

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

August 8, 2024

**Next Meeting (August 15, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Bruschetta Chicken - at the Lake House
Program Topic – Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

What's Coming

August 15 – Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired

August 22 – Little River Band of Ottawa Indians new Health & Family Services

August 29- MCC update with Rotaract

Upcoming Birthdays

August 16 Asaline Scott
August 18 Ginny Sprague
August 19 Jill Bonthuis
August 21 Mark Alpher

Caring Connections Fund

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



Greeter This Week

Andy Buelow
Meredith Smillie

Reflection



Dave Medendorp giving the reflection.

Reflectors

David Medendorp	August 8
Gregory Pittman	August 15
Myrna Olsen	August 22
Bill Loxterman	August 29

RIM Reporting this Edition

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

VISITORS & GUESTS



Nancy Crandall introduces her guest Mike Youngdahl, former Muskegon Rotarian, now an active Rotary member in North Carolina



Pete DeBoer introduces his guest Brittany Schultz



Kristi Pawlak introduces her guest **Cornelius Redhead**

Inductions



New member **Marc VanderStelt** introduced by his wife **Kris**.
New member **Tiffany DuPont Novak** introduced by **Ginny Sprague**.
New member **Claire Ritter** introduced by **Claire Root Benson**



Marc VanderStelt is a lifelong resident of West Michigan and has been a dedicated police officer for 21 years. He began his career in 2003 with the Grand Haven Department of Public Safety and transferred to the Norton Shores Police Department in 2004. In Norton Shores, he rose through the ranks and was appointed Chief of Police in October 2023.

Marc earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a Masters in Public Administration from Grand Valley State University (GO LAKERS!). He is a graduate of Michigan State University School of Staff and Command, Class of 2018 but is way more of a U of M Fan (GO BLUE!). Marc is no stranger to community service. He is a volunteer board member of the Michigan Irish Music Festival and a co-chair of the Johnathan Ginka Memorial Golf Committee.

Marc recently married Kristen Collee; together, they have a blended family of three children and one Yorkshire terrier. In Marc's free time, he enjoys vacationing with friends and family and playing golf.



Tiffany Dupont-Novak was born and currently resides in Fruitport. She was fortunate to grow up in West Michigan's warm and welcoming theatre community.

After graduating from Grand Valley State University, she found her professional home in arts administration. She served as the Education Administrator for Muskegon Civic Theatre, Marketing and Sales Director, and eventual Director of Advancement for Lexington Children's Theatre (LCT) in Lexington, Kentucky.

After more than 12 years at LCT, she served as the Development Manager for Actors Theatre of Louisville, a Tony award-winning LORT theatre in Louisville, Kentucky. Tiffany has a diverse resume of board leadership and volunteerism, is a graduate of Leadership Lexington, and received her master's degree in Community and Leadership Development from the University of Kentucky.

She currently serves as the Development Director for St. Cecilia Music Center in Grand Rapids and is a partner to Tyler and mom to their nearly 2-year-old Finn.



Claire Ritter is a semi-recent transplant to Muskegon having moved here with her family during the summer of 2022. For her husband, Torin, this moved him back to where he grew up, and for their six children Muskegon has provided a totally new experience. It regularly comes up in conversation how fast and how deeply we have all come to love Muskegon and how grateful we are to be here.

Claire is a mom, a Real Estate Agent, proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, hobbist photographer, amateur bee keeper, public school parent, homeschooling parent, lover of nature and gardening, and skilled knitter.

When asked “Why Rotary?” Claire referenced the children’s book, Miss Rumphius, which is sometimes better known as the story of the Lupine Lady. In the story the main character is told by her grandfather as a child that she needs to do something to make the world more beautiful. The message that we all have a responsibility to do what we can to make the world a nicer place for everyone has been a cornerstone message in Claire’s parenting for the last 19 years. Joining Rotary feels like a natural place to find more ways to contribute to the world.

**This week’s program:
Pound Buddies: Putting
People and Pets Together**

Speakers: **Jan Jacobs and Lana Carson**

Introduced by: **Cathy Brubaker-Clarke**

Reporter: **Kathy Moore**



The program and speakers were introduced by **Cathy Brubaker-Clarke**, a long-time Pound Buddies board member, advocate, and shelter volunteer. **Brubaker-Clarke** stated that the non-profit 501(c)(3) rescue and adoption agency opened a new shelter location at 3279 East Laketon in 2021. **Connie Karry** was in the audience and recognized as one of the founding members of Volunteers for Muskegon County Animal Control – now known as Pound Buddies. And **Doug Brown** was acknowledged as a fellow Pound Buddies board member. **Jan Jacobs** was introduced as the current board president, previous campaign director for the new building, and active volunteer at the shelter. **Lana Carson** was introduced as the dedicated, long-term Executive Director who oversees shelter operations and relentlessly advocates for neglected animals and the best possible environment for their care, shelter, and adoption.

