

# In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

July 15, 2020

## *Message From Board President Herb Miller*



As I begin my second term, I find myself reflecting on the past year, my first as President of the Board of Commissioners.

A week into my first term we were hit with Tropical Storm Barry. Leaning on my nearly two decades of previous government experience dealing with hurricanes as a department head in Jefferson Parish, I did what I knew I should do: stay out of the way and let the staff do their jobs. I made myself available to discuss any issues that came up and deal with any political matters involving our fellow government agencies should they arise. However, I found the need for my services were minimal. I was impressed by the professionalism of the entire staff – both field and office personnel – in getting the system protected in record time and dealing with every issue that arose. I was not surprised by this. I knew from my prior three years as a Commissioner that we had an outstanding staff from top to bottom.

Most of the rest of the year was uneventful, standard stuff. That is until COVID-19 hit. This was new territory for everyone. Yet, due to the leadership of the Senior Staff and the unparalleled cooperation of you – our employees – the FPA managed to keep our facilities fully operational. Further, by following the rules for social distancing and wearing PPE, you have kept our incidences of infection down to a minimum, even while the Parishes around us are looking at an upward trend after initially flattening the curve regarding infection rates.

We at the FPA are fortunate that our revenue stream has been minimally impacted by the virus. Because of this we were able to pay everyone their full salary during the initial lockdown, and we have continued to do so since we resumed operations. Your past performance earned this.

In the meantime, I know that you will continue to perform at the highest level. We on the Board of Commissioners have gotten used to that.

Stay safe and stay well.

### 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

Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr.

Eugene J. Joanen, IV

Jason P. Latiolais

K. Randall Noel

Herbert T. Weysham, III

*"If you wish to succeed in  
life, make perseverance  
your bosom friend,  
experience your wise  
counselor, caution your  
elder brother, and hope  
your guardian genius."*

*Joseph Addison*

### COVID-19 Fraud Alerts

US Dept. of Health & Human Services  
Office of Inspector General

[https://oig.hhs.gov/coronavirus/  
fraud-alert-covid19.asp](https://oig.hhs.gov/coronavirus/fraud-alert-covid19.asp)

Federal Trade Commission:

<https://www.ftc.gov/covid-scams>

## ***Beware of COVID-19 Scams***

Federal agencies such as the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspection General (OIG) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) are alerting the public about the increasing number of scammers taking advantage of the public's fears and confusion related to COVID-19 to commit identify theft and fraud. Scammers are now impersonating government agencies conducting contract tracking to extract personal information such as social security numbers and insurance and financial information from the unsuspecting public. Keep your personal information safe by educating yourself regarding these threats, always exercising extreme caution, and reporting any suspected fraud to the proper authorities.

## *Congratulations on Promotion !*



**Jahlon Jackson**  
promoted to  
**Communications Officer 1**  
on 06/15/20



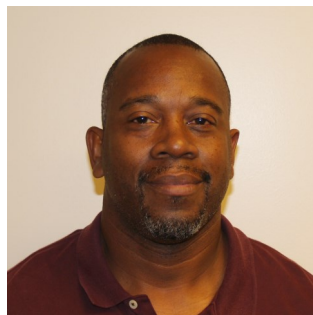
**Chenier Mathews**  
promoted to  
**Communications Officer 1**  
on 06/15/20



**Ryan Chartin**  
promoted to  
**Facility Assistant Maintenance**  
**Manager A** on 05/18/20



**Kevin Menard**  
promoted to  
**Operating Engineer 1**  
on 06/15/20



**Lyle Johnson**  
promoted to  
**Maintenance Foreman**  
on 06/29/20



**Anthony Parker**  
promoted to  
**Mobile Equipment Operator 1-**  
**Heavy** on 06/29/20

## *Catapult Health Checkup Clinics*

Catapult will once again offer on-site Health Checkup Clinics for all employees who are OGB policyholders with Primary Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana.

