EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

EAST CHICAGO STRONGER TOGETHER

City of East Chicago
Hope & Progress
INDIANA

MASK-UP!

As COVID-19 cases continue to climb, we must follow new guidelines to stop the spread:

- Residents are required to wear masks, wash hands frequently and practice safe, social distancing.
- Social gatherings – indoors or out – are limited to 25 people.
- Businesses remain open, but must adhere to strict social distancing guidelines.

Information: Visit eastchicago.com for latest updates and restrictions.

Bridge to economic development and prosperity

Every day – even during the pandemic – I look for blessings.

They are all around although I'm the first to admit some days giving thanks is easier than others.

That's not the case today, though. Today, I am beaming with pride and humble with thanksgiving that we installed the final segment of the Cline Avenue bridge, which is scheduled to open this winter.

Replacing that bridge was the first project I tackled when I became mayor. That was 10 years ago. There was nothing easy about the notion of replacing a 6,236-foot span that soars above the Lake Michigan skyline. I was confident that if the people we needed to help could get interested, we would get it done.

That's exactly what we did. I talked to our state and federal lawmakers, our governor, economic development professionals, our neighboring mayors. No one turned us down. We met. We asked questions and found answers. We got the resources. We brought United Bridge Partners on board. We negotiated a deal where the City of East Chicago will receive 10 cents for every vehicle that crosses that bridge.

This bridge is a perfect blend of aesthetics and functionality.



Mayor Anthony Copeland and United Bridge Partners installed the last piece of Cline Avenue on Nov. 6, nearly 10 years after the mayor was newly elected. [Steve Segura photo]

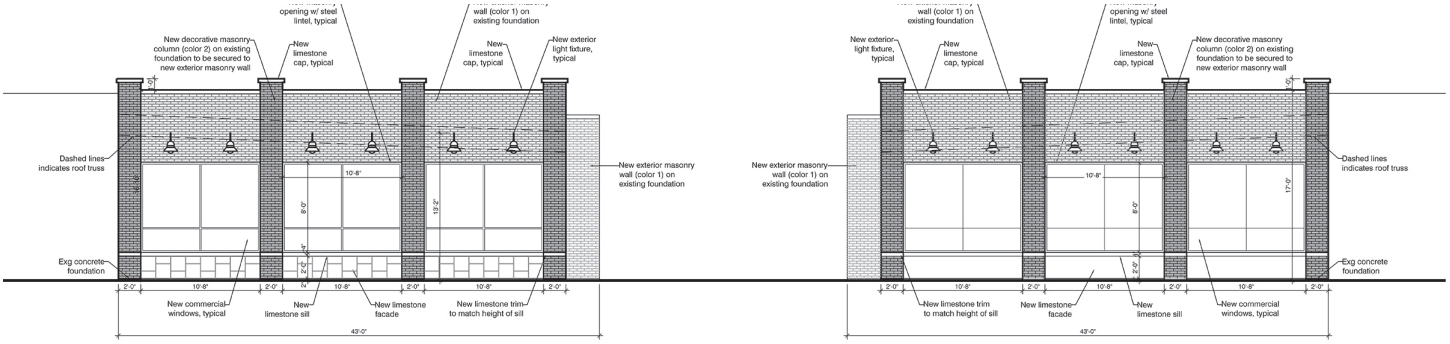
When the bridge opens to traffic, you'll see what 685 giant, lego-like blocks pieced together to create the pillars and deck look like. I'm certain this bridge will be the most beautiful in Indiana, if not in the Midwest.

It is something we can all be proud of, a bridge that has been designed to restore the traffic patterns and open our city up to a new era of economic development and prosperity.

That is certainly something to be thankful for.

May the blessings of this season keep you and yours healthy and happy.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago













GALLERIA TRANSFORMS INTO BUSINESS INCUBATOR

North Harbor's Galleria shops are being transformed into office space for start-ups.

No longer recognizable, the bones of the 1970s-style storefronts remain. In place of the dated exterior, the city worked to create a modern contemporary look that blends perfectly with the neighborhood in keeping with the vision for North Harbor.

"When we began talking about giving new life to the Galleria, I wanted to create a plan to repurpose the properties rather than tearing them down," Mayor Anthony Copeland said.

"People have fond memories of those shops, which we hope will carry over to the new business incubator," Copeland said.

