



The Soul of New Orleans


Mayor's Come Home Message Mixes Emotions

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(AP Photo/Gregory Smith)


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Blanco Blasts Bush



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When can New Orleans Vote Again?

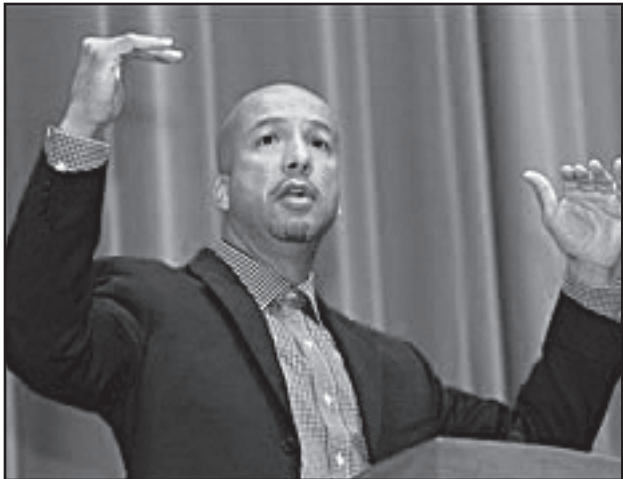
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COVER STORY

Mayor's Come Home
 Message Mixes Emotions

*Displaced residents express rising frustrations during
 Atlanta Town Hall Meeting*

By Maynard Eaton



New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin speaks to New Orleans residents now displaced in Atlanta by Hurricane Katrina, at the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College in Atlanta, during a town hall meeting Saturday, Dec. 3, 2005.



New Orleans resident Clyde Robertson, right, directs a question to Mayor Ray Nagin, not pictured, as he stands with Audrey Jackson, left, and other New Orleans residents now displaced in Atlanta by Hurricane Katrina, as they wait in line Saturday, Dec. 3, 2005, in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College in Atlanta, during a town hall meeting.



(AP Photos/Gregory Smith)

New Orleans resident Betty Gaynor, now displaced in Atlanta by Hurricane Katrina, speaks during a New Orleans town hall meeting in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

In an atmosphere, which began as jovial, and upbeat, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin held his latest in a series of town hall meetings designed to Bring New Orleans Back, in Atlanta over the weekend, but what began as an effort to bring about good feelings and hope turned serious as the attendees wanted answers to the multitude of questions and concerns they face on a daily basis, living estranged from their homes. This was the third in his town hall tour, which already made stops in Houston and Memphis.

“What’s up, New Orleans?” Nagin saluted the crowd of over 2,000 displaced constituents at the King Chapel on the campus of Morehouse

College. “I miss you all,” he continued. “The red beans and rice just ain’t the same without you.” Sentiments were high in this arena, and the crowd responded in kind to the stalwart mayor.

Nagin, continued on, offering praise to the city of Atlanta for its willingness to absorb the thousands of evacuees who have made Atlanta their temporary home, and offering it’s hand in the recovery efforts, concluding with a joke about how welcomes can turn when guests stay too long, bringing about another round of laughter from the crowd. The crowd was attentive and waiting to hear the words from the Mayor, which would solidify their hopes of being able to

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return home, as this "tour" was designed to convince those who are unsure of their status, to return home to New Orleans, though tough it may be to do.

As the mayor continued to address the crowd with his status reports of life on the ground in the Crescent city, the atmosphere in the auditorium gradually changed from jovial, to something more ominous. The people, listened, with baited breath to hear something that would calm their concerns, and despite his best intentions, there was not much that was said which could be considered to be a salve for their wounded spirits. Mayor Nagin, with much sincerity, acknowledged he too had made some mistakes, and accepted responsibility for not calling for a mandatory evacuation earlier, which drew a somber, yet appreciative response from the audience.

The mayor then began to list the progress that has been made in an effort to rebuild the city:

Seventy percent of the city has electricity; 60 percent of the city has gas services; the drinking water is safe; 911 lines are operating; six hospitals are open; 1,100 businesses are providing services; the airport is operating, as well as the Amtrak and Greyhound bus stations, and the RTA buses are operating, free of charge, Nagin said.

Still, the mayor was short on details about how evacuees might get home, especially since several of them pointed out they had no money left and no jobs to return to. "There is nowhere to buy food, or get gas. It's chaotic," said New Orleans resident Barbara Bonseigneur, who has been living in Atlanta. "Bringing us back to living in poverty is not a new beginning. How can a city that's broke, help New Orleans rebuild?" she questioned. Nagin admitted to the crowd that, "The city is broke. We don't have any money, so all those thinking about asking for rebates on your property taxes, forget about it." Still, Nagin urged displaced residents to return, but cautioned them, "The Big Easy is not very easy right now," as he predicted that it

would be at least six months of hard work for citizens who would return, before the city experiences a five or 10 year construction boom. He encouraged residents to begin the rebuilding process on their own properties and to continue to voice their many concerns to the state and federal legislators.

Many lined up to speak with the mayor after he spoke, to ask him questions with hopes of receiving the answers they sought, but it turned into yelling, signs of frustration and desperation were evident. The first person to take the microphone wanted to know whether there was a specific plan to repopulate the city.

The mayor began explaining how the levees gave way, the crowd became less amicable, and began to yell at the Mayor, and calling him to the task of directly answering the questions, as they pummeled him with questions and expressed their frustrations about problems with lost jobs, inadequate housing assistance and looming financial catastrophes they now face and those in the future.

Questions regarding the status of their children's schools, contamination from flooding and the results of it on their neighborhoods, jobs, housing, businesses were all on the table confronting the mayor. The mayor tried to answer their questions specifically or to refer them to federal officials for other answers he did not have. He recognized that housing was a critical issue and there isn't enough of it, but said that business such as fast food chains and hotels were offering jobs with signing bonuses and high wages to entice workers to brave the hardships and return to the city as it is now.

A burst of anger erupted when the audience members realized that three of those seated onstage with the mayor were in fact FEMA representatives. One audience member forcefully urged that "You need to be up there. You're the ones we have a problem with."

The forum topics took a turn as New Orleanian, Betty Gaynor took her turn at the

microphone, chastising the mayor for allowing Mardi Gras to be held in 2006. Ms. Gaynor angrily stated, "people has lost everything, including their lives. 'Why would you talk about Carnival', she demanded. 'Some people still can't find their children.' The mayor said he had argued against the idea but lost the debate with other state officials. Unsatisfied with his response, she concluded with "Carnival is mostly for the white folks."

One of the most touching and pointed audience to address the mayor, was Therese Amos,

who broke down in tears as she relayed her own personal story of hardship. Formerly a City of New Orleans sanitation worker with seven years on the job, she now finds herself laid off, out of work, and out of money, like the thousands of other city workers. "I never missed a day [of work], "she said. The mayor and the audience all listened intently as she continued. "I ain't on welfare. I ain't on food stamps. They want to send me to the crazy house because all I do is cry." "I want to go home," she said. "But my bank account is empty." Responding to Ms.

Amos, Mayor Nagin, reached out to her, "Let us work with you," he said. "I know it's tough baby. Hang in there," he said, which was a statement indicative of what was able to be accomplished with the meeting. There were no answers that calmed, or soothed or quelled the concerns of the New Orleanians who came out to hear the Mayor speak. But it was evident that the audience and the Mayor, were all on the same page, knowing that the end is far from in sight for these weary people.

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NEWSMAKER

New Orleans Elections May Be Delayed



Secretary of State Al Ater

New Orleans' Feb. 4 elections for mayor and City Council should be postponed for up to eight months because

caused by Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana's top elections official said Friday.

