



*Welcome to
the Sunrise Side*
Lawas
Area Chamber of Commerce

2026
**Visitors Guide &
Member Directory**

YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Luxury on Lake Huron



WE ARE NOT YOUR TRADITIONAL RESORT

- Developed to offer something that didn't previously exist on Michigan's Sunrise Side.
- A luxury waterfront cottage destination on Michigan's Sunrise Side.
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| Garlic | Sweet Heat |
| Hot Garlic | Sweet Horseradish |
| Xtra Hot Garlic | Veggie Mix |

989-778-0102





tawas.com

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Area Chamber of Commerce

989-362-8643, 800-55-TAWAS
tawas.com

228 Newman Street, East Tawas, MI 48730
facebook.com/StrengthandProsperity

Service Area

losco



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MobileRVTechServices.com

East Tawas and Tawas City

By Gaylynn Brenoel



The Tawas area is a true reflection of the splendor of life's celebration of four seasons, each with its own magic for living and vacationing on the sunrise side of northeast Michigan.

In springtime, the Tawas area delights in the return of the soft blue and green hues of Lake Huron that return after the ice melts. Mornings are cool in the welcoming sun that glitters off the water. Migratory birds start their return to the area as the forest floor starts to grow, dotted with early wildflowers. Shops reopen for the season, and boats and docks are being prepared for the arrival of warm sun-filled days.

The summer welcomes locals and visitors as they fill the beaches for sunbathing, swimming, paddleboarding, kayaking, and lazy floating afternoons. Bike paths, hiking trails, and camping areas, provide a multitude of opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Local shops enjoy helping residents and visitors shop for the unique array of locally crafted specialty items, and newly arriving men's and women's fashions. The area

- beautiful four-season lakeside towns



Nicole Foster

also features family-owned ice cream shops and restaurants, movie theaters, beautiful community and state parks, and lakeside concerts. Summer is a time of beautiful sunrises and sunsets for easy-going unforgettable experiences.

In the winter, especially during the holiday season, visitors and residents love the serenity, slow pace, quieter streets, and plentiful parking areas along Tawas Bay. Children off from school eagerly await a visit from Santa while locally owned stores and boutiques all decorated for the holiday season provide a delightful shopping experience.

Tawas bay with its snow-covered shoreline on Lake Huron, depicts a winter wonderland that sparkles like diamonds. Many enjoy cross-county skiing on local trails, ice fishing, or snowshoeing, while others stay warm in family-owned restaurants, cozy cafes, and bakeries.

The Tawas are friendly and welcoming destinations to visit or call home, no matter the time of year.

Laurie J Ferguson



Event Calendar

Nicole Foster

Spring

May 15-16 - Tawas Point
Bird Migration Days

May 16 - Spring Into Art
Tawas Bay Art Gallery

May 16 - Friends of Tawas
Point Native Plant Sale
Lighthouse Pavillion

May 23-24 - 33rd Annual
Memorial Day Weekend
Arts and Crafts Show
Hosted by the Tawas Area
Chamber of Commerce

Summer

June 1 - Tawas Wellness
Warriors Founders Day
Celebration
The Collective

June 1 - MyMichigan
Health Golf Outing
Red Hawk Golf Club

June 9 - Back to the Bricks
Promo Car Show
Newman St.

June 11 - Develop Iosco
Community Meeting
develop-iosco.org

June 12-14 - Nor-East'r Art
& Music Festival
Oscoda County Fair
Grounds
noreastrfest.org

July 4 - Independence Day
Parade (11 am)
Light Up the Bay Fireworks
Show (dusk)
Shoreline Park, Tawas City

July 10-12 - SummerFest
tawassummerfest.com

July 10 - SummerFest Kick-
Off Party
Shoreline Park

July 11 - SummerFest
5k/10k
The Collective

July 12 - SummerFest Car
Show
Newman St.

July 12 - SummerFest Fly-
In Breakfast
Iosco County Airport

August 1 - Tawas Uncork'd
Wine, Ale, & Food Festival
Harbor Park

August 7 - National
Lighthouse Day Event
Tawas Point State Park
tawaslighthousefriends.com

August 13-15 - Sidewalk
Sales
Downtown East Tawas

August 28-30 - Blues by
the Bay
Harbor Park
bluesbythebaytawas.org

Fall

September 5-6 - 35th
Annual Labor Day
Weekend Arts and Crafts
Show
Hosted by the Tawas Area
Chamber of Commerce

September 10 - Develop
Iosco Community Meeting
develop-iosco.org

October 2-4 - Customer
Appreciation Days
Downtown East Tawas

October 3 - Fall Into Art
Tawas Bay Art Gallery

October 9-10 - Tawas Point
Harvest Festival
Tawas Point State Park
tawaslighthousefriends.com

October 24 - Pumpkin
Carving Event
Downtown East Tawas

October 31 - Halloween
Parade & Downtown Trick
or Treating
Downtown East Tawas

November 7 - Tawas Band
Bazaar
Tawas Area High School

November 17 - Cider in the
City
Downtown East Tawas

November 21-22 - Holiday
Open House
Tawas Bay Art Gallery

November 26 - Turkey Trot
The Collective

November 26 - Free
Community Thanksgiving
Dinner
The Collective

November 28 - Annual Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade
Downtown East Tawas

November 28 - Christmas at the Lighthouse
Tawas Point State Park
tawaslighthousefriends.com

Winter

December 3 - Develop Iosco Annual Meeting
develop-iosco.org

December 3 - Downtown Shopping Night
Downtown East Tawas

December 12 - Santa Breakfast
The Collective

February 4-7 - Perchville 2027



All Summer Long

Monday - Community Band Concerts in the Park
Free Concerts in East Tawas City Park

Tuesday Night - Live Street Dances
Newman Street (June 16-Aug 11)

Tuesdays at the Light House
Free Tours Noon - 4
Tawas Point State Park (June-Aug.)

Wednesdays - Northeast Michigan Regional Farm Market
Oscoda/AuSable 8 am - 1 pm (May-Oct.)

Fridays - Shoreline Summer Series
Free Concerts in Town Square, Tawas City
(July - Aug.)

