

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

December 15, 2018

Message From the President

Sometimes people just blow you away. Just outright amaze you, you know? That happened to me this past week.

One of our colleagues develops a serious medical condition. It comes about very abruptly. The next thing you know, she is in the hospital in quite dire circumstances. Her family is distraught. Not only does this happen so fast, it happens just weeks before Christmas.

Some know her well, others just in passing. But she's one of those people that everyone speaks so highly of - a professional, good person, tough, a heart of gold they say. Well, while she fights hard, her colleagues jump into action. Prayers abound. Friends take time to go to the hospital. Funds are collected to help make the whole ordeal just a little bit more bearable. Offers of help pour in.

By all that, she and her family know they are not alone. And this Flood Protection Authority Team demonstrates to each other a most honorable camaraderie.

Yeah, I witnessed an amazing thing this week.

Joe

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

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

“An empowered organization is one in which individuals have the knowledge, skill, desire, and opportunity to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organizational success.”

Stephen Covey

Orleans Levee District Police Department Returns to its Historic pre-Katrina Site

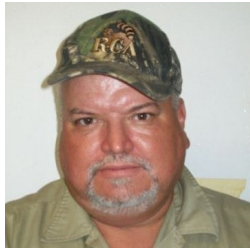
The Orleans Levee District's Police staff expressed excitement about moving into the newly constructed facility located on the corner of Elysian Fields Avenue and Lakeshore Drive.

The new 10,000 sq. ft. complex includes a 7,500 sq. ft. police station, storage garage for police vehicles, and security fencing. The facility includes a conference/training room, dispatch/communications, administrative offices, reception area, holding cell, breakroom, locker rooms and full

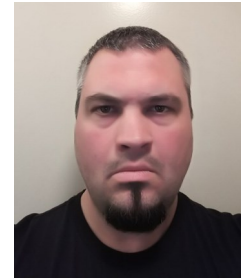
generation power. The total construction cost for the new Police Complex was \$3,185,579.



Welcome New FPA Team Members



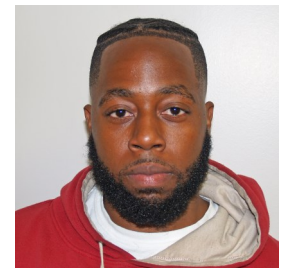
Todd Topey
Operating Engineer
hired on 10/31/2018



Corey Driskell
Operating Engineer 2 (LBBLD)
hired on 11/5/2018



Sandy West
Human Resource Director
hired on 11/13/2018



Willie Cornelius
Mobile Equipment Operator 1 (OLD)
hired on 11/19/2018



Roddy Davis
Mobile Equipment Operator 1 Heavy (OLD)
hired on 11/19/2018



Erik Guess
Mobile Equipment Operator 1 Heavy
(LBBLD)
hired on 11/19/2018



Russell Kennedy
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
hired on 11/26/18



Bernard Additon
Engineering Tech 2
Hired on 12/4/18

Best Wishes on Retirement



Lester Nunez (LBBLD)
retired on 12/1/2018



Craig Boudreaux
retired on 10/30/2018

Congratulations on Promotion



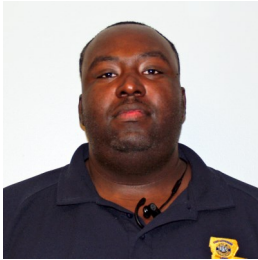
Vincent Canzoneri (LBBLD)
Operating Engineer Superintendent



