

FEMA: Week in Review



FEMA

Louisiana Recovery Office
New Orleans, LA

April 27, 2012

Announcements

Slidell Municipal Auditorium Rebuilt with FEMA Funding

The much anticipated opening of the new Slidell Municipal Auditorium was celebrated with a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 and its opening to the public on April 20, 2012. This accomplishment in itself is noteworthy, but on an even larger scale, it marks the full fruition of Slidell's post-Katrina recovery efforts. The auditorium is the final of all the city buildings destroyed by, and subsequently restored following Hurricane Katrina.

The new 22,166 square foot, two story facility replaces the original municipal auditorium, which was built in 1953 and demolished in 2010 after sustaining heavy damage during the hurricane.

The project was designed by Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects, and VCC LLC.

Though the footprint of the new facility remains the same, the seating capacity has increased due to a redesign of the floor plan. The new facility will accommodate a standing crowd of 1,716, fixed row seating of 840 and table seating of 450.

Total cost of the construction was \$8 million, with approximately \$7.1 million funded by FEMA and the balance paid for by the City of Slidell.



*Slidell Municipal Auditorium FEMA obligates \$7.1 million for the replacement of the facility.
Photo/FEMA Manuel Broussard*

The LRO Bids a Heartfelt Farewell to the Regional Administrator

The Louisiana Recovery Office hosted a farewell event for Region VI Administrator Tony Russell on April 26, 2012, in sincere appreciation of his profound impact on the state, the applicants, and the individuals working at the LRO.

Tony Russell was appointed Regional Administrator in December 2009 by President Obama and has been responsible for the oversight of all FEMA activities in the five state region since that time, including the continued recovery efforts at the LRO. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Russell served as Acting Director of the LRO, then known as the Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office.

Well known for his practical approach to issues, Mr. Russell leaves a legacy of creating collaborative partnerships to address challenges in a direct and mutually beneficial manner. Under his leadership, Louisiana realized significant progress in its recovery activities. Following his appointment to Region VI, Mr. Russell remained a strong advocate for recovery efforts in the state.

Mr. Russell announced on March 27 that he had accepted the position of Superintendent at the Emergency Management Institute. There, he will be responsible for overseeing training and education programs that support the Agency's mission of national preparedness.



*Region VI Administrator
Tony Russell*

Contacts

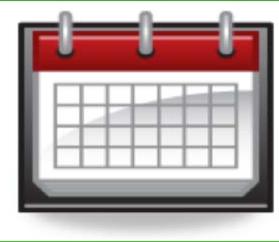
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Calendar



April 30: Kenner Green Lawn Recreational Facilities Ribbon Cutting Event, Kenner, La.

May 6-9: National Flood Insurance Program 2012 National Flood Conference, Austin, Texas

May 20-25: Association of State Floodplain Managers 2012 National Conference; San Antonio, Texas

May 28: National Memorial Day Observance

Updated Weather Events

FEMA posts a blog each week for an up-to-date look ahead to weather events. Please see:

["What We're Watching"](#)

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FEMA TEXT MESSAGES

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- ◇ For more information: text INFO to 43362.
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- ◇ FEMA will never charge you for text message alerts, but carrier message and data rates may apply.
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Housing Update

Gustav: 1 unit