Secretary of State Al Ater said polling places have not been rebuilt and hundreds of thousands of voters remain scattered across the country. Ater said he needs to ensure that poll workers are in

place and polling places and absentee voting systems ready for an election he called "the most important in that city's

life." "The new administration, the new council, the new people that will be elected will be in charge of making decisions affecting billions and billions and billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of lives," Ater said.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco has the final say on whether the elections should be postponed. She was not immediately available for comment Friday but has said she will follow Ater's advice. He said the election should be held no later than Sept. 30.

The highest profile race is for mayor. Incumbent Ray Nagin, who has gotten both criticism and praise for his handling of

the Katrina disaster, has not formally announced whether he will seek re-election but is expected to do so.

Nagin released a statement Friday saying he had hoped for February elections because "voting during our regular cycle would further bring a sense of normalcy and empowerment to our citizens. However, I respect the secretary of state's decision as I am sure it is based upon his concern for holding a fair election."

Races for City Council and sheriff are also on the ballot.

Officials expect a huge increase in the number of absentee voters because so many of the city's 273,000 registered voters have moved elsewhere.

Ater laid much of the blame for the delay on the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which he said has not provided any of the \$2 million his office requested to repair voting machines

residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina, so they can be informed of how to vote from out of state.

"Our job would have been a lot easier if FEMA had been more forthright and more forthcoming," Ater said.

A FEMA spokeswoman did not immediately return a call for comment.

He said holding the elections on Sept. 30 would save the state \$3 million, because voting is already scheduled statewide that day on two constitutional amendments.

The city will need to bring in temporary voting buildings and hire dozens of new election workers, and will also have to track down voters and elections workers scattered around the country, Ater said.

It is not unusual for hurricanes to cause postponements of elections.

In Florida, Hurricane Wilma forced a two-week

Not having people like this would've been an even greater disaster.



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"The most important right we have in America is the right to vote. I was hopeful that the elections would take place in February, as voting during our regular cycle would further bring a sense of normalcy and empowerment to our citizens. However, I respect the Secretary of State's decision as I am sure it is based upon his concern for holding a fair election that guarantees all citizens their constitutional voting rights."

-New Orleans Mayor Ray C. Nagin-

damaged in the Aug. 29 storm and to upgrade New Orleans' absentee voting system.

Ater also said FEMA took until this week to respond to his October request for a list of addresses of Louisiana

delay in this year's mayoral election in Miami, pushing it back from Nov. 1 to Nov. 15. In Louisiana, the longest election postponement after a storm was two months, after Hurricane Lili, in 2002.

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AARP Louisiana estimates that nearly 60% of our members have been displaced by the storms. If you have questions about services through AARP, please call 1-888-OUR-AARP. Let the operator know you are a displaced AARP member and that you are requesting information about a service you have purchased such as insurance or pharmaceutical services. AARP volunteers will also be visiting shelters around the state with this information.



www.aarp.org/la

STATE & LOCAL NEWS

Blanco Papers Recount Katrina Response

Documents sent to Congress show state-federal disconnect



Gov Blanco accompanies President Bush on damage tour of flood and hurricane devastated areas of New Orleans and the surrounding Parishes.

Washington, D.C.– Thousands of pages of documents released by Louisiana’s governor illustrate the disconnect between state and federal officials when Hurricane Katrina hit, with one aide warning that the Bush

administration was “working to make us the scapegoats.”

The documents include notes of conference calls, e-mails among members of Gov. Kathleen Blanco’s administration and state police

reports on the deteriorating situation in New Orleans and its surrounding parishes.

Blanco sent them to congressional committees investigating the response to the hurricane, which killed more than 1,300 people in Louisiana and Mississippi when it struck land August 29.

In one document, Blanco says her biggest mistake was believing the promises of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The agency’s director, Michael Brown, resigned in September after extensive criticism of the agency’s response to the hurricane.

Blanco’s handling of the disaster has come under fire

as well, and the Friday release of the nearly 100,000 pages of documents was accompanied by a lengthy summary of her administration’s preparations for the storm and its response.

“*As a whole, these documents demonstrate the dedication and passion of my staff and other state employees as they perform their duties in a time of unprecedented crisis in our state’s history,*” Blanco said in a statement accompanying the records.

As images of desperate New Orleans residents filled television screens after the storm hit and commentators began to question the Bush administration’s handling of the disaster, administration supporters began pointing

fingers at the state and local governments.

Bob Mann, Blanco’s press secretary, wrote to members of Blanco’s staff that the governor’s fellow Democrats in Washington were trying to “push back” against the criticism.

“Bush’s numbers are low, they are getting pummeled by the media for their inept response to Katrina and are actively working to make us the scapegoats,” Mann writes in an e-mail.

According to the governor’s account, Blanco notified President Bush two days before the storm hit that federal assistance would be needed. And she said she told

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Deadline Extended for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Disaster Assistance

January 11, 2006 is the last day for Louisiana residents to apply for state and federal disaster assistance to help them recover from the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

January 11, 2006 is also the deadline for submitting applications for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Hurricane victims can register for assistance in one of these ways: Online at: <http://www.fema.gov/>

By calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or the TTY number 1-800-462-7585 for those who are speech- or hearing-impaired. Telephone Lines are open 24-hours a day, seven days a week until further notice.

By visiting one of the Disaster Recovery Centers located around the state. Forty-seven Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) and one Mobile Disaster Recovery Center (MDRC) in Grand Isle are now open in Louisiana.

After the application deadline, FEMA’s toll-free phone line still will be available to assist those who have already registered: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or the TTY number 1-800-462-7585 for those who are speech- or hearing-impaired. Applicants who have questions about disaster assistance programs or questions about the status of their previously filed applications should continue to use FEMA’s toll-free number and press the number for the Help Line when prompted.

Mayor Nagin Swings back at Critics

New Orleans - Mayor Ray Nagin can’t understand why anyone would suggest not rebuilding the Crescent City.

In an interview with ABC’s “This Week,” Nagin said New Orleans provides the nation with important resources and culture.

He said the oil and gas, the seafood, the jazz, the people, and “everything about New Orleans is kind of the soul of the United States.”

For those who question spending federal money, Nagin pointed to the effort to rebuild Iraq. He questioned the opinion that it is okay to spend billions to rebuild a foreign nation like Iraq, “on foreign soil for foreign citizens” but not for an American city.

And he said if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had properly built the city’s levee system, New Orleans wouldn’t be facing the problems it is today. Recent inspections have found the failed levees were not reinforced as planned.

Bring New Orleans Back Commission to Meet December 12

The Bring New Orleans Back Commission (BNOB) will hold its next meeting at 2pm Monday, December 12, 1005 in the Sheraton Hotel, 500 Canal Street, Napoleon Room, A123, third floor. The public is invited to attend.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Hurricane Victims to get help paying Mortgages



HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson

Washington, D.C. — Mortgage relief will soon be on the way to victims of this year's worst hurricanes.

The Federal Housing Administration is launching a program to pay the mortgages of up to 20,000 victims of

hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma for as much as a year.

The unprecedented mortgage relief will be offered to people who own homes with FHA-insured mortgages in designated hurricane-ravaged parts of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

"These families have been devastated. Not only are they living far from home right now, but many have lost their source of income," Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced in prepared remarks. "The government wants to help end that 'hopeless' feeling by letting families back home and put their lives in order without

having to worry about making mortgage payments," said Secretary Jackson.

The program is the latest of several to address the mortgage woes of hurricane

victims. No Nov. 23, Jackson extended a moratorium by three additional months, until Feb 28, on foreclosures against FHA-insured families damaged by Katrina or Rita. A freeze on foreclosures on FHA-insured

Wilma victims lasts until Jan. 22.

