



Winter 2023/2024

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



## "The hottest summer on record!"?

According to "the experts" 2023 set records for heat. Except for brief teases, the "record heat" did not appear until Labor Day weekend. The summer began with the cancellation of the annual Mid-Summer Bonfire because of on-going dry conditions, which went away as the season progressed.

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Normal summer wear consisted of long sleeves, flannels and sweatshirts, as seen in this picture shot during the mid-July Dumpster Days weekend.

### Contributors:

Chris Guibert

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Marge Meyers

Bob Meyers

Anne Valsa

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Greg Dudek

Rick Olson

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Steve Oviatt,  
Editor

The heat finally appeared in force over Labor Day weekend with the first ever celebration of the Haven Falls Bridge Walk.



By the time most of us had packed up, closed camp and headed south, the record warmth lingered, resulting in little ice or snow, as shown in this shot from the Meyers' webcam just after New Year's Day.

## 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 and the LLB Fire Hall the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of each quarter.

**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 Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

## 2024 SSA Meeting Dates

June 18  
July 16  
August 20  
September 17

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

## Upcoming Events

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

**July 13 & 14**, Dumpster Days

**August 4**, Summer Fest

**August 10**, Fish Boil

**August 17**, Kids' Fishing Tournament

**September 2** – Labor Day Bridge Walk

Thank you SSA Board and Members for a successful 2023. We are grateful for Lynn Zapolnek and the wonderful return of Kids' Fishing.



Congratulations to all who helped to make the Rummage Sale provide valuable funds for our Fire Department.



As we look forward to 2024, please pay attention to the bulletin board and to SSA emails. **SSA meetings are now on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm.** If we need to alter a date, it will be posted and emailed. Weather permitting, the Mid-Summer Bonfire will be held on June 21 at 9:00 pm.

After a great beginning, we intend to promote and put on SSA's schedule the famous "Bridge Walk" at Haven Falls on Labor Day.

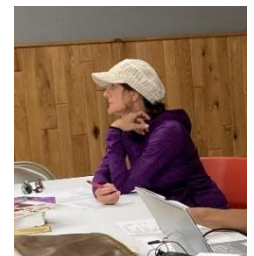


If you have not noticed, Union Park has been cleared to enable development. A huge thank you goes out to Mark Ahlborn and Harley Lewis for their work in power dragging the area. The next phase is to get funding for park equipment. If you have any sources or ideas, please bring them to me.



Recycling went very well and is continuing for the winter. If you have any thoughts to improve recycling, or garbage, please bring them to a SSA meeting and we will determine a course of action. One possible item is to have a separate container for corrugated material.

Lastly, our thanks go to Amy Oestreich who served as SSA Secretary for the past three years. Of course, we now need a new Secretary. The main job is to take notes at meetings and prepare the minutes. Pretty simple. Your service will be greatly appreciated.





# Lac la Belle Fire Department Report

It is wintertime again and time to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. If you do not have both we highly recommend that you install them. Please remember to clean your chimneys for those who burn wood and for others who have the new propane furnaces, be sure your exhaust and intake pipes remain clear of snow and ice this winter.



The fish boil for 2023 was a great success so **thank you to all who supported our fund raiser and thank you to our community members who volunteer their time to assist us with this great event!** We received \$2302.61 in cash donations and had \$4785 in ticket sales. After expenses we profited \$5163.63! There were over \$1100 in donations of items to put the event on made by businesses not included in the cash totals above. We continue to receive other cash donations after the event as well.

**Again, thank you to all who supported us! We are very grateful to each of you!**

Other exciting news, **we have 4 new members who joined our department this summer!** We had 2 join last year. Additionally, we had a former member rejoin and he will be helping when in the area. That brings us to 6 new people in 2 years. Keep in mind some people are here for summers only or here part time. **We are always looking for new members.**

We took delivery of our new Brush Truck on December 14, 2023. It is a 2022 Ford F550 Crew cab with an enclosed back area that houses a 400 gallon poly tank – 21 HP Honda with a Darley 400 gpm pump – Hose reel and ample storage. It also has a front bumper turret controlled from the cab and the truck has pump and roll capability. There are other features as well. We will be doing something this summer to let the community see this new addition. The old brush truck is being converted into a Rescue unit. More information to come on this in the future.



