

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 30, 2025

Next Meeting (November 6, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Chicken Marsala at the **Delta**
Program Topic – Connecting Community to the Water Ports & Parks

What's Coming

Nov 6 – Connecting Community
to the Water, Ports, & Parks
Nov 13 – Veterans Day Program
Nov 20 – ICCF Community Homes

Upcoming Birthdays

Nov 6 Kevin Donovan
Nov 9 David Ramos
Nov 11 Rich Kramer
Nov 11 Mike Vogas
Nov 12 Kris VanderStelt

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeter This Week

Mary Anne Gorman

Reflector This Week

Darlene Collet

(Chuckled as she
approached the
microphone from
Roger's fun entrance.)



RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Susan Besteman

RIM Reporter – Sue Samaniego

RIM Editor – Susan Besteman



Halloween fun
commenced
our meeting
this week as
we tried to
figure out who
was running
the show...



After some laughs and his big reveal,
President Elect **Roger Morgenstern**
quickly turned to the agenda and
continued with President **Dave**
Alexander's weekly minute
community news update.

Muskegon Rotary YouTube
Oct. 30th Video Link: [Click here](#)

Visitors & Guests



Past President Tim Arter with his
guest (and sister-in-law), Laketon
Township Supervisor Kim Arter



Missy Horton introduces her guest
from the Lakeshore Museum
Center, Morgan Witmer



President Elect Roger
Morgenstern introduced the
WMSRDC Transportation Planning
Director, Joel Fitzpatrick



Nancy McCarthy with guest (husband and former Rotarian), Ed Hunt



Emma Peterson introduces her guest, Grants Manager with Trinity Health, Susan Howell Stuk



Camille Jourden Mark introduces the new Director of Business Development with the Boys & Girls Club, Jennifer Bruin



Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga with 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



Fruitport High School joined today! **Marty Sytsema** introduced Superintendent Jason Kennedy who introduced two spectacular seniors, Abby LaPres and Braden Leslie.

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](#):

Rob Taylor introduced the speakers for today's program



This Week's Program:



Shoreline Trails and Greenways (STAG) Plan

Presenters: Latesha Lipscomb, JD & Carrie Rivette, PE

Introduced by: **Rob Taylor**

RIM Reporter: **Sue Samaniego**

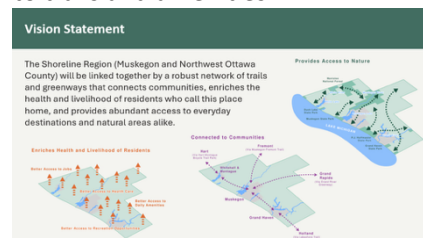
Shoreline Trails and Greenways (STAG) Plan is a trails plan to make multi-user trail connections

along the shoreline. The project mapped ways to connect existing

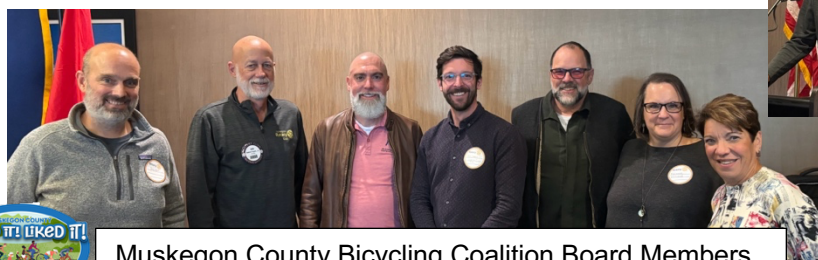


regional paths and add more local access options to get to both scenic places (waterways, parks, greenways) and

everyday places (stores, banks, work). The long-term goal is equitable access to trails and amenities.



The project area includes the city of Muskegon, Muskegon County, and Northwestern Ottawa County. The

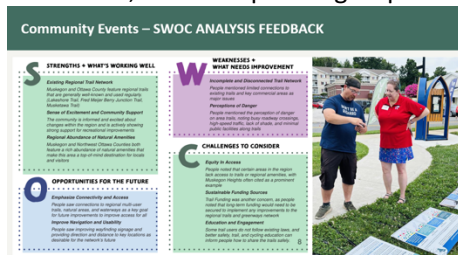


Muskegon County Bicycling Coalition Board Members



project began with a grassroots effort to gather information from multiple communities and focus groups to guide the plan. The business case for the trail improvements is built on significant economic benefits, improved community health, and a higher quality of life for residents.

