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New Orleans

# Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



**NORD Kicks Off 75th Anniversary and Renaming of Behrman Park**

**Data Zone Page 4**

October 2 - October 8, 2021 56th Year Volume 23 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Mothers of Slain Unarmed Black Men and Women Continue to Advocate for Change



*Sybrina, Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin.*

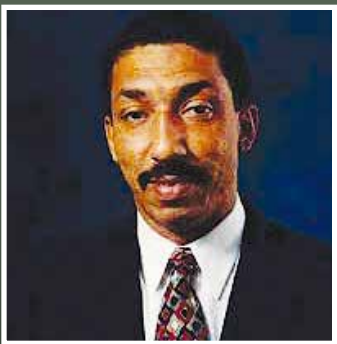


*Gwendolyn Carr, mother of Eric Garner.*



*Tamika Palmer, mother of Breonna Taylor.*

Page 2



**Newsmaker**  
Duplain W. "Pete" Rhodes III Dies

Page 6

**State & Local**  
The New Orleans Community Unites to Clean the City



Page 6



# Mothers of Slain Unarmed Black Men and Women Continue to Advocate for Change



Sybrina, Fulton, holding a photo of her deceased son Trayvon Martin, a Florida teen who was unjustly gunned down for simply being a young black teen wearing a hooded sweatshirt. His case caused protest throughout America.



Gwendolyn Carr, mother of Eric Garner, holding a photo of her son who was killed by police in New York City.



Tamika Palmer, mother of Breonna Taylor, another case in which police unjustly shot and killed an innocent African American.

## Leah Clark Data News Weekly Contributor

The Mothers of the Movement urged New Orleans youth to remain vigilant on the issues of police brutality, gun violence, and its impact on the community at an event held Friday, Sept. 24th. Gwendolyn Carr, the mother of the late Eric Garner; Tamika Palmer, the mother of the late Breonna Taylor; and Sybrina Fulton, the mother

of the late Trayvon Martin visited New Orleans to share both in-person as well as through livestream about the work they continue to do in memory of their children.

“It’s so much going on, and if you get caught up on what the news is telling you right now today, you can lose it really easy, but I stop by here...to leave you a message. I’m here to inspire you, and you’re here to inspire me,” said Fulton during the event, co-hosted by

Xavier University of Louisiana, and held at their Convocation Center.

The Mothers of the Movement consist of women whose children were killed by gun violence, mainly at the hands of law enforcement. In their fight for justice, the group has been speaking across the country about how police and gun violence have affected them personally. They represent the numerous stories of police brutality victims that have not

received the same attention as theirs.

Inspire NOLA Charter Schools and The Alliance for Diversity and Excellence co-hosted the event with Xavier for the local leg of The Mothers of the Movement’s “The Resiliency Series.” The mothers spoke to high school and college students on finding their purpose in the fight against police and gun violence. The mothers encouraged students to not only attend protests but also to reach

Photos by Mark Veals/courtesy Xavier University

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

## INSIDE DATA

Cover Story . . . . .	2	State & Local News . . .	6
Data Zone . . . . .	4	Commentary. . . . .	7
Newsmaker . . . . .	6		

## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, addresses students at the Mothers of the Movement: The Resiliency Series event at Xavier University of Louisiana on Sept. 24th.



Gwendolyn Carr (left), mother of Eric Garner; Tamika Palmer, mother of Breonna Taylor; and Sybrina Fulton (right), mother of Trayvon Martin speak to students about police and gun violence.



Left to right are: Kerri Alexander, Xavier's Assistant Vice-President for Student Affairs; Radio Host Wild Wayne; Gwendolyn Carr, mother of Eric Garner; Tamika Palmer, mother of Breonna Taylor; Jamar McKneely, Inspire NOLA Charter Schools CEO; Dr. Reynold Verret, Xavier University President; Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin; Kevin Barnes, Executive Director for New City Nola; Curtis Wright, Xavier's Vice-President for Student Affairs (extreme right).



Students from Inspire NOLA Charter Schools and Xavier University listen to the Mothers of the Movement as they encourage them to become active in their communities to enact changes in laws.

out to politicians about the issues affecting their generation.

