



C. Ray Nagin, Mayor

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

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As a new hurricane season begins, I want ask each citizen to ensure that you are prepared to evacuate should that need arise.

You need to have a plan for where you will go, as well as essential supplies, including, among other items, medications, cash, road maps, a first aid kit, important papers, food, water and clothing for three days. Make certain that your car is ready to go and that you keep plenty of gas in your tank.

Most importantly, don't take evacuation warnings lightly. When we say it is time to evacuate, you need to leave. Don't assume that because you were spared during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that you will be safe again.

The city also has introduced a new, high-tech emergency notification system that will assist in delivering real-time messages in emergency situations.

Our city-wide emergency text communication system, NOLA Ready, will provide emergency messages to first responders, local government officials, business owners and registered residents of New Orleans. Tourists and other visitors also may register. Registration is quick and available at www.nolaready.info.

All registered participants will receive information about necessary evacuations, possible flooding, power losses, and communications disruptions. The system will deliver real-time text messages and will also provide situation reports and life-saving alerts to emergency managers via email, cell phones, pagers, BlackBerries and Treos.

Text communication was the only effective means of communication in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, when most of the region's infrastructure was severely damaged.

But we are aware that even if they are notified, not everyone will be able to leave town on their own. With that in mind, we have established a comprehensive City-Assisted Evacuation Plan to ensure that the elderly, those who are ill, people without

vehicles and those who for whatever other reason cannot self-evacuate will be able to leave.

The City-Assisted Evacuation plan will go into action 84 hours before a storm is expected to make landfall. At the 54-hour mark, RTA buses will begin to pick up people seeking to evacuate from pre-determined locations. They will be driven to a staging site, where emergency officials will record their names and other information along with the location where they will evacuate. Evacuation will occur via chartered bus and Amtrak

We also have arranged to assist those who have special needs and cannot get from their homes to a bus stop. Such residents should call 3-1-1 to register. If you are not registered, we will not be able to come to your home to get you in the event I issue an evacuation order.

The 2007 hurricane season is predicted to be a busy one and we want all of our residents to be safe. We have worked to ensure that we are prepared. We need you to do the same. We can never eliminate all risk, but working together, we can minimize the loss of life and property.



C. Ray Nagin, Mayor

New Orleans Healthcare in Jeopardy

By Ondina Canales

Mayor C. Ray Nagin has warned Louisiana Governor Kathleen B. Blanco about the existing gaps in healthcare provision and access in New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina physically damaged healthcare facilities and impacted the amount of resources the industry had available for New Orleanians.

Recently, the lack of primary care facilities for the indigent and uninsured and the crisis in mental health care has produced long wait times at local healthcare facilities. The incidence of longer lines at emergency rooms correlated to the lack of primary care options in the city.

The lack of primary care resources is driving citizens who would not normally require emergency services to absorb services from emergency facilities. In addition, uninsured and underinsured citizens are crowding private and public medical care facilities. Private healthcare providers are responding to the uninsured crisis at the cost of their own profits. These facilities are not receiving reimbursement for their care of uninsured patients quickly enough.

"Our urgent needs include a centrally located Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU) of minimum 40 beds with 20 dual diagnosis beds and 100 long-term mental health beds in the region," said Mayor Nagin. "Funding is also need to provide our citizens with immediate access to primary care to reduce the marked dependency on emergency departments for urgent care and mental health services."

The lack of primary care options in the city has been particularly highlighted by the complementary lack of special care—i.e. mental health and detoxification services. For approximately two months, Dr. Juliette Saussy, Director of New Orleans Emergency Medical Services (NOEMS), has tracked the impacts of healthcare gaps upon the city's medical care delivery. "The stress of post-Katrina life has resulted in an increase in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Additionally, we live in a city that is witnessing the return of a thriving drug trade along with deficient resources to combat those addictions," Dr. Saussy said.

