EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

"From free smoke alarms to warmth and shelter, East Chicago has you covered this winter season"

A taste of record-breaking cold that hit the region in late January is a reminder of how we need to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers. Please, if you are warm and your neighbor isn't, offer them shelter and a hot meal. You can also check out the city's Facebook page for the latest on Bessie Owens Center, the city's designated warming shelter. It is open 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. when the forecast calls for three consecutive days of below-zero temperatures.

CLERGY OPEN HOUSE: East Chicago Police are opening a dialogue with the leaders of our faith-based community. Following an open house in February, the department will continue the conversation and goal to achieve a safer community through prayer, civic engagement and information sharing. Please contact your pastor to learn more.

WINTER ACTIVITIES: When the temperatures moderate, please take advantage of our new ice rink at MacArthur Golf Course or one of our recreation centers, which can offer a welcome change-of-venue on bleak winter days.

PUBLIC ART: Our public art initiative will get a boost in March when we erect two, 40-foot sculptures that tell a story of a city that works as hard as it plays. One of the metal sculptures will be located in the new roundabout at Columbus Drive while the other will be installed on Aldis Drive near the entrance to the East Chicago Marina.



CONSTRUCTION: A few weeks later, construction will resume in North Harbor to bring that comprehensive transformation project one step closer to completion. Watch for news of the grand opening of the Fitzsimmons residential/retail development later this summer.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago

FREE SMOKE ALARMS ...

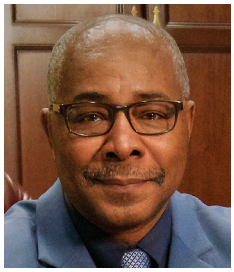
The East Chicago Fire Department and American Red Cross are teaming up for the Home Fire Campaign, a partnership that aims to reduce fire deaths by installing smoke alarms in homes that don't have them.

East Chicago Fire personnel and Red Cross volunteers will install free smoke alarms and test existing ones.

Increase your safety and that of your family: Call to set up your appointment today!

INFO: Call the fire department at (219) 391-8472 to schedule your appointment.

CITY DEPARTMENTS



MAYOR'S OFFICE
Anthony Copeland
East Chicago Mayor
(219) 391-8200



MAYOR'S OFFICE
Sandra Favela
Chief of Staff
(219) 391-8524



BUILDING
James Portalatin
Building Commissioner
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BUS TRANSIT
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Director
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CONTROLLER
Valeriano Gomez
City Controller
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Milton Reed
Director
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City Engineer
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FIRE DEPARTMENT
Anthony Serna
Fire Chief
(219) 391-8472



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Gerri Browning MD
Health Officer
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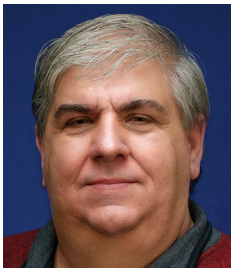
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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Manager
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HUMAN RESOURCES
Laura Corpus
HR Director
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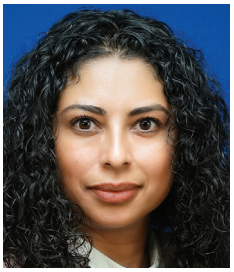
IT DEPARTMENT
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Systems Administrator
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MARINA
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Director
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MULTIMEDIA
Steven Segura
Director
(219) 391-8206



PARKS & RECREATION
Mayra Acosta
Park Superintendent
(219) 391-8474



PLANNING
Marino Solorio
Director
(219) 391-8205



POLICE DEPARTMENT
Frank Smith
Chief of Police
(219) 391-8312



PUBLIC WORKS
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Director
(219) 391-8463



REDEVELOPMENT
Frank Rivera
Director
(219) 391-8513



WASTEWATER
John Martinez
Director
(219) 391-8466



WATER DEPARTMENT
Winna Guzman
Director
(219) 391-8469



UTILITIES
Ben El-Harit
City Electrician
(219) 391-8487



UTILITIES
Abdul Zehraoui
Director
(219) 391-8466



This exciting addition to North Harbor will mirror the Fitzsimmons redevelopment project with complementary street-side retail. In all, 28 affordable apartments are part of the mixed-use development along Broadway between Alder and Pulaski streets. Marino Solorio, director of Planning and Economic Development, said the housing will be affordable for multiple family types. [rendering provided]

$1.5 MILLION IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

East Chicago has tapped into a state program that will provide $1.5 million in new, affordable housing for residents in need.

Gov. Eric Holcomb's Moving Forward 3.0 has loftier goals beyond providing a roof and walls: enhanced quality of life, adjacency to transit and shopping along with energy conservation — both in construction and use by residents.

"Multi-family housing in North Harbor will be followed by townhouses and single-family homes on land the city already owns along the Alexander and McCook corridors," said Marino Solorio, director of Planning and Economic Development. "The tandem projects are designed to give residents a leg up to self-sustainability."

