



East Tawas City Park Newsletter October 1 through December 31, 2019

As we enter into the fall season, we are anxiously awaiting the start of our electric upgrade project. And wouldn't you know it but, with the campground scheduled to close down next week, the extended weather forecast is for continued nice weather through at least the end of next week. Oh well, it is what it is I guess. I hope everyone is enjoying a nice fall wherever you may be. I hope that you find the information in this edition of our quarterly newsletter interesting and beneficial.

CITY PARK HIRES NEW ASSISTANT MANAGER



The East Tawas City Park has hired a new Assistant Park Manager. Eric Braun was chosen from a field of eleven applicants and began work on October 1.

Eric grew up in Hale and attended Hale Area Schools, graduating in 2005. After high school he attended Alma College where he received his Bachelor Degree in Business Administration. He then moved on to Central Michigan University, earning a Master of Science degree in Sports Administration. Through all of this time, Eric also worked for the Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation Division at Rifle River Recreation Area for six seasons. After grad school, he accepted a Ranger Position at Harrisville State Park where he remained for five years. Most recently Eric has been employed by Isabella Bank in Mt. Pleasant where he served as the Facilities Manager since 2015.

Eric is married and has two children. He says he enjoys spending time with his wife and children, spending time at the lake, hunting and hiking.

Be sure to give Eric a big welcome when you see him out and about in the parks.

CITY PARK CAMPGROUND TO CLOSE FOR ELECTRIC UPGRADE

For the first time since 1965, the East Tawas City Park will be closed to camping beginning October 16, 2019. On that date, electrical contractors will begin upgrading the City Park's electrical system from 30 to 50 amps. Although campers will be allowed to leave their trailers in the park this winter for winter storage (they will have to have their trailers on a site by 5:00 p.m. October 15), there will be little or no admittance to the campground itself during the construction period. Power to the campground and all buildings will be terminated shortly after October 16 and will remain off until the project is completed. The described construction period during which time the campground will remain closed runs from October 16, 2019 to January 15, 2020. However, the contractor (McKerchie Enterprises, Inc.) has informed us that he plans to be done with the project by November 15. Whenever the project is completed and electricity is re-established to the campsites and buildings, the campground will reopen for camping and business as usual.

For our year around seasonal customers, you must be sure that any personal items other than your actual camping unit, must be placed on the original cement (or blacktop) pad on your site. There are to be no personal items left in the grass, on patio paver stones, behind the camping unit, etc. At this time, the contractor intends to bore the new electric lines underneath all of the existing sites and bring the lines up (and place the new pedestal) between the lots. So, as you close up and prepare to leave for the season, be sure all of your personal items are on the trailer slab. Also, some campers, primarily on the beach lots in the east end, have put down patio pavers that run right up to their neighbor's slide out. Please be aware that in some cases, the new pedestals will probably be located in that paver area.

The new pedestals will also have electric meters on them. For the present time, we do not intend on having an additional charge for electric usage. We will monitor the meters for usage during the first year. If we find that there are some sites that are using exorbitant amounts of electricity, that policy may have to change. If that becomes the case, a basic amount of electricity will be included in your lot rent. Anyone going over that basic amount on a monthly basis would have to pay for the additional usage. That way, not everyone is paying for those people requiring and using the additional power.

Once the upgrade project is complete and the power is back on, the campground will reopen for business. Emails and or phone calls will go out to notify you of this. During the construction period, those customers who normally pay the daily rate all winter to retain a "no storage" site, will only be charged the \$40.00 per month storage rate. Once the campground reopens, the daily rate will be going back into effect. If you have any questions, call Keith at 989-362-5562.

CITY PARK BATHHOUSE PROJECT MOVES TOWARD COMPLETION

Despite some unanticipated delays due to the discovery of some underground storage tanks, the East Tawas City Park bathhouse project continues to move forward. Construction crews have been onsite and have even been working weekends to try to get the project back on schedule and completed by the completion date of December 31, 2019. When completed, the project will provide free restrooms and showers to the general public, an additional 50 parking spaces which will increase the total number of available spaces to 113, an outside shower and foot wash station so that beach goers can rinse off before going into the building and a dish washing station so picnickers can rinse off and clean their dishes before leaving.

