



The QUACKER

DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE 499 FOUNDED BY THE SUGAR ISLAND LIONESS CLUB



Merry Christmas!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- 3. Sugar Island Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm
- 4. Fire Station Meeting North 7:00pm
- 7. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
- 10. Township Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 11. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
- 11. Sugar Island Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm
- 15. Lions Brunch 8:30am – 11:00am
- 15. QUACKER DEADLINE
- 17. Sugar Island Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm
- 18. Fire Station Meeting South 7:00pm
- 21. Winter Solstice
- 21. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
- 24. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
- 25. Christmas
- 28. The Quacker is distributed
- 28. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
- 31. New Year's Eve

In Memoriam

James 'Jimmy' Gort, Jr.

Mark A. Leask

Marvin 'Bud' Willis, Jr.

Effective **October 1, 2024** the following price changes will take effect for the **Ferry Commuter 20-Round Trip Tickets:**

Car/Pickup/UTV = \$105.00

Senior Car/Pickup/UTV (65+) = \$80.00

Truck Single Axle/Trailer 15'-25' = \$320.00

Truck Tandem Axle/Trailer 25'+/Concrete Truck = \$550.00

Tickets purchased before the price change, will be honored until their expiration date.

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 11th

WEDNESDAY
December 24th

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:

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FIRE PLUGS

With December on its way it is safe to say we will soon be dealing with adverse weather conditions. This could cause a longer response time. While you can't do anything about the weather (please call me if you can) there are a few things you can do to help out in the event of a fire or medical emergency. Try to keep your address marker visible and mark your driveway if possible. Have your driveway cleared and if at night turn on any outside lights. If there is a problem with your driveway or walkway, please advise Central Dispatch when calling in your emergency.

Many people are anxious at Christmas trying to find the right gift. Something practical is a fire/carbon monoxide detector or a fire extinguisher.

While not the most glamorous gift, if needed it will be much appreciated. I never heard of a fruit cake saving anyone's life.

Speaking of gifts, the fire department received a nice one with the approval of a FEMA grant that was spear headed by Sault Fire. After the approval by the Township Board last month of our match we will be receiving 16 new radios. The total value of those radios is \$101,600 for Sugar Island. Our share was \$10,160. These radios allow us better communication between not only between ourselves but with other departments and agencies that we work with.

We often work with other departments under our mutual aid agreements. Like us, most departments are operating with less-than-ideal staffing. We can always use more people. This year we are trying to get the fire training class moved closer to the island. Much of the course work is done via zoom meetings and the practical training is on the weekend. Please contact us if you may be interested in helping out in any way.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Sugar Island Fire Department.

Jim Handziak, S I Fire



LIONS DEN

While our November breakfast did not have the record number of guests we had in October, it was a busy day. We had many of our regular cooks and workers missing and had to call in our irregulars. They did a fine job, and we hope everyone enjoyed themselves. We know that Debra Zoppa, Nancy Weston and Sherri Bumstead liked the breakfast as they each won \$50 in our monthly raffle. Lion Ron Bertram won the 50-50 and donated his winnings back to the Club.

Lion members are reminded we will be having our Christmas party on December 5th at the Community Center. The only official business we will conduct is the approval of our annual donations to the various organizations we support with money we raise during the year. Will have a complete list in next month's Quacker.

We are still raising funds for the picnic tables the Lions purchased for the park. All of the large disability accessible tables are spoken for, but if you or your group wish to sponsor a table the cost is \$600 and the Lions will install a plaque recognizing your contribution. All donations are appreciated and donors will be acknowledged.

We wish to extend our condolences to the Willis and Gort families. Bud Willis passed away last month. He was a great Lion and a real asset to our community. Jimmy Gort, the son of Jim and Pat Gort, also passed away. Jim was a well-regarded member of the Sugar Island family. We understand that memorial services are in the planning stage.

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

Let us all take time to think of our family and friends during this Holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Lion Jim Handziak

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

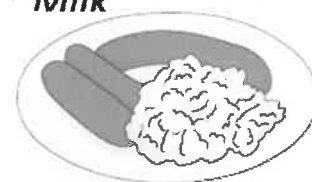
*Eggs * Sausage * Bacon * Hash Browns * American Fries
French Toast * Pancakes * Toast * Fruit * Juice * Coffee * Milk*

Adults: \$8.00

Children (5-12): \$3.00

COME HUNGRY, LEAVE FULL

ENJOY VISITING WITH FELLOW ISLANDERS!



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. 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
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906-632-9331 bayliss.ploud.net
Facebook Page: Bayliss Public Library



Curbside Pick-up
Call 906-635-9786
Before 11:00am

Dine-In Senior Lunch Available

Monday through Thursday
Menu for Month Available
at The Community Center
\$3.00 - 60 and Over \$6.00 - Under 60



Sugar Island Township News

As we examine the calendar and review our experiences, we know the intentionally unnamed white precipitation is on its way. We also know this weather will eventually lead to challenges with driving. If you haven't prepared your homes and your vehicles for the pending eventuality, please do so. As one of our previous Presidents said, "the time to fix the roof is when the sun is shining." Don't wait until it is too late.

Congratulations goes out to the Township's voters. Our Township has 714 registered voters and according to the County, we had more than 72% participation. This percentage rate is impressive but not exceptional as other townships within Chippewa County exceeded that rate. Locally, I was re-elected as were Jaci Brown (Treasurer) and Brittany Behm (Clerk). We elected two new trustees, namely Jason Morehouse and Donna Bruder. Congratulations to all winners. Additionally, I'd like to offer a sincere "Thank You" to our departing trustees, Ben Repa and Kathy Noble. These jobs are often difficult, especially if the duties are performed well.

As I mentioned last month, Spectrum Communications will be running fiber cable on Sugar Island next spring. I would expect them to use existing poles, so nobody should be surprised to see Spectrum employees or contractors traversing the lines currently being used by Cloverland and AT&T. If you are interested in taking advantage of Spectrum's services, you are advised to check out Spectrum's website (Spectrum.com). Do your own investigation. I don't work for Spectrum Communications, and I receive no benefit from them so any inference to the contrary is intentionally deceptive and erroneous. Please check the multiple options available and make your own decisions.

At the November meeting, the Township addressed the need to obligate remaining funds from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds we received several years ago. We have held on to these funds because we expected the need to incur expenses when broadband finally arrives. However, after meeting with Spectrum's leadership it was clear that we will not be required to use our funds for infrastructure expenses, thereby freeing up that money for other uses. These funds are somewhat restricted, so we can only use them for a limited number of options. After recognizing some current opportunities, the potential also exists to use these funds to offset previous costs.

And finally, we received a letter from FEMA regarding a new Flood Insurance Rate Map. Earlier this month, the Township's Code Administrator (Burt Menard) and I met with FEMA representatives and representatives of Chippewa County. During this meeting we told the FEMA reps that we were not satisfied with the accuracy of the previous map. The old map caused considerable hardships for too many Sugar Island residents as their property was erroneously identified as being within the FEMA-determined flood plain. We asked the FEMA reps to investigate these circumstances and to ensure the new map does not cause the same hardship. The letter from FEMA reviewed building permits dating back to 2015 and found that none of the previously issued permits were going to be issues moving forward.

Mark Eitrem, Supervisor

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SI EMS News

So far, the lovely fall I wished for has been here. Love it when it's warm enough to be outside and the trees are radiating glorious colors. But looking ahead, we will be having another great Thanksgiving put on at the Community Center by the McKelvie clan and attended by many. Always delicious and enjoyable. Then our Christmas gathering for the SI FD on 12/7, always fun with crazy gift exchange and visiting with all the members attending. Later on, the actual Christmas and New Years. So, a busy couple of months.

Though we don't have snow yet, I remember December 5 of 1995 when it snowed so much on SI and in the Soo that you couldn't drive anywhere! Quite an event! and I know this can happen again. Hoping it's a normal snowy winter so we can participate and not be overwhelmed.

The Sugar Island FD First Responders are continuing to work with SSMFD to provide emergency medical care to the island. We are hoping anyone who has always wanted to be involved with an emergency agency to help others will apply to the SIFD to become a member. We will support them and assist in attaining the training required. It is a great group of people so come find out. Contact Josh Horner or Jim Handziak for more information.

I am continuing to collect the information for additions to the phonebook. No definite date for redoing the phonebook is planned 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 and the Island Books & Crafts on Portage Street in the Soo they are \$7.00 each.

To all who are snowbirds, safe travels south and west, and the same to islanders who stay put.

Adrienne Beckham SIEMS Co-Captain

Eric McKerchie
(906)632-9515

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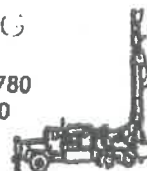
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