



# The QUACKER

DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE 487 FOUNDED BY THE SUGAR ISLAND LIONESS CLUB



*Merry  
Christmas!*

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

2. Fire & EMS Christmas Party 5pm
2. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
5. Sugar Island Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm
6. Fire Station Meeting North 7:00pm
9. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
12. Township Board Meeting 7:00pm
13. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
14. Lions Christmas Party 5:30pm Hilltop
16. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
17. Lions Brunch 8:30am – 11:00am
19. Sugar Island Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm
20. Fire Station Meeting South 7:00pm
21. Winter Solstice
23. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
24. Christmas Eve
24. QUACKER DEADLINE
25. Christmas Day
27. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
30. The Quacker is distributed
30. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
31. New Year's Eve

### *In Memoriam*

Terry Sebastian  
Julie Wilson



## FIRE PLUGS

Merry Christmas from everyone on the Sugar Island Fire Department. While we all are in the best of spirits this time of year, there are some things we all should know to make the season even better. First never start at the beginning of the buffet line. Most times the best items are hidden towards the end. Also, loose fitting clothing is a must. Using two plates is awkward and could lead to spills. And a good guest always brings their own dogie bag. A few simple rules make everything more festive. With holiday parties in mind the fire and ambulance will hold their Christmas party on December 2nd. Get together at 5pm at the Community Center for a Social Hour (or two) and meal will be at 7pm. Thanks to all the people who donated towards our Christmas party especially Jesse who really seems to enjoy a party. And while we are thanking people, a tip of the hat to Bob Miller who donated the car we used for extrication training and then donated the money from the salvage yard. Also, can't thank all the residents of the island for their support and the overwhelming passage of our millage renewal. A great way to support us is to join our department. There will be a training course starting in January. While the course is being held in St Ignace you will be able to take the classroom parts via zoom meetings. If you don't have a good computer or internet, it is available at the North End fire station. We also have a popcorn machine. There are 6 days that you would have to attend practical classes. Currently there are 3 people who are planning on taking the course from our department but more would be welcome. Please contact me or Dave Pine for more information.

Remember we have chimney cleaning equipment to loan.

Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year.

Jim Handziak, S I Fire



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## LIONS DEN

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. We tried to make 3 people a little happier with their \$50 winnings from our monthly raffle. Our lucky winners were: Julie Ringwelski, Nicole Brunet and John Sherry. The 50-50 winner was Tammy Brunett. Had 84 guests and I had a great time visiting. There were some suggestions that I should be working more. But as I used to tell my old boss, "I am doing the best that I can." And he would answer "we expect a little more than that."

We have to pause to remember the loss of our friend and fellow Lion, Julie Wilson. She was a great member of the Lions and our community. She had dry sense of humor and obvious compassion for people and animals. If you haven't seen it yet her family left a nice notice on facebook about the island.

We also lost another islander. Terry Sebastian left us on the 18<sup>th</sup>. He was a person who you could always count on to help anyone out. It is hard to believe he has passed away but as long as we remember him he will be with us, and Terry will be a hard guy to forget. We will be having our members Christmas party on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Hilltop. We will be getting together at 6pm for a social hour and will have our meal at 7. About the only order of business will be approval of the annual donations. If I have not contacted you please call me and let me know if you will be coming.

Sharing the month of December as a birthday month are Greg Blankstrom and Denise Hillier. So. you can cover both their birthday greetings and wish them a Merry Christmas at the same time.

Lion Jim Handziak

## Ferry Fueling

### SUGAR ISLAND FERRY SCHEDULE



*Sugar Islander II*

Ferry leaves Sugar Island on the hour and half-hour.

From 5:00 a.m. till 2:00 a.m.  
3:00 a.m. 4:00 a.m.

Ferry leaves Sault Ste. Marie on the quarter-after and quarter-before the hour.

From 5:15 a.m. till 2:15 a.m.  
3:15 a.m. 4:15 a.m.

