

The QUACKER

JANUARY 2024 ISSUE 488 FOUNDED BY THE SUGAR ISLAND LIONESSE CLUB



Happy New Year!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- 1. New Year's Day
- 3. Fire Station Meeting North 7:00pm
- 6. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
- 8. Sugar Island Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm
- 9. Township Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 10. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
- 11. Lion Meeting 5:30pm
- 13. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
- 15. Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- 15. Sugar Island Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm
- 17. Fire Station Meeting South 7:00pm
- 21. Lions Brunch 8:30am – 11:00am
- 21. QUACKER DEADLINE
- 24. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
- 27. The Quacker is distributed
- 27. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm

In Memoriam

Harold Belanger

Tim Cairns

Dannie Lee Hendrickson

Patricia 'Patti' Langendorf

Patricia 'Patty' Russell



LIONS DEN

Happy new year to everyone from the Sugar Island Lions. 2023 was a good year for us which we capped off with what we call our annual donations. While we support many causes throughout the year, at our December meeting we gave over \$6000 to various local and Lions supported causes. Most of our island residents use these services. In fact, while on a recent ambulance visit, a person had told me how nice it was that a service we help support was available.

We approved these donations at our annual Christmas Party. Tracy and her Elves at the Hilltop provided an excellent meal and location for this event. It is one of the few times during the year we all get together at the same time. I was going to say and just have fun but it is always a good time when we get together.

We were surprised by the large turnout for our December breakfast. Thought everyone would be worn out from preparing for Christmas but they were able to summon up the energy for a good meal. We were also able to provide a little extra cheer for Steve Gillis, Tam Velderman and Deb Cox/Gregg Blankstrom each who will receive \$50 from our monthly raffle. The 50/50 winner was Nancy Andary.

And finally, Birthday greetings go out to those who will start out the New Year by getting older. Bud Willis, Chet Bosworth, Nicole Brunett and Holly Hutchinson all continue their quest towards middle age. Happy New Year.

Lion Jim Handziak



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FIRE PLUGS

Hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas. The fire department enjoyed themselves at our Christmas Party. Attending their first party with us (certainly not their first party) were Cole Biron and Bryce Middlestead the two newest members of our department. It's pretty nice to get members who are not looking forward to their Social Security check.

The department also received a couple of gifts. Our new pump to replace the one at the ferry dock has arrived and after a few alterations we will begin training. It has an increased pumping capability and will be easier to use. When asked "when we got the old pump?" The closest we could come was "a long time ago." This was purchased with 2% money from the Sault Tribe. The other gift was news that we had received a grant for another pump that we purchased "a long time ago." This grant from the DNR is a 50% match for an identical pump that will be used at another location to load our tankers.

Our thanks go out to our Chief Dave Pine for pursuing these grants. I was going to say that money seldom falls from trees, but on the island, we are lucky to have many generous donors. None of whom live in trees, now that I think of it.

Did you get a gift card for Christmas, but not sure what to buy? Take a look at your smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. If you have none or they need to be replaced, it would be a good use. Or if you know someone who needs one, it would not be considered gift-giving to buy them one.

Hope everyone has a safe and Happy New Year.

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
January 10th*

*WEDNESDAY
January 24th*

*WEDNESDAY
January 31st*

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

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SI EMS News

Our Christmas month has been as nice as I can remember. The snow went away and the temperature was almost, without a coat weather. We even had a bit of sunshine. Can't wait until we see what the new year brings. I've got my shovel and little snowblower ready for whatever comes. I haven't even had to put the ambulance in 4-wheel drive!

December so far has had 4 ambulance runs. We have hired a new crew member. He is a MFR right now but plans to take the next EMT course and run as a primary provider like the rest of us. He is quite the worker as he is on the SI Fire and Dafter Fire plus works full-time at My Michigan Sault in security. His name is Dan and he will be on Mondays. By January 15 the medic students will be back with us. Yea!

This is an exciting time for the island children and with the nice weather they may be outside more. There will be a Christmas program to participate in and I plan on going to see how cute they are. Please be careful driving to avoid youngsters who are outside enjoying the great weather and to those islanders who are enjoying walking on island roads without ice and snow.

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 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 begin 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. They make great Christmas stocking stuffers!

