






“Service Above Self” Muskegon Rotary in Motion

<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>



Rotary District 6290
2014–2015
Distinguished Service Citation
Awarded to the Rotary Club of
Muskegon
For their Consistently Outstanding Club Newsletter
 May 3, 2015

Jason Piasecki, President
Jane Clingman-Scott, President-Elect
Ginny Sprague, President Nominee
Mark Meyers, Past President
Tim Arter, Treasurer
Kathy Betts, Secretary
Kim Boersma, Club Coordinator




Muskegon Rotary Club

Club 16 (2809) – District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916
Next Mtg—June 30, 2022, 12:00-1:30pm
Hybrid Style – The Lake House & Zoom
ReWine Sat Club – Next mtg 7/7/22 5:15 pm
Doc Demirjian's Porch

Mary Anne Gorman, Director
Jeff Lewis, Director
Doug Wood, Director
Asaline Scott, Director
David Ramos, Director
Marty Gerencer, Director
Susan Holkeboer, 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?

Next Meeting (6/30/22) — Passing of the Gavel

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

Jane Clingman-Scott

REFLECTORS

Jane Mountain	June 23
TBD	June 30

NEXT WEEK'S MENU

Cheeseburger Slider Buffet and CAKE!

NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Susan Besteman	July 1
Stephanie Cathey	July 2
Bob Irwin	July 6
Mary Beth Ramos	July 6

[Caring Connections Fund](#)

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

6/30 Passing of the Gavel

To watch the complete video of the meeting June 23, click [here](#).

VISITORS & GUESTS



Ralph Wellington, guest of **Annette Jack**



Kenesha Weller, guest of **Myra Dutton**



Gary Beyer, guest of **Eric Seifert**



Kelly DeVos, guest of **Emily Morgenstern**



Steve Groenink, guest of **Lisa Stafford**



Brennen Gorman, guest of **Michael Ramsey**



Marjorie Jones with daughter, **Carolyn**



Fruitport graduate and Umbright Austin Scholarship Award Recipient Emma Garrow with **Megan Byard Karaba**

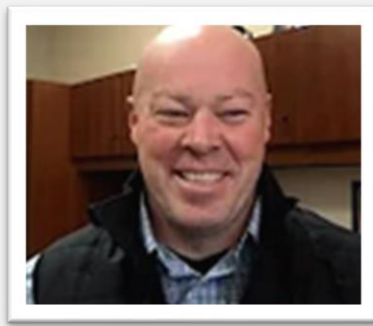
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Remembering Orville Crain at Rotary Park



This living tribute red maple was planted in Orville's memory at Rotary Park on Thursday, June 23. Orville was a great influence on all of us!
We miss you "Big O"!

This Week's Spotlight: Aaron Maike



Aaron Maike, President of Baker College, joined Rotary in 2003 in Allen Park. He married his wife Shanna on New Year's Eve 17 years ago. They have two sons, Hunter age 13 and Tanner age 10, who keep them

busy in sports - football, basketball, baseball, track, and weightlifting. He has been with Baker College for 25 years and has worked across the state. He started in Owasso from 1997 - 1999, moved to Muskegon campus in 1999 - 2003, and then was transferred to the Allen Park campus as president. He opened a brand-new campus in metro Detroit while he was there. Next he was transferred back to Owasso. In 2014, he was asked to return to Muskegon. This fifth move will be his last move around the Baker system because they love the quality of life around West Michigan. He has been a Rotary Club president two different times, once in Allen Park and once in Owasso. He also served on a District Conference Committee and was a founding member of Launch Detroit - a micro lending project. In fact, the project was the first domestic Rotary-sponsored micro lending project in the United States. Baker College was proud to be a founding member and he was super happy to help kick that program off. Watch the entire video [here](#).

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:

SafeSeniors Project – Our Avengers against abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation



Presenters **DJ Hilton & Chris Burnaw**

RIM Reporter: Susan Holkeboer

Kris Collee introduced our program - SafeSeniors of West Michigan Task Force and Collaborative. It's a system and continuum of care for seniors that utilizes the Children's Advocacy Center model as a basis of best practice. It is being watched across the country about how it all works.

