



Elder News

Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)

Spring 2024

Volume 24 - Issue 1

Meet Our New Executive Director

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Governor Jeff Landry appointed Amanda Smith, to serve as Interim Executive Director in January 2024. Amanda received a recommendation for appointment from the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) on February 6, 2024 and is now the new Executive Director for the Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs. Amanda brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to her new role here at GOEA. She pursued her legal education at LSU, and began her



career as an attorney for the State of Louisiana at the Public Service Commission. She worked for fourteen years with that agency. Amanda then moved to the Office of General Counsel at the Division of Administration. When Paul Colomb, the GOEA attorney for twenty-five years, announced his retirement from GOEA, Amanda took the opportunity to take over legal work for our agency, and became General Counsel for GOEA in 2019. She has enjoyed the challenge of such a unique blend of issues that arise at GOEA, and is passionate about maximizing the services provided to Louisiana's senior population. Amanda loves spending time with her husband and two daughters, watching LSU sports, crocheting, gardening, home improvement projects, and hanging out with her many pets. We are excited to welcome Amanda in her new role and believe she will be a valuable addition to the Aging Network!

OLDER
AMERICANS
MONTH

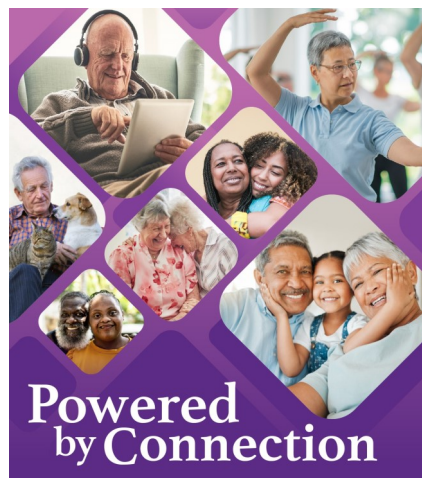


ACL.gov/OAM
#OlderAmericansMonth

May is Older Americans Month. The 2024 theme is ***Powered by Connection***, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being. We will explore the vital role that connectedness plays in supporting independence and aging in place by combatting isolation, loneliness, and other issues.

Join the Administration for Community Living in promoting the benefits of connecting with others. Here are some ways you can participate.

- Share facts about the mental, physical, and emotional health benefits of social connection and how it contributes to overall well-being.
- Promote resources that help older adults engage, like community events, social clubs, and volunteer opportunities.
- Connect older adults with local services, such as transportation, that can help them overcome obstacles to achieving or maintaining meaningful relationships.
- Encourage partners to host a connection-centric event or program focused on older adult mentors to youth, peer-to-peer support, or similar efforts.
- Challenge professional and personal networks to prioritize meaningful social connections and share the benefits.
- Inspire older adults to share what connection means to them on social media using the hashtag #PoweredByConnection.



ACL.gov/OAM
#OlderAmericansMonth

OLDER
AMERICANS
MONTH
POWERED BY CONNECTION, MAY 2024

The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging

The next scheduled quarterly LEBA meeting will be held on

April 18, 2024 @ 11:30AM

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

Blanche Wilks

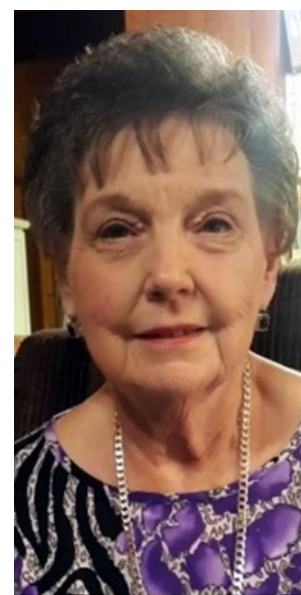
Grace Reynaud Garon

October 4, 1936– January 26, 2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of former LEBA Board Member Grace Garon. Her life was one of service, that included motherhood and a 28-year career at the Ascension Council on Aging. She began her career there as a bookkeeper, and worked her way to the role of executive director. It was a job meant for her, and the parish of Ascension and its elderly benefited from her fight and advocacy. As executive director, she was instrumental in passing a millage to help support the Ascension Council on Aging, and provide meals and services to the elderly in Ascension Parish.

Over the years, she brought her faith, fight and passion to numerous organizations, serving on the Ascension of the Lord Catholic Church Finance Committee, and as a member of the Donaldsonville Music Club and the Donaldsonville Garden Club. She served as the president of the Donaldsonville Rotary Club, and was a member of the Louisiana Aging Network, Louisiana Association of Councils on Aging and National Council on Aging.