**Eastern Upper Peninsula  
Transportation Authority**

Fueling Dates:  
Last Island Ferry before fueling is at 9:30am

*WEDNESDAY  
December 13<sup>th</sup>*

*WEDNESDAY  
December 27<sup>th</sup>*

Fueling takes about an Hour

### MARINE TRAFFIC/FERRY INFO

Active GPS locations of Boat Traffic including our Ferry at:  
[www.marinetraffic.com](http://www.marinetraffic.com)

Audio of Sault Control: USCG  
[www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/9644/web](http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/9644/web)

Ferry schedule information on the Sugar Island Ferry Facebook Page

The E.U.P.T.A. Ferry Hotline:  
906-632-1516, Option #1

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# SI EMS News

November has been a great month for sunshine & warmer weather. Hoping to continue for a few more weeks. Lol I am always wishing ahead! At least we got a few more piles of the leaves picked up ahead of the next snow.

November so far has had 4 ambulance runs. We did get a wonderful donation from an island resident and our goal is to use it for repair of the ambulance mobile steps. My hopping in and out of the ambulance is beginning to get old! We will soon need to change our tires to the snow tires for safety and have the fall check-up. But right now, we are good. We are still looking for new EMTs to become crew members. If you know of EMTs that might be interested in running with SIEMS please give them my contact information, [abeckham@lssu.edu](mailto:abeckham@lssu.edu).

Next up in holidays is Thanksgiving and it is one of my favorites with the turkey and all the fixings. The island does have a Thanksgiving meal in the Community Center that is open to all. They do a wonderful job and I have enjoyed attending this event. Great to see islanders that you may not always see or get to visit with.

As I delivered the SI Phonebooks to the businesses who have them for sale the question of when is the next one being made, came up. On the green phonebook cover it says 2021 to 2024 but it may be more towards the end of the 2024 year and not the beginning. No definite date has been selected for having the latest update published. So if you are interested in adding your Sugar Island information to the next one please send your name, address & phone number(s) for the Sugar Island Phonebook to me at [abeckham@lssu.edu](mailto:abeckham@lssu.edu) or give me a call 906-440-1769. It does take some time to compile the phonebook and I will put a notice out when I am starting to put it together. I also put the new phone entries in the monthly in the Quacker for you to add to your phonebook. The phone directories are available at the SI Westshore Store, the Hilltop Bar and Grill and the Island Books & Crafts on Portage Street in the Soo for \$7.00 each.

Happy holiday to all Sugar Island residents and visitors. Be safe and make sure your address is visible from the street in case of an emergency.

Adrienne Beckham SIEMS Co-Captain

Eric McKerchie  
(906)632-9515

6793 E. McKerchie Tr.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

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### TRANSFER STATIONS

**North End: Sundays, Tuesdays,  
Thursdays,  
& Saturdays 7am-3pm**

**South End: Closed for the Season**

# LIONS' BRUNCH

## ALL-<sup>IN</sup> YOU-CAN-EAT

Join us the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month for breakfast extraordinaire!

8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. \* Sugar Island Community Center

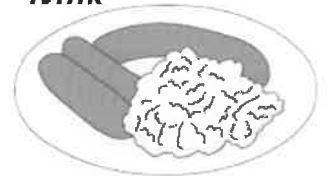
*Eggs \* Sausage \* Bacon \* Hash Browns \* American Fries  
French Toast \* Pancakes \* Toast \* Fruit \* Juice \* Coffee \* Milk*

**Adults: \$8.00**

**Children (5-12): \$3.00**

**COME HUNGRY, LEAVE FULL**

**ENJOY VISITING WITH FELLOW ISLANDERS!**



### *You've Got Mail!*

Get the Quacker via email!! So, no matter where life takes you away from Sugar Island, you can have The Quacker delivered to you via email. It will come to you as a .pdf document. Send your name and email address to us at [siquacker@gmail.com](mailto:siquacker@gmail.com)

So you don't have email . . . send self-addressed envelopes with 2 first class stamps to: 888 S Westshore, Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783 and we will mail you a printed copy or Send us your address and a check payable to: The Quacker for \$15 to: 888 S Westshore, Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783 and we'll do the rest. You can also find copies on Facebook page: I love me some Sugar Island!

