

City of East Tawas
760 Newman Street
PO Box 672
East Tawas, MI 48730-0672
www.easttawas.com
cityhall@easttawas.com

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2015

April

- 3 City offices close at noon- Happy Easter!
- 18 Recycling Day 9am-11am

May

- 2 City Hall open 8am-2pm
for absentee ballots
- 4 **Compost Pickup Begins**
- 5 Special Election
- 16 Recycling Day 8am-11am
- 25 Memorial Day
City offices will be closed

June

- 20 Recycling Day 8am-11am

July

- 1 **Summer taxes mailed**
- 3 Fourth of July
City offices will be closed
- 18 Recycling Day 8am-11am

Aug

- 15 Recycling 8am-11am

Sept

- 7 Labor Day
City office will be closed
- 15 Summer taxes due
- 19 Recycling Day 8am-11am

Oct

- 12 Columbus Day
City offices will be closed
- 17 Recycling Day 9am-11am
- 31 Trick or Treating 5pm-8pm

~ CITY OF EAST TAWAS ~

760 NEWMAN STREET • PO BOX 672 • EAST TAWAS, MI 48730-0672
PHONE: 989-362-6161 • FAX: 989-362-6736 • cityhall@easttawas.com
www.easttawas.com

SPRING 2015

LIBRARIES TAKE YOU ANYWHERE SO BE PART OF THE JOURNEY!

Plans for the new East Tawas Library are well underway! WTA Architects from Saginaw were selected to design the new library and a committee has been meeting every two weeks since the first of the year to review the designs. The City Council reviewed the designs at its March 2, 2015 meeting and the project is expected to be put out for bids in April. Construction will begin this spring. Donations for the furniture and fixtures are still needed. As of Friday, March 27, 2015 \$22,872 has been donated toward the \$250,000 needed for furniture for the new library. If you haven't made your donation or pledge yet, donations can be made to the City of East Tawas Library Construction Fund and sent to East Tawas City Hall, P.O. Box 672, East Tawas, Michigan 48730-0672. If you have any questions please contact City Manager Ron Leslie or Clerk/Treasurer Blinda Baker.

The Library Fund-raising Committee has commemorative bricks for sale that will be used within the new library project. The bricks provide a win-win situation as a perfect way to honor or memorialize a loved one and also benefit the new library. A brick costs \$100.00 and the profit from the brick sales will be used to help furnish the new library. Engraving space is limited to four lines with a maximum of 15 characters per line. Please remember that a space counts as a character.

EAST TAWAS LIBRARY COMMEMORATIVE BRICK

Bricks are \$100.00 and will be used as accents outside the library

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Name or dedication to be inscribed (limited to four lines with a maximum of 15 characters per line):

Examples of inscriptions include "in memory of Jane Smith", "In honor of the Smith Family", "John and Jane Smith"

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the City of East Tawas Library Construction Fund.

Mail Check and this form to P.O. Box 672, East Tawas, MI 48730

Questions? Please contact Blinda Baker at (989) 362-6161 or bbaker@easttawas.com

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD)
Or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-replay)

SAW GRANT PROJECT

Last year the City of East Tawas received a Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) grant in the amount of \$1,119,048.00. The grant funds are being used to identify and evaluate all of the assets of the stormwater and wastewater systems. These assets include such items as sewer lines, lift stations, storm drains, and manholes. An asset management plan will be created that will identify necessary improvements to both stormwater and wastewater systems. Fleis and VandenBrink Engineering has been hired to complete the plan. They have already begun to digitize existing paper maps and eventually will have a digitized, interactive map that will locate all of the assets using Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates. Terra Contracting was hired to clean and televise all existing storm and wastewater lines throughout the city. They began this process in the Fall of 2014 but had to stop for the winter. Terra Contracting will be back in the city to continue the cleaning and televising the week of March 30th. The videos that are created will be part of the digitized map and will allow the Department of Public Works to view the condition of the lines as of the time of televising by clicking on the location on the digitized map. Crews from Fleis and VandenBrink Engineering will be inventorying and evaluating all of the assets of the stormwater and wastewater systems. Smoke testing of the wastewater lines will also begin this year. This testing is used to determine where stormwater is getting into the wastewater system. In older homes this is usually through a floor drain. Residents will be given advance notice of when this testing will occur. Stormwater in the wastewater system adds to the expense of the treatment process and is prohibited by the Department of Environmental Quality. Identifying these locations will help devise a plan to correct the problems.

