

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 27, 2025

Next Meeting (April 3, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Italian Sandwiches at the DELTA
Program Topic – Three Organizations Combating Food Insecurity in Our Community

What's Coming

**April 3 — Three Local Organizations
Combating Food Insecurity**
April 10 – Disability & JEDI

Upcoming Birthdays

April 3	Tom Palmer
April 5	Lisa Tyler
April 6	Dave Alexander
April 8	Trudy Ender
April 8	Michelle Gravlin
April 8	Jamie Hekker

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeter This Week

Stacey Kennedy & Don Kalisz

Reflector This Week

Joanie Smith



RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern
RIM Reporter – Susan Besteman
RIM Editor – Susan Besteman



It was a standing room only crowd Thursday to hear key updates from Muskegon County government, with about 130 Rotarians and guests on hand at the Delta!



President
Tim kept a busy meeting before a full house moving along and on time

Visitors & Guests



Tom Palmer with his guest and his wife, Karen Palmer.



Jim Fisher introduced his guest and potential member Amy White

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
Brandon Turnbull
Marty Sytsema
Tom Palmer
Esther Ricco
Lisa Tyler

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

3/27/2025 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)



Mary Anne Gorman introduced visiting Grand Rapids Rotarian and District 6290 Membership Chair **Kirk Dornbush** and guest Bridgette Zappacosta



Heidi Sytsema introduces her guest and Community Foundation for Muskegon County colleague Saray Figueroa



President Elect Dave Alexander, representing the Program Committee, introduces our speaker and fellow Rotarian, **Mark Eisenbarth**



Mark Eisenbarth with his guests Muskegon County commissioners Michelle Hazekamp and Kim Cyr.



Bob Lukens introduces his guest and Muskegon County government colleague Ken Efting



Melissa Moore introduced two of her Read Muskegon colleagues, Legacy Cannon and Jenna Lakos



Matt Farrar with his guests and Muskegon County government colleagues Sara Cooper and Jennifer Hodges



D.J. Hilson with his guest "and my favorite county commissioner" Jessica Cook



Mary Beth Ramos with her guest and potential member Liz Dunlap



Marty Sytsema introduces our guests from Montague High School: Counselor Rob Patton and students Bailey Tallquist (GVSU for physical therapy) and Kendall Rachow (GVSU for nursing).



**MONTAGUE AREA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
EDUCATION IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

This week's program:



Muskegon County Initiatives and Projects

Presenter: Mark Eisenbarth
Introduced by: Dave Alexander
RIM Reporter: Susan Besteman

Our speaker and fellow Rotarian, **Mark Eisenbarth**, is a Kansas native and earned his Bachelor's degree from Emporia State University before his Master's in Environmental Science from the University of Kansas. After nine years in Topeka and five years in Garden City, Mark moved to Muskegon in 2004 to accept a position as the Deputy Director of Muskegon County Natural Resources and Recovery Center. In 2014, he was appointed as County Administrator where he continues to serve today.

Mark surprised the crowd with a few door prizes to make sure everyone was paying attention and gave thanks to fellow Rotarians Judge **Jenny**

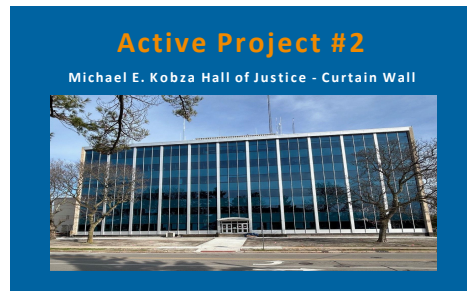
McNeill (who donated a “get out of jail free card” for a prize only during the presentation 😊) and **Bob Lukens** (donated a couple Muskegon County Park Passes). The top prize was a donation by Denver Air for two round trip tickets to Chicago.



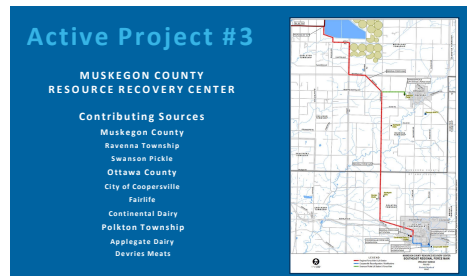
With so many departments, Mark narrowed down the message to three active projects and four initiatives.