Water Shut Off

We usually turn the water off to the sites on the Monday before Halloween unless Mother Nature dictates an earlier date. However, this year we have been asked by the contractor to leave it on a little longer (in case he hits a water line while boring the new electric). ***For those people who still may be needing to have their trailers winterized after October 15, the contractor has indicated that the local RV service technicians will be allowed into the sites to perform this service during the electric upgrade.***

Winter Storage

Monday, October 15 marks the start of our winter storage program. During the electric upgrade project, we will still be allowing people to store their trailers. However, you must have your trailer on site by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15. Also, you will not have any access to your trailer (other than parking and walking in to check on it, remove something from it, etc.) until the project is completed and the campground reopens. If you do store your trailer here this season, please remember that storage payments have to be paid in one-month increments. If you are here for the entire storage season, then you will be charged \$20.00 for the last half of the month of April. But you can't pay \$20.00 at the beginning of the storage season. After the campground reopens, if you come up and use your unit during the storage season, there is an additional \$20.00 per night camping fee that must be paid over and above the storage rate. Also, for those of you who pay storage on a site but take your camper somewhere else for the winter, don't forget that we reserve the right to rent those sites out for overnight camping on a daily basis during the storage season. During the storage season, you must give us 48 hours' notice before bringing your camper back and putting it on the site. ***Also, if you do plan to come up and stay in your unit during the winter, please give us 48 hours' notice so that we can have your site cleaned out for you.***

Don't forget, winter storage ends on May 1. That is when the regular camping season begins, and the full summer season rates go into effect.

Purchasing a New Camping Unit?

Eventually, customers want to "upgrade" their camping unit to a newer and perhaps bigger model. If you are contemplating this, please remember the following: 1) the campground general RV limit is 37' from the furthest extension in the front (usually the hitch or the front of the fifth wheel) to the furthest extension in the rear (usually the back bumper or a ladder if the unit is so equipped). If you wish to purchase a unit that exceeds this length, check with the **park manager** before purchasing. If you are buying from a local dealer, I will go out and measure the unit myself. If you are purchasing from an out of town dealer, then we need to know the actual total overall exterior length of the unit. Many of our lots are able to accommodate larger units and we will work with each camper and do a site by site evaluation to see if your lot can accommodate a larger unit. However, any units over the 37' limit must be approved by the **park manager** and/or approved by the Park Board. You must talk to Keith, not Tom, Shelly or one of the other employees. 2) Please plan to purchase a camping unit that will work on your site as the site is. In other words, don't ask to "cut down a tree because the slide out on the new trailer will hit it". We are not going to cut down one of our trees just so you can get a new camping unit. If trees on the site are an issue, be sure to take accurate measurements. Talk to the park manager. Keith will be happy to check out your lot to see if the new trailer will work or not on your site. 4) Don't go by the information and measurements listed in an RV brochure. Their dimensions for the overall length of a unit are generally only for the actual trailer "box" and do not include hitches, bumpers or ladders. These are things that we have to

include in our overall length. For instance, a trailer listed at 38' in the brochure is usually going to be closer to 41' or 42'. 3) Don't purchase a trailer and have it delivered to your lot before checking with the park manager. Some salesman will tell you anything just to sell a trailer. Then, once they deliver it to your site, it's discovered that the trailer is too large for the site you have. Both Jay's and Rose City RV of Tawas are aware of our park rules and they will usually check with the park manager before selling a trailer that will be delivered here. But downstate dealerships are not aware of our rules. If they sell you a trailer that is too big for your site, they won't care. And don't expect park management to cut down trees, etc. to try to accommodate your new camping unit. To be on the safe side, always check with the park manager **before** ordering or purchasing a new unit.

100 Pound LP Tanks

I know this item appears in every fall newsletter, but we get a lot of new year around customers every year that probably aren't aware of it. The Health Department has mandated that all 100 lb. tanks must be fastened securely at the upper third of the tank. If you are a new year around camper at the park, or if you have any questions regarding how to secure your tanks, please check at the park office for a handout on how to properly secure them. Please see to it that your tanks are secured in the proper manner so that they can't be tipped over. Also, please remember that only one tank is allowed per site.

Campsite Improvements

Just a reminder that the East Tawas City Park is a campground. Although we allow customers to stay as long as they like, it is still a campground and you are merely renting a site. The campsites are what they are when you rent them. However, we have many customers that have gotten permission to make improvements to their site once they are on them. As a reminder to anyone wishing to make improvements to their campsites, all improvements must first be approved by the Park Manager. Improvements can include storage units, 100 lb. gas tanks, steps and platforms, patio blocks, tree trimming, etc. There are forms in the office that you will need to pick up, fill out and submit for approval. Once received, the request will be either approved or denied. You will be notified of the decision. If you have an email address on file, a copy of the approved form will be emailed to you.

