

News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

East Baton Rouge Council on Aging
5790 Florida Blvd.
Baton Rouge, La 70806
www.ebrcoa.org



Contact: Angell Jackson
Phone: 225.287.9163
Email: ajackson@ebrcoa.org

Free Drive-Thru Food Pantry Open to All Local Seniors

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (05/09/2020) – The East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCOA) is elated to announce that their Drive-Thru Lotus Food Pantry will open Wednesday, May 13th from 11am to 2pm at their Antioch Senior Center located at 7140 Suite E Antioch Road. The drive thru food pantry is open to all senior residents in East Baton Rouge Parish. Usually, the Lotus Food Pantry only services EBRCOA senior clients who are food pantry recipients; however, on Wednesday any resident 60 years or older can take advantage of this service while supplies last.

Seniors should drive up to the Antioch Senior Center, pop their trunk and an EBRCOA staff member will place their groceries, lunch and supplies into their vehicle. The EBRCOA will distribute bags of groceries. In addition fresh fruit and vegetables are being provided through a donation from Merchants Foods Service and State Representative C. Denise Marcelle. Each senior will receive fresh bread donated by First Financial, Dr. James Gilmore, Bell's Janitorial Service and Baton Rouge Sigma Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. Seniors will also be supplied with household items and toiletries donated by 100 Black Women BR and Change. A hot lunch will be provided that has been organized by Chef Celeste from a group of local restaurants and caterers such as Mestizo, Indulgence, DC Eats, Chef DJ, Chef Jean Pierre, Chef Jim Urdiales and Chef Michelle.

The EBRCOA Lotus Food Pantry is a senior-focused free food pantry designed to combat senior hunger in East Baton Rouge Parish. The pantry service is made possible through a partnership with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, the USDA and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture.

“During this pandemic, our senior community has an ongoing need for fresh food and supplies. It is our goal to not only meet this need, but to provide a surplus so that all seniors can be serviced. We are committed to continue living our mission to serve the seniors of Baton Rouge, while also following safe guards and minimizing the transmission of COVID-19,” said Tasha Clark-Amar, Chief Executive Officer of EBRCOA.

The East Baton Rouge Council on Aging is dedicated to ensuring the safety of all seniors across the parish during this pandemic. We strongly advise everyone to continue to pay close attention to the advisories and warnings being given by national and local governmental officials. Additionally, continue to follow the proper procedures of masking up, sanitize and disinfect shared surfaces, social distance as well as to continue wash your hands frequently.

For more information, call the Council on Aging at (225) 923-8000.

The East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCOA) is a non-profit organization serving the senior population of East Baton Rouge Parish. Annually, our agency delivers 1,105,820 meals through our

"Meals on Wheels" Program and our senior centers and meal sites.

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East Baton Rouge Council On Aging: Supporting Independence ~ Serving Seniors

Since 1973, the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCOA), a 501c3 nonprofit supported by philanthropic donations and public funds (federal, state, and local), has served the seniors of East Baton Rouge Parish through a spectrum of nutritional and social services such as the nationally recognized Meals on Wheels program and over a dozen community senior centers throughout the Parish. EBRCOA is charged with discovering and meeting the growing needs of this ever-increasing population. Central to EBRCOA's mission – Supporting Independence and Serving Seniors – is proving high-quality services to seniors, the maintenance of their personal independence, and the enhancement of their storied lives while being good fiduciary stewards of public funds and trust.

More information about EBRCOA and its services can be found online at www.ebrcoa.org.