

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

October 15, 2019

Message From Quentin Dastugue, Chair of the FPA Finance Committee

Efficiency and effectiveness – these are two key elements that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) and I continue to strive for year around and with over 200 dedicated and professional employees, you continue to be a part of these goals.

This message serves as reassurance that we will continuously build upon increased frequency of communications with all staff, to ensure that all employees are aware of, and are invested in our challenges and plans.

We constantly want you to be a viable asset to our community with continued services such as staff training and thorough emergency procedures training – which are updated regularly. This rewards us with the ability to be effective responders and further advances the safety of our team and community services.

I would like to thank you for continued work as part of the FPA family and we welcome your open and honest feedback as we are always looking for ways to improve.

Quentin Dastugue
Treasurer and Chair, Finance Committee

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

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*“The price of success
is hard work,
dedication to the job
at hand, and the
determination that
whether we win or
lose, we have applied
the best of ourselves
to the task at hand.”*

Vince Lombardi

Franklin Complex Renovations Completed

The project to build out additional office space in the Warehouse Building and renovate the existing offices in the Franklin Avenue Complex Administration Building has been completed. The project provides a total of approximately 24,000 square feet of renovated office space: 10,344 square feet in the Administration Building for Administration, Finance and Human Resources staff, and 14,000 square feet in the Warehouse for Engineering, Operations and Maintenance staff.

The project completely revamped the look and feel of the facility and provides fresh new modern offices with collaborative spaces, break areas and specialized storage.

(Story continued on Page 4)



Welcome New FPA Team Members



Jamal Wilson
Laborer
Orleans - 9/9/2019



Kholbey Reid
Trades Apprentice
Orleans - 9/23/19



William Johnson
Mobile Equipment Operator 2
East Jefferson - 9/23/19

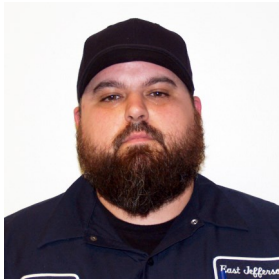


Sean Boye
Mobile Equipment Operator 1
East Jefferson - 9/23/2019



Benjamin Dupuis
Mobile Equipment Operator Light
East Jefferson - 9/23/19

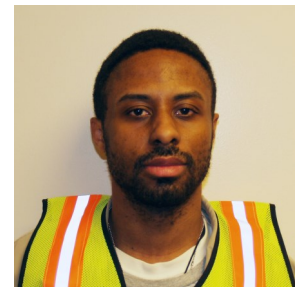
Congratulations on Promotion



Matthew Luke
Levee Foreman B
East Jefferson - 8/12/2019



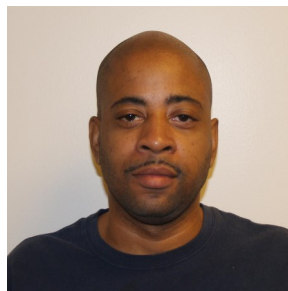
Percy Jefferson
Mobile Equipment Operator Light
Orleans - 9/23/19



Christopher Neyland
Mobile Equipment Operator Light
Orleans - 9/23/19



Carl Allen
Maintenance Foreman
Orleans - 9/23/2019



Darnell Glenn
Maintenance Foreman
Orleans - 9/23/19



Morris Washington
Painter Master
Orleans - 9/23/19



Roman Dody
IT Director 2
FPA - 9/9/19

Best Wishes on Retirement



Gail Maurice
Police Sergeant-A
Orleans Levee District Police
Retired on 09/30/19
32 years, 9 months service



Stevan Spencer
Regional Chief Engineer
FPA
Retired on 9/7/19
26 years, 5 months service



Donna Givens
Administrative Coordinator 4
Finance/Purchasing
Retired on 9/9/19
30 years service

New FPA Employee Assistance Program - "New Directions"



The FPA is partnering with New Directions Behavioral Health to deliver a quality Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that not only provides resources for employees in crisis, but also educates, informs and provides assistance in a number of areas to improve the lives of its Team Members. **Services are free and confidential.**

The New Directions EAP provides resources to assist with workplace conflicts, interpersonal difficulties, marriage and family concerns, stress management, emotional upsets, financial matters, and alcohol and drug problems. Licensed EAP professionals are available to help resolve problems and offer any needed referrals to community and treatment resources. The website also provides "Live Chats" for assistance.

