

*Welcome to the City
of East Tawas!*



We are glad you have chosen our City to call home and are sure that you will enjoy the many fine things East Tawas has to offer.

This package includes basic information about the City of East Tawas that we are sure you will find helpful. There is also a wealth of information available on our website at www.easttawas.com. On the main page of the site, there's an "East Tawas News" section that we post public notices, changes to garbage collection and other important information for our residents. If you find that you still have questions regarding any aspect of our City or if you need information of some kind, please do not hesitate to contact City Hall at (989) 362-6161. The City staff members are here to serve the citizens of East Tawas and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. If necessary, we can also direct you to the agency and/or person that can supply you with the information you seek.

Once again, welcome to the City of East Tawas.

Sincerely,
Bruce P. Bolen
Mayor

**Find more information at
www.easttawas.com**

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

City Council:

1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:00 pm
760 Newman Street, East Tawas

Planning Commission:

2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm
760 Newman Street, East Tawas

Parks Board:

2nd Thursday of each month at Noon
407 West Bay Street, East Tawas

Housing Commission:

3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:30 am
304 West Bay Street, East Tawas

Tax Increment Finance Authority:

2nd Tuesday of every other month at 7:30 am
760 Newman Street, East Tawas

Zoning Board of Appeals:

Scheduled as needed
760 Newman Street, East Tawas

Board of Review:

2nd Monday & Tuesday of March
the 3rd Tuesday in July and the 2nd Tuesday in December
760 Newman Street, East Tawas

Urban Development Action Grant:

Scheduled as needed
760 Newman Street, East Tawas

Tawas Police Authority:

1st Monday of every month at 8:30 am
550 West Lake Street, Tawas City

Tawas Utilities Authority:

Monday after the 1st Tuesday of every month at 4:00 pm
760 Newman Street, East Tawas

Huron Shore Regional Utility Authority:

1st Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am
247 Baldwin Resort Road, Baldwin Township

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

760 Newman Street
(989) 362-6161
cityhall@easttawas.com
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

760 Newman Street
(989) 362-6161
cityhall@easttawas.com
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Minutes of all City meetings are available for review at the Clerk's office or online at www.easttawas.com.

Individuals must be registered to vote at least 30 days prior to an election. Registered voters of the City of East Tawas vote at the East Tawas City Hall and Community Center, 760 Newman Street for all City, School, County, State and Federal elections. The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots are available at City Hall at least 45 days prior to any election. A written request or a completed absentee ballot application is required in order to receive an absentee ballot.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

760 Newman Street
(989) 362-6161
cityhall@easttawas.com
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Summer tax bills are mailed July 1st and are due by September 15th.
Winter tax bills are mailed December 1st and are due by February 14th.

Taxes remaining unpaid on March 1st must be paid to the Iosco County Treasurer, PO Box 538, Tawas City, Michigan 48764-0538. Call the County Treasurer's Office at (989) 362-4409 for the exact amount owing after March 1st.

The cost of residential garbage collection is part of the City's operational budget and is included in the City's millage rate.

WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

760 Newman Street
(989) 362-6161
cityhall@easttawas.com
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Water and sewer bills are mailed every month around the 25th of the month and are due on the 15th of the following month. Payments may be made by any of the following:

Payment by Mail

City of East Tawas
PO Box 672
East Tawas, Michigan 48730-0672

Payment in Person

East Tawas City Hall
760 Newman Street
There is a drop box available for checks or money orders, located in the north parking lot.

Automated Payment

Call (989) 362-6161 for more information on this free service.

Credit Card or Debit Card

Payment by credit card or debit card is available for a fee at www.easttawas.com/online-services or call 989-362-6161.

Owners may request that the water be turned on or off at any time. There is a \$10 fee for each, and you will continue to receive a bill for the ready to serve charges, which are charged every month regardless of how much water is used. Someone must be present at the house when the water is turned back on. Sorry, there are no exceptions to this policy, and it is for your protection as well as ours.

Go green! Go paperless! East Tawas residents have the option of receiving their utility bills electronically. Please contact City Hall at (989) 362-6161 or cityhall@easttawas.com for more information or for an authorization form.

CITY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

760 Newman Street

(989) 362-6241

cityhall@easttawas.com

Hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

Wednesday & Thursday in Tawas City at 989-362-8688

What the new homeowner needs to know regarding property taxes: The most important thing to realize is that what the previous owner paid in taxes can vary greatly from what you will be paying. Let me explain why and how you can estimate your tax amount.