When complete, there will be space for 10 start-ups, with 10,000 square feet for each office.

The fronts are masonry, while the interior courtyard will be stone and stucco with stamped concrete walks. The mature trees will be retained to provide shade. "Our entrepreneurs need a place to set up shop in East Chicago," Copeland said. "We are eager to get these offices completed so they can get started."

FACADE PROGRAM: East Chicago's Facade Improvement Program is a partnership between the city and business owners. The program boosts the efforts of owners to improve the front of their buildings by contributing matching funds – either 50 percent or 80 percent – up to $25,000.
INFO: Visit eastchicago.com or call Planning and Economic Development at (219) 391-8205.



MANHATTAN MECHANICAL OPENS NEW FACILITY

Weeks after being named to Crain's Chicago Business Fast 50 2020 finalists, the company opened its doors to a $2.5 million expansion that includes a fabrication shop, craft training center and corporate offices in East Chicago.

While many projects were put on hold during the pandemic, Manhattan Mechanical President Mike Uremovich moved full speed ahead with a late-spring groundbreaking and completion just five months later.

Mayor Anthony Copeland said the company is bringing wide-ranging benefits to the city.

The company provides industrial maintenance, scaffolding, structural steel, shop and piping fabrication as well as turnkey capital projects.

"Manhattan Mechanical is intent on doing it right – bringing jobs and training to our citizens who are hungry to learn the skills they need to get good-paying jobs," Copeland said.

"The company services our local oil refineries, chemical plants, steel mills and other heavy industry. Mike Uremovich and his company are a great addition to East Chicago and we welcome them."

WE'RE HIRING! Manhattan Mechanical Services will train employees for jobs starting at $16 an hour. The company is committed to a progressive career path for employees, who can make up to $100,000 a year after completing an apprenticeship. Benefits include health, life and pet insurance as well as paid vacation, profit-sharing and 401(k) with match. INFO: Visit meritshopworks.com to apply.

WATER SERVICE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The city asks all property owners in Zones 2 and 3 of the USS Lead Superfund site, who have not already done so, to sign a consent form and schedule an appointment to have their lead water service lines replaced.

"The goal of the program is to improve water quality by replacing existing water service lines that contain lead," said Winna Guzman, director of the East Chicago Water Department. "Because the state is assisting with the cost, the replacement will be performed at NO COST to the resident."

A full service line replacement eliminates all lead pipe between the water main in the street and the water meter in your home.

To date, the lead service lines have been replaced in 474 houses, **saving East Chicago residents between $5,500 and $8,000 per household.**

[FOR MORE INFORMATION]

Please contact the East Chicago Water Department at (219) 391-8469 or email wguzman@eastchicago.com to obtain a consent form or additional information about this program.

[SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS]

- To review, sign and file your access agreement online, please visit https://in-eastchicago.civicplus.com/258/Water-Department or contact the water department to request the agreement form.
- After receiving the executed access agreement and initially scheduling your appointment, Calumet City Plumbing will perform an inspection. Appointments for the home survey pre-inspection will NOT be scheduled if an access agreement is not already on file with the water department.
- The homeowner or adult age 18 or older, must be on-site for the home survey and line replacement.
- The work area must be cleared by the EPA and accessible.
- Any cancellations or no-shows for home surveys or service line replacements will result in an address being "passed over." Those passed-over may be eligible for service line replacement at the end of the project, subject to available funding.

[FIRE HYDRANT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM]

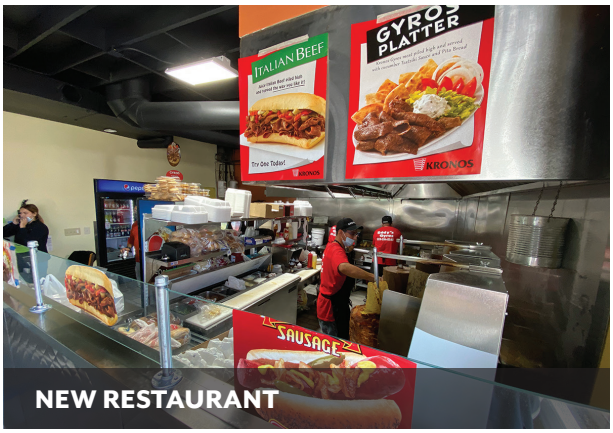
The East Chicago Water Department is wrapping up its annual inspection, maintenance and documentation on the city's 600 fire hydrants. The program ensures hydrants are operational and capable of providing adequate water flow during any fire situation. Hydrants are also used for flushing water mains, testing chlorine residuals, street and sewer cleaning and construction. By methodically inspecting all hydrants, problems are corrected before they become catastrophic.



[LAS PATRONAS COCINA Y CANTINA]

5654 Indianapolis Blvd. | East Chicago | (219) 354-8189

Las Patronas Cocina y Cantina is an authentic Mexican bar and grill that features entertainment to accompany your home-style tortas, gorditas, sopes and more. Located across from the South Shore station, owner Maria Rosario Ramos is looking to make Las Patronas Cocina y Cantina a destination for families looking for a great meal and commuters looking for a place to unwind after work. Whether it's the homemade tortillas or evenings that feature karaoke, Las Patronas has something for everyone.



[EDDY'S GYROS]

502 W. Columbus Dr. | East Chicago | (219) 354-8162

Eddy Becerill took over the building that once housed Columbus Drive Gyros with a plan to give the tasty Greek sandwich a makeover. Choose traditional pita filled with flavorful ground lamb and beef roasted on spit or opt for a jerk gyro – the choice is all yours. Owner Eddy Becerill has been busy since he threw open the doors during the height of the pandemic, serving up socially distanced eat-in or providing the always popular with all the fixings to-go. The eatery is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.



[RUDEONE KUSTOMZ]

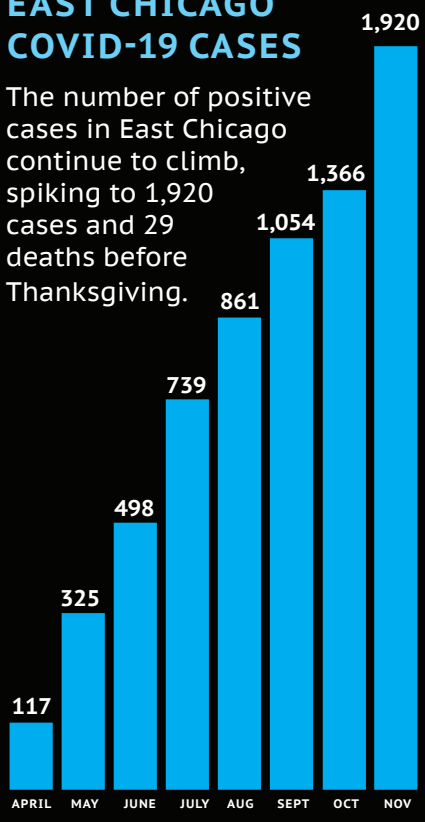
1204 W. Chicago Ave. | East Chicago | (219) 292-9828

By the time Christmas rolls around, hometown boy Rudy Morris will be hard at work fixing minor dings and major dents on region cars. RudeOne Kustomz is East Chicago's newest auto body/collision shop, the fulfillment of a dream and thousands of prayers. "I thank God for the journey and the experience," Morris said. "My greatest pride is restoring cars to their pre-collision condition. I've had plenty of bumps along the way, but all I am doing now is looking forward to assisting the residents of East Chicago."

WANT TO OPEN A BUSINESS IN EAST CHICAGO? When it comes to helping businesses get established, East Chicago makes the process seamless. Whether you are seeking a new location, planning an expansion project or starting a new business, we are here to help you grow. Our office is bilingual and always eager to help. INFO: Call Planning and Economic Development at (219) 391-8205.

EAST CHICAGO COVID-19 CASES

The number of positive cases in East Chicago continue to climb, spiking to 1,920 cases and 29 deaths before Thanksgiving.



Free COVID-19 testing is available 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. No ID or license required. **Questions?** Call the East Chicago Health Department at (219) 391-8258 or visit eastchicago.com for additional COVID-19 testing sites.

[FLU SHOTS]

If you haven't gotten a flu shot, now is the time to see your physician, stop in at your nearest pharmacy or make an appointment at the East Chicago Health Department.

Flu shots, which are free for seniors and city employees, are available to East Chicago residents. "The nursing division will also be going to senior buildings to provide the vaccine," Director Diana Garcia-Burns said.

Info: Call the East Chicago Health Department at (219) 391-8258

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