CITY MANAGER SEARCH

UPCOMING STREET PROJECTS

The City will be resurfacing the following streets:

- ▶ **Sawyer Street**
From Bay St. to State St.
- ▶ **Westover Street**
From Sawyer St. to Main St.
- ▶ **Parts of Warren Ave**
- ▶ **Wood Ave**
*will be resurfaced with
Reclaimed Asphalt
Pavement (RAP)*

The search is on for a new City Manager. After 17 years as Park Manager and 23 years as City Manager, Ron Leslie has announced that he will be retiring on July 6, 2015. Ron has been a great City Manager and although he will no longer be part of the day-to-day operation of the City, he has indicated that he would like to stay involved in the City by serving on a board or commission. His expertise will definitely be welcomed.

The City Manager Search Committee has received eighteen applications to fill the City Manager position. The Search Committee will be reviewing the applications and will recommend a list of three or four candidates to be interviewed by the entire City Council. The Council hopes to have the position filled by mid-May to early June so the new City Manager will be able to work with City Manager Leslie for at least a few weeks before taking over.

HAS PRINT BECOME SMALLER LATELY?

- Do you have trouble reading standard print, even with your glasses or contacts?
- Do you know someone who struggles to read, or has quit reading, because the print is just too small even with their glasses?
- Does the print in the library's extensive collection of large print books now seem too small?
- Has a physical condition made holding a book or turning its pages impossible?
- Does reading a newspaper or magazine require a magnifying glass?
- Do you hope people are honest when you pay for something, since a \$20 bill now looks just the same as a \$10 bill?

Please stop by or call the East Tawas Library which is now a demonstration site for the Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) located in Lansing. Over 35 libraries around the state are registered as demonstration sites. While the East Tawas Library has assisted patrons in registering for talking book services for many years, the library now has an actual talking book machine and sample book. Stop by the library and ask to see, touch, and try out the digital talking book machine. While it has features in common with a CD player, or the cassette players of some years ago, a talking book machine has been specially designed for ease of use.

Each "book" is actually a small plastic cartridges slightly smaller than a deck of playing cards. The "book" slides into the talking book machine, which runs either by battery or plugs into a standard electrical outlet. Each book ships via U.S. Mail in a protective plastic case. All necessary equipment is provided free of charge, and shipped at no charge. Returning books is simply a matter of putting the cartridge back into the case, shutting the case, turning the shipping label over, and mailing the case back postage free. Machines that need new batteries, repair, or are no longer needed, are simply mailed back, also postage free, to Lansing in their original shipping container.

For patrons wholike computer technology and have a home computer and high-speed Internet, talking books can be downloaded to a USB flash drive. They can then be played on a talking book machine or certain mobile devices.

The East Tawas Library has flyers and applications for the BTBL's services, which also include 'talking' magazines as well as books. The East Tawas Library also has information and applications for two other helpful programs.

Newsline[®] provides free access to over 300 newspapers and over 40 magazines to people who can no longer read a printed newspaper or magazine. Newspapers from all across the country as well as various international papers take part in the program. The papers can be listened to over the phone, or on a talking book machine, computer, or certain mobile devices. The current day's paper can be accessed as well as the previous day's and the previous Sunday's paper. Newspapers in Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Marquette participate.

The U.S. Currency Reader Program is an exciting, new program from the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The program provides free, key fob sized currency readers called iBill[®] Talking Banknote Identifiers. Upon inserting a bill into the device and pressing a button, the bill's denomination will be identified either verbally or by a pattern of tones or vibrations. The reader will only identify legal U.S. currency that is in good condition. It will identify the following bills: \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100. Currency from other countries will not be identified. Similar currency reader programs are available via free download for certain mobile devices. The iBill[®] is powered by a single AAA battery. After a four-month pilot program, the currency readers became available to any qualified applicant on January 2, 2015. Delivery of the free iBill[®] may take up to eight weeks.

