



# THE COUNTY COMMUNICATOR

## COMMUNICATION FROM ADMINISTRATION

During the January 4, 2024 Organizational Meeting the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners adopted the 2024 Calendar, 2024 Committee Assignments/Chair, Vice Chair Appointments, 2024 Commissioner Liaison Appointments, and the Muskegon County Board Rules. During the meeting Vice-Chair Marcia Hovey-Wright (D) District 4, announced that she is resigning as Vice-Chair effective upon her replacement. During the January 23, 2024 Full Board the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners elected Commissioner Jessica Cook (D) District 6 as the new Vice-Chair.

Chair  
Charles Nash (D)  
District 5



Vice-Chair  
Jessica Cook (D)  
District 6

We are kicking off the new year with some exciting updates to share on various projects we continue to work on!

Muskegon County continues to collaborate with Greater Muskegon Economic Development (GMED) and high speed internet companies to leverage Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) grants to provide high speed internet to the areas in Muskegon County that do not currently have it.

We have also been working with the Community Foundation for Muskegon County as well as municipal and business leaders to seek to establish a broad-based community understanding of the opportunities available to address local and regional housing needs. Part of this project includes community presentations by Ryan Kilpatrick, Flywheel Companies and Housing Next which is a valuable asset to share data, gather community input, and engage directly with the stakeholders. We encourage you to participate in the upcoming housing presentations scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 8:00am at United Way of the Lakeshore - 31 East Clay Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442 and Monday, March 4, 2024 at 5:30pm during the City of Muskegon Heights Council Meeting located at 2724 Peck Street, Muskegon Heights, MI 49444.

# MUSKEGON COUNTY MICHAEL E. KOBZA HALL OF JUSTICE

## 990 TERRACE STREET RENOVATION UPDATES

- Patching, painting, and new window sill installation were completed on the west side of the HOJ to restore areas disturbed by curtain wall installation.
- Punch list completion is in progress on HOJ 4th renovation areas.
- Asbestos abatement activities were completed on HOJ 6th floor. Demolition of walls and floor covering systems continues. All of these activities occur during the evening and night. The 6th floor is almost entirely wide open now, except for the elevator shaft area, as shown in project photos.
- A piece of the past will remain on 6th floor. The solid wood benches used in both courtrooms for over 60 years will be refinished and reinstalled at project's end instead of buying new. This will result in a significant cost savings and retain a familiar look.
- On the 1/15 MLK Holiday, Facilities worked with the contractor to shutdown potable water and building boilers to make modifications to the 6th floor potable water system and the heated glycol piping system. Work was successfully completed and turned back on for arrival of occupants the next day.



Benches Awaiting Removal for Refinishing



Hallway Tile Demolition



North Courtroom Area Looking South



South Courtroom Area Looking North

Contractor: Erhardt Construction – Architect: DLZ

## MUSKEGON COUNTY CLERK – 9 DAYS OF EARLY VOTING

In November 2022, Michigan voters approved a constitutional amendment that gives voters the right to vote early and in person at early voting sites. Early voting allows a voter to cast a ballot before Election Day, in an experience similar to voting on Election Day. During the early voting period, voters are issued a ballot and can then insert their ballot directly into a tabulator at their early voting site.

Early voting begins Saturday, February 17, 2024 at the Muskegon County Marquette Campus – The Student Center – 1903 Marquette Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442. All Muskegon County residents (excluding Holton Township and Dalton Township) are eligible to vote at the Muskegon County Marquette Campus. The Townships of Dalton and Holton have opted out of county-wide early voting and will provide their own early voting options. The City of Muskegon will provide a polling location in addition to the Muskegon County Marquette Campus centralized polling location.

### Muskegon County Early Voting Locations

Muskegon County Marquette Campus – Student Center  
(Centralized Polling Location)  
1903 Marquette Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442

City of Muskegon – City Hall  
(Additional Polling Location)  
933 Terrace Street, Muskegon, MI 49440

Dalton Township – Township Hall  
(Dalton Township Residents Only Location Available)  
1616 East Riley Thompson Road, Muskegon, MI 49445  
*For More Information please contact Dalton Township at 231-766-3043*

Holton Township – Township Hall  
(Holton Township Residents Only Location Available)  
6511 Holton Whitehall Road, Holton, MI, 49425  
*For More Information please contact Holton Township at 231-821-2168*

### Muskegon County Early Voting Dates & Times

Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 8:00am – 4:00pm  
Sunday, February 18, 2024 from 10:00am – 6:00pm  
Monday, February 19, 2024 from 9:00am – 5:00pm  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 from 9:00am – 5:00pm  
Wednesday, February 21, 2024 from 9:00am – 5:00pm  
Thursday, February 22, 2024 from 11:00am – 7:00pm  
Friday, February 23, 2024 from 9:00am – 5:00pm  
Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 8:00am – 4:00pm  
Sunday February 25, 2024 from 10:00am – 6:00pm

## MUSKEGON COUNTY CLERK – ELECTIONS INSPECTORS NEEDED

Muskegon County Clerk Karen D. Buie and Elections Coordinator, Lori K. Hayes, are actively inviting individuals with an interest in participating in the electoral process to apply for the role of Election Inspector!

