

# CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY NEWS

*Together We Serve, Together We Make a Difference*

 [CORTLANDBREAKFASTROTARY.ORG](http://CORTLANDBREAKFASTROTARY.ORG)

 EDITED BY SOPHIE WELBURN



**President Mark Roberts**

**Front Desk:**

Jessie Farrell  
Laurie Comfort

**Thought for the Day:**

Chuck Feiszli

**Raffle Winner:** Karen DeWitt

**Attendance:** 30


**Zoom:** 0

**Guests:**


Scott Goodrich  
Pino Alarco Hernandez

## UPCOMING EVENTS


**McGruff Tournament**

 June 18, 2026


**Paul Harris/Pass the Gavel Dinner**

 June 24, 2026

**Meals of Hope**

 August 1, 2026

**Summer Picnic**

 August 12, 2026

## “This isn’t a job you just try”

Mark Helms & the Cortland County Sheriff’s Office



Cortland Breakfast Rotary club member Sheriff Mark Helms was guest speaker this week! Sheriff Helms presented on the current trends experienced in the Cortland County Sheriff’s office.

Staffing shortages have been an issue across the nation from which Cortland County’s sheriff’s office has not been spared. Allotted forty-three staff members in the department, they are currently seven short, and have few options to recruit from. Sheriff Helms explained that although there are some young people showing interest in giving policing a try, given the challenges of the work there is swift turnover.

In terms of incidents, the city police department and county sheriff’s office received roughly the same number of calls last year; the city covers a much smaller area with a larger staff than the sheriff’s office. With that said, the greatest number of calls to the sheriff’s office come from the town of Cortlandville given the population density and presence of businesses.

Arrests have been trending up, and a continuing concern in Cortland County is drug usage. Methamphetamine has seen the greatest increase in usage recently.

(continued on page 2).

## County Sheriff continued...

The County and City combined forces for their Tactical Response Unit (think SWAT), but Sheriff Helms emphasized that they avoid using it as much as possible as it is a much more confrontational form of interaction than desired.

Cortland County has also been seeing an increase in car crashes along with increased complaints of aggressive driving, as well as an uptick in fatalities. Also more prevalent are cases of driving while under the influence of drugs.

Sheriff Helms explained that the county jail has been consistently full; with eighty-three spaces, the jail can be considered full even if some spaces are left empty in order to account for sickness or needing to keep particular individuals separated. Other issues in the Corrections Division include a lack of funding toward such programs as jail-based medication-assisted treatment of those struggling with drug addiction, and a general failure to see the promised outcomes from bail reform.

Finally, Sheriff Helms addressed the ongoing increase in a lack of housing, which has led to a number of encampments throughout the community- "Be careful what you give out. You might mean well, but much of it is left behind in these encampments. And there is no help when it comes to the clean-up, even the used needles."

More information on the Cortland County Sheriff's Office may be found on their website (link below) or social media.



[SHERIFF'S OFFICE WEBSITE HERE](#)



**None**

**Anniversaries**  
Jessie Farrell (5/29/2024)  
Nick Lundberg (6/4/2025)

**Winner of the 2026 Grantham Award: Hannah Ostrander**



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## Happy Dollars

**Conrad Janke:** For our speaker, Mark Helms; he was the 50/50 winner at the Ride For Rotary, and misheard the amount- went home to discover it was far more than expected and donated it to the Rotary Foundation.

**Jackie Burke:** For our speaker; in the final stages of the installation of the Kiwanis Community Playground, with mulching to be done, installation of benches and signs. Date for a ribbon cutting will be figured out soon. Call for volunteers to help spread mulch tomorrow, Thursday, from 7:30-11am.

**Steve Cinquanti:** Thank you to Don & Luanne, Chief Pitman & Sheriff Helms for all the work and assistance put into the Ride for Rotary. And thank you to Sophie for agreeing to become president elect.

**Don Richards:** Thank you to Steve for helping with the ride; happy Charlie Dellow was able to join in and lead the Ride at 89 years old!

**Mike Shafer:** For Don & the team's work on the Ride; found his "antique" District 7170 pin.

**Kurt Behrenfeld:** Family went to ???; St. Anthony's Festival coming up next week; seeking help to man the sausage booth.

**Mark Roberts:** For whoever ensured the pickleball courts were open this morning.

**Rosie Taravella:** For the work of Don & the team on the Ride, it was her first one and it was great! Also for St. Anthony's, her favorite Cortland thing.

**Matt Banazek:** For the Ride for Rotary; pickleball was a lot of fun this morning, and if anyone is worried about not being good, he claims to exemplify not being good.

**Chrissie Allen:** For her first Ride for Rotary, it was really fun; for the last board meeting as president for Mark Roberts, and for those outgoing board members.

**Don Ferris:** For the Ride; for Sophie's newsletter; for 53 years with the mother of his children (don't let his wife know!- haha).

**Karen DeWitt:** Still seeking first host family in Cortland school district for our incoming exchange student- please spread the word, willing to talk with anyone remotely interested.

**Kim Cameron:** Got onto Clubrunner site and learned she had a bunch of points that she decided to transfer to her brother in Vermont who is an active Rotarian and having a birthday soon so he can be recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow.

