



# Elder News

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)

Fall 2025

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## From the Director's Chair...

October is recognized as Financial Exploitation Awareness Month. Many of us have been aware of cases of exploitation of our senior residents, and it can come from anywhere; from family members, caregivers, or telephone calls or internet interactions from halfway around the world.



We at GOEA are committed to help educate everyone about this serious and growing problem. If you would like a member of Elderly Protective Services to speak at one of your functions, please reach out to us.

If you would like more detailed information about financial abuse and fraud, and how to prevent it, please go to the U.S. Department of Justice's Financial Exploitation page here:

<https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/financial-exploitation>

UTHealth of Houston has compiled this helpful checklist of signs that someone may be in danger of exploitation:

<https://tinyurl.com/ExploitationSigns>

Working together, we can help prevent the mistreatment of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Thank you for everything you do to assist and protect Louisiana's senior population every day!

Sincerely,

Amanda Smith, Executive Director

## In the Spotlight

**Franklin Council on Aging:** Congratulations to Mrs. Marilyn Comeaux, she has retired after 27 years of working at the Franklin Parish Council on Aging.



# Congratulations

**Terrebonne Council on Aging:** Celebrating a Legacy!  
Ms. Mildred Naquin was honored with an Appreciation Award for over 45 years of dedicated service to TCOA. The award was proudly presented by Board Member Janice McBride and Executive Director Jane Walker.



Meet the Champions! Top medal winners of the 2025 Bayou-River District Senior Games!

TCOA's 4th of July Celebration drew over 250 guests for a day filled with music, delicious food, and spirited BINGO fun!



Honoring our heroes! A proud moment from TCOA's 4th of July Celebration as we salute our amazing Veterans — thank you for your service!



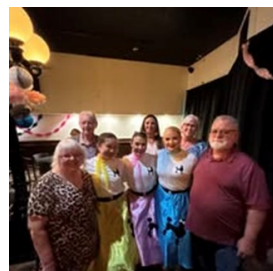
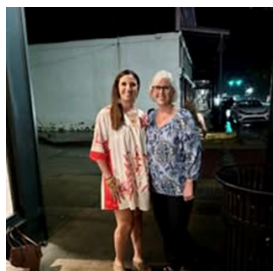
**Sabine Council on Aging:** Had their Annual Farmer's Market trip. The First stop was Ed Lester's, the next was Anderson's Farm, and then Mim's. They ended the trip with a picnic.



Happy 99<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Mr. I. D. Bostian!



Clients and staff enjoyed an evening at the NSU Dinner Theater  
entitled Dinner and A Doo Wop!



Our newest edition at the Legacy building, is the bus barn which houses 12 vans  
and has a detached storage building with an employee restroom!





**Union Council on Aging:** Participated in Senior Fun Day on August 21, 2025, seniors played bean bag baseball. Approximately 75 participants, comprising 8 teams from 4 parishes, joined including Union Council on Aging, Morehouse Council on Aging, Caldwell Council on Aging, and Madison Council on Aging. Sterlington Sports Complex in Sterlington Louisiana graciously hosted, allowing seniors to play under their batting cage facility. Sno cones were provided by Kilpatrick Funeral Homes. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we are hoping to begin playing Senior Games in the Spring as the Northeast District. We had several sponsors including Sterlington Sports Complex, Kilpatrick Funeral Homes, Tyler Holloway, and Freedom Behavioral Monroe.





**Caldwell Council on Aging:** Ms. Betty Robinson received a Community Achievement Award, presented by the Town of Columbia Mayor, Hannah Springer.



Participants received a visit from Rudy the Rodeo Clown!



Congratulations to our two Domino Tournament winners, Ms. Lou Rushing and Mr. Richard Morehead!



Senior Fun Day at Sterlington Sports Complex – Bean Bag Baseball!



**SUMMER FUN DAY!**





## Jefferson Davis Council on Aging: Held a scam prevention class with their District Attorney, the flyer and pictures from the event are below.

