

The QUACKER

SEPTEMBER 2026 ISSUE 520 FOUNDED BY THE SUGAR ISLAND LIONESS CLUB



Happy Labor Day! COMMUNITY CALENDAR

2. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
 2. Fire Station Meeting North 7:00pm
 3. Sugar Island Fire Open House 4-7pm
 3. Sugar Island Bible Study 4:30-6:00pm
 - 5-6. Island Clean-up Dumpsters
 5. Farmer's Market 10:00am - 12 Noon
 5. SI Historical Museum 11am-3pm
 5. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
 6. St Luke's Community Church 10:00am
 7. Labor Day
 8. Township Board Meeting 7:00pm
 - 9.. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
 10. Lions Meeting 5:30pm
 12. Farmer's Market 10:00am - 12 Noon
 12. SI Historical Museum 11am-3pm
 12. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
 13. St Luke's Community Church 10:00am
 14. Summer Taxes Due Treasurer 9am-5pm
 16. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
 16. SIHPS Meeting 1:00pm
 16. Fire Station Meeting South 7:00pm
 - 19-20. Island Clean-up Dumpsters--Last Days
 19. Farmer's Market 10:00am - 12 Noon
 19. SI Historical Museum 11am-3pm
 19. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
 20. Lions Brunch 8:30am - 11:00am
 20. St Luke's Community Church 10:00am
 20. QUACKER DEADLINE
 22. Autumn equinox
 23. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
 24. Sugar Island Bible Study 4:30-6:00pm
 25. Old Time Music Jamboree 7-10pm
 26. The Quacker is distributed
 26. Farmer's Market 10:00am - 12 Noon
 26. SI Historical Museum 11am-3pm
 26. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
 27. St Luke's Community Church 10:00am
- Thanksgiving Dinner follows service

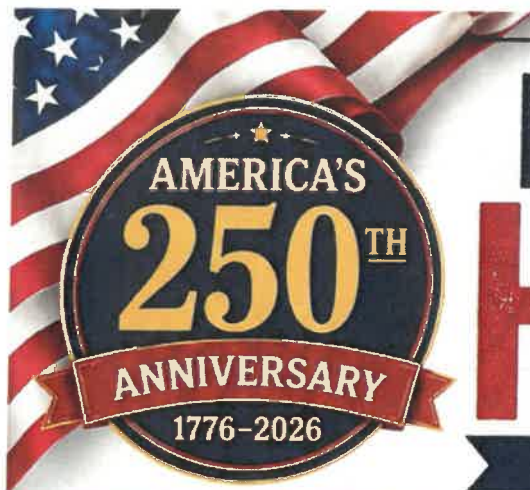


Sugar Island Annual Memorial Service

The Sugar Island Annual Memorial Service to honor our island residents who have passed during the last year was held on Thursday, August 27 at 7:00pm. at the Sugar Island Community Center. This ceremony has been offered by the Sugar Island Lions Club since 1983 and it is a special service to remember each of our island neighbors that have passed and offer condolences to their family members. This year we honored:

Michael HarryAllard,
Darrell Belleau,
Karen Bumstead,
Robert "Bob" Alan Corbiere Sr,
Georgia K Davidson,
Ann Eitrem,
Archie Leroy Freeland,
Sally Marlene (Auguston) Gregg,
Barbara Jean (Knisel) Harrington,
Cleo 'Sparkie' Herriman,
John "Jack" Holt,
Amy Marie Jones,
Paul Juhala,
Joel Paul Loy,
Paul Bernard McCoy,
Robert "Bob" E. McKay,
Calvin Odbert,
Sharon 'Leask' Orazietti,
Brian Reynolds,
James "JT" Edward Thomson,
Barbara Townsend,
and Eileen Vincent.

Thank you to Denise Hillier for coordinating all the people supporting this special island event.



BE PART OF HISTORY!

★ ★ SERVE AS AN ★ ★ ELECTION INSPECTOR

SUGAR ISLAND TOWNSHIP

★ NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION ★

**YOUR COMMUNITY
NEEDS YOU!**



Election inspectors play an important role in making sure our elections are conducted
FAIRLY, SECURELY, AND ACCORDING TO MICHIGAN LAW.



Help your neighbors exercise their right to vote



Assist with the operation of the polling place



Help ensure every vote is properly handled



Work alongside fellow Sugar Island residents



Be part of the democratic process



Help preserve the tradition of self-government that began 250 years ago



NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

Training is provided.

