EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

"Summer is a great time to celebrate all that the City of East Chicago has to offer"

Join me this summer – by celebrating right here in the city. Explore our neighborhoods. Enjoy the amenities.

By boosting our investment in infrastructure, we have added to the many ways you can enjoy all that East Chicago has to offer.

We really do have it all – a gorgeous lakefront, community recreation centers, pools, parks, festivals – even a state-of-the-art baseball field.



NEW HERITAGE HALL

When we started looking at the state of our recreation centers, we quickly discovered what could be renovated and what needed to be taken down to the foundation and rebuilt. Heritage Hall was one of the neighborhood centers that required an all-new plan. The facility is spectacular. Please join me as we officially open Heritage Hall later this month.

IMPROVEMENTS-IN-THE-MAKING

This is shaping up to be a big year for road improvements. We are doing our best to keep the disruption to a minimum. Rest assured, any inconvenience will be worth it. In addition to beautification throughout the city with banners and flowers, major improvements on Guthrie and Indianapolis Boulevard are going to enhance safety as well as aesthetics for decades to come.

ACCESSIBILITY

I am excited to announce that improvements at the lakefront include a pathway that will make every venue easily accessible to all. A 60/40 grant is helping pay for improvements that include an ADA ramp that can get wheelchairs to the sand, shelters, playground equipment, the breakwater and our new beach sculptures.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago

SAVE THE DATE!

Mayor Anthony Copeland and the East Chicago Police Department invites the community to attend the annual **National Night Out Against Crime from 5 to 7 p.m. August 7.**

The Lake County Sheriff's Helicopter is back and so are our very own Super Heroes. The event will also feature, food, music, a bike raffle, fire trucks and the opportunity to take a dip in the Washington Park pool while chatting it up with East Chicago's Finest.

WHERE: Washington Park Pool, 140th and Parrish Avenue

INFO: Find us on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Cable.



East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland and city leaders break ground on the new Fitzsimmons Redevelopment Project. [Steve Segura photos]

$4 MILLION FITZSIMMONS PROJECT TO FEATURE TOWNHOMES, BUSINESSES

The city is blending the best of retail, professional and residential in a signature project planned to revitalize the city's North Harbor district.

The Fitzsimmons Redevelopment Project – named for the furniture store that once anchored the North Harbor retail district – is a $4 million investment in the city's future.

"This new construction will not only beautify the downtown area: It will spur economic development throughout the North Harbor District," Mayor Anthony Copeland said.

After decades of separating shopping and living spaces, developers have come to realize residents want the best of both worlds.

Cities that provide that combination — where residents can eat, shop and play minutes from home — have a great advantage over their mall counterparts.

"This project continues to meet the goals of the Hyatt Palma study to restore North Harbor," Copeland said. "The Fitzsimmons project is the first of many projects planned to restore our downtown." •



BEFORE



AFTER

ABOUT THE FITZSIMMONS PROJECT

East Chicago is proud to partner with the Regional Development Authority and Urban Enterprise Association to bring the Fitzsimmons project to life.

Slated for completion in 2019, the three-story, 19,235-square-foot building will feature spacious townhomes and apartments as well as commercial space for restaurants, retail shops and professional offices.

The all-brick building features:

- ✓ Three 1,420- to 1,490-square-foot townhomes with 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, living room and eat-in kitchen.
- ✓ Four 1,881- to 2,063-square-foot apartments above commercial space – with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, living room, kitchen and dining room.
- ✓ 4,042 square feet of commercial space.



Crews work on improvements at 149th Street and Indianapolis Boulevard. [Steve Segura photo]

ROAD PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON

The city is on a fast track to spend nearly $40 million on road projects to enhance economic development efforts already underway.

High on the list is reconstruction on Indianapolis Boulevard and Guthrie Street, Columbus Drive intersection improvements and reconstruction of the pedestrian bridge over U.S. 12.

Scattered throughout the city are another 17 local streets that will be resurfaced this year.

City Engineer William Allen and his crew work all year to maximize funding opportunities as well as the region's best construction crews during the relatively short construction season.

"We gear up in fall and winter to get every project planned and have them ready to go once the weather breaks in spring," Allen said. "It's gratifying to transition into the construction season and see these projects come to life." •

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- ✓ **Guthrie Street:** The project includes new sewers, water lines, sidewalks, curbs and road surface as well as landscaping and lighting. **Cost:** $9.2 million
- ✓ **Indianapolis Boulevard:** Larger water lines and sewer relining prompted the project, which includes sidewalks, curbs, paving, landscaping, lighting and a new lane configuration. **Cost:** $15 million
- ✓ **Columbus Drive:** Intersection improvements mean new concrete and pavement, decorative crosswalks with bump-outs and illuminated way-finding street signs. **Cost:** $4.5 million
- ✓ **Pedestrian Bridge:** The bridge over U.S. 12 is being replaced. **Cost:** $4.5 million

RECONSTRUCTION

- Indianapolis Boulevard – Columbus to Michigan
- Walsh Avenue - 148th to Kosci
- Guthrie - Michigan to Cline
- Homerlee Avenue - 145th to Columbus Drive
- Homerlee Avenue - 148th to 151st Street

RESURFACING

- 148th Street - from Railroad Avenue east
- 150th Street – from Railroad Avenue east
- 151st Street – from Railroad Avenue east
- Fir Street
- Grand Street – Broadway to 142nd
- 142nd – Elm to Carey
- Parrish Avenue
- Drummond Street
- Columbus Drive - Indianapolis to Walsh
- Pavement west of Indy, south of Shell
- Butternut - North of Columbus Drive
- 143rd Street – from Railroad Avenue east
- 144th Street – from Railroad Avenue east
- Grace
- Fern
- 140th Street in the Harbor
- ADA Ramps

CONSTRUCTION

- Columbus Drive intersection improvements
- Community Centers



LAKEFRONT BUZZING WITH ACTIVITY

East Chicago has unveiled an exciting and improved Jeorse Park Beach in time for summer.

