

City of East Tawas

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January 2010

TAXABLE VALUES FOR 2010

Since the inception of Proposal A in 1994, taxable values in the State of Michigan have increased each year at the rate of inflation in a range from 1.5% to 4.4%. Even with a declining economy and many assessed values decreasing in 2009, taxpayers experienced the largest inflation rate increase ever to their taxable values. As the economy has continued its decline so has the inflation rate. The State of Michigan's inflation rate multiplier for 2010 is calculated at .997 which means that for the first time since 1994 taxable values in Michigan will decrease by .3%.

Just where do these numbers for the inflation rate multiplier come from? It begins with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics gathering data on goods and services purchased for consumption to calculate the Consumer Price Index. The CPI is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid for a market basket of consumer goods and services. For the calculation of the State of Michigan's inflation rate multiplier for 2010 averages of the monthly CPI's provided by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics are used. These are calculated by using the averages of the monthly values from 10/2007 through 9/2008 divided by the averages of the monthly values of 10/08 through 9/09.

What can you expect on your 2010 Change of Assessment Notice? You should expect, at the very least, a slight decrease in your taxable value. Those who have made improvements such as new construction most likely won't see a decrease. Some, not all, areas of the City may experience decreases in assessed values around 20%. This type of decrease may lower taxable values even more.

What do all taxpayer's in the State of Michigan have in common? They are not going to experience a rate of inflation increase on their taxable value for 2010.

For those who would like to do further research on the Consumer Price Index you can visit the US Bureau of Labor Statistics website at <http://data.bls.gov>.

If you have any questions on reductions in values or the inflation rate please contact the assessing office at sells.etch@charterinternet.com or (989) 362-6241.

Recycling is available for City of East Tawas residents and taxpayers on the 3rd Saturday of every month.

Recycling containers are located at the East Tawas City Garage located at 810 West Westover Street (behind Walmart). If you are interested in recycling, please stop by City Hall to pick up a recycling pass. You will not be allowed to recycle without the pass so please be sure you take it with you every time you visit the site.

RECYCLING HOURS

9:00 to 11:00 a.m. November - March

8:00 to 11:00 a.m. April - October

Get in to the **green** scene.



LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE

The East Tawas Library now has a display case that is a wonderful addition to the library. The display case was donated this past summer in memory of Suzanne Smith Frantz and Hubert "Stacy" Smith, Jr. In August family and friends from Denver, East Tawas, Essexville, New York City, and Washington D.C., gathered at the library to see the display case and remember their loved ones. It was a very special day.

Once or twice a month, a different grouping of books and related small items is featured in the display case. The main purpose of the display case is to showcase various books that are part of the library's collection. Once the books are chosen, it's fun to find a few non-book items to complement the books. Some of the small items displayed have included: a marshmallow roasting fork, a POW/MIA flag, a dreidel, and a red mitten.

Books about the following topics have been displayed:

Summer Activities
Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Memorial Display)
Banned Book Week
Fire Prevention Week
Halloween
Veterans' Day
Thanksgiving
Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa
Winter

Upcoming displays will include:

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Valentine's Day
Abraham Lincoln & George Washington
Penguins

Please stop by the East Tawas Library and see the new display case and its contents.

DRIVING SIMULATOR

A little history: Each year about a hundred firefighters lose their lives in the line of duty. The leading cause is heart attacks, but a little known fact is that the number two cause is vehicle accidents. More firefighters lose their lives driving to and returning from a call than they do at a fire scene, entering burning buildings.

Knowing this, the East Tawas Fire Department applied for and received a FIRE Act Grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a

fire truck driving simulator. The \$150,000 unit was delivered in December and will soon be put into service training fire fighters how to safely drive the big units.

Current training programs for fire departments are lacking in real emergency apparatus driving techniques. Now fire fighters receive classroom training and are then required to drive through a series of cones to show they can drive ahead, back up, and park. This training is good, but it does not address the emergency situations encountered in real life. The driving simulator has scenarios developed around real accidents so firefighters can learn how to avoid mistakes made by others. For example, one of the most common causes of fire truck mishaps is a vehicle roll over caused by dropping a wheel off the pavement as the vehicle travels down the road. If not handled properly, the vehicle can swerve and roll over. This type of training cannot be practiced in a real truck (for obvious reasons) but in the simulator, fire fighters can practice again and again until they know how to handle the situation in real life.

As training is developed, Fire Chief Deckett will be traveling to any departments that are interested in putting their fire fighters through the simulator program. The grant required a 20% local match, so a small fee will be charged to each department to help recover those costs. It will be a small price to pay for the valuable training that the fire fighters will receive.

East Tawas Library Hours

Sun CLOSED
Mon 8:00 to 11:30 and
12:30 to 5:00
Tue Noon to 4:00 and
5:00 to 8:30
Wed CLOSED
Thur 8:00 to 11:30 and
12:30 to 5:00
Fri 8:00 to 11:30 and
12:30 to 5:00
Sat 8:00 to Noon

PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS

With the majority of the Downtown Streetscape Project complete, the TIFA Board is reviewing plans to improve the parking lots at Sawyer Street (behind Barnacle Bill's) and State Street (behind Newman Court Mall). The project would include storm and sewer improvements, sidewalks running along the back entrances of businesses, street lights, curb and gutter, repaving and striping, landscaping, and a "pocket" park in the Sawyer Street lot.

PORT OF CALL CRUISE SHIPS

The engineering study of the State Dock to assess cruise ships accessibility is nearly complete. Recently key members of the Department of Natural Resources, including the Harbor Division with Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Environmental Quality met with City leaders and representatives of Develop Iosco, Inc. to determine and prioritize what improvements, modifications and accommodations are needed to attract Great Lakes cruise ships. In the works are final reports to assess an inventory of local and regional assets and resources to provide maritime and community tourism. In addition, a preliminary study has begun in creating day cruises and excursions between East Tawas and other Saginaw Bay port cities, in particular Caseville and Port Austin.

S

Please keep the following in mind with snow removal this winter:

N

Parking is not allowed in the street right-of-way or City-owned parking lots between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

O

Plowing snow into or across a roadway is a violation of State law.

W

Thank you for helping our DPW continue the great job they do with snow removal.

COMMUNITY CENTER

The East Tawas Community Center continues to provide recreational opportunities for residents at very reasonable rates. With a full-size gymnasium, the Center is ideally suited for basketball, volleyball and myriad other recreational activities. If walking is your exercise of choice, then the facility's elevated synthetic walking track is for you. Many residents and visitors use the track on a daily basis to keep in shape, especially during our cold and inclement winter seasons.

All that is required to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Community Center is a City of East Tawas recreation pass. Recreation passes are good for the City of East Tawas fiscal

year (October 1 through September 30) annually and they are a great bargain. An annual pass for an individual resident is only \$12.50. A two-member family can purchase an annual pass for \$20.00, and a pass for an entire family is only \$25.00. Non-residents of the City of East Tawas can purchase annual passes as well, however, the rates for non-residents are double the price listed for an East Tawas resident.

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

ZONING REMINDERS

When making any structural changes to your home or property, please remember that the City of East Tawas is a zoned community.

- You need a zoning permit for any and all construction including decks, pools, fences, sheds, garages, additions, houses, etc.
- Demolition permits are issued at no cost and will ensure the value of any structures you remove is also removed from the assessed value of your property.
- Permits and guidelines are available at City Hall. Incomplete permits may delay approval, so please allow yourself enough time to get all the necessary information submitted to the Zoning Administrator for review.
- All commercial permits, including signs, must be approved by the Planning Commission which meets at City Hall on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Applications and plans must be submitted and paid for by noon on the Thursday preceding the meeting to be included on the agenda.
- Even though spring seems like a long way off, please remember that the City of East Tawas does have ordinances regulating blight and the length of grass.
- The City's Zoning Ordinance which includes all zoning regulations and a zoning map is available online at www.easttawas.com.

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

2010

Feb 16 Winter 2009 taxes due

Mar 8-9 Board of Review

Apr 26 scheduled compost pickup begins

May 4 School Election at City Hall

17-28 Greenwood Cemetery cleanup

31 Memorial Day

City Departments closed; garbage pickup will be Friday

July 1 Summer 2010 taxes mailed

5 observance of Independence Day

City Departments closed; garbage pickup will be Thurs

Aug 3 Primary Election at City Hall

Sept 6 Labor Day

City Departments closed; garbage pickup will be Friday

Sept 15 Summer 2010 taxes due

Oct 11 Columbus Day

City Departments closed; garbage pickup will be Thurs

31 Halloween

Trick-or-Treating will be 5-8 p.m.

Nov 1 scheduled compost pickup ends

2 General Election at City Hall

25-26 Thanksgiving holiday

City Departments closed; garbage pickup will be Friday

Dec 1 Winter 2010 taxes mailed

24 Christmas Eve

City Departments closed; garbage pickup will be Thurs

31 New Year's Eve

City Departments closed; garbage pickup will be Thurs

2011

Feb 14 Winter 2010 taxes due