Jan Jacobs informed us that Pound Buddies is experiencing the same challenges as other agencies (post-pandemic): limited resources, stretched workers, and increased costs. In addition, the number of abused and abandoned animals have substantially increased. **Jacobs** stated *“This is our new normal. Everything that is happening in the community is also happening at the shelter.”* And she shared some staggering shelter statistics: *“Pound Buddies has taken in more than 1,500 dogs over the past few years, compared to less than 1,000 in previous years.”* People are struggling financially and emotionally, which negatively impacts their ability to properly care for their pets. **Jacobs** explained that Pound Buddies rely heavily on grants and donations to fund their rescue, shelter, medical, care, and adoption services. And about 25% of their overall revenue comes from the County of Muskegon to provide the added services of Animal Care and Control as required by the State.

Lana Carson shared that all dogs – regardless of breed, age, health, or disposition are accepted at Pound Buddies. And the agency provides medical treatment, behavioral training, and socialization to many of the dogs in preparation for adoption. **Carson** exclaimed that Pound Buddies is committed to **not** euthanizing healthy, adoptable dogs. They have reunited lost pets with owners, adopted dogs to new homes, and released animals to other shelters or rescues to maintain an approximate 85% live release rate.



Cathy Brubaker-Clark introduces guest speaker **Jan Jacobs & Lana Carson**

2023 Shelter Statistics

- 1,657 Dogs were taken into Pound Buddies.
- 668 Dogs were reunited with their owners.
- 497 Dogs were adopted into new homes.
- 96 Dogs were transferred to other rescue organizations.

In addition to responding to stray, biting, abandoned and/or abused dogs – Pound Buddies is often called along with police and fire to deal with dangerous dogs, fighting dogs, and dogs viciously protecting owners who are being arrested. Carson and staff proactively reached out to local health and human service agencies to learn more about resources for our most vulnerable residents so that they can make referrals when appropriate. The services and activities of Pound Buddies stretch to every crevice of the community. And the related demands/needs have reached a historical high!



How can you help? Donate, adopt, and volunteer. They urgently need items like dog food, milk bones, paper towels, Dawn soap, and cleaning supplies; but monetary donations help the most.

Visit their website at PoundBuddies.org for more details.

8/8/2024 Muskegon Rotary
 YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

Rotarians in Action Spotlight Danielle Faino – Parent - Youth Exchange



When your child goes overseas to experience a different culture, the adventure is going on at home too. This mom is excited to have the results of that trip instill growth in her daughter. To view the spotlight, click [here](#).

Muskegon Rotary Board

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

Directors:
 Aaron Maïke Tom Palmer
 Brandon Turnbull Esther Ricco
 Marty Sytsema Lisa Tyler

Please email Club Board Members through this [link](#):

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ep 31: Walt Gawkowski – Muskegon Clippers



Here's the latest podcast. This one's a home run. Step up to the plate with the latest episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, featuring a special guest from our very own Muskegon Clippers.

We had the pleasure of sitting down with Walt Gawkowski to talk all things Clippers, from their rich history at Historic Marsh Field to their role in developing collegiate baseball talent. Learn about their unique non-profit structure, the excitement of the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League, and the importance of providing these players with a platform to shine.

This episode is guaranteed to be a hit for any baseball fan or anyone passionate about local sports and community impact. Tune in and discover how the Muskegon Clippers are shaping the future of baseball, one swing at a time.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/15539380-walt-gawkowski-muskegon-clippers>



Pete DeBoer reminded members to Purchase tickets for Harvest Fest!



Microforest Mondays

8:30am – 10:30am

Help is needed for summer months
Contact **John Noling** for more information

Rotary Member Needed

To serve as Chairperson for the Chili Cook-Off fundraiser
Contact **President Tim Arter** if interested

Muskegon-Grand Rapids Rotary Collaboration and Service Project

What: The two clubs will gather in Muskegon for a joint service project and a fellowship gathering. It is expected a similar event in Grand Rapids will be scheduled in the first quarter of 2025.

When: Saturday Aug. 17, 2024. Service project from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and then the social gathering from Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Social project: Providing exterior grounds and waterfront cleanup and improvements to the Boys and Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore, 900 W. Western. The effort will be supported with equipment from the City of Muskegon's volunteer trailer. Brief tours of the Clubhouse and the community fitness center should be available.

Social engagement: Rotarians will gather for fellowship at The Deck, a wildly popular beach bar at the city's Pere Marquette Beach. The beach area has a children's playground, a pierhead walk, a channel walk, lighthouse tour and the USS Silvesides tour and WWII museum in addition to the sand and water.

Family-friendly: Rotarians are encouraged to include their significant others along with children and grandchildren of all ages. For those too young to be totally involved in the service project, a great playground in the adjacent Rotary Park is available next to the Boys and Girls Club.

Click the link below to sign up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAA2CABFFC16-50464581-muskegongrand>

Hey Rotarians!

Watch me pull a rabbit out of my hat!



That's not a rabbit and that's not magic. The real magic will happen when Rotarians gather together for a three event weekend.

The Rotary Foundation Gala - Oct. 18
District Training Assembly - Oct 19
District Conference - Oct 19 -20

More details to come soon!

ReWine meetings are every

1st & 3rd Thursday each month at 5:15pm at **Unruly Brewing**

RIM Reporting Team

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