



Elder News

Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)

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From the Director’s Chair...



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Older Americans Month (OAM), established in 1963, is celebrated every May. The 2023 theme is ***Aging Unbound***, which offers an opportunity to explore diverse aging experiences and discuss how communities can combat stereotypes. Join us in promoting flexible thinking about aging – and how we all benefit when older adults remain engaged, independent, and included.

Let’s take time to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of older Americans, highlight important trends, and strengthen our commitment to honoring our older citizens.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) asks us to join them in recognizing the 60th anniversary of OAM and challenge the narrative on aging. ACL offers the following as ways we all can participate in Aging Unbound:

- “Embrace the opportunity to change. Find a new passion, go on an adventure, and push boundaries by not letting age define your limits. Invite creativity and purpose into your life by trying new activities in your community to bring in more growth, joy, and energy.
- Explore the rewards of growing older. With age comes knowledge, which provides insight and confidence to understand and experience the world more deeply. Continue to grow that knowledge through reading, listening, classes, and creative activities.

From the Director's Chair Continued

- Stay engaged in your community. Everyone benefits when everyone is connected and involved. Stay active by volunteering, working, mentoring, participating in social clubs, and taking part in activities at your local senior center or elsewhere in the community.
- Form relationships. As an essential ingredient of well-being, relationships can enhance your quality of life by introducing new ideas and unique perspectives. Invest time with people to discover deeper connections with family, friends, and community members.”

Further information is available at <https://acl.gov/oam/2023/older-americans-month-2023>

Visit the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs website, <https://goea.louisiana.gov/>, for contact information for the local Council on Aging, Area Agency on Aging and/or Aging & Disability Resource Center in your parish to see what activities have been planned for Older Americans Month 2023.



The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging

The next scheduled quarterly LEBA meeting will be held on

April 19, 2023 @ 11am

Location: The Galvez Building in the Pensacola Conference Room

The Board members are listed below:

Johnny Berthelot

Huey Beverly

Terry Courville

Leslie Keen—Chairwoman

Ann Keene

Gerard Landry

Worlita Jackson



Willie Lewis

Donald Mallet

Heather Prejean

Charles “Buddy” Pugh

Ricco Thomas

Emily Tilley

Blanche Wilks

Prepare Before Hurricane Season Starts

The official start of the hurricane season is June 1st, and it lasts through the end of November. Are you prepared? Make preparations for you, your family, and your pets. Stay informed. For tips on getting prepared visit:

www.getagameplan.org or www.ready.gov.

Hurricane Preparedness weather.gov/hurricane 

Prepare Before Hurricane Season

-  Develop an evacuation plan
-  Assemble disaster supplies: food, water, batteries, charger, radio, cash
-  Get an insurance checkup and document your possessions
-  Create a communication plan with a hand-written list of contacts
-  Strengthen your home



NOAA

In the Spotlight

Lafourche Council on Aging:

Larose Senior Center Christmas Party



Crafting at Larose Senior Center



Lockport Senior Center Birthday Celebration



Natchitoches Council on Aging:

Older Americans Day program will be held on the beautiful downtown riverbank in Natchitoches on May 18, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.



Black History Month Program



Heart Smart Lunch Valentine's Day Party



Mardi Gras Celebration



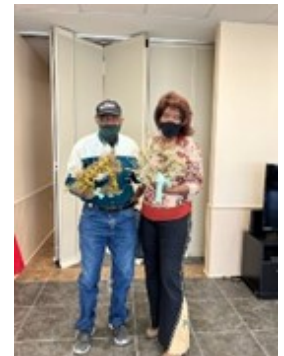
West Baton Rouge Council on Aging:

Is now offering heart screenings completed by HEARTSENSE. Their first screening was held on February 16, 2023.

They would also like to wish Trudy Jackson, Wildred Walker, Charlene Savoy, Bessie Wolfe, Melisa Sellers, and Ruby Young a very happy birthday!



Seniors wreath making workshop hosted by Erica Anderson!



Tangipahoa Council on Aging:

The Executive Director, Debi Fleming, received the Thomas Laughlin Award at the 2023 LACOADA Fall Winter Conference.



Congratulations Mrs. Fleming!

Terrebonne Council on Aging:

Schriever Senior Center Wellness Exercises



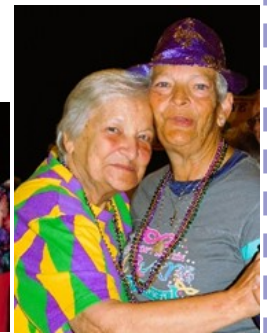
Executive Director Michel Claudet accepting a donation from United Community Bank for their Unmet Needs Program.



Shady Acres Senior Center Wellness Exercises



“Annual Krewe of Ageless Dreams”
Mardi Gras Ball



TCOA participated in the Houma Rotary Club's Annual Cast Iron Cook-Off!



Jefferson Davis Council on Aging:

Hosted a “Don’t Let Senior Scams Catch you off Guard” Event on March 7, 2023, and they made the local newspaper.



Jeff Davis Council on Aging Director Helen Langley (top left) as well as Marjorie Broussard (below), from left and Merella Lafleur listen as Southwest Louisiana Better Business Bureau President Angela Guth (above) explains tactics scammers use to dupe residents. The class is part of the Seniors Series program offered by the Better Business Bureau. Be on the lookout for more information on popular scams in the Tuesday, March 14 edition of the Jennings Daily News.

Lafayette Council on Aging:

Scott Senior Center celebrated their 2nd Annual Mardi Gras gathering. Donald Sharpe and Ethel Marie Boudreaux was crown “2023 King & Queen”. The seniors enjoyed participating in a parade and ended the activity eating good food, dancing and playing games.



Scott Senior Center collaborated with Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center and hosted a special seminar. Staff from Affiliated Blind of Louisiana (Stacy Charles & Divon Spears) educated those in attendance on how to receive free services for their hearing and vision loss.

Scott Senior Center “Tea Time Grannies” adopted a special needs class at a local elementary school. These “Grannies” are very crafty and love to bless the children with their “special handmade crafts” along with classroom supplies. They make items for the children’s birthdays and holidays and love to see the smile on the children’s faces.



Jackson Council on Aging:

Ladies at Robert Riddle Senior Center finished a beautiful puzzle and they are working on another. The puzzles are framed and given for Blackout Bingo prizes. Featured in the picture are Bonnie Townley, Dorothy Morgan, Judy Harper, Patsy Wyatt and Mary Frith.



Robert Riddle Senior Center's best dressed winners of Mardi Gras Contest were Carolyn Harvey, Patsy Wyatt & Carolyn Gardner.



Concordia Council on Aging:

"Letting the Good Times Roll in Concordia"



Our seniors are becoming "Tech Savy"



Sabine Council on Aging:

Has a new addition to the Legacy Building and the Toledo Site has been renovated with a new addition as well. Open house for the main office in Many, the Legacy Building will be held on March 24, 2023 and the Toledo Meal Site will be held on March 31, 2023.



First day in the new building of the Many site!



This collage is from the Toledo site. They enjoy all these activities in the new part of the building.

Happy Birthday to Ms. Rose Mary & Ms. Luticia!



East Baton Rouge Council on Aging:

The East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCOA) held its Ribbon Cuttings and Dedication Ceremony for The Lotus Village Community on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 965 North 18th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. The event celebrated the official opening of The Lotus Village Community, which is comprised of The Lotus Village Senior Living Complex (in partnership with Gulf Coast Housing Partnership), The Lotus Headquarters (and commercial kitchen), and The Lotus Senior Activity Center (and food pantry).

The dedication ceremony began at 9:30 am, and the ribbon cuttings followed a brief program. During the dedication ceremony, Joshua Hollins, Executive Director of the Louisiana Housing Corporation presented EBRCOA with a plaque in honor of The Lotus Village homes being certified as IBHC Fortified Silver through Enterprise Green Communities, which means the homes have an extra layer of protection from severe weather, such as impact-resistant windows, doors, roofs, and physical reinforcements that provide extra protection for their senior residents.

The Lotus Village Community is the first senior village in Louisiana as designated by the Village to Village Network (VTVN), and it is one of 400 senior villages recognized worldwide. The VTVN designation allows EBRCOA to provide supportive services and resources to assist village seniors in maintaining their independence in their homes and community.

The Lotus Village Senior Residential Complex is a 25-million-dollar community comprised of 116 low to moderate-income residential rental homes designed to meet the needs of seniors, including the need for affordable housing. The Lotus Headquarters is a new 25,000-square-foot administrative building fully equipped with a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen, which will empower the agency to meet the growing demand for programs such as Meal on Wheels and Daily Congregate Meals served at its 21 senior centers and nutritional sites.

The Lotus Senior Activity Center is a state-of-the-art adult activity center designed with cognitive and physical enhancement activities. The facility is equipped with features such as the Lotus Food Pantry, The Lotus Computer Lab, a fully-equipped geriatric cardio room, and a multi-purpose space. The three facilities, with a compilation of nearly 36 million dollars of mixed investments, are located in Baton Rouge's historical Suburb Gracie neighborhood and will transform a disinvested neighborhood and area into a mixed-use community that will attract seniors and new commerce to the area.

This spectacular event was also the kickoff event to a year-long celebration in honor of the agency's 50th Anniversary! 2023 marks fifty years since the creation of the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging which was created as a result of the Older American Act (OAA) of 1965.

The OOA funds critical services that keep seniors healthy and independent, such as EBRCOA. All year, the agency will host events to celebrate their accomplishments, their seniors, and their staff. Some upcoming events include Senior Skip Day 2.0 on Thursday, April 27th, the 50th Year Golden Anniversary Gala & Senior Prom on Friday, May 19th, and the Thanksgiving Dinner & Dance in November 2023.



WELCOME

***Join us in welcoming our new
team members!***

Earl Kelly ~ Elderly Protective Services

Leah Self ~ Human Resources

Heather Sam ~ Elderly Protective Services

Denise White ~ Accounting and Finance

Jonas Etienne ~ Elderly Protective Services



***Please join us in congratulating Mr. Tim Jones on his
retirement! He has been a team member here at GOEA
for over 19 years and he will be greatly missed.***

Thank you for your committed service and dedication!

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs

602 North 5th Street Suite 435

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Phone: (225) 342-7100

Fax: (225) 342-7133

Website: www.goea.louisiana.gov

