

SAULT STE. MARIE HOUSING COMMISSION

April 2024 Newsletter



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 **STAY SAFE & STAY ALERT!** 

As we get older, the risk of falling or other medical emergencies can increase. If you have aging loved ones, you may want to consider a medical alert system. A medical alert system is designed to call for help if you cannot reach a phone to dial emergency services or family members. It could also offer a sense of security and potentially save a life if an emergency occurs.

Although making a decision on what plan or device is best can be difficult, there are resources available that may be able to help! If you are interested, contact CHAC at **(906) 635-7483** or dial **2-1-1**, Michigan's Find Help Line for more information. They may be able to assist you through the process and help determine what will work best for you.

SPRING CLEANING

If weather permits, the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission will be providing dumpsters again this year on Andary Avenue and Kimball Street for residents to “Spring Clean” and remove any unwanted items in your home/yard. Dumpsters tentatively will be made available in the month of May.

CLOVERLAND PHOTO CONTEST

Cloverland Electric Cooperative is calling for photo contest entries from its members for publication in the Cloverland Connections magazine. This magazine is provided to more than 34,000 homes and businesses across our service area. At the end of the year, one photo will be selected as the winner and awarded with a \$100 electric bill credit!

The photo theme is: **Boating & Floating.** Photo submissions may be shared on the Cloverland Electric Facebook page or submitted to their website at www.cloverland.com/community/outreach/cloverland-magazine-photo-contest.

ADULTING 101

Are you ready to leave for college or be out on your own? Are you prepared to do adult tasks and have the skills to be successful? Michigan State University Extension's Adulthood 101 programs help teenagers and young adults demystify the obscure reality of being an “adult” through engaging educational sessions.

Each FREE zoom session is packed full of important life skills and tools necessary to live independently! Download their event flyer today by visiting <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Adulthood2024>. New topics will be presented each month through November 2024.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Meet the Orchestra

Join the Soo Theatre on April 13th from 2pm - 4pm at the Bayliss Library (541 Library Dr) as they journey through the Orchestra. Each month a different instrument will be highlighted with special guest performers. The month of April will include brass instruments, such as the French Horn. Although this interactive experience is geared towards children, everyone is welcome to attend!

Spring Craft Show

The Sault Area Middle School is hosting their Spring Craft and Vendor Show on April 20th from 10am - 2pm. The Sault High Native Youth Council will also be selling Indian Tacos!

Earth Day 2024 Celebration

Northern Transitions, Inc. will be celebrating Earth Day with a fun day for all on April 22nd! Starting from 10am - 330pm, the Chippewa County Recycling Center (1436 W. Easterday Ave) will be giving FREE tours of the Recycling Center. During the tour, you will be allowed to take part in many activities and games focused on celebrating and helping the earth.



LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

Feeding America West Michigan:

Feeding America West Michigan will be offering mobile pantry distributions at the Big Bear (2 Ice Circle Chi Mukwa) at 4:00 p.m. during the following dates:

- April 11, 2024 and May 9, 2024
- June 13, 2024 and July 11, 2024
- August 8, 2024 and September 12, 2024
- October 10, 2024 and November 7, 2024
- December 12, 2024

Salvation Army: 906-632-6521

- Pantry: by appointment only.
- Community Kitchen: Mon-Fri (12pm-12:30pm)
- Bread Rack: Mon/Wed/Fri (10am-12pm) and Tues/Thur (10am-12pm & 12:30pm-3:30pm)

First Church of Christ: 906-632-6511

- 300 W. Spruce St: Mon-Wed (9am-11am)

First United Presbyterian Church: 906-632-7771

- 555 Bingham Ave: 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month (3:30pm-5pm)

St Joseph's Catholic Church: 906-632-9625

- 1101 Minneapolis St: Tuesday's (2pm-3pm)

CLM Community Action Agency: 906-632-3363

- 524 Ashmun St (2nd Floor)
- Emergency Food: Mon-Fri (9am-4pm)



STATE EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM (SER)

The State Emergency Relief (SER) Program provides immediate help to low-income households and families facing conditions of extreme hardship or for emergencies that threaten health and safety.

