The RIM Newsletter

Rotary InMotion

Rotary Club Of Muskegon

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, November 5, 2026

Next Meeting November 12, 2026 – Noon-1:15pm Boneless Pork Loin at the Delta
Program: The Chispa Project & the work Muskegon Rotary & others are doing in Honduras

What's Coming

November 12—Chispa
November 19—Rotary Service Fair
November 26—No Meeting

Upcoming Birthdays

Nov 12	Kris VanderStelt
Nov 16	Patricia Walstra
Nov 16	Brianna Scott
Nov 17	Jeanette Hoyer
Nov 17	Dayne Robinson
Nov 18	Chris McGuigan

Caring Connections Fund

Click here to donate

Stage Manager This Week

Rem Sprague

Greeter This Week

Jane Clingman-Scott & Amy Deming

Reflector This Week

Mary Anne Gorman

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Wyatt Huggett
RIM Reporter – Susan Besteman
RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

Muskegon Rotary Nov. 5th YouTube Video:
Click Here



President Roger Morgenstern began the meeting than gave a moment of silence for Dr. James "Jim" Perry, a longtime member of our Club and former MAISD Superintendent. (Obituary on page 6)



Mary Anne Gorman provided the reflection

Muskegon Rotary Board

President: Roger Morgenstern
President-Elect: Lisa Tyler
President Nominees: Arlen Dean-Gaddy and Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga
Past President: Dave Alexander
Treasurer: Kim Taylor
Secretary: Joanie Smith

Directors:

Kelli DeVos	Dimitri Poland
Martha Fohlbrook	Esther Ricco
Lisa Kraus	Samantha Scott
Melissa Moore	John Selmon

Club Coordinator: Kim Boersema

Please email Club Board Members through this link:

Visitors and Guests



Greg Borgman with guest and Grand Rapids Rotarian Dan Fleetwood, Business Consultant Coach from Focal Point



Brad Hastings introduces Mandy Hicks (Senior Data Base and Process Administrator at the Community Foundation)



Melissa Moore with her guest, Jessica Brown, the new Executive Director of Pathfinders



Mary Anne Gorman introduces Dr. Leah Jipping, optometrist and owner of Stillwaters Vision Rehabilitation



Brandon Turnbull with guest Eric Vandernoot, Executive Coach and Business Transformation Advisor specializing in operational architecture and AI integration



Sara Cooper, Sustainability and Community Relations Muskegon County Administrator, is the guest of **Marcia Hovey-Wright**

RIM Reporting Team

Editors: Susan Besteman, Jackie Farrar, & Ginny Sprague

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, & Sue Samaniego

Photographers: Wyatt Huggett, Emily Morgenstern, & Roger Morgenstern



After a bit of a mix-up, **Marty Sytsema** properly and with good humor introduces our student guests from Reeths-Puffer. Counselor Paula Olson gave updates on their marching band headed to Ford Field and nationals as well as their upcoming food drive and Turkey Run before introducing two amazing seniors, Braeden Monette and Wren Tryska.



Student guests from Whitehall joined today too! Principal Brett Westerland announced they now have three CTE programs (FFA, mechanical drafting, and construction trades) and introduced two incredible seniors, Kailyn Skuse and Jason Sheaffer



Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga addressed the crowd after the presentation to give the opportunity to continue the questions and conversations on November 9th at MADL's Norton Shores Branch

This Week's Program:



AI History, Benefits, Guardrails, & Ethical Considerations

Speaker: Raymond Kent

Introduced by: **Brad Hastings**



Brad Hastings introduced this week's program mentioning it's connected to the Big Read Lakeshore, where the theme is "Our Choices Matter" in the book, The Circle by Dave Eggers. It explores our current technological environment and its risks.

Today's speaker, Raymond Kent, was at the League of Historic American Theaters Conference and presented his opinion on AI. Brad noted, "This is just one perspective on AI and there are many with this field rapidly evolving." Raymond is a Senior Principal Partner and Director of Technology and Innovation for the theater planning firm, Studio B1.

Raymond spoke about what this technology is, what it is generally good for, and what it costs. He views himself as a "practitioner;" someone who must decide on real projects what to trust to a machine with and what to keep in human hands.

