

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

**The Sound
and Fury of
Rick James**

**FREE
COPY**

**Data Zone
Page 4**

September 11 - September 17, 2021 56th Year Volume 20 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

IDA

**and the
Great Exodus**

***We Will Re-Build... A Look At The Resilient
Spirit Of the People Of New Orleans***

Page 2



Newsmaker
New Orleans
Much of Power
Restored

Page 6

State & Local
City Recovery
Efforts After
Hurricane Ida



Page 6

Ida and the Great Exodus

We Will Re-Build...A Look At The Resilient Spirit Of the People Of New Orleans



Data News Weekly Editor-in-Chief, Edwin Buggage visiting with his son Eric while evacuating to Houston.



"The silver lining during these storms is that people are able to spend time with family and friends," says New Orleans native and actress Samantha Beaulieu (l) pictured with her family in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

The Road to Recovery

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, that left much damage from Louisiana to the east coast of this nation, this catastrophe left many with questions about

their city and their lives more generally. In light of this disaster a great exodus took place as hundreds of thousands of people; many of whom experienced the waters of Hurricane Katrina and some spending the following horrific days in the Superdome, the Convention Center or on rooftops now sought refuge.

Sixteen years to the day of Katrina, the resilient people of New Orleans many left, while others braved

it out. In this expose, I paint a picture of not just these individuals, for they are simply examples of the collective spirit of a people. One that values people, family, community and love, over property and possessions.

The journey to recovery is one that is just beginning for a city that over its 300-year history has seen its share of natural and man-made disasters.

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Data Zone	4
Newsmaker	6
State & Local News . . .	6
National News	7

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher		Production
Edwin Buggage	Edwin Buggage	Pubinator.com
Editor		Editorial and
Sharonda Green	Benjamin Bates	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	Elise Storm	datanewsweeklyad
June Hazeur		@gmail.com
Accounting	DNW Staff Writers	Distribution
		by Terrence Lee

Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Hundreds of thousands took to the road evacuating during Hurricane Ida. Also, many left after the storm because of power outages that made life for many unbearable in its initial aftermath.



Jamie Jones evacuated to Pensacola, Florida, with his son Jamie Jr. and other relatives.



"Family is important and I wanted to make sure my family was safe," says Jeffrey May (Pictured with his mother and aunt in Houston), who is a New Orleans native, living in the Washington D.C. area who helped evacuate his mother and other relatives to safety.



Retired educator Barbara May, who stayed behind during Hurricane Katrina, decided this time to evacuate. She is presently safe in the Washington, D.C. area while her son Jeffrey May, will return to New Orleans to assess damages to their family home.

storm and watched it as trees and power poles went down and eventually the lights went out."

Reflections...The Morning After...Lights Out

Ida passed over the city and as expected left much damage while the levees did not breach this time, the power went out leaving the entire City of New Orleans without power. This left many who stayed experiencing the unrelenting heat

as well as potentially being unsafe as night fell in a city of darkness.

"I have a neighbor who stayed and he's suffering with the heat, and so many other quality of life issues. Right now, it does not sound like anything I want to rush to get back to. But one thing I can say that is encouraging is that billions of dollars and 16 years later that the levees held," said Samantha Beaulieu.

For many elderly citizens, these conditions are not the most favorable for them or anyone with special needs.

Some will take a sit it out and wait approach before returning. "It is home but going back is not in my best interest right now," says Barbara May, a retired educator from uptown New Orleans, who stayed during Katrina and when the levees breached wound up having to walk in waist deep water seeking refuge and eventually making it to the Superdome before heading to the D.C. area for several years while her home was being rebuilt.

During Ida, initially, she was reluctant to leave, but her son Jeffrey May, an urban planner who lives in the Washington D.C. area happened to be in town on business and encouraged her and other family members to evacuate.

They evacuated to Houston and are presently in the D.C. area, while Jeffrey is planning to return to survey the damage done to their family



home. "I am glad I was here for my mother and able to make sure she and other family members were safe," says Jeffrey May."

Rebuilding New Orleans?

While not a catastrophe like Katrina, the city still must rebuild, and questions about how it will be done and what the priorities will be is paramount.

