

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

May 15, 2019

Message From the President

The Flood Protection Authority faces the challenge of preparing for hurricane season, which starts on June 1st, while continuing focus and efforts on the prolonged high river flood fight.

Meteorologists are predicting that river flooding may continue into mid-June as floodwaters continue to drain from heavy rains and melting snow upstream. The river has been over 11.0-ft. at the Carrollton gage for over six months. The Bonnet Carre Spillway was reopened for an unprecedented second time during the same high water event.

As the river flood fight continues and preparations ramp up for the hurricane season, the Flood Protection Authority cannot lose focus and must remain vigilant to ensure that “when the water comes every component of the flood defense system performs.”

The Flood Protection Authority has shown itself to be up to the task with the tremendous job that was done preparing for the Corps of Engineers annual inspections. I know all of the employees remain committed and dedicated to the FPA’s mission to ensure the physical, operational and financial integrity of the regional flood defense system that safeguard our families, friends and communities.

I, as well as the grateful citizens of the Greater New Orleans Area, thank you for your dedication, perseverance and outstanding service.

Joe

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr., - President
Richard A. Luettich, Jr., ScD - Vice President
Clay A. Cosse' - Secretary
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*“Have the courage
to say no. Have the
courage to face the
truth. Do the right
thing because it is
right. These are the
magic keys to living
your life with
integrity.”*

W. Clement Stone

Louisiana State Employees Recognized

The week of May 5-11, 2019, was designated as Louisiana State Employee Appreciation Week to recognize State employees for their dedication and contributions to the State and for their service to the public.

State Civil Service Director Byron P. Decoteau, Jr., extended his gratitude to all State employees and wrote, “As a state employee, you are making a difference in moving Louisiana forward. Far too often your dedication and commitment is overshadowed by perceptions that portray government workers as inefficient. I know differently, as I have seen firsthand the vigilant efforts of the vast majority. You must continue to rise above these perceptions and take every opportunity to showcase the value you provide to the citizens of our State. Your individual efforts are making tremendous impacts in Louisiana's ability to provide for the health, safety and welfare of our citizens among a host of other critical services.”

The Flood Protection Authority has designated May 16th as “Safety Awareness and Employee Appreciation Day” to recognize its dedicated, hard working team members who provide the expertise and services required to make the organization a success and ensure the successful management, operation, maintenance and integrity of the critically important flood defense system.

Welcome New FPA Team Members



Alanna Bailey-Kelly
Administrative Coordinator 4
FPA Engineering Department
hired on 4/8/2019



Melissa Bailey
Accountant 4
FPA Finance Department
hired on 4/8/2019



Christopher Humphreys
FPA Director of Engineering
hired on 4/15/2019



Joshua Edwards
Mobile Equipment Operator 2
East Jefferson
hired on 4/22/2019



Kenneth Encalade
Mobile Equipment Operator 2
Lake Borgne
hired on 4/22/2019



Michael Williams
Mechanic 3 at Orleans
hired on 4/22/2019

Congratulations on Promotion



Kenneth Thompson
Mechanic 3 - Orleans
4/8/2019



Michael Brenckle
Police Captain A - OLDPD
4/22/2019



Coy Canulette
Police Lieutenant - EJLD PD
4/23/2019

FPA Welcomes New Engineering Director



Chris Humphreys joined the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East as Director of Engineering on April 15, 2019. He is a registered professional engineer in Louisiana and Mississippi with technical expertise in geotechnical engineering and construction quality control testing and inspection. He has over 30 years of foundation design experience throughout southeast Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Prior to joining the FPA Chris was Executive Vice President of a national engineering firm, Professional Service Industries, Inc., with overall responsibility for operations throughout the southeastern US. Some notable projects on which he served in a technical engineering as well as executive project management role include the \$1B, 470,000 square foot New Orleans VA Medical Center, the Huey P. Long Bridge Widening Approach Ramps and Cross Bayou Pump Station. He also participated on numerous HSDRRS projects including the Permanent Canal Closure Pump Stations, Lake Borgne Surge Barrier and numerous levee projects.

Chris is very active in professional societies having served as past president of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Concrete Institute and was the 2017 Louisiana Section President of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He received the ASCE New Orleans Branch Outstanding Civil Engineer award in 2012.

