

"Service Above Self"

Muskegon Rotary in Motion





Rotary (

http://www.muskegonrotary.org

Ginny Sprague, President Tim Arter, President-Elect Dave Alexander, President Nominee Jane Clingman-Scott, Past President Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer Don Hutchins, Secretary Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator

Muskegon Rotary Club

Club 16 (2809) - District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916 Next Mtg—August 31, 2023, 12-1:30pm The Lake House

ReWine Sat Club-Next mtg 9/7/23 5:15 pm Walkers (in the Delta)



Aaron Maike, Director Roger Morgenstern, Director David Ramos, Director Asaline Scott, Director Marty Sytsema, Director Brandon Turnbull, Director

Photographers Jackie Ferrar & Susan Besteman, RIM Reporters

Lori Weiler, RIM Editor



THE FOUR WAY TEST THAT ROTARIANS USE IN MAKING ETHICAL DECISIONS:

Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Next Meeting (8/31/23) — United Way of the Lakeshore

"This is it: the absolute edge of no return: to turn back now and make home or sail irrevocably on and either find land or plunge over the world's roaring rim" - William Faulkner

<u>MEETER - GREETER</u>

Doug Brown & Joan Smith

Upcoming & Recent Birthdays

Judy Hayner Aug 24 Kristi Nagengast Aug 25 Ammy Seymour Aug 25 Aug 28 Gene Fethke Rich Berry Aug 28 Kimberly Taylor Sep 2 Jon Gale Sep 3 John Snider Sep 6 Kim Keesen Sep 6

Caring Connections Fund

(Remember to donate \$10 on your birthday for this great cause!)

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

Aug 17 - Muskegon Civic Theater

Aug 24 - MADL

Aug 31 - United Way of the Lakeshore September 7 - Muskegon County Medical Take-Back

Muskegon Rotary Board

Ginny Sprague Aaron Maike Roger Morgenstern Tim Arter Dave Alexander David Ramos Jane Clingman-Scott Asaline Scott Kristi Nagengast Marty Sytsema Don Hutchins Brandon Turnbull

Please email Club Board Members through this link:

VISITORS & GUESTS

Due to technical difficulties, visitor information and photos from the 8/17/23 visit is unavailable. We apologize for the inconvenience.



Rob Taylor with his guest and potential new member Walter Mrotz



Bob Scolnik always has a story and this is a good one! He met his guest Cindy Maynard last week after he made remarks on the stage at Rotary's Party in the Park and encouraged anyone interested in joining the club to contact him, and Cindy did!



LeighAnn Mikesell with her guest Sarah Wilson, a city of Muskegon colleague and potential new member.



Jason Piasecki introduces Eagle Scout Mason Schlafer, a national top seller for the Boy Scouts popcorn fundraiser, and his dad Matt Schlafer.



John Noling and his guest, Mona Shores Interact Club member Veer Saini, who shared with the club what Interact has meant to him.

There is no video recording available of the 8/17/23 meeting; however, you can watch the 8/24/23 meeting here.



Ammy Seymour, representing the Youth Exchange Committee, introduced our three "inbound" exchange students, from left: Tomas Uruena, from Columbia, attending North Muskegon; Kyoka Tomoyama, from Japan, attending Reeths-Puffer; and Dori Szekeres, from Hungary, attending North Muskegon

AUGUST 17, 2023 PROGRAM: Saturday mornings in the Beardsley to Broadway Lights

RIM Reporter: **Jackie Farrar**Speakers – **Jason Bertoia** – Kate Reinders, David Alpert



Kate Reinders and David Alpert

The Runaway Princess is an original musical written by Kate Reinders and Paul Gordon and directed by David Alpert. The Muskegon Civic Theater will be presenting the world premiere of The Runaway Princess on August 18th through the 20th. Kate was first introduced to the theatre and sang her first solo on the Beardsley stage. One of her favorite moments over the years is singing with the orchestra "It's a Magical Moment".

David's first experience was in a musical directed by Judy Johnson, who has created many amazing opportunities for kids over the years. One of David's favorite experiences is when the lights go out at the end of the show and "everyone is enjoying the moment".

