

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 March 26, 2026

April 2, 2026, 12 – 1:30pm — Chicken Alfredo at the Delta Program – Solid Rock Housing

What's Coming

- April 2—Solid Rock Housing
- April 9—MCC 100th Anniversary
- April 16—Pure Muskegon Acquisition of the Sappi Property

Upcoming Birthdays

- April 5 Lisa Tyler
- April 6 Dave Alexander
- April 8 Michelle Gravlín
- April 8 Jamie Hekker

Caring Connections Fund

[Click here to donate](#)

Stage Manager This Week

Andrew Zahrt

Greeters This Week

Don Kalisz & Parker Aerts

Reflector This Week

Kathy Moore

RIM Reporting this Edition

- Photographer – Brock Johnson
- RIM Reporter – Jackie Farrar
- RIM Editor – Susan Besteman



Page 10 for the March Madness Brave Rotarian Update!



Kathy Moore gave another inspirational reflection; there are many seasons but we are blessed and continue to grow in all these seasons. To hear the full reflection and the rest of the meeting, watch the Muskegon Rotary YouTube video:

Muskegon Rotary March 26th
 YouTube Video: [CLICK HERE](#)

Muskegon Rotary Board

- Dave Alexander, President
- Roger Morgenstern, President-Elect
- Lisa Tyler, President Nominee
- Tim Arter, Past President
- Kimberly Taylor, Treasurer
- Jane Clingman-Scott, Secretary
- Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator
- Directors:
- Esther Ricco Brandon Turnbull
- Melissa Moore Samantha Scott
- Arlen-Dean Gaddy Dimitri Poland
- Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga Lisa Kraus

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

Visitors & Guests



Rachel Gorman introduces her guests from the Grand Haven/Spring Lake/Ferrysburg Chamber of Commerce, Kathy Betts (Finance Director and former Rotarian) and Mark Allen (President/CEO)



Kat Hyder with her guest, Lisa Cobb (retired school social worker)



Michele Lipka introduces her guest Lisa German (LMCU)



Alex Fonseca with his guest, Erik Elm (Executive Director of Solid Rock Housing and Speaker on April 2nd)



Greg Borgman introduces his guests, former Rotarian Sylvia Precious (Port City Princess Former Owner) and her daughter Dana Precious (Adjunct Professor GVSU & Author)



Emily Morgenstern introduces her guests, Captain Scott Zonnebelt of the Muskegon Police Department and his daughter Marissa Zonnebelt (North Muskegon Student and Interactor)

RIM Reporting Team

Editors: Susan Besteman,

Jackie Farrar, & Ginny Sprague

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger

Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, & Sue Samaniego

Photographers: Wyatt Huggett, Brock

Johnson, Emily Morgenstern, & Roger Morgenstern



Marty Sytsema introduces our student guests from Montague High School. High School Counselor Rob Patton introduced two top seniors and both high-achieving student athletes, Fletcher Thommen (heading to CMU for their health science program) and Matthew Leatherman (heading to Michigan Tech for biomedical engineering).

Rotary ReWine Schedule

1st and 3rd Thursdays each month

- 5:00-5:15 pm social time
- 5:15 pm Meeting begins

Next meeting is April 2nd at Core Plaza. Bring supplies for the El Salvador trip to this meeting.

April 16th will be at John Noling's house with a bonfire.

April 18th Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up

RSVP by 5 pm on Wednesday for the meeting on Thursday.

Contact **Kaytie Drake** at kaytieely@aol.com to RSVP (total # attending including guests)

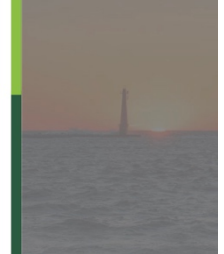


Andrea Riegler introduced our speaker for this week.

