EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

EAST CHICAGO STRONGER TOGETHER

SPRING BRINGS RENEWAL AND HOPE

Since that last bit of snow melted, the city has come alive. The parks are green again. Flowers are blooming. Fingers are crossed we are in the last months of the pandemic. I don't know about you, but it seems easier wearing a mask in the great outdoors than it does when we were cooped up by the weather and COVID-19.

EGG-STRAVAGANZA

We started spring working out the details for a drive-thru Easter Egg-stravaganza, thrilled when we welcomed hundreds of our youngest residents to celebrate with us. It wasn't traditional, but it was fun. In all, we handed out more than 665 Easter bags and baskets overflowing with Easter goodies. I'm not sure who had more fun — the children or the city staff and throngs of volunteers who turned out. Let's call it even. It was a great event and I want to thank all of those who volunteered and the parents and grandparents who took the time to bring their children to enjoy part of their day with us.

NEW EATERIES

As all of us are craving a return to normal, some great fries, a juicy beef sandwich, a gyro. How about some paella to go? So much to choose from. Take the time to explore the culinary side of East Chicago and welcome Easy Peazy and EC Carryouts. These establishments took the ultimate leap of faith, opening new eateries just in time for outdoor picnics and stoop-friendly dinners. I've already tried both and am putting it on my calendar for return trips. The food is fantastic.

There are so many great things happening in our city. Stay safe. The best is yet to come.



Mayor Anthony Copeland welcomes residents to the city's Drive-Thru Easter Egg-stravaganza. Lucky golden ticket recipients each received a special Easter surprise. [Steve Segura photo]



ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago

REGISTER FOR NIXLE ALERTS

Whether it's severe weather, road closures or boil orders, Nixle has all the info you need — 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.

Don't delay! Sign up today for this communication tool that keeps you informed — wherever you are.

Text ECEVENTS to 888777 or register at nixle.com.

NEW FIRE CHIEF EAGER TO BOLSTER HEALTH, SAFETY

Mayor Anthony Copeland has tapped veteran firefighter Damon Carpenter as the city's next fire chief.

Mayor Copeland, who worked in the firehouse alongside Carpenter for more than a decade, said the new chief, a native son born and raised in East Chicago, made a name for himself as an exemplary firefighter dedicated to elevating the department for residents as well as the men and women who serve with him.

"Damon Carpenter is a born leader who has proudly served the City of East Chicago for 23 years," he said. "He is a doer who never backs away from a challenge."

It was a brother-in-law who inspired Carpenter to pursue the career. It was the individual members of the department that kept him there.

"We are all here because we love helping people," he said. "It's that person-to-person contact – helping people when they need it most – that drew me to firefighting."

Carpenter is committed to furthering the health and safety of his team.

"We are a well-equipped department. I will be focusing on the health and well-being of our firefighters," he said.

"Stress is one of the biggest culprits when it comes to killing firefighters. We need to change that."

A cultural sea-change is planned to help firefighters remain healthy while they are on the job and help keep them that way after they retire.

"As chief, I will develop and enhance the tools that take care of our firefighters. The members of this department already take care of everyone else. It's in their nature," Carpenter said. "We have resources that tend to the health, as well as mental well-being, of our department."



[ABOUT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT]