The park plans to become a destination for local kayakers and paddleboarders, who are joining boaters in enjoying the protected waters in and around the marina.

While boaters celebrate the best in marina amenities, residents are invited to enjoy everything the expanded park has to offer.

Marina Director Natalie Adams said the city began exploring options when the boating industry took a hit during the 2008 recession. Plans in hand, the city began a $15.5 million renovation in 2017.

"The mayor saw an opportunity to reinvent Jeorse Park with a focus on enhancing recreational opportunities for non-boaters," Adams said. "The vision is to expand public use for East Chicagoans and our neighboring communities." •

WHAT'S NEW AT JEORSE PARK...



For pleasure: A permanent stage (above) and public art (top) anchors the expanded amenities. In addition to sunbathing and swimming, new concessions include kayak and paddleboard rentals. **Info:** For hours and rates, visit h2ohwatersports.com for details. **Next up:** Construction of a second stage adjacent to the parking lot. [Steve Segura photos]

For boaters: The 137-slip marina features all upgraded state of the art boat slips, social and grilling areas. Slip rental includes bathhouses with showers, laundry facilities, cable TV and Wi-Fi.

For events: You can rent the banquet hall (accommodates 100-140 guests) or outdoor space at the marina for special events. **Info:** Visit eastchicago.com for more information.









[Mayra Acosta photos]

PARKS & RECREATION READIES NEW HERITAGE HALL FOR GRAND OPENING

The new Heritage Hall is ready for its debut to the community.

Following a walkthrough earlier this month, Parks and Recreation Director Mayra Acosta can't wait to show the public what the new center has to offer.

"This is a beautiful recreation and activity center for East Chicago," she said. "We are excited about everything we are able to offer."

In addition to a full-size court, the new center features a track, fitness center, activity rooms, a kitchenette and bring-your-own-bottle water fountains.

That's not all.

The center has two, 48-inch TVs as well as headphone jacks at each fitness station. The small activity room is even equipped with Google Chromebooks. •

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The city will begin registering members June 20 at the Parks and Recreation main office, 1615 E. 142nd Street.

FEES: $10 a year for individuals 55 and older and $15 a year for those 16-54. Daily passes are $5 for residents and $10 for nonresidents. Family discounts are available. Children 5-18 with no fitness privileges are free. Money orders and credit cards are accepted.

NOTE: No heels, street or spike shoes allowed on gym floor.

HOURS: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Heritage Hall is located at 4506 Tod Avenue.

INFO: (219) 391-8474

SPIRITS AT MACARTHUR

Join us for an evening of unlimited golf and spirits at MacArthur Golf Course. The event includes a craft beer and wine tasting, live entertainment as well as food vendors and giveaways.

WHEN: 5-9 p.m. **June 22**
WHERE: MacArthur Golf Course, 139th and Indianapolis Boulevard
TICKETS: $20 in advance, $25 at the door.
INFO: Get your tickets today at www.eventbrite.com or call (219) 391-8474.

COOKING CLASSES

Join us the first and third Wednesday of the month as Chef Rich Rodriguez teaches how to cook healthy meals.

WHEN: 5 to 6 p.m. **June 20,** July 11 and 25
WHERE: EC Greenhouse
FEE: $15 per class or $55 for four classes. Registration is required.
INFO: For reservations, visit www.eventbrite.com or please call (219) 391-8474.

PERFORMING ARTS

The East Chicago Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, 3601 Grand Boulevard, is offering music, dance and art classes this summer.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday through Aug. 10
COST: $4 per day includes breakfast and lunch.
INFO: (219) 391-8474

JUNE MOVIE NIGHT

Grab a lawn chair and head to the park to watch "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" on the big screen.

WHEN: 7 p.m. (dusk) **June 21**
WHERE: Washington Park

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Join us for an Independence Day Celebration featuring music by Heavy and a water show by Aquafly.

WHEN: 5-10 p.m. **July 3**
WHERE: East Chicago Marina and Jeorse Park Beach

ECPD DAY WITH OUR YOUTH

Join us for games, snacks, bike raffle, face painting, bounce house, super heroes, public awareness and more!

WHEN: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **July 14**
WHERE: East Chicago Police Department, 2301 East Columbus Drive

MILITARY DAY AT THE BEACH

Family activities for active and veteran military members and all their families.

WHEN: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. **July 21**
WHERE: Jeorse Beach Park

JULY MOVIE NIGHT

Grab a lawn chair and head to the park to watch "Despiclable Me 3" on the big screen.

WHEN: 7 p.m. (dusk) **July 26**
WHERE: Kosciuszko Park

ANNUAL BEACH CLEANUP

Join the City of East Chicago and the Lions Club for our annual beach cleanup.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-noon **August 18**
WHERE: Jeorse Beach Park

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