



# LAUREVUE

The Official Student Newsletter for Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine  
Department of Health Policy and Management. By Students, For Everyone!

## OCTOBER IN NEW ORLEANS

### Home Sweet Home: New Orleans Housing Crisis, the Healthy Homes Ordinance, and Policy Failures

By: Daisy Ellis

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New Orleans is one of the more difficult cities for renters in the United States. According to a 2023 study by United Way, about 62% of New Orleanian renters are rent-burdened, meaning they spend over 30% of their income on housing, compared to a national average of 49%. In the last year, the number of unsheltered homeless people in our city has also increased by about 15%, meaning over 1,300 people are sleeping outside or in their car every night here (UNITY, 2023). Tragically, families make up a large portion of the new unhoused population. People over 55 are also hard hit by this crisis - about 1 in three homeless New Orleanians are seniors. UNITY, the city's foremost overarching organization combatting homelessness, estimates that 30,000 households in the city are 'extremely vulnerable' to becoming homeless at any time.

There are a myriad of factors contributing to our city's high rate of homelessness and housing insecurity. For one, we have a very high level of vacant units, in part because of the proliferation of Airbnb's (we have a higher density of Air BnBs than New York City). Often, AirBnBs take what could be a livable unit off the market to be owned and operated by someone who lives outside of the city, for prices far out of reach for the average New Orleans resident. Sky-high insurance rates exacerbated by Hurricane Ida and our extreme climate also contribute to impossible costs, along with inflation and a higher overall cost of living than surrounding areas (cont.).

Some existing systems, policies, and infrastructures aim to ensure all residents in the city have safe homes. After Hurricane Katrina, when thousands were homeless, the city adopted a “housing first” policy. This ensured that unhoused people were assisted in finding permanent shelter, case management, and personal economic development regardless of whether they were employed or sober. Now, funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development maintains this method. HUD funds a Continuum of Care system, in which people enter a coordinated care system through various access points like homeless shelters, hospitals, and street outreach. Once in the system, they are connected to resources, shelter, and case management. UNITY of Greater New Orleans currently serves as the current Continuum of Care organization in the city and oversees 60 participating organizations. Their work has had a marked effect on homelessness in the city, with steep decreases every year since Katrina—homelessness had decreased by over 90% until now. However, they face a constant uphill battle with the economic landscape of the city and the lack of housing regulation.

Although UNITY and other community partners have been doing great work in combatting homelessness on the street, policy changes in the city have been slow to create an environment where permanent housing is easy or even possible to access and maintain. Several recent policy upsets serve as examples:

#### **New Permitting Rules For Short-Term Rentals:**

In March 2023, the New Orleans city council passed a law to limit short-term-rentals (STRs) to one per city block, with enforcement, inspection, and a requirement that the owners of the properties live in New Orleans. By the time the vote passed, the residency requirement had been

removed and numerous exceptions to the one-per-block rule had been built into the ordinance, such as owners now needing to enter into a lottery if there are other STRs on their block but being permitted to remain open if they win.

**The Healthy Homes Ordinance:** This ordinance ensures that landlords maintain their property to certain standards of safety, including providing access to hot water, a heating and air conditioning system, mold mitigation, and insulation beginning in 2024. In its original form, the ordinance required annual inspections of all registered properties. Inspection fees and fines would be used to finance the enforcement of the code. However, by the time of passing, the inspection clause had been stripped to require inspection only upon tenant complaint, significantly weakening the power of the law.

As these two policy examples demonstrate, New Orleans is struggling to protect its renters despite 15 years of strong foundations in coordinating emergency shelters, providing social services, and putting housing first. I have seen the consequences of this firsthand. In my work at the New Orleans Women and Children’s Shelter, I see families who are placed with us from off the street finally relax, have the time to seek employment, and recover their mental and physical health. However, it’s common for these families to then end up signing leases that require them to pay well over 30% of their income on rent. Our caseworkers often counsel mothers to sign leases for one-bedroom houses even though they have three children, because nothing else will be affordable. Although we are part of the Continuum of Care, housing that accepts vouchers from our former residents still has wait lists 1-2 years long.

If the city wants to put housing first, it must strengthen renter protections, fill vacant units, and decrease the economic disparity here. Getting people off of the streets is only the first step.

