

*a monthly insight into PPLLC*



Sergio Tapia

**Position:**  
Superintendent

**Employed Since:**  
2017

**Family**  
Wife: 17 yrs. To Jennifer Tapia  
Father: Sergio Tapia, Jr. (10 yrs old)

**How does Sergio define success?**  
*Happy wife, happy life = sheer success.*

**Favorite Quotes**  
*"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me, it has feet, it runs after me, it has hands, it lays hold of me." - Dr. Martin Luther King*

*"The world is a work of art, set before all for contemplation, so that through it, the wisdom of Him that created it should be known." - Basil*

## Employee Highlight—SERGIO TAPIA

This month PPLLC continues our quest to get to know and highlight our employees. The month of February we are highlighting one of our superintendents, **Sergio Tapia**. Sergio has been employed by PPLLC since 2017 and is currently working on Project #1170, Texas City Flood Protection Project located in Galveston, TX.

Sergio is one of most loyal employees with an amazing work ethic. Just as in last months edition of Lakeside, Sergio was given a list of random questions and asked to answer at least 10 of them. In true Sergio fashion, he was willing to go beyond the call of duty and answered 27 questions, most of which are below. After reading his responses you will truly get a feel of Sergio's character. So here is what we have found out about Mr. Tapia;

**What book did you last read?** Ship of Fools by Tucker Carlson.

**What books are by your bedside?** The Bible & Daily Devotions for Men.

**What have you always wanted to try but never have?** Skydiving.

**What is your least favorite food?** Lamb.

**If you were stuck on an island what three things would you bring?** A riffle, a fishing pole and a pirogue.

**What do you like to do on your days off?** Spend time with family.

**What is the best book you have ever read?** To Renew America.

**What is your biggest pet peeve?** Laziness.

**What do you like to do for fun?** Camping and four wheeling.

**What is your hidden talent?** Drawing.

**Are you messy or organized?** Organization and Cleanliness are keys to success, period.

**Favorite Travel Spot?** Tennessee Mountains in Fall

**If you could witness any historical event, what would you want to see?** The creation.

**What is the first thing you would buy if you hit the lottery?** I'd purchase a yacht I can fish from.

**If you were on death row, what would your last meal be?** Seafood Platter, Spicy Boiled Crawfish and Seafood Gumbo

**What would you like to be famous for?** Definitely WHIRLED PEAS!!

Sergio is truly a down to earth family man. He not only loyal to his family but also to his Pontchartrain Partners, LLC team. Thank you, Sergio for your commitment and all the efforts you do to make our company great.



# HUMAN RESOURCES

Mary LeBlanc  
Director of Human Resources  
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## welcome to our NEW HIRES

02/02 - Francisco Garcia  
02/05 - Jordan Rodosta  
02/14 - Keith Stevens  
02/15 - Walter Bates  
02/19 - Mitchell Young  
02/24 - Warren Turner



