



The QUACKER

APRIL 2024 ISSUE 491 FOUNDED BY THE SUGAR ISLAND LIONESSE CLUB



Happy Earth Day!



Happy Arbor Day!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

1. April Fool's Day
2. Sugar Island Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm
3. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
3. Fire Station Meeting North 7:00pm
6. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
9. Township Board Meeting 7:00pm
11. Lion Meeting 5:30pm
13. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
16. Sugar Island Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm
17. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
17. Fire Station Meeting South 7:00pm
20. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
21. Lions Brunch 8:30am – 11:00am
21. QUACKER DEADLINE
22. Earth Day
26. Arbor Day
27. The Quacker is distributed
27. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
30. Sugar Island Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm



LIONS DEN

Our March breakfast coincided with the return or perhaps the beginning of winter but it did not slow down our guests or crew and we had a great breakfast. Winners of our monthly 50-50 drawing were Ron Bertram, Eric Kimble and Brenda Flemel. Our 50/50 winner was "Buckshot" Gravelle who donated his winnings to the club.

And speaking of donations our thanks go out to Eric Kimble who has been a consistent supporter of our club. Lion Doug had prepared a plaque for him in thanks but this was one of the few breakfasts he missed. Fortunately, we were able to give it to one his friends.

Had contact with a couple more vendors from the farmers market who are ready to get started. Still plan to wait until May to get started but maybe earlier in the month.

Seem to be having some problems with my birthday list. Last month I missed Barb Swoffer but she didn't look any older. Always remember Jim Gort's birthday as it is on income tax day and Nicole Brunet will finally be growing up. Just to be on the safe side if you see a Lion hug them.

Lion Jim Handziak

In Memoriam

Norma King

Susan Brady Smith

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FIRE PLUGS

We had a rare occurrence on the island on Saturday February 24 as there was a tsunami in the St Mary's River. The fact that it happened at the same time I entered the water for ice rescue training may explain why it occurred. Sault Fire, Coast Guard and Sheriff's Department all participated in the training sponsored by the Sugar Island Fire Department. We held the training at Rotary Park on the mainland. In addition to reviewing ice rescue training in general this gives us the chance to work with other agencies learning their capabilities. Of course, since this was sponsored by Sugar Island everyone had a great meal. Thanks to My Michigan Hospital for the use of their Emergency Operations Trailer for warming up and food preparation.

Since we appear to be having an early spring keep an eye on the sign by the ferry for fire danger. There have already been grass fires in the area with a fatality in Mackinac County. Always check with the DNR to see if burning is allowed. They can be reached at 866-922-2876 or at www.michigan.gov/burnpermit. Even if burning is allowed take precautions: never leaving the fire unattended, having rakes or shovels handy and some type of water source. Have your phone handy and if the fire seems to be getting out of control call the fire department.

And remember we are always in need of new members. We have just gotten 2 new members one a certified fire fighter and one in training. In addition, Cole Biron will be finishing his training in May.

Thanks to everyone for keeping Sugar Island fire safe.

Jim Handziak, S I Fire

A Word from the Folks of St. Luke's Community Church

So, I guess winter is over on Sugar Island. The word I think of to describe this past winter is *interesting*. It was interesting to be sitting on our beach wearing only a long sleeve shirt and work pants sipping on a beverage and watching the ducks swim around the first week of March. It was also interesting to get out the riding mower to mow the grass and prepare the garden beds for planting. Such interesting weather also caused me to begin making plans for the coming summer.

We at St. Luke's certainly hope you will consider joining us for worship and fellowship this summer. Our first service of the summer season will be May 26, at 10:00am. Until then, perhaps you would enjoy meditating on what Scripture says about Springtime. Isaiah 61:11 "For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations." "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope." Romans 15:13



Whether you are a year-round islander or a weekender, know that you are most welcome to join us at Sacred Heart for our weekly Mass on Saturdays at 6:15 p.m.

We are a small congregation and welcome everyone to worship with us. It's so warm to praise the Lord with your family, friends and neighbors.



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*- Mike Gillhooley
Sugar Island Resident*

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Sugar Island Township News

Spring has arrived and our large furry friends will soon be roaming our yards and roads. Sometimes we need to be reminded that birds aren't the only animals that are thankful when you fill your bird feeders this early in the season. Please wait another month before you invite much larger, furry critters into your yard or neighborhood.

Last month we mentioned the challenge of having difficulty recruiting and retaining volunteers. Thankfully, we have had several people express some interest and we are appreciative. It is the Supervisor's responsibility to review the credentials of prospective statutory board members and then to make recommendations to the elected Township Board. That will happen this month so anybody wishing to fill any of our vacant statutory board positions should come to the April Township Board meeting (April 9, 2024) @ 7:00pm and introduce yourself.

As Spring cleaning starts at your house, please know that it is likely the Township will rent large containers from GFL for household garbage disposal. We will also be looking to add a metal recycling container. The procurement of these containers will be discussed at the April Board Meeting. Like everything else, costs continue to increase, so the quantity and frequency may be less than previous years. In the meantime, please do not force our transfer station staff to accept metal recycling or larger household items for placement in the compactor. Please wait until the appropriate containers arrive. As you know, the Township has a published zoning ordinance document that requires property owners to comply with a wide variety of issues, or potentially receive a fine/penalty. A lack of knowledge is not a legitimate excuse. The codes include compliance issues with abandoned vehicles, uninhabitable house trailers, piles of garbage, and other unsightly debris. Nobody wants to live next to an eyesore. So please, clean up your own property, and if you can, help your neighbor with their property. Every property owner should read the zoning ordinance at the Township's website (sugarislandtownship.org).

In terms of road work, we have requested the Chippewa County Road Commission (CCRC) repaint the road markings for all paved roads on the Island. Much of the cost will be paid with federal funds and the rest will be paid with about \$20,000 of Township funds. We don't yet have a timeline, but we'll let you know as soon as we do. Additionally, due to CCRC's work priorities across the County, Sugar Island will not be involved in any widening/lifting gravel road sections or paving this year. We will, however, be looking to enter into agreements to accomplish some of those things in 2025/2026. And finally, we will be seeking vendors to apply brine for dust abatement on our gravel roads. We want to apply this treatment before the Independence Day holiday, but that prospect depends on availability.

As you traverse the Island you may see Cloverland Electric trucks on an increasing frequency. Part of the reason for this increase is the need for Cloverland to replace some shorter poles. They are also installing three more streetlights for the Township. Additionally, Cloverland is working with an internet service provider designated to bring broadband to the Island, so you should begin seeing subcontractors digging trenches and running fiber optic cable through Cloverland's electrical easements this summer and fall. Thank you.

Mark Eitrem, Supervisor

LIONS' BRUNCH

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

Join us the 3rd Sunday of every month for breakfast extraordinaire!
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. * Sugar Island Community Center

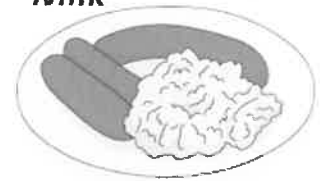
*Eggs * Sausage * Bacon * Hash Browns * American Fries
French Toast * Pancakes * Toast * Fruit * Juice * Coffee * Milk*

Adults: \$8.00

Children (5-12): \$3.00

COME HUNGRY, LEAVE FULL

ENJOY VISITING WITH FELLOW ISLANDERS!



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

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SI EMS News

As it is said, April showers bring May flowers. Some of us have already had signs of spring with the warm weather we have had in March. Even robins have been sighted! We have had a very unusual winter, but it has been nice for a change.

March has had one ambulance run so far. This is a great sign that everyone is healthy and staying safe. Thank you for doing this. What I have had in the last weeks is requests for assisting Sugar Islanders who have health issues. Since the Health Department has cut the home health services, we are finding an increased need for private duty health assistance. This is unfortunately how health care of our future is going to be. I do know there are people on our caring island that will help residents in need of assistance. You can put the request on the island Facebook page and this will be passed along.

My one bad issue that SI EMS is facing is lack of staff for manning the ambulance. With the end of the school year and graduation at LSSU the EMTs will be leaving the area for their homes and other jobs. Jim and I have worked hard to keep us running and now Sault Sainte Marie Fire/EMS will be taking over in May. We will have an emergency plan in place in case the ferry is not in normal operation and an emergency situation occurs. This is still in the works, and we will put more information out when finalized. Thank you for all the support you have given us.

I am going to repeat this posting about the Sugar Island Phonebook. As usual the monthly additions will be included in the Quacker for you to print off and put into your phonebook or just print into your phonebook like I do. There is no definite date for redoing the phonebook so far. But I would encourage all who are interested in having their phone numbers listed to email me or call me with your information. My email is: abeckham@lssu.edu or give me a call 906-440-1769. I do appreciate hearing from the SI residents even those without a change just to make sure their information is correct and included. To purchase the current SI phonebook, you can go to the SI Westshore Store, the Hilltop Bar and Grill and the Island Books & Crafts on Portage Street in the Soo for \$7.00 each.

My thoughts to all Sugar Island residents for being safe and enjoying April flowers!

Adrienne Beckham SIEMS Co-Captain

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
April 3rd

WEDNESDAY
April 17th

Fueling takes about an Hour

MARINE TRAFFIC/FERRY INFO

Active GPS locations of Boat Traffic including our Ferry at:

www.marinetraffic.com

Audio of Sault Control: USCG

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

Recycling Station at the North End Transfer Station
Available only during operating hours.



TRANSFER STATIONS

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

South End: Closed for the Season

Ferry Schedule has changed Effective January 17-April 30, 2024

Sunday – Thursday

Only Once an hour 12:00am-4:00am

Only Once an hour 12:15am-4:15am

Friday-Saturday

Only Once an hour 1:00am-4:00am

Only Once an hour 1:15am-4:15am

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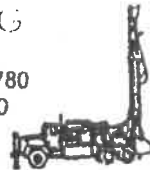
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