

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

July 15, 2019

Message From the President

The Flood Protection Authority received an early season test of its operational readiness. Due to the uncertainties of a predicted slow moving Category 1 hurricane with heavy rainfall, along with the unseasonably high Mississippi River level, the FPA in an abundance of caution had to close all of the floodgates and structure gates in the flood defense system. The FPA team met this challenge with professionalism, proficiency and dedicated commitment, thus assuring public confidence in our flood defense system and mission.

The employees of the FPA proved that working as a cohesive team when the water comes we will be ready.

I, along with the members of the Board and the residents of the greater New Orleans metropolitan area, thank our FPA team for their hard work, diligence, perseverance and devotion to the protection of our families, homes and communities.

Thank you for making the Flood Protection Authority a success.

Herb

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST COMMISSIONERS

Herbert I. Miller, PE, DDE, F. ASCE -
President
Mark L. Morgan, P.E. – Vice President
Clay A. Cosse' - Secretary
Quentin D. Dastugue, CCIM - Treasurer
Andrew J. Englande, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., DEE
Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr.
Jason P. Latiolais
K. Randall Noel
Herbert T. Weysham, III

*“Without continual
growth and progress,
such words as
improvement,
achievement, and
success have no
meaning.”
Benjamin Franklin*

FPA Team Responds to TS Barry

The FPA fully activated its Emergency Operations Center on Wednesday, July 10th, at 3 p.m. Crews began closing Mississippi River floodgates at 6 p.m. and continued operations into the night.

Crews closed the IHNC Surge Barrier Sector Gate and Seabrook Complex Gate on Thursday and the Bayou Bienvenue, Bayou Dupre and Caernarvon Structure Gates on Friday.



Left crew members work to close the French Quarter floodgate.

Above crews delivering sandbags to Lafitte.

(story continued on page 5)

Welcome New FPA Team Members



Randy Carter
Plumber/Pipefitter Master OLD
6/3/2019

Donald Jerolleman
Engineer 6 OLD
6/3/2019



Joshua Jordan
Student Intern Engineering/Operations
6/10/2019

Aaron Ridley
Student Intern Employee Services (HR)
6/10/2019



George Granger
Engineering Technician 2 OLD
6/17/2019

Harold Daigle
Engineer 5 OLD
6/17/2019



Patricia Gilbert
Administrative Coordinator 3 Finance
6/17/2019

Marvin Brown
Levee Foreman C OLD
6/17/2019



Congratulations on Promotion



Gary Lerouge
Police Sergeant A
6/4/2019



Brian Corte
Mechanic 2
6/17/19



Elbert Williams
Facility Assistant Maintenance Manager A
7/1/19

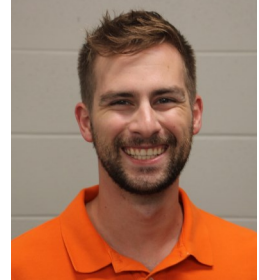
Congratulations on Retirement



Carroll Barriere retired as a Levee Foreman C on 6/29/2019 after serving 27 years with the Orleans Levee District.

Introducing Josh Jordan, Engineering Student Intern

My name is Josh Jordan, I am a 22 year old student at LSU and I am about to enter my senior year in mechanical engineering. This internship here at the Flood Protection Authority, is my first venture into the realm of engineering. Until this point, I have been a learning assistant for the physics department at LSU during the school year. Acting as a learning assistant involves guiding and instructing Physics 1 students during weekly problem solving positions. Over the two years that I held this position, I gained a better understanding of the material, but more importantly I became a better communicator.



For the past 6 years during the summer I have been a swim instructor for Crawfish Aquatics. During that time I taught hundreds of people ranging from ages 2-70 how to swim, with the majority of those having never swam before. This was an incredibly rewarding job as I worked with a large variety of people each presenting their own unique challenges. The greatest yet most eye opening of these challenges was working with special needs children, mainly those with autism or Down syndrome. Through this I learned how to communicate more effectively with those who process information differently than I do, which is something that I have implemented in my day to day life.

