



*Welcome to
the Sunrise Side*

Tawas

Area Chamber of Commerce

2025

**Visitors Guide &
Member Directory**



Luxury Lakefront Cottages

Indulge in upscale comfort, breathtaking views, and unforgettable lakeside moments right on Tawas Bay

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Au Gres, MI (year-round)



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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

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989-362-8643, 800-55-TAWAS

tawas.com

228 Newman Street
East Tawas, MI 48730

www.facebook.com/StrengthandProsperity

Service Area

 Iosco



Steve Puvalowski
Certified RV Technician



RV Repair
RV Maintenance
RV Inspections

Expert Onsite RV Services:

We come to you!

April 15 - December 15,
10am - 8pm daily.

Google: ★★★★★

(989) 820-7373



MobileRVTechServices.com

MICHIGAN'S SUNRISE SIDE IS THE BEST SIDE

Welcome to the Tawasies!

With beachfront and bayfront resorts, hotels, bed & breakfasts, and cottages too numerous to count, the Sunrise Side is known for its natural beauty.

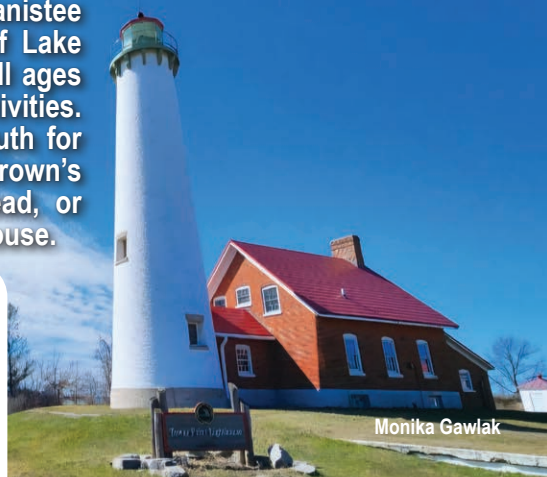
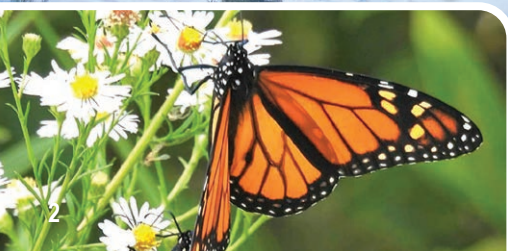
The Tawasies offer the magnificent beauty of Lake Huron and Tawas Bay, plus shopping, dining, camping, exploring, sailing, boating, fishing, canoeing, biking, golfing, and so much more – with options to fit any budget.

Those looking for the perfect getaway, a place to live, raise a family, or build a business, the Tawas area provides great schools, a bustling economy, and year-round activities for the entire family.



Laurie Ferguson

Nestled between the Huron-Manistee National Forest, the blue waters of Lake Huron, and Tawas Bay, visitors of all ages can enjoy a multitude outdoor activities. Rent an electric bike and travel south for 16 miles on the area's bike path to Brown's Landing, to the Dyer Road Trailhead, or head toward the Tawas Point Lighthouse.



Monika Gawlak

Enjoy camping at the East Tawas City Park on the bay in downtown East Tawas. The park includes 178 campsites with full hookup, a picnic area, and a playground in the day use area. East of the park, off US 23, is the DNR boat launch ramp with access to Tawas Bay and Lake Huron for fishing and boating.

Walk the pier at East Tawas State Harbor or take a short jaunt into downtown East Tawas for a unique shopping and dining experience. Newman Street in downtown East Tawas features restaurants, bars, coffee shops, a movie theatre, a chocolatier, an indoor golf venue, a jewelry store, children and adult clothing stores, libraries, and a community center, to name a few. Beautiful downtown East Tawas welcomes thousands of visitors each season for unforgettable experiences that last a lifetime.

Jerry Malone

Tawas City is home to several parks including Shoreline Park, Town Square, and Gateway Park. In these parks you can walk the boardwalk along the beach, swim, have a picnic, fish in Lake Huron or the Tawas River, attend free concerts, rent kayaks, or visit the Northeast Michigan Regional Farm Market. Shoreline Park is host to annual arts and crafts shows on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, the Light Up the Bay fireworks show on the 4th of July, and the Summerfest Kick-off party.

Jay Samuels

THE TAWASES HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!
COME FOR A VISIT OR STAY A WHILE. LIFE IS GOOD ON THE SUNRISE SIDE!

Jay Samuels

EVENT CALENDAR

What's Happening & When?