The Michigan Constitution limits how much a property's taxable value can increase while owned by the same person. Once the property is transferred, the Assessor must change the taxable value to 50% of the property's *usual* selling price. In other words, in the year following the sale, the taxable value equals the current state equalized value.

Example: 2010 Assessed value = \$50,000 and Taxable value = \$41,387
Property sold 10/21/2010, which is a "transfer of ownership."
2011 Assessed value= \$49,000 and Taxable value= \$49,000

Continuing with the same example, the property sold 10/21/2010 for \$89,000 but the assessed and taxable values are \$49,000. Why isn't the property assessed at 50% of the sales price? Michigan law prohibits assessors from basing values on one sale price. We are required to value your property based on mass appraisal methods. The same methods are used to value all properties. While we hope our value, estimate is close to your sale price, it is an estimate and may not be the same as your recent sale.

What is the Principal Residence Exemption and how do I qualify? State law grants a principal residence exemption from local school operating taxes for your principal residence and qualified agricultural properties. Currently this is a reduction of 18 mills of school operating tax levy. To qualify, by law you must own and occupy the property as your legal, primary residence by June 1st. Buyers who close and/or occupy the residence after June 1st are eligible for exemption the following year.

How are my taxes computed? Taxes are computed by multiplying your taxable value times the total mills. A mill is \$1.00 per thousand dollars of taxable value. An easy formula to calculate taxes is shown below:

Taxable Value x Mills / 1,000 = Taxes
\$50,000 x 50.4169=2,520,845/1000=\$2520.85 (non-PRE rate)
\$50,000 x 32.4169=1,620,845/1000=\$1620.85 (PRE rate)

Remember: A principal residence (PRE) is exempt from 18 mills of school operating taxes. (This is only meant as an example formula, not necessarily an accurate estimate of your taxes.) **Call the assessing office for the current millage at (989) 362-6241 or with any questions.**

EAST TAWAS CITY PARKS

407 West Bay Street
(989) 362-5562
parks@easttawas.com

Are you having a graduation party, family reunion, etc. but aren't looking forward to having guests track through your house? Then you may want to consider renting one of the East Tawas City Park pavilions for your event.

The pavilions are located in Durant, Bolen and Dillon Parks in East Tawas. Each pavilion comes with a covered picnic area, picnic tables, two gas grills, and a kitchen with stove, refrigerator and Bunn Coffee Maker. Rental rates for each of the three pavilions for residents of the Tawas Area School District is \$50.00 Monday through Friday and \$75.00 for weekends and holidays. A \$50.00 security deposit is also required which will be refunded if everything is cleaned up and no damage is done.

The park begins taking requests for reservations on January 1st annually. The park offers the local Little League and Softball organizations until April 30th each year to submit their schedules for games and tournaments. On or around May 1st, park staff will call to confirm your reservation, at which time you will have two weeks to come in and make your payments. That's all there is to it. To reserve one of the facilities, contact the Park Office at 989-362-5562.

If you prefer to be on the beach for your event, you may want to consider the Day-Use Area gazebo. Located in the East Tawas City Park Day-Use Area adjacent to the Iosco County Historical Museum, this facility rents for \$50.00 per day. The gazebo comes with a minimum of six picnic tables and there are charcoal grills located throughout the Day-Use Area. You can also bring your own gas grills if you prefer.

Hours for all of the park facilities are from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily.

EAST TAWAS COMMUNITY CENTER

760 Newman Street
(989) 362-3537
parks@easttawas.com

Hours: Monday - Saturday, 8:00 am to 9:00 pm
Sunday- Noon to 9:00 pm

Hours are subject to change as a result of private rentals

The East Tawas Community Center continues to provide recreational opportunities for area residents at very reasonable rates. With a full-size gymnasium, the Center is ideally suited for basketball, volleyball and a myriad of other recreational activities. If walking

is your exercise of choice, then the facility's elevated synthetic walking track is for you. Many residents and visitors use the track on a daily basis to keep in shape, especially during our cold and inclement winter seasons.

All that is required to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Community Center is a City of East Tawas recreation pass. Recreation passes are good for the City of East Tawas fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) annually. An annual pass for an individual resident is only \$15.00. A two-member family can purchase an annual pass for \$25.00 while a pass for an entire family is only \$30.00. Non-residents of the City of East Tawas can purchase annual passes as well. The rates for non-residents are double the price listed for an East Tawas Resident. Daily passes are available for \$3.00 each.

So come on in and get your pass today and start taking advantage of the facilities offered in your Community Center.

EAST TAWAS FIRE DEPARTMENT

122 Main Street
Emergency - 911
Non-emergency - (989) 362-1430
Administrative - (989) 362-3685

EAST TAWAS LIBRARY- A branch of the Iosco-Arenac District Library

760 Newman Street
(989) 362-6162

Hours: Monday- 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Tuesday- 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 pm
Wednesday- closed
Thursday- 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Friday- 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday- 8:00 am to Noon
Sunday- closed

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Garbage collection is provided by Waste Management, Inc. Garbage day is Thursday unless a holiday falls on Monday-Thursday and then garbage will be collected on Friday. The holidays referenced are New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Garbage is picked up on only one side of the street so you may have to place your garbage across from your house. If you are new to the area, please observe where your neighbors are placing their garbage. A maximum of five trash cans or plastic bags will be accepted per household. Trash cans or plastic bags cannot exceed 35 pounds or 39 gallons in capacity. The State has regulations that prohibit Waste Management from collecting certain items including carbonated beverage containers, used oil, motor vehicle tires, lead acid batteries, yard clippings, medical waste, sewage, asbestos and items containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Information on proper disposal of these items may be obtained from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Web site or by contacting Waste Management at (989) 362-9562.

The City hasn't had a City-wide cleanup day in many years but our latest contract with Waste Management allows residents to put out one bulk item per week. Waste Management defines a bulk item as furniture such as couches, chairs, benches, etc.; one bundle of construction/building material that is bundled in lengths no longer than three feet and weighing no more than 40 pounds; and appliances such as washers, dryers and water heaters. Appliances containing Freon will not be accepted. The bulk item can be placed at the same location as regular garbage but may not be picked up at the same time. Depending on whether or not the driver needs help to lift the item, Waste Management may pick up the large item at a different time.

RECYCLING

The City offers recycling Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 4p.m. and every 3rd Saturday of the month for East Tawas residents and taxpayers. Recycling containers are located at the Waste Management Transfer station located at 685 Aulerich Rd, East Tawas, MI 48730.

Information on items that can be recycled is available on our website at www.easttawas.com.

COMPOSTING

The City of East Tawas will pick up grass, leaves, brush, and other yard wastes with the following guidelines:

- ✧ This pick-up is for residential houses only.
- ✧ Items will be picked up on a regular schedule every Monday from the beginning of May (weather providing) through the second Monday of November beginning at 7:00 am. If Monday is a holiday, pick up will be on Tuesday instead.
- ✧ Grass and leaves must be placed in biodegradable paper bags or in 30-40 gallon trash containers clearly marked "compost" on the side. Plastic bags will not be accepted. Please limit the size of your bags to 30 gallons and no heavier than 40 pounds.
- ✧ Please don't mix household trash with compost materials. We will not pick up mixed bags or cans.
- ✧ We will pick up brush and branches up to 6 inches in diameter and no more than 4 feet long. Please tie them into bundles no larger than 20 inches around.
- ✧ Place all items at the roadside on your own property. It is not necessary to place items across the street as is required for some garbage collections.
- ✧ Items should not be put out until late Sunday. Please do not leave items out all week.

Please keep in mind that we pick up bags of yard waste first and then route back and pick up brush and branches. Occasionally there is so much to pick up that we carry over to Tuesday. Please be patient with us - we will get to you. If you feel that we have forgotten or missed any items in front of your property, please contact City Hall at (989) 362-6161 or at cityhall@easttawas.com.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

760 Newman Street
989-362-6161
sloew@easttawas.com

Please remember that the City of East Tawas is a zoned community and you need a zoning permit for any construction (including decks, pools, fences, sheds, garages, additions, houses, etc.) or tearing down any structures. Permits and guidelines are available at City Hall. Incomplete permits will delay approval, so please be sure to allow yourself enough time to get all the necessary information and for the Zoning Administrator to review and approve the application.

Any commercial permits must be approved by the Planning Commission which meets at City Hall on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Plans must be submitted by 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the meeting to be included on the agenda.