**Jim Dempsey:** Noticing Kurt B.'s USS Wasp hat- for all those who served and came home.

**Jessie Farrell:** For Steve letting her ride on Sunday; her son is going in for knee surgery this Friday.

**Laurie Comfort:** Congratulations to Sophie and to those board members stepping down and coming on; Steve got her set up with Venmo and she's getting ready to serve as treasurer.

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# Ride for Rotary





## St. Anthony's Italian Festival 2026!

St. Anthony's Church, 50 Pomeroy Street, Cortland, NY

**Saturday, June 6th**

*Kick-off* (To be held before Festival Weekend)

### SPAGHETTI DINNER

4pm-7pm / Adults \$14 / Children \$9

Church Basement (Sit down or Takeout)



**SPAGHETTATA! SPONSORS** of the Spaghetti Dinner

The Walsh Law Firm

Carol Guingo Clarke

**Sunday, June 7th**

*The Tradition Continues:*

**ST. ANTHONY'S BANNER AUCTION & BREAKFAST**

Special Raffle Drawing

Church Basement, following 10am Mass



## FESTIVAL WEEKEND

**Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Festival Grounds 4pm-10pm**

**LIVE MUSIC:**

*Armando Natale Main Stage*

Steve Daniels Swingtet

Fall Creek Brass Band

**FIREWORKS+**

at 9:30pm

\*Sponsored by McNeil & Co.



**Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**10am: Mass with St. Anthony's Monks & Traditional Procession**

**Festival Grounds 12:30pm-6pm**

**LIVE MUSIC:**

*Armando Natale Main Stage*

-Cortland High Modern Band

-Finger Lakes Saxophone Quartet

-Cantare-Italian Singers

-Old Timers Band

*Piccolo Stage*

-Joey Nigro and John Nelson

**Ethnic Food:** Sausage Sandwiches, Tomato Pie, Meatball Subs, Utica Greens, Pasta, Beans & Greens, Pastries, Pasticciotti, Homemade Cookies

Kids Games, Themed Baskets, Novelties, Prize Wheel on Saturday, Cake Wheel on Sunday, Pizza Fritta, Dolci, Pizza, Gelato, & *More!*



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-Experience Cortland

-First Choice Paving

-Guthrie

-JMS Plumbing and Heating

-Kimberly Casullo & Francis Casullo, in memory of Frank & Carmen Casullo

-Riccardi Funeral Home

-Royal Nissan-Subaru

-UAW Local 1326

-Visions Federal Credit Union

-Wall Street on Court Street

-Wright-Bear Funeral Home

-WXHC X101 Always Classic



### GIOLA! PATRONS

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-Stella D'Oro Lodge

-The Passeri-Densmore Family

-Wegmans



Thank you to all our generous sponsors!

**Grazie mille**

**FOR MORE INFO:**

stanthonysofcortland



saintanthonysfestival.org

**June 18th**



**36th Annual  
Charity Golf  
Tournament  
for McGruff  
and  
Other Local Charities**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH & ITS MANY MINISTRIES

CNY  
**Rotary**   
 DAY AT THE BALLPARK  
**SUNDAY, JULY 19TH**



**AKRON RUBBERDUCKS  
 (AA-GUARDIANS)**

VS



**SOUTHERN TIER  
 SCOOP SCOUNDRELS**

**FIRST PITCH 1:00 P.M. | GATES OPEN 12:00 P.M.**

**BARK IN THE PARK DAY  
 FEATURING AN APPEARANCE BY  
 MUTTS GONE NUTS DOG GROUP**



**TICKETS ARE \$9 PER PERSON  
 ANY ROTARY YOUTH  
 (PAST AND PRESENT) ARE FREE.**

**OUR**  
  
**CATCH ON  
 THE FIELD**  
 ENTER THROUGH LEFT FIELD  
 GATE, NEAR THE TARP  
**BACKYARD**

**KIDS EAT FREE  
 EVERY SUNDAY**  
  
**KIDSEAT  
 FREE**  
 COMPLIMENTARY  
 HOT DOG & REGULAR SODA  
 (CHILDREN 3-12)

**HIGH FIVE CLUB  
 RUMBLE POOLIES**  
  
 Gallagher  
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**HIGH FIVE  
 CLUB**  
 EARN UP TO 20% OFF  
 IN THE TEAM STORE WHEN  
 YOU HIGH FIVE STAFF MEMBERS



**211 HENRY ST.  
 BINGHAMTON, NY 13901**



***2026 Rotary Clubs of Cortland,  
Fun Summer Picnic!***

Bobs Barbeque provided by Don & Luanne.... Bring a dish to pass, **your beverage**, and a swimsuit if you want to swim! The cost is \$10.00 per person for Members and Spouses, Prospective Members, Guests are welcome!

Don Richards 692 Hatchers Run, Cortland  
Wednesday August 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm

**RSVP DEADLINE: Wednesday August 5th**

Cell: 607-745-7779 E-mail;  
rotaryrichards@gmail.com

**Bottled Water Provided. BRING YOUR OWN DRINK**

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