

# 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

May 22, 2025

**Next Meeting (May 29, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Sweet & Sour Chicken at the Lake House**  
**Program Topic – Celebrating Harbor Hospice & Poppen Residence**

## What's Coming

May 29 – Celebrating Harbor Hospice  
and the Poppen Residence  
June 5 – Fresh Coast Alliance

## Upcoming Birthdays

May 29 Jeffrey Fortenbacher  
May 29 Donata Kidd  
June 1 Karen Buie  
June 1 Jason Piasecki

## Caring Connections Fund



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

## Greeters This Week

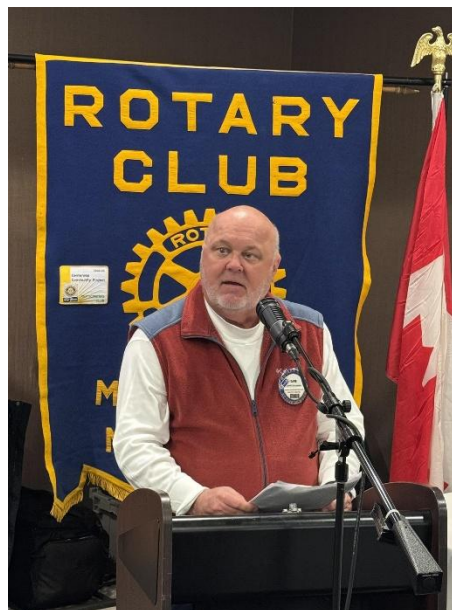
Lisa Tyler

## Reflector This Week

Roger Morgenstern

## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Mark Alpher  
RIM Reporter – Kathy Moore  
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar



President-Elect Dave Alexander starts the meeting

## Reflection



Roger Morgenstern provides the reflection

## 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](#):**

## Visitors & Guests



Andrew Zahrt and guest Deb Dietz





**Emily Morgenstern** and guest Tim Bahorski



**Kristi Pawlak** and guests Meghan Cai and Kathryn Flanagan



**Joe Zappacosta** and guest Sue Gifford



**Rachel Gorman** and guests Jamie Smith, Miranda Klemp, and Kristie Hollingsworth



**Greg Borgman** and guest Ben Carson



**Emma Peterson** and guest Lila Torresen



**Kat Hyder** and guest Dan Fleetwood



**Kelly DeVos** and guest Pete Kutches



**Marc Vanderstelt** and guest Brandon Poel



**Bill Loxterman** and guest Kirk Wahamaki





**Doug Wood** and Orchard View Interact students



**Marty Sytsema** and Mona Shores High School Students



**Alex Fonseca** and guest Lera TeBos

### 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



**Claire Root Benson** and Campbell EarlyAct students



**Meredith Smillie** and guests Connor Smillie and Veer Singh

## Friendly Reminder

We're collecting input from members to better understand how our club website (<https://muskegonrotary.org>) is being used and what content matters most.

Your response will help us decide if any changes are needed. This short survey should only take a minute or two. Thanks for sharing your thoughts!

**Please respond by Friday, May 23, 2025.**

[Click here for survey](#)

## This Week's Program:



Presenters: **Marc Vanderstelt** and **D.J. Hilson**

Introduced by: **Kelly DeVos**



**Kelly DeVos** introduces our speakers today

**Kelly DeVos** informed us that she has served on Muskegon's Silent Observer committee since 2015, including the role of Committee Chair since 2022. Then she introduced the two speakers, who needed no introduction because we know them well. And not because we dabble in crime or prosecutable activities.

**Marc Vanderstelt** joined the Norton Shores Police Department in 2004 and was promoted from lieutenant to Chief of Police in 2023.

**D.J. Hilson** began his career as Assistant Prosecutor with the Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office in 1996 and was elected to his current role as Chief County Prosecutor in 2012. Both **Vanderstelt** and **Hilson** are dedicated family men with exemplary professional careers in public service and safety. But that's not all. They both continuously give back to our community through volunteer service on numerous non-profit boards and committees. One of the many committees in which they jointly serve is Muskegon's Silent Observer – The Lakeshore's CrimeStopper.