Thank you all for your service and dedication. PPLLC appreciates

### 1 Year

02/05 - Jordan Rodosta  
02/19 - Mitchell Young

### 23 Years

02/02 - Francisco Garcia

### 3 Years

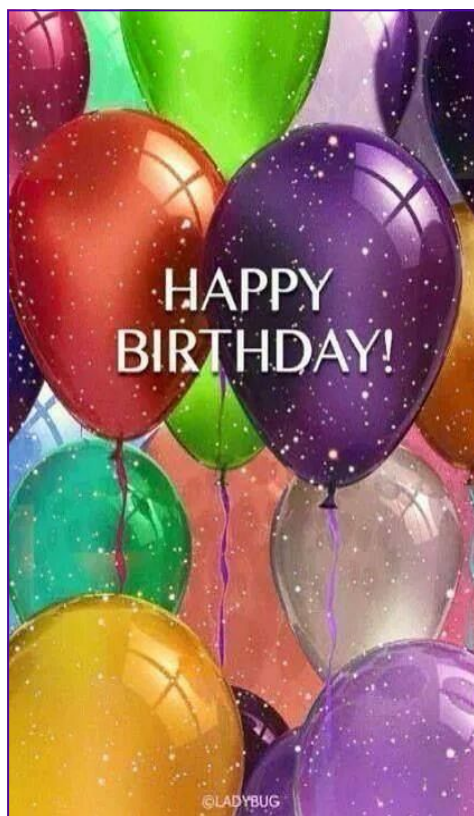
02/15 - Walter Bates

### 31 Years

02/24 - Warren Turner

### 8 Years

02/14 - Keith Stevens



2/1 - Eddie Wilson  
Nicky Dufrene

2/3 - Todd Grantier

2/6 - Bart Cook  
Jason Eaton  
Lee Gaines  
Shantell Harris

2/7 - Raymond Brown  
Raven Melrose

2/9 - Wilton McGee

2/11 - Brian Weston

2/14 - Brennan Carline

2/15 - Warren Turner

2/28 - Wilson Buttram  
Jordan Rodosta







## HUMAN RESOURCES

Mary LeBlanc

Director of Human Resources

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FEBRUARY 14TH

"Where there is love there is life"

- Ghandi



**PUUUSSSSHHHHHH!!**



**HE GOT THE W2's!**

2019 tax season is upon us and all W2's have been mailed. If you have not received your W2's please contact, Mary LeBlanc, Director of Human Resources to ensure your correct mailing address in the system.

*Congratulations* to our very own, **Leslie Koon-McMahan** and her husband on the birth of their baby girl, Lydia Rose McMahan. Lydia was born January 31, 2019. Lydia was born a healthy 6 lbs., 5 oz. and 19 1/2" inches long. Mom and Lydia are both doing well.

cousin Fred's record player. But Jackson found her greatest inspiration at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, where she sang on Wednesday, Friday, and four times on Sunday. Even at age 12, her powerful voice could be heard all the way to the end of the block. "You going to be famous in this world and walk with kings and queens," said her Aunt Bell, predicting an illustrious future for a voice that would change the face of American music, empower the Civil Rights movement, and bring Mahalia Jackson worldwide renown.

### In Chicago

Jackson was 16 when she joined her Aunt Hannah on board the Illinois Central Railroad. Like many African Americans in the South, she moved to Chicago for better opportunities, but she found only low-paying domestic work during her first several years there. Ever lifting her spirit through church and its music, Jackson joined the Greater Salem Baptist Church and began touring with the Johnson Brothers, Chicago's first professional gospel group. As a

## MAHALIA JACKSON—QUEEN OF GOSPEL



**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**



### A Childhood in New Orleans

Born in New Orleans in 1911, Mahalia Jackson grew up in a shotgun home shared by 13 people. Raised by her Aunt Duke after her mother died in 1917, economic circumstances forced Jackson to quit school and

work at home when she was in fourth grade. Her earliest influences were the sights and sounds of Uptown New Orleans: banana steamships on the Mississippi River, acorns roasting in Audubon Park, hot jazz bands, the beat-driven music of the Sanctified Church, and Bessie Smith's bluesy voice wafting from her



"fish and bread" singer, Jackson performed for donations in storefront churches, basement halls, and other makeshift venues. Later, she made tickets for her appearances — ten cents each — and found work singing at funerals and revivals. During this period, Jackson made a vow that she would live a pure life, free of secular entertainment. She promised to use her voice for spiritual song — a promise that she kept.

## Seeds of Success

1937, Jackson had made her first set of recordings with Decca Records. Her first side, "God's Gonna Separate the Wheat from the Tares," only saw moderate commercial success. Despite her A&R representative's suggestions, she refused to make a blues record, remembering her pledge to sing only gospel music. As a result, she lost her contract with Decca. Then married to her first husband, Ike, Jackson decided to buy real estate and invest in her own business, a beauty shop. High-paying offers for work in the theater rolled in, and though Ike protested, Jackson kept her vow. Gospel music was becoming popular in Chicago churches, and Jackson

was building a community of gospel musicians. Among these was Thomas Dorsey, a talented Atlanta-born African American composer and pianist who had migrated north with a vision for gospel music. He chose Jackson out of all the singers in Chicago to be his partner, and, as a traveling act, the two ushered in the Golden Age of Gospel.