DJ stated that the program is one of the best in the state, if not in the nation. It is very innovative and protective for our senior citizens.

Why Is This So Important?

The costs of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation are high for both affected older adults and for society.

For older adults, losses include their dignity, autonomy, good health, financial security, and life. For society, it's both a social and economic issue; it reduces older adults' participation in the life of the community and it creates health care and legal costs, which can affect public programs like Medicare and Medicaid. We need to talk about this issue to increase awareness, which helps with both prevention and reporting suspected abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation

A Look at the Numbers

- 1 in 10 older adults experience abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation
- Estimated financial loss to seniors from financial exploitation is in the billions
- It is estimated only 1 in 24 cases of abuse are reported to authorities
- It is estimated only 1 in 44 cases of financial exploitation are reported to authorities. Probably because of embarrassment.
- In 60% of elder abuse/neglect incidents, the perpetrator is a family member
- In 85% of cases of financial exploitation, the perpetrators are family members

Collaboration & Evolution

The Elder Abuse Prevention Collaborative began in the 1980s as the Tri County Protection Team, hosted by AgeWell Services. The collaborative became known as SafeSeniors in 2020. The focus is on prevention through education and

advocacy in Muskegon, Oceana, and Ottawa Counties.

Vulnerable Adult Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) were developed in Muskegon County in 2018; Ottawa County in 2019, with focus on case review and victim centered support for older adult victims of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.

Muskegon's SafeSeniors Task Force formed in 2020 with three detectives and focused prosecution. Their focus is on dedicated investigation and prosecution of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation crimes against older adults.

Education and Advocacy Through Collaboration

Prevention and reporting are strengthened through outreach and training. Education and awareness help prevent and expose abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

Advocacy for policies and programs that ensure the safety of our older adult population. Collaborative meetings to share information and ideas.

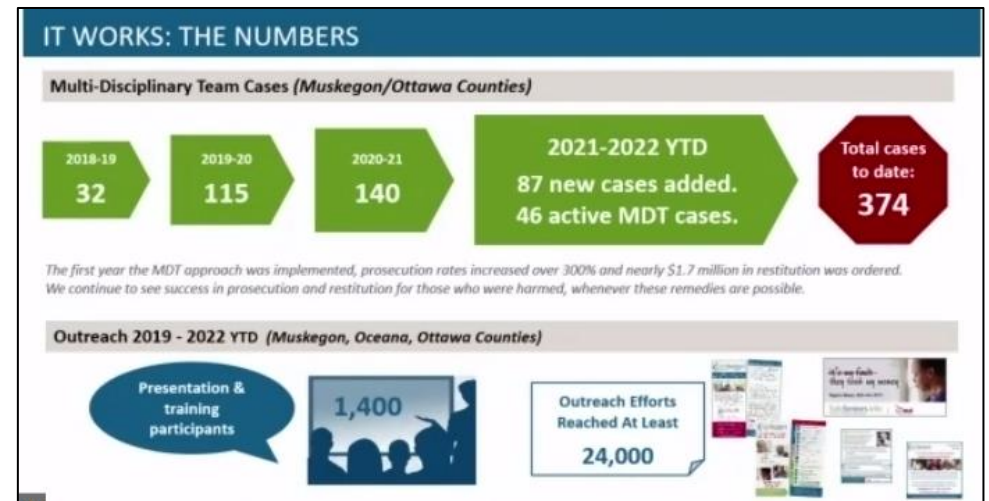
There is a collaborative network for distribution of outreach information.

Training opportunities are provided for those who work with the older adult population.

There is a Senior Symposium for older adults and caregivers with learning sessions and supportive services expo. Outreach events for seniors are held with presentations on staying safe.

Multidisciplinary Success is Achieved by Gathering the Right Team

It takes a village to get things done. A multidisciplinary approach brings together the right team to support the victim and fight the crime. There is a case-by-case review with victim centered, trauma informed, wraparound support during and after



investigation to stop the bleeding, ensure safety, and provide support.