In all, Solorio expects Chicago-based UP Development to move forward with construction of 28, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments along with street-level retail along Pulaski and Alder streets that will be ready for occupancy during the summer of 2020. Up to a dozen townhouses and single-family homes are planned to be move-in ready along Alexander and McCook avenues the following year.

"This new generation of affordable residences will address the need for new housing among families in East Chicago," Mayor Anthony Copeland said.

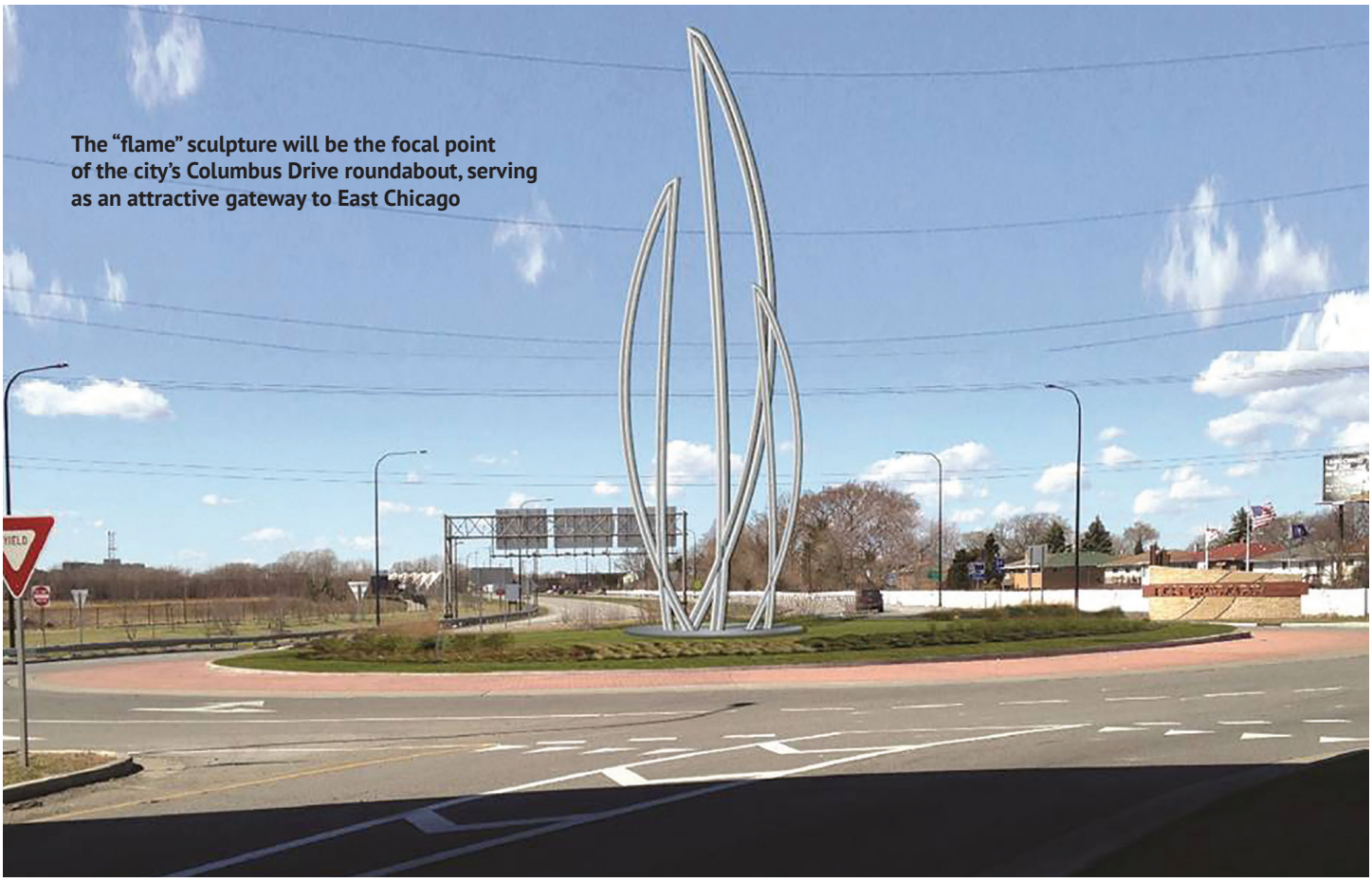
"The developments will complement projects already underway in North Harbor and the Calumet section of the city." •

MOVING FORWARD

Launched in 2015 by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority and Energy Systems Network, the Moving Forward program is designed to increase quality of life for low- to moderate-income families by placing housing sites near transportation and jobs.

INFO: www.in.gov/ihcda/movingforward

SCULPTURES BRING BEAUTY TO EAST CHICAGO



The "flame" sculpture will be the focal point of the city's Columbus Drive roundabout, serving as an attractive gateway to East Chicago

FROM COLUMBUS DRIVE ...

A pair of new sculptures will soar high above Aldis Street and Columbus Drive beginning in March.