Spring

May 17 - Friends of Tawas
Point Native Plant Sale
DNR State Dock Parking Lot
tawaslighthousefriends.com

May 24-25 - 32nd 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 5 - MyMichigan Health
Golf Outing
Red Hawk Golf Club

June 12 - Develop Iosco
Community Meeting
develop-iosco.org

June 13-15 - Nor-East'r Art &
Music Festival
Oscoda County Fair Grounds
noreastrfest.org

June 21 - Spring into Art
Tawas Bay Art Gallery

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

July 11-13 - SummerFest
tawassummerfest.com

July 11 - SummerFest Kick-
Off Party
Shoreline Park

July 12 - SummerFest 5k/10k
The Collective

July 13 - SummerFest Car
Show
Newman St.

July 13 - SummerFest Fly-in
Pancake Breakfast (8 am)
Iosco County Airport

August 2 - Tawas Uncork'd
Wine, Ale, & Food Festival
Harbor Park

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

August 14-16 - Sidewalk
Sales
Downtown East Tawas

August 22-24 - Blues by the
Bay
Harbor Park
bluesbythebaytawas.org

August 23 - Painting the
Blues
Tawas Bay Art Gallery

August 30- 31 - 34th Annual
Labor Day Weekend Arts
and Crafts Show
Hosted by the Tawas Area
Chamber of Commerce

Fall

September 6 - Gala &
Concert
Tawas Bay Ice Arena

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

**October, Every Friday and
Saturday** - Frozen Fear
Haunted House
Tawas Bay Ice Arena

October 3-4 - Customer
Appreciation Days
Downtown East Tawas

October 10-11 - Tawas Point
Harvest Festival
Tawas Point State Park
tawaslighthousefriends.com

October 25 - Pumpkin
Carving Event
Downtown East Tawas

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

November 1 - Empty Bowls
Tawas Bay Art Gallery

November 8 - Tawas Band
Bazaar
Tawas Area High School

November 8 - Cider in the
City
Downtown East Tawas

November 27 - TWW Turkey
Trot
The Collective

November 27 - Free
Community Thanksgiving
Dinner
The Collective

November 29 - Annual Tree
Lighting and Christmas
Parade
Downtown East Tawas

November 29 - Christmas at
the Lighthouse
Tawas Point State Park
tawaslighthousefriends.com

Winter

December 4 - Develop Iosco Annual Meeting
develop-iosco.org

December 4 - Downtown Shopping Night
Downtown East Tawas

December 6 - Kids' Christmas Event
Tawas Bay Art Gallery

February - Perchville 2026

All Summer Long

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

Tuesday Night - Live Street Dances
Newman Street (June 17-Aug 12)

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

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

Fridays - Shoreline Summer Series Free Concerts
Town Square, Tawas City (July 4-Aug. 22)

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

Tawas Market Place - 9am - 3pm
**May 24 & 31, June 14th & 28, July 12 & 26,
August 9 & 23**
Tawas Bay Ice Arena

All Year Long

**Tawas Wellness Warriors Free Weekly
Offerings**

Thursdays, 5:30 pm (Summer) - 5k Run & Walk
Saturdays, 9 am Family Bootcamp

Sundays, 3:30 pm Community Yoga with Plant-
based Potluck on the 3rd Sunday

These events take place at The Collective

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



Tree-lighting Celebration

Following the Miracle on Newman Street Christmas Parade, join us for a special ceremony to illuminate the 18 foot tall Christmas tree at the corner of Newman and Westover Streets. Enjoy free cookies & hot chocolate. Sing carols with the other festive parade goers in the Christmas Spirit!

**Tawas Bay Players Community
Theater**

Squirrel Lake
May 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 - 7 pm
May 11, 18 - 2 pm

I Take This Man
July 11-13 & 17-20

The Marvelous Wonderettes: Dream On
October 17-19 & 23-26

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

**WE Players, Youth Theater
Summer Dates**

June 27-29 - Shakespeare in the Park
at Dewey Durant Memorial Park
weplayers.ludus.com

TA-WICE THE FUN

Festivals & Events

PERCHVILLE USA

February 6-9, 2026

Join us in celebrating the 76th 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



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, July 4, 2025

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 11-13, 2025

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 18th 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. Available all three days is a chance to see the play "I Take This Man," a romantic comedy at the Tawas Bay Players Community Theatre at 7 pm on Friday and Saturday, and at 7 pm on Sunday. For more information, please visit tawassummerfest.com



Monika Gawlak



MEMORIAL DAY & LABOR DAY WEEKENDS ARTS & CRAFTS SHOWS

May 24-25 & August 30-31, 2025

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 150 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

