

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

March 15, 2019

Message From the President

When the water comes

We operate by the maxim that, when the water comes *every* component of the flood defense system *must* perform.

Winter storms and other weather conditions up north have already resulted in a high Mississippi River here in New Orleans. Over the weekend, we saw incredible devastation in Nebraska caused by flooding that topped dams and riverbanks, again due to heavy rains and winter storms. Thus, additional weather activity in other parts of the country over the next several weeks may further impact conditions here.

The Flood Protection Authority must remain vigilant, prepared and focused. Our continuous inspections of the system must be done with energetic and intensive eyes -- if a problematic condition develops, we want to identify it and address it immediately.

In several weeks, when the high river threat subsides, citizens will go about their lives largely unaware of the threat - unaware because they and their property are safe, safe because you stood the post.

Joe

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

*“Some people
want it to happen,
some wish it
would happen,
others make it
happen.”*

Michael Jordan

East Jefferson Levee District Safe Room and Consolidated Facility Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Set for March 21st



The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the newly constructed EJLD Safe Room and Consolidated Facility will be held on March 21st. A host of elected and governmental officials, representatives from various organizations and agencies, and members of the public are anticipated to join FPA team members at the event to commemorate the grand opening of the new facility.

Welcome New FPA Team Members



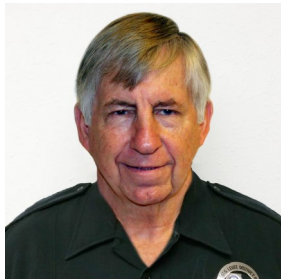
Joseph Baily - 02/11/19
Mechanic 2 EJLD

02/11/2019 Vincent Varnado - 02/11/19
Mobile Equipment Operator 2 EJLD



Jarett Dase - 02/11/19
Laborer O.L.D.

Robert Kingston - 02/11/19
Mobile Equipment Operator Light EJLD



Charles Badon - 02/11/19
Police Officer 2-A O.L.D.

Korey Louis - 02/11/19
Mobile Equipment Operator 1 O.L.D.



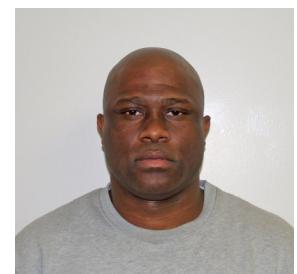
Ryan Hathaway - 02/11/19
Engineer 4 FPA

Michael Courteaux - 02/11/19
Levee Foreman A EJLD



Charles Boutte - 02/25/19
Mobile Equipment Operator 2 EJLD

Brandon Shelly—02/25/19
Trades Apprentice LBBLD



Congratulations on Promotions



Donald Juneau, Captain A
EJLD Police - 12/06/18



Glenn Hartline
Levee Foreman C - 02/07/19



Susan Jenkins
Training & Development Specialist - 02/11/19



Darren Austin
Engineer 6 - 02/25/19

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Rusty Kennedy



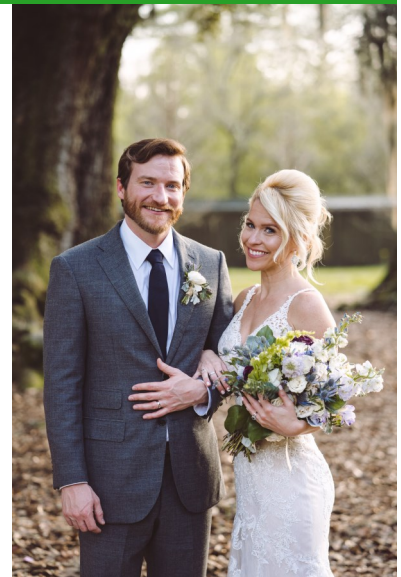
On the most vibrant day in New Orleans, when the whole city was adorned in beads, debauchery, masks and libations - I got married.

