# SAULT STE. MARIE HOUSING COMMISSION

August 2025 Newsletter



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# PROJECT BACKPACK!

The United Way of the EUP, The Salvation Army, and Chippewa County DHHS are teaming up once again to host the annual Project Backpack event to help local students get ready for the school year! The event will take place at the Student Activity Center inside Lake Superior State University's Norris Center on **August 8th, 2025, from 11:00am to 1:00pm**. It is open to all students in Pre-K through 8th grade, and families in need can receive free backpacks and school supplies.

The event will also feature:

- Fun games and activities for children.
- Local vendors and family resources.
- Two bounce houses for extra excitement.
- A complimentary hotdog lunch courtesy of The Salvation Army.

Even if you're not in need of supplies, enjoy a day of fun and the festivities with your family! Let's kick off the school year together and give every child the support they deserve!





Celebrate summer in the heart of Sault Ste. Marie at Downtown Days Sidewalk Sales on Ashmun Street, taking place Friday, August 1st from 12pm - 8pm and Saturday, August 2nd from 10am - 4pm.

Enjoy two full days of live music and family-friendly entertainment, open-air yoga sessions, food trucks, local vendors and artisans, and more. You can also shop great deals from small businesses!

# SHINDIG IN THE SHIRE



Experience a day of medieval enchantment and fantasy on Saturday, August 2nd, from 9am - 4pm at the Valley Camp Museum lawns on 501 E. Water Street in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Shindig in the Shire is a FREE, family-oriented celebration featuring live music, sword fighting demonstrations, dancing, local vendors, and activities for children. Encounter dragons, friendly trolls, and costumed participants bringing the era to life.

# MUSIC IN THE PARK 🐇



Spend your Wednesday evenings enjoying live music from some of the region's most talented performers all set against the scenic backdrop of Soo Locks Park in downtown Sault Ste. Marie. This free, family-friendly concert series is a perfect way to enjoy warm summer nights filled with great music and community spirit. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m., so bring a lawn chair or blanket, sit back, and soak in the sounds of summer!

Each week features a variety of musical styles, including country, folk, rock, blues, original songs, and more. The 2025 line-up is as follows:

- August 6th Dominic Fortuna
- August 13th Night of Native Music
- August 20th Nucorp Band

# **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

#### **Twin Cruisers Car Show**

Mark your calendar for one of the summer's favorite local events! On Saturday, August 2nd from 10am to 3pm, stroll along Historic Water Street in downtown Sault Ste. Marie to admire rows of vintage and classic cars set against the iconic Soo Locks. Awards include Best in Show, Mayor's Choice, People's Choice, and more. Enjoy door prizes, live music, food vendors, and fun activities for the whole family!

## **Chippewa County Fair**

The Chippewa County Fair is returning to the Kinross Chippewa County Fairgrounds in Kinross, MI. The fair is located just 1 mile off I-75 at Kinross exit 378, within the Kinross Township Community Park. The fair runs from August 24th through August 29th. Enjoy carnival rides, games, live animals, derby events, and more for a full day of fun! For details on specials and the event schedule, visit www.chippewafair.com.

# **FOOD PANTRIES**

### **Feeding America: Upper Peninsula**

- Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 4:00pm. Located at the Big Bear Arena (Chi Mukwa) on 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI.
- FREE Summer Meals:
  Wednesdays-Fridays (11:30a-1p)
  until August 29<sup>th</sup> at Bayliss Public
  Library for youth 18 and under &
  disabled adults up to 26.

### **The Salvation Army**

132 W. Spruce St: 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**

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)



# MDHHS DIAPER SASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is providing diaper assistance to eligible families. To qualify for the Diaper Assistance Program, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be actively enrolled in at least one of the following MDHHS benefit programs:
  - Food Assistance (FAP)
  - Medicaid
  - Child Development and Care (CDC)
  - Cash Assistance (FIP)
  - State Emergency Relief (SER)
- Have a child on your benefits case who uses diapers.

If you qualify, you may pick up diapers once per month for four consecutive months. The Diaper Assistance Program will continue until MDHHS runs out of diapers or program funding.

# DOLLY PARTON'S AMAGINATION LIBRARY

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library offers free, high-quality books to children ages birth to five, regardless of family income. If you live within the EUPISD service area, your child is eligible for this program!

Parents can enroll their child, and anyone can sponsor a child. To register, you may contact Emily Mayer at 906-632-3373.



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, child support, a minor starting a job, unemployment benefits, changes in SSI/Social Security, 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 wonder 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 also include the dates when maintenance will enter your home for the annual inspection. You do not need to be present for this inspection. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to 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 us as soon as they arise to avoid any 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 \$1,233/month.

Housekeeping is crucial and HUD has established standards for what is considered acceptable. 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. 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 August 1st.
   If rent is not paid by the end of day on August 5th, 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. Acceptable forms of payment include a Personal Check, Cashier's Check, Money Order, or Online Payment.
- 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.
- The office vestibule is open 24/7. You can pick up or drop off forms at any time.

SUBMIT YOUR RENTAL PAYMENT ONLINE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE!







# STAFF DIRECTORY

## Occupancy Specialist

jodi@saulthousing.com

### **Section 8/Resource Manager**

jim@saulthousing.com

#### Accounts Payable/Receivable & Collections

allison@saulthousing.com

#### **Administrative Assistant**

melissa@saulthousing.com wendyh@saulthousing.com

### **Receptionist**

chrissy@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

#### **Executive Director**

Candy Seward-Farstad P.H.M. candy@saulthousing.com

#### **Deputy Director**

Lauren Gamelin lauren@saulthousing.com

