



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

Jun 10, 2019

Program

Lion Chris Robinson introduced our program speaker, tonight, Ms. Martha Lawrence, initial founder of Cullman's Little Pantry program; she gave a presentation about her program.



(L to R) Lion President Mike Ponder, Ms. Martha Lawrence, and Lion Chris Robinson.

Ms. Martha Lawrence had talked with her friend, Ms. Mary Hovater, about establishing a grassroots item-donation program, known nationwide as The Little Free Pantry. This program sprung from a model first established in Little Rock, Arkansas. The idea behind the Pantry involves community giving on a small, convenient and judgment-free scale. The "pantry" is a small, easily accessible outdoor box stocked with a supply of simple, nonperishable necessities provided at will by anyone who wishes to leave them for others to anonymously pick up. The program is basically neighbors helping neighbors. It is normally supplied with canned foods and household items — the kind of stuff that people can leave or take as needed. Martha said the Pantry operates on the honor system, much like a book-swapping shelf at a coffee shop or

library. The pantry itself is just a small, bookcase type of thing, where people can put nonperishable food items (including food for pets), shampoo, diapers, and hygiene or cleaning items as donations," she said. The pantry has a door, but it won't have a lock on it, unless the privilege is abused, in which case it may be locked at night. The idea is that you leave what you can and take what you need.

After making initial plans, Martha and Mary presented the idea to the Cullman City Council, who fully backed the idea, as long as it was on private property and did not interfere with established rights of way. The Council favorably assessed the program after it had operated for 60 days. There are now 10 such "pantries" now operating all around Cullman County. Martha is only involved, herself, in the upkeep of the one located on 4th Street, S.E. between the Mary Carter Stores in downtown Cullman. Lion Fred Osborne help monitor this site. Boy Scout Troop 321 agreed to build it; and it was operational in April 2017. She says that she, along with frequent family help, stops by daily to restock this site, and usually provides an average of \$40 worth of supplies with each visit. Many individuals, including our Lion President and his wife help in keeping the pantry supplied. Donations come from family, friends, and local churches and businesses. Martha told of numerous letters of thanks from grateful users of Cullman's Little Pantry. More info can be found at the program's face book page.

Photographer: Lion Charlie Powell

Editor: Lion Carey Thompson

Associate Editor: Lion Don Smith



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Other Business

Lion Ed Henke will be having surgery to remove lesions on his vocal cords. Lion Javon Daniel had successful surgery to remove a melanoma and is doing well.

Lion Austin Monk, accompanied by Lion Jerry Bonner, attended MD-34A Lions officer leadership training sessions in Molton this past weekend. He talked briefly about how impressed he was at the quality of this training and encouraged Club members to get the Lions International internet app, then contact Lion Secretary Don Smith to get your Lions' member # to sign in. This will give you access to much more information about Lions International.

Lion Secretary Don announced that Lion Phillip Viverito has been appointed as a Membership Committee Member by the BOD.

Installation dinner for newly elected Lions Club officers will be June 24th at Top of the Town restaurant. Dress for Lions will be with coat and tie, as usual. Contact Dennis Berse if you want to attend but have not yet signed up or emailed him.

The Cullman Lions will be meeting at St John's Church next week in Christ Hall, where we will continue meeting until further notice.

Lion Ricky Peek read a very moving letter from Ashlie Dorough, thanking the Club on behalf of her son, Colton, for the funds that we provided him to attend Camp Seale

Harris. She said that for the first time in his life he felt "normal" just being around all the other kids there like him, and that he learned so much about coping with diabetes. She said that she would never have been able to afford to send him to a place like that and that it was a life-changing experience for him.

The city of New Hope will be founding a new Lions Club July 20th. More details to follow.

Upcoming Programs and Events

June 17: Mr. Chris Chambers, Principal of the Cullman County Child Development Center, will speak. Also, election for 2 members of the Club's Charities Committee will be held.



Cullman Tribune Photo
By W.C. Mann

Principal Chris Chambers

- Cullman County Child Development Center -

June 24: Lion Frank Moore will officiate at our Club's Officer Installation Night at the Top of the Town restaurant @ 5:30PM.

.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).