Much of the private mortgage industry in September voluntarily granted a three-

Continued on page 12.



National Security Adviser Stephan Hadley

Paying Iraqi Newspapers Troubles Bush

U.S. Military paying for positive story placement

Washington, D.C. — President Bush is disturbed by the U.S. Military's practice of paying Iraqi papers to run articles emphasizing positive developments in the country and will end the program if it violates the principles of a free media, a senior aide said Sunday.

"He's very troubled by it" and has asked Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to look into the pay-to-print program, national security adviser Stephan Hadley said.

Military officials on Friday detailed and generally

defended the program under which a Washington based contractor was authorized to pay Iraqi papers to run articles, compiled by coalition forces. The stories often praise the activities of U.S. and Iraqi forces, denounce terrorism and promote reconstruction efforts. The Lincoln Group has a contract for \$6 million to perform public relations and advertising in Iraq.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the legality and policy ramifications of the program were unclear. "Just because it's legal doesn't mean it's the right thing to do."



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DATA ZONE Entertainment

To Mardi Gras Or Not To Mardi Gras That Is The Question

by: Chiquita Simms



As New Orleans residents occupy in 44 of the 50 states, on a day to day basis having countless battles with FEMA, enduring long lines everywhere for any sort of relief, eviction from hotels and many cases apartments, depression, children remain out of school daily,

and coming to terms with the fact that everything that they have worked for has been lost - homes, jobs, businesses, family and friends. It is no secret that elected leadership on all levels have failed the majority of residents who once occupied the City of New Orleans, pre-Katrina. But in the wake of all the tragedy and the fact that the majority of New Orleans is not habitable, clean or environmentally safe, and Bayou Classic and Essence moving to Houston, state leaders are putting plans into action to get people back to the city and reignite the economy by staging a scaled down version of Mardi Gras.



New Orleans rap star 5th Ward Weebie, known as New Orleans' Bounce King too, is outraged at the idea of hosting a party at such a time and is calling to action a collective effort in Atlanta to stage an official protest. "Right now, people are still displaced. People are spending their holidays in hotel rooms. People are being evicted from hotels. Some parts of downtown and lower nine remain without basic utilities, services such as public transportation, functioning schools, access to food, clean water and mildew free streets, and homes. You need a respirator, shots and a face mask just to come back and access damage or even consider an extended or permanent stay and they are thinking about a party.

It is insulting to the residents of 9th ward, our children, and to the people who were left behind for so long. Focus should be on rebuilding and replacing ONLY!"

To Mardi Gras or not to Mardi Gras seemingly is dividing the black majority of New Orleans. The Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club, a black organization has decided to parade along with several other elite Carnival Krewe. According to President Charles Hamilton, Zulu will parade if their route can include Treme and Central City not along the traditional Uptown route up ritzy Napoleon and St. Charles Avenues a required by the City and State. The Krewe of Endymion King, Ed Muniz is complying with the requirements

and will not assume their normal Mid-City route and simply wishes Zulu would conform as well. Zulu King 1994, David Belfield has publically decided NOT to join his social aid and pleasure brothers as he shares the same sentiment as 5th Ward Weebie others. "I love Madi Gras, I grew up on it. My 81 year old mother is still a seamstress today for the same Mardi Gras Krewe. But right now it is an insult to black New Orleans to host a party when so many lives still remain in devastation and in disarray. I love my organization, and I think we should have a private dinner with our wives and family, but not a parade. Whether it be 10 floats or 32, Mardi Gras 2006 should not take place. Once New Orleans is fully up and running,

we can have the biggest and best Mardi Gras the world will ever witnesses, but until then we need make the displaced citizens the number one priority, continues Belfield."

An official protest by the people has been planned for December 12, 2005 at 2 pm, 330 West Peachtree St in the 1st floor meeting room of the Best Western Inn at Peachtree in Midtown Atlanta Georgia. Organizers expect a high turn out of New Orleans evacuees as many are expected to travel to Atlanta to attend the longtime favorite rivalry football game between the Saints and the Falcons taking place that night. More than 40,000 evacuees are currently displaced in Atlanta. .

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New Orleans DATA News Weekly

The People's Paper

DATA ZONE

New Orleans Entertainment LIVE

From gospel to hip hop the music don't stop!

by: ChiQ Diva

In 44 of the 52 United States of America, you can find a displaced New Orleanian adjusting to a lifestyle without the spirited nightlife, culture and entertainment that as natives, we were born and breed on. From the 6th ward second line parades to Tyler Perry's plays at the Saenger, when it comes to entertainment in the Big Easy, we all can agree that we know what it means to miss New Orleans! So just

what are evacuees doing to free their minds from countless calls to FEMA, returning home to assess total devastation, and simply living day to day, displaced from everything that they know and love?

New Orleans music is aLIVE! Even with it's slow repopulation, Club Dreams in the French Quarter is the adult party spot every weekend, just as it was pre-Katrina. Friday night is reserved

for comedy and Saturdays play host to a crunk dance party for the grown and sexy! On the Westbank, patrons line up for blocks to take an edge off at Club Ceasars where New Orleans hip hop is the main event. But it was ReBirth at Tipitina's French Quarter that brought people out of the woodworks to buckjump for hours. Phillip for Mayor!

New Orleans hip hop has expanded from the bottom of the map to all over the globe. All across the country, airplay and the sale of our signature "bounce" music is being demanded of radios stations, club deejays and record stores that once would not even seriously consider people like Hot Boy Ronald and Gotti Boi Chris as true industry artist. Other keep it moving, even in the midst of a crisis. BG has managed to get on the GUnit roster and has moved his Chopper City Records from Metairie to Detroit. Both the Cash Money Click, Juvenile and his UTP Camp, and countless other rap labels, producers, publications and entertainment execs from New Orleans have transplanted to Atlanta, the current mecca of entertainment. Recently Juvenile shot the video for the first release from his new album scheduled to debut in February, "Rodeo" and is hosting a "NOLA NITE" every Wednesday at Club Frequency in Buckhead.