### SENIOR SCAM SHIELD: PROTECTING OUR ELDERS

Presenter: District Attorney  
Lauren Heinen

Scammers frequently target the elderly with phone calls, emails, and deceptive schemes. Teaching seniors to recognize red flags, avoid sharing personal information, and report suspicious activity is key to keeping them safe.

\* Door prizes will be given out

Wednesday  
August 20, 2025

Time  
9:30AM

210 S State Street  
Jennings, LA



Jefferson Davis Council on Aging made the front page news twice!

### FEELIN' THE BURN



The Jeff Davis Parish Council on Aging had a full house recently, as parish residents enjoyed exercise, spending time together and working on their overall wellbeing in the health and fitness center.

Kay Prudhomme (left) and Helen Vital of Lacassine get moving with a bike workout while socializing with others in the Health and Fitness center at JDP Council on Aging.



Fitness-minded residents get moving together while following along to an exercise video during an early morning workout at the JDP Health and Fitness center.

Daily News photos by Darcy Knight

### BINGO



Alice Drake of Jennings waits for the next number to be called during a social game of bingo at the JDP Council on Aging.

Ladies enjoy conversation and a few games of early-morning bingo at the Jeff Davis Council on Aging.

Erma Anderson of Jennings places brightly colored chips on her bingo card.

Daily News photos by Darcy Knight



Pat Trahan of Jennings prepares her bingo card for the next game during a lively morning at the JDP Council on Aging.



**Cameron Council on Aging:** Congratulations on receiving a \$10,000 Semptra Infrastructure Community Grant!



**West Baton Rouge Council on Aging:** Participants attended “Senior Round Up”, in celebration of National Senior Citizens Day! This event was hosted by the city.





**Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs:** The Senior Community Service Employment quarterly meeting was held on August 5, 2025 at Goodwood library.



Our Deputy Assistant Secretary, Angela Calhoun and our Home and Community-Based Program Manager, Lakeisha Robertson, attended the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging's Boots on the Ground Event! The pictures below are from the event!



**Rapides Senior Citizens Center:** Congratulations to Ms. Juanita Vanderhoeven, Executive Director of Rapides Senior Citizens Center. She is retiring after 43 years of service. Thank you for your service and commitment to Louisiana's senior population!

## **The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging**

The next scheduled quarterly LEBA meeting will be held on

**Wednesday, October 15, 2025 @ 11:00AM**

The Board members are listed below:

**Leslie Keen—Chairwoman**

**Huey Beverly**

**Ann Keene**

**Willie Lewis**

**Donald Mallet**



**Heather Prejean**

**Charles “Buddy” Pugh**

**Rene Thibodeaux**

**Ricco Thomas**

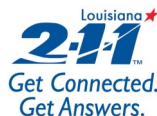
**Blanche Wilks**

## **Don't Let Your Guard Down**

Louisiana is most at risk for hurricanes during the months of August, September, and October but, storms can take place any time during the Atlantic Hurricane season. We urge you to remain weather aware and be prepared. You can download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness

Guide and find other information at:

<https://getagameplan.org>





## Milestone Achievement

GOEA would like to formally recognize current employees that have 5 or more years of service. Thank you for your substantial contributions and unwavering commitment to our Agency and to Louisiana's senior population!

Queenanne Davis ~ 20 years

Rosa Walton ~ 15 years

Tomiki Lewis ~ 15 years

Nikki Randolph ~ 10 years

Lakiesha Robertson ~ 10 years

Annette Dunbar ~ 10 years

Amanda Smith ~ 5 years

Robin Carruth ~ 5 years

Courtney Hamilton ~ 5 years

Timothy Boyd ~ 5 years

Alison Dempster ~ 5 years

Cheri Crain ~ 5 years



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

Quinatora Jones ~ Elderly Protective Services

Lariah Nelson ~ Elderly Protective Services

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