

Kentucky Colonels grant helps Hope's Helping Hands Food Bank

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

Hope's Helping Hands Food Bank (HHHFB) recently got a boost from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. For the fifth year running, the organization received a Good Works Program Grant, this time in the amount of \$8,103.80.

Director Jackie Collins said this was the largest grant to date and was used to buy food from God's Pantry for 10 weeks.

"That money and that food allowed us to feed 728 families."

Thirty-five new families were among that number. The total number served was 1,943 individuals.

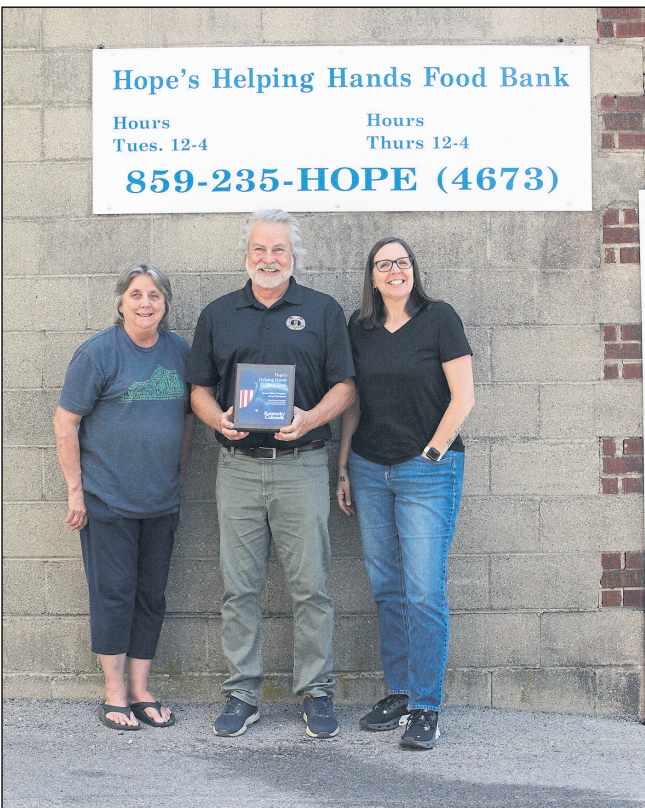
The average cost of food is \$900 per week.

The food bank has been at its Walnut Street location since 2010, but not until Skip Hobbie got involved did the Kentucky Colonels enter the picture.

As Hobbie and his wife, Janette, were preparing to open Pike Street Wine House, he often parked nearby and noticed a lot of activity at Living Hope Assembly of God, the home of HHHFB.

Curiosity got the better of him, and he stepped inside one day to see what it was about.

"I thought they were really doing something great."



Betsy Smith

Hope's Helping Hands Food Bank received a Good Works Program Grant from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. From left: Jackie Collins, director; Skip Hobbie, Kentucky Colonel and HHHFB board member; and Amanda Hoffman, volunteer.

Hobbie, a Kentucky Colonel, soon found himself on the HHHFB board. He talked to the Kentucky Colonel organization in Louisville and learned it had been a long time since anyone in our area had gotten the grant.

Collins said the grant application process requires a detailed request for all items to be pur-

chased, and three quotes from different providers are needed for bigger expenses. By far, she's found purchasing from God's Pantry is cheaper.

Every Tuesday, a big truck comes from God's Pantry filled with provisions that must be unloaded.

Donations help fill in the gaps. Papa John's and McDonald's donate as well



Betsy Smith

Jackie Collins, left, and Amanda Hoffman demonstrate the rolling shelves specially constructed for Hope's Helping Hands Food Bank.

as local stores. Collins makes early morning pickups of donated food from Walmart, Ruler and four different Dollar General stores.

All donations must be weighed, she said. At the end of the year, the stores get a report of their total donations and a plaque stating how many pounds they gave.

Meat that has been processed by a licensed pro-

cessor can also be donated.

Schools and organizations help out, too. As an example, Collins noted Eastside Elementary held a drive and collected 253 pounds of oatmeal last year.

"She knows how to find food like I've never seen before," Hobbie said of Collins.

"Sometimes food just finds me," she said.

Last week it came courtesy of a gardener, whom

she knows only as "Linda," who dropped off a load of produce.

It takes a veritable mountain of food to serve all the families who need the extra help. Around 1,000 households are "on the books," but they do not all show up every month, Collins said.

Clients may be obtain food once a month. Only Harrison County residents may obtain food from HHHFB. You do not have to prove income; income is self-declared, Collins explained. However, you must have photo ID and proof of residence.

Amanda Hoffman, a regular volunteer, added that HHHFB allows unhoused people to visit every two weeks. Special effort is made to provide food that does not require refrigeration or cooking (unless the person has access to a microwave). She said HHHFB currently serves about 24 unhoused individuals.

HHHFB is located at 120 South Walnut Street and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m to 4 p.m. If you need food assistance, would like to donate to HHHFB or want to become a volunteer email hhhfoodbank@gmail.com or call 859-235-4673. Their Facebook page is Hope's Helping Hands Food Bank.

Cynthiana looking for a 'Downtown Momentum Reset'

BY DEVON WILLIAMS
NEWS REPORTER

On the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 1, the City of Cynthiana Board of Commissioners gathered at the Board of Education building for their first meeting of the month.

After the standard call to order and quick invocation, Mayor Isaac Dailey made a motion to approve minutes from the Aug. 18 meeting, which carried.

Legals

-With City Attorney John Lair not in attendance, Dailey conducted the second reading of Ordinance #1688 - Property Tax Rate 2026. A motion was made to approve the second reading, which carried.

-Dailey also gave a second reading of Ordinance #1689 - 2027 Ad Valorem Tax. A motion was made to approve the second reading, which also carried.

Mayor's report

-A motion was made to authorize to use LARP funds to resurface North Elmarch Avenue, West Pike Street and Hickory Court instead of using Municipal Road Aid funds, which carried.

-Dailey told the board a downtown consultant has been in Cynthiana to help with a project they're calling a "Downtown Momentum Reset." The consultant is a former Main Street director in Illinois and eventually became the director for the statewide program.

Dailey stated the consultant has met with 40 stakeholders, a big cross-section of people throughout the community, asking questions about how to contribute momentum on revitalizing downtown Cynthiana.

"I think it's been good," noted Dailey. "It's very interesting to bring somebody of this caliber and experience and has fresh eyes to hear what

they have to say about our community."

-It was mentioned, in the same vein, that Dailey attended a meeting with the Kentucky Heritage Council on the process of becoming a certified local government.

"We are actually going to have someone in our next meeting on the 15th, Nicole Roth. She is the site identification program administrator for the Kentucky Heritage Council," noted Dailey.

"In the weeks after her visit, we'll continue to sort of talk about is this something that we think is the right fit or the right time for the City of Cynthiana." He said they would also speak with downtown building and business owner gauge their opinions and discuss the benefits of being a certified city."

Dailey noted that a certified downtown is not an HOA.

Benefits of becoming a certified local government, according to the Kentucky Heritage Council, include:

-Eligibility to compete annually for matching grants for approved projects. According to federal law, at least 10% of the state's annual federal Historic Preservation Fund [HPF] allotment must be allocated to the Certified Local Government fund.

-Access to expert technical advice from the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office as well as the National Park Service.

-CLGs have a formal role in the National Register nomination review process.

-Participation in the establishment of regional and state historic preservation objectives.

-Partnerships with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, Preserve America, the National Trust for Historic Preser-

vation, and the National Main Street Center.

Commissioner reports -Commissioner Mark Mattmiller of Public Property and Finance made a motion to pay the following bills: \$142,371 in the general fund and \$187,910 in the water and sewer fund. The motion to pay the bills carried.

Mattmiller updated the Board on money in the bank: \$156,391 in the general fund, \$548,219 in the water and sewer fund and \$192,198 in the municipal road aid fund.

-Commissioner Roger Slade of Fire Safety and Emergency Services made a motion to authorize to accept the resignation of Jennifer Alcorn as a part-time telecommunicator effective immediately, which carried.

Slade made a motion to authorize to terminate Anikka Gillispie as a part-time telecommunicator effective immediately, which carried.

Commissioner Slade made a motion to authorize to offer employment to an individual as a part-time non-certified telecommunicator, contingent upon successful completion of all pre-employment requirements, which carried.

Finally, a motion was made to authorize the sale of the 2000 International Pierce Pumper fire truck to Glynden King for \$4,650, which carried.

-Commissioner David Conner of Public Utilities and Works made a motion to authorize to change job title of Michael Goforth from Distribution I to Distribution II, salary to commensurate with the position. The motion carried.

A motion was made to authorize to rescind offer of employment to an individual as water distribution trainee, which carried.

Conner made a motion

to authorize to advertise internally for a Distribution Foreman, which carried.

Finally, Commissioner Conner made a motion to authorize to accept the Maintenance Career Development Incentive Policy as part of the

Maintenance Department Policy and Procedure. The motion carried.

The commission then approved going into executive session to discuss possible disciplinary action of an individual employee per KRS 61.810(1)(1).

After adjourning the executive session and reconvening the regular meeting, Commissioner of Police Safety Taylor Peoples made a motion to terminate Cynthiana police officer Quentin Smoot, effective immediately, which carried.

VETERANS PHOTOS WANTED FOR UPCOMING VETERANS TRIBUTE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NOVEMBER 6th CYNTHIANA DEMOCRAT

Honor your loved ones who have served or are now serving their country

Honoring Our
Armed Forces

On November 6th, the Cynthiana Democrat will be publishing a tribute to all of the men and women who have fought to preserve our freedom through service in the United States' armed forces.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SUBMITTING PHOTOS

As some service members or their families may not wish to be included, we ask that you enter only for family members or close friends/associates.

2025 photos will be repeated again in the 2026 Veterans special. If changes need to be made to those please email bsmith@cynthianademocrat.com on those photos submissions by Oct. 15, 2026.

Email all new submissions to:
bsmith@cynthianademocrat.com with the subject line "Harrison County Armed Forces Dedication"
Please include in the email their photo as a jpg, and the name of person in photo, rank, branch of service, date of service who submitted photo.
All submissions must be received by Oct. 15, 2026.

If you are a veteran and you have a story to share from your time in service and would like to see it published in the veterans special please contact Betsy Smith at bsmith@cynthianademocrat.com by Oct. 8, 2026.

Deadline: Thursday, October 15 for photos

In Memory Of
Cpl. Lowell Thomas
U.S. Army 1952-1954