Help make
history
right here on
Sugar Island!

2026 marks the
250th anniversary of the birth
of our great nation—
250 years of Americans
exercising their right to vote
and participate in
our democracy.

The November 3, 2026
General Election will be the
LAST ELECTION
of America's
250th anniversary year.

What better way to honor
that history than by
serving your community as an
ELECTION INSPECTOR?

★ 250 YEARS OF FREEDOM. ★
250 YEARS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.
250 YEARS OF AMERICANS HAVING A VOICE.

HELP CARRY THAT TRADITION FORWARD.

Consider becoming a Sugar Island Township
Election Inspector for the November 3, 2026 General Election.

**EVERY VOTE.
EVERY VOICE.
OUR COMMUNITY.
OUR FUTURE.**

QUESTIONS OR INTERESTED IN SERVING?



sitownshipclerk@gmail.com



906-253-9353 ext 101

We appreciate
your willingness
to serve!



NOVEMBER 3, 2026



THE FINAL ELECTION OF AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR



LIONS DEN

Our August breakfast set a record for modern times (since we kept records). 157 meals were served. You can always tell we are busy when even I have to work. We had a boost from the Music Fest and other events on the island. Even with record numbers, we have decided we need to increase the cost to \$10 for adults starting in September. Food costs continue to increase. We had the final drawing for the current raffle. Each winning \$50 were: Marcia Baker, Nancy Bumstead, and Donna Kurtz. Rudy Pavlat won the 50-50.

These were the last drawings of last year's raffle. New tickets are available from your favorite Lion. Cost is \$25 which enters you in the drawings for a whole year with a chance to win \$50 each month. Remember that you can win multiple times on the same ticket.

The new picnic shelter at the Community Center is going up. Will be done this month in time to hold some fall events. Our thanks to the community and some generous donors for making this happen.

Looking for new ways to help out our island community, your Lions Club will be joining with others to keep the Music Fest in operation. Plans are not fully developed but we look forward to keeping this beloved event going.

Birthday greetings go out this month to Carol Gillians, and Bea Lighton, and Jeri Sherry. Happy Birthday!

Lion Jim Handziak



FIRE PLUGS

Keep September 3rd open for our open house. While fire prevention week isn't until October, we are early in order to catch the kids and kids at heart before school starts. We like to show off the equipment we have and, in my case, to enjoy the refreshments. See you there. 4-7pm

Not too early to be thinking about fall and cooler weather. I look forward to the first fire of the year as long as it is not in my chimney. Remember we have chimney cleaning equipment to loan. While we can't clean your chimney, if you must hire someone, they can use our equipment.

Also, now is a good time to check out your heating system and move items that seem to creep closer during the summer. Also check on your fire extinguishers to be certain they are usable and, in a location, you can get to them easily. Remember not to close to where you could have a fire so you can reach them.

And thank you to the people who let us know when they are burning their brush piles. While you still have to check with the DNR to see if burning allowed, 866-922-2876, by letting us know if we get a call of smoke or fire in an area, we know where to look and can check out the location without a full call out.

Jim Handziak, S I Fire

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

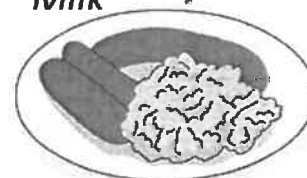
*Eggs * Sausage * Bacon * Hash Browns * American Fries
French Toast * Pancakes * Toast * Fruit * Juice * Coffee * Milk*

Adults: \$10.00 New Price!!

Children (5-12) Still: \$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

Affiliate of Superior District Library

541 Library Drive

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

906-632-9331 bayliss.ploud.net

Facebook Page: Bayliss Public Library



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

Dine-In 12 Noon
Senior Lunch

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Menu for Month Available at

The Community Center

\$4.00 - 60 and Over \$6.00 - Under 60



Sugar Island Township News

The warm weather of summer is almost gone, and our youngest residents are preparing for another school year. That means we will start seeing school buses and those same young people running to and from those buses. Please be careful driving behind and around these vehicles as they carry our most precious cargo and the children don't always follow the rules.