Wyatt Hallywell
Maintenance Repairer Master



Lyle Johnson
Maintenance Repairer Master



Arthur Agee
Police Officer 3-A



Brad Baradell
Police Officer 3A



Michael Brenckle
Police Officer 3-A

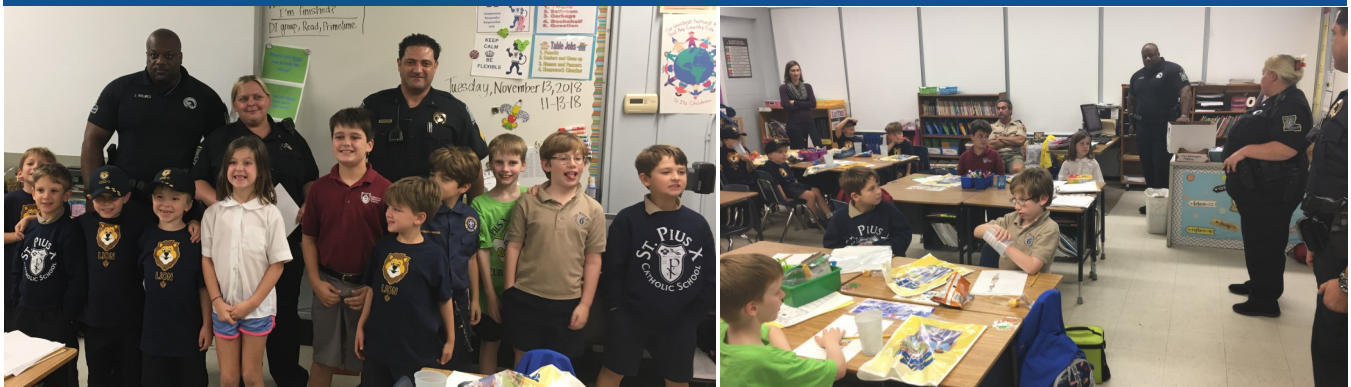
FPA Welcomes New Employee Services Director

Sandy West, the new HR Director, joined the FPA on November 13th and hails from Tulane University where she served in a number of HR roles with increasing responsibility over the course of the last 26 years. In the last 10 years of her time there, she served as the Director of HR Strategic Planning Initiatives where she was responsible for HR service delivery to an international research-based institution with over 6k employees, 3K student employees and 17k students. Sandy has extensive expertise in Talent Acquisition, Employee Relations, Benefits Administration, Talent Management, Records and HR Info Systems, and HR Strategy (to name a few).



Sandy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from University of New Orleans. She is a Senior Certified Professional (SHMR-SPC), Certified Project Manager, and Licensed Insurance Producer. Sandy serves on the Tulane~Loyola Federal Credit Union board, currently as the Vice Chair, and she is also a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

Police Reach Out to Youth in the Community



Officers of C Platoon recently had the opportunity to speak about Emergency Preparedness with Lion Cubs and Bear Cubs SPX Troop 100. Pictured left above (l-r) with the Cubs are P.O. Jerald Holmes, P.O. Tammy Canfield and Sgt. Noel Sanders.

FPA Maintenance Team In Action



Teaming Up to Remove River Debris From the MRL

In October, EJLD and O.L.D. personnel worked additional time on a Friday to remove river debris off the flood side of the MRL levee system in Kenner. EJLD personnel cut-up and loaded the debris, while both EJLD and O.L.D. personnel hauled the debris to the Highway 90 C&D Landfill.



EJLD Cutting and Trimming Behind the ER1 and ER2 Wall

Access to specific levee system areas is not always easy. Additionally, weather conditions, and scheduling (such as railroad mandates) to gain access to specific areas, can allow extended periods of grass growth. With such growth, the tasks of cutting and trimming become more difficult and laborious, for personnel and the machinery.

We all have a job to do, but to walk in another persons shoes at times can certainly have many of us reevaluate how important each person is to the overall team.



Making the Grade

EJLD crew grades new material in repaired foreshore washout areas along the lakefront levee system in Jefferson Parish.

Special thanks to Glenn Hartline, Levee Foreman C, for contributing these looks into the Maintenance Team's multiple responsibilities and contribution to the FPA's mission.



Mechanics, or Iron Chefs!