Why participate? It's important to know your health status related to diabetes, heart disease and stroke. Lab-accurate results are produced in minutes. You will be able to review your results with a board-certified Nurse Practitioner via virtual consultation and develop a personal action plan.

**Dates: August 4 and August 5, 2020**

**Time: 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Location: Orleans Levee District - Franklin Warehouse 2nd Floor - Safe House  
(6920 Franklin Avenue)**

- \* Please sign up at <http://www.TimeConfirm.com/OGB>
- \* Fasting for 8 hours is encouraged for the most accurate results, but it is not required.
- \* Signing up only takes 2 minutes and can be done on a smartphone!

By participating there will be a \$10 per month reduction on the OGB premium for Blue Cross Health Insurance.

Please book your appointment by going to the Scheduling Link: [www.timeconfirm.com/ogb](http://www.timeconfirm.com/ogb)

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Celeste Wertz in Employee Services - telephone 504- 286-3237.

## *Board Recognizes Commissioner A. J. Englande for His Service*



At its June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board recognized Andrew J. Englande, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., DEE, for his dedication and contributions during his tenure as a member of the FPA Board and for his devoted service to the citizens of Southeast Louisiana.

Dr. Englande served as a member of the FPA Board from September 28, 2016 through July 1, 2020. He has been an enthusiastic advocate of the FPA's Public Outreach efforts, and, in particular, the education of the region's youth about flood defense and coastal restoration.

Dr. Englande's outstanding qualifications, expertise and professional experience, including over fifty years of professional experience in the fields of water resources and environmental and civil engineering made him an invaluable resource for the FPA.

Dr. Englande graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1974 with a Ph.D. in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering and from Tulane University with a Masters in Civil Engineering (1969) and a B.S. in Civil Engineering (1967). He is currently Professor Emeritus, Department of Global Environmental Health Sciences, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Englande has published over 150 papers on water resources and the environmental sciences and received numerous awards and recognitions for his many achievements, academic accomplishments and generous public service.

Dr. Englande will be sorely missed by the Board of Commissioners and FPA staff.



Board members (L-R) Mark Morgan, Quentin Dastugue, Herbert Miller, A. J. Englande, Herb Weysham and Clay Cosse

## *CEA Derek Boese Receives Leadership Award from FPA Board*



Pictured Board Members (L-R) Mark Morgan, Quentin Dastugue, Herb Miller, CAO Derek Boese, Herb Weysham, A. J. Englande and Clay Cosse

At the June 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, President Herb Miller thanked all of the FPA employees for their efforts and accomplishments over the past few months while having to deal with the extraordinary challenges brought on by the COVID-19 crisis. He stated, "what the staff has been able to accomplish, in spite of the issues presented by COVID-19, has been remarkable."

FPA staff addressed every challenge presented by the coronavirus so that the operation and maintenance of the critical flood defense system would continue, even under the current trying conditions. In addition, staff responded to Tropical Storm Cristobal, as it has traditionally responded to such events, with professionalism, skill and expertise.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, President Miller presented a plaque to Derek Boese that read, "Commendation for outstanding leadership, presented to Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer of the Flood Protection Authority, and for exceptional management during the COVID-19 crisis."



## *FPA Police Employee of the Month*



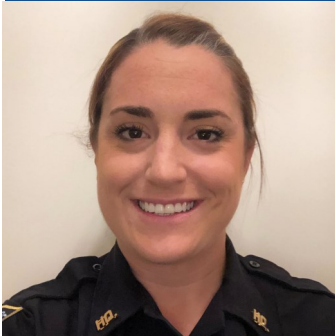
Tyrone Butler is a Police Lieutenant A and member of the East Jefferson Levee District Police Department. Lt. Butler was nominated and selected as the Police Officer of the Month for June due to his professionalism as a law enforcement officer, his commitment to the FPA's mission and his dedication to public service.

