

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

March 14, 2024

Next Meeting (March 21, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Lemon Pepper Chicken at the **Delta**
Program Topic – Improving Lives of Justice Involved Women

What's Coming

March 21 Improving Lives of Justice:
Involved Women in Muskegon Co

March 28 DEI – The Great Read

Upcoming Birthdays

March 21 Steve Edwards

March 24 Alan Alpert

Caring

Connections Fund

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



Reflectors

Bill Loxterman	Mar 14
Darlene Collett	Mar 21
Roger Morgenstern	Mar 28
Eileen Stoffen	April 4
Jane Clingman-Scott	April 11

RIM Reporting this Edition

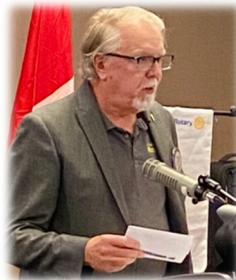
Photographer – Roger Morgenstern
RIM Reporter – Kathy Moore
RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

3/14/2024 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click Here](#)

ReWine meetings are every first
and third Thursday each month at
5:15pm at Walker's (in the Delta).



President Ginny was sporting
her green in advance of St.
Patrick's Day!



Bill Loxterman
combined
humor, prayer,
and most of all
BREVITY in his
reflection.

(VISITORS & GUESTS)



Marcia Hovey-Wright introduced
her guest and fellow Muskegon
County Commissioner Jessica Cook.



Annette Jack introduced her guest,
Joel Lautenbach.

VISITORS & GUESTS



J.J. Lewis introduced his colleague
and guest Madison Butler.



Myra Dutton introduced her guest,
Kara Novak.

VISITORS & GUESTS (continued)



Carla Flanders introduced her guest, Katherine Nash.



Brandon Turnbull introduced his guest, Andrew Mateskon.



Marty Sytsema, with his usual energy and humor, introduced our guests from Ravenna High School: students Kendra Denhof and Caleb Jonas and school counselor Tia Filippalli.

Muskegon Rotary Board

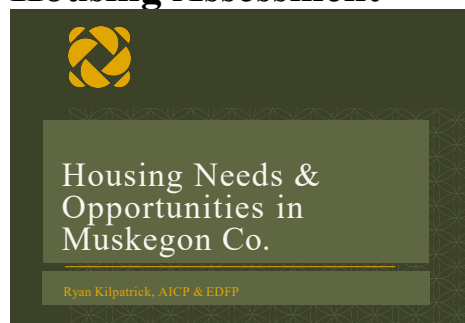
Ginny Sprague, President
Tim Arter, President-Elect
Dave Alexander, President Nominee
Jane Clingman-Scott, Past President
Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer
Don Hutchins, Secretary
Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator

Directors:

Aaron Maike	Roger Morgenstern
David Ramos	Asaline Scott
Marty Sytsema	Brandon Turnbull

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

Last Week's Program: Muskegon County Housing Assessment



Speaker: Ryan Kilpatrick
Introduced by: **Mark Eisenbarth**
Reporter: **Kathy Moore**

The program speaker was introduced by our County Administrator and fellow Rotarian, **Mark Eisenbarth**. The Community



Foundation for Muskegon County, Greater Muskegon Economic Development, and

Muskegon County partnered to develop a strategic action plan that will incorporate community vision and strengthen municipal capacity as they tackle the “next steps” in response to the housing shortage data indicated in the recent Muskegon County Housing Needs Assessment. Ryan Kilpatrick, founder/owner of Flywheel Community Development Services was hired to help outline the approach. Eisenbarth shared that Mr. Kilpatrick has an extensive background in housing and economic development, social innovation, as well as urban and regional planning.



Kilpatrick informed the audience that he has a lot of statistics that could be referenced, but he would “ground the data in story” for this presentation. First, there is a mismatch between minimal supply and high demand in Muskegon County’s housing market. We want our young workforce to come back after they graduate from college and purchase homes that they can afford. However, when there is not enough supply in the marketplace – prices go up. He explained that housing is an important factor in our regional workforce...it can be a barrier to hiring talent. *“A growing economy requires a growing workforce.”* Kilpatrick recommended that we build neighborhoods and communities that are financially sustainable and create a strong sense of belonging; while also highlighting that many of our vital safety net professionals (teachers, EMTs, nurses, firefighters, police officers, etc.) often earn incomes that don’t allow them to afford adequate housing at current market costs. Basically from 1945 until now, Muskegon’s housing stock was built to accommodate a stereotypical family of 4+ (mom, dad, two kids and a dog).

