



THE COUNTY COMMUNICATOR

COMMUNICATION FROM ADMINISTRATION

On Monday, December 25, 2023 and Tuesday, December 26, 2023, most Muskegon County facilities will be closed in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. While you deck the halls and enjoy your festivities, I hope you find time to relax, unwind, and create priceless memories.

As the year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for all of the Muskegon County employees - the commitment to our shared goals and values is truly commendable. 2023 has been filled with challenges and triumphs, and your dedication, hard work, and commitment have been the driving force behind our continued success. Thank you for being an integral part of our amazing team.

On Monday, January 1, 2024 and Tuesday, January 2, 2024, most Muskegon County facilities will be closed in observance of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. I look forward to the new adventures, exciting opportunities, and collaborative success 2024 will bring.

While the majority of County facilities are closed to observe the holidays, some are not able to do so. To those working the holidays, thank you for your service and dedication.

On behalf of the entire Muskegon County staff, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a holiday season full of joy, togetherness, and good health.



MUSKEGON COUNTY CITIZEN/LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

During the Full Board meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 under the Chairman's Report/Committee Liaison Reports the following 27 citizens were appointed or reappointed by the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners to serve the community as members of 9 various citizen board, commissions and committees (collectively referred to as 'citizen/liaison appointments'):

Accommodation Tax Advisory Committee

Erin Schmitz (Amusement/Attraction) term through 12/31/26 - Reappointment
Kevin Newton (Festivals/Events) term through 12/31/26 - Reappointment

Airport Development Committee

Cindy Larsen (Chamber of Commerce) term through 12/31/25 - Reappointment
John Workman (Public) term through 12/31/25 - Reappointment
Andy Kusneske (Private Sector) term through 12/31/25 - Reappointment
Brandon Bolde (Private Sector) term through 12/31/25 - Reappointment
Sandy Lovrencic (Airport Business Park Tenant) term through 12/31/25 - Reappointment

Community Mental Health/HealthWest

John Weerstra (Consumer – Secondary) term through 12/31/26 - Appointment

Lakeshore Regional Entity (LRE) Substance Abuse (PA2)

Louis E. Churchwell (Citizen) term through 12/31/26 - Appointment

Library Board

Bob Scolnik (At Large) term through 12/31/26 - Reappointment

Museum Board

Jackie Engle term through 12/31/26 - Reappointment

Parks and Recreation Commission

Gary Langlois (District 1) - Appointment
Zach Lahring (District 2)
Alicia Kantola (District 3) - Appointment
Aaron Bodbyl-Mast (District 4) - Appointment
Richard Nolan (District 5) - Appointment
Jessica Cook (District 6)
Mark E. Glover (District 7) - Appointment
Kenneth Hulka (Muskegon County Road Commission) - Appointment

Senior Activities Committee

Charles (Greg) Scott (Grant Writer) term through 12/31/26 - Reappointment
Rachel Cereska (At-Large) term through 12/31/26 - Reappointment

MUSKEGON COUNTY CITIZEN/LIAISON APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

Solid Waste Planning

Steven Bieseda (Public) term through 12/31/25 - Reappointment

Sidney Shaw (Environmental) term through 12/31/25 - Reappointment

Barbara Marczak (Environmental) term through 12/31/25 - Reappointment

William Crabtree (Industrial) term through 12/31/25 - Reappointment

Scott Huebler (City) term through 12/31/25 - Reappointment

Joseph Kuerth (Solid Waste Management) term through 12/31/25 - Appointment

“Thank you for your interest in deciding to serve or continuing to serve. We are thankful you are willing to devote your time and efforts to our community” said Charles Nash, Muskegon County Board Chair. “Muskegon County has an exciting future and we are glad you want to be a part of it. Your valuable knowledge and expertise are essential as we prepare for the new year. Again, thank you for your service and we look forward to working with you.”

