

The RIM Newsletter

Rotary

In Motion



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 28, 2026

June 4, 2026, Chicken Parmesan at the Lake House Program – Citi Boi Corp

What's Coming

June 4 – Citi Boi Corp

Upcoming Birthdays

June 8 Irma Carney



**Caring
Connections Fund**
[Click here to donate](#)

Stage Manager This Week

Tiffany Dupont Novak

Greeters This Week

Jeff Dana
Roger Morgenstern

Reflector This Week

Claire Root-Benson

RIM Reporting this Edition

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

Muskegon Rotary May 28th
YouTube Video:
[CLICK HERE](#)



President Dave presides over the meeting.

Reflection



Claire Root-Benson provided the Reflection.

Visitors and Guests



Susan Besteman introduced her guest and Rotary Brazilian exchange student Manuala "Ella" Freore Lugon Ribeiro.

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](#):



Darlene Collet introduced her guest **Ratan Khatri**.



Rich Houtteman introduced his guests and work colleagues **Casey Lorig** and **Nate Reynolds**.



Pete DeBoer introduced his guest **Emily Garcia**.



Kippy Ellis introduces her guest, a fellow **Realtor**

This Week's Program:



Presenters: Rich Houtteman & Nathan Reynolds Sr.

Introduced by: Arn Boezaart

RIM Reporter: Susan Besteman



Arn Boezaart from the **Environmental Committee** introduced the program.



Fellow Rotarian **Rich Houtteman** of **Consumers Energy** was one of our speakers this week

Consumers Energy Community Affairs Manager and fellow Rotarian, **Rich Houtteman**, started the presentation with his company's history, current facts, and foundation highlights.

Consumers Energy currently serves only Michigan and they are excited to fuel not only our properties, but our economies too, including **Muskegon County** with \$18m in infrastructure for 2026, being the largest taxpayer, awards given over \$200K in three years, and **Capital Campaigns** (Torrent House, Frauenthal, Muskegon Museum of Art, & Read Muskegon).

Historic Michigan Company

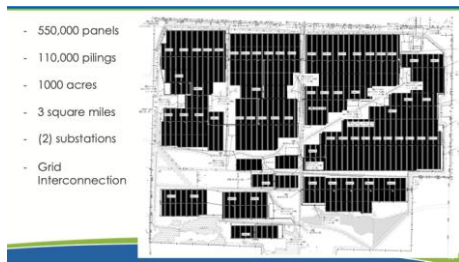
- Serving the state since 1886
- Providing gas and/or electricity to 6.7 million residents
- Service in all of Michigan's 48 lower peninsula counties
- About 8,500 full-time employees
- One of the state's largest landowners and taxpayers
- Reliability Roadmap
- Safety

"If you have promised anything, carry through with it."
—W.A. Foote

Around ten years ago, Rich explained, the county pivoted focus from large lot industrial to renewables. When the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center had 1900 acres of nutrient deficient soil south on Apple Ave they didn't need, the Muskegon Solar Energy Center (MSEC) was able to lease this from the county. They broke ground July 11, 2024, and went fully functional December 23, 2025.

During construction, an analysis determined the existing soil is frost susceptible, which meant they could not drive piles without pre-drilling, so a team of skid steer operators drilled three-foot holes, and a second team came after and back-filled these holes with clean sand. 110,000 piles were installed.

The solar modules all rotate in unison. The solar farm has 550,000 solar modules divided into 62 inverter blocks with one internal substation and one collector substation with a single main power transformer. This connects to a 138-kilovolt electric system and ten 34.5 kilovolt power lines connecting to the solar array.



One of our speakers, Nate Reynolds of Consumers Energy.

Manager of Renewable Operations, Nate Reynolds, Sr. explained the importance of renewables: 90% of energy needs will be provided from clean resources by 2040, \$600M avoidance of additional investments through 2040 versus new coal plant or upgrades to existing sites, meet Michigan's energy needs 24/7/365 without overbuilding, and cleaner air, land, & water for generations to come. Nate continued, a single acre of solar can power 80 homes and the decreasing costs of solar at the utility scale fell 80% in the last decade. They are competitive even without incentives and solar performs well during hot summer days with air conditioning is widely used. The solar farm is safer and makes a good neighbor with solar panels that are mostly non-flammable material, low-decibel inverters (inaudible beyond 150 ft), and reflect less than 2% of the light that hits them (which is less than grass, water, and snow). Video of the Muskegon Solar Construction Progress—

<https://vimeo.com/share/525827ee-a9ea-41d1-a7bd-d81188b800ac?&login=true#>

Several excellent questions were asked then Nate and Rich concluded the presentation with an invitation to the solar farm at Swanson Rd for a private tour.



