBNO's drainage system through the pumps associated with the permanent lakeside floodgates installed to protect New Orleans from storm surge during tropical events. The effort was also done in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. Both stations were operated simultaneously under harsh rain and water level conditions.

"This test provided us with that extra layer of confidence that asking the Flood Protection Authority to manage the pumping stations at the Lake was the right thing to do," said SWBNO Executive Director Ghassan Korban. "Our two teams were in constant communication and coordination throughout the event, and that partnership will only improve going forward."



### **PCCP TEAM**

Gerry Gillen, Director of Operations  
Ken Johnson, Power Generation Specialist Manager  
John Mitchell, Facility Assistant Maint. Manager A - Power Generation Asst.  
Robert Albright, Controls Specialist Manager  
Karl Hoffpauir, Facility Assistant Maintenance Manager A - Controls Assistant  
Darren Nichols, Facility Assistant Maint. Manager A - Electrician Specialist  
Craig Simon, Mechanic  
Brian Corte, Mechanic

Pictured: Gerry Gillen, Robert Albright, Karl Hoffpauir, Darren Nichols, John Mitchell, Brian Corte, Ken Johnson and Craig Simon

## *I-STORM Group Receives Peer Review Update*

Ryan Foster and Darren Austin, FPA Engineers, represented the FPA at the International Network of Storm Surge Barriers' (I-STORM) Annual Conference held in Ipswich, England on October 1-3. Ryan and Darren received valuable information at the various presentations and workshops and were able to network with colleagues from the United Kingdom, Netherlands and Italy. Ryan and Darren were also able to visit the Colne Flood Barrier (Colne River), Ipswich Flood Barrier (Orwell River) and Thames Barrier (Thames River).

On October 4th Darren met with I-STORM members who participated in the Peer Review of the FPA's flood defense structures (IHNC Surge Barrier Sector and Barge Gates, Seabrook Complex and Bayou Bienvenue Lift Gate) and updated the members on the FPA's post peer review efforts and the implementation of the Peer Review Team's recommendations. The I-STORM group was excited to learn about the FPA's conscientious efforts to implement the peer review team's recommendations.

## *Demolition of Interim Closure Structures*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a \$17 million contract to M.R. Pittman Group, LLC to remove the Interim Closure Structures (ICS) at the Orleans Avenue, London Avenue and 17th Street Outfall Canals. The work consists of the demolition of the three ICS and removal of associated above ground equipment, machinery, buildings and platforms, along with the removal of exposed sheet piling, partial removal and replacement of scour protection, concrete capping of I-Walls, placement of riprap, aesthetic improvements and other incidental work. Work is schedule to begin in December 2018 and be completed in the summer of 2020. The Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) replace the ICS and temporary pumps put in place after Hurricane Katrina.



## *Ribbon Cutting Scheduled for O.L.D. Police Station*



The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new state-of-the-art O.L.D. Police Complex is scheduled to be held on Thursday, December 13 at 10:00 a.m.

## *EJLD Safehouse and Consolidated Facility Update*

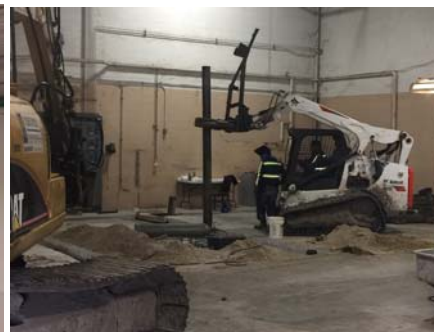
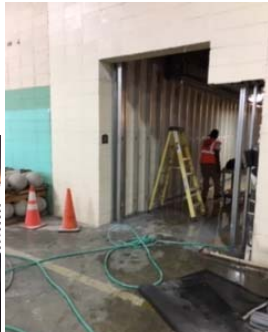


The EJLD Safehouse and Consolidated Facility is scheduled for opening in January of 2019. The modern new complex will bring together the EJLD's administrative, maintenance and police personnel in a single facility and provide housing for emergency personnel during tropical storm/hurricane events.

## *O.L.D. Franklin Complex Renovations Update*



Phase 1 (Warehouse portion) of the renovations continues with the construction of offices for Engineering and Operations staff, HVAC upgrades and new generator. The project (Phases 1 and 2) is anticipated to be completed in late February, 2019.



Pictured left: Existing staircase turned (top) then wall constructed along staircase (bottom). Pictured above: Construction of walls and (far right) piling placed for new generator.

