

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

November 6, 2025

Next Meeting (November 13, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Sweet & Sour Chicken at the Delta
Program Topic – Veterans Day Program

What's Coming

Nov 13 – Veterans Day Program
Nov 20 – ICCF Community Homes
Nov 27—No Meeting
(Happy Thanksgiving)

Upcoming Birthdays

Nov 16 Brianna Scott
Nov 16 Patricia Walstra
Nov 17 Jeanette Hoyer
Nov 17 Dayne Robinson
Nov 18 Chris McGuigan
Nov 19 Michelle Burley

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeter This Week

Cynthia Maynard

Stage Manager This Week

Cynthia Maynard

Reflector This Week

Mary Anne Gorman



RIM Reporting this Edition

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



President Dave Alexander opened the meeting and shared his Muskegon Minute reflecting on how a pivotal 1975 decision to keep industry off Muskegon's waterfront shaped the city's next 50 years—and connects it to today's ongoing waterfront development discussions.



Muskegon
Rotary YouTube
Nov. 6th Video
Link: [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 Tom Palmer
Melissa Moore Dimitri Poland
Arlen-Dean Gaddy Lisa Kraus
Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

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

Visitors & Guests

Kendrah Robinson introduced guests from the Career Tech Center (CTC). Counselor Laura Wiles informed us of several achievements from the last time she was with us and two phenomenal students, Ashley Bradley and Tristan Anderson.





Rachel Gorman introduced Trevor Friedeberg



Kathy Moore with guest Mike Eslick



Dimitri Poland with his guest Logan Metcalf



Re-Elected City of Muskegon Mayor **Ken Johnson** with the newly elected At-Large City Commissioner, Kiley Jackson



Kat Hyder introduced her guests, Kim Goosen, Tracy Gardner-Young, & Katie McLaren



Karen Kekelik with guest Katie McClaren



Pete DeBoer with guest Jocelyn Hines



Euginnia Seyferth introduced guest Jennifer Susterich



Kris VanderStelt with guest, Kerri Roberts



Doug Wood with guest Marquis Childers



Claire Root-Benson returns with her guest, Zuri Labrenz

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman

Jackie Farrar, & Ginny Sprague

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger

Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, & Sue Samaniego

Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt Huggett, & Roger Morgenstern

If interested in joining the RIM team, [click here](#) to email the editors. 😊

ROTARY ReWINE

Rotary ReWine Schedule

1st and 3rd Thursdays each month

5:00-5:15pm Social time

5:15pm Meeting start time at the Core Plaza (Vault)

Contact **Kaytie Drake**

at kaytieely@aol.com for more info



Rachel Gorman introduces our program speaker



This Week's Program:



Connecting Community to Water, Ports, & Parks

Presenter: **Jonathan Seyferth**

Introduced by: **Rachel Gorman**

RIM Reporter: **Roger Morgenstern**

One of our own, **Jonathan Seyferth**, put on his hat as Muskegon's City Manager and shared with the Club a "transformational" Muskegon Lake land swap. If approved by the Muskegon City Commission, it would be the largest change to Muskegon Lake's waterfront use in decades.



The complex project calls for the Mart Dock port operations, now downtown between Third and Fourth streets, to move to the city-owned land where the Fisherman Landing Campground is located off Ottawa Street as well as a portion of land now owned by Verplank Trucking.

