

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Have you ever thought about getting involved in your local government and being a part of making decisions that will have a lasting impact on the City's future? Perhaps you should consider running for the City Council! On November 6, 2018, registered voters of the City of Tawas City will be electing three councilmembers for four-year terms and a mayor for a two-year term. In order to be eligible to be on the ballot, you must pick up a Nominating Petition at City Hall and return it to the City Clerk with a minimum of ten (10) signatures of registered voters of the City of Tawas City and an Affidavit of Identity no later than 4:00 pm on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. If more than six petitions are filed for the office of councilmember or more than two petitions for the office of mayor, a Primary Election will be held on August 7th to narrow the field of candidates for the General Election on November 6th. Successful candidates will take office on January 1, 2019. We encourage you to consider serving on the City Council as it can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life!

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Tawas City has a contract with Waste Management for solid waste collection on Tuesdays. The pickup day is changed to Wednesday for the weeks of Memorial Day and Labor Day, and when New Year's Day, Independence Day, or Christmas fall on Monday or Tuesday. With our contract, residents may include one large item per week to be picked up with regular household trash and recycling is available at Waste Management's transfer station located at 685 Aulerich Road. The State has regulations that prohibit Waste Management from collecting certain items including carbonated beverage containers, used oil, motor vehicle tires, lead acid batteries, medical waste, sewage, yard clippings, 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 website at www.michigan.gov/deq/waste or by contacting Waste Management at (866) 797-9018.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

The City Council approved a number of projects that will take place over the next year or so. We are excited about these projects but understand that they can cause temporary disruptions in the neighborhoods where they are happening. We appreciate your patience during construction times and ask that you contact City Hall at (989) 362-8688 or info@tawascity.org if you have any problems or concerns regarding the improvements.

Street Resurfacing: The following sections of streets are planned to be resurfaced this fall –

- First Ave from Spring St to First St
- Fourth Ave from North St to Whittemore St
- Fifth Ave from First St to Second St
- Second St from Fifth Ave to Fourth Ave
- Birch St from Murphy St to the dead end
- Murphy St from Spring St to North St
- North St from River St to Court St
- Spring St from River St to Murphy St

Water Main Replacements: The City will be replacing the water main on Fourth Avenue from Whittemore Street to First Street, and around the corner on First Street from Fourth Avenue to Third Avenue.

Shoreline Park: The City Council and Planning Commission have approved a preliminary design plan to improve the pier in Shoreline Park. Proposed improvements include:

- stabilizing the structure with new support piles and new armor stone and toe stone that will also create a fish habitat
- reconstructing the boardwalk to improve accessibility to meet ADA standards and provide a variety of fishing options
- improving the drainage on the pier
- installing better LED lighting and benches
- allowing for temporary fair weather docking

In addition to the improvements on the pier, the roofs on the gazebo and pavilion in Shoreline Park are going to be replaced with metal roofing to match the other structures in the park.

Independent Park: The City recently rebuilt the dugouts and backstop in the ballfield at Independent Park, and expanded the parking lot that is shared with the Tawas City Library. We are working to replace the old fencing around the ballfield and will extend new fencing along the outfield where there currently is none.

Pathway along Lake Street: The City will be working to change the lights along the bike path to LED lights which will be more energy efficient and less expensive. The DPW has already changed 56 of the lights from the south end of Lake Street to Gateway Park and will continue to work their way north until all the lights are complete.

Memory Gardens Cemetery: The City purchased a columbarium structure that will be erected in Memory Gardens Cemetery this spring. A columbarium is a structure similar to a mausoleum, but has individual niches that are used only for cremains and serves as an alternative to purchasing an in-ground plot. Once the structure is set, the City Council will determine the prices for purchases and interments.

LED Lighting Improvements: Over the last couple of years, we have been working to change the light fixtures in all the city-owned buildings to LED. Doing so has allowed us to reduce the number of fixtures needed, and has reduced our energy use and costs. So far the Fire Hall and Library have been completed and we will begin working on the DPW Garage in the near future.

PROPERTY PURCHASES

You may have heard that the City of Tawas City has purchased a number of properties lately. The City Council recently purchased the property located at 301 Oak Street on the corner of Oak Street and German Street, and the adjacent vacant lot on the corner of Oak Street and Fir Street. We're hoping to use these properties to construct new offices and training space for our police department. In the meantime, the Tawas City Fire Department will be using the vacant building for training opportunities.

