






# “Service Above Self” Muskegon Rotary in Motion



2014-2015  
**Distinguished Service Citation**  
Awarded to the Rotary Club of  
**Muskegon**  
For their Consistent Outstanding Club Newsletter

<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>

**Mark Meyers, President**  
**Jason Piasecki, President-Elect**  
**Jane Clingman-Scott, President Nominee**  
**Tim Arter, Treasurer**  
**Linda Juarez, Past President**  
**Kathy Betts, Secretary**  
**Orville Crain, Director**



## Muskegon Rotary Club

Club 16 (2809) – District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916

Next Meeting January 7 12:00-1:00pm

From Home, Office, Barn, North Pole

ReWine Sat Club – Next mtg 1/7 5:15 pm

**Mary Anne Gorman, Director**  
**Jeff Lewis, Director**  
**Ginny Sprague, Director**  
**JD Wallace, Sr, Director**  
**Doug Wood, Director**  
**Stacey Cornell, RIM Reporter**  
**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?

## (1/7/20) “Every Woman’s Place”

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

### MEETER - GREETER

\* I'm kind of running out of ideas here.

### REFLECTORS

JD Wallace Sr. 12/17

### THIS WEEK'S MENU

We're all going to play **Taste of Muskegon BINGO**, check it out [here](#)!

### NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Stevi Riel	Dec 21
Jules Terry	Dec 21
Amelia West	Dec 24
Holly Hughes	Dec 28
Tom Civezey	Dec 28
Mike Muskovin	Dec 29

### PROGRAMS / EVENTS

12/24 No meeting  
 12/31 No meeting  
 1/7 Every Woman's Place  
 1/14 Youth Meeting

If you missed the Dec 17 meeting, want to watch it again, or share with someone who may be interested in learning more about our Rotary club, you can view the video [here](#).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Kudos

From **President Mark Meyers** this week to **all Muskegon Rotarians!** Of course, this club's board members, committee chairs and participants have gone above and beyond expectations, but to all of the club members who have stuck with us through a very difficult year, despite not grouping together for lunch, **President Mark** still feels a real connection to everyone in the club. Overwhelming applause then happened. Possibly even a standing ovation.

AND...did you know that there is a task force looking at adding value to your Rotary membership to help you stay engaged and interested? Are you wondering what they might do? Well, maintain your membership and you'll find out.

“I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen.”  
 --Ernest Hemingway

## NEW to Zoom Meetings:

### Break Out Rooms

We aren't meeting in person, but you can still hang out after our meetings in break-out rooms to engage in Q&A with our presenters and weekly updaters (like **Kathy Moore!**).

### Masks are still available!

If you did NOT order a Love Lives Here face mask and still wish to get one, please reach out to [muskegonrotarycc@gmail.com](mailto:muskegonrotarycc@gmail.com) to order; they are \$6 each.



This guy gets it.

## 20 Brave Rotarians

Leaving the library this week were **Doug Wood** and **Susan Holkeboer**.

## Club Business

The new Rotary Club Leadership was voted in today. No nominations were received from the floor last week. A motion to cast a unanimous ballot was moved by **Jim Fisher** and seconded by **Don Crandall**. Congratulations to President Elect **Ginny Sprague** and Board Members **Asaline Scott**, **David Ramos** and **Marty Gerencer**.

## WEEKLY COVID REPORT

**Kathy Moore**, Muskegon County Director of Public Health, continues to keep us informed. As of 12/16/2020, 8,691 confirmed COVID cases in our county with 5,012 recovered and 227 deceased. Positivity rate continues to gradually decline even after Thanksgiving activities. Positivity rate is 12% most recently; last week was 17.3% and the highest was 24.9% on 11/18/2020. Michigan overall is 11.1%. We are not out of the woods but we are doing a bit better. Hospitals are not at capacity at this time but Mercy Health on Sherman is close, with a 97% occupancy rate which includes both COVID and non-COVID patients. Michigan was allocated 300,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and has received 86,400 doses. We expect to receive 168,750 doses of the Moderna vaccine. Rotary will be playing a role in the pandemic by emphasizing the importance of the vaccine.

**NOTE:** Please look for Kathy's graphs on the last page of this RIM.

Kathy commented that the public health system dealing with this in our community is much bigger than just the Public Health Department. In addition, Muskegon Rotary has now created a subcommittee that will assist in educating about the COVID vaccine, virus, and status. This aligns with Rotary International's public health mission as it related to polio, water, and so many other public health issues.

**Christine Robere** reported she is hopeful for additional funding to help local families as well as preparing for the possible end of the eviction moratorium. Local agencies anticipate an onslaught of requests for help when that ends. On the bright side, the Angel Tree and Adopt a Family programs are going strong and the mild winter thus far has been a blessing.

They will have a [coat drive](#) in January for people who'd like to drop off coats or if their workplace would like to collect coats. Big shout out to a North Muskegon Interactor who on his own collected 50 coats and reached out to UW to see if they could take them.

Christine said her greatest wish for everyone is make sure you give to your favorite charities and churches, those that are really helping people in need. She has never seen a season with the need this high.

## Food Truck Updates

**Arn Boezaart** reminded that the final food truck will **be Wednesday, December 23 at Temple Methodist Church in Muskegon Heights**. A good turnout of Rotary volunteers is needed as it will be a full truck and not as many host organization volunteers will be available. **Volunteers are asked to assemble at 3:00 p.m. in the church parking lot, food distribution begins at 4:00 p.m. and the work will be completed by 5:30 p.m.**



Volunteers are asked to check in with Arn ahead of time by phone, e-mail or text 616-745-8465

## Interact News:

**John Noling** had much to report this week. So much, in fact, we gave him a whole page. Please check out everything Interact [here](#). It includes a Fundraiser on January 2 with Texas Roadhouse, and a SUPER project being put together by Interactors from Oakridge and Orchard View to thank our hometown heroes. You will want to be involved with what these amazing kids are doing!

AND... The Life Leadership Committee met via Zoom Conference December 17<sup>th</sup>. The Committee facilitated a discussion around Covid, its impact on the mental health of youth, and how we can help as leaders, with guest speaker, Mike Pyne! Guests were asked to prepare a question along with their name and grade: "What is one thing that has helped you deal with the COVID Pandemic since last March?"

## A Rotary Holiday Greeting Card for you.

Beautifully prepared by **Mike Vogas**, this incredible arrangement contains 8 video quotes from Muskegon Rotary members as one greeting card.

Click [here](#) to enjoy.

**This Week's Program:**  
**A Conversation of the Holiday Season. Journeying toward the light: Jewish and Christian Holiday Traditions."**

By Stacey Cornell

Facilitated by **Jackie Fisher**

Both of these fine fellows are members of our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee: **Rabbi Alan Alpert** of Temple B'nai Israel and **Pastor Tim VanderHaar** of First Congregational Church enlightened us. Facilitator **Jackie Fisher** introduced today's program and it was a particularly meaningful one at this time of year.



**Rabbi Alpert**, who came to Muskegon in 1976, started by praising the many clergy in the area who do a wonderful job. He also acknowledged that while he could provide information, he could not speak for them as in addition to the various Christian religions, there are 4 or 5 major groups of Judaism.

There are some common themes though and a big one is that in the beginning, there was darkness. The first act of creation is light and thus it is important that we, as members of a community, show light in the world.



It's difficult for many this time of year with the shortened days on top of the COVID-related issues. It should be noted that Hanukkah, which means 'dedication,' is not a biblical holiday but does have elements of light included in its celebration.

*"Each one of us is a light. Light is here today in the hearts of good people."*

When the Maccabees prevailed in guerilla warfare, they restored the temple which is the center of Jewish life. In celebration of the victory, a menorah was lit with what was expected to be one day's worth of fuel. Instead, the oil miraculously lasted 8 days. Each one of us is a light. Light is here today in the hearts of good people.



**Pastor Tim**, who came to Muskegon in 1980, echoes the importance of light in his religion and also acknowledges the many variations of it. The theme of light is a commonality. In January, Epiphany celebrates the light of the star.

Angel visits are accompanied by a burst of light showing the glory of the lord. Different renderings show different interpretations of light. Use the one that expresses best what you want to express. Advent itself is seen as a journey toward the light.



\*\*\*\*\*

## Muskegon Rotary Board

Mark Meyers [markm@nortonshores.org](mailto:markm@nortonshores.org)  
Jason Piasecki [jason@revel.in](mailto:jason@revel.in)  
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Ginny Sprague [ginny.e.sprague@gmail.com](mailto:ginny.e.sprague@gmail.com)



**It's right around the corner.**

I'm not sure if I can say this any louder, but no matter what your plans are this season, it cannot be emphasized enough the great need that is in our community.

Consider the following:

## DONATE

**GIFTS:** Please generously give your gifts to include items for families in need, animal shelters, and churches.

[Adopt a Working Family Program](#)

**FINANCIAL GIFTS** will always be put toward the greatest needs by our amazing charities. Donate [here](#).

**YOUR TIME:** All hands on deck. Give back to a community that needs you. **It's not too late!** Click [here](#) for Holiday Volunteer Opportunities.

**NON PROFITS:** Don't forget our museums. Visit Muskegon's Amazing Museums FaceBook page [here](#).

## PURCHASE LOCAL

Restaurants, shops, breweries, sweet shops. You would be amazed at how creative our community has become during the pandemic. Help keep our neighbors and friends in business by supporting them.

Where to start? [VisitMuskegon.org](http://VisitMuskegon.org) has lots of ideas or visit WatchMuskegon's FaceBook page [here](#).

**Happy Holidays!**



# Interact Insider

From John Noling

## "Thank you Hometown Heroes!" Project Underway

Please help Oakridge and Orchard View Rotary Interact Clubs who are partnering with us to show our appreciation to dedicated Health Care Workers and First Responders for what they have done and continue to do to protect us! The project goal is to present 200 gift bags, including healthy snacks and personal items that say "THANK YOU FOR JOBS WELL DONE!, WE APPRECIATE YOU!" Inside each bag will be a personally written note of appreciation by an Interactor and/or Rotarian. We would like to present these gifts in early January and work through the Holidays to get them ready. THANK YOU ROTARIANS FOR YOUR HELP THUS FAR!

### Here is how YOU can help:

- Help write personal notes of appreciation for the gift bags along with Oakridge and Orchard View Rotary Interactors. There is nothing like a personal note that comes from the heart! If you are willing to write a few, please contact [John Noling](mailto:John.Noling@oakridgeschools.org) to make arrangements.
- Donate your returnables for Rotary Interact clubs. All returnables in December will be donated to OV/Oakridge Rotary Interact to purchase Hometown Heroes gift bag supplies. Contact John Noling [johnnoling65@gmail.com](mailto:johnnoling65@gmail.com) or Blake Cramer [blakec51@gmail.com](mailto:blakec51@gmail.com) for drop off or pick up your returnables.
- Contribute healthy items for gift bags. Contact Rebecca Mathis, Oakridge Rotary Interact Club Advisor at [rmathis@oakridgeschools.org](mailto:rmathis@oakridgeschools.org).

- DINE TO DONATE [TO-GO] at TEXAS ROADHOUSE, Saturday, Jan 2, from 5-8 pm where 10% of your take out order will be donated by Texas Roadhouse to Rotary Interact to help provide needed supplies. This TO-GO procedure at Texas Roadhouse is very efficient, and also helps a valued area business stay afloat. Easily order ahead online or by phone and have your food in 15-25 minutes! See their flyer [here](#).

- If you would like to personally contribute funds to purchase supplies for this project, please make your check out to Oakridge Public Schools and note ROTARY INTERACT ON THE CHECK. Checks can be sent to Oakridge High School, 5493 E. Hall Rd, Muskegon, 49442.

- Thanks Rotarians for anything you might do to show our Rotary Service Above Self spirit this Holiday Season!

## More Interactors Giving!

From Anna Barnes and McKenzie Covington-Presidents, Oakridge and Orchard View Rotary Interact Clubs

On December 17th, Orchard View and Oakridge Rotary Interact clubs came together to finish up their joint Christmas shopping project. Using Vice President Devin Crawford's church, the groups came together, using social distancing procedures and masks, to wrap presents they bought for sponsored families using proceeds from returnables and other funds. The groups shopped together for 3 days to give less fortunate families something to look forward to on Christmas morning.

Volunteers sorted and wrapped gifts for three families which included two families of four, single mothers with kids of all ages, and one family of two. After 3 hours all the gifts were pristine and ready to be put under the tree.

Interactors from both clubs will distribute gifts on December 18th to the sponsored families. The groups also decorated over 100 appreciation cards to be distributed to health care workers and first responders soon as part of the Thank You Hometown Heroes! project we are working on with Rotary. We want to spread the holiday spirit and boost morale among the underappreciated heroes.

Two students showed outstanding leadership and dedication when it came to working on this project. Hikari Katsuzawa from Orchard View and Brayden Davis from Oakridge, both sophomores, who helped to make sure things worked smoothly.



Rotary Interactors (l to r) Brayden Davis, Devin Crawford, and Hikari Katsuzawa sharing the Holiday spirit of giving

They were always asking questions about how they could help and what they could do to keep this project moving forward. Thank you so much to Hikari and Brayden. This and other projects would not have been the same without you and we are so excited to see you contribute so much to our community!

We are thrilled to watch you grow and lead the Rotary Interact clubs in the future. It is students like you who allow Rotary Interact to provide Service Above Self in the world and our community.