Additionally, Dr. Saussy has tracked a recent increase in EMS offload times, otherwise known as "on the wall time". This refers to the time that EMS workers must wait with patients they unload from ambulances before they are wheeled into emergency rooms or other hospital facilities. "Our EMS workers are not effectively utilizing their skills and experience while they wait with patients alongside a hospital wall because our local hospitals just do not have the adequate resources to keep up with the pace of healthcare delivery. They wait at the expense of responding to other 911 calls," said Dr. Saussy.

Local hospitals are filled to capacity and are challenged to take patients brought in by NOEMS. Hospitals are delaying in unloading patients from ambulances as a result of the combination of factors that directly degrade the quality of medical service.

In March 2007 alone, NOEMS tracked 309 hours of "on the wall" time. The wait time yielded over \$200,000 in unbilled revenue during March and over \$1 million from January 2006 to March of this year. The hours in lost EMS expertise and service totals \$23,175 in personnel costs to the city just over the past month. Waiting times for April are already on the rise and are expected to surpass those of March, especially with the rise of mental health patients delivered to local emergency departments.

The delivery of medical services following Hurricane Katrina has suffered from resource strains and gaps in coverage. Region 1, which includes Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines and St. Bernard, is in a healthcare crisis as a result of the lack of available resources.

A Blue Cross/Blue Shield report released in 2006 states that 2,038 physicians provided medical services in Orleans Parish prior to Hurricane Katrina, while now the parish only has 510 registered with this particular healthcare network. The 72 percent decrease draws attention to the parish's loss of medical professionals and its direct impact upon the health of local citizens.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals conducted a survey of primary care physicians. Of 202 primary care physicians who responded to the survey, only 154 were still practicing and just 73 accepted patients dependent on Medicaid as their source of payment. This particular study points to the need for more medical providers to help the rising number of uninsured and underinsured citizens.

PriceWatershouseCooper reported in 2006 that New Orleans had 2,258 hospital beds before Hurricane Katrina. Just last month the Metropolitan Hospital Association reported that the city has experienced a 75% reduction in bed capacity since then. Emergency department inpatient bed capacity for Region 1, including Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and Jefferson Parish is at 56%.

NOEMS has meticulously tracked this medical crisis. The City of New Orleans continues to appeal to the state for funding to correct this problem and many other issues associated with the state of healthcare in the city. "The solutions for this healthcare crisis lie with the state and we continue to request their assistance in resolving these matters," added Dr. Saussy.

Mayor Nagin and his administration have proposed several recommendations to Governor Blanco to solve the emergency medical and mental health care crisis in New Orleans.

- Establish an adequate psychiatric, CIU, and dual diagnosis beds with trained personnel in a central New Orleans location
- Provide mental health and addictive disorder treatment beds
- Acquire a mobile medical/surgical hospital for Region 1
- Fund a multi-faceted diversion system to treat, stabilize and reduce recidivism of citizens with mental illness and/or substance abuse problems.

In creating a new direction for **One New Orleans**, a serious reform of the local healthcare system will benefit the citizens, the city's medical industry, local medical schools and the city's thriving medical research industry. "As we accelerate our recovery, we are prioritizing healthcare reform and collaborating with provider partners in neighboring parishes to meet the high demand of medical care. Our citizens are entitled to quality healthcare and a wide variety of healthcare options," said Mayor C. Ray Nagin.

By Ondina Canales

Jazzfest Vital to Local Economy

By Ernest Collins

In only its second season since Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent flooding, Jazzfest is as strong as ever and is attracting record crowds.

In 2006, the first post-Katrina Jazzfest provided some comfort for us. Bruce Springsteen and a host of other performers gave heart-wrenching performances that helped to soothe our souls.

This year's event, the 38th Annual New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, still incited sentimentality, but it felt more like the Jazzfest of the past. In addition, the musical line-up was top-notch and nearly all pre-Katrina food vendors returned, as did those selling a variety of other types of artwork, crafts and amenities.

Musical performers ranged in variety and included national artists such as John Mayer, Rod Stewart, Norah Jones, ZZ Top, John Legend, Brad Paisley, Van Morrison, Harry Connick Jr., and Ludacris, as well as fan favorites such as Irma Thomas, Branford Marsalis, Allen Toussaint, Better Than Ezra, Rebirth Brass Band and hundreds more.

Attendance during the weekend was its highest in four years, signaling the continued recovery of the tourism industry in New Orleans.



Harry Connick, Jr. croons to swooning crowds at this year's Jazzfest.

"This year's Jazzfest attracted 375,000 visitors from around the world," said Mayor Nagin. "The city has welcomed so many guests for Jazzfest since 2003. We thank them for coming to our city and are certain that they had a wonderful visit," said Mayor Nagin.

New Orleans benefits tremendously from these types of festivals and other major events, which pump millions of dollars into the local economy and stimulate hotels, restaurants and small businesses in need of the extra customers.

Research indicates that Jazzfest has an annual estimated economic impact of more than \$200 million. This spending provides critical sales taxes that fund the operation of city government.

Another very direct benefit of Jazzfest is the employment of hundreds of musicians, technicians, security personnel, production, food service, planning and logistics and many other workers who depend on this event. The event is about far more than music fans praying for good weather. Its vendors and others whose livelihood depend on those long lines in front of their booths also wish for the pleasant festival weather.

Citizen Group Promotes Building Preservation and Cultural Integrity

By Malana Joseph

Mayor C. Ray Nagin hosted his 15th One New Orleans Conversation with preservationists from across the city.

Nearly 50 individuals filled the Patty Gay conference room in the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans to hear the latest updates on city recovery initiatives and, in particular, housing and demolition efforts.

Founded in 1974, the Preservation Resource Center has played a pivotal role in the city's recovery. The PRC advocates preserving the city's architectural history, which lends itself to the cultural uniqueness of New Orleans.

Mayor Nagin and preservationists engaged in serious dialogue regarding the preservation of the city's historical dis-

tricts and landmarks.

The Preservation Resource Center has redeveloped many neighborhoods in the city through the process of restoration. It has offered suggestions on ways the city can redevelop neighborhoods, specifically those with exorbitant amounts of abandoned and blighted properties.

The Mayor encouraged preservationists to allocate their resources equally among all neighborhoods throughout the city.

"We have an opportunity to build a world-class city, but we must not forget that New Orleans can only be whole if all of its neighborhoods are revitalized," said Mayor Nagin.

"We need your continued support to speak on behalf of all of our citizens."



Mayor Nagin shares his ideas with Preservation members on the importance of maintaining historical properties intact to ensure the culture and uniqueness of New Orleans.

Additionally, the conversation provided an opportunity for all attendees to brainstorm on proactive approaches to educate and inform citizens about the role of preservationists in New Orleans.

Continued on page 5...

City Engages Youths in Study of Environmentalism

Students in five classes at Ben Franklin Elementary School for Math & Science know a bit more about the hazardous effects of natural and man-made pollution upon the Louisiana coastline.

Wynecta Fisher, the Director of Environmental Affairs for the City of New Orleans, taught an enrichment component to the classes, as part of the city's Earth Day activities. Fisher spent time with three third grade classes and two groups of fifth graders during her visit to the Uptown school. "I decided that the ideal way for the city to raise awareness about Earth Day was to educate our youth about our local environment," said Fisher.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the Office of Environmental Affairs engaged in educational outreach programs, which accounted for approximately 40% of the department's major campaigns. Currently, the department is restarting a series of similar efforts. "The best way to maximize our office's impact upon the community and upon the future of our local ecosystems with limited resources is to educate our younger generations," added Fisher.

The purpose of the activity with students from Ben Franklin Elementary was to demonstrate the impact of non-point source pollution and its effects upon wetlands, estuaries and the lake. In contrast to the pollution originating from industrial and sewage treatment plants, non-point source pollution comes from many diffuse sources. Common non-point sources are agriculture, forestry, urban, mining, construction, dams, channels, land disposal, saltwater intrusion and city streets.

