

# 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

January 30, 2025

**Next Meeting (February 6, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Pasta Bar at the DELTA  
 Program Topic – Harbor Terrace Senior Living (with a Tour After!)**

## What's Coming

Feb 6 – Harbor Terrace Senior Living  
 Feb 13 – Protecting Yourself from Internet Fraud

## Upcoming Birthdays

February 10 **Ethan Lohman**

**Caring Connections Fund**



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

## Greeter This Week

Pete DeBoer

## Reflector

## This Week

Bill Erickson



## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Wyatt Huggett  
 RIM Reporter – Roger Morgenstern  
 RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

## Visitors & Guests



**Kat Hyder** introduces her guests, Dr.-Holly Kendra and DeMarcus Evans



**DJ Hilson** introduces his guest, Nate Johnson



**Tara Foreman** introduces her guest and husband, Mark Foreman



**Arlen Dean Gaddy** introduces his guest, Dal Hall



**Kendrah Robinson** introduces Reeths-Puffer Principal, Jennifer Anderson, and two impressive seniors, Maddie Snyder and Gavin Wright



**Rob Taylor** introduces his guests, Sarah De La Rosa, Jennifer LaChapelle, Ray McLeod, Mike Vargo, and Julius Dawson



Two service trips are coming up and six of the seven students heading to El Salvador joined the meeting. **Michelle Burley** and **Esther Ricco** will chaperone. **John Noling** introduced them (from left to right): Levi Jackson, Tobias Melton, Icelyn Strong, Cora McGinn, Kandyce VandenBosch, Jamina Chervenak



**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 Maike                      Tom Palmer  
 Brandon Turnbull                Esther Ricco  
 Marty Sytsema                   Lisa Tyler  
**Please email Club Board Members through this [link](#):**



**John Noling** gives the balance bike a try!

Muskegon Rotary Fdn El Salvador Bldg Supplies

**RIM Reporting Team**  
 Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Jackie Farrar  
 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

ReWine meetings are every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 5:15pm at **Unruly Brewing**

**This week's program: Muskegon County Biking Coalition**



Presenters: Melanie McLeod and Priscilla Taylor

Introduced by: **Rob Taylor**  
 RIM Reporter: **Roger Morgenstern**

**Rob Taylor** serves as chair of the Muskegon County Bicycle Coalition (or MCBC) and introduced two of the coalition



members for the program, one of them his wife of nearly 50 years, Priscilla Taylor and the other, Melanie McLeod. They provided an overview of the MCBC, formed in 2020 with a goal of making bicycling more accessible in the community.



Its mission statement says it all: "To create an inclusive, diverse, and accepting community where people of all ages and backgrounds bicycle for transportation, errands, and for

fun and health, and where bicycling brings people and neighborhoods together throughout Muskegon County.”

The organization has continued to grow and in 2024 was named Club of the Year by the League of Michigan Bicyclists.



In 2024, the MCBC logged more than 2,000 volunteer hours, had 144 bikes donated and 158 bikes repaired. It also conducted several “bike rodeos,” comprehensive safety and skills clinics where more than 400 young children learn to bicycle safely.

The MCBC may be best known for the weekly community rides they organize. On Mondays, it’s the community “roll on” that begins at the Muskegon Farmer’s Market, Tuesday evenings beginning and ending at Unruly brewery in downtown Muskegon and Thursdays in downtown Whitehall, beginning and ending at Fetch brewery. “Bikers like to end their rides with beer,” McLeod joked.



The MCBC works with a variety of community partners to improve

access to bikes and bicycling across the county. For example, it works with the Muskegon Area District Library’s Muskegon Heights branch on a “bike library” lending program. While the program is open to people of all ages, Taylor said many adults use it as “affordable transportation.” Thanks to a grant last year from the Muskegon Rotary Foundation, the MCBC purchased 20 bikes that are easy to ride in various weather conditions. They will be added to the Bike Library in May.

