

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

June 15, 2019



Message From the President

We were pleased to welcome Governor Edwards, CPRA Chair Chip Kline, Mayor Cantrell, GOHSEP Director James Waskom, Col. Murphy and several of our outstanding legislators and state and local counterparts to the PCCPs last week.

Your dedication and skill, coupled with their strong partnership, results in the citizens in our jurisdiction being well-served.

I will say it again — you folks are an impressive bunch! Unequaled capabilities and unwavering commitment!

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

* * *

*“Collaboration
and cooperation
will beat
competition
every time.”*

Gail Lynn Goodwin

* * *

FPA Safety Awareness & Employee Appreciation Day

The FPA observed Safety Awareness and Employee Appreciation Day on May 16th. The FPA team gathered in the Franklin Facility warehouse and enjoyed a meal that included crawfish and other great southern foods by NOLA Boils (pictures on page 4).



CAO Derek Boese discussed the mission of the FPA and hurricane preparedness. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to team members with a 2018 anniversary of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service (pictures of team members on page 5).

Rusty Kennedy, Assistant CAO, gave a presentation on the topic of safety and discussed the FPA's Safety Culture Initiative, safety trends for the years 2014-2018 and the subject of heat stress. Recommendations developed by the Safety Culture Initiative Focus Group are listed on page 12.

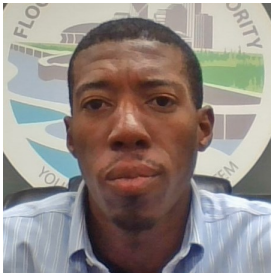
Welcome New FPA Team Members



Herman Braud
Mobile Equipment Operator 1 (Orleans)
Hired on 5/6/2019



Percy Jefferson
Laborer (Orleans)
Hired on 5/6/2019



Kentrell Williams
Mobile Equipment Operator 1 (Orleans)
Hired on 5/6/2019



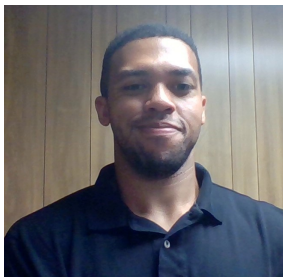
Benjamin Francois
Laborer at Orleans
Hired on 5/6/2019



Duane Gayden
Mobile Equipment Operator 1 (Orleans)
Hired on 5/6/2019



Kendrick Dupre
Laborer (Orleans)
Hired on 5/6/2019



Trai Thomas
Public Relations/Marketing Student Intern
Hired on 5/13/2019

Best Wishes on Retirement



Philip Bacino
Mechanic (EJLD)
Retired on 5/11/2019



Jonell Cangelosi
Special Assistant (EJLD)
Retired on 6/8/2019

FPA Student Intern Program

In the Levee Loop will be introducing the capable enthusiastic individuals selected to participate in the FPA's new Student Intern Program over the upcoming months. The Student Interns will not only provide assistance to the departments to which they are assigned, but will also gain real world working experience that will help further their careers. The Interns will be assigned specific duties and responsibilities commensurate with their education, skills and abilities. The Interns will also be encouraged to provide fresh new ideas to their FPA colleagues.

Trai Thomas was selected to join the FPA team as a Public Relations/Marketing Intern. In this position Trai will collaborate with and assist Public Information Director Antwan Harris in the area of social media, promoting the FPA and its mission, communications, tours and special events. Trai brings with him excellent technical, marketing and communication skills along with knowledge and experience that will serve the FPA well.

Applications were received from interested candidates to serve as an Engineering Student Intern and Human Resources Student Intern. The applications were reviewed and interviews are being conducted to select the individuals to fill these two positions. The individuals selected for these internships will be introduced in the next edition of *In the Levee Loop*.

Introducing Trai Thomas, Public Relations Intern

My name is Trai Thomas and I am a recent graduate of Louisiana State University and in my time there, I was the president of the residential housing association, a member of LSU's rugby league, cinematographer/editing intern for TedxTalks LSU, assistant directing intern for The National WWII Museum, and producer/videographer for the LSU Reveille. One of my largest achievements is the video production company, which I founded at just nineteen years old and still reside as CEO of today *Trai Thomas Media*.

