EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

"From art in the trees to fall's changing leaves, East Chicago is bursting with autumnal color"

The seasons may be changing but don't let the calendar fool you: There is still plenty of time to enjoy the great outdoors right here in East Chicago. From the lakefront to the Grand Calumet, we are blessed with a city that is easy to navigate – by foot, car or bus. Did you know East Chicago is one of two free fixed-route and Paratransit systems in Indiana?



MAGIC IN OUR TREES ...

When our gigantic ash trees fell victim to the emerald ash borer, we were given one option – to cut them down. We decided to go in another direction – to offer up dead trees to talented sculptors. With that, "Art in the Parks" was born. I've watched the progress, thrilled to see a return of public art to the city. These unique sculptures will grace Washington Park for years to come. The best part of it all: this is just the beginning.

UNITY CENTER ...

A year after we began, Unity Center is open! This is a community recreation facility that offers something for everyone right in the heart of the North Harbor revitalization district. If you haven't already, please take a tour and discover the spaces that have been created for individual, senior and group fitness, sports, arts and crafts, even social activities like bingo, card games and English classes.

A FEW REMINDERS ...

As you dive deep into autumn, please take the time to check out this issue of East Chicago Life and some of the programs we have for homeowners and homebuyers. Whether you need to upgrade and protect your home or build anew, these programs provide education as well as financial resources with you in mind.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago

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BEFORE



AFTER



East Chicago's Sunnyside program offers up to $80,000 per duplex for homeowners who want to improve their homes. Redevelopment Director Frank Rivera said the program has become more than simply a new street-side look. "Facade improvements are all about making a house feel welcoming." So far this year, six individuals have taken the city up on its offer to help pay for improvements, which can include new siding, windows, doors, insulation, roofing, soffit, fascia, gutters, stoops and railings. [East Chicago Redevelopment Department photos]

CITY HELPS HOMEOWNERS DREAMS COME TRUE

Sunnyside is getting spruced up – one home at a time.

A century after Inland Steel constructed 100 duplexes for 200 workers and their families in northeast East Chicago, the city is providing incentives for homeowners who want to upgrade the look and feel of their dwellings.

The Sunnyside facade program offers up to $80,000 per duplex or $40,000 for each qualifying homeowner. The citywide rehabilitation program also offers assistance through its grant program.

So far this year, 12 individuals have taken the city up on its offer to help pay for facade improvements, which can include new siding, windows, doors, insulation, roofing, soffit, fascia, gutters, stoops and railings.

The Department of Redevelopment utilizes federal Housing and Urban Development funds to finance up to $40,000 in seven-year forgivable loans to qualifying homeowners looking to make improvements. "Our residents love coming home," Redevelopment Director Frank Rivera said.

In addition to the facade programs, East Chicago offers two homebuyer assistance programs. Just this year, redevelopment assistance totaling $240,000 has helped 23 families become first-time homebuyers with real estate prices that vary from $45,000 to $150,000.

"Homeownership is good for our community," Rivera said. "We provide the educational and financial assistance to help people live the American dream." •

HOMEBUYERS WORKSHOP

Dream of owning a home? Learn more at an upcoming workshop facilitated by Pam Stalling of the Northwest Indiana Reinvestment Alliance.



WHEN: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. October 20, November 10 or December 8

WHERE: Locations vary

REGISTRATION: Please call (219) 391-8513 for **mandatory** registration. Workshops are $27 for East Chicago residents and $127 for nonresidents. Payment is due at the time of registration in the form of a cashiers check or money order only.



East Chicago native Luis Roman depends on East Chicago's Paratransit bus service to get around town and to appointments. "I am fortunate to live in an area served by East Chicago Paratransit. It gives me independence," Roman said. ECT has been providing free Paratransit since 1997 for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use ECT fixed routes. [Marcia Johnson photos]

BUS TRANSIT HELPING RESIDENTS GET AROUND

Luis Roman has been using East Chicago Complimentary Paratransit buses since the service was established more than 20 years ago.

The East Chicago native who lives near the city's western border isn't sure what he would do without it.

"This city service allows me to keep my independence despite my disability," he said. "This makes it so I can be like anybody else. I come and go as I please."

Transit Director Francisco Rosado Jr. is proud when he hears about the popularity of the 46-year-old transit service – one of only two municipal transit services in Indiana that offers free fixed-route and Paratransit services to more than 100,000 passengers per year.

"We have an incredible team," Rosado said. "It is a special person who thrives on helping people and we have been fortunate to cultivate an entire department that loves doing just that."

Roman agrees wholeheartedly.

"I am completely blind. When I need help finding my way, the Paratransit drivers are always happy to help," he said.

"I taught my son, who has normal vision, how to use the fixed-route system. They were just as wonderful to us. We are lucky to have to have this bus service in East Chicago." •

ABOUT THE SERVICE

East Chicago Transit (ECT) provides free fixed-route bus service and Complimentary Paratransit for individuals with disabilities who qualify for the service.

