

# SAULT STE. MARIE HOUSING COMMISSION

February 2026 Newsletter



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## WINTER REMINDERS!

With the cold weather here, please keep the following in mind to keep your home protected this winter season:

- **Protect Your Pipes:** Ensure your windows are fully closed to prevent freezing pipes. During the day, open your curtains to improve air circulation and reduce moisture, which can cause mold. Regularly wipe down window sills to avoid mildew buildup.
- **Clear Your Walkways:** Walkways must be cleared of snow and free of obstructions too allow a safe path to your door and/or mailbox. This is essential for everyone's safety, including staff, emergency responders, and mail carriers.
- **Vehicle Maintenance:** Remove snow from on and around your vehicle. If snow is not cleared for an extended period of time, our office will presume the vehicle is inoperable, and a door tag will be issued. Inoperable vehicles left on the property will be towed at the owner's expense.
- **Guest Parking:** Guests must park in designated guest parking areas, not in tenant spaces. If no guest parking lot is available, guests should park on the street. This helps with snow removal and ensures parking remains accessible for tenants.

## SAULT SEAL RECREATION



The Sault Seal Recreation Area is now open for tubing and winter activities! Enjoy tubing runs, a ski and snowboard hill, and a heated chalet offering a full view of the hill. Operating hours are Fridays from 4pm to 8pm, and Saturdays & Sundays from 1pm to 8pm. The hill is located at 2601 Minneapolis St.

Ticket prices are FREE for children ages 5 and under, \$10.00 for children/students ages 6-17, and \$15.00 for adults (18+).

## NAHRO POSTER CONTEST



As part of NAHRO's Housing America campaign, an annual poster contest invites children living in affordable housing and community developments managed or administered by NAHRO member agencies to create artwork based on the theme "What Home Means to Me."

The contest is open to all children ages 5–18 (grades K–12) who live in a household or receive housing-related services from a NAHRO member agency in good standing. If your poster is selected, you could win a cash prize! Please note the following poster requirements:

- Entries must be created by only one artist.
- Must reflect the theme "What Home Means to Me."
- Must have a landscape (horizontal) orientation.
- Must be at least 8.5" x 11" and no larger than 22" x 28."
- May use any art media (markers, crayons, paint, collage, textiles, etc.).
- Must have the artist's name, grade level, and housing authority written on the back.
- Poster submissions must be accompanied by a completed application packet found at the website stated below.

The Michigan submission deadline is **April 1, 2026**. For more information and to view contest rules, visit <https://www.nahro.org/membership/what-home-means-to-me>.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Valentine's Luncheon

The CLM Community Action Agency is hosting a Valentine's Luncheon on February 13th at 12:00pm. Enjoy spaghetti and meatballs, tossed salad, garlic bread, bananas, and a chocolate dessert, plus there will be a photo booth for extra fun! The luncheon will be held at the Calery Dining Hall, 524 Ashmun Street.

### Winter Farmer's Market

Every Saturday throughout the winter, Bayliss Public Library hosts a Winter Farmer's Market from 10:00am to 12:30pm. Stop by 541 Library Drive and show support for the local crafters and vendors.

### Keep Your Kids Safe!

The MyMichigan Medical Center - Sault Main Lobby/Registration Area will be hosting an informational session focused on protecting children and teens in today's world. Topics include online safety, gun safety awareness, and human trafficking prevention, with helpful guidance for parents and caregivers. This event is free and open to the public, and no registration is required. It will take place on February 18th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



# FOOD PANTRIES

## Feeding America: Upper Peninsula

- Thursday, February 12, 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)



## EXPUNGEMENT ASSISTANCE



Face Addiction Now (FAN) is hosting an Expungement Assistance Fair on Friday, February 13, 2026, from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Bayliss Public Library. This free event offers hands-on legal support to help individuals take steps toward clearing eligible criminal records. Attendance is limited to 40 participants and pre-registration is required.

Participants should bring a valid photo I.D. and \$10.00 cash for criminal record access through ICHAT. While a legal team will provide guidance and assistance with applications, attendance does not guarantee expungement, as eligibility is determined by Michigan law.

Learn more and secure your spot today by visiting <https://forms.gle/JWWqNYfGbPt62KZG9>.

## 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 also 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 any 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 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 \$1,278/month.

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 February 1st.** If rent is not paid by the end of day on February 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 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.
- The office vestibule is open 24/7. You can pick up or drop off paperwork at any time.

**Our office will be closed on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> in observance of Washington's Birthday.**



**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](http://www.saulthousing.com)