This Week's Program The Corner: A Community Collective

Greater Muskegon
Economic Development
Rotary Presentation
March 26, 2026

Trevor Friedeberg, President and CEO of GMED



Presenter: **Trevor Friedeberg**
Introduction by: **Andrea Riegler**
RIM Reporter: **Jackie Farrar**



Trevor started the program today explaining what Economic Development is: It's a process of creating the conditions for economic growth and improved quality of life in a community.

It involves

- Attracting, retaining, and expanding business
- Creating and sustaining good jobs
- Strengthening the local tax base
- Investing in infrastructure, talent, and quality-of-place incentives that make a community vibrant, resilient, and prosperous

In a nutshell "Improving quality of life through jobs, investment, and opportunity".

Trevor also pointed out that Muskegon County has all the ingredients to make an impact on Economic Development. We have the right people, businesses support, and access to places.



The Strategic Priorities Include

- Business Retention, Expansion, and Attraction
- Community Development
- Talent Development
- Site Readiness
- Support for work force Housing

In the News this week we learned that Chobani is investing \$567 million to expand its La Colombe coffee manufacturing plant in Norton Shores. This project will create almost 350 new jobs. This investment is considered one of the largest economic development projects in Muskegon County.



Trevor is driving change and delivering results in Muskegon County. For more information on Greater Muskegon Economic Development (GMED) scan the QR Code below



NEW MEMBERS

Will Snyder & Bob Garretson



Bob Garretson



Roger “Bob” Garretson is the CEO with Embark Financial Partners. Bob was born in Washington and attended the University of Washington on a Navy ROTC scholarship graduating with a degree in international studies. He then served as a naval officer including time aboard the USS Blue Ridge in Japan and later in Washington DC. During his service, he was awarded two navy commendation medals. After leaving the Navy in 1996, he earned his master’s degree in public administration from George Washington University. While in Washington DC, Bob met Heather Albertee from Muskegon. After “relentless pursuit” according to Bob, they were finally married in Grand Haven in 1997. Bob and Heather began their life together in Kansas City where



he started his career in financial services in 1999. Their son, Ben, was born in 2002 followed by daughter, Kate, in 2005. In 2006, they moved to Muskegon to be closer to family and put down roots. He was one of the first businesses in the redeveloped downtown Muskegon and became deeply involved in community development efforts. He later founded Embark Financial Partners which has grown to include offices in Muskegon, Kansas City, and now metro Detroit.

Beyond his professional work, Bob has been actively engaged in the Muskegon community. He served as Board Chair of Community Encompass, Treasurer of the West Michigan Symphony, and Board Chair of the Big Red Leaders Foundation. He's also known as an above-average dancer having participated in Dancing with the Local Stars more than once. Bob and Heather are passionate about community building. From hosting Sundays on Sunday at their home for the Big Reds football team in the house that Heather grew up in on Jefferson St, to helping launch Hagar's House (a supportive home for women transitioning out of difficult circumstances, they have consistently invested their time and resources into making Muskegon stronger. Bob is a member of Bethany Christian Church and enjoys golf, cooking, travel, and time with family and friends. His father was a lifelong Rotarian and Bob is proud to continue that legacy. Bob is sponsored by **Heidi Sytsema**.

Rep. Will Snyder



A proud lifelong resident of Muskegon, **Rep. Will Snyder** is serving his second term representing the 87th House District. Prior to his work as a legislator, Will spent six years working for his predecessor, Rep. Terry Sabo and prior to that as a regional organizer for the Michigan Senate Democrats. He also served on the Board of Directors of Read Muskegon, is involved with his local Knights of Columbus where he previously served as Building Association President.

