

# 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 9, 2025

**Next Meeting (October 16, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Pasta Bar at the Lake House**  
**Program Topic – The Big Read Lakeshore: Great Lakes and Our Comeback Coast**

## What's Coming

**October 16 – Big Read Lakeshore**

**October 16 – ReWine Meeting**  
**Cancelled**

**October 23 – Pioneer Resources**

**October 30 – Progressive Companies**  
**STAG report**

## Upcoming Birthdays

**October 16 Jackie Fisher**

**October 16 Chauncy Williams**

**October 17 Myra Dutton**

**October 22 Tiffany Dupont Novak**

**October 22 Daniel Hartmann**

**October 22 Michele Lipka**

## Caring Connections Fund



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

## Greeters This Week

Mary Boyd & Mary Anne Gorman

## Reflector This Week

Bill Erickson



## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern

RIM Reporter – Jackie Farrar

RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

Every weekly Rotary meeting calls for many volunteers to have it run smoothly. That includes the Stage Manager, who wrangles the microphones for guest introductions and audience questions. And when this week's stage manager is the daughter of this week's *RIM* photographer you get highlighted.

Thanks **Emily Morgenstern** and everyone who helps at our meetings!



## Visitors & Guests



**Megan Byard Karaba** and her guest and work colleague, **Bernard Brown**

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



**Claire Root Benson** with former Muskegon High School Rotary Interact member and future Rotarian, **Zuri LaBrenz**



**Greg Borgman** introduces his guests and future Rotarians, **Dion Stumpo & Thomas Fought**



**Kelly DeVos** with her guest, **Sara Gilbert**



**Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** with her guest **Bob Garretson**



**Kendra Robinson** introduces our guests from Reeths-Puffer High School: seniors Olivia Smith and Brayden Ross and counselor Paula Olson



**Lisa Tyler** not only introduced our speakers but also especially mugged for the *RIM* camera. This is clearly one of the reasons she's our President Nominee!

## 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](#):

## This Week's Program:



## Innovation Academies of Muskegon

Presenters: **Matthew Cortez** & **Kristin Garris**

Introduced by: **Lisa Tyler**  
 RIM Reporter: **Jackie Farrar**

Pictured below: Our speakers, Kristin Garris, chief workforce officer for Goodwill Industries and Muskegon Public Schools Superintendent Matthew Cortez.

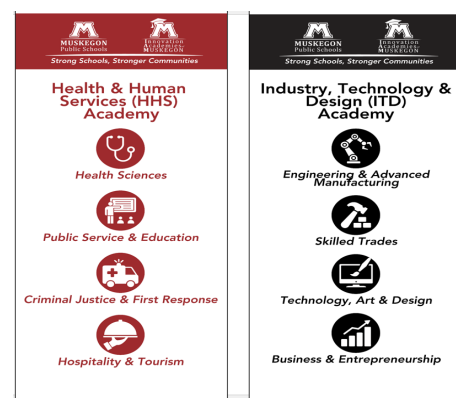


Matthew and Kristen started the presentation today by sharing the phases of Muskegon Public Schools Next Generation Learning Roadmap as being community driven. The five phases include:

- Phase 1: Explore
- Phase 2: Envision
- Phase 3: Plan
- Phase 4: Implementation
- Phase 5: Go Further

The Ford Next Generation Learning plan is focused on creating career-focused, community-connected learning pathways for students from pre-K through graduation to prepare them for college, careers, and lifelong learning and leadership.

## The Academics and Pathways for students



The guaranteed experiences for 2025/2026

- **2<sup>nd</sup> graders:** Project Place Curriculum, visiting Maple Ridge, City Sites, and Local Business
- **5<sup>th</sup> graders:** Jr, Achievement Biz Town, and GVSU Annis Water Research
- **8<sup>th</sup> graders:** Michigan Adventures
- **9<sup>th</sup> graders:** Attend the "Future of You" career conference and College Visits
- **10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders:** Students choose between two academies and select a career pathway aligned with their interest.





Innovation Academies of Muskegon Public School (I AM) is the result that Big Red Graduates will graduate High School with a Diploma and a Plan for the Monday after graduation. If you want to learn more contact Matthew Cortez Superintendent at <mailto:mcortez@mpsk12.net> or Kristin Garris, Lead Convener at <mailto:kgarris@goodwillwm.org>.