Carr shared her tactics for enacting change that led to legislation in her son's namesake being passed. In June 2020, the New York State Assembly passed A.6144B, The Eric Garner Anti-Chokehold Act, that would criminalize the use of this law enforcement tactic, that results in strangulation. The late Eric Garner, Carr's son, became a household name in 2014 after he was killed by a police officer. While Garner was being arrested for illegally selling cigarettes, an NYPD officer placed him in an illegal chokehold. Garner lost consciousness and his death was ruled a homicide. His final words "I can't breathe" became a main slogan used in Black Lives Matter protests.

"Instead of writing letters or sending emails or telephone calls, I go, and I get right up in [politicians'] faces, and I tell them what I demand," Carr said. "You can't ask, you got to demand what you want," Carr added about confronting politicians on enforcing the laws.

"The Eric Garner Anti-Chokehold bill is now a law in New York. That was after five years of fighting," Carr said. "You can't think that you can just go one time, and things are going to happen. It's not going to happen like that."

The mothers told students that their emotions are valid, especially during this time of injustice. Fulton reminded students that it is not their fault that they are often racially profiled as the same was done to her son, the late Trayvon Martin. In 2012, Martin was killed while on a trip to a convenience store by a neighborhood watch volunteer in Sanford, FL. While it has been nine years since the tragedy, Fulton continues to find purpose after it and encouraged students to do the same.

"Even though I've been through a lot, I'm still standing. I'm still strong, so we got to motivate one another. We can't think that's the end of the story," said Fulton, who ran for office in 2020 to become Miami Dade's County Commissioner. She lost her race by less than a 1 percent margin.

On Thursday, Sept. 24th, the mothers held a separate event in the city for educators, parents, and members of the community at McDonogh 35 Senior High School. The Mothers of the Movement had an open conversation on how to be support systems for children during times of injustice. They also advised on ways to educate youth on interacting with police.

"To be up here and have to talk to people, to have to be part of this is unreal to me, I would never wish it on anybody," said Palmer about being part of the Mothers of the Movement and its work. "I do it, though, because it's so many mothers that don't get the opportunity to be up here, to tell their kid's story, or to stand up for their kids. It's swept under the rug. They don't get this light, this platform."

Palmer detailed her journey of never thinking police brutality could hit close to home until her daughter, the late Breonna Taylor, was killed. Taylor was killed in 2020 after police officers entered her Louisville, KY. home with a no-

knock warrant. Officers were looking for two suspects accused of selling drugs, neither being Taylor, and fired over 20 rounds into her apartment. "Justice for Breonna Taylor" became a common chant at Black Lives Matter protests.

Since the Black Lives Matter Movement's beginning in 2013, police brutality has been brought into a spotlight that it hasn't received before. However, reports show that this issue has been around for a long time. According to Mapping Police Violence, Black people being killed by police is three times more likely than White people. Also, Mark Hoekstra, a Professor of Economics at Texas A&M University, found that White police officers are five times more likely to fire their guns when dispatched in Black neighborhoods than Black officers.

However, the overall gun violence in Black communities was

also a topic the mothers advocate for. Gun violence has also been known to disproportionately affect Black Americans. The Giffords Law Center reports that 52-percent of all gun homicide victims consist of Black men.

As these numbers rise, groups like the Mothers of the Movement continue to travel across the nation in hopes to fight against them. Carr, Palmer, and Fulton are only a few of those that have been affected by police brutality and gun violence. Still, they hope that by sharing their stories they can help the younger generations take charge in the fight.

"I found out I can't bypass [my son's death]. I had to go through it," Carr said. "I was able to turn my mourning into a movement and turn my sorrow into a strategy. Now, I turn my bitterness into a battle for justice."



# NORD Kicks Off 75th Anniversary and Renaming of Behrman Park

## Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

The New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) Commission kicked-off its 75th Anniversary as a City agency and announced the renaming of Behrman Park as the Morris F.X. Jeff Sr. Park. Mayor LaToya Cantrell was joined by Larry Barabino, Jr., NORD CEO, Kristin Palmer, District C City Councilmember, Jolene Jeff, Daughter of Morris F.X. Jeff, Brian Egana, NORD Commission Chair, Theo Sanders III, District C NORD Commission Chair, as well as representatives from the community to honor Jeff's legacy with NORD and longstanding contributions to youth and family recreational programming for all residents of New Orleans.