There are many other 504 themed nights and events in

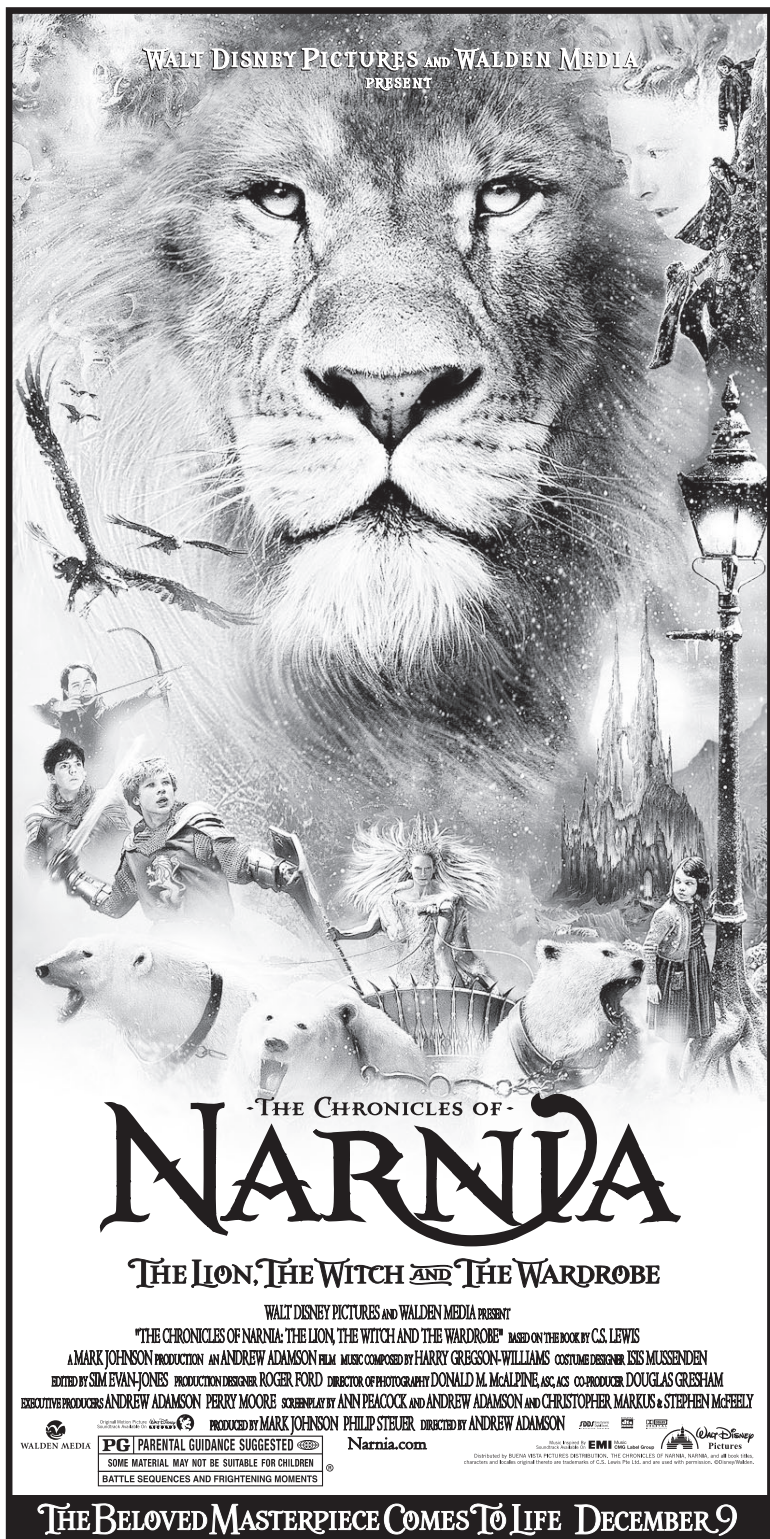


Baton Rouge and Houston where you can shake it fast to local DJ favorites like Black & Mild, Spin, Hektik, and Silver. From Houston, Lil Wayne released his 6th project this week and is attending the University of Houston and dating Trina. 5th Ward Weebie, New Orleans Bounce King is holding it down from H-Town as well as he puts the finishing touches on his Weebie Gone Wild Mardi Gras themed documentary, "The Last Mardi Gras." Cable access show producers of All Good in the Hood has been up and down the highway also producing a film project based on the history of New Orleans bounce. New Orleans entertainment on the hip hop scene is aLIVE!

Uptown Greater St Stephen is having church and the voices of thunder heard coming from the tabernacle is healing the soul. Even with the loss of his father,

Ambassador Irvin Mayfield, Jr. continues to meet the global demand for New Orleans jazz. Living legends like the Jordan family, Aaron Neville and his Louisiana anthem, the philanthropic leadership of both Wynton Marsalis and Harry Connick Jr. are examples that New Orleans entertainment was not a loss to Katrina, because it is alive and well in each and every one of us. It is what we live and breathe; it is in our blood and soul. New Orleans entertainment, from gospel to hip hop is aLIVE!

Congratulations to the Grammy Music Cares Foundation that has been offering financial support to musicians and entertainers from New Orleans who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. You are appreciated!



New Orleans
DATA
News Weekly

The People's Paper

OPINION

Moving from 'Colored People' to 'People of Color'

by John McCann -NNPA

Remember these lyrics? I'm not a nigger, I'm a Negro. When I become a nigger, I'll let you know.

It's an oldie-but-not-so-goodie based on response from folks upset that "60 Minutes" commentator Andy Rooney believes nothing's wrong with calling us Negroes. So here we go again.

Black people — man, we have the toughest time with semantics. We can't figure out what to call ourselves. It's like a science. You almost need an advanced degree to figure it out:

I mean, if I'm at work, where there're only three other Black people in the entire newsroom, then, let's see, I better not use the n-word. But if my Black co-workers and I are riding to lunch in the same car, then I'm free to let the n-bombs flow. But Negro's not an n-bomb. However, Rooney's remarks show us just how explosive the word is when a White guy wields it.

Here's another song for you: Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring. Ring with th ... OK, you get the idea. Now, tell me, what's the name of that song? Come again? A little bit louder? Gotcha! Made you say it. Made you say Negro — "The Negro National Anthem."

But if it wasn't a bad word when James Weldon Johnson wrote the song, then what makes it so wrong rolling off the lips of a White guy like Rooney?

Dig what I'm saying: Jackie Robinson and Satchel Paige and all those cats didn't have a problem playing baseball in the Negro League. There's

no shame in Lou Rawls' game when he gets down for the United Negro College Fund.

I'm reminded of an editorial cartoon by a University of Florida student. It showed Kanye West holding a race card, playing off the rapper's comments about President Bush's slow response toward Black hurricane survivors along the Gulf Coast. But the cartoon also depicted Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice retorting, "Nigga please!"

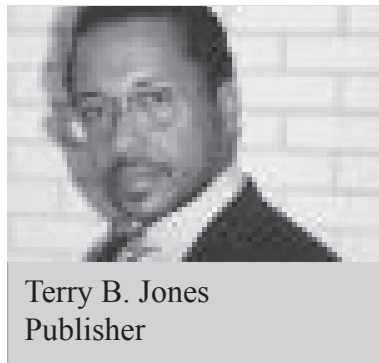
Granted, I'm no fan of the n-word. But when you think about prim and proper Condoleezza Rice saying it, you have to laugh. So don't trip just because a White boy drew the cartoon. Chris Rock could say the same thing and you'd just about pee in your pants from laughing so hard.

I'm telling you, be careful what you ask for. Remember the Texas congresswoman two years ago wanting more Black-sounding hurricane names? Don't you wonder how she felt when Katrina blew through?

And speaking of what we call ourselves, if we're going to get all huffy with Andy Rooney about the word Negro, then answer this: What's up with a prehistoric name like National Association for the Advancement of ... Colored People?

Don't sit there and say you wouldn't get mad if a White person called you colored. And if you deny it, know what I'd tell you? "Negro please!"

John McCann is a columnist for The Herald-Sun in Durham, N.C.



Terry B. Jones
Publisher

Who is Driving This Train?

As New Orleanians are making decisions about the rest of our lives, whether to go back to the city we all love or make our future in another city in America, what is the real reality, meaning will the town we loved ever be the same? And what are the real chances of going back, especially for the lower and middle income citizens?

If you've gone to New Orleans recently, it is obvious that there is new money alive and well in the city. New restaurants on Magazine Street, contractors in the Uptown area, builders, investors, and many Mexican workers now populate the city. While lower and middle class neighborhoods are still in shambles. What does this mean?

After attending a few of the town hall meetings, it is clear, at least to me, that the Mayor, City Council and even the Governor are fighting to keep some sort of control and regretfully not doing very well with it. So who is driving the train? Maybe the federal government [President Bush], or maybe private investors who cannot be seen in the forefront. (You know those folks never show their faces!) Whoever is driving, we know for sure middle and lower income New Orleanians, are not their primary concern.

But don't think for a minute, there isn't a plan. There is. The lack of initiatives to attract folks back and the influx of

monies from around the world, signal that there's clearly a plan. You're just not in it. So what do we do?