Active Project #1:
Our airport has a new entrance, new security, and additional restrooms after security now. Denver Air has been very successful with only one cancellation this winter. They also are receiving a grant with Manistee to do a flight to Milwaukee International Airport where they have Delta, American, Southwest, United and several other options as well. This will be a test to see how well this is received for future planning.



Active Project #2:
Our Hall of Justice had renovations on the sixth floor and a courtroom on the fourth floor as well (Mark gave kudos to Erhardt Construction on the nice work). Mark's first trivia question was how many current judges do we have in our Hall of Justice? The correct answer: eleven.



Active Project #3:
Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center has a new wastewater system pipeline from Coopersville. Because of our unique treatment system here in Muskegon County, this new pipeline gave a problem treatment process a solution. This PVC pipe is thicker than a \$5 bill and ranges from 27"-30" in diameter. This is expected to be up and running by the end of 2026 and will keep many good economic opportunities here in West Michigan.



New County Initiatives:

- Housing Coordinator
- Sustainability Coordinator
- Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Parks Commission

There were a number of reasons for the first county initiative of hiring our new Housing Coordinator, Jennifer Hodges. Studies showed that more buyers are moving into Muskegon County due to the location and also the increase in jobs available now (Cytiva, Rollon Corp, Howmet Aerospace, etc.). Jennifer is the point person to assist in finding places to put more houses and finding solutions for affordable housing including the Neighborhood Enterprise Zones Act, reducing lot widths and zoning reform, process streamlining, and finding attainable housing ordinances.

The second county initiative was hiring our Sustainability Coordinator, Sara Cooper, to increase building energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling and composting programs, vehicle efficiency, reduced water consumption and improve wastewater efficiency.

The third county initiative of a Sustainability Advisory Committee was also recently appointed and now up and running. This committee consists of nine members appointed by the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners and they are looking to partner with other organizations with similar goals (i.e. Muskegon Rotary).

The fourth county initiative was the Muskegon County Parks Commission. They've had a couple of meetings that resulted in two projects at the forefront: Dune Harbor Park and Heritage Landing. Dune Harbor Park

has the north side which is about 3 years behind the south side in preservation of natural vegetation. The south side already has a beautiful trail and available for people to already visit but the Muskegon County Parks Commission is looking to expand on the natural beauty experience.



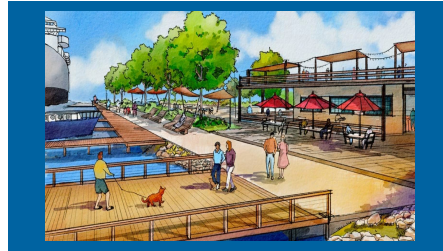
The north side is looking at their opportunities including an option for a camping area (moving Fisherman's Landing campground there), wooden bridges for trails over the water areas, or other potential ideas. Get your \$25 annual park passes/permits at the Parks Department, City of Norton Shores offices, or online. All the funds stay with the park.



Heritage Landing is also on their radar with great potential for a better way to serve our community.



How will people remember Muskegon when they exit the cruise ship? Mark stated, "We've had a company wanting to do a 20-year contract with Muskegon for their cruise ship to be here for the next twenty years" so they designed the below concept with that in mind.



The City of Muskegon is also working with Muskegon County Parks Commission on Heritage Landing with several public meetings.



For the full interview: [Click Here](#)

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

Rotary In Action Aaron Maike Board Service



Aaron Maike is a member of our Muskegon Rotary board of directors. He has many years of Rotarian experience in multiple clubs advising his views. Aaron shares some wonderful insights on the value of serving on the board to improve management skills as well as a path to organizational appointments to positions of authority.

View his video [here](#).

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Braver Angels



Cathy Brubaker-Clarke thanked Rotarians for attending the recent Braver Angels event, and said there will be similar events later this year.