However, since the early 2000s, the majority of households are either single adults or two adults with no children at home (empty nesters or Gen Z and Millennials with no kids). *"We need to create more housing types at a greater variety of price points in neighborhoods where we have existing infrastructure."*, explained Kilpatrick. He went on to say that there is a significant difference between what it costs to build something brand new verses what it costs to preserve something that is older. Kilpatrick commented that *"there is a lot of stigma when we use the term "affordable", but it is a relative term based on income."* He followed with examples of significant subsidies that would be required to offset the housing affordability gap...which does not seem feasible.

There are ways to offset costs.

ZONING REFORM

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAX

LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS

IMPACT INVESTMENT

In conclusion, Kilpatrick shared a conglomerate of ways the Muskegon community, leadership, and individuals can work together to ease the

housing market challenges. To see the program in its entirety, click [this link](#) to watch the video.

Member Spotlight Dave Alexander



Member Spotlight: After working 34 years as one of the best business economic reporters with Muskegon Chronicle/MLive, **Dave Alexander** transitioned into a second career with the City of Muskegon. His current position is Community Engagement Specialist, and he previously managed Downtown Muskegon Now. Dave came to Muskegon in 1981 for a job in addition to recreational pursuits. Dave exclaimed that the water is what kept he and his wife (Peg) in town. He is a sailor, kayaker, and boater. From a professional standpoint, Dave often wrote a lot about Muskegon's water from a business/economic perspective. He was specifically attuned to the area's water resources and development along Muskegon Lake for decades. He believes the story that tells from the lumbering era, through the industrial era, and now through (what he calls) the quality-of-life era is really the heart of who we are in Muskegon. As he looks forward to his Muskegon Rotary Club presidency in 2025-2026 he will focus on the theme of "Environment, Climate, and Sustainability" as it relates to water in the Muskegon area. Watch the video [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS



March Madness 2024 is underway! Thank you to those 19 Rotarians that have already signed up. **Meredith Smillie** has 13 more slots to fill and there will be not one, not two, but THREE Paul Harris Fellows awarded. There will be a winner in the women's bracket, a winner in the men's bracket, and a random drawing for the third. As a slam dunk, you will fulfill your suggested donation to Rotary International and possibly win a Paul Harris Fellow. Contact Meredith at msmillie@bethany.org or 616-566-9828 to sign up. \$100 cash or check donation made out to Muskegon Rotary Foundation (put March Madness in the memo line).

Great Michigan Read



Nancy McCarthy reminded the audience about the collective community reading of the book *Firekeeper's Daughter*. It's a powerful story that explores different topics like culture, identity, family, justice, etc. and how they impact Native Americans today. There will be a

related Rotary program presentation on the 29th and we will hear from two of our Native American Rotarians. Nancy also announced that the author, Angeline Bouley, will be here in Muskegon on April 17th and she will be speaking at 6:00pm at Orchard View High School. It is a free event and sign-up is available at the Muskegon Area District Library website or this registration link: Register here to meet the author on <https://madl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=9705&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2024/04/17>

For further information, contact Cathy at cbrubakerclarke@developmuskegon.org.

POURS FOR COMMUNITY



Tim Arter provided a bonus report during his announcement as he shared a few slides with pictures and monetary details in a presentation entitled "Why We Pour" to highlight some of the benefits and benefactors of our fundraising efforts. Tim explained that he is often approached with questions about "Who? What? Where? How?" the monies raised are being spent. In brief, the Muskegon Rotary Club is "**pouring the money back**" into the community and across the globe. Dollars generated through various fundraising events such as Pours, (formerly) Grape Escape, Seaway Run, Chili-Cook-Off, Party-in-the-Park, Harvest Fest, etc. are collectively accounted for and distributed to numerous charitable organizations or causes as budgeted and approved by the appropriate governing body. Tim explained that he recently reviewed the Muskegon

Rotary Foundation budget and highlighted specific benevolent and humanitarian expenditures which included: Read Muskegon \$10,000; El Salvador \$7,000; Life Leadership \$7,000; Youth Exchange \$5,300; Honduras Library \$3,500; Micro-Forest \$3,000; and Food Trucks \$3,000. Tim offered detailed explanations of each financial transaction indicated in the slides. He also assured the listeners that the funds designated for international activities were specifically used for materials, supplies, and related expenditures and does not cover the cost of individual participants' travel expenses.