Since graduating from LSU I have filled the role of video intern with zlien, an online administrative construction company that was recently touted as the number one small business in Louisiana according to Business Insider Magazine. In that position, I worked diligently to increase the number of views, qualified leads, & inquiries generated from video platforms and content that I produced. I wrote scripts based on our most popular online blog articles, filmed pieces of content using high profile cameras (Canon C-100, Canon 70D, Arri Alexa Mini), and edited that content for digital distribution using the most proficient programs (FCPX, Adobe Premiere Pro, After Effects).

Most recently I was brought on as the Director of Marketing for Seiler Tucker Business Brokers. In this role, I was the head of the marketing division managing all external and internal components associated with running the largest business brokerage firms in Louisiana! I am also currently pursuing my Master of the Arts degree from Southern University at New Orleans, in the number one museum studies program in Louisiana.

In conclusion, I am an eager and hard-working marketer excited to understand the in's and out's of our levee system through the Flood Protection Authority and can't wait to learn more moving forward.



Trai Thomas

This young African-American filmmaker born and based out of New Orleans Louisiana has his film degree from LSU & is currently receiving his Masters from SUNO.

Trai is the director, cinematographer, and editor of short films, commercials, documentaries, testimonials, concerts, music videos, and more.

Trai has also served as a Director of Marketing for the largest business brokerage firm in Louisiana and is well versed in all areas of digital marketing including: emails, paid ads, SEO, and more.

Safety Awareness & Employee Appreciation Day



Safety Awareness and Employee Appreciation Day



Glenda Boudreaux
45 Years



Trocchiano Dennis
40 Years



Mark Theard
35 Years



Jerry Latapie
30 Years



Carol Kiefer
25 Years



Stevan Spencer
25 Years



Kenny Albarado
20 Years



Adele Charles
20 Years



Ryan Thompson
20 Years



Henry Watson
20 Years



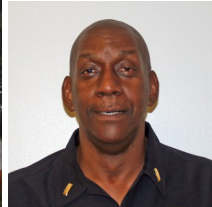
Darrin Richards
15 Years



Shannon West
15 Years



Arthur Brisset
10 Years



Tyrone Butler
10 Years



Demond Johnson
10 Years



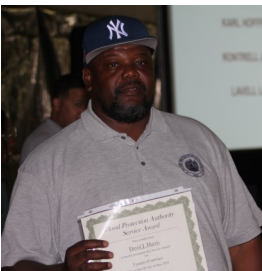
Eric Labranche
10 Years



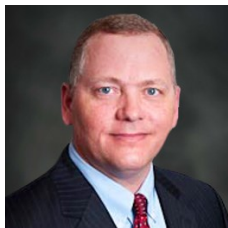
Michael Moscona
10 Years



Justin Williams
10 Years



David Harris
5 Years



Joe Hassinger
5 Years



Karl Hoffpaur
5 Years



Rontrell Jones
5 Years



Lavell Lane
5 Years



Michael LeBlanc
5 Years



Christopher Neyland
5 Years



Joselecque Parsi-Graciani
5 Years



Timothy Scott
5 Years

Police Employee of the Month



The Board recognized Police Officer Joshua Martin as the Police Employee of the Month at its May 16th Board meeting. Officer Martin is a Police Officer 2A with the Orleans Levee District Police Department. Officer Martin was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Police Employee of the Month because of his enthusiasm and dedication to law enforcement and the mission of the FPA. He exhibits all of the FPA's values in the performance of his duties each day and is an exemplary law enforcement professional.

Officer Martin is a team player and is always willing to help out a fellow officer. He volunteers for any training as soon as it is put out so that he stays informed and is ready to meet any challenge. He recently completed Motorcycle Training and is now a member of the Department's Motorcycle Division.

On Saturday April 20, 2019, Officer Martin was on his way home after completing his shift when he was flagged down in the 6900 block of Mayo Boulevard. Officer Martin received information that two young subjects had burglarized vehicles in the area and were running through the neighborhood. He notified the NOPD 7th District and provided the information and then spotted the two subjects. Officer Martin was able to apprehend one of the subjects and then assisted NOPD Units with setting up a perimeter to search for the other subject. Due to his detailed description the NOPD was able to apprehend the second subject.



This is a shining example of the type of service the public deserves. This Officer could have just called in a description and continued home, but instead decided to make a difference and proved his outstanding dedication to duty. Officer Martin is a tremendous asset to the FPA, the law enforcement community and the public.

Brittany Roberts Passes FE Exam

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, announced, "We are delighted to report that Brittany Roberts has passed the FE Exam."