During the Full Board meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners approved the creation of one hundred fifty-three (153) Election Inspectors on-call positions at a pay range of \$18.00 - \$20.00 per hour.

Election Inspectors are paid positions that are trained to work in the precincts on Election Day, process absentee ballots in absentee voter counting boards, or run early voting sites. Election inspectors consist of individuals from all political affiliations.

Those interested in applying to be an Election Inspector please visit:  
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/muskegon>

For more information Muskegon County Elections Information please visit:  
<https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/502/Election-Information>



**VOTE**  
*Early In-person Voting*

**Available Dates/Times for Early Voting**

**Presidential Primary**  
**FEBRUARY**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>17</b> 8am - 4pm
<b>18</b> 10am - 6pm	<b>19</b> 9am - 5pm	<b>20</b> 9am - 5pm	<b>21</b> 9am - 5pm	<b>22</b> 11am - 7pm	<b>23</b> 9am - 5pm	<b>24</b> 8am - 4pm
<b>25</b> 10am - 6pm		<b>Election Day 27</b> 7am - 8pm at your polling location				

*Location*  
 **1903 Marquette Ave**  
**Muskegon, MI**

## MUSKEGON COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY

The last demolition of 2023 is now complete. The Muskegon County Land Bank Authority used Blight Elimination Funding courtesy of the Michigan State Land Bank Authority to demolish the property located in the 3200 Block of Eighth Street, City of Muskegon Heights, MI 49444. This was a tax foreclosed property that did not sell and ended up with the Muskegon County Land Bank Authority.

The Muskegon Land Bank Authority was formed in 2007 to transform vacant, tax delinquent and abandoned property for the benefit of the surrounding property, to improve the community, stabilize the area, give low income families the opportunity to be home owners, and return the property to the tax rolls.

The Muskegon County Land Bank Authority says the focus for 2024 will be shifting to rehabilitations in partnership with the Michigan State Land Bank Authority.

For more information about the Muskegon County Land Bank Authority please visit:  
<https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/1710/Land-Bank>

For more information about the Michigan State Land Bank Authority please visit:  
<https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/landbank>



## MUSKEGON COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

*The Southeast Regional Force Main is Gaining Momentum!*

The Southeast Regional Force Main connection is a 30-inch force main wastewater line that will extend nearly 18 miles between two communities, allowing food processors in Coopersville, Polkton Township, and Ravenna Township to take advantage of excess capacity at the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center. The proposed pipeline from the City of Coopersville to the Resource Recovery Center is a sixty-five million dollar project.

The overall project will consist of the following eight various construction projects:

1. Force main construction from West Randall Street in Coopersville to the Muskegon County border
2. Force main construction from the Muskegon County border to Heights Ravenna Road
3. Force main construction from Heights Ravenna Road to the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center
4. Swanson Pickle lift station and force main
5. West Randall lift station
6. New City of Coopersville lift station
7. City of Coopersville sewer re-routing
8. Conversion of Coopersville lagoon to retention basin