The Runaway Princess is about going on an adventure, and then returning home with a new sense of self and sharing that knowledge with those in the kingdom. As for the musical itself, The Runaway Princess is the story of a "Perfect Princess" who runs away to find her fairy godmother, and along the way, she makes some fairy tale friends, learns real-life lessons, and starts to become her true, perfectly imperfect self.



The process that brought the show to the stage:

- Auditions happened at Muskegon Civic Theatre over two days in June (open to area students in 7th grade through college).
- Rehearsals started in August.
- The cast only had two weeks of rehearsals to put it all together before presenting the story of *The* Runaway Princess to the world and according to the team, it was the best part!

The Runaway Princess show times at the Beardsley Theatre:

- 7:00pm on Friday August 18, 2023
- 2:00pm and 7:00pm on Saturday August 19, 2023
- 2:00pm on Sunday August 20, 2023

All tickets are \$15.00

For more information visit muskegoncivictheatre.org

New Member Inductions (8/17/23)



Laura Lorenz & Mary Ann Gorman

Welcome to new Rotarian Laura Lorenz, introduced by her sponsor, Mary Anne Gorman.

Laura is currently the branch manager of the PNC Branch on Whitehall Road in Muskegon. She has worked for PNC Bank for 13 years and has been a branch manager for two years.



Please also welcome **Karen Denise Buie**, sponsored by **Jim Fisher**. Karen is employed at the Muskegon County Clerk's Office.

Beautiful weather, great company, amazing entertainment, and lots of fun, fun, fun! **Party in the Park** was another huge success.



Watch this <u>brief video clip</u> to see photos and more.

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS 8/17/23 Sheila & Kirk Wahamaki

The Muskegon community has a long history of generous benefactors who have helped make Muskegon the marvelous place that we all enjoy. We honor some of these benefactors through public art, such as Charles Hackley sitting on a bench gazing at the park that bears his name.

Today we honor two individuals who have worked to enrich the lives of our West Michigan communities for over 20 years.

While these candidates grew up in different locales, Michigan and Wisconsin and Illinois and West Virginia, their educational paths converged at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Fun fact, they met while performing in a production of My Fair Lady. Following a whirlwind romance, they were engaged three months after their first date and married in May 1978.

She was a professor of Theater at Saint Mary of the Woods College for 14 years. He worked in technical theatre, managed performance venues, acted in commercials, industrial films, and plays, and hosted a weekly TV movie show.

After several years of enjoying summers in West Michigan, the couple brought their talents and family to Muskegon. She was the Christian Education Coordinator for Central Presbyterian Church, assisting in worship, planning and directing all educational programs, workshops, and teacher training, and organizing all elementary and youth group activities.

He was the Executive Director of the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts from 1998 to 2001, where he completed the renovation of the 1929



Paul Harris Fellows Sheila and Kirk Wahamaki shown here between the Spragues.

theater and started a program presenting national performers.

She was the Skills Instructor Learning Center Coordinator for Muskegon Goodwill Industries.

As Chief Operating Officer of the Dogwood Center for the Performing Arts, he oversaw the construction, start-up, and operation of the new 8.2 million-dollar facility.

She has been Director of the Center for Theater at Muskegon Community College since 2000. She has been a teacher and has worked to promote engagement in and appreciation of performance arts by young people for 40 years.

For the last 17 years, he has been the Artistic Director of the Muskegon Civic Theatre. For MCT, he oversaw over 100 productions, including directing, performance, lighting and set design, and technical theatre oversight.

In collaboration with other arts organizations, she developed the Arts and Humanities Festival, the AH Fest, to coordinate cultural offerings around a common theme each year. She oversaw the Festival from 2000 to 2019.

He developed the black box performance space for Muskegon Civic Theatre, which helped the company present thought-provoking plays and musicals in this intimate performance space, including Rabbit Hole, Proof, Always...Patsy Cline, Leaving Iowa, and, most recently, Anne and Emmett.

She brought thought-and conversation-provoking productions to the stage, including the Muskegon premier of The Vagina Monologues, raising \$28,000 for Every Woman's Place, Pillowman, and many others.