EJLD personnel are known to multitask when inclement weather conditions set in. Today's special - spaghetti and meat sauce, and grilled chicken.

EJLD Safehouse & Consolidated Facility Update



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EJLD's new modern facility is scheduled for completion in late January, 2019.

More to come on the ribbon cutting for the new facility



12/04/2018 10:16

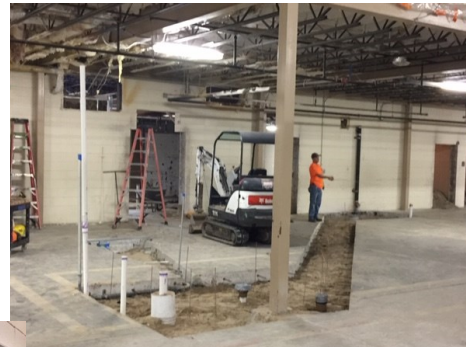
OLD Franklin Renovations Update



Cinder block walls removed in former reception/office area of warehouse. (top left)

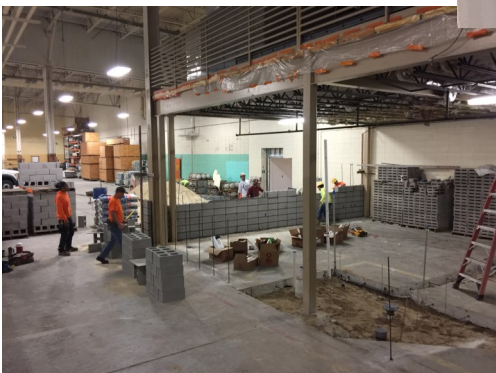
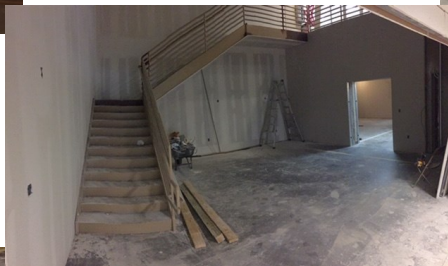
Phase 1 also includes HVAC upgrades and a new generator.

The modification / buildout of offices in the Franklin Avenue Warehouse for Engineering - Operations staff continues. Phase 1 (warehouse portion) of the Franklin Complex Renovation Project is expected to be completed late February/early March of 2019.



Cutouts in warehouse slab to accommodate utilities. (top right)

Exterior wall for office buildout constructed around staircase access to second floor Board Room and IT facilities. (left)



Construction under north end of Board Room (lake end) in warehouse. (bottom left and right)

Phase 2 of the project is the renovation of the Administration Building and includes a modular wall/partitioning system for Administrative staff.



Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board



Paul Laporte was recognized by the Board as the FPA's Employee of the Month at its November 29th meeting. Paul is an Administrative Coordinator 3 in Finance / Purchasing.

Paul started his career with the Orleans Levee District in 1974 as a Utility Laborer, moved to the Mechanic Shop as a Clerk II in 1976 then promoted to a Clerk Typist II in 1981. In 1990 he transferred to the Purchasing Department as a Stock Clerk Specialist and was promoted to a Stock Clerk Supervisor in 1999.

In 2005 with the reclassification of positions by Civil Service, Paul was moved into his current position in the Purchasing Department as an Administrative Coordinator 2 with his primary job being the receipt, verification, recordation and release of materials, supplies and equipment delivered to the O.L.D. Paul is one of the FPA's most reliable and dedicated employees with unmatched attendance amassing over 4.5 years of sick and annual leave, which if added to his 44 years of employment, he would be able to retire today with a total of 48.5 years of state service.

During Katrina, Paul was one of the lucky employees who rode out the Storm at the Franklin Avenue facility. He performed his duties of providing supplies and food services to all who stayed and willingly took on other jobs as needed, voicing no complaints during the 10 days he was marooned with his fellow employees.

