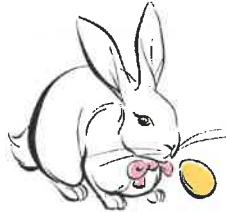




The QUACKER

APRIL 2026 ISSUE 515 FOUNDED BY THE SUGAR ISLAND LIONESS CLUB



**Happy
Easter!**



LIONS DEN

As you may recall fondly(?) we had a snow storm on the same day as our last breakfast. There had been some talk about canceling the breakfast but since I was very hungry, we decided to go ahead. It was a good thing as apparently many people were also looking forward to a hearty breakfast. We had slightly higher than normal attendance for winter.

Not any higher than normal was the excitement surrounding the monthly raffle drawing since it is always at a fever pitch. Each winning \$50 were Riley Koski, Eric Kimble and Bob Flemel. And in another rare double hit Eric Kimble was our 50/50 winner. Thank you everyone for supporting our club activities.

It may be hard to believe right now, but another activity is our farmer's market. We won't be starting until May but, produce from the island is highly sought after. Maybe our gardeners know of some early vegetables or have some canned goods left from last year to get us started. One thing from last year that went well were vegetable plants. Look forward to seeing you there.

Birthday greeting go out this month to Nicole Brunet, James Gort and John Sherry. Happy Birthday!

Lion Jim Handziak



**Happy Earth Happy Arbor
Day!**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

1. April Fool's Day
1. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
1. Fire Station Meeting North 7:00pm
4. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
5. Easter
9. Lion Meeting 5:30pm
11. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
14. Township Board Meeting 7:00pm
15. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
15. SIHPS Meeting 1:00pm
15. Fire Station Meeting South 7:00pm
16. Sugar Island Bible Study 5:30-7:00pm
18. SIYG family event 6:00pm
18. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
19. Lions Brunch 8:30am – 11:00am
19. QUACKER DEADLINE
22. Earth Day
24. Arbor Day
25. The Quacker is distributed
25. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
29. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
30. Sugar Island Bible Study 5:30-7:00pm

In Memoriam

Dean G. Krieg

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

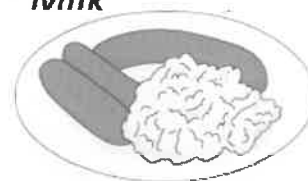
*Eggs * Sausage * Bacon * Hash Browns * American Fries
French Toast * Pancakes * Toast * Fruit * Juice * Coffee * Milk*

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.



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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



FIRE PLUGS

What happens if there is a fire call on the island and the ferry is not running or running on a limited basis? What would happen if additional help was needed? Well, we have a plan for that. The Sheriff's Department would dispatch either their air boat or hoover craft to the boat launch on the Sault side to transport firefighters and if possible, the ferry would stand by to transport equipment.

This did happen this month during the time ice was bad at the ferry crossing. Fortunately, our firefighters were able to handle the situation with resources that were on the island and the house was saved. But all the other pieces of the plan were quickly in place. We even had one of our "old guy fire department" member on standby to transport any people who may have come from the Sault side.

We are very lucky on the Island that we have excellent equipment and the means to keep them in good repair. We are always in need of more firefighters. It would be a good time to come to some meetings and see if the department is something you would be interested in. We will be gearing up for wildfire season and do a lot more hands-on training in the summer. And if you find out it is something you enjoy you will be in a good position to take the training for firefighter one and two, much of which is now online.

Remember once the snow is off the ground you need to see if burning is allowed. You can call 1 (866) 922-2876 or go online at www.michigan.gov/burnpermit. While we can't issue a burn permit, we would like to be notified if you are burning a significant amount as we often get call of smoke from either the mainland or Canada which we need to check out and if we know your location it can be easier to check out and see that everything is OK.

Jim Handziak, S I Fire

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 2nd

WEDNESDAY
April 15th

WEDNESDAY
April 29th

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

Ferry Schedule has changed

Effective January 17-April 30, 2026

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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Sugar Island Township News

Believe it or not, Spring is here and the snow is melting, albeit not fast enough. As veterans of this climate knows, melting snow and ice will make the roads dangerous, not only because of the slippery roads but the potholes that will ultimately be left behind. The ditches will fill with an abnormal amount of standing water as well as the accumulated remnants of debris from the winter. Mosquito breeding is supported in the areas where standing water persists so it is to our advantage to remove that standing water wherever possible, unless of course, you are fond of those airborne pests. Removing branches, limbs, garbage and other items that might block the flow of the melting snow in the early Spring before new vegetation obscures it.

At the March Township Board meeting we approved the purchase of a security system for the Community Center. We anticipate the installation work to begin within weeks. Unless we get a rare warmup, the system should be functional before all the snow is gone.

The Board has also approved the addition of new lighting at the 6 Mile/Brasser Road intersection and an upgrade to the existing lighting at the intersection of 1 ½ Mile Road and Brasser Road. Cloverland Electric has confirmed receipt of the Board-approved work orders. It is not clear when this work will start or be completed.

The Township Board is undergoing a significant change on April 1st. Brandi Rich will be assuming the Clerk position, taking over for the departure of Brittany Behm. We thank Brittany for her service and look forward to working with Brandi.

The Township is also undergoing an upgrade of our financial accounting system, moving away from a system used by commercial businesses to one tailored for municipalities. This upgrade will allow us to be more transparent and synchronized with the county and the state.

Over the last month we've received communications from Spectrum Communications. They have reiterated their intent to have fiber installation completed on the Island by mid-summer. Once the fiber optic cables are installed, residents can subscribe almost immediately. It is important for property owners to be prepared to identify what, if any services they want before Spectrum begins work in that area.

Additionally, many current AT&T customers also recently received communications from UP Fiber, Inc. UP Fiber now owns the rights to landline telephone service on the Island, replacing AT&T. The recent communications suggest residents may have the ability to install landline services within the next 60 days which makes sense for property owners without cell phones or adequate coverage.

Mark Eitrem, Supervisor



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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 Island Residents,

I am pleased to introduce myself as your new Township Clerk, effective April 1, 2026. It is truly an honor to step into this role and serve the Sugar Island community.

I am committed to carrying out the responsibilities of this office with integrity, transparency, and dedication. My goal is to support the needs of our township and ensure that all clerk-related services, including elections, records, and public communications, are handled efficiently and professionally.

I look forward to working with residents, township officials, and our community as a whole. In the near future, I will be establishing regular office hours to better serve you. These hours will be announced on the township's official page.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I am excited to begin this journey and to do my very best for the Sugar Island Township.

Sincerely,
Brandi Rich
Township Clerk
Sugar Island Township



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.

Family Movie Night Success!

The Sugar Island Youth Group hosted a fantastic Family Movie Night on March 7th at the Community Center! Families gathered to enjoy *Zootopia 2*, and we had a great turnout with 21 kids (plus accompanying adults) enjoying concessions provided by the youth group.

Many attendees brought bean bags, air mattresses, camping chairs, and blankets, creating a cozy and welcoming atmosphere for everyone.

Due to the event's success, another family event is scheduled for **Saturday, April 18th at 6 PM**. Stay tuned for more details, and be sure to follow us on Facebook at *Sugar Island Youth Group*!



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



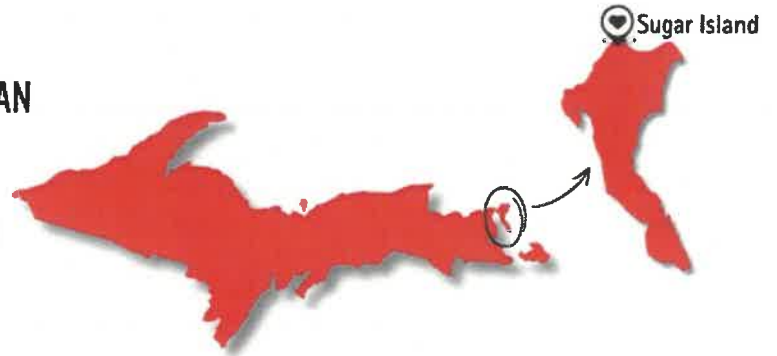
TRANSFER STATIONS

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

South End: Closed for the Season



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Thinking about Buying or Selling? Call us Today!



SI First Responders News

Welcome Spring, I hope! Though I have seen some wild blizzards in April too. Haven't we all?

Island 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.

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 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.

The SI Lions club phone book committee continues with completion of the directory. A Spring 2026 publishing date is planned. There will be a notice on the SI fb pages when done and available for sale. The cost has been raised to \$8.00 with updated content of addresses, phone numbers and now email addresses. Lots of local business ads for your discovery and use.

There are still 2020-2024 phonebooks available to purchase. If interested in purchasing the current phonebook for \$7.00 contact me or one of the Lions members and we will get it to you.

Happy Easter to you all and we will welcome the snowbirds returning, to enjoy Springtime on Sugar Island!