To qualify for State Emergency Relief, you must meet a number of requirements. To view these requirements and see if you are eligible, apply online today by going to <https://newmibridges.michigan.gov>.

MI Bridges also offers several other programs that you may be eligible for! Check out their programs below:

-  Healthcare Coverage
-  Food Assistance
-  Cash Assistance
-  Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)
-  Child Development & Care

DTE ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Based on your income, you could qualify for energy assistance to pay your past-due balance or current DTE bill! DTE offers several payment assistance programs to help customers pay their energy bills. They will work with you to find a payment plan that will best suit your budget and energy needs.

In order to qualify for any DTE assistance program, they must verify the income of everyone in your household. Contact DTE today at **(800) 477-4747** to see if you qualify and avoid service disconnection.

4-FORMS

Any changes in your household must be reported within (10) days of notice. Household changes may include: new employment (must be reported within (10) days of your HIRE date), loss of employment, pay increase/decrease, child support, minor getting a job, unemployment benefits, social security increase or decrease, pension/retirement earnings, household size, childcare expenses, cash assistance, etc.

Complete the 4-forms IMMEDIATELY to avoid being charged retroactive rent, which can add up quickly. As a reminder, you **cannot** make updates via phone; the 4-forms must be completed.

ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION & INSPECTIONS

When you receive notice that it is time for your Annual, you may wonder why it is 3 months prior to your original move-in month. In order to get your verification's and file processed prior to your annual move-in date, we have to start the process early.

The notice will also detail the dates in which maintenance will enter your home to conduct your annual inspection. You do not have to be present for the inspection. For further questions or concerns, please contact our office.

WORK ORDERS

Any damages or work orders not called in as they occur and are found during an inspection are considered lease violations. Per your lease, you are required to call these in. Be sure you do your part and report as they happen so violations do not incur.



HOUSEKEEPING

When you signed your lease with the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission, you agreed to an extensive list of “requirements” to obtain and keep your subsidized housing. Subsidized means that a portion of your rent is paid for by the federal government, based on your income. Housekeeping is extremely important. HUD has set what is considered “acceptable” housekeeping and what is not. A complete list of what HUD requires is listed in your lease.

We understand that there are a lot of rules and requirements associated with federally subsidized housing. However, in order to get the reduced rate of rent compared to the private landlord sectors rate of rent (*Example: For Chippewa County, a 3-bedroom unit at fair market rent is \$1,243.00/month*), these requirements have to be met.

When maintenance enters a home, part of their job is to report on the condition of the home, inside and out. They will take pictures as well. If it is sub-standard per HUD requirements, it is reported to admin and you will get notification of a follow up housekeeping inspection. Sub-standard housekeeping is a lease violation. Three lease violations in a year can result in the loss of your home.

There are agencies and programs that may be able to help if you are unable to keep up on your own. These agencies will be suggested to you during your inspections. We hope you take the opportunity to inquire about eligibility for assistance. Any questions, please contact our office and ask to speak with our Resource Manager, Jim.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **Rent is DUE on April 1st.**
Late fees will apply after 3:00pm on April 5th. If your rent is late, a \$10.00 late fee will be applied to your account *in addition* to \$1.00 each day until payment is received by our office.
- Cash payments are NOT accepted. Acceptable forms of payment include a Personal Check, Cashier's Check or Money Order.
- Our lobby doors are open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. However, we are available for phone calls until 5:00pm.
- Our vestibule is open 24/7. You can pick up or drop off our forms at any time.



Quote of the Month



Spring: a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be.

-Unknown-



STAFF DIRECTORY

Family Housing

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Receptionist

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Donn J. Riley, President

Jennifer Dunton, Vice-President

Jennifer LaBonte, Treasurer

Michael B. Winnick, Commissioner

Ancilla Lee, Resident Commissioner

Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 12:00pm in our office, located on 608 Pine Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Meeting dates may be subject to change

OFFICE INFORMATION

P.O. Box 928 / 608 Pine St
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