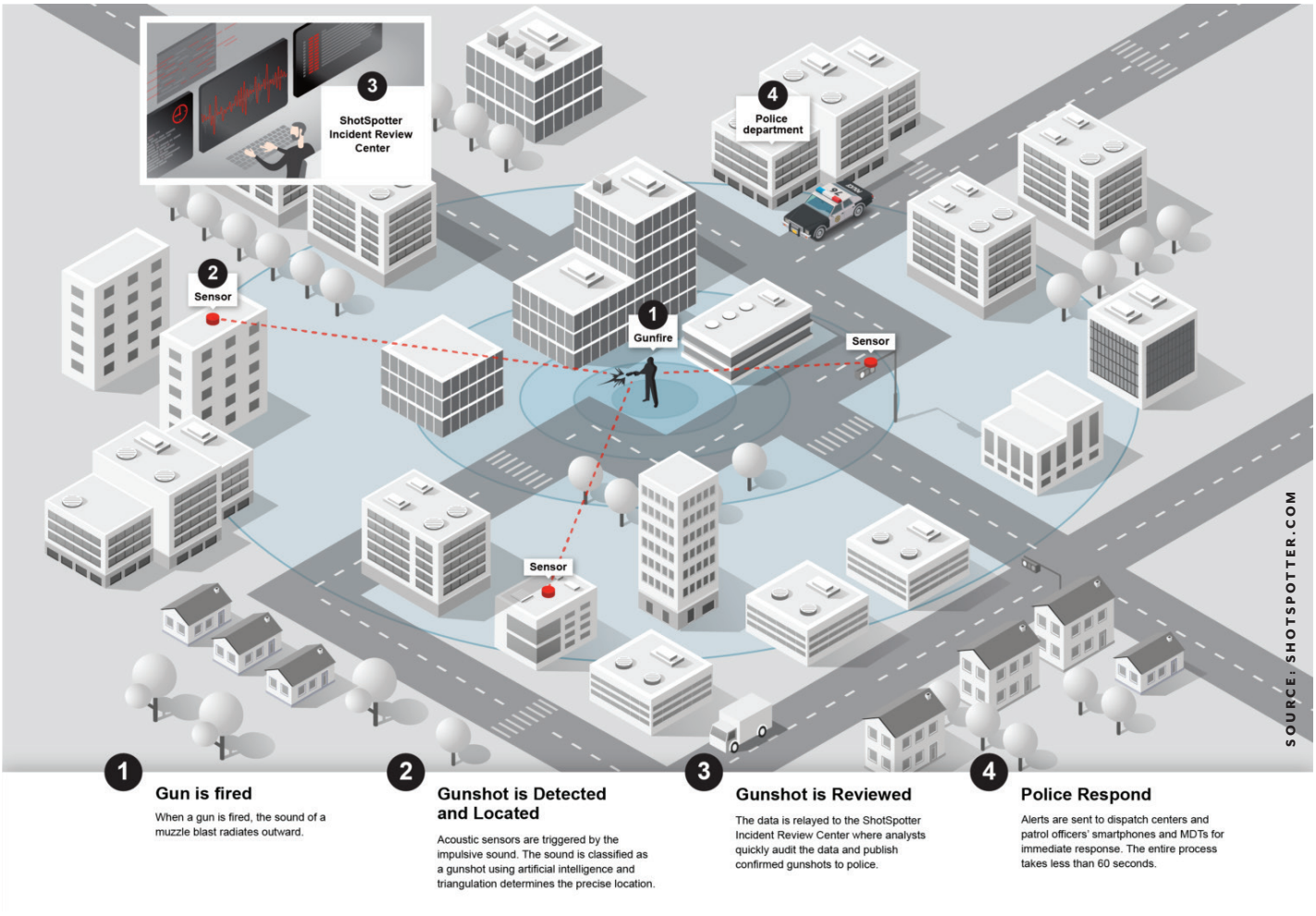
The department that never sleeps includes three stations and an on-site training facility.

The stations are strategically located allowing firefighters to respond quickly while avoiding train delays at any of the railroad lines throughout the city.

- **Station 1:** 3901 Indianapolis Blvd.
- **Station 2:** 3200 Guthrie St.
- **Station 3:** 4823 Kennedy Ave.

At full strength, the department employs 76 firefighters. With a number of retirements already announced, Chief Damon Carpenter is planning to welcome a new class of firefighters yet this spring. Already, five candidates have been hired, awaiting state approval before heading to the academy for training. 'This is an exemplary group of candidates," Carpenter said. "I am eager to get them moving and at the department full time."

HOW SHOT SPOTTER WORKS ...



TECHNOLOGY HELPS EAST CHICAGO POLICE FIGHT CRIME

An army of sensors located strategically throughout the city along with a platoon of residents who call 911 when they hear gunshots means police are able to find — and stop — shooters more quickly than ever before.

"East Chicago is the only department in Northwest Indiana that utilizes the Shot Spotter gunfire detection technology," Police Chief Hector Rosario said. "That system, along with our vigilant residents, has reduced our response time dramatically, which means safer neighborhoods and enhanced officer security."

Rosario said it comes down to triangulation — a system that uses all available information from any direction to pinpoint a shooter's location in record time.

Shot Spotter technology differentiates gunfire from other loud, popping noises, such as fireworks or a car backfiring. It transmits sensor data to the company headquarters in California that verifies the data and sends an alert to East Chicago Police in seconds.

On average, Shot Spotter alerts the city to confirm several times a day.

"We pinpoint a location down to 25 meters," he said. "We are able to recover casings and take shooters off the streets. Officers no longer go into these calls with little or no information. They arrive on scene swiftly, locate shooters and victims and preserve evidence for a solid case."

BLOCK STADIUM NEARS COMPLETION ...



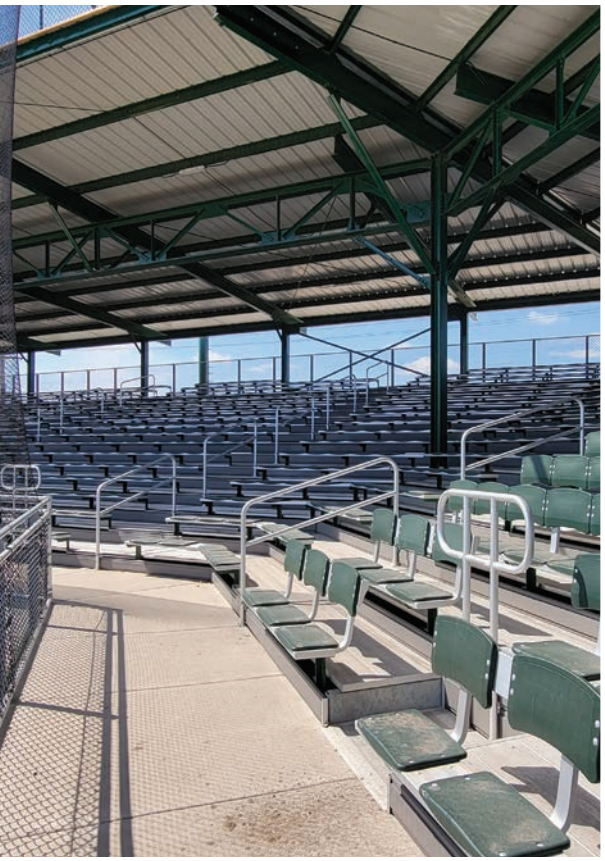
The multimillion-dollar investment includes new bullpens, field drainage, lockers, shower rooms, evergreen backdrop, accessible seating, dugouts, bench seating, press box, back-stop, new scoreboard, pay box, concessions, grandstand roof, fencing, sloped picnic areas, party decks and a new sports legends museum. [Steve Segura photos]



