

SAULT STE. MARIE HOUSING COMMISSION

July 2024 Newsletter



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"Changing Lives One Home at a Time"

FIREWORK REMINDERS!

It's that time of the year again where barbecues, beach days, and outdoor festivities fill our summer calendars. Although fireworks are a fun way to celebrate, it is important to remember the City of Sault Ste. Marie's local Code of Ordinances (Sec. 16-60) regarding the use of fireworks:

- It is unlawful for any person to ignite, discharge, or use any fireworks in the city in a manner that allows the waste materials of the device to land upon any public or private land not owned by the person.
- It is unlawful for any person to ignite, discharge, or use any fireworks on any public property including any streets or right-of-ways.
- It is unlawful for any person to set off any fireworks on any private property not owned by the person unless they have expressed permission of the property owner.
- It is lawful for any person to ignite, discharge, or use fireworks between 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. June 29th through July 4th inclusive; and 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. July 5th but only if that date is a Friday or Saturday.

With this in mind, it is also important to be respectful of your neighbors and their pets as the excessive noise caused by fireworks may be disturbing. Be sure to use them responsibly and properly dispose of any leftover firework materials.

We hope you have a fun and safe summer!

SAULT AREA SCHOOLS SUMMER MEALS

The Sault Area High School is offering FREE meals to all youth aged 18 and under! Meals are available Monday through Thursday from 11:30am - 12:45pm through July 31st (*No meals will be available from July 1st - July 5th*).

Each meal contains one breakfast/lunch on Monday through Wednesday and two breakfasts/lunches on Thursday for the Thursday and Friday meals. One meal package is allowed per child and they may be picked up by any parent or guardian.

PARENT LEADERSHIP VIRTUAL TRAINING CLASS

Have you ever wanted to use your voice to make a difference? Parents Partnering for Change is offering a FREE 3-day virtual training class designed for parents who are interested in developing their leadership skills. The training dates will be held on July 22-24 and August 12-14 from 9:00am to 12:30pm.

Any Michigan parent/caregiver with a child, aged birth to 18, who has received specialty public services in Michigan is eligible to attend. **Participants must attend all (3) days to receive a \$200.00 stipend!** Child care reimbursement will also be available. Visit <https://redcap.link/2sfujjvt> to register today.

FARMER'S MARKET

The Sault Ste. Marie Farmer's Market is now open. The Farmer's Market brings you farm fresh produce, flowers, handmade crafts, and more. The Market is located downtown Sault Ste. Marie on the corner of Ashmun Street and Portage Avenue. You can check out their items every Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. now through September 25th.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fourth of July Parade

The Fourth of July Parade is set to begin at 7:00pm. The parade will begin on Davitt Street and end on Magazine Street. Following the parade, the Sault Ste. Marie's firework display will return to Brady Park on 298 E. Water Street!

Little Sailor Day

Calling all aspiring Little Sailors! It's time to report for duty and learn the ropes of how to work on a Great Lakes vessel and the all-important keys to water safety. Join the the Original Soo Locks Boat Tours starting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 27th for a fun-filled few hours of educational activities. This free event is located on 1157 E. Portage Avenue and geared towards children ages 5 and older.

Music in the Park

Our local summer concert series is back! Enjoy a diverse selection of entertainment and musical genres ranging from traditional country, folk, rock, blues, and more. Located in the Soo Locks Park, the concerts take place every Wednesday at 7:00pm and are free to the public. See below for the upcoming concert schedule for July:

July 10 - Petoskey Steel Drum Band

July 17 - Blue Water Ramblers

July 24 - Dominic Fortuna

July 31 - Night of Native Music



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 4:00pm during the following dates:

- 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 and 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 Tuesday of each month (3:30pm-5pm)

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

- 1101 Minneapolis St: Every Tuesday (2pm-3pm)

CLM Community Action Agency: 906-632-3363

- Emergency Food: Mon-Fri (9am-4pm)



CLMCAA SENIOR CONGREGATE MEALS

Enjoy a healthy, nutritionally balanced lunch at CLM Community Action's congregate dining site! If you are the age of 60 years or older, or if you are the spouse of a person age 60 years or older, you qualify to attend any of the sites located in Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac Counties. For Chippewa County, meals are served at noon Monday through Friday at the Calery Center.

MICHIGAN 2-1-1

Michigan 2-1-1 is an easy way to find help of all kinds, right in your community. Need help with food, housing, or paying bills? Dial 2-1-1 to receive confidential help from an expert 24/7. You can call, text, or search online at www.mi211.org. If you would like to be connected to our local 211 Call Center, dial 906-786-4701.

CLOVERLAND ELECTRIC BUDGET BILLING

Budget Billing is a payment plan through Cloverland Electric designed to level-out your payments throughout the year, sparing you from unpredictable bills that result from seasonal usage variations.

Although Budget Billing does not reduce your overall energy expense, it makes managing your household budget easier! It spreads out your annual energy expense over a 12-month period so you know your monthly payment. Enroll today by calling Member Services at 800-562-4953.

4-FORMS

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

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

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 July 1st.** Late fees will apply after 3:00pm on July 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.
- Complimentary grass seed is available at our office! You may pick it up inside our lobby during normal business hours.

Our office will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.




Quote of the Month

“But tomorrow may rain, so I’ll follow the sun.”

-The Beatles -



STAFF DIRECTORY

Family Housing

jeannine@saulthousing.com

Senior Housing

jodi@saulthousing.com

Section 8/Resource Manager

jim@saulthousing.com

Accounts Payable/Receivable & Collections

allison@saulthousing.com

Administrative Assistant

melissa@saulthousing.com

Receptionist

chrissy@saulthousing.com

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
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