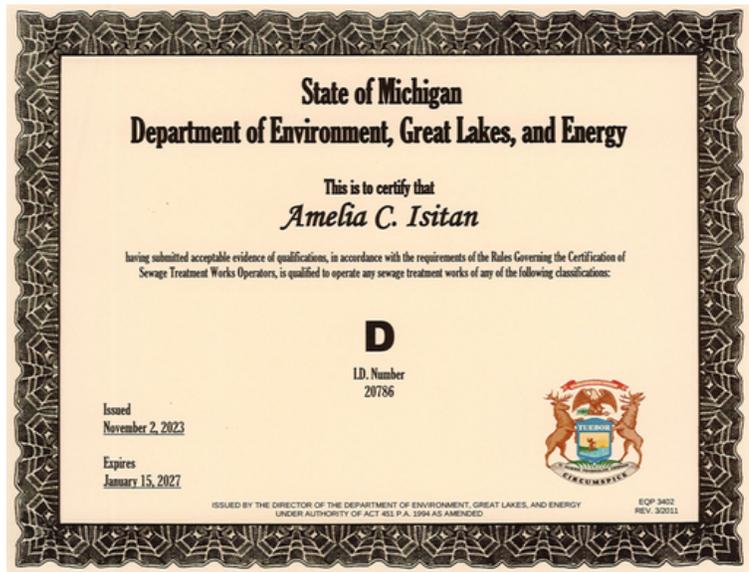
The first four of the listed projects will soon be ready to go out for bids and will likely be awarded in May of 2024. The four projects are projected to be completed around the end of 2025. Once the first four projects are completed, Swanson Pickle, DeVries Meats, and Applegate Dairy digester will be able to start discharging to the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center. The City of Coopersville will require an additional two years of construction beyond that before they are able to discharge. Continental Dairy Facilities and fairlife, two large industries located in Coopersville, will be able to begin discharge into the pipeline prior to the rest of the City.

## MUSKEGON COUNTY EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Congratulations Amelia Isitan, Operations Supervisor at the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center, for receiving your municipal wastewater treatment plant operator certification.

“Usually getting a “D” is bad news. Not in this case,” exclaimed Dave Johnson, Director at the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center.

“I am thrilled to have received my D-License as a Wastewater Operator,” stated Amelia Isitan, Operations Supervisor at the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center. “I am grateful for the guidance the Resource Recovery Center continues to show me in my pursuit of higher licensing opportunities.”



Muskegon County Clerk Karen Buie and her amazing staff have been helping individuals at the Muskegon Rescue Mission Community Resource Center reconnect with their birth certificates.

Once a month, Muskegon County Clerk’s Office staff bring all necessary equipment such as computers, printers, paper, etc. to assist individuals in the process of reconnecting with their birth certificates.

Since May 2023 at least 80 individuals – including children – now have their birth certificates thanks to the Muskegon County Clerk’s Office dedication, outreach & community engagement.

## MSU EXTENSION: 4-H FALL HIGHLIGHTS

### *Sock It to Homelessness Campaign*

Isolde attended the National 4-H Congress in 2022 and encountered a homeless man that she said changed her life and gave her a new perspective.

When she returned to Michigan, she was more grateful for what she had, and wanted to make a difference in the world. Isolde decided to collect socks for the homeless and started setting out boxes in the County. Donations were slow to start so Isolde took her story to Fox 17 and MLive and after that is when the donations started rolling in! In total Isolde collected over 1,100 pairs of socks that she donated to area shelters in November 2023.



*Isolde Deal is photographed with some of her sock donations*

### *Winter Clothing Drive*

The Denim N' Dust 4-H Club cooperated with multiple venues to put out donation boxes for a community winter clothing drive. Items collected will be distributed to families in need in Muskegon County. Partnered with Three Oaks Charter Academy and DHS, they were able to collect over 350 items!

Items Included:

5 pairs of boots, 7 pairs of snow pants, 20 childrens coats, 14 scarves, 46 adult coats, 82 pairs of gloves, 92 hats, and 75 miscellaneous clothing items.



*Denim N' Dust 4-H Club photographed with some of the donations gathered during the community winter clothing drive*

### *Fall 4-H Banquet & Awards Night*

During the Fall 4-H Banquet and Awards night for Muskegon County 4-H delivered project pins to many nominated youths. Youth gave short speeches on the topics that they were recognized for after receiving their pin. Muskegon County specific awards for community service, leader of the year, teen leader of the year, friend of 4-H, and more were awarded this night. Pictured to the left is Isolde Deal who was awarded the Teen Leader of the Year, Marian Judd Award, and the Club Community Service Award for Ravenna Livestock 4-H Club.



*Isolde Deal is holding her awards*

## WINTER WEATHER IS HERE! STAY SAFE MUSKEGON COUNTY!

Thank you to those who work around the clock to provide essential services in response to the winter weather.

Please keep in mind that conditions can vary across the road network, so continue to drive with caution and use reduced speeds.

Here are some friendly reminders & helpful tips from the County Road Association of Michigan to ensure safety for all on the wintry roads:

- Don't crowd the plow
- Never pass a plow on the right
- Don't assume the plow driver can see your vehicle
- Trucks release salt and sand from the back of the truck
- Plow trucks travel between 25-35 MPH
- Remain at least 70 feet (four car lengths) away from the plow truck

For more details on the friendly reminders & helpful tips check out the flyer from the County Roads Association of Michigan below.