Saturdays - Northeast Michigan Regional Farm Market
Gateway Park, 8 am - 1 pm (May-Oct.)

Second Saturdays - Vintage Markets
Brugger's Plaza (May-Sept.)

Please visit our website tawas.com or call the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce for the most current information about events.



All Year Long

Community Supper
First Monday of the Month -
at The Collective

Tawas Bay Players Community Theater
Tawas Bay Playhouse
401 Newman St., East Tawas

Moonglow

May 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 - 7 pm

May 10, 17 - 2 pm

Decades of Delight

July 10, 11, 12, 23, 24, 25, 26 - 7 pm

Dueling Pianos

(At American Legion Post 211)

July 17, 18 - 7 pm

Camp-O-Chem-Mo

October 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 - 7 pm

October 11, 18 - 2 pm

For more information & the most up to date schedule please visit tawasbayplayers.com

WE Players, Youth Theater

The Thirty-Three Little Pigs

May 29, 30, 31

Shakespeare in the Park

(At Dewey Durant Memorial Park)

August 7, 8, 9

weplayers.ludus.com



Perchville USA

February 4-7, 2027

Join us in celebrating the 77th year of this renowned winter festival in Northeast Michigan. Residents and visitors join the annual festivities with both indoor and outdoor activities for the entire family. Following the opening parade on Saturday, watch or participate in the Polar Bear Swim in the icy waters of Lake Huron. Enjoy delicious chili prepared by local businesses and vote for your favorite in the annual contest. Enjoy the family expo with performers, demonstrations, and games for the kids. The festival also includes a corn hole competition, ATV Races, and a perch fishing tournament!

Stay for the day and then join us for evening entertainment at the hospitality tent in the East Tawas Harbor Park. For a complete list of Perchville USA activities, visit the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce website at tawas.com or follow the festival's Facebook page at facebook.com/PerchvilleUSA





East
Tawas

Independence Day Celebration

Saturday, July 4, 2026

Dennis Mackovjack

Our largest and most spectacular parade is our Fourth of July parade held each year on July 4. The two-mile parade travels from East Tawas to Tawas City and features more than 100 floats and vehicles. Visitors and residents are thrilled with our 30 by 60 foot American Flag as it passes by the patriotic parade goers.

In the evening, we "Light Up the Bay" with a spectacular fireworks display in Tawas City's Shoreline Park. Be sure to find the latest events and activities planned by visiting the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce website at tawas.com





Tawas Bay Summerfest

July 10-12, 2026

Celebrate the joys of summer at our three-day festival with fun activities for the entire family!

Beginning on Friday at Shoreline Park in Tawas City, enjoy live music and a variety of children's activities.

Saturday starts off the day with a 5k walk/run race hosted by the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce and the Tawas Wellness Warriors. Saturday evening features the 19th annual Car Cruise, a popular event featuring more than 175 vehicles. Following the Car Cruise in downtown East Tawas, enjoy music and dancing on Newman Street.

On Sunday, enjoy the popular fly-in breakfast at the Iosco County Airport on Aulerich Road! Make your way to downtown East Tawas for the Sunday Car Show.

For more information, please visit tawassummerfest.com





Memorial Day & Labor Day Weekends Arts & Crafts Shows

The Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce hosts two fabulous Arts and Crafts shows each year. Both events have grown in popularity over the years. As many as 200 artists and crafters from across Michigan and neighboring states participate with unique, one-of-a-kind items. The event takes place at Tawas City Shoreline Park on US 23 across from the Iosco County building. A free shuttle service is available between downtown East Tawas, Brugger's Plaza, Veterans Park in Tawas City, and Shoreline Park. For more information, call 989-362-8643 or 1-800-558-2927

May 23-24 & August 29-30, 2026





Tawas Uncork'd

August 1, 2026

This Wine, Ale and Food Festival was created by the Friends of the East Tawas Library as a fun way to raise money for the library; the event showcases a multitude of Michigan wineries and breweries. In addition to enjoying the wine and ale, participants can enjoy delicious foods by local restaurants and vendors. There is also live entertainment and raffle drawings for cash and prizes. Activities and non-alcoholic beverages are also available for children. For details about the event entry price, drink tickets, and activities, visit the event Facebook page at facebook.com/TawasUncorkd



Blues by the Bay

August 28-30, 2026



Set up in a big top tent in Harbor Park overlooking Tawas Bay, this annual festival is in its 24th year. Blues lovers from around Michigan and surrounding states make their way to this popular annual event again and again. Popular Blues bands come from Michigan and parts of the Midwest for the three-day event. One adult admission covers all three days and children under 10 are welcome for free. For more information, visit bluesbythebaytawas.org



Rick Flemming



Rick Flemming



Rick Flemming



Tawas Community Concert Band

Mondays, Summertime

Hosting annual Spring, Fall, and Christmas shows the Tawas Community Concert Band is a community-driven group bringing music to the Tawas all year long. During the summer, they play every Monday evening at the East Tawas City Park. Keep up to date on their concert announcements by following them on Facebook.



Community Theatre

Tawas Bay Players

The purpose of the Tawas Bay Players is to promote and encourage theatre in our community by providing quality educational and/or entertaining productions, utilizing talents within the local area.

WE Players

WE Players, Inc's mission is to foster and promote the development skill and leadership potential among the youth of the area through active participation and mentoring in fine and performing arts.





