

## **Non-Profit News**

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By Jennifer D. Ryan

Executive Director

American Red Cross, Lee County Chapter

[jryan@leeredcross.org](mailto:jryan@leeredcross.org)

### **Farewell and Good Luck to EMA Director**

This week I had the sad duty of saying goodbye to someone who has become an involved volunteer and a great resource for the Red Cross. Faith Aguillard Roussell who has served as Director of our Lee County Emergency Management Agency for a little over a year is returning home to her native Louisiana. I had the pleasure of working with Faith in her previous job for a company called ERTS that helped facilitate emergency disaster drills. When Faith was selected to lead the EMA after former director Bill Meadows retired, all of us at Red Cross were thrilled to be able to work with Faith more closely.

In the last year Faith has worked tirelessly to build upon the wonderful EMA that Bill Meadows bequeathed to her, and to further train and empower our citizens, businesses, government agencies and non-profit and faith based groups to protect themselves and their livelihoods in the event of disaster. Faith and her team have done a wonderful job. I am happy that she will be able to be closer to family and continue her preparedness work through her new job with Homeland Security, but I hope she knows that she will be greatly missed.

Deedie Matthews has been selected to be the Interim Director for Lee County EMA. Deedie has worked with EMA for many years and I am confident she will do an excellent job. If you have been involved with emergencies in any way around here, you know Deedie! She is always positive and outgoing and very good at what she does. If you haven't had a chance to meet Deedie, stop by the EMA office on Avenue B in Opelika and do so.

October is National Fire Safety Month, so I urge you to use this time to develop and emergency and evacuation plan for your family. Speaking of preparedness, this is a reminder that the Lee County Red Cross will be starting disaster response training this week. Here is the course schedule:

Tuesday, October 2, Fulfilling Our Mission, 5-8 pm

Tuesday, October 9, Mass Care Overview, 5-8 pm

Tuesday, October 30, Shelter Operations, 5-8 pm

Tuesday, November 6, Disaster Assessment, 5-8 pm

All classes will be taught at the Red Cross office located at 206 26<sup>th</sup> St. in Opelika. The classes are free, but you must sign up in advance to reserve your seat as space is limited.

There are also web based courses covering Volunteer Orientation and Introduction to Disaster. You can complete these by logging on to [www.leeredcross.org](http://www.leeredcross.org) and clicking on our disaster page. If you would like to get involved, call the Red Cross at 334-749-9981 or visit our website at [www.leeredcross.org](http://www.leeredcross.org).

Remember, the Lee County Red Cross will celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 16 with an open house from 4-6 p.m. We will have cake and ice cream and a special gift for the first 90 people who come to the party. If you been a part of the Lee County Red Cross over the past 90 years please contact us to share Red Cross stories, memorabilia, photos or artifacts. Call us at 334-749-9981 if you have information to share or want to get involved. Until next time, stay safe and take care of each other.

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