#### **References:**

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/were-barely-making-it-why-more-new-orleans-families-are-without-stable-housing#:~:text=More%20than%20half%20the%20population,2023%20study%20by%20United%20Way.>

[https://www.nola.com/news/politics/new-orleans-tightens-limits-on-short-term-rentals/article\\_3ccee92-c991-11ed-b2b3-17fac24896a0.html](https://www.nola.com/news/politics/new-orleans-tightens-limits-on-short-term-rentals/article_3ccee92-c991-11ed-b2b3-17fac24896a0.html)

<https://slls.org/healthy-homes-law/#:~:text=The%20law%20makes%20landlords%20take,to%20rent%20their%20properties%20anywhere.>

# Celebrating Breast Cancer Awareness Month in New Orleans: A Guide to Support and Raise Awareness

By Holly Larson

New Orleans, a city renowned for its vibrant culture and strong sense of community, offers a unique backdrop for celebrating Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Here's how you can get involved, show support, and raise awareness for this crucial cause:

**1. Attend Local Awareness Events:** Check out the local event calendars for breast cancer awareness events, such as fundraising walks, runs, and galas, such as the Komen New Orleans Race for the Cure on Saturday, October 28. Many organizations, including Krewe de Pink, a nonprofit that supports Tulane Cancer Center, host gatherings that not only raise funds but also promote knowledge and support.

**2. Donate to Local Charities:** Contribute to local breast cancer charities and organizations, like the American Cancer Society's New Orleans chapter or Krewe de Pink. Your donation can fund research, support services, and awareness campaigns in your community.

**3. Learn About Breast Health:** Education is a powerful tool in the fight against breast cancer. Take the time to learn about breast health, the importance of early detection, and the risk factors associated with breast cancer. Share this knowledge with your loved ones. The National Breast Cancer Organization offers free education materials online.

**4. Volunteer Your Time:** Get involved in local volunteer opportunities that support breast cancer awareness. You can help with organizing events, providing support to patients and survivors, or contributing your skills to fundraising campaigns with local organizations such as Krewe de Pink.

**5. Get Screened:** Breast cancer awareness month is an ideal time to schedule your annual mammogram or encourage a loved one to do so. Early detection can be lifesaving, so don't delay in taking this important step.

**6. Support Local Businesses:** Many businesses in New Orleans participate in breast cancer awareness campaigns. Birdy's, The Bower, and Tujague's all currently feature pink cocktails that benefit Krewe de Pink. Look for local shops, restaurants, and companies that are donating a portion of their profits to breast cancer causes during the month of October.

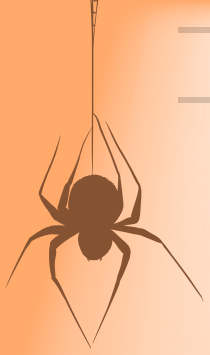
**7. Connect with Local Support Groups:** If you or someone you know is dealing with breast cancer, connect with local support groups and organizations that can offer emotional and practical support. You are not alone, and there is a network of people ready to assist. Ochsner Health offers oncology support groups and classes at cancer centers throughout Louisiana and Mississippi.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an opportunity for New Orleans to come together and make a tangible impact in the fight against breast cancer. By supporting local initiatives, promoting early detection, and fostering a sense of community, we can contribute to this vital cause in our unique and spirited city.

# STAFF PET SPOTLIGHT

By Kyra Stanton

SEPTEMBER



## HEMP

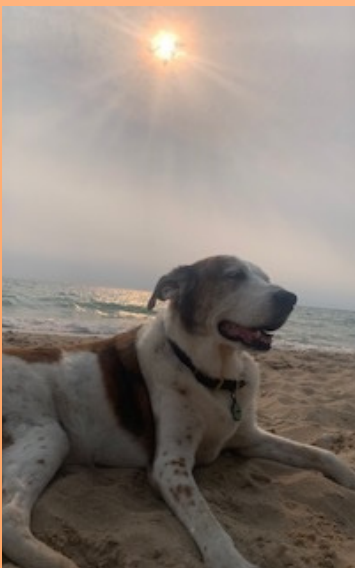
"This is my 3 year old Border Collie, Hemp. He was bred in Ireland and imported to the U.S. from England. His breeder named him after the dog from the 1890's that's considered to be the progenitor to the Border Collie breed. He's the third Border Collie I've trained to herd sheep competitively (as well as at home). We'll be heading to our first trial in Oklahoma in October."