As water from rainfall flows over and through the landscape, it picks up and carries contaminants from many different sources. The run-off effect deposits these natural and man-made pollutants into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even our underground sources of drinking water.

"Our local citizens, starting with the youngest portion of the population, need to understand how they impact the environment and how they can play a role in conserving our invaluable ecosystems," said Fisher.

Fisher explained the impact humans have upon nature, specifically upon our region's wetlands. To expound upon those impacts, she taught the youngsters about the difference between non-point and point source pollutants, which are pollutants produced directly by the industrial sector.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 40% of all lakes and streams are too polluted to use for fishing or swimming in the United States. Oil, hazardous toxins and disease-causing agents contaminate waterways and drinking water and can kill people, animals and plants. Fisher provided students with a general overview of the rich ecosystems this state possesses. She focused on the definitions of wetlands, bayous and marshes. On a map she pointed the locations of all existing wetland areas in the New Orleans region to emphasize to the students how relevant the topic of non-point source pollution is to our city in particular.



Fisher introduces third graders at Ben Franklin Elementary School to the lessons of how humans impact their own fragile environments. Our local wetlands, in particular, face the almost irreparable damage from the impacts humans cause when

"Especially, in this post-Katrina environment, we all have to be a little more cautious of the types of waste and rebuilding materials we dispose of on a daily basis. The impact of this type of debris is detrimental to the future of our ecosystems," added Fisher.

Fisher utilized an Enviroscope, which is a portable, interactive environmental model intended for school or community education use to demonstrate water pollution -- and its prevention. Additionally, she utilized dyes and food powders with the life-size landscape model to simu-

late the damaging effects of non-point sources including soil, chemicals, trash, fecal matter, fertilizer, pesticides, etc. For example, Fisher squirted water from a bottle onto the model to illustrate what happens to rainwater once it falls in the New Orleans region.

From this simulation, young students were able to see the impact of rain flow and what types of sediment, chemicals and other types of debris the flow picks up as it streams into larger bodies of water. They also saw that these hazardous agents stream into the region's lakes and affect our local estuaries and wetlands.

As a member of the New Orleans Regional Science and Mathematics Advisory Board, Fisher identifies the importance of preparing local youths to live in a restoration economy, which refers to a process of rebuilding within parameters of environmental sustainability.

"Our coastline has been in peril for some time now—whether it is because of erosion or pollution. We must educate and engage our youngest citizens in the challenge of correcting this dangerous problem and preserving our coastline," said Mayor C. Ray Nagin.

New Orleans Packs Up and Moves to Baton Rouge for a Day

By Eric Torres and Emeline Desse

More than 800 city employees, elected officials and other invited guests traveled to Baton Rouge, the State Capitol, for this year's New Orleans Day in Baton Rouge. Each year the Mayor and City Council spend one day with the Louisiana State Legislature to both inform them of the current issues facing the City of New Orleans and to bring them a piece of the unique culture and cuisine that define what it is to be from New Orleans.

This year's legislative priorities focus on enhancing our recovery through a variety of means, including hastening the return home of our citizens; finding solutions to the current insurance quagmire; and taking the necessary steps to fully restore our criminal justice system.

The day began when Krispy Kreme Doughnuts provided breakfast treats to state workers. Then the real work of day began.

While City staff followed our bills through the committee process, the Mayor and Council took the opportunity to meet with statewide elected officials to push items on the city's legislative agenda. As usual, these visits are highlighted by sit down, face to face visits with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, and Commissioner of Insurance among others.

For lunch, the Lieutenant Governor lent his apartment to for members of New Orleans State Legislative Delegation to a working lunch with Mayor Nagin and members of the City Council. At this time, the Mayor and City Council updated members of the legislative delegation on issues pertinent to legislative package.

As well, the members of the legislative delegation were able to offer feedback to the Mayor and City Council regarding specific

legislative items included in the City's legislative package.

