



Malissa Gioia
Project Accountant/AR Clerk

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

Employee Highlight—Malissa Gioia

For the month of June we are highlighting *Project Accountant/AR Clerk*, **Malissa Gioia**. Malissa is a native of New Orleans and a graduate of West Jefferson High School. She is the proud mother of one daughter, Amiyah, who will be turning 15 in two weeks. Happy Birthday, Amiyah!

Malissa has been employed with Pontchartrain Partners, LLC since 2014. Within the past 5 years Malissa has proven to be a dedicated and loyal employee who has worked her way through the ranks. Initially starting as the receptionist in our corporate office, Ms. Gioia was quickly promoted to work as an accounts payable clerk before transitioning to her current position as Project Accountant/AR Clerk—where she has once again proven to be a huge asset to our construction team.

Malissa also champions the company's *Toy's for Tots* drive held during the company's annual Christmas party, which has become one of her favorite contributions.

So, as in previous issues of Lakeside, the employee who is randomly chosen to be highlighted in the company newsletter is given a list of random questions to answer. Each employee chooses the questions they would like to answer to help us get to know them better. Let's see what questions Malissa has chosen answer to help us learn more about her.

If you could switch jobs with anyone else within PPLLC whose job would you want?

If I could switch jobs with anyone in the company, I would switch with Danny Blanks. His ability to travel and meet new people is exciting.

What do you like most about PPLLC?

What I like most is being able to come to work and be myself.

What has been your favorite project at PPLLC?

Working along side Brooke Woods with the YLC Power Ties Program and the Toy's for Tots Drive every year during Christmas.

If your house was burning down, what is the non-living thing you would save?

I would save my pictures. I have a ton of photo albums and scrapbooks that I cherish dearly.

What is one ability you wish you had?

I wish I had the ability to sing like Whitney Houston. She had a voice that reached out and just touched you.

What is the first concert you attended?

The first concert I attended was an Eric Clapton concert with my dad.

What music is currently on your cellphone?

Tennessee Whiskey & Broken Halos—Chris Stapleton, A Change is Going to Come—Sam Cooke, My Life—The Game, When Somebody Loves You Back—Teddy Pendegrass, We've Only Just Begun—Glenn Jones.

Malissa, thank you for sharing and allowing us to get to know you a little better. Did you find out anything that surprised you about Malissa? Hmmmm?

Employed Since:
2014

Birth Place:
New Orleans

High School Attended
West Jefferson High School

Children:
One daughter, Amiyah (15)

Favorite Quote:
"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."
- Maya Angelo

What are three words you would use to describe PPLLC?
Inspirational—Inspiring—Empowering.



HUMAN RESOURCES

HUMAN RESOURCES

Mary LeBlanc

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WELCOME NEW HIRES

- 05/06** Orville A. Farmer, Jr - Tractor Operator
Matthew A. Aguilar - General Labor
Terry L. Bernard - General Labor
- 05/14** Dominic Aaron - Project Manager
- 05/20** Kyle Wise - Assistant Project Manager
Deaton Harris - Project Manager (Intern)
Alma Sanchez - SSHO
Rebecca Allemand - SSHO
Robert Fahrer - Traveling SSHO



Thank you all for your service and dedication. PPLLC appreciates you!

1 Year

- 06/04 Christine Villeneuve
06/18 Robert Blevins

8 Years

- 06/13 Mary LeBlanc
06/22 Kevin Hall

2 Years

- 06/14 Edwin Brown
06/19 Asiah Crutchfield
Lola Davis
06/30 Joseph Cain

3 Years

- 06/06 Darius Anderson
Phillip Jones
06/20 Carly Colomb
06/29 Bobby Bridges

5 Years

- 06/09 Thu Vo



SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH
*HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OF
THE DAD'S OF PPLLC*



- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 06/03 Tracy Hudson
Pablo Mejia | 06/10 Wayne Minnick | 06/24 Christopher McNeil |
| 06/04 Tanay Sanchell | 06/11 Joseph Cain
Brian Callaway | 06/27 Reesha Body-Wiley |
| 06/07 Hugo Levia | 06/12 Lionel Patterson
Donald Tutor | |
| 06/08 Joel Gonzalez-Montalvo | | |



PONTCHARTRAIN PARTNERS, LLC SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S 2019 PERSONS OF THE YEAR AWARD



May 5-6, Washington, D.C.— The members of Pontchartrain Partners, LLC received the 2019 Small Business Administration's (SBA) Person of the Year Award for the State of Louisiana at National Small Business Week activities in Washington, DC.

SBA presents this prestigious award to Individuals and businesses that exemplify true leadership, not just within their private practices but through giving and community development in their designated states. CEO, Danny Blanks (Shannon), CCO, Bart Cook (Courtney), CFO/General Counsel, James Washington (Yasmin) were all present for the presentation of the award.

Congratulations to our dedicated leaders. Because of your leadership and commitment to our community, the staff of PPLLC are encouraged and empowered to always be our best.





Brooke Woods
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RECENTLY AWARDED PROJECTS



Contract No. P080905-6B
Magnolia Ridge Levee
Award Amount: \$2,399,905.00
Agency: St. Charles Parish
Set-Aside: UNR
POP: 365 Days from NTP



Contract No. BA-0202
Queen Bess Island Restoration Project
Award Amount: \$9,983,550.50
Agency: Coastal Protection and Restoration Agency
Set-Aside: UNR
POP: 212 Days from NTP





Health & Wellness News

Vision

Your eyes are an important part of your overall health. While there are many things you can do to keep your eyes healthy and make sure you are seeing your best, the most important step you can take is to have a comprehensive dilated eye exam. Many common eye diseases often have no warning signs, but a dilated eye exam can detect these diseases in their early stages.

Many women are affected by chronic dry eye or seasonal allergies. As we live longer, the number of people with eye diseases will increase. A study sponsored by the National Eye Institute, through the National Institutes of Health, identifies age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and cataracts as the most common eye diseases in Americans 40 and older. This study emphasizes the importance of annual comprehensive eye examinations in preventing, delaying and treating eye diseases.



Don't Let Injuries Happen to You

There are about 2.5 million eye injuries every year, according to the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Nearly half happen around the house during activities such as cooking, mowing the lawn or working in the garage. Eye experts say nine out of 10 eye injuries could be avoided if people used the right protective eyewear.

For most home projects, wear goggles marked ANSI Z87.1 on the product's lens or frame. You can buy them at your local hardware or building supply store. Be sure to protect your eyes during sports activities, too. The right safety gear can vary from sport to sport, so ask your doctor for guidance.



Prevention can be as easy as wearing safety glasses. Put them on before:

- ◆ Using cleaners or solvents
- ◆ Cooking with grease or oil
- ◆ Working with hammers, drills and other tools
- ◆ Mowing the lawn
- ◆ Securing a load with bungee cords
- ◆ Working on your car

NOLA HAPPENINGS

OYSTER FESTIVAL

June 1—June 2
Woldenburg Park

Make plans to eat oysters any way you like - on a po-boy, fried, chargrilled, on the shell—all while enjoying great music, crafts and southern hospitality New Orleans style.

Credits

For more information go to; <http://nolaoysterfest.org>



It's festival season in New Orleans and the Creole Tomato Festival never lets you down when it comes to a good time and good eats. Another great weekend to go out and enjoy the beautiful city of New Orleans with friends and family.

Credits

For more information go to; www.frenchmarket.org

Andrea's Restaurant & Catering

Creole tomato eggplant parmigiana \$8
served with angel hair with creole sauce

Creole Tomato La, Crabmeat, artichokes muffaletta salad over iceberg \$10

Italian Sausage Steak Panini topped with creole tomato sauce, provolone and pecorino \$8
Served on a homemade panini bread

Audubon Catering & Events

Bacon, Lettuce and Creole Tomato Wrap \$8

George's Produce

The Beau Coup \$8

Creole tomato, avocado, and onions with vinaigrette

The Pontchartrain \$8

Sliced Creole tomato with lump crab meat dressed in remoulade

Creole Girl (Tomato Sandwich) \$5

Creole tomato on white bread with Blue Plate mayo

LaDelyo's Creole Catering

Creole Tomato Stuffed w/ Shrimp Pasta \$8

Creole Tomato, Chicken and Sausage Stew \$8

Crispy Fried Fish w/French Fries \$8

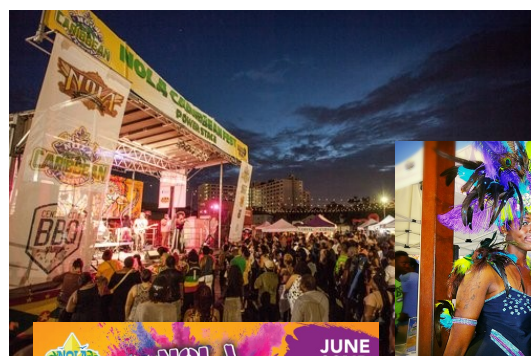
Lil Dustin's Italian Ice

Italian Ice \$6oz \$3.00; 8oz \$5.00; 10oz \$7.00

Fried Oreos \$5 with vanilla ice cream \$6

Fresh Fruit Bowl \$5

These are just a few of the items you can have when attending the festival. Come out and enjoy!



NOLA CARRIBEAN FESTIVAL

June 20—June 23
Woldenburg Park

What better way is there to closeout Caribbean Heritage Month than with the NOLA Caribbean Fest? Enjoy four days filled with non-stop events, parades and parties. Celebrate Caribbean culture with authentic food, music, dance and fun.

2019 NOLA Caribbean Festival

This year's festival takes place June 22-23 from 5-10 p.m. at [Central City BBQ](http://CentralCityBBQ.com). Guests can enjoy live music performances, international DJs, local chefs, art vendors, kids activities, salsa dancing and more. To learn more about this year's fest, visit here.



SAFETY MATTERS

Brian Callaway

HS&E Director

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Hurricane Preparedness Checklist for Your Construction Site



When severe weather hits, will your job site be ready?

Buildings under construction are at high risk of catastrophic damage during a hurricane. Materials and debris can become projectiles, water can easily flood the building structure and expensive equipment may be lost or damaged.

You need to be prepared. Don't wait for the last minute to protect your project from an approaching hurricane. Developing an inclement weather policy for your construction sites will keep your team and your work safe in the eye of the storm.

How to Prepare a Construction Severe Weather Management Plan

Take the following steps recommended by the [National Weather Service](#) to write a severe weather plan for your construction site.

1. Prepare Before Severe Weather Strikes

It's important to have the right gear on hand to secure equipment and cover

incomplete structures before a storm comes your way. Make sure each member of your team knows where they're stored.

Hurricane Preparation Materials and Equipment:

- Concrete Anchors
- Duct Tape
- Garbage Bags
- Generators
- Ground Anchors
- Fuel
- Misc. Hardware and Fasteners
- Netting
- Plastic Sheeting
- Plywood
- Pumps
- Rope
- Sand Bags
- Shoring and Bracing
- Water
- Wire

Consider keeping hard copies of contact lists, plans and other important documents in a safe place. These documents should include:

- An emergency evacuation plan.
- Emergency contact information for employees.
- List of hurricane preparation materials, equipment and their sources.
- Vendors and contractors who can provide recovery services and replacement supplies.
- Procedures to follow in the event of exposed electrical wires, hazardous ma-

terial leaks or structural damage.

A contact list of back-up personnel to call if recovery teams are unable to return to work.

2. Monitor the Weather Closely

Designate a team member to keep an eye on the weather once a Tropical Storm Watch is issued.

Check sites like [The Weather Channel](#) and [Accuweather](#) for the latest severe weather alerts.

- Invest in a weather radio powered by batteries, solar or a hand crank to receive weather information during power outages.