New Directions offers information through training, its newsletter "A Better You" (Team Members can subscribe online), and a website that offers a wealth of information and resources. Major website topics include: Suicide, Improve Your Overall Health (includes substance use/addiction), Get Help with Your Legal Needs, Manage Your Money Matters, Be Your Best at Work and Care for Your Loved Ones. Numerous articles, videos, resources and tools are available on a variety of subjects under each major topic, along with opportunities for consultation. The website also offers webinars held each month on various subjects, a health resource library and a legal resource center.

An important topic in today's world is suicide. Information offered on the website includes suicide facts and warning signs, how to deal with suicide threats, depression, coping after the death of a loved one, guidelines after the death of an employee, and do's and don'ts for managers after a death or traumatic event.

Employees and their immediate family, including children, may use the EAP. Individuals receiving referrals for treatment are covered under the FPA's EAP for up to six visits. If you have a question about eligibility, please call New Directions or the FPA's Employee Services Department.

The FPA encourages its Team Members to browse the New Directions EAP website and become familiar with the assistance and information available for employees and their families, as well as the management resources that are offered.

Log on to: ndbh.com – select "Individuals and Families", then "Employee Assistance Program". Enter the FPA's log in code: Flood Protection. Or call 800-624-5544

New Directions EAP is available by telephone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (800-624-5544 or 816-237-2352) to provide services for individuals in a crisis situation.

Franklin Complex Renovations Completed



The renovations took place in two separate phases. Phase one consisted of building out an additional section of the warehouse to create office space for the Engineering, Operations and Maintenance functions. The first phase also included increasing the HVAC capacity by adding a new chiller and cooling tower, and two new generators. Phase Two consisted of gutting the Administration Building. Both phases included the installation of a new modular wall system and all new furnishings. The project also included upgrades to the electrical infrastructure and fiber optics and data cabling, as well as new security with card access at key entry points.



The Architect for the project is RCL Architecture, LLC. The project was constructed by CM Combs Construction, LLC. The modular wall/partitioning system and furnishings were supplied by AOS Interior Environments.

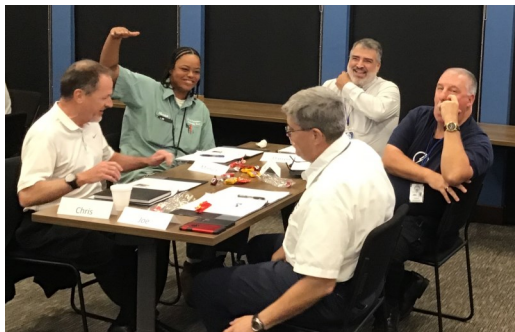


Supervisors Receive Extensive Sexual Harassment Prevention Training



Louisiana State Civil Service requires that all employees complete one hour of Sexual Harassment Prevention Training each year and that supervisors receive additional training on this extremely important subject. The FPA has a newly developed program designed to teach supervisors about sexual/gender harassment and discrimination and to provide leadership skills to recognize this type of prohibited behavior and take the appropriate action. The program not only complies with Civil Service and legal requirements but goes far beyond to ensure that the working environment for all employees is harassment and discrimination-free and that every employee is allowed to develop and excel.

The FPA's new program for supervisors, "Understanding and Preventing Sex/Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in a Complex and Dynamic Working Environment", was developed by Deborah E. Love, Esq., an attorney with an extensive background in criminal defense, employment law, and personal injury matters. In 2018, Ms. Love started her human relations consulting business, "Simply the Best." The training is conducted over four hours in a classroom setting led by Ms. Love. The program is interactive and includes instruction, discussion, role-playing, and question and answer sessions.



The message from CAO Derek Boese included as a foreword in the program's Executive Guidebook provided to each supervisor explains the intention of the program and the FPA's commitment to all employees.

"Discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct are all very complicated issues. We talk about zero tolerance for any kind of conduct that violates FPA-E. What does this mean? A critical factor in exercising good leadership is accountability. Because we all occupy leadership and supervisor roles, we are accountable to the FPA and our employees.

"We are responsible for ensuring our work environment is at all times professional and supportive of every employee and our clients. We are committed to building and sustaining a workplace culture that is free from any form of discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct. It is incumbent upon each one of us to carry out an active role in preventing unlawful discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct at FPA. We must ensure that we are always promoting a safe and respectful workplace. Doing so means understanding and following our Policies, explaining important requirements to our employees, being willing to intervene as a bystander, providing support to individuals who are subjected to unlawful discrimination, taking all concerns and reports seriously, and reporting such incidents to the Human Resources Department when they occur.

"As the CAO, it is my responsibility to provide you with the necessary tools for you to fulfill your leadership and supervisory responsibilities in this area. Therefore, we will provide up-to-date, evidence-based educational workshops focusing on this subject, including best preventative practices."



