



Parish of Ascension

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

KENNY MATASSA
Parish President

2016 Ascension Hot Air Balloon Festival Cancelled For This Year

**Contact: Lester Kenyon (225) 450-1138; E-mail: lkenyon@apgov.us
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 26, 2016**

GONZALES – Due to the recent flood event and in anticipation of any further weather events, Ascension Parish President Kenny Matassa announced the Ascension Hot Air Balloon Festival is cancelled for this year.

“We are hurting, but on the mend, in Ascension Parish. Over 50% of our annual attendees at the Hot Air Balloon Festival are folks from the affected areas,” said Matassa. “I want them to know we are experiencing this trial together, and next year we will bring the Hot Air Balloon Festival back for everyone to enjoy.”

The Lamar-Dixon Expo Center remains fully operational for recovery activities, including volunteer sheltering, staging for debris, and hosting a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center.

Parish and state officials are also in discussions regarding the use of Lamar-Dixon for any weather events that may threaten south Louisiana through the remainder of the hurricane season.