

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

September 26, 2024

Next Meeting (October 3, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Taco Bar at the Lake House
Program Topic – Every Rotarian Every Year: Memorial for Past Rotarians

What's Coming

October 3 – Every Rotarian Every Year

October 10 – 25 yrs of fun,
challenges, & change along the
lakeshore

October 17 – Big Read

Upcoming Birthdays

October 8 Amanda Rupert

Caring

Connections Fund

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



Greeters This Week

Don Kalisz & Wyatt Huggett

October Reflectors

October 3 -- New Changes Coming!

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern

RIM Reporter – Roger Morgenstern

RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

9/26/2024 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

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

VISITORS & GUESTS



Karen Buie introduces her guest and her husband, Dr. Larry Jenkins.



Pete DeBoer introduces his guest, Amanda Westra.



Carla Flanders introduces her guest, Cindy Johnson.



Myrna Olsen with her guest, longtime friend and former Rotarian Vennie Avorque.



Marty Sytsema introduced this week's student guests from Oakridge High School. Joining us were counselor Kurt Kiegen and seniors Zoe Locke and Madison Bowen.

Rob Cook had us reflect on the importance of food access and how fortunate we are to have our wonderful weekly lunches. To make his point, he "borrowed" a green pepper from his volunteer work that morning assembling "sack dinners" at Kid's Food Basket.



This week's program: 5 Rotarians, 5 Minutes



Speakers: **Bob Lukens, Missy Horton, Heidi Sytsema, Kathy Moore, & Randy Lindquist**
 Introduced by: **Dave Alexander**
 Reporter: **Roger Morgenstern**



Dave Alexander, our President Elect and Program co-chair, said he's used this format before when a

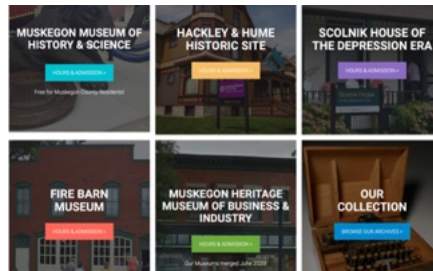
scheduled program falls through. While in the past he's pulled these together on a few hours' notice, he had a little more time for this one, and the result was fantastic. Five Rotarians and community leaders gave brief updates (5 minutes or less) on their organizations.



Bob Lukens, director of community development for Muskegon County, provided updates on several areas of the county under his responsibility. He joked that he would do "four departments in five minutes." Jet service is returning to the Muskegon County Airport with the Nov. 1 start of daily flights to



Chicago on Denver Air Connection. The parks department is in the midst of its 2025-29 recreation plan and public input is encouraged; see the county's website for more information at <https://muskegoncountyparks.org>. MATS, the Muskegon Area Transit System, is considering forming an independent governmental authority, with likely representatives from the cities of Muskegon, Muskegon Heights, Norton Shores and Roosevelt Park. And finally, the county is working with Smith Group on waterfront development concepts from Heritage Landing to Terrace Point. The latest proposals will be shared soon for the public to provide its feedback.



Missy Horton, executive director of the Lakeshore Museum Center, provided an update of work and

activities at its three museum sites. At the Hackley and Hume site, the smell of fresh cedar shingles is still in the air as a new roof is in place atop the Hackley House. Similar work will be done next year at the Hume House. The organization is working on a facilities management plan for the site, planning and executing work from turrets to chimneys and doors and carriage barn doors "as we continue to take care of these gems." She also encouraged to attend the upcoming "obituary tours" and holiday tours at the site. At the main

History and Science Museum, real dinosaur bones are still on display through the end of December, with monthly talks with a paleontologist who curated the exhibit. At the Business and Industry Museum, on display is an industrial knitting machine, similar to what was used at the Amazon Knitting Company in the early 20th Century. In 2025, the Lakeshore Museum Center is one of seven area museums joining forces to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Also, next year, the museum will have a one-time millage proposal on the May ballot to make the main museum completely accessible and provide critically needed collection storage space.