Northeast Michigan Regional Farm Market

Saturdays May-October

The farm market features a 3,200 square-foot pavilion, vendor tents, and tables offering produce from local farmers, bakers, and artisans. Local favorites include baked bread and pastries, local honey, jams & jellies, flowers, plants, and much more. Located in Gateway park on US 23 in Tawas City, the venue provides a fabulous multi-recreational space on the shore of Tawas Bay. For more information, please visit getitfresh.org or call 989-909-3193





Dining

Boathouse Beer Co. & Boozery

450 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
boathousebeerco.com
989-984-5233

Cozy Cup Coffee Company

118 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
cozycupcoffee.com
989-254-3244

East Tawas Dairy Queen

118 W. Bay St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
dairyqueen.com
989-362-2071

Freakin' Pickles

103 E. Huron Rd.
AuGres, MI 48703
Seasonal Location:
205 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
freakinpickles.com
989-778-0102

G's Pizzeria and Deli

115 E. Bay St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
gspizzeria.com
989-362-8659

Hungry Howie's

200 W. Bay St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
hungryhowies.com
989-362-3100

Mango's Mexican Cuisine & Tequila Bar

214 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
orders.cake.net/10580111
989-984-5219

Mr. Jack's Sports Bar & Grill

105 W. Westover St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
facebook.com/p/Mr-Jackss-Sports-Bar-and-Grill-100063694834071/
989-305-6146

Sand Lake Tavern & Grill

3949 W. Saginaw St.
National City, MI 48748
facebook.com/p/Sand-Lake-Bar-61554651881096/
989-469-9962

Sunnyside Coffee & Natural Foods

402 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
sunnysidecoffee@hotmail.com
facebook.com/
sunnysidecoffeehouse
989-305-6008

Tawas Bay Pizza Company

115 E. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
tawasbaypizzaco@gmail.com
facebook.com/p/Tawas-Bay-Pizza-Co-100063645303000
989-305-6380

The Bleu Moose Bakery Café
1123 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
bleumoosebakery@gmail.com
bleumoosebakery.com
989-305-6036

Tilly's Cafe and Tea House
129 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
tillyscafe129@gmail.com
989-305-6070

Village Chocolatier
104 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
VCBayCity@gmail.com
villagechocolatier.com
989-362-7728

Grocery
Free's Market
1139 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
989-362-6900

Klenow's Market
201 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
klenowsmarket.com
989-362-2341

Lake to Bay Grocery
542 Tawas Beach Rd.
East Tawas, MI 48730
laketobaygrocery@gmail.com
facebook.com/p/Lake-to-Bay-
Grocery-61576829431159/
989-820-9377

Miners Grove
500 Wilber Rd.
East Tawas, MI 48730
facebook.com/Minersgrove
989-362-9691

Neiman's Family Market
220 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
neimansfamilymarket.com
989-362-9180



Nicole Foster



MEAL DEALS!

\$7.99 Small 2-topping pizza

\$11.99 Large 2-topping round or thin crust or large 1-topping deep dish pizza

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\$33.00 Howie Deal 2 Large 2 Topping Pizzas + 3 Cheeser Howie Bread® + 2 Liter Pepsi



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838 Legget Road
Tawas City, MI 48763
tawasblueberries.com



Places To Stay



Lodging

Agape Vacation Rentals

7799 Crystal Dr.
Beulah, MI 49617
eric@agapevacationrentals.com
agapevacationrentals.com
231-383-1180

Always A Holiday Bed & Breakfast

All Year
423 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
alwaysaholidaybandb@gmail.com
alwaysaholidaybandbreakfast.com
989-984-5300
Text: 810-429-0122

Bayside Inn

All Year
1020 W. Lake St. Tawas City
(989) 362-0088
hotelintawascitymi.com

Coleman's Beach Resort

All Year
1045 Bay Dr.
Tawas City, MI 48763
colemansresort.com
989-362-3962

Crow's Nest

All Year
1028 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
hotelintawascitymi.com
989-362-4455

Lake Huron Cabin Rentals

All Year
2762 E. Booth Rd.
Au Gres, MI 48703
welcome@lakehuroncabinrentals.com
lakehuroncabinrentals.com
Text or Call: 989-368-0773

Lake Life Cottages

All Year
824 E. Bay St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
lakelifecottages.com
989-214-3435

Mermaid Coast Cottages

All Year
35 S. Baldwin Resort Rd.
East Tawas, MI 48730
mermaidcoastcottages@gmail.com
facebook.com/MermaidCoastCottages
mermaidcoastcottages.com
989-305-0287

O's Anchor Bay

All Year
2778 E. US 23
East Tawas, MI 48730
osanchorbay.com
989-984-5056

Paradise Beach Resort

All Year
1029 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
paradisebeachmi2018@gmail.com
paradisebeachtawas.com
facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063481365083
989-362-3234

Pine Haven Beach Resort

Apr. - Nov.
1021 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
P.O. Box 112
Tawas City, MI 48764
pinehavenresort@att.net
pinehavenresort.net
989-362-2321

Riptide Inn Beach Resort

All Year
1110 E. Bay St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
theriptideinn.com
989-362-6562


Surfside Motel/Marina Resort

 **All Year**
716 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
info@surfsidemoteltawas.com
surfsidemoteltawas.com
989-984-5007

Tawas Bay Beach Resort

 **All Year**
300 E. Bay St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
guestservices@tawasbaybeachresort.com
tawasbaybeachresort.com
989-362-8600

Tawas Inn Resort

 **Apr. - Nov.**
1000 E. Bay St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
tawasinresort.com
989-362-2581

Timberlane Resort

 **All Year**
532 Tawas Beach Rd.
East Tawas, MI 48730
timberlaneresorts@gmail.com
timberlaneresorts.com
248-797-0208

Woodland Beach Cottages

 **Apr. - Nov.**
2786 E. US 23
East Tawas, MI 48730
dienerc@chartermi.net
facebook.com/p/Woodland-Beach-
Cottages-100063675818138
989-362-6996

Young's Getaway Beachfront Resort

 **All Year**
1015 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
facebook.com/tawasresort/
youngsgetaway.com
989-362-2366

Campgrounds







Oscoda/Tawas KOA Campground

 **Apr. - Oct.**
3591 Forest Rd.
Oscoda, MI 48750
info@oscodakoa.com
oscodakoa.com
1-800-562-9667
Info: 989-739-5115

Russell Canoe Livery & Campgrounds

 **May - Oct.**
146 Carrington St.
Omer, MI 48749
memories@russellcanoe.com
russellcanoe.com
facebook.com/RussellCanoe
989-653-2644

KEY

-  Handicap
-  Pool
-  Accessible
-  Jacuzzi
-  Cabins
-  Waterfront
-  RV
-  A/C
-  Tent
-  Internet Access
-  Pet Friendly



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200 W. Bay Street, Suite 4
East Tawas, MI 48730
(989) 362-4478
preciouspetalsbyjamie.com