On May 26<sup>th</sup> at a retail store in Metairie, Lt. Butler arrived to pay a bill and encountered a very heated argument between a customer and an employee. The customer was asked to leave the store due to cursing and behaving in an aggressive manner. Lt. Butler encountered the customer outside and identified himself as a law enforcement officer and tried to diffuse the situation. The customer began yelling profanities and threats to Lt. Butler. While the customer was in his truck and cursing Lt. Butler, he reached behind the seat for an unknown object. Lt. Butler had to retreat for cover and draw his weapon in realization this person may be reaching for a weapon. Again, the customer yelled vulgarities and threats towards Lt. Butler and suddenly left the parking lot in his vehicle at a high rate of speed. Lt. Butler followed behind and radioed his identity, location and what was going on. After a short pursuit, the customer then pulled over in the 4600 block of Veterans Highway. The customer, who was at this time identified, would not cooperate with any verbal commands from the officers on the scene. Hours passed and he finally cooperated and signed the summons for disturbing the peace and simple assault. The individual, who identified himself as a sovereign citizen, was also reported filming both the FBI and NOPD buildings.

Lt. Butler was commended by levee district police leadership for handling himself with professionalism and courage in this matter. He is an invaluable asset to the FPA, the law enforcement community and the public that we serve.

The Board was unable to present the Certificate of Commendation for being selected the FPA Police Employee of the Month to Lt. Butler at the June 18th Board Meeting due to COVID-19 protocols currently in place. Lt. Butler will be recognized by the Board at a future Board Meeting when COVID-19 protocols allow.

## *Levee District Police Performance Officers of the Month for June*

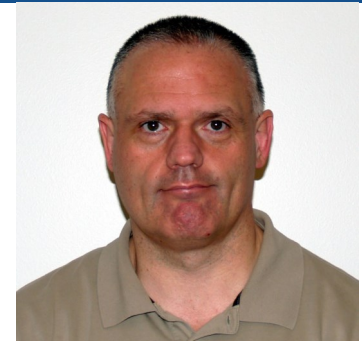


**Officer Lacey Gerhold**

Brad Baradell was selected by the East Jefferson Levee District Police Department (EJLDPD) and Lacey Gerhold was selected by the Orleans Levee District Police Department (OLDPD) as their Performance Officers of the Month.

Officer Gerhold is a Police Officer 2A and Brad Baradell is a Police Officer 3A.

Officer Baradell also received this honor in March of this year making him the first two-time recipient of this recognition.



**Officer Brad Baradell**

An officer is selected each month by the EJLDPD and OLDPD who demonstrates professionalism and accountability, adheres to the highest ethical standards, is proactive and remains focused on the FPA's mission and exhibits organizational integrity. The officers' names are placed on a plaque in their respective police department.

*"I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has had to overcome while trying to succeed." Booker T. Washington*

## FPA Employee of the Month



Morris Washington is a Painter Master in Operations & Maintenance – Facilities. Morris was nominated and selected as the Employee of the Month for June for his willing to go above and beyond by providing help to other departments and doing whatever work is needed. He not only provides this help, but does so with a positive attitude and completes the work in an exemplary manner.

Morris did an exceptional job in supporting the FPA’s record retention activities earlier this year. He worked alone loading the vendor’s trucks with over fifty years of records and he did it in a way that was the most efficient based on the vendor's capacity constraints and the 2,000 plus boxes that had been accumulated. This process took several months to complete because the boxes had to be sorted, stacked on pallets, wrapped, and then loaded onto the trucks. Morris showed his dedication throughout this task and never lost focus on what needed to be done and communicated the status throughout the process. In addition, Morris readily provides help in the Store Room moving pallets and furniture whenever needed.

Morris has also proven his dedication and exemplary work ethic when performing his regular duties, as a coworker has been out for four weeks and he has performed all of the duties required without complaint or asking for help.

Morris’s dedication and commitment to the FPA’s mission and values is truly commendable and his willingness to help other team members has been greatly appreciated. He is an invaluable asset to the FPA and essential to the FPA’s successful performance of its mission.