She was a member of the Governor’s Task Force on Aging, and a board member of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging, and Volunteer Ascension. She also served on the Capital Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board and Ascension Council on Aging Board. Upon retirement, she was honored by the State Legislature with a Resolution for her advocacy work. She leaves this earth with a legacy of love.





St. Charles Council on Aging (COA): It all started back in 2019; St. Charles COA was located in the old Hahnville Elementary school building. In reviewing the checklist for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), there were so many accessibility specifications the old building missed. This became a priority. The COA requested a quote to have the building updated for ADA compliance. The quote received was over a million dollars. The COA did not want to sink over a million into a building that did not belong to them. The Board chairman requested an Ad Hoc committee be started to investigate options. The COA went out for an additional .089 millage in 2019 to help pay for land and a new building. On March 29, 2021, the COA bought property on Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway, part of the land was donated by the Dufresne family. The first bid opening was held December 16, 2021, the lowest bid came in at \$5,463,000. The board decided to review the plans and make cuts. The second bid opening was held May 5, 2022, and the winning bid was \$5,175,000. Construction began June 21, 2022, and was completed on August 30, 2023. The COA moved into the new building at 282 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway, Luling, LA 70070 on September 14, 2023. The new building houses the Administration, Transportation, Home Delivered Meal Site, and the new Luling Senior Activity Center. The Grand Opening was held on November 3, 2023. The Ceremony included raising the flags by the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Color Guard, a blessing from former Board Member and Deacon, a speech from the Board Chairman and the Executive Director, and ribbon cutting. Lunch was served and 131 people attended.



Jefferson Davis Council on Aging: Hosted their annual Mardi Gras Celebration on Friday February 9, 2024. They had a costume contest, live music, and jambalaya was served.



Pictures below are from A Matter of Balance! This is class designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. For more information please call 337-824-5504.



DO YOU HAVE **Concerns about falling?**

A MATTER OF BALANCE
MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. **A MATTER OF BALANCE** is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels.

This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls.

YOU WILL LEARN TO:

- view falls as controllable
- set goals for increasing activity
- make changes to reduce fall risks at home
- exercise to increase strength and balance

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- anyone concerned about falls
- anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength
- anyone who has fallen in the past
- anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns

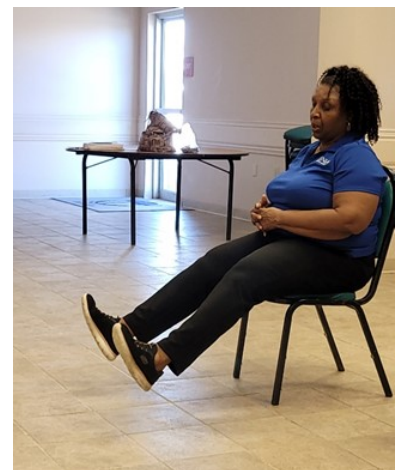
Presented by
Cento Arts Agency on Aging

Jeff Davis Parish Senior Center
February 12, 2024
10:00 Am

Classes are held once a week for 8 weeks for 1-2 hours each.
FEB 12th, FEB 19th, FEB 26th, MARCH 5th, MARCH 12th, MARCH 19th, MARCH 26th, APRIL 2nd

For more information please call
337-824-5504

A Matter of Balance Managing Concerns About Falls. This program is based on Fear of Falling: A Matter of Balance. Copyright ©2004, Truman State University. All rights reserved. Used and adapted by permission of Truman State University.
A Matter of Balance Long Distance World. Adapted for Recreation and Health in Retirement and Aging, 2008. American Society on Aging.
A Matter of Balance Long Distance World was developed by a grant from the Administration on Aging (DHEARS).



New Orleans Council on Aging: Celebrated Black History Month at Carrollton Hollygrove. A Special Guest attended, Mr. Jesse J. Magee. Mr. Jesse is a 102 years old WWII veteran and Buffalo Soldier. He is Walking Black History!



Lafourche Council on Aging: Would like to wish Mr. Harold Toups a very Happy Birthday! He is 105 years old now and he goes everywhere on his own in our transportation van.



Sabine Council on Aging: Would like to wish Ms. Evelyn Bush a very happy 99th birthday! Ms. Bush worked for 23 years at Sabine COA, first as an Outreach Coordinator then as a Nutrition Coordinator. After retirement, she served on the Board of Directors for many years and she is now enjoying her time as a client.



Pictures from the Annual Food drive for our emergency Pantry hosted by Julian Foy Motors in Many, La.

Many vs. Florien in their monthly Bean Bag Baseball tournament.



Mardi Gras at the Toledo site!



Mardi Gras at the Florien site!



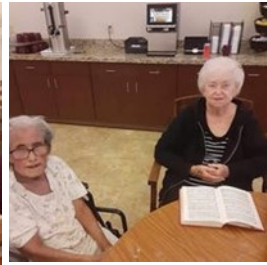
Singing and fellowship with the residents at Many Healthcare!



