

City of East Tawas
760 Newman Street
East Tawas, MI 48730
www.easttawas.com
cityhall@easttawas.com

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2024-25

Oct 14....Columbus Day (City offices closed to the public) 31....Halloween Parade 4:30 pmTrick or Treating 5 pm - 8 pm	Jan 1New Year's Day- (City offices will be closed) 8Robert Elliott Day
Nov 5 Election 11 ...Compost pickup ends 28-29 Thanksgiving (City offices will be closed) 30....Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 6:00 pm	Feb 7-9....Perchville USA 14 Winter taxes due 17President's Day (City offices will be closed)
Dec 1..... Winter taxes mailed 24Christmas Eve (City offices will be closed) 25Christmas Day (City offices will be closed) 31New Year's Eve (City offices will be closed)	Mar 1Unpaid taxes sent to Iosco County Treasurer

~CITY OF EAST TAWAS~

760 NEWMAN STREET • EAST TAWAS, MI 48730

PHONE: 989-362-6161 • FAX: 989-362-6736 • cityhall@easttawas.com

www.easttawas.com

FALL/WINTER 2024-2025

DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE

Many agencies do not encourage the feeding of wildlife. This practice almost always carries with it negative consequences for the wildlife involved, such as increased disease transmission. There are also several safety concerns for the public, such as the potential increase in vehicle collisions and damage to property and nuisance problems. Although you may have the best of intentions, you should be aware that the wildlife needs to remain wild. Requiring them to get their food and shelter from natural habitats and conditions will help them maintain natural adaptations that ensure the long-term survival of the animals and their species.

Research has shown that there is little or no benefit from feeding deer during the winter, with more negative consequences. Here is why you shouldn't feed the deer:

- Feeding manufactured food products removes their adaptations to cope with severe winters in their natural habitat.
- Natural migration patterns to their wintering areas may be disrupted if the animals are enticed to remain in a feeding area.
- The digestive system of deer adapts to the typical natural food that is available during winter. Improper feeding of other food types can cause digestive problems that may result in death.
- Deer become concentrated around feeding areas, resulting in destruction of natural habitat.
- Deer visiting feeding areas lose their natural wildness and aversion to people.
- Deer that become accustomed to feeders result in not being fed proper quantities or quality of food and may die.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND PARADE

On Saturday, November 30, 2024 at 6:00 pm the City of East Tawas will hold the Annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony. We encourage you to join City staff and officials to help Mayor Bolen count down the tree lighting. There will be cookies and refreshments for all to enjoy.

STREET LIGHT OUTAGE

When reporting a street light outage to Consumers Energy the City needs the following information:

1. Closest address or pole #
2. Nearest intersection/street
3. What type of light: hanging, pole or decorative.
4. Is the light burned out? Flickering? Won't stay on?

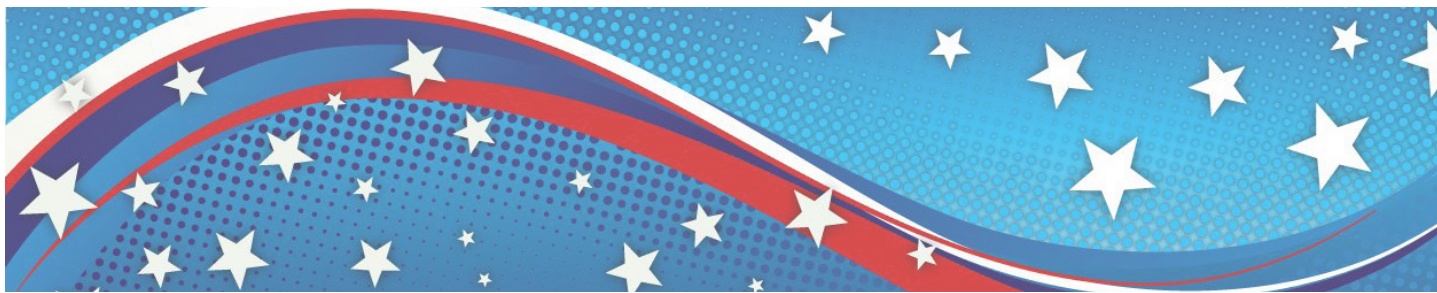
<https://streetlights.consumersenergy.com/>

TAWAS UTILITIES AUTHORITY

East Tawas and Tawas City mutually own the sanitary sewer treatment facility at the end of W. Franklin Street through the Tawas Utilities Authority (TUA). The TUA is operated through contracted services. Both cities are working together to improve the TUA's efficiencies and provide a stable environment for staff. These efforts will result in savings to our residents and improve the long-term sustainability of the facility and operations. This topic has been in the newspaper frequently and there appears to be much confusion surrounding the issues. Please feel free to contact City Manager, Brent Barringer, at City Hall with any questions. He can best be reached via telephone at (989)362-6161.