The day culminated with our annual New Orleans Day in Baton Rouge reception on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion. More than 1,000 people came together to celebrate New Orleans. The crowd consisted of State Legislators, lobbyists, State and City workers, as well as other citizens.

Last year marked the first New Orleans Day event since Hurricane Katrina and it was especially significant because the event coordinators were able to maintain all of the vendors from year's past.

This year a more diverse sampling of restaurateurs expressed interest in the event and the City gladly offered the attendees more choices from New Orleans' culinary delights.

Food and drink sponsors for the event included Baton Rouge Coca-Cola Bottling Co.,

Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Chef Durio's Cafe, Galatoire's, Pigeon's Catering, Hyster's Bar-B-Q, Acme Oysters, Loretta's Pralines, Honey Baked Ham, Lucky Dogs, Hilton Hotel, Rainey's, the Pelican Club, Juan's Flying Burrito, Café Giovanni, Sassafras, Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Lil' Dizzy's, Eleven 79, Casamento's, Byblos, Catty Car Corner, Table One, Chef Joseph Faroldi Catering, JW Marriott Hotel, Five Happiness, the New Orleans Culinary Institute, Harrah's and Wal-Mart, Tipitina's Foundation and Tipitina's, Louisiana Association of Beverage Alcohol Licenses, E & E Catering and Two Sisters.

The evening festivities kicked off at 6:00 p.m. James Rivers serenaded the attendees with his jazzy musical stylings, giving friends and acquaintances an enjoyable atmosphere as they caught up during New Orleans Day in Baton Rouge



The PRC already engages in advocacy and educational outreach programs to carry their message of historic and cultural preservation throughout the city and to the world.

The organization offers educational courses for prospective property buyers on how to navigate the process of purchasing historic property.

As part of these educational outreach initiatives, PRC offers a program for licensed realtors known as the Historic House Specialist seminar. The course briefs realtors on the fundamentals of local architecture, special historic property tax incentives, historic districts and zoning laws.

One of the organization's primary objectives is to restore and revitalize the historic Holy Cross Neighborhood. PRC initiated this project in late 2002 with the purchase of two blighted properties. Since the inception of this particular project, PRC has complet-

ed the renovation of three historic properties and placed them on the market of which all three sold successfully. The organization is currently renovating additional properties.

At the close of the session, Mayor Nagin reiterated his commitment to revitalize all of the city's neighborhoods and especially the historical neighborhoods because of their importance to the historical and cultural identity of New Orleans.

PRC members and the city's department heads will meet at least once month to brainstorm ideas and discuss ways in which the city can continue to preserve its historic neighborhoods while still engaging in city rebuilding efforts.

"We think it is a great idea for Mayor Nagin to meet with various groups of people around town that are working so hard in the recovery effort. As a result of our meeting, there is now a preservation link on the

City's main website, and we are planning presentations for city departments regarding preservation at local, state and federal levels," said Patricia Gay, Executive Director of the Preservation Resource of New Orleans. "

We want everyone to realize how their work might interrelate in some way with preservation of what we all love about our city," Gay said. The new collaboration between the city and the PRC is intended to widen the impact of the organization's educational outreach programs.

New Orleans is currently undergoing challenges and obstacles that no other American city has ever faced before. A recovery of this magnitude requires a wide variety and of resources to accelerate the recovery process. Mayor Nagin and the city's preservationists agree that a committed and collaborative approach is required to continue to build *One New Orleans*.

The World Comes to New Orleans

By Ondina Canales

During their meeting in April 2007, Mayor Nagin and His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, spiritual and humanitarian leader from India, agreed that the best way for the International Association of Human Values (IAHV) and Art of Living Foundation (AOLF), to play a role in the recovery of New Orleans is to enhance existing programs for youth leadership and behavioral health. Shankar's teachings have had positive and lasting effects upon world communities that have endured disasters and social tensions.

Shankar is the founder of two of the world's largest volunteer non-governmental and non-profit organizations. IAHV and AOLF together have yielded over 30 years of service and direct community development on community building efforts all over the world.

