

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

July 25, 2024

Next Meeting (August 1, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Hoagies & Grinders - at the Lake House
Program Topic – Rotary Youth Exchange Rebounds Return

What's Coming

August 1 – Rotary Youth Rebounds Return

Upcoming Birthdays

August 3 Rita Caviness

Caring Connections Fund

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



Greeter This Week

Stacey Kennedy
 Mallory Meston

Reflectors

Myrna Olsen July 25

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern
 RIM Reporter – Sue Samaniego
 RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

7/25/2024 Muskegon Rotary
 YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)



Myrna Olsen delivered the Reflection, with a focus on kindness and compassion. As an example of that kindness, she thanked the Club for the cards and calls following the recent passing of her husband.

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](#):

VISITORS & GUESTS



Roger Morgenstern introduces his guest and potential member **Toni Winkas**.



Stephanie Tushek introduces her guest **Derrick VanderWall**.



Myrna Olsen introduces her guest and best friend Vennie Avorque, a former Rotarian.



Doug Wood introduces members of the Reeths Puffer High School Interact Club: Students Charli Belinger, Brook Buchan, Rowan Bluhm and Keeley Cole and Advisor Karla Buchow. All of them recently attended the Life Leadership Conference and met with Doug and **President Tim** afterward to brainstorm ideas for the coming school year.



Rob Taylor introduces his guest, Holland Interact Club member and potential new member of our club Jason Smith.

This week's program: History of the Recovery Center

Speakers: **Dave Johnson**
Introduced by: **Arn Boezaart**
Reporter: **Sue Samaniego**



Arn Boezaart introduces our guest speaker.



Our guest speaker, David Johnson director from the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center. Formerly known as the wastewater management system, Dave explained the how the innovative system works and several exciting new projects, including a 250-megawatt solar

"farm" power generating facility being built by Consumers Energy and a plan to connect Coopersville's wastewater facility to Muskegon's operation, allowing for the expansion of five agricultural based businesses southeast of the Muskegon plant.

The Nation's First Large-Scale Land Treatment Water Resource Recovery Facility

The MCRRC celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, but what is the history behind it?

The biggest driving factor for starting this facility was the state of Muskegon Lake. The papermill was dumping 15 million gallons per day into it and it was an environmental disaster. At the time, North Muskegon, Muskegon and Muskegon Heights each had a wastewater treatment facility, but none was large enough to handle this much of an increase. The idea to build a county-wide system large enough to handle all of this was born.

Penn State had an experimental project called the "Living Filter" which used crops to filter and clean wastewater. Bauer Engineering was engaged to design a system modeled after this project in July 1970. The differences between the land used by Penn State and the land in Muskegon County as well as the size of the projects were significant. Major design changes were required. Bauer

Engineering's bold plan moved forward.

In August of 1971, \$16 million in bonds were sold and the land was acquired. In May of 1971, construction bids were awarded. Flows started to come into the new plant in May 1973. That design has worked for 51 years now.

The system requires some up-front treatment. Mixing cells are used to eliminate carbon-based waste then the water moves into an aerated settling cell to allow the solids to settle out. The water then moves to the storage lagoon.

When the water arrives in the storage lagoon, bacteria, nitrogen and phosphates still need to be removed. The water is pumped to farm fields where corn, alfalfa and soybeans are grown. The plant roots take up nitrogen and phosphorus. The bacteria stays on top. The filtered water collects in drainpipes and is then sent to a ditch and eventually into the Muskegon River.

In September 2020, the name was changed from the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System to its current name. This was driven by a rebranding of the entire field of wastewater treatment.

Flow to the RRC, so they began looking for alternative uses for the land. One area had poorly draining, clay soil. For crop use, the soil needs to be sandy because

there cannot be ponding of water. The area does not have municipal water, which made it less attractive to many businesses.

Two proposals were received for solar energy use. Tradewind Energy out of Kansas did the original development, then sold the lease to Consumers Energy in 2018. After jumping through a variety of loops, groundbreaking for the solar project occurred in July 2024.

In December of 2022 a \$60 million Michigan Strategic Fund Grant was received to build a pipeline to connect Coopersville to the MCRRC (Southeast Regional Force Main). Five companies drove the effort to increase the wastewater treatment capacity so they can expand: Fairlife, Continental Dairy, Applegate Dairy, DeVries, and Swanson Pickle.

Eight construction projects will complete this pipeline. The first five projects connecting Coopersville to the West Randall Pump Station will be completed by November 2025. The final three which will redirect Coopersville Main Pump Station and sewer flow and build emergency retention ponds in Coopersville will be completed by Sept. 2026.