"It really is an exciting day for our city, but more importantly for our New Orleans Recreation Department. Addition-

**Data Zone,**  
Continued on page 5.



Larry Barabino, Jr., surrounded by City leaders celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) renaming Behrman Park after the iconic Morris F.X. Jeff.

## FDA Gives Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine Full Approval

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL | AUGUST 23, 2021

The Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer joins a list of approved vaccines Americans have been safely using - like measles and chicken pox - to eradicate disease over the past decades. Billions of doses of the COVID-19 vaccines have been administered worldwide.

To find out where you can get your COVID-19 Vaccine, go to [covidvaccine.la.gov](https://covidvaccine.la.gov) or call the Vaccine Hotline at 1-855-453-0774.

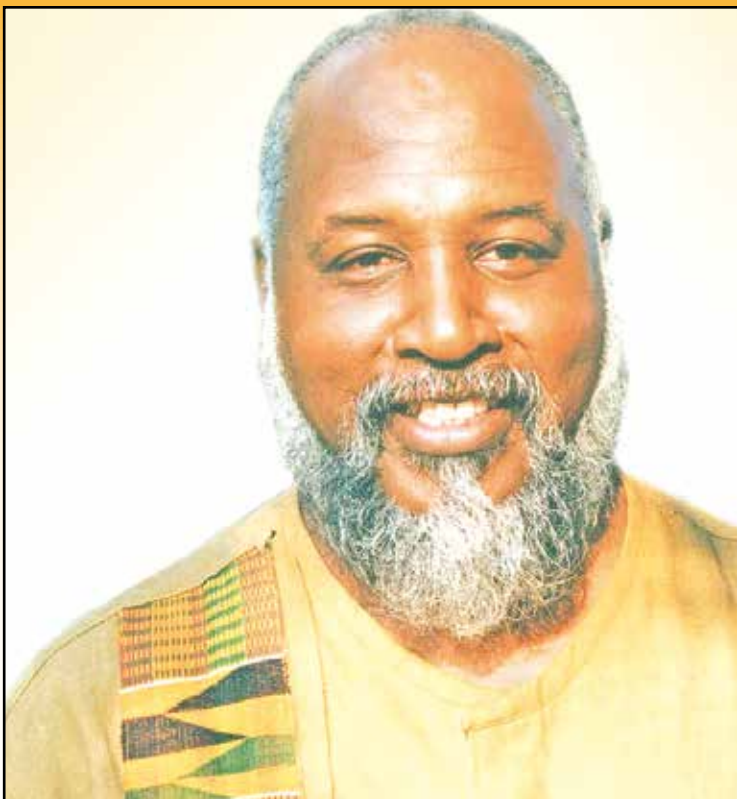
BRING BACK  
LOUISIANA

## FDA Approved Vaccines for Safe Use

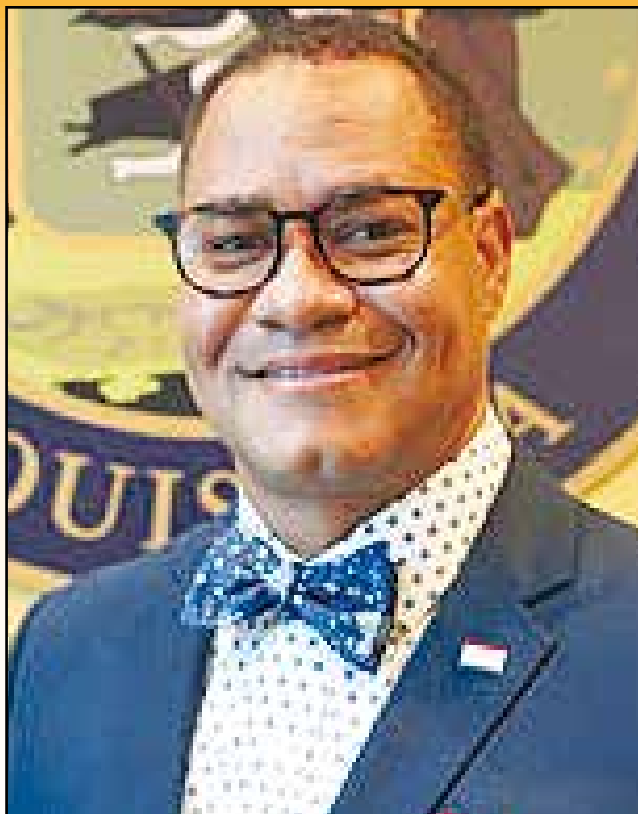
- ✓ MMR - Mumps, Measles and Rubella
- ✓ Polio
- ✓ Smallpox
- ✓ **COVID-19**

"This vaccine is now fully FDA approved because it has been tested and re-tested and found to be safe and effective."





Dr. Morris F. X. Jeff, Jr. (1938 - 2003), was a social worker, therapist, advocate, trainer, activist and consultant who spoke with clarity on urban problems and solutions using an African philosophical approach. He was a licensed clinician and a widely respected expert on a number of subjects including transracial adoption, black-on-black violence, welfare reform, reparation, manhood development, cultural diversity, the middle passage, rites of passage programs, Kemetic (Egyptian) culture and African spirituality.



Larry Barabino, Jr., continues to lead NORDC, creating programming and building on its great legacy with his style of visionary leadership.

#### Data Zone, Continued from page 4.

ally, it's an exciting day for the re-naming of Behrman Park to F.X. Jeff Park," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "We've learned a lesson about how NORD is absolutely vital, a central core of resources in terms of meeting people where they are. There is something here for everyone."

"The evolution of NORD over 75 years from a recreational outlet to now also being an essential arm for the city in post disaster recovery and the pandemic is outstanding. It contributes to our vision to be a sustainable and innovative organization that transforms lives," said Larry Barabino, Jr., NORD CEO. "And now seeing Behrman Memorial Park being renamed to the Morris F.X. Jeff, Sr. Park demonstrates the City's commitment to recognize those who paved the way while looking towards the future. I look forward to having our residents participate in all of the activities NORD plans on hosting in 2022 to commemorate 75 years and I cannot wait to see what the next 75 years entails."

# 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.

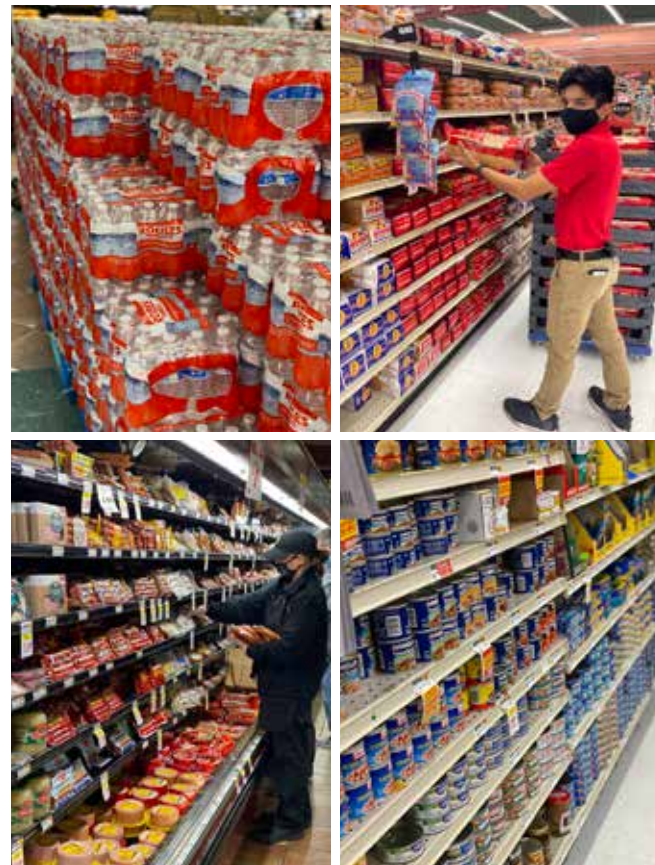
### LOCALS HELPING LOCALS

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](http://www.ladatnews.com)



# The New Orleans Community Unites to Clean The City After Hurricane IDA

**Courtney Young**  
President/CEO ForeSight  
Communications

In the aftermath of Hurricane IDA, residents of New Orleans are struggling to deal with the putrid-smelling trash that is overwhelming the city. It's been almost 4 weeks since the hurricane and nearly 1/3 of the residents, approximately 130,000 people, are still without trash pickup.