He travels to more than 40 countries a year to share his message that all religions and great spiritual traditions share common goals and values. His simple teaching of love, practical wisdom and service promotes harmony among people and encourages individuals to follow their chosen religion or spiritual path while honoring the path of others.

Shankar initially requested a meeting with Mayor Nagin to discuss proposals on increasing the role and impact of his organizations in New Orleans, and specifically in the healing process of its citizens.

"We are excited to develop relationships with countries and world leaders with a distinct interest in accelerating our city's recovery efforts," said Mayor Nagin.



Mayor Nagin has met with numerous foreign dignitaries in the 20 months following Hurricane Katrina. Those pictured include His Holiness Shankar from India, President Klaus from the Czech Republic and leading members of the Hyogo Prefectural Government.

The spiritual leader's goals in reference to New Orleans include plans to help people manage their feelings of shock, trauma and stress by offering emotional solace, provide immediate relief from anguish and depression, reduce dependency on alcohol and antidepressants, and curbing violent and suicidal tendencies.

His Holiness' representatives have met with Dr. Kevin Stephens, the Director of Health for the City, and Larry Barabino, Jr., Director of the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD), to discuss a proposal for expanding the range of programs these international organizations manage in New Orleans. Based on that meeting, the city will collaborate with these organizations to implement small-scale anti-stress programs starting with selected groups of employees from City Hall. The programs are expected to assist citizens in New Orleans heal and grow to more effectively rebuild their lives, homes and neighborhoods.

In the 19 months following Hurricane Katrina, many foreign dignitaries and visitors have visited New Orleans and, to assist Mayor Nagin to gain a better understanding of the catastrophic impact of the hurricane upon New Orleans and the entire region.

Mayor Nagin has met with President Vaclav Klaus from the Czech Republic, leading members of the Hyogo Prefectural Government, Minister Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres from France, Ambassador: Mr. Jean-David Levitte from France, Prince Charles of Great Britain and King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein of Jordan. In addition, New Orleans has been visited by Ambassador H.E. Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa from Qatar and just a few weeks ago by a group of 23 teens from the National Taiwan Junior College of Performing Arts (NTJCPA).



"The City of New Orleans continues to welcome visitors from around the world who want to learn about the city's recovery process. We especially encourages world partners to help us rebuild. New Orleans is not just the soul of the United States but it is a jewel around the world," added Mayor Nagin.

The New Face of NORD Based on Corporate Sponsorships

By Ondina Canales

Hurricane-related damages continue to impact the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD). Today's department operates with fewer than 30 employees, as compared to more than 200 prior to Hurricane Katrina. NORD operates 5 multipurpose recreation centers today versus 13 open during the first half of 2005. Currently, 35 playgrounds are open for use, which is approximately a hundred less than the department's total stock. Four of the department's 6 stadiums are in use.

With a total damage estimated of \$63 million to the department following Hurricane Katrina, NORD Director Larry Barabino, Jr., has exercised creativity and skill in building financial partnerships with organizations and corporations across the region and nation.

Since Hurricane Katrina, NORD has developed financial alliances with the New Orleans Saints, Wilson Sporting Goods Company, Fox Sports Regional Network, KaBOOM!, Playworld Systems and the Coca-Cola Company. The most recent corporate sponsors include the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Football, Inc. and Nike.

"The generosity that individuals have shown from across the region and the nation overwhelms us. The children of New Orleans are blessed and we will continue to provide enriching programs for them in coordination with these donated resources," said Mayor Nagin.

Recently, Nike donated 13,000 pairs of athletic sneakers with an approximate retail value of \$1 million to middle and high school students from the New Orleans Public Schools (NOPS), the Recovery School District (RSD), the Charter Schools and the local Catholic Schools.

New Orleans Saints' running back Deuce McAllister attended the ceremonial donation to inspire local teens.

"Nike's donation both this month and in January helps to instill our youths with hope and joy in the future," said Barabino.

