

# SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

Information Contacts:

Chief Greg Janik  
269.857.3000  
gjanik@saugatuckfire.org

Erik Kirchert  
616 928-7488  
ekirchert@saugatuckfire.org

John Peters  
269.857.2967  
jppubrel@gmail.com

FIRE DEP'T RIVER & LAKE OPERATIONS  
PRESENTED AT AUG. 6 "TUESDAY TALK"

JULY 26, 2019 -- "Stories of the Morgan J" highlights Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's August 6 "Tuesday Talk" in the Old School House at 130 Center Street, Douglas. The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m. Public attendance is invited and audience participation is welcomed to enrich the discussion.

Saugatuck Twp. Fire District Chief Greg Janik and Erik Kirchert, Director of Information Technology, will explain how the department operates on the water both upriver and out on Lake Michigan, with special focus on the *Morgan J*, its versatile main fireboat named in honor of the late former firefighter and fireboard member Morgan Edgcomb Jr.

In contrast to the *Gallinipper* -- a historic 1850s lifeboat on display at the Old School House that was dedicated to lake rescue missions -- Chief Janik notes that "the Morgan J serves multiple purposes, as a Fire/Rescue boat should in today's fire service, such as aiding boats in distress and missing person searches. As a component in our firefighting capabilities", he adds, "it also supplements the municipal water supply in case of a major structure fire along the river front or in the city."

The presentation also will discuss capabilities of the Fire District's other boats and its partnership with Allegan County Sheriff and U.S. Coast Guard emergency response.

Janik, an avid sailboater with ocean-crossing experience, has been Fire District Chief since June of 2013. Earlier he was officer and assistant Chief, served with the Graafschap Fire Department and was a State Fire Marshal. Kirchert, a firefighter since 2006 with a background in IT and typography, also served as a Medical First Responder.

A summertime tradition since 1996, SDHC's weekly Tuesday Talks present entertaining and informative insights into local community life throughout July and August. This week's Talk is sponsored by SDHC members Don and Laurie Bradley.

Tuesday Talks' increasing popularity puts limited seating on "first-come, first-served" basis. While admission is free for current SDHC members, non-member guests are encouraged to attend with a donation of five dollars, or to become new members at the Talk.

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, or its activities planned for the months ahead, visit [www.MySDHistory.org](http://www.MySDHistory.org).

###

PHOTO ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpeg "MorganJ")

Caption:

Saugatuck's fireboat *Morgan J*, shown during Lake Michigan mutual aid training with the Allegan County Dive Team, is featured in SDHC's August 6 "Tuesday Talk".