As scheduled, Village Road has been paved as has Honey Lane, both of which are County roads. The Road Commission still has quality control and shoulder work to do on that project, so it's not finished yet. While public sentiment surrounding the paving was generally positive, we did encounter a few people that long for "the good old days" including gravel roads and the associated dust. For those interested in such things, we still have more than 20 miles of unpaved roads around Sugar Island.

The Township cleanup program continues with two more weekends in September (5-6 & 19-20). The intent is to support the clean-up efforts of Sugar Islanders. Please be aware this activity does not include fluids of any kind, construction materials, bricks or blocks, yard waste, vehicle tires or anything else that might be considered hazardous (e.g., car batteries and Styrofoam). Additionally, the Township is working with A&L Iron & Metal Company from Kinross to provide an opportunity for metal recycling. The Township receives a financial benefit from this bulk metal recycling so if you have some metal debris on your property, please consider this option.

Over the last several weeks I've learned that many of our residents do not know how to recycle. Actually, a significant percentage of household trash can be recycled without much effort. Generally, if it's household plastic, glass, or tin it can be recycled. Just empty and clean out the container, put it in a larger basket, bucket or bin. Then, take those containers to the North End Transfer Station during your normal trash run and place them in the Big Blue trailer owned by Northern Transitions. The folks at Northern Transitions have asked us not to use plastic bags when disposing of the cans, bottles, jars and plastic containers as it takes them more time to sort the items. If you have brown cardboard boxes that you'd like to recycle, please break them down until flat and then place them in the small cardboard trailer. FYI, Northern Transitions has recently committed to providing Sugar Island with a semi tractor trailer for that purpose when one becomes available. It is important to note that every pound we recycle is a pound we don't have to pay for. Every little bit helps.

As you may have ascertained, Spectrum's fiber optic cable installation effort on the Island is ongoing. The orange cable conduit is everywhere. This project is set to be completed before the end of September. The timing of access to Spectrum's services is largely dependent on the installation of fiber cable underneath the St. Mary's River. If everything goes as planned with permits from the State and the Corps of Engineers, the first home within the Township will be connected in early September.

And finally, the Township Board voted at the August 2026 regular Board meeting to revoke the Township's Advertising Sign Ordinance as it was determined to be legally unenforceable. The vote was unanimous.

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 your tax bill. If you qualify, it should read 100% in the PRE box. For any questions concerning PRE, please contact Kathy Loup, Township Assessor at (906) 440-1159 or sugarislandassessor@gmail.com

Payment Types Accepted:

Check: Checks will be considered conditional payment only until after clearing the bank. Please mail early as it may take the US Postal Service 2 to 3 weeks to deliver your check. **Postmark is not considered as payment date.**

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

Credit Card: Processed through BSA. Contact info is on the website www.sugarislandtownship.org (BSA will charge a Convenience Fee for this service.)

Cash: Must be hand delivered to Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer only.

<u>Summer Tax Collection:</u>	<u>Office Hours:</u>	<u>Additional Hours:</u>
July, Aug., Sep. 2026	Mon, Wed, Thursday, Friday 9am-2pm Tues 5:30 to 7:00 pm Sat July 18, Aug 15, Sep 12 9am -2pm	09/14/26 9am to 5pm

Summer Delinquent Tax Interest Rates:

9/15/26 thru 9/30/26 = 1% Thereafter, 1% will be charged for each month or any part of a month until taxes are paid in full. Property Tax Payment must be made at the Chippewa County Treasurer's office starting 03/01/27 at 319 Court Street, Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783. Phone # (906) 635-6308 or www.chippewacountymi.gov/treasurer

Have You Moved?

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

Email: SITwpTreasurer@gmail.com Phone: (906) 253-9353

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

Visit our website at www.sugarislandtownship.org



SI First Responder News

Hello Fall! Or you could say we are in the Brrrrrr months..... I do love the colors that will come to our beautiful island but it could wait a little longer. Enjoy the activities that come this month and if we do have nice weather sit outside and remember this time!

Again, the EMS runs are still very quiet which is great! That means Sugar Islanders are well and safe! The EMS crew does get paged out for the Soo Fire runs to assist when needed so we are always there for the island.

The Fire Departments open house will be September 3 from 4p-7p. I look forward to seeing you at this event.

For Sugar Island residents who are interested in providing emergency fire and medical services for the island please contact Josh Horner or Jim Handziak about becoming a member of the SIFD First Responders. We 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 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.