"I left with my son who is beginning his freshman year at St. Augustine High School and some of my family members and went to Florida. It wasn't planned, but I was also in the same hotel as my next-door neighbor. These are tough times for the city, with COVID-19, now this leaves a lot of questions about the city's future and direction," says Jamie Jones, a dedicated

Cover Story, Continued on page 7.



Educator Charles Dickerson with son Chaz, while evacuated in Houston awaiting return to New Orleans.

Exodus...The Memories of Life After Hurricane Ida

"We formulated a plan and we drove to Alabama, which was the best decision we could have made. I took a page out of my late father Paul Beaulieu's book and got us out early before the mayor asked people to evacuate. We stayed there

then went to Atlanta and eventually went to my aunt's house who lives in Chapel Hill N.C.," says Samantha Beaulieu, an acclaimed and accomplished actress from New Orleans. "I didn't want to take a chance with my family experiencing a catastrophic event," remarked Charles Dickerson, an educator, who's worked in both New Orleans and Houston. "Going to Houston is something that gave me a sense of normalcy, because I have other children there and I've lived there before."

Charles Vaughn is also an educator, mentor and visual artist. He chose to stay behind with his family. "Leaving was an option for me, but I did not want to leave my family in harm's way, so I decided to ride out the storm and I had my oldest daughter with me at my home in Gentilly. I stayed up during the

The Sound and Fury of Rick James

Elise Storm
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The life of The Ultimate Funk Star Rick James is on display in a recent documentary airing on Showtime and several streaming platforms.

In recent years, many have been reminded of him as a caricature, from the Chappelle Show. But the true story is much more complex as told in "The Sound and Fury of Rick James" shows a talented and revolutionary artist who was ahead of his time and shaped the sound of music for future generations.

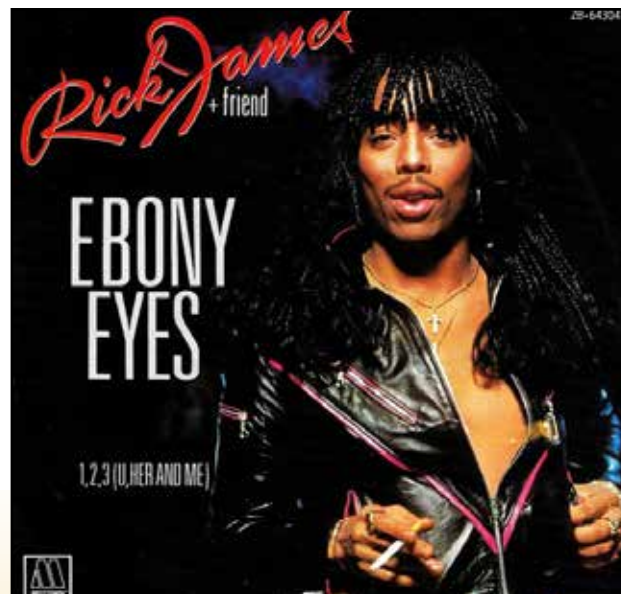
A versatile artist, whose music transcended boundaries and categories, James was as easily comfortable rocking out, doing disco and funk, soul ballads, or collaborating with rap artist that were emerging on the scene in the 1980's.

Director Sacha Jenkins paints an intricate portrait of this misunderstood genius. The film has many talking heads, who are legendary in their own right speaking about the music and bigger than life personality of Rick James.

This along with the recent releases; the documentary on Mary J. Blige and the recent biopic on Aretha, is a trifecta of a great binge watch or a date night. I strongly recommend tuning into this great documentary on the King of Funk and Soul...Rick James.



Showtime recently released an amazing documentary on the legendary music artist Rick James. It is receiving critical acclaim and is a must see for all.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

ROUSES MARKETS

WE'RE OPEN

At Rouses Markets, our top priority is taking care of you and our team members!

Our teams are working hard to restock our shelves with canned goods, fresh foods, water and other essentials your family needs.