Local locations for printed copies:  
Bayliss Library, Island Book and Craft,  
Woody's 1 Stop, Hilltop Bar & Grill,  
The Community Center, Sweet Retreat and  
Westshore Convenience Store

**Curbside services available**  
**Monitor our FB page and/or website.**



**BAYLISS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Affiliate of Superior District Library**

**541 Library Drive**

**Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

**906-632-9331**

**[bayliss.ploud.net](http://bayliss.ploud.net)**

**Facebook Page: Bayliss Public Library**



**Curbside Pick-up**

**Call 906-635-9786**

**Before 11:00am**

**Dine-In Senior Lunch Available**

**Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday**

**Menu for Month Available at**

**The Community Center**

**\$3.00 - 60 and Over**

**\$6.00 - Under 60**



## Sugar Island Township News

Snow is upon us which makes driving more difficult and potentially dangerous. Please be safe. Additionally, everybody should know that driving in Michigan while talking or texting on a cell phone is illegal unless the driver is using a hands-free device. Driving can be difficult when the roads are not clear so please don't make it more difficult by driving distracted.

The Chippewa County Road Commission's (CCRC's) employees do a great job clearing snow across the Island. Unfortunately, far too many of our residents park their vehicles in places that restrict the CCRC crew from doing their jobs. Whenever possible, please park well off the road, away from intersections, and away from mailboxes. As a side note, please don't throw snow from your driveway into the road, or plow snow from your driveway into the ditch across the road from your driveway if you don't own that property. It is disrespectful to plow snow in to or on to somebody else's property.

The election held on November 7, 2023 resulted in the passage of three very critical Township service areas (Fire, Ambulance & Roads). Thank you. Passage of these three millage initiatives allows the Township to continue providing services in these specific areas.

As you might imagine, work continues across the state to bring broadband internet to all 911 addresses in Michigan. Year to date, just over 52% of 911 addressees in the Eastern Upper Peninsula have either received broadband connectivity or have funds set aside for those connections. Unfortunately, Chippewa County's broadband coverage rate is the lowest in the region. Mackinac County has the greatest rate of broadband coverage. So far, about \$150M has been spent or committed for service in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Estimates suggest that it may cost another \$180M (or more) to achieve 100% coverage across the three-county area.

Additionally, we are excited to announce that an internet service provider named Astrea-Connect received a grant of more than \$18M to provide broadband internet to Sugar and Neebish Islands. Experts at the state and federal levels have suggested that Sugar Island Township's visibility efforts have moved us closer to the top of the priority list. Receiving this grant now supports that assessment, especially since about half of Chippewa County is still waiting for service. According to the grant document, we should begin to see fiber being installed this fall and connectivity at every 911 address on Sugar Island by the summer of 2026. Please keep in mind that our participation in the Eastern Upper Peninsula Connect Consortium (EUPCC) has been integral and necessary to this process.

Plus, once broadband connectivity is available, we will continue working with the EUPCC to implement other elements of the State's Digital Equity Plan, especially expanding digital literacy, increasing adoption and affordability. We will publish more details as they become available.

And finally, on behalf of the Township Board, we would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, and a Safe and Happy New Year.

Mark Eitrem, Supervisor

**Notice:** The legal responsibility is on the property owner for paying on the correct parcel of property. The property owner must be responsible for payment on the correct descriptions. The sum stated is for taxes assessed upon the described property.

**It is very important that you review your tax bill to be positive you are receiving a PRE exemption, if you qualify. This was formally known as "Homestead Exemption". It is located on the bottom half of the left side of you tax bill. If you qualify, it should read 100% in the PRE box. For any questions concerning PRE, please contact Kathy Loup, township assessor (1-906-440-1159)**

**Payment Types:**

**Check:** (as conditional payment only, until the check has cleared the bank) Please mail early- it may take the postal service 2 to 3 weeks to deliver your check. Any check not received by 02/29/2024 will be considered late and be returned to sender. Postmark is not considered a payment date.

**Credit Card:** (with a convenience fee) (1-888-604-7888 or (AllPaid) [www.GovPayNow.com](http://www.GovPayNow.com) (Acct#a001h7)

**Cash:** Must be hand delivered to **Treasurer** in person only (DO NOT LEAVE IN DROP BOX)

*A large blue drop box is available on the west side of the Community Center for your convenience.*

No property tax payment will be taken at the township level (except for buildings on leased land and personal property taxes) after 02/29/2024. Property Tax Payment must be made at the County Treasurer's office starting 03/01/24 at 319 Court Street, Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783 phone # 906-635-6308 or [www.chippewacountymi.gov/treasurer](http://www.chippewacountymi.gov/treasurer)

<b><u>Winter Tax Collection:</u></b>	<b><u>Office Hours:</u></b>	<b><u>Additional Hours:</u></b>
Dec./2023, Jan. & Feb./2024	Saturday 9am-4pm	1 day between 12/26-12/31 2023 Feb 29, 2024 - 9 am to 5pm

**Have You Moved?**

For any changes in description, address or ownership, please notify our office by one of the following:

Email: [SITwpTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:SITwpTreasurer@gmail.com) Phone: 1-906-253-9353 Fax: 1-906-635-9886

Mail: Sugar Island Township, 6401 E. 1 ½ Mile Rd., Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783

**Visit our website at [www.sugarislandtownship.org](http://www.sugarislandtownship.org)**



## Sugar Island Historical Preservation Society

Unfortunately, we begin this newsletter with sad news. We lost one of our members recently, Julie Wilson. As a Trustee on SIHPS Committee, Julie was hard-working, ready to lend a hand, and not afraid to share her ideas. She loved being a part of SIHPS and what it stands for. Julie will be missed by many of us, but her dedication and work will not be forgotten.

This season has come to an end with the completion of outside work at Brassar School. The bell copula is finished with bell installed and rang by member Kim Gravelle. Weather permitting Dave Brunett and crew will continue to work inside of school throughout the winter months. Sugar Island Historical Museum is getting closer!

We would again like to say "Thank You" to everyone for your continued support with our fundraisers. We couldn't do it without you!

Until next year, may you, your family and friends be in good health, and worries be few and light.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

Anita McKerchie, Secretary



Ask what the CSB Family  
can do for you!

*Talk to CSB's very own Islander.*

**Erin Albrecht**

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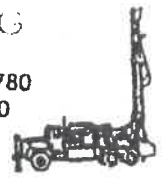
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A Word of Hope and Joy from St. Luke's Community Church

In The Fullness of Time, God Sent Forth His Son

Galations 4:4-7

Christmas reminds us that Jesus came to the Earth at just the right time. There was one time in all of history when all things were perfectly aligned for the coming of Jesus. There was no other time when He should come. Jesus came at just the right time. This fact is important to us because just as Christ came at the perfect time, so God continues to work in our lives at the right time.

Throughout the Old Testament there were numerous prophecies given concerning the coming of the Messiah.

There were prophecies concerning the manner of His birth, that He would be born of a virgin. Isaiah 7:14

There were prophecies concerning the place of His birth, that He would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2

The Messiah would be called Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

God is always right on time. God has a timetable.

Sometimes our timetables are the same as His but often they are not.

We want God to act right now; but sometimes in His wisdom, He chooses to delay for our good. God is never early and He's never late. He's always right on time.

During the Christmas season let us not forget to worship this amazing and wonderful Jesus who came to earth to live among us and show us the way to eternal life. John 14:1-6

Merry Christmas!!