National Weather Service: Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30 each year.

3. Secure Structures and Equipment

Once the National Weather Service issues a Hurricane Watch, it's time to prepare your job site for the storm ahead.

- Use rope, sand bags, ground anchors and other items to weigh down materials that could easily fly away.
 - Cover materials with plastic sheeting, netting or garbage bags to prevent water damage.
 - Stack loose materials together and secure them with rope or duct tape to keep them from dispersing.
- Complete work on partially completed structures to minimize damage, if time allows.



SAFETY MATTERS

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4. Remove Materials and Equipment When Possible

If you're able to remove loose materials or expensive equipment, do so immediately after a Hurricane Warning is announced.

Have your [construction dumpster](#) picked up or cover the container with a tarp.

- Remove or tie down portable bathrooms.
- Remove hazardous chemicals to prevent them from being released into the environment.
- Remove materials, tools or equipment that can be damaged by rising water.

- Move heavy equipment and machinery to a garage or other covered structure.
- Tear down and store light-weight fence screens and job site signage.
- Move any portable electronics, job site plans and other important documents from the construction trailer to a safe location offsite.
- Turn off power to the site and make sure fuel is available for power generators.

National Weather Service: On average, 12 tropical storms, 6 of which become hurricanes, form over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea or Gulf of Mexico during the hurricane season.

5. Safeguard the Building Structure

Now that you've secured or removed materials and equipment, it's time to defend the structure. Whether you're working on a renovation or you're constructing a new building, water can significantly damage the interior.

- Board up door and window openings.
- Tarp or board up any other large openings.

Place sandbags around the perimeter of the structure as reinforcement.

6. Evacuate the Work Site

It's important to have an evacuation plan in place for your construction site. To determine when you need to leave, you should be familiar with the warning terms used for hurricanes.

- **Hurricane/Tropical Storm watches** mean that a hurricane or tropical storm is possible in the specified area.
- **Hurricane/Tropical Storm warnings** mean that a hurricane or tropical storm is expected to reach the area, typically within 24 hours.

Stay tuned to weather alerts via radio, TV or social media and evacuate as soon as local authorities give the word. Before storm season, learn your community's emergency plans and the location of nearby shelters so your employees have a safe place to go if they can't make it home.

Returning to Your Construction Site After the Storm

7. Carefully Assess Damage

Once you get the announcement that it's safe to return to the area, it's time to assess damage and start cleaning up.

- Be careful when walking in standing water, which may contain sharp or jagged objects.
- Use caution when entering the building because structural elements may be weakened.





SAFETY MATTERS

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Rent a dumpster to safely dispose of materials that were damaged by the storm.

8. Plan to Remove Water

During a hurricane, water will inevitably flood your work site. Removing it is important for the safety of your property and neighboring structures. Standing water can soften the ground, compromising structural stability.

- Place pumps in excavations or basements before the storm hits.
- Have dehumidifiers and fans available to dry out the space.
- Discharge water to the storm water system.
- Have contact information on-hand for a tanker truck to haul away excess water.

National Weather Service: Over a typical two-year period, the U.S. coastline is struck by an average of three hurricanes, one of which is classified as a major hurricane with winds of 111 mph or greater.

Communicate Your Construction Hurricane Plan with the Team

Finally, the most important step is to keep your team informed about hurricane precautions.

- Discuss your hurricane action plan so your team knows exactly what to do when a storm hits. Ask your crew to read and sign off on the plan.
- Establish who will take control in the event of a hurricane. This person will put the plan in motion and assign emergency responsibility roles.
- Designate two teams – one for hurricane response and the other for hurricane recovery. Whether this is necessary depends on the size of your crew and work site.

Hurricane preparedness is essential for a safe construction site. We hope this list keeps you and your team out of harm's way the next time severe weather hits.



To [keep your construction site secure](#) year-round and get other industry tips, visit the [Trades and Construction](#) section of our blog.

Credits

BY SARA CIFANI

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