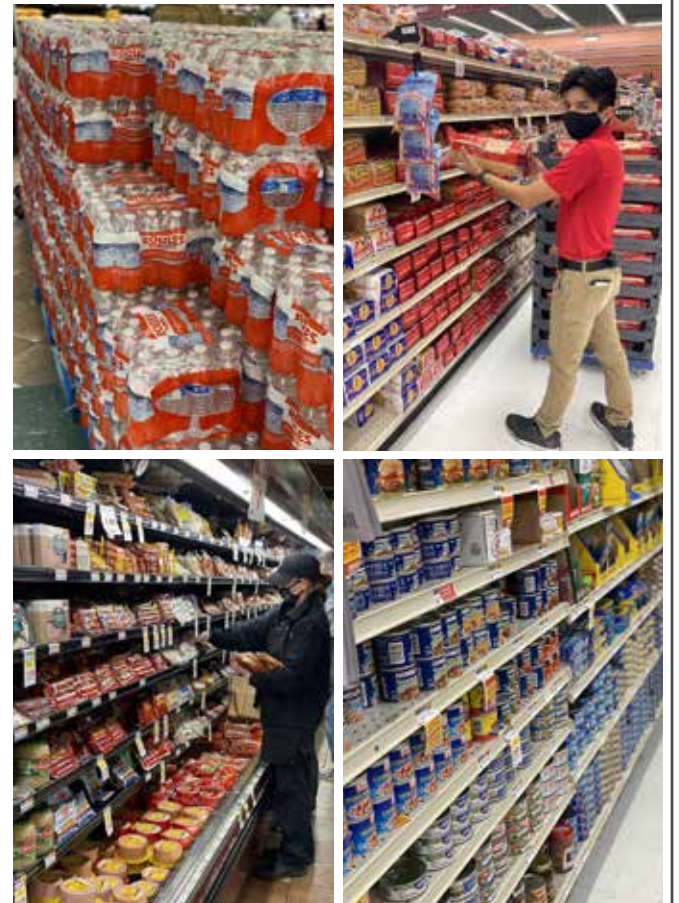
LOCALS HELPING LOCALS

It has been really something to see everyone come together in a time of crisis to help their neighbors in need, even as they are putting the pieces of their own lives back together.

We have hot food and cold drinks, and truckloads of groceries, produce, meat, water, ice and cleaning supplies rolling in to our stores every day.

To our team members going the extra mile and working together to take care of our customers during this incredible time of need, **thank you**. You're amazing. We are so grateful and lucky to have you.

Visit our website and Facebook page for store information.



GULF COAST STRONG

For more information regarding New Orleans recovery visit www.ladatnews.com

**Disaster
could show up at
YOUR doorstep.**

**Make a
plan today.**

Ready.gov/plan



In New Orleans Much of Power Restored, But Road to Recovery Only Beginning

Benjamin Bates

Data News Weekly
Contributor

In New Orleans the recovery is beginning as electricity is being restored in much of the City of New Orleans. As of our press date, it's been predicted by Entergy New Orleans that every resident will have power.

And while that is a positive step in the right direction, the re-



After over a week without power after Hurricane Ida, as of press time most of the power have been restored in the City of New Orleans.

covery is far from over as other infrastructure and residents are still assessing damages to their properties. This at a time, when the city as is the country in the middle of battling the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Lisa Smith, from uptown New Orleans, recently had her power restored after several days said she regretted not leaving. Noting that some of her friends decided to leave before and after the storm.

On a brighter note she says,

"The levees" did not break, so that is a good thing, and I am grateful that the lights are back on.

Kevin Johnson, a resident of Gentilly, whose lights were not on before press time, "As I ride around certain parts of city and see some of the looting that's taken place it is disappointing, but at least we did not have a lot of loss of life like Katrina, just a loss of power."

Today, the City of New Orleans, is on a path to recovery that may take months, or perhaps years.

State & Local News

City Recovery Efforts After Hurricane Ida

Data News Staff Edited
Report

City agencies and public safety officials continue to assess and respond to damages sustained during the storm, including continuing to facilitate ongoing sheltering and evacuation operations for residents in need. Mayor LaToya Cantrell and other City officials continue to prioritize residential needs by moving resources to neighborhoods, as well as responding to infrastructure, health and community needs on an ongoing basis.

Recovery updates and community resources are as follows:

Drinking Water

- SWBNO Water Plant in Algiers is supplying neighboring parishes with water via filling stations in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health.
- SWBNO is on Entergy power at the Carrollton Water Plant, which means all substations (Hamilton, Sycamore, Claiborne) are being powered via Entergy.
- Water pressure and water quality are stable. Water is safe to drink.