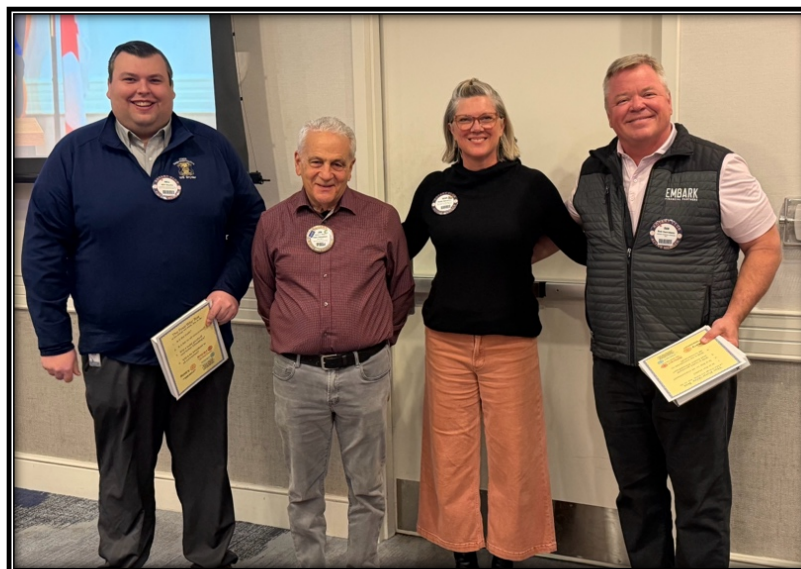
In Lansing, he champions strong workforce development programs and efforts to expand access to high-paying, quality jobs. Last term he served as Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Economic Development, and Lifelong Learning. Rep. Snyder works tirelessly to build a

robust, talented workforce to meet the demands of the 21st century, moving Michigan's economy forward. With positions on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Insurance and Financial Services, the Appropriations Subcommittee on Michigan State Police, and the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

Rep. Snyder is the author of eight bills that became law in his first term. His public acts address issues ranging from economic development to health care access. A major priority of his has been investing in long-neglected infrastructure projects and community services throughout Muskegon County. Since taking office, he has secured over \$150 million for various projects in Muskegon County.

In everything that he does, Rep. Snyder prioritizes the needs of his constituents and all of Greater Muskegon, consistently making state government work for the people. He understands that strengthening the connections between the people in local communities and the policymakers in Lansing is an essential ingredient in reinforcing Michigan's today and investing in its tomorrow.

In his free time, Will can be found enjoying the natural beauty of Muskegon. Whether that means taking in the lakeshore's magnificent sunsets, tending to his yard, or spending time attempting to golf, he always finds a way to be outdoors. Will is sponsored by **Jim Fisher**.



Rotary In Action Jason Piasecki



In this episode, former Muskegon Rotary Club president Jason Piasecki reflects on the responsibility and personal growth that comes with leading one of West Michigan's most influential service organizations. He shares how Rotary meetings became a trusted source of news and insight for the Muskegon community, bringing together fellowship, leadership development, and meaningful conversations about local issues. Piasecki discusses the challenge of leading weekly programs for over 150 Rotarians and how the experience strengthened his commitment to service, leadership, and keeping the Muskegon community informed and connected.

Watch the video—[CLICK HERE](#)



Baker College ROTARACT FOOD TRUCK

Baker College Muskegon campus Rotaract partnered with the Muskegon YMCA for food distribution through Feeding America. Another frigid day, but worth it to impact our community!

Announcements

New Member Coffee Connect Meeting Refreshing!



Melissa Horton reported a great turn out for the new member social on Friday the 20th that was held at the Hackley & Hume Historic Site. New members enjoyed refreshments then got a special tour of the Hume House by Historic Sites Director Erin Schmitz, who focused on Thomas Hume his Irish roots and his community impact.



Fun Times at the Kid's Food Basket Social-- Need More Help Monthly



President Dave Alexander gave kudos to **Tim Lipan** and our Social Committee for a successful social event on the 25th at Kid's Food Basket. As a club, we would like to address food insecurity and would like to put together a monthly volunteer shift putting sack suppers together. We need volunteers willing to rotate through the monthly shift. Contact Dave to sign up – [CLICK HERE](#)





Sue Samaniego, Muskegon Community College’s Chief Advancement Officer and Rotaract Advisor, invite all who are ages 18–55 for a DKMS stem cell donor drive for blood cancers. Join her and our MCC Rotaract Committee for this life-saving event on Monday, March 30th at Noon-4pm in the Gerber Lounge (main campus main entrance). [Click here to contact Sue.](#)



Dom Bunker announces an international cookbook from the Rotary Youth Exchange—on sale now!