In a public address on September 16th, Mayor LaToya Cantrell acknowledged the city-wide crisis, stating that overflowing landfills and the shortage of sanitation workers are among the many obstacles the city is facing. The city had already been struggling with the sanitation labor shortage before the hurricane and has been unable to catch up since.

Many residents have watched as garbage trucks have driven right past their homes, neglecting to pick up their trash at all while the garbage continues to pile up. Others



Pastors and leaders of the community come together to pick up trash in the community that they love.

have been lucky enough to get a bag or two picked up, making a small dent in the ever-growing heaps on their curbs.

There are also concerns that the growing trash piles could pose health risks to residents in the area. The piles have been sitting in the heat for weeks, increasing the chances of attracting rodents and

vermin while exposing the residents to harmful bacteria. Because of the hurricane, there is also the risk that hazardous waste could be among the lingering trash, another cause for concern to the surrounding community.

In an effort to restore hope, the local community has united to help clean up the city. As the city's

sanitation department struggles to make a dent in the estimated 54,000 tons of trash and debris, new organizations are stepping forward to aid the residents.

Volunteers from the United Fellowship Full Gospel Baptist Church, Rock of Ages Baptist Church, and State Representative Royce Duplessis have joined forces

with The Medina Group to help relieve the community of their excess trash. Volunteers have been hosting community trash drop-offs at different locations across the city, including Pontchartrain Park, Vascoville, and 7th Ward.

"We are cleaning up the city because we don't want people to lose hope. We are fighting for the soul of New Orleans" said President and CEO Telley Madina of The Medina Group, one of the leading organizations in the effort to rid the city of its trash.

## Support Your Community

We encourage residents, churches, and community organizations to coordinate volunteers in your area to help clean up the trash in your local community.

Our next effort will be Saturday, September 25th at 9am, starting at St. Augustine High School. Address: 2600 AP Tureaud Ave, New Orleans, LA 70119

If you're looking to volunteer, text 504-201-0560 for more information.

## Newsmaker

### Duplain W. "Pete" Rhodes III Patriarch of Rhodes Families of Businesses Dies

**New Orleans Agenda Press  
Release**

We sadly announce the passing of Duplain W. "Pete" Rhodes, III on Wednesday, September 23, 2021. Duplain "Pete" Rhodes was the patriarch of New Orleans' own Rhodes Family of Businesses.

Pete was born on November 14, 1959 and lived a fruitful life for 61 years. He was a graduate of St. Augustine High School and Wursham College of Mortuary Science in Chicago, Illinois.

As a member of the Rhodes family, Pete managed Rhodes Limousine Service while his sisters managed the Funeral Home and Insurance Companies.

Pete was a member of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club and former member of Young Men Illinois Club. He served on the Louisiana Judiciary Commission from February 1997 - February



Duplain W. "Pete" Rhodes III

2001 and was also a member of the Louisiana Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

## State & Local News

### City Announces Direct Landlord Assistance and Utility Payments now Available

**City of New Orleans**

NEW ORLEANS — Last week, the City of New Orleans announced that it will begin providing direct payments to utility providers, and rapid relief to landlords to stop tenants from being displaced because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

On Aug. 25, 2021, the U.S. Department of Treasury issued new guidance that allows grantees such as the City of New Orleans, to provide direct and bulk payments to landlords and to establish procedures that will combine assistance to households in jeopardy of displacement. The single payments made directly to utility providers and landlords are based on reasonable certified estimates of debts which must be confirmed by the grantee within six months of payment issuance. The guidance recommends decreasing the estimate by a certain percentage to eliminate

**Landlord Assistance,  
Continued on page 7.**



"Our residents have suffered greatly throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic and we are now able to extend assistance leveraged from our federal partners at the U.S. Department of Treasury to provide some relief directly to landlords to avoid the continuation of debt accumulation and housing displacement," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "We greatly appreciate the amount of flexibility given to grantees such as the City that will allow us to help those small landlords who are not in a position to shoulder lost rental income, in addition to giving residents much needed assistance with making past due utility payments."