In 1948, Mahalia Jackson recorded "Move On Up a Little Higher" for Apollo Records, selling one million copies in the United States. A white radio DJ, Studs Terkel, helped to popularize the recording, playing it alongside the hit rhythm and blues records of the day. With her riveting contralto, Jackson was as captivating as popular blues singers, and gospel's bouncing beat proved just as danceable, even to those who didn't go to church. Jackson began to tour extensively. And though she battled racism and segregation, especially in the South, she could collect hundreds of dollars for a single concert. In 1950, she was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall as the headlining act at the First Negro Gospel Music Festival, a monumental event in the history of gospel music.

In 1954, Jackson signed with Columbia Records and recorded Bless This House. The first of her 30 albums for the label, it included traditional numbers such as "Down By the Riverside," two compositions by her old friend Thomas Dorsey, and a spiritual version of Gershwin's "Summertime." Jackson's Columbia deal included a national radio show out of Chicago, The Mahalia Jackson Show, the first all-gospel radio hour. The show drew a tremendous positive response, but when Jackson suggested a television series to CBS-TV, executives explained that national sponsors would not take a chance on a "Negro show," fearing that their sales would drop in Southern markets. After twenty weeks, CBS cancelled Jackson's radio show because it

failed to secure a national sponsor.

Jackson found wild mainstream success in the late '50s, touring the world and recording several successful albums for Columbia. Though she could not convince a television network to grant her a show of her own, Jackson did appear as a guest on many "white" variety shows including those hosted by Dinah Shore, Steve Allen, and Ed Sullivan. She also performed at dozens of monumental events, including her first European tour and an appearance at the 1958 Newport Jazz Festival, which yielded the classic album Live at Newport 1958. In the same year, Jackson collaborated with popular orchestral arranger Percy Faith to record the hit album The Power and the Glory, and contributed vocals to Duke Ellington's suite, Black, Brown, and Beige. By 1960, Jackson was an international star. Her congregational call-and-response style, combined with her soulful, voluminous voice, made gospel music popular all over the world. But back home, Jackson's financial success brought racist backlash. She received violent threats from neighbors who did not want an African American woman to live on the quiet street in the Chicago suburbs where she had purchased a home.

## Civil Rights

Mahalia Jackson's struggle with racism had urged her



to get involved in the Civil Rights movement at its onset. With the Montgomery bus boycott, the movement had begun to unfold quickly. As early as 1956, Civil Rights leaders called on Jackson to lend both her powerful voice and financial support to the rallies, marches, and demonstrations. Boycott lead-





# MAHALIA JACKSON—QUEEN OF GOSPEL

Continued.

er Reverend Ralph Abernathy invited Jackson to Montgomery to sing at the first anniversary of Rosa Parks' historic act. Braving hecklers, Klansmen, and widespread violence, Jackson rolled into Montgomery on a train. At the station,



Abernathy greeted her with another young preacher named Martin Luther King. Though she was afraid for her safety, King's speeches inspired her, and the two became friends.

By 1969, with Kennedy, King, and many of her other beneficiaries deceased, Jackson had retired from the political front. She had battled illness for years. Still touring almost to the end, she visited Africa, the Caribbean, Japan, and India, where she met Indira Ghandi, an instant fan. Jackson's final performance was in Germany in 1971. Soon after an operation on her pained abdomen, she died of heart failure in January 1972, at the age of 60. Hundreds of musicians and politicians attended Jackson's two funerals. In Chicago, Aretha Franklin performed "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," and Coretta King praised Jackson for being "black and proud and beautiful." Mourning continued at a second funeral in New Orleans, where thousands of hometown admirers gathered to honor the greatest gospel singer of all time, a woman who had conquered poverty, racism, and hardship to win fans and friends all over the world.

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# New Orleans Style



## Saturday, February 9

Marigny - Krewe of Chewbacchus 7:00pm

## Friday, February 15

French Quarter - Krewe Boheme 7:00pm

## Saturday, February 16

### French Quarter

Krewe du Vieux 6:30pm  
Krewedelusion 7:00pm

### Slidell

Krewe of Bilge 11:00am  
Krewe of Poseidon 6:00pm

## Sunday, February 17

### Metairie

Krewe of Little Rascals 12:00 pm

### Slidell

Krewe of Slidellians 1:00pm  
Krewe of Perseus Follows

### Marigny

'tit Rex 4:30pm

### Pearl River

Krewe of Pearl River Lions Club 1:00 pm

## Friday, February 22

### French Quarter

Krewe of Cork 3:00pm

### Metairie

Krewe of Excalibur 7:30pm

### Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Oshun 6:00pm  
Krewe of Cleopatra 6:30 am