Police Employee of the Month for September Recognized by Board



The Board recognized Eddie Freeman as the Police Employee of the Month at its September 19th meeting.

Officer Freeman is a Police Officer 2A with the O.L.D. Police Department. He was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Police Employee of the Month because of his professionalism as a law enforcement officer and his dedication to duty and service to the public.

On August 27, 2019, Officer Freeman received the Medal of Commendation from NOPD Superintendent Shaun Ferguson. Officer Freeman received this prestigious award for his involvement in the arrest of two armed robbery suspects that took place on October 7, 2018. In this case, the Dollar General Store located on Gentilly Boulevard was robbed at gunpoint by two suspects. Officer Freeman responded to assist NOPD Officers and was able to apprehend one of the suspects at Gentilly Boulevard and Chef Menteur Highway. While the suspect attempted to flee, he discarded a black back pack containing \$2,000 in stolen currency, a handgun, gloves, bandana and two hooded sweatshirts.

In another situation, on August 8, 2019, an automobile was stolen from the Lakeview neighborhood, which had been plagued with automobile thefts and burglaries for months on end. On August 21st NOPD Officers observed the stolen vehicle fleeing near Franklin Avenue and Lombard Street and requested the assistance of the O.L.D. Police Department. NOPD and OLDPD Police Officers were able to locate the vehicle, which had fled to a University of New Orleans parking garage. The perpetrator fled from the vehicle running on foot, and after a multi-jurisdictional search, including a NOPD canine unit, the suspect eluded capture. Hours later, Officer Freeman observed the suspect fitting the description in the 6900 block of Franklin Avenue. Officer Freeman pursued the suspect, who was running on foot, and was able to make a successful apprehension in the 2000 block of Lakeshore Drive. The suspect was wanted in connection with multiple auto burglaries in the New Orleans area.

Officer Freeman has been commended for his exemplary performance and dedication to duty in both of these investigations.

Officer Freeman is from Mobile, AL and retired from the U.S. Coast Guard as a Coast Guard Criminal Investigator. He has 12 years of law enforcement experience, in which the last three have been served with the OLDPD. Officer Freeman is also a Master Electrician.

Officer Freeman is an outstanding example of the OLDPD's professionalism and commitment to the FPA's mission. His willingness to go above and beyond makes him a valuable asset to the FPA, the law enforcement community and the public.



Photo left to right: Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Honorable Mayor Latoya Cantrell, NOPD Superintendent Shaun Ferguson and OLDPD Police Officer Eddie Freeman.

Board Recognizes FPA's Co-Employees of the Month

The Board at its September 19th meeting recognized the FPA's Co-Employees of the Month Remington Kreitzer and Joe Bailey.

Remington and Joe are both Mechanics 3 in the East Jefferson Mechanics Shop. Remington and Joe were nominated and selected due to the phenomenal job they have done under very difficult circumstances.

Four mechanic positions are currently assigned to the EJLD Mechanics Shop and at this time there are two vacancies.



Remington and Joe have done the jobs of four mechanics working on the maintenance fleet, heavy equipment and police fleet, as well as doing service calls on equipment that breaks down while out in the field.

Captain Terry Durnin expressed the EJLD Police Department's sincerest appreciation and thanks for all of the work that Remington and Joe have done for the Department during difficult times. He advised that every morning they ask whether the Police needs anything and updates him on the status of the Department's vehicles.

Remington and Joe not only exemplify all of the FPA's core values, but go far beyond with their hard work, dedication and sincerity, and are an inspiration and example to their colleagues.

Remington's and Joe's hard work and willingness to go above and beyond make them critical to the success of the FPA and its flood protection mission.

Administrative Employee of the Month for September



Chris Lucas is a Procurement Specialist 3 in the Purchasing section of the Finance Department. Chris was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Administrative Employee of the Month.

Chris has only been with the FPA since March 2019 and has quickly learned his role in the Purchasing Department. Chris does an excellent job in communicating with his colleagues when requisitions are made keeping them informed on the status of the request.

Chris eagerly takes on additional duties when asked and has successfully stepped into the lead role for Purchasing while the Purchasing Manager is out on leave.

After Hurricane Barry Chris brought forth ideas on how to streamline and improve the process for providing food during storms, such as getting an ice machine closer to the kitchen to avoid having to bring it back and forth in coolers from the warehouse, putting refrigerators for water and Gatorade in the dining area for the field crew, and establishing staging areas in the storeroom for storm supplies. Chris was also instrumental in implementing a vending machine to issue safety equipment for the maintenance crew.

