



The QUACKER

MARCH 2025 ISSUE 502 FOUNDED BY THE SUGAR ISLAND LIONESS CLUB



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

1. Farendy Farms Food
1. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
5. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
5. Fire Station Meeting North 7:00pm
6. Sugar Island Bible Study 6:00-7:30pm
8. Ice Rescue Training 10:00am
8. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
11. Township Board Meeting 7:00pm
12. Board of Review 3:00-9:00pm
13. Lions Meeting 5:30pm
14. Board of Review 9:00am-3:00pm
15. Farendy Farms Food
15. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
16. Lions Brunch 8:30am – 11:00am
17. St. Patrick's Day
19. Ferry Fueling Day 9:30am
19. Fire Station Meeting South 7:00pm
22. Farendy Farms Food
22. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm
22. QUACKER DEADLINE
25. Special Board Meeting 6:00pm
27. Sugar Island Bible Study 6:00-7:30pm
29. The Quacker is distributed
29. Farendy Farms Food
29. Sacred Heart Service 6:15pm

In Memoriam

John 'Jack' Willis



LIONS DEN

We had another cold day for our monthly breakfast but then again what do you expect for Sugar Island in the winter. In spite of that we had a nice crowd. Some people had questioned why security guards were standing by in the kitchen. Sad fact was that we had 2 cases of eggs on the premises and felt that we had to err on the side of caution.

Throwing caution to the wind we had our monthly drawing. Winners of \$50 each were Karl Kirn, Larry Peterman and Mike Willis. Our 50-50 winner was Sandy Borrusch who donated her winning back to the club. Thank you, Sandy!

While not hibernating for the winter we have slowed down a little in our activities but will be helping the Fire Department with their ice rescue training this month. We will be providing some refreshments and hot beverages. May have ice cream if we can figure out how to keep it frozen.

And for you gardeners it is not too early to start thinking about the farmer's market. While I am more of a consumer rather than a producer, I understand there are some early spring produce and plants that can be ready when we start again. One item people asked for was locally grown produce.

Birthday greeting go out this month to Pam Gillis, Patricia Newhouse, Brandi Rich and Barb Swoffer. All of which are proof that you don't need to be old to be a Lion. Happy Birthday ladies!

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

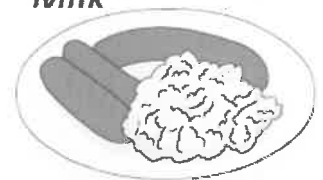
*Eggs * Sausage * Bacon * Hash Browns * American Fries
French Toast * Pancakes * Toast * Fruit * Juice * Coffee * Milk*

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.



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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



FIRE PLUGS

It was a dark and stormy night. Well, it was dark and it was night and if you replace stormy with very cold it describes what it was like when your fire department took over the ferry for an hour of training.

While you would not know it when using the ferry there are a lot of hidden spaces below deck and the crew regularly visits them (I see an episode of Dirty Jobs in the making). If an injury or illness strikes an individual while working in this space getting them out is difficult. With the help of the crew, we went through getting a person out of one of the hatches. We also practiced a fire attack in the engine room.

We found several areas for improvement and what gear we would need on a call to the ferry. Our thanks to the ferry crew for showing us the hidden areas on the boat and pointing out the hazards. We had originally talked about doing this training in warmer weather but changed it to winter when traffic is slower.

And continuing to take advantage of winter we plan on an ice rescue training on March 8th. We will be working with other agencies on this and it normally produces some interesting occurrences. I remember one but as they say what happens when an older overweight fire fighter falls in the water stays in the water.

And remember to keep your furnace exhaust and intake pipes clear of snow in this remarkable winter we are having.

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
March 5th

WEDNESDAY
March 19th

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, 2025

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

As we know, the calendar tells us that Spring is almost here. However, it's not here yet, so we've got to think about what comes next. As you know, the additional snow we've received this year will eventually melt and as nature tends to behave, much of that moisture will end up in our ditches, crawl spaces, basements, septic fields and driveways. To avoid flooding and the resulting damage, we should be cognizant of where this melted snow will go and then take some steps to mitigate any potential challenges by moving the existing snow closer to ditches and then make sure the culverts and ditches are not blocked. Cleaning out gutters is also an effective way to minimize flooding and resulting foundation problems. I am reasonably assured that the County Road Commission will do what they can, but we can help ourselves too. In my humble opinion, I think most of us would rather be survivors than victims of the Spring 2025 snow melting experience.

As we think about this year, we also should consider how we begin to prepare for each year in the future. Having plans to remove snow and ice buildup on roofs, clear driveways, add insulation, increase backup fuel supplies, ensure generator availability, and plan for chimney cleaning are all considerations. Everyone's situation is different and so are everybody's priorities. We know every future year will not be like this one, but failing to consider the possibility is not wise.