Now that I am here, I hope to use these skills in order to further my understanding of practical engineering as well as how organizations such as the FPA operate. I have already learned a lot by visiting the structures, and asking probably far too many questions. Going forward I'm excited to continue taking full advantage of this opportunity.

Introducing Aaron Ridley, HR Student Intern



My name is Aaron M. Ridley and I am a recent graduate of McNeese State University where I obtained my Bachelors in Accounting. During my time there I was quite involved on campus and a part of a few professional organizations chartered in Lake Charles. I was Vice President of the Theta Theta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. my last two years as an undergraduate, a member of Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity where I held the role of chancellor on the board of committee, and I served as Secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). During my collegiate tenure at McNeese I also secured two accounting internships where I worked as an Income Tax Assistant with companies such as United Way of Southwest Louisiana and Stine Financial.

I am currently a Professional Student at the University of New Orleans where I am pursuing a Master's in Business Administration with an expected graduation date of May 2020. Upon graduation I plan to move to Texas where I'll either start working towards my Ph.D. in business at the University of Houston or enrolling into Thurgood Marshall School of Law for Business Law. Depending on which choice I make will determine my future career path.

In Conclusion, I am a highly motivated Student Intern and I'm eager to learn the ins and outs of what it takes to work in the Human Resource Department for the Flood Protection Authority. I think the experience alone will have quite the impact on my future career choices and knowing that makes this experience even more so worthwhile.

Rick Luettich Recognized for Service as FPA Board Member



FPA Board Members (L-R): Clay Cosse, Mark Morgan, Herbert Miller, Rick Luettich, Joe Hassinger, Quentin Dastugue, Herbert Weysham and Andrew Englande (Jason Latiolais not pictured)

Richard A. Luettich, Jr., ScD, was recognized by the Board at its June 20th meeting for over seven years of service to the FPA and the citizens of Southeast Louisiana.

Dr. Luettich was appointed to the Board on February 15, 2012. He served as Vice President from October 20, 2016 to June 30, 2019, Treasurer from June 16, 2016 to October 20, 2016, and as a member of the Finance Committee from March 17, 2016 to June 30, 2019 and Coastal Advisory Committee from September 20, 2012 to June 30, 2019.

Dr. Luettich received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Civil Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and Sc.D. in Civil Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Luettich is the Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of North Carolina (UNC), Chapel Hill, and Director of the UNC Center for Natural Hazards and Disasters in Chapel Hill. Among his numerous professional achievements, Dr. Luettich published over 100 scientific papers and reports on modeling and observational studies of physical processes in coastal systems, and is a co-developer of the ADCIRC circulation and storm surge model widely used by the academic, government and private sectors and the cornerstone of storm surge studies following hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

After Hurricane Katrina Dr. Luettich also served on the National Academy/National Research Council committees for reviewing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' study of the factors that led to the catastrophic damage to New Orleans by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the Corps' program to evaluate options for a new hurricane protection system for Southern Louisiana, and on the Science and Engineering Advisory Committee of the Water Institute of the Gulf.

Dr. Luettich has a great fondness and appreciation for the Greater New Orleans area and continuously strives to ensure that its citizens has the best flood protection possible. He will be sorely missed by the Board and the FPA staff.

