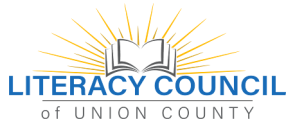




202 North Washington
El Dorado, Arkansas 71730
870-864-7080



RSVP



January– March 2026

www.eldoradoconnections.com

Volume 35 No. 1



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 19, 2026

Each year, on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is observed as a **"day on, not a day off."** Our MLK Day service project this year will be to collect nonperishable food items for the Wildcat Food Pantry. This pantry provides struggling families within the school district with food when needed and also provides the weekend backpack food for middle school and junior high students. Items needed:

Breakfast cereal boxes (big or small)	Canned Fruit	Soup	White Dried Rice
Oatmeal Packets	Pudding Cups	Canned vegetables	Tortillas
Granola Bars	Cheese Crackers	Rice	Beans
Poptarts	Peanut Butter Crackers	Fruit Cups	Fideos (dried pasta)
Shelf-Stable Milk	Small Juice Bottle	Chips (small bags)	Dried beans
	Ramen Noodles	Masa Flour	Cooking Oil

If you would like to donate any of the above items, please bring them to our office at 202 North Washington by Wednesday, January 28. We will schedule a time with the Wildcat Food Pantry to deliver the food items that week. Thank you in advance for participating.

There's no better way to start off the new year than helping others.



The fall Medicare Open Enrollment is over for another year. We want to thank all of our volunteers who helped:

Larry Cave, Jane Doyle, Laura Doyle, Ladonna Hodge, Linda Kalcich, Bonnie Miears, Lynn Muckelrath, Shirley Randle, Fayrene Rash, Cheryl Splawn, and Gretchen West.

We counseled and assisted **390** beneficiaries.

We sincerely appreciate your help during Medicare Open Enrollment! You made the Impossible possible.

Thank you!

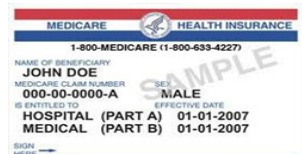
In a Medicare Advantage Plan? You can still make a change!

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period

From January 1-March 31 each year, if you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you can switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan or switch back to Original Medicare (and join a separate Medicare drug plan) once during this period.

If you go back to Original Medicare now, you **may not** be able to buy a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap or Secondary) policy.

If you want to inquire about changing your Medicare Advantage Plan, call 870-864-7080.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY RSVP Volunteers!!!



1-Joe Woods
2-Spencer Purinton
5-Charlotte Denton
Lou Ingram
LaQuita Rainey
6- Betty Shutes-
Christopher
7-Jeanette Simmons
8-Joseph Hershberger
10-Joan Hershberger
Julia Ober
11-Betty Finks
14-Julia Couch
Sharon Thompson
15-Nita McDonald
Terry Reynolds
16-Pat Peel
19-Connie Short
26-David Murphy
27-Edna McCullars



3-Steve Splawn
7-Pauline Easter
9-Betty Chatham
10-Betty Dowty
13-Dorothy Kidd
17-Virginia Mulligan
Mary Post
Syletta Snowden
20-Gloria Brantley
Robin Fox
26-Maureen DeBruin
28-Katie Butler



1-Laura Doyle
Carolyn Hasling
2-Mary Alexis
4-Teresa Collings
5-Dixie Harrison
Melinda Sivils
8-Mary Talley
10-Scott Enzor
Carolyn Wilson
15-Kay Wilson
17-Pat Crumpler
18-Tracy Lewis
19-Vicki de Yampert
20-Willie Williams
26-Maria Morin
27-Charles Shutes
28-Janet Finch



JUST HANG UP!

It might be tempting to talk to a scammer or to ask politely "please stop calling me!"

However, answering the phone and responding to scammers can actually place you on call logs and target databases that will make you vulnerable to further attacks.



New Medicare Card??



If you haven't ordered one, you are NOT getting a new Medicare card!

Have you gotten a call asking you to confirm your Medicare number or asking if you got a new Medicare card that's:

- ☐ plastic,
- ☐ microchipped,
- ☐ or for any other reason?

If so, it's a scammer trying to get your actual Medicare number to scam Medicare and steal your medical identity.

If you have received any of these calls or have given out your Medicare number, please contact your local Arkansas Senior Medicare Patrol at 866-726-2916.



Tax time is here! We need your help!

- Volunteer as a Preparer
- Volunteer as a Greeter
- Training is available

Call Dara 870.864.7080 to get started.



"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart."

– Elizabeth Andrew



Volunteers:

Please turn in your volunteer hours monthly. Your **time is important and valuable** to us. A timesheet is enclosed with this newsletter. At the end of **January**, please record your volunteer hours and return the timesheet to our office. You might like to turn your hours in online at **www.eldoradoconnections.com**.

If you have a change of address, please let us know also. Thank you for being a part of the RSVP Program.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

SAVE THE DATE: The final opportunity to attend Volunteer Training for the 2025-26 school year is Friday, January 16th, at 1 pm at College Avenue Church of Christ!



Happy New Year! Say goodbye to 2025, a year of accomplishments and lots of memories. Say hello to 2026, a clean slate and a year of new opportunities. New Year's resolutions are made and broken each year, and according to the University of Scranton Journal of Clinical Psychology, here are the top ten:

1. Lose weight
2. Get organized
3. Spend less, save more
4. Enjoy life to the fullest
5. Stay fit and healthy
6. Learn something exciting
7. Quit smoking
8. Help others in their dreams
9. Fall in love
10. Spend more time with family



"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

- C.S. Lewis

Cheeseburger Soup

1 cup chopped onion

1 lb. ground beef

4 cups chicken broth

1 tsp. dried parsley

1/4 cup all purpose flour

2 cups cheddar cheese (or Mexican or plain Velveeta)



1 cup chopped carrots

4 cups cubed potatoes

1 tsp. basil

4 TB butter

2 cups milk (2% fine)

1/3 cup sour cream


Saute beef, carrots, and onion until beef is cooked. Drain off excess liquid. Stir in the basil, parsley, chicken broth and potatoes. Bring to a boil and simmer until potatoes are cooked (around 15-20 minutes). In a separate pan, melt the butter, stir in the flour until combined. Add the milk slowly and cook until smooth. Add the milk mixture to the soup. Bring to a boil and simmer gently or turn heat off. Add the cheese and let it melt in. Add the sour cream. Warm soup, but do not boil. Serve hot.



202 North Washington, Suite 107
El Dorado, Arkansas 71730

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Lead With Experience

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Dara Stanfill, Assistant Director

Literacy Council Staff

Linda Rathbun, Director
Carolyn Wilson, Literacy Facilitator

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Annette Pate-Chair
Bonnie Miers-Vice Chair
Larry Cave
Bill Odom
Shirley Randle
Connie Short
Joan Tribble
Barbara Warrick

***EL DORADO
EXPRESS***

Transportation for Senior Adults
60 years of age and older

870-864-7082

Do you need a ride to the doctor? To the grocery store? Or to pay some bills? Give us a call we can make it happen.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a variety of opportunities for citizens to participate more fully in the life of their community through significant volunteer service and to advocate for the aging population in South Arkansas.