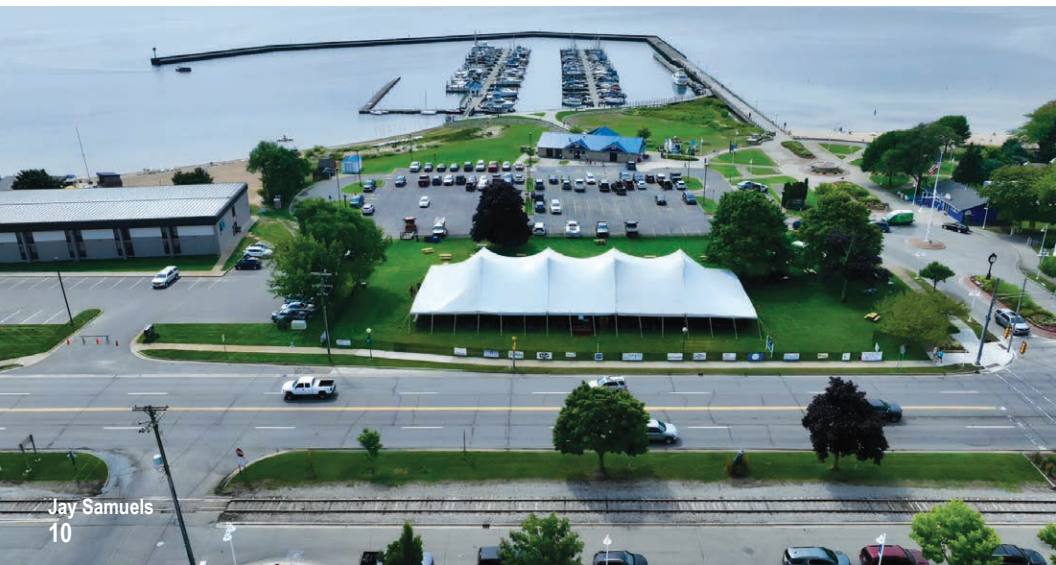


TAWAS UNCORK'D

August 2, 2025

This Wine, Ale and Food Festival is celebrating its 16th year. 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/TawasUncork'd



BLUES BY THE BAY

August 22-24, 2025



Set up in a big top tent in Harbor Park overlooking Tawas Bay, this annual festival is in its 23rd 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 free. For more information, visit bluesbythebaytawas.org



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 Tawasites 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.



Shannone Bondie



Shannone Bondie

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN REGIONAL FARM MARKET

Saturdays May-October

The farm market features a 3,200 square-foot pavillion, vender 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



EATS AND TREATS IN THE TAWASES

Bayside Restaurant & Lounge

300 E. Bay St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
tawasbaybeachresort.com
(989) 362-8600

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.
Au Gres, MI 48703
Seasonal Location:
205 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
freakinpickles.com
989-778-0102

Galli's Family Restaurant

1951 Indian Lake Rd.
National City, MI 48748
order.toasttab.com/online/gallis-family-restaurant-1951-indian-lake-rd
989-469-1111

G's Pizzeria and Deli

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

Hungry Howie's

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

I Want That Kettle Corn

West Branch, MI 48661
sales@iwanthatkettlecorn.com
iwanthatkettlecorn.com
facebook.com/
IWantThatKettleCorn
989-326-0270

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

Northern Nutrition

211 Newman St., Suite A15
East Tawas, MI 48730
facebook.com/
northernnutritionet
989-984-5018

Subway

(Inside Shell)
309 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
989-362-2342

Subway

(Inside Walmart)
621 E. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
989-362-4018

Sunnyside Coffee & Natural Foods

402 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
sunnysidecoffee@hotmail.com
facebook.com/p/SunnySide-Coffee-100090704855691
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

Freel'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

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

PLACES TO STAY

LODGING

Always A Holiday Bed & Breakfast

 All Year

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

Bay Inn

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

Crow's Nest

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

Crystal Sands Beach Resort

 All Year
1238 N. Huron Rd.
Tawas City, MI 48763
crystalsandsbeach@yahoo.com
crystalsandsbeachresort.com
989-876-7317

Lake Life Cabin Rentals

 All Year
AuGres, MI 48703
cozyhomelakehuron@gmail.com
lakelifecabinrentals.
holidayfuture.com
989-646-1504

Lake Life Cottages

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

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

Sanctuary Lodge

 All Year
50 Sanctuary Dr.
East Tawas, MI 48730
rawsbb@mac.com
sanctuarylodging.com
facebook.com/profile.
php?id=100057598413502
773-510-9894

Surfside Motel/Marina Resort

 All Year
716 W. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
info@surfsidehotelawas.com
surfsidehotelawas.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
tawasinnresort.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

-  Handicap Accessible
 Cabins
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 Waterfront
 A/C
 Internet Access

KEY

CAMPING

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



A Place to call home while on Vacation.