The Board was unable to present the Certificate of Commendation for being selected the FPA Employee of the Month to Morris at the June 18th Board Meeting due to COVID-19 protocols currently in place. Morris will be recognized by the Board at a future Board Meeting when COVID-19 protocols allow.

## Beware of Phishers !



In recent weeks, the Flood Protection Authority has receive an extraordinary amount of **phishing emails**. By definition, **phishing** is the fraudulent use of electronic (email) communications to deceive and take advantage of users. Phishing attacks attempt to gain sensitive, confidential information such as **usernames, passwords, credit card information, network credentials**, and more. By posing as a legitimate individual or institution via phone or email, cyber attackers use **social engineering** to manipulate victims into performing specific actions—by clicking on malicious links or attachments—or willfully divulging confidential information.

Listed below are commonly used methods by **cyber attackers**;

- Link manipulation - an email may be present with links that **spoof** legitimate URLs; manipulated links may feature **subtle misspellings or use of a subdomain**.
- The use of redirection - attackers can corrupt legitimate websites with malicious pop-up dialogue boxes that redirect users to a phishing website.
- Infected **attachments**, such as **.exe files, Microsoft Office files, and PDF documents** can install **ransomware** or other **malware (malicious software)**.

Cyber attackers are always refining their techniques, so continued **vigilance** and **awareness** is imperative. It is **important** to exercise extreme caution when opening solicited and/or unsolicited emails. We, the FPA user community, play a vital role and possess the overall knowledge that is critical to the success of a breach of our agency’s computing resources.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Information Technology for further guidance.

Roman Dody, MSCIS, Regional Director of Information Technology

## Safety Message



### Heat Related Illness

When the “Heat Index” rises above 91 degrees there is concern about workers developing a heat related illness when working in hot humid conditions. Heat related illnesses can range from mild to life threatening and can escalate quickly.

**Heat Rash:** Sometimes called Prickly Heat usually develops when sweat ducts become clogged. Instead of evaporating the perspiration is trapped under the skin causing inflammation and a rash. Wash with cool water and gently pat dry. Do not use ointment on the rash. Seek medical attention to prevent the rash from becoming inflamed.

**Heat Cramps** may occur when the body loses electrolytes. Heat cramps may be the first sign of more severe heat related illnesses. At the first sign of heat cramps stop activity, move to a cool place, remove excess clothing, wet body down and drink replacement fluids such as Gatorade or PowerAde and gently stretch muscles. **Call 911** if cramps worsen and do not subside.

**Heat Syncope** is a type of heat related illness resulting in dizziness or fainting. It is caused by a diminished blood flow to the brain due to overheating and dehydration. Move to a cool place, wet the body down and sip cool sports drink to replace body fluids. If symptoms do not diminish **Call 911**.

**Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke** **Call 911** Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke are both life threatening conditions and require immediate attention. The symptoms of Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke are similar but heat stroke symptoms are more severe. “Heat Exhaustion” can elevate to “Heat Stroke” within a matter of minutes if symptoms go untreated. Symptoms may be profuse sweating, elevated temperature, dry hot reddish or pale skin, severe muscle cramps, rapid/fast or slow heartbeat, headache, chills, confusion/disorientation, slurred speech, possible loss of consciousness and seizures.

- ◆ Move person to a cool place, air conditioned if possible, and remove excess clothing.
- ◆ Lay person down, raise head and raise feet above heart level.
- ◆ Turn person to the side if nauseated, heaving or vomiting. Prop head up to the side so fluids will drain from the mouth.
- ◆ Wet the person down and fan vigorously.
- ◆ Give small sips of cool (not cold) water or sports drink if not nauseated or vomiting.
- ◆ Place cold compresses or ice packs on the forehead, back of neck, armpits, back of knees and groin area.
- ◆ If person becomes unconscious, turn person on the side, position and prop head up to the side to allow any fluid to drain from mouth.
- ◆ Seizures...hold person down to prevent injuries.
- ◆ If person stops breathing... perform “Hands Only CPR” until EMS arrives.