The City Council also approved the recent purchase of the property located at 545 West Lake Street. The most recent use of this property was The Bait Shop bar, but it is formerly and more commonly known as The Tawas Bar. The City also hopes to acquire the adjacent medical office through a Michigan Natural

Resources Trust Fund Grant. Because the City already owns the parking lot between these properties, we'll be able to expand Shoreline Park and Town Square with approximately 120 feet of frontage on Lake Huron.

CHANGES AT THE TAWAS CITY LIBRARY

You spoke and we listened! Based on the input from the community questionnaire we sent out last year at this time, we have made some changes to the Tawas City Library. We have new hours of operation: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (closed for lunch from 1:00 to 2:00) on Mondays through Fridays, and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays. The Tawas City Library Friends Book Store, which is located in the library, is also open on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. To help accommodate the expanded hours, we hired a new part-time staff member. Work is also underway to remodel the restrooms in the library to meet ADA standards, and the walls will be repainted to give the library a little face lift.



Did you know that your library card gives you FREE access to Hoopla? You can instantly borrow movies, TV, music, audiobooks, eBooks, and comics 24/7 with your library card. Stop in the Tawas City Library to ask about it!

We encourage you to utilize this great facility and take advantage of the many services and programs we offer.

GARAGE/YARD SALES

Please remember that Tawas City has an [ordinance](#) regulating garage/yard sales. While we no longer require a permit for sales, you are limited to only two (2) garage sales per year that may not exceed four (4) consecutive days. In addition, signs may not be placed on utility poles or in the public rights-of-way and may only be placed on private property with the owner's permission. To accommodate those having garage sales, the City has erected a board in Gateway Park where signs may be posted. This location helps to eliminate traffic hazards at intersections and gives people a single location to write down locations of many sales. Any other signs that are tacked, staked, or otherwise affixed to utility poles, trees, or in the public rights-of-way will be removed.



COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Last year at this time we sent out a community questionnaire to seek your input regarding our facilities and the amenities that we offer, as well as get your ideas for the future. You may recall that there were 18 projects identified by the Planning Commission that we asked you to prioritize in order of importance to you. The projects are listed below along with the priority levels for each based on the community, Planning Commission, and City Council responses respectively. The summary of the results were incorporated in the Parks and Recreation Plan and will be used as a guideline for improving the City's recreational facilities and services. The projects are listed below along with updates, if available. We hope you know that we appreciate your input and we thank you for your confidence in the City Council, Planning Commission, and staff members to incorporate your desires as we work together to shape the future of Tawas City.

Project	Comm	PC	CC
Rehabilitate the pier at Shoreline Park	1	1	3
The City hired Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC to conduct a structural evaluation of the pier. They developed a draft concept design that has been approved by both the City Council and Planning Commission and they are now working on a preliminary design for City approval. In the meantime, we have applied for a grant through the Coastal Zone Management Program and are working on documents for a grant through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to cover the bulk of the project costs.			
Construct restrooms at Gateway Park	2	3	1
New restrooms were open to the public in August 2017.			
Construct a sidewalk toward the High School and Clara Bolen Elementary School in coordination with Tawas Area Schools, surrounding townships, and MDOT	3	2	1
City staff had a meeting with representatives from MDOT, Tawas Area Schools, and Tawas Township this past summer to discuss funding options for this project. Staff at the school has been watching how many kids walk to school and most are using private property and not walking along M-55 or Plank Road. City staff will support efforts to move this project forward but will need to do so with support of the school, township, and MDOT.			
Install a spray ground/splash pad at Gateway Park or Shoreline Park	4	10	12
Resurface the pathway and update the lights to LED lights; possibly work in coordination with East Tawas and with MDOT's reconstruction of US-23	5	5	5
The DPW has changed 56 of the lights to LED and we will budget to replace additional lights in the next few fiscal years. The reconstruction of US-23 has been pushed to at least 2025 and we still plan to coordinate resurfacing the pathway with that project.			
Construct additional pavilion space for the Farm Market at Gateway Park	6	15	8
Expand the play scape at Shoreline Park	7	6	6
The City purchased an adaptive swing that will be added to the existing swing set and will continue to work toward expanding the play scape near the pavilion.			
Property acquisitions to expand Shoreline Park/Town Square	8	7	9
The City purchased the property at 545 West Lake Street in December 2017 and hopes to acquire the property at 541 West Lake Street with a Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant in the 2018 grant cycle.			
Expand the parking lot and resurface existing parking lot at Gateway Park	9	8	7
Expand the sports complex on Tenth Avenue with property acquisition and pave the parking lot	10	14	13
Develop a campground along the river on the property currently owned by Lake State Railway Co.	11	16	15
Redesign Town Square with an amphitheater	12	9	17
Install additional lighting and security at Shoreline Park	13	4	4
Based on information from our insurance carrier, the City Council decided to not move forward with the security cameras in the park. Additional light poles were installed at either end of the parking lot in December 2017.			
Construct fishing facilities at Sawyer Thornton Park	14	12	15
Develop a skate park at the Tawas City Sports Complex	15	18	18
The City has owned several pieces of equipment since 2009 but it was all taken out of service in 2010 and has been stored. The wooden ramps are deteriorating and the rest is taking up valuable storage space. Since this wasn't a high priority, the Council voted to advertise for bids to purchase the equipment in February 2018.			
Redevelop the tennis courts at Independent Park; possibly include a pickleball court	16	13	13
The stripes for two pickleball courts and the existing basketball court were completed in October 2017.			
Install irrigation at Gateway Park	17	11	10
Install irrigation at Town Square	18	17	11