Heidi Sytsema, vice president of development for the Community Foundation for Muskegon County,



provided an overview of several foundation initiatives. The foundation completed a strategic plan five years ago with a focus in three areas: Education, community and economic development and diversity, equity and inclusion. In the education area, the foundation has provided 17 "welcome home" scholarships the last several years to provide incentives for educators to locate in Muskegon County. The foundation has created 13,000 "kickstart to career" education savings accounts for kindergarten to sixth grade students each seeded with \$50 from the community foundation. As a

follow up to the recent countywide housing student, the foundation is partnering with Muskegon County and Greater Muskegon Economic Development to create a new position that will focus on increasing housing availability, accessibility and affordability. In the area of DEI, the foundation continues to work with Muskegon Community College's program run by Rotarian **Ken James** and provide scholarships for individuals to attend training. The foundation has also created a giving circle of younger givers called LEAD (Leading Efforts Against Discrimination), which has contributed \$65,000 into a foundation LEAD fund and has granted out \$24,000 in DEI focused projects. The foundation continues to assist with other community led funds, including the Business Equity Initiative Fund, led by Rotarians **Nancy McCarthy** and **Mary Anne Gorman**.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Muskegon County
www.muskegonhealth.net



Kathy Moore, director of Public Health Muskegon County joked "aging" should be added to its

vision statement because of the county's aging population. She said she's very pleased the senior millage renewal passed. There is a good process in place to fund important programs for seniors. Moore said of the many things the public health department does, she wanted to focus on two areas. Environmental

health does numerous regular inspections, from public swimming pools to campgrounds. They also provide inspections of public waterways and beaches to check on e coli and algae blooms and issue public health advisories if needed. They also work with citizens for PFAS testing. The other area Kathy discussed is a new focus for the department. They are expanding outreach to smaller community-based organizations with a passion for helping others. This is in addition to their existing partnerships with organizations like United Way, Trinity Health, Access Health and the Community Health Project. Other outreach areas of focus are in rural areas and innovative ways to connect with younger residents.



Randy Lindquist, superintendent of the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District,



provided an overview of many of the leadership programs and services the MAISD offers. The organization's mantra this year is "going further, together." The Career Tech Center continues to grow, with 895 students enrolled this year. The Muskegon Promise marks its 10th anniversary this year, providing free tuition to thousands to students at Muskegon Community College and Baker College. Currently 882 Promise students are enrolled. The MAISD also provides special education services, including the Craig Transition Campus for more than 100 adult students, Wesley School with about 90 younger students and about 20 students at the Lakeshore Learning Center for

individuals with high emotional impairments. Two years ago, the ISD added a deaf and hard of hearing program which continues to grow. The program is based in the Reeths--Puffer district, providing a local option for students who had to travel to Holland or Detroit in the past. In the early childhood area, the MAISD offers several programs. It is the largest provider of pre-K programs in the county; most of them are offered within individual school districts. There is a special education program, based off doctor referrals, for over a thousand children up to age 3 who show developmental delays to help get them ready for kindergarten. Randy also highlighted the good work of the MAISD's technology and communication departments.

Spotlight Video Stephanie Tushek



This week's spotlight features Stephanie Tushek, who has served as an on-site staff member for the Life Leadership Conference. She has seen the transformation of conferees who leave the conference very energized to help their communities. Listen to Stephanie's story [here](#).

Paul Harris Plus Fellows



Meredith Smillie helped recognize nine Rotarians as Paul Harris Plus recipients.

“Over the past few weeks, we have honored several of our fellow Muskegon Rotarians and community members for their contributions in support of the Rotary Foundation by awarding each of them with the Paul Harris Fellow recognition.



However, becoming a Paul Harris Fellow is a milestone, not a

destination. We ask those who become Paul Harris Fellows to continue supporting The Rotary Foundation and recognize them as Multiple Paul Harris Fellows as they continue contributing to the Rotary Foundation. With each additional \$1,000 donated, a Paul Harris Fellow is presented with a pin with either a sapphire or a ruby, indicating each level of their contributions. In our club, we have many multiple Paul Harris Fellows.

Today we have the privilege of honoring several who, in the spirit of Paul Harris also “Dream good dreams and make them come true.” Today’s honorees are

(*not all pictured):

- Marty Sytsema** PHF+1
- Jim Fisher** PHF+1
- Susan Holkeboer** PHF+1
- Roger Morgenstern** PHF+1
- Bob Scolnik** PHF+2
- Kathy Moore** PHF+4
- Rem Sprague** PHF+4
- Gene Fethke** PHF+4
- Ginny Sprague** PHF+5
- Tim Arter** PHF+5 and PHF+6

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
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 Aaron Maike Tom Palmer
 Brandon Turnbull Esther Ricco
 Marty Sytsema Lisa Tyler

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

RIM Reporting Team

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

NEW MEMBERS



Jennifer Fellingner joined Muskegon Catholic Central as president of the PK-12 school on June 3.

