

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

October 23, 2025

Next Meeting (October 30, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Lasagna at the Lake House
Program Topic – Shoreline Trails and Greenways (STAG) Plan

What's Coming

October 30 – Progressive Companies
STAG report

Nov 6 – Connecting Community
to the Water, Ports, & Parks

Upcoming Birthdays

Oct 30	Paul Christie
Oct 31	Dion Stumpo
Nov 1	Timothy Vander Haar
Nov 3	Brandon Davis
Nov 3	Roger Spoelman
Nov 4	Cece Riley
Nov 5	Bill Erickson
Nov 5	Richard Francisco

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeters This Week

Mary Boyd & Mary Anne Gorman

Reflector This Week

Eileen Stoffan



RIM Reporting this Edition

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

Visitors & Guests



Dave Alexander with his guest
and wife, Peg Alexander



Lisa Tyler with guest Kristy Smith



Greg Borgman with guests Peter
Kurdziel and Caron Farmer

Muskegon Rotary YouTube
Video Link: [Click here](#)



Claire Root Benson with guest Zuri
Labrenz



Marty Sytsema introduces
Muskegon High School Counselor
Jennifer O'Brien and impressive
students (Seniors) Danaeya
Winters, Kennedy Loudermill, and
AJ Holt.

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. 😊

This Week's Program:



Pioneer Resources

Presenters: Jill Bonthuis and Greg Sischo

Intoduced by: Mary Beth Ramos
RIM Reporter: Meredith Smillie



Jill and Greg shared a video on the history of Pioneer Resources and their 70 years of serving the Muskegon community. Their mission is to help people with disabilities and seniors attain independence and dignity by creating opportunities for participation in the community.

In the late 1940's, the pastor of Black Creek Church in Muskegon noticed that one couple in his congregation never attended services together. When asked why, the couple shared that they had a child with disabilities at home who required full-time care, so they took turns attending church. The pastor encouraged this couple to connect with other families in the congregation who had a child with a disability. Over time, these families

formed the Pioneer Association, operating the first special education school-Pioneer School in the basement of Bethany Church, to building what is now the eastern educational center on Wesley, providing education and therapy to children with disabilities. Riding therapy, building group homes to move persons out of the correctional facility, operating the coastline deli at as a training program, operating the galley kitchen on the lake express, today offering transportation to beach shuttle, to workers on the cruise ships coming to Muskegon, a community partner and business in the city of Muskegon provided service in Muskegon and Ottawa County. Throughout the incarnations of the school, they made efforts to ensure that children and families were served, and their focus was to provide access for living, learning, growing and playing and transportation. 85% of their funding comes from Medicaid and Medicare. They are primary a healthcare provider and do have many community partners that provide support for the children and families in the great West Michigan Area.

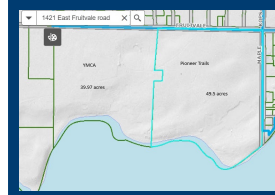


They focus on quality outcomes for persons with specific care needs. A place to live is affordable and specialized homes for persons with

disabilities. They provide vocational training, ABA therapies and other community living supports. A way to get there provides specialized transportation services, a fleet of 85 vehicles most of which are wheelchair accessible.

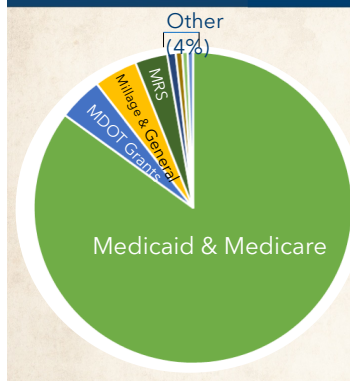
A place to grow and play are creating specialized programs that allow persons to participate in outdoor activities. The Pioneer Trails property has 138 years of history, and its mission is to create care and placement for neglected children and adults.

The history of Pioneer Trails property at 1421 East Fruitvale Road



138 years +
of service,
legacy and
impact!