Valid at: 5250 S Harvey St - Muskegon, MI 49444

# DINE TO DONATE

## TO-GO

**January 2nd, 2021**

**\*\*\*Support\*\*\***

**Frontline Workers at Mercy Health,  
Mercy and Hackley Campus**

**Funds raised will provide snacks & essentials to front  
line workers at the Mercy Health, Mercy and Hackley  
Campus.**

**Sponsored by Muskegon Rotary Club, Oakridge and  
Orchard View Rotary Interact Clubs**

**10% DONATION  
NIGHT**

**\*\*\*In the event our dining room is back open to the public the fundraiser will be for dine in or to go sales.  
You may order online for this event or by calling (231) 798-1072\*\*\***





**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Muskegon County

As of December 16, 2020

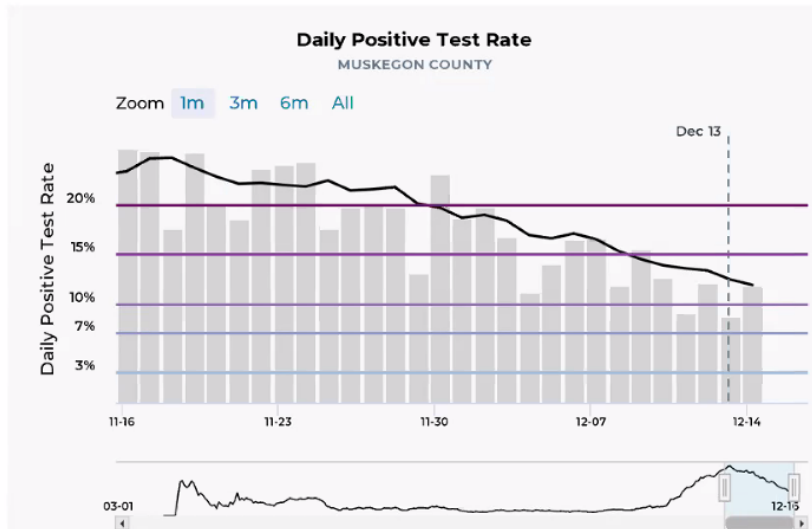
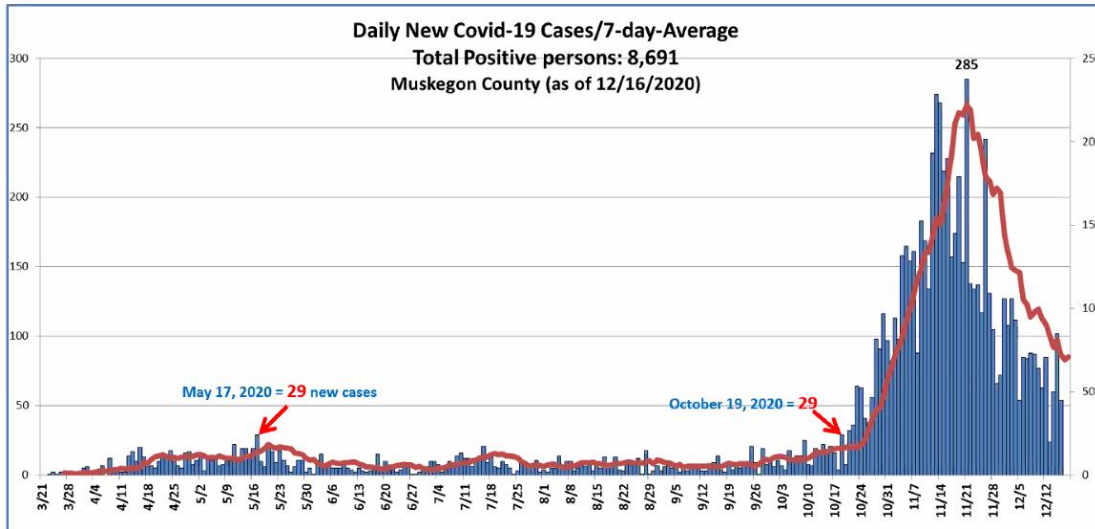
Total tests to date: **133,830**

Total positive cases to date: **8,691**

Total negatives: **125,193**

Total deaths to date: **227**

Total recovery: **5,012**



**7 Day Average Positive Test Rate**

**Lowest** 1.6% on 9/19/20

**Highest** 24.9% on 11/18/20

**Last Week** 17.3% on 12/06/20

**Current** 12.0% on 12/17/20

**Mi Safe Start Map: Epidemic Spread**

*Excluding probable cases*

7-Day Average	Positive Tests as of 12/14/20	New Cases per Million as of 12/14/20
Michigan	11.1%	281
Local (GR) Region	12.2%	361
Muskegon	12.0%	329
Kent	12.5%	335
Ottawa	14.0%	546

**RIM Reporting Team**

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DateTime	Daily Positive Rate	7-Day Average of Positive Rate
12/8/2020 5:00	11.8%	15.4%
12/9/2020 5:00	15.6%	14.6%
12/10/2020 5:00	12.7%	14.0%
12/11/2020 5:00	9.1%	13.6%
12/12/2020 5:00	12.2%	13.4%
12/13/2020 5:00	8.7%	12.5%
12/14/2020 5:00	11.8%	12.0%