Tim Arter announced the Pours for Community Events are beginning in April and sponsors have signed up to help already. However, more donations are appreciated so a designated box will be at the meetings. Contact Tim if you would like to be a sponsor too!



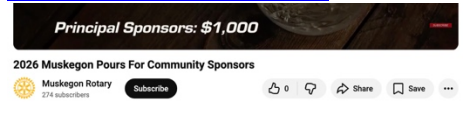
Emma Peterson highlighted the Pours for Community events to help support the Rotary Foundation. It is a food and beverage event showcasing our local breweries, distilleries, and family-friendly dining venues, with proceeds benefitting the Muskegon Rotary Foundation for youth leadership, community cultural enrichment, health & environment, and international causes.



- Wed., April 15, 5-7:00 pm**
794 Kitchen & Bar
[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)
 - Monday, April 20, 5-7:00 pm**
Unruly Brewing
 - Friday, April 24, 4-6:00 pm**
Wonderland Distilling
 - Tues., April 28, 7:30-9:30 am,**
Community House **
 - Thurs., April 30, 5-7:00 pm,**
Muskegon Brewing
- ** Please note the **April 28** event is a **morning coffee hour** at the Community House.

Thank you to all our sponsors!

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



Bring the World to Your Table! The Muskegon Rotary Club Youth Exchange Program has released a special cookbook: *Around the Table, Around the World*.

This collection features international recipes from our inbound students and the families hosting our Muskegon County students abroad.

All proceeds help support our outbound exchange students traveling to Denmark (from Muskegon Public Schools) and South Korea (from Oakridge Public Schools) this year.

Cookbook Options:

- \$5 Digital Copy
- \$10 Printed Copy (Local Pickup)
- \$15 Printed Copy (Shipped)

Perfect for Mother’s Day or anyone who loves trying recipes from around the world!

Order your copy here: <https://bit.ly/2026RYECookbook> Or scan QR Code.

ORDER NOW

AROUND THE TABLE, AROUND THE WORLD COOKBOOK!



rotary youth exchange Rotary Club of Muskegon

Rotary LAKESHORE LITERACY SUMMIT 2026

On Friday March 27, more than 70 people attended the first ever Lakeshore Literacy Summit organized by our Club as well as the Spring Lake and Grand Haven Rotary clubs. Librarians, educators and others committed to improving literacy rates in Muskegon and Ottawa counties learned about ways they can become advocates to encourage more literacy funding and how they can lend a hand as volunteers, helping people to read. Volunteers of all types are needed, but especially tutors. Read Muskegon and Read Ottawa will work with volunteers to find the right role based on their interest and time availability.



The news is no better among youth, she said.

- Michigan ranks 44th in the country in 3rd grade reading.
- Over 60% of Muskegon County 3rd graders are not reading at grade level according to the 2025 MSTEP (the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress).
- 44% of Ottawa County 3rd graders are not reading at grade level according to the 2025 MSTEP.
- 60.8% of 7th graders in Michigan are testing below proficiency in English Language Arts.

"Today I am challenging you all to find your way to be a part of spreading that light of literacy so that no one has to wait, like Bennie did, until they are in their 70's to discover that they had possessed the ability to read their whole life if only they had had the opportunity," Melissa told the group.

Among those attending Saturday's summit at the Trillium Event Center in Ferrysburg was our District 6290 Governor **Mark**



Andresky. He said he appreciated the collaboration between the three clubs, local libraries and educators. He said education and literacy is one of Rotary International's Seven Areas of Focus. -Contributed by **Roger Morgenstern**



The need is clear, said our own **Melissa Moore**, executive director of Read Muskegon and the summit's keynote speaker. Consider this:

- More than half (54%) of American adults read below a 6th grade level.
- Nationally, the

number of adults at Literacy Level 1 (functionally illiterate) increased by 9% between 2017 and 2023.