Adrienne Beckham SIFD Medical Captain

SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

S.I.H.P.S. Postcard Photo Contest

Help us capture the spirit of Sugar Island! We are looking for photos to feature on official postcards.
(Winning photographers will have credits printed on the cards)

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

☀ Seasons: Winter sunsets, Summer sunsets, Fall colors.

🏰 Places: Historic buildings, churches, cemeteries, stores, and landings.

🎪 Events: Powwows, music fests, parades, and picnics.

🕒 Then & Now: Old Times and New!

HOW TO ENTER

DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2026

Go to the address below, fill out the registration form, and follow the directions to upload your pictures. (Limit: 5 photos per photographer)

Scan to Enter:

Or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/5bun5fft>

Scan this QR Code to visit the site



<https://sites.google.com/view/sihpspostcardcontest>

Sugar Island Historical Preservation Society

Greetings everyone! Well, it's been a moon or five since you've seen anything from your SIHPS, hasn't it? We're sort of like the animals that hibernate during the winter months and then slowly start to wake up as spring approaches.

We are anticipating the opening of Brassar School, your historical museum this summer for you and visitors to come and learn/see the history of Ziinzibaakwad (Sugar) Minis (Island).

Our first meeting will be at *1pm, on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at SICC*. Please, if you have an hour or two of free time on the third Wednesday of each month, come and join us. Remember everyone is welcome.

Anita McKerchie, Secretary



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The Wisdom of Our Ancestors is Our Map.

Our Ancestors did not leave our future to chance. They gave us a gift—a blueprint for survival and success etched into our Tribal Constitution. For too long, progress has been stalled by boardroom bickering and social media fighting. Our ancestors survived and thrived through far harder times by remaining true to who we are. It is time we are wise enough to listen to them again, and return to Our Four Foundations

The Four Foundations of Our Sault Tribe Ancestors

Aaniiin! I'm Jen, and I offer over 30 years of dedicated service to our tribal communities. A retired educator and business owner, I continue to serve as an online college instructor, mentor, and Elder. My leadership experience is extensive: I served two terms on the Sault Tribe Board, testified before Congress, and chaired national committees for tribal health and food distribution. I have spent my career navigating the intersection of education, financial responsibility, and tribal advocacy.

Now, I am ready to put that seasoned wisdom to work for all of us – regardless of where we live. To thrive, we must end internal conflict and move toward self-sufficiency. Together, we can honor our ancestors' vision, find common ground, and move forward in strength and unity.

Perpetuation of Our Way of Life

Our culture, our language, and our hunting, fishing, and gathering rights are not just "activities"—they are the basis of who we are. **It is our Birthright.** Having taught these traditions from kindergarten through the college level for many years, I know their power. I will work tirelessly to make this knowledge available to every one of our members, regardless of where you live.

Geography should never be a barrier to our identity.

Welfare and Prosperity of Our People

As long as **one of us** is in need, our work is unfinished. We must look to our own resources and innovation and stand on our OWN.

• **Housing:** We must build **our own** houses and apartments on our own land, for single person to larger families.

• **Education/lobs:** Our children deserve—Trade Schools, Apprenticeships, and paid internships, alongside traditional college paths. We must foster independence and business ownership.

Self-sufficiency is the heartbeat of a thriving Nation. I have the experience needed **to help Our People**

The Right of Self-Government

The threat to our existence is no longer just "noise." Recently, we have seen legislation drafted with the intent to make Tribes like ours disappear. **Termination is a real threat**, but I am not intimidated.

I have stood in those Washington D.C. meetings and testified before Congress to defend our sovereignty. If elected, I will return to those rooms with the strength and knowledge required to ensure the United States honors its Nation-to-Nation responsibility to our Tribe, as the Supreme Law of the land.

We ARE a Tribal Nation... forever.

Protecting Our Property and Resources

The Board of Directors holds a sacred trust to act in the best interest of our People and to those who depend upon us for their livelihoods. Like many of you, I have watched actions that raise serious questions. I am appalled that Wage Compression still exists. As a private citizen, information is often shielded from view. However, once I am at that Board Table, I will demand transparency. I will seek out the truth and call for outside investigations into any action that violates the trust of our citizens.

I pledge to be open, forthcoming, and accountable to you.



From the Classroom to Congress * Proven Leadership for Our Tribe!

Vote - JEN MCLEOD TYSON, Unit 1

See my videos on facebook, Jennifer McLeod – Sault Tribe, Instagram@jenmcleodsaulttribe and TikTok Contact me at Jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com, (906) 440-9151