Snow Fence

Park staff will be putting snow fence up on what little beach we have in the next few weeks. Unfortunately, it only holds back the sand and will be of no use against the wave action that is battering the shore on a regular basis. The fence will come back down in the spring, usually in early May.

Please Don't Feed the Animals

With many new customers coming into the campground this fall, I thought it might not hurt to re-emphasize that we request campers not feed the animals. Especially the ducks and seagulls. They very quickly can become a nuisance. Once you start feeding them, they keep coming back day after day. And, if you leave to go home for a few days, it is your neighbors that have to put up with them. It is also not fair to them as they get used to being fed and once you leave for the season, there is no more feed. *So please, don't feed the animals!* Let them fend for themselves.

Day Light Saving Time Ends

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour at midnight on Sunday, November 3. Daylight Saving Time ends for another year.

Thank You's from New Hope Church

New Hope Church

August 21, 2019

Dear East Tawas City Park Group,

This year, New Hope Church was able to distribute 215 backpacks to the school children of Tawas Area Schools and surrounding communities. This was an increase from 125 last year and 70 the year prior to that. Your support of this program has really made such a difference!

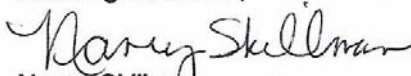
In November, we will be very busy with our Bountiful Harvest ministry project which impacts families throughout our county. This endeavor provided 500 Thanksgiving meals to the needy of the community last year. As you know, it is a complete dinner with a turkey, dressing, fruit, vegetables, rolls, pie, etc., etc. that is delivered personally to each and every home that requests one. Over 200 volunteers work together to prepare for this event as we take calls, order, plan for delivery routes, pack supplies, load the cars and then deliver these meals. The money you have contributed to this ministry has allowed us to increase our goals the last three years and add even more opportunities for expanding the scope of what has occurred in past years. Several of your members have participated in this effort and that increases the appreciation we already have for you!

Speaking for our pastor, our board of directors and members, we cannot express our gratitude enough. Not only have we benefited from your generosity but we also made some great friends!

Our mission statement is "Love God, Love One Other, Serve One Other." Through your efforts, support and prayers, you have helped keep that mission ALIVE!!

With grateful hearts, we once again say "Thank you!"

Blessings and love,



Nancy Skillman
Finance Director

August 19'2019

To All Our Friends at East Tawas City Park:

You all are so awesome and you never cease to amaze us, but once again you did! The generosity you share is so wonderful and kind. We are thrilled to have your support again this year. With your gift we are able to help so many others.

All the children that get to start the first day of school with a new, shiny backpack that's filled with all the supplies they will need. What a treat for a student! You helped to do that.

Then later this year when we distribute the Thanksgiving baskets for Bountiful Harvest. That you are such a huge part of bringing families together to share a meal, that otherwise they may not be able to do. We have heard so many times over the years "Thank you so much for this food. We didn't know how we were going to be able to have a meal". You helped to do that.

So, what a blessing that so many lives get touched by all that you do. You should all take a bow as YOU ARE THE BEST!

Your Friends,

Theda & Steve Klenow

Handwritten signatures of Theda and Steve Klenow in cursive script.

**Customer Appreciation Days
Downtown October 11 & 12**

Special sales and events await customers at all of the Newman Street downtown businesses. Come on out and see what "deals" you can find.

Tawas Point Haunted Lighthouse & Halloween Weekend
October 11 & 12, 2019
Tawas Point State Park

Come out and enjoy the annual Halloween harvest festival. Visitors are encouraged to come camp, decorate their camp sites and immerse themselves in the family friendly haunted lighthouse. Other activities include painting pumpkins, hay rides, games and more! It's a fun family oriented Halloween weekend for all. For more information, please call the park.

Weekend Schedule:

Friday

- Lighthouse Tours, hayrides 5-9 p.m.

Saturday

- Lighthouse Tours, games and hayrides 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
 - Dance at pavilion 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- Trick-or-Treating (campers only) 5:30-6:30 p.m.

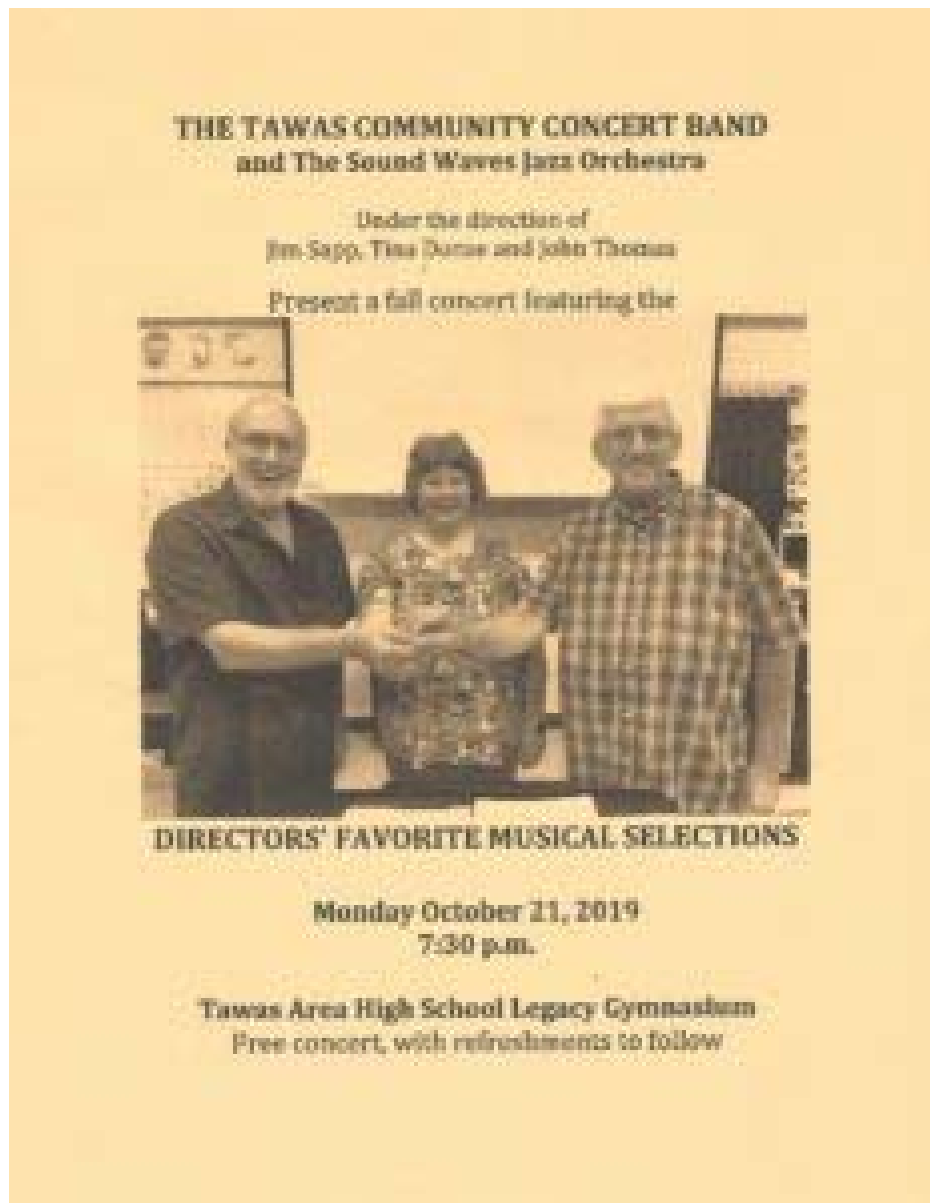
Tawas Bay Players Present: *Church Basement Ladies*
October 18-20 & 24-27

2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the Tawas Bay Players. Join them as they present, *Church Basement Ladies*, a celebration of the church basement kitchen and the women who work there. This is a musical comedy featuring four distinct characters and their relationships as they organize the food and solve the problems of a rural Minnesota church. From the elderly matriarch of the kitchen to the young bride-to-be learning the proper order of things, we see them handle all sorts of dinners, stave off potential disasters, debate recipes, instruct the young, and keep the Pastor on course while thoroughly enjoying (and tolerating) each other. Funny and down to earth. Tickets are \$11.00 and can be reserved online by visiting tawasbayplayers.com or by calling the box office at 989-362-8373.

Holy Family Holiday Bazaar
October 26, 2019

The event will take place in the Holy Family Parrish Hall, located at the back of Holy Family Church. The Church is located at 516 W. Lincoln Street in East Tawas. There will be a bake sale as well as more than 30 crafters. The event will run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and a luncheon will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information call 989-362-3162.

**Tawas Community Band Fall Concert
October 21, Tawas High School Legacy Gym**



**Comedy Series: Jeff Bodart
October 26, 2019 at the K of C Hall**

Since starting stand up in 2001, Jeff Bodart has been making a name for himself performing in comedy clubs across the country. He is a regular guest and contributing writer for the nationally syndicated radio show, The Bob & Tom Show. Come out and see him in person. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. with the show to follow. Tickets are \$25.00 and includes dinner. Tickets are available at Great Lakes Insurance in Tawas City or online at thecomedyseries.net.