Well, we can continue to beat up on our local elected officials, which seems to me to be a diversion plan. You see in any good strategic battle, you divert the attention one way so that what is really going on is out of sight. You only see and do what they want you to see and do. The question is, will we go for the okeydoke, or like Malcolm X, said, be "bamboozled or hoodwinked." Or do we go directly to the source.

The best way to win any battle is to know your strengths. Understanding of the 300,000 people who left New Orleans, 85 to 90 percent of them are lower or middle class. Each one of their families, had to have had at least 500 relatives who did not live in the city. And as they matriculated throughout the country, they impacted over 200 people per family. Now, the effect, if those relationships could be unified, understanding the impact socially and economically of people who understand the importance of New Orleans to come back, and the need for the government to put New Orleans back in place, could be overwhelming to both the government and private sector.

To simplify it, I mean We the People. And isn't that what America is supposed to be about? Which it makes it

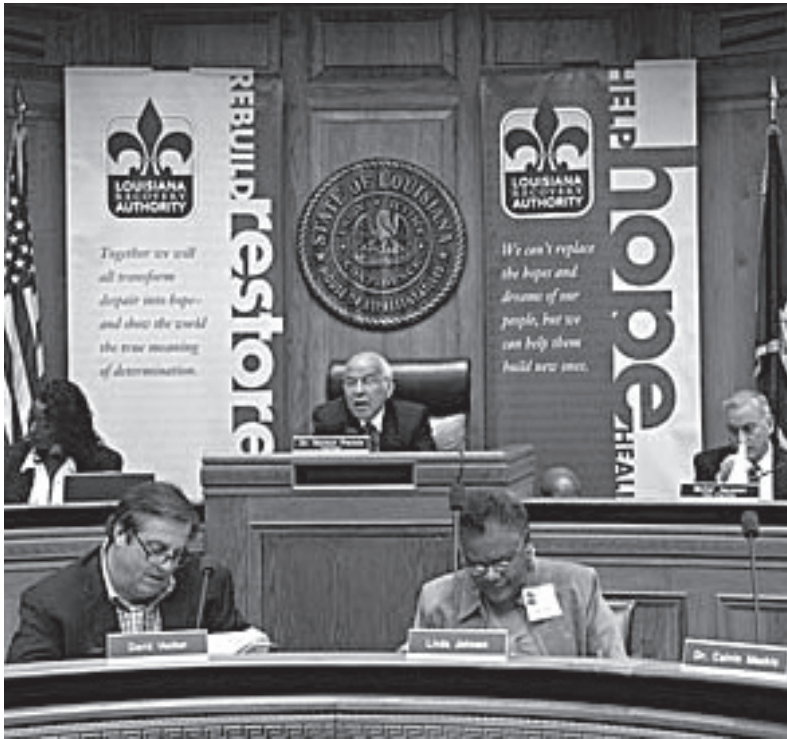
very interesting that FEMA will not release the names and addresses of the displaced residents of New Orleans. But it makes sense, doesn't it? How can you ask the opposing team to help you win?

This is a clarion call to all residents of New Orleans and friends and families. It is time to galvanize all of the compassion and turn it into action. It's time to act now! In the next issue, we will post all of the names of the members of Congress along with their contact information. We will also include a form letter for you to sign, cut out and mail to the members of Congress, letting them know that you intend for them to do everything necessary to make it possible for us to return home. We will not accept no for an answer. We are Americans. It isn't about New Orleans People, it's about American People! And out right to be safe, and secure in America. But that can only happen when the true American dream is realized. Basically I am saying that we can't sit here and wait for things to happen, we have to stand up, Americas and make it happen for us all!

When I asked "Who is driving the train in New Orleans, the real question is "Who should be driving?" The answer is of course, We The People!

Only together can we make a difference.

NEWS



LRA Engages Nationally-Renowned Planners in Community Planning Effort

Board Receives New FEMA Flood Guidance Data

BATON ROUGE, La. – In a major step toward rebuilding hurricane-ravaged South Louisiana the Louisiana Recovery Authority announced today it would be working with a team of nationally-recognized firms to help communities impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita develop their long-term recovery plans.

Calthorpe Associates of Berkeley, California; Urban Design Associates of Pittsburgh and Duany Plater-Zyberk Associates of Miami will begin work immediately to develop a comprehensive regional vision for South Louisiana.

The consortium was selected from a field of 14 applicants by the LRA Support Organization, which raises private funds to support LRA initiatives, including the hiring of long-term planners. The Support Organization based its selection on strict criteria adopted by the LRA at its Nov. 11 meeting.

LRA member Donna Fraiche, who heads the authority's long-term planning task force, commended the Support Organization on its recommendation and said the unique nature of long-term planning after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was an irresistible project for the nation's top planners. "This is the premier project - not just in the country but in the world," she said.

Board members stressed the importance of allowing community needs and aspirations to inform the planning process.

"Ideas will bubble up from communities. The planners' job is to incorporate them into a regional vision," Board member Rod West said.

Collectively, the three firms have been involved in high-profile redevelopment projects, including helping communities respond to disasters. The firms have developed regional plans throughout the country, including Salt Lake City, Southern California, Chicago, the Twin Cities, Austin and Denver.

Thompson sponsors FEMA Bill

By James Wright

Special to the NNPA from Afro Newspapers

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, the top Democrat on the House of Representatives' Homeland Security Committee, has sponsored legislation that would ensure that small, minority and disadvantaged businesses participate in rebuilding areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

The bill, the FEMA Small Business Database Act, would require that the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security create a permanent national database of small and disadvantaged businesses that could serve as prime contractors in the response and recovery phases of natural disasters and other emergencies.

Thompson has been active in making sure that small businesses receive federal contracts from FEMA to clean up the Gulf Coast region.

"This legislation will create a roster, a list of companies on the basis of geographical location, that will be ready to work when a disaster happens," Thompson said. "Our office has gotten inquiries from local businesses about how to get a contract to help clean up and rebuild the area."

Only 5 percent of the businesses in Louisiana, Thompson said, have received



Reps. Bennie Thompson and John Spratt talk about Hurricane Katrina and ways to fix FEMA.

FEMA contracts to clean up that state. He noted that 1.6 percent of Mississippi businesses have gotten contracts from FEMA.

In Alabama, 5 percent of the clean-up and recovery work is done by state businesses.

Rep. William Jefferson (D-La.), who represents a major part of New Orleans, said big companies are getting first consideration on contract bids. That is taking place all over the affected region, he said.

Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Texas) said the frustration level in Houston is "really high," and "people are not able to get through the system to find out what to do to get a clean-up contract."

"That is not right," she said. "People in a disaster should have a hand in cleaning up the area."

The Washington, D.C., area has a host of Black businesses that have the technical expertise

and manpower to help rebuild the Gulf Coast region. Thompson said he is working with the National Association of Minority Contractors to pair small businesses in the Washington, D.C., area with businesses in the affected areas.

Thompson blamed the Bush administration for the slow response to small and disadvantaged businesses.

"This administration shows almost no interest in small businesses," he said. "This is reflected in the way they have tried to relegate this process to the margins. To them, cleaning up after major disasters is only for big businesses."

Thompson testified before the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on Nov. 8 regarding the exclusion of small and disadvantaged businesses from FEMA's contacting pool.

Blanco, Continued from page 6.

Bush on August 29, "We need your help. We need everything you've got."

The state sought firefighting support, military vehicles, generators, medical supplies and personnel.

On August 30, after the failures of three levees left most of New Orleans and its surrounding parishes under water, Blanco told Bush that "the situation is

extremely grave."

Five days after one request from the governor for federal help, a presidential aide told Blanco in a memo that Bush never got her letter.

