

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

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2018

April

23.... Cemetery Clean up starts

May

7 Compost pick-up begins

28 Memorial Day

City offices will be closed

June

26..... Tuesday Night Live Begins

July

1.....Summer taxes mailed

4Fourth of July

City offices will be closed

14..... Summerfest 2018

Aug

4 Tawas Uncork'd Wine, Ale and Food Festival

24 Blues by the Bay Festival

Sept

3Labor Day

City offices will be closed

17**Summer taxes due**

Oct

8.....Columbus Day

31Downtown Halloween Parade 4:30 p.m.

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/SUMMER 2018

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

Get involved in your community and take part in making the decisions for your community. Run for City Council! The registered voters of the City of East Tawas will be electing a mayor for a two year term and three council members for four year terms. For eligibility to be on the ballot, you must complete a Nominating Petition with a minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of fifteen (15) signatures and an Affidavit of Identity. The required forms can be picked up at East Tawas City Hall and must be returned to the City Clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Your name will be on the ballot for the Primary Election to be held on August 7, 2018 if the number of candidates filing petitions exceeds two (2) for the office of Mayor or six (6) for the office of council member to narrow the field for the General Election to be held on November 6, 2018. Successful candidates will take office on the first meeting after the General Election in November. Being a council member and serving your community may be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The City of East Tawas is looking for individuals who may be interested in serving on any of the City's boards, commissions or authorities as vacancies become available. The boards include the following: Board of Review, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Building Authority, Housing Commission, Park Board, Planning Commission, Tax Increment Finance Authority or Zoning Board of Appeals. Currently, there is a vacancy on the Tax Increment Finance Authority. If you are interested, please contact City Hall at (989) 362-6161 or email Julie Potts, City Clerk at jpotts@easttawas.com for more information.

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER HELP - City of East Tawas is now accepting applications for summer employees for the Department of Public Works. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Applications are available at East Tawas City Hall, 760 Newman Street, East Tawas, MI 48730, calling 989-362-6161, emailing cityhall@easttawas.com or on our website at www.easttawas.com. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The City of East Tawas is "An Equal Opportunity Employer" and provides a drug free work environment.

VALVE TURNING HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Department of Public Works will be turning valves beginning April 23rd through May 4th and flushing fire hydrants again starting May 7th through May 11th. You may experience rusty water or low water pressure during this flushing period. Valve turning and flushing of the hydrants is necessary to provide better quality water. Please watch the Iosco County News Herald for the flushing schedule.

SUMMER TAXES

Summer tax bills will be mailed on July 1st and will be due on Monday, September 17, 2018. Interest will be added at 1% per month after the due date. Summer taxes may be paid at East Tawas City Hall, 760 Newman Street, East Tawas, by mail addressed to City of East Tawas, PO Box 672, East Tawas, Michigan 48730 or by credit or debit card over the phone, online or at City Hall. A 2.75% administrative fee will be added to your total tax bill if paying by a credit or debit card.

"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)

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 owners of 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 wish to grant access to their property.

It is still important that the information used to assess a property is current and accurate. If the property owner doesn't want to grant access the assessing office asks that they complete a record card questionnaire that will give the assessor this vital information. This questionnaire is available on-line at www.easttawas.com. A copy can be mailed 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.

ZONING PERMITS

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.



CLEANING GREENWOOD CEMETERY

The East Tawas Department of Public Works will begin cleaning Greenwood Cemetery on Monday, April 23rd (weather permitting). If there are any grave blankets, flowers, flowerpots, wreaths, 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.

*Have you moved recently?
Has your primary residence changed?*

Please be sure to file the Principal Residence form with the Assessor's Office by June 1, 2018. If you're not sure if you have filed the forms or if you have any questions, please contact the Assessor's Office at 362-6241.

TAWAS BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Tawas Backpack program is a community effort to make sure that less fortunate children have something to eat on the weekend. Backpacks are sent home with approximately 85 children each week.

