

The RIM Newsletter

Rotary InMotion



Club 16 (2809) District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916
<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>



Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Celebrating the people, events, and actions of the Muskegon Rotary Club

April 17, 2025

**Next Meeting (April 24, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Honey Glazed Pork Loin at the DELTA
Program Topic – Outbound Exchange Students**

What's Coming

April 24 – Outbound Exchange Students

May 1 – Museums 80th Anniversary of WWII

May 6 – Law Day

May 15 – El Salvador and Honduras Trip

Upcoming Birthdays

April 24	Julia Rupp
April 25	Jeff Bessinger
April 26	Don Hutchins
April 26	Rem Sprague
April 28	Parker Aerts
April 30	Doug Wood

Caring Connections Fund



[Click this link to donate \\$10 on your birthday](#)

Greeters This Week

Melissa Horton
Walter Mrotz

Reflector This Week

Darlene Collett

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Wyatt Huggett
RIM Reporter – Meredith Smillie
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar



President Tim Arter opens the meeting.



The students of Muskegon High School.

Reflection



Darlene Collet offers the reflection.



Marty Sytsema introduces the staff and students of Muskegon High School.

Visitors & Guests



Kristi Nagengast with her guest and husband, Don Nagengast.



AV extraordinaire **Mike Vogas** gives a friendly reminder about microphone and front-of-room etiquette.



Rob Taylor and guest Mehean Quinn.



Ed Hendrickson with guest Patrick Borum



Andrew Zahrt and guest Tammy Tompkins.



Pete DeBoer with guests Jill Ryan and Rory Thibault.



Randy Lindquist with guests Rachel Zaragoza and Sarah Juhnke.

Paul Harris Fellow Award



President Tim Arter and **Meredith Smillie** introduce the newest Paul Harris Award recipient.



Meredith Smillie with Paul Harris Award recipient **Kristi Nagengast**.





Paul Harris Award recipient **Kristi Nagengast** thanks her fellow Rotarians.



Kristi and Don Nagengast with her Paul Harris Award.

4/17/2025 Muskegon Rotary
 YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

New Members



Sponsor **Rob Mathis** and his Rotary inductee Jessica Kauffman.

Jessica Kauffman is the Branch Manager at 4Front Credit Union in Muskegon. With 13 years of dedicated experience in the credit union industry, her journey encompasses various roles in frontline positions, lending, marketing, and management.

Born and raised in Fruitport, MI, Jessica currently resides in Ravenna with her husband, Brandt, and their three children: Aylin, Lawson, and Haven. They recently added a new puppy named Creed to their family. In her free time, Jessica enjoys camping, hunting, shopping, and spending quality time with her family.

She is very passionate about the credit union sector and committed to helping the community. Her team contributed over 120 hours of volunteer time in 2024 and is always seeking new opportunities to make a positive impact in our community!



Sponsor **Roger Morgenstern** with new Rotary inductees Greg Borgman and Josh Karafa.

Greg Borgman

Greg Borgman is a recent retiree from Goodwill Industries of West Michigan, where he worked as a Justice Involved Case Manager. He currently serves as an Ambassador for Pioneer Resources, and is a sales person for Silver Lining Structures.

Greg also serves on the Silent Observer committee and is an active member of the Nelson Neighborhood Improvement Association. He is also the event planner for the Michigan Recycling Coalition's statewide conference, which will be held here in mid May. In addition, he volunteers with the West Michigan Symphony's Gala and Audience committees, supporting the WMSO not only as an avid attendee but also helping bring in new season ticket subscribers.

Greg Borgman is an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Grand Haven, serving on the parish vestry, and is a trustee on the Bishop Whittemore Foundation. Greg enjoys networking for a wide variety of friends and the community, started a local networking group ten years ago and still serves in that capacity.

Greg is a past trustee of the Hackley Public Library, where he proudly touts his participation in bringing their current Executive Director to that organization. He is a current board member of the Muskegon Historic

District Commission, and formerly served on the Muskegon Housing Board of Appeals for 41 years.

Greg enthusiastically serves in any capacity to help "Anything Muskegon." The owner of an historic home in downtown Muskegon, he enjoys engaging with his many neighbors.

A proud Big Red, he served four years in the United States Air Force after high school and attended Muskegon Community College.

In his spare time, he enjoys traveling and showing his 1969 Chevy Caprice, and is excited to be a part of Rotary.

Josh Karafa – Founder of Silver Lining Structures

Josh's journey into the world of construction began early—at just 14 years old, he was hands-on helping his family flip houses. That experience sparked a lasting interest in building, leading him to work for a local home builder as he gained further real-world experience.