The aide told Blanco, "We found it on the governor's Web site, but we need 'an original' for our staff secretary to formally process the requests."

Sunday evening, Blanco's aides told CNN that the

governor personally handed the same letter to the president when he visited New Orleans on September 2.

A White House spokeswoman said she was not in a position to comment about what might have happened between the governor and the president that day, but that a number of reviews are under way to determine exactly what happened that week.

Rebuilding A Greater New Orleans

After 25 years of serving New Orleans, Cox Communications is committed to rebuilding the Greater New Orleans area better than ever.

Cox has already given a \$10 million gift to help our citizens recover from this tragedy. The American Red Cross, United Way, Habitat For Humanity and Boys & Girls Clubs have received these donations to help begin to rebuild our community.

This city is our home too and we are looking forward to the next twenty five years... and beyond.



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Situation Report for New Orleans

(New Orleans, LA) The City of New Orleans will release regular updates, or Situation Reports, detailing the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the city and the progress of rebuilding efforts. Reports will be posted on the City's website, www.cityofno.com. A toll free information hotline had been set up for citizens offering a message with important information- 877-286-6431 As of Wednesday, November 30, 2005:

Re-entry

- Railroad crossing signals may not be functioning. Everyone should exercise caution when driving and crossing railroad tracks.
- In the targeted zip codes of 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70119, 70125, 70130 and 70131, a 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. curfew is in effect. No one may be outside on foot or in a vehicle at these times. Those areas include Algiers, the Central Business District, the French Quarter, Mid-City and Uptown. In all other areas, the curfew is 8 p.m. - 6 a.m.

9th Ward Re-Entry

The entire Lower 9th ward is open for “Look and Leave” visitation beginning Thursday, December 1, 2005. Residents may return to see the extent of damage to their property and to gather personal valuables. Visit www.cityofno.com for more information. A command center will be located at North Claiborne and Caffin Avenues, and New Orleans Police Department and National Guard vehicles will be patrolling the streets if residents need assistance. The area will be open for visitation from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. No one will be permitted to remain after dark; all city curfews are in effect. Residents will enter and exit the Lower 9th Ward via the St. Claude Avenue Bridge. Important information includes the following tips:

- Use gloves, boots and coveralls. Wash all soiled clothing and equipment.
- Do not enter heavily damaged structures.
- Drink bottled water throughout the day to prevent heat exhaustion and dehydration.
- Protect yourself from mold and bacteria. Wear particulate masks. Extreme areas require the use of respirators. If an area is extremely moldy, stay away. State agencies caution that mold is unhealthy for children and the elderly. Do not expose children or elderly residents to moldy buildings.
- Use insect repellant to prevent mosquito bites, as there may be more mosquitoes than normal.
- Watch for wild and domestic animals. Some of them are more aggressive than normal because of the stresses they have undergone. Disinfect any wounds and bites immediately and seek medical care as soon as possible.
- You should have a recent tetanus shot. Tetanus shots are good for 10 years. Booster shots are available at all open health clinics:
 - Touro, Ochsner, West Jefferson, East Jefferson, Lakeside, Meadowcrest and Children's Hospital.
 - Algiers Community Health Clinic (Fishers) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 4422 General Meyer, Algiers
 - Covenant House (Downtown) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 611 North Rampart St.
 - Ida Hymel Health Clinic 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 1111 Newton St., Algiers
 - Tulane CBD Practice Plan Clinic - at Harrah's (mobile unit) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 512 S. Peter St.
 - Uptown Square Clinic (mobile unit) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 200 Broadway Ave., Suite 230

- The Salvation Army will have mobile units and counselors on duty.
- Clean-up kits, food, water and ice and portable restrooms will be available at the command center.

Red Cross

The Red Cross distribution sites are listed below.

- 70112 Municipal Auditorium parking lot
- 70113 A.L. Davis Park, Washington at LaSalle
- 70116 Esplanade at St. Claude/ N.Rampart
- 70118 Lafayette School, 2727 S. Carrollton Ave.
- 70130 Laurel Elementary School, 820 Jackson Ave.
- 70122 Gentilly Woods, 4137 Chef Men-teur
- 70124 St. Dominic's Church, 778 Harrison Avenue
- Red Cross has set up a new financial site at 1426 Napoleon Avenue.

Two new financial sites have been set up at:

- Gentilly Woods Mall
- Oak Park Shopping Center

Cut Off Playground at General Meyer and Belgrade, is no longer a bulk distribution site, and has been converted into to Red Cross staff shelter.

Red Cross is also offering blue tarps for citizens' homes if they do not qualify under the Blue Roof Program.

For more information on temporary roofing, log onto www.cityofno.com.

Businesses

- There are a number of restaurants open in the city. Those establishments with bright pink posters in the windows have been deemed safe by health and safety inspectors.
- A Business Recovery Center is located at One Canal Street, Suite 1050 to assist businesses owners with specific needs.

Schools

- New Orleans Public Schools announced that five schools will re-open on December 14, 2005.

School Name	Address
Behrman Elementary	715 Opelousas
Eisenhower Elementary	3700 Tall Pines Drive
Harte Elementary	5300 Berkley Drive
Edna Karr Sr. High School	3332 Huntlee Drive
O.P. Walker Sr. High School	2832 General Meyer Avenue
- Lusher and Lusher Extension as an agreement with Tulane will re-open in January.
- Re-hiring began on November 1, 2005 for Orleans Parish Schools.
- Archdiocese of New Orleans currently has two schools open in Algiers. On October 17, 2005, St. Francis Cabrini opened in New Orleans. Seven parochial schools have the goal of opening in January 2006.
- Cathedral Academy, a Catholic Elementary School located in the French Quarter, re-opened its doors to students on Monday, October 17, 2005.

Housing

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as part of their FEMA-assigned mission of providing temporary repairs to roofs damaged by Hurricane Katrina, has a toll-free number for affected victims to call for information - 1-888-ROOF-BLU (1-888-766-3258). If a home does not qualify under the Blue Roof Program, citizens may go to the local

disaster relief centers to receive blue tarps for their homes.

Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) Information Numbers are the following: Houston area (713)652-2922 or (713)652-2923 the local number (504)362-4210. No new housing applicants are being accepted.

The current Disaster Relief Centers are:

- Landry High School, 1200 Whitney Ave. Algiers; opened from 9a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Jewish Community Center, 5343 St. Charles Ave.; opened from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.,
- Laurel Elementary, 820 Jackson Ave., opened from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Overview by zip code

70114

- Expanded RTA bus routes.
- Sewer system is operational.
- Water service was never interrupted.
- Electric: Service available to 94% of customers
- Trash/debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads inspected 100%; Signals Operational 88%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; RTA providing limited bus service, and limited gas stations open. RTS fare free for six months, and all bus services in circulations have handicapped accessibility. Airport is operational.
- Restoration of electric, gas, and tele-phone service
- Plan for and provide appropriate Health and Human Services
- Fire coverage operational

70131

- Sewer is operational.
- Water: Service never interrupted.
- Trash/debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 88%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; Limited bus service; Some gas stations open; storm drains: 100%; cars towed: 0%; Gen. de Gaulle buses running between Algiers and CBD, Algiers local to provide inner Algiers service RTA fare free for six months. All buses in circulation have handicapped accessibility. Airport is operational.

70115

- Sewer: Sewer is operational.
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Power available to 100% of customers.
- Gas: Service available to 100% of customers.
- Trash/debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 46%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; No bus service; No gas stations open; Catch Basin cleaning (10%); storm drains: 75%; cars towed: 0% TBD; PFO will provide bus transport, from convention center to short term state sponsored shelters.
- Fire: Low water pressure.