Chris is a lifelong resident of Louisiana originally from Baton Rouge until he graduated from LSU with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering in 1980. He has been a resident of New Orleans or the surrounding area since 1982 and currently resides in Destrehan. He is married to Monica for 36 years with two grown children. He enjoys fishing and hunting and is an active runner having completed three marathons and numerous half marathons.

Introducing the New Commander of OLDPD



Michael Brenckle has been promoted to the position of Captain and serves as the Commander of the Orleans Levee District Police Department. Capt. Brenckle joined the Flood Protection Authority in September, 2017, and served as a Police Officer 2A for the East Jefferson Levee District Police Department and as a Task Force Officer for the Drug Enforcement Administration prior to his promotion.

Capt. Brenckle came to the FPA with an extensive background and a wide-range of experience in law enforcement. Capt. Brenckle joined the New Orleans Police Department in July of 1989, and served in a number of roles including Patrol Officer, Task Force Officer with the Mobile Task Force, Investigator in the Public Integrity Bureau, Platoon Commander, Commander of the Bourbon Street-Eighth District, and in the Office of the Superintendent, Public Affairs. He left the NOPD in August, 2017.

Capt. Brenckle is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, Session 315 (Evanston, IL). He studied Criminal Justice at Holy Cross College and Delgado Community College, and General Studies at the University of New Orleans.

In addition to numerous letters of commendation and appreciation, Capt. Brenckle received a Medal of Achievement in 2015 and the Unit Citation with the Mobile Task Force.

Capt. Brenckle was recognized by the FPA as the Police Officer of the Month for March, 2018, for his alertness and professionalism in responding to a potential kidnapping and domestic abuse situation.

Employee Services' Marine Group Visit



On April 5, 2019, at the request of the New Orleans, Louisiana Society for Human Resource Management (NOLA SHRM), Employee Services hosted a group of Marines who had expressed interest in a Human Resources career path.

The visit helped the Marines gain insight into the day-to-day work experiences of an HR business partner and how their skills could transition to civilian life.



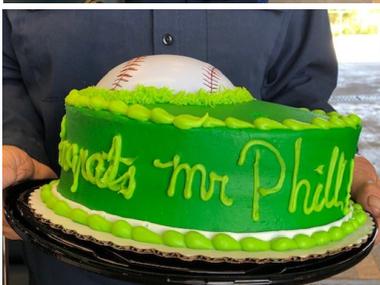
During the meeting, Employee Services gave a presentation that highlighted the FPA's mission and the roles and responsibilities of Employee Services and how Employee Services partners with other departments to accomplish the Agency's mission. Additionally, each Employee Services team member gave a brief presentation on the special projects that they are currently tasked. The visit was closed with a Q&A session and pictures!

EJ Police Mechanic Mr. Phil Retires from FPA



Due to unforeseen circumstances and personal obligations, EJ Police Mechanic, Mr. Phil Bacino, gave notice that May 7th, 2019 would be his last day of employment. Although his service time to the District was over a span of 10 years, he has worked in the auto mechanical field all his life and is just turning a young age of 80 years old!

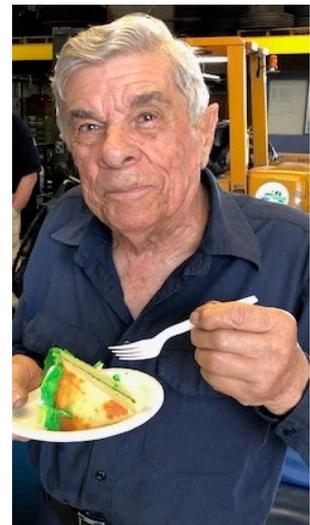
The EJ Police Department made last minute arrangements ordering a "Congrats on your Retirement" Cake and a "Good Luck " Hallmark card to present to Mr. Phil.



His cake was decorated for one his favorite pastimes, the love of Baseball!

Mr. Phil was also awarded an EJLD Police Challenge Coin for **Outstanding Dedication and Service to the Authority.**

Photos by Captain Donald Juneau



IHNC Surge Barrier and PCCP Tours Anticipated to Increase



Some of the distinguished groups recently touring the FPA facilities include the Taiwanese Delegation from the Taoyuan City Department of Water Resources (top left), Massachusetts Institute of Technology Alumni (top right), IJNR (Group of 22 Journalists) (bottom left), and Firehouses 13 and 14 (bottom right).



An increase in the number of tours is expected with the spring - summer months and the start of Hurricane Season on June 1st.



