

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

April 15, 2020

Message From Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer

To say the last month has been unusual and unprecedented would be an understatement. Virtually every aspect of our lives, professionally and personally, has been impacted. We have employees with confirmed cases of coronavirus, fortunately some of whom have recovered and others who are still fighting the virus. Others have sick family members. Many of you have been under quarantine while some are dealing with school closures and child care. Some have transitioned to working from home under new conditions. The best word I can use to describe the situation is surreal.

Meanwhile, our flood protection mission remains unchanged. The work we do to protect greater New Orleans is more critical than ever, with storm season quickly approaching and the Mississippi River at flood stage. While we have had to take significant measures to keep things going – timeclock procedures, staggered and alternating daily shifts, night shifts, new PPE requirements, and cleaning practices – the Authority has successfully adapted.

Some of you may be wondering why we are continuing to work in the field and at our facilities. I want to be absolutely clear about this: We are essential personnel. If we fail, we put hundreds of thousands of people at risk. The Governor's Mandate issued on 22 March recognizes this, as defined by the Federal Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA):

- Public personnel in law enforcement
- Workers who support weather disaster/natural hazard mitigation and prevention activities
- Workers who support the operation, inspection, and maintenance of essential dams, locks and levees

Being able to keep working in these conditions requires additional safety measures. We have been able to procure the PPE and supplies we need to keep employees safe, through hard work, perseverance and creativity from not only Purchasing but other employees who have gone above and beyond to get what we need.

Safety is both an organizational and individual responsibility. It does no good to get PPE if people don't wear it. PPE doesn't help if you don't wear it properly. The Authority will continue to provide equipment and supplies and take measures such as cleaning facilities. We can continue to do our jobs and do them well if we are consistent and deliberate in everything we do.

I appreciate everything you are doing, whether you are at home or in the field. Your hard work makes a difference to the people and property we protect every day.

Stay safe,

Derek

Chief Administrative Officer

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

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President

Mark L. Morgan, P.E. – Vice President
Clay A. Cosse' - Secretary
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Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr.
Jason P. Latiolais
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Herbert T. Weysham, III

*When I was a boy
and I would see
scary things in the
news, my mother
would say to me,
“Look for the
helpers. You will
always find people
who are helping.”*

Fred Rogers

Welcome New FPA Team Members



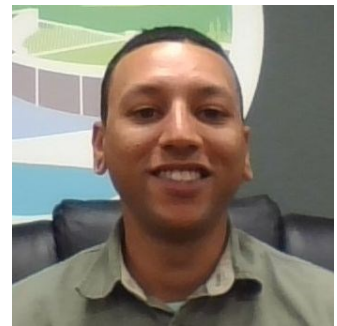
Corey Alexander
Mechanic 3
2/10/2020 - Orleans



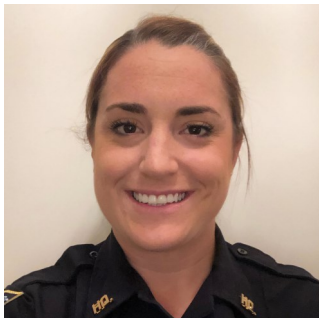
Robert Graze
Mobile Equipment Operator 1
3/9/2020 - Orleans



Gerard Birdlow
Mechanic Supervisor A
3/9/2020 - Orleans



Jovan Trouillier
Electrician Specialist
3/9/2020 - Orleans



Lacey Gerhold
Police Officer 2-A
3/23/2020 - O.L.D. Police Department

Congratulations on Promotion



Lavell Lane was promoted to
Levee Foreman B on 3/9/2020

"Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work." William Arthur Ward

God Bless the Peace Officer

*They are called to serve
For they have been given the gifts of justice, compassion
and courage.*

*Despite fear they run toward danger
So that others may flee.*

*They are of peace
Yet sometimes come face to face with violence, chaos and evil.*

*Afterwards, they must try to make sense of it all
To explain why young or old act the way they do.*

*How one can value life so little
Or fail to teach their little ones about virtue the sanctity of life.*

*Yet so many questions cannot be answered in our time,
Thus you continue, because it can be so difficult.*

*A few, called to protect the many.
That is your purpose.*

*May those who face these battles
Thereafter find peace, wisdom and comfort.*

*And may we who benefit from their bravery
Honor them and pray for their well-being.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
May God bless and comfort them.*

Thanks to Joe Hassinger for this submittal



Safety First



Be Careful Out There!