Entertainment

Agriculture

Northeast Michigan Regional Farm Market

815 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
facebook.com/p/Northeast-Michigan-Regional-Farm-Market-100057491116929
989-362-3531

Tawas Blueberry Farm

838 Leggett Rd.
Tawas City, MI 48763
tawasblueberryfarm@gmail.com
tawasblueberries.com
989-362-4638

Arts & Culture

Blues by the Bay Music Festival

P.O. Box 465
East Tawas, MI 48730
tawasbayblues@gmail.com
bluesbythebaytawas.org
989-387-8463

Nor-east'r Music & Arts Festival

1889 Caldwell Rd.
P.O. Box 516
Mio, MI 48647
avnafpres@noreastrfest.org
noreastrfest.org

Tawas Bay Arts Council & Gallery

302 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
TawasBayArtGallery23@gmail.com
facebook.com/p/Tawas-Bay-Art-Gallery-100063522644858
989-362-5613

Tawas Bay Players Community Theater

401 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
P.O. Box 607
Tawas City, MI 48764
tawasbayplayers@gmail.com
tawasbayplayers.com
989-362-8373

WE Players, Inc.

1334 E. US 23
East Tawas, MI 48730
info@witzend.co
facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064726687678#
989-820-5257

Golf

Bogey's Indoor Golf

106 W. Westover St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
info@bogeystawas.com
bogeystawas.com
989-305-6212

Hubie's Wonderegolf

1909 US 23
East Tawas, MI 48730
hubiesminigolf.com
989-362-8050

Red Hawk Golf Club

350 W. Davison Rd.
East Tawas, MI 48730
proshop@redhawkgolf.net
redhawkgolf.net
989-362-0800

Wicker Hills Country Club

7287 Wickert Rd.
Hale, MI 48739
cbaker@wickerhillsgolf.com
wickerhillsgolf.com
989-728-9971

Marina & Fishing

Calypto Sportfishing Charters

3842 S. Cruzen Rd.
Mikado, MI 48745
calypsocharters@yahoo.com
calypso2.com
989-739-2313

Heritage Coast Sailing & Rowing, Inc.

P.O. Box 221
Tawas City, MI 48764
davew@heritage-23.org
heritage-23.org
989-820-5644

Jerry's Marina

542 Tawas Beach Rd.
East Tawas, MI 48730
sales@jerrysmarina.com
jerrysmarina.com
989-362-8641

Tawas Bay Condo Marina Association

939 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
P.O. Box 300
Tawas City, MI 48764
tawasbaymarina@yahoo.com
tawasbaymarina.org
989-362-3595

Recreation & Entertainment

Bay Sail

113 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
info@baysailbaycity.org
baysail.org/public-daysails-1
989-891-6541

Corsair Trail Council

P.O. Box 701
Tawas City, MI 48764
fs.usda.gov/recarea/hmnf/
recarea/?recid=18732
989-362-2001

Family Theater

132 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
tawasmovies.com
989-362-2151

Huron Hockey & Skating Association

200 W. M-55
Tawas City, MI 48763
P.O. Box 385
Tawas City, MI 48764
facebook.com/p/Tawas-Bay-
Ice-Arena-100057654931178
989-984-5025

Oscoda Canoe Rental

678 W. River Rd.
Oscoda, MI 48750
oscodacanoe.com
989-739-9040

Saganing Eagles Landing Casino

2690 Worth Rd.
Standish, MI 48658
SELCHotel-info@sagchip.org
saganing-eagleslanding.com
1-888-7EAGLE7

Tawas Axe N Lanes

444 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
tawasaxemanager@yahoo.com
tawaslanes.com
facebook.com/profile.
php?id=100083040115625
989-305-6155

Wurtsmith Air Museum

4071 E. Van Ettan St.
P.O. Box 664
Oscoda, MI 48750
email@wurtsmithairmuseum.net
wurtsmithairmuseum.net
989-739-7555





Shoreline Summer Series
Friday Nights at Shoreline Park
Santa on the Shoreline
Early December at Shoreline Park

Check Our Facebook for Details





TAWAS BAY PLAYERS

2026-2027 Season

MoonGlow
May: 8, 9, 10,
14, 15, 16, 17

Decades of Delight
July: 10, 11, 12,
23, 24, 25, 26


Dueling Pianos
July: 17, 18

Camp-O-Chem-O
October: 9, 10, 11,
15, 16, 17, 18



401 Newman St., East Tawas, MI 48730
989-362-8373
Tickets Available Online!
www.TawasBayPlayers.com

CTM aact



Your Local Bookstore

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Area Parks



GATEWAY PARK

Amenities include a fishing pier, boat launch, 3,200 sq. ft. pavilion available for rentals and hosts the seasonal Saturday morning Farm Market, playground, restrooms, dog beach, and picnic tables.

SHORELINE PARK

This popular park has a large beach and swimming area, pier with day docking, playgrounds including the area's only musical playground, picnic tables and grills, a pavilion, a food concession stand, restrooms, performance stage, vehicle charging stations, self-serve kayak rentals, and a kayak launch. Recently added to this park is the Tawas Bay Legacy Walk, a brick pathway on the pier honoring anyone who has left their legacy in our beautiful area.



INDEPENDENT PARK

This park offers a baseball field, portable restroom, picnic tables, pickleball courts, and a basketball court. The park's newest addition is the Pathway to Learning adjacent to the Tawas City Library, which features a prize-winning walkway that meanders through educational panels, and cement animal creations by locally renowned artist, Gordon Clute.



TAWAS CITY SPORTS COMPLEX

This complex offers softball/baseball fields, soccer fields, bleachers, restrooms, concession stand, playground, and picnic tables.



VETERANS PARK

Veterans Park is a recognition plaza with a war dead memorial, a walk of honor, and honor walls. The park also features a boardwalk along the Tawas River, fishing in the river, self-serve kayak rentals, and a kayak launch.



ROBERT C. BOLEN PARK

Located next to the Community Center, this park has a picnic pavilion with restrooms and kitchen available for rentals, play structure, horseshoe pits, and baseball fields.



TOM DILLON PARK

Amenities include a covered picnic pavilion with restrooms and kitchen available for rentals, youth softball field, play structure, and horseshoe pits.



