

# *Elder News*

**Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs**

**"Serving Seniors Successfully"**

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## **ACL Older Americans Act Reauthorization Signed into Law**

*Statement from Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee*

President Obama signed the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016 into law today, reaffirming our nation's commitment to the health and well-being of older adults. Earlier this year, the President called on Congress to reauthorize this important legislation as part of his remarks at the White House Conference on Aging.

For more than 50 years, the Older Americans Act has helped people live the lives they want, with the people they choose, throughout their lives. Through the aging services network, it has helped older adults continue to work, play and volunteer in their communities, to the great benefit of all. Because of the Older Americans Act, neighborhoods and organizations across the country are able to continue to draw upon the wealth of knowledge that comes only with life experience.

The OAA underpins a promise to preserve the right to live independently, with dignity, making everyday decisions according to our individual preferences and goals across our lifespan. This promise is more important than ever. In a few short years, more than 77 million people will be over the age of 60, and more than 34 million people—mostly family and friends—will be supporting a loved one who is over 60. These numbers will continue to grow for the next several decades.

The OAA affects everyone—older adults, people who help support them, and all of us who hope to one day grow old. I am delighted to see its reauthorization, and I am deeply grateful for the renewed commitment to preserving the rights of all people, for the full course of our lives.



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## Louisiana Severe Storms and Flooding (DR-4263)



On March 8-11, 2016, Louisiana was hit with a strong upper level storm system that brought showers and thunderstorms from west to east across most of the state. Heavy rainfall, flash flooding, river flooding and damaging winds were the main result of this storm system. Damage to the hardest hit areas continue to be assessed. The aging network continues to assess client needs for those who may have property damage, which was a direct result from flash flooding and river flooding. In some areas of the state, there were more than 20 inches of rainfall in less than 48 hours of time. This storm system caused agency closures, service interruption, road closures (roads washed out, bridges damaged and overall flooding of roads) and facility/property damage for provider agencies and clients. Applications for federal individual assistance may be completed online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY)

### Reminders:

- Registering with a community or faith-based group does not register you with FEMA
- Both homeowners and renters may be eligible
- Register even if you have insurance because not all damage may be covered by your insurance policy
- Register even if you only had minor damages
- Register if your home is still inaccessible.
- Register even if you think you will be ineligible. There may be other programs that you may be eligible for.
- Hurricane season will begin June 1. **BE PREPARED!**

# OLDER AMERICANS MONTH



BLAZE A TRAIL: MAY 2016

May is Older American's Month with a month of fresh beginnings. Flowers bloom bringing bright color to the landscape. The 2016 Older Americans Month theme is "Blaze a Trail". Please use this opportunity to raise awareness about our elderly population, their needs and the services that our network provides.

Governor John Bell Edwards has issued a state proclamation for Older Americans Month. You may review the proclamation at [www.GOEA.Louisiana.gov](http://www.GOEA.Louisiana.gov).



Senior Olympic Games Louisiana mission is to provide seniors age 50 and over the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletic, recreational and social activities to promote wellness and an active lifestyle. The first Louisiana Senior Games was held in 2001. For more information about the Louisiana Senior Olympic Games, please call 318-487-9505 or visit their website at [www.lsog1.net](http://www.lsog1.net).



**SENIOR DAY AT THE CAPITAL IN BATON ROUGE WILL BE HELD ON MAY 10TH. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TRANSPORTATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL ON AGING.**

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The **Ascension Council on Aging** will host the annual Outdoor Picnic on Thursday, May 26, 2016 from 9:30am-1:00pm at the Donaldsonville Center. There will be great food, music, popcorn, snowballs and door prizes. For more information call 225-473-3789.

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The **Cameron Council on Aging** will be celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Older Americans Month on May 20, 2016 with food, door prizes, games and a live band. Local businesses are honoring the seniors in Older Americans Month with special activities throughout the month of May. For more information about the Cameron Council on Aging activities, please call 337-905-6000.