Find yourself the best place to rest, relax and unwind.

Choose from Tawas's many options for lodging.

Check in at a resort hotel or rsvp at a quaint bed and breakfast. Perhaps you would prefer to rent one of the many cabins along the beach, or take a more rustic approach and reserve a spot at one of our campgrounds? Whatever you are searching for, it is certain we can provide you with a cozy place to call home while you are visiting.



**OPEN ALL YEAR
Pet Friendly**

(989) 984-5056

**2778 E. US-23
East Tawas, MI**

WWW.OSANCHORBAY.COM

Vacation Fun at East Tawas City Park!



East Tawas City Park



Open Year-Round • 178 Campsites

Full Hook-ups (Seasonal)

1,600 Ft. of Sandy Beach

Pet Beach Area • Free WiFi

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US-23 and Downtown East Tawas
Adjacent to Business District
& Harbor Refuge
parks@easttawas.com

www.easttawascitypark.com

989-362-5562

THINGS To Do

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 Wondergolf

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

Calypso Sportfishing Charters

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

Great Lakes Marine Charters

113 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
sail@glmarinecharters.com
glmarinecharters.com
810-858-0330

Tawas Bay Art Gallery Fine Art • Pottery • Gifts • Classes



302 Newman St., East Tawas
989-362-5613 f



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EUNORAU
and **HIMIWAY**
Dealer



(989) 310-0490
CharlieHorseEBikes@gmail.com
402 E. Lake Street, Tawas City

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

Recreation & Entertainment

Charlie Horse Electric Bikes

402 E. Lake St.
Tawas City, MI 48763
989-310-0490



Konnie Spenceley

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
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GATEWAY 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.

SHORELINE 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.

INDEPENDENT PARK



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

TAWAS CITY SPORTS COMPLEX



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.

VETERANS PARK



AREA PARKS EAST TAWAS

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.

ROBERT C. BOLEN PARK



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

TOM DILLON PARK



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

DEWEY DURANT 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.

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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.

EAST TAWAS CITY PARK DAY USE AREA



TAWAS POINT STATE PARK

Often referred to as the "Cape Cod of the Midwest" 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.



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TAWAS POINT LIGHTHOUSE



Monika Gawlak

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. Admission is by donation with the funds going to the Friends of Tawas Point. 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



Konnie Spenceley

AREA MAP



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.

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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



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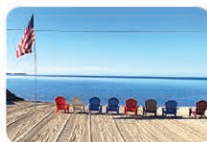
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Note: The following information is a compilation of information reported in the *Iosco County News* from 1955-1959, plus a book by Neil Thornton in 1991 entitled *Around the Bay*, published by Printer’s Devil Press, Tawas City. Additional research assistance and photographs provided by Lauri Finnerty of the Huron Shores Genealogical Society, and Jeff Schlagel, vice president of Iosco County Historical Society.

by Gaylynn Brenoel

On Jan. 27, 1955, *The Iosco County News* announced that the famous Great Lakes cruise ship, the SS *Western States* would be coming to Tawas Bay. The SS *Western States* was a 350-foot long, 44-foot wide, and 19-foot, six-inch deep steam ship with a 42,000-horsepower engine.

Originating in the 19th century, the SS designation was used on civilian ships and indicated that the ship was a steamship that used steam as a method of propulsion. A steam powered ship was considered state of the art at that time.

The SS *Western States* was a luxurious passenger cruise ship that served the Great Lakes with stops in Detroit, Cleveland, St. Joseph, Chicago, Mackinac Island, etc. from 1902 to 1950. During those years, it was common to travel overnight by ship.

Starting in the 1940s, Michigan built freeways in the Detroit area, such as the Davison Freeway. In the 1950s Michigan constructed the state’s Interstates such as I-75, the Kalamazoo South Belt, and the M-146 Port Huron bypass, which facilitated faster and less expensive travel for Michiganders.

As a result of the construction of highways and freeways, travel by steamship became passe, and the SS *Western States* was tied up in the Detroit River from 1950 to 1955.

As a way to support tourism in Northeast Michigan, the ship’s owners and Tawas City officials arranged to move the SS *Western States* to Tawas Bay in 1955 to become Michigan’s first Floating Hotel, or “flotel” and the world’s first “flotel.”

After its arrival, the flotel, now unofficially renamed the SS *Overmiter*, would be renovated to include a recreation center, small shops, and staterooms. Also, part of the arrangements was an agreement to employ local people during the summer months.