- 20% of adults – about 27,000 - in Muskegon County read at Level 1 (below 4th-grade) and 35% - about 47,000 - read at Level 2 (generally 4th-6th grade).
- 22% of adults – about 48,000 - in Ottawa County read at Level 1 and 30% - about 66,000 - read at Level 2

Melissa said there are success stories, though, including Bennie, a 72-year-old learner assisted by Read Muskegon. When he came to them, he had a reading level below kindergarten. Now he can function better in the world and be a better provider for his family, thanks to improved literacy.

During her remarks, Melissa held up a glass prism and explained they were used to bring daylight below the decks of wooden ships in the days before electricity. By helping people to improve their reading skills, literacy champions can be that light.



Muskegon Rotarian and Hackley Public Library Director **Joe Zappacosta**.



Dale Swihart, President of the Grand Haven Rotary Club, served as the moderator of Friday's summit and kept everything on time!



Muskegon Rotary President **Dave Alexander** welcomes the attendees and thanked the committee that pulled the event together.



Muskegon Rotarian and Muskegon Area District Library Programs Manager **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga**.



Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga reminded the club of three upcoming DEI events: Play It Straight, MCC English Honors students' Book Discussion on April 2nd, and the Great Michigan Read Author Event with Curtis Chin on April 13th (first time Michigan has been on the author tour).

GREAT MICHIGAN READ AUTHOR EVENT WITH



CURTIS CHIN

BOOK SIGNING AFTER THE EVENT

Join us for an evening with Curtis Chin, author of *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*, as part of the statewide Great Michigan Read tour presented by Michigan Humanities.

Chin's memoir traces his experiences growing up Chinese-American in Detroit—balancing humor, heart, and the lively world of Chung's Cantonese Cuisine, his family's restaurant that fed people from all walks of life in 1980s Detroit. His story captures the complexities of coming out as a gay Asian-American, his years at the University of Michigan, and his later work writing for film and television.

APR 13 | 6:30pm
The Corner (280 W. Muskegon Ave)
Doors open at 6pm with tastings from local Chinese Restaurants available until the event begins. Books will be available for purchase courtesy of the Book Nook.



Save your seat with this QR code

Get ready for Curtis Chin's visit with a special book club for Rotarians and MCC English Honors students. This book discussion will be held on April 2nd at Muskegon Community College in Room 1006. Questions? Call Rotarian **Doug Wood**.

Click the link below to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44FAA2CABFFC16-63204724-great>

ReWine Updates

Adopt-A-Highway Program Looking for Volunteers

Our next pickup for the Muskegon Rotary stretch of highway on I-96 will be on Saturday, April 18. Volunteers will meet promptly at 8:45am for a short safety talk, then head out on the road to pick trash. (We will finish no later than 11:00am, sooner if we get a lot of help 😊). Also looking for two drivers to drive along with the volunteers who are picking trash. If you can help, please contact **Esther Ricco**, riccoe@gvsu.edu and she can provide you with details. Be a part of keeping our adopted stretch clean and taking action to protect our environment!

Feeding America

Food Truck – April 22nd



Dave Alexander highlights the upcoming Feeding America food distribution truck on April 22nd at Community United Methodist Church.

United Way Day of Caring



Friday, April 24th

<https://www.unitedwaylakeshore.org/day-caring>



Dom Bunker, chair of the Youth Exchange Committee, has been notified of our first Inbound student, a young man from Germany, and we await notification of two more. Please consider welcoming one of these students as a **host family!** Contact Dom for more information: [Click Here](#)

Community Yard Sale— May 15-17th

Rotarians, outbound youth exchange families, and friends are invited to donate items for a community yard sale on May 15th-17th at the United Way building parking lot. More details to come but please start thinking about items you may be able to contribute.