The vision for the plan is that the Shoreline Region (Muskegon and Northwest Ottawa Counties) will be linked together by a robust network of trails and greenways that connects communities, enriches the health and livelihood of residents, and provides abundant access to everyday destinations and natural areas alike. Information gathered identified existing conditions as well as community input on what improvements are needed, and which are most desired/important. This qualitative data came from focus groups, community events, online survey, and pop-up events that raised over 800 voices. Focus groups included urbanized areas (City of Muskegon, Muskegon Heights, Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, and Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership Public Access) and regional groups including biking groups, outdoor groups, conservation groups, regional businesses, and local pocket groups.



Putting that feedback into categories – SWOC analysis- helped categorize current strengths, opportunities for the future, what needs improvement, and challenges that must be considered.

Of course, when there are multiple needs or a large project, prioritization

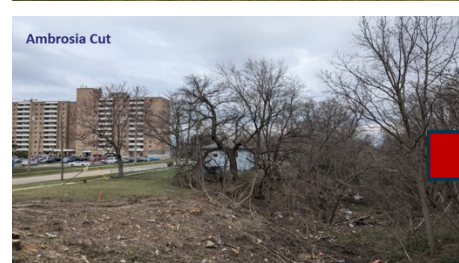
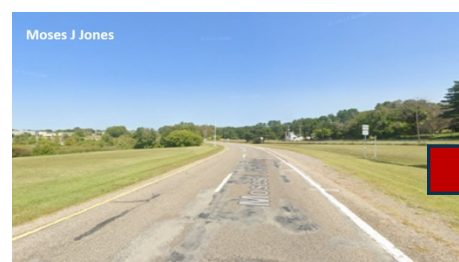
must be done to determine where to begin and perhaps phase in other parts of the project over time. The goal of all the work so far was to get the project funding ready. Are there Capital Improvement Plans already in place that can be adapted to include portions of this project? What grant funding streams may be available for the project? Are the private donors who may be interested in funding portions of the project?

There is a 15-year plan for implementing the entirety of the project. There were two important final messages:

- What is to come is better than what has been
- We represent what the future can be.

To see more about the project including a PDF of the full plan, check out the links below.

- <https://wmsrdc.org/project/shoreline-trails-and-greenways-stag/>
- <https://wmsrdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2025-Shoreline-Trails-and-Greenways-Plan.pdf>



Announcements

Head to the Delta Next Wk

This was the last meeting at the Lake House for the year. Head to the Delta every Thursday now for the winter months.

Thank You for Volunteering



President Elect **Roger Morgenstern** thanked the many volunteers for the second microforest at the North Muskegon Nature Preserve (including this editor's kids!), the successful food truck (next one on April 22nd), and Harvest Fest! See the last two RIM newsletters at MuskegonRotary.org for the pictures of the microforest and food truck.



Scroll to the last page to see lots of Harvest Fest photos!



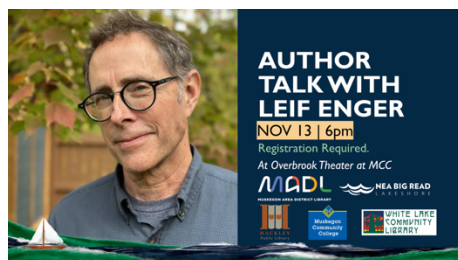
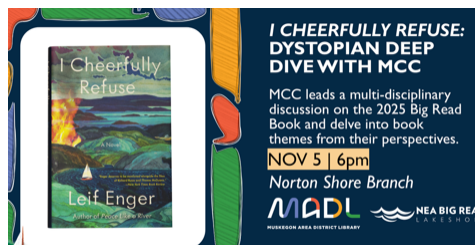
The Big Read Lakeshore



Nancy McCarthy announced the success of the Big Read book discussion on "I Cheerfully Refuse" with eight Rotarians, four MCC English Honor Students, and two faculty members. There are more events coming up including an upcoming library panel discussion happening November 5th. 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.



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)

Next meeting is November 6th!