Economic Development Consultant Milton Reed said the 40-foot public artwork will help tell the story of East Chicago – from its industrial roots to its place today as a summer playground.

After many years where the city was devoid of contemporary art, Reed said the new pieces will tell the story of where East Chicago is going.

"We are creating a 'Wow' factor at the gateways of our city with these large-scale projects, another step in the mayor's exciting plan to bring art and beauty to East Chicago," he said.

"These sculptures are impressive to the eye and will enhance the entrances to the city, making them memorable to residents and visitors alike." •

...TO OUR CITY PARKS

Whether it's on the streets or in the parks, bringing the arts to East Chicago is a vital component of a broader vision by Mayor Anthony Copeland to show a softer side to a city that works.

Seven standalone metal sculptures were installed in November – one at Kosciusko, two at Washington, two at Tod, one at Sunnyside and one at Riley. They will be on display through the end of the year.

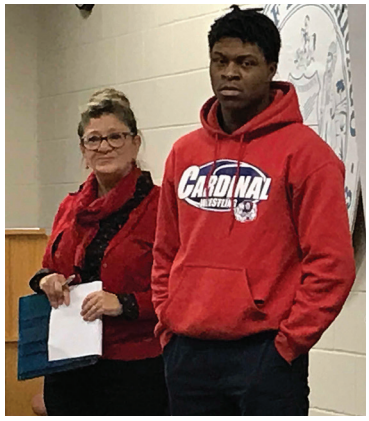
Bonus: Check out the dying trees in Washington Park that have been transformed into works of art by artists from around the country. •

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Art in the Parks, call East Chicago Parks and Recreation at (219) 391-8474 or visit us online at www.eastchicago.com.







North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan and Autism Society Coordinator Elena Luna Magallanes (above) discuss the symptoms and common characteristics of autism with police officers during a training session at the East Chicago Police Department. Jasper, an autistic student at East Chicago Central (bottom right) shares his story with police and Tamara Pol, of the School City of East Chicago. Jasper, who's often bullied for being different, describes his autistic behaviors and how he learned to channel his anger into a passion for boxing. [The Idea Factory photos]

AUTISM TRAINING AND AWARENESS

East Chicago Police and North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan are joining forces to safeguard the safety and well-being of city residents who have been diagnosed with autism as well as those whose conditions place them along the autism spectrum disorder.

During a series of training sessions in January, local experts detailed for the department's 75 officers normal autism behaviors mistaken for suspicious or criminal actions and outlined how best to handle situations in the field.

Characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, inability to look into the eyes of another person and a persistent need to flee common circumstances, such as loud noises or flashing lights, Mrvan said it is those behaviors that make autistic children and adults vulnerable.

Police Chief Frank Smith lauded the initiative, which began more than a year ago when Mrvan and East Chicago Det. Justin Orange discussed the need for a program to easily identify autistic children to law enforcement while providing police with tools to safely return children to their families.

"We have all read the sad stories where autistic children are mistaken for criminals," Smith said.

"We have 80 children in our schools and many adults in our community, who have autism. We want to get it right in East Chicago and this program is providing us with additional tools we need to do our jobs." •

it's OKAY to be DIFFERENT

REGISTER TODAY

Visit the North Township Trustee's website – northtownshiptrustee.com – and click on the services button. Select Autism under Special Programs to register individuals online.

QUESTIONS? Please call East Chicago Police Det. Justin Orange at (219) 391-8312.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Looking for something to do during the winter months? Check out these Parks & Recreation activities that are free to members:

OUTDOOR ICE RINK

Grab the family and head to MacArthur Golf Course for some outdoor ice skating on our new 60-foot rink. Warm up with a hot drink and sweet treats at Frida's Café.

WHEN: 3 to 8 p.m. **Thursdays** and **Fridays,** 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. **Saturdays** and **Sundays** through March.
WHERE: MacArthur Golf Course, 4000 Indianapolis
FEES: $2 skating fee and $3 skate rental
INFO: The rink is available for group parties and events. Call (219) 391-8474 for info.

B-I-N-G-O!

Join us for a game of chance and be the first to break the bubble shouting BINGO!

WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
WHERE: Fridays **February 8** and **15** at Heritage Hall, **February 22** and **March 1, 8** and **15** at Unity Center.

SOCIAL MEDIA CLASSES

Bring your smartphone, tablet or laptop and learn how to tweet, post and share with friends and family on social media!

WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Tuesday, February 4, 11, 18**
WHERE: Heritage Hall

OFFICE RELOCATION

Parks & Recreation has temporarily moved to Heritage Hall, 4506 Tod Ave., while undergoing a facelift.

INFO: Call (219) 391-8474 for more information on our classes and park programs.

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EAST CHICAGO BIANNUAL

Career Fair

MEET PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS AND LAND YOUR DREAM JOB!

SAVE THE DATE!

10 AM – 2 PM WEDNESDAY

APRIL 10

<<< CAREER FAIR LOCATION >>>
EAST CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
2301 COLUMBUS DRIVE