The Township voted at the February Board meeting to establish Board of Review dates for March. The Board of Review is the statutory entity that has been created to hear and address individual property owner tax issues. The dates for taxpayer reviews are Wednesday, March 12th from 3:00pm to 9:00pm, and then again on Friday, March 14th from 9:00am to 3:00pm. So, if you wish to protest a change in your property taxes, please feel free to stop by the Sugar Island Community Center during these periods.

And finally, over the last four years the Township Board has learned a lot of different lessons, and you can be assured that many of those items will be addressed in the upcoming four years. As you may know, our township's fiscal year ends on March 31st. Therefore, we will be scheduling a Special Board Meeting on March 25th at 6:00pm for the expressed purposes of conducting a public hearing to make a State of the Township presentation, closing out the current budget and then approving the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. If you have suggestions for the upcoming year, please contact your elected Township Board members immediately so those items can be considered in the new budget. Thank you.

Mark Eitrem, Supervisor



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



TRANSFER STATIONS

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& Saturdays 7am-3pm**

South End: Closed for the Season

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SI First Responder News

One of the longest months of the year is here! But with-it Spring is too so don't despair. One thing I forgot in February is to say that Valentine's day is coming, which we all knew but for some reason I forgot. Lol! How does that happen. Now we have had the normal very cold weather our winters bring to the UP. We know how to handle that but just a reminder to wear layers and stay warm. I am hoping that by the time St. Patty's day arrives that we will have definite signs of Spring, like melting snow and warmer days.

We will be having an ice rescue training on March 8. We have it every year just to make sure we all know the particulars of ice and cold weather rescue. The Sheriff Department and the Coast Guard will also be involved. Do not worry if you see these vehicles on the island. Make sure you are safe on the ice and don't be involved in the ice rescue. I always go to these events, but so far have not had to actually go into the cold water. Oh well maybe this year.....

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 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 for \$7.00 each. I have given the Quacker the phonebook additions for 2025 so you can make sure your phonebook has the updated listings for your use.

Stay safe and warm ☺

Adrienne Beckham SIFD Medical Captain

**Michael
Gillhooley**
Realtor

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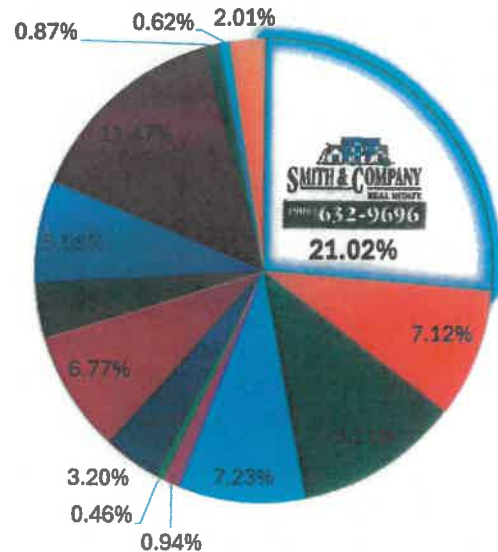
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ST. LUKE'S ON THE TRAIL



St. Luke's Community Church will begin the 2025 Season on Sunday, May 25.

We look forward to joining together again and invite all to take an early Sunday morning drive to the beautiful southern tip of Sugar Island to join other islanders and visitors of all denominations in traditional worship that brings praise to God.

As a family, we will celebrate graduations and award scholarships, give thanks for milestone birthdays, anniversaries, and even prepare for a wedding later in the fall.

The singing of hymns and choruses is a favorite part of the service to many that attend, along with this favorite that comes to mind when we think of our times together and the faithfulness of our Father, the love of our Savior and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dear St. Luke's on the Trail



*There's a church on an island in the Northwoods,
No lovelier spot in the dale.
No place is so dear to the folks up here,
As our dear St. Luke's on the Trail.*

*There, next to the church on the island,
Lie ones, dearly loved, now since gone.
They rest, sweetly rest, 'neath the tall, old trees
In peace, but their memories live on.*

*The glow in this room comes from Christ's love
Brought in by the candles aglow.
We part now, taking it with us.
We'll share it wherever we go.*

CHORUS:

*Oh, come to the church in the Northwoods,
Oh, come to the church on the trail.
No place is so dear to the folks up here,
As our dear St. Luke's on the Trail.*

St. Luke's Community Church

11240 S. Homestead Rd
Sugar Island, MI 49783
Contact: Steve & Christa Gruber
gruberhaus@aol.com

Sugar Island Phonebook Additions

2025-January

David & Brandi Rich 906-286-2547
8608 S. Shingle Bay Rd. 906-286-2360



SACRED HEART CHURCH

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

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.



Whatever it takes.

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