



# Elder News

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)

Spring 2026

Volume 26 - Issue 1

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## From the Director's Chair...

As you all know, the Louisiana legislative season is well underway. So far, GOEA has had positive feedback to our proposed budget, which includes funding for the changes in the PCOA allocations from Act 348 of the 2025 legislative session.



The LACOADA Conference will be held at the Downtown Hilton in Baton Rouge from April 20-23rd. GOEA will have staff present for the Legislative Breakfast on April 23rd, and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

The theme for Older Americans Month in May 2026 is "Champion Your Health." This initiative places emphasis on prevention and self-management of the health of seniors.

Happy Spring, everyone!

Amanda Smith, Executive Director

OLDER  
AMERICANS  
MONTH



CHAMPION YOUR HEALTH: MAY 2026

# Are You Prepared for Hurricane Season?

Hurricane season officially starts on June 1st. The time to prepare is now. For tips on getting prepared you can visit:

<https://getagameplan.org> or <https://www.ready.gov>



## Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- Water and non-perishable food for several days
- Extra cell phone battery or charger
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio that can receive NOAA Weather Radio tone alerts and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Non-sparking wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps

## FEMA's Ready Campaign

educates and empowers Americans to take some simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies, including those from natural hazards and man-made disasters. Ready asks individuals to do three key things: get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and appropriate responses. Everyone should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive several days if an emergency occurs. This list of emergency supply kit items is only a starting point. It is important that individuals review this list and consider the unique needs of their family, including pets, for items to include. Individuals should also consider having at least two emergency supply kits, one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle or other places they spend time.



Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Washington, DC 20472



## Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food, water and supplies for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a portable waterproof container
- Cash and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies, personal hygiene items and hand sanitizer
- Mess kits, Paper cups, plates and disposable utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed. ®



## Emergency Supply List



FEMA

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

# In the Spotlight

**Vermilion Council on Aging:** Our 50th Birthday Bash was a spectacular, well-attended celebration that brought together community leaders, supporters, and friends for an unforgettable evening. The event proudly served as the kickoff to our Capital Campaign to establish a Transportation Department, a critical step in expanding services for the elderly and disabled residents of Vermilion Parish. With the generous support of numerous sponsors, the Birthday Bash was both a successful fundraiser and a powerful show of community commitment to our mission. The entertainment was hot, the dance floor stayed full all night, and the energy in the room reflected the excitement and enthusiasm of everyone in attendance. This milestone celebration not only honored 50 years of service but also elevated the Vermilion Council on Aging's standing in the community as we look ahead to an even stronger future.



**Franklin Council on Aging:** Happy 93rd birthday to Ms. Oneda Mullen!



**Richland Council on Aging:** Upcoming event announcement, our Day at the Lake will be held on May 1, 2026. We would also like to wish our seniors a very happy birthday!



**Happy Birthday**  
To Our Pots of Gold at the end of the Rainbow

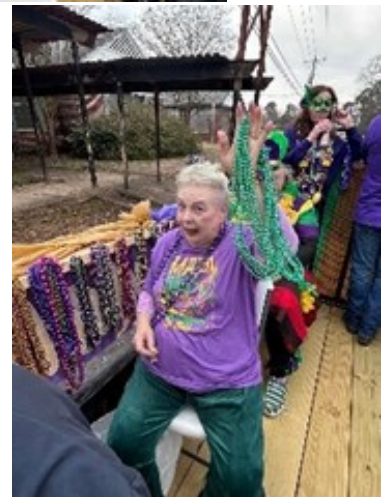
- Will Jones 03/01
- Dorothy Green 03/06
- Alalia Jackson 03/18
- Charles Cupples 03/18
- Calvin Brown 03/19
- Joann Thomas 03/21
- Robert Wiggins 03/21
- Henry Colvin 03/22
- Mary Ann Harris 03/26
- Gladys McCullar 03/26
- Rita Roberson 03/30

**Bossier Council on Aging:** In celebration of Older Americans Month, we are hosting our annual Fish Fry & Health Fair on May 22nd. We are especially grateful to Louisiana Blue for sponsoring this year's event and to the Bossier City Marshal for cooking for us. It's always a wonderful opportunity to bring our seniors together for fellowship, great food, and valuable health resources. This event is open to the public.

**Jefferson Davis Council on Aging:** Held their annual Mardi Gras celebration! A King and Queen was crowned, a trophy was given to the best male and best female dancers, and a medal to most Mardi Gras spirited male and female.



**Union Council on Aging:** Celebrated Mardi Gras on Saturday, February 14, 2026. The Krewe of D 'Arbonne, Farmerville rolled at 5 p.m. to the delight of spectators! The Krewe of Ages representing multi-generational families of Union COA participated as well. So much fun was had by all!



Happy birthday to Ms. Louise Denton, Union COA Director of 49 years!

Happy 92nd birthday to Ms. Dorothy Young!

Happy 104th birthday to Ms. Ida Bell Albritton!



**Ascension Council on Aging:** Celebrated Mardi Gras and milestone birthdays with a party! They also celebrated Black History Month with a program!