### RIM Reporting Team

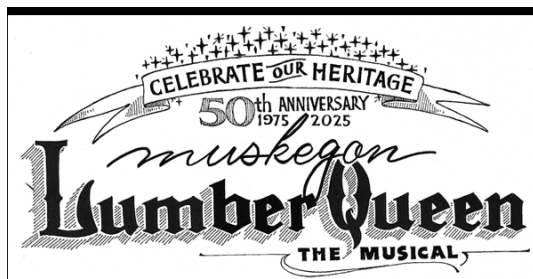
Co-Editors: Susan Besteman

Jackie Farrar, & Ginny Sprague

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger

Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie,  
& Sue Samaniego

Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt  
Huggett, & Roger Morgenstern



## Ten Muskegon Rotarians In Action With Mike Vogas

This week's Rotarians in Action segment was **Mike Vogas** thanking "10 Rotarians in Action" for their involvement in making the Lumber Queen performances a sold-out success. The Muskegon Rotary Club recently celebrated community pride with a revival of the 50-year-old musical Muskegon Lumber Queen, showcasing the power of Rotarians in action. Led by **Steve Olson's** fundraising, **Bob Scolnick's** social media reach, **Melissa Horton's** organizational leadership, and **Tim Lipan's** marketing expertise, the production packed the theater for three sold-out performances. On stage, **DJ Hilson** brought laughs as both a comic backwoodsman and a pompous mayor, **Kendrah Robinson** energized the crowd with Can-Can flair, and **Randy Lindquist** wowed with a spirited lumberjack chorus. First-time actor **Gary Nelund** shone as Sam the bartender, while **Dave Alexander's** push for Rotary exposure fueled momentum. This spirited collaboration proved how teamwork and creativity can bring Muskegon's history to life while strengthening community bonds. Watch the entire video [here](#)



**Mike Vogas** at his usual post, the audio/visual controls that make our weekly Rotary meetings a first-class operation!

**Randy Lindquist**, one of the many Rotarians who performed last weekend in the Lumber Queen, thanks director **Mike Vogas** for bringing the 50th anniversary of a play Mike directed at Muskegon High School in 1975 to life. Randy led the Club in a well-deserved, extended standing ovation for Mike.



**Mike Vogas** takes a moment to acknowledge the Club's standing ovation for his work in directing the Lumber Queen.

## Announcements

### Braver Angels Workshop Oct 10<sup>th</sup>

Peacebuilders Committee reminds members to sign up for the Oct. 10 Braver Angels Workshop, "Family & Politics". 1-4pm in the Wheelfish (Pyramid on the Lake) offices, 700 Terrace Point Dr, Suite 200. *The link for sign up is below.*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAA2CABFFC16-58686261-rotary>

Can't make this event, feel free to visit Braver Angel's website:  
[www.BraverAngels.org/attend-a-workshop](http://www.BraverAngels.org/attend-a-workshop)

### Food Trucks – Need volunteers



**Arn Boezaart** reminds people to sign up with him for the first of two Feeding America food truck distributions, 4-6 p.m. Oct. 22 at Temple United Methodist Church, across from the main entrance to Muskegon Heights High School at 2500 Jefferson St, Muskegon, MI 49444. Can't make Oct. 22? Mark your calendar for the next distribution April 22.

[Click here to email Arn.](#)



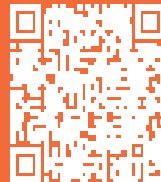
Join Muskegon Rotary Club  
for a fall FUNdraising event!



**WHEN** **OCTOBER 23**  
**5-8pm**

**WHERE** **THE CIM**  
**The Culinary Institute**  
**of Michigan - Muskegon**  
336 West Clay Avenue

**REGISTER** **TICKETS**  
**\$85**  
Scan for tickets



- ▶ Multiple Food Stations
- ▶ Live music
- ▶ Raffle & Auction
- ▶ 1 Free Beverage & Cash Bar
- ▶ Signature Gift



The Harvest Fest Committee tag team of, from left, **Carla Flanders**, **Jamie Sowa** and **Kat Hyder**, encourage Rotarians to buy tickets for the Oct. 23 event and to "do it for the kids" at Baker College's Culinary Arts Program who make all the food and help put on the event. Jamie's "emotional plea" was made more dramatic by special music curated by Kat. This trio may want to take their act on the road!

