

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

May 30, 2024

Next Meeting (June 6, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Soup & Sandwich - at the Lake House
Program Topic – Muskegon County Senior Millage Update

What's Coming

**June 6 – Muskegon County Senior
Millage**

Upcoming Birthdays

June 7 **Martin Asplund**
June 8 **Irma Carney**

Caring Connections Fund

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



Greeter This Week

Rich Berry
Rachel Gorman

Reflectors

Jane Clingman-Scott	May 30
Open	June 6
Darlene Collett	June 13
Adam Bell	June 20
Kendra Robinson	June 27

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern
RIM Reporter – Meredith Smillie
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar



In her usual very expressive manner, Immediate Past President **Jane Clingman Scott** delivered the Reflection.

VISITORS & GUESTS



Claire Root-Benson and her guest
Claire Ritter.



Andrea Riegler introduces her guests:
Karen Kekelik, Katrina Hyder and Mike Curtis.

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



Rich Houtteman introduces his guests, from left, Josh Burgett of Consumers Energy, Dave Johnson of the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center, Moorland Township Supervisor Dan Nutt and Cathy Wilson of the Consumers Energy Foundation.



It was a rush of Rotarians (and guests) waiting to get into the Lake House conference center Thursday!



Myra Dutton introduces her work colleague Robert Canfield.

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 Maiké	Roger Morgenstern
David Ramos	Asaline Scott
Marty Sytsema	Brandon Turnbull

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



Lisa Kraus introduces her guests Brandon Redeker and Mallory Meston.



Jeanette Hoyer introduces her guest Dr. Brian Stork.

Induction



Dimitri Poland introduces the newest Rotarian in the world, **Parker Aerts**.

Parker Aerts is a West Michigan native who has received various leadership awards during his development, including the Life Leadership Conferee of the year award. Parker attended Central Michigan University on scholarships for Track and Field, academic excellence, and the Leadership Advancement program and has his bachelor's degree in

Entrepreneurship with a minor in Leadership.

Parker has experience raising and training working-line canines for personal, professional, and government use through West Michigan K9. He has experience as the General Manager of Cerberus Security, a locally owned physical and K9 security company. With Parker's innovative and ethical leadership abilities, he led Cerberus Security to become a top competitor in the security realm, nationwide.

Now, Parker is the Co-Founder and Chief Financial Officer of Infinity Staffing Professional and is the CEO of Artman Outdoor Rentals, an RV rental business. Parker is also an assistant track and field coach at Reeth's-Puffer High School specializing in sprints, hurdles, relays, jumps, and helping student athletes prepare for the next steps in their lives.

Infinity Staffing Professionals is pioneering methods that will redesign the staffing industry. We are a dynamic and innovative staffing solution provider dedicated to meeting the evolving workforce needs of business across industries. With a commitment to excellence, we specialize in connecting top-tier talent with organizations seeking unparalleled expertise.

Our team specializes in recruiting and employing staff that are best suited for each industry and client. By partnering with organizations and utilizing programs that allow our team to impact and employ targeted communities and overcome employment barriers, we can more effectively fill clients' needs by reaching untapped markets of staff, while bringing a philanthropic

approach to the staffing industry. Infinity Staffing Professionals revolutionizes industry benchmarks, propelling itself to the forefront of the sector.

Paul Harris Fellow – Rich Houtteman



Rich Houtteman, our Club's newest Paul Harris Fellow recipient, was surprised not only with the recognition but also by his wife Gina who was able to join us.



New Paul Harris Fellow **Rich Houtteman** and presenters **Roger Morgenstern** and **Christine Robere**.

We are here today to honor a Rotarian who lives the Four Way Test in all that he does in his job and his

community. This individual's foray into local government began many years ago when he was appointed Dalton Township Supervisor. While his elected "career" was short-lived, his commitment to public and community service is long. Roger first got to know this guy when he worked for Muskegon Area First and I was the Lakeshore community affairs manager at Consumers Energy. While he also worked with him in Kent County when he was the deputy administrator for the city of Kentwood, Roger knew he needed to get "home" to Muskegon County. Back in 2015, he encouraged him to apply for the vacant Consumers Energy Community Affairs Manager position. It had previously been held by three other Rotarians: Bill Johanson, Roger and Laurie Larsen, so it only made sense that he would get the job...and join Muskegon Rotary!