Paul has always performed his duties in a diligent, courteous and polite manner and is willing to do whatever is needed to get the job done and assist in any way he can. He always greets everyone with a broad smile and a genuine courteous manner and is liked and respected by all who know him. Paul's initials are P.A.L. and everyone who has the pleasure of knowing this man agrees the name "PAL" could not be more fitting.

Paul demonstrates all of the FPA's values and is an outstanding example to all FPA team members. His commitment and contribution to the FPA and the support he gives his fellow team members allow the FPA to be a success and the organization to meet its flood defense mission.

Operations Employee of the Month

Tim Scott is a Painter in Operations and Maintenance—Floodgates.

Tim began his career at the FPA on April 1, 2013 as a Laborer in the O.L.D. Levee Maintenance Department. He was promoted on August 1, 2013 to Mobile Equipment Operator 1, and then promoted to Painter on July 21, 2014.

Tim has impressed his supervisors and colleagues with his excellent work and he continues to learn new ways to get the job done.

The FPA team congratulates Tim for being selected as the Operations Employee of the Month and wishes him success as he advances in his career at the FPA.



"To make mistakes is human; to stumble is commonplace; to be able to laugh at yourself is maturity." William Arthur Ward

Police Officer of the Month



Reserve Captain Vincent Yetta was a Full Time Career, now retired, EJLD Police Supervisor, but retirement has not affected his level of commitment or dedication to the FPA and EJLD Police Department. If anything, it has empowered him to do nothing less than to continue to **Lead By Example!**



EJLD Reserve Captain Yetta regularly puts in between 40-50 or more Reserve Patrol hours a month. He is always there for the special assignments when needed. He does not let day shift, night shift, weekday or weekend hours affect his decision on when to help out. Capt. Yetta always makes himself available, putting aside personal interests and commitments when his assistance is needed. He participates voluntarily in Night Out Against Crime Events and many other community functions.

Capt. Yetta is “Police Officer Mountain Bike” certified and utilizes this position to “meet and greet” the community regularly. Capt. Yetta also maintains the police fleet and all of the EJLD’s police equipment with a diligent, personal effort.

Capt. Yetta continues to demonstrate all of the FPA’s values while serving as a Reserve Officer and is an excellent example to all FPA team members. He is a tremendous asset to the FPA, the EJ Police Department and to the community.

Seven Leadership Lies and Why They Aren’t True

When assessing the qualities of a true leader, we need to separate myth from truth. The following was excerpted from a short article by Mark Sanborn, a bestselling and acclaimed leadership keynote speaker, and provides valuable information on true leadership:

We live in an age that seeks quick fixes and easy answers. Sometimes leaders abdicate their thinking to others and accept “prevailing wisdom,” which is often an oxymoron. I grew up, like most, accepting many things at face value. It wasn’t until I started giving important issues like leadership a second and third thought that I realized I’d been believing what turned out to be some serious leadership myths. Here are seven leadership lies and why they simply aren’t true:

- 1) “All managers are leaders.” Truth: Some managers can lead and others don’t or cannot. Management is a subset of leadership, not its equivalent.**
- 2) “Some are born leaders.” Truth: Even someone with a predisposition to lead must learn the skills of leadership.**
- 3) “Leaders always have the right answers.” Truth: Leaders ask the right questions and know where to find the best answers.**
- 4) “You need a title to lead.” Truth: To lead you only need to know when it is appropriate to do so and how to do it.**
- 5) “Leaders are focused.” Truth: Leaders create a shared focus.**
- 6) “Leadership is about ambition.” Truth: Leadership is about the greater good.**
- 7) “Anyone can lead.” Truth: Nobody can lead if they lack the desire to do so.**

To read the full version of Mr. Sanborn’s excellent article go to:

https://www.tradepub.com/free-offer/7-leadership-lies-you-need-to-stop-believing/w_marm05?