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The **Concordia Council on Aging** will be taking the participants to the Alexandria Zoo on May 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information about activities at the Concordia Council on Aging, please call 318-336-7887.

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The **East Carroll Council on Aging** has planned several activities for Older Americans Month of May. On May 5, the agency will host Senior Olympics, on May 11<sup>th</sup>, the agency will have the Senior Picnic at Poverty Point Reservoir in Delhi and on May 16<sup>th</sup> the agency will have Safari Park in Delhi. For more information regarding the activities hosted by the East Carroll Council on Aging, call 318-559-2774.

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The **Franklin Council on Aging** will take the seniors on a field trip to Poverty Point Reservoir State Park on May 27, 2016. Clients will be fishing, enjoying a picnic lunch and participating in other outdoor activities. For more information regarding this activity or other services provided by the Franklin Council on Aging, please call 318-435-7579.

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The **New Orleans Council on Aging** will host Senior Fest 2016 on May 26 from 9:00am-1:30pm at the UNO Lakefront Arena. For more information call 504-821-4121 Ext 111.

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The **Plaquemines Council on Aging** will be line dancing on April 20<sup>th</sup>. For other activities and services, contact the Plaquemines Council on Aging at 504-564-0600.

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The **Rapides Council on Aging** now has an online news magazine called Rapides News Magazine. You may view the online magazine by visiting [www.rapidesnewsmagazine.com](http://www.rapidesnewsmagazine.com).

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The **Rapides Senior Centers** will begin Senior Olympics on May 10<sup>th</sup> and will continue thru May 25<sup>th</sup>. A Health Fair with breakfast, lunch and bingo will coincide with the Olympic game activities. For more information call 318-487-1561.

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The **Richland Council on Aging** will transport seniors and participate with the Madison Parish Fun Day on May 6<sup>th</sup> and will spend a Day at the Lake on May 13<sup>th</sup>. For more information about these activities, please contact the Richland Council on Aging at 318-728-2646.

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The **Saint Charles Council on Aging** will host a Health and Informational Fair on Friday, May 27, 2016. There will be a special lunch menu and door prizes. For more information or to make reservations, call 985-783-6683.

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The **Saint John Council on Aging** will be hosting a Health Fair on May 13<sup>th</sup> a Fishing trip on May 19<sup>th</sup> and a New Orleans trip on May 27<sup>th</sup>. For more information about Saint John Council on Aging activities, call 985-479-0272.

The **Saint Martin Council on Aging** will be hosting a 3 day celebration beginning May 16<sup>th</sup>. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the seniors will enjoy breakfast, May 18<sup>th</sup> an ice cream social and musical entertainment and on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> the seniors will enjoy breakfast and karaoke talent show. For more information regarding activities at the Saint Martin Council on Aging, call 337-332-3063.

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The **Saint Mary Council on Aging** will host an Open House and Ribbon Cutting for the relocated office on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00-12:00. Refreshments will be served in the Chamber Office. The Saint Mary Council on Aging will have activities for Older Americans Month beginning on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and will go through May 30, 2016 with activities to include Special Breakfast, Prize Bingo, Garage Sale, Picnic, AARP Meeting and Shopping in Franklin, just to name a few. For more information about activities at the Saint Mary Council on Aging, call 337-828-0355.

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Pictured to the right is State Representative Johnny Berthelot, R-Gonzales with Ms. Darlene Schexnayder at the LACOADA Legislative Breakfast. Representative Berthelot was selected as this year's Legislator of the Year by the Louisiana Council on Aging Director's Association. This award was presented to Representative Berthelot at the association's recent annual Legislative Breakfast for his work in the Legislature, specifically for his support of legislation providing funding for services to more than 900,000 senior citizens in the state. "I am proud and honored to receive this award," Berthelot said. "Senior citizens have worked hard, and they deserve to be treated with the utmost respect and dignity."



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