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KEN COOK

Greetings Tawas City Residents! I am pleased to be able to share with you some recent accomplishments and plans for Tawas City's future.

If you haven't had a chance to check them out, make it a point to stop by one or our three newly completed restrooms in Shoreline Park or Gateway Park this spring. They are a major improvement over the porta-potties and the old restroom!

In 2017 we completed \$113,000 in curbing and street resurfacing, and have identified the streets we would like to accomplish in 2018. I'd love to see us resurface all the streets in Tawas City but that isn't financially feasible so in the meantime we will keep plugging away.

In 2018 we completed a sewer line rehabilitation on a major sewage transmission line that was partially collapsed from the end of Court Street to Whittemore Street and under the Tawas River at a cost of \$135,000. We have identified several other aging water and sewer lines and plans are being put in place to continue to stay on top of those projects.

Due to a combination of safety and aesthetics, we are faced with a major project of either rehabilitation or demolition of the pier. Consultants conferred with the results of our public survey that we should rehabilitate it and have indicated that the project will be eligible for grant funding. Due to the scope of the project, it will likely be completed in phases over the next several years.

If you are interested in the new craze of pickleball, we have now painted lines for two new outdoor pickleball courts and a basketball court located in Independent Park off First Avenue. We hope to see more of you enjoying those facilities this summer.

FOOD TRUCKS AT GATEWAY PARK

After several months of planning, we're excited to announce that Tawas City will be allowing food trucks in Gateway Park on Wednesdays between Memorial Day and Labor Day. If you're interested in vending, please contact City Hall for additional information. We've received a lot of questions regarding the program that are addressed below.

Why Gateway Park? No one ever goes there! Just a few years ago, the City received a grant to

construct the new pavilion and purchase picnic tables for use by the farm market on Saturdays. The City felt that bringing in food trucks would be a great use of the underutilized pavilion.

Why Wednesdays instead of weekends? Knowing that a lot of vendors attend festivals, fairs, and other events on the weekends, we're hoping to pull in a larger variety of vendors by offering a mid-week vending opportunity. This is just a trial to start out and we're prepared to make adjustments as needed.

How come you're only allowing three vendors per week? Not knowing how our community will respond to the food trucks or how popular they'll be, we decided to limit the number of vendors to make it worth their while to come to our event. If only 25 people take advantage of the opportunity to visit the food trucks, the profits will go much farther for three vendors versus six vendors.

Isn't this taking business away from our local restaurants? Shouldn't we be supporting them? While that is a common belief, experiences in other communities just don't support the claim. On the contrary, food truck vendors have been found to help strengthen the local restaurant industry in three ways: 1) The presence of food trucks increases the number of customers available to restaurants. 2) Food trucks provide restaurants with a great way to market and expand their businesses. 3) Food trucks often serve as incubators for new restaurants. In addition, the City agreed to waive the weekly vending fee for any Tawas City taxpayers to encourage them to take advantage of the opportunity to reach additional customers.

Aren't food trucks just unregulated roach coaches? That may be the perception, but food trucks are regulated by the State of Michigan and vendors are required to have a Special Transitory Food Unit License and liability insurance and are subject to inspection by the Health Department.

Do I have to have a food truck to be a vendor? Absolutely not! As long as you can get the appropriate insurances and licenses from the State of Michigan and Health Department, you can set up a truck, cart, booth, or table.

How do I get more information? Please contact City Hall at (989) 362-8688 or info@tawascity.org.