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday, Thursday & Friday: 8-11:30am & 12:30-5pm

Tuesday: 12-4pm & 5-8:30pm

Wednesday: Closed

Saturday: 8am-12pm

Luann may be contacted at: libraryet@yahoo.com or 989-362-6162





ELECTION NEWS

A special election will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 in the Council Chambers of the East Tawas City Hall to vote on a State Proposal to amend the State Constitution and a County Proposal to renew the millage for the Iosco Transit Corporation. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Please remember to bring your valid Driver's License or other valid Michigan identification in order to receive your ballot. Absentee ballots are now available. Voters requesting an absentee ballot in person at City Hall must present a valid Driver's License or other valid Michigan identification in order to receive the ballot. City Hall will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 2nd and the deadline for requesting a ballot by mail is 2:00 p.m. on that day. All absentee ballots must be received by the City Clerk no later than 8:00 p.m. on election night. Voters eligible for an absentee ballot may vote in person at City Hall until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4th. The following is the wording of the two proposals that will be on the May 5th ballot.

STATE PROPOSAL 15-1

A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Eliminate sales/use taxes on gasoline/diesel fuel for vehicles on public roads.
- Increase portion of use tax dedicated to School Aid Fund (SAF).
- Expand use of SAF to community colleges and career/technical education, and prohibit use for 4-year colleges/universities.
- Give effect to laws, including those that:
 - Increase sales/use tax to 7%, as authorized by constitutional amendment
 - Increase gasoline/diesel fuel tax and adjust annually for inflation, increase vehicle registration fees, and dedicate revenue for roads and other transportation purposes.
 - Expand competitive bidding and warranties for road projects
 - Increase earned income tax credit.

Should this proposal be adopted?

County Proposal

Iosco Transit Corporation Operation Renewal

Shall the previously voted increase in the 15 mill tax limitation and levy, as reduced by the required millage roll-back, which last resulted in a levy of .0967 (\$0.0967 per \$1,000.00) upon all taxable property in Iosco County, be again renewed for an additional period of five (5) years, 2016 through 2020 inclusive, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$107,219.95 for the purpose of providing revenue necessary to continue maintaining current Iosco Transit Corporation operations?





PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

PARK BOARD PREPARING TO PROCEED WITH PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

The East Tawas Park Board is making preparations to proceed with development of the newly acquired properties at the west end of the City Park Day Use Area.

In October 2012, the City and Park acquired the 609 W Bay Street and 617 W Bay Street. And, as you may recall, the City received a Trust Fund grant last year to purchase 601 W Bay Street and 605 W Bay Street. On December 9, 2014 the City and Park Board also acquired 513 W Bay Street. It is these five pieces of property and possibly part of the existing City Park Day Use Area that the Park Board is exploring for development.

Originally planned for the properties was the construction of camper cabins on 609 W Bay Street and 617 W Bay Street. The building on 605 W Bay Street would be considered for restroom and shower facilities for the cabins and an expanded Day-Use Area that would be located on the 601 W Bay Street property. It is not known at this time how, or even if, 513 W Bay Street property will fit into the future plans.

In order to provide for an overall master plan for the properties, including the existing Day Use Area, the Park Board has retained the services of Jonathan Lee Architects from Petoskey. A complete topographical survey of the properties has been completed and forwarded to Mr. Lee. The Park Board will be meeting with Mr. Lee in April to do a "walk thru" of the properties and to share ideas on the forthcoming development.

At this time, 513 W Bay Street (A Different Blend) remains in business through a lease with the City and Park Board. If the plans do not require the immediate use of the building, the Park Board hopes the owners will decide to continue to operate the business.

PARK BOARD LOOKING TO EXPAND EXISTING CAMPGROUND

The East Tawas Park Board plans to add four new lake front campsites to the existing East Tawas City Park Campground. The four new sites would be located directly in front of the City Park office. Engineering for the project has been completed by Russo Engineering and an application for campground expansion has been filed with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Campground Division. The Park Board is currently seeking bids for the project, pending approval and issuance of a construction permit from the DEQ. The lots would be slightly larger than the existing campground lots in order to accommodate the larger camping units being built today. If added, the four lots would increase the campground to 178 sites.

COMMUNITY CENTER IS STILL A BARGAIN FOR AREA RESIDENTS

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 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 season.

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 still only \$12.50. A two member family can purchase an annual pass for \$20.00 while a pass for an entire family is only \$25.00. 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.

CITY PAVILIONS AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL

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 all three pavilions for residents of the Tawas Area School District is \$50.00 Mondays through Fridays 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 1 annually. The park offers the local Little League and Softball organizations until April 30 each year to submit their schedules for games and tournaments. On or around May 1, 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 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.

COMPOST PICKUP

Employees of the Department of Public Works will begin their compost (yard waste pick up) on Monday, May 4, 2015 through November 9, 2015. Compost must be contained in paper composting bags or a plastic trash bin specifically marked "Compost". Weight restriction for pick up is a maximum of 40 pounds. Plastic bags will no longer be picked up and will be tagged for this reason.

(If you would like to take your yard waste to the compost area) A key is available at City Hall for East Tawas residents only. No building materials or junk may be taken to the compost area.

Please Contact City Hall at 989-362-6161 or cityhall@easttawas.com if you have any questions or concerns.

"CURB APPEAL"...IT BENEFITS ALL OF US.

After a long, cold winter, spring is the season of rejuvenation. Spring is a great time to venture back out in the yard and dispose of unwanted items. Getting rid of yard clutter will quickly increase the curb appeal of your home, possibly make for better neighbor relations and will certainly benefit the character and livability of the City we live in.



RECYCLING

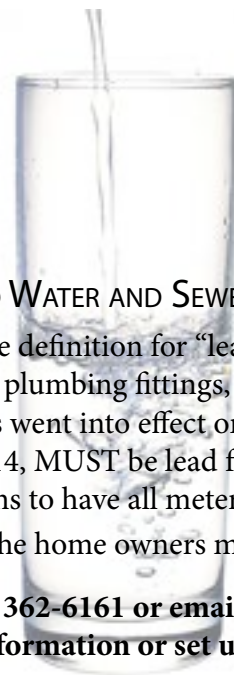


Recycling is available to East Tawas and Tawas City residents and property owners the third Saturday of the month at our DPW garage located at 810 West Westover Street. Winter months, October through April, will be from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and May through September from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. You must show a recycling card, which can be obtained at City Hall, before entering the recycling location.

UPDATES TO WATER AND SEWER METERS

On January 4, 2011, President Obama revised the definition for "lead free" within the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This act pertains to "pipe, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures" and is designed to protect the quality of drinking water in the U.S. The changes went into effect on January 4, 2014. With these new regulations in place, any meters replaced after January 4, 2014, MUST be lead free. In August 2010 our Department of Public Works began replacing existing meters, with plans to have all meters updated by 2018. Because we do not have outside access to all meters, arrangements with the home owners may need to be made.

Please contact City Hall at (989) 362-6161 or email us at cityhall@easttawas.com to update contact information or set up an appointment.



PROPERTY INSPECTIONS FOR ASSESSING PURPOSES

In early 2014 the State Tax Commission sent a bulletin that gave assessing offices guidelines for property inspections. These recommendations, when implemented, preserve the property owner's rights. The East Tawas assessing office sends post-cards to those properties that are scheduled for a property visit for the current year. This year's cards were included with the annual Change of Assessment Notice that was mailed in February. The post-card explains what happens during a visit for a Record Card Review. It also gives the property owner an option to contact the assessing office if they do not want an interior inspection or do not wish to grant access to their property.

If the property owner doesn't want to grant access to the property or an interior inspection, it is still important that the information used to assess a property is current and accurate. The property owner is then asked to complete a record card questionnaire that will give the assessor vital information that is needed to value the property. This questionnaire is available on-line at www.easttawas.com. A copy can be mailed by request or the questions can be answered by phone by simply calling the assessing office.

If you have further questions, please e-mail rsells@easttawas.com or call (989)362-6241.

CLEANING GREENWOOD CEMETERY

The East Tawas Department of Public Works will begin cleaning Greenwood Cemetery on Monday, April 20th (weather permitting). If there are any grave blankets, flowers, flowerpots, wreathes, etc. on the grave that you would like to keep, the items **must be removed prior to April 20th**. Any items remaining after April 20th will be removed and disposed of by the Department of Public Works. Decorations may be returned to the cemetery beginning May 18th. Please contact City Hall at (989) 362-6161 or cityhall@easttawas.com if you have any questions or concerns.



HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Department of Public Works will begin flushing fire hydrants the first part of May. You may experience rusty water or low water pressure during this flushing period. Flushing of the hydrants is necessary to provide better water quality. Please watch our website or the Iosco County News Herald for our flushing schedule.

REMINDER

Garbage pickup for East Tawas residents is Thursday, unless following a holiday. If you use a trash can please secure your trash in plastic bags before disposing it. This will eliminate litter in yards and roadways. If you need to put your garbage out the night before, please do so after 7 p.m.



Waste Management Holiday Schedule

Collection will be delayed one day

Memorial Day
Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day
New Year's Day 2016