

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

March 15, 2020

Message From Commissioner Randy Noel



I can't tell you how honored and excited I am about having an opportunity to serve on the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East Board. In my short tenure I have seen incredible competence in the staff from top to bottom.

For years I have traveled past flood control structures holding water back from our citizens which fills me with great pride to the skill we have here in in southeast Louisiana to do what others across the world struggle to do. I build homes for those same citizens who trust and have confidence in those flood control structures.

I have recently, as a Senior Officer of the National Association of Home Builders, crisscrossed the country and I am asked the same thing no matter where I go, "How do you exist below sea level?" I always tell them we have the most talented, skilled, and intelligent people in the world at flood control and I get the great privilege of working with those same people now that I am on the Board. What we collectively do is quite remarkable. We should all take great pride in our endeavors.

I distinctly remember those dark days after Katrina and the dedication of our citizens to right the ship by consolidating the various levee boards into a regional consortium to safe guard the citizens from flooding. This was a major undertaking by very concerned citizens. While it is easy to bunker down in your own sphere of influence, somehow the electorate saw the wisdom in consolidation and I believe it has paid huge dividends to all. We will continue to battle those who don't appreciate a regional approach, but our citizens appreciate the coordination and know there is potential benefit in consolidation and cooperative planning, overhead, and expenses.

The Board inherited many sins of the past and I have seen these issues handled with grace and understanding. Protecting millions of people from flooding is a serious business. I have complete confidence in the ability of the FPA to accomplish our mission. Especially since I have now seen the fantastic work first hand.

Randy Noel

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

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President
Mark L. Morgan, P.E. - Vice President
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K. Randall Noel
Herbert T. Weysam, III

"Leadership is not magnetic personality—that can just as well be a glib tongue. It is not making friends and influencing people—that is flattery. Leadership is lifting a person's vision to high sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations."

Peter F. Drucker

Managing COVID-19 Anxiety

As information about COVID-19 unfolds and media coverage increases, there can be a wide range of thoughts, feelings and reactions, including fear and anxiety. The FPA's Employee Assistance Program provided thru **New Directions Behavioral Health** is available to all FPA employees and their immediate family with the New Directions website offering a wide range of resources, information and help, including information and resources on COVID-19 and the anxiety and stress related to the virus.

Log onto: www.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) to provide services for individuals in a crisis situation.

COVID 19 / Coronavirus

As the coronavirus situation continues to evolve, we know it is top of mind for our employees. The FPA believes it is important to share the steps we are taking to keep our employees safe and our facilities clean.

We are closely monitoring this situation, and, as we do with any emergency event, we will watch what's happening locally and adjust business operations and policies as needed. We are in close communication with both the City of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish Directors of Emergency Management for information. We are also following the guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Louisiana Department of Health, as well as other health organizations.

We are taking preventive measures to keep our facilities clean and maintain a healthy environment. Our facilities are frequently cleaned, and we have contracted for additional cleaning, using sanitizing solutions in high-touch, high-traffic areas.

Supervisors will make routine visual assessments of employees during the workday for symptoms commonly associated with COVID-19 and HR will be alerted if an employee is observed to be displaying any symptoms. Employees are expected to take steps to reduce the potential transmission of COVID-19 as well as other communicable diseases in the workplace.

Employees are reminded of the following:

Help prevent the spread of COVID-19

It is currently flu and respiratory disease season, and in addition to COVID-19, flu activity is still high and expected to continue for a number of weeks. Take steps to avoid spreading germs by:

- Staying home when you are sick.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Putting distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at a higher risk of getting very sick.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (sing the Happy Birthday song, while washing, which takes 20 seconds), especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Covering your mouth with tissues whenever you sneeze or cough, and discarding used tissues in the trash.
- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces, including your work area, using spray disinfectant or disinfecting wipes at least daily and preferably more often.
- Follow the [helpful tips from the CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fprevention-treatment.html) on how to reduce your risk of infection: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fprevention-treatment.html
- Review the CDC offers [up-to-date information](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html) on the spread of the virus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>
- Debunk common misconceptions about coronavirus with this [myth busters page](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters) from the World Health Organization (WHO): <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

Symptoms of COVID-19

- Fever, cough, and shortness of breath are the most common symptoms that may appear 2-14 days after exposure.
- See what the [CDC recommends](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html) for those who think they may have been exposed: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>

COVID 19 / Coronavirus

Talking to kids about COVID-19

- With extensive news coverage about the potentially deadly nature of the coronavirus, children may develop fears about the risk of their health and safety.
- Experts say parents should listen to their children's fears and not dismiss them.
- Before talking to kids about what they may be seeing on the news or hearing from their peers, parents should make sure they have an understanding of the virus first.
- Need to help a child understand the outbreak? There are many resources with advice on [how to talk to children about coronavirus](#).

Coronavirus FAQ

Should I report to work?

Except for quarantined individuals, all employees are expected to report to work as usual unless otherwise notified by their supervisor. However, we encourage employees to practice social distancing measures and preventative measures such as avoiding close contact with people who are sick and putting distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and other people and do not shake hands.

What should I do if I think I have COVID-19?

If you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider immediately, and notify your supervisor or HR.

What should I do if I have come into contact with someone who has either tested positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone positive?

Call your healthcare provider and follow his/her instructions and notify your supervisor or HR.

What should I do if employees are expressing concern and would like counseling or support?

The New Directions Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available for employees seeking counseling or support. Information about the programs can be found on the ADP landing page, displayed posters throughout the Agency, and on the EAP cards previously distributed to all employees. The number is 1-800-624-5544 and is available 24/7.

How will I get paid for being out due to COVID-19?

- If you are exposed but are not sick and have been instructed by your doctor and your supervisor or HR to stay home during the incubation period:
 - ◇ Every effort will be made to maintain the employee in paid status while off from work. The FPA may take the following actions:
 - ⇒ Allow the employee to work from home through the designated incubation period;
 - ⇒ Provide time off without loss of pay or loss of leave during a period of quarantine.
 - ⇒ If the employee becomes ill or is diagnosed with COVID-19, the employee's status will be converted to sick leave;
- If you test positive for COVID-19:
 - ◇ The employee shall remain home until he is cleared by a medical doctor to return to work.
 - ◇ The FPA is currently evaluating options to ensure employees get paid and awaiting additional information from the State Civil Service.

What happens if K-12 schools close?

Parents should evaluate their child care options if schools close and start to make plans accordingly. The FPA is evaluating alternative work schedules that could enable employees to continue to work.

Best Wishes on Retirement

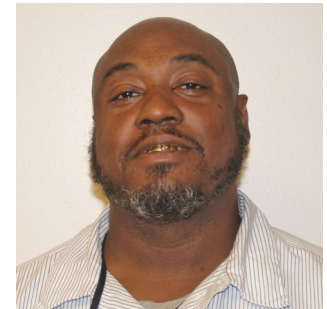


Mary Johnson retired on 02/15/2020 as an Administrative Assistant 3 with 23 years of service with the Orleans Levee District Police Department.

Congratulations on Promotion



James Obiol
promoted to Electrician
Specialist Leader on 2/10/2020



Kerry McKinney
promoted to Maintenance
Foreman on 2/24/2020

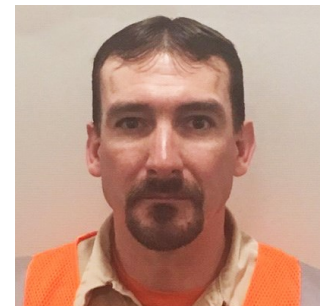
Welcome New FPA Team Members



Ryan Chartin
Levee Foreman A
Orleans on 2/10/2020



Tyran Collor
Mobile Equipment Operator-Light
East Jefferson on 2/10/2020



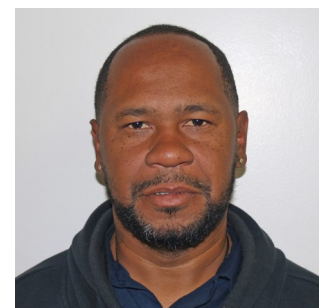
David Cardillo
Mobile Equipment Operator-Light
East Jefferson on 2/10/2020



Richard Witcher,
HVAC/Refrig. Master Mechanic
Orleans on 2/17/2020



Francisco Varela
Trades Apprentice
Orleans on 2/26/2020



Schaun Duperon
Maintenance Repairer 2
Orleans on 2/26/2020

Police Employee of the Month Recognized by Board



The Board recognized Police Officer Kevin Wheeler at its February 20th meeting as the Police Employee of the Month.