Citizen/Liaison appointments are an integral part of the process in County government. The Muskegon County Board of Commissioners functions with the support of a variety of boards, commissions, and committees that provide oversight for important services within Muskegon County. The origin, structure (size, term, tenure, appointments), and eligibility (residency, knowledge, interest) requirements for each board, commission, and committee member are prescribed by the applicable Federal or State Law, County Ordinance, Bylaws, or a Resolution of the board. The Board of Commissioners has adopted a Citizen Appointment/Reappointment Policy No. 2006-195 (Approval Date: April 11, 2006, Amendment Date: September 29, 2015). This policy sets the procedures to follow in making these appointments. In addition to the Board policy, there are administrative procedures to ensure compliance as well which can be found in the Procedures for Citizen Appointments To Boards, Commissions, Committees April 2019 document.

The Muskegon County Board of Commissioners annually seeks residents interested in serving the community through appointments to its boards and committees. Interested residents may view all current vacancies and apply online by visiting:
<https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/FormCenter/Administration-6/Citizen-Appointment-Application-116>

The Muskegon County Board of Commissioners will accept applications throughout the year and will remain on file for one year. If a position you selected becomes vacant, your application will be sent to the Board Chair for review.

For more information on the Muskegon County Citizen/Liaison Appointments visit:
<https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/1045/Citizen-Appointments>

MUSKEGON COUNTY MICHAEL E. KOBZA HALL OF JUSTICE 990 TERRACE STREET RENOVATION UPDATES

Curtain Wall & Courtroom Renovation Updates:

Asbestos abatement contaminants were set-up in the north courtroom and hallway. Abatement in those areas is complete. Demolition work is nearly complete in the Circuit Court Records and North Courtroom areas as shown in photos. The south half of floor is currently under containment for asbestos abatement. Demolition work will start on the south half of floor in January.



South View of North Courtroom



Former CCR Area



North View of Former CCR & Courtroom Area



North Jury Deliberation Restroom



North Courtroom Prepped for Abatement



North Hallway Prepped for Abatement

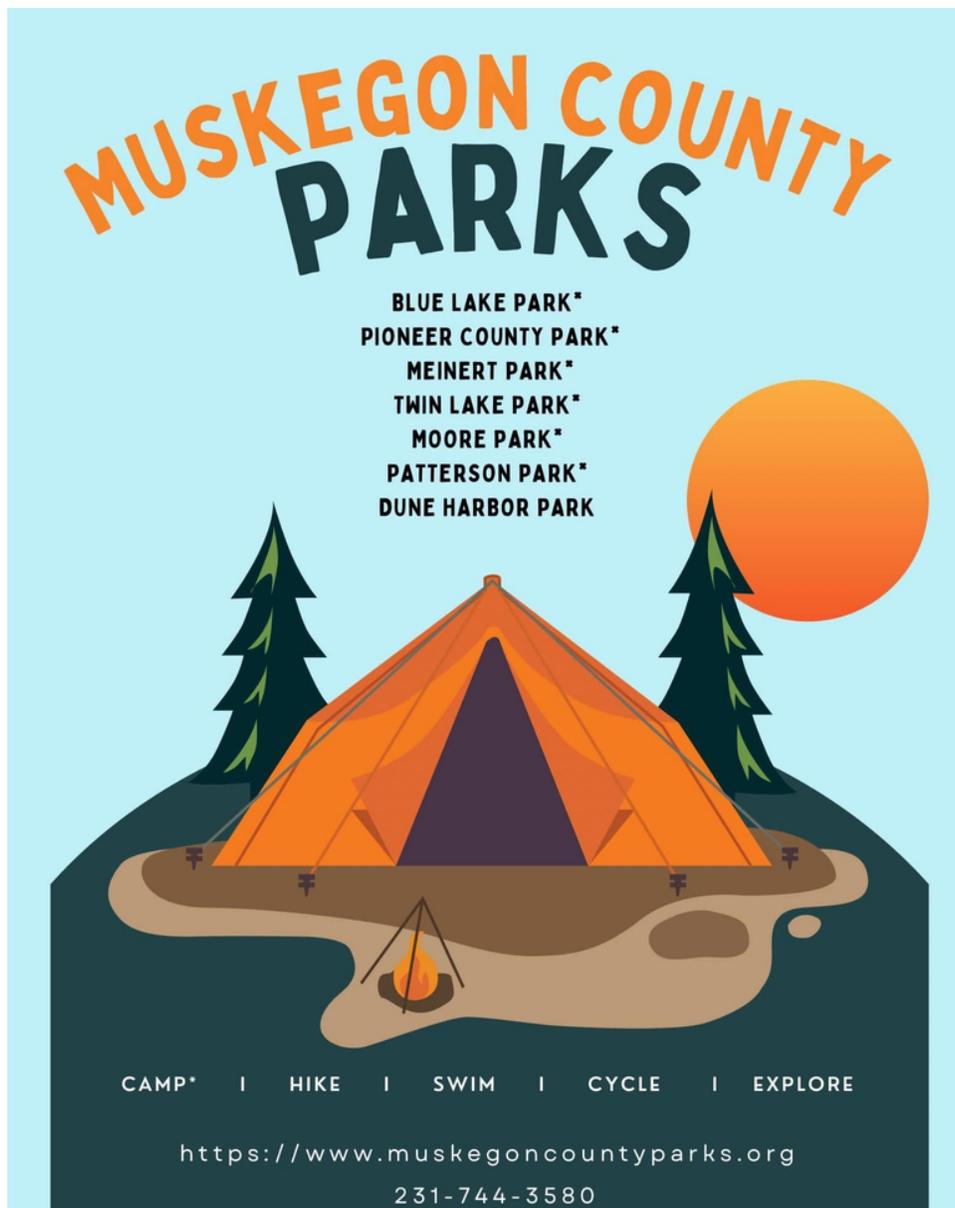
Contractor: Erhardt Construction – Architect: DLZ