Drainage and Power Equipment Status

- With Entergy power restored to the Carrollton Water Plant, Turbines 4 and 6 will come offline for routine checks and maintenance to make sure we are prepared for the next rain event.
- DPS 1, DPS 2, DPS 10, DPS 14, DPS 16 currently have Entergy power



- Entergy is expected to power more drainage pump stations throughout the day.

Department of Sanitation

Debris Separation / Collection

- Place storm-related debris curbside in the following categories:
 - 1) Household Garbage: Bagged garbage, discarded food, paper, packaging. (Use City-issued trash cart for disposal of bagged rotting waste).
 - 2) Construction Debris: building materials, drywall, lumber, carpet, furniture, etc.
 - 3) Unbagged Vegetative Debris: logs, leaves, tree branches, plants.
 - 4) Appliances: Doors must be sealed/secured.
- Do not block roadways or place debris near trees, poles, or fire hydrants. The first debris removal pass is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

Curbside Solid Waste Collection

- Limited curbside solid waste collection resumed on Thursday, Sept. 2nd.
- The City's solid waste contractors

will only be dumping the city-issued 95-gallon trash cart during these initial passes.

- Residents should continue to bag their rotting waste, place in the City-issued trash cart and leave their carts on the curb until they are emptied; it will take some time for sanitation contractors to complete the full, citywide collection cycle.
- Recycling collections have been suspended until further notice.

New Orleans Public Library (NOPL)- Central City Library Opening Tomorrow

- Central City Library will be open Monday, Sept. 6th, for computer/Wi-Fi access, phone charging stations, and air conditioning.
- Located at the Allie Mae Williams Multi-Service Center at 2020 Jackson Avenue, Suite 139, the site will be open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- The Library does not have device chargers and asks residents to bring their own. Plugs will be available on a first come, first served basis for an hour per person.
- All other Library locations remain closed at this time.
- As additional libraries open, information on hours of operation can be found on org and on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @nolalibrary.

Community Resources & Assistance

RTA adds Additional Routes to Limited Bus Service

- Today, the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority announced the addition of more routes to the

limited bus service the agency is operating to support the city's recovery efforts following Hurricane Ida.

- Beginning Sunday, Sept. 5th, limited service will run daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on a modified Saturday schedule along the following routes:
 - 27-Louisiana
 - 39-Tulane
 - 47-Canal
 - 84-Galvez
 - 88-St. Claude
 - 90-Carrollton
 - 94-Broad
 - 91-Jackson/Esplanade
 - 102-General Meyer
 - 114-General DeGaulle-Sullen
 - 115-General DeGaulle-Tullis
- Fares continue to be waived.
- For more information, visit www.norta.com or follow RTA on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @NewOrleansRTA.

Uber Transportation Code

- Uber Code: IDARELIEF2021
- Uber is offering a free code to allow residents to go to City Cooling Centers and PODs at the below locations.

Locations

Treme Recreation Center (900 N. Villere St);
Cut-Off Recreation Center (6600 Belgrade St.);
Gernon Brown Recreation Center (1001 Harrison Ave.);
Milne Recreation Center (5420 Franklin Ave.); Stallings St.
Claude Recreation Center (4300 St. Claude Ave.);
John P. Lyons Recreation Center (624 Louisiana Ave.);
Joe W. Brown Recreation Center (5601 Read Blvd.);

Rosenwald Recreation Center (1120 S. Broad Ave.);
Joe W. Brown Park, (5475 Read Blvd.);
Mahalia Jackson Auditorium, (1451 Basin St.);
Skelly Park, (2515 Vespasian Blvd.);
Wesley Barrow Stadium, (6500 Press Dr.);
Life Transformation Community Center, (8606 Marks St.);
Arthur Monday Center (1111 Newton St.);
St. Roch Park (1800 St. Roch Ave.);
Harmony Oaks (2514 Washington Ave.);
McDonogh 35 (4000 Cadillac St.).

Blue Tarp Distribution

- The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is providing blue tarps for Orleans Parish residents who sustained roof damage
- Visit Blue Roof Information (army.mil) for information on how to retrieve a blue tarp
- Points of Distribution (POD) Sites
MREs, water, ice:
 - 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Skelly Park (2515 Vespasian Blvd.)
 - 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Lyons Center (624 Louisiana Ave.)
 - 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Joe W. Brown Park (5475 Read Blvd.)
 - 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Wesley Barrow Stadium (6500 Press Dr.)
 - 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Mahalia Jackson Auditorium (1419 Basin St.)
 - 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Dryades YMCA (2220 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.)