Mardi Gras King Byron Jarvis and Queen Arlene Cobb!



Participants made Mardi Gras floats!



Happy 90th Birthday to Mr. Felix Mendoza!



Happy 90th Birthday to Ms. Meme Turner!



Black History Month Celebration!



**St. James Council on Aging:** River Region Federal Credit Union recently reached out to donate new bingo cards to the Convent Senior Center. When they learned of our upcoming birthday celebration, they jumped at the opportunity to sponsor our event. In addition to the new bingo cards that they so graciously provided for our seniors, they also provided a birthday cake, ice cream, and a birthday gift for each senior celebrating a birthday in the month of February.



The Vacherie Senior Center held its monthly birthday celebration in February honoring our amazing seniors and staff members! We wish everyone a very happy birthday and many more blessings in the year ahead!



## Our upcoming events include:

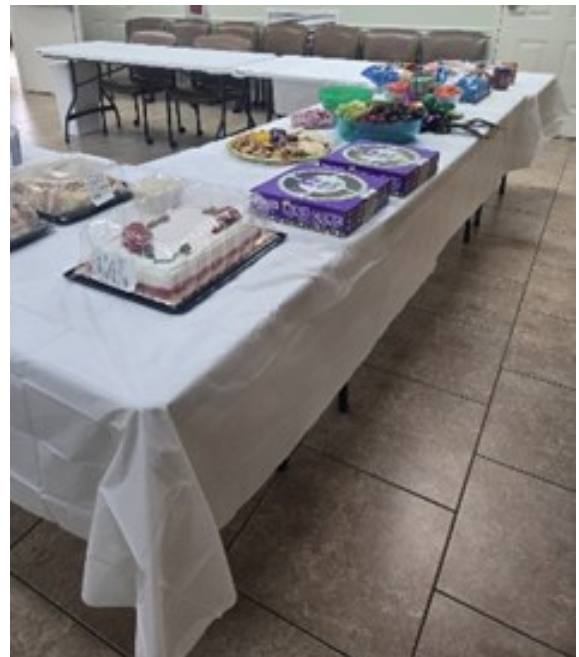
- Annual Health Fair – April 2
- Senior Games – April 17
- Senior Day at the Capitol – April 20
- In observance of Older Americans Month, we will host a Crawfish Boil – May 28
- Field/Shopping Trip to Foley, Alabama – June 18



**Caldwell Council on Aging:** Mr. William and Mrs. Norma Sharp were crowned the 2026 Valentine's Day King and Queen. Mr. Ricky Esters and Ms. Theresa Carroll were crowned the 2026 Mardi Gras King and Queen.



**Assumption Council on Aging:** Mr. Harry Lavergne and Ms. Merlyn Aucoin were crowned King and Queen for our Mardi Gras celebration! Our seniors enjoyed a parade around the office, treats, and music.



**Webster Council on Aging:** Our Valentine's Party was held on February 13th. For entertainment we had "The Cox Family" and we had Elvis. Over 75 clients attended this event. Everyone had a good time!



**WP**  
COUNCIL ON AGING

**VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON**  
FRIDAY, FEB 13<sup>th</sup>  
WEBSTER COUNCIL ON AGING

\$2/ticket BINGO 9:00  
Entertainment by **THE COX FAMILY** 10:00  
Lunch catered by **HUGH WOODS** 10:45



**Livingston Council on Aging:** We are excited about several upcoming events; a group cruise to Cozumel on March 12th-16th with another cruise in November, Senior Skip Day with fishing and lunch on March 20th, and our Crime Prevention Expo in April.

Senior Center Mardi Gras Parties!



Maurepas Senior Center playing "Grandmother's Trunk"!

**Sabine Council on Aging:** “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18). We miss these wonderful ladies dearly but it’s never goodbye, it’s see you later. Pictured below from left to right is Joyce Combs, passed 01.09.26 (91), Sandra Peters, passed 01.25.26 (81), June Pruitt, passed 02.06.26 (87), Belia Kulick, passed 02.18.26 (87), and Lucille Dewitt, passed 02.19.26 (98).



During our Annual Blanket Drive, we collected 107 blankets from several businesses as well as the citizens here in Sabine Parish.



Mardi Gras celebration at Toledo and Florian!



Toledo’s Pool Tournament winner was Mr. Jeff Morrow!



Happy birthday to Ms. Carolyn Jones & Ms. Lisa Ebarb!

**Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs:** Agency staff presented a gift of money trees to our two beautiful Title V ladies for Christmas. We appreciate them so much!



This year is the Year of the Fire Horse! We celebrated with a special event to honor and recognize the rich cultural traditions of Lunar New Year.



# The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging

The next scheduled quarterly LEBA meeting will be held on

**April 21, 2026 @ 11:00AM**

The Board members are listed below:

**Leslie Keen—Chairwoman**

**Huey Beverly**

**Ann Keene**

**Donald Mallet**

**Heather Prejean**



**Charles “Buddy” Pugh**

**Rene Thibodeaux**

**Ricco Thomas**

**Blanche Wilks**

**WELCOME**

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

**Idalis Jackson ~ Elderly Protective Services**

**Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs**

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