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NEWSROOM

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MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

E-NEWSLETTER

EVENT CALENDAR

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Mock disaster exercise prepares volunteers for hurricane season

Volunteer Community Connections will conduct its annual mock Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) disaster exercise at Colonial Oaks Park, 5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd., Sarasota, from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 8. The purpose of the training exercise is to create a mock volunteer reception center and have participants walk through the steps of registering unaffiliated volunteers, including area residents and out-of-town people who are offering their help following a disaster.

"It's very important to have trained volunteers who can help operate a volunteer reception center in the event of a disaster," said Mindi Rohan, Executive Director of Volunteer Community Connections. "This exercise is largely intended to allow disaster volunteers the opportunity to practice the process."

The volunteer reception center would open at the direction of Sarasota County Emergency Operations Center officials after the "all clear" notice has been given. Unaffiliated volunteers would perform such duties as water and ice distribution, tree and limb removal, information hotline answering services, meal delivery and more.

Volunteer Community Connections' mission is to provide members of our community meaningful ways to connect to nonprofit, civic and service organizations.

"A volunteer registry is available that will allow you to identify your areas of interest before a disaster, and secure the needed training to be effective in your volunteer role," said Rohan.

For more information about disaster volunteer needs or to register for this exercise, call Volunteer Community Connections at 941-953-5965 or email info@vccflorida.org.

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