EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

SIGN UP FOR EC NIXLE ALERTS!

Whether you want to know about severe weather, snow-packed streets or a road closed due to emergency repairs, Nixle has all the information you need when you need it — and it's as close as your mobile phone or tablet.

East Chicago's Nixle alert system will also notify you when city events are taking place — and where.

We are working to have every resident signed up for this communication tool that keeps you informed — wherever you are.

Text ECEVENTS to 888777 or register at nixle.com.

"Indoors and out, East Chicago is bursting with cheer and festive events this holiday season"

I am inviting every resident to take me up on this challenge: Celebrate the 12 days of Christmas right here in the city with me and all of the thousands of members of your East Chicago family.

The facts are: we have more than 12 days of events and outdoor fun that will light up your Christmas holidays.

Here are a few to mark on your holiday calendar:

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

Kickoff your holidays with our annual Celebration of Lights at 5 p.m. Friday, **December 6** at City Hall followed by Santa's workshop at Heritage Hall. Registration begins at 4 p.m. at City Hall. All good little girls and boys must be accompanied by an adult.

LIBRARY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Head over to the Columbus Branch of the East Chicago Public Library for a How-to Christmas Fair from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, **December 7.** Learn how to make homemade hot chocolate and your very own Christmas cards.

SENIOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

We will celebrate with our seniors at their very own Christmas Party from 11 a.m. -2 p.m. Thursday, **December 12** at the Ameristar Casino Hotel. An evening of food, fun, prizes and dancing will certainly bring on the holiday cheer!



ICE SKATING WITH SANTA

Grab your gloves and hats and head to MacArthur Golf Course from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, **December 21** for a jolly time with Santa Claus on our 60-foot outdoor rink.

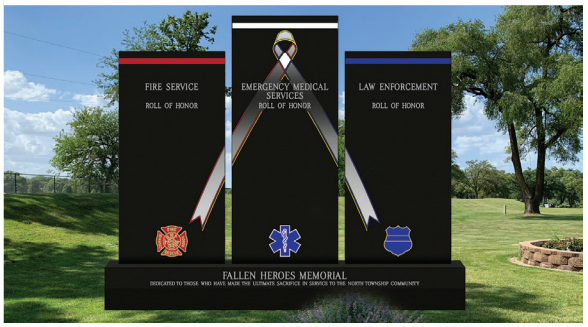
In between, I plan to enjoy the holiday lights ... and I have barely scratched the surface of all there is to do in our beautiful city this season!

The blessings of this season of wonder and light to you and your family.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago







GROUNDBREAKING: East Chicago officials (from right) Deputy Police Chief Jose Rivera, Police Chief Hector Rosario, Police Cmdr. Eddie Bastardo and Fire Chief Anthony Serna join North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan and Dean Savarino, of Dean's Landscaping, to break ground for a new memorial honoring fallen first responders at Wicker Memorial Park. Savarino, as well as Kevin Nordyke and Shelley Marshall of Hillside Funeral Home in Highland, have created a vision for the memorial that includes gentle pathways and ample seating (shown above right).

MEMORIAL TO HONOR FALLEN FIRST RESPONDERS

Police Chief Hector Rosario and Fire Chief Anthony Serna are spearheading local support for North Township's first ever Fallen Heroes Memorial dedicated to police officers, firefighters and emergency medical services personnel who died in service to East Chicago, Hammond, Highland, Munster and Whiting.

Eleven of the township's 32 fallen heroes are from East Chicago.

"This is going to be a beautiful memorial garden," Serna said. "Everyone I have talked to is eager to help make this dream a reality. We need everyone's help."

Rosario said his officers are pitching in to help and talking to local businesses about donating. "Our area needs this tribute to those killed in the line of duty. We always need to remember."



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Looking for that special gift that gives back while giving to others? Our bricks and inlays are a perfect tribute to loved ones.

Your purchase will make the dream of a living memorial to North Township's Fallen Heroes at Wicker Park a reality.

Visit **NTTfallenheroes.org** for a virtual walk-through of the memorial and learn how you can help.

INFORMATION

For more information, please call the EC Fire Department at (219) 391-8472 or Police Department at (219) 391-8312.

Snow or ice: We've got you covered!

Long before the first flake falls, Public Works Director Keith Selvie is well into snow mode – planning for big snow.

By November, Selvie and his crews have prepared for the unknown – purchasing 5,000 tons of road salt – while prepping plows for the job ahead.

Snow removal is activated by a National Weather Service Advisory or notification from East Chicago police. First out the door are a minimum of 14 plows that target major roads.

"When we get the advisory, we begin applying beet juice to main thoroughfares, roundabouts and bridges," Selvie said. Beet juice is operational at lower temperatures than road salt alone and can last for two to five days.

