

BUSINESS NEWS

Dean Arbour Ford is recognized



Courtesy photo

Dean Arbour Ford of Tawas City is one of four dealers in the United States that have won the Ford Motor Company President's Award 20 consecutive years. This accomplishment also puts Dean Arbour Ford of Tawas among the top one percent of 3,104 Ford dealers in the nation. Ford Motor Company's President's Award recognizes those dealers achieving the highest levels of customer satisfaction in both sales and service. According to representatives at Dean Arbour Ford, every individual employee is accountable for their own performance scores, based on the voice of the customer, to total the overall dealership score. The President's Award highlights the total dealership that thrives in all facets of their automotive operations, and place a priority on improving the consumer experience. Pictured above, from left, are Ford Detroit Regional Sales Manager Amy Marentic, Marge Arbour, Dean Arbour, Colleen Arbour Chapleski and Ford Executive Director David Mondragon.

F&V Operations add three employees to service Iosco cities and townships

GRAND RAPIDS - F&V Operations and Resource Management (FVOP) announced Friday the hiring of three new employees for its Operations Group in Iosco County.

FVOP is a subsidiary of Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V) and provides operations and management services for municipal, industrial and environmental systems.

Blair Selover, FVOP group manager, said additional manpower was needed to assist the rapidly growing operations program in Michigan and Indiana.

"We still need help at several levels," Selover said. "We are continuing to grow and expand."

Three operations specialists have joined the northeastern Michigan FVOP staff, which services Oscoda, Baldwin Township, Tawas City and East Tawas



Thomas Gaertner



Jeffrey McKinley



Douglas Moen

facilities. They are Thomas Gaertner, Douglas Moen and Jeffrey McKinley.

Gaertner is a United States Air Force retiree and former operator/mechanic at the Bridgeport Township wastewater treatment plant. Selover said Gaertner brings plenty of experience in wastewater treatments as well as sewer collections systems, pumps and maintenance.

Moen, a former DPW employee for Howell, brings in decades of experience in water distribu-

tion, excavation and public works, as well as general contracting and electrical. Selover said he'll be a utility player for the water and sewer operations.

McKinley, a former city of Flint water plant operator and veteran of the U.S. Air Force, will be the plant operator at the Huron Shores water treatment plant. He will also assist the other regional facilities.

The F&V companies include full-service engineering and architectural services with specialists in the municipal, private and industrial sectors. It has nine offices in Michigan and Indiana. Selover said the firm has been locally and nationally recognized as one of the "101 Best & Brightest Companies to Work For."

Twisted Twinz Emporium to host 2015 Colossal Coachman hat design contest

TAWAS CITY - Twisted Twinz Emporium was recently announced as one of 40 stores across the United States to participate in the first-ever Colossal Coachman Contest - a hat design contest presented by headwear manufacturer and distributor, elope Inc.

Contestants 18 years of age and older must come to the store to enter their original Coachman designs and decorate them however they please. These designs will be judged based on their use of the elope Inc. hat style, creativity, overall effect and crowd appeal.

Friday, July 17, from 4 to 8 p.m., local Coachman hat design contestants, along with their family, friends, will gather to celebrate the store winner as a national semifinalist. They will then be in the running for the grand prize, which is a \$1,000 prize package of elope hats and party-planning

supplies.

There will be an in-store costume party with the judging of the top hats at 7 p.m. After the judging is concluded, many of the contestants may allow their creations to be auctioned off in a live auction. Proceeds from the live auction will be used to start a college scholarship fund for local youth who wish to go into art-based programs.

"We never thought this company would chose us as just one of 40 stores nationwide," said store co-owner Kristin Chervinski. "We are such a new business and have yet to prove ourselves at this point."

Chervinski and her twin sister and co-owner Erin DeBeck said they were even more humbled to find out that their Tawas City store is the only location in Michigan chosen to participate in the con-

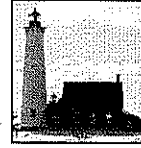
test. Chervinski said elope Inc. is a leading distributor of costumes and accessories.

"We love costuming and creating original designs," said elope Inc. CEO Kevin Johnson. "Our goal with this contest is to share that DIY and maker sensibility with our retailers. We want to inspire creative costume parties that are about fun and friends - and not just on Halloween!"

Twisted Twinz has just 25 Coachman top hats in store to give away. Persons interested in designing a top hat for the contest can stop in at the store at 1131 W. Lake St. (US-23) in Tawas City.

The grand prize winner will be announced on or around Aug. 19. Full details and national contest rules are available at elope.com/colossal.

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- Oscoda Press
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Iosco County News-Herald

- Iosco County News-Herald
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- Forward Hale Marathon
- Corner Fair Store
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- Tawas Hardware
- Wawas Chamber of Commerce
- Corky's Corner Store
- OUTSIDE BOXES**
- Iosco County News-Herald

BUSINESS NEWS

Grocery, convenience store opens at Tawas Point

EAST TAWAS – Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, June 26 to celebrate the grand opening of the new Lake to Bay Groceries, located next to Jerry's Marina on Tawas Beach Road.

James Miner, owner of the new store, welcomed the nearly 50 guests who were on hand to witness the ribbon cutting ceremony.

"Growing up, my sister and I would walk from the marina where my parents kept their boat to shop for candy, soda and ice cream at this store," commented Miner. "It's hard to believe nearly 40 years later I have become the owner of this wonderful establishment. I am so happy to be a part of this community and look forward

to servicing our customers."

"It is fantastic to have so many people with us this afternoon to congratulate James and his staff at the grand opening of Lake to Bay Groceries," commented Shelley Buresh, chamber managing director. "This is a great addition to Baldwin Township and will be a fabulous benefit to area residents and the campers, boaters and visitors who come to enjoy the Tawas-es."

The store offers a full array of convenient grocery items, an ice cream counter serving Ashby's ice cream, also personal care and holiday necessities.

The store is located at 542 Tawas Beach Rd. in East Tawas, and is open seven days a week.



Courtesy photo

RIBBON CUTTING – Pictured above during the ribbon cutting at Lake to Bay Groceries are, from left, Jim Erickson, Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce volunteer holding the ribbon; Ron Leslie, retiring manager of the city of East Tawas; new East Tawas City Manager Blinda Baker; Tawas City manager and chamber secretary Anngie Horning; Lake to Bay Groceries owner James Miner; chamber Vice President Keith Frank; Iosco County Sheriff Allan MacGregor and chamber volunteer Bill Erickson.

Garnham awarded inaugural MWEA Director's Award

GRAND RAPIDS – F&V Operations and Resource Management (FVOP) announced that Catherine Garnham has received the Michigan Water Environment Association's (MWEA) inaugural executive director's award.

Garnham is the regional manager for FVOP and was presented the award during the MWEA annual conference on June 23.

Jerry Harte, MWEA executive director, said Garnham was a perfect committee member and an easy choice for the award.

"Cath was always the first to volunteer for the toughest jobs," Harte said, noting Garnham helped with audio/visual at events, produced meeting minutes, re-capped program planning sessions and kept speaker contact and commitment logs. "If it needed to be done, Cath was there to make certain that nothing fell through the cracks...as long as she could do it from the background."

"It is a special award because it means that the executive director of the association who oversees the board and all the committees has singled me out as having put in additional effort," said Garnham, who oversees FVOP operations in Iosco County at the Huron Shore Regional Utility Authority, the Tawas Utility Authority wastewater treatment plant and the Oscoda Township wastewater treatment lagoon and water distribution system.

The award goes to an individual who dedicates extraordinary personal services to the MWEA above and beyond the call of duty.

"I was just very surprised," said Garnham, who admitted she felt there were others more deserving.

Garnham, who currently chairs the Wastewater Administrators Conference, also voluntarily helped fill a void in the MWEA office staff for a couple of months and put in a lot of time volunteering when she was working in East Lansing as the wastewater treatment plant superintendent.

"I tried to take on a leadership role to try and keep things running smoothly with MWEA events and volunteered to do a lot of work at events," she said. "I'm thinking my involvement may have had something to do with getting the executive director's award."

Garnham joined FVOP in 2012. "Cath is a leader and an important manager at FVOP," said Blair Seiver, FVOP group manager.

Garnham was previously honored by the MWEA in 2013 when she was inducted into the 5-S Society – Select Society of Sanitary



Courtesy photo
Catherine Garnham

Sludge Shovelers. The meritorious service award honors those who have elevated themselves to the highest level of the managing bio solids (sludge).

"In a lot of ways that was kind of a fun portion of being an MWEA member, but it is also has a serious aspect in that you were strictly nominated and elected by your peers who are already in the 5-S," she said.

Garnham has Bachelor of Arts degrees in Medieval English Literature and Chemistry at Michigan State University and a Masters of Arts in Teaching at Wayne State University.

She had planned to be a teacher, but became a wastewater treatment operator.

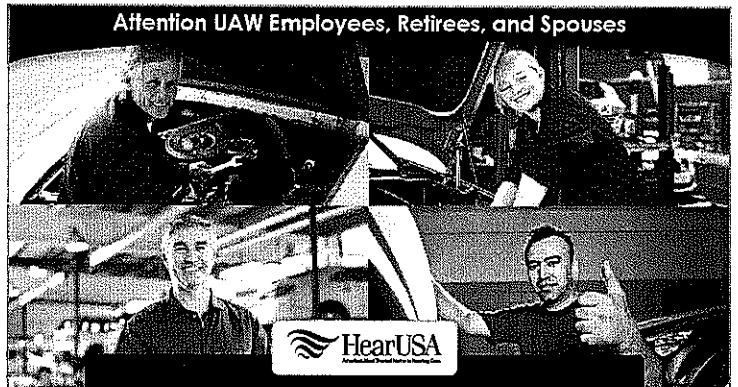
"Like so many people in this profession, you take a job in the field because there was a job opening," Garnham said. "And you plan to do this until you find something better and then you realize not only that it is interesting, but that it also important."

Garnham has been involved in water and wastewater operations now for 25 years and has been an MWEA member for about two decades.

The Macomb County native, who resides in AuSable Township, has also worn many hats as a municipal and contract employee as well a municipal official.

"I love it because every day is different," Garnham said. "There isn't as lot of monotony and it's challenging."

"It's interesting to see all the principles of physics, biology, chemistry and hydraulics as an applied science as opposed to just textbooks."



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