FPA Maintenance Team - Always on the Job

Placing Barriers to prevent traffic issues on Lakeshore Drive near UNO

The duties of the Levee Maintenance Crew can vary depending on seasonal requirements and other factors; however, the Crew is also sensitive to public safety concerns and provides assistance whenever possible. When it was noted that eastbound traffic on Lakeshore Drive was straying into oncoming traffic near Elysian Fields Avenue, the Levee Maintenance Crew stepped up and installed Type III Barriers to significantly improve traffic safety. The use of sand bags has kept the barriers upright for months and demonstrates the kind of attention to detail that come naturally to the group.



Maintenance along the Outfall Canals

In New Orleans, sometimes it seems like the grass and the weeds never stop growing. The Levee Maintenance Crew has to keep up with maintenance needs, even in the narrow confines along the London Avenue Canal. Sometimes, the narrow space and a steep levee add to the challenge. Just try to clear a fence top with a weed whacker and you'll have a new appreciation for the work performed by the Levee Maintenance Crew. And, when the day is done, the Crew goes home and sleeps only to start up again early the next morning.

Pictured: London canal grass mowing using turf cat, trimming using weed eaters and shoveling mud from sidewalks. Crew members are John Thruer, Kendrick Tinker, Henry Dang, Frankie Williams, Jeffery Beverly, Mike Mai and Christopher Neyland.



Special thanks to Carroll Barriere, Levee Foreman C, and Felton Suthon, Engineer 7, for providing these insights into some of the Levee Maintenance Crews' contributions to the FPA's mission.

Not As Easy As It Seems

Here in the mechanic shop our crew of professionals is always ready for any challenge that may come their way.

Well, Marvin Duret was assigned what appeared to be a simple job, to troubleshoot and repair a fuel leak on one of our John Deere interstater tractors. Upon further inspection Marvin found the center fuel tank had a hole in it and this was where the leak was coming from. But wait, the tank is located deep in the center of the tractor, surrounded by the structure of the tractor itself and also hidden behind the grass mowers attached to the tractor structure. To illustrate further here are two pictures showing the location of the tank in the bottom center of the tractor:



Marvin understood and realized the monumental task ahead and that it was not going to be easy to replace the leaking tank. Without hesitation, Marvin went to work and step by step Marvin disassembled the tractor and replaced the leaking tank. The pictures here speak for themselves as to the complexity and immensity of the work Marvin had to perform to replace the fuel tank:



Finally, here is a picture of the old leaking fuel tank.

Without question, Marvin Duret showed great mechanical skill, perseverance, and dedication while performing this task. From all of us in the Mechanic Shop, great work Marvin!

"A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work." Colin Powell

Thanks to Joe Parsi-Graciani, Mobile Equipment Shop Superintendent, FPA (Orleans) for this submittal.

The Old Loft Building Comes Tumbling Down



While the OLD Police Department readied itself for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on December 13th for the newly constructed modern Police Complex, the **old** O.L.D. Loft Building at the Franklin Complex, which housed the department after the Police Station on Elysian Fields Avenue was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, was being demolished.



In mid-October of 2017, the OLDPD moved to its interim offices at the Lake Vista Community Center until the new police complex could be completed and the department was able to move back to its pre-Katrina site located at the intersection of Elysian Fields Avenue and Lakeshore Drive.

O.L.D. Police Move into New State-of-the-Art Complex



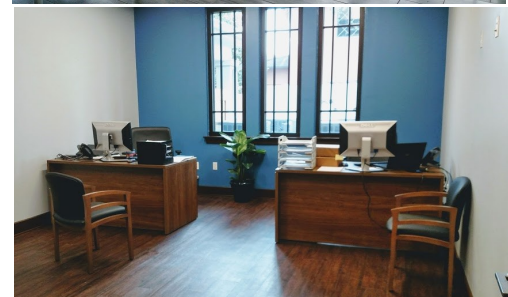
The O.L.D. Police Department has come a long way—from a gas station on Elysian Fields Avenue that was renovated to serve as a police station prior to Hurricane Katrina, to the Loft Building after Katrina, to its interim location at the Lake Vista Community Center, and then back again to the former Elysian Fields Avenue site, but with a newly constructed state-of-the-art police complex designed to meet the needs of a professional, progressive police department.



