



# Elder News

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)

Spring 2025

Volume 25 - Issue 1

## From the Director's Chair...

GOEA is proceeding with this year's budget before the Louisiana Legislature. So far the process has gone very smoothly. As always, we appreciate all of the support we get from our aging network, as well as from our state senators and representatives.



Work is being finalized on changes in our Policies & Procedures to comply with the new provisions of the Older Americans Act. GOEA staff will present more details at our 2025 Subgrantee Conference. We gathered many ideas from the 2023 training about what is most important to the field and hope that the conference is well-received by all!

The Spring 2025 LACOADA Conference will be held again at the downtown Baton Rouge Hilton on April 21-24th. Senior Day at the Capitol will be on April 22nd, and the Legislative Breakfast will be April 24th at the Hilton. This is always a fun experience, I hope to see many of you.

Older Americans Month is coming up in May. This year's theme, as set by the Administration for Community Living, is "Flip the Script on Aging." ACL encourages individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and dispel misconceptions.

More information can be found on the ACL website: <https://acl.gov/oam/2025/oam-get-involved>

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spotlight on the Aging Network	2-10
Hurricane Preparedness	11
The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging & Welcome New Staff	12

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



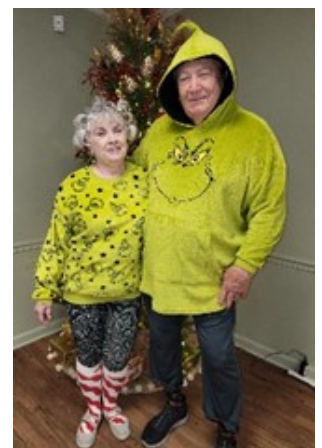
**OLDER  
AMERICANS  
MONTH**



**FLIP THE SCRIPT ON AGING: MAY 2025**

# In the Spotlight

**Ascension Council on Aging:** Happy 89th birthday to Ms. Gwendolyn “MeMe” Turner! She is pictured below wearing the white cowboy outfit with fringe. December included lots of fun activities at the council. Events included; a western themed party with hobby horse racing, pajama day, cookie decorating and Christmas was celebrated with a party and shirt contest.



**Capital Area Agency on Aging:** We are thrilled to announce that our office is relocating to a new space to better serve our clients, partners, and team members. We can't wait to welcome you to our new office, where we will continue to innovate, collaborate, and grow together!



**WE'RE MOVING!**

**CAAA**  
CAPITAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING  
We Know...  
Aging Matters  
1-800-833-9883  
WWW.CAPITALAAA.ORG

**APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**2025**

**2051 SILVERSIDE DR, SUITE 208**  
**BATON ROUGE, LA 70808**

**Bossier Council on Aging:** We are celebrating 50yrs of serving Bossier parish on June 16th. We will have a ribbon cutting with the Chamber of Commerce, car show of cars from 1975 & the 50's, open house at our Bearkat site 706 Bearkat Dr, Bossier City, 7111.

**Caldwell Council on Aging:** Pictured below is Valentine King and Queen, Robert Shearer and Edna Festervand and Mardi Gras King and Queen, William and Louise Rushing!



**Livingston Council on Aging:** We had two of our participants who met at our Denham Springs location get married at the center on February 12th. The lovely couple is picture below with another one of our seniors who officiated the wedding! We celebrated Valentine's Day with a night dance on February 12th and we had a couple get in engaged on January 2nd!

Married at the Council!



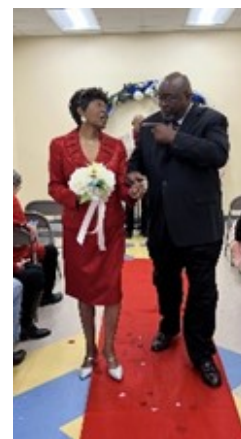
Engaged at the Council!



Valentine's Night Dance!



**Franklin Council on Aging:** Mock Wedding at the council! One of our clients is a little bit of a prankster, so the clients decided that it was time to put one over on her by staging a fake wedding to one of her antagonists. She is Ms. Steve Johnson and he is Mr. Dan Hollis.



**Franklin Council on Aging's King and Queen of Valentine's Day Celebration!**



**Lafourche Council on Aging:** Held a Ground Breaking Ceremony on November 25, 2024 for the new Lafourche Council on Aging Office.



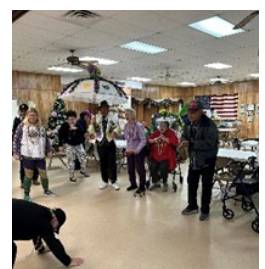
Pictured below are our clients with birthdays we celebrated in February and pictures from our Mardi Gras celebration!

Happy Birthday to our clients at Raceland Senior Center!

Raceland Senior Center Mardi Gras Ball King and Queen!




Selucrey Sophistocats Bring Mardi Gras to Raceland Senior Center!



**Jefferson Davis Council on Aging:** Held a senior scam prevention class in coordination with the District Attorney, Lauren Heinen. They also celebrated Mardi Gras with a big party! The flyers from the events are pictured below along with some photos from the Mardi Gras celebration!