Despite his passion for construction, Josh initially pursued a different path. He earned a degree in Criminal Justice from Muskegon Community College and went on to spend nearly a decade serving his community in local law enforcement. Those years instilled in him a strong sense of discipline, integrity, and leadership—traits that would later define his career in construction.

In 2017, Josh became a licensed builder and turned his lifelong passion into a profession. Two years ago, he launched **Silver Lining Structures**, a company built on craftsmanship,

transparency, and genuine care for both clients and employees. Under Josh's leadership, the business has grown steadily—adding talented team members, introducing employee benefits, and creating a positive, people-first work environment.

His commitment to quality and community hasn't gone unnoticed. In 2025, Silver Lining Structures was honored with **Grand Haven's People's Choice Award for Best Contractor**, a testament to Josh's hard work and the trust he's built with clients across the region.

Josh continues to lead Silver Lining Structures with the same hands-on approach and dedication that started it all—believing that with the right team, every project has a silver lining.



Our new Rotary inductees receive their plaques featuring the Four-Way Test.



Our newest Rotary inductees with their sponsors.

This Week's Program: Homeless Youth

Presenters: Randy Lindquist & Rachel Zaragoza

Introduced by: Lisa Tyler



Lisa Tyler introduces the program.

Lisa Tyler introduced our program and speakers for our presentation on homeless youth in Muskegon County.

Randy Lindquist is our Muskegon Area ISD superintendent and Rachel Zaragoza is the Special Populations Coordinator and McKinney Vento Act Coordinator at the Muskegon Area ISD.



Today's Muskegon Area ISD speakers: Randy Lindquist and Rachel Zaragoza.

Randy Lindquist serves as the Superintendent of the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, where he has dedicated the past 18 years to advancing educational opportunities and supporting local schools across Muskegon County. With a career in education spanning more than 30 years, including roles as an elementary teacher, principal, and

district leader, Randy is passionate about building strong partnerships that support students, educators, and the broader community. He is committed to innovation, collaboration, and ensuring every student has the tools they need to succeed.

Rachel Zaragoza is the Special Populations Coordinator for MAISD and the McKinney Vento Regional Coordinator for Muskegon County. She has been with MAISD for 10 years and has her Master's in Public Administration from Western Michigan University. Rachel's focus is on supporting all of our local schools with students experiencing homelessness; as well as, our immigrant and multilingual students. As a lifelong Muskegon County resident, her commitment to meeting the diverse needs of all learners ensures that vulnerable student groups receive the resources and advocacy they need to thrive.



Randy Lindquist of the Muskegon Area ISD holds up a list of the "Ever-Increasing Burden of America's Public Schools."

Randy and Rachel spoke about homeless youth in Muskegon County and specifically spoke about 1,000 youth that are currently homeless in Muskegon County. Muskegon County schools continue to provide support services for youth and that includes more than just educating students.



The list of services schools are providing to youth each day is ever growing.



Muskegon County kids need to have their physical and emotional needs met before they can learn and thrive in school. Students constantly worried about housing insecurity are not able to successfully learn and apply what they are learning at school.

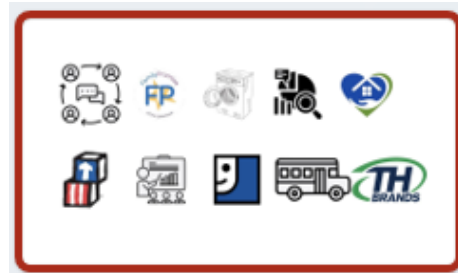
Homelessness of children, under the age of 18, often are very hidden from view from the public. Many children are sleeping in cars with their family, remain after school for numerous hours for safety and security, while other kids may be couch-surfing with friends or family members, or reside at homeless shelters.

Each school district needs to have a point person who address youth who are unhoused. At the Muskegon Area ISD, they are collaborating with all the McKinney Vento school liaisons and developing community partners to collaborate and begin developing solutions.

The only family shelter is the Muskegon Promise and they only have four rooms available for families. Many shelters can only house men or women, separating families. The district has been able to provide housing via hotel vouchers for additional families.

They have also provided washers and dryers to families to alleviate clean clothing as a barrier for attendance. On going training and education around the McKinney Vento act is also common for Muskegon ISD. They also provide vouchers for Goodwill stores to purchase seasonal clothing.

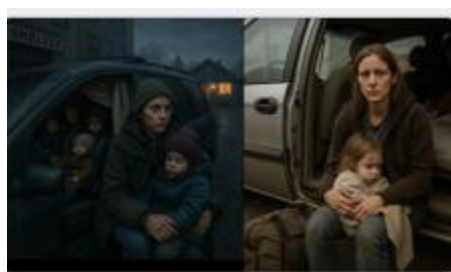
Transportation work groups are also a big part of the Muskegon ISD and addressing transportation needs for youth, so homeless youth can remain in their home school during a housing crisis. They also purchase emergency needs, such as air mattresses, bedding, employment needs, or work clothing items.





