



Elder News

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)

Summer 2024

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The Louisiana
Executive Board
on Aging & 12
Welcome New
Staff

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SOCIAL MEDIA!



From the Director's Chair

At the closing of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session, House Bill 1 was signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, and sent to Governor Landry for executive approval. GOEA's budget remained intact, and we expect to add several new positions, including many in the Elderly Protective Services division. The much-needed amendment made to provide funds to replace federal dollars for meals for seniors is also included in the legislation sent to the governor. We anxiously await the ability to even better serve the seniors of Louisiana.

During May, we celebrated Older Americans Month, and the theme of "Powered by Connection." This emphasized the profound impact that relationships and social connections have on health and well-being. Elder Abuse Awareness day is recognized on June 15th to increase awareness of the often hidden problem of neglect and abuse of seniors. It is important to shine a light on the potential signs of neglect and abuse, and share methods of reporting and contributing to the solution of the problem.

GOEA's Compliance and Planning division was selected make their presentation "Whole-state Disaster Preparation for a Culturally and Geographically Diverse Older Population" at the USAging conference in Tampa, Florida on July 10, 2024. GOEA is very proud of our reputation in this field, and Louisiana has been recognized on a national level in the aging network as a leader in disaster planning.

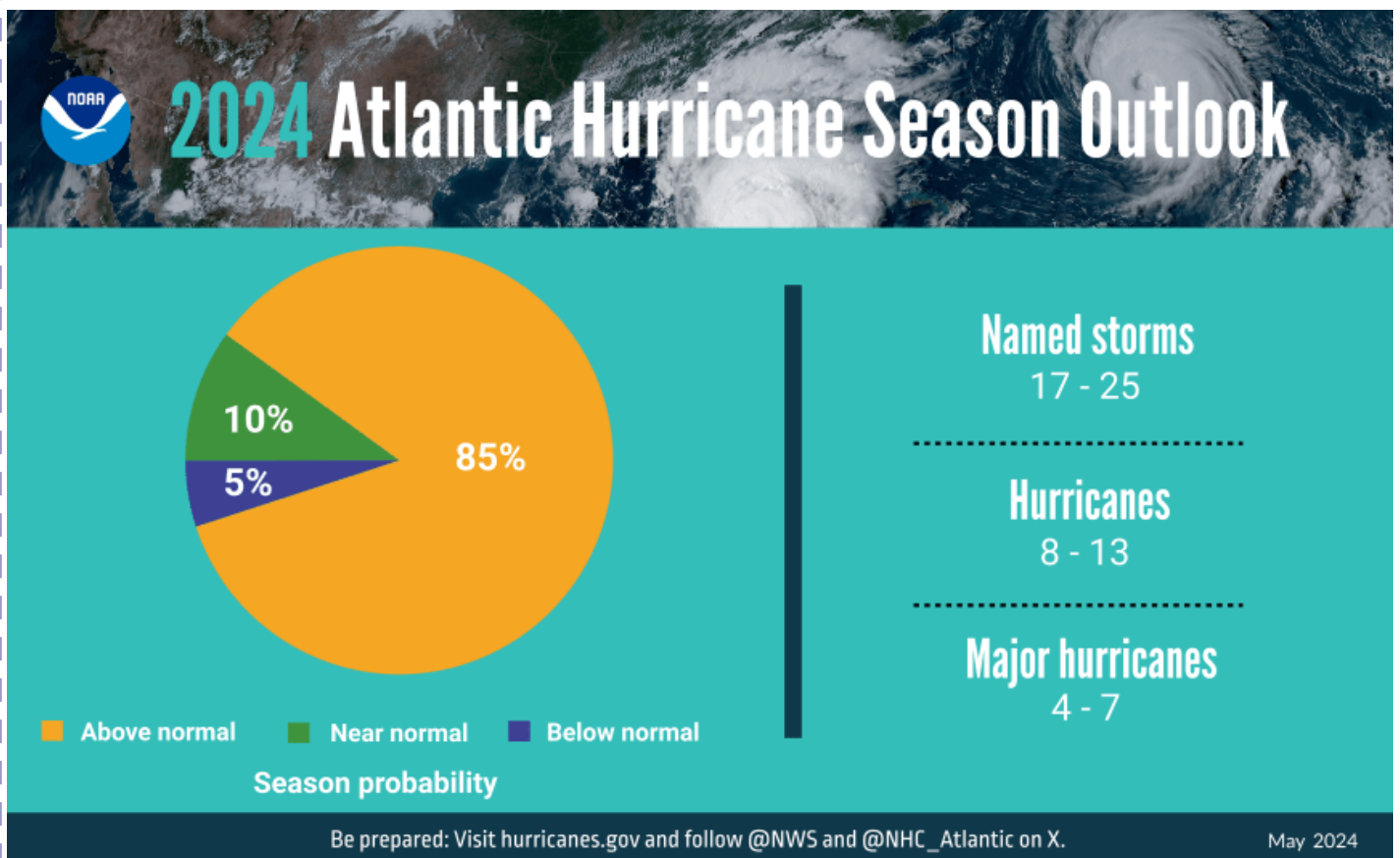
It's hurricane season, and it is important for all citizens to have a plan in case of a disaster. This plan should be specific to the needs of each individual, particular those with specific medical needs or disabilities. You can read more about this on the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness ("GOHSEP") planning website: <https://getagameplan.org/>