85% of our funding comes from Medicaid and Medicare. We are a healthcare provider.



Main Funders:

- Ottawa Community Mental Health (CMH)
- Healthwest
- Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD)
- Evergreen Commons
- Life Circles – PACE
- Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)
- Muskegon County Millage
- Ottawa County Millage
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Donors and Business Sponsors



The camp was formed by Muskegon businesses to create a lodge at Blue Lake and was originally

called the Home of the Friendless and led by the Home of the Friendless. The Blue Lake Club build the Monroe Lodge and cottages on 90 acres on Big Blue Lake. These cottages continue to remain today. The camp was eventually Camp Emery. In 1921, Blue Lake Club sold 80 acres to the Muskegon Human Union for \$15,000 becoming the Children's Home Health Camp for undernourished youth. This home was supported by Rotary and other civic groups and operated under the Muskegon Children's Home. Camp Emery slowly began to serve more children. In 1991 Pioneer Resources purchased the property from Rotary. YWCA managed the camp for Pioneer Resources. In 1996 the name was officially changed to Pioneer Trails. It was during this time that great growth and diversity occurred. The camp served over 2,300 people each season prior to the COVID 19 pandemic and now serves 1,500 each summer.



Mary Beth Ramos introduced the program

Announcements

Food Truck Serves Over 245 Muskegon Households



Arn Boezaart reports on the success of Rotary's sponsored food distribution truck — serving over 245 households! Get in touch with Arn to volunteer for the next event on April 22, 2026.



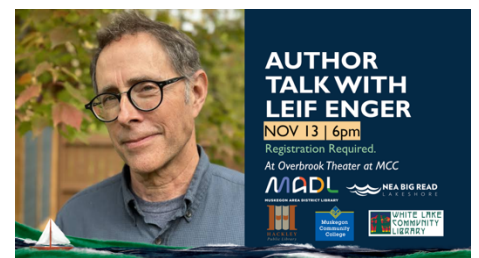
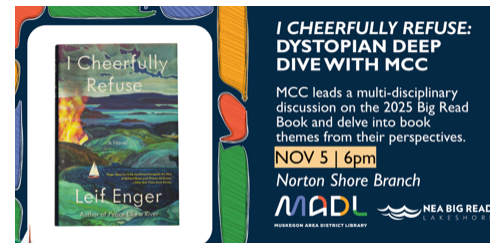
The Big Read Lakeshore



Nancy McCarthy promotes The Big Read as well as an upcoming library panel discussion happening November 5th. Muskegon Community College's English Honors Students will be hosting a book discussion on "I Cheerfully Refuse" for Rotarians on October 29th, 6:30 - 8 PM at MCC is [Click here to Sign Up](#). Check out your book at MADL, Hackley, or White Lake libraries so you can get in on the discussion!



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.



Where in Muskegon is Dave Alexander?



This year's fall Brave Rotarian Contest will feature some of President **Dave Alexander's** favorite places in Muskegon. If you would like to participate in this year's contest, sign-ups will kick off on Thursday, October 23, 2025. Due to our big fundraiser, HarvestFest and the holiday season, this fall's contest will be limited to ten Brave Rotarians. \$100 fulfills your yearly recommended donation to the Muskegon Rotary Foundation and you could win a Paul Harris Fellow in this fun contest.

Contact **Meredith Smillie** for further questions or to sign up at msmillie@bethany.org



International Exchange Student Conference



Dom Bunker announces that on November 8th at Hackley Library, we'll be hosting an International Exchange Student Conference.

Harvest Fest!



Roger Morgenstern reminded everyone that Harvest Fest was Thursday and was amazing!!! Pictures and updates will be posted in the next RIM Newsletter--stay tuned... 😊



District 6290 Youth Exchange Students Bring the World to Muskegon!