Hours of Operation:

Monday through Friday
5:55 a.m. - 8:44 p.m.

Saturday
9 a.m. - 4:31 p.m.

INFO: Complete bus routes, maps, Paratransit applications, and more, visit **eastchicago.com**, click on **departments** and navigate to **bus transit** or call (219) 391-8465.

DID YOU KNOW? East Chicago is one of two municipalities in the state that offers free fixed-route and Paratransit service.

ART IN THE PARKS ...



Artist: Justus Gillette Roe III

Name of Piece: Civic Inland Spire Armor (CISA)

Location: Washington Park

Inspiration: The people and the history of East Chicago inspired this piece. "It is an abstract interpretation of the interplay between spires created by industry and local communities," Roe said. "It is also an acknowledgement to the many influential graffiti artists from East Chicago. Their advanced wild style aesthetics have been an inspiration to many artists across the Midwest and beyond."

... AND THE TREES

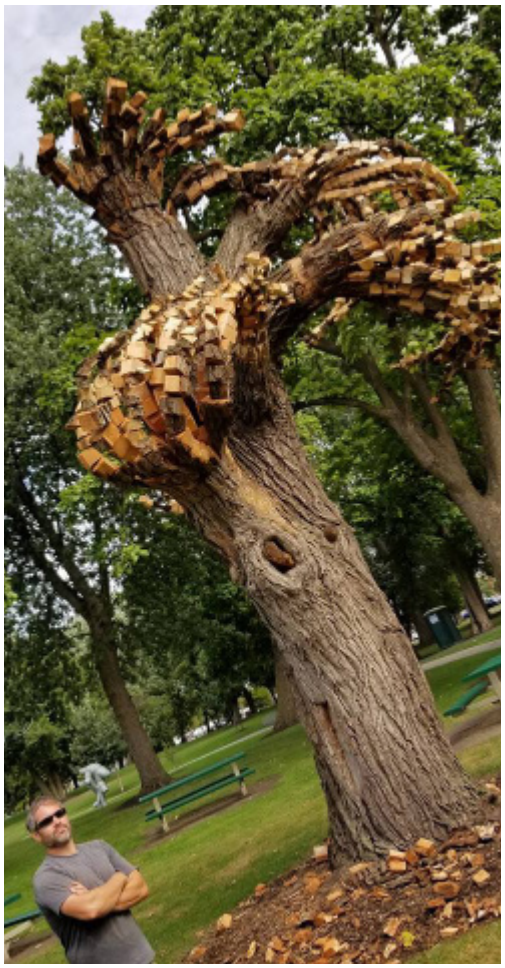
When others saw a sawdust future for the dead and dying trees in Washington Park, East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland had a vision the towering ash could be transformed.

Instead of cutting down the once-mighty ash, he reasoned that in the hands of skilled artists, sculptures would emerge from the trees that could be enjoyed for years to come.

Already, two of five artists have finished their creations. The city worked in partnership with Chicago Sculpture International, interviewing artists in that project to choose those who would launch a similar effort here.

Coming in November ...

Four new metal sculptures will be added to the three already on display in city parks. The artwork will be on display through August 2019.



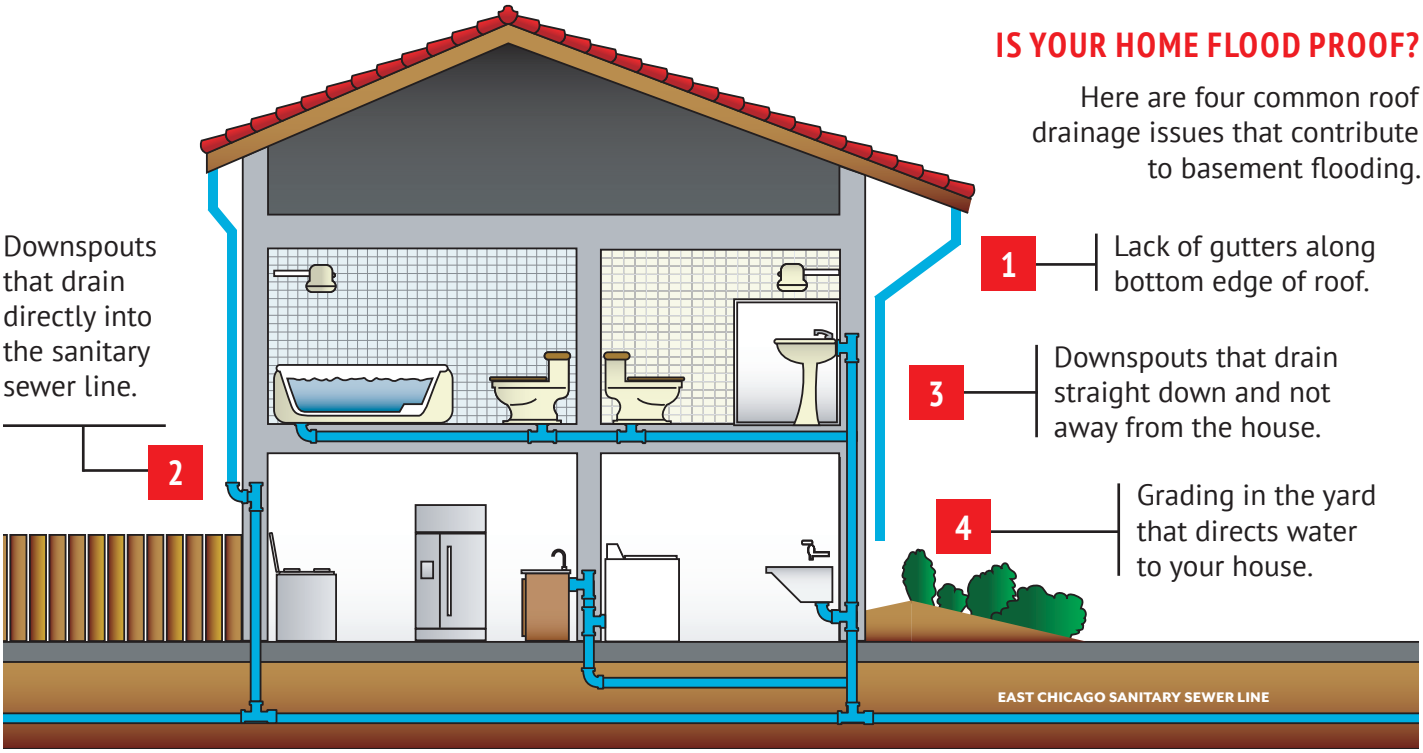
Artist:
Anthony Heinz May

Name of Piece:
Transcybertariatism

Location:
Washington Park

Inspiration:
May used a variety of loaned saws and a boom truck to create a digitized creation that explores the evolving relationship between nature, human beings and technology.

"I hope this inspires visitors to explore their relationship with the world around them, in a tech-heavy world," the New York resident said. "I hope it encourages thought about planting and preserving trees rather than cutting them down."



FLOOD PREVENTION: Did you know downspouts connected directly to the city system is like pouring 10 bathtubs full of extra water into the city system, which can cause flooding in your home? East Chicago started a Downspout Connection Awareness Program in 2014 to assist 1,150 homeowners with illegal downspouts. The city will reimburse homeowners – up to $100 including labor and materials – to get them fixed. INFO: For more information on how the city can help, please call the East Chicago Sanitary District at (219)391-8466.

EAST CHICAGO HELPING RESIDENTS STAY DRY

Armed with the knowledge that a sewer back-up can be as close as the next heavy rain, the city is inviting homeowners to take advantage of two programs designed to prevent basement flooding.

A simple device – known as a check valve – is one of the best investments homeowners can make. It prevents stormwater and sewage from entering a home, which occurs most frequently during heavy storms that overwhelm the capacity of any combined sewer system.

Even as East Chicago has embarked on an ambitious multi-year effort to separate storm and sanitary sewers, check valves and properly placed downspouts can go a long way toward eliminating costly basement flooding.

Since 2008, the city has helped residents pay for a check-valve and installation using any plumber licensed in East Chicago.

The city is also offering residents $100 to repair downspouts.

"It is heartbreaking when we hear from people who have basement flooding that could have been prevented," Director of Utilities Abderrahman Zehraoui Ph.D. said.

"I encourage all homeowners to contact us about taking advantage of these programs now — to protect their homes before the rains come." •

CHECK VALVE PROGRAM

To prevent sewage from backing up into basements, East Chicago is offering homeowners assistance.

The city will reimburse homeowners up to $750 to have a licensed plumber install a check valve, which only allows water to flow in one direction. The flap on the valve closes when there is a reverse in flow, which prevents water and sewage from flowing back into your home.

INFO: For more information, please call the Sanitary District at (219) 391-8466.

CELEBRATE FIRE SAFETY

Come one. Come all to this year's Fire Department Open House! Learn about train safety from Little Obie. Watch the high-flying Jesse White tumblers. Witness a fire safety demonstration in action. Food. Fun. Entertainment. It's all that! .

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. **Oct. 6**
WHERE: Central Fire Station
INFO: (219) 391-8472

TRICK-OR-TREATING

Trick-or-treat hours for all East Chicago goblins and ghouls are from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, **Oct. 31**

VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY

Join our veterans and the City of East Chicago as we salute those who have served our country.

WHEN: 10 a.m. **Nov. 11**
WHERE: Veterans Park

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY & SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Join us as we kick off the holiday season with a tree lighting ceremony at city hall. We'll then head over to Santa's workshop at nearby Heritage Hall.

WHEN: 5 - 8 p.m. **Nov. 30**
WHERE: City Hall and Heritage Hall

ICE SKATING

When the temperatures get chilly, the city will open an ice-skating venue for – with hot chocolate and pastries available for purchase.

WHEN: The plan is to open the rink right after Thanksgiving and deck it out for the holidays.
WHERE: MacArthur Golf Course, 4000 Indianapolis Boulevard

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