



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

November 15, 2021

Program

We actually had two programs tonight. Lion Randy Kraft introduced our first speaker, Dr. Kira Sims, Cullman County Extension Agent/Coordinator. Dr. Sims touted a new Master Gardener Intern Training class for 2022. This training will be specific to Alabama's soils and climate, and it will be taught by Extension Agents and Specialists. Classes will be held every Thursday, beginning on February 3 through May 5, 2022. You will have the option of coming to the class in person or virtually, through Zoom. The in-person classes will be held either at the Cullman Extension Office or at the Cullman Agricultural Center (adjacent to Peinhardt History Farm). These classes are equated to a semester's worth of classes. You can sign up early, between now and Dec. 19th for \$150, or regular sign-up between Dec. 20, 2021, and Jan. 23, 2022, for \$200. This is an opportunity to make new friends, give back to your community, grow some of your own food, and spruce up your own yard.



Dr. Kira Sims, Cullman County Extension Agent/Coordinator (Ext. Svc. Ph. 256-737-9386).

Kira also talked about Extension Service plans to increase exhibit participation for the 2022 Fair. In this regard, the Extension will sponsor classes every other month for such subjects as candle making, growing gourds for birdhouses, jam-making with strawberries, etc. Kira plans to speak to us again in 2022. Valuable information.

Lion President Javon Daniel introduced the second portion of our program, Cullman Police Officers, Todd Craig and Adam Clark, who spoke about the "Shop with a Cop" program. These two officers who have been with the department for over 20 years are involved other community



(L to R) Officers Adam Craig and Todd Clark receiving token of appreciation from Lion President Javon Daniel.

outreach programs which include a cookout which serves 500 to 600 people, and a retreat with 3,500 people and families in attendance which gave out 50,000 pieces of candy this year. The "Shop with a Cop" program is the most important to them because the kids and



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their families that they serve who are in unfortunate situations very often never get to see the police in a positive light. The kids especially are apprehensive of police if they have seen their mom or dad arrested due to domestic violence, writing a ticket, drug situations etc. This year the program will select 20 of children who have been selected as the neediest by going to DHR, Brook's Place, and the Link for their input in selecting children for this program. Those selected children will each be given a shopping budget of \$300 to buy whatever they want – from toys to clothes to sheets and towels, -- as long as the item is age appropriate. They are accompanied by volunteers, police officers, and their wives and children to keep track of each child's purchases to stay within budget. Each child has to have a permission slip allowing the program to provide medical treatment for any emergencies. They are also required to have a photo permission slip, also, because the media usually comes out to record this happening. They are picked up at 8:00 at 1st Baptist Church by police cars and passenger vans and ride with their police escort to Walmart; the event will take place this year on Dec. 11th. The children are provided with a meal during the buying outing. While the children are eating lunch at the police station, all purchases are marked through the barcode to insure those items are not returned by someone else. The kids do not go home with their purchases the same day; the following week each child's purchases are bagged and tagged for the parents to pick up. The information on children who are gifted like this is shared between other community charities and Churches who have similar programs, so that a child is not collected presents from

several such organizations. Officer Clark says that sometimes parents ask that a particular gift be purchased without the child's knowledge so that it can be tagged as from the parents or Santa, instead of the program. These requests are accommodated as much as possible.

Officers Clark and Craig provide many more details of what seems to be a very effective and well-run program. It is providing joy to the most underprivileged children of our community as well as bring considerable well-deserved good-will and appreciation for the Cullman Police Department.

Other Business

The club voted to donate funding to the Cullman "Shop with a Cop" program, following a motion to do so by Lion Don Smith.

Lion Richard White continues to improve following surgery November 10th on his neck.

Lion Secretary Craig Gadow noted that the Board of Directors is investigating the listing the Clubs' Smith Lake Property on its own (without contracting with a realtor), while awaiting action from the State on the Club re-acquiring the adjacent boat ramp property.

Lion Frank Odell talked about the upcoming Fish and Ham Dinner. Preliminary coordination has begun with the dinner date planned for the end of February or one of the first Saturdays in March. Details will be forthcoming.



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New Lion Eric Ponder, son of Lion Mike Ponder, was granted time to introduce himself, tonight. He is from Cullman and moved back here about 5 years ago. Lion Eric works as a process engineer for a local company.



New Lion Eric Ponder.

outcome for the 2021 Fair, and Fair checks for Lions and Lioness Clubs. This meeting will be closed to all non-Club members.

December 6: Fair Appreciation Dinner at Stonebridge. Doors opening at 6:00PM with dinner served at 6:30PM. Coat & Tie. A great meal is planned.

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).

Upcoming Programs and Events

November 22. Thanksgiving holidays – no meeting.

November 29: Vote for Fair Board Members, presentation of financial