70118

- Sewer: Sewer is operational.
- Water: Water is potable.
- Elect: Power available to over 97% of customers.
- Gas: Service available to 70% of customers.
- Trash/debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 95%; Signals Operational 39%; Temporary Stop

Signs 100%; No bus service; No gas stations open. Catch Basin cleaning (0%); storm drains: 100%; PFO will provide bus transport, from convention center to short term state sponsored shelters.

- Fire: Low water pressure. Expect to be self-sufficient by 12 Oct 2005.

70116

- Sewer: Sewer is operational.
- Water: Water is potable.
- Elect: Power available to > 75% of customers.
- Gas: Service available to 100% of customers.
- Trash/debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 40%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%. No bus service; No gas stations open; Catch Basin cleaning (0%); storm drains: 10%; PFO will provide bus transport, from convention center to short term state sponsored shelters.
- Fire: Low water pressure.

70112

- Sewer: Sewer is operational.
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Power available to over 94% of customers.
- Gas: Service available to 99% of customers.
- Trash/debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 65%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%. No bus service; No gas stations open; Catch Basin cleaning (10%); storm drains: 10%; PFO will provide bus transport, from convention center to short term state sponsored shelters.
- Fire: Low water pressure.
- 911: New system fully operational

70113

- Sewer: Sewer is operational.
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Service available to 100% of customers.
- Gas: Service available to 85% of customers.
- Trash/debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 64%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; No bus service; No gas stations open; catch basin cleaning 10%; storm drains: 75%; PFO will provide bus transport, from convention center to short term state sponsored shelters.
- Fire: Low water pressure.
- 911: New system operational

70130

- Sewer: Sewer is operational.
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Service available to 100% of customers.
- Gas: 93% service available.
- Trash/debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 95%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; No bus service; No gas stations open; catch basin cleaning 0%; storm drains: 100%; storm sewer operations.
- Fire: Low water pressure.
- 911: New system operational

70124

- Sewer: Sewer system is operational.
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Service available to 28% of customers.
- Gas: Service available to 25% of customers.
- Debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 90%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%;. No bus service; no gas stations open.
- Fire: operational
- 911: New system operational

70125

- Sewer: Sewer is operational.
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Service available to 99% of customers.
- Gas: 12% service available.
- Debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 95%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 95%; No bus service; no gas stations open; storm drains: 100%.
- Fire: Low water pressure; delayed response
- 911: Operational

70119

- Sewer: Sewer is operational.
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Service available to 80% of customers.
- Gas: 8% service available.
- Debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 95%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; No bus service; no gas stations open; storm drains: 100%.
- Fire: No water pressure
- 911: Operational

70122

- Sewer: Sewer system is inoperative.
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Service available to 84% of customers.
- Gas: 45% service available.
- Debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 95%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 95%; No bus service; no gas stations open.
- Fire: Low water pressure; delayed response
- 911: Operational

70126

- Sewer: Sewer system is inoperative.
- Water: Water for fire protection only - not potable.
- Elect: Downman/Lower-0% of power available/Upper-31%.
- Gas: Downman/Lower- 12% service available/Upper- 9% available.
- Debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 90%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%.
- 911: Operational

70127

- Sewer: Sewer system is inoperative.
- Water: Water for fire protection only - not potable.
- Elect: Service available to 0% of customers.
- Gas: 0% service available.
- Debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.

- Transportation: Roads Inspected 90%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%.
- 911: Operational

70128

- Sewer: Sewer system is inoperative.
- Water: Water for fire protection only - not potable.
- Elect: Service available to 0% of customers.
- Gas: 0% service available.
- Debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 90%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%.
- 911: Operational

70129

- Sewer: Sewer system is inoperative.
- Water: Water for fire protection only - not potable.
- Elect: Service available to less than 25% of customers.
- Gas: 0% service available.
- Debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 90%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%.
- 911: Operational

70117

- Sewer: Sewer system is inoperative.
- Water: Water for fire protection only - not potable.
- Elect: Upper 9th Ward- service available to 31% of customers; lower 9th-service available less than 25%.
- Gas: 0% service available.
- Debris: 3.7 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected Upper-95%, Lower 35%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs Upper-100%, Lower 90%.
- 911: Operational

70148

- UNO Lake Front Arena status same as Zip Code 70122

Public health and medical systems
For a list of hospitals and clinics that are open in Orleans and Jefferson Parish please visit our Hospitals and Clinics page.
Open pharmacies and retail sites:

Name	Address
Save A Center	4001 Gen. DeGaulle
CVS	#5503 - 4901 Prytania St, New Orleans 70115
Walgreens	5300 Tchoupitoulas Street-- Orleans 1815 Airline - Laplace
Rite AID	#7234 - 6425 Airline Highway, Metairie 70003
#7235 - 7060 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie 70003	
#7237 - 725 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie 70005	
#7238 - 800 Metairie Road - Suite D, Metairie 70005	
#7239 - 4936 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie 70006 (open in trailer, limited front end goods)	
#7240 - 4300 West Esplanade Avenue, Metairie 70006	
#7245 - 497 Terry Parkway, Terrytown 70056	
#7251 - 4535 Westbank Expressway, Marreo 70072	
#7253 - 1082 Westbank Expressway, Westwego 70094	
#7268 - 8225 Jefferson Highway, Harahan 70123	
#7277 - 4350 General de Gaulle Drive, New Orleans 70131	
457 Lapalco Blvd. - Harvey	
818 West Bank Expressway - Westwego	
89 West Bank Expressway	
2 stores in Marrero are OPEN	
Algiers is OPEN	

- Based on communication with the Division Director of the Metropolitan Human Services District, services for substance abuse counseling, crisis counseling, patient case management, inpatient follow-up, and psychiatric medications will be available starting Monday, October 10th from 9am-4:30pm at the following three locations:

- Plaquemines Center for Addictive Disorders, 3701 Main Street, Belle Chase, LA 504-393-5624
- Arthur Monday community Health Clinic, 111 Newton St., Algiers, LA, 504-364-5643
- Meadowcrest City Health Clinic, 4122 Gen Meyer Avenue, Algiers, LA, 504-364-4066
- Mental Health/Resilience Listserve: At the request of local partners, CDC developed a mental health/resilience listserve to assist in communication among partners. Since its creation, there have been messages sent out updating partners about the opening of mental health services, availability of psychiatric beds, etc. To join, send a blank email to NOMHR-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.
- Per executive order 47, the Governor of Louisiana has extended period for which out of state licensed medical personnel may operate. The current deadline is set for October 25, 2005.
- Two crisis hotlines are operational: 1-800-273-TALK and 1-800-749-COPE.
- Tulane, in conjunction with the NOHD, has set up three additional community clinics providing both urgent and primary care, along with mental health services. They are operational as of 9/29. The clinics are located at: Harrah's Casino (Convention Center Blvd and Poydras St.); Covenant House (611 Rampart St.); Uptown Square Health Center (Broadway and River Rd.). Furthermore, prescription services and immunizations are/will be available at all sites.

Long term recovery and mitigation

- U.S. Attorney and Federal Court are operational in Baton Rouge, while the Magistrate Court is operational in Gretna

Domestic animals

- All animals not reunited with their families are available for adoption.
- To find a rescued animal, visit www.petfinder.com.

Transportation

For transportation questions, citizens can call 504-658-8000

MAJOR FREIGHT LINES:

- Union Pacific (UP): All lines are open.
- Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF): All lines are open.
- CSX Transportation (CSXT): All lines are open with the exception of the line from New Orleans to Pascagoula, MS.
- Norfolk Southern (NS): All lines are open.
- Kansas City Southern (KCS): All lines are open.
- Canadian National (CN): All lines are open.
- UP, BNSF, NS, KCS, and CN all have rail access to the outskirts of New Orleans, however, rail traffic within the city itself is limited.

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

- I-10 Slidell Twin Span Bridge: one lane open to two-way traffic
 - US-11 Bridge & Pontchartrain Causeway: closed with limited access to emergency relief vehicles only
 - LA-23 Remains flooded and blocked from Katrina
 - I-10 at Lake Charles is now open.
- Ports, Pipelines and Refineries
- Port of New Orleans: Operational to 42 feet
 - Port of Fourchon: Operation to 24 feet
 - The Industrial Canal is open east of the Cowan/Lorraine bridge.
 - All major interstate crude oil, refined

product, and natural gas transmission pipelines are operating

- Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) operating at 75% capacity.
- Numerous reports of oil and gas leaks in the Gulf of Mexico. Some of these may be from pipelines.

AIR

The following airports are open and operational for commercial, civil and military flights:

- Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, LA (BTR)
- Lafayette Regional Airport, LA (LFT)
- Lake Charles Regional Airport (LCH)
- Harry P. Williams Memorial Airport, Paterson, LA (PTN)
- Alexandria International Airport, LA (AEX)
- Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport (GPT) (MSY) Mississippi
- Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport
- operating at 33% pre-Katrina by December 1, 2005
- 24-25 passenger flights per day
- 3-4 concourses open
- Concessions beginning to open

The following airports are open, but may be limited to visual and/or daytime operations:

- Houma Terrebonne Airport (HUM)
- Naval Air Station Alvin Callendar (NBG)
- Chennault International, Lake Charles(CWF)
- Northshore Regional, Hammond (HDC)
- Thibodaux Municipal Airport (L83)
- Slidell Airport (ASD)

TRAIN STATION

Currently Amtrak has two trains leaving and arriving in New Orleans daily.
Departures:
7:20 a.m. Atlanta/New York
1:45 p.m. Memphis/Carbondale/Chicago

Arrivals:

3:32 p.m. Chicago/Carbondale/Chicago
7:20 p.m. New York/Atlanta
Due to damage to the rail tracks, no east/west trains are scheduled to run until early January.

RTA

RTA began free limited transit service on Sunday, October 2.
RTA have buses running from Baton Rouge to New Orleans free of charge.
To get bus route schedules go to www.norta.com.

GREYHOUND STATION

Daily bus service to and from New Orleans began on October 31, 2005. Two busses are scheduled to arrive and depart daily from the city.

- One bus is scheduled to leave Baton Rouge at 10:15 a.m., arriving in New Orleans at 12:15 p.m.
- A second bus is scheduled to depart Houston, TX for New Orleans with stops in Baytown, Beaumont, Port Arthur, TX, Lake Charles, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge.
- Passengers departing New Orleans can board at the Loyola Avenue station for departures to Baton Rouge at 12:45 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

PARKING:

- Parking tickets are being issued in the French Quarter and Central Business District.
- Towing will be discontinued daily at 7 p.m. until further notice.
- Please adhere to the parking laws in the City of New Orleans. There is no parking in restricted or passenger zones, and vehicles may not block intersections.
- Six tow trucks and three flatbeds (provided by Car Crushers) removing vehicles from routes in zip code areas to be repopulated.
- 812 Cars towed by Car Crushers
- 2,991 Cars towed by City tow truck drivers

Debris Management

- Garbage pick up has started once a week throughout the city.
 - The estimated quantity of debris in the New Orleans area is 50 million cubic yards. The City Debris Management team is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to remove debris and refuse from businesses and residences in the N.O. area. Thus far, a total of 3.7 M cubic yards of debris and refuse has been removed.
 - There are numerous waste streams. 1) Green (trees and other vegetative debris), 2) construction and demolition debris (mostly from demolished buildings - which includes wood, furniture, rugs, sheet rock, roofing materials, electrical and plumbing materials among others), 3) White goods (including appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners), 4) Household hazardous materials.
 - To assist in the collection of trash and debris, residents must separate debris into different piles curbside for separate collections. This will speed the removal of trash and debris. Items should be separated into the following categories:
 - Household garbage (dispose as usual) except spoiled food MUST be bagged in black plastic trash bags.
 - Tree debris and clean wood
 - Carpet, sheetrock, insulation, flooring and furniture, etc.
 - Roofing materials
 - Appliances such as refrigerators (emptied of contents), stoves, and air conditioners.
 - Household hazardous wastes such as pesticides, paints, solvents, automotive fluids and cleaning products. We are working on developing a program to handle these items, which will be announced at a later date. In the meantime, please store them in a safe place.
 - It is against the law in Orleans Parish to have any open fire without a permit. Residents should not burn any storm debris because of potentially toxic fumes. Smoke from fires can also impede visibility for aircraft in the area. Open-flame cooking is also prohibited in multi-family dwellings or dwellings with two or more stories, or within 10 feet of a building.
 - Debris has been pushed to the side on all streets. Streets are passable.
- Emergency Management
- Command staff developed a contingency plan in case significant rainfall causes a levee breach.
 - The Emergency Operations Center is fully activated and operational under the Incident Command System.
 - The EOC is working under written Incident Action Plans to coordinate tactical operations in the field.

Infrastructure

Electric

64 percent of customers in Orleans Parish have service.

Gas

Hurricane Katrina Gas Assessment & Restoration Report		
Zip Code	Area	Comments
70112	CBD	100% FULLY RESTORED
70113	Central City	100% Partially Restored; Many Meter Valves OFF
70114	Algiers	100% FULLY RESTORED
70115	Garden District	95% Partially RESTORED; HP is OK
- Water in UP		
70116	French Quarter	100% Water in UP system
70117	9th Ward - Upper	9% Water in UP system
70117	9th Ward - Lower	0% Heavy wind & flood damage. Debris hazard
70118	Audubon	70% Partially RESTORED; Water in UP system
70119	City Park	8% Water in UP system
70122	Gentilly	50% Water in UP system
70124	LakeView	35% Water in UP system
70125	Mid City	12% Water in UP system
70126	Downman	12% Heavy wind & flood
70127	NO East	0% Heavy wind & flood
70128	NO East	0% Heavy wind & flood
70129	NO East	0% Heavy wind & flood
70130	Warehouse District	100% Mostly RESTORED
70131		100% FULLY RESTORED
TOTAL CUSTOMERS 144,963 46%		

Emergency Services

Emergency Medical Services

- Orleans EMS is currently running 24 hours operations with 33 units per day
- There are 26 units currently working 24 hours per day.
- There were 33 emergency calls within the past 24 hour period.

Law Enforcement and Public Safety

- Crisis Intervention Unit working from 10 am to 6 pm
- NOPD will begin handling traffic accidents and enforce traffic laws in the Central Business District.

Fire Department

- All stations are staffed in Algiers.
- Fire fighters continue checking hydrants and conducting building inspections.
- Fire department infrastructure: four stations are fully operational, with others at various stages of operability.

Corps of Engineers

For more information regarding the Army Corps of Engineers debris removal, call 1-800-849-1355.

RENEW ORLEANS

GMAC FINANCIAL SERVICES

Renewing a community is challenging. But, with perseverance, patience and persistence, those challenges can be met by bringing people together to rebuild homes, restore buildings, reopen businesses and make transportation available and accessible to everyone. As you look toward recovery, know that you are in the thoughts of all of us here at GMAC, the financial services people of General Motors.

gmacfs.com SmartEdgebyGMAC.com

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