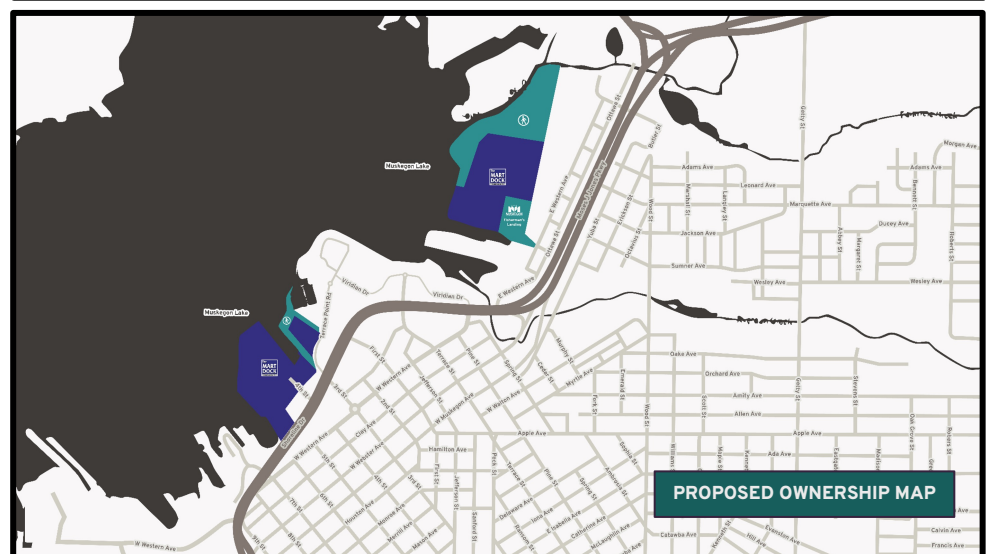
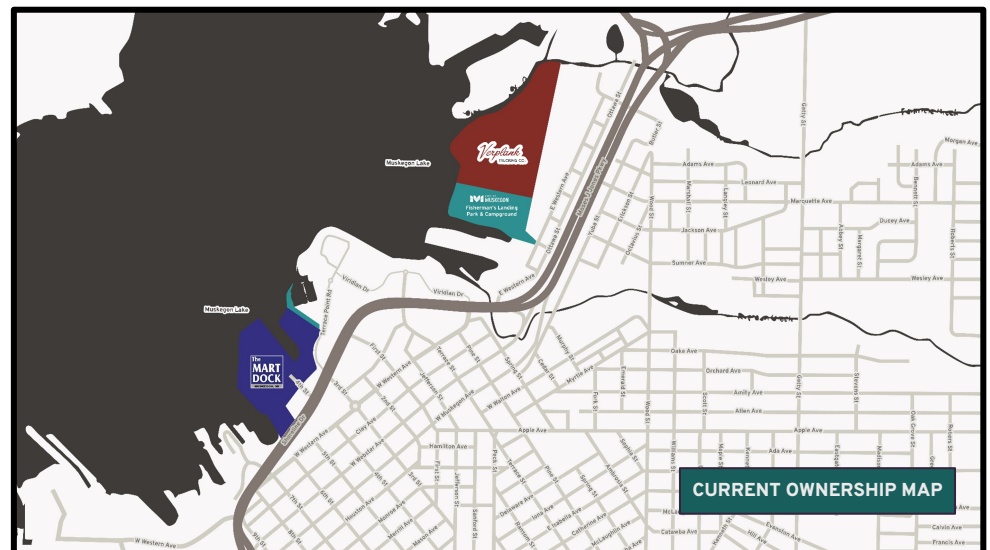
The city would obtain Verplank land along the South Branch of the

Muskegon River as well as frontage on Muskegon Lake, increasing public access. The McKee family, owners of the Mart Dock, would then redevelop much of the downtown site. The McKees have been working with the Smith Group with plans for a mixed-use redevelopment similar to what has been done on the downtown Detroit riverfront and Green Bay's Black River area.



The redevelopment could include preserving two World War II era historic ships, the LST, owned by the McKees, and possibly the Silversides submarine, now located in the Muskegon channel. In addition, the city would take ownership of Mart Dock property now at the foot of Third Street, sometimes called the Third Street Wharf, adding to waterfront public access.

Seyferth said the land swap "looks to more than double the



amount of land for public benefit and restore the river estuary for the Muskegon River South Branch.” He said he envisions eventually a walkway and fishing access similar to what already exists on the north side of the river at the Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve.



The numbers tell the story of an increase in public access. If the deal is approved, there would be a 107 percent increase in publicly owned Muskegon Lake/River frontage, from 2,390 feet to 4,933 feet. The amount of city-owned waterfront acreage would increase from 22 to 36 acres, a 63 percent increase.

He said the proposal has seven community benefits for the city:

- More than double the amount of public waterfront on Muskegon Lake
- Create new business and housing options at Mart Dock
- Create a nature preserve on the city’s east side
- Restore the area where the South Branch of the Muskegon River meets Muskegon Lake
- Protect wetlands in the area
- Support new jobs and businesses in the city
- Take care of Muskegon’s historic ships (Silersides and LST)

The city has had numerous public engagement sessions, many of them led by Seyferth, a fifth generation

Muskegon County resident who became city manager in 2022. Earlier in his professional career he worked as the downtown Muskegon manager.

This project is multi-faceted and not without its critics, as it means closing the 105-site Fisherman’s Landing Campground. However, the popular Fisherman’s Landing launch site and most of the parking would remain, Seyferth said. Because of concerns about closing the campground, the city is considering options to relocate it, including to nearby Richard’s Park or the former Amoco tank farm in Lakeside.



“We’re looking at what is the highest and best use of our city’s resources,” Seyferth said. The City Commission is expected to discuss the project at its Nov. 10 and 25 meetings. He said the project is “transformational” but joked “Muskegon does transformational projects all the time” pointing to the demolition of the downtown Muskegon Mall to rebuild the



central business district street system and move the Farmers Market downtown. He said this project ‘is the next step in the

process and something we’ve been trying to do for 30 years.” In the 1980s, the City rezoned the Mart Dock property for non-port uses. Then in 1999, when the Consumers Energy B.C. Cobb coal power plant was still at the east end of Muskegon Lake, the city’s comprehensive master plan called for moving all port operations to the east end of the lake. Several years later, Verplank Trucking Co. purchased from Consumers’ parent company, CMS Energy, the land between Cobb and the Fisherman’s Landing Campground. Today, the power plant is gone and the site is owned by Verplank for their aggregate storage operations.

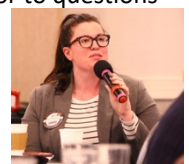
The city has a comprehensive online site with many documents, from the 1999 city master plan to Seyferth’s Rotary presentation! The information can be found at www.mkgcity.com/portsparks

STAY IN THE KNOW

mkgcity.com/portsparks

CITY OF MUSKEGON

Jonathan opened the floor to questions after his presentation & **Emily Morgenstern** was one of several who participated.



