

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

February 15, 2019

Message From the President

I had no shoes and complained, until I met a man who had no feet.
Indian Proverb

There are two attitudes you can have when it comes to your birthday.

1. be thankful you have lived another year. or,
2. complain about being a year older. Catherine Pulsifer

Today I can complain because the weather is rainy or I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free. Author Unknown

People who never achieve happiness are the ones who complain whenever they're awake, and whenever they're asleep, they are thinking about what to complain about tomorrow. Adam Zimblar

“Optimism is a strategy for making a better future. Because unless you believe that the future can be better, you are unlikely to step up and take responsibility for making it so.”—Noam Chomsky

“An optimist understands that life can be a bumpy road, but at least it is leading somewhere. They learn from mistakes and failures, and are not afraid to fail again.” Harvey Mackay

“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.” Winston Churchill

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.” Martin Luther

You see where I'm going?

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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Jason P. Latiolais
Herbert I. Miller, P.E.
Herbert T. Weysham, III

*“Courage is what it
takes to stand up
and speak;
courage is also what
it takes to sit down
and listen”*

Winston Churchill

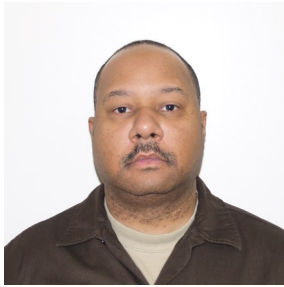
Putting the FPA's Values into Practice

Are you missing an opportunity to recognize a fellow team member? When was the last time you recognized or expressed appreciation to a co-worker for going the extra mile in the workplace, exemplifying the FPA's values, attaining a goal or achieving an accomplishment.

One of the FPA's seven tenets is *valuing and appreciating team members*. One way to show that you value and appreciate a co-worker is by submitting a nomination for Employee of the Month. Each month an individual is selected from nominations submitted by team members as the Employee of the Month in one of three categories: Operations, Administration and Police, with one of the three being selected as the FPA Employee of the Month. Any FPA employee can nominate any employee in any department and in any category.

Remember, a little appreciation can go a long way—not only for the individual who is being valued and appreciated, but also for the individual expressing appreciation. *Sharing gratitude is proven to make those on the giving end also feel happier.*

Welcome New FPA Team Members



Brad Alexander
Police Officer 2-A
EJLD Police Department hired on 01/14/19



Jacinta Gisclair
Engineer 4
O.L.D. hired on 01/28/19

Congratulations on Promotion



Ryan Foster
promoted to Engineer 7 on 01/28/19

Keanon Brisco
promoted to
Mobile Equipment Operator 1 Heavy
on 01/28/19

(Picture not available)

FPA Culture Initiative Continues—Safety Focus Group

As part of the FPA's Culture Initiative, safety will be the topic for the 1st Quarter. Employee Services will facilitate focus groups that will seek to uncover the important safety concerns of employees and propose recommendations on ways to improve the current safety culture. The focus groups will consist of a total of 16 – 18 employees that represent a cross-section of the Authority and will meet several times over the next two months.

Prohibited Political Activities for Classified State Employees

The Dos and Don'ts for Classified State Employees Regarding Political Activities

Did you know that classified State employees are prohibited from "liking" or "following" a candidate, party or faction on Facebook, Twitter or other form of social media?

The Louisiana Department of State Civil Service issued General Circular 2019-006 to remind classified State employees of the "do's and don'ts" of political activity. The Circular is updated to include current trends such as social media. Employees can obtain a copy of this Circular from their supervisor or ES, or access the Circular at https://www.civilservice.louisiana.gov/files/general_circulars/2019/GC2019-006.pdf.

Civil Service has also produced an informative new video that reviews activities that are allowed and activities that are absolutely prohibited so that employees can be fully informed about the rules regarding political activities. The video also cautions unclassified employees who have a classified fallback position to be careful in the political activities in which they participate. The video can be accessed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AWjxYiKELw><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AWjxYiKELw>.

Bob Turner Assumes New Leadership Role with S&WB

Robert Turner, FPA Director of Engineering, announced his retirement from the FPA. Bob will be taking on the role of General Superintendent of the Sewerage and Water Board (S&WB) of New Orleans.