On Sunday evening, June 19, 1955, as reported by the *Iosco News*, the SS *Overmiter* arrived at the Tawas City Dock after its uneventful journey from Detroit via the tug John M. Roehm III.

Upon its arrival at the dock, the ship had to be maneuvered into its narrow berth next to the dock.

In preparation for its arrival, workmen had dredged a channel to bring the boat into the dock. The entrance to the harbor was approximately 15 feet deep and the depth at the dock was 12 feet. In order to accommodate the more than 19-foot depth of the SS *Overmiter*, the entrance to the harbor and depth at the dock was deepened accordingly.

In addition, the Tawas City Park Board had approved enlarging and improving the dock and

improving the Park in preparation for the ship's arrival.

Hundreds of cars filled with curious onlookers lined the streets to view the historic arrival to the Tawas, while a large crowd gathered near the dock to witness the historic event.

Charles Bieber, the ship's owner, reported that reconditioning of the ship would take place after the ship was secured in the harbor. The *SS Overniter*, he stated, would also include accommodations for conventions and public dining, along with shops.

An Open House took place on June 29, with a huge turnout of visitors from lower Michigan and Ohio. Although still being painted, cleaned, and decorated, a grand opening of the *SS Overniter* took place the weekend of July 4, 1955. Excitement overflowed for the new floating hotel, but it was short lived.

By the end of July 1955, The Conservation Department of the State of Michigan raised concerns over the legality of the location of the *SS Overniter*. Thomas M. Kavanaugh, Attorney General, was asked to rule on the question as to whether or not the flotel could legally operate at its current location at the Tawas City Dock. According to Kavanaugh, "the dock is owned by Tawas City, but the bottom of the Great Lakes is held in trust for all the people. The question now arises does the use of the dock by the *SS Overniter* as a flotel constitute a trespass? It seems to some that such use is similar to abutting property owners filling in to expand their property along the Great Lakes."

A ruling was needed because the law was clear on navigable vessels, but the flotel does not come under that classification. Before taking any action on the issue, the Conservation Department would review the lease between the



City of Tawas City and the owners of the *SS Overniter*.

At the same time rumors and questions arose concerning the handling of sewage of the *SS Overniter*. According to the Michigan State Department of Health, the sewage was being held in closed tanks and being transferred to the local sewage plant by a septic tank service truck and plans were in place to install a sewer at the Tawas City Park where the *SS Overniter* would tie into the system as soon as the installation is complete. The Michigan State Health Department approved the plans for handling the sewage of the *SS Overniter*.

Although not "officially" ordered to stop work on the pier, city officials received an "informal" order from the state saying to stop work because such work was illegal even though the city had a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.

The delays in opening for business caused financial hardship for the owners, resulting in a sale of the *SS Overniter* in July 1956 to a Detroit corporation.

The new owners decided to return the ship's name to its former status as the *SS Western States* and to completely renovate and remodel the ship into a modern resort. With a crew of more than 20 workers, the owners planned to be open for business by the end of summer 1956.

During the summer of 1956, more than \$100,000 was spent to recondition the ship and enlarge staterooms. The sprinkler system was rebuilt to add additional fire protection equipment. Connections were made to the ship to add water and sewer lines to the Tawas City water and sewer systems. The remodeling made improvements needed to operate the ship as a hotel and convention center.

On Nov. 1, 1956, the *Iosco County News* reported the *SS Western States* would open on Friday, Nov. 9. The event started off with a cocktail party and dinner for representatives of newspaper, radio, televising, and travel agencies. The *SS Western States* would be open seven days a week all year long. The dining room on the ship would serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Square Dance night was scheduled for every Wednesday night, and a live band would play for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

Sherman Rosen, the ship's owner announced that the misunderstanding with the Michigan Conservation Commission would be cleared up, and stated, "We definitely are not fixed to the bottom, and I know that everything will come out right for everyone."

An inspection made by Chief Boatswains Mate, Robert Peters, of the Tawas Coast Guard reported that the *SS Western States*, "appeared to be free fore and aft." However, Peters added, "only a diver could definitely determine whether the craft was solidly aground or not."

However, the excitement was short lived. On Nov. 22, 1956, the *Iosco County News* reported that Kavanaugh asked for an injunction to prevent the owners of the *SS Western States* from continuing to occupy their location at the Tawas City Dock. Judge Louis Coash set Jan. 3, 1957, as the date for a hearing on the matter.

Tawas City Mayor at the time, George Myles, stated that he had not been served with a court order on the matter

and that he was convinced that "outside influences" were involved. Myles continued, "We (The City Council) have done everything that we could do. The *Western States* has water and sewer connections. It has complied with the fire marshal's requirements. Why can't they let us alone?"

Nicholas Olds, assistant attorney general stated that city officials would be served with a court order sometime later in the week.

In early December of 1956, Attorney General Kavanaugh expressed his opinion that discretionary power in regard to new projects affecting submerged lands was the answer to remedying the issue with the *SS Western States*. Kavanaugh stated that Michigan's 1955 "submerged lands" law was ineffective in dealing with the problem. The cut-off date for encroachments was established as of Oct. 14, 1955. According to Mayor George Myles, the *SS Western States* was in Tawas City and hooked up to city water prior to the Oct. 14, 1955, cut-off date.

Rosen, owner of the *SS Western States*, stated that his attorneys were preparing to ask for a dismissal of the state's action against him at the hearing scheduled on Jan. 3, 1957.

Judge Coash ruled that the *SS Western States* could remain open and operate pending a trial to determine the legal status of its operation. Coash refused the request of the conservation department for an injunction to close down the *SS Western States*. Coash also ordered a \$10,000 bond be posted by the owners of the *SS Western States* as a guarantee in case the final outcome required removal of the ship.

At the time of the hearing, the owners of the *SS Western States* complained that the state should have taken action against them before they spent \$100,000 on refurbishing the ship as a hotel and conference center.

In September 1957, a separate issue involving a company in Tawas City who was proposing a dock, Nicholas Olds, Kavanaugh's Assistant Attorney General, cited laws governing submerged lands to English common law as well as Michigan's decisions in 1843 and 1869. According to Olds, "Under common law of England, the riparian owner on water whose banks were owned by the crown had the right of access but no more...that this doctrine is squarely in line with the decisions made by the Michigan Supreme Court during the early history of our state.

"Thus, we are compelled to take the position based upon the common law of Michigan that although the riparian owner in one of our Great Lakes has certain rights of access to the waters fronting his uplands, nevertheless, since he is not the owner and has not title to the bed of the lake, he cannot erect any structures out over the beds of the Great Lakes without the consent and



approval of the state granted him through express legislative enactment.”

The SS *Western States* closed operations temporarily after Labor Day 1957.

In October 1957, a rumor circulated stating that the SS *Western States* had been sold for scrap. The ship's owners stated that the ship was closed temporarily while the City of Tawas City is working to secure title to the lake bottom under the boat to clarify the situation with the Conservation Department. The owners were also seeking to secure a resort license and stated that as soon as the current problems were resolved, they planned to reopen the ship for business. The owners denied that the ship had been sold or that it was being scrapped.

In April 1958, Rosen, owner of the SS *Western States*, reported that the ship was for sale for \$75,000, stating his health as the reason for giving up on the luxurious flotel. Rosen estimated the ship's value at \$500,000, which included more than \$150,000 in converting the ship to a flotel.

Rosen was selling the ship in spite of the fact that the flotel had a five-year lease with the City of Tawas City and water and sewer connections to city utilities, plus another option for a five-year lease.

Rosen and the city had fought the state in the courts but ultimately it was decided that the ship illegally occupied submerged lands by the state. Another element that strengthened the state's position is that the water level of Lake Huron had dropped three feet which meant that the hull was deeply embedded in the clay bottom at the dock.

Rosen stated that he would take his losses and get out. He had a heart attack the previous November and didn't have the health to continue to operate the flotel.

At the end of November 1958, the SS *Western States* was sold to the Bay City Scrap Co. for \$30,000. All movable furniture and supplies would be moved prior to partially dismantling it at its current location in Tawas City. The hull will be towed to Bay City for final scrapping.



“*Western States* Meets Fiery End” was the headline in the *Iosco County News* on March 24, 1959. According to the article, “the fire broke out about 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 21. Flames shot hundreds of feet into the air and a heavy cloud of smoke hung over the area, attracting thousands to the lakeside. It was still burning at 8:00. By then it had been reduced to the steel hull.”

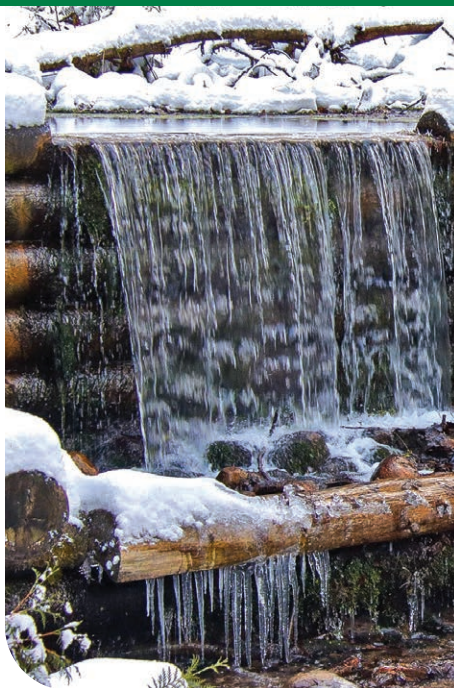
According to the March 24, 1959, article in the *Iosco County News*, “a Bay City Scrap Co. official stated that a workman had been using a torch to cut off a steel mast when the mast broke loose and dropped on a fuel oil tank, starting a blaze that spread rapidly over the oil-soaked plank decking.”

The Tawas City Fire Department arrived to find the fire out of control and had to let the fire burn itself out.

Tawas's residents filled the dock to witness the tragic end of the SS *Western States* flotel.

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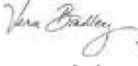


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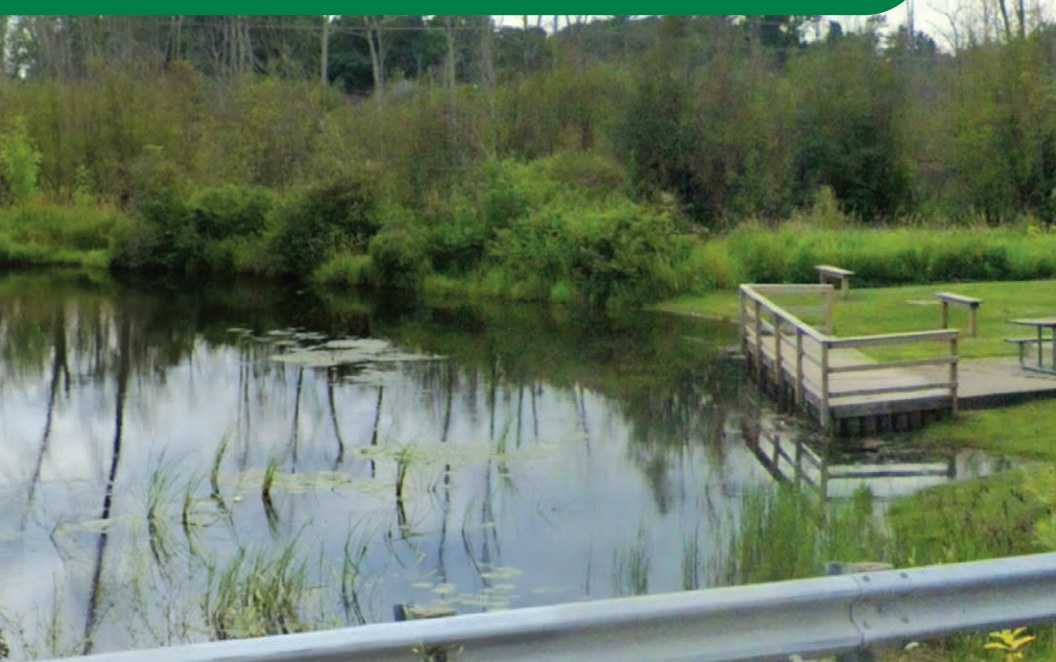
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Lake Huron is known for some of the best pike fishing.

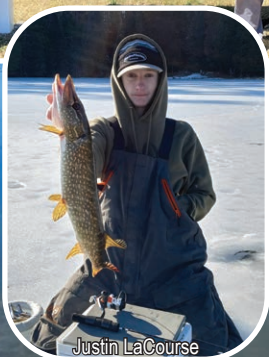
Tawas Bay holds the biggest specimens.

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.

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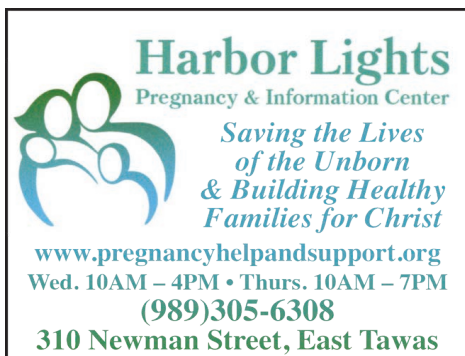
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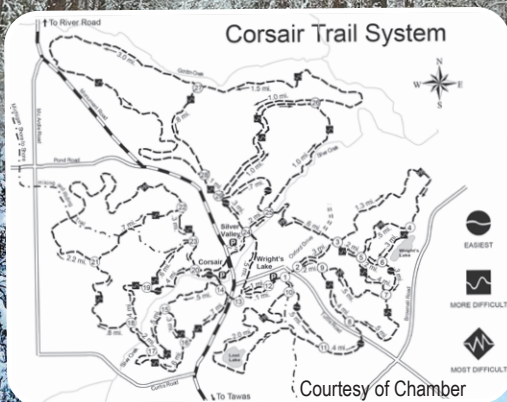
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989-305-2422

