

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

September 18, 2025

Next Meeting (September 25, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Tacos at the Lake House
Program Topic – PFAS in Muskegon County

What's Coming

September 25 – Muskegon River
Assembly

Upcoming Birthdays

September 28	Nancy Crandall
September 28	Dimitri Poland
September 29	Amy Deming
September 29	Andrew Zahrt
September 30	Carla Flanders
September 30	Bill Loxterman
October 1	Toni Winskas

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeters This Week

Joseph Zappacosta
Michele Lipka

Reflector This Week

Joan Smith

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Mark Alpher
RIM Reporter – Jackie Farrar
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

Visitors & Guests



President Dave Alexander starts the meeting



Michael Eslick guest of Kathy Moore

Reflection



Joan Smith provides the reflection



Janelle Mair guests of Pete DeBoer



Rollin Smith guest of **Parker Aerts**



Sara Cooper guest of **Mark Eisenbarth**



Zuri LaBrenz guest of **Claire Root-Benson**



Marty Sytsema and student guests from North Muskegon High School



Amelia Amstutz visiting Rotarian and **Matthew Farrar**



Guests Doug Noyes, Dave Johnson, Wade VandenBosh, **Matt Farrar**, and Amelia Amstutz

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](#):

9/18/2025 Muskegon Rotary
 YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

This Week's Program: **PFAS in Muskegon County**

Presenters:
Richard Rediski, Ph.D.
 Introduction:
Pete DeBoer



Pete DeBoer introducing the program



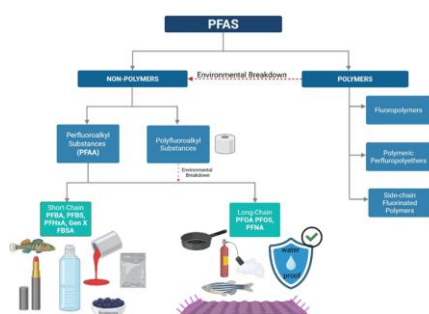
Guest speaker Richard Rediske, Ph.D.

The presentation started today with an overview of what PFAS is.

* PFAS are a large group of synthetic chemicals performance of everyday items

* PFAS is designed to resist heat, water, and oil, so they don't break down easily and can build up in the environment and our bodies.

* There are over 15,000 chemicals classified as PFAS, and they are divided into polymer and non-polymer categories



Dr. Rediske listed a lengthy list of PFAS sources we are likely using in our environments.



He shared possible health effects from PFAS. These include:

- * Increases in cholesterol levels
- * Small decreases in birth weight
- * Lower antibody response to some vaccines
- * Kidney, prostate, ovarian, and testicular cancer

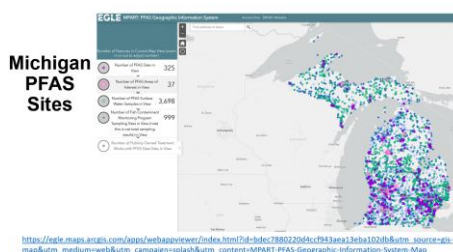
* Pregnancy-induced hypertension or preeclampsia

* Changes in liver enzymes

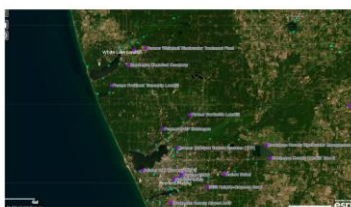
* Delayed puberty, decreased fertility, early menopause

* Thyroid disruption

He also shared information on the PFAS drinking water standards, the State of Michigan PFAS sites, and the 18 sites located in Muskegon County.



18 PFAS Sites in Muskegon County



Muskegon County does have a PFAS Task force that is coordinated by Tanya Cabala and Dr. Rediske. All impacted municipalities, the county, community groups, and individuals are encouraged to participate.

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman

Jackie Farrar & Ginny Sprague

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger

Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie,

Sue Samaniego, & Ginny Sprague

Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt

Huggett, & Roger Morgenstern

Contributors: John Noling, Mike

Vogas, & Doug Wood

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E37: Keith Crandall – Grand Valley State University Entrepreneur of the Year



In the latest episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, host Ram Sprague talks with Dr. Keith Crandall, professor at George Washington University and Grand Valley State University's 2025 Innovator of the Year.

Keith explains how his groundbreaking microbiome research has moved from the lab to real-world applications, helping doctors fight antibiotic-resistant infections and biotech companies analyze DNA more effectively. Their conversation shows how science and business come together to improve health and spark innovation.

Listen here:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17856961-keith-crandall-grand-valley-state-university-entrepreneur-of-the-year>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

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

YOUR VOICE, YOUR IMPACT

What do you love about Muskegon County? What could be improved?

Share your voice by taking our short, anonymous survey!

Your voice helps the Lab team understand what matters most & helps shape our community's future.



LIVABILITY LAB

Rotary In Action

Carla Flanders



Carla Flanders of CMF Marketing shares information on Harvest Fest 2025. This event is scheduled for October 23rd at the Culinary Institute. The funds support the Rotary Foundation, the Culinary Institute's scholarship program, and Baker College's Rotaract group.