Rotary District 6290 Volunteer Opportunities

<https://ridistrict6290.org/sitepage/open-district-volunteer-roles/>

1. Spring learning center will be at Frederick Meijer Gardens on April 18. Sign Up—[CLICK HERE](#)
2. Saturday, May 16 is the Epic Day of Service (nationwide). Rotarians will partner with local communities and other organizations to complete service projects in their area.
3. Saturday, June 6, Crystal Mountain induction of new District Governor, **Julie Schumaker**



Pete DeBoer and Andrea Riegler from the Muskegon Rotary Environmental Committee announced a county recycling event on April 25th.

[Click here for more information.](#)

MUSKEGON COUNTY RECYCLING EVENT

Saturday April 25th, 2026
from 9am-1pm



RAIN OR SHINE*

FREE TO COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY

BUSINESS WASTE AND REGULAR TRASH NOT ACCEPTED**

SCRAP TIRES... **NO TIRES WILL BE ACCEPTED**

Due to a delay in the EGLE Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant, **NO** tires will be accepted at this event. Please see www.muskegoncounty.net/EGLE for more information on future tire events.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Including mercury, petroleum products, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, acids, bases, CFL and fluorescent light bulbs, and oil base paint products. Must be in containers no greater than 6 gallons; NO drums of any kind. Latex paint will not be accepted!

ELECTRONICS

Including computers, peripherals, TV's, and other electronic devices.
Visit: www.muskegoncounty.net/777 for a link to a full listing of accepted electronics.

*Please note: CRT TV's WILL be accepted for this event

*Severe weather may cause a halt or shut down of the event as determined by the event coordinator.

*Event staff reserve the right to limit any collected materials and refuse apparent business waste.



VISIT: WWW.MUSKEGONCOUNTY.NET/777 OR CALL: 231-724-6001

Funding for this event:
Muskegon County Solid Waste, Muskegon County Sustainability Office
Michigan Department of EGLE Scrap-Tire Clean-Up Grant

They also mentioned checking out the iNaturalist app/program—
<https://www.inaturalist.org/>



President Nominee Lisa Tyler and upcoming Co-President Nominee Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga attended the President Elect Leadership Seminar, and our own **Kate Scarbrough** won a prize from the District 6290 Raffle drawing! Congratulations, Kate!

Braver Angels Workshop



Bernard Brown from your Rotary PeaceBuilder Committee asks if we are ready for tough conversations from opposing viewpoints/ideas? If some practice or additional ideas may be helpful, the Braver Angel Workshop, “Bridging the Political Divide”, Part 2, is scheduled for May 1, 1-4 p.m., at the Chamber/GMED offices, 380 W. Western Ave., Suite 202. This workshop is the second half to the workshop held in the spring of 2025. Many of those who participated in the first half asked to have the second half held, including some observers who now would like to be active participants. This workshop will focus on open discussions, as well as finding common ground. Contact **Cathy Brubaker-Clarke** if you would like additional information.
[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

Parties in the Park— May 29th

Rotary's 2026 Party in the Park fundraiser is set for May 29! This year we are doing the first party, which will feature a great Bob Seger tribute band, **President Dave** announced at our weekly meeting. **Andrew Cutler** is again starting to gear up for one of our largest fundraisers for the Muskegon Rotary Foundation. But, Dave said, there are 265 Muskegon Rotarians, and please consider joining his team and even being an event co-chair to lead the event in the future. Please see **President Dave**, **President Elect Roger Morgenstern** or **Andrew** to get involved.