My beautiful bride, her daughter and I gathered under the Tree of Life in Audubon Park on Saturday March 2nd along with our pastor and friend in an intimate ceremony.

Happy to be Married and Happier to share the news with my co-workers.

Rusty Kennedy

Rusty is the FPA Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.



"Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

Buddha

Going Beyond the Call of Duty

Police Officer Matt White was commended by Capt. Donald Juneau, Police Administration and Operations for the East Jefferson and Orleans Levee District Police Departments, for outstanding police work during a traffic stop on March 6th.

Officer White is a Police Officer 2-A and a new addition to the EJLD Police Department. Capt. Juneau states that Officer White's aptitude and abilities have strengthened through the Police Department's Field Training Program.

On March 6th Officer White made a traffic stop on Jefferson Highway for disregarding a red traffic light. Upon a computer check it was determined that the subject had a suspended drivers license and nine outstanding attachments. Search incidental to arrest revealed the subject to be in possession of LSD. While doing a search of the vehicle for tow purposes Officer White located an onion ring bag on the rear floorboard. Inside the bag was a substance later identified by Crime Scene to be crystal meth.

Officer White was commended by Capt. Terry Durnin, EJLD Police, for doing a tremendous job on the arrest.

Officer White is an outstanding example of the Police Department's commitment to the FPA's mission and dedication to law enforcement and public service.



P/O Matthew White

Protect Yourself Against Cybersecurity Threats

Be Aware of Email Spoofing

Recently, the FPA has been bombarded with spoofed emails from scammers. *The tactic of the scammers is to forge the sender address, so that an email looks like it's from a legitimate person or organization, in the hopes that you'll open the email and take a certain action. The end goal is to gain access to your personal information, get you to wire money or hand over your financial/user credentials, make you visit a malicious website, or to deliver malware. The delivery of malware not only impacts your local machine, it also impacts the entire network.* It's *imperative* for our (FPA) user community to exercise *extreme caution*, when receiving and/or opening email correspondences.

Remember to use the same extreme caution when receiving and/or opening email on your personal computer at home in order to protect your personal and confidential information and your computer system.

FPA Increases Email Security Protocols

In response to increasing cybersecurity risks, Information Technology has *implemented and is enforcing a new email authentication policy/process.* This process is called *Multi/Two-Factor Authentication* or *2FA*. Multi-factor authentication is an authentication method in which a computer user is granted access only after successfully presenting two or more pieces of evidence to an authentication mechanism. This practice is commonly enforced through email and banking platforms. Essentially, *2FA* is an extra layer of protection used to ensure the security of online accounts beyond just username and password. In addition, the FPA will enforce a password policy that provides a *default password* and will subsequently ask you to create a unique password meeting the FPA's complexity standard. *This standard will include a minimum of 10 characters with a combination of upper case, lower case, numbers and/or special characters.* The frequency of change will be every *45 days*.



Operations Employee of the Month

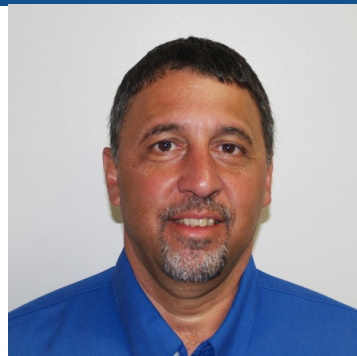
Frank Alfonso was nominated by his colleagues and selected at the Operations Employee of the Month. Frank is a Mechanic 3 in the Mechanic Shop at the Franklin Facility.

Since he started on July 7, 2017, Frank has maintained a steady course. He is always at work, he arrives to work on time, in uniform and ready to start the day. Frank works very well with his peers, he is always ready to help his coworkers with any task. Frank is very efficient in his work and completes assigned tasks in a timely manner. Frank is also very dependable.