"Since I've been here, we have never had to shut the city down," he said. "We work until the job is done and then prepare for what is going to hit us next."

TIPS FOR RESIDENTS

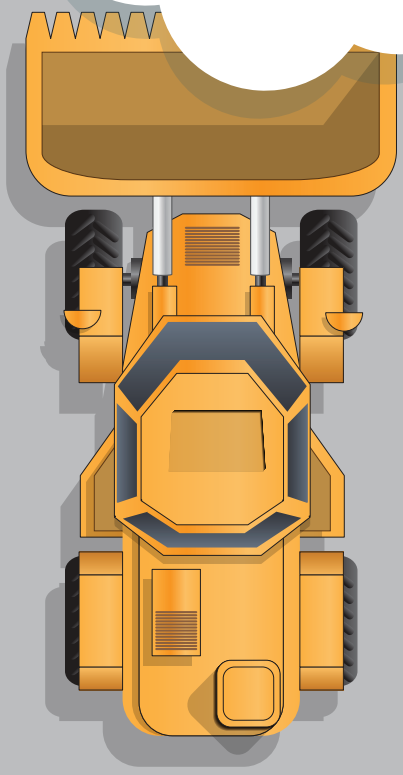
Snow no-no's keep motorists safe and trim the time to clear roadways.

SNOW PARKING SIGNS: Parked cars make it harder for the plows to do their jobs. Towing cars is the avenue of last resort — but is sometimes necessary.

SHOVELING: When digging your car out — don't throw snow into the street. Shovel it onto the parkway instead.

DRIVING: Stay off roads during the height of the storm unless it's an emergency.

QUESTIONS? Call the East Chicago Public Works Department at (219) 391-8463.



PLOWING STREETS

A priority system takes into consideration public safety and efficiency. Streets are cleared in the following order:

1. The most heavily traveled roads are the highest priority, including Kennedy, Main, Guthrie, Michigan, Cardinal and Euclid.
2. St. Catherine Hospital roads
3. Streets by schools
4. Police and fire stations along with Jeorse Circle
5. A minimum of 14 plows are dedicated to the city's seven zones to clear residential thoroughfares beginning with number streets and followed by name streets.



SHOUT OUT PROGRAM

Police Chief Hector Rosario is thrilled the federal government awarded the city $234,323 as part of a safe schools grant that will be used for innovative programs for East Chicago children. "The East Chicago Police Department is taking a proactive approach to address teen issues through the SHOUT OUT program, which will allow us to begin a conversation about issues such as bullying, drugs and sexual abuse. Our goal is connect youth to services that will help protect them," Rosario said. "This program will benefit students, parents, school personnel and adults working with youth."

COMMUNITY POLICING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

AUTISM SPEAKS

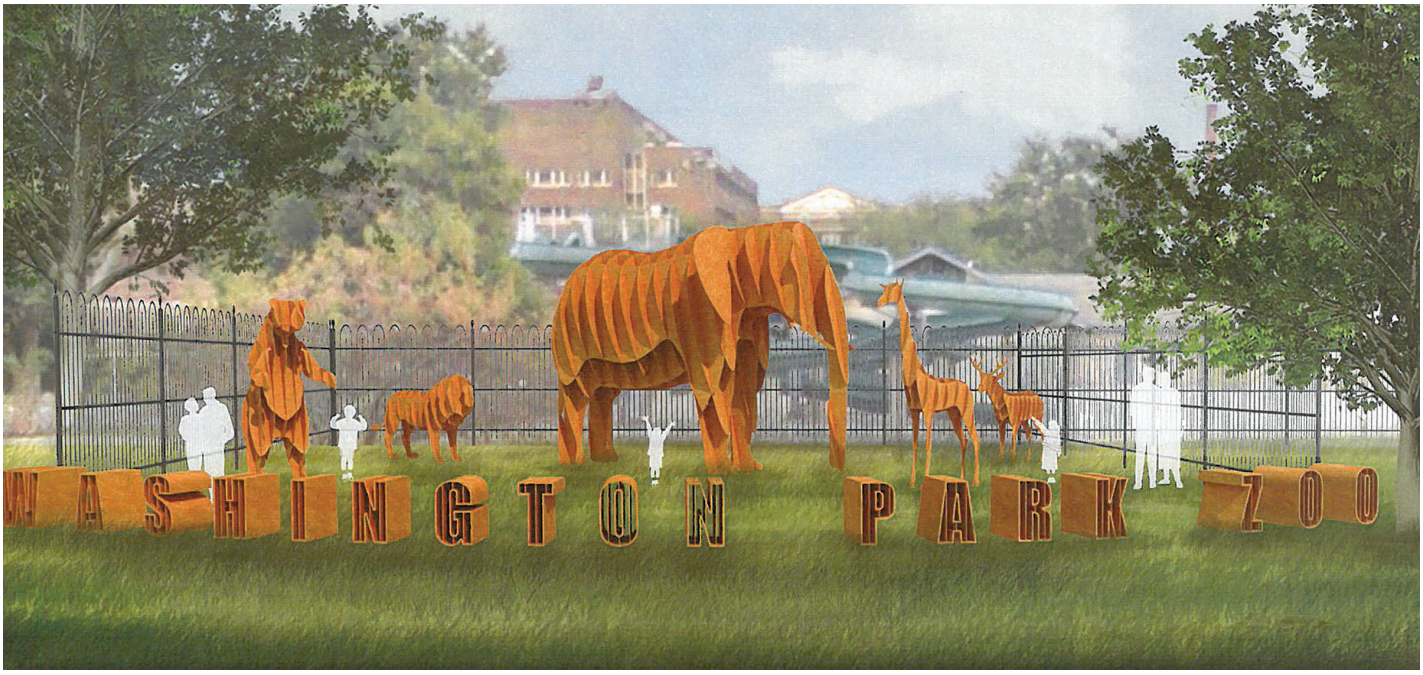
With a year of autism training and outreach under their belts, East Chicago officers will engage relationship-building with children and young adults on the autism spectrum. The plan is to increase education within the department to build a bridge between police and the autism community.