**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.

**Monday**  
March 27, 2025

**Time**  
9:30AM

**210 S State Street**  
Jennings, LA



**CREW DE WISE  
ANNUAL  
Mardi Gras**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST**  
LACASSINE COMMUNITY CENTER

DOORS OPEN AT 7AM  
SERVING BEGINS AT 10:30AM

COME DRESSED IN YOUR  
BEST MARDI GRAS COSTUMES  
COSTUME CONTEST JUDGING AT 10AM

**JAMBALAYA**  
SPONSORED BY:  
Representative  
Troy Romero

**MUSIC BY:**  
THE BACKDOOR BAND

OPEN TO JEFF DAVIS PARISH  
SENIOR CITIZENS AGED 60+  
NO CHILDREN ALLOWED

FOR DETAILS CALL  
JDCOA AT  
337-824-5504



**Terrebonne Council on Aging:** Is excited to announce their newest Senior Center location, Eastside Senior Center, is scheduled to be completed in July 2025. The building is currently being repaired and remodeled but the Grand Opening is coming soon!



Board Members joined our Schriever Senior Center Clients for lunch during Board Member Orientation!



Krewe of Ageless  
Dreams Mardi Gras  
King and Queen Mr.  
Michael Pitre and  
Mrs. Joanela Pitre !





**Sabine Council on Aging:** Held a surprise party for Ms. Evelyn Bush, to celebrate her 100th birthday on January 18th!



Many and Converse crew on an outing to the Sabine Theater!



Many crew enjoying a traditional Sunday dinner in honor of Black History Month!



Mardi Gras celebration at the Toledo site!



Florien hosted Many and Converse clients on Mardi Gras for A Taste of Louisiana!



Florien took a step back in time on Retro Day!



**Lafayette Council on Aging:** In December 2024, the Scott Senior Center and AHA hosted their 1st Evening Winter Wonderland Christmas Ball. The room was beautifully decorated with a Winter Wonderland theme. The seniors arrived in their best holiday attire. All seniors attending enjoyed an evening of music, dancing, laughter, good food, gifts, and games. It was an evening to remember!



On February 14th, 2025, the 1st Annual “Valentine Sweetheart’s Morning Delight Breakfast” for the seniors was held at the Scott Senior Center and hosted by Acadian Heritage Management team. Jasper and Mary Rizzo were honored as the 2025 Sweethearts of AHA. The seniors started the morning with a hearty breakfast, treats and gifts and ended the morning by participating in a Heart Health Bingo hosted by Linda Peters, Community Health Outreach Coordinator of OLOL Health. Executive Director, LaKisha Varner assist Mrs. Mary Rizzo with her corsage while Lafayette Council on Aging Executive Board of Directors President, Emilie Duhon assist Mr. Jasper Rizzo with his. A heartwarming scene of Senior Center participants gathered around tables, enjoying a special Valentine’s Day breakfast. The tables were decorated with festive decor, small heart-shaped centerpieces, and delicate floral arrangements. Seniors smiled, laughed, and engaged in warm conversation while savoring plates of biscuits, eggs, bacon, grits, fruit, and coffee. The room was filled with a cozy and welcoming atmosphere, with soft natural lighting and gentle background music adding to the festive yet relaxed mood.



# Prepare Before Hurricane Season Starts

Hurricane season runs from June 1st to November 30th, however, these storms can develop before or after the season. Hurricanes are dangerous and can cause major damage from storm surge, wind damage, rip currents and flooding. They can happen along any U.S. coast or in any territory in the Atlantic or Pacific oceans. Louisiana is particularly vulnerable. Storm surge historically is the leading cause of hurricane-related deaths in the United States. Make preparations and stay informed. For tips on getting prepared you can visit:


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

Hurricane Preparedness weather.gov/hurricane 





## Prepare Before Hurricane Season


-  Develop an evacuation plan
-  Assemble disaster supplies: food, water, batteries, charger, radio, cash
-  Get an insurance checkup and document your possessions
-  Create a communication plan with a hand-written list of contacts
-  Strengthen your home



Hurricane Preparedness weather.gov/hurricane 

## Take Action Today

-  Determine your risk from water & wind
-  Begin preparing now, before a storm
-  Learn how to understand hurricane forecasts and alerts
-  Learn what to do before, during, and after a storm



# The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging

The next scheduled quarterly LEBA meeting will be held on

**June 24, 2025 @ 11:00AM**

The Board members are listed below:

**Huey Beverly**

**Terry Courville**

**Leslie Keen—Chairwoman**

**Ann Keene**

**Willie Lewis**



**Donald Mallet**

**Heather Prejean**

**Charles “Buddy” Pugh**

**Ricco Thomas**

**Blanche Wilks**

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

Shunessia Dunn ~ Elderly Protective Services

Charisse Spland ~ HCBS Program Monitor

Porshea McMillan ~ Elderly Protective Services

Bridget Davis ~ Elderly Protective Services

## **Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs**

602 North 5th Street Suite 435

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Phone: (225) 342-7100

Fax: (225) 342-7133

Website: [www.goea.louisiana.gov](http://www.goea.louisiana.gov)