Frank demonstrated his teamwork shortly after he started work with the FPA during preparations for hurricane Nate in October of 2017. During this time, Frank was part of the team of mechanics tasked with the removal of the Guard Rails and the Vulcan Barriers from floodgates prior to closing of the gates by the flood gate crews. Once the threat of the storm passed, Frank was once again part of the team which restored the Guard Rails and the Vulcan Barriers after the gate crews re-opened the gates. Frank displayed a high degree of teamwork and professionalism during this event. Frank was very aware and stayed focused on the mission at hand.

Around April of 2018 Frank was part of a two-mechanic team tasked with the installation of the tablet and computer pedestal stands in 38 Police vehicles. At first this seemed like a monumental task, but with Frank's mechanical expertise, his positive attitude, and high sense of teamwork the installations were completed in less than the 30-days the team had to complete the job.

The FPA's values are clearly evidenced in Frank's work ethic and accomplishments. He is a valued and important part of the team charged with the critical mission of flood protection.



Frank Alfonso, Mechanic 3

I-STORM Co-Founder Visits FPA Board



Marc Walraven, M.Sc., Senior Advisor on storm surge barriers for the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, the Netherlands, and a co-founder of I-STORM, visited the FPA and provided an informative presentation at the February 21st Board Meeting on the history of storm surge barriers in the Netherlands and on the I-STORM network. President Hassinger in his introduction identified Mr. Walraven as one of the most recognized experts in the world on storm surge barriers and as a colleague and good friend of the FPA. The Netherlands has six storm surge barriers with no two barriers being alike.

Mr. Walraven visited New Orleans on his way to Galveston, Texas, which is faced with the challenge of building storm surge barriers for Galveston Bay, to assist with their flood protection needs. I-STORM is

also planning a workshop that will be held in Galveston in March so that its members can share knowledge and expertise on storm surge barriers in order to assist Galveston with its decision making process.

Mr. Walraven explained that knowledge, experience and expertise on storm surge barriers is a rare and valuable commodity, and is becoming increasingly valuable to governments and entities worldwide looking to construct barriers to protect against flooding due to climate change and changing weather patterns.

Mr. Walraven recounted a meeting in which he and Andy Batchelor, Manager of the Thames Barrier in London, while sharing experiences on storm surge barriers realized the value their knowledge exchange, and in 2006 I-STORM (the International Network of Storm Surge Barriers) was born.



Employees of the Month Recognized by FPA Board



Kevin Kazmierczak and Calvin Williams receive Certificates of Commendation from the Board

President Hassinger advised that two members of the IT staff were being recognized as Co-Employees of the Month for their professionalism and team effort in providing support and assistance to all members of the FPA organization.

Kevin Kazmierczak is an IT Tech Support Specialist 3 and Calvin Williams is an IT Tech Support Specialist I.

Kevin and Calvin are always cheerful, polite and responsive. They quickly respond to requests for help and assist in any way possible.

The implementation of the Help Desk has proved to be an effective method for providing quick response to requests for assistance and for managing and recording IT problems and needs. An FPA Director reported receiving assistance from Kevin or Calvin after hours and on weekends when needing to finish a work product.

In addition, the IT team has been extremely busy in the past few months with the additional workload brought about by the recent completion of the new O.L.D. Police Station, the nearing completion of the new EJLD consolidated facility and the on-going renovations at the Franklin Facility. The IT team has had to do all the necessary work to ensure that all IT/communication technologies are up and running smoothly as the renovations at the Franklin Facility progress and as the newly constructed facilities are completed. These additional duties have had to be accomplished while keeping up with their day-to-day responsibilities.

Kevin and Calvin have exemplified the FPA values and provide critical service to the FPA by keeping IT functions and communications up and running, and providing support to team members to ensure their technology needs are met, so that the organization can accomplish its flood protection mission.

GEM - Going the Extra Mile



When I think of GEM, which is an acronym for going the extra mile, I think of someone who goes above the required standards and sets the proverbial bar very high.

