



Delaware - Wyoming - Lac La Belle - Bete Grise - South Point - Betsy - Little Betsy



## Sunny Summer Breezes



The summer of 2022 saw the South Shore reveling in lots of sunny but breezy weather. And following the tough pandemic year and aftermath, it was time to come out and enjoy the wonderful weather.

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The Mid-Summer Bonfire saw plenty of participants in shirtsleeves.

## NEWSLETTER

**Chris Guibert**

**Mark Oviatt**

**Terri Coronado**

**Marge Meyers**

**Bob Meyers**

**Jim Valsa**

**Shirley Dudek**

**Rick Olson**

**Nancy Oviatt**

**Steve Oviatt,**

**Editor**



All Summer long there were plenty of visitors to Bete Gris, as witnessed by this late August turnout the last Monday before the start of the school year.

But as the summer progressed, the lack of rain brought about drought conditions and an increase in activity for the Fire Department. While the UP saw plenty of rain, it all passed to the south of the Keweenaw, as seen here one evening, looking south over Lac la Belle.



**Mark Your Calendars!**

**From Jim Valsa, SSA President**

**Grant Township** meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Grant Township Community Center

**Grant Township** Work sessions are the Thursday before their regular meeting at 6:00 PM at the Grant Township Community Center.

**Zoning** meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

**County Commissioners** meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM.

**SSA** meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

The South Shore continues to be a great place to live due to the participation and support of our members. THANK YOU!

Anne and I also thank all of those who expressed concern about our home in Florida after Hurricane Ian. We were very fortunate that our damages were minimal and we are now almost 100% back to normal.

**Good news from 2022:**

Recycling went smoothly.



Several SSA members collected trash along the Gay-Lac la Belle Road

Thanks to Greg Dudek, the bulletin board looks a whole lot better!



Union Park development received support from Grant Township to begin clearing brush and hazardous trees

**Looking forward to 2023:**

We are investigating the potential for winter recycling.

Can we do a Springtime trash pick-up along Lac la Belle roads?



*Union Park site*

**2023 SSA Meeting Dates**

- June 21
- July 19
- August 16
- September 20

**Women's Meeting**  
Tuesdays, 10 AM  
LLB Firehall

**Upcoming Events**

**June 21**, Mid-Summer Bonfire, Bete Gris

**July 15 & 16**, Dumpster Days and Rummage Sale

**August 6**, Summer Fest

**August 12**, Fish Boil

**August 19**, Kid's Fishing Tournament

**-Dumpster Days are moving up a week to July 15 & 16**

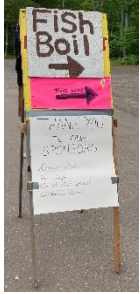
**-The Rummage Sale will take place during Dumpster Days**

Save your Rummage Sale items and help to organize this year's event. We need a volunteer to coordinate this sale. Please help!

**-The return of the Kid's Fishing Tournament!**

**Union Park also needs your help!** As our local grant applications have not been successful, any information about other grants or donors would be appreciated.

See you at the first SSA meeting on Wednesday, June 21 at 6:30 pm which will be followed by our annual Mid-Summer Bonfire at 9:00 pm



### LAC LA BELLE VFD FISH BOIL 2022

The 2022 Fish Boil set a record, bringing in nearly \$5,500! This will enable us to put a new brush unit into service in 2023 and further our efforts to budget for a new pumper tanker replacement. This was due to donations from local business and the public, including a generous cash donation from *Mt. Bohemia*.

The empty Firefighter's boot also collected \$200 from the general public.



In addition to cash and the sales of dinners, other businesses made significant, generous donations. These donations included all the potatoes, onions, butter and cole slaw from *Louie's* in Lake Linden.



*The Bear Belly* donated all the carryout containers.

*FerrellGas* not only donated the propane for the Boil, it also designed and installed a new piping system to keep all the pots boiling.



Of course, all the firefighters donated their time as well as the general public, who helped keep things running smoothly.



### LAC LA BELLE FIRE DEPARTMENT REMINDER

Remember to keep your chimney cleaned during the winter if you're burning wood and, in the spring, if you're burning wood during the summer months.

Make sure to pay attention to your furnace exhaust and intake to be sure they are not covered in snow or iced up. This should be regularly checked during the winter.

Change the batteries in your smoke detectors and make sure your carbon monoxide are working properly. If you don't have them, be sure to buy and install them.



We want you to be safe. **And please consider joining the Fire Department.**

Rick Olson, Chief



## Keweenaw County Road Commission

For the summer of 2023, work will begin on the Bete Gris Road and finish paving from near Sand Point to the Canal.

We will also work on the Gay-Lac la Belle Road from Montgomery Point to South Point as much as funding will allow.