By now you know we're talking about Rich Houtteman. Rich has done an amazing job in this role. Speaking from personal experience, it isn't always easy being the "face" of your friendly power company when the news to deliver isn't always easy and popular. Rich is a great ambassador for Consumers and the community, serving as past chair of the White Lake Chamber of Commerce Board, the boards of Muskegon Area First, the Grand Valley State University Alumni Association and as "co-host" of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce's Business for Breakfast series. Rich is a proud native of Lakewood Club. He and his wife Gina live in Whitehall and have two adult children, Rachel, who graduated this spring from GVSU and Jack, who attends Hope College.

Rich has served on the United Way of the Lakeshore Board of Directors for 8 years working his way through many progressive leadership roles including communications chair, community engagement chair, leading a division of campaign, serving on the Executive Committee, and currently serving as Board Chair. One of Christine's favorite memories of Rich was his efforts to lead with Day of Caring to engage the company with over 30 volunteers at our Mission United launch for our veterans. That year we had the kickoff on the deck of the LST 393. Flags were waving in the background as hundreds from our community were welcomed with a keynote presentation from a Consumers Corporate Leader and then we all did stretches with Patty. Kinder than a drill sergeant, Patty has led our Day of Caring stretching exercises ever since. Thanks to Rich, we always take care of our volunteers' health! We are pleased to be part of recognizing this incredible man for his service above self.

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

5/30/2024 Muskegon Rotary

YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

This week's program: Solar Power Project Muskegon County – Wastewater Mgmt.

Speakers: Rich Houtteman, Ryan Carrigan, and Shaun Casey
Introduced by: **Rich Houtteman**
Reporter: **Meredith Smillie**



Rich Houtteman provides some Consumers Energy history and introduces two colleagues to talk about the new solar energy facility at the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center in Moorland Township.

Rich Houtteman (Community Affairs), Ryan Carrigan (Community Affairs) and Shaun Casey (Enterprise Project Mgt) were our featured presenters today. Consumers Energy shared with us an update on the solar farm located in Moorland Township. Consumers Energy is one of the state's largest landholders and taxpayer in Muskegon County. Rich

noted that the past four years have been the windiest on record and shared with us the roadmap journey to limit the number of consumers that are without energy after any given storm. There are over 85,000 employees throughout the state. Rich emphasized the three awards that Consumers Energy has provided to invigorate the economy and shared a lot about the Foundation work that Consumers Energy is invested in, especially around diversity, equity, and inclusion. They partner with United Way and the Muskegon Community Foundation to support DEI work in Muskegon County.

Ryan is the stakeholder engagement officer for Consumers Energy for the solar project at Moorland.



Consumers Energy noted that this program is not just about being climate friendly, but it is also financial. Converting to solar is saving the state of Michigan consumers nearly \$6million. A single acre of solar can power 80 homes and the decreasing costs of solar has fallen 80% in the last decade. Solar performs well during peak energy use times. Ryan noted that the vast majority of solar panels are made up of glass, and small amount of aluminum. They are not toxic and environmentally friendly. They have a life span of 30 years and are highly efficient. Recycling of old panels has quickly ramped up and they are recycling. Utility scale solar can

generate at least 100 megawatts of power. Solar makes a good neighbor for those that travel or live near solar farms. They are fairly quiet and do not need much upkeep or maintenance. They are monitored remotely and are quickly detectable for repair or replacement. Consumers Energy staff are only onsite 2-3 times per year.

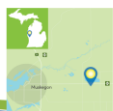


Ryan further noted additional community benefits. Rural preservation/farm protection, on-going income for Muskegon County via long term lease agreements, increased tax revenue for schools, county services and townships, as well as construction and operations jobs creation. Solar in Muskegon County has high proximity to transmission lines, flat open land with limited development opportunities and the county's leadership desire to expand sustainability and renewable opportunities. Ryan noted that the Moorland wastewater facility was just a great location for this project.

Quick Facts

Location: Moorland Township in Muskegon County
Total Capacity: 250 Megawatts
Project Footprint: 1,900 acres
Start of Commercial Operation: 2026

- Approx. \$350m in total project costs.
- 200 construction jobs (many local union).
- Six full time employees to operate.



Shaun Casey concluded our presentation and spoke about the footprint about the array itself. Over 555,000 solar modules, 110,000 pilings over 1,000 acres (approximately 3 square miles) and will include 2 substations.