A crisp cool temp has moved into our area this week and that's got us thinking about [Harvest Fest 2025!](#)

Want to attend? Want to get involved? Want to sponsor? It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- 1.) Get your tickets today! Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- 2.) Click [HERE](#) to sign up to volunteer!
- 3.) Sponsor our biggest fundraiser of the year! Learn more [HERE!](#)

Thank you!  
Harvest Fest Committee

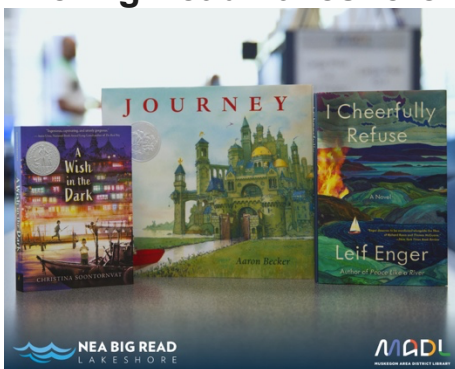




**Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga**

discusses activities related to the community wide "Big Read"

## The Big Read Lakeshore



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 tentative (has been confirmed). Check out your book at MADL, Hackley, or White Lake libraries so you can get in on the discussion! Sign Up Genius to arrive in your email soon.

### Upcoming Big Read programs:

\* November 13th, 6 - 8 PM: Leif Enger Author Talk (at MCC)

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. Thank you!

## Volunteers Needed – Help with English (Language) Beginners



**Melissa Moore** lets members know about Rotary volunteer opportunities in the community with Read Muskegon. After losing some funding, volunteers are needed at 5:30 on Mondays and Wednesdays to help beginning level English Language Learners with conversation and reading skills. Training will be provided.

[Click here to email Melissa.](#)



**President Dave Alexander** announced the club's nominating committee has a tentative slate of officers and board directors for the 2025-26 Rotary year starting next July 1. Your Rotary board will receive the recommendation at its Tuesday meeting and will be asked to present the slate to the membership for approval at the annual meeting in December. The recommendation may also come with a slight By-Laws revision that will be presented to the membership in November. Details to come.

## Second Muskegon Microforest – Volunteers Needed!



This second Muskegon microforest is being built at the Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve at 2496 Lake Ave, North Muskegon, MI 49445. Rotarians and Interactors are encouraged to attend and help on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am until noon to lay down cardboard and spread woodchips.

[Click here to email John Noling.](#)

## International Service

Rotarians **Susan Crain** and **Linda Juarez** have stepped forward to co-chair the International World Affairs Council, taking over from **Mark Eisenbarth**. Thank you for your leadership, ladies. And all those interested in international service, please see Susan or Linda.



### Rotary ReWine Schedule

5:00-5:15pm Social time  
5:15pm Meeting start time  
At Core Plaza (Vault)

October 16<sup>th</sup> **CANCELLED**

November 6<sup>th</sup>

Contact Kaytie Drake  
at [kaytieely@aol.com](mailto:kaytieely@aol.com) for more information

## Assistant Sargent-At-Arms Needed

As Sargent-At-Arms **Ed Hendrickson** continues to recover, **President Dave Alexander** is seeking someone who will take over his duties on a temporary basis as our Assistant Sargent-At-Arms to set up and tear down elements of the meeting before and after lunch each week. Please see Dave, or [click here to email him](#), if you can step forward and fill this important role.



Muskegon Public Schools Superintendent Matthew Cortez with one of the proudest Muskegon High School Big Red alums *RIM*knows of, **Greg Borgman**, Class of '75!

## Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E40: Pam Curtis - Senior Resources of West Michigan



The week's episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast is out now.

Pam Curtis of Senior Resources of West Michigan explains how our Area Agency on Aging helps older adults and caregivers across Muskegon, Ottawa, and Oceana counties stay safe and independent at home. We cover in-home care, transportation, meals, 211 referrals, PACE, Medicaid funding, and new behavioral health options. She also shares how partnerships with more than 75 local organizations expand access and impact.

Listen now wherever you get your podcasts.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17970273-pam-curtis-senior-resources-of-west-michigan>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

## President Dave's Muskegon Minute:

Muskegon minute: Last week Dave highlighted four stories on Muskegon Lake development. A week ago Tuesday, the state's environmental agency EGLE had an online webinar on the Windward Pointe/Sappi site's issue of methane contamination on the huge former paper mill on Muskegon Lake. The presentation was excellent on the history, science, mitigation and future development of Windward Pointe. There were several media reports on the event, some better than others. If you are interested in the topic, please take the time to watch the hour and 20-minute presentation and questions for EGLE regulators.

## Lend your voice to a Livability Lab 6.0 coming in February 2026!