### Don't Crowd the Plow!

- NEVER PASS A PLOW ON THE RIGHT.** Plows push snow to the right shoulder and may use a wing (often 6 to 8 feet long) which is difficult to see.
- DON'T ASSUME THE PLOW DRIVER CAN SEE YOUR VEHICLE.** The driver's field of vision is limited. You may see the driver, but the driver may not see you.
- TRUCKS RELEASE SALT AND SAND FROM THE BACK OF THE TRUCK.** If you're too close to the truck, materials could hit your windshield and obstruct visibility.
- PLOW TRUCKS TRAVEL BETWEEN 25-35 MPH.** Allow enough time and space to safely stop or slow down.

**Remain at least 70 feet (four car lengths) away from the plow truck to:**

- Ensure the driver can see you at all times.
- Allow time for you to slow down or stop.
- Avoid obstructing visibility from material release or cloud of snow.

*Remember plow trucks may need to back up at intersections during storm clean-up so please leave them room to do so.*

**CRA** County Road Association OF MICHIGAN  
micountyroads.org

MUSKEGON COUNTY ROAD SERVICE  
TO STAY TOGETHER

## MUSKEGON COUNTY DEPARTMENT UPDATES:



### MUSKEGON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

During the month of December, 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 839 employment applications, onboarded 16 new hires and separated 16 employees. Additionally, 19 Oral Exams were conducted for City of Muskegon positions.

### MUSKEGON COUNTY EQUALIZATION & ASSESSING



December was dedicated to Board of Review related activities, personal property canvassing and preparation for mailing of the statements, compiling data and performing appraisals and reports for the 2024 equalization studies, and appraisal-related work for a multitude of tax appeals.

### MUSKEGON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



During the January 23, 2024 Full Board Meeting under the Chairman's Report/Committee Liaison Reports Jessica Cook (D) - District 6 was elected as Vice Chair of the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners.

### UPCOMING HOUSING PRESENTATIONS

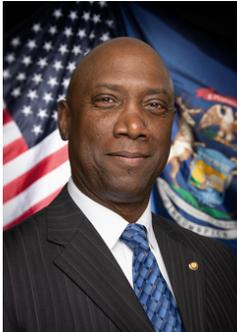
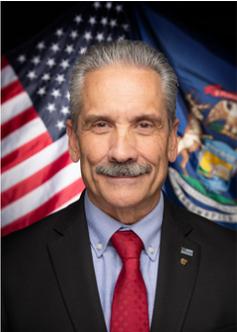


Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 8:00am  
United Way Board Meeting  
31 East Clay Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442

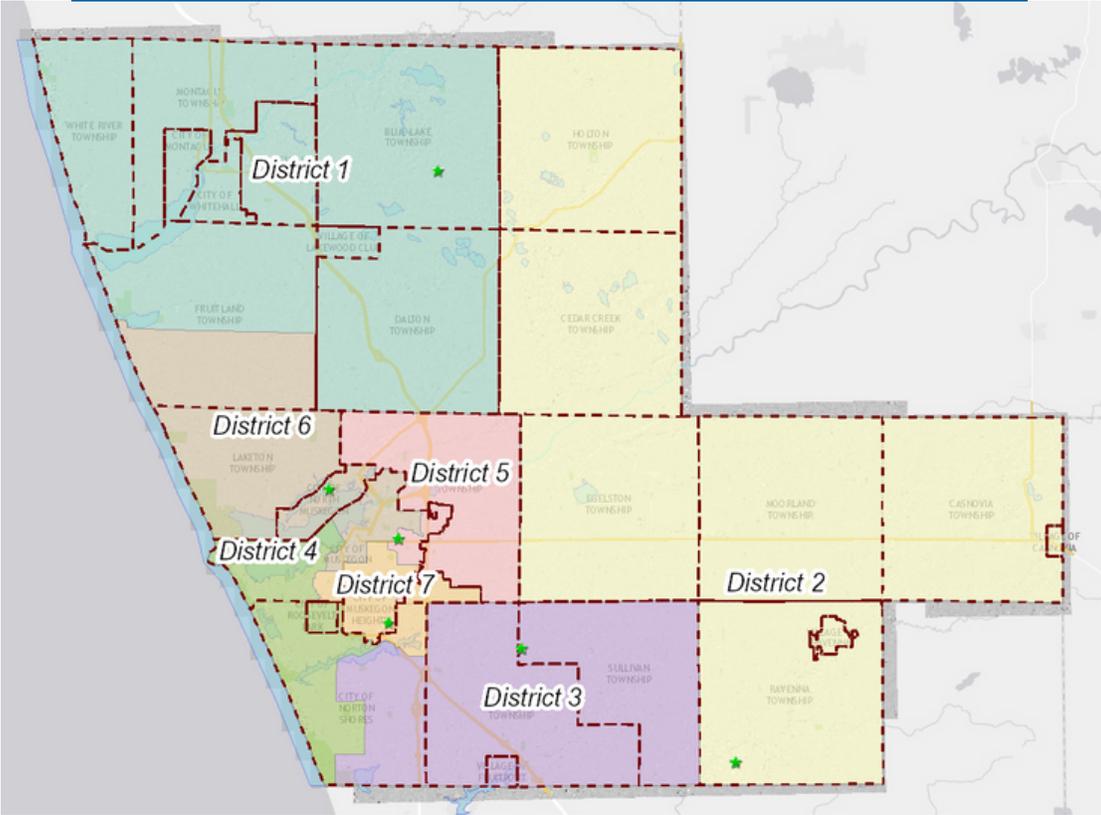
Monday, March 4, 2024 at 5:30pm  
City of Muskegon Heights Council Meeting  
2724 Peck Street, Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