Board Elects Officers for Next July 1 - June 30 Term

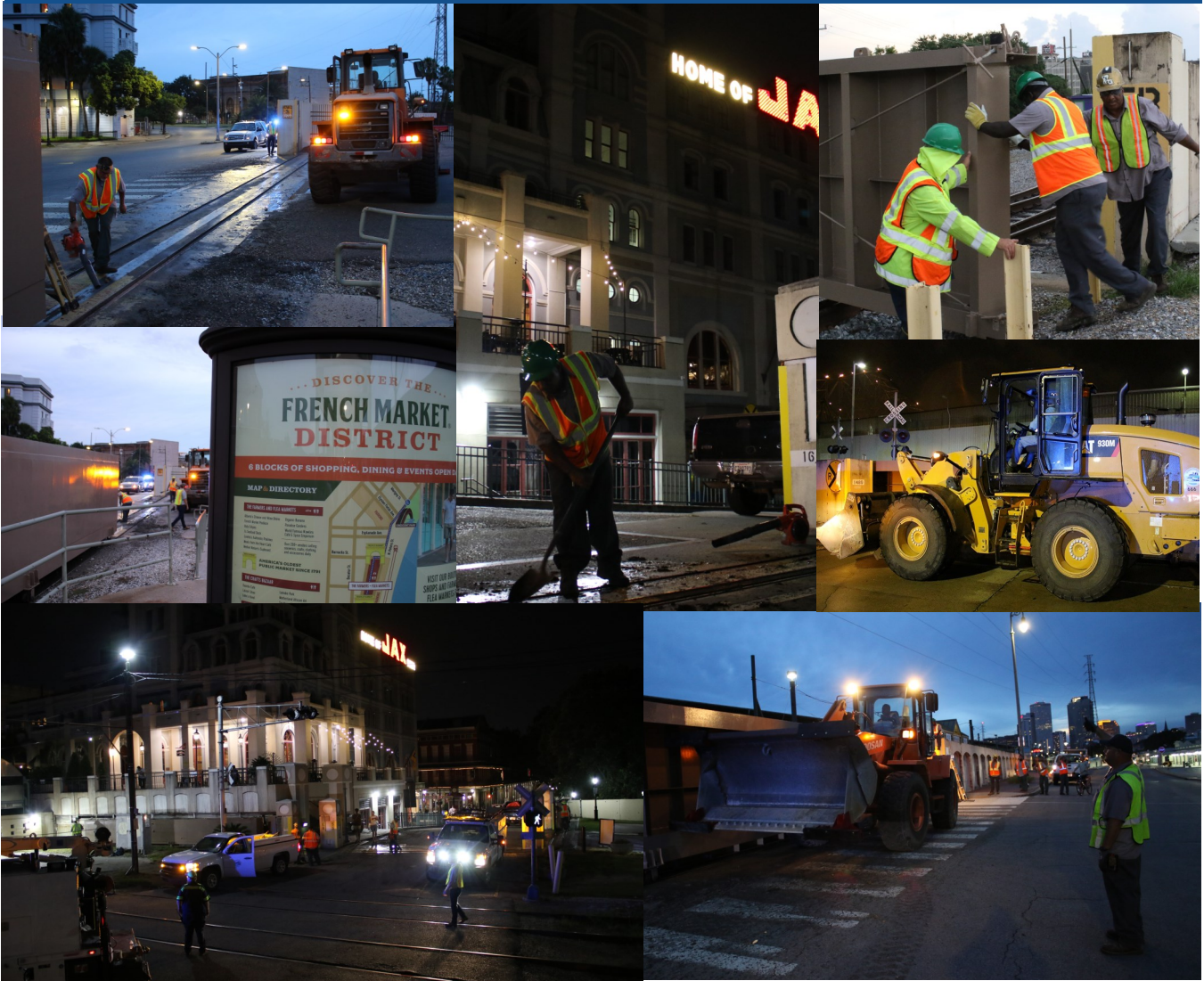
Each year the Board elects officers to serve for the next fiscal year. The following Officers were elected at the Board's June 20th meeting to serve from July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020: Herbert Miller, President; Mark Morgan, Vice President; Quentin Dastugue, Treasurer; and Clay Cosse, Secretary.

The Board recognized Joe Hassinger for his service as President from July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2019. Mr. Hassinger commented that in the capacity of President it had been a privilege working with the Board to accomplish many good things and a pleasure working with staff, adding that the team of talent, commitment and skill at the FPA today is impressive and unmatched. He advised that he will continue taking his role as the Orleans representative on the Board very seriously and plans to remain active. He added that Mr. Miller will do a great job leading the Board as its new President.



K. Randall Noel was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to fill the seat on the Board vacated by Dr. Luettich.