The updated SI Phonebook is available for purchase for \$8.00. Please contact me, 906 440 1769, if you have questions about where to purchase one. The Westshore Store, the Hilltop and the Island Bookstore in Sault Ste. Marie at the corner of Portage and Ashmun all have the new phonebook. The monthly Lions Club Breakfast, 3rd Sunday of the month, will also have phonebooks available for purchase. I also have recently been contacted by an islander who requested to have the phonebooks he purchased mailed to him.

Enjoy the colors and the turning of the clock as Fall has arrived!

Adrienne Beckham SIFD Medical Captain



We will again be honoring all our Sugar Island Veterans, past and present, in our November issue. We would like to gather all the names of any servicemen or servicewomen from Sugar Island, permanent or seasonal. So please help us gather those names by either calling Sue Davidson at 906-632-9739, or emailing siquacker@gmail.com. Please respond by **October 24th** to be included in the November edition.

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St. Luke's Community Church



Wrapping Up Another Summer

Season of Worship

It is always a surprise how quickly the summer season passes, and we must begin to say goodbye to our dear friends. We have enjoyed such sweet fellowship as we gathered each Sunday to glorify God, encourage one another through prayer, and of course share some good food. Speaking of good food, our final Sunday will be September 27, with a St. Luke's tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving a bit early. Following our usual 10:00am worship service we will share a Thanksgiving dinner that of course includes Turkey and the other delicious dishes associated with this feast.

We do have so much for which to be thankful, and we would like to encourage you to attend and join with us as we recognize the source of all good things. The words of the Doxology do express well what we believe in our hearts to be true.

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen."



SACRED HEART CHURCH

AT THE CORNER OF E. 3 MILE & E. WESTSHORE DR.
OVERLOOKING BAY DE WAIS

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.



INTERESTED IN
BUYING OR SELLING
a home or vacant land

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

With over 30 years of experience in real estate and proud to call the island home, I bring deep local knowledge and a genuine love for the community to every client I serve. Living here gives me a unique perspective on the market, the lifestyle, and what makes island living so special...**my service continues well beyond the sale. Whether you need a contractor, market advice, or just have a question—I'm just a call away.**

CONTACT:

REAL ESTATE AGENT
AND ISLAND RESIDENT

Michael Gillhooley
906-440-7389

I look forward to working with you.



Sugar Island Historical Preservation Society

Well folks, summer is ending, and fall is just around the corner. You may even have noticed a leaf or two starting to turn or already turned colors. If you are a snowbird, we hope your time on the island was a fun/relaxing time.

Your SIHPS committee kept busy with getting the Sugar Island Historical Museum ready by placing donated historical items in the Brassar School and cleaning the Finn Hall. Sadly, in the effort to try to get the museum open we could not hold our annual Garage Sale this year.

The annual Joyce McCoy BBQ held in July, and it was another success thanks to all that attended and donated. We truly would not be a success at any of our money-raising functions without your caring and generosity. Please, know that every single coin/dollar donated for all our functions goes directly to the care and upkeep of both Brassar School and Finn Hall.

Please, note that the Sugar Island Historical Museum will be open to the public on Saturday's from 11 am – 3 pm.

There's still time to get your raffle tickets \$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5. Prizes are 1st – Beautiful Homemade Quilt (in memory of Charlotte Garlitz by her daughter Amy Shisler and friend Adrienne Beckham); 2nd – Sugar Island Goody Basket; 3rd - Sugar Island Clock. Drawings will take place at close of 7 pm, on Wednesday, September 16th meeting at SICC. Open to public. Everyone is welcome.

Our next activity Old Time Music Jamboree takes place 7pm – 10pm, Friday, September 25th, at the SICC. There will be snacks provided. BYOB.

Our next meeting scheduled is 7 pm, Wednesday, September 16th, at SICC. We look forward to seeing some new smiling faces and my yours be one of them!

Anita McKerchie, Secretary

If you love Sugar Island, come join us!



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Since 1955, Autore Oil & Propane has proudly served the home and commercial heating needs of the Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP), including Sugar Island, with products like propane, fuel oil, gasoline, lubricants, and Traeger grills. Our commitment to exceptional service is matched by our dedication to the community. From annual Customer Appreciation Days to supporting local schools, 4-H programs, sportsman clubs, and events like the EUP Walk for Warmth and St. Ignace Pond Hockey, we are proud to be part of what makes the EUP a great place to call home.