The **Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam**, also referred to as the **Engineer in Training (EIT) exam**, and formerly in some states as the **Engineering Intern (EI) exam**, is the first of two examinations that **engineers** must pass in order to be licensed as a Professional **Engineer** in the United States. This is a major milestone in her career as an engineer. To become a licensed Professional Engineer a candidate must earn a degree in a four year engineering curriculum from an ABET Accredited University.



Brittany has already earned her BS in Civil Engineering from UNO and in December 2019 she will complete her Masters Degree. Now that she has passed the FE Exam she will need to pass one more eight hour exam, the Principals and Practice of Engineering Exam and complete at least four years of engineering experience under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer.

The FPA team congratulates Brittany on this major accomplishment and wishes her great success as she moves forward in her career.

Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board

Maria Chedid was nominated by her colleagues and selected as the Employee of the Month. Since Maria was unable to attend the May 16th Board meeting, she will be recognized by the Board at its June 20th meeting.

Maria has been with the FPA for four years and serves as the Accountant Administrator 2. Maria has been instrumental in the implementation of processes and procedures for the regionalization effort. Maria developed a plan to bring East Jefferson and Lake Borgne onto MIP (the FPA's financial management software system). She also took the lead on transferring trial balance and vendor information as well as fixed assets and cash receipts. If Maria is not familiar with a particular subject matter, she goes the extra mile to research and learn what is needed to complete the task.



Recently the Finance Department received an email from a vendor informing the FPA that they had updated their policies to require payments greater than \$50k be sent via wire. The email referenced a recent purchase for which the FPA had just cut a check and provided a copy of a signed policy on company letterhead. However, before sending the wire Maria took the extra steps to verify the request was legitimate and discovered that the dealership's email had been hacked and the request was fraudulent. Maria's vigilance and attention to detail prevented the FPA from becoming a victim of financial fraud.

Maria exemplifies all of the FPA's values in the daily performance of her work and her professionalism and willingness to go the extra mile helps to make the FPA a success.

Operations Employee of the Month



Morris Washington was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Operations Employee of the Month. Morris demonstrates all of the FPA's values in the daily performance of his duties and his interaction with the FPA team.

Morris joined the FPA on April 23, 2018, as a Painter in Facilities Maintenance / Operations and Maintenance Department – Orleans District. In the short time that Morris has been with the FPA, he has made a positive impact in the department and impressed his colleagues with his promptness, attention to detail and his positive attitude.

Morris is a hard worker who demonstrates the professionalism, team work, focus and dedication that makes the Flood Protection Authority a success as an organization and contributes significantly to the FPA's fulfillment of its mission.

Morris is a tremendous asset to Facilities Maintenance and a critical member of the FPA team. His supervisor noted that Morris has the characteristics of natural leadership and the FPA team wishes him great success in his career at the FPA.

Sgt. Alvin Bedou Receives Letter of Commendation



Police Sgt. Alvin Bedou was recognized by Capt. Michael Brenckel, O.L.D. Police District Commander, and Lt. Charles Hill, Commander A Platoon, for his professionalism as a law enforcement officer and exemplary conduct, and received a challenge coin and Letter of Commendation for his response to an incident on May 5th that reads:

“On the evening of May 5, 2019, while on patrol, you were approached by a frantic citizen concerning an incident of sexual assault, which had just occurred. Your swift action in apprehending the suspect led to an immediate identification of the assailant. During this time, you ensured the safety of all witnesses and the victim of this villainous crime. This is a shining example of the type of service the public deserves. Thank you for your outstanding dedication to duty.”

Turning the Tide — DEA's "360 Strategy"

The worsening opioid crisis has taken a significant toll on individuals, families, communities and government resources. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is attempting to turn the tide of this epidemic with a comprehensive three-pronged strategy that includes coordinated **law enforcement** efforts (Federal, State and local), **diversion control** (stopping the transfer of legally prescribed controlled substances from the individual for whom it was prescribed to another person for any illicit use or any criminal act involving a prescription drug) and **community outreach** (education, prevention and treatment).

On April 16th, the DEA announced the "360 strategy" for the greater New Orleans area to address heroin, prescription drugs and violent crime. DEA New Orleans Division Special Agent in Charge Brad L. Byerly announced that New Orleans and the surrounding parishes of Jefferson and St. Bernard will be the 16th pilot city to be part of a comprehensive law enforcement and prevention "360 Strategy" designed to help cities dealing with the heroin and prescription drug abuse epidemic, and the violent crime that accompanies it. New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell and members from local and federal agencies and organizations in the fields of law enforcement, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and community outreach, joined Agent Byerly in the announcement.

"While the opioid epidemic rages on in communities across America, killing over 130 people a day, the DEA continues to find new and innovative ways to address this growing health problem and the violent drug trafficking it breeds," said Special Agent in Charge Byerly. "DEA's 360 Strategy makes use of every community resource available to reach young people and attack the heroin and prescription drug epidemic at every level. This comprehensive approach unites everyone who has a stake in making New Orleans and the surrounding communities safer for our families."

DEA advises the short term goal of the 360 Strategy is to provide as much information as possible in many different forms to reach young people. Officials will work to form a "Community Alliance" that will include key leaders from law enforcement, prevention, treatment, the judicial system, education, business, government, civic organizations, faith communities, media, social services and others to form the core of a long-term group that will cross disciplines to help carry the prevention and treatment messages to the local population during the critical post-operation timeframe.

Parents and children are encouraged to educate themselves about the dangers of drugs by visiting DEA's interactive websites at www.dea.gov, www.wakeup-nola.com, www.JustThinkTwice.gov/nola (a resource for teens) and www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.gov/nola (a DEA resource for parents, educators and caregivers).

EJLD Police Reserves Assist in USCG Safe Boating Event

On Saturday May 18th, the EJLD Police Reserve Division assisted the U.S. Coast Guard, New Basin Canal Division, with their first ever "Public Safety Boating Event." Our Reserves acted as on site liaisons, meeting the public as they entered the event and assisted with traffic control functions. Search and Rescue K-9 Teams and Helicopter Support were on site for public demonstrations.



Reserve Officer Francine Weaker, Reserve Captain Vincent Yetta, Reserve Lieutenant Jack Marcey and Captain Donald Juneau.



DEA Recognizes Assistance of OLD PD Officers

Officials with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) visited the Orleans Levee District Police Station, and met with Superintendent of Police Kerry Najolia. The two organizations discussed a partnership in the scourge of narcotics facing our community.

DEA has implemented its "360 Strategy" in the greater New Orleans area to combat the opioid epidemic and the prescription drug abuse epidemic. Chief Najolia ensured the OLDPD is on board to contribute to the success of the program, which brings drug awareness to the community.

On behalf of Special Agent in Charge Bradley Byerly, Assistant Special Agent in Charge Michael Sader and Group Supervisor Michael Wright delivered Certificates of Appreciation for assistance the Orleans Levee District Police Officers provided in recent months. The Officers assisted in apprehensions ranging from narcotics trafficking to federal fugitive violations.

Pictured below are the Officers receiving the Certificates of Appreciation from the DEA.



P/O Eddie Freeman



P/O Marius White



P/O Warren Kimball



P/O Jerald Holmes



P/O Vance Bieniemy

Closing Time



Some of us may start the workday with a specific plan, a reasonable idea of what needs to be accomplished, and quite possibly a set of expectations and/or goals to achieve. On the flip side of that, some of us may start the workday with a range of unknowns that will ultimately play into the outcomes for the workday, and that may affect others regarding their workday as well.

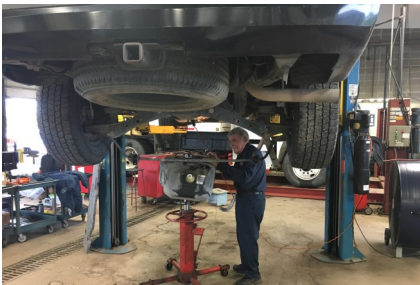
In addition to the above, the same can apply to a workweek, a work year, or even throughout one's work career. Each of us contributes in one way or another, but not always with the same level and degree of devotion and enthusiasm. One or more of us may be considered the exception/exceptions, exceeding expectations of a specific job position and/or exceeding levels of expertise.



So, when you have someone you work with that has exceptional qualities, an exceptional work ethic, and who is perceived in your eyes as a person that is quite possibly irreplaceable; what do you do when you are faced with a situation of no longer having that person as a coworker and/or an employee? The following makes note of such a situation.

Philip Bacino (AKA Phil) recently retired from the FPA/East Jefferson Levee District. Phil was employed as a Mechanic 2, but anyone who knew Phil understood quite well that he “is”, and was equivalent to a master technician of the automotive and light-truck mechanic trade, outside and within the FPA/EJLD.

The experience and expertise Phil initially brought with him to the FPA/EJLD, and throughout his employment, was unparalleled. No matter what the difficulty or what task Phil encountered, he either handled the situation or was able to get the situation resolved. No matter how technical the industry became, Phil learned and excelled in performing technical or complex repairs and services.



Phil was primarily tasked with taking care of the EJLD police fleet, but was additionally responsible for many maintenance vehicles as well. Phil also independently maintained and serviced police pool vehicles. The pool vehicle readiness status that Phil provided was essential, and especially important for when maintenance personnel were not on-duty. Additionally, Phil installed tablet/computer related items, and repaired many of the police related add-on equipment. At times, Phil fabricated brackets and other items that could not be obtained by normal means and/or through common sources.

Phil was extremely well liked by all. Phil worked in harmony with the EJLD police officers, and attended to any and all requests from the EJLD police command structure, as well as the maintenance department structure. Additionally, Phil commonly gave technical advice to other mechanics and co-workers.

Phil started each workday devoted and committed to attend to whatever awaited him. Phil worked steadily and continuously throughout each workday. Phil was always on time for work and prompt to begin work. Phil rarely took time off. On the occasions that Phil did take time off for whatever reasons, he always considered what work needed to be completed or attended to beforehand, and followed up upon his return. Even on Phil's last workday, he worked diligently to complete as much work as possible, including a written list of information concerning police vehicles at dealerships for recalls, police vehicles awaiting parts, and police vehicles awaiting repairs.

So . . . , CLOSING TIME . . . , the evening of Phil's last workday, in May of 2019: how do you even begin to tell such a dedicated talented employee, an esteemed colleague, and good friend how much you will miss him? Well, let me tell you, it was extremely difficult. You just do the best you can, you wish him the best in retirement, and you thankfully reflect on the fact that someone of that character has influenced you in the best of ways. Phil was an essential asset to the FPA and EJLD and will be wholeheartedly missed by many.



Submitted by Glenn Hartline, Levee Foreman C, O&M Levees EJLD

EJLD Special Assistant Jonell Cangelosi Retires from FPA



Jonell Cangelosi, Special Assistant to the former EJLD Director and later FPA CAO, has worked diligently and tirelessly for the past 13 years behind the scene providing high level administrative support after Hurricane Katrina primarily for the rebuilding of the flood defense system (later the HSDRRS) and then for the EJLD's Safe Room and Consolidated Facility.



Jonell was surprised on her last day of work (May 31st) with a retirement party at EJLD Police Headquarters.

All of the members of the FPA team congratulate Jonell on her retirement and wish her the very best as she enters this new phase of life.



Nap Time



When Tim Piciotta was called to work on his day off (Friday) to reset the fire alarm at the Franklin Complex, his baby daughter took advantage of the time to take a little nap in the Board Room.

FPA Safety Culture Initiative Recommendations

The Safety Culture Initiative Focus Group developed a list of tasks and efforts recommended for implementation by the FPA. The recommendations were presented at the all hands meeting on Safety Awareness and Employee Appreciation Day and consist of the following:

- ◆ Tacking safety trends
- ◆ Continue engaging all staff inclusive Safety Focus Groups
- ◆ Formalizing an organizational wide safety manual
- ◆ Create an all inclusive organizational safety committee
- ◆ Standardized reporting
- ◆ Encouraging near miss reporting:
 - safety@floodauthority.org email account
 - Whiteboards at field locations
- ◆ Increase frequency of safety topics (currently monthly):
 - Utilizing message boards, bi-weekly updates to address seasonal/trends
 - Utilizing organizational emails to broadcast safety to admin staff
- ◆ In person Mandatory monthly safety topics to include topics for admin staff
- ◆ Increase tracking of incidents to focus on trends

Calendar of Events

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

August

August 15 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

September

September 2 (Monday) - Labor Day (State holiday)

September 19 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

Reminders

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

All employees must complete one hour of Ethics training and one hour of Preventing Sexual Harassment Training for calendar year 2019. Supervisors must complete one additional hour of Preventing Sexual Harassment Training for calendar year 2019.

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

Email submittals to gboudreaux@floodauthority.org or sent to Glenda Boudreaux, SLFPA-E, Airport Terminal, Suite 225, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.