FPA Responds to Hurricane Barry



By Friday FPA crews closed 83 riverine floodgates, 7 complex structures, 147 hurricane floodgates and 81 valves. Crews began reopening floodgates at 8 p.m. on Saturday to assist with rail, emergency routes, and river commerce. The reopening of floodgates and structure gates continued on Sunday as weather permitted.

(Bottom right picture) Saturday night FPA crews assisted affected areas of Lafitte by delivering over 11,000 sandbags.



Employee of the Month for June



The Board recognizes that the FPA can only be a success and accomplish its flood protection mission thru the dedicated and committed efforts of its team members.

Craig Simon was recognized by the Board at its June 20th meeting as the Employee of the Month for June.

Craig was hired by the Orleans Levee District on September 22, 2014 as a Mechanic 3 in Maintenance. He applied for one of the new PCCP positions as a Mechanic 3 and was assigned to the position on April 9, 2018.

Craig quietly completes all maintenance duties assigned to him and has learned the controls and operations aspects of all the PCCP pumps in both the storm mode and manual mode. He recently successfully completed the Caterpillar C175 Operations and Maintenance Training Course.

The FPA Operations team appreciates the effort and the time Craig has put into his job since joining the PCCP team. The PCCP team is tasked with maintaining the facilities in a high degree of readiness; and when called to duty, these highly complex structures must operate to prevent floodwall failure and flooding.

Since joining the PCCP team Craig has displayed a great attitude and willingness to learn and grow professionally and to help others when needed. Craig is a great example of living the FPA's values and is essential to the FPA's success as an organization and for successfully fulfilling its flood defense mission.

Employee of the Month for May

Maria Chedid was recognized by the Board at its June 20th meeting as the Employee of the Month (EOM) for May. Maria was highlighted as EOM in the June 15th edition of *In The Levee Loop* and was unable to attend the Board meeting in May. Maria serves as the Accountant Administrator 2 for the FPA.

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.



"There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return." Nelson Mandela

Police Employee of the Month

Alvin J. Bedou Sr. is a Police Sergeant with the Orleans Levee District Police Department (OLDPD) on “A Platoon”. Sgt. Bedou was nominated by his colleagues because of his dedication to the Department and the Officers he commands. Sgt. Bedou always demonstrates on and off duty the professionalism of the OLDPD. Sgt. Bedou also serves in the Louisiana Army National Guard serving our country as a Sergeant.



On May 5, 2019, Sgt. A. Bedou was flagged down while on patrol in the 5400 block of Lakeshore Drive near the Seabrook Boat ramp area and was advised by a frantic citizen about a possible Sexual Battery which had just occurred minutes before he arrived in the area.

Sgt. Bedou’s swift action in apprehending the suspect led to an immediate identification of the assailant. During this time, he 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.

Sgt. Bedou exemplifies all of the FPA’s values and is an exceptional asset to the Department, his officers and the public.

The FPA Board was unable to recognize Sgt. Bedou at the June 20th Board meeting because he was on military leave in Germany and was subsequently deployed to Lafayette (Storm Duty). Sgt. Bedou will be recognized by the Board at the first meeting held upon his return to OLDPD duty.

Administrative Employee of the Month



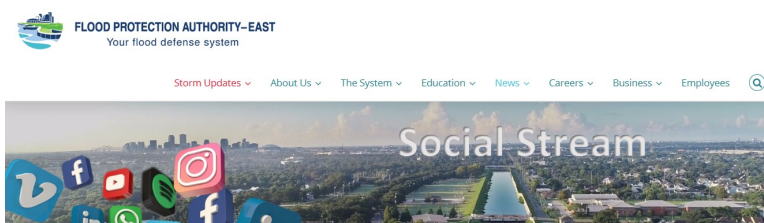
Marie Dimm was nominated by her colleagues and selected as the Employee of the Month for June. Maria is an Accountant 2 in the Finance Department.

Marie started her career at the FPA as a temp worker, but quickly became an integral part of the Finance team. Marie has taken on a variety of tasks while with the FPA and has always done so with a smile and a can do attitude. Marie is responsible for bank account reconciliations, investment entries and reconciliations, insurance policy management and has recently been tasked with management of insurance claims and policy renewals with the retirement of Jonell Cangelosi.

