

Non-Profit News

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Recent Weather Highlights Need for Volunteers

This week parts of the southeast were devastated by severe weather and tornadoes. Locally, we were spared major damage but many of our neighbors were not so lucky. The American Red Cross was on the scene immediately following the storms and as I write this our local chapter is deploying people and other resources to aid in the recovery effort.

Wednesday morning after the storms hit I was in a meeting when one of our special event volunteers said she needed to get trained to go out after national disasters. She told me of her background and I was surprised to learn that she had traveled extensively, lived in jungles and participated in many humanitarian missions. Of course I was happy to learn she wanted to use her skills with the Red Cross! It occurred to me that there may be many more people in our community just like this woman, people with skills and a desire to help. People who may not think of the Red Cross until a big storm hits or who just don't know how to get "plugged in".

If you are reading this column and that sounds like you, consider this my personal invitation to get involved! You start by contacting us. We will have you fill out a volunteer application and complete a background check. Then we will determine what your skills and desires are and we will get you signed up for any training you may need. All of the training is provided free of charge. For disaster training, some of it can be completed online or through a self-study method.

The week of May 5 Southern Union Community College will be hosting a large disaster training institute for us. We will have many classes offered that week to train volunteers on such things as shelter operations, mass care, client services, public affairs, disaster fundraising, disaster damage assessment, logistics and more. It is a great time to get involved! If you are interested in being trained to help with local or national disaster response, please call your local Red Cross at 334-749-9981 or visit our website at www.leeredcross.org.

Just a few tickets remain for our Chocolate Tasting which will be held this Thursday at Eighth and Rail in downtown Opelika. It is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple. Tickets are available at Eighth and Rail, Flip Flop Foto, at the Red Cross office and on the Red Cross website. Get yours now if you haven't done it already. They will probably sell out before the event.

The 5th Annual Fly-In is Saturday March 8. Tickets are now available at these retail locations: Auburn-Opelika Airport; all Bancorp South locations; Flip Flop Foto; First National Bank of Lee County; Kroger of Tiger Town; The Lee County Red Cross office and website; The Opelika-Auburn News and The Village Mall. The advance ticket package is just \$5.00 and includes a commemorative pin that you wear to gain entry. Adults will pay \$8.00 at the gate and will not receive a pin. Kids 12 and under get in for \$2.

East Alabama Services for the Elderly is hosting its Leap for Joy dinner and dance on Friday, February 29 at the Marriott at Grand National. For tickets and more information, contact EASE at 334-826-5811.

The Auburn Kiwanis Club and Child Advocacy Center are teaming up to offer the Healthy Parenting Expo on Saturday, March 1. It is free to the public but you must pre-register. There will be helpful workshops; great food and fun give aways. Call 334-705-0770 to get signed up.

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