City employees are once again helping this program by collecting items for the end of the school year backpack that will be sent home with eligible students in June. The Tawas Backpack program organizers are requesting 16-18 oz. plastic jars of peanut butter and 20-22 oz. plastic containers of jelly. Because the children take the backpacks home with them and many ride the bus, no glass jars are allowed. Donations can be brought to the East Tawas City Hall or Community Center any time the building is open. Our goal is 85 16-18 oz. plastic jars of peanut butter and 85 20-22 oz. plastic jars of jelly so that each child can be given one jar of peanut butter and one jar of jelly. All donations will be greatly appreciated and must be received by May 18, 2018.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The 2018 Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 and absentee ballots will be available 45 days before the election on June 22, 2018 at East Tawas City Hall located at 760 Newman Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and will also be available on Saturday, August 4, 2018 between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. An application for an absentee ballot must be completed before a ballot can be issued and a driver's license is required if obtaining an absentee ballot in person. Applications are available at City Hall or can be requested by phone by calling (989) 362-6161 or a letter requesting an absentee ballot can be sent to the City Clerk, PO Box 672, East Tawas, Michigan 48730. The letter must include the voter's registered address, the reason why an absentee ballot is being requested, the address where the ballot is to be sent and the voter's signature. A husband and wife may send one letter of request but both must sign the letter. Absentee ballots must be returned no later than 8:00 p.m. on election night. One request can be made for both the August 7th Primary and the November 6th General Elections for 2018.

(Note: Election law states that a ballot can only be given to the person requesting the ballot. Applications for an absentee ballot can be presented at City Hall but only those persons appearing in person will be given an absentee ballot. Ballots for those not appearing in person will be sent by mail or hand delivered by the Clerk. Please contact City Hall if you have any questions.)

NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT

The State of Michigan has required all voting jurisdictions to obtain new voting equipment which we were able to use during the November 2017 election. The tabulator will still be the optical scan reader based on marking the ballot which has changed from connecting the two halves of an arrow to filling in an oval to cast your vote. Instructions will be provided for you when you obtain your ballot. We also have a new Voter Assist Terminal (VAT) available to those electors with disabilities.

CITY OF EAST TAWAS ELECTION NOTICE

The nonpartisan City Primary Election will be held on Tuesday August 7, 2018, to nominate a Mayor for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2020 and three (3) Council members-at-large for four (4) year terms expiring December 31, 2022.

In order for a candidate's name to appear on the ballot, a nonpartisan nominating petition with a minimum of ten (10) signatures and a maximum of fifteen (15) signatures of registered voters in the City of East Tawas must be filed with the City Clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday April 24, 2018. Nonpartisan nominating petitions and affidavit of identity form are available at the East Tawas City Hall, 760 Newman Street, East Tawas, MI 48730.

“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 making better neighbor relations and will certainly benefit the character and livability of our City.

SPRING CLEANING

This is the time of year when many people begin Spring cleaning. Please keep in mind that our contract with Waste Management allows for up to five bags of regular household garbage and one large item per household per week. If you have any items beyond your limited amount to dispose of, you can make arrangements with Waste Management to have them picked up separately. They also have a transfer station located at 685 Aulerich Road (one mile off US-23) where items can be taken. For more information on either option, please contact Waste Management at 362-9562.



CITY PARK BATHHOUSE PROJECT TO START SOON

In the next few weeks, it is hoped that the final bid packages for the City Park Public Bathhouse Project will be completed and submitted to the DNR for approval. Once the plans are approved by the DNR, the project can go out to bid. At this time, it is anticipated that construction will start in late spring or early summer. The completion deadline for the project is July 2019.



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 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.

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 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.



PLANT A FREE GARDEN BOOK IN YOUR HOME

“Spring is here.” In Michigan at this time of year, that phrase could more accurately be worded as “Spring will be here.” It usually occurs for one or two days between our winter and summer weather! In anticipation of spring, come to the East Tawas Library and check out our large gardening collection.

We have four shelves of library books devoted to gardening and related topics. There are books on annuals, perennials, and vegetables. There are also books on home preserving, eating local/organic, landscaping, and woodland/wildlife gardens. We even have books to inspire your kids and grandkids – the next generation of gardeners. We also subscribe to four different gardening magazines: Birds & Blooms, Garden Gate, Michigan Gardening, and Mother Earth News. Books check out for 3 weeks and can renew for 1 more week. While the current issue of each magazine must be looked at in the library, past issues can be checked out just like books. During the month of April, the East Tawas Library will be giving away free garden books. We have a collection of over 150 specialized gardening books looking for homes and gardens to beautify. Many of these books were part of an extensive, private collection of gardening books belonging to an avid gardener. While quite a few of the books contain highlighted passages, the notations might provide an expert tip or two.

It may be too early to plant, but it's not too early to start planning how to beautify your yard and our city.

We invite you to stop by!

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday, Thursday & Friday: 8-6pm, Tuesday: 10-8:30pm, Wednesday: Closed and Saturday: 8am-noon

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