He is a production designer, actor, and director for films and stage plays with Roger Rapoport.

She was a Board member of the West Michigan Symphony and has directed and performed with Muskegon Civic Theatre and the Playhouse at White Lake.

He is a member of the Michigan Nonprofit Presenters, a member of the Community Theater Association of Michigan, and a lifetime member of the American Association of Community Theater Education.

She is an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon. He is an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon. She has received numerous accolades, including the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce Award for the Arts, the Muskegon Women's Club Woman of Accomplishment Award, the Richard Charles Ford Award for Contributions to the Arts and Humanities, and Muskegon Civic Theatre's Lois E. MacArthur Award for Outstanding Dedication to Community Theater.

His awards and accolade include the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce Award for the Arts, the Abraham J. Malooley Award given annually by United Cerebral Palsy of the Wabash Valley for outstanding service, and the Lois E. McArthur Award for Outstanding Service to Community Theater.

Our honorees have two children, Christopher and Katherine, a daughter-in-law, Sofia; a son-in-law, Ryan; and a grandson, Oliver.



While they might not be seated on a bench, they have made their mark on many performance spaces in our community. Please help us acknowledge Sheila and Kirk's work to enrich our community's culture, living enjoyment, and awareness and appreciation of the contribution of the arts to dialogue, connectedness, and humanity by naming Sheila and Kirk Wahamaki Paul Harris Fellows.



President Ginny and Meredith Smillie recognized three outstanding Rotarians for their "Paul Harris Fellows Plus" status as ongoing contributors to the Rotary International Foundation. They are from left, **Pam Babbitt** (PHF Plus 3), **John Noling** (PHF Plus 3) and **Christine Robere** (PHF Plus 2).

It's time to update the Membership Directory!

Please take a moment to go over your profile and update any

changes (including your photo).

If you need help, please contact Club Coordinator Kim Boersema.



RIM Reporting Team

Susan Besteman
Kathy Moore
Meredith Smillie
Jackie Farrar
Roger Morgenstern
Lori Weiler
Roger Morgenstern & Mark
Alpher, Photographers
Bill Johanson, Contributor
John Noling, Contributor
Mike Vogas, Contributor

IVES HERE

w Feature

DEI Committee

The Muskegon
Rotary Diversity,
Equity & Inclusion
Committee presents
community activities
with a DEI focus

- Kaja's "US" Café 3rd Annual Block Party 2300 Maffett St. Muskegon, MI 49444 Saturday, Sept 2 from 12 p.m.-6 p.m.
- Muskegon Polish Festival- Hackley Park-September 1st and 2nd from 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Muskegon County Latino Festival Hackley Park Saturday, September 9, from 2 p.m.-10 p.m.

AUGUST 24, 2023 PROGRAM: Muskegon Area District Library

Introduced by: Kris Collee

Speaker: Executive Director Ron Suszek

Program Manager, **Sarah Rinsema- Sybenga**

RIM Reporter: Susan Besteman

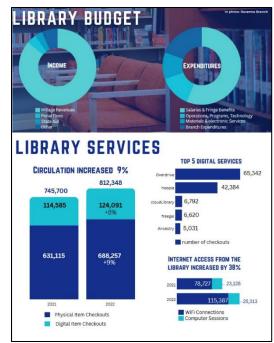
Muskegon Area District Library (MADL) was founded in 2006, serves 20 local governmental units, has 11 locations throughout Muskegon County, and has a service population of 107,000 residents. Executive Director Ron Suzek is from northern Michigan, attended Hope College, helped run the diverse City of San Antonio library for 20 years, and came back to Michigan last year to help with our community library. Ron noted MADL's operational budget for 2023 is just over \$4.5 Million and that is funded almost entirely from property taxes.

The eleven branches are Dalton,
Egelston, Holton (newest branch),
Laketon (second newest branch),
Montague, Muskegon Heights,
Muskegon Township, North
Muskegon, Norton Shores, Ravenna,
and the Library for the Visually &
Physically Disabled (which was
recently awarded the Outreach
Center of the Year and are heading to

the Library of Congress in D.C. in two weeks).