Epilepsy Awareness

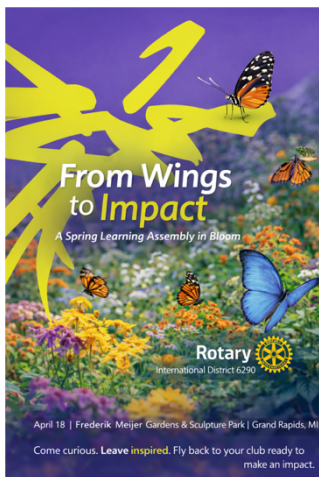


Karen Kekelik spoke to our members about epilepsy in recognition of Epilepsy Awareness Day. Epilepsy is a neurological condition that affects the brain and causes recurring seizures. These seizures can look very different from person to person. Some may involve convulsions, while others might be brief moments of staring or confusion. What's important to understand is that epilepsy is not rare—it affects millions of people worldwide. Despite how common it is, epilepsy is often misunderstood. Many people still believe myths, like that seizures are always dramatic or that epilepsy defines a person's abilities. Most people with epilepsy can live full, active, and successful lives with the right treatment and support. Awareness matters because it leads to understanding. And understanding leads to action. When more people know how to recognize a seizure and respond safely, lives can be protected. For example, if someone is having a seizure, staying calm, moving objects away to prevent injury, and timing the seizure can make a huge difference. Epilepsy Awareness Day is also about support. It's about standing with those who live with this condition every day—reminding them they are not alone, and that their voices matter. It's about encouraging research, improving access to care, and breaking down stigma. If you or someone you know has epilepsy, if you need support or if you just want to learn more, please feel free to reach out to me at any time. So today, let's take a step toward compassion and education. Let's replace fear with knowledge and silence with conversation. Because awareness isn't just about knowing—it's about caring enough to make a difference.

President Dave's Muskegon Minute



One question I get most out in the community over the past decade is what's up with the former paper mill Sappi site on Muskegon Lake? Well, what is the planned mixed-use Windward Pointe, now owned by Muskegon developer Parkland Properties, has a new project website with lots of information. See windwardpointemi.com. I learned that Parkland will begin site improvements this summer along with two waterfront model homes. The 120-acre site with a mile of Muskegon Lake frontage, is slated to have multi-family homes underway in 2027, mixed residential-retail buildings in 2028 and boat storage and marina in 2029. The initial residential development will be along the waterfront with planned public access. The entire development is expected to have more than 2,000 housing units. An AI promotional video is pretty cool. Former owners Pure Muskegon and Parkland are expected to be future programs.



THE FINAL FOUR MARCH MADNESS BRAVE ROTARIAN CONTEST UPDATE!

Down to the Final Four!
Congratulations to these teams and Rotarians. One step closer.

Men's Bracket

Illinois (**Jeff Dana**) vs
UConn (**Sue Samaneigo**)

Michigan (**Tara Foreman**) vs
Arizona (**Jeff Fortenbacher**)

Women's Bracket

Texas (**Kaitlin Hermanson**) vs
UCLA (**Tara Foreman**)

UConn (**Meredith Smillie**) vs
South Carolina (**Marty Sytsema**)

Spring Learning Assembly at Fredrick Meijer Gardens

Beginning **April 1**, the registration fee for the **Spring Learning Assembly** will increase to **\$40**. If you've been thinking about attending, now is the time to secure your spot at the current rate.

Your early registration is more than just a commitment to attend—it plays a critical role in our planning. From room setup and materials to meals and session flow, your timely response helps us deliver a seamless and impactful experience for everyone.

We're excited to bring you a day filled with learning, connection, and inspiration at Frederik Meijer Gardens. Let's make it a day that truly helps us **Create Lasting Impact**.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Muskegon Rising Podcast now has a title sponsor— Muskegon Area Promise!

Muskegon Rising Podcast S3E6: Blended Furniture Market



On this episode of Muskegon Rising, we sit down with Randi Lynn Talsma, owner of Blended Furniture Market, to explore how a woman-owned, family-run furniture store is redefining retail in Muskegon. Randi shares how a Comcast RISE grant is helping Blended upgrade technology, marketing, and systems while expanding its community impact.

From non-commission sales and a welcoming, family-like atmosphere to creative events and strong social media engagement, this conversation highlights how local small businesses fuel economic growth and help Muskegon families create homes they love. [#MuskegonRising](#)
[#SupportLocalMuskegon](#)
[#WomenOwnedBusiness](#)
[#ShopLocalMichigan](#)

Watch now:

<https://youtu.be/Lv4XnJCTMo?si=bWt0xsKXHWf65iTi>

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