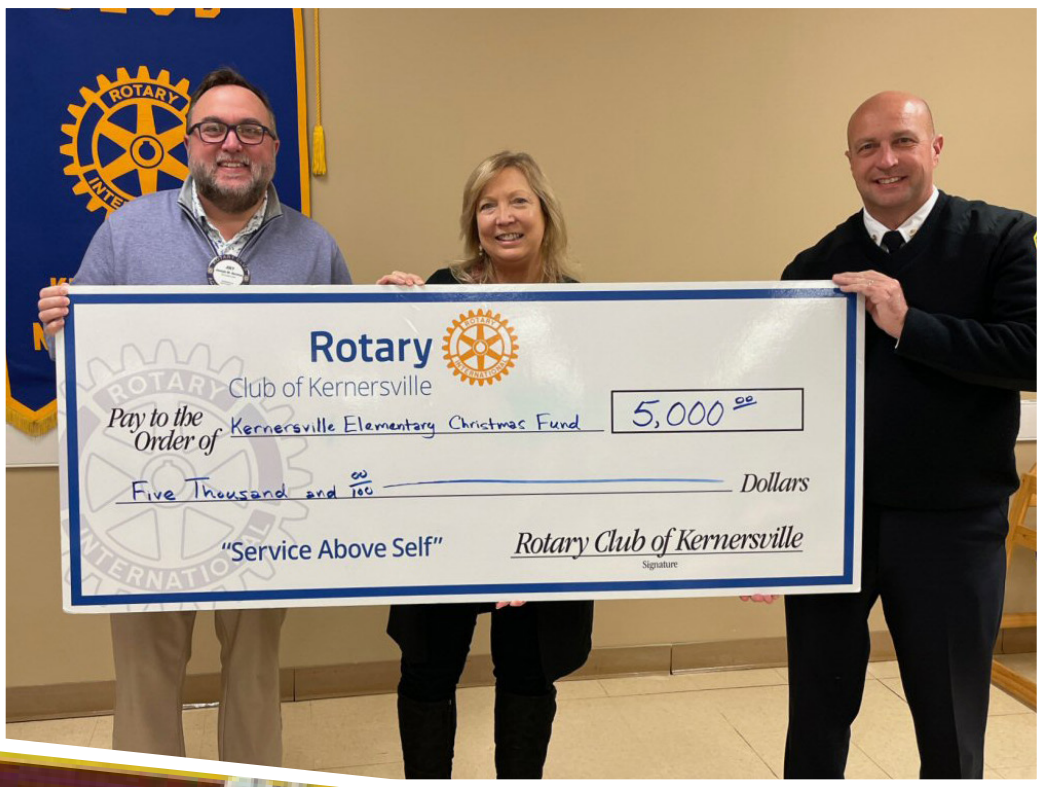


“We couldn’t do it without you!”



Rotary Club of Kernersville supporting the community more than ever before

BY AMANDA ASTILLERO
Staff Reporter

The Rotary Club of Kernersville is thriving and growing in the community. In 2023, the memberships increased by 14%, which gives them 100 members in total. In 2024, the Rotary Club is continuing with their busy schedule of projects, fundraisers, and expansion.

Last year, the Rotary Club of Kernersville introduced their evening satellite club. The regular club meetings were on Wednesday morning, and with the consideration that it might not be a convenient meeting time for everyone; the solution was to form the satellite club which meets once a month on the third Thursday at J. Pepper’s at 6pm. With fewer meetings, the satellite club emphasizes on service projects in the community.

When asked about what moment with the Rotary Club last year made him the proudest, Kernersville Rotary Club President Joey Herman said he was proud of the CART fund efforts.

“I am proud of our CART funds efforts last year as we exceeded our annual fundraising goal. CART stands for Coins for Alzheimer’s Research Trust and people may have seen our coin boxes at local businesses around Kernersville. This money is directed at Alzheimer’s research that will hopefully provide a cure for this devastating disease. We are well on track to exceed our goal for this year

of \$8,000 to put towards fighting Alzheimer’s,” Herman explained.

The Rotary Club of Kernersville is active throughout the year. The club has awarded several scholarships to graduating students from Glenn and East Forsyth High schools. The club conducts a leadership academy exclusively for Kernersville high school students in the summer where they can learn from and be mentored by town and community leaders. The club also organizes both the 4th of July Parade and the 5K run in July. In August, the club partners up with the Kernersville YMCA and supports their Bright Beginnings program by giving financial support and volunteers at the event. The club also partners up with Cash Elementary where a study buddy is sent to work with students one-on-one. The Rotary Club of Kernersville operates the Kernersville Farmers Market through spring and fall season. During the holiday season, the club contributes to the Kernersville Elementary Christmas fund and a service project that creates gift-bags for a local assisted living center.

Another event in December is the annual pancake supper. The Rotary Club held their 35th annual pancake supper fundraiser last month.

“The event was very successful, and we met our fundraising goal thanks to our wonderful and

generous community sponsors of the event. I would like to thank again our community partners that sponsor our 4th of July 5K run. We could not make a difference in our community the way that we do if we did not have their support,” Herman said.

In the new year, the Rotary Club is excited to collaborate with the Interact Clubs from Glenn and East Forsyth to clean up St. Paul’s Cemetery. The cemetery is located behind Cagney’s on South Main Street.

“On Saturday, February 3rd, our three clubs will converge for the third year in a row to remove leaves and limbs from this historic resting place in our town,” Herman said.

In July 2024, the Rotary Club of Kernersville will induct their newest president, Donna Rodgers. Rodgers is the chief operating officer and chief financial officer for the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina and is a long-time member of Main Street United Methodist Church.

“Donna is one of the most pleasant people to be around and we are excited about her upcoming term as president. Donna will bring to the position years of experience in financial management, organizational development, and servant



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Rotary Youth
Leadership Academy

Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) is a leadership experience organized by the Rotary Club of Kernersville and includes outstanding young leaders from both East Forsyth and Glenn High Schools. RYLA is modeled after the Leadership Kernersville program. The Rotary Club of Kernersville began this training program for young people back in 1997.

RYLA emphasizes leadership, citizenship, and personal growth. RYLA aims to demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth, provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders, encourage leadership of youth by youth, and recognize publicly young people who are serving their community.



Continued from page 1

leadership,” said Herman.

“We hope to see everyone at our funnel cake booth at Spring Folly this May. We would love to host anyone in the community that is interested in becoming a Rotarian by visiting one of our weekly regular meetings or our monthly satellite club meetings.” Herman added.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Kernersville, visit www.kernersvillerotary.org. If interested in learning more about the club or attending a meeting, contact Herman at President@kernersvillerotary.org.

