



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

August 4, 2025.

Program

Lion Randy Kraft introduced our speaker for tonight, Mr. Tim Sartin, Cullman County EMA Director who hails from Hanceville; his wife is also a local citizen. He has served as EMA Director for the past 5 years and has a staff of 2 employees under him. One qualification that sets Tim apart as the EMA director is that he is also a paramedic. So, if he is first on the scene during an emergency that requires medical intervention, he would be able to start medical help before an ambulance arrives.



County EMA Director, Mr. Tim Sartin, flanked by Lion President Delane Ray and Lion Randy Kraft, received the Club's gift of appreciation for speaking to us.

Mr. Sartin began his talk by expressing thanks to our Club for its efforts in giving back to our community and that the general public may not be aware of just how pervasive our efforts have been. He said that he could talk all day about his job, but that it was something that he is paid to do, while our time and effort is all strictly voluntary. Cullman EMA's mission centers on reducing loss of life and property, protecting the environment, and coordinating with stakeholders for emergency preparedness, response,

recovery, and mitigation throughout Cullman County

As far as some specific EMA facts are concerned, Tim started by asking if we knew who James Spann was (long-time TV weatherman and meteorologist). He said Mr. Spann had started a State-wide weather Youtube channel that includes cameras set-up in various location in the State to capture broad views of weather in action – particularly dangerous weather. And that he had provided 2 of his cameras to Cullman County. One of these is at the top of the Sheriffs Department and the other is at Cherry Ridge. Tim said that he is hoping to set up two more such cameras. One will go on a radio antenna in Good Hope at a height of 300 feet; the other one has not yet been agreed upon, but in the park at Smith Lake is being considered.

Another thing on the front-burner right now is an upgrade to the County's hazard mitigation plan. One reason for this emphasis right now is that it must be completed in the coming months in order to receive Federal funding. The EMA Office is the process of outfitting an emergency-response trailer loaded and ready for any type emergence in the Smith Lake area, especially water-related activities such as boat collisions or searches for missing persons, believed in the lake. This trailer will have heating/air conditioning and an awning and can be used as an incident command center. His office is also presenting safety briefings at local schools.

Someone asked about the operation of warning sirens, saying that sometimes it seemed like they sound off & on, just randomly. Tim explained that the Nation Weather Service



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Cullman Lions Club

controls all such warning systems, and that they sound off automatically under its control. Someone else asked about overall command and control of operations during a real emergency. Mr. Sartin explained that was a very loaded question, but the politically correct answer is that there is a unified command with the fire chief, police chief, Sheriff, the County Commission, and the Mayor – all contributing to making the best decision possible for our citizens. But for a single situation Tim said he is the incident commander. He also said that frequently, EMA has drills on various situations and scenarios – many of them run by the Weather Service and involving surrounding county EMA offices. Another question from the audience dealt with getting emergency information out to the public during a widespread power failure. Tim said that can be difficult, but that social media is the fastest way right now to do that. EMA maintains active presence across social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) for timely updates.

Cullman EMA has played a pivotal role in past disasters—most notably during the catastrophic 2011 EF4 tornado of the Super Outbreak, which severely damaged EMA facilities and the courthouse in downtown Cullman. During a January 2025 winter storm, the EMA preemptively recommended a state of emergency and coordinated opening of warming shelters. All indications are that Tim and his small crew have great responsibility and are handling that in a first-rate manner. This was a very interesting and informative presentation.

Other Business

Lion James Howard had gall bladder surgery and is recovering at home. Lions Mike Ponder and Javon Daniel continue recovery at home from heart related issues; Lion Mike might be

hard to recognize – he has lost about 50 pounds and is feeling better. Lion President Delane Ray announced that he got a note from Lion Jim Greer's wife, Patty, who says that he is doing OK – just taking things one day at a time. Lion Delane also announced that the Club received a donation from Lion Mary Margret Spradlin in memory of Lion Gary Murphree.

Lion Ron Seybold began new cancer treatments will continue to need assistance for the next few weeks with daily transportation back & forth between his place in Decatur to near CRMC. Treatments are expected to conclude each day by 3:00 PM. His number is 256-531-6075. Give him a call if you can help.

One of our guests tonight was Ms. Brook Marks who is interested in possibly becoming a Lion and a member of our Club. She had visited with us once before when she assisted late Lion Gary Murphree in one of his final attendances at a Club meeting. She was also a former Leo.

Lion President Delane Ray announced that we had a thank-you note from the Good Samaritan Clinic for our donation. He also noted years-of-service anniversaries for the following Lions: Doug Doggett – 42 years; Charlie Childers – 34; Tim Scott – 27, Cleve Green – 25; and Dwayne Wilson – 22.

The next New Lions' Roundtable discussions will be on August 18. The subjects will be most interesting and will include Lion Projects such as the Cullman County Fair, Fish & Ham Dinner, and Mop & Broom sales.

Upcoming Programs and Events

August 11: . Speaker will be Mr. Jeff Clemmons, Chairman of the Cullman County Commission. Board of Directors meetings are



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

scheduled for both the Lions Club and the Fair board



Mr. Jeff Clemmons, Cullman County Commission Chairman.



August 18: New Lion Roundtable discussions on subject of Lion Projects.

August 25: Our speaker will be Mr. Mike Mullaney from Goat Island.

Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 C.