MUSKEGON COUNTY PARKS – 2024 PARKING PASS & CAMPING

Looking for the perfect gift for the nature lover in your life? For just \$20 you can purchase a Muskegon County Parks Season Parking Pass!

Stop by the Muskegon County Convention Visitors Bureau (CVB) located in Downtown Muskegon at 610 West Western Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49441 weekdays between 9:00am–3:00pm to purchase. Not only are you supporting local, it is also the perfect way to remind that special someone in your life that it's almost time to secure your Muskegon County Parks campsite. Spots fill up fast, so be sure to mark your calendar! Reservations Open at 8:00am on Monday, March 4, 2024.

Visit <https://www.muskegoncountyparks.org> to learn more about all of the Muskegon County Parks



MUSKEGON COUNTY EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION & AWARDS

On Thursday, November 30, 2023 Renee Gavin, Muskegon County Emergency Manager, was presented with a Certificate of Achievement in honor of her invaluable service and contributions to the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division during her work on the 2023 Operations Swift Response Functional Exercise.

The Certificate of Achievement was also presented to Mark Watkins (Osceola County Emergency Management), Abby Watkins (Newaygo County Emergency Management), Josh Westgate (Newaygo County Deputy Director), and Lieutenant Orville Theaker (District 6 Coordinator). District 6 is comprised of the following 13 Counties: Clare, Isabella, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa.



CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

Renee Gavin

MUSKEGON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In honor of their invaluable service and contributions to the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division on their work on the 2023 Operation Swift Response Functional Exercise.

Your dedication, hard work, and expertise have made significant impacts on our community and the state of Michigan. This will better prepare our state to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, disasters, and threats to our homeland.

November 30, 2023

DATE

CAPT. KEVIN SWEENEY, COMMANDER

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (GFOA) CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING AWARDED TO THE MUSKEGON COUNTY FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Muskegon County annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended on September 30, 2022 qualified for the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which include demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

A formal presentation of the Certificate of Achievement as well as an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement (AFRA) was presented to the Muskegon County Finance Department during the Tuesday, December 19, 2023 Full Board Meeting under the Chairman’s Report.