After the City of New Orleans experienced sudden and extreme flooding as a result of the extraordinary, unpredicted amounts of torrential rainfall on August 5, 2017, the S&WB approached the FPA seeking assistance and expertise with drainage and pumping issues. Bob, with over 35 years of experience as a Professional Civil Engineer and significant experience in pumping and drainage, has been under temporary assignment to the S&WB since August of 2017 providing the knowledge and expertise to help resolve the City's pumping and drainage issues.

Prior to becoming the FPA's Director of Engineering, Bob served as the Executive Director of the FPA and LBBLD Executive Director. Prior to joining the LBBLD in 2001, Bob served as the Director of Public Works for St. Bernard Parish.

Bob will be sorely missed by his colleagues at the FPA who wish him great success in his important new role at the S&WB where he will continue to provide invaluable service for the public. Bob's service to the FPA will be recognized at the February Board meeting.



FPA Partners with University of New Orleans

FITNESS FACILITIES DISCOUNT AVAILABLE TO FPA EMPLOYEES

The Flood Protection Authority East (FPA) is pleased to announce the University of New Orleans (UNO) Recreation and Fitness Center is offering discounted membership rates to all FPA employees.



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO JOIN?

Stop by Employee Services (HR) and pick up your Letter of Employment. Visit the UNO Recreation and Fitness Center located at 200 Lakeshore Drive (corner of Elysian Fields and Lakeshore Drive) and present your employee ID badge and the letter at the front desk.

HOW MUCH ARE THE MEMBERSHIP RATES?

1 month - \$45

3 months - \$87.50

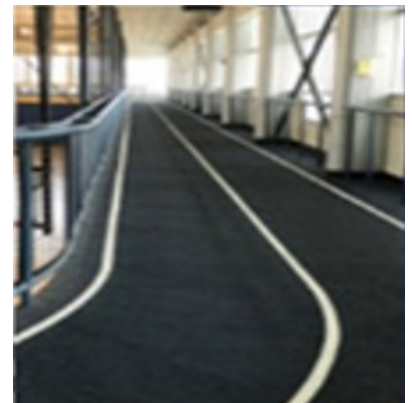
12 months - \$350

AMENITIES INCLUDE:

Cardio equipment, free weights, weight machines, TVs, indoor track, indoor pool, basketball courts, racquetball courts, group exercise classes, locker rooms, dry sauna, and much more.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FITNESS CENTER?

Questions about hours of operation, forms of payment, group exercise programs, etc. should be directed to Kassie Thibodeaux by email at kthibode@uno.edu or by telephone at 504-280.6009.



Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Civil Service Award

Congratulations to Glenda Boudreaux for receiving a *Distinguished Public Service Award* at the 60th Annual Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Civil Service Awards Luncheon presented by the Louisiana Civil Service League. The event was held on January 18th at the DoubleTree Hotel on Canal Street in downtown New Orleans.

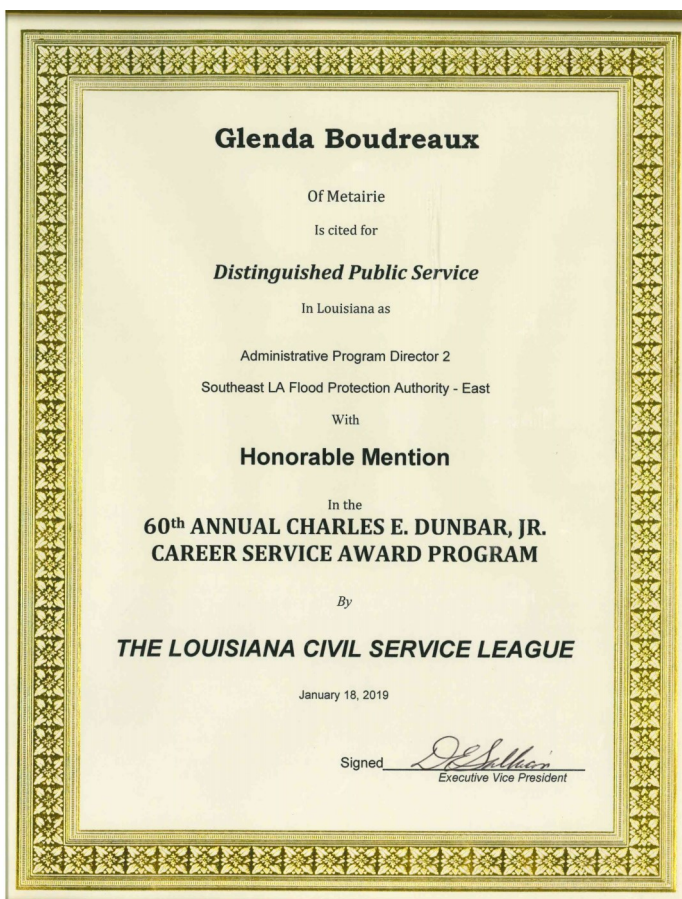
The awards recognize the exceptional contributions made to the State of Louisiana by classified employees. Ms. Boudreaux was one of twelve people state-wide recognized as *Honorable Mention* for the award. Nominees are judged on commitment to the classified service, contributions toward workplace improvement, personal initiative and volunteer community service.