VALVE TURNING HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Department of Public Works will be turning water valves beginning, September 16th through September 27th, and flushing fire hydrants starting September 30th through October 4th. 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.



NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

The General Election will be held in the Community Center Gymnasium at 760 Newman Street, East Tawas, Michigan on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

The City of East Tawas will also be holding a non-partisan election. The purpose of the election is to elect a Mayor for a two-year term, three Council members for four-year terms to expire in November of 2028, and two Council members for two-year partial terms to expire in November of 2026.

REMINDER: The last day to register to vote in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk, for the November general election is October 21st.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: If you have signed up previously to be on the City's Permanent Absent Voter Application list or completed an application that included multiple elections in 2024 and you selected the November 5, 2024 election, you will automatically receive an Absentee Ballot in the mail. If you did not select to be on the Permanent Ballot List through the application process or did not check the November 5, 2024 election and are on the City's Permanent Absent Voter Application list, you should have received an application for an absentee ballot in the mail already. If you believe you have completed an application to receive an absentee ballot or are on the Permanent Ballot List and have not received your absentee ballot for the November General Election by the second week of October, please contact the Clerk's Office by phone at (989)362-6161 or stop in at City Hall for instructions on obtaining an absentee ballot. You will need to present your Michigan Driver's License or ID card to receive a ballot in person.

NOTE: The Permanent Absentee Voter Application list will be eliminated for all future elections beginning in 2025.

For your convenience, if you are unable to return your voted ballot in person, a drop box is located under the awning in the north parking lot (basketball court side). If you decide to bring your ballot to the precinct on the day of the election and would like to tabulate your ballot yourself, go directly into the polls, or bring your ballot to the Clerk's office and we will process your absentee ballot for you in the polls. If you plan to mail your ballot, please allow ample time for your ballot to be delivered before election day by the post office.

(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 people appearing in person with their application will be given an absentee ballot. Ballots for those not appearing in person will be sent their ballot by mail or hand delivered by the Clerk. Please contact City Hall if you have any questions. Ballots can only be returned in person to the Clerk's office by the voter, a spouse or an immediate family member.)

Countywide Early Voting – The jurisdictions (townships and cities) have established an Early Voting Site for nine consecutive days for voters who would like to vote prior to election day and do not want to obtain an absentee ballot. The Early Voting site is located at the Tawas Township Hall at the corner of M-55 and McArdle Road. Hours for early voting are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Early voting begins on Saturday, October 26, 2024 and ends on Sunday, November 3, 2024. **(You have three options to cast your votes but you can only vote one time: 1- In person on election day, 2- by Absentee Ballot or 3- at the Early Voting Site.)**

ASSESSING SERVICES

As of June 2022, the City of East Tawas has contracted assessing services through a partnership with Allen Berg and Berg Assessing & Consulting Inc.. Our City Assessing Department is now off-site and can be reached during normal business hours by telephone, email, or mail via the address below.

The Assessing Department is responsible for establishing property appraisals, state equalized values, and taxable values of all properties located within the City of East Tawas. They also serve as a source of information for the public by maintaining subdivision plat maps, property record cards for each parcel of land located in the City of East Tawas, and by providing necessary forms for the State of Michigan. The Assessing Department is constantly reviewing and updating records to reflect changes that occur to the individual properties and will inspect 20% of all properties each year.

Please use the contact information below if you should have any assessing questions and please visit www.assessingoffice.com to obtain information and assessing forms.

Contact Information

Phone: (989)734-3555
Fax: (989)734-9901
Email: info@assessingoffice.com

Address: City of East Tawas
Assessing Department
PO Box 25
Rogers City, MI 49779

CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The City is always looking for volunteers to serve on a City Board, Commission or Authority. Volunteering for one of these positions is a rewarding and satisfying experience which gives you the opportunity to learn more about city government and help make our City a better place to live. The City Council reviews board members in the fall and appointments are made by the first of the year. The City's Board, Commissions and Authorities currently include Board of Review (requires a training every 2 years), Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Housing Commission, Park Board, Planning Commission, Tax Increment Finance Authority, Urban Development Action Grant Reuse Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. If you are interested in serving on any of our Boards or Commissions, please contact Julie Potts, City Clerk at jpotts@easttawas.com or Stephanie Loew, Deputy Clerk at sloew@easttawas.com or by phone (989) 362-6161. You can also submit a letter of interest or complete the application online located at www.easttawas.com under Government/Boards & Commissions/Boards and Commissions Application.