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Consumers Energy

consumersenergy.com
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Detroit, MI 48226
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CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Alagille Syndrome Alliance

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alagille.org
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American Legion Post 211

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989-305-6634

AuSable Valley AuDubon

ausablevalleyaudubon.org

Community Hub

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micommunityhub.org
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Friends of Tawas Point State Park

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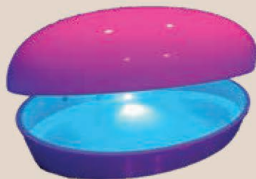
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Iosco County Community Foundation

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Iosco County Democratic Party

224 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI 48730
P.O. Box 727
Tawas City, MI 48764
chair@ioscocoountydems.org
ioscocoountydems.org
989-984-5114

Iosco County Historical Society

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East Tawas, MI 48730
iosco.history@gmail.com
ioscomuseum.com
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Iosco County Humane Society & Animal Shelter

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tawasrotary.org
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989-351-8860

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tawasbusinessassociation@
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989-739-1445

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856 Elmwood Rd.
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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
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tawas.com
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**Tawas Bay Tourist &
Convension Bureau**
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**Oscoda Area
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oscodachamber.com
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(800) 235-4635

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(989) 756-5231

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augresareachamberofcommerce.org
(989) 876-6688

NON-EMERGENCY

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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
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Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport
(989) 739-1111

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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/
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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.
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twila@lwapministries.org
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989-362-9923

New Hope Church

683 Aulerich Rd.
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nhoffice@nhchurch.com
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989-984-5400

Tawas Area Presbyterian Church

2095 E. US 23
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finsecretary@tawaspresby.org
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989-362-2371

Tawas Methodist Church

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

Tawas Seventh-day Adventist Church

327 Whittemore St.
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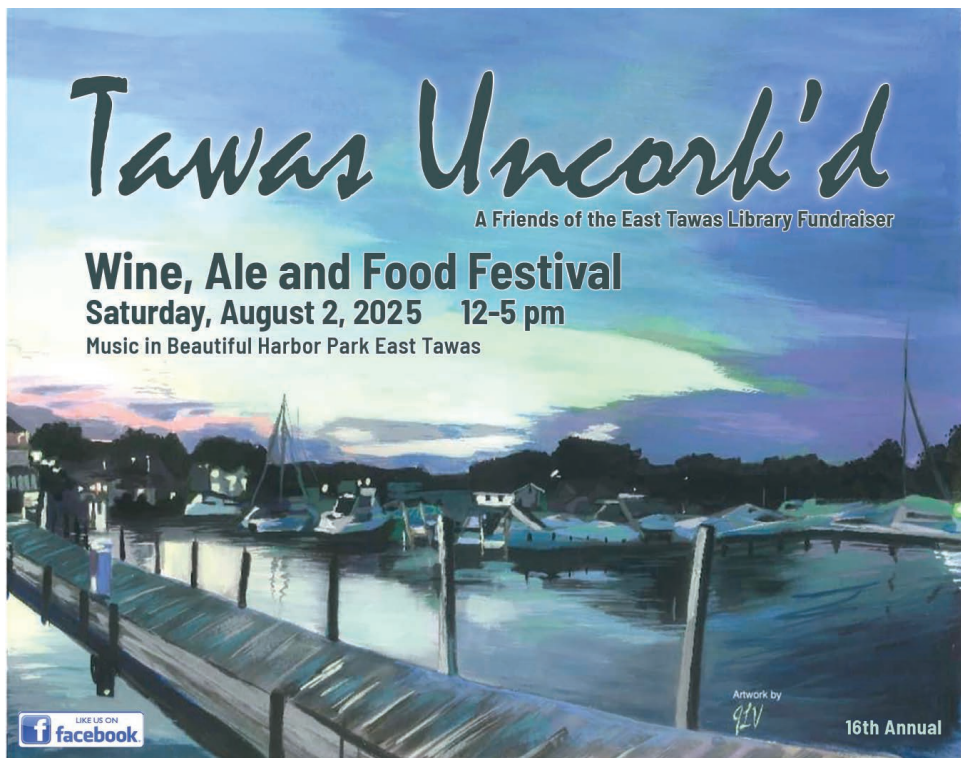
Iosco County News-Herald & Oscoda Press

Editors – John Morris, Jenny Haglund

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Graphic Artist & Ad Design – Chris York & Cassie Clarke

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