Contact Kaytie Drake

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. \$100 fulfills your yearly recommended donation to the Muskegon Rotary Foundation and you could win a Paul Harris Fellow in this fun contest. This just in—our bracket is full!

Contact **Meredith Smillie** for further questions or to sign up for the next Brave Rotarian Contest at msmillie@bethany.org.

Mona Shores Interact Hosted Successful Trunk-or-Treat

Meredith Smillie congratulated the Mona Shores Interact Club at their successful hosting of a community Trunk-or-Treat with 25 businesses and over 400 children served!

Young Rotarians Update

Doug Wood updated the club that there are over 150 EarlyAct, Interact, and Rotaract Rotarians that are 17

years old and younger that 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.



Assistant Sargent-At-Arms Position



As Sargent-At-Arms Ed Hendrickson continues to recover, Jay Griffith and Dennis Atkinson assisted in those duties as Co-Assistant Sargent-At-Arms to set up and tear down elements of the meeting. Also, thank you to Jules Terry for her help in setting up this week too.

PeaceBuilder Committee "Family & Politics" Workshop on Oct 10th Update



Just in time for the holidays, the Rotary PeaceBuilder Committee hosted a Braver Angels workshop titled "Family & Politics" on October 10th at Wheelfish. Braver Angel's moderators were Jim Distelrath and Terry Donahue Cousins.



The session offered valuable guidance on how to preserve family bonds while staying true to one's values and political beliefs. Participants explored the common roles family members take in political discussions—gladiator, defender, instigator, peacekeeper, bystander, and engager—and practiced constructive strategies for navigating differences.



One attendee shared, "I've always felt like the bystander, not wanting to promote or participate in potential political conflict. However, with the strategies we practiced, I now feel that I can engage with family members in a constructive, non-threatening way." In its ongoing mission to promote peace—both within society and within our families—the PeaceBuilder Committee will continue to host workshops that help Rotarians do our part for peace.



Rotary In Action Todd Jacobs



Todd Jacobs, President and CEO of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, highlights how Rotary's Four-Way Test aligns seamlessly with the foundation's mission of building hope, opportunity, and collaboration in the community. In this interview, Jacobs reflects on the value of Rotary membership in fostering inclusive dialogue, new ideas, and diverse perspectives that strengthen community engagement. He emphasizes Muskegon Rotary's intentional efforts to expand membership across generations, ensuring that new leaders are prepared to carry forward the legacy of service and civic responsibility.

Watch the video [here](#).

International Exchange Student Conference

November 8th at Hackley Library, we'll be hosting an International Exchange Student Conference.



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

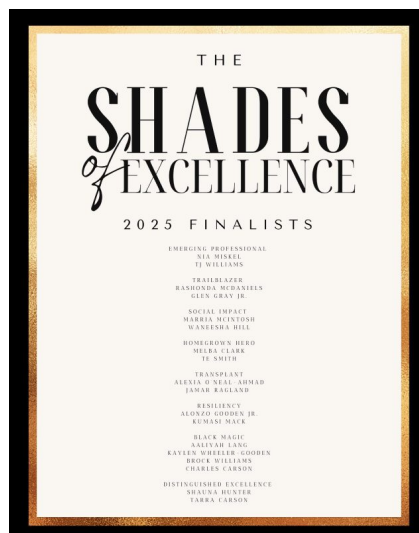
- Weight & Cardio Zones
- Open Gym
- Basketball, Pickleball
- Racquetball
- Sauna
- Indoor Walking Track
- Babysitting Service
- Seasonal Waterfront: Boating & Fishing

NEAL FITNESS CENTER

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.



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](#)

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E43: Dr. Paul Isley - Grand Valley State University



Muskegon has a rare opportunity to reconnect its downtown with the water. On the latest episode of Muskegon Rising, host Aaron Maiké talks with Dr. Paul Isley, Associate Dean and Professor at GVSU's Seidman College of Business, about how projects like Third Street Wharf and Fisherman's Landing could expand public access, boost tourism, and strengthen industry while preserving Muskegon Lake's restored ecosystem.

Dr. Isley explains why environmental stewardship, inclusive planning, and wise investment are essential to creating a lakeshore economy that works for everyone.

Listen now wherever you get your podcasts:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/18115101-dr-paul-isley-grand-valley-state-university>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)



Muskegon Rotary Harvest Fest October 2025