Wishing you all Happy New Year and welcome to 2024!

Adrienne Beckham SIEMS Co-Captain

**Ask what the CSB Family
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Talk to CSB's very own Islander.

Erin Albrecht

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MLO 920844

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

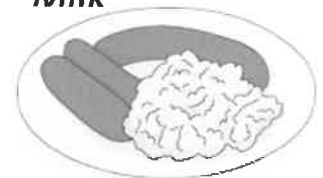
*Eggs * Sausage * Bacon * Hash Browns * American Fries
French Toast * Pancakes * Toast * Fruit * Juice * Coffee * Milk*

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

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
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Curbside Pick-up

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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 and ice are all over our roads thereby making driving more difficult and potentially dangerous. Please keep in mind that salt and sand applications to the roads help but they may not keep your vehicle on the road if you are traveling too fast. Please be safe and take your time.

As you may know, townships across Michigan are having difficulty recruiting and retaining volunteers. Unfortunately, Sugar Island is no exception. This current situation places an unusual burden on the existing volunteers, the employees, and the elected board members. We are eternally grateful that we have residents willing to volunteer. If you have the time and energy to volunteer, please speak to one of our Township Board members. If nothing changes, we may need to make significant alterations to the way we are currently doing business.

We just received verification that the installation of the five new streetlights will begin in the next couple of weeks. Cloverland will be doing the work, so please pass their vehicles slowly to avoid any accidents.

And finally, we have been informed that the St. Mary's River Harbor Safety Committee has submitted the necessary funds to finalize a 25-year lease for Island #1, currently owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This lease will permit the Harbor Safety Committee to develop that Island for a non-motorized, walking, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, public access trail network. The lease will transition the property from raw land to a parklike trail network. The new parklike trail network will have new rules for use, including prohibiting hunting, overnight camping and open alcohol consumption. Once finalized, the trail network will probably prohibit ATV's/UTV's, unleashed pets, and other restrictions you might find at existing Township parks. As the lease is finalized, the Harbor Safety Committee has committed to post signs, and publicize the rule changes.

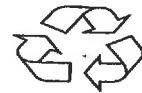
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TRANSFER STATIONS

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

South End: Closed for the Season

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 (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 (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

Winter Tax Collection:

Office Hours:

Additional Hours:

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

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

A Word From St. Luke's Community Church

Epiphany: On the Lookout for God

The wise men were some of the first people to seek and worship Jesus as Lord. However, at the time of Christ's birth travel was difficult and it took some time to arrive at the place where Christ was born. The Christian calendar places Epiphany on January 6, twelve nights after the celebration of Jesus' birth. Journeying perhaps 500 miles or more, the wise men sought after the Christ child, following the prophecies from Hebrew Scripture, specifically those from the book of Micah. In the fifth chapter of Micah, Scripture says, "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel "(Micah 5:2, ESV).

Scripture tells us that when the magi saw Jesus, they fell down and worshiped Him. The magi had brought precious gifts with them for the child, who they recognized as a king appointed not by people or family name, but by God. They had an epiphany, or a sudden insight into the true nature of something. They realized that they were in the presence of God. Theophany, a theological term, also describes the wise men's experience that night: a moment when God manifests Himself to the world. The birth of Christ represents the introduction of God's Spirit into human form, or incarnate.

When you look at something that you may have known about for a long time, and suddenly you realize that it is very special, much more meaningful than you've ever acknowledged; then at that moment, you've had an epiphany. You've uncovered something that was there all along, but was hiding, in a sense, just below the surface. It wasn't so obvious. It took a second look.

Epiphany Moments: God in the Everyday. At this time of the year, life can seem a little lonely or dreary. The Christmas trees have been taken down, lights packed away and wrapping paper trashed. Children have played with their new toys until they don't seem new anymore, and the New Year has come and gone. You already may have broken a resolution. But the joy of Christmas isn't over yet because we can choose to recognize the mercy of God in the everyday stuff. With open hearts and expectant outlooks, believers can have epiphany moments any day.

Just think in only 5 more months the doors of St. Luke's will again be opened wide and we can once again worship and fellowship together as a group of Christ followers. Blessings to all !!

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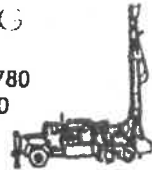
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