**Annual Halloween Parade
October 31, 2019**

The parade will take place on Newman Street at 4:00 p.m. Trick or treating will start immediately after the parade.

WE Players Present: *And A Child Shall Lead*
November 1-3; 7-9, 2019
Retired Tawas Middle School Gym

This is the heroic and true story of children coming of age in Terezin, the "Jewish city" established by the Nazis near Prague as a way station before the death camps. In the face of unspeakable horror, these children use their determination and creativity to build lives filled with hope and beauty -- playing, studying, making art, and writing an underground newspaper -- all at the peril of being executed. Their actual poems and stories are woven into a fast-paced drama, evoking the universality of children caught in the insanity of war. Adults: \$10.00; students \$7.00.

Quota Club Trivia Night
November 2, 2019
East Tawas K of C Hall

Quota International of Iosco County

11 th Annual

TRIVIA
Night

Saturday November 2nd, 2019
Rushman Hall (Knights of Columbus)
820 Newman St, East Tawas



New Format, New games,
Basket Raffles, Tables of 6 or 8
Doors open at 6 pm
Play starts at 7 pm
Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & Last

Bring your own snacks and beverages
(alcohol welcome)
Cost: \$20 per player includes,
Mulligans and entry tickets into the
Grand Prize Drawing

Registration forms available at Alley Cafe Cafe or Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce, Downtown East Tawas

For more information contact Laura 989-820-4587

All proceeds from this event go to the purchase of books for the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce library. Local school youth and volunteers are also invited.

45th Annual Tawas Band Boosters Craft Show & Bazaar
Tawas Area High School
November 16, 2019

The Tawas Area Band Boosters will hold their 45th Annual Bazaar and Craft Show on Saturday, November 16, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tawas Area High School. The school is located at 255 W. M-55, Tawas City, MI

Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade
November 29, 2019

The East Tawas Business Association Annual Tree Lighting, Parade and Sing-Along will be on Friday, November 29 (the day after Thanksgiving). It will start with the parade down Newman Street to Harbor Park where the tree lighting and sing-along will occur. Santa will be on hand to visit with all of the children who wish to stop by.

Tawas Bay Players Present:
Christmas Songs and Stories
December 17, 2019

Come and join the Tawas Bay Players as they present their annual *Christmas Songs and Stories*. Members of the Tawas Bay Players will read some new and some favorite old time Christmas Stories. The Tawas Bay Players Singers will get you in the holiday mood as they sing many favorite Christmas Carols and holiday songs. This one-night show is free of charge, but seating is on a first come, first serve basis only.

And Don't Forget: Perchville 2020
February 7-9

It's really not that far away. So be sure to mark your calendars now and plan on attending this year's event. And if you have a camping unit in our winter storage program and plan to stay in it for the weekend, be sure to call and let us know so that we can have your lot plowed out for you before you get here.

We would once again like to thank all of our campers for helping make the year 2017 the best year in park history. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable winter and we look forward to serving your future camping needs. We welcome your comments and suggestions at any time. These can be made by e-mailing us at parks@easttawas.com or by mailing them to the East Tawas City Park, 407 West Bay Street, East Tawas, MI 48730. We hope to see everyone next year.

COMING EVENTS
October - December 2019

OCTOBER

Fall Color Tours Begin.....	1
Archery Deer Season Begins.....	1
Customer Appreciation Days (Downtown).....	11-12
Tawas Point Haunted Lighthouse & Halloween Weekend.....	11-12
Tawas Bay Players Present: "Church Basement Ladies".....	18-20; 24-27
Tawas Community Concert Band, Fall Concert	21
Holy Family Holiday Bazaar.....	26
Comedy Series: Jeff Bodart, the Bob & Tom Show (K of C Hall).....	26
Halloween Parade & Trick or Treating.....	31

NOVEMBER

WE Players Present: "And a Child Shall Lead"	1-3; 7-9
Quota Club Trivia Night (K of C Hall).....	2
Firearms Deer Season Opens.....	15
Tawas Area Band Booster Bazaar.....	16
Thanksgiving.....	28
Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade	29
Turkey Trot 5k Run and Walk	29

DECEMBER

Tawas Community Concert Band, Christmas Concert	TBA
Christmas Home Tour.....	TBA
Tawas Bay Players Christmas Program	17
Huron Community Bank Christmas Carol Singalong	24
Christmas.....	25

Perchville 2020.....	Feb 7-9
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407 West Bay Street, East Tawas, MI 48730

To: