

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

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The City of Tawas City has 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 our projects and ask that you contact City Hall at (989) 362-8688 or [info@tawascity.org](mailto:info@tawascity.org) if you have any problems with or concerns regarding the improvements.

**Street Resurfacing:** The following sections of streets are planned to be resurfaced in 2019 and 2020 –

- North Street from First Avenue to Fifth Avenue
- Second Street from North Street to First Street
- Wheeler Street from First Avenue to the Tawas River
- Twelfth Avenue from Fourth Street to Fifth Street
- Beech Street from Court Street to Cedar Street

**Bridge Repairs:** Tawas City's bridges on First Avenue, Whittemore Street, Mathews Street, and Sixth Avenue are in need of repairs and we'll be working with a contractor to get them done this year. There may be times that the bridges will be temporarily closed and traffic will be rerouted to ensure safety for the travelers and workers while the work is being done.

**Shoreline Park/Town Square:** Tawas City received a Letter of Interest from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) with an offer to fund a little more than 90% of a \$3,930,000 rehabilitation project for the pier in Shoreline Park. Our application still requires approval from the Michigan Strategic Fund Board but we're working to finalize the engineering and prepare the bid documents in the meantime. The results from our 2017 community questionnaire showed that this project is a top priority for the community, Planning Commission, and City Council, and we're excited to move it forward to become a reality.

In addition to the improvements on the pier, the City received a grant through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to purchase the property at 541 West Lake Street, which is directly adjacent to Town Square. The City already owns the building at 545 West Lake Street as well as the parking lot between the two buildings. Once we close on the grant and complete the project, we'll have the opportunity to add approximately 120 feet of frontage along Lake Huron to our parks system. We anticipate this project to be completed in the spring of 2020.

**Memory Gardens Cemetery:** The City purchased a columbarium structure that was erected in Memory Gardens Cemetery this past year. 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. The Council is working on regulations and fees and the niches will be available for purchase in the very near future.

**Invasive Species Removal:** This past fall Tawas City received a grant and worked with Huron Pines to treat the invasive species, phragmites, along the Tawas River. During the winter months, as weather allows, staff from the DPW will be working to burn and remove the dead stalks. We'll continue working with Huron Pines to remove phragmites in other areas of the City. If you are aware of any that need to be removed, please contact City Hall.

**Right Tree – Right Place:** For seven years since 2011, Tawas City has received a total of \$14,600 in grant money from Consumers Energy through their Community Tree Planting Grant Program. This has given us the opportunity to replace dead and diseased trees along the City's rights-of-way with new trees that are strategically placed to prevent interference with power lines and other infrastructure. We've also been able to plant trees in areas where there were none. If you have an area that you feel the City should consider planting trees in the future, please contact City Hall so we can look at the location and determine if it will meet Consumers Energy's requirements for future grants.

**TawasCity.org:** Over the next few months we'll be making improvements and upgrades to the City's website. We expect the transition to the new site to be seamless without any interruption to the availability. If you do happen to experience any problems with the website, please don't hesitate to contact City Hall at (989) 362-8688 or [info@tawascity.org](mailto:info@tawascity.org).

### **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](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/waste) or by contacting Waste Management at (866) 797-9018.

### **GARAGE/YARD/ESTATE SALES**

Please remember that Tawas City has an [ordinance](#) regulating garage/yard/estate sales and the like. While we no longer require a permit for sales, you are limited to only two (2) 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 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.

### **TAWAS CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS**

The Tawas City Fire Department received a very generous donation from MINTH Group-Tawas. The 2019 Yamaha Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) and trailer is valued at \$45,000 and is equipped with a fire/rescue skid that holds 70 gallons of water and five gallons of non-PFOS firefighting foam and a hose reel that holds 100 feet of fire hose. With additional generous donations from the Tawas Bay FOE 2588 and Make Way Move All, the department purchased a separate skid for winter and hunting seasons that has a patient/backboard spot as well as a medic seat for patient care. The UTV is outfitted with off-road tracks that will help firefighters get through terrains that would be impassable with just a four-wheel drive vehicle.



The UTV will be used for wildland firefighter transportation and fire extinguishment, as well as medical emergency transportation in the TCFD's service area which covers Tawas City as well as the townships of Alabaster, Sherman, and Tawas.

The department is very grateful for the donations and community support, and is proud to have this unique piece of equipment for the benefit of the communities it serves and to assist in surrounding communities when needed.



## ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATES

The City's Master Plan, which is intended to serve as a roadmap for the development of the City into a pleasant and desirable community and a guide for land use decisions, was updated in 2018 and approved in December 2018. The Planning Commission and City Council will now begin working to update the Zoning Ordinance. This document is drafted with input from the community and becomes the framework and regulations to incorporate the goals and visions of the Master Plan. Please watch the Iosco County News Herald and City's website for notifications of public meetings and hearings for opportunities to share your thoughts regarding the Zoning Ordinance. The Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance work hand-in-hand to help guide decisions as officials incorporate the community's vision for Tawas City. Web links for the current documents are below if you'd like to take a look at them.

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<b>Master Plan</b>	<a href="http://tawascity.org/images/stories/pdfs/Tawas-City-Master-Plan-2019-Final.pdf">http://tawascity.org/images/stories/pdfs/Tawas-City-Master-Plan-2019-Final.pdf</a>
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<b>Zoning Ordinance</b>	<a href="https://library.municode.com/mi/tawas_city/codes/code_of_ordinances">https://library.municode.com/mi/tawas_city/codes/code_of_ordinances</a>
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## FIREFIGHTER RECOGNITIONS



This year five Tawas City Firefighters were honored for 25 years of service with our department. They are pictured from left to right Firefighter

Mark Nelkie, Captain Mike Westcott, Firefighter Rob Westcott, Firefighter Engineer Bill Yax, and Chief Steve Maisch. These men are still very active and dedicated to serving our community. Firefighter Daryl Abbott (not pictured) also retired this year after 24 years of service. Collectively, the 24 members of Tawas City Fire Department have more than 355 years of experience – not including any experience they may have brought with them from other departments. We're very proud of our department and firefighters as they work to serve and protect our community.

## CROSS CONNECTION INSPECTIONS

In 2015 the Tawas City Council approved changes to the City's Cross Connections Inspection Program, which helps to protect our public water system. The changes incorporated regulations from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to include inspections of residential users once every 10 years. The City has been divided into 10 sections to help with scheduling the inspections. When it's your turn, the Water Department will send you a letter asking you to schedule a time for an inspection that will generally take less than 15 minutes.

**What is a cross connection?** A cross-connection occurs when a pipe designed to carry safe drinking water is connected at some point to a pipe containing unsafe water or other material. You may not think of your home as having such hazards, but if you have a hose that is submerged in a pool, car wash bucket, bathtub or laundry sink, or if you have a pesticide sprayer connected to a garden hose, you've created a cross-connection. If a water main breaks, the potential exists for unsafe substances to be siphoned back into the water supply which could contaminate the drinking supply for many.

**How will I know what is found during the inspection?** The cross-connection inspector will be completing a form which will be given to the property owner/occupant when the inspection is complete. The form will show whether or not you're in compliance and what correction(s) may need to be made, if any, to protect your house from possible cross-connections. The Tawas City staff will help identify appropriate actions for compliance.

**What is the cost to the property owner?** The initial home inspection is provided by Tawas City at no cost. The property owner is responsible for having the proper devices installed for compliance. For an average single-family home, if the owner installs these backflow prevention devices themselves, their cost should be less than \$60. If any corrections need to be made after the initial inspection and a re-inspection is required, Tawas City will also perform this re-inspection at no charge.

**All City offices will be closed on Friday, March 8, 2019 for city-wide training for all staff members. Please plan accordingly if you need to conduct any transactions with the Tawas City Library, Fire Department, Department of Public Works, or City Hall.**

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

**2019**

- Mar 8 City departments closed for training
- 13 Board of Review  
9a-noon and 1p-4p at City Hall
- 14 Board of Review  
1p-4p and 6p-9p at City Hall
- Apr 19 Good Friday  
*City departments close at Noon*
- May 6 compost pickup begins
- 27 Memorial Day  
*City departments closed*  
*garbage pickup will be on Wednesday*
- Jul 1 Summer 2019 property taxes mailed
- 4-5 Independence Day  
*City departments closed*
- 17 Board of Review  
9a at City Hall
- Sep 2 Labor Day  
*City departments closed*  
*garbage pickup will be on Wednesday*

**2019**

- Sep 30 Summer 2019 property taxes due
- Oct 19 "Shake Your Mailbox" Day
- Nov 28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday  
*City departments closed*
- Dec 2 Winter 2019 property taxes mailed
- 11 Board of Review  
9a at City Hall
- 24-25 Christmas Eve and Christmas Day  
*City departments closed*
- 31 New Year's Eve  
*City departments closed*

**2020**

- Jan 1 New Year's Day  
*City departments closed*
- Feb 14 Winter 2019 property taxes due
- 17 President's Day  
*City departments closed*

✂ Cut out the above information and keep it on your refrigerator for easy access to these important dates! ✂

Proud of our past. Confident of our future.