Officer Wheeler was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Police Employee of the Month due to his professionalism as a law enforcement officer, his exemplary police work and his commitment to the FPA and the community.

Officer Wheeler is a Police Officer 2A in the Orleans Levee District Police Department. Officer Wheeler was also selected as the Orleans Levee District Police Department's Officer of the Month for January.

On January 23, 2020, Officer Wheeler was patrolling near Elysian Fields Avenue and Selma Street investigating reports of gunshots in the area. Officer Wheeler pursued the vehicle, which resulted in the vehicle crashing and the two occupants fleeing on foot. Officer Wheeler apprehended the driver and recovered two handguns and magazines from the scene. The driver of the vehicle was on parole in Texas for Organized Crime. Officer Wheeler charged the driver with multiple traffic violations, aggravated flight from an officer and resisting an officer.

In January Officer Wheeler recovered five handguns and multiple live rounds of ammunition from felons as well as illegal drugs.

Officer Wheeler has proven his commitment to law enforcement many times. He is a valuable asset to the FPA, the Orleans Levee District Police Department, the law enforcement community and the public that we serve.

Employee of the Month Recognized by Board



James Obiol was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Employee of the Month because of the way he exemplifies the FPA's values. James was promoted on February 10th to Electrician Specialist Leader in Operations & Maintenance – Facilities (Department 312).

James is known for his ability to motivate his coworkers. He searches out problems and explains how the problems can be fixed. He goes above and beyond to get the job done. James greets everyone with courtesy and is always looking to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs it.

James is a tremendous asset to the FPA and essential to the successful accomplishment of the FPA's mission.

James was unable to attend the February 20th Board meeting because he was called to Lake Borgne for an emergency electrical repair. James will be recognized by the Board at a future Board meeting.

"I've always believed that if you put in the work, the results will come. I don't do things half-heartedly. Because I know if I do, then I can expect half-hearted results." *Michael Jordan*

Levee District Police Officers of the Month



Lt. Albert Pellitteri, Officer Warren Kimball and Sgt. Noel Sanders

Each month the Orleans Levee District (O.L.D) and East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) Police Departments recognize an officer who demonstrates professionalism, accountability, proactiveness and adherence to the highest ethical standards, and remains focused on the FPA's mission and organizational integrity.

The officers' names are placed on the Officer of the Month Plaques located in the respective police departments.

Officer Warren Kimball was selected as the O.L.D. Police Department's Officer of the Month. Officer Kimball is a Police Officer 2A.

Officer Brad Baradell was selected as the EJLD Police Department's Officer of the Month. Officer Baradell is a Police Officer 3A.

The FPA team members congratulate Officer Warren Kimball and Officer Brad Baradell for being selected to receive this esteemed honor.



Officer Brad Baradell

Thanks For A Job Well Done !

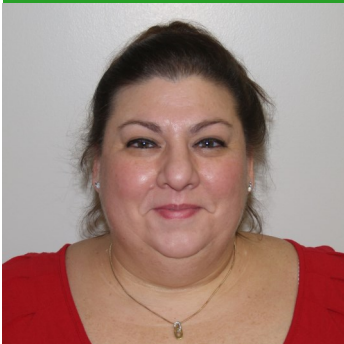


Police Officer Jonathan Downing was recognized by his peers for a job well done. Officer Downing is a Police Officer 2-A in the EJLD Police Department.

On February 19, 2020, Officer Downing was patrolling on Veterans Memorial Boulevard when he observed a vehicle with an unoperational brake light. Officer Downing conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and made contact with the driver. After making contact with the driver, Officer Downing immediately smelled a distinct odor of marijuana emitting from inside of the vehicle. He then conducted a search of the vehicle and located the marijuana as well as a loaded Springfield XDM 45 ACP firearm with a round chambered under the driver seat. The suspect, who was also a convicted felon, was placed under arrest and transported to the JPCC.

Thanks to Officer Downing's vigilance and determination to keep the community safe, he was able to remove an armed career criminal from the streets. Today, the residents of Metairie are a little safer due to Officer Downing's hard work.

GEM - Going the Extra Mile



I would like to nominate someone for GEM that is funny, kind and truly goes out of their way to help EJ and represents the FPA in an exemplary manner. She always greets you with a smile and kind words. Has a personality that you wish everyone possessed. Helps me out with departmental financial matters. And on top of all this is just a real good person.

I would like to thank Karen Fernandez for being such a wonderful person and doing the little things that sometimes go unnoticed. This is my opportunity to get you noticed for what you do!

Captain Terry Durnin, EJLD Police

Safety Message

Healthy Habits!

Natures Defense Against Illness & Injury

With the spread of the Coronavirus and the flu season still in full swing it is most important that we develop healthy habits as a defense against getting sick or injured. While the flu vaccine is your best defense against the flu there are ways to combat illnesses and injury through preventative measures.

- ◆ Get...Annual Checkups
- ◆ Address ailments ASAP to avoid more serious consequences.
- ◆ Get proper sleep/avoid getting run down.
- ◆ Eat healthy a well-balanced diet.
- ◆ Exercise regularly.
- ◆ Stay hydrated/avoid carbonated drinks.
- ◆ Wash Hands Often: Wash the front back and under fingernails of your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean hands with a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if no running water is available
- ◆ Avoid touching your nose eye and mouth
- ◆ Use tissues for coughs, sneezes and dispose of them appropriately.
- ◆ Avoid contact with crowds.
- ◆ Stay at Home if you are sick so as not to contaminate someone else.



Your FPA Safety Team - safety@floodauthority.org



The Safety 1st Appreciation Corner

The FPA Safety Team recognizes Jacinta Gisclair for submitting several Safety topics to improve our Safety Meetings.

Thank you Jacinta for your proactive contribution to making our workplace safe.



Levee District Police Help to Provide A Safe Mardi Gras



Sgt. Noel Sanders, Sgt. Alvin Bedou, and P/O's Troy Johnson, Warren Kimball, Warren Kenny, Ryan Frazier, Gabriel Faucetta, Benjamin Wilson are pictured on right while working a parade detail.

Pictured left Sgt. Noel Sanders comes across FPA Board member Randy Noel at one of the parades.



Calendar of Events

March

March 19 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

April

April 10 (Friday) - Good Friday (Legal Holiday)

April 16 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

May

May 21 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

May 25 (Monday) - Memorial Day (Must Be Proclaimed Legal Holiday by Governor)

June

June 18 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

Reminders

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

Louisiana State Civil Service advised that the 2020 version of Preventing Sexual Harassment course is available on the LEO website.

2020 Performance Evaluation System (PES) Timeline

Employee Services (ES) host refresher classes for all supervisors - June 22 - June 25

1st & 2nd level evaluators prepare evaluation and planning forms (signed and dated) and submit to ES - July 1 - July 24

ES Review Period - July 27 - July 31

1st level evaluators conduct evaluation and planning sessions with employees and submit signed PES forms to ES - August 3 - August 28

ES to prepare PES report for Civil Service - August 31, 2020

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) - New Directions

In addition to helping with personal issues, the EAP has trainings available for all employees and supervisors, 24/7. Take advantage of all the EAP has to offer, from building skills on personal and professional growth, such as communication, professional development, and developing leadership and interpersonal skills. Take the first step and call or visit the website: Visit the website www.ndbh.com

- Select Individuals & Families and select Employee Assistance Program
- Enter your login code: Flood Protection
- 800-624-5544

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.