Please welcome potential new members:

* Kyle Carcamo, Director of Operations at Pioneer Resources. Kyle is sponsored by Greg Sischo and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Kyle will be inducted soon.

* Kathleen Evans, who is sponsored by Dave Alexander and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Kathleen will be inducted soon.



Grand Haven Rotary Foundation, Inc.

2026 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 2 DOOR RAFFLE



Proceeds go to Grand Haven High School Aquatic Center Enhancements

Drawing to be held at
Central Park Place, 421 Columbus Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417
July 6, 2026 @ 12:30 PM

TICKET PRICE: \$100

Contact any Grand Haven Rotarian to purchase tickets or to purchase online,
please visit grandhavenrotary.org/product/jeep-wrangler-raffle



If 400 tickets are not sold the drawing will revert to a 50/50

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ReWine Meeting Schedule

* Thursday June 4 Core Plaza

* Thursday June 18 TBA

RSVP by Wednesday at 5:00 pm for the meeting on Thursday. Contact Kaytie Drake at kaytieely@aol.com to RSVP. (Total # attending including guests)

Rotary in Action Jackie Fisher

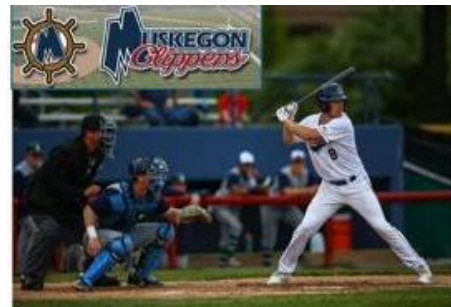


This interview with Jackie Fisher highlights nearly two decades of service with the Rotary International, offering insight into how operational improvements—like coordinated stage management—have made local meetings more efficient and accessible for working professionals.

Jackie discusses the importance of member engagement, the value of understanding Rotary’s global impact, and how participation in international conventions can deepen pride and connection to community service. This conversation underscores how small organizational changes can strengthen both local effectiveness and global awareness within Rotary clubs.

Announcements

Muskegon After Hours Event Clippers Baseball Carload Party



- Sunday, June 14th at 5:05pm
- \$20/Carload or \$8/Person
- You get admission, Marsh Field Meal (hot dog, chips, one soft drink or adult beverage)
- Sign up [Here](#)



Logan Metcalf Reminded Members of Parties in the Park on Friday



Carla Flanders shares updates about Harvest Fest - Launching push for sponsorship and committee is sweetening the deal by giving away two round trip tickets to the badger. October 22nd



Rich Houtteman shares information on the "vinyl for polio" social event is Thursday June 4 at **Greg Borgman's** house, near First and Houston in downtown Muskegon. Contact **Rich Houtteman** for more information.



Brad Hastings provides DEI Committee updates on Sponsoring the Muskegon Pride Festival June 6th. Meeting at the Depot at 9:30am and parade starts at 10am.