We at the FPA are very proud of Ms. Boudreaux who always goes the extra mile on a daily basis to assist her coworkers, no matter the task. Ms. Boudreaux has worked with the Agency between the Flood Protection Authority and the Orleans Levee District for over forty years and currently serves as Administrative Program Director 2 for the FPA.

Submitted by Wilma Heaton



Bryon P. Decoteau, Jr., Director of LA State Civil Service and staff with Glenda Boudreaux



FPA Staff joined Glenda and approximately 500 people who attended the Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Service Award luncheon. Pictured left-right: Derek Boese, CAO, Jonell Cangelosi, Special Assistant, Louis Capo, Internal Auditor, Michelle White, Executive Counsel, and Kelli Chandler, Regional Finance Director.

Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count; everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted. Albert Einstein

Officers Commended for Going Beyond the Call of Duty



Lt. Bruno Mason and P.O. Terrol-Lynn Gray receive Letters of Commendation for Exemplary Performance and Public Service

The Board recognized Lt. Bruno Mason and Police Officer Terrol-Lynn Gray at its January 17th meeting for exemplary performance and outstanding public service.

Mr. Hassinger told Board members that the officers' performance is a perfect example of the FPA's values. In the general scheme of things, the encounter may have seemed to be small; however, it had a great impact on a citizen in an extremely positive way. Lt. Mason and Officer Gray set a tremendous example for all team members Authority-wide. He then read the letter that was received from the citizen:

To Whom it may concern:

I had both a positive and negative experience with Orleans Parish. On Monday the 14th of January I went to the Seabrook Bridge boat ramp to run my boat that I just gotten out of the repair shop. My intentions were to leave it on the trailer and run the engine and return it to the warehouse where it is stored. When I backed down the ramp my trailer dropped and fell into a (hole) or some type of underwater condition. The hole was under water so I was unable to see or avoid it.

In the process of trying to get up and off the ramp I only could go further in the water and get a running start. After several attempts I was able to get out, but in the process I damaged both my truck and boat.

I tried to use the 311 City information desk and was transferred four times and finally spoke to 911. They assured me that I would receive an email and a phone call and I have received neither.

On the 15th after many more phone calls I finally spoke to Lieutenant Mason. He assured me that he would look into the matter. Later I received a phone call from Officer Gray who said she was at my front door. She drove me to where my boat and truck were stored. I showed her the boat and truck and she drove me back to my house. Here is where the true difference was experienced. When we first met she listened with great empathy and ask questions that helped me to explain my ordeal. During the ride she continued to try to understand my horrible experience and was able to relieve my frustration with the process. When we reached my house she spent more time to insure me that I would be OK and that she was going to write up the incident and continue to be available if needed. My words cannot express the peace of mind I had when she drove off.

I would just like to say one more time that I easily could have lost my truck and boat on the ramp. I felt after trying to reach someone from 311 I would never get this resolved. Due to the professional effort of Lieutenant Mason and Officer Gray, I now feel that someone truly cares about serving the people of our city. You always hear the negatives about Officers who serve the people but seldom do you hear the positives. I am now an advocate of the Levee board and its professional personnel.

Sincerely
New Orleans, LA.

Lt. Mason and Officer Gray are members of the Orleans Levee District Police Department.

Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board



Demond Johnson was recognized by the Board at its January 17th meeting as the FPA Employee of the Month. Demond is a Mobile Equipment Operator Light who is detailed to the position of Mobile Equipment Operator 2 in the EJLD Maintenance Department.

Mr. Hassinger told Board members that the FPA could not accomplish its mission without people like Demond and that it is the way he accomplishes his job on a daily basis that makes the FPA a success.

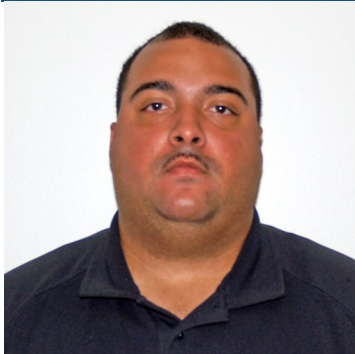
Demond is always the first employee to start his work assignments in the morning. He is duty ready at all times and is always equipped with his protective gear. Demond takes initiative and helps his co-workers finish assignments when needed. He looks for ways to improve his work abilities and is seeking to achieve his CDL-B license.

On a daily basis, Demond is the first to start and last to stop working. He communicates clearly with co-workers and supervisors. He displays a positive attitude and never complains about his work load. Demond is viewed by his supervisor as his best worker and can be trusted to keep himself and the crew working without supervision.

Demond is mission focused and exhibits the FPA's values in his day to day activities. He is a valuable asset to the FPA and an important contributor to the success of the organization.



Police Employee of the Month



EJLD Police Sergeant Gerard Duplessis was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Police Employee of the Month. Sgt. Duplessis demonstrates professionalism and teamwork. He always places team members first. He not only holds team members accountable, but more importantly he holds himself accountable.

Recently, while working a detail, Sgt. Duplessis apprehended an armed suspect who pulled a gun on victims on Canal Street. Only a few days later he assisted fellow officers with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff Office with the apprehension of an armed suspect after the suspect shot into a house and while threatening to continue his rampage.

Sgt. Duplessis is always on time and provides assistance whenever needed. He is an exemplary law enforcement professional with a focus not only on the FPA's mission, but also on service to the public. Sgt. Duplessis personifies all of the FPA's values and is a tremendous asset to the FPA, the law enforcement community and the public.

Administrative Employee of the Month



Chandra Chaffin, Contracts/Grants Reviewer in the Finance Department, was selected as the Administrative Employee of the Month.

Along with her many duties in the Finance Department, Chandra serves as the FPA's Grants Administrator (Nationally Certified). She readily works with any and all FPA staff members on grant efforts and painstakingly ensures that all requirements are met. On a number of occasions she willingly worked long hours into the night in order to meet deadlines.

Due to her education (B.S. in Psychology and M.A. in Mental Health Training) and experience as a National Certified Counselor, Chandra was asked to serve as the FPA's Employee Assistance Liaison and Bereavement Officer. She stepped up and immediately took upon herself this responsibility, not only because she was asked to do so, but because of her compassion and concern for her coworkers and their families. She has developed an outstanding rapport with her fellow FPA team members and receives the trust and respect required to serve in this role.

Chandra served as one of the initial members of the Culture Change Initiative. She drew upon her education and experience to develop information for the group and informative articles for the employees' newsletter. Chandra is well known for her efforts to improve morale within the organization and create a better workplace.

Chandra eagerly and cheerfully does whatever work is required to benefit the FPA team members and for the FPA to accomplish its mission.

Chandra was recently selected as a candidate in the CPTP Professional Trainer Certificate Program. The certificate program is conducted over a fourteen month to two year timeframe will require significant effort and time in order to successfully complete all of the required courses and assignments. 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. Chandra's participation in this program will give her additional skills that will benefit the FPA and all its employees.

Chandra exemplifies the FPA's values and is an exceptional asset to the FPA and her colleagues.

GEM—Going the Extra Mile

Susan Jenkins, Administrative Coordinator 4 in the Engineering Department, recently informed team members about a telephone call that she received concerning Kevin Bates, who is an Engineering Technician 3 in the Survey Crew.

Susan explained that a contractor/permit holder called and said that Kevin stopped him from doing work because of the high river level and he did not have a waiver. The contractor asked Susan how he could obtain a waiver and went on to tell her about how polite and helpful Kevin was about the situation. He said that the FPA couldn't have a nicer person working for us. As you know, most of the time contractors are not very pleasant when their job is shut down for any reason. Because Kevin handled himself professionally and mindfully, it did not turn into an agitated situation.

Kevin was commended for exemplifying what the FPA strives to accomplish as an agency whose core mission, in addition to flood protection, is public service.



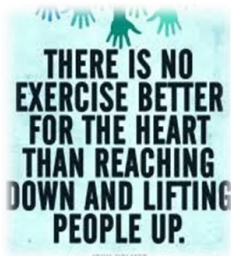
Kevin Bates

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." Helen Keller

P/O Tammy Canfield's Message of Thanks

Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East, Orleans Levee District Police, East Jefferson Levee District Police;

I want to take a moment to acknowledge all of you for supporting me during my unexpected illness. I want to let all of you know how much you are appreciated. I never expected to have to say my last goodbyes to my loved ones. I remember being terrified when the doctors said I wouldn't survive through the night if they didn't put me in an induced coma. I was told that I still only had a 50/50 chance of survival. All I could think about were my three precious boys growing up without a Mother, and how my husband would become a single Dad. My heart was broken. Before they rushed me to ICU, my Mother promised that she wasn't leaving the hospital without me. When I finally woke up, after 10 days, my Mother and Husband were next to me holding my hands. I didn't remember anything and was very confused. They told me I was very sick and explained what happened and what was going on. My Mom and husband continued to tell me how wonderful you all are. The outpouring of love and support my family and I received is truly incredible. There are not enough words for me to express my gratitude. I never expected to be supported in so many different ways. How everyone came together for me is remarkable and shows that we truly are a big family who stands together through good times and hard times.



I can only hope that you all understand the impact that you made in my life. I am tremendously blessed to know you and call you my family. Those who came to visit, sent flowers, helped out financially, and prayed for me, will always have a special place in my heart. You all have impacted my life and most definitely my heart in the most encouraging way. My promise to you is that I will certainly pay it forward. Know that if any of you are ever in need I will absolutely be there to support you. I am immensely blessed to be here and my life is forever changed from this experience.

Sincerely, Officer Tammy Canfield, Orleans Levee District Police

Mt. Carmel Junior Class Tours PCCP/Surge Barrier



The FPA encourages everyone to become informed about their flood defense system and offers tours of the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier and Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) to further their understanding of the critical flood defense system protecting our community.

Mt. Carmel Academy's junior physics class recently took advantage of our open invitation and toured the PCCP and Surge Barrier. The FPA's Education Consultant, Anne Rheams, took part in the tour providing information to the girls about the FPA's flood defense system.

Anne Rheams and Gena Asevado, St. Bernard Parish Schools Science Curriculum Director, developed the FPA's Middle School Science Curriculum, *"Keepin' Your Head Above Water"* (access on-line version at floodauthority.org/teacher-resources).

The FPA's public outreach program is an important part of our mission and includes teaching the next generation about the critically important Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.



FPA Uses Drone Technology to Advance Mission



In December twenty-three employees participated in a two-part drone training with instructor Malay Ghose Harja, Ph.D., an associate professor from the University of New Orleans. According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) usage in the United States will reach more than 7 million people by 2020 with half of those being recreational users. Currently 8% of the population in America owns a drone and more than 20,000 of those are registered for commercial usage.



Leadership at the FPA plans to use drones as an innovative way to capture 3D models of structures and have better vantage points when inspecting levees or buildings. The FPA class consisted of employees from various departments including, Engineering, Maintenance, and Operations.



“The first step to using a drone for commercial use is to make sure our employees understand the fundamentals and core processes of a drone,” said CAO Derek Boese. “This is an excellent opportunity for the Flood Authority to use the latest technology to help us do our jobs more efficiently and provide accurate information to those involved with various projects.”

In order to become a licensed drone pilot, an individual must take and pass the test administered by the FAA. “A score of 60 is considered passing, though applicants should strive for the highest possible score. This shows how adequately they know the material and their knowledge of basic airport and airfield operations,” Harja added. If an applicant fails the test, it can be retaken 30 days after the initial test date. The multiple choice test will present a wide variety of challenges to the applicant as it will explore several areas of aviation. Public Information Director, Antwan Harris, said, “The most challenging and rewarding part was learning how to read an aviation map. I’d never seen anything like it before, but once you understand the material, it’s like reading any other map. The important thing is to constantly study the various materials and not get hung up on one section.”



Drones are now becoming common place for many businesses such as online retail giant Amazon. Field crews at Amazon are currently in the test phase with drone deliveries, but less than half of Americans (47 percent) say they’re interested in deliveries using the technology according to a new study by technology company ReportLinker. Consumer concerns over drone delivery stems from their privacy and security concerns. According to the report, if drone delivery becomes available, consumers will be most interested in using it to deliver clothes and apparel (27 percent) and electronics (14 percent).