2024 WINTER TAXES

Winter tax bills will be mailed on December 1, 2024 and will be due on February 14, 2025. A 3% penalty will be added to all unpaid taxes after February 14, 2025. Winter taxes may be paid in person at East Tawas City Hall, 760 Newman Street, East Tawas; by depositing your payment in our drop box located at the north side of the building; by mail addressed to City of East Tawas, 760 Newman Street, East Tawas, MI 48730; or by debit or credit card online, in person or over the phone (989)362-6161. However, if paying with a debit or credit card, a 2.75% convenience fee will be charged. If you would like your tax payment made by automatic payment initiated by the City of East Tawas, please contact our office at (989)362-6161 or visit our website www.easttawas.com to complete the required authorization form. Tax payments can be taken by the City of East Tawas through February 28, 2025, after which all remaining unpaid taxes will be turned over as delinquent to the Iosco County Treasurer.

STREET SWEEPING

Street sweeping is done on a rotational basis throughout the spring, summer, and fall. The Department of Public Works asks that you **DO NOT** sweep your grass clipping and leaves into the streets during this time or any time.





In March of this year the City of East Tawas combined Fire and Police Operations into one organization. After a thorough assessment it was decided that combining our fire and police services into one Public Safety model department was in the best interest of our community and personnel.

During the last three years we have developed a new level of fire and police collaboration and mutual support that we have enjoyed and benefited from. This next level of integration will be a natural fit for us and will open doors to even better service within the department and to our citizens. These efforts are designed to enhance emergency service operations in preserving life, property, peace, and order within our community through the delivery of innovative, professional, compassionate, and fiscally responsible services. The administration of operations is led by Director Bill Deckett, Fire Chief Andy Ryan and Police Chief Frank Anthony.

Our services include fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical response, law enforcement, zoning enforcement, and public education. We will strive to develop and deliver public safety services to work diligently with our members in professional development, and to prioritize continuous operational improvement.

Our number one priority is to provide the best public safety services to all citizens and visitors of our great city while maintaining our motto, "Citizen Centered Service."

Fall is in the air and with it brings school buses with snow not far behind. Please adjust your driving to the new season of hazards. Assume there are children running to and from any school bus, watch for the flashing red lights and be patient. Michigan law allows for the prosecution of the registered owner of a vehicle that disregards flashing school bus lights. Yes, even if you do not get "caught in the act" police can show up at your house with an arrest warrant. School buses have cameras set up specifically to photograph vehicles and license plates that pass the bus when stopped with flashing lights.



Let's all make sure our kids stay safe, Flashing Red Means Stop!

Chief Anthony
East Tawas Police Department
214 W. Westover St
(989)930-1526

ZONING PERMITS

Please remember that the City of East Tawas is a Zoned Community and you are required to obtain a zoning permit for any construction including, but not limited to, decks, pools, fences, sheds, garages, additions, houses, etc. or tearing down any structures regardless of size. Permits and guidelines are available at City Hall or online at www.easttawas.com. Incomplete permits will delay approval. Please be sure to allow yourself enough time to provide all the necessary information to the Zoning Administrator for review. Permit applications received will require a minimum of 24-48 hours for review. Please contact City Hall at (989) 362-6161 to make an appointment to speak with the Zoning Administrator for additional information.

Commercial permits must be approved by the Planning Commission which meets 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. If a site plan review is required, two weeks notice prior to a meeting is required for review.

COMMUNITY CENTER OFFERS VARIETY FOR EAST TAWAS 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 home to a number of recreational activities including basketball, pickleball, volleyball and table tennis. 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. While you are there, check out our circuit training equipment room as well.

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 a year and can be purchased beginning October 1, 2024. An annual pass for an individual resident is still only \$15.00. A pass for an entire family residing in East Tawas is only \$30.00. Non-residents of the City of East Tawas can purchase annual passes as well. These rates have increased for the 2024 year. Rates for non-residents are \$90.00 for an individual pass, and \$140.00 for an entire non-resident family. Daily passes are available for \$10.00 each. There are many improvements planned for the upcoming year including a new recreation pass system, additional workout equipment and an improved facility calendar.

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

PARK ADDS BOARDWALK AND PLAYGROUND

You may have noticed some new additions to the East Tawas City Park day use area over the last few months. A new play structure was installed in June of 2024, and has been a hit with locals and tourists alike. The new playground features more inclusive play options as well as additional swings and better access directly to the beach.

The East Tawas City Park is also installing a crib wall at the west end of the day use area. The goal is to create a more useable space as well as enhance the shoreline. A concrete boardwalk will be added in the spring of 2025.



FIRE PREVENTION

East Tawas Fire Chief Andy Ryan wants to remind you that your smoke alarms should be checked monthly and the batteries changed twice a year. A perfect time to check your detectors is when you change your clocks for daylight savings time. You are more than twice as likely to survive a house fire if you have working smoke alarms. So, remember:



"CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES!"

MAILING AND PAYMENT REMINDERS

The City of East Tawas no longer utilizes a PO Box. Please be sure to change our mailing address to 760 Newman Street, East Tawas, MI 48730. Be sure to correct our address with any banking information you have set up to avoid delays in payments or any other type of correspondence.

Also, when setting up online bill pay options make sure you have the correct account number information in the memo field. Many times, you are using an already established payment setup, which may have old information. We have received checks with either no account number, or the incorrect account number. To avoid errors in posting to your tax and utility accounts, make sure they are clearly defined. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at (989)362-6161.

SNOW PLOWING

With winter drawing near, we are asking for your cooperation in keeping the City streets and parking lots cleared of vehicles from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. to allow our Department of Public Works to efficiently plow snow off the City streets and downtown parking spaces. Please refrain from blowing or pushing snow from driveways into City streets. Keeping it on your own property will decrease the amount placed back into the end of your driveway during the plow's second passing.

The Department of Public Works takes pride in its street maintenance throughout every season. In the winter, decisions are made to determine the time and appropriate methods needed to handle each snowfall. With every occurrence, variables such as temperature, surface, snowfall rate, actual/predicted accumulation and time of day are considered before the City implements the plowing/salting plan for a particular storm event. Snow removal and plowing occurs in two waves to ensure the safety of motorists and the Department of Public Works crew.

1st Wave: Major residential streets used by emergency vehicles and those with the heaviest traffic.

- US-23
- Tawas Beach Road
- Robert Elliott Boulevard
- Newman Street
- Pine Street
- Bridge Street
- Westover Street
- W. State Street (Newman to City Limits)
- Wadsworth Street
- Sawyer Street (US-23 to Lincoln Street)
- Main Street (US-23 to Lincoln Street)
- Church Street (first block)
- W. Washington (Newman to Bridge Street)
- Lincoln Street (Newman to Cemetery Road)
- Cemetery Road



2nd Wave: All local residential streets.

- Residential streets, intersections and dead ends
- Removal of snow piles

TRASH REMINDER

Garbage pickup for East Tawas residents is Thursday, unless following a holiday.

Holiday Schedule

Collection will be delayed one day when the holiday falls on a weekday.

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

WATER TURN ON AND OFF

When requesting a water turn on or off, contact City Hall at (989)362-6161 with at least a 24-hour notice of desired appointment. Appointments are required for this service. The charge for this service is \$25 every time the water is turned on or off and is applied to your monthly water bill. Contact City Hall if you have any questions or concerns.

AUTOMATED PAYMENTS

You can pay your water and sewer bills and tax bills through an automated payment program

FREE OF CHARGE!

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact City Hall or visit us online at www.easttawas.com.



WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?

For your convenience, we now have a self-serve paper shredder if you have printed materials in need of shredding. We are also working on doing some minor interior design to enhance our visual appeal and have added some live greenery. Come in and check out our changes!

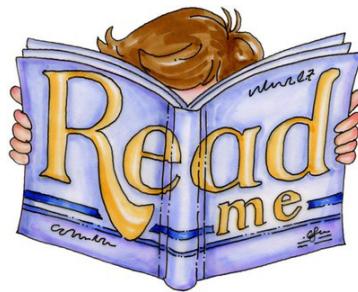
Our story-time for preschool children ages 3-5, will be restarting in the fall. Check the Iosco Arenac District Library website for specifics. (www.ioscoarenaclibrary.org)

One of the data-collecting tasks we do as a library is to count the number of patrons that come through our doors and this is done three times a year for two weeks at a time. Our count during the last two weeks of July, showed an average of 82 patrons per day, Monday through Friday. We also collect circulation information and in July, over 2,000 books were checked out of our East Tawas Library!

We encourage you to see what your library has to offer. For those unfamiliar with our services, yes, we do have plenty of books, but we have so much more to offer! We have an exceptionally wide selection of large print books, a whole children's book section, as well as books for young adults. Did you know we offer e-books, movies, magazines, and music through our online services? You can also borrow jigsaw puzzles and movies!

At the end of August, we sadly said goodbye to library staff member Craig Prescott. We wish him well in his new position at Tawas Area Schools. Thanks for all your help, Craig. You will be missed!

WE INVITE YOU TO COME IN AND SEE WHAT YOUR LIBRARY HAS TO OFFER!



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	9 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Tuesday	9 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	9 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Friday	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m.-Noon
Sunday	CLOSED