Another program where MCBC is partnering with others involves the Muskegon EXIT Program. This mediation and restorative services program partners with the Muskegon County Sheriff’s Department and the Muskegon County Jail. With the MCBC providing bikes, parts and training, the EXIT Program works with inmates soon to be released to learn skills to repair bikes. The bikes are then returned to the MCBC for use in the community. Some of those who have learned the repair skills have been able to receive bicycles either for themselves or a family member. In 2024, the EXIT program repaired 58 bikes.

Across the county, the MCBC has worked with local governments to enact ordinances requiring 5 feet of space between bicyclists and cars to improve safety. The MCBC has also been a catalyst behind a Greenway Plan now underway for Muskegon County and Northern Ottawa County. Thanks to grant

dollars, the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) has hired a consultant to complete the plan later this year.



During the presentation, we saw several videos from organizations benefitting from MCBC’s efforts, including Muskegon Christian Schools. They worked with the coalition to use various spare parts to build “balance bikes” which help 4–6-year-olds learn to ride a bike without training wheels. The small cycles don’t have pedals; kids use their feet to balance themselves on the bikes. As their confidence grows and balance improves, they can glide on the bikes and are then ready for bicycles with pedals but without training wheels. By working with the MCBC, the school saved \$10,000 in costs. McLeod said a grant has allowed MCBC to purchase new balance bikes to be used at bike rodeos and other community events.

Learn more about MCBC by visiting their Facebook page and searching “Muskegon County Bicycling Coalition” or e-mailing [bicyclemuskegon@yahoo.com](mailto:bicyclemuskegon@yahoo.com)



**Rotary In Action  
Chauncy Williams –  
InterAct**



This week’s spotlight features **Chauncy Williams** who shares his positive experience working with members of the Muskegon High School Interact Club. He has seen his students grow and mature after they have served as international exchange students or gone on service trips to places like Honduras and El Salvador. His work with Interact students at Muskegon High School empowers students to realize potential and travel abroad to widen their expectations and magnify their aspirations.

See the full video—[Click Here](#)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Donations Requested!**



**President Tim** read a heartfelt note from **Esther Ricco** thanking club members for their generous support of returnable cans and bottles to help them exceed their goal to help pay for several Interact students to go to El Salvador to build homes in April. The group is now working to raise \$4,000 to pay for one of the houses. To date, \$3,200 has been raised. Esther said, “We truly appreciate our Muskegon Rotary Club members! This mission wouldn’t be possible without you. Thank you for helping us build hope, one house at a time.”

If you still want to contribute to the house building fund, please use this QR code to make your donation. We will accept donations via this QR code (or click this link—[CLICK HERE TO DONATE \\$](#) though Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>).

**Muskegon Rotary Fdn El Salvador Bldg Supplies**



**Braver Angels**



**John Noling**, on behalf of our Rotary Club’s Peacebuilders Committee, invited everyone to attend an upcoming Braver Angels

Red Blue workshop on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9am-noon called Bridging the Political Divide. Many attended the introduction course last year and this workshop will move forward to the next step with helping conservatives and liberals rebuild trust and engaging in productive conversation. Contact **Nancy McCarthy** to sign up.

**First Five to Sign Up for upcoming DEIB Seminar Receive 50% Off**

**Andy Buelow**, co-chair of our DEI Committee, made an announcement for an upcoming & highly recommended event. The DEI Committee encourages you to participate in Muskegon Community College’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) four-part seminar. This program costs \$100 per person. As an incentive, we will provide a 50% scholarship to the first five Rotarians who sign up. Sessions will take place from 5:30–8:00 PM on February 11 &



25 and March 11 & 25 at MCC, with free dinner and beverages available at 5:00 PM. Participants will receive an MCC Certificate of Completion.

Contact [Andy Buelow](#) or [Contessa Alexander](#) to sign up!

## Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E4: Rob Taylor - Muskegon County Bicycling Coalition



Join us for a conversation with Rob Taylor from the Muskegon County Bicycling Coalition (MCBC). Discover the joys of exploring our beautiful county on two wheels, learn about upcoming events, and find out how the MCBC is working to make cycling safer and more accessible for everyone.

Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, this episode guides you to experience the best of Muskegon County by bike!

Listen now at:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/16520619-rob-taylor-muskegon-county-bicycling-coalition>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

## Pours for Community Planning Began

Pours 2025 planning has begun.



The happy hours will be in the last half of April and early May. Stay tuned!

## Rotary Club Corporate Partnership w/ Neal Fitness Center (Boys & Girls Club)



EST. 2021  
**NEAL FITNESS CENTER**

900 W. Western Ave  
Muskegon MI 49442  
☎ 231-375-7041  
www.nealfitnesscenter.com



Patrick O'Brien from the Neal Fitness Center and the Boys and Girls

Club outlined the details of how Rotarians can get a discounted membership!



### WE'RE PARTNERS!

Muskegon Rotary Club members are eligible for benefits at NFC!



#### Our fitness center features:

- Fitness Classes
- Pool & Sauna
- Weight & Cardio Machines
- Full Gym & Indoor Track
- Our BoostBar's healthy eats

- Discounted memberships for Rotary members and families

- Partner rental rates for both the fitness center and Boys & Girls Club facilities

Come join our community fitness center!

Here are the details:

### Neal Fitness Center Corporate Partnership Plan: FitPERK

The FitPerk benefit is a discounted \$50/month membership (usually \$60) and includes discounts for facility rentals at The Clubhouse (The Boys & Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore and the Neal Fitness Center)

Start Date: Fri. Jan. 24, 2025

Partnership Launch

Promotion: Initiation Fee Waived through Sun. Feb. 16th

The initiation fee (\$50) is waived for each new Rotary member and for each Family Add-on membership during this period. What to bring: Show the email you will have received from Rotary announcing this opportunity at the member services desk when you head there to sign up.



Welcome Muskegon Rotary!



Sign up in person at NFC, 900 W. Western Ave. in downtown Muskegon. Please bring a copy of an email from Rotary as proof of membership and your ID.

Find out more at [nealfitnesscenter.com](http://nealfitnesscenter.com)

## Rotary Members - We need your help to grow our social media pages!



We have been sharing some great content on Facebook and Instagram and we want to make sure that current Rotarians, as well as future club members, are seeing it! We could use your help in growing our audience! Please follow the simple steps below by **FEB 8** and let's see how many friends we can add to our pages!

Facebook:

- Go to the Rotary Facebook page by clicking [HERE](#).
- Click on the "Like" button if you have not already done so. Should say "Liked" when done.
- Then, click on the three dots next to the "message" button (on your phone) OR the menu items (on your computer).

- Once you click on the three dots, a new menu comes up. Click "Invite Friends."
- Then, you can "select all" at the top of the menu OR choose specific friends to invite by checking the box after the individual's name.
- Once friends have been selected, click "Send Invites" and you are done! :)

Instagram:

- Go to the Rotary Instagram page by clicking [HERE](#).
- Click on "Follow" should say "Following" when done.
- Then feel free to share the page link with your IG friends and ask them to follow as well!



## Rotary Peace Fellowship Program – Looking for Candidates

You can promote peace! The “Magic of Rotary” helps provide the fully funded Rotary Peace Fellowship program. The program covers tuition and living expenses, increases the capacity of dedicated peace builders from communities around the world to prevent and resolve conflict by offering academic training, field experience, and professional networking. Fellows choose between a 15–24-month Master’s degree program or a shorter Professional Development Certificate. Our District needs help identifying individuals in our communities that would make great Rotary Peace Fellowship candidates. Contact **Jackie Bertsch** (District 6290 Peace Fellowship Chair) at [jbertsch@charter.net](mailto:jbertsch@charter.net) if you may know someone who could benefit from this opportunity. To learn more about this program, [click here](#).