**D.J. Hilson and Marc Vanderstelt**

Vanderstelt began the presentation by sharing a bit of history. Silent Observer is also known as Crime Stoppers in some states. This non-profit organization has been in the state of Michigan since 1972. And Muskegon's Silent Observer has been managed by the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce since 2013. The committee is comprised of local law enforcement, business leaders, and community volunteers.

Their mission is to provide a safe and anonymous way to report suspicious activity and information that may help combat or solve crimes in neighborhoods, businesses, and community. Tips about any illegal activity, not just the serious crimes, are welcomed and encouraged!

Hilson explained how valuable the tips are for law enforcement and community safety. "The more information given on the tip, the more it helps law enforcement to make an arrest." Silent Observer has received 7,213 tips since 2013, including 622 tips in 2024. A separate Silent Observer Tip Committee, that doesn't include law enforcement, has approved \$25,050 in reward funds for tips that led to an arrest. The primary source of Silent Observer funds come from (*partial proceeds of*) the annual Chamber Golf Classic. Donations from individuals and businesses are always appreciated and put to good use. Funds are used for marketing, dues, confidentiality software, and monetary awards for some tips.

Both presenters stressed that the tipster's confidentiality and anonymity is strictly maintained; and shared the ways to submit tips (see below).

### Ways to Submit Tips:

Silent Observer's website:

<https://www.silentobservermuskegon.com>

#### SUBMIT A TIP

- Call 231-72-CRIME (27463)
- [Submit a web tip](#)
- [Download the FREE app](#)



**DJ Hilson** answering questions

### Rotary In Action Claire Root Benson



Claire serves as the advisor to the Muskegon High School Interact Club. It's a service of the Muskegon Rotary Club extended into area schools to familiarize students with community improvement through giving. The spirit of philanthropy and self-improvement is central to this activity and Claire excels in bringing this to her students with enthusiasm and a good example.

To watch her video, click [here](#).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Tim Lipman** asked members to raise their hands if they attended the Hackley Building Tour yesterday. He also reminds members of the Clipper Baseball Carload Party on June 10<sup>th</sup>



**Meredith Smillie** reminds members of the \$500.00 match for a Paul Harris Fellow Award

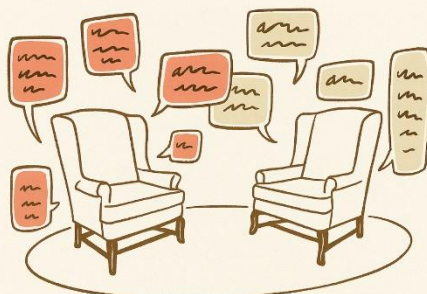
## DEI Corner

May is Mental Health Month:  
For more information Click [here](#)

### Upcoming Community Conversations

#### Beyond Polarization Making Conversations Possible

community conversation series



Join us in person for free workshops with Braver Angels, designed to help you navigate differences, build understanding, and connect over meaningful conversation (and food).

**Depolarizing Ourselves**  
May 29 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
White Lake Community Library

**Skills for Disagreeing Better**  
June 3 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
Hackley Public Library

**Families and Politics**  
June 4 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
MADL Norton Shores Branch

For more information and to register visit  
[wgvu.org/community-conversation/](http://wgvu.org/community-conversation/)



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](mailto:msmillie@bethany.org)

## Rotary ReWine

ReWine meetings are every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month

5:00-5:15pm Social time

5:15pm Meeting start time

At Core Plaza (Vault)

Contact Kaytie Drake  
at [kaytieely@aol.com](mailto:kaytieely@aol.com) for more information

## Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E20: Craig D'Agostini – Comcast Rise



Big news for small businesses in Muskegon and Kent counties. Comcast RISE is investing over \$1 million in our region through grants, tech upgrades, and marketing support for 100 local businesses.

In E2E20 of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, Craig D'Agostini shares how Muskegon was selected, what's included in the grant package, and why this tight-knit community stood out.

If you're a business owner or entrepreneur, this one's a must-listen.

Check your eligibility and apply before the end of May at [comcastrise.com](http://comcastrise.com)

Listen to the full episode here:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17198152-craig-d-agostini-comcast-rise>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)



Hackley  
Administration  
Building Tour