The PeaceBuilder Committee hosted the Braver Angel's Workshop, "Bridging the Political Divide" on March 21. Although many were nervous prior to the workshop, the overwhelming feeling expressed at the conclusion is that everyone felt safe sharing their ideas and thoughts and finding common ground even among our differences. The workshop goals were to learn about the experiences, feelings, and beliefs of those on the other side of the political divide, discover areas of commonality in addition to differences, and gain insights that might be helpful to others in helping to depolarize our community. In the first session, the Reds and Blues divided into their own groups and each discussed what they thought the others believed about them, narrowing the topics down to three. For example, the Reds might believe the Blues stereotype them as "anti-science" and the Blues might believe the Reds stereotype them as "socialist". Participants were quick to point out that although some of these labels are true of some people on each side, they are certainly not true of everyone. Another session asked each "side" to talk about the values they held that were good for the Country, and then what some reservations and concerns are about some of the values they hold. There is a second half to "Bridging the Political Divide" that centers more on "common ground" and how we may all be able to work together to

accomplish good in our community and country. The participants are looking forward to being involved in the next session and plan to invite others to join, as well. At a future meeting, the PeaceBuilder Committee will be discussing when this workshop will be held. We are thankful to Braver Angels, and our moderators, Jim and Cathy, as well as Wheelfish for hosting us.



Chad Lawie shared with the Club his experience as a participant in the Braver Angels event and how it was very meaningful to him.

Apr. 10 Membership Vote on Amended Bylaws

During our March 27, 2025 meeting, President Tim Arter announced a Club membership vote will be held during the April 10 lunch meeting to approve Club amended bylaws, which were approved by the Club Board of Directors. A notification of the April 10 vote along with the proposed amended bylaws was emailed to all Club members on March 27, 2025.

Special Rotary Ticket Discount!

RCM2425 and can be used for \$29 tickets to any Chamber concert at: <https://www.scmcgr.org/>

Environmental & Sustainability Committee Visit to Beidler Creek April 17th



Pete DeBoer from the Environment Committee, shared information about an upcoming visit to historic Beidler Creek near Rotary Park in downtown Muskegon. April 17, 2025 at 10am, meet Kathy Evans at the Nelson School parking lot; however, please RSVP to **Pete DeBoer** at pete@muskegonfoundation.org and/or **Andrea Riegler** at ariegler@sehinc.com.

Survey for Public Input for Shoreline Trails & Greenways Plan



Public input is requested for the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) & the City of Muskegon future Trails & Greenways Plan. Your thoughts, your experience, how you use trails, and how they could be better to improve quality of life for you and your neighbors. The following survey takes about five (5) minutes to complete. Thank you for your interest and offering your perspective on trails and greenways within the region.

Link for the trails survey:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8197567/west-michigan-shoreline-trails-greenways-plan>



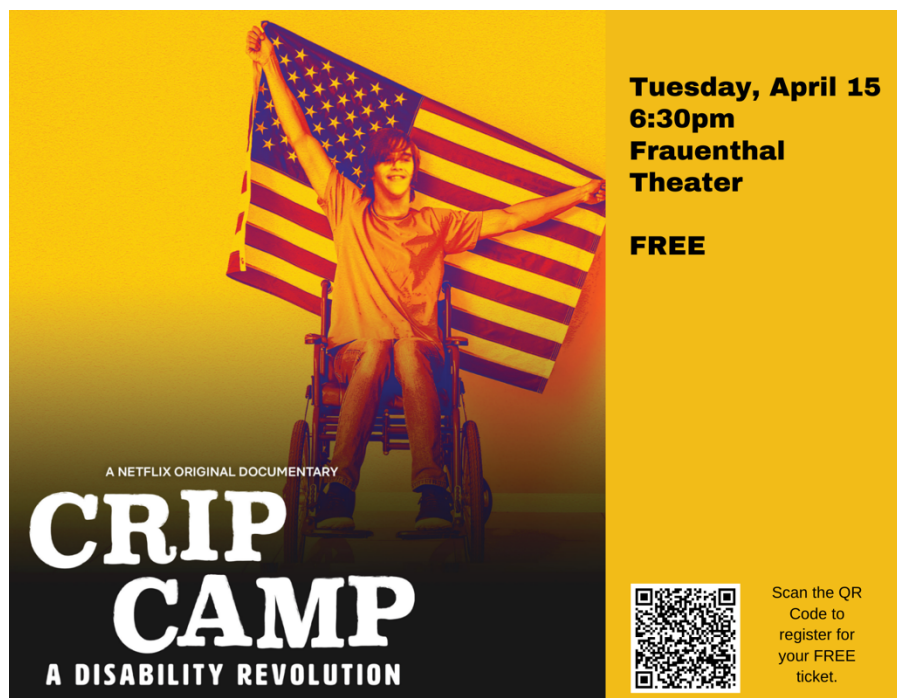
Brad Hastings reminded the Club of the upcoming Crip Camp showing April 15 at the Frauenthal Theatre.