Rick Olson, Road Commissioner



## From Scott Ochodnick, Grant Township Supervisor

For the communities along the South Shore, I want the Township Board to consider:

- Holding more meetings in LLB (i.e. 6 Board meetings, at least 1 of the Board of Review meetings, several Work Session meetings, etc.)
- Taking next steps of the Union Park development including additional funds, if needed
- Adding conference room equipment (video cameras/microphones) for Board meetings to LLB meeting room
- Assist in the fire truck purchase (however there currently are supply chain issues)
- In general, ensure that these communities are receiving their fair share of the existing tax resources

For the Township overall, I want the Township Board to consider:

- Updating Ordinances, particularly the Water and Sewer Ordinances for the Copper Harbor community
- Ensure the Township keeps the best personnel throughout all functions, the Boards/Committees, office staff and maintenance personnel
- Deploy new technologies to streamline processes and procedures
- Thorough reorganization of Township documents, including archival, posting on website, etc.
- Plan for infrastructure scaling, particularly a lagoon at the Copper Harbor sewage treatment facility
- Research and pursue a variety of grant opportunities.

For my part, I intend to continue to spend a lot of time on these topics just as I have been, as well as continue to hold weekend “office hours” in Lac la Belle.



## The Keweenaw Heartlands

2022 saw more interest in purchasing the timber properties in the Township that went on the market. Information meetings held by *The Nature Conservancy* were heavily attended and the sale finally went through at the end of the year. **(See the December 2022 Special Edition on the [keweenawssa.org](http://keweenawssa.org) website for more information.)** For updates, go to the *Keweenaw Area Community Foundation* website, [keweenawgives.org](http://keweenawgives.org).

We wanted to check in on a couple stories from 2021 that intrigued us.

In 2021, *Marquette High School* freshman swimmer Maija Talvensaari, the granddaughter of Tom and Debbie Talvensaari, shown here with her coach, Scott Combs, great-grandson of Hank and Marie Nurmi, swam from the Nurmi camp to the Red Sands. Maija had a successful season in her first year of competition, making it to State in the 100 m breaststroke, the 100 and 200 m freestyle and the 200 m medley relay **as a freshman!** Understandably, her family is proud.



Gale and Richard Slates survived their first winter back in the Keweenaw after being away 13 years and becoming re-acquainted with joys of winter weather. Gale was able to expand her indoor gardens. She also reports that regular deliveries from Amazon, Costco (which shipped a sauna kit!), FedEx and UPS took care of other needs. In addition, the timing of their move worked as their former home in Florida was inundated by the storm surges caused by the hurricanes that hit Florida in 2022.

Did you know that THE most photographed spot on the South Shore is the Lac la Belle “Post Office”? For those of you who noticed the site becoming more attractive and eye-catching over the past several years, credit is due to Dick and Peggy Streeter, who installed and maintain the hanging flower baskets, and Gale Curtis, who keeps the grass cut.



In a related matter, the man who delivers the mail throughout the year, Ken (KO) Olson, underwent successful cancer treatment at the Mayo Clinic in the late fall following a big fundraiser to help defray his costs.



Boaters and residents on the Red Sands have been noticing a new phenomenon over the past couple of years. It seems that someone misunderstands the concept of lake and water cleanup. This picture shows soap suds, not foam, on the Red Sands shoreline. Boaters and kayakers have also been noticing and commenting on what look like islands of suds further out on the lake. The Health Department has been notified. If you know where these suds are coming from, please let the Health Department know.

**And while we’re thinking about the lake...**

Guy Meadows, a retired Michigan Tech professor, is warning that last summer’s high winds accompanied a rise in the level of the lake and will mean we will all see higher lake levels as storms and accompanying winds increase over the next couple years. **See the full explanation by looking for Lake Superior Water Levels on the keweenawssa.org website.**



**SSA Newsletter**

Please consider helping with the newsletter by letting us know of interesting activities and by **taking pictures and sending us your stories.** Your help is important to keep the newsletter going. Send them to [novasteve0@gmail.com](mailto:novasteve0@gmail.com).

### The Surprise Visitor



Following several reported sightings all through the late Spring and Summer, a game camera finally caught a local wolf enjoying some leftovers behind the *Bear Belly* one night in early September.

### The Ladies' Meetings

Another Summer ended with the ladies and their guests all getting together at the *Mariner North*.



*Movie Night featured "The Princess Bride"*

### The Men's Meetings

For their part, the Men met several times over the grill to burn meat and share good times and memories with each other.



### SummerFest



### And other happenings



*When you gotta go!*



*SSA Officers*



*Township Board Meeting*



*Union Park Planning Meeting*



# South Shore Association

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## About Us

Founded in 1995, the South Shore Association is a legal nonprofit, incorporated, tax exempt community organization.

## Your Involvement

All residents are encouraged to run for Grant Township office, register to vote in Grant Township, and attend Township and County meetings. This is the most important thing you can do to promote our interests on the South Shore. By attending SSA meetings, you can share your ideas, get informed, get networked, and be part of the various projects we undertake to enhance the quality of life on the South Shore.

## Guiding Principles

1. To be the voice of the South Shore in Grant Township and insure proper and equitable distribution of tax dollars.
2. To improve and maintain desirable living conditions for the many cottage dwellers and permanent South Shore residents in Grant Township.
3. To provide and maintain a friendly spirit of cooperation among the members for mutual benefit and enjoyment.
4. To support and enhance a quality of life on the South Shore.

## And in closing:



May "Blood Moon" over  
Lac la Belle



long winter



Celebrating a new day

