

CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY NEWS

We Have Fun, And We Get Things Done!



CORTLANDBREAKFASTROTARY.ORG



EDITED BY SOPHIE WELBURN



President Mark Roberts

Front Desk:

Jim Dempsey &
Kurt Behrenfeld

Thought for the Day:

Nick Lundberg

Raffle Winner: Melanie Vilardi

Attendance: 27

Zoom: 2

Guests:

Melanie Vilardi,
Morgan Spaulding,
Pino Alarco Hernandez

UPCOMING EVENTS

*** Founder's Breakfast**

February 18, 2026

\$15 buffet breakfast; featuring Steve Cinquanti who will speak on the club's history. Please sign-up by 2/11.

Mayor Patrick Clune
“Building on History”



CBR's speaker this week was its very own Pat Clune, Mayor of the village of Homer, who presented on the past, present, and future of the village.

The village of Homer is full of history, enough to inspire an article written by historian Martin Sweeney for each issue of the Homer News, and enough to fill several books produced by the same!

The village government consists of a Board of Trustees and a mayor, as well as various departments that include but are not limited to the fire, police, & recreation departments, and the department of public works.

Homer is hugely supportive of the arts community and is home to the Center for the Arts, as well as host to various festivals including Holiday in Homer, Magic on Main, and WinterFest.

In terms of challenges, Homer is going through transitioning economic development after the loss of various manufacturers leaving vacant factory buildings. The village is also affected by the same housing shortage experienced throughout the nation.

But, Mayor Clune shared many examples of ways the village is moving toward a positive future. The fire department is getting updated with modern equipment, and undergoing a recruitment campaign to ensure it continues to be staffed by new and younger volunteer firefighters. The police department will find itself in new headquarters in the town hall, which will free up the depot they are currently housed in to be returned to the tax roll, as well as provide security to the court and other departments also located there. Various projects are made possible via a DRI grant, including the restoration of a historic bridge, (continued on page 2)...

Mayor Pat Clune, Continued...

...the development of the Little White Church as another economic driver, and the building of a hotel.

Homer is also looking at updating their comprehensive plan, along with re-evaluating their fiscal strategy. Mayor Clune expressed that there will be no more cutting in the budget, instead focusing on objective-based budgeting, and "looking in the nooks and crannies" for neglected sources. He also seeks to increase the tax base, look for opportunities to share services for "collaboration is key," and considering the ways the community might be affected by Micron.



**January 23
Jackie Burke**

Anniversaries

Glenn Reisweber (1/17/2007)

Happy Dollars

Dianne Higgins: Son was car #4 in the 37-vehicle pileup on Route 81, grateful that he's okay and there were no deaths.

Don Ferris: Grateful for Dianne Higgins positive comment on their table; for our speaker.

Jeremy Boylan: Pitch for Homer Winterfest this weekend- ice sculptures, ice skating, beer tasting, etc.

Laurie Comfort: Happy it is light going to work in the morning, and light coming home!

Richalle Cicioni: Having a great time living with Pino.

Mike Shafer: Won't be here February and March, will be enjoying time in Puerto Rico!

Glenn Reisweber: For our speaker.

Conrad Janke: Knowing Pat Clune over the years is worth at least one dollar.

Ed Finkbeiner: Looking forward to beer tasting with visiting guest from Vermont; for our speaker.

Pat Clune: Will be happy when the guest speaker is done.

Matt Banazek: Having to go through secret service security check for the first time due to our guest speaker!

Bob Pitman: Better give a dollar for our speaker.



Conrad Janke exchanging banners with Liza Proviso of the Guam Sunrise Rotary Club; their motto is "Where America's Rotary Day Begins"



Rotary Leadership Institute

When: March 7th, 8am-1pm

Where: Johnson City High School

What: Courses are designed to provide Rotary knowledge and to develop leadership skills for voluntary organizations.

Cost: \$25

[LEARN MORE AND
REGISTER HERE](#)



[LEARN MORE AT THE
WINTERFEST WEBSITE](#)

WinterFest Events
at the
Homer Elks Lodge

82 Cortland Street, Homer, NY

January 23 - 24, 2026

FEATURING ALL YOUR FAVORITES

FRIDAY FISH FRY
All-You-Can-Eat
Buffet
5:30 - 7:00

CLAMFEST
Sat. 4:00 - 6:00
Presale Tickets ONLY
\$10 until Jan 12th

WINGFEST
Sat. 12:30 - 2:30

MUSIC & DANCING
with DJ Philly C
Sat. 6:00 - 9:00

BEER TASTING
Sat. 1:00 - 3:00
Presale Tickets \$20 until Jan 17th
\$25 at the Door

WING EATING CONTEST
Sat. 3:00 - 3:30

MEMBERS & GUESTS