This community event blends purpose and fun, offering an evening of food, fellowship, and philanthropy. Guests will enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet, one complimentary drink, and a special gift from Barry's Greenhouses.

Volunteers play a vital role, with opportunities to help before, during, and after the event—including setup, promotion, and silent auction prep—while also receiving discounted tickets.

Harvest Fest is more than a fundraiser; it's a chance to come together, support local initiatives, and celebrate community spirit.

Watch the entire video [here](#)



President Dave let members know that Ed Hendrickson is home. Also, if you are interested in being president, exploring a co-presidency, or being on the board of directors, see him, Roger Morgenstern or Lisa Tyler.

CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE

50th ANNIVERSARY 1975-2025

Muskegon Lumber Queen


THE MUSICAL

Lumber Queen, The Musical is a spirited and heartfelt melodrama that celebrates Muskegon's origins during the height of the lumber boom in the 1880s. Rooted in historical detail and community pride, the play tells a multigenerational story of ambition, love, and resilience. Through lively characters like Fred Hansen, Annie Sorensen, and the villainous Harry Dawson, this locally produced production with all local actors brings to life a pivotal era when sawmills roared, communities thrived, and integrity was tested. You will be reminded of the deep cultural roots that shaped Muskegon's identity—offering a theatrical tribute to the city's industrious past and the people who built it, AND you get to boo and hiss at the bad guy!

October 3 & 4 at 7:30pm
October 5 at 3:00pm

Tickets \$10
General Admission
Online ticket sales only

Ticket sales sponsored by
LUMBER QUEEN
MUSKEGON THEATRE CENTER



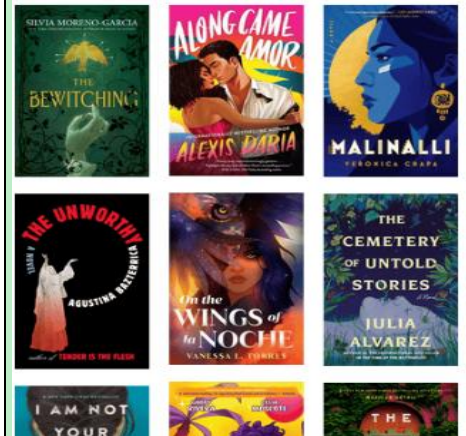
Presented at
The Stage at the Corner
280 Muskegon Avenue
Downtown Muskegon

THE STAGE
AT THE CORNER

For more information, call (231) 780-5300
or check out *Muskegon The Lumber Queen* on Facebook

DEI Corner

September is Hispanic Heritage Month



For more information [Click here](#)



Cathy Brubaker-Clarke shared the PeaceBuilders Committee is working with Braver Angels for another event. Mark your calendars for October 10th for the upcoming Braver Angel Workshop, "Family & Politics" 1:00 to 4 p.m., in the Wheelfish (Pyramid on the Lake) offices, 700 Terrace Point Dr., Suite 200, downtown Muskegon.

Adopt-A-Highway Program Looking for Volunteers

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



Our next pickup for the Muskegon Rotary stretch of highway on I-96 will be on Saturday, September 27.

Volunteers will meet promptly at 8:45am for a short safety talk, then head out on the road to pick trash. (We will finish no later than 11:00am, sooner if we get a lot of help 😊).

I am also looking for two drivers to drive along with the volunteers who are picking trash. If you can help, please contact Esther Ricco, riccoe@gvsu.edu or 616-283-1810 and she can provide you with details.

Be a part of keeping our adopted stretch clean and taking action to protect our environment!

Rotary ReWine

October Schedule

5:00-5:15pm Social time

5:15pm Meeting start time

At Core Plaza (Vault)

October 2nd

October 16th CANCELLED

Contact Kaytie Drake
at kaytieely@aol.com for more
information



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

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!

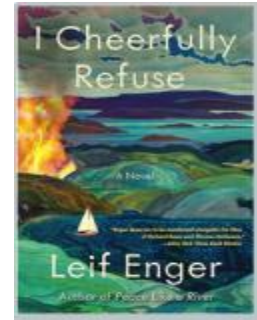
- 1.) Get your tickets today! Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- 2.) Click [HERE](#) to sign up to volunteer!
- 3.) Sponsor our biggest fundraiser of the year! Learn more [HERE](#)!

Thank you!
Harvest Fest Committee



Pete DeBoer talks about the Big Read!

The Environmental Committee is helping support our community's 2025 Big Read by encouraging Rotarians to read this year's book, *I Cheerfully Refuse* by Leif Enger.



See **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** if you'd like to borrow a book to read. There is a full list of activities related to the Big Read. Visit www.madl.org for more information.

Please welcome potential new members

Jeff Dana, Co-Owner of Floatmybiz. Jeff is sponsored by **Mary Anne Gorman** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Jeff will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Dion Stumpo, owner and agent at Farm Bureau Insurance Stumpo Agency. Dion is sponsored by **Greg Borgman** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Dion will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Tennille Woodward, Founder & CEO of GrowLeadEmpower. Tennille is sponsored by **Doug Wood** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Tennille will be inducted in the next few weeks.