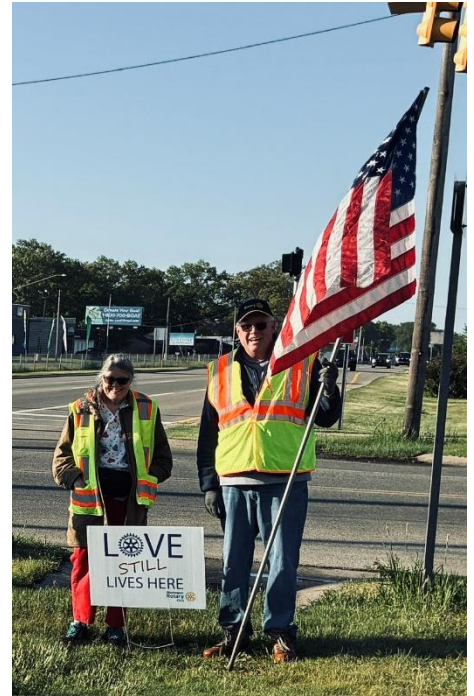
Consumers Energy's Solar Plant



About two dozen Rotarians took a tour of Consumers Energy's solar plant east of Muskegon on land leased from Muskegon County, adjacent to the county's resource recovery operations. Nate Reynolds explains the operation of one of 62 inverters on the property, which converts DC (direct current) electricity to AC (alternating current) which is needed to transmit the solar power onto the grid. The \$350 million solar plant, on 1,900 acres, can produce 250 megawatts. It is the largest solar installation in Michigan, with 550,000 panels that rotate to follow the sun. The plant output is the equivalent of powering 250 "big box stores" like Meijer or Walmart.



President-Elect Roger Morgenstern shares information regarding Flags on Seaway drive to Hackley and his plan when he becomes President – More information is coming



Seaway Drive looking good for the Memorial tribute.

Cindy Maynard, Roger Morgenstern, Aaliyah Jordan, Sue Noling, and Tobias Melton (not pictured) 35 flags between Southern and Hackley plus we pick up all litter! Next up: July 4th! See Roger or John if you are able to help



President Elect Roger is challenging Rotarians to join him on July 4 and place American flags along the entire Seaway Drive median to celebrate our country's 250th birthday.

Roger is working with the city of Norton Shores (thank you Mayor **Gary Nelund**) to uncover the concrete flag holders that are covered with overgrown grass in the southern portion of the Seaway Drive median.

Many longtime Rotarians will remember when a variety of service clubs, including Rotary, worked to adorn all of Seaway Drive with flags for the Fourth of July and other holidays.

Rotary now has the supply of flags. Be on the lookout for Sign Up Genius opportunities in a couple of weeks; we'll need some drivers and folks to put out the flags in the morning and remove them before sunset.

RIM Reporting Team

Editors: Susan Besteman, Jackie Farrar, and Ginny Sprague

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, Sue Samaniego, and Ginny Sprague

Photographers: Wyatt Huggett, Brock Johnson, Emily Morgenstern, and Roger Morgenstern

Orchard View Interact in Deep!



Marquette Microforest neighbors, the **Baker College Bees**, have generously sponsored the construction of a native bee hotel our rapidly growing forest. **Buzz on Inn** was installed this week and is ready to be filled.



A huge shoutout goes to Dale Cook, a North Muskegon outdoor-enthusiast and extremely talented carpenter, who designed, constructed and installed this amazing bee hotel for us!

The Baker Rotaract Club and science classes will be collecting resources to house the bees. Items needed for the bee hotel:

- Large (think Gordon Food size) tin cans
- Large (milkshake diameter) straws

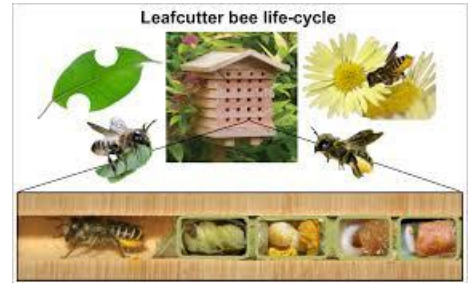


The hotel is designed to attract native bees. A few important facts about these important insects:

- Solitary “cavity-nesting” bees are gentle native pollinators that make up about 30% of our native bees.
- These bees nest in pre-existing holes like hollow plant stems, small holes in wood or in human built bee hotels.
- Unlike the highly social honeybee colony with thousands of members, each female cavity-nesting bee acts as a solitary queen. She constructs her nest in a hollow cavity, placing a pollen-nectar loaf of food, and laying an individual egg in each separate cell. Her last task is to seal each cell with mud or leaves.
- Native bees rarely travel more than a few hundred yards from where they are “born and raised.” This makes it essential for humans to help provide safe places for them to nest!



Blue Orchard Mason Bee



Leafcutter Bee

Materials needed for the bee hotel:

- Large (think Gordon Food size) tin cans
- Large (milkshake diameter) straws