The team consists of Adult Protective Services (APS) (like child protective services for senior citizens. Have a state hotline (855) 444-3911 for complaints to be investigated) / DHHS, Law Enforcement (3 detectives who work closely with prosecutors), the Prosecutor's Office, Community Mental Health (mental health is a key component with isolation and being alone making people vulnerable to scams), a Geriatric Care Physician (a dedicated physician joins every month, to help determine a senior citizen's capacity which is key for criminal prosecutions), Legal Services (legal aid because prosecutors handle criminal charges and someone needs to help victims), and Guardianship / Conservator / PO (Power of attorney) Services (especially with financial dealings).

Law Enforcement and Prosecution are Key Partners

Focused investigation and prosecution sends a strong message to perpetrators (and potential perpetrators) of these crimes and seeks to bring justice and restitution to those who were wronged. They support the work of the Multi-Disciplinary Team with focused investigation and prosecution.

Road patrol and first responders are trained so that first contact with victim sets up the case for success. They team up with SafeSeniors Collaborative on outreach and education to older adults. The financial cases are the most difficult. DJ says they are more difficult than any homicide case he has ever done. They take a lot of expertise and time and effort. Because of the team there is the level of expertise and involvement available. The detectives are specially trained and go out with Chris and the other team members and train others to recognize when a situation is not civil but criminal and may need to be turned over to the SafeSeniors task force. They are ready and willing to work on education and outreach to anyone who deals with seniors in the county. Programs can be made on scams, where to go for help, how to respond to things. Education is essential to stopping abuse.

It Works: The Numbers

In February 2020 got the okay from county board to form the team. Press conference was planned for March. Everything shut down for Covid. Ultimately the team continued on even with the pandemic. Over the years you can see our progress.

Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Cases (Muskegon/Ottawa Counties)

In 2018-19 there were 32 cases, in 2019-20 - 115 cases, 2020-21 - 140

cases, 2021-2022 YTD - 87 new cases added. There are 46 active MDT cases. Total cases to date: 374.

The first year the MDT approach was implemented, prosecution rates increased over 300% and nearly \$1.7 million in restitution was ordered. We continue to see success in prosecution and restitution for those who were harmed, whenever these remedies are possible.

Outreach 2019 - 2022 YTD (Muskegon, Oceana, Ottawa Counties)

Presentation & training (this is critical) involved 1,400 participants.

Outreach efforts shared at least 24,000 flyers. During COVID lockdown when AgeWell was doing its curbside service, we were reaching 100s of seniors every week by inundating them with flyers on how to protect themselves and where to go for help.

team and told them that they saved her life.

A county resident was scammed by a time share buying scheme that caused him to lose his home and his marriage. Our team was able to convince him of the scam before he sent any more money and before he lost his business. They also connected him to community resources for support.

Nearly \$15,000 was returned to a resident who was taken in by a Publisher's Clearinghouse scam and sent a cashier's check to an address in Tennessee. Our Task Force contacted the local sheriff's office who discovered that the check had been received by a second elderly victim who didn't realize he had been used in the con.

Cases involved with out-of-country and out-of-state are turned over to federal authorities such as the FBI.

5. Reach out to professional services for help when needed:
Call APS at (855) 444-3911 24/7
Call 911 or your local police department

Potential Signs of Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation:

PHYSICAL

- Unexplained injuries or sores
- Dehydration or unusual weight loss
- Missing medication or medical assistance devices
- Unsanitary living conditions
- or poor hygiene
- Unattended medical needs or missed appointments

EMOTIONAL & BEHAVIORAL

- Unusual changes in behavior or sleep patterns
- Withdrawal from normal activities
- Isolation from friends and/or family
- Increased anxiety and/or fear
- Hesitance to speak in presence of "caregiver"

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

- Unpaid bills or unmet needs, despite seemingly adequate income & assets
- Missing household items
- Unexpected changes in wills and/or property deeds
- Purchase of large items the older adult does not use
- Changes in habits/patterns (such as unusual ATM/debit card/check usage)
- Different types of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation often lead to one another and can occur at the same time.