Annual Blanket Drive!



Singing and fellowship with the residents at Sabine Retirement & Rehab!



Lafayette Council on Aging: Staying healthy is one of the things that seniors from Broussard Senior Center, 108 Broadview Dr., Broussard, LA strive very hard to maintain. This center recently held a Community Outreach Health Fair, which provided a variety of health services for our seniors. Some of the services provided were vision/hearing screening, bone-density screening, stroke screening, blood pressure, pulse, pulse oxygenation, body mass index, body fat analysis, health promotion, and education. It was well received and appreciated by all in attendance.



The Scott Senior Center, located at 211 Anna Street in Scott, LA. Celebrated Mardi Gras with fellowship, good food, second line dancing, bead throwing, door prizes, and recognizing this year's royalty.



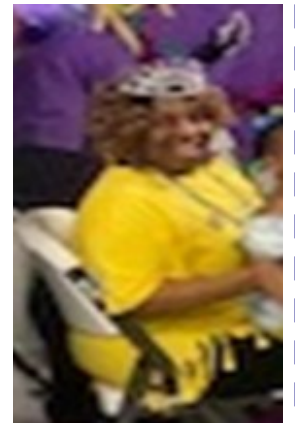
2024 King Mr. Melvin Davis, Queen Ms. Nadena Granger, & Princess Ms. Leatrise Page!



Best Dressed goes to Ms. Brenda Bodin & Mr. Victor Musemeche!



Seniors enjoying the many activities of the day!



2023 Queen Ms. Ethel Boudreaux!



West Feliciana Council on Aging: Wore red for Go Red Day!

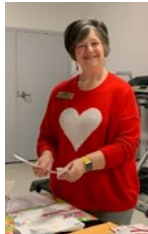
Games were played and they all weighed in to see who would lose weight. If they gained, one dollar would be paid for each pound gained and if they lost, one dollar would be given to them for each pound lost.



Valentines for Vets Cards with candy were made for 140 veterans at LA War Vets, SF Country Manor, and Eastern LA Mental Health System.

Heart Healthy Nutrition Ed - Layne Langley from LSU conducted a Heart Healthy presentation.

Happy 61st Birthday Mr. Sylvester Branch!



Mardi Gras Celebration!

Happy 80th Birthday Mr. Robert Bailey!



Happy 91st Birthday Ms. Fannie Johnson!

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA): On February 6, 2024, GOEA staff participated in an Elder Law discussion at Tulane University. Our Title V Program Manager, Lakeisha Robertson gave a brief overview of the Title V Program in direct response to inquiries of interest from the students. Our Program Monitor, Olivia Dinwiddie spoke on the responsibilities of a Program Monitor. Panel members for the discussion included Beverly Gianna, Shavon Humphrey, Ebony Phillips, and Howard Rodgers. The panel members further engaged the class with a communal dialogue about the how the responsibilities of their Agencies as well as each of their own roles correlates with upholding the mandates of the Older Americans Act as per the structure in Louisiana.



Shavon Humphrey, Howard Rodgers, Ebony Phillips, Beverly Gianna, and Professor Jason Frank are pictured above from left to right.



Caldwell Council on Aging: Celebrated Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day! This years Mardi Gras King and Queen was Mr. Lee and Mrs. Hazel Holland. This years Valentine's Day King and Queen was Mr. Ivory and Mrs. Omenia Hearn.



Be Prepared Before Hurricane Season Starts

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/>

DETERMINE YOUR RISK.

Determine Your Risk
Hurricanes bring many hazards to U.S. coastlines and inland areas, including storm surge along the coast, inland flooding due to heavy rainfall, tornadoes, strong wind, rip currents and large waves.

- Storm Surge
- Rip Currents
- Inland Flooding
- Tornadoes
- Strong Wind

While preparing for hurricane season, follow the latest health guidelines from the CDC and your local officials.

The word "WELCOME" is written in large, 3D block letters. Each letter is a different color: W (red), E (orange), L (yellow), C (light green), O (yellow-green), M (green), and E (dark green). The letters are standing on small white bases.

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

Rose Childress ~ Human Resource Analyst

Monica Mills ~ Elderly Protective Services

Alphonse Noel ~ Elderly Protective Services

Ebone Ferguson ~ Elderly Protective Services

Mignon Crawford ~ Elderly Protective Services

Christina Delgado ~ Elderly Protective Services

Raylonda Coleman ~ Elderly Protective Services

Janice Watson ~ Accounting & Finance Auditor Supervisor

Jeanette Herbert ~ Accounting & Finance Contracts Reviewer

Danise Delaney ~ Elderly Protective Services

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