DEWEY DURANT PARK

This large park has a covered picnic pavilion with kitchen and restrooms available for rentals, three softball fields, two tennis courts, horseshoe pits, dog park, play structure and disc golf.



HARBOR PARK

Located next to the East Tawas State Dock, this beautiful park sits at the end of downtown East Tawas. It features a playground, public beach, picnic tables, bathroom access, and a pavilion that is available for rentals.



Jay Samuels

EAST TAWAS COMMUNITY CENTER

Full size gymnasium, elevated walking track with exercise equipment, indoor and outdoor basketball courts, pickleball, rental options include a variety of banquet rooms that hold 50-400 people and a full-service kitchen.



EAST TAWAS CITY PARK

This expansive park is home to the Tawas Community Concert Band summer concerts. It features a playground, public beach, bathrooms, grills, picnic tables, a pavilion available for rentals, a dog run, and a modern campground with 178 full hook up sites.





TAWAS POINT STATE PARK

This state park is home to the Tawas Point Lighthouse and is a favorite destination of water sport enthusiasts and bird watchers. Situated on a 200-acre sandy point, there is a long natural beach, marked swimming area, gift shop, bathrooms, modern campground with overnight lodging rentals, hiking trails, and many recreational programs. Park access requires a Recreational Pass.

Jay Samuels

Fun fact! Tawas Point State Park is the only Michigan State Park that varies in acreage based on the water levels of Lake Huron!



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Tawas Point Lighthouse



In operation from 1876 to 2016, the Tawas Point Lighthouse is a popular and fascinating attraction for maritime enthusiasts. Located in the Tawas Point State Park off Tawas Bay in Lake Huron, the Lighthouse is also a popular destination for birdwatchers and those who enjoy spectacular sunrises on Michigan's Sunrise Side.

Visitors to the lighthouse can take a guided tour with a volunteer lighthouse keeper through the beautifully maintained museum. Those more adventurous can climb the 85 stairs to the top of the tower for breathtaking views of Tawas Bay and Lake Huron.

Beginning in 2008, a Tawas Point Lighthouse Keeper Program began that allows a two-week stay in the lighthouse keeper's dwelling. The lighthouse Keepers Program and the lighthouse are open to the public during the months of May to October. Between June and August, Tuesdays are open for self-guided tours by donation only and require closed toed shoes. For more information about the Lighthouse Keeper Program, visit tawaslighthousefriends.com/keeper-program. For more information about the Tawas Point Lighthouse, visit tawaslighthousefriends.com/visitor-information



AREA MAP



EAST TAWAS

PEDESTRIAN & BIKE PATH

A beautiful, non-motorized path for walking or biking, this full paved trail winds 13.5 miles from Alabaster Township all the way to Tawas Point State Park. The bike path also features a trail head 1.5 miles north of the Singing Bridge.

PARKS

1. Gateway Park
2. Tawas City Sports Complex
3. Veterans Park
4. Shoreline Park & Town Square
5. Independent Park & Pathway to Learning
6. Fishing Park on Nunn Rd.
7. Dewey Durant Park
8. Robert C. Bolen Park
9. Tom Dillon Park
10. East Tawas City Park
11. Tawas Point Lighthouse



The Clute Animals

The Works and Life of Gordon Clute

The Art

I spent my youth exploring castles, running my hands along cold stone walls and climbing to the tops of towers to look out over Lake Huron. I snuck into giant boots, fearing that the old women who called them home would appear at any moment to give me broth without bread and whip me before bed. I was swallowed by whales and hippos, giggling in the darks of their stomachs before crawling out of the whale's blowhole or the hippo's... blowhole. I roamed with dinosaurs and elephants and kangaroos and ponies. I spent hours wandering with the characters of my favorite stories, all of them as real and colorful as the green pine trees and crashing blue waves and yellow sun along the bay. I felt the wind tussle my hair while I rode on the back of a giant seagull.

I did all this and more, expanding and cultivating my young imagination, thanks to the works of Gordon Clute.

The Sculptor

Ask anyone who spent a portion of their childhood in the Tawas area in the last 60 years who Gordon Clute is, and you'll get a variety of answers. Some may say "Who?" or "Why are you asking me this?" or "I haven't been to Tawas in years, how did you find me?" but show them a picture of the Seagull Slide at Gateway Park, or the story book characters at the Tawas City Library, or the Whale or the Hippo, or the Boot and the Castle, and I'll bet that they'll get a new sheen to their eyes. You'll see a smile they haven't had since they were young, or at least the ghost of one, and they will all say, "I remember these."

The sculptures you see on these pages (and all around the Tawas Area) are sculptures made by Tawas native Gordon Clute. His process involved posing steel frames, pouring concrete over them, and painting the finished product to resemble animals, buildings, characters, or whatever else he imagined.

Gordon Clute was a sculptor, but to say the only things he sculpted were wire-frames and painted concrete would be a disservice to his legacy. His statues can be found in our parks, our playgrounds, our libraries, (a handful of his creations have even found homes in places outside of the Tawas area!) but the place they are most often found is in our memories. Clute helped to sculpt the childhood of any kid who dared to imagine his art was more than just concrete and steel. He has inspired generations of Tawas natives and tourists alike to see the world with a bit more color and magic.

The Man

I sat down with Gordon's son, Larry Clute, to talk with him about his father and learn a little bit more about the man.

The drive out to Larry's house took me away from town and deep into the wooded areas near the Huron National Forest. For a while, I was worried that not only was I lost, but also that I had missed my appointment and opportunity to interview Larry about the man who had created sculptures so influential to my childhood and so many others'. My fears were quelled, though, when I turned past a grove of pine trees and saw Larry's





mailbox come into view. It let me know right away that I was in the right place. Who else but someone related to Gordon Clute would have a life size statue of Goofy the Dog collecting his mail?

Larry was quite the cordial host, meeting me at the door, welcoming me in, and offering me water. Ninety-two years old and as sharp as a tack, our conversation was as pleasant as it was illuminating.

Larry told me his father quit school in the ninth grade. He said that after learning how to draft while attending night school, his father went on to open and operate his own steel-fabrication business. That business, fittingly named Clute Sheet Metal, was based in Hazel Park, MI, before Gordon decided to move back home to the Tawas Area. Larry was proud to share with me that his father worked on the first round-bottomed aluminum boats to grace the waters of Tawas Bay. It was clear to me that Gordon was a hard-working man, an industrious entrepreneur who contributed to his community in many ways. I had to know what led him to start making his sculptures.

I asked if Gordon had any formal artistic training and Larry told me that the creation of the sculptures was just something he did with his free time. "He just drew stuff up, and made the pipe and framework, and I welded it all, and he did all the cement finish work." It was inspiring to learn that Gordon made the statues simply because he wanted to, but what interested me most about that response was the fact that Larry helped with them! I had been under the impression that Gordon had done all the work himself, but Larry explained that he helped his father with the welding. "Everything he did, I did all the welding." As much as Gordon was the self-taught sculptor, Larry too had a hand in crafting the animals.

I think that shows, above even the fond memories they make, why these sculptures are worth remembering. They represent the drive and dedication that people in Tawas have not only for their family, but also for their community. As Gordon drew the plans for the animals and bent the wire and showed Larry where to weld the steel, he was as much sculpting a bond with his son as he was providing something beneficial for the community. That familial bond and dedication to community is stronger than anything, even steel wire covered in concrete.

The Pathway to Learning

In 2009, just three years after Gordon passed away, the Tawas City Library dedicated a tract of land near their building as the Gordon Clute Memorial Park. A large collection of his statues were donated to the city and placed around the park. Most of these statues resemble familiar characters from cartoons.

In 2024, the Library re-worked the park to include a "Pathway to Learning". The

pathway is a collection of interactive educational placards and activities placed around the park. The path winds from each activity to the next, centered around a relaxing gazebo. The Pathway to Learning provides fun educational activities for children and a tranquil escape for parents. The Library also provides chalk for anyone wishing to turn the concrete path into their canvas!

The Clute statues are, of course, still present. The park wouldn't be the same without them. And, the Pathway to Learning is far more engaging for kids when these fun characters are cheering them on!

On Seagull's Wings

Gordon Clute was an architect of many things, sculptures, boats, fond memories, etc. What I doubt he realized he set in motion though, was one of the most interesting coincidences of my life. A coincidence that proves the relevance and importance of his artwork not only to the residents of Tawas Area, but also to people beyond our community.

Like many who grew up in the Tawas Area, I played on Gordon's statues growing up. I have countless memories of going to Gateway Park for a birthday party or for the Farmer's Market, or any other number of reasons and playing among the animals: climbing to the tops of them and breathing in the air blowing in from Lake Huron. The Seagull Slide was a particular favorite of mine.

I strongly associate these memories with the pride I have in being from the Tawas Area. When I left home to study at the University of Michigan, I had my reservations on whether or not my peers would have even heard of my hometown, let alone the sculptures I played on as a child.

For the most part, I was right. Some people had heard of Tawas, some hadn't. Some close friends of mine even made the trip up with me once or twice. Classes grew harder though, and eventually I had to start focusing a bit more. I hadn't thought about the statues in a while. I hope this gives you some level of understanding of the severity of the surprise I felt when, while telling some of my peers where I was from, one of them said, "Oh yeah, Tawas, that's the place with the Seagull Slide!"

Julia Khater is currently a research laboratory technician at Michigan Medicine, but when I met her we were both in undergrad. When I began writing this article, I knew I needed to reach out to her to include her story about Tawas, Gordon Clute, and the Seagull Slide.

"I was scrolling through Instagram," Julia said, "and I found this page that posts weird roadside attractions." I had asked her about how she found out about the slide. "And there was the Seagull Slide!" She explained that the post had details about where the slide was and since it was Spring Break at the university, she decided to go and see it herself. "I sent it to one of my friends with a car, [and said] Let's go to Tawas City!"

Even though Julia and her friend did the two and a half hour drive from Ann Arbor to come see the Seagull, she said she was pleasantly surprised to see



that there were other animals too. "I wanted to see all of them!" she said. Before leaving to drive back down to Ann Arbor, Julia said they stopped by Mr. Jack's for food. When I asked if she would ever want to come back to Tawas, she said yes. "I would like to go back to see the beach," she explained, "I'd also like to see the town more."

Gordon Clute did a lot for this community, a legacy that lives on through his statues. Not only do they promote locals to enjoy our public parks, but they also encourage people from farther away to come and visit the area.

Where are they now?

Many of Gordon's statues, known colloquially sometimes as the Clute Animals, are still around. There is a large collection at Gateway Park, including the hippo, a menagerie of smaller creatures, and of course the iconic Seagull Slide. Another large collection is located at the Tawas City Library, along their Pathway to Learning. On the west side of the state, a large yellow dinosaur stands amongst the trees at Kampvilla RV Park—an example of one Clute's few pieces that ended up outside Tawas. Larry told me that due to the dino's size it had to be taken apart when transported (and allegedly had its head put on backward when re-built). There are rumours that some of the larger sculptures are hidden deep in the woods, though Larry lamented to me that he believes some of them were demolished. I could tell that the idea of them being destroyed dis comforted him. For him, they are more than a connection to his childhood; they are a connection to his father.

Destroyed or not, they persist in his memories. They persist in the memories of those who play on them. They persist in the memories of those who see them on Instagram and decide to take a chance on visiting our little piece of northern Michigan. They persist in the memories of those reading this article now. I encourage you to visit the Clute Animals. See if you can find the castle, stick your head up the hippo's... blowhole, visit your favorite characters at the library, or take a glide on Seagull's wings.

And whether or not you remember that the man who made these animals was named Gordon Clute, I promise you will remember the fun you had.

Note on the author

Article Author, Neil Peterson, grew up in Tawas. He spent those years participating in local theatre through WE Players, learning to write through Tawas Area High School, and of course, exploring castles, being swallowed by whales, and flying on the backs of seagulls.



PRESENTATION - Tawas City Major Duane Walters, left, shakes the hand of Larry Clute, the son of the late Gordon Clute of Tawas City, during a park dedication ceremony, while members of the family look on. Gordon Clute, who died Sept. 15, 2006, was renowned for his cement and wire-frame sculptures of Disney and other cartoon characters which were located across Tawas City. - Photo by Jason Ogden, Published in the Iosco County News-Herald on August 26, 2009.