Update on Franklin Complex Renovations



The construction of office space in the Warehouse building for Engineering, Operations and GIS staff has been completed. All staff currently located in the Franklin Administration Building have been moved into the new warehouse offices and demolition in the Franklin Administration Building has begun.

Renovations of the Administration building expect to be completed in August.



After all renovations are completed the Finance and Employee Services staff will be moved back to their permanent offices in the Administration building and the Engineering, Operations and GIS staff will be able to spread out in their new facilities located in the warehouse.

Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board



Brittany Roberts was recognized by the Board at its April 18th meeting as the FPA's Employee of the Month. Brittany is an Engineering Technician 3 in the EOC/Survey Department.

President Hassinger advised everyone attending the meeting that the FPA has been implementing many positive changes to the organization that can only be successful with team members like Brittany on board. He thanked Brittany for her contribution to the organization.

Brittany has consistently proven to be an effective and very capable member of the EOC/Survey Department. She frequently contributes to the Department's overview discussions and has recommended scheduling and routing ideas that have saved days of regular inspection time. She is precise in every job function, vitalizes the group atmosphere and can work with total autonomy without missing a step. In the last two quarters, Brittany has spearheaded scheduling communications with East Jefferson and Lake Borgne for multi-lateral inspections as well as for surge barrier inspections.

In the past two months, Brittany has been called upon to assist with high river inspections in Lake Borgne due to her familiarity with the area from her time as a Trades Apprentice and Pump Operator. After Brittany completes the inspection of the prescribed area, she returns to the office and makes a full contribution with no recognizable interruption in her stride.

Brittany's contribution to the EOC/Survey Department, and her willingness to take on additional responsibilities, make her essential to the success of the FPA and its flood defense mission. She exhibits all of the FPA's values in the daily performance of her job, and her professionalism, teamwork and mission focus is appreciated by her fellow team members.

Brittany is also working to obtain her Masters in Civil Engineering from UNO, in addition to working full time for the FPA.

The FPA is fortunate to have Brittany as a member of its team and the FPA team wishes her great success in her career.

LASERS New "Ready to Retire" Section on Website

The preparations leading up to retirement involve teamwork that includes the employee, the agency, and LASERS. An important element in the retirement process is time, so planning is critical. LASERS encourages employees who are planning to retire to start the retirement process 12 months before their planned retirement date.

To help retirement applicants begin the process, LASERS has a new **Ready to Retire** section on its website <https://lasersonline.org/>, which includes a comprehensive checklist of recommended steps starting 12-18 months out from the target retirement date, a list of forms to complete, an explanation of what to expect as an applicant for retirement, and helpful resources for retirement planning.

Police Employee of the Month



Police Officer Matthew White was recognized by the Board at its April 18th meeting as the Police Employee of the Month. President Hassinger announced at the meeting that Officer White was not only nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Police Employee of the Month, but that he is also a new father with a new son who would be coming home soon from the hospital. He told the Board and audience that the professionalism and performance of officers such as Officer White makes the police function of the FPA a success.

Matthew White is a Police Officer 2-A with the EJLD Police Department and was selected because of his contribution on a day-to-day basis. Officer White conducted a traffic stop in the 6000 block of Jefferson Highway. The stop led the officer to the driver having a suspended driver's license which led to his physical arrest. Officer White conducted a search incident to a lawful arrest. He checked the driver's wallet for identification and discovered a tin foil packet. Investigating the matter further Officer White requested that a Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office (JPSO) crime scene unit come to the location. The tin packet was tested and the contraband tested positive for LSD. Officer White completed a vehicle inventory of the vehicle and during the inventory looked inside of a bag of onion rings to find a clear package containing crystals. JPSO tested the content, which tested positive for Crystal Meth.

Officer White personifies the values of the FPA and demonstrates the professionalism of a skilled law enforcement officer. He is an outstanding example of the Police Department's commitment to the FPA's mission and is a valuable asset to the FPA, the law enforcement community and the public.

Operations Employee of the Month



Ken Johnson was hired on May 1, 2018 as the Operations PCCP (Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps) Power Generations Manager. Ken's vast knowledge of Caterpillar power generation and maintenance requirements have been a real asset to this organization and to the training of the PCCP team. He has maintained FPA operation and maintenance logs for documentation purposes as required for the CPRA and USACE. He has also maintained a repair and outstanding issues log during the USACE contractor's warranty period for those problem issues identified during regular operations and maintenance duties.