To see the full video—CLICK HERE

Spotlight Video

Pete DeBoer



Pete DeBoer joined the Muskegon Rotary Club expecting to make professional connections. What he found was something much more personal—a deeper connection to the community he serves. In this Rotarians in Action interview, Pete, of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, reflects on how Rotary opened the door to greater community involvement and unexpected personal growth. He describes the remarkable reach Rotary has across Muskegon and the genuine spirit he sees among members who put service into action. For Pete, "Service Above Self" is more than a Rotary motto. It describes what happens naturally when people who care about their community come together.

Watch the video here!

Kids' Food Basket

Kids Food Basket -- Volunteer Noon

Tennille Woodward is looking for more volunteers for our monthly Kids' Food Basket commitment. See Tennille if you are available to help. Our schedule is the 3rd Monday of every month—ten people needed each time.

Inductions



President Roger Morgenstern formally inducts Ben Soyars and Kelley Conrad. Ben is sponsored by **Jim Fisher**. Kelley is sponsored by **Jerry Conrad**.



(From L to R): **Jerry Conrad**, **Jim Fisher**, Ben Soyars, Kelley Conrad, and **President Roger Morgenstern**

ReWine Meeting Schedule

5:00 p.m. Social Time
Meeting starts 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, November 19th
Muskegon Museum of Art, 315 West Clay Avenue, Muskegon

Thursday, December 3rd Lake Effect Bistro & Lounge (Shoreline Inn)

Thursday, December 17th
MOTU Lakeshore Wine Bar
1208 8th St, Muskegon

RSVP by Wednesday at 5pm prior to each meeting by contacting Kaytie Drake at kaytieely@aol.com
Total # attending, including guests

Announcements

Veteran's Day Flags



Volunteers needed to help put flags up on Seaway Drive for Veterans' Day on November 11th. Click here to sign up to help **President Roger Morgenstern.**

Rotary Foundation Month



Meredith Smillie gave a reminder November is Rotary Foundation Month. The Rotary Foundation is a non-profit corporation that supports the efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through international humanitarian, educational and cultural exchange programs. It is supported soley by voluntary contributions. The Rotary Foundation was established in 1917, as an endowment fund for Rotary "to do good in the world". It has grown from an initial contribution of $26.50 to more than $1 billion. It has one of the largest and most prestigious international fellowship programs in the world.

Programs under the Rotary Foundation, include; Polio Plus, disaster recovery, health, hunger and humanitarian grants, and educational programs such as scholarships, group study exchange, and Rotary Peace Fellowships.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0F1WNaCDg_0

The Rotary Foundation



Brad Hastings on behalf of the Rotary DEI Committee reminded the crowd of the Muskegon Young Black Professionals Shades of Excellence ceremony Saturday.



Thank you, John!

Many thanks to **John Noling** and his involvement as a member of the Muskegon High School Class of '65. This week, they voted to contribute funds not only to our inaugural Nov. 20th Leadership Conference here in Muskegon but also to help fund 3 Muskegon High School students to attend the District 6290 Life Leadership Conference next June. Go Big Reds!

Pop Cans Needed

Tennille Woodward and **Doug Wood** need your pop cans for the Mona Shores Middle School Interact Club from Nov. 16-20th.



Governor's Service Award





Dominique Bunker announced, "Since 1994, the Governor's Service Award has been the highest honor given by the Community Service Commission." There are only 33 honorees for the entire state (individuals, businesses, services, and non-profits) and this year it included the Michigan Irish Festival, Muskegon Heights' Drew Coleman, and our very own **Doug and Kim Wood**. More to add to this story next edition!

Harvest Fest T-Shirts

Here's a great way to remember this year's Harvest Fest and support the Muskegon Rotary Foundation too! We have a limited number of these awesome Harvest Fest shirts. They are long sleeve and all size XL. The cost is $25 each. Please pay in cash or checks made out to the *Muskegon Rotary Foundation*. See **Carla Flanders** or **Roger Morgenstern** if you'd like one!!



Big Read Lakeshore

Extra opportunity for all who are participating in the Big Read Lakeshore (reading The Circle or its sequel, The Every):

**Tuesday, Nov 17th at 7pm—Author talks at the Frauenthal.—To register—Click Here

See Nancy or **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** if you would like a copy of the book to borrow or have further questions.

Nov. 11th Workshop



Susan Crain invited all to a Reimaging International Projects workshop on Wednesday, November 11th at 6-8pm at the MADL Headquarters at 4845 Airline Rd, Muskegon, MI 49444. RSVP to Susan at susancrainmkg@gmail.com and see the below flyer for more details.