2018 ELECTION INFORMATION

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 7th and the General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6th. The polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on both days and voters registered in the City of Tawas City vote at Tawas City Hall located at 550 West Lake Street. Please remember that Michigan Election Law requires all voters to present photo identification before voting at the polls, or to sign an Affidavit of Voter Not in Possession of Picture Identification.

PRIMARY ELECTION - No candidates will be elected at the Primary Election but are instead nominated for the General Election. The Primary Election is a partisan election which means that voters must choose to vote for either Republican candidates or Democratic candidates. Candidates for both parties appear on the same ballot, but voting in both the Republican and Democratic sections will cause the ballot to be rejected. This is commonly referred to as "splitting your ticket" and is not allowed in a partisan Primary Election. In addition to the partisan candidates, the ballot will contain a nonpartisan section and proposal section.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS - Absentee ballots for both the Primary and General Election are available at City Hall. Registered voters must first complete an application for an absentee ballot or submit a written request which includes the reason for requesting the ballot, the registered address of the applicant, the address to which the ballot should be mailed, and the signature of the applicant. Michigan Election Law allows for registered voters to submit one request for absentee ballots for both the Primary and General Elections if desired. If you are interested in an application for an absentee ballot for either or both elections, please stop by City Hall or email clerk@tawascity.org or call (989) 362-8688. Please remember that if you request an absentee ballot at City Hall, you will have to provide photo identification.

FIREFIGHTER CADET PROGRAM

Four years ago the Tawas City Fire Department introduced the Firefighter Cadet Program. Since its introduction, five high school students have participated in the program and two of them have attended the State of Michigan Fire Academy and received their State certifications for firefighting. The program has become a true success story and we have been able to replace a retiring Firefighter with a Cadet who had already gone through the full training process. We're very proud of this program and the youth who participate. They continue to impress us with the inspiration they have provided to other youth in our community and we're honored to be a part of preparing them to be the next generation of fire service leaders.



Visit TawasCity.org for lots of information on our public meetings, parks, property information, zoning documents, fillable forms, etc.

MASTER PLAN AND ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATES

The City's Master Plan is a document that is drafted with input from the community and becomes a guide for the City Council, Planning Commission, and staff in making decisions about the future of Tawas City. It is intended to serve as a roadmap for the development of the City into a pleasant and desirable community, and to serve as a guide for land use decisions. The plan is updated every five years and we are in the process of updating it in 2018.

Once the Master Plan update is complete, we will be working to update our Zoning Ordinance to compliment and incorporate the goals and visions of the Master Plan. These two documents work hand-in-hand and guide the decisions as officials incorporate the community's vision for Tawas City.

If you'd like opportunities to share your vision as we shape the future of Tawas City, please watch for notices regarding public hearings for both of these very important documents in the Iosco County News Herald and on the City's website. If you'd like to review the current Master Plan or Zoning Ordinance, copies are available for review at City Hall or on the City's website:

Master Plan

http://tawascity.org/images/stories/pdfs/Master_Plan_2013_Final.pdf

Zoning Ordinance

https://library.municode.com/mi/tawas_city/codes/code_of_ordinances

I M P O R T A N T D A T E S

2018

- Mar 14 Board of Review
9a-noon and 1p-4p at City Hall
- 15 Board of Review
1p-4p and 6p-9p at City Hall
- 30 Good Friday
City departments Close at Noon
- Apr 24 City Council nominating petitions due
- May 7 compost pickup begins
- 28 Memorial Day
City departments closed
garbage pickup will be on Wednesday
- Jul 1 Summer 2018 property taxes mailed
- 4 Independence Day
City departments closed
- 9 last day to register to vote for August Primary
- 18 Board of Review
9a at City Hall
- Aug 7 State Primary
polls open 7a-8p at City Hall
- Sep 3 Labor Day
City departments closed
garbage pickup will be on Wednesday

2018

- Sep 30 Summer 2018 property taxes due
- Oct 9 last day to register to vote for November
General Election
- 20 "Shake Your Mailbox" Day
- Nov 6 State General Election
polls open 7a-8p at City Hall
- 22-23 Thanksgiving Holiday
City departments closed
- Dec 1 Winter 2018 property taxes mailed
- 12 Board of Review
9a at City Hall
- 24-25 Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
City departments closed
garbage pickup will be on Wednesday
- 31 New Year's Eve
City departments closed
- 2019**
- Jan 1 New Year's Day
City departments closed
garbage pickup will be on Wednesday
- Feb 14 Winter 2018 property taxes due
- 18 President's Day
City departments closed

Proud of our past. Confident of our future.