Hurricane Season

NOAA National Weather Service forecasters at the [Climate Prediction Center](#) predict above-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic basin this year. NOAA's outlook for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, which spans from June 1 to November 30, predicts an 85% chance of an above-normal season, a 10% chance of a near-normal season and a 5% chance of a below-normal season.

NOAA is forecasting a range of 17 to 25 total named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). Of those, 8 to 13 are forecast to become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 4 to 7 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). Forecasters have a 70% confidence in these ranges.

The upcoming Atlantic hurricane season is expected to have above-normal activity due to a confluence of factors, including near-record warm ocean temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean, development of La Nina conditions in the Pacific, reduced Atlantic trade winds and less wind shear, all of which tend to favor tropical storm formation.



BE PREPARED FOR A HURRICANE

Threats from hurricanes include powerful winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, tornadoes and landslides.



FEMA

FEMA V-1006/September 2023

Hurricanes (also called typhoons and cyclones) are massive storm systems that form over warm ocean waters and move toward land.

Hurricanes . . .



can happen along any U.S. coast or territory.



can affect areas more than 100 miles inland.



are most active in September.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM A HURRICANE

Know your evacuation zone and consider your personal risk.



Evacuate immediately if told to do so. If not, take shelter from high winds in a designated storm shelter or an interior room.

Make a plan to evacuate AND be ready to shelter in place.



Turn around, don't drown! Do not walk, swim or drive through floodwaters.

Monitor communications and follow instructions from local authorities.



Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.

HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A HURRICANE THREATENS

Prepare NOW

Know your area's risk of hurricanes and consider your personal risk of experiencing impacts.

Review your insurance policy for hurricane-related hazard coverage. Standard insurance policies do not cover flooding — you may need to purchase additional policies.

Sign up to receive emergency alerts and notifications from your local emergency management office. Learn what common alerts and warnings mean before you are impacted by a hurricane.

Monitor weather reports and updates from the National Hurricane Center. Be on alert for heavy rain.

Practice going to a safe shelter for high winds, such as a FEMA safe room, an International Code Council (ICC) 500 storm shelter or a small, interior windowless room in a sturdy building. Make sure your safe shelter is on the lowest level that will not be affected by floodwater.

Develop an emergency communication plan that you can use to contact family, friends and neighbors during a hurricane. Plan to text or message because you may not be able to make or receive phone calls.

Develop an evacuation plan based on your evacuation zone. Consider where you will evacuate to and how you will get there. Practice your plan using your evacuation route.

Gather enough food, water and emergency supplies to last you several days. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.

Keep important documents in a dry, safe place such as a fireproof and waterproof box, and create password-protected digital copies.

Protect your property. Install hurricane shutters or reinforce windows. Declutter drains and gutters. Secure outdoor items and furniture or move them indoors.