The recent donation is part of NikeSummerShoes, a national program with an estimated value of \$6 million.

Nike launched this initiative in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to promote its "Step Up to Health" campaign by helping youths in 21 communities from coast-to-coast by engaging them to lead more healthy and sound lifestyles.



Mayor Nagin shares his excitement over a generous donation and future partnership between NORD and NCAA Football to develop the city's youth football program for the upcoming fall season.

NCAA Football, Inc. has confirmed interest in supporting the development of NORD's football program starting this upcoming fall. The organization will fund sports clinics to raise more interest in supporting youth football, equip the department's young players, provide coaches with stipends, employ NCAA people on the ground in New Orleans to directly manage program and generate awareness of these important community efforts.

The NCAA's proposed plan will incorporate involvement and participation from local universities affiliated with NCAA, the All State Sugar Bowl, the R-L Carriers New Orleans Bowl and the Sun Belt Conference members.

The discussions to initiate a partnership will result first in a year-long trial and then with the potential for a future full-fledged partnership. The full value of this assistance by the NCAA averages to over \$400,000 per year of the program.

In addition to corporate sponsors, NORD receives financial and volunteer support from community organizations.

Over the past several months, the department has received assistance in preparing for the upcoming sports seasons from local organizations including All Churches Congregation Together, Hands On New Orleans organization, National Youth Employment Coalition, the Berean Bible Church, the Sigma Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, Friends of Shriners organization and a student group from Riverdale Middle School in Jefferson, Louisiana.

Recently, a class of 5th graders from St. Thomas More Catholic School in Decatur, Georgia collected a donation of sports equipment to the department.

In October 2006, NORD partnered with the New Orleans City Council Youth and Recreation Committee to launch a "Playground Partnership" initiative to locate resources to restore hurricane-damaged playgrounds in New Orleans. Council Vice-President Arnie Fielkow serves as the Chairman of the Youth and Recreation Committee and has worked closely with Barabino in defining the needs of NORD and planning for the future.

NORD at Post-Katrina Glance:

- NORD has opened 4 multi-service centers: Behrman, Cut-Off, St. Bernard and Tremé Recreation Centers with two additional facilities serving as sites for activities
 - * Dance and cultural activities offered at NORD's Annunciation Center with help of New Orleans Ballet Association (NOBA), Casa Samba and Crescent City Lights / NORD Ty Tracy Theatre Association
- 35 playgrounds, 4 stadiums (Behrman, Skelly-Rupp, Larry Gilbert and Kirsch-Rooney Stadiums) and 8 outdoor pools open for summer in conjunction with Dryades YMCA
- NORD offering a range of summer activities and programs with the help of community partners

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One New Orleans is not only the name of this newsletter, but expresses Mayor Nagin's vision for a united New Orleans and the realization that the rebuilding of **One New Orleans** requires a pioneering and community-oriented spirit. It has never been more important that we believe in the capacity, aptitude and miracle of New Orleans. We must believe in the power and potential of ourselves, one another and each New Orleans resident, business and investor. For when we believe and act on that belief, the future New Orleans will be extraordinary.

The Mayor's **One New Orleans** Newsletter is a monthly publication designed to update the citizens of New Orleans and key stakeholder groups on the progress, challenges and successes of City of New Orleans during this critical time of accelerating our own recovery.

Important News & Notes

New Trash Carts

- The Sanitation Department urges citizens to register for the new trash carts, either at City Hall or online at www.cityofno.com. Citizens must register to receive the new sanitation services.

Healing and Recovery

- Visit the city website at www.cityofno.com and click on the **USA Today** link to share your Katrina experience and feedback.

City Recovery Matrix

- To check the status of vital services within a 100 mile radius, visit www.gisweb.cityofno.com/cnogis or click on the Community link on the *One New Orleans* icon at www.cityofno.com.
-

One New Orleans Conversation

- Mayor Nagin will host his 17th community conversation on Saturday, June 16 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. with the Vietnamese community at Mary Queen of Vietnam Church.