1--Thursday, April 11 at Valkyrie at the Four Corners (NM) 6:00-9:00PM. (This will be a trivia night.)

2--Friday, April 19 at Wonderland Distilleries 4:00-6:00PM

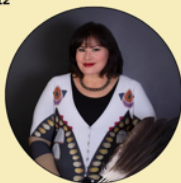
3--Monday, April 22 at Unruly Brewing 5:00-7:00PM

4--Thursday, April 25 at 794 Kitchen 5:00-7:00PM

AUTHOR VISIT ANGELINE BOULLEY

Bestselling Young Adult Novelist Printz Medal & Morris Award Winner

Don't miss out on your chance to hear from best-selling author Angeline Bouley, who will be visiting Muskegon as a stop on her tour for the Great Michigan Read. She will be speaking about her book *Firekeeper's Daughter*, an electrifying thriller layered with a rich exploration of the modern Native experience, a reckoning of current and historical injustices, and a powerful celebration of community. A book sale and signing will follow the presentation.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 6:00 PM
ORCHARD VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

REGISTER AT [MADL.ORG/MIREAD](https://madl.org/miread)

Rotary Sponsored Food Truck



Arn Boezaart thanked everyone who signed up to volunteer for the Food Truck activities scheduled for Wed., March 27th & Wed., April 24th. Arn clarified that volunteers should report to the site (Temple Methodist church parking lot) at 4:00pm both days. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up as well as unloading the truck. The food drive distribution will begin by 4:30pm and should be completed by 5:30pm.

Why We Pour



READ MUSKEGON
\$10,000



EL SALVADOR
\$7,000

HONDURAS LIBRARY
\$3,500



LIFE LEADERSHIP
\$7,000



YOUTH EXCHANGE
\$5,300

FOOD TRUCKS
\$3,000

MICROFOREST
\$3,000

Social Committee Upcoming Events



Tim Lipan spoke on behalf of Rotary's Social Committee and shared that they are charged with developing events outside of the regular meetings and showcase local businesses and organizations. The Committee has been working hard to develop a full annual schedule and he wanted to share a few planned events. The first event will be a tour and educational opportunity on March 28th at the IndiGrow Dispensary in downtown Muskegon. Space is limited, so participation sign-up is forthcoming. In June, plan for a Rotary Night Out at the Muskegon Clippers, the baseball team (not a boat). In July, we'll go to Adelaide Pointe to see all the new development and get a tour as well. In September, we will visit the Milwaukee Clipper, the boat (not a baseball team) as they celebrate the 120th anniversary of the ship. And the final event will include viewing the dinosaur exhibit hosted by the Muskegon Museum of History & Science in November.



Muskegon Rising Ep 10: Goodwill Industries of West Michigan



Muskegon Rising Podcast:
Episode 10 is live!

This episode explores the amazing work of Goodwill Industries of West Michigan. We'll hear stories about giving, community, and the transformative power of generosity.

Discover how Goodwill is making a difference right here in Muskegon and around the world.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/14685999-goodwill-industries-of-west-michigan>



Congratulations to Rodney L. Savage for starting a new position as Vice President of Talent and Inclusion at the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. He's been involved in numerous Muskegon Rotary activities including the Baker College Interact Club, Life Leadership Academy and installing water filters in Honduras.

Muskegon Rotary Represented in Kalamazoo



Our Club was well represented March 14 at the Great Lakes Rotary PETS (President Elect Training) conference in Kalamazoo. With a theme of "The Magic of Rotary" our own **Brianna Scott**, who is the District Governor Elect for our District 6290, is clearly getting in the spirit! She's flanked by, left, our President Nominee **Dave Alexander** and our President Elect **Tim Arter**. Our Rotarians were among 455 Rotarians from seven Great Lakes districts. District 6290 comprises 53 Rotary Clubs with Muskegon's Club, at about 250 members, the largest. As the old saying goes, it ain't braggin' if it's true.

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Lori Weiler

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Roger Morgenstern,
Meredith Smillie

Photographers: Mark Alpher & Roger Morgenstern

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