### Mandeville

Krewe of Eve 7:00pm

## Saturday, February 23

### Metairie

Krewe of Caesar 6:00pm

### Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Pontchartrain 1:00pm  
Krewe of Choctaw follows  
Krewe of Freret follows  
Knights of Sparta 5:30pm  
Krewe of Pygmalion follows

### Westbank

Mystic Knights of Adonis 11:45am

### Slidell

Krewe de Paws of Olde Towne 10:00am  
Krewe of Titans 6:30pm

### Madisonville

Krewe of Tchefuncte 1:00pm

### Covington

Krewe of Olympia 6:00pm

### Chalmette

Krewe of Nemesis 1:00pm

## Sunday, February 24

### French Quarter

Krewe of Barkus 2:00pm

### Metairie

Krewe of Kings 5:30pm

### Uptown New Orleans

Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale 11:00am  
Krewe of Carrollton follows  
King Arthur follows  
Knights of Alla follows







# New Orleans Style

## Sunday, February 24 Cont'd

### Slidell

Krewe of Dionysus

Follows

## Wednesday, February 27

### Uptown

Krewe of Druids

6:30pm

Krewe of Nyx

7:00pm

## Thursday, February 28

### Uptown

Knights of Babylon

5:30pm

Knights of Chaos

6:15pm

Krewe of Muses

6:30pm

## Friday, March 1

### French Quarter

Krewe of Bosom Buddies

11:30am

### Metairie

Krewe of Centurions

6:30pm

### Uptown

Krewe of Hermes

5:30pm

Krewe of d'Etat

6:30pm

Krewe of Morpheus

7:00pm

### Slidell

Krewe of Selene

6:30pm

### Mandeville

Original Krewe of Orpheus

7:00pm

## Saturday, March 2

### Metairie

Krewe of Isis

6:30pm

### Uptown

Krewe of Iris

11:00am

*\*Brooke Woods Riding*

*Float #27-C (Garfield Float)*

*Bottom, neutral ground*

*1st Position*

Krewe of Tucks

11:00am

### Westbank

Krewe of NOMTOC

10:45am



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## Saturday, March 2 Cont'd

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### Mid-City

Krewe of Endymion 4:15pm

### Bush

Krewe of Bush 9:00am

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## Sunday, March 3

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### Metairie

Krewe of Athena 5:30pm

Krewe of Pandora 6:30pm

### Uptown

Krewe of Okeanos 11:00am

Krewe of Mid-City 11:45pm

Krewe of Thoth 12:00pm

Krewe of Bacchus 5:15pm

### Westbank

Krewe of Endymion 4:15pm

### Bush

Krewe of Bush 9:00am

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## Monday, March 4

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### Uptown

Krewe of Proteus 5:15pm

Krewe of Orpheus 6:00pm

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## Tuesday, March 5

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### Metairie

Krewe of Argus 10:00am

Krewe of Elks Jefferson follows

Krewe of Jefferson follows

### Uptown

Krewe of Zulu 8:00am

Krewe of Rex 10:00am

Krewe of Elks Orleans follows

Krewe of Crescent City follows

### Covington

Krewe of Lyra 10:00am

### Folsom

Krewe of Folsom 1:30pm





# NOLA HAPPENINGS

## CHINESE NEW YEAR 2019



The Pig is the twelfth of all zodiac animals. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which they arrived to his party. Pig was late because he overslept. Another story says that a wolf destroyed his house. He had to rebuild his home before he could set off. When he arrived, he was the last one and could only take twelfth place.

The Pig is also associated with the Earthly Branch (地支—dì zhī) hài (亥), and the hours 9–11 in the night. In terms of yin and yang (阴阳—yīn yáng), the Pig is yin. In Chinese culture, pigs are the symbol of wealth.

Their chubby faces and big ears are signs of fortune as well.

Pigs have a beautiful personality and are blessed with good fortune in life.

**Recent years of the Pig are:** 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019

Paired with the Celestial Stems (天干—Tiān gān), there is a 60-year calendrical cycle. Although hài is associated with earth, the years also cycle through the five elements of nature (五行—wǔ xíng).