Prior to stepping into the MCC presidency, she spent almost 15 years in higher education. For 10 of those years, she served as vice president at Hope College. There, she launched and directed the Public Affairs and Marketing Division, and also led strategic initiatives and student formation, which included student affairs, residential life and athletics. While at Hope, she also served on multiple community boards.

Before moving to West Michigan in 2014, Jennifer lived in Olympia, Washington, where she served as vice president at Saint Martin's University and served on the area's children's museum board during an ambitious and ultimately successful capital campaign.

Jennifer holds a bachelor's degree from Xavier University in Cincinnati and master's degree from (wait for it) The Ohio State University. She is known to grow impatient waiting for college basketball to begin and is convinced that March Madness is a holiday worthy of celebration.

Much to the chagrin of her Michigander husband and two teenage sons, she will always be a Buckeye at heart, though these days she's rooting more for the Lions than the Bengals.

Most importantly, she is VERY excited to be a member of Rotary! Jennifer is sponsored by **Don Kalisz**.

NEW MEMBERS (Cont'd)



Jason Smith went through the Grand Rapids Public School system and is a proud alum of Grand Rapids Union High. The experiences, friendships, and memories created throughout his GRPS tenure will forever be cherished and molded Jason into who he is today especially the ability to appreciate, understand, and embrace various ethnicities and cultures.

After graduating high school, Jason attended Central Michigan University (Fire up Chips!) and graduated with a double-major in Business Administration and Economics. During the last two years of college, Jason decided that going into Banking was the career path that was best suited for him simply because it involved helping others create and achieve their financial goals.

Jason began his banking career at Fifth Third Bank in downtown Grand Rapids and shortly thereafter moved out to the Lakeshore after having an opportunity to work with Lakeshore Commercial Lending Team covering Holland to Muskegon. After nearly 13 years and holding various roles, Jason transitioned to Macatawa Bank focused more on growing the Grand Rapids market.

Fast forward to today, Jason has since accepted a role as a Commercial Lender at United Bank of Michigan focused on growing the Lakeshore market from Holland to Muskegon and getting back to the community he currently resides in. Jason truly enjoys meeting new people and businesses and sharing

the history of United Bank who has been dedicated to serving their local communities and building trusting relationships with individuals, families, and local businesses for over 140 years.

Jason's community involvement includes but is not limited to:

- Board Member of The Dwelling Place in Grand Rapids, MI that focuses on providing affordable housing solutions to local communities.
- Real Estate Committee Member for Dwelling Place located in Grand Rapids, MI.
- Pending Finance Committee Member for Dwelling Place in Grand Rapids, MI.
- Treasurer and founding member of the Lakeshore United Rotaract Club.
- Active community volunteer through various non-for-profit and Chamber organizations.
- United Way volunteer
- Lakeshore Habitat volunteer

Jason currently resides in the Nunica area and has lived on the Lakeshore for the last 20 years. In his spare time, Jason enjoys being actively involved in the community and being the best dad to his 13-year-old twin boys, Miles and Reid. Jason also has a dog, Steele, whom he adopted from Muskegon Pound Buddies who's an extension of the family and protector of the house. When Jason is not busy with his boys, coaching, or watching their sports, he enjoys exercising and spending time with family and friends (often at a friend's house watching Michigan games in the fall (Go Blue!)). Jason is excited to join one of the largest Rotaries in the district and exemplify the "Service Above Self" mission of Rotary.

Microforest Mondays

8:30am – 10:30am

Help is still needed!

Contact **John Noling** for more info

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Nancy McCarthy shows off one of the books for this fall's community "Big Read," titled "Mexikid." See Nancy if you'd like a free copy. The other book being collectively read is the classic, "The Great Gatsby."

Adopt-A-Highway MDOT Pickup Fall Report by Esther Ricco



A special THANK YOU to **Jerry Kuester, Craig Pirrotta, Michelle Burley** and **Kevin Ricco** for cleaning up the Muskegon Rotary Club's Adopt-A-Highway stretch on I-96 this past Saturday. This amazing crew hauled 45 bags of trash to the side of the road for MDOT to collect and dispose of properly.