For Up to Date
Information go to
readynola.gov

Pandemic Unemployment Ends Leaving Many Americans with Uncertain Future

Data News Staff Edited Report

none

Another blow during the COVID-19 Crisis is taking place as the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Benefits Program ended on September 7, 2021, leaving millions across the nation to wonder how they'll make ends meet for their families.

It's been estimated that 7.5 million people will be affected, according to calculations by the Century Foundation, a progressive think tank. Also, an additional 2.1 million unemployed people will lose the \$300 per week federal supplement.

Since the start of the Pandemic, the government has spent almost \$800 billion in unemployment assistance, intended as short-term measures to support households and keep the economy going.

The programs included Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, which kicked in after regular state unemployment benefits expired, and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, which was extended to gig workers who were not normally eligible for ben-



efits.

But COVID-19 has more patience than Washington, which appears to have little appetite to extend the benefits, even as the Delta Variant rages.

"Food stamps and the child tax credit can avert destitution, but many people are in harm's way now."

Business and political leaders looking at the math of the 8.4 million unemployed and over 10 million open positions have predicted a flood of applicants when benefits end. The data tells a different story.

For every eight workers who

lost benefits, only one found a job, according to recent research.

The leading reasons why the unemployed aren't taking jobs have little to do with government money and everything to do with the health and economic crisis: childcare scarcity and cost, fear of getting or spreading COVID-19, and taking care of someone with the disease or getting sick themselves, according to the latest Census survey.

A study by JPMorgan Chase shows that the immediate result of the end of benefits is not a rush to work, but a sharp decrease in household spending.

"The average person can't find a job right away and will have cut-backs," said Till von Wachter, Professor of Economics at the University of California Los Angeles.

The main issue is that funds were established with a deadline given by politicians and do not adjust, even if economic conditions don't improve or worsen, he said.

"We wouldn't be in this mess if we had a functional system of extended benefits that responded to local conditions on the ground," von Wachter said.

Jordan Motteler, 30, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, hasn't worked since she and her husband were laid off in March 2020. She wants to work but can't take the risk because she and her daughter are immunocompromised. Her husband, laid off from Lowe's, has started to pick up some work as a plumber's apprentice. But the hours and wages are lower than his previous job. The family is applying for rent and utility assistance from a local community organization.

"A lot of us live paycheck to paycheck just hoping we have enough to get everything our kids need, not even ourselves," Motteler said.

Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.



Visual artist Charles Vaughn stayed behind and weathered the storm. He braved the heat and power outages for several days before his electricity was restored in his Gentilly neighborhood.



father and educator.

While climate change is not at the forefront of conversations during this election season, perhaps it should be according to Samantha Beaulieu, "Climate change is a major issue, and we can no longer ignore it and we must elect people to office who will make it a priority."

As always issues of equity and

some without resources to evacuate is a problem. "Some people just didn't have the means to leave and then have to come back and pay bills, which in some cases are already behind" says Charles Vaughn. "Maybe as a solution emergency funds should be made available for a storm before it happens not after. That

way people can have the resources they need for themselves and their loved ones."

The Silver Lining... Family, Friends and Loved Ones Matter

In these tough times, the one thing that can get us through is family and friends. It is one of those

things that can put a smile on our face and joy in our hearts even through these uncertain times.

"I think back to Katrina and that I was getting to spend time with my 90 something year old grandmother. And now it is wonderful seeing my aunt and my first cousin who is here to see her mom. It takes you out of all the misery of New Orleans. I can say having the love and support of family and friends during these times are a blessing," says Samantha Beaulieu.

In these times it is important that people return with a renewed focus on doing the right things and being their best selves, showing the world a spirit of resolute-ness and resiliency as we rebuild. This sentiment is echoed by Charles Dickerson.

"Some are speaking of leaving and I understand their frustration, but I don't want to leave the city because I want to stick it out to make this a better city. I believe in Each One Teach One Grab Everyone. We have to stay focused, be diligent, be thankful for the little things and keep pushing."

DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to place your classified ad.

Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

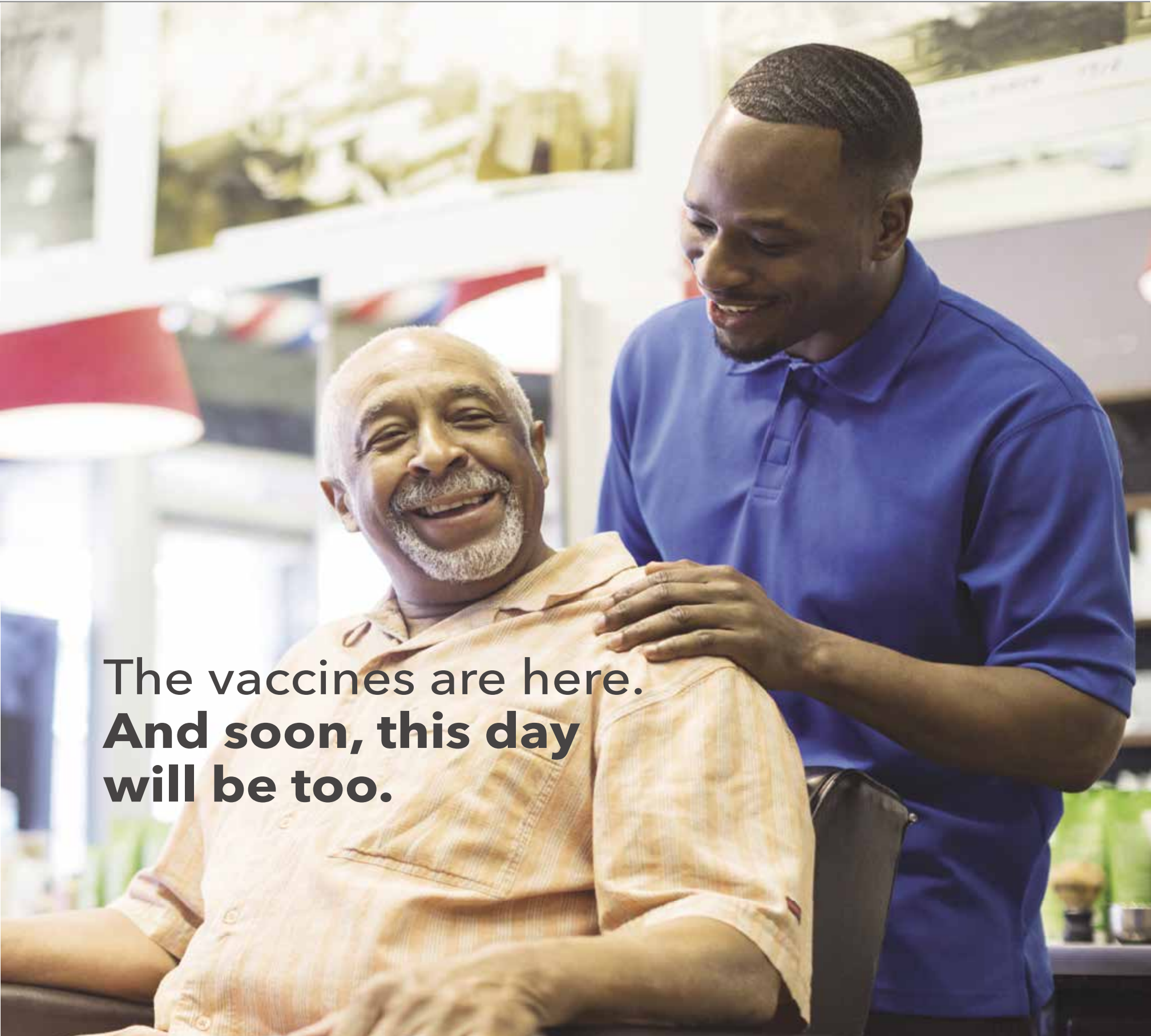
We can't wait to hear from you!

This space can be

yours for only \$80

Call Now!

504-821-7421



The vaccines are here.
**And soon, this day
will be too.**

IT'S UP TO YOU ::
COVID-19 VACCINATION



Get the latest information
about COVID-19 vaccines at
GetVaccineAnswers.org