Survive DURING

Evacuate immediately if ordered to do so. Take critical supplies and documents with you. Follow evacuation routes and directions from local officials. Do not drive around barricades. Drive carefully and be cautious of strong winds and heavy rain.

If you do not evacuate, take shelter indoors and stay away from windows and doors.

- **If there is no flooding, make sure your safe shelter is on the lowest level** that will not be affected by floodwater. Take shelter in a FEMA safe room, an International Code Council (ICC) 500 storm shelter or a small, interior windowless room in a sturdy building.
- **If you experience flooding, go to the highest level of the building** to avoid becoming trapped by rising floodwater but do not climb into a closed attic.

Get inside a safe shelter or a sturdy building as soon as possible if you are outdoors, in a vehicle, in a manufactured or mobile home, or in a temporary structure during a hurricane.

Pay attention to updates from weather stations and news sources to stay informed. Follow advice from local authorities. Take action when advised to do so.

Use a generator, grill or camp stove ONLY outdoors and at least 20 feet away from any building openings like windows, doors or garages to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

Turn around, don't drown! Do not walk, swim or drive through floodwaters. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Do not drive during a hurricane. Wind gusts can overturn vehicles and roads and bridges could collapse.

Conserve mobile device batteries for emergency use.



FEMA
FEMA V-1006

Be Safe AFTER

Follow reentry guidance from local authorities and return home from an evacuation only when it is safe to do so.

Have a professional inspect your damaged property before attempting to clean up or repair any damage. Wear protective clothing and use caution during cleanup.

Stay away from floodwater. Floodwater can contain a variety of hazards, including sharp objects, downed power lines, sewage, bacteria, chemicals and wild or stray animals.

Save phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.

Document any property damage with photographs. Contact your insurance company to file an insurance claim. Register with FEMA for additional assistance.

You are the help until help arrives. Be careful when helping people who may be trapped or injured. Floodwaters may contain hazards and buildings may be unstable.

Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to [Ready.gov/hurricanes](https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes) and use FEMA's **Guide for Alerts and Warnings** to learn more about hurricane watches and warnings. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about how to prepare.

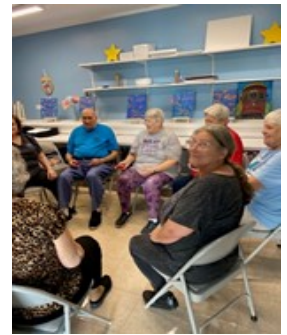
In the Spotlight

Bayou-River District Senior Games : Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, and Terrebonne Parish residents aged 50 to 90+ participated in district games throughout the month of April and in May. Games included: shuffleboard, charmin toss, beanbag toss, bowling, table tennis, basketball free-throw, corn hole, softball, football, discus, javelin, shot put, beanbag baseball, washer pitch, bait casting, balloon burst, and horseshoes. Medal winners are eligible to participate in the State Senior Olympics in Pineville, LA later in the year.



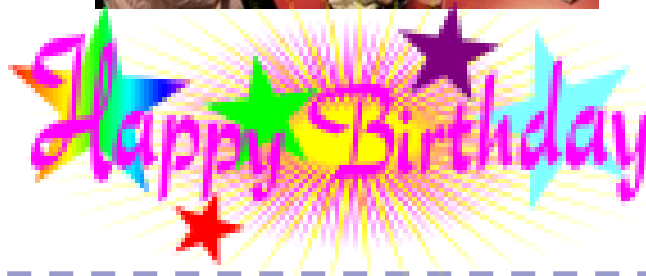


Terrebonne Council on Aging: The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Neal Ransonet Senior Center was held on April 2, 2024.



Clients Enjoying Music Therapy!

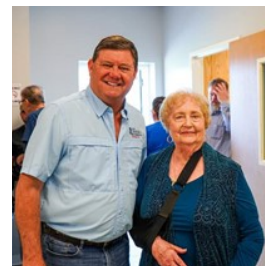
Franklin Council on Aging: Would like to wish Mr. Bobby Emfinger and Mr. Bob Walters a very happy birthday! Mr. Emfiner is pictured below on the left and Mr. Walter is pictured on the right. The picture in the middle is a birthday group that meets at Johnny's Pizza to celebrate client birthdays.