\* The FPA requires employees to wear COVID-19 PPE and PPE required for the task being performed even in extremely hot weather.

***Remember to hydrate and take rests to prevent heat exhaustion!***

**Stay Safe! Your FPA Safety Team [safety@floodauthority.org](mailto:safety@floodauthority.org)**

### ***New Preventing COVID-19 Course in LEO***

Louisiana State Civil Service encourages all employees to take advantage of the new course on Preventing COVID-19. The course looks at the how COVID-19 is spread and presents information on the novel coronavirus. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. Go to the LEO (State of Louisiana - Louisiana Employees Online) website and use the search term COVID.

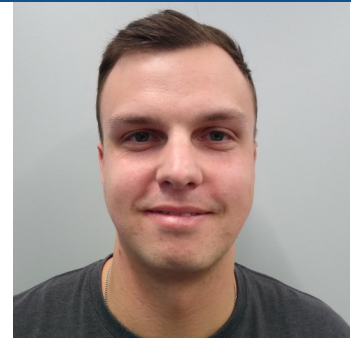
## Beyond the Call . . .



**PO Jonathan Downing**

I want to take a minute and praise the work of two young officers with the East Jefferson Levee Police: Jonathan Downing and Alex Mikkelsen. The professionalism, courage and maturity displayed by these two officers is outstanding.

On June 24th Officers Downing and Mikkelsen responded to Bryan Chevrolet located at 8213 Airline Highway in reference to a suspicious subject checking the vehicles. The subject was located inside the fenced in yard actively pulling on car door handles.



**PO Alex Mikkelsen**

Officer Mikkelsen drew his service weapon and provided cover as Officer Downing scaled the eight foot fence and placed the subject into custody. Subject was booked and no injuries reported

Way to go guys! Thanks for representing the EJLD Police with honor and dignity.

Both officers received EJLDPD Challenge Coins for exemplary performance.

Captain Terry Durnin, ELD Police



**PO Brad Baradell**

On Monday, June 29th at 1303 hrs. POIII Brad Baradell conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for failing to signal a turn. Upon approaching the vehicle Officer Baradell detected a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. Officer Baradell had the driver of the vehicle exit where he was advised of his rights as per MIRANDA. The suspect gave indication that he understood his rights and further stated that he “had illegal stuff in the car”. Upon searching the vehicle, Officer Baradell located 158 grams of marijuana, a digital scale and a box of sandwich bags. The suspect was booked accordingly.

I would like to commend Officer Baradell for his professionalism, dedication to duty and the ability to “look beyond the stop” in getting a large amount of narcotics off of the streets.

Sergeant Michael Schindler, EJLD Police

## GEM - Going the Extra Mile



I would like to recognize someone who I respect and admire. She has listened to what East Jefferson needs for the upcoming Hurricane season in both food and supplies. She has taken time out of her very busy schedule to attend our kitchen demonstration. She is a genuinely good person who is a well respected leader. She is someone who truly leads by example and exhibits all seven of the FPA tenets: appreciation of employees, open and transparent communication, teamwork, professionalism, accountability, clear expectations and mission focus. I want to recognize Ms. Kelli Chandler. Thank you for all that you do.

Captain Terry Durnin  
East Jefferson Levee District Police

*“Commitment is the glue that bonds you to your goals.”  
“You don’t get 100% results with only 50% commitment.” Anonymous*

## *Calendar of Events*

### **July**

July 16 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

### **August**

August 20 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

### **September**

September 7 (Monday) - Labor Day

September 17 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

### **October**

October 15 (Thursday) - Board Meeting

### **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 the 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](http://www.ndbh.com)

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

**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](mailto:gboudreaux@floodauthority.org) or sent to Glenda Boudreaux, SLFPA-E, Airport Terminal, Suite 225, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.