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Dear Sugar Islanders;

Please: Your, Sugar Island Historical Preservation Society needs your help.

Sadly, our membership is getting smaller and members are getting older.

Currently we meet at 1 pm, monthly (every 3rd Wednesday) for approximately 90 minutes from April to November.

We understand about working, having families and running kids to activities. But if we were to change our meeting day/time to evenings or a weekend day, would you give 90 minutes of your time to help preserve the rich history of your beautiful island? What day/time would work best for you? Membership cost is \$10 yearly.

If you love Sugar Island, come join us!

Sincerely,
Anita McKerchie, Secretary

NEW CALL FOR PICTURES
**S.I.H.P.S. IS CALLING FOR NEW AUTHENTIC SUGAR ISLAND
PICTURES**

The next edition of Sugar Island Postcards will be focused on only one feature: the
SUGAR ISLAND FERRIES

We are looking for the best pictures of the vessels that have carried thousands of people to and from our rock

STARTING NOW IN SEPTEMBER AND CONTINUING UNTIL JUNE 2027
LOOK FOR OR TAKE PICTURES (scanned old pictures are accepted)

of the old and the newer ferries that have traveled the route to the mainland year-round.

Anyone can enter as long as the subject is an authentic ferry serving Sugar Island.

Send your entries (one at a time), with your name and email address, to
dwb.dwbean@gmail.com

Tell us any information you may have about old pictures

The Best Overall picture will earn the title
2027 Best Photo with the contributors name on the postcard.

This is a repeat project of the Sugar Island Historical Preservation Society

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405 E. Easterday Ave.
Sault Sainte Marie, MI



Waterfront

Vacant Land

Residential

Commercial

2015 S Westshore Dr, Sugar Island, MI 49783



REDUCED: \$425,000

- Total SqFt: 3,966
- Turnkey Business
- Includes: Building, Equipment, and Liquor License

Rare Business Opportunity on Sugar Island! Own the only fully operational convenience store and gas station on the island, serving locals and visitors year-round. This turnkey business includes the building, equipment, and liquor license—everything you need to continue operations seamlessly. Inventory (excluding liquor, cigarettes, and lottery) is also included in the sale. Prime location with steady traffic and no direct competition. Whether you're looking to expand your portfolio or live and work in a beautiful, tight-knit community, this opportunity offers incredible value and potential.

2537 S Niskanen Ln, Sugar Island, MI 49783



List Price: \$399,000

- Total SqFt: 1,833
- Bedrooms: 4
- Bathrooms: 2
- Detached Garage

Waterfront Home!

Experience island living in this immaculate 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom home on Sugar Island., accessible by ferry year round! This home offers 1,833 sq. ft. of thoughtfully designed living space with many upgrades. Set on a spectacular waterfront lot, this property has 367 feet of frontage on beautiful Lake George. Peaceful and secluded on 13 acres, it's the perfect space for those seeking serenity and natural beauty. Inside, you'll find a well-insulated home featuring a bright and inviting four-season room that captures stunning views. The spacious layout provides comfort for both everyday living and entertaining. A woodsy sauna adds a unique retreat, while the 32 x 40 detached garage, built in 2019, provides modern convenience and ample storage. Whether you're looking for a home or a seasonal escape, this property offers comfort, privacy, and breathtaking surroundings. Don't miss this opportunity, call for your showing today!

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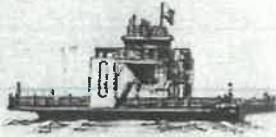


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Ferry Fueling

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.

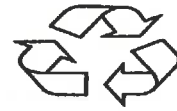
From 5:15 a.m. till 2:15 a.m.
3:15 a.m. 4:15 a.m.

**Eastern Upper Peninsula
Transportation Authority**

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

*EVERY
WEDNESDAY,
September 2th,
September 9th,
September 16th,
September 23rd,
September 30th*

Fueling takes
about an
Hour



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



TRANSFER STATION SCHEDULE

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

**South End: Mondays, Wednesdays,
& Fridays 7am -3pm**

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

QUACKER STAFF

Advertisement/Circulation *Pat Whyte* 322-2137
Editor/Circulation *Sue Davidson* 632-9739

5870 E. Sandpiper Lane
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
siquacker@gmail.com

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