## Going Above and Beyond !

On Monday 10-29-18 at 14:39 hours, Reserve Lt. Al Hynes and Reserve Officer Lacey Gerhold, of the Orleans Levee District Police, were working two separate public assignments in the area of Royal and Bienville Streets. During this time, Lt. Hynes and Officer Gerhold were flagged down by a female motorist. The motorist advised Lt. Hynes and Officer Gerhold of a silver colored Honda Civic that was in front of her. According to the motorist, the vehicle in question was occupied by a male driver and a female passenger. She also stated that she witnessed the male driver punching the female subject. Officer Gerhold and Lt. Hynes perused on foot towards the silver Honda Civic that was stuck in traffic in the 700 block of Royal Street. Officer Gerhold was first to get to the suspect vehicle and attempted to open the driver's door in an effort to apprehend the driver. The traffic began to move and the vehicle was able to continue down Bienville Street. Officer Gerhold continued after the vehicle on foot while broadcasting the incident on N.O.P.D. channel one. Eighth District Officer Evans and Officer Gerhold then arrested the subject who was from Georgia. The subject was booked accordingly by the Eighth District.

Officer Gerhold was commended by Chief Najolia and Reserve Lt. Al Hynes for her professional and courageous effort regarding this incident.

## GEM - Going the Extra Mile

Each year November 1 is the deadline for State Capital Outlay applications and rules and requirements become more complex and challenging. This year's applications were filed timely and accurately thanks to the extraordinary technical assistance of Felton Suthon, P.E., Engineer 7. The FPA Engineering Department is extremely busy but Felton always responded promptly, professionally, and accurately to the many issues raised in completing these multiple agency applications. He went above and beyond to assist his fellow workers and his attention and concern for the effort of the FPA Team on this assignment and many others is beyond the extra mile. This month's edition should be renamed "Going the Extra **Miles**". Felton exemplifies the 7<sup>th</sup> tenant of the FPA – **Mission Focus** because he goes above and beyond daily – no matter what or who as long as it helps the FPA mission. Thank you.



## FPA's Middle School Science Program



Louisiana Science Teachers attend FPA Curriculum Workshop

Teaching students about the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System will help future generations understand its importance and share this information with their families and friends. The Flood Protection Authority's middle school science program educates through the originally-developed curriculum, **Keepin' Your Head Above Water: Know Your Flood Protection System**, which includes lessons and activities on geographical orientation (where do I live and where is the water), the FPA's flood protection system (where is it and what is it) and ways students can reduce risk related to tropical storms and hurricanes for their families and homes.

The curriculum was presented at the Louisiana Science Teachers Association's Annual Conference on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Twenty-seven teachers from around the state, including Orleans, East Jefferson and St. Bernard Parishes, attended the workshop. Each teacher was given a curriculum guide, the link to the Flood Authority's website and information about field trip opportunities.

The curriculum and lessons were developed by Anne Rheams, Education Consultant, and Gena Asevado, St. Bernard Parish Schools Science Curriculum Director. The online version of the Curriculum is posted on [floodauthority.org/teacher-resources](http://floodauthority.org/teacher-resources).

## Flue Shot Reminder !



Time to get your Flu Shot at \$0 COPAY when you use your OGB Health Insurance Card at many pharmacies and Walmart. Most Walgreens and CVS pharmacies participate in the Flu Shot Program.

Walgreens: 504-284-2122 CVS: 504-284-2122

Choose from *Two* Types of Flu Shots -65 years and 65+ years

Walk-ins-are-Welcome

## Calendar of Events

### November

November 22 (Thursday) - Thanksgiving (State Holiday)

November 23 (Friday) - State Holiday Proclaimed by Governor (Acadian Day)

November 29 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

### December

December 13 (Thursday): Ethics Training (O.L.D. Safehouse) - 8:00 a.m.

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training (O.L.D. Safehouse) - 9:00 a.m.

O.L.D. Police Station Ribbon Cutting - 10:00 a.m..

All Hands Employees' Safety Meeting - Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

December 24 (Monday) - State Holiday Proclaimed by Governor (Christmas Eve)

December 25 (Tuesday) - Christmas Day (State Holiday)

December 31 (Monday) - State Holiday Proclaimed by Governor (New Year's Eve)

### January

January 1 (Tuesday) - New Years Day (State Holiday)

January 17 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

January 21 (Monday) - Martin Luther King Day (State Holiday)

### Reminders

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

**All FPA employees must complete the annual Ethics and Preventing Sexual Harassment Training by December 31st of each year.** 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 Alicia Ridout, Training & Development Specialist.

**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](mailto:gboudreaux@floodauthority.org) or sent to Glenda Boudreaux, SLFPA-E, Airport Terminal, Suite 225, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.