Jefferson Davis Council on Aging: Hosted its annual crawfish boil in honor of Older Americans Month. The celebration was held on Friday, May 10, at the Lake Arthur Community Center. District Attorney Lauren Heinen sponsored the event this year. Representative Troy Romero came with 4 raffle gift cards! The Lake Arthur Mayor, Lake Arthur Police Department, Lake Arthur Fire Department, as well as the Lake Arthur High Student Council came out to give them a hand with serving and clean up!



Jeff Davis Council on Aging
 Is hosting a Crawfish Boil in honor of
 "Older Americans Month"
 Sponsored by DA Lauren Heinen
 Friday, May 10th
 at the Lake Arthur Community Center
 Starting at 8am fill room
 No crawfish will be served after 11:30am
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED
 THIS EVENT IS ONLY FOR THE SENIOR
 CITIZENS OF JEFF DAVIS PARISH
 AGE 60 AND OVER
 FOR MORE INFO: Call the JDCOA 337-824-5584



Ascension Council on Aging: Has had several fun events happening. They hosted a Senior Prom event in March and they celebrated Mother's Day with a tea party. For Older Americans Month they celebrated with a game day. They also play seated volleyball monthly, this is a very popular activity!



Senior Prom!



Mother's Day Tea Party!



Older Americans Month Game Day!

Seated Volleyball!



Sabine Council on Aging: This year for Older Americans Month, all sites came together for a Senior Prom! It was a great time, good food, fun, and fellowship!



Happy birthday to Ms. Charlcie King!



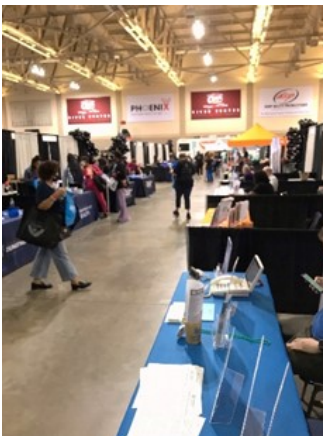
Sabine Council on Aging clients enjoyed a trip to the Oakland Plantation located in Bermuda, La.



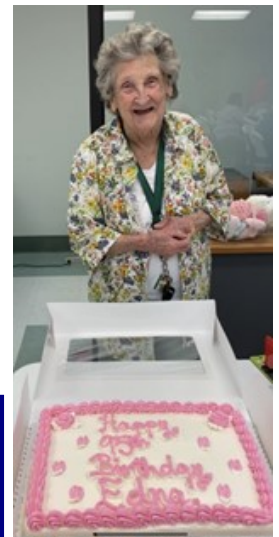
Sabine Council on Aging staff and Board members participating in the Special Olympics!



East Baton Rouge Council on Aging: Senior Skip Day was held on April 17th at the Raising Cane's River Center. This was an amazing event with delicious food, live music, prizes, health expo and so much more!



Caldwell Council on Aging: Celebrated Older Americans Month on May 23, 2024 with a delicious catfish lunch from Southern Comfort Catering and awesome music provided by Paul Boudini.



Happy birthday to Ms. Edna Festervand!
She celebrated her 95th birthday on April 3, 2024.

The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging

The next scheduled quarterly LEBA meeting will be held on

September 17, 2024 @ 1:00PM

The Board members are listed below:

Johnny Berthelot

Huey Beverly

Terry Courville

Leslie Keen—Chairwoman

Ann Keene

Worlita Jackson



Willie Lewis

Donald Mallet

Heather Prejean

Charles “Buddy” Pugh

Ricco Thomas

Blanche Wilks

WELCOME

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

Erin Murphy ~ Accounting & Finance Auditor

Melisa Walls ~ Elderly Protective Services

Steve Kabel ~ Attorney

James Carter ~ Program Monitor Quality Control

Leona Harris ~ Elderly Protective Services

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