Announcements

Interact Insider



Reeths-Puffer Interactors are making colorful blankets and appreciation cards for twelve local veterans to present to them on Veterans Day, November 11, in their assisted living facility. What a great way to express our gratitude for their great service to our country!



RP's club has seen a notable membership increase this year and more people stepping up to lead because of their Life Leadership Conference experiences according to club Advisor, Karla Buchan.

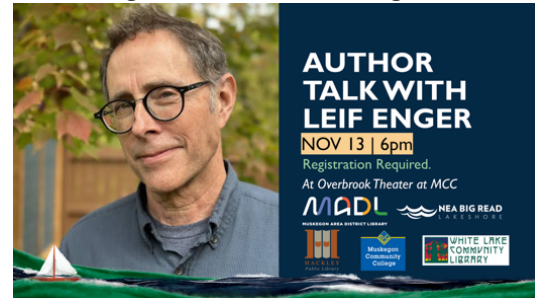


The Big Read Lakeshore



Doug Wood reminded the crowd of the Big Read Lakeshore upcoming Author Talk with Leif Enger on November 13th at 6pm at the Overbrook Theater at MCC.

Currently there are only 19 seats remaining so [CLICK HERE](#) to register.



Check out your book at MADL, Hackley, or White Lake libraries so you can get in on the discussions!



If you borrowed a copy of this year's Big Read book, please turn it back in when you are finished so it can be distributed again to the next person on the wait list.



Register at [MADL.org/Calendar](#) [CLICK HERE](#) to register to the Bar Crawl on Nov. 14th at 5:30pm.

Rotary New Member Social

**November 18th
5:30 PM
The Vault**

Come grab a drink, meet other new members, and learn more about Rotary!

RSVP to Melissa
231-724-5529
melissa@lakeshoremuseum.org

Melissa Horton let us know the New Member Social is Nov. 18th at The Vault downtown. Come meet the newest Rotarians!

Brave Rotarians— Where in Muskegon is Dave Alexander?



Meredith Smillie said that this fall's contest is "Where is Dave Alexander?" featuring a spinning wheel (thanks, **Mike Vogas**!) with **President Dave** choosing 10 photos of his favorite places in the Muskegon area. Ironically, the first two "Brave Rotarians" eliminated were **President Dave** and **President Elect Roger Morgenstern**!

The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives close to home and around the world. By giving to the Annual Fund, you make these life-changing projects possible so that together, we can keep Doing Good in the World!



NEW TEAM MEMBER BONUS!

Don't miss out on these offers for you and your household members!

- Free, Full-access Day Pass
- Waived Member Initiation Fees

Save \$50/membership

Celebrate our partnership and join us!
★ Redeem within 30 days of your start date ★

nealfitnesscenter.com

Fitness Classes
 Open & Lap Swim
 Aquatic Classes
 Waterfront Activities
 Weight & Cardio Zones
 Open Gym
 Basketball, Pickleball
 Racquetball
 Sauna
 Indoor Walking Track
 Babysitting Service
 Seasonal Waterfront
 Boating & Fishing

New Member Orientation

Doug Wood shared that the next New Member Orientation is being moved a week later than usual to Dec. 10. It will still be at the Shoreline Inn from 8-9:30 a.m.

Rotary In Action Tiffany Dupont-Novak



Tiffany DuPont Novak, who joined our Club about a year ago, is the Development Director for the Saint Cecilia Music Center in Grand Rapids, shares her journey since joining the Muskegon Rotary Club, highlighting the club's welcoming environment and the unique passions each member brings to community service. She's enjoyed getting to know her fellow Rotarians and called the club "such an amazing open, supportive group of people." Tiffany emphasizes the power of connecting through shared interests—especially in the arts—and how Rotary provides a space where diverse individuals unite to create meaningful change. Her commitment to increasing access to the arts and supporting youth underscores the transformative role of creativity in community development.

Watch the video [here](#).

Young Rotarians Update

With over 150 EarlyAct, Interact, and Rotaract Rotarians that are 17 years old and younger, **Doug Wood** and **John Noling** could use more of our help and involvement. Contact Doug ([click here for his email](#)) to be a part of these young leaders' lives. They will have their first meeting on Thursday, November 20th at 1:30 in the Chamber building.

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E44: Jeff Cave - Orthopedic Associates of Michigan (OAM)



In this episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, host Aaron Maiké sits down with Jeff Cave to talk about nearly 50 years of orthopedic excellence serving West Michigan. Hear how Orthopedic Associates of Michigan (OAM) grew from two physicians into a multi-specialty team offering urgent care, PT and OT, advanced imaging, and robotic-assisted surgeries.

With 12 rehab locations and more than 60 therapists, OAM helps patients recover faster and more affordably close to home. Jeff also shares how OAM supports local schools, athletics, and nonprofits, and why Muskegon residents do not need to travel for world-class orthopedic care.

Listen now and learn about an organization making a difference in the community.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/18141210-jeff-cave-orthopedic-associates-of-michigan-oam>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)