Marie faces each new challenge head on and continues to ask questions until she understands the process. She also easily adapts to changing processes and procedures as the FPA continues to refine the regional approach to accounting. Marie is a great team player often taking on additional duties for her colleagues when they are behind. While another member of the Finance Department was out on medical leave, Marie stepped in to help with making cash receipt journal entries.

Marie demonstrates all of the FPA values each and every day and is a great asset to the Finance Department and the FPA.

FPA Website Improvements



The FPA’s website has been expanded and improved to make the site more user friendly, provide additional information and support the automation of invoicing and applications for Police Reserve Officer positions.

Keep up with the latest FPA news by visiting our new Social Stream page (click on News) and see our Video page’s new look.

Reserve Officer Francine Weaker and K-9 Chica



EJLD PD Reserve Officer Francine Weaker was asked by The State Fire Marshall's Office to help with instruction on the use of cadaver dogs in a collapsed building scenario. The class was held in Tangipahoa Parish.

Officer Weaker and K-9 Chica pictured in the middle of the first row.



First Responders from the north and south shore were in attendance. Officer Weaker provided a classroom presentation on June 12th. Officer Weaker and K-9 Chica provided demonstrations on June 14th.

K-9 Chica is a 5 year old Weimaraner. K-9 Chica is USPCA Certified as a Cadaver Scent K-9. Chica alerts on human scents whether in a collapsed building, concealed grave-site or in canals, rivers lakes or bayous!!!!



Safety Message - Sun Exposure

Anyone can get skin cancer. Sun exposure accumulation over time may cause skin cancer. Protection from ultraviolet (UV) rays is important all year round not just in summer months and at the beach. UV rays can damage skin in as little as 15 minutes.

UV rays from sun can reach you on cloudy and hazy days as well as on bright and sunny days. UV rays also reflect off of surfaces like water, sand, snow and cement. Indoor tanning also exposes users to UV ray and should be avoided. Hours between 9am and 3 pm are the most hazardous for UV ray exposure outdoors. UV rays from sunlight are greater in the spring and summer but can damage skin in the cooler months as well.

Sun Protection:

Use sunscreen with a sun screen protection factor of 15 or higher. The higher the number the better the protection.

Reapply sunscreen every two hours and also after swimming, sweating or toweling off.

Wear a large brim hat to protect your head, face, ears and neck.

Wear wrap-around sunglasses to protect your eyes and the skin around your eyes.

Wear long sleeve shirts, pants or skirts when possible.

Wear a tee shirt or beach cover-up when at the beach or around the swimming pool.

Seek shade under an umbrella, tree or other shelter for relief from the sun.

Your FPA Safety Team

Sgt. Michael Schindler Earns MAGNUS Leadership Status



Top row first position on right Program Chancellor Dr. Mitch Javadi and second position on right Sgt. Schindler



Sgt. Schindler and Capt. Juneau

Capt. Donald Juneau announced that Sgt. Michael Schindler graduated from Session 004 of the National Command Staff and College Program on June 14, 2019. Sgt. Schindler's hard work and determination has earned him MAGNUS Leadership Status!

Capt. Juneau offered his personal and professional congratulations to Sgt. Schindler for this impressive accomplishment. Sgt. Schindler is a member of the East Jefferson Levee District Police Department.

Officer Ryan Frazier Receives Commendation



O.L.D. Police Officer Ryan Frazier received a Letter of Commendation along with a Challenge Coin from Police Chief Kerry Najolia and Capt. Michael Brenckle, OLDPD Commander, for his professionalism as a law enforcement officer and dedication to duty. The letter reads:

“Recently, the eastern section of New Orleans was plagued with numerous automobile thefts and burglaries. On June 5, 2019, while on patrol you responded to a stolen automobile being tracked by the New Orleans Police Department near Bullard Road. Working in tandem with Louisiana State Police, you successfully located the stolen vehicle. Your unrelenting dedication in this investigation resulted in the arrest of three suspects occupied in the vehicle.