# From Desire To Purpose... A Dreamer's Journey

*"Wading In Dark Waters, Living In The Light"*



**Renée Dugué**  
Co-Founder and Executive  
Director of Reborn and Rising

We talked about last year not being what we expected. Clarity of purpose, focus, and perfect vision are what we all envisioned 2020 would bring. Then as we ended the year with the Jupiter/Saturn reset, and entered into The Age of Aquarius, we hoped to immediately feel Mother Earth's love around us like a warm hug from your Grandma, smelling like Avon's Sweet Honesty. Well, here we are recovering from IDA's blow on the 16th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, faced with mass mandates and masks inhibiting our freedom to move and breathe. Instead, most are screaming WTF. And rightfully so! We need a break before we crack! Be encouraged Family as you remember your Grandpa saying it's always darkest before the dawn. Just hold on.

I know that may be easier said than done, as all of us have succumbed to society's conveniences feeding our microwave mentality and demands immediate gratification. Remember how long it felt when we were waiting to see MJ's Thriller video?!?! Yes! Then fast forward 15 years to how long it took to dial-up to the World Wide Web!!!



Renée Dugué pictured wading through the murky waters of The Atlantic Ocean at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, while basking in the healing rays of the sun on a weekend work trip (Aug. 2021).

Right! And now we get annoyed when the driver ahead of us takes more than a split second to go when the light turns green. Imagine our Ancestors' conversations about our current state of affairs. A whole lot of laughs out loud, head shaking, teeth smacking, "Amens" and "I know that's right" to somebody saying "Ain't nothing new under the sun! What are you are rushing for?" They made it through, and we will too. Just think...ours is a cakewalk compared to their plight.

I'm by no means minimizing our issues, just putting things into perspective, as well as assuring us that we have all we need to compete

and succeed. Life in The 504 made sure of that. We are truly a different breed. Made stronger with Melanated Magic, no water from seeded clouds, busted levees or systemic injustice will stop us. We are fighters and survivors in possession of the strength and ability to organize, educate, empower, care for, and protect ourselves. We can grow and produce our food and teach the truth to our children while exemplifying strength and unity. This may all seem daunting; like a huge mountain to climb, but the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. We can all take a step forward, offering the gifts we have, contrib-

uting just where we are, one day at a time. I walk every day, literally, on my journey from desire to purpose. Be encouraged to walk in truth and the light of each new day on your path.

Renée Dugué, is a LMT based in Houston, TX, she provides massage, holistic healing, wellness coaching, and travel companion services. Visit ReneeDugue.com to learn more about her personal philosophy of healing through helping and support her nonprofit Reborn & Rising's WALK4WATER Campaign which provides clean water to Africans in need.

## Landlord Assistance, Continued from page 6.

the risk of overpayment.

"Our residents have suffered greatly throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, and we are now able to extend assistance leveraged from our federal partners at the U.S. Department of Treasury to provide some relief directly to landlords to avoid the continuation of debt accumulation and housing displacement," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "We greatly appreciate the amount of flexibility given to grantees such as the City that will allow us to help those small landlords who are not in a position to

shoulder lost rental income, in addition to giving residents much needed assistance with making past due utility payments."

Funding disbursements are being divided into pools to ensure small landlords can participate in the program and are afforded the chance to submit payment requests. Forty percent of the allocated dollars will go to landlords with eight or fewer housing units. Sixty percent of the funding will be allocated for landlords with more than eight housing units. These payments are earmarked from a portion of the \$9.6 million recently received from Treasury, in addition to the balance of funds the City ex-

pects to receive from the State. To date, the State has transferred \$5.6 million of the \$14 million set aside for Orleans Parish.

With the new guidance and availability for funding, the City is urging landlords against filing evictions as Governor John Bel Edwards' eviction moratorium has expired on Sept. 24th. The City is confident that these resources can be dispersed timely, ahead of eviction filing and unit turnover.

For more information or for the revised landlord application, visit ready.nola.gov, or the City of New Orleans Office of Housing Policy and Community Development (1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor).