It Works: The Stories

An older adult had been checked on 14 times by APS based on reports of neglect, but was non-verbal and unable to freely communicate with investigators. She finally received justice when financial exploitation was also discovered. Law Enforcement partnered with APS and financial institutions to bring charges against the perpetrator. After moving to a nursing home and receiving rehab that restored her voice, she thanked the

YOU ARE AN AVENGER TOO!

5 things everyone can do to help prevent and stop abuse, neglect and financial exploitation:

1. Listen to each other to understand challenges and provide support for older adults and caregivers
2. Educate one another about the signs of abuse.
3. Build a community that fosters social connections and supports
4. Report suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation as soon as possible.

TOGETHER, WE CAN FIGHT ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION!

Watch out for your people. If you see or sense that something is not right, speak up. Ask questions.

"you seem quiet lately, is everything ok?"

"how's it going having your son living with you?"

"tell me more about this new love interest you met on social media"

"where's that beautiful grandfather clock that used to be in the hall?"

"are you coming back to yoga class soon? I miss you"

It's better to act on your instincts and be wrong, than to not act and be right.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

SafeSeniors partners work together to identify, advocate, and seek justice for older adults who experience abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation in Muskegon, Oceana, and Ottawa Counties.

If you suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation, call Adult Protective Services at (855) 444-3911.

In an emergency, call 9-1-1 or your local police department.

SafeSeniors Coordinator
Chris Burnaw

AgeWell Services of West MI
chrisb@ARewellServices.org
231-726-7104

Muskegon County SafeSeniors Task Force

Detective Darric Roesler,
darric.roesler@muskegonsheriff.com,
231-557-5165

Detective Russ Swanson,
russell.swanson2@mcd911.net 231-286-7852

Detective Jared Passchier,
jared.passchier@mcd911.net, 231-286-0238

Jim Christiansen, Intake and Case Manager, jim@agewellservices.org,
231-486-5665

www.SafeSeniors.info

[Facebook/safeseniortc](https://www.facebook.com/safeseniortc)

New Member Induction

Erica Patton

Presented by **John Noling**

Erica Patton was born at Hackley Hospital and attended Edgewood, Muskegon Heights Middle School, and graduated from Muskegon Heights High in the Class of 1997.

She is the daughter of long-time Heights residents Charles Patton and Deloris Crosby. Erica has 3 siblings and 3 step siblings and is close with all.



After one year at Ferris that did not feel quite right, Erica took a two-year break before moving to Montgomery Alabama to study at Alabama State University. She developed a great interest in History, especially Civil Rights History, and graduated in 2004 with a History major, a Masters, and a Teaching Certificate.

For the next 10 years, from 2005-15, Erica taught 10th grade American History for 7 years and middle schoolers for 3 years, earning an Ed. Specialist degree from Auburn University in 2010. Then she decided she wanted to move East, so she settled in Woodbridge Virginia, just 22 miles from DC. Woodbridge was a large district and here Erica learned a lot more about the science of teaching in her 1 year of high school and 4 years of Middle School teaching.

Coming back home in 2021, Erica learned of a Principal posting at Muskegon Heights High School and interviewed with Superintendent Dr. Arnetta Thompson, who will also be inducted into our club in the near

future. Her learning curve has been steep in this first year. Her attitude is best summed up by..."Don't count us out! ... Our kids deserve a seat at the table, but you have to be prepared."

"I was raised in Muskegon Heights, but I grew up in the South." --Erica

Erica is a four-year member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority and has contributed service to Muskegon Heights Youth Football and Cheer. She is happy with the purchase of a home last November and looks forward to linking Rotary more closely with students at Muskegon Heights High School Academy. We are most happy to welcome Erica Patton as our newest member of the Muskegon Rotary Club!

Muskegon Rotary Board

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Marty Gerencer marty.gerencer@gmail.com

Didn't sign up for the lunch meeting on June 30? Zoom along with us for a very special meeting as we celebrate Jason's past year as our fearless leader and welcome Jane Clingman-Scott! (Bring Your Own Cake)

RIM Reporting Team

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Life Leadership conferees and Interactors came together with a total of 12 volunteers in 3 different areas of the Seaway Run. They were up early and did a lot of good work along the way. Thanks to all!