Chris is an active participant in the Finance Culture Team and consistently demonstrates the seven core values adopted by the FPA. Chris has an excellent attitude and work ethic and is a tremendous asset to the Finance Department and the FPA.

Board Recognizes Police Employee of the Month for August



The Board at its September 19th meeting recognized Sgt. Gary Lerouge, who was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Police Employee of the Month for August.

Sgt. Lerouge is a Police Sergeant A with the East Jefferson Levee District Police.

Sgt. Lerouge has continued to demonstrate his dedication and tremendous value to the FPA while dealing with a serious medical diagnosis.

Sgt. Lerouge has been an extraordinary example to all FPA team members by exhibiting determination, perseverance and a positive “can do” attitude.

An article regarding Sgt. Lerouge’s selection for Police Employee of the Month appeared in the September 15th issue of *In the Levee Loop!*

Board Recognizes Police Employee of the Month for June

The Board at its September 19th meeting recognized Sgt. Alvin J. Bedou, Sr., who was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Police Employee of the Month for June.

Sgt. Bedou had been on military leave in Germany in June and on military duty for Hurricane Barry response in July.

Sgt. Bedou is a Police Sergeant A with the Orleans Levee District Police on “A Platoon”.



Sgt. Bedou was nominated by his colleagues for his professionalism as a law enforcement officer, his leadership, and his dedication to the FPA and the officers he commands.

An article regarding Sgt. Bedou’s selection for Police Employee of the Month appeared in the July 15th edition of *In the Levee Loop!*

“Outstanding people have one thing in common: An absolute sense of mission.”

Zig Ziglar

GEM - Going the Extra Mile



Captain Terry Durnin issued challenge coins to Shawn Boudoin and Dorris Vidrine for assisting with the Orleans Levee District ATV training at 1135 Lesan Drive in Kenner.

Safety Message - Step Ladder Safety



Always Inspect a Step Ladder Before Use

Check for defects on every part of the ladder like a dent, bend, crack, split or any wear and tear. If you find a defect or damage in any part of the ladder, report it immediately and lock and tag out the ladder. Make sure there is no grease, mud, stones or any type of material that may cause the ladder steps to be unsafe. Always use a step ladder that is one inch shorter than the highest point you need to reach. This provides a wider more stable base and places the shelf at a more convenient working height.

Safe Use of a Step Ladder

- ◆ Never use a step ladder in windy weather.
- ◆ Have someone stay close to the ladder at the bottom when you climb it.
- ◆ Don't push or pull the ladder from the side. This action may cause the ladder to become unstable if done repeatedly.
- ◆ Check your shoes or boots for mud, oil or other slippery material that may cause loose footing when climbing.
- ◆ Always face the step ladder when you climb or descend the ladder.
- ◆ Always keep a 3-point contact on the ladder when you climb up or down a ladder (2 hands and 1 foot or 1 hand and 2 feet).
- ◆ Keep your body centered between the side rails.
- ◆ Make knee contact with the side rails to add balance.
- ◆ Never rise higher than the 3rd or 4th step from the top of the ladder.
- ◆ Use a hoist or similar tool to bring up your materials or work tools. Don't carry them up the ladder by yourself while climbing. Keep your hands free to hold onto the rails while climbing.
- ◆ Do not overreach. Climb down and move the ladder closer to work.
- ◆ Keep both of your feet on the step of the ladder. Do not walk the ladder. Never stand, climb or sit on the top of a ladder.
- ◆ Only one person at a time should be on the ladder.
- ◆ Never use a step ladder as a support or platform base.

Your FPA Safety Team

*"The danger which is least expected soonest comes to us."
Voltaire, French dramatist, poet and reformer born in 1694*

“Terry Line of Duty Proofed”



As I sit and reflect on yet another Police Officer killed in the line of duty, this time close to home, I ask, “Why do we do this job?”

We are taunted, spit on, laughed at, punched, kicked, cursed, sued, shot at and second guessed on our decisions. Most of you reading this take our daily sacrifice for granted. “Nothing will happen to one of us...” but people said the same in Mandeville.

So again, I ask, why do we do what we do?!

We do it for the oath! We will Protect and Serve with no prejudice. We protect people who sometimes aren't thankful. But, I have a job to do and you will get my best! I love my job. I love making a difference.

Will today be the day I make a difference? We do it for the pride of putting on the uniform and badge. Is it dangerous? Absolutely! Do we miss holidays and birthdays? Yes! But, we work night and day for Law and Order. We work so everyone can enjoy the qualities of life. Sometimes, we make the *ultimate sacrifice* and leave behind family, friends and co-workers. Tears are lost and hearts are broken. Many are devastated. But, every morning I wake up and put my uniform on. I pledge my loyalty to God, Family, Community and Agency.

