

## Edward Jones is celebrating 100 years of impact

While much has changed at Edward Jones over the last 100 years, one thing remains the same: our commitment to your financial journey. We're proud to enter our second century of helping to create brighter futures for our clients and their families.



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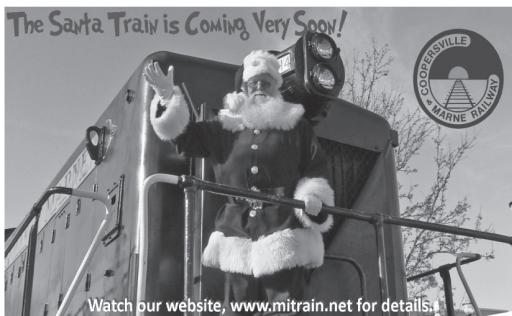
## Friends of Coopersville & Marne Railway 34th Annual "Santa Train"

Everyone loves Santa and he's on our train!

Our holiday vintage train has a special seat reserved just for the Big Guy and all the kids get to meet him. Our story-teller will read Christmas-themed books to the children in each of our newly renovated passenger cars. And Santa's elves will deliver a small gift to all the children. The quaint downtown of Coopersville will be decorated in the Christmas spirit. Grandpa, grandma, mom, dad and kids of all ages love our Santa Train.

Our coaches are comfortably heated. The round trip to Marne and visit with Santa takes 90 minutes. Premium tickets include a beverage and snack plus table seating. Our historic handicap accessible car will be on the train.

To order your tickets please visit [mitrain.net](http://mitrain.net). Our Santa Train runs every Saturday and Sunday November 26 through December 18th. Hurry, Santa Trains sell out quickly



Please arrive 30 minutes early for the boarding process. If you have your Car and seat assignment please board. If not, visit our station at 306 Main Street in Coopersville for assistance.

We have restrooms on board. And restrooms are also available at our station.

You must select the adult or senior tickets before the children and infant tickets become available (sorry no kids on the train without accompanying adult :-).

## Welcome to the Muskegon Maritime Academy, for Grades K-5

by Calvin and Kate Holtrop

The Muskegon Maritime Academy was cofounded by local businessman Franklin A. Fudail and former Navy SEAL Remi Adeleke. Combining classes in math, reading, manners, STEM-based water and maritime skills, and self-defense training, with a unique military-style environment, the academy aims to teach children the values of self-confidence, self-esteem and respect for others.

Located at 571 E. Apple Avenue, the Muskegon Maritime Academy opened September 6 in what used to be Angell Elementary School. About \$700,000 in private funds were raised to transform Angell Elementary into the MMA.

The elementary charter academy's strong emphasis on mental toughness, self-discipline, teamwork, and academic success, as well as on self-defense and military training, makes the Muskegon Maritime Academy the first of its kind in the United States.

Concept development for the MMA began in 2009, after Adeleke was sent by the U.S. Navy to speak to Fudail's boxing club. Capitalizing on the success of the Muskegon Heights Boxing Club Reading & Math Program and the Navy's training principles, the MMA hopes to instill their core values in Muskegon's young children. The school also holds separate classes for boys and girls, and has a uniform dress code as in the military.

The key to the curriculum of the MMA is the Performance Psychology Program. According to developer Dr. Kathryn Longshore, a West Point Performance Enhancement Specialist and acclaimed psychologist, the curriculum is designed to "empower [these young students] to take control of their inner world early on in development, and set them up for future and lasting success..."

A key partnership for the Muskegon Maritime Academy is with My Dress Rehearsal, whose founder and CEO, Patricia Humewell, educates young children in table etiquette and both verbal and nonverbal communication in hopes of establishing good life skills in children at early ages.

Another partnership, with the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, makes monthly drills and advanced training camps available to MMA cadets. "We have a very strong focus on appropriate leadership," the Sea Cadets' regional director Jon Baker told [muskegonradio.com](http://muskegonradio.com). Baker hopes the MMA students who attend the Sea Cadet activities will learn lessons of not bullying or creating social cliques that they will apply in their schools.

And while the boys attending MMA have their own martial arts and self-defense classes, Navy veteran, Ms. Eva Pereda of Muskegon's Island Jiu Jitsu, teaches MMA girls jiu jitsu, developing in them discipline, trust, confidence, teamwork and self-defense.

According to MMA officials, Dr. Byron Varnado has been appointed a senior advisor to the academy's National Advisory Team. Dr. Varnado's twenty plus years' experience as a family doctor at Harborwood Family Medicine, make Fudail look forward to his innovative skills and insightful contributions.

The MMA's board treasurer, longtime local pastor Tyrone Rule, Sr., believes in the school's mission and organized approach toward accomplishing its goal. Rule has a lengthy career ministering to youth. He also spent eight years in the U.S. Navy as a cook and military police officer, leading and participating in Bible studies.

The Muskegon Maritime Academy's board president, Frank Marczak, was drawn to the academy after hearing about its military-style principles, according to [mlive.com](http://mlive.com). An ROTC program in high school helped Marczak realize how influential military routine and structure can be in students' academic successes. He also has had a long career as an educator and worked as president of Muskegon Community College until his retirement in 2005.

Saginaw Valley State University authorized the MMA. In May, 2022, SVSU announced a new scholarship initiative specifically for the maritime academy's 3rd—5th grade students, offering up to \$24,000 for MMA students who attend SVSU after graduating high school.

For further information about the MMA, visit [MuskegonMaritimeAcademy.org](http://MuskegonMaritimeAcademy.org)