Each year, Rotary Youth Exchange students from across **District 6290** gather in Muskegon for a weekend-long conference dedicated to volunteerism and Rotary's motto of *Service Above Self*. For many of these young leaders—representing countries across the globe—this is their first experience with community service, as volunteerism isn't as common in their home countries as it is here in the United States. This year, our inbound students will share their cultures and talents with the community through a special project that celebrates global connection and local pride. On **Saturday, November 8, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**, exchange students from **ten different countries** will partner with **Hackley Public Library** in downtown Muskegon to host an **International Story Time**. Children and families are invited to listen to stories read in each student's native language, enjoy fun cultural activities, and sample snacks from around the world. This free, family-friendly event is part of District 6290's annual Youth Exchange conference and a shining example of the **Muskegon Spirit**—where our community comes together to learn, grow, and celebrate the beauty of our shared humanity.

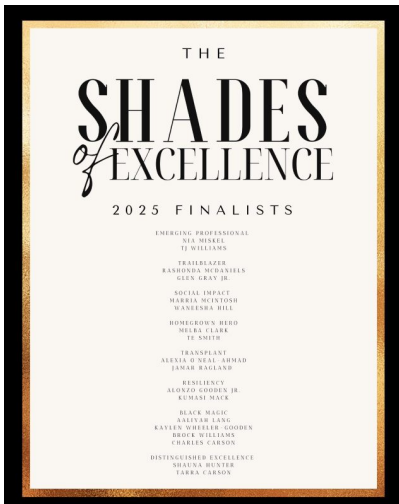


Assistant Sargent-At-Arms Position Filled

As Sargent-At-Arms Ed Hendrickson continues to recover, President Dave Alexander announced Jay Griffith and Kevin Donovan will assist in those duties as Co-Assistant Sargent-At-Arms to set up and tear down elements of the meeting before and after lunch each week.



President Dave also broadcasted, as a club, we're supporting two great events on Saturday evening, November 8th: the Muskegon Young Black Professionals Shades of Excellence celebration at the Convention Center



Ticket Link for Shades of Excellence—[Click Here](#)

and a Blues Night featuring Detroit's Thoretta Davis at Unruly Brewing. Ticket Link for Thoretta Davis—[Click Here](#)



Save the date:
VISION FACILITATION
Saturday, May 2nd, for a morning Muskegon Rotary Club Visioning Event led by the District 6290 Visioning Team.



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Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E42: Barbara Lee VanHorssen Momentum Center



In this week's Muskegon Rising Podcast, Barbara Lee VanHorssen of the Momentum Center joins Ken James to talk about what it really takes to build inclusive communities. We dig into Across the Bridge, how cultural immersion breaks down stereotypes, and why social recreation and real conversation matter for mental health. Barbara also shares trips, town halls, and the friendship bench approach coming to the Lakeshore.

Listen now wherever you get your podcasts.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/18051936-barbara-lee-vanhorssen-momentum-center>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

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](#):

Rotary In Action

Bob Scolnik



In this inspiring interview, Bob Scolnik shares his journey from arriving in Muskegon with nothing to building a successful business empire, starting as a Snap-on Tools dealer and later owning Muskegon Brake, growing it to over 100 employees. Reflecting on his entrepreneurial path and deep roots in the community, Bob discusses how his gratitude toward Muskegon fueled his dedication to giving back, particularly through his long-standing involvement with the Muskegon Rotary Club. His story highlights the power of perseverance, community engagement, and paying it forward.

Watch the video [here](#).

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
Suana
Indoor Walking Track
Babysitting Service
Seasonal Waterfront
Boating & Fishing



EST. 2020
NEAL FITNESS CENTER

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



Rotary District 6290

Did You Know?

Our District 6290 is part of the much larger Zone 28 that covers most of Canada, most of Alaska, and parts of Washington, Michigan, New York and Maine. Here's how we fit in.

Zone 28



More Info on Zone 28

[Click HERE](#)

NEA BIG READ
LAKESHORE

BAR CRAWL

NOVEMBER 14 | 5:30pm
Begin at **RAKE BEER PROJECT**

Register at MADL.org/Calendar



MADL
MUSKEGON AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY