

# News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

East Baton Rouge Council on Aging  
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## EBRCOA Ribbon Cutting and Block Party Event

**BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (2/10/2023)** – The East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCOA) is thrilled to announce their Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony for The Lotus Village Community which is comprised of The Lotus Village Senior Living Complex (in partnership with Gulf Coast Housing Partnership), The Lotus Headquarters (and commercial kitchen) and The Lotus Senior Activity Center (and food pantry) on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 965 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. The dedication ceremony will begin at 9:30 am and the ribbon cuttings will immediately follow a brief program.

The event will celebrate the official opening of The Lotus Village Community while highlighting both The Lotus Village Residential Complex and The Lotus Headquarters, which are two key anchors of the new Lotus Village Community. The Lotus Village Community is one of 400 dedicated and recognized senior villages in the world and the very first senior village in Louisiana as designated by the Village to Village Network (VTVN). Through this designation, EBRCOA will change the paradigm of aging by providing a wide array of supportive services and resources to assist village seniors in maintaining their independence as long as possible in their homes and community. Furthermore, with this VTVN designation, EBRCOA has access to a pool of resources to help the community thrive and grow into the future.

The Lotus Village Senior Residential Complex is a 25 million dollar community comprised of 116 low to moderate income residential rental homes dedicated to the needs of seniors, most importantly the need for decent affordable housing. Units within the village will allow senior residents to age in place with the convenience of all their needs readily accessible to them.

The Lotus Headquarters is a new 25,000-square-foot administrative building fully equipped with a 10,000 sq. ft state-of-the-art commercial kitchen. The commercial kitchen will empower the agency to meet the growing demand for programs such as Meal on Wheels and Daily Congregate (Hot) Meals served at its 21 senior centers and nutritional sites as well as provide assistance during times of disaster for this community and parish.

The Lotus Senior Center is a state-of-the-art adult activity center designed with cognitive and physical enhancement activities. The facility is equipped with features such as the Lotus Food Pantry, The Lotus Computer Lab, a fully-equipped geriatric cardio room, and a multi-purpose space. All three facilities a compilation of nearly 36

million dollars of mixed investments (grants, federal & state funds, tax & bond funds, etc.) are located in Baton Rouge's historical Suburb Gracie neighborhood and will transform a disinvested neighborhood and area into a mixed-use community that is sure to attract seniors and new commerce.

"I am honored as CEO to have worked closely with community leaders, partners, and seniors to advocate, strategically plan and build a vision for a network of successful programs and activities in a newly developed senior community like Lotus Village that will lead to a greater quality of life, personal satisfaction and higher levels of independence for our seniors," stated Tasha Clark-Amar, CEO of EBRCOA.

The Ribbon Cutting and Block Party are open to the public. For more information and to RSVP, please call (225) 923-8000.

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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 providing high-quality services to seniors, maintenance of their personal independence, and 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](http://www.ebrcoa.org).

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 1,769,618 meals through our "Meals on Wheels" Program and our senior centers and meal sites.