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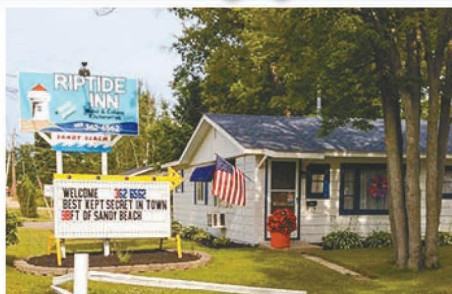
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Jargo Springs

A popular destination, Jargo Springs provides a panoramic view of the AuSable River Valley from an observation deck 300 feet above the river. For those who want a closer look at the springs, a 294-step wooden staircase takes you down to where the underground springs come together to form large pools of crystal-clear water. It is one of the most beautiful spots in northeast Michigan. Revered by native people as a sacred place, the solitude of the area provides an almost magical experience. The sounds of water flowing, gentle breezes, and cries of eagles add to the ambiance and serenity of the area. Located on the River Road Scenic Byway, Jargo Springs offers visitors a unique day trip of beauty and tranquility.



John Morris



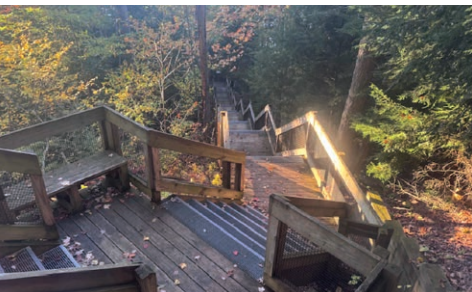
Kimberly Kniivila



Kimberly Kniivila

Lumberman's Monument

Located off River Road in Oscoda, the monument and visitor center together, preserve the area's lumbering history and explain the industry that helped to build northern Michigan. The visitor center is open from May through October. Here, one can learn how lumber was cut and moved from the forests to the mills. A huge bronze memorial sits on a high bluff overlooking the AuSable River. Explore the life of a lumberjack through videos and displays, enjoy a Kid's Day Program or take a guided nature hike. For the more adventurous, hike the 260 steps to the edge of the AuSable river and board the Wanigan, a replica of the floating cook shacks that followed the river drives.



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Life Jacket Loner Stations can be found in the Tawas Area.

The life jackets at these stations are free to use through the summer season. After they're borrowed, they are to be returned to the station, so they might be borrowed again.

The first stand was set up at Tawas Point State Park in East Tawas, and similar stations have spread through the area. East Tawas' Harbor Park got its station in 2025. Tawas City's Gateway Park and Shoreline Park both have a station.

Ken Ratliff Memorial Park on Van Etten Lake in Oscoda Township also has one.

Paid for by anonymous donations, the Loner Stations have been a wonderful success in the area. The community is continuing to come together to find new places to set stations up, to keep people safe at our wonderful beaches.

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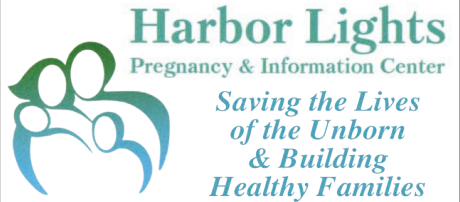


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The Tawas Area offers a multitude of fishing opportunities in some of the most beautiful areas in the Sunrise Side of Michigan. Tawas Bay is home to a wide variety of fish, including walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, brown trout, lake trout, coho and chinook salmon, and smallmouth bass. The calm waters of the bay make it a popular fishing spot for experienced and novice fishing enthusiasts. Many charter fishing services are available in the area for seasonal fishing. In the colder months, ice fishing is popular especially for northern pike.

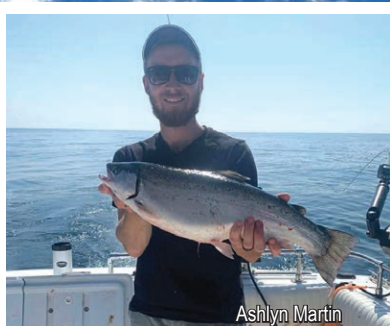
There are many ways to fish in Tawas Bay. Fish from the shore, a dock, your own boat, or book a fishing charter experience. Lake Huron is known for some of the best pike fishing. Tawas Bay holds the biggest specimens.

Be sure to visit popular fishing spots in the Tawas Area. For Lake Huron, fishing is available off the pier in the East Tawas State Harbor, Tawas City's Shoreline Park pier, or the fishing pier in Tawas City's Gateway Park.

Non-motorized watercraft can be launched from both Tawas City Shoreline Park and Tawas City Veterans Park.

Other popular fishing spots include the Tawas River, Tawas Point State Park, AuSable River, the Fishing Park on Nunn Road, and Tawas Lake. You can also venture out from the DNR boat launch or Jerry's Marina in East Tawas, or the Gateway Park boat launch in Tawas City.

For fishing enthusiasts, the Tawas area offers a variety of options to make your fishing adventure a memorable one.



Ashlyn Martin



Lee Martin



Madison Burdow-Hewitt



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810-730-1449

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P.O. Box 205
East Tawas, MI 48730
info@tawasrotary.org
tawasrotary.org
facebook.com/
TawasAreaRotaryClub
989-820-6738

Tawas Bay Yacht Club

P.O. Box 544
Tawas City, MI 48764
tbyc.net
989-362-3137

Tawas Beach Club

P.O. Box 592
East Tawas, MI 48730

Tawas Braves Booster Club

P.O. Box 461
Tawas City, MI 48764
989-310-1898

Tawas City Business Association

tawasbusinessassociation@
gmail.com

Tawas City Library Friends

208 North St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
989-362-6557

Tawas Community Concert Band

mifriske76@gmail.com
facebook.com/p/Tawas-
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Education

