NOVEMBER 18, 2026 WEDNESDAY

CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY NEWS

Together We Serve, Together We Make a Difference

CORTLANDBREAKFASTROTARY.ORG EDITED BY SOPHIE WELBURN



President Terry Cahill

Front Desk:
Kathie O'Mara
Laurie Comfort
Thought for the Day:
Sophie Welburn
Raffle Winner: Bob Pitman

Attendence: 28
Zoom: 0
Guests:
Sophia Lin
Avery Petrella
Kennadie Taylor

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tree decorating at 1890 House @ 1:30pm
November 21, 2026

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Delivery
December 5, 2026

"Invest in Local Students"

Kennadie Taylor, Avery Petrella, & DECA



This week, the Cortland Breakfast Rotary Club welcomed Kennadie Taylor and Avery Petrella as guest speakers! Kennadie is a senior at Homer High School and serves as president of the DECA Club, and Avery is a junior and vice president of marketing.

DECA is an organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management for high school and college students. But the skills earned are useful throughout all career paths, gaining experience in interviewing, networking, and public speaking.

In more personal terms, the club empowers students with the knowledge that they "have the ability to make a difference *now*." Members participate in community service projects, business-related challenges, and other learning experiences that help prepare them for college and their careers. (continued on page 2)

Homer DECA continued...



Avery Petrella on far left, Kennadie Taylor on far right; International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Atlanta, GA

There are twenty-six students in the Homer chapter, having grown by 50% since its inception five years ago, but DECA boasts of around 322,000 members worldwide. Members of DECA have the opportunity to engage in competitive events at regional, state, and even international levels.

This is where the majority of the club's expenses come into play- between registration fees, transportation, lodging, and meals, the club needs to raise around $4,000-$5,000 per student who might wish to attend. "We don't want a student's financial situation to determine their ability to participate in an opportunity to change their future."

Members of the club fund-raise throughout the year, selling everything from flowers in the spring, to chocolate, t-shirts, and popcorn. Kennedie and Avery expressed that every donation makes a difference.



Mark Roberts- 11/28

Anniversaries

Kurt Behrenfeld (11/16/2016)
Valerie Kaiser (11/16/2022)
Matt McSherry (11/23/2011)
Mike Eves (11/28/2018)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY (NEXT MTG IS 12/2):
KATHIE O'MARA



December 5

Looking for volunteers- *Gratifying experience of providing kids with beds!*

Happy Dollars

Glenn Reisweber: Saturday's event at Hopshire was great; was thinking about Bob Grantham's booming voice, so a dollar for the Granthams who where great Rotarians; and for Jeremy Boylan's beard!
Mike Shafer: Thank you to Karen DeWitt for getting him involved in doing the interviews at the Passport Fair; for Bob Grantham.
Steve Cinquanti: Travelled to Virginia where he got to catch up with former Homer superintendent Harold Ferguson.
Kim Cameron: New family member, first grandson born 11/4.
Mark Roberts: Was going through old photos and came upon one from a McGruff Tournament.
Dianne Higgins: Advertising for the Master Gardener Training Program
Doug Withey: Sophia Lin leaves for New York City trip this Friday.
Karen DeWitt: Thank you to Kathie O'Mara for getting Hollenbeck's to donate cider to the Passtport Fair.
Conrad Janke: For our speakers, Avery & Kennadie.
Laurie Comfort: New baby grandson is coming in May.

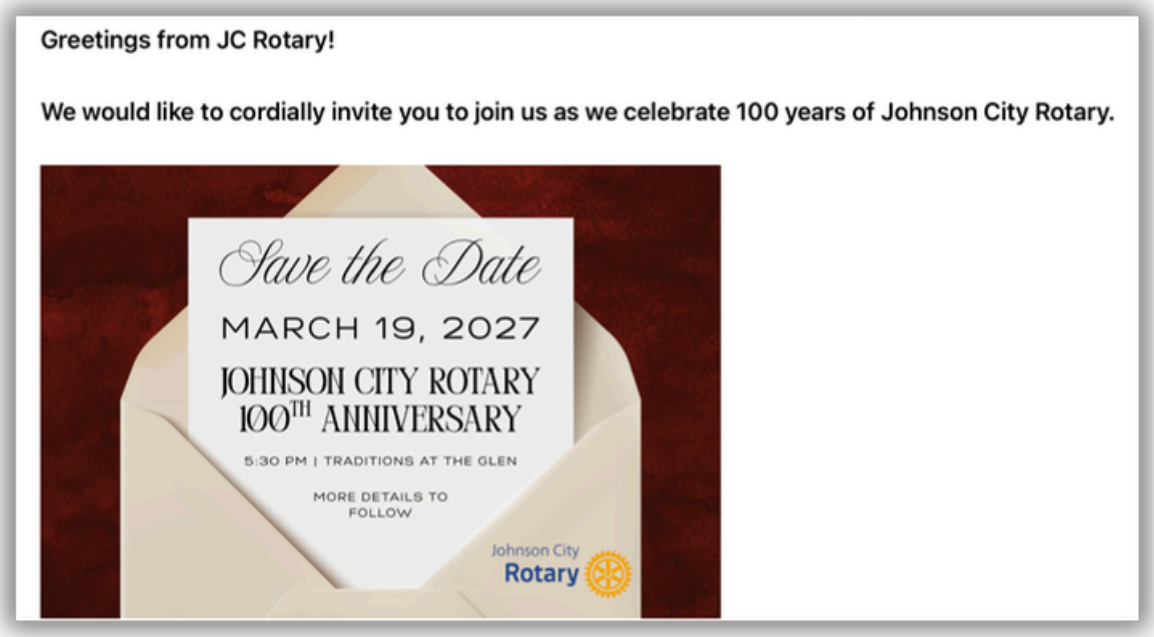
BLAST FROM THE PAST



Rotary Revelations

No matter how long you have been in Rotary, you will learn something in this session. All are invited to register for the zoom link at CNYRotary.org/events







TOYS FOR TOTS®

Distribution this year will take place on **Saturday December 19th** at 206 South Main Street Homer (The Hub)- there will be setup and take down work as well as funneling the families through a few at a time on the day. There are all kinds of jobs to fill, from building the tent for the parents to shop in, to restocking, being a shopping assistant, checking families in, and more.

SIGN UP TO HELP!

TOYS FOR TOTS WAIVER FORM