

SAULT STE. MARIE HOUSING COMMISSION

April 2026 Newsletter



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REPORTING HOUSEHOLD CHANGES

We have recently observed an increase in unreported income. This is a reminder that all changes to your household must be reported to our office within **10 business days**. Changes you must report include, but are not limited to:

- Change in household income
- New employment (report within 10 business days of hire date)
- Job loss or pay increase/decrease
- Child support changes
- Dependent getting a job
- Unemployment benefits
- Social Security or pension/retirement changes
- Household size adjustments or name change
- Daycare expenses
- Cash assistance increase/decrease

Please be advised that updates cannot be made over the phone; the 4-forms must be completed and submitted to our office. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) prioritizes preventing fraud in public housing. Failing to report a change in income within the required time frame is considered a serious lease violation and may result in retroactive rent charges.

If you are ever unsure what to report or when, please contact our office and speak with your Occupancy Specialist right away. We're here to help!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Enjoy a Family Fun Night on Friday, April 10th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month. The event will be held at the Big Bear Arena, located at 2 Ice Circle. Activities will include a bounce house, games, pizza, cotton candy, snow cones, and community resource booths! For more information, please call Ashley Morrow at 906-495-1232.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Diane Pepler Resource Center is bringing back their spaghetti dinner fundraiser! Join them on April 15th at the American Legion for a delicious meal to help honor survivors and raise awareness during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The event will be from 4:00pm to 7:00 pm.

Dine-in or take-out options are available, and each meal includes salad, garlic bread, spaghetti with a meat or meatless option, dessert, and a pop or water. The cost is by donation, and all proceeds benefit the survivors they serve in the EUP.

CAR SEAT & DRIVER SAFETY

MyMichigan Medical Center Sault will host a free, public community education event in the Main Lobby/Registration Area on April 15th from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. This event is intended to offer guidance to the public on car seat installation, child passenger safety, and safe driving habits to help keep families protected on the road.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Freighter Fun Day

Join The Cozy Corners in Barbeau for their 4th Annual Freighter Fun Day on Saturday, April 18th at 1:00pm. Enjoy freighter-themed bingo and trivia! Attendees have the chance to win prizes including Soo Locks Boat Tour tickets, passes to the Valley Camp Museum Ship, goodies from Interlake Steamship Company, and Cozy Corners merchandise!

123 Years: Annual Speakeasy

Step back into the Roaring Twenties at The Palace Saloon's 123rd Annual Speakeasy Party on April 18th at 5:00 PM. Staff will be dressed in flapper dresses and sharp suits, setting the vintage scene.

Guests of all ages can enjoy special appearances, themed specials, and great food. Reservations include a complimentary glass of champagne, and period-inspired attire is encouraged. Fun party favors will make this celebration even more memorable!

Family Fest Bowling

Enjoy an afternoon of bowling and fellowship! Special rates are \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family, with bowling shoe rental included. The event is hosted by Pickford Global Methodist Church and will take place at the Dondee Lanes on Sunday, April 19th at 3:00pm. All are welcome to attend!



FOOD PANTRIES

Feeding America: Upper Peninsula

- Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 4:00pm. Located at the Big Bear Arena (Chi Mukwa) on 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Salvation Army

132 W. Spruce St: 906-632-6521

- Pantry: by appointment only.
- Community Kitchen: Mon-Fri (12pm-12:30pm)
- Bread Rack: Monday - Friday (9:30a - 10:30a)

First Church of Christ

300 W. Spruce St: 906-632-6511

- Mon-Wed (9am-11am)

First United Presbyterian Church

555 Bingham Ave: 906-632-7771

- 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month (3:30pm-5pm)

St Joseph's Catholic Church

1101 Minneapolis St: 906-632-9625

- Every Tuesday (2pm-3pm)

CLM Community Action Agency

524 Ashmun St: 906-632-3363

- Mon-Fri (9am-4pm)



SPRING CLEANING: DUMPSTERS

The Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission plans to once again provide dumpsters on Andary Avenue and Kimball Street this year, weather permitting.

These dumpsters are intended to give all residents an opportunity for “Spring Cleaning” by safely disposing of approved household or yard items. Dumpsters are tentatively expected to be available in May, with more information to be shared in the May newsletter.

SENIOR MEAL PROGRAMS

Congregate Meal Program

Nutritious lunches are served at the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action dining site, where seniors can enjoy a meal in a welcoming group setting. If you are aged 60 years or older, you are eligible to attend. The dining site is open Monday-Friday at noon and located in the Calery Center on 524 Ashmun Street.

Home Delivered Meals Program

This program is designed to assist home-bound seniors with their dietary needs. Each and every meal is a blend of good taste and balanced nutrition and is delivered to the homes of seniors who are not able to attend Congregate Meal Sites. The Home Delivered Meal Program provides meals for seven days a week. The recommended donation is \$3.00 per meal.

Eligibility Requirements:

- You or your spouse must be 60 years of age or older.
- You are home-bound and cannot leave your home independently.
- You are unable to prepare meals and have no other access to a nutritionally balanced diet.

To apply for the Home Delivered Meals Program, contact the Community Action Agency at 906-632-3363.

4-FORMS

Any changes in your household must be reported within ten (10) business days of receiving notice.

This includes updates such as new employment, job loss, changes in pay/hours, child support changes, a minor starting a job, unemployment benefits, changes in SSI/Social Security benefits, pension or retirement earnings, household size, childcare expenses, cash assistance, etc.

Updates cannot be made via phone or email; you must complete the 4-forms. To avoid retroactive rent charges that can accumulate quickly, complete and submit these forms as soon as possible.

ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION & INSPECTIONS

When you receive notice that it is time for your Annual Recertification, you may question why it's scheduled three months before your original move-in date. We start this process early to ensure we can complete the necessary verifications and file processing before your annual move-in date.

The notice will include the dates when maintenance will enter your home to conduct the annual inspection. Additional details will be provided in the letter at that time. If you have questions or concerns, please contact our office.

WORK ORDERS

Any damages or work orders not reported when they occur and later discovered during an inspection are considered lease violations. As outlined in your lease, you must report these issues promptly. Be sure to notify our office as soon as they arise to avoid potential violations.

HOUSEKEEPING

When signing your lease for subsidized housing, you agreed to the specific requirements needed to keep your eligibility. Subsidized housing means that a portion of your rent is paid by the federal government, depending on your income. Although we understand there are many regulations associated with federally subsidized housing, these requirements are necessary in order to receive reduced rent. For instance, in Chippewa County, the fair market rent for a 3-bedroom unit is \$1,278/month.

Maintaining your housekeeping is essential, and HUD has set standards to define what is considered acceptable or unacceptable. These standards are outlined in your lease. When maintenance enters your home, they will assess and document its condition. If they find it below HUD standards, it will be reported, and you may receive notice of a follow-up housekeeping inspection. Sub-standard housekeeping will be a lease violation and you will be placed on biweekly housekeeping inspections. Three (3) violations within a calendar year could lead to the termination of your lease.

If you need assistance maintaining these standards, there are agencies and programs that may be able to help you. We strongly encourage you to inquire about eligibility for assistance. Any further questions, please contact our office and ask to speak with our Resource Manager, Jim.

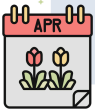


REMINDERS!



- **Rent is DUE on April 1st.** If rent is not paid in full by the end of day on April 6th, a \$10.00 late fee will be added to your account, along with an additional \$1.00 per day until payment is made.
- We do not accept cash. Payments can be made by Personal Check, Cashier's Check, Money Order, or through Online Payment.
- Our office lobby is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. While the lobby closes at 4:00pm, staff are available by phone until 5:00pm.
- Our office vestibule is open 24/7. You can pick up forms or turn in paperwork at any time.

Our office will be closed on Friday, April 3rd in observance of Good Friday.



SUBMIT YOUR PAYMENTS ONLINE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW WITH YOUR PHONE!



STAFF DIRECTORY

Executive Director

candy@saulthousing.com

Deputy Director

lauren@saulthousing.com

Occupancy Specialist - Family Housing

jodi@saulthousing.com

Occupancy Specialist - Senior Housing

melissa@saulthousing.com

Accounts Payable/Receivable & Collections

allison@saulthousing.com

Section 8/Resource Manager

jim@saulthousing.com

Administrative Assistant

wendyh@saulthousing.com

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jennifer Dunton, President

Michael B. Winnick, Vice-President

Jennifer LaBonte, Treasurer

Bridget Akre, 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
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Phone: (906) 635-5841

Fax: (906) 635-9500

Website: www.saulthousing.com

Steve Dale, our Maintenance Supervisor, is retiring on May 1st after 20 years of dedication! If you see him around, please wish him well in his future endeavors. You will be missed, Steve!