While driving, I noticed that the usual poor driving habits and the disregard for traffic laws have increased. Running red lights and traffic signs, excessive speed, weaving in and out of traffic and a total lack of attention are at an all-time high. Bikers and pedestrians are equally guilty or perhaps, at times, even worse.

Whether driving, biking, running or walking you should pay extra attention to what is going on in front of you and be on the lookout for what may be coming around you from the side and also from behind.

It is easy to be distracted and caught up in a world of unprecedented life changing events we are experiencing these days instead of dangers that exist on our roadways today. That's how accidents happen.

Let's be Careful Out There! "Keep the Faith and God Bless"

Safety Corner Article by Richard Witcher

FPA Employee of the Month



Chris Lucas was nominated and selected as the Employee of the Month for March because of his commitment to the FPA and its values. He has provided an excellent example for all FPA team members. Chris is a Procurement Manager 1 in the Finance Department.

Chris has been with the FPA less than a year and has had his fair share of challenges since coming on board. Since Chris joined the FPA, he has been a key player in the regionalization efforts and the culture change taking place within the agency. Chris treats all of the employees at the FPA as his customers and goes above and beyond to procure the items they need to get the job done. Chris is a member of the culture team within the Finance Department and is active in planning department activities and promoting department cohesion and teamwork.

Hurricane Barry was the first storm the FPA encountered since Chris joined the team. Chris showed his commitment to teamwork before the storm from working long hours to make sure all of the food and supplies were ordered to loading vehicles to take food and supplies to other FPA facilities. After the storm, Chris proposed many new ideas to improve the support the Finance Department provides the crews during an event. He purchased new refrigerators to store water and drinks for the teams along with an ice machine in the upstairs kitchen so it did not have to be transported back and forth from the store room in ice chests.

Most recently Chris' entire support team retired within a week of each other. During this time Chris not only stepped up to the plate taking on many extra duties, he also found time to train Finance's new employees AND give the store room at the Franklin facility a complete overhaul. Chris has been a tremendous help in establishing the milestones and due dates for the Purchasing/Inventory System Re-Design project and has taken the lead in cleaning out the trash from the store room and identifying and purging obsolete items from inventory. Chris is a great asset to the Finance team and to the FPA.

Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Chris will be recognized by the Board at a future Board Meeting.

Operations Employee of the Month



David Harris was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Operations and Maintenance Employee of the Month for March because of his commitment to the FPA and its critical flood defense mission. David is a Maintenance Repairer Master in Operations and Maintenance, Group 311 – Floodgates. David and his team perform excellent work in the field on the floodgates, which are an extremely important component of the flood defense system. He completes all of his assignments, ensures that all of work performed is logged each day, and notes any problems that must be addressed.

In addition, David uses his experience to help other departments that need assistance. David was recently assigned to work with a colleague in O&M Facilities on flood valves. His colleague was pleased with David's work, stating that there were no problems and that he would work with David again anytime.

David exemplifies the FPA's values and his dedication, teamwork and focus on the FPA's flood defense mission make him an invaluable asset to the organization and the public that we protect and serve.

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." - Helen Keller

Police Officer of the Month



Task Force Officer (TFO) Patrick Conaghan was nominated and selected as the Police Employee of the Month for March due to his professionalism as a law enforcement officer, commitment the FPA and its values, and service to the public.

TFP Conaghan is an Investigator in the Orleans Levee District Police Department assigned to the FBI's New Orleans Violet Crime Task Force. He always presents the FPA and the Task Force in the highest, most professional manner to the public. He consistently meets goals and objectives set by the Task Force.

TFO Conaghan holds numerous liaison contacts with area law enforcement agencies and their members, and easily develops trust and credibility during investigations, which translates to calls for assistance.