This project will add 2 million gallons per day more to our plant by 2026. At that time, the five businesses will be able to begin their expansion efforts in full.

Rotarians in Action Spotlight Life Leadership Conference



Experience the Life Leadership Conference through the eyes of the students who were there. To view the spotlight, click [here](#).

REMINDERS

**August 1st is the next ReWine Meeting

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

Microforest Mondays

8:30am – 10:30am
Help is needed for summer months

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman &
Jackie Farrar
Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger
Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie
Photographers: Mark Alpher &
Roger Morgenstern
Contributors: Bill Johanson,
John Noling, & Mike Vogas

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Carla Flanders told the Club: "We are already getting some press coverage about the event. Harvest Fest was mentioned on Fox 17 Morning Mix this week! The link will be posted on the Rotary Facebook page this Saturday if you would like to share it!



Volunteer registration is open! An email will be going out shortly with all the details. All volunteers that would like to enjoy the Harvest Fest activities before or after their shift will enjoy a discounted ticket price for the event!

We would like to challenge each member to help us raise funds for the event. It is very simple challenge, we ask that EACH OF YOU you call or email ONE friend or business person you know, and ask them if they would be willing to sponsor the event! We have made it really simple, you can either visit the Harvest Fest page on the Rotary website to share the

sponsorship document OR write down this link... "<https://bit.ly/MKGRotary>" to access the sponsorship information and share with a potential sponsor!"



Tom Palmer from the membership retention committee said more volunteers are needed for the "Caring Connections" program, which reaches out to Rotarians with cards, flowers and calls in response to members experiencing personal challenges and accomplishments. See Tom if you can help. The time commitment is minimal but the impact is significant!

FOR ADULTS

Hope

IN TURBULENT TIMES

A Conversation Facilitated by Sister Simone Campbell
author of *A Nun on a Bus* and *Hunger for Hope*

Register at MADL.org/calendar

Join us for night of learning with Sister Simone Campbell, a religious leader, attorney, author, and recipient of a 2022 Presidential Medal of Freedom (the highest US civilian honor). This event is part presentation and part conversation about what holds us together in turbulent times. There will be a book sale and signing after the event.

Wednesday, July 31 | 6:00 pm
Norton Shores Branch

Register at MADL.org/calendar

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

MUSKEGON AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

Ep 29: Trinity Health Muskegon – More Than Just a Hospital



Join us for Episode 29 of the Muskegon Rising Podcast as we sit down with Gary Allore, President of Trinity Health Muskegon.

Discover Trinity Health's fascinating history and the pivotal role it has played in Muskegon County's health, employment landscape, and community life for over a century.

Trinity Health is more than just a hospital—it's a cornerstone of our community.

Listen now at:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/15462644-trinity-health-muskegon-more-than-just-a-hospital>



A reminder that a Rotary Information Table is always set up in the back of the room at the Lake House, near the buffet line. Check it out!



"BillNancy:" Bill shares a laugh with fellow Indiana University alum **Nancy Crandall**.



"BillCarrieNancy" **Bill Johanson** flanked by his daughter Carrie Kelly and long time friend and fellow Rotarian **Nancy Crandall**.

The *RIM* Team and all members of our Club are mourning the passing of **Bill Johanson**. We liked to call Bill the Editor Emeritus of *RIM*. While he handed over the editing reins a couple of years ago, Bill remained a regular *RIM* contributor and engaged with the Club. Just a few weeks ago, he created a photo collage for our then incoming District Governor **Brianna Scott**.

Soon after retiring from Consumers Energy in mid 2003, Bill accepted a challenge from then Club President **Don Mathews** to freshen up the Club's weekly newsletter, then called the *Round and Round*. Bill single-handedly created *Rotary in Motion (RIM)*, saving the Club money in the process by moving it completely online vs mailing it weekly to members. It was filled with photos, many of them taken by Bill, and plenty of humor and wit, also provided by Bill.

RIM continues to be the communication standard for Rotary Clubs in our District 6290 and, as **DG Brianna** recently shared with us, even among the larger Rotary Zone 28 which encompasses hundreds of clubs! Bill's talents and humor will live on in *RIM*.



"BillLox" **Bill Johanson** and **Bill Loxterman** not only shared the same first name, they were both community leaders while representing their employers for many years, **Bill Johanson** for Consumers Energy and **Bill Loxterman** for Muskegon Community College.



Obituary for **William B. "Bill" Johanson** [Click here](#)