PEDAL POWER

Deploying police on bikes to combat crime allows officers to develop positive relationships with children. Bike officers will become more involved with schools, church groups and other members of the community. They will also provide hours for children to bring their bikes in to be fixed.

CHILD SAFETY

The best place to protect children is at the beginning of their young lives when they are most vulnerable. With officers trained as Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians, the team will show the proper procedure for installation, then remove the seat and have the adult reinstall it.



WASHINGTON PARK ZOO SCULPTURES: There's a special gift under the trees at Washington Park just in time for Christmas. Parks and Recreation Director Mayra Acosta said a zoo-full of sculptures will be in place in December, replicas of the animals that were a popular source of entertainment for residents in the 1920s. Back then, the zoo – nestled between a playground, baseball field, band shell and a very popular ice cream parlor – featured a baboon, monkeys and a lion that roared seemingly on cue and lived to the ripe, old age of 23. [rending provided]

NEW PARK SHELTERS:

October and November snows haven't hampered completion of new shelters at Roxana Park and the MacArthur Golf Course. Able to be used in any season, the expectation is that both shelters will be in constant use from Memorial Day through Labor Day for picnics, reunions and family parties. At MacArthur, individuals and families may find the shelter helpful during ice skating season, as well.

NEW PARK TRAILS:

The new trails at Roxana and Washington parks are equipped with strategically placed outdoor fitness equipment that add strength training, balance and aerobic activities to your fitness routine. Best of all, they are free and open to the public during regular park hours — dawn to dusk — every day.



LOLLIPOP SCULPTURE:

Eight gigantic lollipops are already in place at Washington Park, bursts of color against the winter landscape. Although they look good enough to eat, the oversized suckers on equally oversized sticks were created as part of a display that works with new lighting for the enjoyment of the young and young-at-heart. The lollipop sculptures are the city's first interactive educational projects in East Chicago.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

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

YOUTH ARTS PROGRAM

Ready to channel your inner artist? East Chicago youth – ages 5 to 18 – are invited to try a class in piano, drums, choir drama, dance or costume and set design.

WHEN: 4-6 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays through **Dec. 23**
WHERE: Carnegie Visual & Performing Arts Academy, 3601 Grand Boulevard
INFO: Call (219) 213-8012.

FREE MASSAGES

What a treat! Recreation Center members can stop in for a free 15-minute massage. Spaces are limited, so be sure to sign up today!

WHEN: 8:30-10:30 a.m. **Dec. 5, 12 and 19**
WHERE: Unity Center

CARDIO LINE DANCING

Step on in and learn the new slides and old classics.

WHEN: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 10-11 a.m. Saturdays through **Dec. 21**
WHERE: Unity Center

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more on activities or membership opportunities, please call (219) 391-8474.

DID YOU KNOW?

All past issues of **East Chicago Life!** can be found on the city website. That's right. Download messages from the mayor as well as information on parks, public safety, pathways to homeownership,

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EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA 46312

Ice Skating
at MacArthur Golf Course

Grab the family and head to MacArthur Golf Course for some outdoor skating on our 60-foot rink. Warm up with a hot drink and sweet treats at We're Poppin.

FEES
$2 Skating fee
$3 Skate rental

HOURS
3-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday



New this year!

- Walkers for children and adults who are just learning to skate.
- More lights, lights, lights for a festive time!

Ice Skating
with Santa Claus
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. December 21

Rink open through March, weather permitting!
Call (219) 391-8474 for group parties and events.