Alpena Community College

5800 Skeel Ave.
Oscoda, MI 48750
discover.alpenacc.edu
989-358-7295
989-739-1445

LifeTech Academy

856 Elmwood Rd.
Lansing, MI 48197
info@lifetechacademy.org
lifetechacademy.org
517-325-5469

Tawas Area Schools

245 W. M-55
Tawas City, MI 48763
tawas.net
989-984-2250

Government

Baldwin Township

1119 Monument Rd.
Tawas City, MI 48763
info@baldwintwp-mi.org
baldwintwp.org
989-362-3742

City of East Tawas

760 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
easttawas.com
989-362-6161

City of Tawas City

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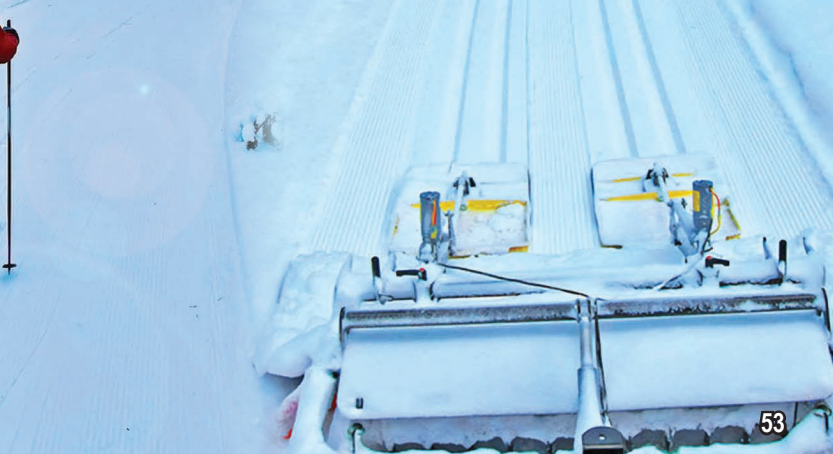
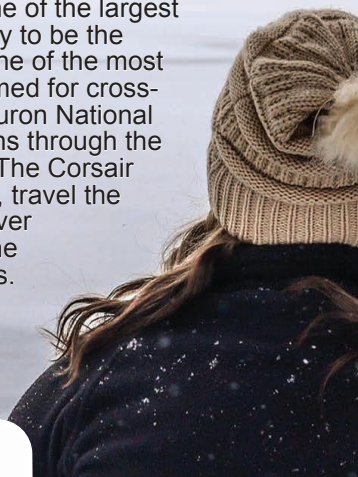
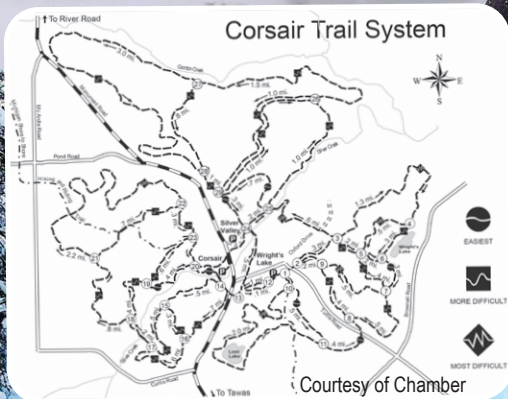
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Nicole Foster



Emergency

Police, Fire & Ambulance
911

MyMichigan Medical Center Tawas

*Located one block off US-23 on
M-55*
200 Hemlock Road, Tawas City
MyMichigan.org
(989) 362-3411

Poison Control
(800) 222-1222

Visitor Information

Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce

tawas.com
(989) 362-8643, (800) 55-TAWAS

Oscoda Area Chamber of Commerce

oscodachamber.com
(989) 739-7322
(800) 235-4635

Whittemore Area Chamber of Commerce

whittcham.org
(989) 756-5231

AuGres Area Chamber of Commerce

augresareachamberofcommerce.
org
(989) 876-6688

Non-Emergency

East Tawas Police
214 W. Westover St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
(989) 362-1430

Tawas City Police
1175 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
(989) 362-8680

**Iosco County Sheriff's
Department**
438 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
(989) 362-6164

Michigan State Police
(989) 345-0955

U.S. Coast Guard - Tawas Post
(989) 362-4429

DNR
(989) 362-5041

Local Radio

104.7 FM - WKJC
wkjc.com

106.1 FM - WTZM
thepointfm.net

103.3 FM - HITS
hitsfm.net

94.9 FM - HITS
hitsfm.net

1480 AM - WIOS
wiosradio.com

Local News

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Libraries

East Tawas Library
(989) 362-6162

Tawas City Library
(989) 362-6557

AuSable Library
(989) 876-8818

Iosco-Arenac District Library
(989) 362-2651

Plainfield Township Library
(989) 728-4086

Robert J. Parks Library
(989) 739-9581

Whittemore Library
(989) 756-3186

Airports

Iosco County Airport
(989) 362-5832

Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport
(989) 739-1111

Churches

Alabaster Bible Church
3006 Benson Rd.
Tawas City, MI 48763
alabasterbiblechurch@gmail.
com
alabasterbible.churchcenter.
com/home
989-254-1590

Christ Episcopal Church
202 W. Westover St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
christchurch.etawas@gmail.com
facebook.com/
ChristEpiscopalEastTawas
989-362-3531

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

401 Main St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
graceet@att.net
facebook.com/Graceeasttawas
gracestpaulca.org
989-362-5371

Harbor Church

311 E. Lincoln St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
harborchurchtawas.com
989-362-5742

Holy Family Church & School of East Tawas

411 Wilkinson St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
principal@hfs-tawas.org
hfs-tawas.org
989-362-5651

Lake Huron Community Church

402 W. Lincoln St.
P.O. Box 573
East Tawas, MI 48730
facebook.com/
groups/678249642195727/
989-362-6851

Living Water Apostolic Ministries

725 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
twila@lwapministries.org
lwapministries.org
989-362-9923

New Hope Church

683 Aulerich Rd.
East Tawas, MI 48730
nhoffice@nhchurch.com
nhchurch.cc
989-984-5400

Tawas Area Presbyterian Church

2095 E. US 23
East Tawas, MI 48730
finsecretary@tawaspresby.org
tawaspresby.org
989-362-2371

Tawas Methodist Church

20 E. M-55
Tawas City, MI 48763
office.tawasmc@gmail.com
tawasmc.org
989-362-4288

Tawas Seventh-day Adventist Church

327 Whittemore St.
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