This is a shining example of the type of service the public deserves. Thank you for your outstanding performance and exemplary duty.”

OLD PD Officers Catch Run Away Horse



Last week Officer West and Sgt. Sanders (pictured) were dispatched to a call of a horse running near Paris Road and Haynes Boulevard.

Ultimately the horse made it through the alligator infested swamp and wooded area to the I-10. It was captured just before it got to the twin span.

OLDPD Officers joked about it being the start of the OLDPD Mounted Division.

EJLD/OLD Police Participate in Active Shooter Training

On June 6, 2028 the East Jefferson / Orleans Levee District Police Departments participated in a Field Training Exercise (FTX) at the Lakefront Airport McDermott Building. The goal of this training was to evaluate and assess the response capabilities of our officers during a Critical Incident such as an Active Shooter Event. Officers and Perpetrators were clad in protective gear and armed with SIMMS Handguns and SIMMS (paintball ammo).

Each scenario was crafted to assess the officers' capabilities during the initial response and through the successful conclusion of the incident based on best practices. The officers were required to demonstrate proficiency during each scenario.

At the conclusion of the scenarios, our officers were tasked with conducting a mass casualty evacuation with the assistance of the Louisiana National Guard Medical group and their helicopter.

The NOPD 7th District and the Louisiana State Police monitored the FTX.

Additional training exercises will be conducted to ensure that our officers are serving the residents and visitors of our jurisdiction in a professional and effective manner.

Kerry Najolia, FPA Police Superintendent

(Photos on following page)

Surviving an Active Shooter Event - Be Prepared

Active shooter events are unpredictable and can evolve very quickly. Being prepared and knowing what to do can make the difference between being a survivor and becoming a victim. **Run – Hide – Fight – Surviving an Active Shooter Event** is an excellent six minute video produced by the City of Houston Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security, through a Department of Homeland Security Grant, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0>. The video stresses the three things that you can do to make a difference: **run – hide – fight**. Following are important points from the video:

RUN when an active shooter is in your vicinity:

- ◆ If there is an escape path, attempt to evacuate.
- ◆ Evacuate whether others agree to or not.
- ◆ Leave your belongings behind.
- ◆ Prevent others from entering the area.
- ◆ Call 911 when you are safe.

HIDE if evacuation is not possible:

- ◆ Lock and/or blockade the door.
- ◆ Silence your cell phone.
- ◆ Hide behind large objects.
- ◆ Remain very quiet.

FIGHT as a last resort, and only if your life is in danger:

- ◆ Attempt to incapacitate the shooter.
- ◆ Act with physical aggression.
- ◆ Improvise weapons.
- ◆ Commit to your actions.

911 when law enforcement arrives:

- ◆ Remain calm and follow instructions.
- ◆ Keep your hands visible at all times.
- ◆ Avoid pointing or yelling.
- ◆ Know that help for the injured is on its way.

Please take six minutes to watch this important video so that you can be prepared.

EJLD/OLD Police Participate in Active Shooter Training



USACE and FPA Hold Hurricane Safety Meetings



On June 27th the Corps of Engineers and FPA held their annual Hurricane Safety Meetings to ensure that the entities were prepared and would operate with utmost efficiency in the event of a tropical storm or hurricane.

Calendar of Events

July

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

October

October 17 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

November

November 11 (Monday) - Veterans Day (State holiday)

November 21 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

November 28 (Thursday) - Thanksgiving (State holiday)

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.

The Flood Protection Authority urges everyone to become informed about their flood defense system and encourages organizations and business and community groups to schedule a tour of the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier and Permanent Canal and Closure Pump Stations.

To schedule a tour of the IHNC Surge Barrier and/or PCCP, visit our website at floodauthority.org and click on "Schedule Facility Tours" at the bottom of our home page. Fill out the Tour Information Sheet and click on "submit" at the bottom of the sheet.

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.

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Associate Editor: Wilma Heaton

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