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

**County of Muskegon
Michigan**

For its Annual Comprehensive
Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended

September 30, 2022

Christopher P. Morill

Executive Director/CEO



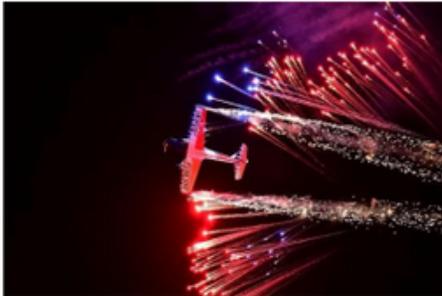
47884 'D' Street Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 483 —4030 • www.YankeeAirMuseum.org • FEIN 38-2387453

Contact: Ashley Myers, Wings Over Muskegon Director, Ashley.Myers@yankeeairmuseum.org, 734-274-9703
Ken Efting, Muskegon County Airport Director - F3 Airport kefting@f3airport.com, 231-798-4596

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2024 Wings Over Muskegon Tickets on Sale Today!

Initial Performer Lineup Announced



GhostWriter Airshows



Hot Streak II JetTruck



USAF A10C Thunderbolt II

BELLEVILLE, MICH. (December 12, 2023) –Tickets for the 2024 Wings Over Muskegon Air Show go on sale today at <https://wingsovermuskegon.com/tickets/>. The show will take place August 9-11 and uses dynamic pricing, which means the lowest prices for general admission and parking are today and will incrementally increase once certain thresholds are reached. All tickets, including parking, must be purchased online. Organizers are able to keep prices at the 2023 levels and have added a number of ticket options for the Friday Twilight Show. Family-friendly pricing includes kids aged 15-years-old and younger are admitted free.

Exhilarating new performers have been added to the preliminary lineup. GhostWriter Airshows, never seen before in Muskegon, brings a “triple crown” of performances with a spectacular twilight performance, awe-inspiring skywriting and a tightly-choreographed daytime routine. Pilot Nathan K. Hammond started his love of aviation and airshows at an early age by soloing an airplane at 16 and receiving his pilot’s license at 17. *GhostWriter*, Hammond’s airplane, is a 1956 deHavilland Super Chipmunk. Originally designed as a training aircraft for the Royal Canadian Air Force, *GhostWriter* was overhauled for two years by Hammond to perform at an elite level.

Also making a debut performance in Muskegon is Hayden Proffitt II in his *Hot Streak II* JetTruck. The grandson of legendary hall of fame dragster, Hayden Proffitt, and a 9-year military veteran, Hayden II brings tenacity and showmanship together as he races the highly-modified '57 Chevy pickup down the runway. The twin-jet engine *Hot Streak II*, with 25,000 horsepower, is capable of speeds over 350 mph, which makes it the fastest '57 Chevy pickup in the world.

-MORE-



47884 'D' Street Belleville, MI 48111
 (734) 483 —4030 • www.YankeeAirMuseum.org • FEIN 38-2387453

Returning for an encore performance is the U.S. Air Force A-10C Thunderbolt II Demonstration Team commanded by Commander/Pilot Major Lindsay, callsign MAD, Johnson. Performing superb close-air support for troops on the ground, the A-10 is highly maneuverable at low speeds and low altitude along with the ability to loiter for long periods of time, which make it a perfect air show demonstration aircraft. The twin-engine Thunderbolt II can be used against light maritime attack aircraft and all ground targets including tanks and armored vehicles. Affectionately called the "Warthog", the A-10 has an impressive 30mm Gatling gun that can fire 3,900 rounds a minute along with laser guided munitions, Maverick and Sidewinder missiles. The USAF Thunderbolt II Demonstration Team hails from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, AZ.

Also returning to the lineup is the civilian four-ship formation squad, the Hooligans Flight Team. The four-ship team will consist of four T-34 Mentors, which were developed in the early 1950's as a training aircraft for the United States Air Force and Navy. Successfully used for decades by the U.S. military, the Mentor was recently replaced by the T-6 Texan II. John Workman, Muskegon resident and charter member of the Hooligans, is also a pilot for Wings of Mercy, that provides transportation to medical destinations for patients who couldn't otherwise afford it. His company, Eagle Alloy Inc., is sponsoring the Hooligan Flight Team at the Wings Over Muskegon Air Show.

The Yankee Air Museum, producer of Wings Over Muskegon, will offer Air Adventures on their World War II era aircraft along with their Vietnam era Huey helicopter. The bucket-list rides will occur on August 9-11 throughout the air show weekend.

The Yankee Air Museum, in conjunction with the Muskegon County Airport and its professional management company, F3 Airport, are excited to continue the air show tradition in Muskegon after a successful launch in 2023. The non-profit Yankee Air Museum assumes financial liability for the event and will use any proceeds to support the Museum and its flyable aircraft.

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About GhostWriter Airshows: <https://www.ghostwriterairshows.com/>

About Hot Streak II JetTruck: <http://smoke-n-thunder.com/>

About USAF A-10 Thunderbolt II Demonstration Team: <https://www.dm.af.mil/A-10-Demonstration-Team/>

About the Hooligan Flight Team: <http://hooliganflight.com/>

About Yankee Air Museum: Established in 1981 the Yankee Air Museum is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. The Yankee Air Museum dedicates itself to educating individuals through the history of American aeronautics, aerospace industry and its associated technologies while inspiring generations through personal experiences to instill pride in our national accomplishments. Yankee Air Museum, located at 47884 D Street, Belleville, Michigan on the grounds of historic Willow Run Airport. Visit www.yankeeairmuseum.org to discover more or call 734-483-4030.

MUSKEGON COUNTY DEPARTMENT UPDATES:



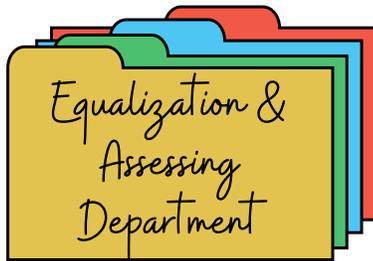
MUSKEGON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

During the month of November, over 400 Veterans and/or their family members received services to include assistance in the forms of: Soldiers/Sailors Relief, Burial, Service Officers, Food Bank, Housing, and other forms of assistance.



MUSKEGON COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES

During the month of November, Human Resources' staff screened 847 employment applications, onboarded 15 new hires and separated 40 employees. Additionally, 4 Performance Exams and 20 Oral Exams were conducted for City of Muskegon positions.



MUSKEGON COUNTY EQUALIZATION & ASSESSING

November was dedicated to finalizing equalization studies which are due out to the assessors by December 1, 2023. Our work included compiling data and performing appraisals and reports for the 2023 equalization studies, and appraisal-related work for a multitude of tax appeals. The 2023 Tax Abatement Report was also completed and published.

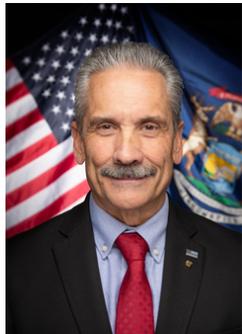


MUSKEGON COUNTY 14TH CIRCUIT AND PROBATE COURT

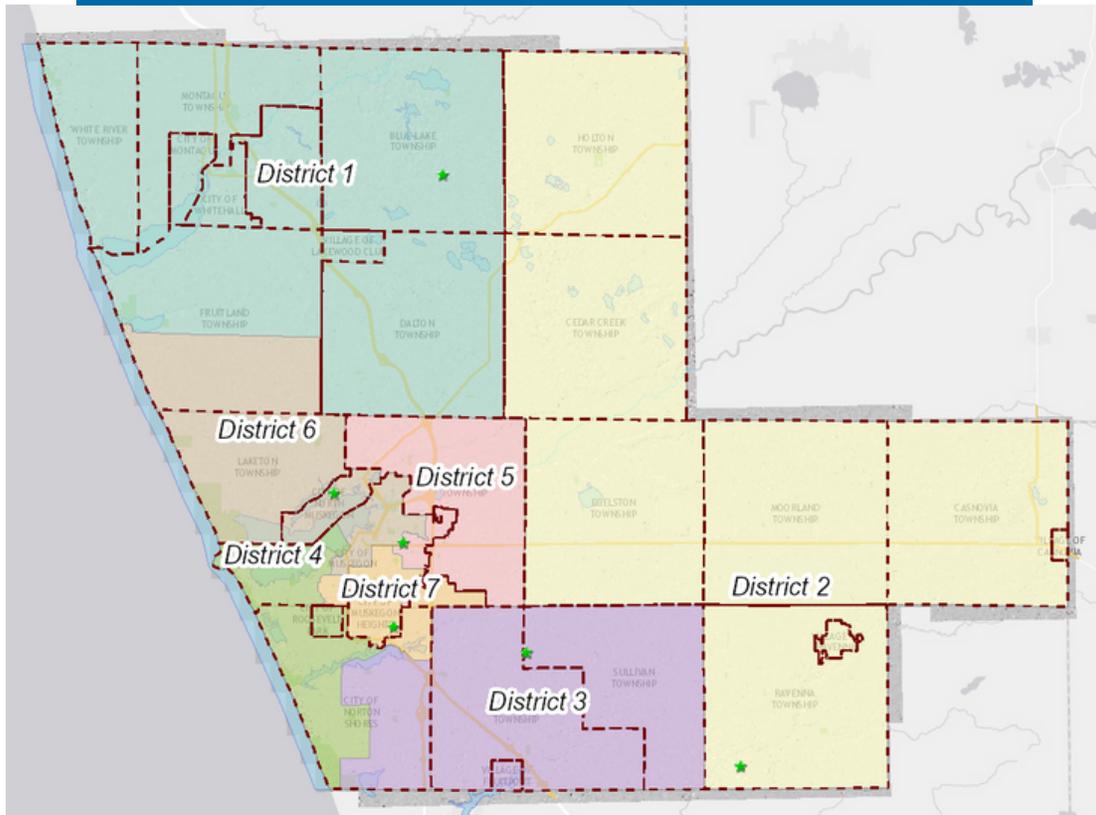
Beginning January 1, 2024 we have a new 14th Circuit Court judicial leadership team! Judge Kenneth S. Hoopes will become the Chief Judge of the Circuit and Probate Court, Judge Gregory C. Pittman will be Chief Judge Pro Tem, and Judge Jenny L. McNeill will be our Presiding Family Court Judge.

Muskegon County Board of Commissioners:

- Chair Charles Nash (D) - District 5
- Vice Chair Marcia Hovey-Wright (D) - District 4
- Kim Cyr (R) - District 1
- Zach Lahring (R) - District 2
- Michelle Hazekamp (R) - District 3
- Jessica Cook (D) - District 6
- Darrell Paige (D) - District 7



My County Commissioner District - Effective January 2023



For Agendas, Minutes, Live Meetings and Recordings Please Visit:
<https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/129/Agendas-Minutes>

January 2024 Muskegon County Board of Commissioners Organizational Meeting



During the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners Organizational Meeting the dates, times and location for all regular committee and board meetings will be determined for the entire 2024 calendar year. If there is a change in the schedule of regular meetings, there will be an updated posted after the meeting at which the changes is made, a public notice stating the new dates, times, and places of its regular meetings.

To obtain a copy of the Rules of the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners please visit:
<https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/1711/Board-of-Commissioners>

For Agendas, Minutes, Live Meetings and Recordings Please Visit:
<https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/129/Agendas-Minutes>



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Muskegon County



@muskegoncountymi

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have information you would like to share with others in Muskegon County, Newsletter Feedback, Ideas?

If so, please email Sara Cooper, Community Relations Coordinator/Executive Assistant Administration, at coopersa@co.muskegon.mi.us with the subject line **MCFI News Article**

The information provided will be reviewed. If your submission is chosen you will be contacted via email.

Submission Deadline is the 1st of each month.

*If submission guidelines are not followed your article will not be reviewed.

Visit the Muskegon County Website and Social Media Accounts for the latest updates
<https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us>