In 2023 we applied for and received a grant for turnout gear from the State of Michigan. We were awarded \$10,000. This helped to replace 3 sets of turn out gear along with some lights, helmets and gloves. In 2023 we also applied for a grant from Portage Health Foundation (Copper Shores now) – and received a grant for \$5000 to help outfit our rescue unit. **This is a matching grant, so we have to spend the matching amount from our funds.** In addition, we applied for a grant from the Michigan DNR and received a grant for \$4999. **This is also a matching grant, so we will need to spend that amount from our funds.** This money was put toward our New Brush Truck Foam system.

So, in total we received \$19,999 in grants for 2023!

Rick Olson, Chief

# Keweenaw County Road Commission



The road commission finished up with the paving projects in the Bete Gris and Gay Lac La Belle Road areas this summer. We are not due for any projects in 2024 in our area. The funds will be spent in Allouez Township this year along with some other small projects in other areas.

The Road Commission took delivery of a new sander truck and decided to purchase the 3 graders that were being leased as this will be a more cost-effective measure for this year. All of them are still under warranty. We will be looking at other options in 2024.

**2023/2024 winter so far is mostly a nonevent so we are saving funds and wear on equipment.**

Rick Olson, Road Commissioner

## Grant Township Supervisor's Report

### Stump dump status

I'm optimistic that we can begin this in 2024 (I would really like to!) and plan to budget for it. The 2.8-acre portion of our land that was the old landfill site needs to be clearly marked and preferably gated off if we find that we're unable to get the restrictive covenants lifted. The remaining adjacent 10 acres shouldn't have any restrictions, but I would like EGLE to confirm that nothing has changed since 1990. The dump site would require a township attendant, much like we do at our Dumpster Days events.



*Scott Ochodnický*

### TNC land – The Heartlands

I support having as much local representation as possible. The '*Districts for Board members correspond to districts for County Commissioners*' seems reasonable to me. I understand the view that Grant Township residents and taxpayers may want more proportionate representation on the proposed Government Relations Advisory Committee. I don't have strong feelings towards one model or the other so long as our township's representation is knowledgeable and effective.

### Proliferation of camps into rentals (*AirBnB*, *VRBO*, etc.)

This challenge has been culminating for some time and contributes significantly to our housing challenges. I plan to introduce a local township ordinance for short term rentals in 2024 for the township board to consider for adoption as one piece of a greater plan to improve the housing options within our township.

## *The Keweenaw Heartlands*

2023 saw the completion of the sale of the Heartlands and initial efforts to organize how they will be managed. **See the January, 2023 Special Edition, "One Year into the Keweenaw Heartlands Project" on the [keweenawssa.org](http://keweenawssa.org) website for details.**



The Fire Department Rummage Sale received a huge outpouring of support in 2023, so much so that people were encouraged to return and buy more. But the **BIG** story from the Rummage Sale was Terri Coronado's discovery of two items that she decided to list on **eBay**. As you can see from the listings, their sales boosted the proceeds of the Rummage Sale!



Spurred on by the success of their efforts to maintain the Lac la Belle "Post Office" as one of the premier attractions of the Keweenaw, Dick and Peggy Streeter decided to add a little more beauty by decorating their mailbox. Their effort supplements others who have decorated their mailboxes for Halloween in recent years.



Ned Huwatschek and Mark Oviatt woke up one morning in late June to discover a crowd in their front yards that gathered to witness the wedding of Keweenaw County Undersheriff Tonya Stefonich to Bryan (Butch) Mattila. The newlyweds and Tonya's daughter have a camp on Sand Point. There is no word if others may follow their lead in the future.

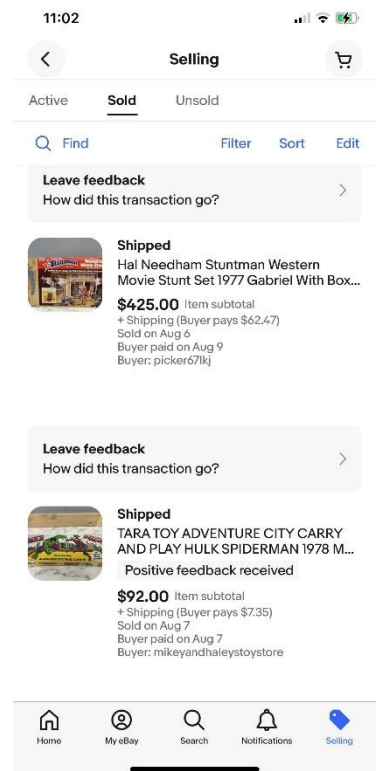
A new women's group began meeting on Tuesday afternoons in the Fire Hall to learn new quilting techniques and share handicraft projects. The group plans to continue meeting this upcoming summer beginning Tuesday, June 4th at 12:30 until 3 pm in the Fire Hall, sharing information and learning new techniques. Cutting mats, rotary cutters, an iron and ironing board and fabric will be available if participants don't have any. Knitting, cross stitching and other crafts are included.

If interested. contact Karen Trynoski at [trynoski@yahoo.com](mailto:trynoski@yahoo.com) or text or call 612-805-0163.



## SSA Newsletter Contributions

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 Kids' Fishing Tournament

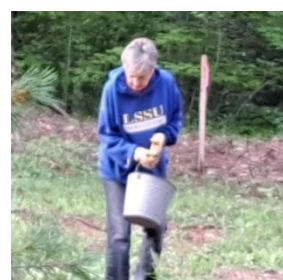
Following a lengthy hiatus, the Kids' Fishing Tournament returned with a big turnout of young and old fishermen and their families, complete with lunch and a variety of prizes both big and small.



# Union Park Cleanup



The big surprise in 2023 was the clearing of Union Park (across from the Fire Hall) after 150+ years of sitting vacant. The big clearing of the trees and underbrush was done early in the summer. The resulting pile of debris sat near the recycle bins before being burned in the fall. A big discovery from the clearing was decades worth of trash, which was picked up by a small group of volunteers from across the Township in late August.



# The Labor Day Bridge Walk



Normally, walking across the Haven Falls Park Bridge is done individually. But in 2023, "The Helltown Crew" decided to join the rest of

Michigan on Labor Day for a local celebration by walking across the Haven Falls Park Bridge, since the Mackinaw Bridge was too far away. They plan to expand the celebration to include everyone in the future.



# Remembering...

June Peterson 6/25/2023 – Longtime summer resident of Lac la Belle

Kathleen Jaaskelainen 7/27/2023 – Local teacher and longtime summer resident of Lac la Belle

Thomas Poynter 9/30/2023 – Owner of the Delaware Mine

Bob Good 11/9/2023 – Retired fulltime resident of Lac la Belle

John Dee 11/14/2023 – Local celebrity weatherman and Keweenaw Snowmobile Club booster

## MEMBERSHIP FORM (ONE MEMBER PER FORM)

Please take time to fill out and return your membership form. Your help in doing this in a timely manner will be very helpful. **You will be taken off the mailing/email list when dues are not paid for three years.** Mail to Marge Meyers, N637 Thaler Dr, Vulcan, MI 49892

**Pay dues by April 30**

**Please pay before Summer Fest so we know our budget!**

(One name per form please)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SEASONAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES: \$10**

**DONATION:**

**CHECK NUMBER:**

(One name per form please)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SEASONAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES: \$10**

**DONATION:**

**CHECK NUMBER:**

## South Shore Association

P.O. Box 183  
Mohawk, MI 49950

### President

Jim Valsa  
906-289-4995  
jamesevalsa@gmail.com

### Vice President

Lynn Zapolnek  
517-648-6150  
[lynnzapolnek@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnzapolnek@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Marge Meyers  
906-396-8913  
[mgmeyers@uplogon.com](mailto:mgmeyers@uplogon.com)

### Secretary

Does anybody  
want to  
volunteer?

## About Us

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

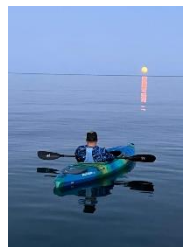
## Your Involvement

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:



*August Super Blue  
Moon over Bete Gris*



*August Super Blue  
Moon over Lac la Belle*

P.O. Box 183  
Mohawk, MI 49950