Public Screening of *Crip Camp* at the Frauenthal Theater

On April 15, 2025, at the Frauenthal Center, a coalition of agencies that provide services to the disability community will host a screening of the award-winning documentary *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*. This film chronicles the origins of the disability civil rights movement, highlighting the activism that paved the way for disability civil rights legislation and continued advocacy for accessibility and inclusion today. We will begin with a reception in the lobby at 5:30 p.m., offering attendees an opportunity to connect with local organizations, enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and access a cash bar. Nonprofit exhibitors will share information and resources that are available to the Muskegon community.

The screening of *Crip Camp* will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a facilitated discussion featuring members of the local disability community.

This event is about more than just watching a film—it is about fostering dialogue, raising awareness, and inspiring action. *Crip Camp* tells a powerful story of advocacy and resilience, and we hope it will spark important conversations about disability rights, accessibility, and opportunities in Muskegon.



Thanks to funding from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County and the Consumers Energy Foundation, this event is free and open to the public. Community members, advocates, employers, educators, and policymakers are encouraged to attend and engage in this important discussion. Registration and accommodation requests can be made through the Disability Network West Michigan website and are highly encouraged.

For more information, please visit the event page [HERE!](#)

Caring Connections

If you know anyone in our Rotary family who may need some comfort during a difficult time, please reach out to **Tom Palmer**, member of our Rotary Caring Connections Committee, at tomp@shorelineagency.com. If you would like to donate in addition to your annual birthday \$10 contribution, [click here](#).

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 12. 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 😊). I am 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!

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

DO NOT USE

**Please Do Not Use Emails
that end with @clubrunner.email**

Our sincere apologies if any announcements have been missed! A concern was found when a member sent an email to this editor for an announcement and it was never received. The member sent the email via the reply button to the ClubRunner messages that I send out. The email address listed when he hit reply was susan.bestemanproperties.com@clubrunner.email; however, I never received the email & I cannot find it in my ClubRunner account either. Please use direct emails instead if you are sending messages to any of our members.

ClubRunner has great features so continue to utilize it (and add your picture to your profile when you have time). Our RIM Team appreciates all your emails and input, so please keep the announcements, updates, and featured fun stories coming! To email RIM Editors **Jackie Farrar** and **Susan Besteman**, please use our direct emails:

farrarjackie@yahoo.com and/or susan@bestemanproperties.com.

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](#)



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](#)

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 Rising Podcast S2E12: Chuck Canestraight - Port City Marine Companies



Muskegon's waterfront is more than just a view. It's a launchpad for transformation.

In this episode, we sit down with

Chuck Canestraight of Port City Marine Services to talk about the bold plans taking shape along our shoreline. From the McKee family's lasting impact to the future of shipping and local development, this conversation is a must-listen for anyone invested in Muskegon's next chapter.

Tune in now to Muskegon Rising S2E12 wherever you get your podcasts.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/16865539-chuck-canestraight-port-city-marine-companies>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

Service Project with GR Rotary Club

Saturday March 29, about 50 members and friends of the Muskegon and Grand Rapids Rotary Clubs spent two hours at Kids Food Basket's production facility in Grand Rapids packing 2,000 "sack suppers" for school age children. The group also did other work, including assembling bean burritos and snack cracker bags for future sack suppers, sorting through apples and decorating paper sacks, all to assist in the operation. The group then enjoyed social time at Speciation Cellars, with pizza provided by the Grand Rapids club. Both clubs worked on a joint service project last year at Muskegon's Boys and Girls club and plans are already underway for another activity later in 2025.