We all have our stories and reasons as to why we got in this profession. My grandfather was a distinguished Law Enforcement Officer and I wanted to follow in his footsteps.

When I started my career I would love his nightly phone calls. The excitement in his voice was contagious. He always told me to stay with the Levee District Police because one day, I would be Captain. He passed away in 2005, but in 2017 I was promoted to Captain. Every day when I put this uniform on, my grandfather is here with me, smiling and beaming with pride. Every day, I thank him for encouraging me.

To all my Brothers and Sisters with East Jefferson and Orleans, I thank you for your Service and Dedication to this profession. We have each other's backs and share a bond that most people wouldn't understand.

Sincerely To All,
Captain Terrance Durnin

EJ PD Participates in MSY-Louis Armstrong Airport's FTX

On September 25th, Capt. Vincent Yetta participated in the MSY-Louis Armstrong Airport's annual full-scale exercise/ mandatory FTX (field training exercise) from the FAA. This test simulated an Active Shooter who was armed with firearms and IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices). The emergency scenario included civilian stakeholders acting as victims, and numerous first responders, including the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office (JPSO), East Jefferson Levee District Police Officers, fire personnel and EMS, participating in this mock (active shooter) scenario .



During the scenario, two IEDs were simulated as detonated and the perpetrator shot several innocent people. Responding deputies and officers conducted a dynamic entry and perimeter control where police were able to contain the bad guy/active shooter until the JPSO SWAT team arrived. JPSO SWAT utilized a robot to determine the shooter was deceased.

This interactive FTX at the Louis Armstrong International Airport challenged first responders by testing police response to a bomb activation and Active Shooter incident. It also challenged EMS / Fire personnel with multiple wide-spread casualties located throughout the airport.

Although we all hope that this event never occurs, it is beneficial that first responders from multi agencies are prepared to respond!

Congratulations NAPD Tactical Driving Classes 004 and 005



Congratulations to Class 004 and Class 005 for successfully completing The NAPD Tactical Driving Course. Great Job!

Class 004 (pictured left) participants were Officers Kelli Lopardi, Scott Meunier, Joynal Abdin, Courtney Jimison, Taskara Jackson, Troy Johnson, Gabriel Faucetta, and Joshua Martin.



Class 005 (pictured right) participants were Lt. Darnell Laurent, Lt. Michael Moscona, and Officers Eric LaBranche, J. Ladd, J. Hughes, Tammy Canfield, Myles Ledet and Robert Tewis

NAPD Instructors for Classes 004 and 005:

Lt. Albert Pellitteri

Lt. Charles Hill

P.O. Chuck Badon

Cyber Security Training



At the request of IT Director, Roman Dody, Special Agent Corey Harris, FBI Supervisor of the New Orleans Cyber Division gave a presentation to FPA employees on Cyber Security. Two sessions were held on August 28, 2019 for 111 employees. The training brought awareness around cyber threats and vulnerabilities, and increased our cyber security knowledge. Cyber is not limited by boundaries—it permeates every aspect of our lives, both personally and professionally and is a direct threat for the United States.

Listed below are some useful tips to help keep you safe from cyber-attacks:

- Always have your documents backed up on an external drive;
- Do not keep the external drives plugged into your computer when not in use;
- Avoid pop-ups, unknown emails, and links;
- Always connect to a secure Wi-Fi Network;
- Always install the latest security updates;
- Passwords:
 - * Do not give your password out or answer questions about your password;
 - * Do not use the same password for multiple accounts or even a version of the same password;
 - * Do not use common passwords like “password1234”
 - * Length trumps complexity - the longer a password is, the better;
 - * Use at least 16 characters whenever possible;
 - * Use Two-Factor Authentication - This highly effective safety precaution measure requires you to input a PIN that gets sent to you via an email, SMS or app. Consequently, two-factor authentication protects from stolen passwords and prevents an external person from accessing systems and accounts; and
- Finally, embrace education and training.

Calendar of Events

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)

November 29 (Friday) - Acadian Day (must be declared by Governor)

December

December 19 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

December 25 (Wednesday) - Christmas (State holiday)

January

January 1 (Wednesday) - New Year's Day (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.

Do Your Part to Prevent Workplace Accidents

SAFETY FIRST



Report workplace hazards immediately and email safety concerns, suggestions and suggested topics for future safety meetings to the FPA Safety Team - safety@floodauthority.org .

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 Closure and Pumps (PCCP) 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.

Editor: Glenda Boudreaux
Associate Editor: Wilma Heaton

Submittals can be 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.