Several survey companies have now been using drones as a means for inspections by the use of thermo-infrared cameras. This technology allows for a drone pilot to see issues such as seepage, property damage from water, and various problems that may be missed by the human eye. The drone industry is currently a \$13B industry and is expected to reach \$90B by 2025 according to Consumer Reports.

Submitted by Antwan Harris

Franklin Facility Renovations Update



Construction of Phase I of the Franklin Facility Renovation Project is progressing. Concrete masonry unit (CMU) walls and the HVAC equipment are being installed by the Contractor in warehouse portion of project.

The DIRTT walls (module walls for offices) are anticipated to be delivered in mid-February for Phase II (Administration Bldg.).

Phase I is expected to be completed the first week of April, at which time staff will be moved into the new offices in the warehouse buildout and out of the Administration Building so that Phase II can begin. Phase II is expected to begin in mid-April and extend through the end of July.



Bad Password Behaviors Compromise Security



Security specialists at Proofpoint report that despite the increase in criminal activity in the areas hacking and identity theft, users continue using weak, easily compromised passwords. Proofpoint warns that bad passwords are a gateway to account compromise, but users continue to opt for easy to remember options rather than creating strong, unique credentials. Some bad passwords show users' misguided attempts to add complexity, such as, the seemingly complicated “!@#%&*” is simply the shift key held over the numbers 1 through 8 on a standard keyboard.

Proofpoint cautions that a weak password may technically comply with password composition policies, giving users a false sense of security. Users might create passwords that may slow down a human attacker; however, the real threat are computers. Scrambled passwords may require many guesses for a human to crack, but a computer program can make millions or billions of guesses in a few hours. Therefore, passwords need to be difficult for a computer to figure out!

A new article by a group of password researchers from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) recommend three tips for creating strong passwords:

1. **Use at least 12 characters**, with at least two or three different types of characters in unpredictable places. Don't put your capital letters at the beginning or your digits or symbols at the end.
2. **Avoid including personal information**, such as birth dates or the names of people, pets or sports teams. Also avoid song lyrics, patterns, and common phrases, they advise, “especially anything related to ‘love’ in any language.”
3. **Make something new**: Create a sentence that no one's ever said before and use the first letter or two of each word as your password, mixing in other types of characters.

The researchers also strongly caution against password reuse and advise users to implement two-factor authentication on accounts when it's available.

CUM researchers suggest that to make strong passwords user friendly and less burdensome, that users utilize a password manager, which can generate and store a different, scientifically strong password for each of your accounts.

EJLD Safehouse-Consolidated Facility Nears Completion



Construction of the new EJLD consolidated facility should be completed by March 1st. The contractor and FPA will then address the punch list items. Furniture delivery will take place in February. Staff can expect to move into the new facility sometime in March. The overall wayfinding signage will be installed in four to six months.



Be Smart Drive Safe

Safe Driving is No Accident

Driving is a skill that requires your full concentration and should be taken seriously. Multi-tasking while driving could cost you your life or the life of others. While driving a motorized vehicle you have a responsibility to do your part to keep the roadway safe for yourself, other drivers, passengers, and others who may be affected by your driving.

Don't leave safety to chance, buckle up, plan your travel route, adjust your driving to weather conditions, stay focused, avoid distractions, don't text, respect other drivers, share the road and obey traffic laws to arrive safely at your destination.

Submitted by Carol Kiefer

Calendar of Events

February

February 21 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

March

March 5 (Tuesday) - Mardi Gras Day (State Holiday)

March 21 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

April

April 18 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

April 19 (Friday) - Good Friday (State Holiday)

May

May 16 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

Reminders

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

Remaining U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Annual Inspections for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) for 2019:

Wednesday, March 27 – Meet **Orleans Levee District** at 8:30 a.m. at their office at 6920 Franklin Avenue. Inspect the completed HSDRRS levees in the **New Orleans East Bank System (Orleans East Subbasin)**. **SEGMENT: OLD2**

Tuesday, April 2 – Wednesday, April 3 – Meet **Orleans Levee District** at 8:30 a.m. at their office at 6920 Franklin Avenue. Inspect the completed HSDRRS levees/floodwalls in Orleans Parish in the **New Orleans East Bank System (Orleans Metro Subbasin)**. **SEGMENT: OLD1** (postponed from February)

TBD – Leave MVN at 7:45 a.m. Meet **Orleans Levee District** at the **Lake Borgne Surge Barrier** & inspect the structure in the **New Orleans East Bank System (Orleans East Subbasin)**. **SEGMENT: OLD2**

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.