-Donna Kulawiak

## MISS MUFFIN

"This is Miss Muffin, she's 5 years old and came from the SPCA during COVID! She loves to cuddle with anyone and everyone and to chase after toys. She even sometimes plays fetch like a dog. Fun fact: she makes an ugly screaming noise instead of a regular meow, but we love her SO MUCH anyways. And, as long as she's with her people she's one very happy cat."

-Daisy Ellis



## LAMAR & WINNIE

"Lamar is a 13 year old handsome boxer mix, adopted in 2010. He was found on the edge of a sugarcane field in Thibodaux and loves to be outside in the dirt. His favorite things to do are to join me at the barn with the horses and walks around the neighborhood. He is also trying to figure out how to play with his new sister, Winnie! Winnie is a 6 month old snowshoe Siamese kitten rescued from a horse farm in Folsom. She was found under the blades of a bushhog! Her favorite things are escaping out the front door, playing fetch, and snuggling with her big brother Lamar. Her current nicknames include "TT" for Tiny Terror, Minnie Winnie, and Winter."

-Alison Rinehart

Want to have your pet featured in the future?

Email a picture and pet bio to  
kstanton@tulane.edu!

# Halloween Fun in New Orleans

By Shelby Olin

Each city has specific Halloween traditions and places to see -- here are some specific New Orleans Halloween sites!

## **Krewe of Boo: The Official Halloween Parade of New Orleans**

The first Krewe of Boo parade rolled in 2008 as a way to raise funds for Hurricane Katrina. It was set up to be just a one-time fundraiser. However, after 5 years, the parade returned and it has been rolling ever since. Currently this parade features large floats created by Kern studios, the same group that creates many floats that are featured during Mardi Gras. The Krewe of Boo parade has continued to grow and now has roughly 450 riders, 15 floats, and 35 marching bands/dance krewes. Beyond the parade, there are many events that people can participate in all weekend like a zombie 5k, second line, and post-parade party.

## **The Mortuary Haunted House**

Just a short street car ride away from Tidewater is the home to the large Victorian mansion between two Canal Street cemeteries that runs one of New Orleans most popular haunted houses throughout the Halloween season. This home was first built in 1872 for family use but was sold in 1959 to run as a full service funeral home. After many years of running as a functioning funeral home, it shut down and remained abandoned until 2007 when it was purchased by Jeff Borne and turned into a haunted house. Now, the Mortuary has become one of the best Haunted hours in New Orleans and has an elaborate theme and decoration each season.

Beyond the actors that dress up as paranormal ghosts and scary creatures, it has been rumored that there are real ghosts and paranormal activity in the house. Ghost hunters and people around the house have seen a woman dressed in white crying for her husband that passed. Others have seen a tall man dressed in a suit appear when he believes people are disrespecting the cemetery. Employees of the Mortuary have also explained seeing a mortician that used to work in the funeral home in the basement. Lastly, the current owner has expressed having items and furniture move on its own.

Now, you can visit the Mortuary and surrounding cemeteries with various tour groups or as a haunted house guest. This year, you can even use your Krewe of Boo doubloons for \$5 off your haunted house admission price.



# HPAM and Tulane Upcoming Events

## Hunches and Lunches

**Monday, November 6th @12:00 pm:** Frances Hanagan, room 1903

HMSLA Lunch and Learn: Operations Manager for the Cancer Center at the University Medical Center

**Monday, November 27th @12:00 pm:** Abb Alsulimani, room 1903

Required for PhD students and optional for MPH students interested in research or possibly continuing to a PhD

## MHA Events

**Tuesday, November 7th @12:00pm:** First Year MHA Listening Session, room 1903

**Wednesday, November 8th @12:00 pm:** MHA Alumni Panel: Consulting [Zoom link here](#)

Four recently graduated MHAs to talk about their careers in consulting: Trey Holmes (MHA'18), Jordan Solomon (MHA '19), Yousef Abdelhay (MHA '22), and James Noblin (MHA '22).  
Online only.

## MHA Skills for Success Series

**Tuesday, November 14th @12:00 pm:** Networking Workshop w/ Career Services, room 1903

Required for first year MHAs, everyone welcome! [Zoom option here](#)

## People In Policy

**Wednesday, November 15th @12:00 pm:** Courtney Foster, room 1903

Medicaid Policy Advocate at Louisiana Budget Project

## La Revue

**Wednesday, November 1st @12:00pm:** November issue meeting, room 1908

[Zoom option here](#)

## University Dates

**Monday, November 6th:** Registration for spring 2024 begins

**Saturday, November 11th:** Home football game against Tulsa - military appreciation

**Friday, November 24th:** Last season home football game against UTSA - blackout theme

**Monday, November 20th to Sunday, November 26th:** Thanksgiving break

## Book of the Month

### The Hot Zone

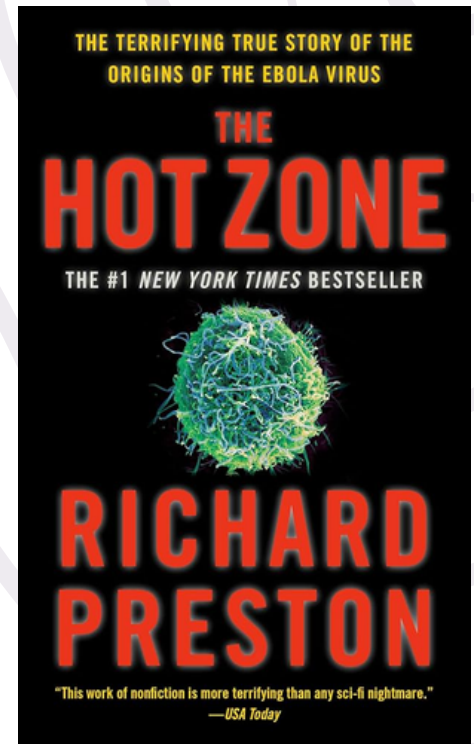
**Author: Richard Preston**

This book recommendation comes from Emma Powers a staff member in Center for Reproductive Health Policy and Programs in the IHSD department. The Hot Zone focuses on the US governments response to the first recognized cases of Ebola in Washington DC.

Emma explains that this book is “if a thriller was combined with a non-fiction medical story.” Before reading this book she had not given much thought about the Ebola virus. However, after reading The Hot Zone, Ebola is now one of her fears.

The Hot Zone tackles topics such as emergency preparedness, policy response to infectious disease, and the epidemiological background of the Ebola virus. If you are looking for a real life scary story, this is the book for you.

[Click here to read the full description.](#)



## Podcast of the Month



### This Podcast Will Kill You

**Hosts: Dr. Erin Welsh & Dr. Erin Allmann Updyke**

“This podcast might not actually kill you, but it covers so many things that can. Each episode tackles a different disease, from its history, to its biology, and finally, how scared you need to be. Ecologists and epidemiologists Erin Welsh and Erin Allmann Updyke (also referred to as the Erins) make infectious diseases acceptable fodder for dinner party conversation and provide the perfect cocktail recipe to match.”

#### Example Episodes:

- M-m-m-my Coronaviruses
- Dancing Plague: Worst Dance Party Ever
- Rinderpest: Moo Cows, Moo Problems
- Lead Poisoning: Heavy Metal Episode

# Thank you to Our October Team

La Revue wants YOU! Email [hpm@tulane.edu](mailto:hpm@tulane.edu) to learn more!  
October issue open to all - meeting on November 1st at 12:00, room 1908.



**Daisy Ellis**

Daisy is a second-year MPH in Health Policy student. Some of her areas of interest include housing and homelessness, maternal health, and addiction. Daisy moved to New Orleans 5 years ago to get her BSPH from Tulane, and has loved the city and the school ever since! In her spare time, Daisy sings in community choir, babysits, and hangs out with her cat.

**Editor-in-Chief**



**Holly Larson**

Holly is a first-year Master of Health Administration student, and she graduated from Tulane for her bachelor's degree in 2023, with a double major in public health and economics. She is passionate about health equity, women and children's health, and community engagement. She hopes to be working in hospital operations in the future. Outside of class, she enjoys reading, going on walks in Audubon park, and trying new restaurants throughout the city.

**Contributor**



**Shelby Olin**

Shelby is a first-year PhD student and a HPM academic programs staff member in the department. Her main research interests are maternal child health, mental health, and access to health services. She has lived in New Orleans for about 3 years and received her MPH from Tulane in 2022. For fun, she loves to travel, read, and watch reality tv with friends!

**Contributor**



**Kyra Stanton**

Kyra is a second-year MPH in Health Policy student who is looking forward to completing her degree in December. She also graduated in 2022 with a BSPH in Public Health and a BA in Political Science from Tulane University. Her academic interests include health equity, maternal health, and criminal justice reform. Outside of class she enjoys cooking for her friends, listening to music with her sisters, and watching old movies.

**Contributor**