Rachel Zaragoza from Muskegon Area ISD shares how they're addressing teen homelessness through local partnerships.

Rachel noted that over 1,000 children experienced homelessness during the past school year. They may be living in campers, tents, homes with no running water, or are couch surfing between friends and family. Rachel also noted that this number is likely higher than what has been reported. Rachel also shared two stories from interviews that they conducted with students and parents. Living in shelters and hotels can harbor many physical and medical safety risks, inability to cook real meals, travelling with prized possessions in garbage bags, and lack of space in rooms for kids to learn to walk or crawl. In 2026, Muskegon will be the only county in the state that does not have programming or shelters for homeless youth.



[Click here](#) to view the video.

In closing, the Muskegon Area ISD needs our help. There was a very strong call to action from both Randy and Rachel. Advocate, push it through to county and city commissioners, and Muskegon Rotary can be a strong partner in fixing this issue.

Muskegon Rotary Board

Tim Arter, President
 Dave Alexander, President-Elect
 Roger Morgenstern, President Nominee
 Ginny Sprague, Past President
 Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer
 Jane Clingman-Scott, Secretary
 Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator
 Directors:
 Aaron Maike Tom Palmer
 Brandon Turnbull Esther Ricco
 Marty Sytsema Lisa Tyler

Please email Club Board Members through this [link](#):

Correction of the April 10th RIM Newsletter

The two Greeters were

***Lisa Tyler
 ***Kelly DeVos
 Forever grateful for their continued service

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Andrea Ziegler discusses an upcoming local beach cleanup.



April is National Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month

(SAAM). MADL recognizes the ongoing need to put an end to the crime of sexual assault. April is also a time to acknowledge the resilience of those impacted by sexual assault including survivors and victims, as well as advocates and professionals supporting survivors, and to ensure that our homes, places of learning and work are safe for all. Recommended reads: [CLICK HERE](#)

Rotary In Action Ginny Sprague Past President



Ginny Sprague shares the contributions to our club to the efforts of the Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow Award. A select committee offers nominations for this distinguished award to those who contribute much to our community and the world. To watch her video, click [here](#).



Tim Lipan introduces Rotary District Governor Brianna Scott.



Rotary District Governor Brianna Scott thanks the Muskegon Rotary Club for registering for the District Conference.



Dimitri Poland and Irma Carney invite Rotarians to the "Community Pours" event at 794!

Rotary ReWine

ReWine meetings are every 1st & 3rd Thursday each month at 5:15pm at the Core Plaza (Vault). Contact **Kaytie Drake** at kaytieely@aol.com for more information.



District Governor Brianna Scott encourages more Muskegon Rotarians to sign up for the District Conference.

Dear Fellow Rotarians of Rotary District 6290,

Through the generosity of Rotary Charities of Traverse City, our Rotary District 6290 can offer again the PHF, 500 recognition point match program. Participating in this Foundation Annual Fund will further our Foundation Grants program. Every dollar contributed to the Foundation Annual Fund will count towards our available DDF.

I hope you will consider participating in this great program and support our Rotary Foundation Annual Fund.

For every \$500.00 cash donation to the Annual Fund, 500 points will be added from the generous gift of the Traverse City Charities, for a Paul Harris Fellow award. You may designate yourself or someone you know to assign the PHF award. If you are interested in participating, please contact Meredith Smillie at 616-566-9828 or msmillie@bethany.org

EL Salvador



What a group! Heard they represented us very well on the trip!

Photo submitted by Kaydynce VandenBosch

Pours for Community

What is Pours?

Pours is one of Muskegon Rotary's key fundraising events, helping us **"pour the money back"** into the community and beyond. Funds raised support local and international causes, including literacy programs, youth leadership, community projects, and global humanitarian efforts.

Upcoming Events & Locations

(sign-up is not necessary but appreciated for appetizer planning)

****Thurs. 4/17, 5-7pm**

– 794 Kitchen & Bar

****Mon. 4/21, 5-7pm**

– Unruly Brewing

[Sign up for 4/21 here](#)

****Thurs. 4/24, 7:30-9:30am &**

5-7pm – Community House

****Fri. 5/2, 4-6pm**

– Wonderland Distilling

****Tues. 5/6, 5-7pm**

– Muskegon Brewing Company

Thank you for supporting Rotary and our mission!



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

Pours for Community is a food and beverage event showcasing our local breweries, distilleries, and family-friendly dining venues, with proceeds benefitting the Muskegon Rotary Foundation.