They also have an administration building and "Bookmobile & Outreach" van to reach those other areas in the community. Nine of the branch locations were previously from the precursor to MADL which was the Muskegon County Library System where they were in operation roughly since the early 1900s.

Some confusion arises with the other district libraries, so Ron clarified that there are four District libraries which are MADL, Hackley Public Library (serves the City of Muskegon and Muskegon Public Schools for approximately 55,000 residents), White Lake Community Library (serves the City of Whitehall and Whitehall Public Schools for approximately 10,000-14,000 residents), and Fruitport District Library (for approximately 10,000-14,000 residents). Regardless of who their service provider is, all four district libraries work closely together to still provide service and they continue to collaborate on ideas to make that more cohesive for residents. MADL sent out a survey to the public and approximately 70% believed that Hackley Public Library was part of MADL and 50% felt the same way about White Lake Community Library so they are working further on getting the



message out about what MADL is and isn't.

The mission of MADL is "The Muskegon Area District Library connects a diverse community to resources and services that educate, inform, enrich and entertain. Their vision statement is "The Muskegon Area District Library is recognized as a primary resource for literacy and learning; a gathering place for families, cultural and civic life; and a contributor to the community's economic development. We ensure public sharing of digital and print materials as well as innovative technologies." Ron is excited to go to work every day because of the staff and personal experiences created at MADL.



Since Covid, the Library has thankfully seen growth again; however, the digital use accounts for nearly all the growth and the purchase models for digital content are a real cause for concern. Ron gave the example that if an individual were to purchase digital book for \$10, it would most likely cost MADL \$100-\$150 per copy and use. Consumer expectations are high and haven't shifted after Covid where the growth remains budget limited. Ron also pointed out that print circulation is holding steady, so they haven't seen a justification to cut the budget in that area for the digital content.

Their strategic vision is to expand access and awareness to library resources and materials, update programs, resources, and physical spaces (all of them have been recently renovated), and support equity, diversity, and inclusion (the library is a very valuable resource they should utilize).

Collaboration is a huge part of what they do according to Ron and in addition to the partnerships with the district libraries, MADL is also a part of the Lakeland Library Cooperative which is a consortium of approximately 60 libraries across West Michigan. This allows an expansion of borrowing opportunities. They also partner with local units of government to provide service (for the most part, they provide the buildings where they host their services), other agencies and service providers (to further community opportunities), and volunteers and community members (to help with fundraising).

Our own **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** is the Programs Manager who continued with how the other partnerships in the community align with the strategic goals and initiatives. One of the newest initiatives, the Muskegon Area Bike Library, was launched in June in partnership with the Muskegon Area

Bicycle Coalition at the Muskegon Heights Library location. They have been inspired by the success where they started out with 50 bikes (25 adult and 25 kids' bikes) and within a couple weeks they needed more inventory. MADL noticed this out-ofthe box thinking helped with social determinates of health and fun (families and people that needed bikes to get to work and/or school all checked out bikes). This has inspired MADL to think of other programs they can offer to the community such as camping gear, diagnostic tools for cars, strange instruments, etc.



Humans of Muskegon is a storytelling project that lifts up and features lesser told stories of individuals in Muskegon County. Started in 2022 and continuing this year, this program was inspired by The Human Library, an international organization founded in Denmark with a mission to help people not judge a book or human by its cover by creating safe spaces where the individuals (books) can share their life experiences with the readers. Here, they focus on those books in Muskegon that may have some negative connotations such as "Suicide Attempt Survivor," "Misogyny in the Funeral Industry," "Living with Blindness," "Tattooed

Librarian Biker," and more. This year, Sarah and MADL are expanding the project to include Hackley Library and MCC. They have 15 openings for 2023 and are recruiting people currently, so if you (or anyone you know) have (has) a unique story, submit an application online at MADL.org/humans.