Recently, two issues arose particularly at the Orleans Avenue PCCP with electric power supplied by Entergy that was causing the small generator to turn on and run unnecessarily. Ken identified the problem with close coordination and monitoring equipment with Entergy and recommended a solution to improve the small generator run times. Ken submitted two Requests for Technical Assistance to CPRA and the USACE outlining the existing power issues and solutions. The recommendations were to change the medium voltage sequence of operation in order to utilize the generated power to its fullest and to change the utility switchboard closed transition. Both solutions were approved by the USACE and have recently been implemented at all three PCCP stations through an FPA contract with Louisiana Caterpillar.

Ken has a great sense of humor for a Kiwi, doesn't look so great with either long hair or a buzz cut, states Operations Director Gerry Gillen, (he raises money for St Baldrick's Foundation for children with cancer) and enjoys New Orleans Gold rugby.

Teamwork - Preparations for Annual Levee Inspections



The Corps of Engineers Annual Levee Inspections were a great success due to the hard work and remarkable collaboration by the FPA Levee Maintenance Team. Every maintenance concern and detail was addressed by our highly skilled team members utilizing a wide range of equipment from hand held to heavy construction.

The dedication and effort put forth by our outstanding Levee Maintenance Team assures the public that the flood defense system will meet the challenge — “When the water comes, every component of the system must perform, to prevent storm surge from destroying lives and property.”

Thanks to Carroll Barriere, O&M Coordinator, for providing the pictures in this article.



Hurricane Season Starts June 1st

Be Personally Prepared for Hurricane Season



Many organizations are gearing up for Hurricane Season. The National Weather Service (NWS) observed May 5-11 as Hurricane Preparedness Week, and urges the public to begin preparations now. The NWS cautions, “If you wait until a hurricane is on your doorsteps, the odds are that you will be under duress and will make the wrong decisions. Take the time now to write down your hurricane plan. Know where you will ride out the storm and get your supplies now. You don’t want to be standing in long lines when a hurricane warning is issued. Those supplies that you need will probably be sold out by the time you reach the front of the line.”

The internet is filled with important messages, instructions and videos from organizations like the National Weather Service (weather.gov/hurricane), Red Cross (<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane.html>) and FEMA (ready.gov/hurricanes). Their websites provide a wealth of information on things that we can do now and before a storm approaches in order to prepare and protect our families and our homes. Recommendations include:

- ◆ Develop a personal evacuation plan.
- ◆ Create a communications plan (both for family and work).
- ◆ Have adequate supplies on hand (food and water per person for at least a week, fill prescriptions and have important items such as medicines, radios, batteries and phone chargers).
- ◆ Update your insurance coverage (know where your insurance documents are and take them with you if you evacuate).
- ◆ Prepare your home (trim trees, secure loose outdoor items and cover all windows).
- ◆ Gas up vehicles.
- ◆ Have extra cash on hand.
- ◆ And, most importantly, don’t forget to help your neighbor and those who need assistance.

The Flood Protection Authority has been preparing as an organization and urges its team members not to neglect their personal/family preparation plans and needs.

Update on LPV 109.02a Levee Lift-Armoring Project

The FPA requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) raise LPV 109.02a in New Orleans East in conjunction with its armoring project (ARM 05). The subsiding levee sections were raised under the USACE contract back up to the levee design grade. The USACE’s contractor is pictured below laying sod on HPTRM (High Performance Turn Reinforcement Mat). (Picture taken on April 17, 2019)



Message from the FPA Safety Team



HOT · · HOT · · HOT !

Summer Days Are Approaching!

Working in hot conditions is a definite safety concern. Many workers become sick every year from exposure to heat. Some even die. Heat illness can strike any employee whether they work indoors or outdoors. Workers who are exposed to hot humid conditions are at greater risk especially those doing heavy work and those who have not built up tolerance to hot humid conditions. Heat illness and death are preventable if you learn the warning signs and take the appropriate actions.

Heat Illness Prevention:

- Stay hydrated drink 1 cup (4oz) of water or sports drink every 15 minutes even if you are not thirsty. Do not drink caffeine, alcohol or carbonated beverages.
- Wear a wide brim hat and loose light colored clothing.
- Take frequent 10 minute breaks every 2 hours in the shade if possible.
- Call you supervisor or tell a nearby coworker to call a supervisor if you are not feeling good, get into shaded area and remove excess clothing to allow perspiration to evaporate.

