



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

August 5, 2024

Program

Lion Randy Kraft wasted few words as he introduced our much-admired speaker, Lion and Mayor of the City of Cullman Woody Jacobs.



Mayor Lion Woody Jacobs addressed his fellow Club members.

Mayor Jacobs began by describing some of the new facilities and infrastructure scheduled for the near future. First, talked about the addition to the aquatic center which will include a 1,000 ft lazy river. He said the city has spent over \$6M on street paving and safety improvements. He then described a \$0.7M project that will be constructed to make the train rail route that runs through the City much safer. The crossing gates will be significantly modified, such that when those gates drop down upon a signal of an approaching train, they will not allow any vehicles to weave around them, trying to cross before an oncoming train passes the site. With this in mind the train will not have to continually blast its warning whistle as it comes through town.

The Mayor also talked about improvements that had been made at Depot Park and the positive

impacts it has had not only on the produce markets, but on the Christmas Market; over five weekends it had over 210,000 visitors. He said this year they have added new vendors and are expecting double the number this year. At the Senior Center, the city will be adding 4 covered pickle ball courts. Woody also talked about a \$500,000 grant from the Federal government, along with matching funds from the City to totally re-do Eastside Park. He said the city is moving the dog park to a new shaded area within the city. He said that not as many projects have been implemented recently in the west side of the City, but that they were working on it for the future. He also mentioned working with the Alabama Highway Department's help in widening the bridge at St. Bernard to five lanes. This area is a real bottleneck for traffic coming into the city during workday mornings, especially. He also talked about other road projects, drainage areas, replacing water and sewer lines, and other problem areas of the city that are being worked – mainly at the same time as paving in the same areas

Mayor Jacobs addressed new businesses coming into the area. He stated that the city is trying to be more selective in trying to get more high-tech, better paying, and higher skill-level jobs without those new jobs having to compete for scarce labor that could go to lower skilled new jobs. An example of the type of new industry and jobs that he was talking about was a new turbo-prop mechanic facility at the airport.

Mayor Jacobs answered many questions from Lions their particular concerns in many areas and gave a great overview of improvements that our city continues to bring to fruition. We are fortunate to have Woody as our Mayor and as a member of our Club.



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Other Business

Lion Gary Murphree developed worrying heart issues and was transported to Huntsville Hospital. Pray for him.

Lion Chris Brooks announced the 2024 -2025 Committees assignments. See page 3 of this newsletter.

Work assignments for the 2024 Cullman County Fair will be worked out, initially, at the August 5th Fair Board of Directors (BOD) meeting. Lion Judy Smith will be collaborating with Lion David Bussman on Branch Club members assigned to the Lions Concession stand. Lion Becky Quick will be collaborating with Lion Tim Scott on gate assignments for Branch Club members. There will also be a few Branch members assigned to Bldg #1, and other areas.

Lion Craig Gadow shared news of a raffle ticket fundraiser for the Heller Keller Memorial with a prize that includes tickets to the Alabama vs Auburn football game and a hotel room. He is selling those tickets at \$10 each.

Lion Craig also announced a very significant funding grant from the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) for the North Alabama Agriplex appears to have moved to the final stages of approval. Details at still being developed and will be forthcoming. The kitchen will be named for LCIF, and plaques will be displayed for each Lions Club that has also contributed, in addition to this grant.

President Lion Chris Brooks recognized a Club-membership anniversary for the following Lion: George Krigbaum -- 8 years.

Upcoming Programs and Events

August 12: To be determined.

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).



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Club Committee Assignments

President Chris Brooks							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
Nominating	Steve Cartee	Morris Magnum	Dewayne Wilson				
Club History	Dennis Berse	Charlie Powell	Javon Daniel	Dewayne Wilson	Ron Seybold	Scott Starosta	
Explore	Jerry Bonner	David Bussman	Raymond Williams	Fred Osborne	Delane Ray	Craig Gadow	Steve Cartee
1st VP Delane Ray							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char	Member	Member			
Diabetes	Milford Parrish	George Krigbaum	David Peacock	Javon Daniel			
Fair Concessions	David Bussman	Richard Gurley	Judy Smith				
Finance & Community	Don Smith	Brian Spaeth	Jerry Bonner				
Fish & Ham	Carey Thompson	David Peacock	Jason Tielking				
Membership	George Krigbaum	Javon Daniel	Frank Odell				
Program	Sam Roberts	Randy Kraft	Chris Robinson				
Mop & Broom	Richard White	Dave Gratz	Chris Robinson				
Sight	Bill Ruehl	Steve Cartee					
2nd VP Jeff Lawson							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char					
Area Lion's Liason	Craig Gadow	Scott Starosta					
Constitution & Bylaws	Craig Gadow	Steve Murphee					
House & Food	Dennis Berse	Fred Osborne					
Member Information	Charlie Powell	Dave Gratz					
Song Leader	Richard White	Chris Robinson					
Youth Leos	David Wiggins	Jeff Lawson					
3rd VP David Wiggins							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char					
Tail Twister	Richard Gurley	Richard White					
Fair Parade	Steve Murphee	Barry Willingham					
Branch Club Liaison	Ron Seybold	Jeff Lawson					
Publicity	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell					
Communications & Web	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell					
New- Member Orientation	Frank Odell	George Krigbaum					