THE MONTAGUE-WHITEHALL ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS:

# THE NIGHT ON THE TOWN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025  
THE PLAYHOUSE AT WHITE LAKE  
304 S MEARS AVE IN WHITEHALL

**\$100 TICKET INCLUDES:**  
**DINNER**  
**RAFFLE TICKET**  
**WESTSIDE SOUL SURFERS CONCERT**  
\*CONCERT ONLY OPTION AVAILABLE FOR \$25  
AT WWW.THEPLAYHOUSEATWHITELAKE.ORG

5:30-7:30PM —HEAVY APPETIZERS FROM THE GNARLY HEIFER  
5:30-9:30PM—CASH BAR  
8:00-10:00PM—LIVE MUSIC FROM WESTSIDE SOUL SURFERS  
SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLES ALL EVENING

PURCHASE TICKETS FROM ANY ROTARIAN, SHELBY STATE BANK (MONTAGUE), OR WHITE LAKE AREA CHAMBER & VISITORS BUREAU

MI RAFFLE LICENSE #: R78551



## Fact and Fiction: Media Consumption and History in America



Join us for a screening of "Recorder: The Marion Stokes Project"

Uncover the extraordinary story of Marion Stokes—a radical activist turned archivist who preserved 30 years of American television. This compelling film delves into her relentless pursuit of truth, the impact on her family, and her enduring legacy in media preservation.



**February 13, 2025**  
**6 PM, Overbrook Theater**

A discussion with media experts Jon Covington, Sid Simone, and Dave Alexander will follow the screening.



For More Information Contact: Andy Wible [WibleA@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:WibleA@muskegoncc.edu)

## RIM Photographer, Wyatt Huggett!



Congratulations to **Wyatt and Audrey Huggett** for their wedding on January 18<sup>th</sup> at Provin Trails Park!



## Thank You, RIM Team!

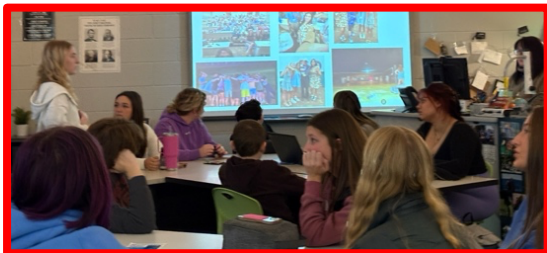
Our RIM Team is spectacular! Okay, maybe I am a bit biased.... Who wouldn't be with this group of people who exemplify service above self? Thank you **Mark Alpher, Jackie Farrar, Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, Sue Samaniego, Ginny Sprague, and Wyatt Huggett!** Also, much appreciation to our various contributors including **Tim Arter, John Noling, Mike Vogas, and Doug Wood!**

# Interact Insider

## REETHS-PUFFER INTERACT

The RP Interact club met January 29th, and the agenda included an enthusiastic presentation on the 2024 Life Leadership Conference with a call for those interested to connect with Mrs. Buchan. Law Day 2025 was also presented with a call for participants.

**Doug Wood** made a pitch for them to send a team to livability Lab next month. Great things happening at RP!



## N. MUSKEGON EARLY ACT

Another productive meeting of the NM EarlyAct club January 29th. High school student presented lessons on empathy and responsibility in preparation for service project discussions with three different teams. Fun to watch the ideas bubble up from these fifth-grade students!



## N. MUSKEGON INTERACT



A smaller (but also mighty) group of students met January 30th at North Muskegon High School. The discussed service projects that will help the victims of the California fires, an in-school project to supply hygiene products to students, reviewed yesterday's Early Act meeting, and investigated new opportunities for volunteering. (If any of you have any ideas, please share them. They would be willing to help you with something at your work.) Another example of our high school clubs putting service above self.