### Celebration of Chinese New Year in New Orleans

LUVI's Taste of Shanghai is a delicious, one night journey to Shanghai courtesy of Chef Hao and the LUVI team in celebration of Chinese New Year 2019!

It is a 5 course dinner with wine and sake pairings to celebrate Chinese New Year!

Please join us on Tuesday, **February 5th, 2019 at 7pm** to get a taste from the East!

Happy New Year! Gong Xi Fa Cai!

\*All taxes and gratuity are included.

\*No refunds.

For more information and to purchase tickets go to;  
[Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com)



### DATE AND TIME

Tue, February 5, 2019  
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM CST

[Add to Calendar](#)

### LOCATION

LUVI Restaurant  
5236 Tchoupitoulas Street  
New Orleans, LA 70115

[View Map](#)

### REFUND POLICY

No Refunds





**Director of Human Resources**

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## KNOW THE NEW PARADE RULES

The New Orleans City Council passed new Mardi Gras parade rules in early 2014. Be sure you know them before you head out to the parades to avoid tickets, and to avoid bringing a bunch of stuff that you'll just have to move later. The new rules are as follows:

1. There can be no ladders or other personal effects, like grills and coolers, closer than 6 feet to the curb.
2. Parking on Napoleon and St. Charles will be prohibited on BOTH sides of the neutral ground this year, not just the parade side, starting 2 hours before the parade.
3. There is now a ban on roping off territory via chairs, tarps, or anything else if you are in the public right of way. This includes neutral ground and
4. There can be no private portable toilets in the neutral ground or other public property.

## PLAN YOUR TRANSPORTATION

If you are driving in for the day from a suburban hotel, remember that the French Quarter during Mardi Gras weekend is closed to vehicular traffic. Only French Quarter residents and hotel guests with special parking passes can get by the police barricades. Off-site commercial parking lots are expensive and fill up fast, so get there early! Make sure you know how far away your hotel will be, and remember: taxicabs are more difficult to find at this time of year.

It is a good idea to get a map of the city and study the areas you'll be visiting. New Orleans is a "checkerboard city" - safe neighborhoods can be within blocks of unsafe areas. Your hotel concierge or front desk can help you with route times, traffic and parking.

If you stay in an outlying hotel, don't depend on them to supply you with transportation to the French Quarter or the parade routes. Although some have shuttles to New Orleans, they are often not in use during Mardi Gras season. Traffic during Carnival is unbelievably congested, and standard routes are often barricaded to redirect the traffic flow.

Even public transportation can be difficult - bus and streetcar routes/schedules often change during Carnival season, so plan ahead and make sure you know when and how to get there and back.





Mary LeBlanc

*Director of Human Resources*

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If you want to save yourself some walking, bring a bicycle. Bicycles provide a great means of transportation in areas where cars are not allowed or where parking is too difficult. Just be sure to be cautious when you get into the big crowds, and bring a chain to lock up your bike when you're not using it.

## WATCH OUT FOR PARKING TICKETS DURING MARDI GRAS

Do not double-park or park in driveways, on neutral grounds (medians), in front of water hydrants, within 15 feet of curb corners, too far from the curb, or on the parade route within three hours of a parade. Your car will get towed away and/or you'll receive a fine of Biblical proportions.

## GET THERE EARLY

Parade routes can look empty, but the crowd size can swell fast within an hour or two of the parade, making that front-row spot four or five people deep. For the biggest parades rolling in the evenings on the weekend before Mardi Gras, plan to get there about **four hours ahead of time** to get yourself a great spot.

For the Sunday night Bacchus Parade, we're at our spot (drum roll here) at 6:00 a.m. You can find us on St. Charles Avenue near Napoleon Avenue, near the beginning of the parade. We sit wrapped up in a blanket, and enjoy people-watching. That Sunday, several afternoon parades also roll by as the crowds swell for one of the biggest parades of the season - Bacchus. I save the spot until my family shows up, so they can make another area parade taking place in Mid-City. All of this for a parade scheduled to roll at 6:00 p.m.

**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE CARNIVAL SEASON!!!!**

**HAPPY MARDI GRAS!**