

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

April 15, 2019

Message From the President

The email below was sent out about a week ago, from Earl Kugelmann, Director of Maintenance, to over 20 of his colleagues, some in Maintenance and some in other departments. I asked his permission to share it with you, for two reasons. First, the underlying message: our team, Authority-wide, came together as a team, and enjoyed great success. That's what we have been striving for over the past few years. This project is just one example of how that's happening on a daily basis. Congratulations. Second, the fact that one of our leaders takes the time to express, to a large group, his appreciation for and recognition of the cooperation, collaboration and coordination demonstrated, is a key component of building and sustaining our one-organization mindset. We are most capable when we function as one strong team. Frequently recognize your colleagues for a job well done, and reward your supervisees who step up. Well done, Earl. Thank you all for allowing the Board of Commissioners to share in your success.

Joe

All,

With the last of the Annual USACE Inspections concluding today, 4-2-19, with the Metro Polder for Orleans, I want to thank you and all of your employees for the great job, effort put forth and dedication that was exhibited in making these inspections a great success. Both the Engineering and Operations Divisions with USACE, CPRA and our FPA-E team members that were on the inspections in all three Districts of our Region were quite impressed on how well all the areas looked and were being maintained. I as well as others within our Agency were told how many improvements we made from last year in all areas of the Region.

I attribute our success as a Region to the collaborative effort that was put forth by each area of the Region coming together to assist each other in preparation for these Annual USACE Inspections. I am sure that we would have passed these inspections if each area stood alone, but the teamwork of the areas pulling together truly made a great impact on the overall greater success.

We, as a team and functioning as one unit, were able to overcome many obstacles along the way. These obstacles include but are not limited to: inspections having to be rescheduled, some several times, due to weather delays; having to handle high river inspections and at various times having the Bayou Bienvenue structure activated due to high tides. With all of these other concerns, we were able to get all of the inspections completed with USACE in all three areas of the Region from between the middle of January to the first two days of April. This was and is a monumental accomplishment. I thank you as leaders and all of our employees in the various departments for pulling together to make this year's inspections a great success and look forward to how we can build from here going forward.

Earl

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
Andrew J. Englande, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., DEE
Jason P. Latiolais
Herbert I. Miller, P.E.
Herbert T. Weysham, III

*“Greatness is not
found in possessions,
power, position, or
prestige.*

*It is discovered in
goodness, humility,
service, and
character.”*

*William Arthur
Ward*

Welcome New FPA Team Members



Albert Hynes
hired on 3/11/2019
Police Officer 3A
Orleans Police Department



Richard Witcher
hired on 3/11/2019
HVAC/Refrig. Master Mechanic
Orleans Maintenance Department



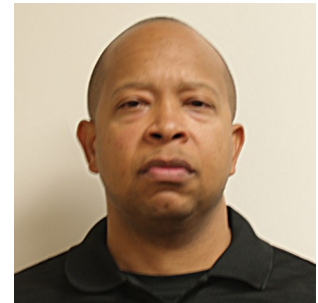
Celeste Wertz
hired on 3/25/2019
HR Specialist
Employee Services Department



Christopher Lucas
hired on 3/25/2019
Procurement Specialist 3
Purchasing Department (Orleans)



Carlos Collier
hired on 3/25/2019
Painter
Facilities Department (Orleans)



Joynal Abdin
hired on 3/25/2019
Police Officer 2A
Orleans Police Department

Congratulations on Promotion



Steven Durr
Facilities Maintenance Manager A
Maintenance Department (Orleans)
3/11/2019



Alvin Bedou
Police Sergeant
Orleans Police Department
3/13/2019



Carol Purcello
Administrative Assistant 4
EJ Police Department
3/25/2019

FPA Auction Is Great Success Due to Hard Work



The first combined Auction of surplus equipment and other items by the Orleans, East Jefferson and Lake Borgne Basin Levee Districts, along with a small contribution of items from the Non-Flood Protection Authority, was held on April 9th. The Auction was a great success with Lake Borgne leading the pack with a sales total of \$196,985.00, followed by Orleans with \$92,870.00, East Jefferson with \$61,450.00, and bringing up rear the Non-Flood Authority with \$8,300.00, for a grand total of \$359,605.00. A record setting 200+ bidders registered in person and 160 bidders on-line.

A big **“THANK YOU”** must be extended to the employees who worked hard and diligently to help the Auctioneer pull all the pieces together. There was great assistance given by the employees in the set-up and preparation before and in the overall activities provided during and after the sale.

Special recognition must be given to the following departments whose assistance was paramount in making this one of the best, most successful and well organized sales of surplus equipment and items.

O.L.D. Dept. 312 - Made Auction signage and placed the signage at strategic locations for public viewing, as well as assisted in arranging some of the items to be sold.

O.L.D. Dept. 314 - Moved, cleaned and arranged all equipment for easy tagging by auctioneer and easy viewing and access by auction goers. Before the auction they checked and jump started vehicles and during the auction they stayed just ahead of the auctioneer starting and jump starting vehicles so that top dollar would be received. They also assisted in airing tires or jump starting sold vehicles for easy removal from the O.L.D. facility.

O.L.D. Dept. 313 - Picked up and arranged barricades to properly cordon off and secure facility work areas, and safely directed visitor parking for pre-bid viewing, registration and auction, and after the auction for item pickup. They also assisted buyers with the loading of purchased goods.

E.J. & O.L.D. Dept. 200 - Provided security and a safe environment for the pre-bid viewing of auction items, as well as during and after the auction. They also directed the flow of traffic inside of the building for easy, safe and orderly access and egress for the after auction pickup of items purchased.

All worked like a well oil machine because of the comradery and teamwork exhibited by all who participated.

Bravo and Hats off to all for a job more than well done!

Contributed by Pam Zeringue, O.L.D. Procurement Manager 1



FPA IT Technology Featured in On-Line Tech Journal



In the March, 2019 issue, *govCIO Outlook*'s on-line journal which provides information and insight on technologies and technological advances and innovations used by governmental entities for managing and securing public infrastructure, includes a feature article written by two members of the FPA's executive staff – Derek Boese, CAO, (pictured left) and Roman Dody, Director of Information Technology (pictured right) — entitled “Evolving with Technology”.



The article introduces readers to the FPA and its flood defense mission, and its multi-year effort to upgrade its physical and cyber security while also improving operational monitoring. To read this informative article, please go to or click on:

<https://environmental-technology.govciooutlook.com/cxoinsights/evolving-with-technology-nid-511.html>

EJLD Safe Room & Consolidated Facility Ribbon Cutting



On a bright, sunny Thursday, March 21st, the FPA welcomed numerous elected and public officials, representatives from various entities and citizens to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the EJLD Safe Room and Consolidated Facility.

Guests were welcomed by Master of Ceremonies Rick Luettich, FPA Vice President, and Herb Miller, FPA Operations Chair, acknowledged special guests who were present. Speakers included Michael S. Yenni, President, Jefferson Parish, E. Ben Zahn, III, Mayor, City of Kenner, and Derek Boese, FPA Chief Administrative Officer.

Tours were offered after the ribbon cutting.



Speakers (above) Rick Luettich, (below) Herb Miller, Jefferson Parish President Mike Yenni, Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn and Derek Boese.



City of Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn presents a Proclamation recognizing the FPA (below)



EJLD Safehouse & Consolidated Facility



At the dedication of the new facility Vice President Rick Luettich stated that, “the Flood Protection Authority is driven by the charge that the next time the water comes, and it will come again, every part of the system must perform. To meet this charge we must have a well-designed and well-constructed system, we have to keep it well maintained, and we must have it expertly operated. This new state-of-the-art facility is one of the final pieces to one of, if not, the most preeminent, outstanding, capable flood protection systems in the world.” He also stressed three points to the public. First, if you live in this area, know your flood risk, know how vulnerable you are. Second, have an evacuation plan. An evacuation plan saves lives more than anything else. And, third, this new facility will make the FPA even able better to meet the charge that the system must perform and will perform the next time the water comes.