I would like to recognize an individual who has a CAN DO mentality and is appreciated by all who know him. This individual has helped me with countless ideas that I have thought up. I also always notice that he handles multiple assignments that are given to him, a true jack of all trades. I would like to thank: Mr. Arthur Brisset for being a leader with a take charge attitude.

Captain Terry Durnin, EJLD Police



Arthur Brisset
Maintenance Repairer 2
EJLD O&M Mechanics

Police Officer of the Month

The Board recognized Scott Meunier as the Police Officer of the Month. Officer Meunier is a Police Officer 2A with the EJLD Police Department.

Capt. Terry Durnin, EJLD Police, told the Board that Officer Meunier is highly professional and has quickly become a “go to” officer in the department. He works well with the Administration, his fellow officers and officers from other agencies. He stated that the recognition of Officer Meunier is well deserved.



Police Officer Scott Meunier receives Certificate of Commendation from the Board

Officer Meunier has proven himself to be a valued part of the EJLD team. He shows up to work on time, every day. He is knowledgeable and readily shares that knowledge with his fellow officers. He is quick to take on any task asked of him and offers assistance to other officers without hesitation. He regularly assists other agencies as needed. With regards to statistics he is routinely the highest producing officer on D-Shift. His proactive productivity is unmatched by anyone on the shift. He meets and exceeds all expectations of an officer. Officer Meunier is quick to act when assisting fellow EJLD Officers and other agencies.

On Saturday, January 26, 2019 Officer Meunier was quick to respond to a vehicle pursuit in progress on two separate occasions. The first was initiated by Louisiana State Police which resulted in a vehicle crash in the 1500 block of David Drive. Three suspects fled on foot into the neighborhood. With the assistance of Officer Meunier two suspects were quickly apprehended and the third, a short time later. A large amount of narcotics and two hand guns were also located in the vehicle.

The second pursuit was initiated by the Harahan Police Department and began on Jefferson Highway. HPD officers were chasing the vehicle after it fled from a traffic stop. During the pursuit, HPD officers reported shots being fired from the vehicle. The vehicle became blocked in by traffic on Jefferson at Little Farms where Officers tactically approached the vehicle and the driver began physically fighting with the officers. Officer Meunier, being the first back up unit on scene, proceeded to the passenger side of the vehicle and deployed his Taser, which was only partially effective. After a brief struggle the subject was taken into custody. It is due to Officer Meunier's quick response and actions that no serious injuries were sustained by either the Officers or the suspect.

“I’ve missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. 26 times I’ve been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. That is why I succeed.” Michael Jordan.

Michael Jordan is the second-highest-scoring NBA player by total career playoff points scored (5,987).

Improvements to the Franklin Complex Mechanic Shop



In the last couple of months, the improvements to the Mechanic Shop included the installation of two new 8-foot Patterson ceiling fans and the installation of a new Gardner Denver shop air compressor. Both of these additions to the shop will help improve production efforts, save energy, and will also help improve working conditions on the shop floor. We thank the FPA Board of Commissioners for approving these items under the FY2019 budget. Thanks are also in order to our Purchasing Department for the work they did in the process of purchasing the equipment.

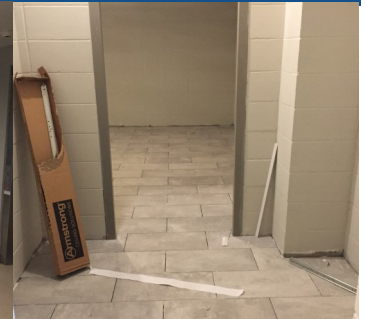
The two new Patterson ceiling fans, one of them pictured left, are mounted to the steel girders above the shop floor. In the winter, they help spread the heat from the overhead gas heaters and in the summer they will create enough air circulation to lower the overall ambient temperature on the shop floor for increased comfort.