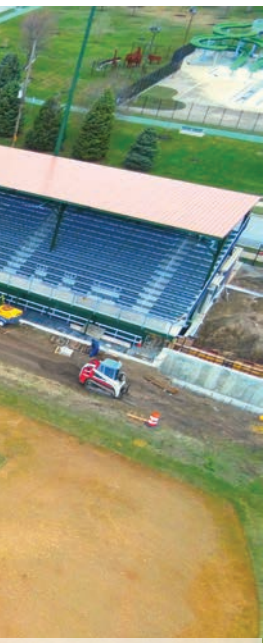




Memories of attending baseball games at Block Stadium still warm y
We want to hear from you for a special issue of East Chicago Life!
Email us your favorite memories at ssegura@eastchicago.com.







your heart?

... AS SPORTS MUSEUM TAKES SHAPE

Five phases over three years. The rebuild of Block Stadium is scheduled for completion in time to play ball in 2021. In his new role managing major projects throughout the city, Keith Selvie said the thoughtful construction and generous timetable allowed for exciting additions along the way — including a museum featuring East Chicago sports legends who made it big.

The likes of Pitcher Bob Anderson — who appeared in 246 games between 1957 and 1963 — Centerfielder Kenny Lofton — who led the league in stolen bases— and Pitcher Tim Stoddard — one of only two men to play in a World Series and NCAA basketball's Final Four — are expected to be featured in the museum. Located inside the new entrance to the 2,200-seat-stadium, Selvie said the museum will chart the rich history of sports in the city.

"The mayor's goal in this project is to increase the quality of life for those who call East Chicago home," he said. "It's been exciting for all of us to watch each phase come to life."

In addition to revitalizing the long-shuttered field, the new Block Stadium will preserve a specialty baseball stadium that has only one or two built like it that exist in Indiana today.

As Gariup Construction continues to finish construction on the $8 million stadium, Selvie said work continues to attract a home team that will come to life as the nation emerges from the pandemic. "This field will be the best in the state — by far," he said. "This has been a great opportunity to work with the resources and contractors to bring this vision to life."

GREEN THUMB CLASS

Our greenhouse staff will show residents how to grow beautiful plants as well as healthy produce via Livestream on our Facebook page and ECTV. The series includes recorded videos and two days of question-and-answer sessions.

When: 1 p.m. Thursday, April 29 and Thursday, May 6

Registration: Please register in-person at the park office, 1615 E. 142nd St. Hurry! Class space is limited.

Info: Call (219) 391-8474.

SPRING CLEANUP

This year's citywide cleanup continues from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. through May 14.

DISTRICT SCHEDULE

District 2: April 19-23

District 4: April 26-30

District 5: May 3-7

District 3: May 10-14

Please note: District 1 completed its cleanup April 5-9 and District 6 April 12-16.

TEAM UP & CLEAN UP

- Place large items in the alley for collection or curbside where alleys do not exist.
- Secure all items that may be blown away by the wind.
- Bag yard-waste materials and place at the curb.

All abandoned vehicles – as well as those with expired plates or parked in a "No Parking" zone – will be towed at the owner's expense.

Info: Please call (219) 391-8463 or (219) 391-8464.

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
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EAST CHICAGO, IN 46312

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RESIDENT
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA 46312



Arbor Day

Please join Mayor Anthony Copeland and the Student Conservation Association in planting 50 native Indiana trees – **in honor of our hardworking nurses** – in Roxana Park and the surrounding neighborhood!

10 AM – 2 PM FRIDAY
APRIL 30

WHERE: Roxana Park is located at 900 Shell Street. Parking is available at the Community Center and park. Please check-in at the table underneath the pop-up tent!

WHAT TO BRING: Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes and please bring plenty of water to stay hydrated. Face masks are required to participate.

WHAT IS PROVIDED: All supplies are provided. Small working groups will be assigned and maintained throughout the planting for contact tracing purposes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Please call Vanessa Hernandez-Orange at (219) 391-8474 or email vhdezorange@eastchicago.com.