

## Two celebrations planned for senior citizens

Written by From Staff Reports  
Tuesday, 11 March 2014 10:12

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Two events are planned next month for senior citizens, one is a fun night for anyone age 55 or older and another is a banquet honoring Hopkins County individuals who are 90 and older.

An Afternoon at the Casino will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 5, inside VF Mall on Bill Bradford Road. The event, sponsored by Hopkins County Marketers Association, is open to anyone age 55 or older who is interested in an afternoon of gaming fun. Admission to the event is free, and includes light snacks.

The 9th Annual Clara Bridges 90+ Banquet is held each year to celebrate all Hopkins County residents who have reached the 90- year milestone or older. The celebration was started by East Caney Missionary Baptist Church and named after Clara Bridges, who was a long-time resident of the area until moving to Dallas with her son the last few years of her life. This year's event will be held in memory of Bridges, who passed away Dec. 23, 2013.

As the list of local residents being honored grew each year, so did the need for a bigger, more centrally located venue. Senior Citizens Center Director Karon Weatherman in 2010 expressed an interest in helping with the event. Weatherman initially offered use of the Senior Citizens Center.

To be sure there was plenty of room, Weatherman asked her church family if the annual banquet could be held at their building. The annual Clara Bridges 90+ Banquet has been held at Sulphur Springs Church of the Nazarene, 1300 South League St., every year since.

In 2012, more than 170 Hopkins County residents were honored at the annual banquet for reaching the 90-plus milestone.

This year's event, sponsored by 1st Choice Home Health, will be hosted from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Church of the Nazarene.

To register a Hopkins County resident age 90 or older for recognition at the banquet, contact Weatherman at 903-885-1661.