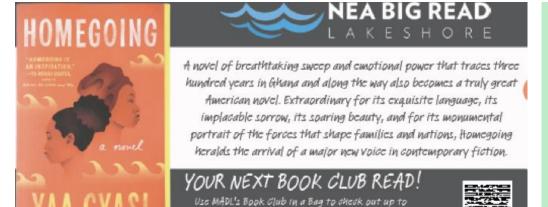
Over the last five years, MADL has made significant investments in early literacy (in concert with Muskegon County's goals of early childhood education). About \$1 Million has been invested into four of their eleven branches so far for a program called Storyville. Storyville renovates areas of the library for kids and the first one completed was at the Ravenna Branch Library where a portion of their building was modified with community input including local business owner (and fantastic fund raiser) Jon Swanson. The kids there now have a pickle bench around the corner of the fence, a mural with several Ravenna landmarks, and a barn that is a veterinarian office but also features other medical professions. The other locations for Storyville so far are Norton Shores (water/camping theme), Montague (yellow submarine), Muskegon Heights (neighborhood theme). In 2022, 12,000 people engaged in the Storyville program at the four locations and that number is on course to increase already for this year with 9,000 people as of July 2023.

Another program highlighted was the Big Read. It is a reading event for the community where during October and November, anyone can join for a variety of programs inspired by three selected books for adults, teens, and children. As Sarah explained, this is the second fall that MADL is bringing this to Muskegon County and the three books right now are "Change Sings" by Amanda Gorman for children, "New Kid" by Jerry Craft for teens, and "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi

for adults. This fall you will see a slew of programs and events inspired by this book through lots of organizations, not just MADL, including Great Start Collaborative, the ISD, Lakeshore Museum, Hackley, White Lake Community Library, and even Rotary's DEI Committee. Stop by

a MADL branch to place a hold on the books or if you would like to purchase them, Book Nook is partnering with a 20% discount for the Big Read. MADL is bringing Jerry Craft to Muskegon at the Frauenthal on November 14th and Yaa Gyasi will be at Hope College on November 13th.

Ron concluded that even though there are some stressors at the national level for public libraries currently, he is grateful that the Muskegon community has positive response and great participation at every corner of Muskegon County.



i the whole drew to our Homegoing inspired activities! Scan to reserve your books!

Model school is hard enable uthout being the MEW KID

JERRY CRAFT

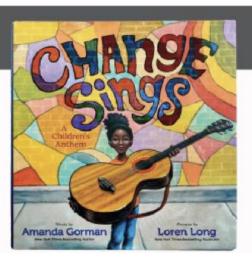
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A graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real.

Seventh grader Jordan Banks
loves nothing more than
drawing cartoons about his
life. But instead of sending
him to the art school of his
dreams, his parents enroll him
in a prestigious private school
known for its academics, where
Jordan is one of the few kids
of color in his entire grade.



Tucsday, November 14 6:00 pm Frauenthal Center Register at MADL.org/calendar



LITTLE READ

A lyrical picture book debut from Youth Poet Laureate
Amanda Gorman and illustrator Loren Long.

In this stirring, much-anticipated picture book by inaugural Youth Poet Laureate and activist Amanda Gorman, anything is possible when our voices join together. As a young girl leads a gast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes—big or small—in the world, in their communities, and in most importantly, in themselves.

Join us in making our Community Art Project!

Stay tuned for dates and locations!

The next Muskegon Rotary Member Orientation is Wed Sep 06, 2023 at 8:00 AM -9:31 AM at the Shoreline Inn 750 Terrace Point Drive, Muskegon.

The orientation session will introduce new and prospective members to the history, traditions, and operations of Rotary International and the specifics of the Muskegon Rotary Club. Howard Hardesty is your host.

FUN FACTS

Contributed by Bill Johanson

- Glass takes one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite number of times!
- Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years.
- When a person dies hearing is the last sense to go. The first sense lost is sight.
- Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.
- The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.
- If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Coming Soon: A Microforest Near You



MHS Interactor Tobias Melton stands atop our "cardboard stash" collected so far for Sept 8th United Way Day of Caring worksite at what will become the Marquette Microforest. A bottom cardboard layer plus 8 inches of bark chips and leaf mulch will be spread on the quarter acre site next to US 31 on Marquette Avenue. Over the fall and winter, weeds will be killed and microbes and fungi will break down the cardboard and organic matter so that a variety of native Michigan shrubs, trees, and groundcovers can be planted on Earth Day next Spring.



What is a "microforest"?

Microforests are just like regular forests but grow much more rapidly and occupy much smaller areas of land. It is a dense, tiny forest with high biodiversity. The technique is a form of afforestation or the act of planting a forest where there isn't one before. This is different than reforestation, which restores an existing forest.

The City of Muskegon wishes to donate a property for a microforest on the south-side of Marquette Avenue at Access Highway next to US 31 (about 1/4 acre).



The Muskegon Rotary Club has 500 potted and appropriate trees and shrubs ready to be planted in this area. On Day of Caring, United Way teams will help prepare the ground for the planting of the Marquette Microforest for next Earth Day. About 2,000 trees, shrubs, and other plants will be planted in this area.



Creating accessible ways to store carbon and increase biodiversity can help slow down climate change. Microforests, tiny and dense patches of forest, are becoming increasingly popular, particularly in urban areas where space is usually tight, since they can fit pretty much anywhere. While some reforestation or tree-planting projects are criticized for their lack of variety, microforests are built with forest layers. This makes them true forests where many plants, insects, and fungi can thrive.

Our Rotary board has recently supported this exciting new joint project with the City of Muskegon and United Way of the Lakeshore. Many other great community partners are involved as well with

plans for more afforestation or rewilding for our County.



We look forward to a great September morning and early afternoon getting the Marquette Microforest up and running on Sept 8.



As you will see at the United Way link below, a Lions Club pancake breakfast is available at 7 am at United Way and box lunches available at our site around noon are included. PLEASE



SIGN UP TODAY USING THE LINK BELOW.

We will actually be working from about 9 am to 2pm, so please feel free to work for any portion you can manage at the site.

SIGN UP AT THIS LINK:

https://www.unitedwaylakeshore.org/day-caring

or contact **Doug Wood, Kelly DeVos**, or **John Noling**. Many Day of Caring sites around Muskegon are available for Rotarians to choose from on September 8.



More Chances to SIGN UP NOW!

org/day-caring

Sept 8 - United Way Day of Caring, Marquette Microforest project or other great sites, 9am-2pm, any amount of time you can spare Register now at https://www.unitedwaylakeshore.

Sept 14-17 Michigan Irish Music Fest, Help Interact clubs raise funds for projects as a "Powder Room Tech", lots of fun, great perks! Sign up now here.

Mar28-Apr4 (approx) District sponsored El Salvador Interact Service Trip, build multi-gen houses, estimate \$1400 total cost, limited space, deposits due this fall. Contact John Noling ASAP if interested.

Member Spotlight 8/17/23 **Dimitri Poland**



Dimitri Poland joined Muskegon Rotary a year ago and is an Associate Wealth Advisor at Braeburn Wealth Management. Dimitri grew up in the Muskegon area, attended Mona Shores High School, and graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Finance. Damitri joined Rotary to meet new people and wanted to make an impact in the community.

Dimitri recently joined the **Engagement Committee and looks** forward to being part of all the great work that Rotary does in the community. To watch Dimitri's full bio, click here.

Member Spotlight 8/24/23 **Kevin Ricco**



Kevin Ricco is the Director of the Muskegon Innovation Hub which is part of Grand Valley State University. He works with early-stage entrepreneurs to help launch businesses. He joined Rotary shortly after obtaining this position in the fall of 2014 and has appreciated the friendships he's made (particularly in the ReWine satellite group which he chairs and encourages any person considering Rotary to attend.) The opportunities he has had through Rotary include strong community connections where the Muskegon area has allowed further connections with the clients they serve professionally. See Kevin's complete spotlight here.

I really, really mean it this time.

Roger Morgenstern emphasizes the importance of buying tickets to the Oct. 26 inaugural Harvest Fest

before prices jump \$10 in about a month. The committee is also looking for a couple of larger sponsors to step up to help support the

event and join the cadre of \$500 sponsors

already on board.

Our goal is to raise \$30,000 in sponsorships so our Club and Foundation can continue doing great things to improve the Muskegon community.

For more information click here.