Operations Chair Herb Miller told reporters, “The new facility provides an area where we can house people during an emergency providing protection for winds up to 200 mph so that during a hurricane our staff will be safe and ready to go for emergency response as soon as the event is over.”



CAO Derek Boese summed up the reason for the new facility, “This facility is about taking care of people, both the employees and the communities that we serve.”



EJLD Police leadership (L-R): Capt. Donald Juneau, Police Chief Kerry Najolia and Capt. Terry Durnin

A Proclamation was presented by City of Kenner Mayor E. Ben Zahn, III, recognizing the flood defense system maintained and operated by the FPA as one of the strongest and largest in the world, and the well trained, dedicated employees of the FPA who are prepared to respond immediately to hurricane, high river and other potential threats.

Above top-down: Rick Luettich, Vice President, Herb Miller, Operations Chair, and Derek Boese, CAO.



Pictured left: Guests leave the maintenance area for the ribbon cutting, which took place at the entrance to the facility. Center: Reception area lighting. Right: Guests gathered in the parking lot in front of the new facility with the Mississippi River Levee in the background.

Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board



Ross Debouchel was recognized by the Board at its March 21st meeting as the FPA's Employee of the Month. The members of the Board recognized that the success of the FPA depends on FPA team members going above and beyond in their job performance and exemplifying the values of the FPA.

Rick Luetlich, FPA Vice President, explained to the public that the success of the FPA's world class flood defense system is due to the world class employees who operate the system.

Ross was hired as a Maintenance Repairman 2 on December 4, 2017. He is assigned to the flood gate crew. Since Ross joined the FPA team, he has proven himself to be a valuable asset. Ross has proven himself to be reliable and continuously displays a positive attitude. His willingness to help other employees both within and outside of his department is valued by all. Ross is always willing to learn new skills and learns these new skills by working with others and by following the instructions and teachings of those he is assisting.

Along the way, Ross began taking on other duties outside of his flood gate duties, such as performing plumbing repairs and being a member of one of the crews that conducts river levee inspections due to the high river levels. Ross's positive attitude, willingness to learn and his ability to step out of his comfort zone to hone new skills makes him an important and appreciated member of the flood gate team or any team he is assisting.

Ross's dedication to the FPA's flood protection mission and on the job versatility and willingness to contribute in whatever way needed makes him an essential member of the FPA team. Team members like Ross are critical to the success of the organization.

FPA Receives Proclamation from Jefferson Parish President



Jefferson Parish President Michael S. Yenni presented a Proclamation to the Flood Protection Authority at the March 21st Board meeting recognizing the FPA's world class Flood Defense System.

The Proclamation commends FPA employees for being well trained and prepared to respond immediately to hurricane threats.

The Proclamation also acknowledges the FPA's efforts to continuously and consistently inspect, exercise and maintain all components of the flood protection system year round.

Board Recognizes Police Officer of the Month



The Board recognized Officer Brad Baradell as the Police Employee of the Month for his dedication to the FPA and its mission and for his professionalism as a law enforcement officer.

Brad Baradell is a Police Officer 3A with the East Jefferson Levee District Police Department. Officer Baradell is mission focused and does his utmost at all times to carry out the mission of the FPA and the EJLD Police Department. He is always on time and properly attired. Officer Baradell strives to carry the sword when it comes to teamwork.

Officer Baradell recently conducted a traffic stop for minor traffic violations. Upon contacting the driver, he recognized suspicious activity related to narcotics. Looking beyond the traffic stop, Officer Baradell, with the assistance of Officer Kellie Lopardi, seized narcotics that were clearly intended for distribution from the vehicle and the driver. This dogged determination shows how a simple traffic stop resulted in a convicted felon, who was also in possession of a firearm and selling narcotics in Jefferson Parish, being taken off the streets.

Officer Baradell's attention to detail, willingness to go above and beyond, and his exemplification of the FPA's values, make him a critical member of the FPA team and the law enforcement community.

Administrative Employee of the Month



Tuyet Nguyen is an Account Manager 2 in the Finance Department. Tuyet started her career at the FPA as a temp worker while she was still in college and has served in multiple roles in the Finance Department since joining the organization in 2011. Tuyet's historical knowledge and understanding of accounting is outstanding, and she plays a vital role in complex accounting entries related to payroll and intercompany billings. In addition, Tuyet serves as the project lead on the annual budget each year, which consists of excel spreadsheets and formulas that are extremely complex and detailed. Tuyet did an excellent job of scheduling the budget meetings with all department Directors and providing data to the Finance Director to prepare for the Finance Committee meetings.

Tuyet also is a member of the Finance Culture team and provides feedback to the team on the impact of culture to the department.

Tuyet exemplifies all of the FPA values and her contribution and commitment to the FPA helps make the organization a success.

*"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."
Henry Ford*

FPA Board Recognizes Bob Turner for His Dedication and Contribution to Flood Protection



Bob Turner receives plaque from FPA Board for his dedication to flood protection and public service

The Board at its March 21st meeting recognized Bob Turner for his distinguished career in public service and his dedication and contributions to flood protection.

Bob Turner, FPA Director of Engineering, retired from the FPA and from State service on February 11th to continue his career as a public servant as the General Superintendent of Operations for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO).

Rick Luettich, FPA Vice President, personally thanked Bob for the help he provided, especially when he was first appointed to serve on the Board, on behalf of the FPA for the countless number of hours he spent leading the organization, and on behalf of the citizens of the Greater New Orleans area for his efforts on the perimeter defense system and interior drainage.

Bob was appointed to serve as Executive Director of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District on January 1, 2001. As the LBBLD Executive Director, in addition to his many accomplishments, he directed the unwatering activities in St. Bernard Parish after Hurricane Katrina. Levee District employees unwatered the entire Parish in less than two weeks utilizing the drainage pump stations and strategically located levee openings.

On October 18, 2007, Bob was appointed to serve as the Regional Director for the Flood Protection Authority. In addition to the overall management of the Authority and levee districts, he was responsible for the coordination of all engineering activities associated with the rebuilding of the flood protection system to pre-Katrina standards and the subsequent construction of Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) improvements within the FPA's jurisdiction estimated at \$7 billion. In addition to Bob's many notable achievements, he served as the State Representative on the National Committee for Levee Safety, which was created by Congress in 2007 to develop recommendations for a National Levee Safety Program, and is responsible for the FPA's partnership with I-STORM, an international group of surge barrier owners and operators.

With the consolidation of the levee districts and restructuring of the FPA in 2017 to achieve cohesiveness, consistencies and efficiencies, Bob was appointed to serve as the Director of Engineering so that he could focus his attention on the maintenance of the critically important flood defense system and the upcoming recertification of the HSDRRS.

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 SWBNO 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, was under temporary assignment to the SWBNO since August of 2017 providing knowledge and expertise to help resolve the City's pumping and drainage issues.

Bob will be sorely missed by the Board and his colleagues at the FPA who wish him great success in his important new role at the SWBNO where he will continue to provide invaluable service for the public and partner with the FPA on mutual flood control interests.

FPA Team Participates in I-STORM Galveston Workshop



FPA team members Gerry Gillen, Operations Director, Darren Austin, Engineer 6, and Jacinta Gisclair, Engineer 4, attended the Coastal Texas Gate Design Workshop sponsored by I-STORM, in Galveston, TX, in March to participate in the study of the type or combination of types of structures that would be best for the Galveston Entrance Channel.

In the spirit of the I-STORM network, our team members were not only able to bring first hand knowledge and experience to the table to assist a community in a neighboring state with flood defense, but also gained valuable information and insight brought to the table by colleagues who deal first hand with the management, maintenance and operation of storm surge barriers.

The following quote from an email from Sharon Manzella Tirpak, Deputy Chief Project Management Branch, USACE Galveston District, sums up the importance of such workshops, "I would like to express, on behalf of the Coastal Texas Study Team, our thanks to the I-STORM Network for sponsoring the Coastal Texas Gate Design Workshop this past week, especially Marc Walraven and Andy Batchelor. This was a new type of undertaking for the Network and I think we all agree that it was a tremendous success. Also, we would like to thank the members of I-STORM (both near and far) who participated. Your expertise and knowledge on the design, construction, operations and maintenance of large coastal structures is invaluable to the study team as we move forward in completing our feasibility report. The team still has plenty of work to do to complete the study, but the discussions and recommendations from the group have provided us more clarity on the type or combination of types of structures that would be best for the Galveston Entrance Channel. We greatly appreciate everyone's contribution!"



Northwest University Police Motorcycle Graduates



Congratulations to the newest members of the Orleans Levee District and East Jefferson Levee District Motorcycle Division. The graduates were Josh Martin, Sean West, Gerard Duplessis and Robert Tervis, along with State Trooper Bruce Billings.

In a collaborative effort, Lt. Ed Brauner (O.L.D.), Deputy Glen Markham (St. Bernard's Sheriffs Department), and Lt. Marcus Smith (LA State Police) instructed and guided officers through the Northwest University Police Motorcycle Operator's Course.

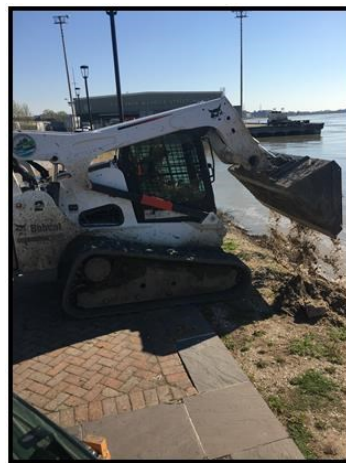
The training included 80 hours of mastering strategic cone exercises and 40 hours of Motorcade Escort Procedures stressing coordination communication and control.

With the completion of this course, both the Orleans Levee District and the East Jefferson Levee District now have six Motorcycle Officers trained and ready for both patrol and escorts.

Submitted by Lieutenant Edwin T. Brauner, O.L.D. Police



FPA Team Completes River Repairs at Gov. Nicholls Wharf



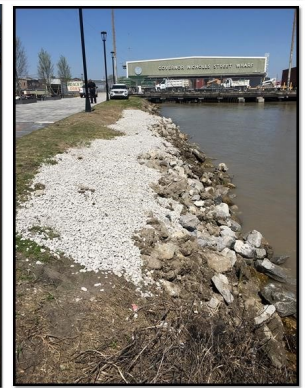
When high river stages threaten the New Orleans area, the FPA steps up to help partnering agencies tasked with flood protection.

On Tuesday, March 19, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requested assistance from the FPA's Levee Maintenance Crew to bolster an area upstream from the Governor Nicholls Street Wharf that had been washed out by the high river stages.

The Levee Maintenance Crew first secured the area to prevent injury to anyone who may be in the area. Then, police were notified so they could monitor the area more closely and be present to protect the Crew during work.

The crew got to work early Wednesday morning and were complete by Thursday morning. By Thursday night, residents in the area could sleep safe and secure thanks to the quiet and efficient work of the FPA Levee Maintenance Team and Police.

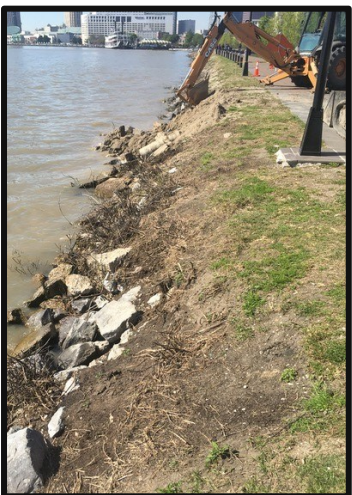
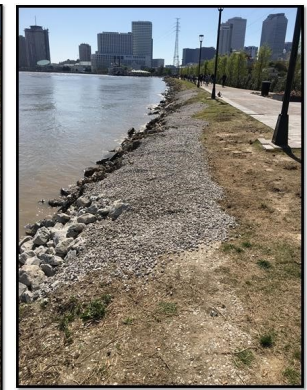
Team members from the Lake Borgne, East Jefferson and Orleans Levee Districts joined forces to complete this important project.