The new Gardner Denver shop air compressor, pictured right, is rated at 130 psi, which is a big improvement from the old compressor which only had a maximum output air pressure of 110 psi. Now all of our pneumatic equipment, like our grease pumps, fluid pumps, the tire machine and our air tools, operate at maximum efficiency. Since this new compressor does not run continuously as the old compressor did, it will save energy, in addition to being much quieter during operation.



Joe R. Parsi-Graciani
Mobile Equipment Shop Superintendent Orleans Division

Franklin Administrative Complex Renovations Update



The renovations to the warehouse building at the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex are progressing.

Thus far the warehouse renovations include installation of the store front glass, flooring in the bathrooms, preparations for installing flooring in the main offices, and hanging ceiling grid along with installation of light fixtures. The contractor has also begun painting walls. Module walls will be installed in March.

EJLD Safehouse and Consolidated Facility



As this edition of *In the Levee Loop* goes to print, EJLD team members are moving into their long-awaited, modern, newly constructed facility.

The facility consolidates the Administrative, Police and Maintenance functions and for the first time provides in-house safe housing for team members who remain on duty during tropical storms.

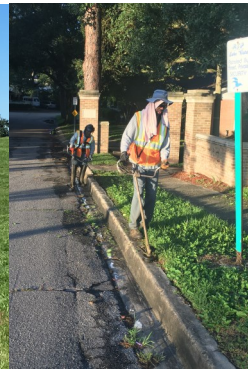
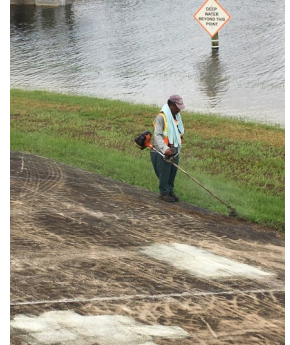
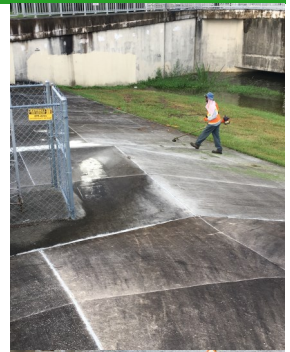


Levee Maintenance Crew In Action



Department 313 crew members cutting and trimming the Orleans Lakefront levee (pictured in no particular order) are Jeffery Beverly, Kendrick Tinker, Roy Moss, Tyus Long, Wendell Lewis, Sergio Cardenas, Darrell Dempsey, Lavell Lane & Darrin Richards.

The Lakefront Levee poses new challenges to the Levee Maintenance Crew. There is vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic involved, making safety the most important part of the work. The protected side of the levee has been reinforced with geotextile fabric (HPTRM), so the Levee Maintenance Crew needs to use different tractors with a higher cutting blade so the reinforcement doesn't get damaged – sometimes it may seem dry to our neighbors, but it's too wet to risk damaging the fabric. This is easily the most public place in which the Crew operates, so a good relationship with our neighbors is important.



Crew members applying herbicide are Tyus Long, Christopher Neyland, Charles Williams and Jeffery Beverly (not pictured in order).

Special thanks to Carroll Barriere, Levee Foreman C, Levee Operations and Maintenance (O.L.D.) for this look at the Levee Maintenance Crew in action.

In remote areas or areas with minimal access, it's easier to apply herbicide to maintain the levee. The Levee Maintenance Crew must know when weather conditions allow herbicide application. Too much wind or rain, and the herbicide application either will not work or is unsafe. It's just another day of solid work for the Levee Maintenance Crew.



LA State Civil Service Reorganization

Civil Service Implements PODS Model

Effective March 11, 2019, State Civil Service (SCS) implemented its new model for delivering consultative services to state agencies — the PODS model — Proactively Optimizing and Delivering Strategic solutions, aimed at better serving the needs of state agencies. The PODS will consist of teams of SCS professionals who will dedicate their efforts to a small group of assigned state agencies to learn each agency's individual mission, vision, goals and workplace culture. PODS will directly collaborate with state agency leaders and human resources directors to provide support and guidance on routine civil service matters and proactive solutions to critical workforce needs, challenges and opportunities.