WE NEED MORE HELP FOR NEXT YEAR!!! If you have the desire to put **Service Above Self** into action, please email Esther Ricco (riccoe@gvsu.edu) to get on the list for next year. If you aren't physically able to do the picking, I am always looking for drivers. Please consider helping next year!

Rotary Memorial

The program next week will be a traditional Muskegon Rotary remembrance of Rotarians who have passed in the last couple of years. The program will last 8 to 10 minutes, and the meeting will adjourn at 1:00pm to enable members and guests (who can attend) to proceed to Rotary Park for a remembrance.

Changes to Reflections

After a significant amount of consultation with the Reflection Committee co-chairs, Club officers, and members of our Club's past leadership, it was decided to go in a slightly different direction for our Club Reflections. A group co-chaired by **Kathy Moore** and **Susan Crain** will develop an underlying conceptual framework for presentation of future reflections, including them being one minute in length. This new format will be starting October 3rd.



President Tim made a few announcements, from a \$100 incentive for first timers to attend the RI 6290 District Conference in Muskegon to revisions in our weekly Reflections, which will now be 1 minute long, giving everyone more time to talk at their tables and for all our other busy meeting activities. If you missed the meeting, check out the link to our meeting on our YouTube channel on this RIM's front page.

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

ROTARY DISTRICT 6290 CONFERENCE



SPEAKERS



Chris Etienne
2024-2026 Rotary International Director



Mark Andresky
DGE and lead Facilitator - Learning Summit



Franz Harary
Internationally acclaimed Magician & TEDx Inspirational Speaker



Brianna Scott
Rotary International District 6290 2024-2025 District Governor

AGENDA

The Rotary Foundation Gala

- Plated dinner
- Keynote Speaker, Chris Etienne
- Delight in the sounds of a string quartet
- Live Auction

Fall Learning Summit

- Interactive Sessions and Workshops
- Networking Lunch
- Actionable strategies that will impact your club to become irresistible
- Learn how to create a large signature service project

District Conference

- Community Service Project
- International dining experience
- Magic and Music
- Club Service Recognitions and Awards
- Rotary Games to enhance your Rotary knowledge
- Business Meeting and Memorial Service

[Register Now](#)

Visit the district website for more details
All access discount until September 25, 2024



October 18-20,
2024



Delta Hotel
939 3rd. Muskegon

Contact Us for more info



kathyh@ridistrict6290.org



616-935-9559

Our Club is offering a \$100 registration incentive to the first ten members who have never attended a District Conference. Please contact **Kristi Nagengast** or **President Tim** for the details.

To register – [CLICK HERE](#)



OCT. 24, 2024 @ 5-8pm

Baker College Culinary Institute of Michigan



Harvest Fest



We hope you are getting as excited as **Roger Morgenstern** (pictured above) for the second annual Harvest Fest event taking place on October 24 at the Culinary Institute. Here are some ways to get involved!

Purchase a ticket! Space is limited so get your tickets early. [Click HERE](#) to purchase your ticket today! Each ticket includes one beverage, all you can eat gourmet fall food fair, live music, signature glass or purple succulent, and so much more!



Sponsor the event! We are still looking for cash and in-kind sponsorships! Do you have MSU or U of M sports tickets or swag you can donate? Do you want to have your business logo listed as a sponsor? More information [HERE!](#)



Tickets on sale for \$85

Proceeds support the Muskegon Rotary Foundation

Volunteer and get a discount on your event ticket! [Click HERE](#) to see the spots available.

Share the news about the event with friends and family! Try to invite at least 2 people to attend with you!

Muskegon Rising Podcast Ep 38: Rob Mathis – Citi Boi



Get ready to be inspired by the story of Citi Boi Corp. and its founder, **Rob Mathis**.


In this episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, we'll discover how Rob has transformed his shop into a beacon of hope, offering free food and furniture to anyone in need. His motto? "Pay it Forward."

Join us as we delve into the heart of this remarkable community organization and learn how one person's generosity is making a world of difference in Muskegon.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/15807964-rob-mathis-citi-boi>

**THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 14**
6:00pm • Stevenson Center Room 1300
Free & open to the public

**“Building Lifelike
Ecology and Evolution
in a Computer”**



Dr. Emily Dolson
Assistant Professor in Computer
Science and Engineering,
MSU

Come join us!
Each lecture will last for about an hour with Q and A to follow.