Youth Leadership



Supports Rotary Youth Exchange, Interact/Rotaract/Early Act clubs, and Life Leadership Conference fees for area students.

Community Cultural Enrichment



Investments in public art, including Muskegon area sculptures and murals, are funded by club fundraising.

Health and Environment



Muskegon Rotary addresses food insecurity through food trucks and supports public health and environmental education through the Marquette Microforest.

International Causes



Muskegon Rotary's charitable efforts contribute to Polio eradication, literacy, clean water, housing, sanitation, and more.

2025 SCHEDULE

	794 KITCHEN & BAR Thursday, April 17 5PM - 7PM
	UNRULY BREWING Monday, April 21 5PM - 7PM
	COMMUNITY HOUSE COFFEEHOUSE & SOCIAL Thursday, April 24 7:30AM - 9:30AM 5PM - 7PM
	WONDERLAND DISTILLING Friday, May 2 4PM - 6PM
	MUSKEGON BREWING CO. Tuesday, May 6 5PM - 7PM

Principal Sponsors:

 Tim & Cheryl Arter

 Dr. F. Remington & Ginny Sprague



For more information, visit muskegonrotary.org

Rotary
Club of Muskegon 

District 6290 Summit

Dave Alexander and **Roger Morgenstern** announced that we are not done yet with eradicating polio and our many other good acts of service! As part of our Club's effort to have great representation at the District Conference in downtown Muskegon May 3-4 hosted by our own DG **Brianna Scott**, the Club will reimburse any Rotarians who have never attended a district conference \$100 of the \$175 conference fee.

Please contact **President Tim** or **Treasurer Kristi Nagengast** if you're a first timer and sign up for the conference.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE Empowerment & Leadership Summit AGENDA](#)

Friendly Reminder

Rotary will return to the Lake House starting in May

Immerse yourself in powerful learning experiences

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 6290 EMPOWERMENT & LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
MAY 3 - 4, 2025
MUSKEGON, MI



- Celebrating outstanding clubs and their impact
- Best practices for planning and executing successful projects
- Creating a strong club identity and community presence
- Leadership Development workshops
- Inspiring stories of The Rotary Foundation's Impact

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Muskegon Rotary Board

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Ginny Sprague, Past President
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Aaron Maike Tom Palmer
Brandon Turnbull Esther Ricco
Marty Sytsema Lisa Tyler
Please email Club Board Members through this [link](#):


Community House
Coffee Shop



New Member Social-Pours for Community

Join other new members and enjoy a cup of coffee.

Thursday April 24
7:30-9:30 am
or
5:00-7:00 pm



RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Jackie Farrar
Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, Sue Samaniego, Ginny Sprague
Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt Huggett, & Roger Morgenstern
Contributors: John Noling, Mike Vogas, & Doug Wood

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E15: Erin Kuhn – West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission



In Episode 15 of Season 2 of Muskegon Rising, we sit down with Erin Kuhn, Executive Director of the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC).

Erin shares how WMSRDC connects local governments across five counties to make smart investments in transportation, economic development, environmental restoration, and more.

From Muskegon Lake's comeback to boosting West Michigan's ag economy, this episode pulls back the curtain on the work happening behind the scenes to shape our region's future.

Listen now at:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/16985470-erin-kuhn-west-michigan-shoreline-regional-development-commission>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)



President Tim Arter reminds Rotarians to sign up in advance for "Pours" events—even if there's at least a 50% chance you'll attend.



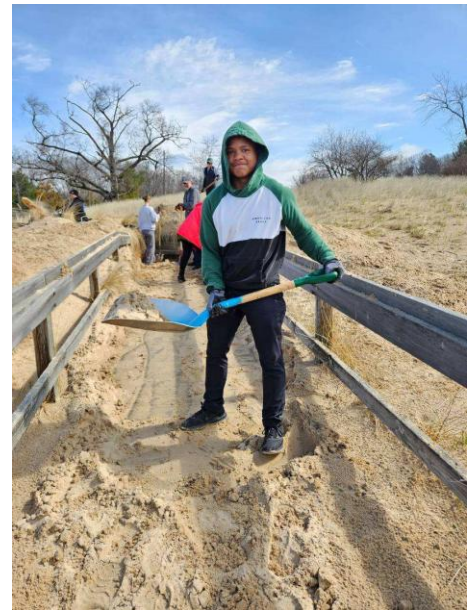
We need your help to make Lake Michigan and Pioneer Park even more beautiful.

Contact Doug Wood or John Noling to confirm.

Don't miss hot dog lunch, campfire ☹️ and marshmallows after! Bring family and friends!

Kruse/Harbor Dunes Cleanup





Great event!
Lots Accomplished!
Thanks
Kristin
County Parks
Muskegon High Rotary
Interactors!!