Under this new model of delivery, SCS will abolish the Employee Relations, Staffing and Compensation Divisions. The PODS will perform the duties of the former divisions in a single integrated unit, thereby eliminating division silos and striving for direct tailored consultation for each state agency.

SCS created four PODS that will each be headed by an Agency Relationship Manager (ARM). ARMs will be responsible for building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders: agency leaders and human resources directors. The SCS Chief Operating Officer, Brandy Malatesta, will oversee the operations of the PODS Model and directly supervise the ARMs. Levee districts are assigned to POD-D (Units of Local Government). Additional information is provided in SCS Circular 2019-008

IT Help Desk

Information Technology offers its thanks to everyone for using the FPA Helpdesk Ticketing System that was deployed in 2017. To date, 258 tickets were received. While this is a great achievement, it's imperative for everyone to continue its usage. The FPA helpdesk management tool is designed to provide our users with the following;

- ◇ Single Point of Communication
- ◇ Efficient Monitoring and Tracking
- ◇ Improved Customer (User) Relations
- ◇ Reduced Resolution Time

The FPA Helpdesk Ticketing system can be accessed in two ways.

When composing an email, click the ***“Address Book”*** and there is a ***“Help Desk”*** contact which is ***helpdesk@floodauthority.org***. As long as you add a ***subject in the “Subject Field” and provide a description of the issue in the body of the email, we will receive your ticket.*** This is the easiest and quickest way to receive a response.

Or

You can opt to go to ***support.floodauthority.org***, and at the top you'll see ***“New Ticket”*** where you can provide a ***detailed description and attach an image of the problem you are having.***

It's important to note, after submission, that a 2-hour response window should be allowed for all requests. However, IT understands that there are exceptions and will adjust its procedures/schedule accordingly. IT hopes to have your continued support, while continuing to provide support and assistance to the FPA team.

Roman Dody, MSCIS
Regional Director of Information Technology

Correction

In the February 15, 2019 edition of ***In The Levee Loop***, the article “FPA Uses Drone Technology to Advance Mission” incorrectly stated that “A score of 60 is considered passing,...” The quote should have read: “A score of 70 is considered passing,...”.

Parking Lot Safety

Drive Carefully in FPA Parking Lots - Parking Lot Etiquette is Expected

FPA employees and visitors alike are expected to respect safety rules and regulations on all Flood Protection Authority property including parking lots.

Parking lot safety is probably not what you are thinking upon entering a Flood Protection Authority Facility. Slower speeds may give you a false sense of security when in fact parking lots can be more dangerous than driving on a roadway. Both the driver and the pedestrian should remain vigilant to their surroundings. The driver should remember that restricted lanes and spaces in FPA parking lots leave little room for evasive actions to avoid an impact. A driver should constantly be looking from left to right and the pedestrian should always look to left and right before entering into a traffic lane. A thing to remember is that the driver will become a pedestrian and the pedestrian may become the driver.

Put down your cell phone, remain buckled-up, pay attention to your surroundings, drive at a slow rate of speed, follow the direction of the parking lot arrows and do not leave the traffic lane to avoid the speed bumps.

FPA Safety Team



Calendar of Events

March

March 21 (Thursday) - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony EJLD Safehouse and Consolidated Facility /
Board/Committee meetings

April

April 18 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

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

May

May 16 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

June

June 20 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

Reminders

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

Suggestions, comments, news items (weddings, births, significant anniversaries and other events you wish to share with your coworkers), original articles and other submittals are welcomed.

Editor: Glenda Boudreaux
Associate Editor: Wilma Heaton

Submittals can be placed in any "In the Levee Loop" suggestion box, emailed to gboudreaux@floodauthority.org or sent to Glenda Boudreaux, SLFPA-E, Airport Terminal, Suite 225, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.