Honduras Trip – Mar. 13th



Interested in learning more about the Rotary's Library Build Project with Chispa in Honduras March 13-20th? Trip details/registration can be found here: https://www.chispaproject.org/lago Sara will be Muskegon Rotary's program speaker on November 12th.

Past President's Breakfast



Thank you, **Susan Crain**, for commemorating the Past President's Breakfast on November 3rd and submitting it for the RIM! Not **Ginny Sprague's** best photo but permission was still granted to post this one. ☺ Thank you all for your continued dedication behind the scenes!

Muskegon Rising

Interact Insider

Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve—NM Microforest

North Muskegon & Reeths-Puffer Interactors



Site preparation for phase two of the microforest is complete! The last of the woodchips were spread along the fence line and in low laying areas within the microforest. The work bee was organized by **John Noling** with the Muskegon Rotary Club. Volunteers included John's wife Sue, **Clare** and **James** with the North Muskegon High School Interact Club, **Riley** with the Reeths-Puffer High School Interact Club, Rotary Club member **Darlene** and Preserve volunteers Rebecca, Steve, Gale and Tom.
Thank you all so very much for your hard work and finishing up the site prep for phase 2 of the microforest! Planting will begin in late April.
For more pictures—click here





Lincoln Park Early Act & Baker Rotaract

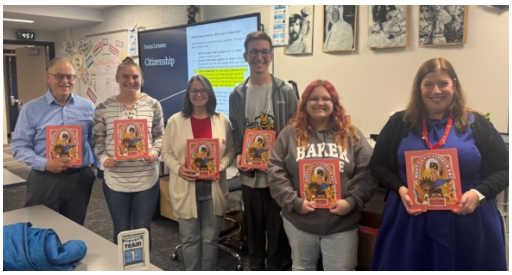


The Baker College Rotaract Club is collaborating on a literacy and civic engagement project with the Lincoln Park EarlyAct club.

We are gifting each child at the school with the book selected from the Little Read Lakeshore, "What a Citizen Can Do." The project is funded by the Muskegon Rotary Club grants.

In January, Baker Rotaractors will go into each classroom to distribute books, read together, have a snack and craft around how each of them can make a difference in their own community.

The Lincoln Park EarlyAct club kicked off the 2026-27 school year with 39 fifth grade members! Advisors Amy Recor and Amanda Versalle are leading this energetic group as Lincoln Park EarlyAct starts its fifth year of "Service Above Self".





El Salvador Trip – March 31st



Our Club is looking for Rotarians and Interact students to attend two service trips: Honduras from March 13-20 and El Salvador from March 31-April 8. Your Club's board has approved contributing $500 for any Rotarians attending their first overseas trip, as well as $500 for any Interactors wanting to go. Please spread the word! For more information, see **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** about Honduras or **Esther Ricco** about El Salvador.







Dr. James "Jim" William Perry
OCT 21, 1929 - OCT 27, 2026

James William "Jim" Perry, Jr. age 97, passed away Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at Chestnut Fields Living Center. He was born October 21, 1929, in Muskegon, MI to James W. and Mildred (Eiberger) Perry, Sr. and lived most of his life in the Muskegon area. Jim was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and was stationed on the USS Brown during the Korean War. After serving 4 years in the Navy, Jim went to college where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Michigan University. He was proud to begin his teaching career in a rural one-room schoolhouse and made several changes to traditional classrooms and principalships. Jim moved the family back to Muskegon and became Assistant Superintendent and Director of Curriculum for Muskegon Public Schools for 20 years during which he attained his Doctorate in Education from Michigan State University. Jim's last chapter in a long and successful career was as Superintendent of the Muskegon Intermediate School District where he retired in 1994. On October 18, 1951, he married Mary Lou Andersen in Muskegon, and she preceded him in death on July 21, 2017. Jim enjoyed trout fishing, golfing, lunch with his friends, and was a longtime member of the Muskegon Rotary Club. For those wishing to make an expression of sympathy, please consider Heaven Can Wait Animal Haven. Arrangements handled by The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 Harvey Street, Norton Shores, MI 49444. Sign the online guestbook at https://www.sytsemafh.com

https://www.sytsemafh.com/obituaries/james-jim-perry-4/obituary

Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION