EAST CHICAGO life

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EAST CHICAGO STRONGER TOGETHER

SEWER PROJECTS GET BACK ON TRACK WHILE CITY REMAINS AT STAGE 4 DURING PANDEMIC

SEWER PROJECTS

I have some exciting news to share about two vital projects that will both happen underground.

The first is a major upgrade of the Alder Street sewer. It will begin with a $2 million cleaning followed by a relining of the massive pipe to stop the leaks. The second is a comprehensive remedy to flooding of the storm and sanitary sewers in Roxana.

BACK-ON-TRACK UPDATE

With more than 1,050 cases and 24 deaths by the end of September, I have made the difficult decision to keep our city at Stage 4 in the governor's Back on Track response to COVID-19, while the rest of the state advances to Stage 5.

Stage 4 means restaurants, bars, nightclubs and churches may operate at 50 percent capacity with social distancing guidelines in place.

It was not a decision made lightly. Health Officer Gerri Browning, MD, Health Department Director Diana Garcia-Burns and I believe this is necessary – especially as we begin seeing seasonal influenza emerge and the city's positivity rate continue on its upward trend. Currently, 3.7 percent of residents who have been tested are positive for COVID-19.

NEW POLICE OFFICERS



Please join me and Police Chief Hector Rosario in welcoming four new police officers to the force. We are proud to have them on board to protect the lives and the property of East Chicago residents. Visit ECTV to view the full swearing-in ceremony. [Steve Segura photo]

COVID-19 TESTING

Thanks to a $100,000 grant, the city is offering free COVID-19 testing from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays at the East Chicago Health Department, 100 W. Chicago Ave. Anyone who's been exposed – or believes they may have been exposed – should get tested.

Please wear your masks, be relentless about keeping your hands clean and pray our city sees a resolution to this spike in cases soon.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago

City of East Chicago
Hope & Progress
INDIANA

BAGLESS LEAF COLLECTION

It's that time of year when Public Works begins collecting leaves on Oct. 26.

Please have your leaves deposited curbside by 7 a.m. on the morning of your respective collection day:

District 1: Monday
District 2: Tuesday
District 3: Wednesday
District 4: Thursday
Districts 5-6: Friday

The leaf collection program runs until the first snowfall.

Questions?
Call East Chicago Public Works at (219) 391-8463.

EAST CHICAGO TACKLES AGING SEWERS

[ALDER SEWER PROJECT]

A major upgrade of the Alder Street sewer will begin with a $2 million cleaning followed by a pipe relining to stop leaks.

Built more than 100 years ago, the massive sewer that collects both rain and wastewater is showing its age.

"The scope and price of this project has kept it out of reach – until now," Mayor Anthony Copeland said.

Nearly two miles long and 8-feet tall, Collection System Manager Joe Wright said replacing the major arterial is too costly.

Thankfully, the city has a relatively new option – following a thorough cleaning, the Alder Street sewer will be injected with a product that is cured in place. Within hours, the pipe that is full of leaks and holes will be impervious to infiltration by ground water thanks to the thin lining that is watertight.

"Technology has made projects like these more affordable," Wright said. "We are spending $2 million on the cleaning and millions more for the lining. This project is worth every penny."







[photos provided]

[ALDER STREET MANHOLES]

Alder Street manholes continue to deteriorate within the Citgo properties. Pollution, bacteria, freeze/thaw cycles and infiltration impact the structures as they age.

[EAST CHICAGO MILESTONES: 1890 – 1910]

1893: East Chicago is incorporated into a city.

1900: About 3,400 people call East Chicago home.

1901: Inland Steel raises more than $1 million to build an open-hearth mill in East Chicago.

1907: The Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal is dredged.

1910: Thousands flock to East Chicago for work. The population skyrockets to 19,100.

EAST CHICAGO POLICE CRACKING DOWN ON CITY VIOLATIONS

A crackdown by police on expired drivers licenses and tags, abandoned vehicles and out-of-state license plates — especially those registered in neighboring Illinois — along with nuisance activities have been the talk of the town.

Police Chief Hector Rosario said his officers are just getting started.

With the exception of expired licenses and tags, which were put on hold during the pandemic when state offices were closed, Rosario said officers are routinely dispatched to enforce city and state laws.

"There are actually Illinois residents with more than one vehicle who park them on our streets because they don't want to pay for a garage," he said. "That makes it hard for our residents to find parking. We are going after them and will continue to make it a priority until they are gone."

At the same time, police are working with Code Enforcement targeting hot spots for nuisance calls. Rosario said if it's a case of unkempt properties, they go after landlords. If groups are causing trouble, they will find those individuals and take them to task.

"This is just part of what our department does to keep our city safe and beautiful," he said. "With everyone's cooperation, we can get the job done."

SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING.

Call East Chicago Police Department anonymous tip hotline at (219) 391-8500.



[NUISANCE VIOLATIONS]

Police have a name for parking areas littered with debris, structures that are falling down and youth gathering in public places to break windows or cause trouble. It's called a public nuisance and Police Chief Hector Rosario is asking residents who witness a nuisance involving people to immediately call 911. "Call us first," Rosario said. "It's the only way we can track these individuals and manage the disturbance."



[ABANDONED VEHICLES]

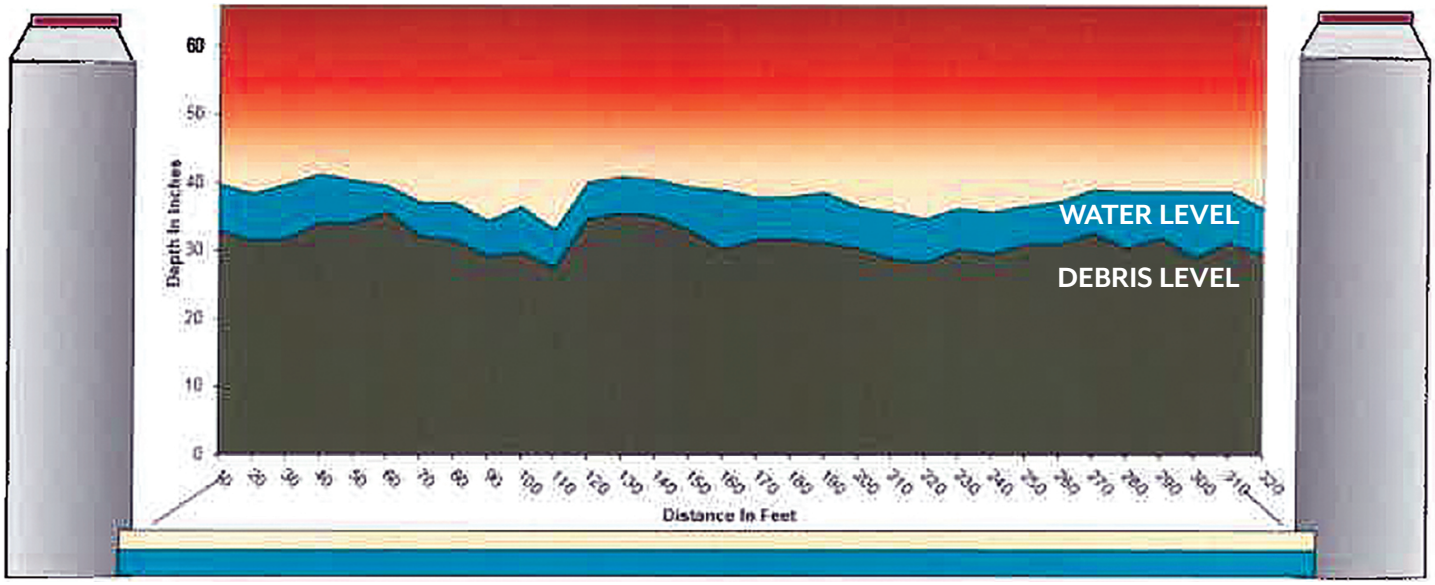
If you have an abandoned or junk vehicle – meaning it isn't able to be driven or its tags have expired – consider yourself warned! East Chicago police officers are placing 72-hour stickers on those vehicles. With junk vehicles, they are giving residents a bit more time to get them moved or they will be towed at the owner's expense.

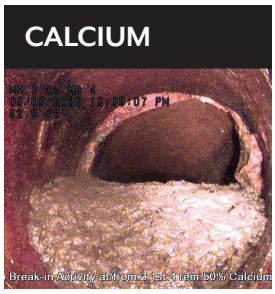
[OUT-OF-STATE LICENSE PLATES]

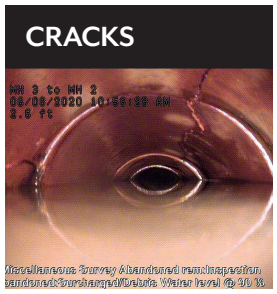
Vehicles that are plated out-of-state are a big problem for Indiana communities because they deprive law-abiding residents the benefits those licensing and registration fees bring. It costs just $15 to title a car in Indiana. Expedited service costs $25 more. The state gives new residents 60 days to transfer the title or pay a late fee of $30.

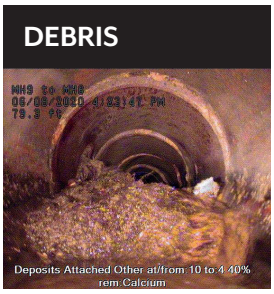
[ACCUMULATION OF DEBRIS]

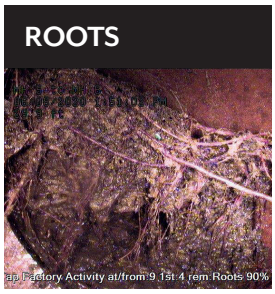
The Alder Street sewer has slowly accumulated a large amount of debris that requires removal for the system to function as designed. In some areas, the pipe is half full of debris, causing problems throughout the North Harbor neighborhood. Pictured below are images taken inside the Roxana sewers.

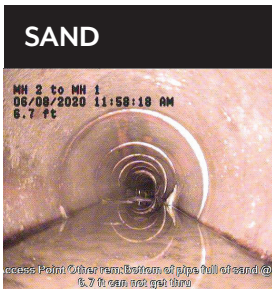












[photos provided]

[EAST CHICAGO MILESTONES: 1920 – 1990]

1926: The Roxana addition is platted into a subdivision.

1930: East Chicago's population swells to 50,000 people.

1930-1950: As the industry grew, so did East Chicago. New homes and new roads make way for many more sewers.

1960: East Chicago's population peaks at 57,669.

1972: 150 new apartments open at Nicosia Senior Housing.

1989: East Chicago installs UV disinfection, eliminating chlorine.

[ROXANA SEWER PROJECT]

The city is in the initial phase of work to find and implement a comprehensive remedy to flooding in both storm and sanitary sewers in Roxana. Estimated at $3.5 million, a project plan will emerge next spring following a hydraulics study of the neighborhood over the next few months.

Like the century-old Adler Street collection system, Roxana's separated sewers – with storm sewers at the curb and sanitary sewers in the alley – are past their useful life.

"It's exciting to see these projects move forward," Mayor Anthony Copeland said. "They are long-awaited and much needed."

Storm sewers are plagued by roots that clog the drains while cleaning crews are finding sanitary sewers filled with sand.

Collection System Manager Joe Wright said an evolving technology allows cities to reline pipe with cast-in-place technology at a fraction of the cost of replacing faulty lines.

"The new lining is leak-proof, which makes the sewer system impervious to tree roots and sand," he said. "We have a plan to line 11,000 feet of storm sewer and 12,000 feet of sanitary sewer. We're just waiting on the study to determine next steps."



[photo provided]

[FAILED PIPE REPAIRS]

A crew works on point repairs of failed pipe along Indianapolis Boulevard. The sewers are constructed of vitrified clay pipe. As these pipes age, multiple problems occur, including sand leaking in joints, calcium/calcite build up from leaking joints and house laterals, debris build up, root Infiltration as well as pipe cracking and failure because of age and vibration.

[EAST CHICAGO MILESTONES: 2000 – 2020]

2000: UV cleaning is so successful Chinook salmon and freshwater sponges thrive in sanitary plant discharges.

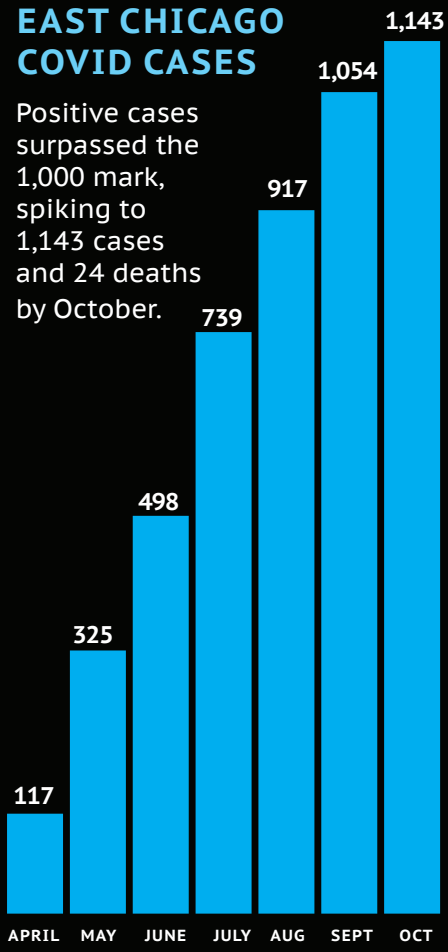
2002: Indiana Harbor was the 45th busiest harbor in the United States, handling almost 13.3 million short tons of cargo.

2010: East Chicago's population holds steady at 29,694 people.

2018: East Chicago begins replacing the old system with a separated sewer that can handle 75 million gallons of stormwater and 23 million gallons of sanitary flow a day.

EAST CHICAGO COVID CASES

Positive cases surpassed the 1,000 mark, spiking to 1,143 cases and 24 deaths by October.



LOCAL TESTING

The city is offering free drive-through COVID-19 testing at the East Chicago Health Department, 100 W. Chicago Ave. (along the north side of the building). No ID or license required.

Tuesday - Friday: 10 a.m. - noon and 1-6 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Information: (219) 391-8258 or visit eastchicago.com for additional testing sites.

CENSUS 2020

The 2020 Census deadline has been extended to Oct. 31 because of the COVID-19 crisis. Take the 2020 Census by responding online at **2020census.gov** or by phone at (844) 330-2020. Residents are encouraged to reply promptly.

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
4525 INDIANAPOLIS BOULEVARD
EAST CHICAGO, IN 46312

PRSRT STD
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EDDM
PAID
Gary, IN
PERMIT # 121

RESIDENT
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA 46312

NIGHTMARE
on McShane Street

5-8 PM FRIDAY OCTOBER 30

Drive-thru Trunk-or-Treat Halloween Celebration

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

ENTRANCE

CARRIE GOSCH PARKING LOT, 4001 INDIANAPOLIS

VEHICLES ONLY. NO WALK-INS!

MASKS AND EAST CHICAGO ID REQUIRED