Pictured immediate above and below are the results of the FPA's efforts:

Before (left)

After (right)



Members of the Levee Maintenance Crew who performed the work on the project are Jaurel Aisola, Shawn Boudoin, Roddy Davis, George Granger, Erik Guess, Lyonel Hill, Rontrell Jones, Tyus Long, Michael Moore and Darrin Richards. Carroll Barriere, O&M Coordinator, supervised the crew and provided the information for this article. O.L.D. Police Officer Vance Bieniemy provided security for the project.

Pictures along top and bottom of the article show the work in progress.

Reflections

As I sit and reflect on East Jefferson moving into a new state of the art building and all the potential and possibilities, I also reflect on spending 18 years of my life at the old complex on Lesan. This is the building I grew up in, learned police work, made friends and had many laughs. I sit and reflect on all the great people who impacted both my life and career. These people made me who I am today and I will always be thankful. Lesan was my home and I will always think fondly of the old days. But, great things happen to great people and March 21, 2019 was the mark of something special.



The ribbon cutting ceremony is traditionally used to symbolize a new beginning and fresh start.

Now I look at our future and am filled with pride. This new complex puts both East Jefferson Police and Maintenance on the map.

I can't express how much I thank Derek Boese, Joe Hassinger and all Board Members Past and Present who have had a vital role in this building coming to fruition. This complex is our footprint into the community and creates pride in all that work inside. It is special to know we are the first to set foot in this complex and I guarantee we will set the bar high for generations to follow.

To all East Jefferson Employees: In this house we are all family.

Captain Terry Durnin, East Jefferson Levee District Police

EJ Police Welcome New Administrative Assistant

It is with great privilege that I announce the hiring of Carol Purcello as the new EJ Police Administration Assistant IV. She brings enthusiasm, knowledge and great character to the police department. We are all excited to have her on our team.

Captain Terry Durnin, East Jefferson Levee District Police

Franklin Facility Renovations Update



Renovations of the warehouse building to provide office space for Engineering, Operations and GIS staff are anticipated to be complete as of the end of April. The permanent furniture will be arriving on the 22nd and 29th of April, which will allow the Engineering, Operations and GIS staff to move into their permanent offices.

The Franklin Administration Building staff will be relocated to temporary locations as the demolition in the Administration Building is slated to start the week of May 6th. Renovations are expected to last through July.



Safety Message - Spring has Sprung!

SPRING

Birds are singing, flowers are blooming, plants are growing, and flying, slithering, creeping, crawling, itchy, biting, stinging critters are coming out of their winter hiding places to make up for lost time. Contact with one or more of these pesky creatures may require a quick trip to the nearest E. R.



Avoid contact and never burn poisonous plants. Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac plants produce a poisonous oil. Even a very small amount of the poisonous oil on your skin, clothing or in the air may cause a severe allergic reaction. Wash contacted skin area and clothing with a degreasing soap and rinse well. Seek medical attention asap.



Bees and Wasp are beginning their pollination period are not aggressive unless threatened or disturbed. Bee and wasp nesting locations should be reported so others may avoid the stinging environment.



Mosquitoes, fleas and ticks are disease carrying blood sucking insects that prey on warm blooded humans and animals. Long sleeve clothing may prevent pesky insects from feasting on you. Insect Spray containing "Deet", used as directed, seems to be effective.



Snakes are coming out of their winter boroughs looking for a place to bask in the sun. Snakes are not aggressive except when defending themselves or attempting to capture prey. If you encounter a snake... simply leave it alone.

Take care, be aware and enjoy this beautiful spring weather.

The Safety Team



Calendar of Events

April

April 18 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

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

May

May 16 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

May 27 (Monday) - Memorial Day (pending declaration of holiday by Governor)

June

June 20 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

July

July 4 (Thursday) - Fourth of July (State Holiday)

July 18 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

Reminders

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

Notes:

The 2019 Regular Session of the Louisiana State Legislature started on April 8th and will end on June 6th.

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.