Heat Illness:

The two types of types of heat related illnesses that require immediate medical attention are Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke.

Heat Exhaustion: **Call 911**

Heat Exhaustion is the lessor of the two and if it goes untreated will lead to heat stroke. The symptoms are heavy sweating, rapid breathing, fast pulse, weakness, headache and cramps.

- Move the person to a cool place air conditioned if possible.
- Remove excess clothing.
- Lay the person down, raise feet above heart level.
- Feed cool water or sports drink if not vomiting.
- Place cool compresses on head, behind neck, under arms, behind knees.
- Mist/wet body down
- Fan body

Heat Stroke: **Call 911**

Heat Stroke is a life threatening condition and requires immediate attention. The symptoms are elevated temperature, dry hot reddish skin, rapid fast or slow heartbeat, headache, chills, fever, confusion/ disorientation, slurred speech, possible loss of consciousness and seizures.

- Move person to a cool place, air conditioned if possible
- Lay person down, raise and prop feet,
- Turn person to the side if nauseated, heaving or vomiting
- Do not give fluids...water or sports drink!
- Wet person down
- Place cold towels on forehead, at the back of neck, armpits, back of knees, groin area
- Fan person
- Seizures - Hold body down to prevent injuries

FPA Safety Team

Reaching Out to Our Neighbors



OLDPD Officers Participate in Lake Terrace Easter Egg Hunt

OLDPD Officers Lt. Albert Pellitteri, PO III Jerald Holmes (pictured right), and PO Tammy Canfield attended the Lake Terrace Easter Egg Hunt. The officers handed out "Police Officers are our Friends" books as well as color changing pencils, cups, candy, and OLDPD bracelets.

GEM - Going the Extra Mile

The following letter was received from Deputy Constable and training Director Jacques S. Battiste offering a personal thanks to Lieutenant Al Pellitteri, Mary Johnson, Chenier Mathews and the entire Orleans Levee District Police Department for Going the Extra Mile.

May 2, 2019

Kerry Najolia - Chief of Police
Orleans Levee District Police Department

Subject: Personal Thanks and Appreciation for Providing Usable Training Space

Dear Sir:

First, I wish to thank you and the entire Orleans Levee Board Police Department Inc. for partnership and collaborative efforts as our office functions in the same area as your police station. As you may be aware, I conducted extensive training for several of our officers on March 27 and April 8, 2019. In both instances your command executive staff were kind enough to not only schedule the space and reserve it, but to also provide logistical support for our officers who attended on both days. The training was critically needed and the ability to have a venue close to our operating area was priceless.

I wish to also personally recognize the efforts of Training Director Lieutenant A. Pellitteri, Executive Office Manager M. Johnson, and Dispatcher Chenier Mathews, who represented the standards of the Levee Board in its highest levels of excellence and tradition! They were professional, courteous and very congenial to the officers visiting and made the entire training iteration flow seamlessly.

Your generosity of the use of your station, served to meet many needs of the overall events, which also served to help heighten the level of awareness by all of the deputy constables who attended.

I look forward to future collaborative efforts and support and work to enhance our already excellent relationship, on behalf of our Constable Lambert C. Boissiere, Jr.

I close with a simple statement of "**Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome...Arthur Ashe.**"

Warmest Regards, Jacques S. Wattiste, Training Coordinator/Deputy Constable
Orleans Parish Constables Office First City Court

News Updates

FPA Executive and Maintenance staff participated in the 34th Annual Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana Workshop on May 2nd - 3rd. The program included comments in the opening session from Mark Wingate, Deputy District Engineer, USACE, New Orleans District; Chip Kline, Chairman, CPRA; Stephen Gambrell, Executive Vice President of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association; and Shawn Wilson, DOTD Secretary. The Program included updates and presentations on a variety of important subjects including hurricane preparedness, GOMESA and RESTORE funding and the Watershed Initiative.



FPA staff attended the National Hurricane Conference held in New Orleans on April 22nd thru 25th. The primary goal of the National Hurricane Conference was to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in order to save lives and property in the United States and the tropical islands of the Caribbean and Pacific. In addition, the conference serves as a national forum for federal, state and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve Emergency Management

Calendar of Events

May

May 16 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings (St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers)

Safety Awareness and Employee Appreciation Day Meeting (Franklin Avenue Facility)

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

June

June 1 (Saturday) - Start of Hurricane Season

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.