**Muskegon County Board of Commissioners:**

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

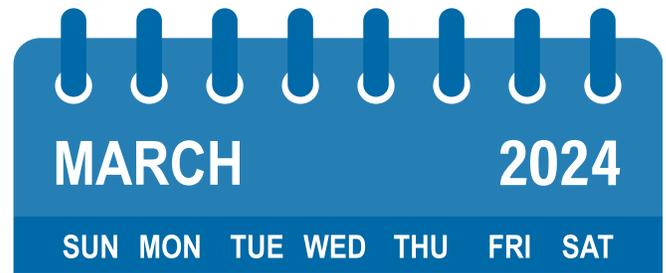
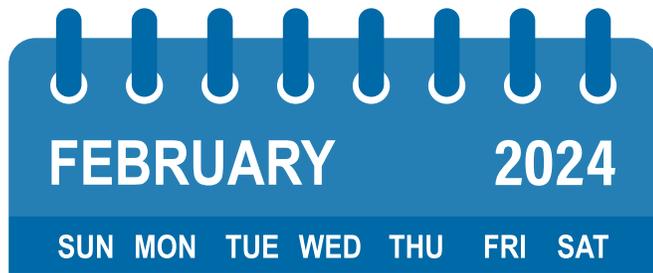


**My County Commissioner District - Effective January 2023**



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

**February & March 2024 Committee Meetings, Board Meetings & Work Sessions**



				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

**February 2024 Committee & Board Meetings**

**March 2024 Committee & Board Meetings**

Thursday, February 1, 2024  
Public Works

Thursday, March 7, 2024  
Public Works

Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
Human Services  
Ways & Means

Tuesday, March 12, 2024  
Human Services  
Ways & Means

Thursday, February 15, 2024  
Transportation  
Courts & Public Safety

Thursday, March 14, 2024  
Transportation  
Courts & Public Safety

Community Development & Strategic Planning

Community Development & Strategic Planning

Tuesday, February 20, 2024  
Full Board

Tuesday, March 19, 2024  
Full Board

**February 2024 Work Sessions**

**March 2024 Work Sessions**

Thursday, February 22, 2024  
Work Session - Topic TBD

Thursday, March 21, 2024  
Work Session - Topic TBD

All Committee Meetings, Board Meetings & Work Sessions will begin at 4:00 pm and will be held at the Muskegon County Marquette Campus 1903 Marquette Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442

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

The Muskegon County Board of Commissioners are currently accepting applications from residents interested in serving the community through appointments to its various boards and committees.

Interested residents may submit applications for the following open appointments:

Accommodation Tax Advisory Committee (3-year term)

Sports/Recreation  
Hotels/Motels

Airport Development Committee (2-year term)

Airport Private-Sector  
Airport Business Park Tenant  
Airline Service Representative

Community Corrections Advisory Board (3-year term)

Workforce Investment Board  
Business

HealthWest (3-year term)

Lived Experience

Solid Waste Planning Committee (2-year term)

Solid Waste Management - 3 Positions  
Township

For more information please visit  
<https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/1045/Citizen-Appointments>

OR

Email [larsenli@co.muskegon.mi.us](mailto:larsenli@co.muskegon.mi.us)



**STAY INFORMED: FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



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 [coopesa@co.muskegon.mi.us](mailto:coopesa@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>