The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Police Complex was held on December 13th.

An article on the ceremony will be included in the next edition of *In The Levee Loop*.

Pictured: Conference/ Training Center (left); vaulted ceiling in reception area (center); reception area and Platoon Commander's office (right)



FPA Team Member Selected to Participate in CPTP Professional Trainer Certificate Program

Chandra Chaffin has been selected as a candidate in the CPTP Professional Trainer Certificate program to begin in January, 2019. The Comprehensive Public Training Program (CPTP) was established by the legislature in 1979 to upgrade professional, technical and managerial skills of state employees. In May, 2018, CPTP unveiled its updated Professional Trainer Certificate program, which was designed to create an opportunity for state employees to master the skills of instructional design and facilitation of programs for their agencies and stakeholders. The goal of the program is to create a community of talent development specialists equipped to help state agencies with the rapidly changing needs of their employees.



The program guides participants through a series of instructor-led and web-based courses to cultivate the skills necessary to design, develop, and facilitate effective training programs. Participants are required to complete all courses and assignments to mastery and participate in online discussions. All work submitted must be original or properly cited work. The program concludes with a capstone where candidates give an original presentation and be interviewed by State Civil Service Talent Development Staff about their design choices. Candidates must reach mastery on the Capstone to receive certification.

New features that enhances the quality of the program include a cohort model of nine candidates who progress through the program together, ongoing interaction and networking, online discussions, and continual feedback to reinforce course content. Candidates must complete the program within a two-year timeframe, but can complete the program in as little as fourteen months.

Chandra is a member of the Finance team and serves as the FPA's Grants Administrator. Due to her educational background and experience, Chandra was appointed to serve as the FPA's Employee Assistance Liaison and Resource/Bereavement Officer and provides support and referral services to the Authority's employees and their families. Chandra is a National Certified Counselor with a B.S. in Psychology and a M.A. in Mental Health Counseling. She is also a member of the Louisiana Counseling Association.

Chandra also served as a member of the FPA's Culture Change Initiative Committee. She takes great pleasure in finding ways to inspire and advance all members of the FPA team and improve workplace environments.

Chandra earned the professional credential of Certified Grant Writer from the American Grant Writers' Association on August 13, 2016, after attending an intensive hands-on five day workshop and passing a seven hour rigorous exam.



GEM - Going the Extra Mile

Who is the man behind the beard?

Once again, O.L.D. Police Officer Nick Tusa played Santa Claus for the children at Ochsner.

Nick takes on his Santa Clause identity for Ochsner every year as well as playing the role for other groups of children.

Also, congratulations to Nick who will be 70 years old on January 4th.

"Who we are shines thru what we do."

IT Alert for All Employees !

If you receive the following highlighted message, **DO NOT** click on **Review Activity**. Delete the message. It is spam. Microsoft does not send emails like this to individuals. Any notification of this type would be sent to the FPA's IT Department.

Please remember to check the validity of questionable emails with an IT Department team member.

| Microsoft | Outlook |

You are about exceeding your storage limit.

Messages sent to you when your account is in this state may **not be delivered** if you decide to ignore this notification.

What should you do?

People trying to contact you will receive a message to this effect. Please Take action **below** to ensure that your account is brought back under limit or increased.

Review Activity

This message is generated automatically by the server when you exceed 100% of your assigned usage capacity. Please do not reply to this email as the return mail is not actively monitored.

Calendar of Events

December

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)

February

February 21 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

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 or sent to Glenda Boudreaux, SLFPA-E, Airport Terminal, Suite 225, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.