## 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](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewseditor@bellsouth.net).

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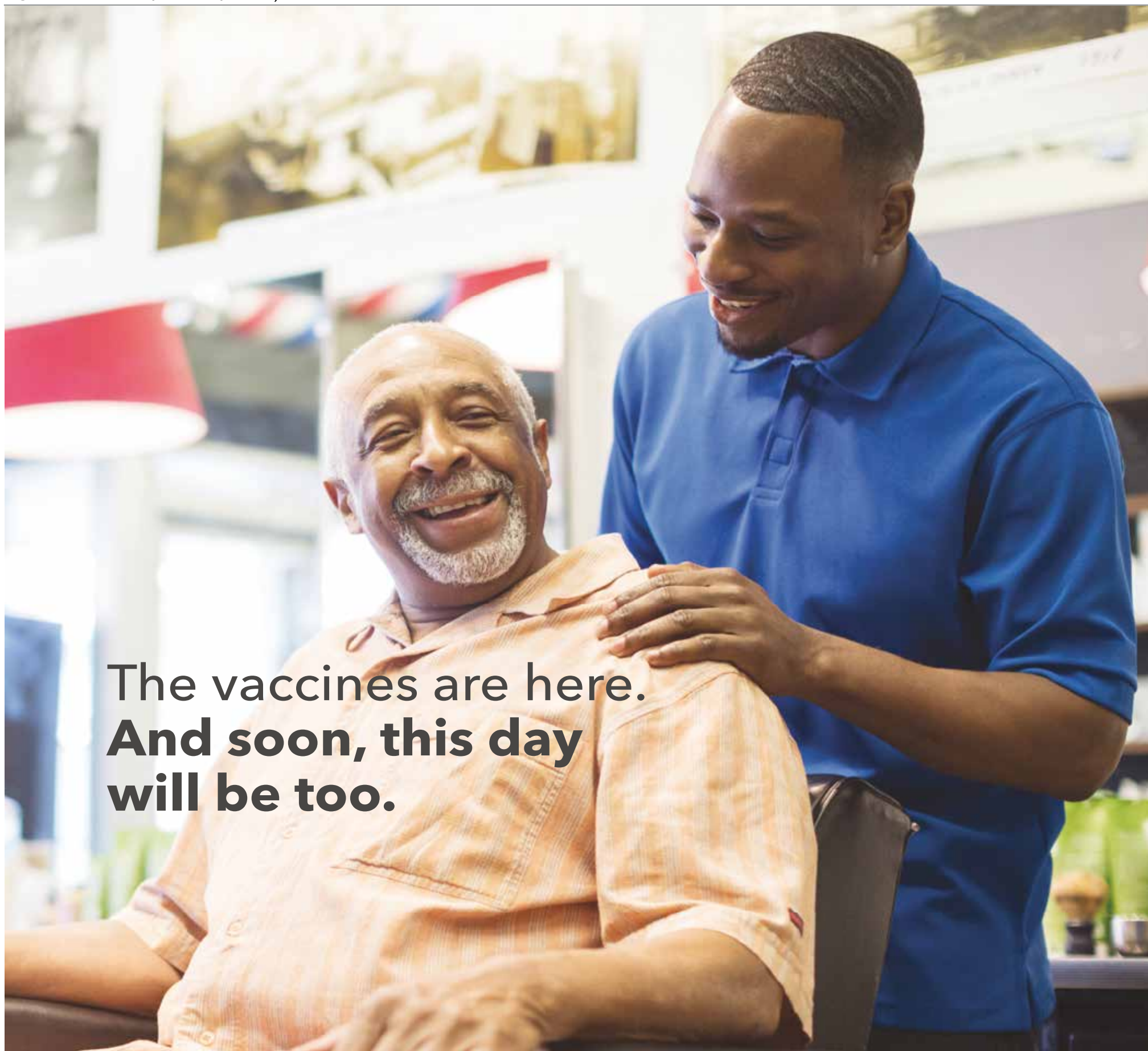
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The  
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The vaccines are here.  
**And soon, this day  
will be too.**

IT'S UP TO YOU ::  
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about COVID-19 vaccines at  
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