TFO Conaghan shows outstanding professionalism and courtesy when interacting with other law enforcement agencies and the public. Due to his experience, he is able to easily adjust his interactions and behavior when needed to deal with persons with diverse backgrounds, perspectives and personalities.

TFO Conaghan presents oral briefings and written communications that are clear and logical. He frequently produces well written Ops plans and gives informative and concise oral briefings to the Task Force and the squad supervisor.

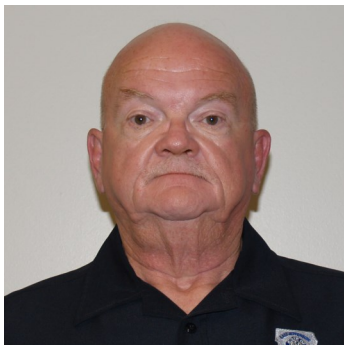
TFO Conaghan actively develops a comprehensive approach for achieving goals and objectives for his case work and the squad's. Due to his strong work ethic, experience and investigative skills, he is often assigned high-priority, time-consuming cases with little or no prior notice. He diligently investigates these cases, anticipates contingencies and produces quality and timely results that contribute greatly to the overall mission of the Task Force.

TFO Conaghan correctly follows policies and procedures as they relate to case work and during the course of an investigation. He independently conducts investigations and administrative responsibilities, but seeks guidance from the squad supervisor, if required. He provides guidance or knowledge to others when requested regarding investigative steps and the development of sources.

TFO Conaghan has been extremely busy this past year handling several squad priority cases being prepared for trial at the same time. He never complains or shows disappointment when given lesser investigations and is consistently a team player who thrives in the task force environment.

Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, TFO Conaghan will be recognized by the Board at a future Board Meeting.

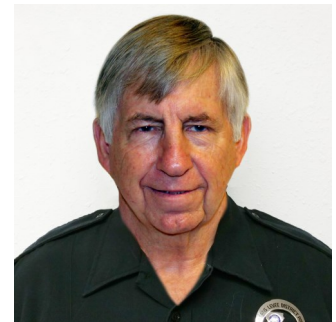
Police Officers of the Month



PO Mike Hoctel

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.

Michael Hoctel, Police Officer 2A, was selected as the EJLD Police Employee of the Month, and Charles Badon, Police Officer 2A, was selected as the O.L.D. Police Officer of the Month for March. Officer Hoctel's and Officer Badon's names will be placed on plaques located in their respective police departments.



PO Chuck Badon

Mastering the Principles of Positive Thinking

You can learn to think positively, and doing so can lead to greater self-confidence, more respect for others and achievement of your goals.

◇ **Believe in yourself**

A sense of inadequacy can prevent you from achieving your goals, but self-confidence can lead to self-realization and achievement. Make a list of all your good points if you have lost confidence in your ability to succeed. Reaffirming your assets will help you overcome your doubts.

◇ **Use your mind to restore your energy**

How you think has a profound effect on how you feel physically. If your mind tells you you're tired, your body will accept it as fact and be fatigued. You can maintain your energy level indefinitely if your mind is intensely interested in what you are doing.

◇ **Create your own happiness**

You have two choices when you get up in the morning -- to be happy or unhappy. Choose to be happy by telling yourself that life is good, things are going well, you can handle all your problems and you're grateful for all you have and will have.

◇ **Expect the best, not the worst**

You release a force in your mind that promotes positive results when you expect the best.

◇ **Don't believe in defeat**

Make your mind more positive by eliminating negative expressions in thought and speech. Statements such as "I can't do that" and "I'm afraid I'll fail" clutter your mind and condition it to expect negative results. Speak and think positively about every situation.

◇ **Break the worry habit**

Several times a day, use your imagination to empty your mind of anxiety and fear. Picture all your worries flowing out of you, just as water empties from a sink when the stopper is removed. When all your worries are gone, fill your mind with faith, hope, courage and positive expectations. In time, you'll find yourself worrying less.

◇ **Practicing silence also is effective**

Sit in a quiet place for 15 minutes. Don't read, write or speak. Think peaceful thoughts, meditate or pray.

◇ **Replace irritation, anger and hate**

Deal with hurtful situations or misunderstandings immediately. Seek out the person involved and strive to resolve your differences. To cool an angry response, reverse your body's natural reactions by unclenching your fists and lowering your voice.

◇ **Maintain a positive, optimistic attitude**

Instead of letting life's difficulties get you down, keep your mind open and responsive to new ideas, exercise initiative and resourcefulness when dealing with challenges and use your creativity and good judgment when solving problems.

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"Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement." Golda Meir

GEM - Going the Extra Mile



The following letter was received from a grateful citizen commending EJLD Police Capt. Donald Juneau:

Dear Superintendent Najolia,

I am writing to commend Captain Donald Juneau for his rapid response, concern and devotion to "doing the right thing" with regards to a situation that endangered my sister and me this past weekend.

On Saturday morning, February 1, I had a need to call 911 when a man approached my sister and me on the walk path between the Bonnabel Boat Launch and the Bucktown Harbor. He grabbed himself, and shouted obscenities as we walked past. I called 911 immediately, but the operator would not dispatch an officer because I could not give her a street name on the lake side of the levee, and would not patch me through to the Levee Police, as I requested, for the same reason. As we turned around, the man stood there, watching us, and continued his tirade.

My sister and I were lucky to escape possible serious circumstances, as there was no one else on the path at that time, and it bothered me that the only recourse we would have was to run - no one was coming to assist us. I phoned your offices on Tuesday, February 4, and was able to relay the event to Captain Juneau. He listened. He truly listened, and showed sincere concern that this had occurred. He assured me that he would not only speak with JPSO, but would report the man's description to your, and all other agencies concerned; he repeatedly let me know that this was not an acceptable situation. He promised that he would follow up with me as things developed, and he was true to his word.

Yesterday, I received a phone call from Officer LaBranch, letting me know that Captain Juneau had asked him to call me to explain the "Item number" system, and to let me know that the Captain had talked with the Supervisor of the 911 operator, and I should expect a call from her. I then received a call from the Supervisor of the operator, who was appalled that her operator handled the call in this manner. She assured me that all of the operators were being apprised of the mishandling and the operator who took the call was reprimanded and would be retrained.

Captain Juneau called me later in the day, updated me on everything, and when I thanked him profusely, he said that he was "doing his job ." If that is simply "doing his job," then I wonder what "going the extra mile" would be. He took my angst about going back to the walk path and turned it around. He listened, he empathized, and took immediate action that had a positive outcome for everyone who visits the walk/bike path. Captain Juneau is an example of total commitment and service to his job and to the community, and I am profoundly appreciative of him and his dedication.

Thank you for allowing me to convey my deepest thanks to Captain Juneau and your Department.

Sincerely, *Diane Guichard*

Safe Driving Tips

- ◆ **Know Where You Are Going:** Plan your travel route ahead of time.
- ◆ **Make Adjustments for the Weather:** Use extra precaution.
- ◆ **Buckle Up:** Seat belts are the 1st line of defense against injuries.
- ◆ **Mirrors:** Check rear view and side mirrors and adjust accordingly.
- ◆ **Don't Text and Drive:** Texting is against the law.
- ◆ **Share the Road:** Respect other drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- ◆ **Obey Speed Limits:** Speed Limits are selected to maximize safety.
- ◆ **Respect Yellow Lights:** Do not accelerate...be prepared to stop.
- ◆ **Stop Signs:** Come to a complete stop and look both ways.
- ◆ **Yield to the Right of Way and Pedestrian Crosswalks:** It's the law.
- ◆ **Use Turn Signals:** When making turns and lane changes.
- ◆ **Exercising Patience** may save your life and the lives of others.

Your FPA Safety Team - safety@floodauthority.org



Calendar of Events

May

May 21 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

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

June

June 18 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

July

July 3 (Friday) - Independence Day Observed (July 4 Saturday—Independence Day)

July 16 (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.

***Note - All tours are suspended during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.**

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.