

# SAULT STE. MARIE HOUSING COMMISSION

October 2024 Newsletter



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## MONTHLY UTILITIES

Recently, we have received an increase in shut-off notices due to unpaid utility bills from residents. Please remember that **you are responsible for paying the utilities assigned to you.** Each resident receives a utility allowance deducted from their monthly rent to help with these costs. If your utility account has to be transferred into the Sault Housing Commission's name because of non-payment, you will receive a lease violation, a \$25.00 SSMHC administrative fee, and you will be charged with the utility balance that was paid on your behalf. Three violations within a 12-month period could result in a NOTICE TO QUIT.

If you are struggling with paying your utilities and falling behind, we encourage you to contact local agencies such as the CLM Community Action Agency, MDHHS, Salvation Army, or the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and apply for assistance. You can also contact our office and request to speak with our Resource Manager, Jim. He may be able to provide additional resources or programs that may help you.

## CLMCAA WALK FOR WARMTH

The Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action (CLMCAA) is proud to announce its annual Walk for Warmth event is set to take place on Saturday, October 5th. The Walk for Warmth event is designed to raise funds and awareness for families in need of heating assistance during the cold winter months. Registration will be held at the Avery Square Atrium located on 510 Ashmun Street at 10:30am with the walk beginning at 11:00am.

## FAMILY GAME SHOW FUNDRAISER



Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of games and prizes that will benefit the Soo Locks Children's Museum! The afternoon begins with carnival games and treats just outside of Kewadin Casino's Grand Ballroom starting at 12:00pm on October 5th. Then you will move into the Grand Ballroom for the big event which kicks off at 1:00pm! Kids (8 years and older) and a parent have the chance to come on stage, play games, and win prizes!



## THE HAUNTED SHIP

The Sault Historic Sites presents The Haunted Ship! Experience a guided tour of the Museum Ship Valley Camp, highlighting all the beloved scares from previous years. The tour will be held on October 25th & 26th from 6:00pm-10:00pm located on 501 E. Water Street. Children aged 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older. Adult ticket prices are \$10.00 and children are \$7.00.

*WARNING: Flashing lights may affect those susceptible to photo-sensitivities.*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Lord of the Gourd

Professional fruit and pumpkin carving master, Patrick Harrison, will be showing his carving techniques and his extravagant pumpkin carvings at the Bayliss Public Library on Tuesday, October 8th at 4:00pm.

### Fall Bingo Night

Enjoy Fall Bingo Night at St. Mary's School! Proceeds will support the 7th and 8th Grade Class Trip. Enjoy prizes and concessions while you play. The event will take place on Thursday, October 10th, at 6:30 PM in the St. Mary's School Gym, located at 360 Maple St.

### Family Movie Night

Nicolet National Bank & Downtown Sault Ste. Marie welcome you to Family Movie Night! This event is FREE for all and held on the Sault Ste. Marie City Hall Lawn on 225 E. Portage Avenue. Showtime is at 8:00pm on Friday, October 25th. The featured movie for October is Hocus Pocus!

### Halloween Spooktacular

Beginning at 6:00pm, Lock City Home Center will be sponsoring the Annual Parade of Frights! This event will be held on Friday, October 25th. There will be contests, prizes, and lots of candy to be thrown! The parade starts on Portage Avenue and ends at the corner of Ashmun and Library Drive. Trunk-or-Treat will also take place during this time under the Farmer's Market pavilion.



# 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:

- October 10, 2024
- 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 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)



# TIRE DISPOSAL

**Did you know...** improperly disposed scrap tires are not only unsightly but also pose significant fire hazards and create breeding grounds for mosquitoes? However, recycled tires can be transformed into mulch for playgrounds and gardens, asphalt for roads, and materials for various manufacturing and construction processes!

The City of Sault Ste. Marie will be hosting tire recycling events on the following dates/times:

- October 5th from 7:00am to 11:45am
- October 9th from 7:00am to 12:45pm
- October 12th from 7:00am to 11:45pm

The event will be held at the Department of Public Works Composting Facility on 1244 E. Easterday Avenue. This service is FREE for residents, allowing a maximum of (10) clean tires per household. Please ensure that the tires do not exceed 4 feet in height and 12 inches in width, and that they are free of any debris.

# STATE EMERGENCY RELIEF

The State Emergency Relief (SER) program provides financial assistance to Michigan residents facing extreme hardship or emergencies that threaten health and safety. One part of this program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), consists of federal funds for crisis assistance for energy-related services like heat and electricity.

Low-income households that meet all SER eligibility requirements may receive assistance with heat and electric costs. An applicant that has received a single payment for heat or non-heat electricity means that the household qualifies for additional energy services through the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP). For more information, **dial 2-1-1** or visit [newmibridges.michigan.gov](http://newmibridges.michigan.gov).

# ADULTING 101

Limestone Federal Credit Union is hosting a FREE four-week course designed to provide students and young adults with tips and tricks to financially navigate life as an adult. You will be guided through a series of exercises aimed at building essential financial skills and the confidence needed to navigate personal finances. Registration is open until October 14, 2024 at 4:30pm. The course will be held in the Davis Room at the Cisler Center located on 650 W. Easterday Ave. To register, visit their website at [limestonefederal.com/adulting-101](http://limestonefederal.com/adulting-101).

## 4-FORMS



Any changes in your household **must be reported within 10 days of receiving notice**. This includes updates such as new employment (which should be reported within 10 days of your hire date), job loss, changes in pay, child support, a minor starting a job, unemployment benefits, changes in 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. 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 October 1st**  
*Late fees will be applied after 3:00pm on October 7th.* If your rent is late, a \$10.00 late fee will be added to your account, along with an additional \$1.00 per day until payment is made.
- Cash payments will not be 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.
- Senior lunches are served at the Calery Center Monday-Friday at noon.



## Quote of the Month

**“Be yourself. No one can say you’re doing it wrong.”**

- Charlie Brown -



## 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

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

### Executive Director

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### Deputy Director

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