The substations will convert from DC to AC and connect to the lines located across the street and be delivered to consumers. There will be over 1,500 miles of wire utilized. Ryan and Shaun noted that this is a smart system and that the panels will operate like batteries and can go into stow mode. Ryan and Shaun also noted that the panels do work at night, during the winter and when rain, hail or snow are present. Consumers Energy noted

that all the permits needed are in place and they are already building. It is difficult to see the farm from Apple Avenue, as there are some natural areas that protect the project from view along M-46. The project will be fully functional in 2026.

Member Spotlight Jamie Sowa



Jamie Sowa joined Rotary in April and is the advisor to the Rotaract Club at Baker College. Jamie resides in Norton Shores with her husband and two daughters. Jamie shared how The American Association of University Women supported her as a student and how this experience helps her with supporting students, community connection, and paying it forward. You don't want to miss this! Watch her video [here](#).

**Sunday, June 9**
Gates open at 3:00 p.m.
First pitch 4:05 p.m.
\$15 per carload or \$5 per single admission


See Tim, RIM, or the Sign-Up here
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAA2CABFFC16-49744286-rotary>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Muskegon Rising EP:21

**This week's episode of
Muskegon Rising features
Lively Up Kombucha**



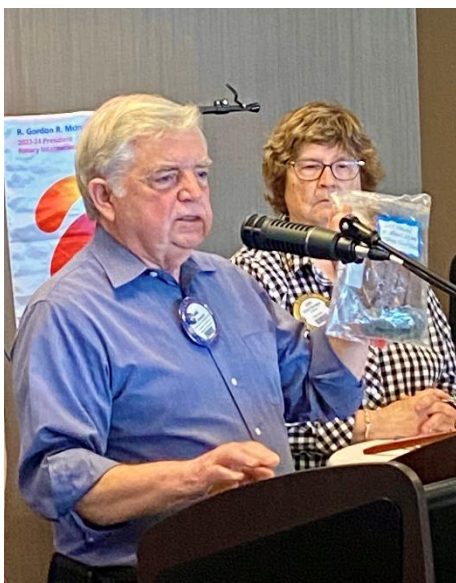
Calling all kombucha lovers! Did you know this tasty, fizzy drink has been around for over 2,000 years? Learn all about the history and potential health benefits of kombucha, and hear the story behind Muskegon's very own kombucha success story, Lively Up Kombucha.

In Episode 21 of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, you'll hear about:

- The ancient origins of kombucha
- How kombucha is made
- The potential health benefits of this fermented tea
- The exciting journey of Lively Up Kombucha, a local Muskegon business!

Tune in to the Muskegon Rising Podcast and quench your thirst for knowledge (and maybe some delicious kombucha!)

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/15157943-lively-up-kombucha>



Arn Boezaart is trying to reunite this pair of women's gloves left at the March 27 food truck distribution. They'll be left on the back table for a couple of weeks and will be donated if no one claims them!



President Elect **Tim Arter** shares the annual Pours for Community spring mixer at several local drinking establishments, raised \$8,000 for the

Muskegon Rotary Foundation, compared to \$5,700 a year ago. The goal is to eventually reach \$10,000.

Coffee Connect



Connect with fellow Rotarians over coffee on June 12, 2024, 8-9am at Muskegon Museum of History and Science (430 W. Clay Ave.) Contact Melissa@LakeshoreMuseum.org to RSVP or for questions.



Susan Crain from the DEI Committee said she's looking for volunteers to help with the Muskegon Rotary Family Fun Night June 14 as part of the Juneteenth celebration at Mona Lake Park in Muskegon Heights. A sign up sheet will be circulated during our weekly meetings.



MUSKEGON ROTARY FAMILY FUN NIGHT

A NIGHT OF FREE ENTERTAINMENT WITH U'NIQUE SOUL, FREE FOOD AND FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Friday, June 14, 2024 at 5:00pm
Mona Lake Park, Muskegon Heights

All Rotarians invited! Come out, help out, meet new friends, enjoy good food and live music and the beauty of Mona Lake.

To volunteer, contact Marcia Hovey-Wright at marciahwright@gmail.com
A project of Muskegon Rotary DEI Committee

Adopt-A-Highway MDOT Pickup



The next pick up will be on Saturday, July 13. If interested in helping at the next pick up, please email Esther Ricco (riccoe@gvsu.edu)